

INSURRECTION: THE MUSICAL

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CAST

- TRIPP CARSON - UCLA student home for the 1st time since COVID
Tripp is happy to be back, and looking forward to introducing his girlfriend.
- SANDY CARSON - Tripp's younger sister
Sandy was a supporter of Hilary Clinton, now of Joe Biden.
- BUCK MILLER - Very good-looking, grew up friends with Tripp and Sandy next door, but in a Republican household.
- BILL CARSON - Tripp and Sandy's father
Bill's an engineer who writes songs as a hobby.
- 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
Clint has always been a Republican, but the death of his wife Trixie has radicalized him to full MAGA status.
- RUSTY - Buck's MAGA friend.
- MIDGE - The waitress at Kitty's, Midge could be described as 'a whiskey blonde in jeans'
- TV ANNOUNCER - Generic TV newsman - can be prerecorded

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 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. The Carsons' front door and the bar kitchen door are hidden when the divider is swung to the opposite set.

We open at Kitty's, which is populated with customers eating and drinking. Buck comes out of the kitchen wearing chef's whites and joins Rusty and some others at a table downstage center.

BUCK

Hey Rusty, how you guys doin'?

RUSTY

Hey Buck, doin' good.

Tripp enters through the front door, and when he and Buck see each other, Buck stands up again as they shout loudly at each other.

BUCK

Tripp Carson! Of all the burger joints in all the towns in all the world, what in the deep-fried Satan are you doin' back here?

TRIPP

Well, they finally lifted the lockdown at UCLA, so I came back home to see how the MAGA half lives now.

BUCK

Oh, so they let you outta Woke Jail to come see what Freedom looks like?

TRIPP

Nah, I'm doin' a scientific study of birdbrains in their natural habitat, plus I had to come back here to Kitty's and check on you, Buck.

BUCK

Oh, I need checkin' on now?

TRIPP

I heard you were still wastin' your talent grillin' burgers 'stead of buildin' a barbecue empire, an' I had to see if it was true.

BUCK

(sheepish)

Yeah, bein' crowned "Buck Miller, Barbecue King" is gonna have to wait... at least 'til Kitty figures out how good it is.

TRIPP

Shame. But I guess that's what you get for hitchin' your wagon to a dinosaur restaurateur.

BUCK

Ha! Beats hitchin' your wagon to student loan payments for left-wing indoctrination!

TRIPP

(laughing)

I'll take my chances.

The introduction to *Welcome Home* begins.

BUCK

You always were a gambler, Tripp, that's a fact.

He pauses a moment, then holds up his arms for a hug.

BUCK (cont'd)

Get over here!

Buck sings.

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)

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA
WHOOOA
WHOOOA

BUCK
(singing solo)

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

TRIPP
(to Midge as she's
passing by with a tray
of drinks)
Hey, Midge, good to see ya!

MIDGE
You too, Tripp!

BUCK
(singing)

MAN,
HOW YA DOIN'? HOW'S L.A.?
WE THOUGHT YOU'D
NEVER GET AWAY
THOUGHT WE MIGHT NEVER SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN
THIS CROWD
AIN'T YOUR CALIFORNIA COOL
NOT LIKE YOUR FAMOUS FANCY SCHOOL
BUT IT'S JUST THE KIND OF CROWD WHERE PEOPLE JOIN IN
WHEN WE SING

(the crowd sings with
him)

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA
WHOOOA
WHOOOA

BUCK
(singing alone)

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

(The crowd sings the
Whoas and BUCK sings
the Welcome homes)

WHOOOA/WELCOME HOME!
WHOOOA/WELCOME HOME!
WHOOOA

BUCK (cont'd)
(singing alone)

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

BUCK (cont'd)
(spoken, hugging Tripp)
Welcome home, California Boy! Look at
you with your fancy Beverly Hills
haircut!

TRIPP
Oh, no, all the barbers back there are
closed for the pandemic, I had to get
Sandy to cut this when I got home.

BUCK
(astonished)
Your sister? That little kid cuts hair?

TRIPP
Yeah! She's pretty good dontcha think?

He pretends to show his hair off like a model.

BUCK
I'll be darned! Hey, you know why so
many libs live in L.A.?

TRIPP
No, why?

BUCK
'Cause it's the only city they can
spell!

TRIPP
Ha ha. I heard Trump's bannin' coffee
now - it's part o' his War on Woke!

BUCK

Aww, I missed ya bro! So, you gonna be stayin' a while?

TRIPP

Yeah! Gonna stay at least a bit into the new year. My classes are all online anyway, so I can keep 'em up from the comfort of my folks' refrigerator.

BUCK

So...why go back ever?

TRIPP

Well...there's this girl...

BUCK & RUSTY

Ohhhh!

BUCK

What's her name?

TRIPP

(beaming)

Her name's Ryler, an' she's smarter'n she is beautiful, an' she's prettier'n you can imagine! We're both graduatin' next year, so then we're gonna get a place together.

BUCK

(patting Tripp's knee)

Dozens o' disappointed local girls, Tripp...

TRIPP

Well, Ryler ain't like any of these local girls...

RUSTY

Wait, is she a...California girl? 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? I know you're a loony leftist, but ain't you still a good ol' boy?

TRIPP

I'm just the same as I always been, Buck.

BUCK

So...she's okay with you poundin' J.D. an' rollin' coal in your pickup?

TRIPP

Buck, I don't do any o' that stuff no more...Ryler wouldn't like it.

BUCK & RUSTY

Ooohhhhhh!

BUCK

Ryler wouldn't like it!

TRIPP

(holding up his hands)
Excuse me, is there somethin' wrong with tryin' to take the high road?

BUCK

You sound like you been brainwashed, buddy.

RUSTY

Aw yeah, this has her fingerprints all over it.

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 your 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 & 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 & 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-TOWNERS, 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 HUNTIN' 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
(annoyed)
Well this is a nice welcome home.

BUCK
Don't mention it, Snowflake, just
lookin' out for ya is all!

Midge returns from taking an order and passes them.

MIDGE
(to Buck)
Well, I got customers lookin' out for
three cheeseburgers an' fries.

BUCK
Oh shoot, I gotta get back to work.
Later, brothers.

Buck gets up and heads back to the kitchen.

TRIPP
Great to see ya, Buck!

RUSTY
Later Buck!

Tripp starts to get up.

TRIPP
I gotta go too, Rusty.

RUSTY
Just a minute, Tripp, I gotta ask
you...

TRIPP
Ask me what?

RUSTY
How'd you...how'd you escape?

TRIPP
Escape? What did I escape from?

RUSTY
I heard about them California leftist
universities, ain't they like cults or
somethin'? Like...is it true they...eat
babies?

TRIPP
Oh, Rusty, what kinda talk radio
conspiracy nuts you been listenin' to?

RUSTY
So...no babies?

TRIPP
Man, there is just as much baby-eatin'
goin' on here as there is in
California.

RUSTY
(horrified)
You mean our local Democrats do it too?

TRIPP
(exasperated)
No, you gullible piece of Q-anon sponge
brain, nobody's eatin' babies! Where'd
you even hear that garbage?

RUSTY

I...I can't remember now...but I heard it more'n once!

TRIPP

Two people tellin' the same lie don't make it true.

RUSTY

Well...just 'cause you ain't seen it happen don't mean it ain't happenin'.

Tripp shakes his head and gets up again.

TRIPP

Tell ya what: I'll stop eatin' babies if you stop swallowin' all that B.S.

Tripp heads for the door

RUSTY

Uh...welcome home, I guess.

The lights goes down at Kitty's, and lights come up on the Carsons' living room, where Sandy is doing homework at the dining room table with her laptop and books open. A knock comes at the door, and Sandy answers it. It's Buck, who pushes in as she opens the door.

BUCK

Tripp says you can cut hair. Is it true?

SANDY

Nice to see you too, Buck!

BUCK

Oh, I'm sorry Sandy, I'm just panickin' right now, an' Tripp told me you can do this. Can you?

SANDY

Sure, I been cuttin' Tripp's hair for years. But Buck, are you sure you're okay with a godless commie Democrat comin' at you with scissors?

BUCK

No! No, no problem at all. Just...don't tell Rusty, okay?

SANDY

(sarcastic)

Gotcha. 'Cause I talk to Rusty all the time.

(not sarcastic)

So what's the emergency? Are you gettin' your picture taken or somethin'?

BUCK

Naw, but I can't fit it under the hairnet in the kitchen no more, an' yesterday we had to comp a whole platter 'cause some eagle-eye spotted a hair in it.

SANDY

Okay, let's get you fixed up, come sit over here.

She walks him over to a dining chair she pulls out for him. Buck sits, and Sandy goes to get a barber's cape, scissors and a spray bottle from the sideboard, and while they talk she capes him, spritzes him and refreshes his haircut slightly.

SANDY (cont'd)

But I don't think you need a complete do-over, just a little trim here an' there can make a huge difference. Sometimes my clients set aside the whole afternoon, an' I send 'em home after twenty minutes lookin' like a million bucks!

BUCK

You have...clients?

SANDY

Oh yeah, I have a business doin' hair right here in the house. "Sandy's Cut & Dried Salon." Didn't Tripp tell you?

BUCK

He just said you cut his hair, nothin' about a real business.

SANDY

(sarcastic)

Pffft. Sounds like Tripp. My proud brother, talkin' up my success.

BUCK

Little Sandy with your own business!
Jeez, if I close my eyes an' picture
you, ya just turned six, ya got
pigtails an' overalls...an' you're
missin' a front tooth!

SANDY

Oh, come on, seriously? Is it that long
since we hung out?

BUCK

Last time we hung out, you were on a
BMX.

SANDY

(laughing)

No! That can't be right!

BUCK

It's been a while.

SANDY

(serious)

Well, if I close my eyes an' picture
you, you're standin' in front of a big
barbecue with a dripping sauce brush
an' a long-neck beer...

(dreamy)

...in a sweat-soaked wife-beater...

BUCK

(pointing at her)

Like at the summer street fair last
year! Surprised you remember what I was
wearin'!

SANDY

Buck, you looked like some kinda Dixie
Chippendales model.

BUCK

Well, I don't know what that is, but...
thank ya, I guess.

SANDY

An' your barbecue was sooo good! Are
you ever gonna do anything with that?
Seems like such a waste, you just
cookin' burgers an' fries at Kitty's.

BUCK

Oh, I do breakfast at the Diamond too.

SANDY

Big deal. Bacon an' eggs. Still a waste.

BUCK

(pauses, then)

Well, hand to God Sandy, I'd love to start up my own barbecue truck business, an' do the competition circuit, but dad ain't on board, 'cause right now his shop's super slow with this virus, an' every cent we got comin' in goes on mortgage an' food.

SANDY

Do it anyway! Buy the stupid truck an' get outta here! You're workin' two jobs, set somethin' aside! Make a plan!

BUCK

Dad says times are just too tight.

SANDY

So you're payin' all the bills, but he won't let you start your business? That don't sound fair!

She has an idea.

SANDY (cont'd)

Hey! Ain't your parents got a college fund for you? Use that for your business instead - that'd be a great education!

BUCK

Aww, he's just gonna say it ain't the right time anyway, with everythin' closin' down. Can't leave my folks high an' dry, can I?

SANDY

(proud of her "Salon")

Yeah, same with us, my "Salon" is keepin' us afloat 'til Papa gets back to work. But it can't hurt to ask.

Buck has a sudden realization.

BUCK

Wait a second! What does this "Salon" charge?

SANDY

Well, first time customer, let's say
this one's one the house.

BUCK

(hugely relieved)

Aw, thanks, Sandy! Dad watches my
spendin' like a hawk.

SANDY

Ha. Except what you spend on dates,
right?

BUCK

Dates?

SANDY

Tammy told me you're out with a
different girl every week! An' Papa
says you're a real ladies man.

BUCK

A different girl every week?! ...more
like...every two weeks. Anyway, Dad's
cool with it, he's pressurin' me to
find a wife to help him look after mom.

SANDY

Seriously? So you're actually out
interviewin' nursemaids for your mom?
An' how's that goin'?

BUCK

Well, it ain't gonna be Tammy, that's
for sure. I told her about my barbecue
business idea, an' you know what she
said?

SANDY

No, what?

BUCK

She said,
(ditzzy voice)
"Ohhh, like my uncle's Coleman barbecue
for campin'?"

They both laugh.

BUCK (cont'd)

Honestly, I couldn't leave her to look
after Mom, could I?

SANDY

I guess not. Hey, how is your mom, anyway? What is it again? Some kinda breathin' problem?

BUCK

She's pretty good most o' the time. She goes in for testin' pretty often, an' they just give her new puffers an' she's fine 'til they run out.

SANDY

Oh, phew, I thought you meant she got that new Covid thing.

BUCK

No, no. It was bad this mornin' though, Dad took her to the hospital for more puffers just before I came over here.

SANDY

Buck, haven't you heard what's goin' on there?

BUCK

Yeah, yeah, they're all panickin' over that China Virus.

SANDY

Don't call it that! You're sure your mom hasn't got that?

BUCK

Aww that's all a hoax anyway, Sandy. Didn't you hear President Trump? He says it's just the fake news tryin' to make him look bad.

SANDY

Pfft. Don't he say that about everything though? Anyway. ta-da! Go check it out.

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. Whoa! This is...pretty good! You are full o' surprises, ain't ya!

SANDY

(dryly)

Wait 'til Rusty sees you, he'll want my number!

BUCK

(concerned)

Are you...are you...gonna tell him you cut my hair?

SANDY

(rolling her eyes)

Your secret is safe with me. 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, 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? Did I hear you right?

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 anythin' 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 MIND
AIN'T NO WAY A WOMAN LIKE THAT GETS TAKEN OUT RIGHT
IN HER PRIME
WAIT '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 Clint is sitting at the bar drinking alone. Bill and Eleanor come in the door and sit at a table downstage from where Clint is.

CLINT
(drunk, noticing Bill
and Eleanor)
Hey! You two there!

Bill and Eleanor look at him.

BILL
Oh, hey Clint.

ELEANOR
Clint, we were so sorry to hear about
Trixie!

BILL
Yeah. How are you doin'?

CLINT

(angry)

Yeah, my concerned neighbors, with that little busybody daughter, fillin' my boy's head with crap!

BILL

Wait, what the heck you talkin' about?

CLINT

I lost my wife, an' now that daughter o' yours is tellin' Buck he should leave me too, an' go out on the road makin' barbecue ribs!

ELEANOR

Sandy said that? I'm sure she didn't mean any harm!

CLINT

Well, she might notta meant any harm, but that don't mean no harm's gonna come of it.

BILL

(sincere)

Look, Clint, I'm truly sorry for anything Sandy said, an' I promise I'll have a word with her about it.

CLINT

(reluctant)

Well, okay then.

BILL

Alright.

ELEANOR

Trixie was my friend. Such a lovely woman, I'm sure everyone on the street would want a memorial or somethin'... Can I set somethin' up?

CLINT

(disgusted)

If they'd even let us! No funerals, no get-togethers! This 'social distancin', ' it's all part o' Big Pharma's plan to make a pile o' money when Surprise! Surprise! they come up with a 'vaccine' for it.

BILL

Well, I hope they do, I hope they do. An' don't you worry about Sandy, I'll talk to her. I'd as soon she didn't spend as much time with Buck anyway.

ELEANOR

Why not?

BILL

Well...Clint knows...Buck's, y'know...a bit of a ladies man?

ELEANOR

Little Buck?!

CLINT

Takes after me that way.

BILL

(to Clint)

So anyway, it's decided, you can tell him not to come around any more.

ELEANOR

Bill, you can't be serious! Buck's been Tripp's best friend since they were kids, and he's just lost his mother. How can you be so rude? He's family!

CLINT

Oh, I'm okay with tellin' him that. The less time he spends with your 5G the better.

(using air quotes)

They say that's what caused this 'pandemic' in the first place, y'know?

BILL

Hold on, our what now?

CLINT

Five-G. It's like microwaves in your cell phones. We ain't got it 'cause our phones are old, but Trixie got it from all the new phones at the hospital.

BILL

Clint, you're not makin' sense now. Nothin' at the hospital made Trixie sick.

CLINT

But that's why they wouldn't let us go in and see her! They didn't want us to find out! An' when I told them about that hydroclox...hydrocloxy...

ELEANOR

Hydroxychloriquine? That's all hogwash, Clint.

CLINT

No it ain't! President Trump even said it!

BILL

President Trump says a lot of things, Clint, an'...some of 'em just ain't right!

CLINT

Aww, you lefties can't hear nothin' ya don't wanna hear!

BILL

Clint, we've known each other long enough to know we ain't ever gonna see eye to eye about politics. But why don't you sit down an' have a drink with me an' Eleanor here, 'cause if we can't have one big get-together, we'll have a bunch o' little ones, an' talk about Trixie, an' tell some stories, how 'bout it?

Clint thinks it over, then joins them at the table.

CLINT

Well, okay then.

BILL

(holding up three
fingers to Midge)

There ya go. What're ya drinkin'?

CLINT

(indicating Midge)

She knows. So...you got stories about Trixie?

ELEANOR

Oh, I got a million, we hung out a lot. I remember this one time we were watching the kids and talking about our husbands, 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 told me, "Listen El, us wives don't need to hear a love song. Our men keep a roof over our heads." She said, "You know how I think of it, El? Every car repair goes out the driveway, 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'm 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. Wouldn't take no crap, neither. I remember at the fair last summer, some blowhard claimed he knows the secret ingredient in the barbecue sauce. "Sesame oil!" he keeps sayin', "It's sesame oil!" An' Trixie shoots back, "Not a chance," an' he says, "What makes you so darn sure?" an' Trixie says, "'Cause he's my son an' he's cookin' my recipe!"

They all laugh. Midge arrives with drinks.

BILL (cont'd)

Thanks Midge.

MIDGE

Oh, my pleasure, Mr. Carson.

BILL

Yep, that Trixie was a firecracker. An' she'll be missed.

CLINT

And it didn't have to happen!
(fist-pounding rage)
It didn't have to happen!

As Clint's voice rises in pitch, the other patrons at Kitty's start looking over at them anxiously.

BILL

Clint, we don't know why God took her.

CLINT

Well, I know why! He didn't mean to, is why! It's all those goddamned nurses' fault!

ELEANOR

What'd the nurses do?

CLINT

I don't know, but they sure were tryin' to cover it up. Wouldn't let me or Buck in to see her, so I figure they musta messed up bad.

BILL

Pretty sure they ain't lettin' anyone into the hospitals 'til they get this under control, Clint. That don't mean they're coverin' up somethin'.

CLINT

Bill, I ain't puttin' you down, but you'd have to be full-on crazy not to see there's somethin' screwy with the way the gubmint handled this virus! I mean, people say our own doctors helped develop it in China as a bioweapon, why would so many people be sayin' it if it warn't true? Y'know, where there's smoke there's fire!

BILL

(laughing)

Well, not to put you down, but just a
coupla minutes ago it was caused by 5G,
an' now you're tellin' me it's some
kinda bioweapon?

The intro for *I Ain't Puttin' You Down* starts.

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

BILL (cont'd)

(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 once again doing homework. Again, there's a knock at the door, and Sandy answers.

SANDY

Buck! You ain't supposed to be here!

Buck squeezes past her furtively checking over his shoulder.

BUCK

I know it, Sandy, but I...look at me!
Look at this hair! I need your help!

SANDY

Well okay, but mom's gonna be home soon
so we gotta be quick. C'mon, sit down.

She rushes him over to the chair, quickly gets her cape and
scissors and starts trimming his hair.

BUCK

Thanks, but I gotta tell ya, I ain't so
worried about your folks as I am about
Dad catchin' me here.

SANDY

How come? You practically lived here
before Tripp went away to school.

BUCK

Well, you remember when we were talkin'
about the barbecue truck?

SANDY

Yeah...?

BUCK

So I asked him about usin' my college
fund for the barbecue truck like you
said, an' he hit the roof.

SANDY

Just 'cause you...

BUCK

(guiltily)

Well, also I mighta mentioned that I
got the idea from talkin' to you about
startin' a business, but then he
started yellin' about radical leftists
bustin' up families an' goin' against
the bible an all kinds o' crazy stuff.

SANDY

Oh jeez.

BUCK

Oh, but Sandy, I defended you!

SANDY

You did? How?

BUCK

I told him what a super-smart kid you
are, an' how at your age you're already
runnin' your own business, an' you were
just tryin' to help me get mine goin'.

SANDY
 (flattered)
 Oh! And..?

BUCK
 Well, that's when he flipped out an'
 started rantin' about the woke mob.
 I think he's still kinda raw from
 losin' Mom.

SANDY
 I guess so, but I don't wanna be in his
 crosshairs over...over nothin'. I was
 just tryin' to help you see the
 possibilities.

BUCK
 An' I really appreciate it, Sandy.
 Honest, I wish the girls at Kitty's had
 your sense.

SANDY
 Well...thank you, Buck.

The front door opens and Eleanor comes in with flowers wrapped from the florist. As they talk, she finds a vase in the sideboard, then unwraps the flowers and puts them in.

SANDY (cont'd)
 (worried at being
 caught)
 Oh! Hi Mom!

ELEANOR
 Hi Sandy. Hello Buck!

BUCK
 I just needed a little trim, Mrs.
 Carson, I ain't stayin' long.

ELEANOR
 (calmly)
 Well good, because if Bill catches you
 here he'll give you an earful.

SANDY
 You ain't gonna tell him, are you Mom?

ELEANOR
 Now why would I do that? There's some
 things he's just better off not
 knowing.

SANDY

Oh! Thank you!

BUCK

Yeah, thanks Mrs. Carson, an' if you see my dad, maybe don't mention it to him neither, okay?

ELEANOR

Yes, I think they're both behaving like children.

BUCK

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

ELEANOR

Oh, not you too!

SANDY

What happened with the nurses?

BUCK

Well, you know, the way they took Mom away an' wouldn't let us see her, an' then they told us she'd passed without ever lettin' us see her or say goodbye or anything! They gotta be hidin' somethin' so we don't sue 'em!

SANDY

(shocked)

Buck!

BUCK

(defensive)

Sandy, you shoulda seen 'em! They were like storm troopers! With the masks an' everythin'! When Dad an' me tried to get in to see mom, before we even got to the desk, some nazi nurse tells Dad he's 'wearin' his mask all wrong, ' like, he put on a mask, okay? The sign said to wear one, so he wore one! An' then when he puts it on how she wants it, she still says we can't go in!

ELEANOR

Buck, the whole hospital is locked down, it's been like that for months. No one can visit!

BUCK

Well what kind of a crazy rule is that?
 People are dyin', and they can't even
 see their families to say goodbye?
 Anyway, I heard they just made all that
 up 'cause the nurses didn't wanna have
 to deal with all the visitors. Stupid,
 lazy nurses.

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

ELEANOR

Buck! You surprise me! You really need
 to think about what you're saying.
 (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 & 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?

Buck looks uncomfortable during the song, and then at the end, the lights go down on the Carsons' house and the spot goes up on Kitty's, where Clint is drunk and obstreperous, haranguing Midge at the bar. Tripp is sitting at the downstage table.

CLINT
 (loud and angry)
 ...an' you young people don't even
 wanna work no more! Not like in my day,
 when you got a job straight outta
 school an' you worked hard at it, an'
 you made your life!

MIDGE
 Mr. Miller, I have a job. I work here.

CLINT
 But are ya savin' for a house? 'Cause
 that's what ya gotta do! I spent years
 on a dolly on my back under those cars,
 all covered in oil, just to get a down
 payment together. I bet you ain't saved
 nothin' for a house!

MIDGE
 Excuse me, Mr. Miller, I gotta get back
 to work.

CLINT
 See, nobody saves any more, it's all
 just designer beer an' avocado toast!

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

TRIPP

(to Midge)

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

MIDGE

Sure!

(nods knowingly)

Thanks Tripp.

Tripp heads for the kitchen.

CLINT

(contemptuously)

Is that that Carson boy? The u-ni-ver-si-ty student? Another smarty-pants to tell my boy he's gotta leave home an' go out on the road sellin'...barbecue?

Sandy comes in the front door.

CLINT (cont'd)

And there's the other one! That's the one who started it all!

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

BUCK

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

CLINT

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

BUCK

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

Clint stumbles a bit, really drunk.

CLINT

Put it on my tab, honey.

BUCK

(to Midge)

I'll cover it later, okay?

He grabs Clint to steady him.

BUCK (cont'd)
Dad, I ain't lettin' you drive the truck.

(to Tripp)
Tripp, can I ask a huge favor?

TRIPP
You want me to get him home?

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

Tripp looks at Sandy, who nods sympathetically.

TRIPP
Sure, Buck, I can get him home.

BUCK
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, I promise I won't try to recruit you to the communist party on the way home. 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)
I'll get the truck home later!

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 can make you lunch, Sandy! Least I can do after all the free haircuts you given me.

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 a Juniorburger...an' there's a whole
Under Twelve menu on the back here!

Sandy smacks him on the forehead.

SANDY

I am not a little kid any more! How
many times I gotta tell you?

(she pauses)

Oh, an' if you're buyin', I'll have the
Filet Mignon.

BUCK

Oh, sorry, we're out. But you know what
we do have, is...Spaghetti-Os!

SANDY

(sarcastic)

Oh, zing!

She grabs the menu.

SANDY (cont'd)

Just let me look at that.

BUCK

I'm just messin' with ya, Sandy. Kitty
don't have time for proper cuisine, but
I make a mean banquetburger if you
like.

Sandy pauses, then looks at Buck seriously.

SANDY

Buck, why you wastin' your talent here?
I wish you could make a big rack o'
your barbecue ribs for me right now. I
been dreamin' about 'em ever since the
summer street fair.

BUCK

Really? I mean, I know they're good,
but...

SANDY

(interrupting)

Buck, here you are, slavin' away to pay for your daddy's life, but look at yourself: you're young, good-lookin', an' an all-round cool guy, you should be havin' a great life!

BUCK

You think I'm a cool guy?

SANDY

Sure do!

BUCK

Well...thank ya...but Sandy, right back at ya, you're smart an' talented, an' you're cuttin' hair to keep your family goin', an' all the while you oughta be openin' a real salon or somethin'. How is that different from me? Exceptin' that you're still just a kid, I mean.

SANDY

For crocodile's sake, Buck! I told you, I ain't a kid no more! At least I don't feel like a kid no more...an' it's all your fault!

BUCK

My fault? How...how...

SANDY

It's your fault 'cause...

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

SANDY & SINGERS

(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 wearing an N-95 mask, and trying to ignore him.

CLINT

Come on, girl, show us your pretty face, you don't need to wear that stupid diaper!

MIDGE

Mr. Miller, this is to protect you from me, not the other way around.

CLINT

Oh, that's all bunk, now, if we just let it spread naturally, we'll end up with herd immunity, like they're doin' in Sweden. C'mon!

MIDGE

(sweetly)

No thanks! Can I get you anythin' else?

Rusty enters and spots Clint.

RUSTY

Mr. Miller! I gotta talk to you!

CLINT

Oh, hey Rusty, what's goin' on?

RUSTY

It's Buck, he's...he's...he don't wanna go to the Washington rally next week!

CLINT

He what?

RUSTY

He says it ain't gonna do anything anyway an' he'd rather stay here an' make some money.

CLINT

(angry)

Well, what in the...Go fetch that boy, I wanna talk to him!

RUSTY

Yes sir.

Rusty heads for the kitchen.

CLINT

(to Midge)

Did you know about this? Why would he change his mind all of a sudden? You notice he's been actin' strange lately?

Midge shrugs, obviously she didn't know anything.

CLINT (cont'd)

God damned kids! You can't trust 'em to do nothin' nowadays! One little thing I ask, one little thing! After all I done for him!

Rusty and Buck appear from the kitchen.

CLINT (cont'd)

(to Buck)

Rusty says you're backin' outta the rally?

BUCK

Aww, I won't be missed, so it's time better spent here makin' next month's mortgage payment.

CLINT

(exploding)

There ain't gonna be a next month if we let them charlatans steal our election like that! That's it! The whole country's gonna be gone!

RUSTY

Yeah!

BUCK

Look, Rusty's goin', that oughta be enough from our corner. Why drive halfway across the country just to wave a sign for a coupla hours.

CLINT

What in the hell has gotten into you? A week ago you were all hot on this, an' now you wanna throw in the towel!

RUSTY

It's that new girlfriend.

BUCK

(hissing at Rusty)

Rusty! Zip it!

CLINT

What new girlfriend? Wait!
Is it that Carson girl? Are you
consortin' with the enemy, boy?

BUCK

Well so what if I am? Yeah, I'm seein'
Sandy now, an' I did promise her I
wouldn't go to Washington. So what?

RUSTY

It's like he's a 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
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

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
AN' 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 TO 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)

NO, 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)

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!

BUCK

Well, alright!

They glare at each other for a moment.

BUCK (cont'd)
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 is sitting reading, and Tripp, Sandy and Eleanor stand nervously behind him.

ELEANOR
(to Sandy)
Go on, dear, just ask him.

SANDY
Okay okay...

Sandy reluctantly walks around to face Bill.

SANDY (cont'd)
Papa?

BILL
Yes Monkey?

SANDY
I gotta ask you somethin'...an' I don't really know how...

ELEANOR
Just spit it out, Sandy.

SANDY
Okay...okay...you know how...you didn't want me seein' that much of Buck next door?

BILL
Uh huh?

SANDY
Well, I kinda...I kinda started... datin' him.

BILL
You what?!

SANDY
He ain't like you said, Papa, he was only datin' all those girls 'cause his dad told him to, an' now we're together, an' he...he chose me!

BILL

Why am I just findin' out about this now?

SANDY

Well, I told Mom an' Tripp not to say nothin' 'cause you seemed so dead-set against it, but now I gotta ask a favor...

BILL

(to Eleanor and Tripp)

So you two were in on this the whole time? How long has this been goin' on?

SANDY

It's been a coupla months now, an' Papa...we're just so...so happy!

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 a boy!

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

Really, do you think Buck is that much like the boys you knew growing up?

BILL

Oh I know exactly how it's gonna go, El, it's gonna be like...

(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, listen to me...

(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

BILL & TRIPP

(singing together)

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'

BILL

(singing alone)

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"

BILL & TRIPP

(singing together)

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'

BILL

(singing alone)

NO YOU CAN'T TELL HER

BILL & TRIPP
 (singing together)
 HOW TO SPOT THOSE LITTLE TELLS
 THE CONSTANT SEARCH FOR SOMEONE ELSE

BILL
 (singing alone)
 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

BILL & TRIPP
 (singing together)

NO, YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'
 SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING
 SO YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'

BILL
 (singing alone)
 'TIL HE'S BROKEN HER HEART

SANDY
 He's not gonna break my heart, Papa.

TRIPP
 Dad, I know Buck, an' I know guys like
 what you're talkin' about, an believe
 me, Buck ain't one of 'em.

Bill makes a scoffing sound.

BILL
 You said somethin' about a favor?

SANDY
 Well, Buck just had a big fight with
 his dad, an'...um...his dad threw him
 outta the house, so I was wonderin'
 if...if he could stay here for a while?

BILL
 What?! No! Absolutely not!

ELEANOR
 Oh, come on, Bill, he practically lived
 here for years growing up with Tripp!
 Why would it be any different now?

BILL

It's different 'cause he didn't have his hands all over my daughter then! Who knows what kinda trouble they'll get into under one roof!

SANDY

Oh, Papa, we ain't breakin' any rules, I promise! Buck just needs somewhere to stay 'til he gets his own place.

ELEANOR

Come on, Bill, he can sleep in the guest room. And he'll hardly ever be here anyway, he's working two jobs, you know!

SANDY

Yeah! You won't see him at all, it's just for a little while. Please Papa?

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 Papa!

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? You said you were gonna keep that little buttinsky the hell away from my boy!

BILL

Cool your jets, Clint, I just found out myself, an' I ain't pleased about it neither.

CLINT

It's disrespectful, is what it is.

BILL

Damn right.

(calling to Midge)

Midge! A round for me an' Clint here.

MIDGE

Sure thing Mr. Carson.

CLINT

Much appreciated.

BILL

Least I can do, seein' as it's my family drivin' you to drink tonight.

CLINT

Yeah, but it's my family too. You know what Buck did? Outside of gettin' mixed up with Sandy, I mean.

BILL

No, what's that troublemaker done now?

CLINT

First he was all pumped up for the rally in Washington next Wednesday, an' then he just...changed his mind! I think your daughter's behind that too.

BILL

That Trump rally? Really? You were okay with him goin' to that?

CLINT

I was the one sendin' him! Gotta save democracy!

BILL

So you really believe all this hokum about the stolen election?

CLINT

An' you probably think it was all totally fair an' aboveboard. Right. Ain't you heard about all the shenanigans with the votin' machines?

BILL

Oh, I've heard about it, Clint, I just ain't sure that's what really happened is all. If the votin' machines were really so messed up that they actually changed who won the election, I'd guess there'd be some kind of official inquiry.

CLINT

But that's just it, don't ya get it? The people who're supposed to be investigatin' are all Democrats, so they're just gonna turn a blind eye!

BILL

Come on, Clint, I don't believe for a minute there's this huge conspiracy to cover up some massive election cheat!

CLINT

But that's where you're wrong! It is a huge conspiracy! I seen it on the TV! All the secrets about how the election workers were in on it, and they changed all the votes over in the night!

BILL

Changed the votes over in the night? What're you talkin' about?

CLINT

Oh yeah! I saw it on TV! You know how...you know how...Okay, answer me this: how come when we went to bed on the night o' November third, President Trump was winnin', an' then when we woke up on the mornin' of the fourth, they all said it was goin' the other way?

BILL

Well, that was because they still had to count the mail-in ballots.

CLINT

Exactly! All those mail-in ballots were
a bunch of BS the election workers
trucked in overnight!

BILL

I thought you said it was the votin'
machines?

CLINT

That too! They pulled every trick in
the book to get what they want!

BILL

I'm gonna need some actual proof,
Clint. Everythin' you're sayin' would
be terrible if it was true, but without
proof...

(he shrugs his
shoulders)

CLINT

It's all true, Bill! I seen it on the
TV!

The intro to *Tell The Truth* begins.

CLINT (cont'd)

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

uhhh...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.

As Bill buries his head in his hands, 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
 down here for a minute she'll let us
 know when it's time for you to go up.
 This is gonna be so excitin' havin' you
 here!

(whispering)
 No one else knows, but you can hear
 through the heatin' register between 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...what's wrong?

BUCK

Sandy, this ain't a good time for me. I fight with my dad, I get kicked outta my house, an' now I gotta mooch off you. Look, I really appreciate this, but I wanted us livin' together to be a new chapter, not...not like this!

SANDY

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

BUCK

I just feel so...busted up about Dad. I know it's mainly 'cause he's still hurtin' about Mom, but...

He trails off, and in the silence, Sandy has an idea.

SANDY

Look, why don't you...call him? Tell him you'll keep payin' the bills if he lets you move back, whaddaya think?

BUCK

I don't know, Sandy, he was pretty mad when I left him.

SANDY

Well, maybe he's cooled off a bit. What's the worst that could happen?

Buck takes out his phone.

BUCK

Well, okay.

He dials, and the lights come up on Kitty's, where Clint is still drinking with Bill, and answers his phone when it rings.

CLINT

Hello?

BUCK

Dad, it's me. Don't hang up, I just need to...I just wanna make a deal with ya.

CLINT

A deal? What kinda deal?

BUCK
I'll keep helpin' out with the mortgage
an' the bills, but you gotta let me
come back home again.

CLINT
Hmm. Lemme think on that.

BUCK
Dad, I just don't want us fightin' all
the time.

CLINT
Yeah, me neither.

BUCK
So if you just let me live my life my
way, I'll take care of the expenses.
Sound like a deal?

CLINT
Hold on, your life your way? Does that
mean you're still gonna see that Carson
girl?

BUCK
Sure it does, but you won't go bankrupt
an' lose the house.

CLINT
The hell I will! Keep your damn money,
I ain't harborin' no traitor in my
home, no way!

Clint hangs up angrily, right as the lights go out at Kitty's.

BUCK
Dad, you're not thinkin' clear...
Dad?...Dad?

SANDY
I wish we could just get away from all
this! Bad enough we're just scrapin' by
on crumbs without your dad throwin' a
big monkey wrench in it with his
neanderthal attitude.

The intro to *Luxury* begins.

BUCK
Yeah, if I gotta go rent my own place,
I can't save nothin' for the future...
our future!

SANDY

Buck, you know I'll help out if I can,
but I just...don't make that much.

BUCK

Don't worry Sandy...

(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

Y'know what, for once we should treat
ourselves. Go on a real date!

BUCK

We deserve it!

SANDY

(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
 (checking her phone)
 I got...Sunday night off, is that
 still..?

BUCK
 Yep, kitchen still closes early on
 Sundays.

SANDY
 Sunday night then!

BUCK
 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 an obviously uninterested Midge.

RUSTY
 ...so Buck was supposed to take us to
 Washington, but now I gotta drive, an'
 I ain't sure my truck'll make it.

MIDGE
 Uh huh.

RUSTY

An' he's gotten all weird now, he don't answer my texts - I don't even know where he's stayin', it's like he vanished off the face o' the earth. I mean...do you know where he's stayin'?

MIDGE

He didn't say.

RUSTY

You sure? He is still workin' here, right?

MIDGE

(sighing)

Well, not tonight, but he's still workin' here.

RUSTY

I gotta get hold of him. I think deep down he still wants to go to Washington, he's just...messed up.

Buck and Sandy come in the front door for their date.

MIDGE

Oh! Well, look there, you can ask him yourself.

Rusty heads over to Buck excitedly as he and Sandy get to their table.

RUSTY

Buck! How ya doin' buddy! Listen, I gotta talk to you.

SANDY

Rusty, if you don't mind, this is our date, we're takin' the night off just for the two of us.

RUSTY

I'll only be a minute, honest, Sandy. Lemme buy you guys a drink to make up for interruptin'. Midge? Can you set these two up on me?

Midge nods and starts pouring them drinks.

BUCK

It's okay, Rusty, you don't have to...

RUSTY

Naw, naw, it's the least I can do, buddy! I just gotta tell you...how busted up your dad is about your big fight.

BUCK

Busted up? He's the one yellin' his fool head off.

RUSTY

Yeah, but his heart's broke about your mom...same as you, and you're both kinda on a hair trigger. Honest, Buck, he's just so...pissed that you ain't goin' to the rally on Wednesday.

BUCK

He told you that?

SANDY

Buck!

RUSTY

Oh, yeah, he's been down here the last coupla days tellin' anyone who'll listen. Poor guy, I think he's goin' outta his mind worryin' about you.

Midge arrives with drinks for all of them.

MIDGE

Here you go.

BUCK

Thanks Midge. Uh...cheers!

He gulps down the drink in one go.

RUSTY

Midge, better get another round goin', okay?

Midge nods and heads back to the bar.

SANDY

What the hell? You said this would only take a minute. This is supposed to be our date!

RUSTY

Sandy, this is important, we'll be quick.

(MORE)

RUSTY (cont'd)
 So Buck, tell me, how dead set are you
 on stayin' home from this rally?

SANDY
 He ain't goin' to any rally!

BUCK
 Hold on, Sandy, let me think on this a
 minute - it might be a way to iron
 things out with dad, y'know?

SANDY
 (shocked)
 You would...drive to Washington for a
 stupid Trump rally, just to...

RUSTY
 (interrupting)
 It ain't stupid! It's democracy in
 action!

SANDY
 Oh yeah? What exactly do you think
 you're gonna change by marchin' on
 Washington with your ridiculous little
 signs?

RUSTY
 (as though it's
 painfully obvious)
 We're gonna fight to save the country,
 y'know, from the fake President? The
 stolen election?

SANDY
 (laughing)
 The stolen election! Okay, so you
 believe all that horse pucky on that
 so-called 'news' you watch?

RUSTY
 What about the cheater votin' machines,
 an' all those votes that got switched
 from Trump to Biden?

BUCK
 An' all the dead people votin'!

RUSTY
 An' all the mail-in voter fraud?

BUCK
 He's got ya there, Sandy.

SANDY

That stuff is all hooey! Don't you know that's all just a big lie? An' you're gonna drive halfway across the country just to get in good with the man who kicked you outta your house?

BUCK

(flashing anger)

He's my dad. My dad. You know what your dad means to you, well, that's what my dad means to me. Ya get it?

Midge arrives with another round, and again Buck gulps his down in one shot.

BUCK (cont'd)

Ah! Thanks Midge.

SANDY

Buck! Maybe you oughta slow down a bit, is this a date or are you just out gettin' hammered with your buddy?

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

BUCK

What are you, the drink police now? You know, I'm startin' to wonder, Sandy...

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
(appearing with another
round)
Ain't you gonna go after her?

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

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

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

The lights go down on Kitty's and up on the Carsons' house. Bill and Eleanor are 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.

BILL
Oh I don't know, maybe she's just come
to her senses.

ELEANOR
Bill! You're not helping!

SANDY
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.

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!

Bill 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...

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.

BILL

Sandy's fine, El.

ELEANOR

I'd feel better if she was here.
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.

BILL
 (distracted by the TV)
 Alright, if you think you should.

ELEANOR
 I think we should. Come on, Tripp.

Tripp and Eleanor put on their coats and exit through the front door. Bill is hypnotized, horrified by the TV news.

BILL
 My god, would ya look at that!

As Bill continues to watch TV, 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 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 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..?

MIDGE
 This has been goin' on for hours, Sandy, didn't you know?

SANDY
 (dazed)
 No.

CLINT
 Aww, hell yeah, it's the Boogaloo!

SANDY
 Mr. Miller! I thought for sure you'd be at this...this disaster!

CLINT
 (ignoring her)
 It's a revolution! It's the Trump
 Revolution!

SANDY
 And where's Buck? Is he here? Oh no...
 is he 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! Those maniacs
 are breakin' into the Capitol!

ELEANOR
 Yes, honey, we saw, so why don't you
 come home with us now?

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

SANDY
 Those people are outta their minds!
 There is no good reason for this, no
 reason at all!

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!

(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 INFECTION

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, where is Buck?

CLINT
(waits a beat, then
burst out laughing and
continues)
He's there, Sandy, him an' Rusty are
right there in the thick of it!
(he points at the TV
screen and notices
something)
Oh, look! 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
I can't believe it!

ELEANOR
Oh, honey, 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 pansy-ass
Cheatocrats over here
(he indicates stage
right)
and the rest of you, give me a hand
watchin' 'em!

Some people in the restaurant nervously move towards stage right. Tripp comes down to confront Clint.

TRIPP

Oh, come on, Mr. Miller, this ain't some heroic war here, this is a bunch of people watchin' the news at a restaurant. 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! 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 tryin' to stop you from...

CLINT

(interrupting by suddenly pointing the gun at Tripp)

Don't get any ideas buddy!

TRIPP

(putting his hands up)

Just...tryin' 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! It's We The People, the ones that 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, ain't they?

(MORE)

TRIPP (cont'd)
They didn't do nothin' wrong, why you
gotta keep them here? How about you
just let everybody go home, and you an'
me can talk this out, whaddaya 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, is seated at the downstage table talking with Tripp.

BUCK

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

TRIPP

I just figured I knew him better'n the other people there, so I better do somethin' about it.

BUCK

Anyway, I'm grateful. Even if he did jack it all up in the end, at least you tried. That crazy fool! Hey, you know what else he did?

TRIPP

What?

BUCK

When I went to pay his bail, I found out he'd gone an' spent my whole college fund.

TRIPP

What?!

BUCK

That's right. An' get this: he donated it all to Trump.

TRIPP

Seriously? He gave your college money to a billionaire?

BUCK

Yep. An' then he came an' shot up my place of employment.

TRIPP

(wonderment)

And Kitty still took you back runnin' the kitchen after all this..?

BUCK

Are you kiddin'? She's only sorry Dad didn't get to take over the government after all, an' she's proud I was in Washington...But me? I feel like I just found out Superman was secretly a satanist.

TRIPP

What does that mean?

BUCK

I thought president Trump was gonna rally the whole country down there an' we'd take over in a glorious wing-ding, but the people protestin' there? They were like the rejects table in the highschool lunchroom! That guy with the horns an' the facepaint?

TRIPP

Yeah, we all saw him on TV.

BUCK

Anyway, it was a big let-down to see who was marchin' in the Trump Army.

Buck shakes his head.

BUCK (cont'd)

But forget all that, what's goin' on with your mom?

TRIPP

The bullet passed through part of her skull, an' she's still in a coma. Doc says if she wakes up, she can probably recover, but it could be a week, 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

But I just feel so terrible! An' on top of the mess with Dad, I also messed up everythin' with Sandy! I can't even see why I did it! Tripp, do you know?

(MORE)

BUCK (cont'd)
 What made me lose my mind an' get
 suckered in by Dad an' Rusty anyway?

TRIPP
 Oh, that's easy. Rich people.

BUCK
 Huh? Rich people?

TRIPP
 Yeah. Rich people. Rich people an'
 their rich friends who own TV an' radio
 stations, fillin' up the airwaves with
 propaganda to make Rusty an' your dad -
 an' even you, Buck - to make y'all
 think goin' to Washington was more
 important than whatever else you might
 be doin'.

BUCK
 I thought the news was...the news.

The intro to *Golden Rule* begins.

TRIPP
 Buck! The whole country is run by the
 rich. They pay off the right people an'
 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

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 MILLIONAIRES
 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

Wow, I never thought of it like that.
So you're sayin' the news wasn't really
what was actually happenin'?

TRIPP

Let's just say they left a lot out, an'
then they whipped people up with what
they left in.

BUCK

Well now dont' I feel like a sucker. No
wonder Sandy won't talk to me, I'm one
o' them losers.

TRIPP

(incredulous)

Won't talk to you? Are you kiddin' me?
She walks around the house all day
cussin' 'cause you ain't called!

BUCK

She...what? I...I just figured...

TRIPP

So you never even called her? Buck, you
yellowbelly! Get over there right now
an' face the music!

BUCK

Okay I got ten minutes left in my
shift, an' then I'll head on over.

TRIPP

Buck?

BUCK

Yeah?

TRIPP

Don't wear the horns or the facepaint.

The lights go down on Kitty's and up at the Carsons' house,
where Bill and Sandy are standing and talking.

BILL

Where's Tripp? I just talked to Dr.
Shapiro, an' I think you should both
hear what he had to say.

SANDY

Tripp's on his way, he just texted from
the library. Is it good news, Papa?

BILL

Let's just wait 'til Tripp gets home.

Tripp comes in the front door.

SANDY

There you are. Papa's got news from the hospital.

TRIPP

Oh! Did Mom wake up?

BILL

No, no, Dr. Shapiro says...he ain't hopeful she's gonna wake up ever again. We gotta prepare ourselves in case she don't.

TRIPP

What?

SANDY

(sudden crying)

Oh no!

BILL

Now we're allowed to visit there, I don't wanna leave her alone. I'm gonna head down there for the first shift tonight. Tripp, can you come down an' take over in the mornin'?

TRIPP

(shocked)

Uh...yeah, sure...sure I can. Whatever you need.

SANDY

(still crying)

Oh Papa!

TRIPP

But...but this is just Dr. Shapiro's opinion, right? It ain't...like...carved in stone?

BILL

Yeah. Let's hope he's wrong.

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
(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

TRIPP

I thought you were comin' here right
after your shift, that was hours ago!

SANDY

What's the matter with you, Buck, why
would you think this was a good idea?

BILL

Tripp, why don't we go make Buck some
coffee, I think him and Sandy got some
catchin' up to do.

TRIPP

Right.

They head off stage left.

SANDY

Well? Whaddaya got to say for yourself?

BUCK

(mumbling)

I'm sorry.

SANDY

What was that?

BUCK
 (clearer)
 I'm sorry. I am so 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
 Well, if that's what you wanted to say,
 why'd you have to get drunk first?

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? Why
 should I forgive you 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 out
 an' did a dumb thing, an' while I was
 there, I saw people I thought I admired
 doin' the dumbest things.

(MORE)

BUCK (cont'd)

An' I understand now that they...and me...we were all just caught up in a lie, those TV people tricked us into believin' a lie. But I do know what's true, Sandy, an' that's you. You are why I'm back here, beggin' your forgiveness, an' ready to start over doin' it right this time.

SANDY

(initially impressed)

Pretty words, Buck! But how do I know you won't go right back to your old ways?

BUCK

Sandy, the whole time I was there in your shed, I was thinkin' about somethin' 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? They're 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 of everything. An' all I could think about the whole time was how pissed you were gonna be. So I'm sorry. I am truly sorry.

SANDY

So you mean you completely changed your mind about Trump an' everything?

BUCK

Completely. You know how I see it now?

He starts singing *Make It Great*. As the song progresses, Tripp comes back in from stage left with a coffee, and then they all 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.

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

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 tubes attached to her arms. Bill stands over her wearing an acoustic guitar, and 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

During the second verse, Tripp enters in the shadow behind Bill and adds a harmony during the next part.

BILL & TRIPP
(singing together)

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

Tripp retreats into the wings again.

BILL
(singing alone again)

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
STILL IN LOVE
STILL IN LOVE
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 Sandy and Tripp are sitting at the downstage table. A "Welcome Home Buck!" sign hangs behind the bar.

SANDY

So Papa says he's comin'.

TRIPP

Are you sure? He ain't really been Buck's biggest fan.

SANDY

I hope he don't make a scene.

TRIPP

Dad ain't like that. He's more of a mutterin' curses kinda guy.

SANDY

Oh I dunno. I ever tell you about when he found out what happened to Buck's college fund? Those curses were not muttered.

TRIPP

What happened?

SANDY

Papa was so steamed. I don't know what he told Buck, they went off in the car somewhere, but he musta put the fear o' god into him, 'cause Buck straightaway got a loan for the truck an' started up his business practically overnight.

TRIPP

Wonder what dad said to light a fire under him like that.

SANDY

Buck wouldn't tell me, said he promised to keep it between them two.

Bill and Eleanor come in the entrance, with Eleanor leaning on Bill for support.

TRIPP

Oh look!

They make their way over to Tripp and Sandy's table and sit down.

SANDY

Papa! Mom you came!

TRIPP

I didn't think you'd feel up to it, Mom!

ELEANOR
I wouldn't miss this, it's the start of
a new life for Buck!

BILL
Hey! So the jailbird flies free again,
huh?

SANDY
Oh Papa, stop it! Mom, how you feelin'?

ELEANOR
I feel fine! Few more weeks of physio
an' I'll be back to my old self!

SANDY
Great! Okay, Buck texted he'll be here
soon. Papa, you ain't gonna embarrass
Buck, are ya?

BILL
Well, he is a convict now.

SANDY
It was a misdemeanor, Dad. Enterin' a
restricted buildin'. It ain't like he
robbed a bank.

TRIPP
Or shot someone.

SANDY
Or shot someone. Exactly.

BILL
Well, he better keep his nose clean.
(he points at his eyes
with two fingers)
I'm watchin' him.

SANDY
Just be nice, okay?

BILL
I'm here ain't I?

ELEANOR
Bill, behave yourself. We're
celebrating.

BILL
I read there's over a thousand charged,
an hundreds who've gone to jail like
Buck.

SANDY

An' it's so unfair! Rusty was there too, but he didn't get caught on camera, so he's fine!

BILL

So what's Rusty up to now?

SANDY

(shaking her head)

I think he's still out fundraisin' for Trump.

BILL

(exasperated)

Pfah! I hope Buck don't hang out with him any more.

SANDY

No, he'll be way too busy gettin' the food truck back up an' runnin'. Everybody I know can't wait to taste it again!

ELEANOR

(brightly)

Lucky it was only thirty days. So let's celebrate! Midge! Bring us some drinks!

MIDGE

I know what y'all want, Mrs. Carson!

Midge starts making drinks for them.

SANDY

(to Bill)

Papa, please don't be so hard on Buck. He's been workin' to get his business goin', an' workin' here to make his loan payments even while he's doin' that...I don't know what more he could possibly do...

ELEANOR

(to Bill)

Bill, didn't you tell her?

BILL

(waving his hand)

It'll keep, it'll keep, El...

SANDY

Tell me what?

ELEANOR

Oh come on. Can I tell her?

BILL

Well...okay I guess so.

SANDY

What?

ELEANOR

Sandy, you know that loan Buck got.

SANDY

Yeah?

ELEANOR

Well, who do you think co-signed for it?

Comprehension dawns on Sandy's face.

SANDY

Papa? You...is that what you did on your drive-around with Buck?

BILL

Ain't he the love o' your life, girl? What else was I gonna do?

Sandy hugs Bill.

SANDY

Oh, Papa! I love you!

BILL

I love you too, Monkey.

The intro to *Welcome Home* begins as the door to Kitty's opens and Buck enters.

TRIPP

And there he is ladies and gentlemen!
Our very own one-man basket of
deplorables, my friend Buck Miller!

As Tripp sings, Buck makes his way through the restaurant, shaking hands and hugging people, and giving Sandy a big kiss and an embrace when he reaches 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!
 MIDGE!
 COULD WE GET ANOTHER ROUND?
 ADD ONE MORE
 WHEN YOU BRING IT DOWN
 HOPE NO ONE MINDS, WE'RE GONNA BE SINGIN' OUR SONG...

WE SING

KITTY'S PATRONS
 (singing and dancing a
 choreographed Western
 dance)

WHOOOA
 WHOOOA
 WHOOOA

TRIPP

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

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

SANDY
 (takes over one time)
 WELCOME HOME!

Sandy gives Buck a big kiss.

KITTY'S PATRONS
 WHOOOA

TRIPP
 WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS
 WHOOOA

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

At some point during the song, Junior and Midge slip into each others arms as they sing, clearly an item now.

KITTY'S PATRONS
 WHOOOA

WELCOME HOME!
 TRIPP
 WHOOOA
 KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME!
 TRIPP
 WHOOOA
 KITTY'S PATRONS

WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS
 AND WE ALL WANNA SAY
 WELCOME HOME!
 TRIPP
 WHOOOA
 KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME!
 TRIPP
 WHOOOA
 KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME!
 TRIPP
 WHOOOA
 KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME!
 TRIPP
 WHOOOA
 KITTY'S PATRONS

WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS
 AND WE ALL WANNA SAY
 WELCOME HOME!
 TRIPP (cont'd)
 WHOOOA
 KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME!
 TRIPP
 WHOOOA
 KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME!
 TRIPP
 WHOOOA
 KITTY'S PATRONS

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