

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, but can't
wait to get back to his girlfriend.

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
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 a nodding acquaintance with
his neighbors, 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 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, 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 sister? Lived next door long as I been alive?

BUCK

Sandy?! Holeeeey! 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 you boys 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!

TRIPP
Hey Buck! How are ya?

The introduction to *Welcome Home* begins.

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

TRIPP
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!
WELCOME HOME!

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

MIDGE
You too, 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 JUST 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 JUST 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

Oooohhhh!

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

Oh yeah, 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 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

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
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

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 was 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
Your 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, 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 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 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 goddamned 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 god damned 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 coupla 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 as me about all this! 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 it 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, 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 & 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 at the end, 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
 (loud and angry)
 ...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
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 are 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?

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.

He grabs Clint 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)

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'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

That's right, 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 gonna cover his shifts?

CLINT

...and then ya got the god damned crooked votin' machines!

Rusty enters and spots Clint, who he approaches gingerly.

RUSTY

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. So why's he been tellin' 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 this all that time have ya?

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! Buck an' Sandy
ain't said nothin' whenever she comes
in here!

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 call
you a cab 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 all it took to get you to
sell me out to my old man?

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
 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
 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
 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

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)
 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!

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 this 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

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, 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, I
 wouldn't approve o' that circus. 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,
(MORE)

CLINT (cont'd)
(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

CLINT (cont'd)
(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?

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 irresistible charm, we can't help but get somewhere; all we gotta do is keep workin', just keep 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 them 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 some 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 coupla 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' 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.

(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.

(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 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, 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! 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...everybody 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 ask, 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. He was readin' all this stuff online about local militias an' the Boogaloo, an' that's why he was so fired up to send me to D.C., but I did it! I went! An' then when we got there, we were so sure we were doin' the right thing, but now it's all over, we're gettin' painted as 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

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
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 a girl in love?

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 them.

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. 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 he 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

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 had a change of
heart.

BILL

A change of heart?

BUCK

Honest, Mr. Carson, I am a different
man, an' I'm here to make things right.

BILL

Well, if Tripp says you're okay now...
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' Monkey!

(he points at Sandy)

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? So this is the 'change of heart' he was talkin' about? Was it also his 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

So 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 are 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. 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 ain't just sayin' that to get me to forgive you, an' then you'll go back to bein' an idiot 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? 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 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 mean you completely changed your mind about Trump an' everything?

BUCK

Completely. 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

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 Rusty talks with Midge at the bar. A "Welcome Home Buck!" sign hangs behind the bar.

MIDGE
 Can you believe they're throwin' a
 whole party for Buck just for gettin'
 outta jail?

RUSTY
 Oh yeah, he went to a political rally,
 got caught on video, did time for some
 reason, an' now he's a hero. It's the
 ultimate participation trophy!

MIDGE
 Hey how come he got caught an' you
 didn't?

RUSTY
 I told him he should wear a kerchief on
 his face like me, but he wouldn't do
 it, so his face was showin'.

MIDGE
 So someone recognized him an' turned
 him in?

RUSTY
(evasive)
I...guess that's what musta happened,
yeah.

MIDGE
(pauses)
You didn't. Did you?

RUSTY
Now who woulda ever guessed Buck would
be the one who turned Woke-Whipped when
he got back?

Midge thinks for a moment, then leans across the bar and
plants a kiss on Rusty's cheek.

MIDGE
You sly devil you!

Rusty kisses her back shyly.

MIDGE (cont'd)
But you better get goin' before the
party starts, this ain't gonna be your
crowd.

RUSTY
Got that right.

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)
Oh hey, Tripp, Mister an' Misses
Carson.

ELEANOR
Hello, Rusty. Nice of you to come to
support Buck.

RUSTY
Oh I...I...I figured me an' Buck been
through a lot together so I should
come, yeah.

TRIPP
I thought you guys...hadn't been
hangin' out much lately..?

RUSTY
Well, he has been in jail.

TRIPP

For thirty days, yeah, but I meant before that.

RUSTY

Well, he might be cool to me right now, but I ain't givin' up on him yet.

TRIPP

Rusty, are you still gonna try and convince Buck to come back and be a MAGA with you?

RUSTY

I won't stop there, Tripp, I'll work on you as well. What you got against Mr. Trump anyhow?

TRIPP

Are you kidding me right now? He had his people...you people attack the Capitol for god's sake!

RUSTY

That ain't fair, man, we all did that on our own, it wasn't because of him, it was like a hive mind kinda thing.

TRIPP

So when he tweeted to stop and everyone packed up and went home, that was just a hive mind kinda thing, huh?

RUSTY

There's a good chance we coulda still stopped the crooked election from bein' certified. If it hadn'ta been for that chickenshit Pence...

TRIPP

I don't see how you can miss it, Rusty, Donald Trump is a danger to democracy!

RUSTY

Aw, you Democrats are always blowin' everything outta proportion. To hear you tell it he's gonna declare war on Canada and start tearin' down the White House.

The door opens and Buck and Sandy come in.

TRIPP

There they are! Hey Buck!

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

TRIPP
 I bet you do!

BILL
 Come over here, Buck, we got a little
 surprise for you.

Buck and Sandy stand next to Bill.

SANDY
 Ooo a surprise! What is it Daddy?

ELEANOR
 It's a little homecoming present.

BILL
 That's right. I wanted to help you back
 into law-abidin' society, so I wanna
 offer you the roadside in front of our
 place to set up your barbecue truck,
 an' run the business there. I got the
 permits an' everything.

SANDY
 Really?! Daddy, really?

BUCK
 I...I don't know what to say, Mr.
 Carson...thank you so much!

The intro to *Welcome Home* starts as Sandy throws her arms
 around Bill.

SANDY
 Oh Daddy, I love you!

BILL
 I love you too, Monkey.

TRIPP
 (to the room)
 And here he is ladies and gentlemen!
 Rescued from the 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!
 COME!
 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 JUST WANNA SAY
 WELCOME HOME!

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

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