

INSURRECTION - THE MUSICAL

CAST

- BUCK MILLER - Very good-looking, grew up friends with Jake and Sandy next door, but in a Republican household.
- SANDY CARSON - Jake's younger sister
Sandy was a supporter of Hilary Clinton, now of Joe Biden.
- BILL CARSON - Jake and Sandy's father
Bill's an engineer who writes songs as a hobby.
- ELEANOR CARSON - Jake and Sandy's mother
Eleanor has a faith in humanity and the forces of good that might seem quaint these days.
- JAKE CARSON - UCLA student home for the 1st time since COVID
Jake is excited to be back home after months away.
- CLINT - Buck's dad, a mechanic
Clint has always been a Republican, but the death of his wife Trixie has radicalized him to full MAGA status.
- LIZZIE - A school acquaintance of Jake's and Buck's
Lizzy parrots Buck's positions on politics, and she may even have a bit of a crush on him.
- MIDGE - Manager/Waitress at Kitty's.
Midge could be described as 'a whiskey blonde in jeans.'
- JUNIOR - Jake and Buck's good friend, tends bar at Kitty's.
Junior's dad works at a union office, and Junior shares his union passion.
- RUSTY - Buck's MAGA friend, believed to be Lizzie's boyfriend
Dumb as a sack of hammers.

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 their front door beside a mirror, while the upstage wall of Kitty's is where the bar is.

When the play begins, we're at the Carsons' home, and Sandy is cutting Buck's hair in the living room. Buck has a barber's cape over his clothes.

BUCK

You be careful, now, I don't wanna mohawk.

SANDY

You'll get what I give you, Buck Miller! What'd you expect, callin' me up outta the blue to cut your hair?

BUCK

It ain't outta the blue, Sandy, all the barbershops closed 'cause of this virus, an' I remembered Jake sayin' you could cut hair.

SANDY

Well it's outta the blue to me! But I get it. Necessity bein' the mother of free haircuts.

BUCK

Hey, I'll pay! Long as when you're done I don't look like Medusa.

SANDY

Oh shoot, Buck, that completely eliminates my hair design for you, I was gonna go for the full Medusa.

BUCK

You do cut Jake's hair, don't ya?

SANDY

Oh yeah, I been cuttin' Jake's hair for years. You...know this is what I wanna do, right? Cut hair? So, I had to practice on someone, so Jake was it.

BUCK

Oh, this is what you wanna do for a livin'? Sandy! Good on ya for learnin' a trade at your age!

SANDY

Well, thank you, Buck, but I am only two years younger'n you.

BUCK

Two years's a long time, Sandy. Two years ago weren't you sellin' lemonade out front 'tween our driveways?

SANDY

I was not! I ain't done that since I was little.

BUCK

Alright, alright. I mean it though, good on ya.

SANDY

(suspiciously)

Why you bein' so nice, now, Buck?

BUCK

Whaddaya mean?

SANDY

Well, I thought you didn't like me.

BUCK

What? Why would you think that?

SANDY

Mainly 'cause lately when I see you at Kitty's, you barely give me the time of day...

BUCK

Sandy! I'm...just...usually, y'know, with my buddies, an' we're...y'know, talkin' about other stuff...

SANDY

You mean you're with Rusty an' Lizzie, an' you'd rather die than be seen talkin' to a Democrat.

BUCK

Aw c'mon, Sandy, it ain't like that, I know you're a perfectly nice kid, but Rusty an' Lizzie, they ain't so...open-minded as me.

SANDY

(teasing)

Good to know I'm perfectly nice enough for your open mind.

BUCK

Aw, Sandy, you know what I mean, don't get all woke on me now.

SANDY

Pfft. You don't even know what 'woke' means.

BUCK

Sure I do, Sandy, it means 'anti-American.'

SANDY

That is not what it means.

BUCK

Well, that's what it means to me.

SANDY

Yeah, you an' your fanatical friends.

(needling)

I guess you know Lizzie would be so jealous if she knew you asked a favor of me.

BUCK

Lizzie? She's with Rusty.

SANDY

Not the way I heard it.

BUCK

An' why would she be jealous? She can't cut hair, far as I know, an' it ain't like we're on a date or somethin'. You're just my buddy's kid sister, cuttin' my hair.

SANDY

(pauses to pout
privately behind him)

I think she hangs out with Rusty 'cause
he hangs out with you, an' you're who
she wants to hang out with.

BUCK

(thinks for a moment)

Naw, I'm pretty sure she's with Rusty.
Pretty sure. An' we all hang out
because we all kinda think alike, about
makin' America great an' such, y'know?

SANDY

Oh, I know, I know. That an' they like
gettin' free burgers from you at
Kitty's.

BUCK

Ssshhhh don't tell no one about that.
How do you know, anyway?

SANDY

Midge told me.

Buck looks astonished.

SANDY (cont'd)

Yeah, your boss Midge.

BUCK

Midge knows?

SANDY

Midge says you're one o' the main
reasons people come in at all these
days, so she told me she just 'don't
notice' when your friends 'forget to
pay.'

BUCK

(pleased and relieved)

Really? Good to know. Good to know.

SANDY

So what're you gonna do with your
talent, Buck, are you just gonna waste
it makin' burgers an' fries at Kitty's?

BUCK

Aw, Sandy, it's just cookin'.

SANDY

Buck. Everybody knows you're a star on the barbecue. We've all tasted your ribs, when're you gonna do somethin' with that?

BUCK

Aw, Sandy, I'm glad you like my ribs, but that's mom's recipe, I can't take credit, and besides, I could never do the whole pro thing...

SANDY

Why not? Ain't they got a whole RibFest tour an' competitions? Couldn't you do that?

BUCK

Oh, I don't think I could do that. I mean...okay first off, you're lookin' at maybe fifty, a hundred grand for a used food truck, an' then five or ten grand for a smoker, an' probably some mods to the kitchen, it'd take me forever to save up for all that.

SANDY

Oh, so you have been thinkin' about it!

BUCK

Yeah, but it's a long way off. I only got a few thousand saved so far, an' I don't even know if Kitty's is gonna stay open with this pandemic crap.

SANDY

You already saved a few thousand? Buck! Look at you! You're gonna be out there winnin' prizes in no time, I know it!

BUCK

(embarrassed)

Aw, thanks Sandy, but the way things are goin' now, I'm gonna spend it all keepin' us fed while we wait out the China Virus.

SANDY

You know, you shouldn't call it that. Hey, ain't your dad still workin'?

BUCK

Even dad's seen his business drop off. Some days he's just waitin' at the shop twiddlin' his thumbs. An' today he's off 'cause he had to take mom down to the hospital for tests; she was havin' trouble breathin' again last night.

SANDY

Your mom's sick?

BUCK

Oh, it's nothin', Sandy, she's always had breathin' problems, this is just that again.

SANDY

Yeah, but have you heard what's goin' on at the hospitals?

BUCK

I read there's a buncha people panicking 'cause they thought they got the Chi...the thing, yeah.

SANDY

Buck, that ain't what's happenin'. There's a lot of people who're really sick. I hope your mom ain't one of them!

BUCK

She'll be fine, Sandy, she just gets a new prescription for her puffers an' that's it.

SANDY

Well, I hope that's all it is. Anyway, you're done, go check it out.

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

BUCK

Thanks Sandy. Oh, hey, not bad! Not bad at all! You're pretty good at this!

SANDY

Wait 'til Rusty an' Lizzie see you, they'll want my number!

BUCK
 (concerned)
 Are you...are you...gonna tell 'em you
 cut my hair?

SANDY
 Don't worry, they never talk to me, an'
 I never talk to them, so unless you
 tell 'em, they'll never know. I'll be
 right back, I'm just gonna go put this
 away.

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

BUCK
 (glancing at the phone
 screen before
 answering)
 Hey dad!
 (his face changes as
 listens)
 Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!
 (he sings)
 SLOW DOWN, DAD, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE
 TELLIN' ME, WHAT'D YOU SAY?
 ALL I GOT WAS THE PART ABOUT MAKIN' THEM WHITE COAT
 CRIMINALS PAY
 ONE MORE TIME, JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH, I GOTTA BE
 HEARIN' YOU WRONG
 IT SOUNDED LIKE MOMMA, MOMMA, MOMMA
 MOMMA'S GONE

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

SANDY
 Buck? Did I hear you right?

BUCK
 (spoken, holding a hand
 up to Sandy)
 Just...just...just a minute, Sandy.
 (turning his attention
 back to the phone)
 Okay, Dad?
 (singing)
 WHEN THEY TOLD YOU, WHAT DID THEY SAY, AND HOW COULD
 THEY BE SURE?
 'CAUSE I HEARD IDIOTS THINKIN' THEY'RE SICK ARE
 JAMMIN' UP EVERY WARD
 DON'T YOU THINK IN ALL O' THAT MESS IT'S POSSIBLE
 THEY COULD BE WRONG?
 SAYIN' MOMMA, MOMMA, MOMMA
 MOMMA'S GONE

SANDY
 (running over to
 comfort Buck)
 Oh Buck! Your momma? I'm so sorry!

BUCK
 (peevish)
 Just back off, Sandy, let me deal with
 this.

(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
 Sandy's arms, dazed, and the lights go down on the Carsons'
 house.

The lights come up on Kitty's, a couple of months later, where
 Midge serves Bill Carson and Clint Miller drinks.

MIDGE
 Here you go, gentlemen.

Bill pays Midge.

BILL
 Thanks Midge. Here. No no, you keep the
 change.

MIDGE
 Well, thank you Mr. Carson!

CLINT
 Thanks, Bill. Cheers, I guess, for all
 we got to be cheerful about.

BILL
 Clint, let's think of this here, us
 havin' a drink tonight, as kind of a
 little mini-wake for Trixie, 'cause I
 know you got robbed of havin' a proper
 funeral. I was thinkin' we could tell
 some stories about her life an' drink
 to her memory, give her a little
 celebration, y'know?

CLINT

Well, alright, Bill. If you put it that way, she sure deserves celebratin'.

BILL

Yeah! That's the spirit! So. Trixie Miller. Tell me somethin' I didn't know about Trixie.

CLINT

Aw Bill, you knew Trixie, she was over at your place with Eleanor all the time.

BILL

Well now, she was with El, not with me...I had to step away from them two, I couldn't keep up! C'mon, gimme a story about her, Clint, I know you probably got a bunch I never heard.

CLINT

Fair enough. Okay.

(he thinks a moment)

Oh, I know, I'll tell ya about our tenth anniversary.

BILL

(leaning in)

Oh yeah..?

CLINT

So as you know, Trixie was the world's best cook, so we hardly ever went out for dinner, but for our tenth I wanted to treat her, y'know, somethin' special. So I got reservations at that fancy steak place down on Fourth.

BILL

Cattle?

CLINT

Cattle. That's the one. I put on my white shirt and my church pants, an' Trixie wore this beautiful black dress, an' we went in there thinkin' we looked like rich city folk. An' when we get to the desk at the front, the poncy guy there takes one look at me, leans in an' says, "I'm sorry sir, you need to wear a tie to be seated."

BILL

A tie? Are you kiddin'?

CLINT

No kiddin'. They weren't gonna let me in without a tie. So I'm all set to go ten rounds with the guy, an' Trixie puts her hand on my arm an' says, "Just a second," an' she undoes her fancy cloth belt, loops it around my neck an' ties it up nice, just like a downtown businessman. Guy just stood there with his mouth open, then he took us to our table without sayin' another word.

BILL

(laughing)

Sounds like Trixie!

CLINT

What a woman. An' you know, we never ate out for our anniversary ever again. For one thing, the food there wasn't that great.

BILL

I believe it, Clint. You been spoiled for food, married to her. How are you guys makin' out now, are you eatin' okay?

CLINT

(getting emotional
halfway through)

Oh Buck does the cookin' now, so it's...the same, really, she passed her gift on to him.

BILL

(cheerful to distract)

Oh that's right! He cooks here now, too, don't he?

CLINT

(pulling himself
together)

Yep. He works here sometimes, an' he works at the breakfast place on Union Street the rest of the time.

BILL

Good for him! Makin' use of his talents.

CLINT

Yeah, he's savin' up. Buck's got this crazy idea he's gonna buy a food truck an' go out on the barbecue circuit or somethin'.

BILL

Well, what's crazy about that? Buck could do it!

CLINT

He's got plenty of work here in town, no need to go gallivantin' all over the country...

BILL

Okay, Clint, I get it. You just lost Trixie, an' it ain't time to lose Buck too.

CLINT

(melancholy)

We were supposed to finally get some time together, y'know? Just her an' me. We were gonna travel, she loved all the sunny places with beaches.

BILL

(distracting him)

But you guys did lots of travellin', didn't ya? I remember our kids bein' so jealous of Buck 'cause he went to Disney World, an' I'm sure I remember you guys goin' to Mexico nearly every year...

CLINT

(brightening)

Yeah, an' we finally got to Hawaii last year. That was all Trixie, she was always sayin', "Don't wait! Do it now!"

BILL

Yeah, I remember that, "Don't wait, do it now!"

(he snaps his fingers)

Now you remind me! I just remembered somethin' Trixie said at Christmas dinner.

CLINT

What was that?

BILL

Well, you know I like to fool around
makin' up songs on my guitar.

CLINT

Sure, Bill, your songs are good!

BILL

So I was playin' a song I wrote for my
dad after he passed, an' I told Trixie
I was sorry I couldn't play it at his
funeral 'cause I hadn't written it yet.

CLINT

Yeah?

BILL

An' Trixie says, "Well, what're you
waitin' for? You better write that song
for Eleanor for when she goes!" So, of
course, I said, "Hold on, Eleanor ain't
near her time yet," an' she says "Don't
wait, do it now!"

CLINT

That was her.

BILL

So then I said, "What if I go first?"
an' she says, "Well, then, you won't
need it, will ya?"

They both chuckle.

CLINT

Yeah, that was my Trixie, always a
practical woman.

BILL

So now that I remembered, I'm gonna get
to writin' that one when I get home.
Don't wait, do it now!

CLINT

Look at Trixie, still bossin' us around
even after she's gone.

BILL

She was a live wire.

CLINT

Christmas. That was another one o' her
unforgettable dinners too, I remember
that one.

(MORE)

CLINT (cont'd)

Hey, how's Jake doin' these days? I don't think I seen him since that night.

BILL

Jake is stuck. Stuck in California, locked down, didn't come home this summer, an' now he can't even go to class, he's stuck in his dorm room takin' all his classes on a laptop.

CLINT

Leave it to woke California to go off the deep end with the lockdowns.

BILL

Well, I don't think it's only California, but there's no flights yet, so he's stuck. Now we only get to see him on a phone screen.

CLINT

Hey, it ain't too different with Buck, I never see him in person neither, an' we live in the same house!

The both laugh.

BILL

So he's gettin' a lot of hours?

CLINT

He was so worried the lockdown was gonna kill the restaurant business, so he signed up to two places, an' now he ain't never home.

BILL

Well, good for him! He's got ambition, an' he's savin' to make it happen!

CLINT

(losing his composure
part-way through)

Yeah, I'm proud of him. It woulda been nice for Trixie to... ..to see what he's doin'...

BILL

I'm sorry, Clint, I didn't mean to stir it up again.

CLINT

No, no. I just have to try not to think about

(Clint becomes enraged)
how it didn't have to happen!

BILL

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

CLINT

Well, I know why! He didn't mean to, is why! It's all those nurses' fault! They shoulda given her that hydroclox... hydrocloxy...

BILL

Hydroxychloriquine? The horse dewormer? That's all a bunch of Fox News bunk, Clint.

CLINT

No it ain't! President Trump said so himself!

BILL

Well, now President Trump says a lot of stuff, and quite a bit of it is... uhh...made up.

CLINT

Aw, Bill, you're just fallin' for the lamestream media spin. If those stupid nurses had given Trixie the hydro... y'know, that drug, she'd be alive...

BILL

Clint, I'm really sorry about Trixie, Eleanor and me, we miss her a lot.

CLINT

Yeah, I know.

BILL

But you can still treasure her memory without, y'know, havin' to blame somebody.

CLINT

(despondent)
They wouldn't even lemme in to say goodbye. Those god damned nurses just kept tellin' us "No visitors! No visitors!"

BILL

Well, they had a reason for that,
they...

CLINT

Wouldn't lemme in! An' you know what
they said when I told them about that
drug, they just ignored me and said the
doctors would "choose" the treatment,
like they're all high and mighty know-
it-alls. Idiots!

BILL

C'mon, Clint, that's their job! Those
were professionals, workin' as hard as
they could, and hard times for them
too. I don't see where you'd know
better'n them what Trixie needed.

CLINT

(agitated)

An' then...an' then we couldn't even
have a proper funeral! So first we
never got to say goodbye in person, an'
then we couldn't even say goodbye to
her coffin!

BILL

Well, there's good reasons for that.
Hey, we probably shouldn't even be out
drinkin' to her now, but if the law
allows it, why not? Here's to Trixie!

He clinks Clint's glass.

CLINT

Yeah, here's to Trixie. An honest
woman, done in by woke criminals.

BILL

I don't think that's really fair,
Clint...

CLINT

Are you gonna keep takin' their side?
Are ya?

BILL

I think maybe I am, Clint.

CLINT

Aw jeez, Bill, sometimes...sometimes...

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

CLINT (cont'd)

(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

CLINT

(sung)

WITH UNASSAILABLE PROOF

BILL

I'M IN THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST
TERRORIST CELL

(spoken)

Now, do you really believe that?
Really?

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)

(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)

Fair enough.

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, they both seem 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 smile and raise their glasses as the lights go down. The lights come up back at the Carsons' house, where Sandy is once again cutting Buck's hair.

SANDY

Buck, we gotta stop meetin' like this.

BUCK

You're right, Sandy, people are gonna talk. Lizzie already asked me why my hair looks so good.

SANDY

What'd you tell her?

BUCK

I just told her I got my secrets.

SANDY

You are still afraid to admit you ain't a crazy extremist like them, ain't ya!

BUCK

I just don't need to have that dumb conversation with Lizzie is all. She don't know you like I do. An' we ain't extremists, we're just tryin' to save America!

SANDY

Oh, from the godless communists like little Sandy Carson.

BUCK

I don't mean you, Sandy, you know that.

SANDY

Well, tell me, Buck, what makes me different from all the other Democrats you guys love to hate on?

BUCK

Well, you know, Sandy! You know, you ain't so anti-American, you got a heart! You like helpin' people, like... cuttin' my hair!

SANDY

Well, I do like cuttin' your hair.

The front door opens, and Eleanor comes in with a bunch of flowers wrapped up from a florist.

ELEANOR

Oh hello, you two. Did you cut his ear off yet, Sandy?

SANDY

No! I did not cut his ear off!

ELEANOR

Just teasing, honey!

BUCK

Hey, Mrs. Carson.

ELEANOR

Buck, I have to tell you: I wanted to send some flowers over after your mom passed, and when I went looking, all the florists I knew were closed because of the pandemic, but I found this lovely flower shop that stayed open for deliveries, and now every time I go there and buy fresh flowers, I think of Trixie.

BUCK

I think mom would be happy to hear that, Mrs. Carson.

ELEANOR

(to Sandy)

She was such a lovely woman. I'll never forget that time I broke my wrist and I had it in a cast for weeks, and Trixie and little Buck came over every morning and she helped with the cooking and cleaning, like she didn't have enough of that at home already!

SANDY

I never knew about that, mom!

ELEANOR

You were just little, Sandy, and I couldn't have managed without her, with a toddler and little Jake running around, and Bill off at work all day. You remember that, don't you Buck? You and Jake spent all your time in that tree house, and I was worried the whole time that we'd have even more broken bones, but Trixie just told me to sit back and relax, and I did, and everything was fine.

BUCK

Sure, I remember that! You had a cast with hearts all over it. An' me an' Jake were fixin' up the tree house, we kept addin' bits on an' buildin' secret hidey holes in it to keep our secret stuff in.

SANDY

Secret stuff? What was it? Cigarettes? Dirty magazines?

BUCK
(laughing)
Sandy, we were like, five!

SANDY
So what's a five-year-old have to keep secret?

BUCK
Well, I had a pocket knife I wasn't supposed to have, an' Jake had a cap gun he wasn't supposed to have.

SANDY
A cap gun! Where'd he get that?

BUCK
He told me his uncle gave it to him. Made him promise not to tell anyone.

ELEANOR
You and Jake both were a couple of monsters! Always getting into what you shouldn't, and messing up your clothes...

BUCK
Yeah, I'm sorry about that Mrs. Carson, but we were five.

ELEANOR
And Trixie...Trixie just stayed calm through it all, nothing bothered that woman, I never saw anything like it.

BUCK
Oh, I seen her bothered.

ELEANOR
Really?

BUCK
Well, I bet she was plenty bothered at that hospital, with all those nazi nurses around her all the time.

Both Eleanor and Sandy react with surprise to this.

ELEANOR
Excuse me?

BUCK

(defensive)

The nurses at that hospital, they were like storm troopers! With the masks an' everythin'! Dad an' me tried to get in to see mom, and before we can even get to the desk, some nazi nurse comes up and tells Dad he's 'wearin' his mask wrong,' like, he put on a mask, okay? The sign said we had to wear one to get in, so he put it on! And then when he puts it on how she wants it, she tells us there's no way we can go in and see mom, and she didn't even know who mom was!

ELEANOR

I remember that, Buck, the whole hospital was locked down, so no one was allowed to visit.

BUCK

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

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

ELEANOR

Buck! I'm surprised to hear you talk like this! You really need to think about what you're saying.

(singing)

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

ELEANOR & SANDY

(singing together)

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

WOULD SHE THINK THAT YOU WERE OKAY?
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY?
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY?

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

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

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

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

Buck looks uncomfortable during the song, and then at the end, the lights go down on the Carsons' house and up on Kitty's, where Junior and Midge are behind the bar, chatting with Rusty and Lizzie.

LIZZIE
 So Buck's gonna be here tonight, right?

JUNIOR
 Of course! He an' Jake been bros since grade school...

RUSTY

Hey is Buck cookin' tonight? Maybe one o' his juicy burgers will keep me from gettin' hung over...

MIDGE

Naw, Buck's got the night off for the party.

JUNIOR

Well, too bad for us, but good for Buck.

RUSTY

Hey, maybe he can make us some burgers anyway when he gets here.

JUNIOR

That ain't how time off works, Rusty.

RUSTY

That's how it works where I work, let me tell you. It's always, "Hey Rusty, while you're here, can you just run this over to the warehouse?"

JUNIOR

See, that's why you guys need a union in there.

RUSTY

Aw, what's a union gonna do? Just take more money offa my check! Name one good thing unions have ever done.

JUNIOR

Weekends.

RUSTY

Weekends? Naw, naw, that ain't from unions, they got weekends in the bible.

JUNIOR

In the bible?

RUSTY

Sure, the sabbath is a day of rest an' all that.

JUNIOR

Well, that takes care of Sunday, but where'd we get Saturday from?

RUSTY

How dumb you think I am? The bible was written by Jews, an' they take Saturday instead o' Sunday, so now we got both!

JUNIOR

(making tiny finger gap)

I am this close to positive that ain't right.

LIZZIE

Hey, when is Jake supposed to be comin' anyway?

MIDGE

He's comin' at six-thirty with his whole family. Sandy says he ain't expectin' a party.

LIZZIE

Did you hear? Sandy says he met a girl there at UCLA!

MIDGE

Really?

JUNIOR

Well, it's about time!

LIZZIE

I think every girl in the graduatin' class tried to hit on Jake.

JUNIOR

Just too serious, that boy.

MIDGE

Yeah, it weren't for the want of tryin'.

The door opens and Buck and Clint come in and head for a big reserved table at stage right.

MIDGE (cont'd)

Oh hey, Buck!

JUNIOR & LIZZIE & RUSTY

Buck!

BUCK

Hey Midge, Junior! Rusty, Lizzie, you guys here for Jake?

RUSTY
Damn right we are!

BUCK
Well, come on, sit down, this here's
the head table!

CLINT
Hurry! They're right behind us, we saw
'em pull into the parkin' lot just as
we were comin' in.

The door opens as the introduction to *Welcome Home* starts, and all four Carsons come in. Clint, Lizzie and Buck cheer a little bit and clap their hands, and Buck rushes over to escort Jake to their table, which takes some time, as they are continually stopped by Kitty's patrons welcoming Jake back.

BUCK
Hey stranger! Welcome home!
(singing)

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

WE SING

(the crowd joins in
singing)

KITTY'S PATRONS
WHOOOA
WHOOOA
WHOOOA

BUCK
(singing solo)

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

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

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

(the crowd sings with
 him)

KITTY'S PATRONS
 WHOOOA
 WHOOOA
 WHOOOA

BUCK
 (singing alone)
 WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS
 AND WE JUST WANNA SAY
 WELCOME HOME!

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

WHOOOA/WELCOME HOME!
 WHOOOA/WELCOME HOME!
 WHOOOA

BUCK (cont'd)
 (singing alone)
 WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS
 AND WE ALL WANNA SAY
 WELCOME HOME!
 WELCOME HOME!

BUCK (cont'd)
(spoken, hugging Jake)
Welcome home! Great to see ya buddy! We missed ya!

JAKE
I missed you too, buddy!

LIZZIE
We all missed you, Jake!

RUSTY
Good to see you back.

There's a bit of hubbub as the song ends and the Carsons all get seated at the table with Clint, Rusty, Lizzie and Buck.

BUCK
So what's goin' on, Jake? Are ya back for a while?

JAKE
It's like this. They locked us down since Spring semester, an' I've been takin' all my courses online from my room anyway.

BUCK
I heard.

JAKE
We thought maybe it would all be over by fall semester, but we went straight to online right from the get go. Thanksgiving's the first chance I had to come home, but now I don't even have to go back, I'll just keep goin' to my classes online from here.

BUCK
That's awesome, so you get to stay here with us while you're goin' to university?

JAKE
Yeah!

BUCK
That's great!

JAKE
The only drag is that I...well...I'm gonna be missin' my...girlfriend in California.

BUCK
Your girlfriend?

JUNIOR
Aww, that's why you didn't come home in the summer!

JAKE
No, Junior, we were locked down in the summer. Locked down...on the beach...in the sun...surfin'...

Jake's friends all react with faux jealousy.

JAKE (cont'd)
So yeah, I got a girlfriend, her name's Ryler, an' she's the greatest! When we both graduate we're gonna set up someplace together.

ELEANOR
We can't wait to meet her!

SANDY
Yeah!

BUCK
(patting Jake's knee)
Dozens o' disappointed local girls, Jake...

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

RUSTY
Wait, is she a...California girl? From California?

JAKE
She sure is.

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

JAKE
(laughing)
I guess you'd call her that.

BUCK
Well, what in the Sam Hill is she doin' with you? Ain't you a good ol' boy no more?

JAKE

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

BUCK

So...she's okay with you flyin' a Dixie
flag an' rollin' coal in your pickup?

JAKE

I don't do any o' that, Buck!

(laughing)

I didn't drive my pickup there!

(more serious)

But to be honest, Ryler wouldn't like
that stuff anyway.

BUCK & RUSTY

Ooohhhhhh!

BUCK

Ryler wouldn't like it!

JAKE

(holding up his hands)

Excuse me, is there somethin' wrong
with tryin' to take the high road?

BUCK

You sound like you been brainwashed,
buddy.

RUSTY

Aw yeah, this has the girlfriend's
fingerprints all over. Ain't that what
California girls are all about
nowadays?

(he adopts a fake
woman's voice)

'Honey, get me a Kombucha!'

BUCK

(laughing)

But save the environment, take your e-
bike!

RUSTY

(fake voice)

'Pick me up a Pride flag while your
there!'

JAKE

(sighing)

Oh for pity's sake.

BUCK
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 Clint 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, Jake.

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.

JAKE
(put out)
Well this is a nice welcome home.

BUCK
Aww Jake, we're just razzin' ya. I bet
she's just the greatest.

JAKE
Yeah. She is.

SANDY
She could be the big sister I never
had!

JAKE
She could be completely turned off by
my friends when she gets here.

BUCK
Yeah, I suppose that's a possibility.

SANDY
Hey Buck, can I talk to you over here
for a minute?

BUCK

Later, Sandy, I'm catchin' up with my buddy.

SANDY

I'll only be a minute.

BUCK

But I gotta hear about L.A.!

SANDY

(holding up a finger)

One minute.

BUCK

(pauses for a moment)

Well, alright.

(to Jake)

I'll be back, and then I wanna hear all about L.A.!

JAKE

Okay buddy.

Buck and Sandy get up and head downstage as the lights dim back at the table.

SANDY

Buck, what is wrong with you? We ain't seen Jake in literally months, and we're tryin' to celebrate him comin' back and now suddenly this...is the way you welcome him home?

BUCK

(embarrassed)

I didn't mean nothin' by it, Sandy, we were just havin' a little fun.

SANDY

No, Buck, 'fun' is razzin' him about his California tan, not trashin' some girl you never met!

BUCK

Okay, I'm sorry, Sandy. Sometimes Rusty gets a little carried away.

SANDY

Ya can't hang this on Rusty, Buck. That was both of ya.

BUCK

Okay, well sometimes we both get a little carried away.

SANDY

Honestly, I expected more from you, Buck. The truth is, I always thought...

BUCK

What?

SANDY

I always thought you were pretty cool.

BUCK

You did?

SANDY

I did. I do. I still think you are. But not when you act like that!

BUCK

Yeah yeah, I know. Sandy?

SANDY

Yeah?

BUCK

Even though you're a Democrat, you're pretty cool too. Y'know, for a kid.

SANDY

Well, see, that's just it, Buck, I guess you ain't noticed, but I ain't a kid no more. At least, I don't feel like a kid no more. It's bec-...well..

BUCK

...yeah..?

SANDY

...well, it's because...

Lizzy and Midge have slid gracefully over using a vine step behind Sandy during this conversation, and they join her singing *Grown Up*.

SANDY, LIZZIE & MIDGE
(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, LIZZIE & MIDGE
(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, LIZZIE & MIDGE
(singing together)
FOR LIPSTICK AND CRINOLINES
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, LIZZIE & MIDGE
(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, LIZZIE & MIDGE
 (singing together)
 FOR LIPSTICK AND CRINOLINES
 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 SAID "GO SLOW
 "YOU'RE ONLY GONNA BE A LITTLE GIRL ONE TIME."
 BUT MAMA SAID "OH NO!
 "YOU GOTTA LIVE YOUR LIFE IN YOUR PRIME!"

SANDY, LIZZIE & MIDGE
 (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, LIZZIE & MIDGE
 (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

Towards the end of the song, Lizzie and Midge vine step back to the main part of the restaurant and leave Sandy and Buck alone for the end. As the last notes of the song die off, Buck starts singing *Easy*, with the band 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

The lights go up on the Carsons' house, where Sandy and Buck are seated at the dining table with their phones out. There are a few Christmas decorations in the house.

BUCK

What about New Year's Eve, Sandy, ain't that some kinda statutory holiday or somethin'?

SANDY

Are you kiddin' me? No, Buck, it ain't, an' it's also the day every single client I have wants to get their hair done for the party that night. I'm gonna be absolutely exhausted.

BUCK

But it's gonna be so much fun!

SANDY

Tell me how it's gonna be so much fun when you're workin' in the kitchen all night?

BUCK

Aw, come on, I get breaks...

SANDY

An' in between those breaks I'm supposed to what, sit there alone while you're puttin' together the next course? I'm gonna fall asleep.

BUCK

You don't have to be alone, all our friends are gonna be there!

SANDY

You mean Rusty an' Lizzie? They never have two polite words for me, you know that.

BUCK

Well, an' Junior...an' Jake.

SANDY

I see Jake every day, Buck, an' I love Junior, but I don't need another lesson about the history of the labor movement for my New Year's entertainment.

BUCK

Okay, okay. What about the next day?

SANDY

New Year's Day? Sure, let's go out New Year's Day when everythin's closed. At least we can afford that, after blowin' all our savings on Christmas.

BUCK

Right. Dang. An' Sandy, I know everythin's stupid expensive now, but come on, we gotta spend a little bit and have at least one date over the holidays. What about the next night? It's Saturday!

SANDY

Buck, did you even look at your own calendar?

BUCK

(checking his phone)

Oh, right, jeez. The banquet. I forgot! But c'mon, you don't hafta jump down my throat!

SANDY

I ain't jumpin' down your throat, I'm just tellin' you!

BUCK

It just seems like you're always mad about somethin' or other.

SANDY

Me? I thought you were the one who was always mad about somethin'!

BUCK

(walking around furious)

I'm always mad? That's just crazy. I'm the most easygoin' guy in the kitchen, ask Zeke, ask Manuel, ask anyone...

SANDY

(holding up a hand)

Wait. Wait. You know what's happenin' here?

BUCK

What?

SANDY

We're just both stressed out because of too much work an' not enough money, and we're takin' it out on each other.

BUCK

(pausing)

I...I guess that's possible.

SANDY

An' we actually love each other a lot.

BUCK

(grinning)

I guess that's possible too.

The intro to *Luxury* begins.

SANDY

An' you can't live without me.

BUCK

An' you can't live without me neither.

SANDY

No. No, I can't.

BUCK

(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
 You can't work seven days a week
 anyway, Buck, it's gonna kill ya.

BUCK
 I do seem to be on edge.

SANDY
 Can you get someone to cover for you
 for one night?

BUCK
 (snapping his fingers)
 Zeke! Zeke can cover for me!

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

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

BUCK & SANDY
 (singing together)

SOMEDAY
 THE SUN WILL SHINE AND WE'LL LIVE IN LUXURY
 SEND UP LUXURY FOR TWO
 SOMEDAY

THE HARD LIFE'S GOT TO END, BUT 'TIL IT'S OVER
MY ONLY LUXURY IS YOU

Again they talk.

SANDY
So whaddaya got goin' on Sunday?

BUCK
(checking his phone)
I...got...nothin'.

SANDY
(checking her phone)
Aaaaand...neither do I.

BUCK
So...Sunday, January third then.

SANDY
Sunday it is!

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 Bill and Clint are seated together having a drink. Midge and Junior are behind the bar.

CLINT
I can't believe you don't know about all this, Bill, you're usually up on the latest.

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

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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

BILL

Well, that was because it took longer
to count the mail-in ballots.

CLINT

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

BILL

I thought you said it was the votin'
machines?

CLINT

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

BILL

I'm gonna need some actual proof,
Clint.

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)
 Everythin' you're sayin' would be
 terrible if it was true, but without
 proof...
 (he shrugs his
 shoulders)

CLINT
 Well, don't worry, now we're gonna have
 a rally in Washington on Wednesday and
 President Trump will have the proof,
 and we'll get it all straightened out.

BILL
 I heard about that, are you goin' to
 that?

CLINT
 I'm gonna send Buck, an' I think some
 o' his friends wanna go too.

BILL
 Ain't Buck workin' all the time now?
 When's he got time to go to Washington?

CLINT
 Bill, this is too important to let it
 slide just for...what...a shift in a
 restaurant! We're savin' democracy
 here!

BILL
 (sarcastically)
 Savin' democracy from the Democrats.
 Makes perfect sense.

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

The intro to *Tell The Truth* begins.

CLINT (cont'd)
 You know, that guy on Fox,
 (snapping his fingers)
 what's his name?
 (singing)
 HE'S GOT THE GIFT FOR PREACHIN'
 HE'S GOT THE GOLDEN TONGUE
 HE GIVES A SERMON ON THE TV EVERY EVENIN'
 WHEN MY DAY IS DONE

I WONDERED IF I WAS STUPID
 BUT THEN I FOUND HIS SHOW

WHERE HE EXPLAINS IT SO IT ALL MAKE SENSE TO EVEN
THIS AVERAGE JOE

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

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

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

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

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

TELL THE TRUTH
(spoken)
Tell the truth.

As Bill buries his head in his hands, the lights go down on
Kitty's and come up on the Carsons' house again, where Eleanor
and Jake are in the living room.

JAKE
Where'd Sandy go?

ELEANOR
(excited)
Didn't you hear? Buck and Sandy finally
got a night off together! He's on his
way over to pick her up.

JAKE

Oh right, the big date...you know, I gotta tell ya, I'm startin' to wonder about Buck.

ELEANOR

What do you mean?

JAKE

Well, Buck an' me used to be so tight, but lately when I see him, he just seems so...different.

ELEANOR

Different in what way?

JAKE

Like, he's all wrapped up in this MAGA stuff now.

ELEANOR

Oh, no, I don't think so, not Buck!

JAKE

Mom, you ain't seen him out like I have. He always tries to keep his nose clean when you an' Dad are around, but when I see him at Kitty's an' that other place he works he's...

ELEANOR

He's what?

JAKE

He's turnin' into a loudmouth Trumper. Always complainin' about how "the election was stolen" an' "the Democrats are tryin' to steal the country" and stuff like that.

ELEANOR

No! Really? Buck?

JAKE

It's true.

Bill comes in the front door wearing the same wardrobe from the last scene.

BILL

Oh boy, you wouldn't believe it.

ELEANOR

Wouldn't believe what?

BILL

I just had the most aggravatin' conversation with Clint. He's gone full-on crazy with this stolen election nonsense.

JAKE

See, that's what I'm talkin' about!

BILL

You noticed it too?

JAKE

Yeah, but it's Buck too. The two of 'em must be watchin' the same crap on TV.

ELEANOR

Oh no! But they're so nice! And they've always been such good neighbors, it's not like them!

BILL

It ain't a matter of bein' good neighbors, I think they're bein' brainwashed with all the stolen election talk they listen to all the time.

JAKE

That's what I was tryin' to tell Mom.

ELEANOR

Well it's a good thing Buck has Sandy to straighten him out then.

JAKE

Mom, I don't know if Sandy's gonna straighten him out, or if Buck's gonna get her sucked into all this too, I really don't.

BILL

Where is Sandy, anyway?

ELEANOR

She's getting ready. They have a big date tonight.

BILL

I might have a few questions for him before that.

ELEANOR

Oh, now, Bill, be nice.

BILL

I'm always nice, El, but I gotta tell ya, I always thought of Buck as a...a player, y'know? Not the kind of guy I want datin' my daughter in the first place. Different girl on his arm every week. So now if he's talkin' like his dad about crazy election conspiracies, that's just icin' on the cake.

ELEANOR

Sweet little Buck? Are you trying to tell me...

BILL

She came outta her room cryin' the other day, an' wouldn't tell me why. Only one reason for it I can think of.

ELEANOR

Maybe that had nothing to do with Buck.

BILL

Oh, it was Buck alright. There's tears, you know, and then there's tears.

JAKE

You think they were fightin'?

BILL

I swear, she looked like she caught him with another woman.

ELEANOR

Oh, I don't think Buck would...

JAKE

He's awful strange lately though, maybe that would explain it.

ELEANOR

I don't believe it. He's crazy about Sandy.

BILL

Well, if he's anythin' like Clint, he's definitely crazy.

We hear a knock at the door.

ELEANOR

That'll be Buck. Let me get that.

Eleanor opens the door and Buck is there.

ELEANOR (cont'd)

Buck! How nice to see you, won't you come in?

BUCK

Thanks, Mrs. Carson, is Sandy here?

ELEANOR

She'll be right down. Come in, have a seat.

Buck comes in and sits, a little reluctantly.

BUCK

Sure thing, Mrs. Carson.

Eleanor exits stage left.

ELEANOR

(from offstage)

Sandy! Buck's here!

BILL

Hello Buck, whatcha got planned for tonight?

BUCK

Oh, the usual, Mr. C, just headin' down to Kitty's. We're makin' plans for our trip to Washington!

BILL

Washington? You two are goin' to Washington?

BUCK

Oh, yeah, have you heard? There's gonna be a big rally there on the sixth, an' President Trump's gonna take back the government!

BILL

Gonna take back the government, huh? An' you're planning to go to this thing with Sandy?

BUCK

Oh, I ain't told her about it yet, but if she's allowed..?

Sandy enters from stage left, ready for their date.

SANDY

If I'm allowed to what?

BILL

(amused)

Buck wants to take you to a Trump rally in Washington on Wednesday.

SANDY

A Trump rally?! Buck, are you outta your mind? Are you...you're not...you're not plannin' on goin' to that thing are you? Tell me you're not!

BUCK

Yeah! We're gonna rent a van for all of us who wanna go - you should come!

SANDY

Buck, I can't make those other people stay home, but I swear, if you go to that rally, I will never speak to you again.

BUCK

Oh, come on, Sandy, don't be like that, you should come! It's gonna be fun!

SANDY

It's gonna be a huge waste of time, is what it's gonna be. Now promise me right here, in front of everyone, that you will not be goin' to Washington.

BUCK

But we got a whole buncha people goin' an' we're gettin' the van...

SANDY

Promise!

BILL

I think you better do it, son...

BUCK

I just...

SANDY

PROMISE!

BUCK

Everybody's expectin'...

SANDY

PROMISE!

BUCK

Okay! Okay! Okay! I promise I won't go
to the rally!

SANDY

(complete mood change,
happy at having won)
Okay! Let's go, 'night Mom, Dad, Jake!

BILL & ELEANOR

Goodnight!

JAKE

'Night Sandy, 'night Buck.

Sandy and Buck leave.

BILL

You see what I mean, El?

ELEANOR

What I saw was Sandy, completely
reeling him back in from where his dad
is trying to make him go.

The guitar intro to *You Can't Tell Her Nothin'* begins.

BILL

Jake, you know what I'm talkin' about,
don't you?

JAKE

Yeah, Dad, I know. I totally get it.

BILL

(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'

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

BILL & JAKE
(singing together)

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

BILL
(singing alone)
THERE'S ALREADY BEEN TROUBLE IN PARADISE
YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN HIM MAKE HER CRY
HE'S ALREADY BEEN CAUGHT OUT TELLIN' LIES
SQUEAKED BACK PROMISING THE MOON AND SKY
"DADDY, IT WAS JUST THAT ONE TIME
"NOW IT'S ALL BLUE SKIES AND SUNSHINE"

BILL & JAKE
(singing together)
AND YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'
SHE THINKS THAT HE'S THE REAL THING
AND YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'
SO DON'T EVEN START
YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'
SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING
SO YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'

BILL
(singing alone)
NO YOU CAN'T TELL HER

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

BILL
(singing alone)
THE HIDDEN WINK, THE LITTLE SMILE
HE'LL ONLY BE WITH HER
A LITTLE WHILE

BUT YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'
SHE THINKS HE'LL BUY HER A RING
YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'
SO DON'T EVEN START

BILL & JAKE
(singing together)
NO, YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'

SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING
SO YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'

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

The lights go down on the Carsons' house, and up at Kitty's, jut as Buck and Sandy enter. Rusty and Lizzy are at a table center stage.

RUSTY
Hey you two lovebirds, c'mon! Join us!

BUCK
(waving to Midge and
motioning for her to
bring a round)
Hey guys.

SANDY
(to Buck)
I thought this was a date? Are we gonna
hang out with your friends all night?

BUCK
(to Sandy)
We'll just have one quick drink with
them, okay?

Sandy looks put out, but they join Rusty and Lizzie anyway.

RUSTY
Alright! Now we can get to plannin'!

LIZZIE
Yeah! I started makin' signs at home
for us: "Stop The Steal!"

RUSTY
Great! Mine say "Vote Trump."

LIZZIE
Rusty...the election is over, that's
why we're protestin'.

RUSTY
Yeah, but if we're askin' for a do-over
they gotta know which way to vote,
don't they?

LIZZIE

Augggh. Never mind, I'll change 'em to say "The Vote was for Trump" or somethin'.

RUSTY

(warming to it)

The Vote was for Trump. Yeah! I like it! The Vote was for Trump!

SANDY

Unbelievable.

RUSTY

So Buck, when do you get off work on Tuesday? We'll have to drive overnight in shifts.

SANDY

Oh, Buck ain't goin'.

RUSTY

Whaddaya mean, Buck ain't goin'?

BUCK

I...uh...I kinda promised Sandy I'd stay here.

RUSTY

Not an option, buddy. This is too important to pass on.

LIZZIE

Buck, you gotta come!

SANDY

He ain't comin', he made a promise.

RUSTY

Sandy, the future of the country is at stake. Buck has to come an' help us stand up to these criminals or we're all goin' down - an' besides, Lizzie don't drive, so I need him to spell me.

SANDY

(friendly but firm)

I'm pretty sure the country is gonna survive if Buck stays home, especially since the danger is actually comin' from you Trump fanatics. Buck is stayin' here, you an' Lizzie can go and waste your time and money out there.

BUCK

Sandy, just let me handle this. Rusty, I made a promise, and now I gotta live with it, but you guys go on ahead, you'll be fine if you just leave a little earlier an' take a rest on the way.

RUSTY

Buck, a promise made is a promise broken, and this is one of 'em.

BUCK

Huh?

MIDGE

(arriving with drinks)

Here we go.

BUCK

Thanks, Midge. Keep 'em comin'.

(he knocks back a shot)

Ahhh. Anyway, there's more than just you an' Lizzie goin', ain't there? Can't someone else drive for a bit?

RUSTY

(looking uncomfortable)

Yeah, I thought there'd be more.

(loudly to the rest of
the bar)

Turns out all these patriots have to wash their hair that day or somethin'.

BUCK

Well, just make that a positive, Rusty! Now you don't have to rent the van, you can just take your car!

RUSTY

Yeah! You an' me in the front, an' Lizzie in the back!

SANDY

(exasperated)

No no no no no, he ain't goin'! Okay, how about this: what exactly do you think you're gonna accomplish by goin' to D.C. anyway, huh? Tell me that.

RUSTY

(as though it's
painfully obvious)

We're gonna fight to save the country,
y'know, from the fake President? The
stolen election? President Trump has a
plan, I just know it, an' if we don't
send everyone we can, the plan won't
happen an' it'll be the end of America!

SANDY

(laughing)

The stolen election! Okay, so you
believe all that horse pucky on Fox
News?

LIZZIE

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

RUSTY

And all the dead people votin'! And all
the mail-in voter fraud?

BUCK

They got ya there, Sandy.

SANDY

That stuff is all hooey! Don't you know
that's all just a big lie? They're
lyin' to you!

RUSTY

It's the news! They ain't allowed to
lie!

SANDY

(turning away in
disgust)

Oh for heaven's sake. Fox News airs a
tiny bit of actual news and a lot of
opinion shows, which is what you
guys're watchin'. Those guys don't have
to be truthful, they say whatever they
want, and most of the time it's just
lies to try an' help Trump out!

BUCK

An' what makes you so sure the news you
watch is the one that's tellin' the
truth?

RUSTY & LIZZIE

Yeah!

SANDY

Because I look at news from all over
the world, even the countries where
they have to tell the truth!

BUCK

That don't mean nothin', Sandy, they're
all in it together, it's that
billionaire guy, what's his name?
Soros?

SANDY

Oh for heaven's sake.

MIDGE

(unloading her tray
onto the table)
Here we go, four more.

BUCK

Aw, thank ya, Midge.
(he downs one quickly)
Ahhhhhhhh.

SANDY

Maybe you better slow it down a bit,
Buck, the night is young.

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

BUCK

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

BUCK (cont'd)

(singing)

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

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

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO
I AIN'T YOUR HIRED HAND

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

SANDY
 (singing)

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

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

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO
 IT'S ONLY ARROGANCE
 YOU TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME
 SO MAKE IT MAKE SENSE!
 I MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS
 I DON'T NEED YOU
 TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO
 DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO
 DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

BUCK
 (singing)

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

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

SANDY
 (singing)

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO
 I AIN'T YOUR HIRED HAND
 I KNOW I SAID I LOVE YOU

BUT ACT LIKE A MAN
I MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS
I DON'T NEED YOU
TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO

BUCK
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

SANDY
NO, DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

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

As Buck sings the last lines of the song, Sandy whirls and leaves indignantly.

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

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

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

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

The lights go down on Kitty's and up on the Carsons' house. It's a couple of days later; Bill and Eleanor are seated, and Sandy is pacing, holding her phone.

SANDY
Today's the rally. He ain't answerin'.
Midge said she heard he mighta gone
anyway.

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

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

ELEANOR
Bill! You're not helping!

SANDY

I'm gonna go down to Kitty's and see if he's there, or if anyone knows where he is.

ELEANOR

Wear a jacket, honey, it's chilly out.

Sandy puts on her jacket and opens the door.

SANDY

Okay, bye.

ELEANOR

Don't worry, honey, it'll all be fine.

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

JAKE

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

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

TV ANNOUNCER

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

ELEANOR

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

I think Sandy should see this. I'm gonna go get her and bring her home.

BILL

Sandy's gonna be fine, El.

ELEANOR

Maybe so, but I'd feel better if she was here with us.

(MORE)

ELEANOR (cont'd)

There's a lot of those Trumppers at Kitty's, you know, and they all know her, and they know she's not one of them.

BILL

(distracted by the TV)

Alright, if you think you should.

ELEANOR

I think I should.

Eleanor puts on a coat and exits through the front door. As Bill and Jake continue to watch in horror, the lights go down on their house and up at Kitty's, where the crowd is silently watching the same broadcast unfold on their TV screens. (the imaginary screen faces away from the audience, so we see their faces, horrified or gleeful, depending on their politics)

TV ANNOUNCER

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

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

SANDY

What the hell..?

JUNIOR

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

SANDY

(dazed)

No.

CLINT

Aww, hell yeah, it's the Boogaloo!

SANDY

Mr. Miller! I thought for sure you'd be at this thing...where's Buck? Did he end up goin' after all?

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

SANDY
 It's crazy! And where's Buck? Is he
 here? Is he there?

Eleanor arrives, and makes her way over to Sandy's side.

ELEANOR
 Sandy, Sandy, why don't you come home
 now, honey.

SANDY
 Mom, look what's happening! Those
 maniacs are breakin' into the Capitol!

ELEANOR
 Yes, honey, we saw, so why don't you
 come home with me now so we can all be
 together?

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

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

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

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

The intro for *Insurrection* starts.

CLINT
 (working himself up)
 Lost the election? Lost the election? I
 can't believe the nerve of you people!
 (singing)
 MAN, WE'VE HAD IT
 IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO LIST THE THINGS WE'RE MAD
 AT

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

SANDY

(spoken)

Unbelievable!

(singing)

YOU THINK WE'RE CHEATIN'
 AW BUT YOU'RE LISTENIN' TO LIES DISGUISED AS FREEDOM
 DON'T YOU SEE NOW?
 THIS COUNTRY'S JUST A PIGGY BANK FOR HIM TO CLEAN
 OUT

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

(all the Democrats in
 Kitty's join her)

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

(singing)

IT'S A CORRECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS

(singing)

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

OF OUR ELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

IT'S A REJECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

OF YOUR SELECTION

SANDY

(singing solo)

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

(spoken)

I tell ya what...

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

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

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT
 IT'S A CORRECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT
 OF OUR ELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT
 IT'S A REJECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT
 OF YOUR SELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT
 IT'S A PROTECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT
 FROM YOUR INFECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT
IT'S OUR OBJECTION

SANDY
(singing solo)
INSURRECTION!

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

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

CLINT
(waits a beat, then
burst out laughing and
continues)
He's there, Sandy, him an' Rusty an'
Lizzie are there!
(he points at the TV
screen and notices
something)
Oh, wait, look there! There they are!
That's them right there, that's Buck's
jacket!
(he rushes toward the
TV to point them out)

Sandy burst out crying and hugs Eleanor.

SANDY
I knew it!

ELEANOR
Oh, honey, let's go home now.

CLINT
No one is leavin'.
(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 properly! All you
pansy-ass Cheatocrats over here
(he indicates stage
left)
and the rest of you, give me a hand
watchin' 'em!

Some people in the restaurant nervously move towards stage left. Junior comes down to confront Clint.

JUNIOR

Oh, come on, Clint, this ain't the start o' some heroic war here, this is a bunch of people watchin' the news at a restaurant. Put it away, and let's have ourselves a good day.

CLINT

(worked up now)

But you don't know! We've been plannin' this for years! Finally it's time for the Boogaloo, and Trump's gonna fix everything! No more political correctness, no more forced vaccinations, an' gun restrictions, no more treadin' on people who just want to believe in Jesus, and the way things used to be!

JUNIOR

(moving towards Clint)

Nobody is tryin' to stop you from...

CLINT

(interrupting by suddenly pointing the gun at Junior)

Hey! Don't get any ideas buddy!

JUNIOR

(putting his hands up)

I got no ideas, Mr. Miller, just tryin' to calm everybody down and...

CLINT

(interrupting)

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

(he points at the TV)

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

JUNIOR

Look, these people here, they're We The People too, ain't they?

(MORE)

JUNIOR (cont'd)
They didn't do nothin' wrong, why do
you need to keep them here? How about
you just let 'em go home, and you an'
me can talk this out, whaddaya say?

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

SANDY
(screaming)
Mom!

JUNIOR
Mrs. Carson? 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 and Junior behind the bar. Buck comes in alone, looking tentative. He spots Junior and makes his way to him.

BUCK

Hey Junior.

JUNIOR

Buck.

BUCK

Is it...okay for me to be here? I'm bettin' the Miller family ain't too popular here right now.

JUNIOR

Sure, Buck, you're fine. That was the sins of the father, you don't have to pay for them.

BUCK

(relieved)

Thanks man. I am definitely payin' for the sins of the son though.

JUNIOR

We all pick our path, Buck.

BUCK

Yeah, I guess. Cops all done here now?

JUNIOR

Yeah, I guess it takes a long time, we just opened up again today. Hey, when did you hear about...what happened here?

BUCK

Oh me an' Rusty an' Lizzie were in the crowd at the Capitol, an' Lizzie got a call from Midge.

JUNIOR

Ohhh.

BUCK

We got outta there an' drove back straight through, no stops, an' I got a call from Dad while we were on the road. He was pretty messed up.

(MORE)

BUCK (cont'd)

Wanted me to find him a lawyer, but most of all he wanted me to tell everybody how sorry he was, an' he didn't mean it, an' all that. I asked him if he needed bail money, 'cause I been savin' for my restaurant fund, an' you know what?

JUNIOR

What?

BUCK

Turns out he already raided my restaurant fund. Donated it all to Trump. You believe that?

JUNIOR

You're kiddin' me.

BUCK

Nope. It's all gone. So now he's still in jail, an' I feel like maybe he can just stay there a while.

JUNIOR

Well, I'm sorry about that, Buck. You heard anything about Mrs. Carson?

BUCK

It's bad, Junior, bad. She's in a coma. I guess the bullet went into her brain and they don't really know whether she'll make it, or even if she does whether she'll come all the way back, y'know?

JUNIOR

Scary. How's Sandy doin'?

BUCK

She...she ain't talkin' to me. I got all the news about Mrs. Carson from Jake, but Sandy's still pretty mad at me.

JUNIOR

Uh huh.

BUCK

Junior, I gotta ask you for your honest opinion. Is all this...is it all my fault?

JUNIOR

How do you mean? How would it be your fault?

BUCK

Well, when dad was so upset an' mad about mom dyin', I always tried to stay in his corner, y'know? Always tried to make him feel like we were a team, him an' me against the world, an' then it felt like we were part of a team, part of a whole movement, y'know? All fightin' for America, this great big group of people all workin' together, an' now it feels like everyone thinks we were wrong an' it's all just a big mess.

JUNIOR

Buck, I saw the whole thing go down over the last few years, an' I know exactly what happened.

BUCK

You do? Tell me! Why's everythin' so bad? Everythin's messed up an' I don't even know why!

JUNIOR

You're thinkin' too small, Buck, you're thinkin' about you and your dad an' Sandy, but what happened to you all is part of a bigger plan that's been goin' on for years.

BUCK

What're you talkin' about, Junior?

JUNIOR

I'm talkin' about rich people...like Trump, an' the guy who owns Fox News, an' a whole lotta other rich people, who been spendin' a pile of money to make sure the government does what they want.

BUCK

Aw, you're just back to your union anti-rich-people hobby horse now.

JUNIOR

No, Buck, just think about it: where did you an' your dad get all that stuff about the stolen election from?

(MORE)

JUNIOR (cont'd)

Was it reported in all the big papers around the world? No. Did you see it on any other stations except Fox?

BUCK

Well, sure, they had stories about it on Newsmax...

JUNIOR

Yeah, more millionaires. They spent so much money to convince people the election was stolen because if they could get their guy back in the White House they could keep gettin' their giant tax cuts an' have all the regulations lifted on their businesses.

BUCK

They wouldn't really do that, would they?

The intro to *Golden Rule* begins.

JUNIOR

Why not? Why wouldn't they? C'mon, Buck, think about it:
(he sings)

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 Junior sings 'rule'
the restaurant crowd
sings the chorus, with
Junior 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

JUNIOR

THE GOLDEN RULE

KITTY'S PATRONS

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

JUNIOR

THE GOLDEN RULE

KITTY'S PATRONS

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

JUNIOR

THE GOLDEN RULE

KITTY'S PATRONS

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

JUNIOR

WE GOT THE GOLDEN RULE

BUCK

So wait, I think I get it, you're
sayin' that it's all just been a huge
con job so him and his buddies can
change the laws.

JUNIOR

That's right, Buck, and you fell for it, you an' your dad an' Rusty an' Lizzie an' all of ya.

BUCK

So it is my fault.

JUNIOR

No, not that part of it, you got sucked in by the fake news, just like millions of other people. But there is one part of it that is your fault, Buck.

BUCK

What's that? Oh, you mean...

JUNIOR

Yeah. When you promised Sandy you wouldn't go to Washington and then you went anyway. She was cryin', man. An' that's nothin' to do with politics or Trump or your dad or anybody else, that's just your relationship, and that one's on you.

BUCK

Yeah, you're right. I messed up.

JUNIOR

So what are you gonna do about it?

BUCK

(thinks for a moment,
and then resolves
something in his mind)

Well, I think I know what I should
do...

Buck heads for the door, and the lights go down on Kitty's and up on the Carsons' house. Bill comes in the front door, where Jake and Sandy are waiting inside.

BILL

So I talked to the doctor.

JAKE

What'd he say?

BILL

He said that they can't tell how bad it is until she wakes up...if she wakes up.

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)
 They can't even tell if that's gonna
 happen yet, but he said if she does
 wake up, she'll probably make it, and
 if she doesn't...well...who knows?

SANDY
 (horrified)
 So you mean this could be it?

BILL
 Aw, Sandy, don't think like that. Your
 mom's a remarkable woman. I can't
 believe somethin' like this could be...
 (he starts crying)
 ...could be the end of her...

Jake and Sandy both run over to console him with a hug.

SANDY
 Oh, Daddy.

JAKE
 (at the same time)
 It's okay, Dad.

JAKE (cont'd)
 (pulling away again)
 What did the doctor say exactly?

BILL
 (pulling himself
 together)
 He said...as long as she's unconscious,
 she's still stable...for now. That
 could go on for hours...or for years.
 He did say that if she wakes up she'll
 likely make it, so I'm gonna spend time
 there so I can be there when she wakes
 up.

SANDY
 (still hugging)
 I love you Daddy.

BILL
 I love you too, Sandy. I think Mom's
 gonna be fine, don't you Jake?

JAKE
 (with false bravado)
 Gonna take more'n a bullet to take Mom
 out!

BILL

Yes sir.

After a moment Jake runs back into the hug, and they all sob a little.

The sound of something falling comes from the shed, synchronized with the introduction to *Drinkin' In The Dark*.

JAKE

What the hell was that?

BILL

Is that...comin' from the shed?

SANDY

(heading outside)

Hello? Is there someone out there?

As the song progresses, Jake 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

What's the matter with you, Buck, why
 would you think this was a good idea,
 gettin' drunk in our shed?

BILL

Let's go get Buck some coffee, I think
 him and Sandy got a little catchin' up
 to do.

JAKE

Gotcha.

They head off stage left.

SANDY

Well? Whaddaya got to say for yourself?

BUCK
(mumbling)
I'm sorry.

SANDY
What was that?

BUCK
(clearer)
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

SANDY
I'll say you are, you're about the
sorriest thing I've seen in a while.

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

SANDY
Well, if that's what you wanted to say,
why'd you have to get drunk first?

BUCK
Well, 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
(sighing)
Oh Buck. You're not responsible for
somethin' your dad did.
(she pauses)
...but you are a dick for what you did.

BUCK

I know it, Sandy. I got caught up in it all, and I'm just now startin' to understand what happened.

SANDY

So...what did happen? How did we end up here?

BUCK

It ain't somethin' that happened here and now, Sandy, this is somethin' that's been goin' on for years, an' Dad an' Rusty an' Lizzie an' me all got hoodwinked. But then I went an' took it out on you, so I'm sorry. I'm truly sorry.

SANDY

Okay Buck. I believe you.

Sandy moves towards Buck in a motion of forgiveness, then stops suddenly.

SANDY (cont'd)

Wait...what'd you mean about somethin' goin' on for years? This was just a coupla weeks ago, wasn't it?

BUCK

Oh no. Junior cleared it all up for me. We got taken by the rich people. It's like...

He starts singing *Make It Great*. As the song progresses, Jake comes back in from stage left with a coffee, and then they all move down stage across to Kitty's, as the divider swings over and the lights change to Kitty's, where the crowd joins in the song, answering Buck's 'Make it great' lines with an answer echo.

BUCK (cont'd)

(singing)

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

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

'CAUSE I DON'T WANNA TAKE - TAKE LYNCH MOB'S WORD

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

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

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

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

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

KITTY'S PATRONS
 (singing)
 MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK
 YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS
 (singing)
 MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK
 YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS
 (singing)
 MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK
 OH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS

(singing)

MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK

MAKE IT GREAT!

As soon as Buck finishes his last vocal line, the lights go out, and then a single spotlight comes on (downstage from the Carson house set) where Eleanor lies in a hospital bed with tubes attached to her arms. Bill stands over her wearing an acoustic guitar, and he just 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
 A WELL OF EMOTION YOU'RE FEELIN' INSIDE
 STILL IN LOVE
 STILL IN LOVE

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

BILL & JAKE

(singing together)

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

Jake retreats into the wings again.

BILL

(singing alone again)

WHEN I'M PLAYIN' ALONE IN MY ROOM
 AND THERE'S NO ONE AROUND
 AND I FIND MYSELF LOST IN THE TUNE
 WELL I'LL HEAR A SOUND

WHEN I COME TO THE END OF A SOLO SONG
 I STILL HEAR YOUR HARMONY AFTER IT'S DONE
 STILL IN LOVE
 STILL IN LOVE
 STILL IN LOVE
 STILL IN LOVE
 STILL IN LOVE
 STILL IN LOVE

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

ELEANOR
 Well, that's a pretty song.

BILL
 (pulling off his guitar
 and leaning over her)
 El! You're awake! How do you feel?

ELEANOR
 I have a headache. What happened?

BILL
 (pulling off his guitar
 and hugging her)
 Quite a lot. Quite a lot. I'll tell you
 all about it. Oh El!

The spotlight goes out again, and the lights go up at Kitty's, where Jake and Sandy are seated at their usual table stage right.

SANDY
 That knucklehead said he would be here
 by now, what's takin' him?

JAKE
 Relax, he doesn't exactly have control
 over when they let him out, does he?

SANDY
 I guess not. I just can't wait to see
 him again is all.

JAKE
 He'll be here when he gets here.

Bill comes in the front door and joins them at the table.

SANDY
 Hey Daddy, what's goin' on?

BILL

I just came from the hospital. The doctor says since your mom woke up she's been gettin' stronger every day, and he thinks she'll make a full recovery. He also said she can even come home in a few days, ain't that great?!

SANDY & JAKE

Wow!

SANDY

A few days!

JAKE

That's awesome!

BILL

(looking around)

So what are we doin' here anyway?

JAKE

Oh, today's the day Buck gets out, an' we're havin' a little celebration.

BILL

Gets out? Ohhhh, right...so...he was in...

JAKE

Jail. Yes Dad.

BILL

Just what every dad wants to hear about his future son-in-law.

SANDY

Aww Daddy, come on! Buck's really come around, you know, he's a new man!

BILL

I heard some things, but tell me what happened exactly?

JAKE

The cops found enough video evidence showin' Buck inside the Capitol to charge him with...what was it again?

SANDY

"Enterin' a restricted buildin'"

JAKE

Right, enterin' a restricted buildin' which is apparently worth thirty days in the slammer.

SANDY

An' it's so unfair! Rusty an' Lizzie were both there too, but they didn't get caught on camera, so they're fine!

BILL

So what're Rusty an' Lizzie up to now?

SANDY

(shaking her head)

I think they're still out fundraisin' for Trump.

BILL

Some people still don't get it, huh?

SANDY

Well, Buck gets it, let me tell you, Some days he won't shut up about it...

JAKE

Well, yeah, Sandy, we wouldn't be here waitin' for him if he didn't! Can't wait to see that dumbass!

BILL

Dumbass! That sounds about right.

SANDY

Oh, Daddy, sooner or later you're gonna have to get used to the new Buck.

BILL

You keep sayin' that. What's so new about him?

SANDY

You know, all through the investigation and the trial and all that, he set up his new business by himself, an' he's all set to hit the ground runnin' now that he's out.

BILL

What business?

SANDY

Daddy I told you! He got a loan an'
bought a used food truck to fix up, an'
he's licensed an' ready to go as soon
as he's back. It's gonna be great -
he's gonna be so busy I might never get
to see him!

BILL

Well, I like the sound of that.

SANDY

(not sure which way he
means that)
It's...a good business, Daddy.

BILL

I'm sure it is, honey.

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

JAKE

And here he is, the man of the hour! My
friend Buck Miller!

As Jake sings, Buck makes his way through the restaurant,
shaking hands and hugging people, and giving Sandy a big kiss
and an embrace when he reaches the Carsons' table.

(singing)

SIT DOWN
HANG YOUR COAT AROUND THE CHAIR
WE ARE SO
GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE
COME JOIN THE PARTY,
YOU BEEN GONE SO LONG!
MIDGE!
COULD WE GET ANOTHER ROUND?
ADD ONE MORE
WHEN YOU BRING IT DOWN
HOPE NO ONE MINDS, WE'RE GONNA BE SINGIN' OUR SONG...

WE SING

KITTY'S PATRONS

(singing and dancing a
choreographed line
dance)

WHOOOA
WHOOOA
WHOOOA

JAKE

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

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

SANDY

(takes over one time)

WELCOME HOME!

Sandy gives Buck a big kiss.

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

JAKE

WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

JAKE

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

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

JAKE

WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

JAKE

WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

JAKE

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

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

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