

INSURRECTION: THE MUSICAL

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# INSURRECTION: THE MUSICAL

## CAST

TRIPP CARSON - UCLA student home for the 1st time since COVID  
Tripp is happy to be back, and looking forward to introducing his girlfriend.

SANDY CARSON - Tripp's younger sister  
Sandy was a supporter of Hilary Clinton, now of Joe Biden.

BUCK MILLER - Very good-looking, grew up friends with Tripp and Sandy next door, but in a Republican household.

BILL CARSON - Tripp and Sandy's father  
Bill's an engineer who writes songs as a hobby.

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

CLINT - Buck's dad, an auto mechanic  
Clint has always been a Republican, but the death of his wife Trixie has radicalized him to full MAGA status.

RUSTY - Buck's MAGA friend.

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

TV ANNOUNCER - Generic TV newsman - can be prerecorded

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

BUCK

Hey Rusty, how you guys doin'?

RUSTY

Hey Buck, doin' good.

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

Oh, I need checkin' on now?

TRIPP

I heard you were still wasting your talent grilling burgers instead of building a barbecue empire, and I had to see if it was true.

BUCK

(sheepish)

Yeah, sadly, the world will have to wait a little longer for "Buck's Breathtaking Barbeque."

TRIPP

Shame. But I guess that's what you get for hitching your wagon to this backwater town.

BUCK

Ha! Beats makin' student loan payments for your left-wing indoctrination!

TRIPP

(laughing)

I'll take my chances.

The introduction to *Welcome Home* begins.

BUCK

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

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

BUCK (cont'd)

Get over here!

Buck sings.

BUCK (cont'd)

(singing)

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

BUCK (cont'd)  
 (the crowd joins in  
 singing)

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA  
 WHOOOA  
 WHOOOA

BUCK  
 (singing solo)

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

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

MIDGE  
 You too, Tripp!

BUCK  
 (singing)

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

(the crowd sings with  
 him)

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA  
 WHOOOA  
 WHOOOA

BUCK  
 (singing alone)

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

BUCK (cont'd)  
 (The crowd sings the  
 Whoas and BUCK sings  
 the Welcome homes)

WHOOOA/WELCOME HOME!  
 WHOOOA/WELCOME HOME!  
 WHOOOA

BUCK (cont'd)  
 (singing alone)

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

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

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

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

TRIPP  
 Yeah! She's pretty good don't you  
 think?

He pretends to show his hair off like a model.

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

TRIPP  
 No, why?

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

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

So...why go back ever?

TRIPP

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

BUCK & RUSTY

Ohhhh!

BUCK

What's her name?

TRIPP

(beaming)

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

BUCK

(patting Tripp's knee)

Dozens o' disappointed local girls, Tripp...

TRIPP

Well, Ryler's not like any of these local girls...

RUSTY

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

TRIPP

She sure is.

RUSTY

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

TRIPP

(laughing)

I guess you'd call her that.

BUCK

Well, what in the Sam Hill is she doin' with you? I know you're a loony leftist, but ain't you still a good ol' boy?

TRIPP

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

Buck, I don't do any of that stuff any more...Ryler wouldn't like it.

BUCK & RUSTY

Ooohhhhhh!

BUCK

Ryler wouldn't like it!

TRIPP

(holding up his hands)

Excuse me, is there something wrong with trying to take the high road?

BUCK

You sound like you been brainwashed, buddy.

RUSTY

Aw yeah, this has her fingerprints all over it.

BUCK

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

(falsetto Valley accent)

'Honey, get me a Kombucha!'

RUSTY

(laughing)

But save the environment, take your e-bike!

BUCK

(falsetto Valley accent)

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



TRIPP  
 (sighing)  
 Oh for pity's sake.

BUCK  
 (his regular voice)  
 Yeah, and suddenly you got a man-bun!

RUSTY  
 ...and a hipster beard!

BUCK  
 ...an' a BLM T-shirt!

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

Buck and Rusty break into *Good New Boy*.

BUCK & RUSTY  
 (singing)  
 SHE MADE ME TAKE THE SMOKESTACKS OFF MY FORD  
 I CAN'T WOLF-WHISTLE ANY MORE

Buck starts a wolf whistle, and Rusty smacks him.

BUCK  
 Ow!

BUCK & RUSTY  
 (singing)  
 MY GOOD OLD FRIENDS ARE ALL ANNOYED  
 'CAUSE NOW I AM A GOOD NEW BOY

BUCK  
 (singing alone)  
 FELL FOR A GIRL FROM CALIFORNIA  
 THOSE OUT-OF-TOWNERS, THEY SHOULD WARN YA  
 I USED TO BE A CLIMATE SKEPTIC  
 BUT MY NEW PICKUP IS ELECTRIC

RUSTY  
 (singing alone)  
 NO HAZIN' JUNIORS AFTER PRACTICE  
 AND NO MORE SMACKIN' BUTTS I FIND ATTRACTIVE  
 NO HUNTIN' DEER IN ALABAMA  
 NOW WE GO SHOOTIN' WITH A CAMERA

BUCK & RUSTY  
(together)

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

BUCK  
(spoken)  
Careful now, Tripp.

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

Midge passes by and they notice.

BUCK & RUSTY (cont'd)

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

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

They collapse into laughter.

TRIPP  
(annoyed)  
Well this is a nice welcome home.

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

Midge returns from taking an order and passes them.

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

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

Buck gets up and heads back to the kitchen.

TRIPP  
Great to see ya, Buck!

RUSTY  
Later Buck!

Tripp starts to get up.

TRIPP  
I gotta go too, Rusty.

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

TRIPP  
Ask me what?

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

TRIPP  
Escape? What did I escape from?

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

TRIPP  
Oh, Rusty, what kinda talk radio  
conspiracy nuts have you been listening  
to?

RUSTY  
So...no babies?

TRIPP  
Man, there is just as much baby-eating  
going on here as there is in  
California.

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

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

RUSTY

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

TRIPP

Two people telling the same lie doesn't make it true.

RUSTY

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

Tripp shakes his head and gets up again.

TRIPP

You believe what you wanna believe, Rusty. You know what I believe?

RUSTY

What?

Tripp heads for the door

TRIPP

I believe I'm heading out now. Bye!

Rusty waves, defeated.

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

BUCK

Tripp says you can cut hair. Is it true?

SANDY

Nice to see you too, Buck!

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

Well, sure, Sandy, no problem at all.  
Just...don't tell Rusty, okay?

SANDY

(sarcastic)

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

(not sarcastic)

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

Whoa, can't have that! Okay, let's get  
you fixed up, come sit over here.

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

SANDY (cont'd)

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

BUCK

You have...clients?

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

(sarcastic)

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

(laughing)

No! That can't be right!

BUCK

It's been a while.

SANDY

(serious)

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

(dreamy)

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

BUCK

(pointing at her)

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

SANDY

Buck, you looked like some kinda Dixie  
Chippendales model.

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

Oh, I do breakfast at the Diamond too.

SANDY

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

BUCK

(pauses, then)

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

Dad says times are just too tight.

SANDY

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

She has an idea.

SANDY (cont'd)

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

(proud of her "Salon")

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

Buck has a sudden realization.

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

(hugely relieved)

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

SANDY

Ha. Except what you spend on dates,  
right?

BUCK

Dates?

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

No, what?

BUCK

She said,

(ditzzy voice)

"Ohhh, like my uncle's Coleman barbecue  
for campin'?"

They both laugh.

BUCK (cont'd)

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



SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

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

BUCK

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

SANDY  
 (dryly)  
 Wait 'til Rusty sees you, he'll want my  
 number!

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

SANDY  
 (rolling her eyes)  
 Your secret is safe with me. Just gonna  
 go get a broom.

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

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

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

SANDY  
 Buck? Did I hear you right?

BUCK  
 (spoken, holding a hand  
 up to Sandy)  
 Just...just...just a minute, Sandy.  
 (turning his attention  
 back to the phone)  
 Okay, Dad?  
 (singing)  
 WHEN THEY TOLD YOU, WHAT DID THEY SAY, AND HOW COULD  
 THEY BE SURE?  
 'CAUSE I HEARD IDIOTS THINKIN' THEY'RE SICK ARE  
 JAMMIN' UP EVERY WARD

DON'T YOU THINK IN ALL O' THAT MESS IT'S POSSIBLE  
THEY COULD BE WRONG?  
SAYIN' MOMMA, MOMMA, MOMMA  
MOMMA'S GONE

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

BUCK  
(peevish)  
Sandy, we don't know anythin' yet. Just  
let me deal with this.  
(to the phone)  
So Dad?  
(singing to the phone)  
STAY RIGHT THERE I'M GONNA COME DOWN AND GIVE 'EM A  
PIECE OF MY MIND  
AIN'T NO WAY A WOMAN LIKE THAT GETS TAKEN OUT RIGHT  
IN HER PRIME  
WAIT 'TIL THOSE INCOMPETENT QUACKS SEE WHO THEY'RE  
TRYIN' TO CON  
TELLIN' US MOMMA, MOMMA, MOMMA  
MOMMA'S GONE  
WHOA, MOMMA'S GONE

Buck lets his phone arm drop to his side and crumples into a chair, dazed; the lights go down on the Carsons' house, and up at Kitty's, where Clint is sitting at the bar drinking alone. Bill and Eleanor come in the door and sit at a table downstage from where Clint is.

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

Bill and Eleanor look at him.

BILL  
Oh, hey Clint.

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

BILL  
Yeah. How are you doin'?

CLINT

(angry)

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

BILL

Wait, what the heck you talkin' about?

CLINT

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

ELEANOR

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

CLINT

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

BILL

(sincere)

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

CLINT

(reluctant)

Well, okay then.

BILL

Alright.

ELEANOR

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

CLINT

(disgusted)

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

BILL

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

ELEANOR

Why not?

BILL

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

ELEANOR

Little Buck?!

CLINT

Takes after me that way.

BILL

(to Clint)

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

ELEANOR

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

CLINT

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

(using air quotes)

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

BILL

Hold on, our what now?

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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

ELEANOR

Hydroxychloriquine? That's all hogwash, Clint.

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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

BILL

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

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

CLINT

Well, okay then.

BILL

(holding up three  
fingers to Midge)

There ya go. What're ya drinkin'?

CLINT

(indicating Midge)

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

ELEANOR

Oh, I got a million, we hung out a lot. I remember this one time we were watching the kids and talking about our husbands, and I was complaining that all these years Bill's been making up songs on his guitar, but he never once wrote a love song about me, an' you know what Trixie said?

CLINT

No, what?

ELEANOR

She told me, "Listen El, us wives don't need to hear a love song. Our men keep a roof over our heads." She said, "You know how I think of it, El? Every car repair goes out the driveway, every muffler, every transmission job, every single one is like a love song to our family, 'cause I know Clint's doin' it all for us."

Clint is overcome, speechless for a moment.

BILL

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

ELEANOR

I believe you Bill, but this is about Trixie.

BILL

Right. Right. She was a good woman. Wouldn't take no crap, neither. I remember at the fair last summer, some blowhard claimed he knows the secret ingredient in the barbecue sauce. "Sesame oil!" he keeps sayin', "It's sesame oil!" An' Trixie shoots back, "Not a chance," an' he says, "What makes you so darn sure?" an' Trixie says, "'Cause he's my son an' he's cookin' my recipe!"

They all laugh. Midge arrives with drinks.

BILL (cont'd)

Thanks Midge.

MIDGE

Oh, my pleasure, Mr. Carson.

BILL

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

CLINT

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

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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

ELEANOR

What'd the nurses do?

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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



BILL

(laughing)

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

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

CLINT

(singing)

NOW I DON'T WANNA START A FIGHT  
BUT I'M RIGHT

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

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

BILL

(singing)

NOW YOU BELIEVE THERE'S A CONSPIRACY

CLINT

(spoken)

Yeah!

(sung)

TO BURY THE TRUTH

BILL

I KNOW YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT I'M

CLINT

YOU'RE UNDER ITS SPELL

(spoken)

I can see it!

BILL

(sung)

YOUR FAVORITE STATION RAN AN EXPOSÉ  
WITH UNASSAILABLE PROOF  
I'M IN THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST  
TERRORIST CELL

BILL (cont'd)

(spoken)

Now, do you really believe that?  
Really?

(sung)

NOW I DON'T WANNA START A FIGHT  
BUT I'M RIGHT

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

CLINT

(spoken, surprised)

That's what I said!

BILL

(singing)

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

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

CLINT

I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

BILL

I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

CLINT

I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

As the song progresses, Clint seems to see more of the humor in the fact that they both have the exact same criticisms of each other's positions, and by the end they both raise their glasses with Eleanor. The lights go down at Kitty's, and come up back at the Carsons' house, where Sandy is once again doing homework. Again, there's a knock at the door, and Sandy answers.

SANDY

Buck! You ain't supposed to be here!

Buck squeezes past her furtively checking over his shoulder.

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

Yeah...?

BUCK

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

SANDY

Just 'cause you...

BUCK

(guiltily)

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

SANDY

Oh jeez.

BUCK

Oh, but Sandy, I defended you!

SANDY

You did? How?

BUCK

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

SANDY  
 (flattered)  
 Oh! And..?

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

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

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

SANDY  
 Well...thank you, Buck.

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

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

ELEANOR  
 Hi Sandy. Hello Buck!

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

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

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

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

SANDY

Oh! Thank you!

BUCK

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

ELEANOR

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

BUCK

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

ELEANOR

Oh, not you too!

SANDY

What happened with the nurses?

BUCK

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

SANDY

(shocked)

Buck!

BUCK

(defensive)

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

ELEANOR

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

BUCK

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

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

ELEANOR

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

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

ELEANOR & SANDY

(singing together)

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

ELEANOR

(singing alone again)

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

ELEANOR & SANDY

(singing together)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRIPP

(to Midge)

Hey Midge, I'm 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!

(nods knowingly)

Thanks Tripp.

Tripp heads for the kitchen.

CLINT

(contemptuously)

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

Sandy comes in the front door.

CLINT (cont'd)

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

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

BUCK

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

CLINT

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

BUCK

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

Clint stumbles a bit, really drunk.

CLINT

Put it on my tab, honey.

BUCK

(to Midge)

I'll cover it later, okay?

He grabs Clint to steady him.



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

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

TRIPP  
You want me to get him home?

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

Tripp looks at Sandy, who nods sympathetically.

TRIPP  
Sure, Buck, I can get him home.

BUCK  
Aw, thanks man! Dad, you go with Tripp now, okay?

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

TRIPP  
Don't worry, Mister Miller, I promise I won't try to recruit you to the communist party on the way home. C'mon!

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

BUCK  
(calling after them)  
I'll get the truck home later!

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

SANDY  
Well, there goes lunch, I guess.

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

SANDY  
Well...I gotta eat.

BUCK  
You gotta eat!

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

BUCK (cont'd)

(teasing)

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

Sandy smacks him on the forehead.

SANDY

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

(she pauses)

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

(sarcastic)

Oh, zing!

She grabs the menu.

SANDY (cont'd)

Just let me look at that.

BUCK

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

Sandy pauses, then looks at Buck seriously.

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

(interrupting)

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

BUCK

You think I'm a cool guy?

SANDY

Sure do!

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

My fault? How...how...

SANDY

It's your fault 'cause...

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

SANDY & SINGERS

(singing)

YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A GROWN UP

Buck is taken aback.

SANDY

(singing alone)

WE  
WE USED TO BE  
CHILDISH AND FREE  
RIDIN' THOSE COUNTRY LANES  
PLAYIN' BICYCLE GAMES  
BUT THEN YOU  
YOU FILLED OUT AND GREW  
MADE ME FEEL SOMETHIN' NEW

NOW IT AIN'T THE SAME ANY MORE  
IT AIN'T A GAME ANY MORE

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

SANDY & SINGERS  
(singing together)  
YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A GROWN UP  
YOU'VE BLOWN UP MY INNOCENCE

SANDY  
(singing alone)  
I TRADED IN MY OVERALLS

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

SANDY  
(singing alone)  
THAT YOU FEEL IT TOO

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

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

SANDY & SINGERS  
(singing together)  
YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A GROWN UP  
YOU'VE BLOWN UP MY INNOCENCE

SANDY  
(singing alone)  
I TRADED IN MY OVERALLS

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

SANDY  
 (singing alone)  
 THAT YOU FEEL IT TOO

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

SANDY & SINGERS  
 (singing together)

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

SANDY  
 (singing alone)  
 I TRADED IN MY LEMONADE

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

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

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

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

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

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

SANDY  
 (singing)

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

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

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

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

## ACT II

We open on Kitty's, which still has a few Holiday decorations up, where Clint is drinking alone at the bar again. Midge is wearing an N-95 mask, and trying to ignore him.

CLINT

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

MIDGE

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

CLINT

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

MIDGE

(sweetly)

No thanks! Can I get you anythin' else?

Rusty enters and spots Clint.

RUSTY

Mr. Miller! I gotta talk to you!

CLINT

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

RUSTY

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

CLINT

He what?

RUSTY

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

CLINT

(angry)

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

RUSTY

Yes sir.

Rusty heads for the kitchen.

CLINT

(to Midge)

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

Midge shrugs, obviously she didn't know anything.

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

Rusty and Buck appear from the kitchen.

BUCK  
 What's goin' on, Dad?

CLINT  
 (to Buck)  
 Rusty says you're backin' outta the rally?

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

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

RUSTY  
 Yeah!

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

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

RUSTY  
 It's that new girlfriend.

BUCK  
 (hissing at Rusty)  
 Rusty! Zip it!

CLINT  
 What new girlfriend? Wait!  
 (MORE)



CLINT (cont'd)  
 Is it that Carson girl? Are you  
 consortin' with the enemy, boy?

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

RUSTY  
 It's like he's a different person.

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

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

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

BUCK  
 (singing)  
 DID YOU THINK WE WERE GONNA BREAK IT OFF  
 'CAUSE OF A FEUD YOU'RE HAVIN' WITH HER POLITICS?  
 THAT'S HOW I KNOW YOU NEVER BEEN IN LOVE  
 SEEIN' AS YOU'D BE GIVIN' HER THE EIGHTY-SIX  
 AN' DON'T PRESUME YOU KNOW ME BECAUSE  
 I AIN'T THE MAN YOU THOUGHT I WAS

RUSTY  
 (singing)  
 NO, YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

CLINT

(singing)

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

BOY,

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

RUSTY

(singing)

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

CLINT & RUSTY

(singing)

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

CLINT

(singing)

YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

CLINT (cont'd)

(spoken angrily)

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

Buck is surprised by this, but recovers quickly.

BUCK

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

CLINT

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

BUCK

Well, alright!

They glare at each other for a moment.

BUCK (cont'd)  
I gotta get back to work.

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

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

SANDY  
Okay okay...

Sandy reluctantly walks around to face Bill.

SANDY (cont'd)  
Papa?

BILL  
Yes Monkey?

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

ELEANOR  
Just spit it out, Sandy.

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

BILL  
Uh huh?

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

BILL  
You what?!

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

BILL  
Why am I just findin' out about this now?

SANDY

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

BILL

(to Eleanor and Tripp)

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

SANDY

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

ELEANOR

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

BILL

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

ELEANOR

But we've known Buck since he was a boy!

BILL

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

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

ELEANOR

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

BILL

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

(singing)

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

BUT YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'

ELEANOR

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

BILL

(spoken)

Oh, no, listen to me...

(singing)

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

BILL & TRIPP

(singing together)

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

BILL

(singing alone)

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

BILL & TRIPP

(singing together)

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

BILL

(singing alone)

NO YOU CAN'T TELL HER

BILL & TRIPP

(singing together)

HOW TO SPOT THOSE LITTLE TELLS  
THE CONSTANT SEARCH FOR SOMEONE ELSE

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

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

BILL & TRIPP  
 (singing together)

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

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

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

TRIPP  
 Dad, I know Buck, and I know guys like  
 what you're talking about, and believe  
 me, Buck's not one of them.

Bill makes a scoffing sound.

BILL  
 You said somethin' about a favor?

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

BILL  
 What?! No! Absolutely not!

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

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

SANDY

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

ELEANOR

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

SANDY

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

Bill looks pained.

BILL

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

(to Sandy)

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

SANDY

(hugging him)

Oh, thank you Papa!

BILL

When's he comin'?

SANDY

He's just waitin' on my call.

BILL

I'm gonna make myself scarce then.

He grabs a coat and heads for the door.

BILL (cont'd)

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

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

CLINT

Carson! Did you know about this? You said you were gonna keep that little buttinsky the hell away from my boy!

BILL

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

CLINT

It's disrespectful, is what it is.

BILL

Damn right.

(calling to Midge)

Midge! A round for me an' Clint here.

MIDGE

Sure thing Mr. Carson.

CLINT

Much appreciated.

BILL

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

CLINT

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

BILL

No, what's that troublemaker done now?

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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



BILL

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

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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

BILL

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

CLINT

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

BILL

I thought you said it was the votin' machines?

CLINT

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

BILL

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

(he shrugs his  
shoulders)

CLINT

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

The intro to *Tell The Truth* begins.

CLINT (cont'd)

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

uhhh...what's his name?

(singing)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TELL THE TRUTH  
 (spoken)  
 Tell the truth.

As Bill buries his head in his hands, the lights go down on Kitty's and come up on the Carsons' house again, where Sandy is greeting Buck, who is at the door with a suitcase.

SANDY  
 C'mon in, Buck. Mom's just gettin' the guest room ready, so if you could wait down here for a minute she'll let us know when it's time for you to go up. This is gonna be so excitin' havin' you here!

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

BUCK  
 (interrupting loudly)  
 Sandy, STOP!

SANDY  
 Buck? What...what's wrong?

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

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

BUCK

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

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

Buck takes out his phone.

BUCK

Well, okay.

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

CLINT

Hello?

BUCK

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

CLINT

A deal? What kinda deal?

BUCK

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

CLINT

Hmm. Lemme think on that.

BUCK

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

CLINT

Yeah, me neither.

BUCK

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

CLINT

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

BUCK

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

CLINT

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

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

The intro to *Luxury* begins.

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

Don't worry Sandy...

(singing)

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

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

THAT I LOVE YOU AND YOU LOVE ME

BUCK & SANDY  
(singing together)

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

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

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

BUCK  
We deserve it!

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

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

BUCK & SANDY  
(singing together)

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

Again they talk.

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

BUCK  
 Yep, kitchen still closes early on  
 Sundays.

SANDY  
 Sunday night then!

BUCK  
 Alright!

BUCK & SANDY  
 (singing together again)

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

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

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

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

MIDGE  
 Uh huh.

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

MIDGE  
 He didn't say.

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

MIDGE

(sighing)

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

RUSTY

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

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

MIDGE

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

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

RUSTY

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

SANDY

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

RUSTY

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

Midge nods and starts pouring them drinks.

BUCK

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

RUSTY

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

BUCK

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

RUSTY

Yeah, but his heart's broke about your mom...same as you, and you're both kinda on a hair trigger.

(MORE)



RUSTY (cont'd)  
Honest, Buck, he's just so...pissed  
that you ain't goin' to the rally on  
Wednesday.

BUCK  
He told you that?

SANDY  
Buck!

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

Midge arrives with drinks for all of them.

MIDGE  
Here you go.

BUCK  
Thanks Midge. Uh...cheers!

He gulps down the drink in one go.

RUSTY  
Midge, better get another round goin',  
okay?

Midge nods and heads back to the bar.

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

RUSTY  
Sandy, this is important, we'll be  
quick. So Buck, tell me, how dead set  
are you on stayin' home from this  
rally?

SANDY  
He ain't goin' to any rally!

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

SANDY

(shocked)

You would...drive to Washington for a stupid Trump rally, just to...

RUSTY

(interrupting)

It ain't stupid! It's democracy in action!

SANDY

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

RUSTY

(as though it's  
painfully obvious)

We're gonna fight to save the country, y'know, from the fake President? The stolen election?

SANDY

(laughing)

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

RUSTY

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

BUCK

An' all the dead people votin'!

RUSTY

An' all the mail-in voter fraud?

BUCK

He's got ya there, Sandy.

SANDY

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

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

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

BUCK (cont'd)  
 Ah! Thanks Midge.

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

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

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

BUCK (cont'd)  
 (singing)  
 SO I BEEN THINKIN' THAT WE GOTTA GET ONE THING  
 STRAIGHT  
 'CAUSE I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND  
 NOW YOU ONLY HAVE TO WORRY 'BOUT BEIN' THE GIRL  
 'CAUSE I'M GONNA BE THE MAN  
  
 I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU THINKIN' YOU'RE BETTER THAN  
 ME  
 AND I'M TIRED OF YOU CALLIN' ME OUT  
 I THINK YOU ONLY WANNA TRY TO THROW ME OFF MY GAME  
 AND THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALL ABOUT  
  
 DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
 I AIN'T YOUR HIRED HAND  
 I KNOW I SAID I LOVE YOU  
 BUT I'M MY OWN MAN  
 I MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS  
 I DON'T NEED YOU  
 TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
 DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
 DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

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

SANDY  
 (singing)  
  
 WELL, YOU'RE A FINE ONE TO TALK ABOUT BEIN' A MAN

WHEN YOU ACT LIKE A LITTLE BOY  
 'CAUSE I ONLY SAID YOU OUGHTA TRY SLOWIN' IT DOWN  
 AND NOW YOU'RE ACTIN' ALL PARANOID!

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

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

BUCK

(singing)

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

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

SANDY

(singing)

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

BUCK

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

SANDY

NO, DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

BUCK

NO, DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

## DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

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

MIDGE

(appearing with another round)

Ain't you gonna go after her?

BUCK

(after a pause)

I...guess I probably should... But I ain't gonna.

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

BUCK (cont'd)

I got a trip to plan.

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

SANDY

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

ELEANOR

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

BILL

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

ELEANOR

Bill! You're not helping!

SANDY

I'm gonna go down to Kitty's and see if he's there.

Sandy grabs a jacket and heads out the door.

ELEANOR

Okay, but don't worry, honey, I'm sure it'll all be fine.

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

TRIPP

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

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

TV ANNOUNCER

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

ELEANOR

(over the announcer's  
voice, which fades a  
little as she speaks)  
I think Sandy should see this.

TRIPP

Yeah.

ELEANOR

I'm gonna go get her and bring her home.

BILL

Sandy's fine, El.

ELEANOR

I'd feel better if she was here. There's a lot of those Trumpers at Kitty's, and they know she's not one of them.

TRIPP

I'll come with you.

BILL

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

ELEANOR

I think we should. Come on, Tripp.

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

BILL

My god, would ya look at that!

As Bill continues to watch TV, the lights go down on their house and up at Kitty's, where the crowd is silently watching the same broadcast unfold on their TV screens. (the imaginary screen faces away from the audience, so we see their faces, horrified or gleeful, depending on their politics)

TV ANNOUNCER

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

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

SANDY

What the hell..?

MIDGE

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

SANDY

(dazed)

No.

CLINT

Aww, hell yeah, it's the Boogaloo!

SANDY

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

CLINT

(ignoring her)

It's a revolution! It's the Trump Revolution!

SANDY

And where's Buck? Is he here? Oh no...  
is he there?

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

ELEANOR

Sandy, Sandy, you shouldn't be here.

SANDY

Mom, Tripp! What're you doin' here? And look what's happening! Those maniacs are breakin' into the Capitol!

ELEANOR

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

CLINT

(excited)

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

SANDY

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

CLINT

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

SANDY

(exasperated)

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

The intro for *Insurrection* starts.

CLINT

(working himself up)

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

(singing)

MAN, WE'VE HAD IT

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

ALL THESE VOTERS

THEY WANNA SHOW YOU YOUR ELECTION FRAUD IS OVER

WE KNOW HE HEARS THE SECRETS THEY DON'T SHARE

THAT'S THE REASON HE'S A BILLIONAIRE

AND HOW HE KNOWS IT WASN'T FAIR

SANDY

(spoken)

Unbelievable!

(MORE)



SANDY (cont'd)

(singing)

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

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

(all the Democrats in  
 Kitty's join her)

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

(singing)

IT'S A CORRECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS

(singing)

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

OF OUR ELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

IT'S A REJECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

OF YOUR SELECTION

SANDY

(singing solo)

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

(spoken)

I tell ya what...

(singing)

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

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

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
 IT'S A CORRECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
 OF OUR ELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
 IT'S A REJECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
 OF YOUR SELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
 IT'S A PROTECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
 FROM YOUR INFECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
 INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
 IT'S OUR OBJECTION

SANDY  
 (singing solo)  
 INSURRECTION!

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

SANDY (cont'd)

(spoken)

So tell me, Mr. Miller, where is Buck?

CLINT

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

He's there, Sandy, him an' Rusty are  
right there in the thick of it!

(he points at the TV  
screen and notices  
something)

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

(he rushes toward the  
TV to point them out)

Sandy burst out crying and hugs Eleanor.

SANDY

I can't believe it!

ELEANOR

Oh, honey, let's go.

CLINT

Nobody leaves.

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

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

(he indicates stage  
right)

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

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

TRIPP

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

CLINT

(worked up now)

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

TRIPP

(moving towards Clint)

Nobody is trying to stop you from...

CLINT

(interrupting by  
suddenly pointing the  
gun at Tripp)

Don't get any ideas buddy!

TRIPP

(putting his hands up)

Just...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 that voted, big numbers, bigger numbers than anyone ever before, for our president, Donald J. Trump!

TRIPP

Look, everyone here, they're We The People too, aren't they? They didn't do anything wrong, why d'you have to keep them here?

(MORE)

TRIPP (cont'd)  
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, is seated at the downstage table talking with Tripp.

BUCK

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

TRIPP

I just figured I knew him better than the other people there, so I'd better do something about it.

BUCK

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

TRIPP

What?

BUCK

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

TRIPP

What?!

BUCK

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

TRIPP

Seriously? He gave your college money to a billionaire?

BUCK

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

TRIPP

(wonderment)

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

What does that mean?

BUCK

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

TRIPP

Yeah, we all saw him on TV.

BUCK

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

Buck shakes his head.

BUCK (cont'd)

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

TRIPP

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

He trails off, shaking his head.

BUCK

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

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

(MORE)

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

TRIPP  
 Oh, that's easy. Rich people.

BUCK  
 Huh? Rich people?

TRIPP  
 Yeah. Rich people. Rich people and  
 their rich friends who own TV and radio  
 stations, filling up the airwaves with  
 propaganda to make Rusty and your dad -  
 and even you, Buck - to make you all  
 think going to Washington was more  
 important than whatever else you might  
 be doing.

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

The intro to *Golden Rule* begins.

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

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

(incredulous)

Won't talk to you? Are you kidding me?  
She walks around the house all day  
cursing 'cause you haven't called!

BUCK

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

Buck?

BUCK

Yeah?

TRIPP

Don't wear the horns or the facepaint.

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

BILL

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

SANDY

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

BILL

Let's just wait 'til Tripp gets home.

Tripp comes in the front door.

SANDY

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

TRIPP

Oh! Did Mom wake up?

BILL

No, no, Dr. Shapiro says...he ain't hopeful she's gonna wake up ever again.

TRIPP

(shocked)

What?

BILL

We gotta prepare ourselves in case she don't.

SANDY

(sudden crying)

Oh no!

BILL

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

TRIPP

(shocked)

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

SANDY

(still crying)

Oh Papa!

TRIPP

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

BILL

Yeah. Let's hope he's wrong.

The electric lead guitar introduction to *Drinkin' In The Dark* interrupts the scene.

TRIPP  
What the hell was that?

BILL  
Is that...comin' from the shed?

SANDY  
(heading outside)  
Hello? Is someone out here?

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

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

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

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

SO I'VE BEEN DRINKIN'  
DRINKIN' IN THE DARK  
AND I'VE BEEN THINKIN'  
I'VE GOT NO WAY TO HEAL YOUR SHATTERED HEART  
I DON'T WANNA SEE THE FALLOUT

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

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

SO NOW I'M DRINKIN'  
 DRINKIN' IN THE DARK  
 AND I'VE BEEN THINKIN'  
 THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD EVER FORGIVE MY GUILTY  
 HEART  
 I DON'T WANNA SEE THE FALLOUT  
 'CAUSE I KNOW IT'S ALL MY FAULT  
 I DON'T WANNA SEE TOMORROW  
 I DON'T WANNA SEE ANYTHING AT ALL  
 THAT'S WHY I'M DRINKIN'  
 DRINKIN' IN THE DARK  
 YEAH THAT'S WHY I'M DRINKIN'  
 DRINKIN' IN THE DARK  
 THAT'S WHY I'M DRINKIN'  
 DRINKIN' IN THE DARK

TRIPP

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

SANDY

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

BILL

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

TRIPP

Right.

They head off stage left.

SANDY

Well? Whaddaya got to say for yourself?

BUCK

(mumbling)

I'm sorry.

SANDY

What was that?

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

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

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

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

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

SANDY  
 And you stayed to drink the whole  
 bottle?

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

SANDY  
 Scared? Of me?

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

SANDY  
 Well, you should be scared. You broke  
 your promise to me. An' then gettin'  
 wasted in the shed like a coward? Why  
 should I forgive you anyway?

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

BUCK  
 Sandy, I know you got no reason to  
 trust anything I say right now, but I  
 just gotta tell you anyway. I went out  
 an' did a dumb thing, an' while I was  
 there, I saw people I thought I admired  
 doin' the dumbest things.

(MORE)

BUCK (cont'd)

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

SANDY

(initially impressed)

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

Right.

BUCK

So why wouldn't he be tryin' to help rich people? They're his buddies! An' it started to make more an' more sense. Anyway, it wasn't only me, Dad an' Rusty got hoodwinked too. We all thought we were on the side savin' the country, but then we ended up rabbletrekkin' through the Capitol an' makin' a mess of everything. An' all I could think about the whole time was how pissed you were gonna be. So I'm sorry. I am truly sorry.

SANDY

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

BUCK

Completely. You know how I see it now?

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

BUCK (cont'd)

(singing)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



KITTY'S PATRONS  
 (singing)  
 MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK  
 YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS  
 (singing)  
 MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK  
 YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS  
 (singing)  
 MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK  
 OH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS  
 (singing)  
 MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK  
 MAKE IT GREAT!

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

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

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

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

BILL & TRIPP  
(singing together)

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

Tripp retreats into the wings again.

BILL  
(singing alone again)

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

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

ELEANOR  
Well, that's a pretty song.

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

ELEANOR  
I have a splitting headache. What  
happened?

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

The spotlight goes out again, and the lights go back up at Kitty's, where Sandy and Tripp are sitting at the downstage table. A "Welcome Home Buck!" sign hangs behind the bar.

SANDY

So Papa says he's comin'.

TRIPP

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

SANDY

I hope he don't make a scene.

TRIPP

Dad's not like that. He's more of a muttering curses kinda guy.

SANDY

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

TRIPP

What happened?

SANDY

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

TRIPP

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

SANDY

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

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

TRIPP

Oh look!

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

SANDY

Papa! Mom you came!

TRIPP

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

ELEANOR

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

BILL

Hey! So the jailbird flies free again, huh?

SANDY

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

ELEANOR

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

SANDY

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

BILL

Well, he is a convict now.

SANDY

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

TRIPP

Or shot someone.

SANDY

Or shot someone. Exactly.

BILL

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

SANDY

Just be nice, okay?

BILL

I'm here ain't I?

ELEANOR

Bill, behave yourself. We're celebrating.

BILL

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

SANDY

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

BILL

So what's Rusty up to now?

SANDY

(shaking her head)

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

BILL

(exasperated)

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

SANDY

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

ELEANOR

(brightly)

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

MIDGE

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

Midge starts making drinks for them.

SANDY

(to Bill)

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

ELEANOR

(to Bill)

Bill, didn't you tell her?

BILL

(waving his hand)

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

SANDY

Tell me what?

ELEANOR  
Oh come on. Can I tell her?

BILL  
Well...okay I guess so.

SANDY  
What?

ELEANOR  
Sandy, you know that loan Buck got.

SANDY  
Yeah?

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

Comprehension dawns on Sandy's face.

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

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

Sandy hugs Bill.

SANDY  
Oh, Papa! I love you!

BILL  
I love you too, Monkey.

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

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

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

(singing)  
SIT DOWN  
HANG YOUR COAT AROUND THE CHAIR  
WE ARE SO  
GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE  
COME JOIN THE PARTY,

YOU BEEN GONE SO LONG!  
 MIDGE!  
 COULD WE GET ANOTHER ROUND?  
 ADD ONE MORE  
 WHEN YOU BRING IT DOWN  
 HOPE NO ONE MINDS, WE'RE GONNA BE SINGIN' OUR SONG...

WE SING

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

WHOOOA  
 WHOOOA  
 WHOOOA

TRIPP

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

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

SANDY  
 (takes over one time)  
 WELCOME HOME!

Sandy gives Buck a big kiss.

KITTY'S PATRONS  
 WHOOOA

TRIPP  
 WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS  
 WHOOOA

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

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

KITTY'S PATRONS  
 WHOOOA

WELCOME HOME! TRIPP  
WHOOOA KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME! TRIPP  
WHOOOA KITTY'S PATRONS

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

WHOOOA KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME! TRIPP  
WHOOOA KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME! TRIPP  
WHOOOA KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME! TRIPP  
WHOOOA KITTY'S PATRONS

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

WHOOOA KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME! TRIPP  
WHOOOA KITTY'S PATRONS

WELCOME HOME! TRIPP  
WHOOOA KITTY'S PATRONS



TRIPP  
WELCOME HOME!

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

THE END