

INSURRECTION: THE MUSICAL

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CAST

TRIPP CARSON - UCLA student home for the 1st time since COVID
Tripp is happy to be back, but can't
wait to get back to his girlfriend.

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

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

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

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

CLINT - Buck's dad, an auto mechanic
Clint has a nodding acquaintance with
his neighbors, the Carsons.

RUSTY - Buck's MAGA friend.

MIDGE - The 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, wearing chef's whites sits with Rusty at a table downstage center, sharing a plate of nachos. Only Rusty has a beer.

BUCK

...so this guy Axel, he's ex-military, but now he's some big political organizer; I think he, like, hobnobs with President Trump at the rallies, an' now he's hangin' out with my dad! My dad!

RUSTY

That's pretty cool, Buck!

BUCK

I know! He's got dad makin' a list of all the local Democrats for his Antifa watchlist, so Rusty, if you know any that he don't, call him up an' tell him.

RUSTY

I...I don't really know any anyway.

BUCK

I guess not. Me either. I wish there was more I could do to help. Axel's such a cool dude - an' he seems to have some big bucks behind him too!

RUSTY

Yeah?

BUCK

Yeah! Always dressed up in fancy leather, an' the best of everything, y'know?

RUSTY

Wow, cool!

Sandy Carson comes in the front door, and Rusty sits up.

RUSTY (cont'd)

Whoa...fresh meat at nine o'clock!

BUCK

(flirtatious, to Sandy)

Hello, Beautiful!

SANDY

Why, thank you, Buck Miller...don't you recognize me?

BUCK

Uh...nope?...should I?

SANDY

Sandy Carson? Next door? Tripp's sister?

BUCK

(astounded)

Sandy? But...you were just a little kid! Last time I saw you...you were ridin' a BMX!

SANDY

(amused)

It has been a while. An' apparently now...I'm beautiful!

Buck and Rusty laugh nervously.

SANDY (cont'd)

Anyway, have you seen Tripp?

BUCK

Ain't he stuck in California?

SANDY

Naw, they just lifted the lockdown at UCLA, so he came home yesterday. I'm supposed to meet him here and drive him home, but he said he wants to see you first.

BUCK

(delighted)

Tripp's comin' here? Oh, man, it's gonna be like old times! I ain't seen Tripp since forever!

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

SANDY
(checking her watch)
He said he'd be here by now...

Tripp grabs her shoulders, laughing.

SANDY (cont'd)
(spinning around)
Oh, Tripp! Cut it out!

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

TRIPP
Hey Buck! How are ya?

The introduction to *Welcome Home* begins.

BUCK
Oh, I'm steppin' all over the competition an' winnin' the game of life!

TRIPP
That's my boy! You got time for a quick one?

BUCK
Uhhh...Kitty don't let us drink on the job, but don't let me stop you!

He holds up his arms for a hug.

BUCK (cont'd)
Get over here!

Buck sings.

BUCK (cont'd)
(singing)
SIT DOWN
HANG YOUR COAT AROUND THE CHAIR
WE ARE SO
GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE
COME JOIN THE PARTY,
YOU BEEN GONE SO LONG!
MIDGE,
COULD WE ADD ANOTHER PLATE?
YES ONE MORE
TABLE WOULD BE GREAT!

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

WE SING

(the crowd joins in
singing)

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA
WHOOOA
WHOOOA

BUCK
(singing solo)

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

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

MIDGE
You too, Tripp!

BUCK
(singing)

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

(the crowd sings with
him)

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA
WHOOOA
WHOOOA

BUCK
(singing alone)

WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS

AND WE JUST WANNA SAY
WELCOME HOME!

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

WHOOOA/WELCOME HOME!
WHOOOA/WELCOME HOME!
WHOOOA

BUCK (cont'd)
(singing alone)

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

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

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

TRIPP
Oh, no, all the barbers back there are
closed for the pandemic, Sandy just cut
my hair this morning.

BUCK
(astonished, to Sandy)
Really? You cut hair?

SANDY
It's what I do.

TRIPP
She's pretty good too, don't you think?

He pretends to show his hair off like a model.

BUCK
I'll be danged! Hey, could you cut
mine? All the barbers here are closed
too.

SANDY
Sure, Buck! Just come by the house.

BUCK
 Thanks, I will!
 (to Tripp)
 So Tripp, what's it like at UCLA? How
 could you stand it, ain't it all
 bicycles an' tofu an' LGBC...Q...X...
 Z... whatever?

TRIPP
 It's not like that at all, Buck, you'd
 probably be surprised.

BUCK
 Surprised how?

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

BUCK
 Really.

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

BUCK
 (laughing)
 C'mon, seriously!

TRIPP
 Alright, seriously, outside of great
 weather and beaches, it's a lot like
 here, but I didn't get to see much of
 it anyway 'cause we got locked down
 halfway through second term and I spent
 the rest of it in my dorm taking
 courses on my laptop.

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

TRIPP
 (chuckling)
 Well, not quite alone...I uh...I met
 this girl.

BUCK & RUSTY
 Oooohhhh!

BUCK
What's her name?

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

SANDY
We can't wait to meet her!

BUCK
I'll be danged, that's great, Tripp!
I'm happy for ya!

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

TRIPP
She sure is.

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

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

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

TRIPP
I'm just the same as I always was,
Buck.

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

TRIPP
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 me trying to take the high road?

BUCK

You sound like you mighta been
brainwashed, buddy.

RUSTY

Aw yeah, you are Woke Whipped!

BUCK

Ain't that what California girls are
all about nowadays?
(falsetto Valley accent)
'Honey, get me a Kombucha!'

RUSTY

(laughing)
But save the environment, take your e-
bike!

BUCK

(falsetto Valley accent)
'Pick me up a Pride flag while your
there!'

TRIPP

(sighing)
Oh for pity's sake.

BUCK

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

RUSTY

...and a hipster beard!

BUCK

...an' a BLM T-shirt!

RUSTY

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

Buck and Rusty break into *Good New Boy*.

BUCK & RUSTY

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

Buck starts a wolf whistle, and Rusty smacks him.

BUCK

Ow!

BUCK & RUSTY

(singing)

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

BUCK

(singing alone)

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

RUSTY

(singing alone)

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

BUCK & RUSTY

(together)

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

BUCK

(spoken)

Careful now, Tripp.

BUCK & RUSTY

(singing together)

YOUR JUDGEMENT IS DEFECTIVE
Y'ALL NEED A NEW PERSPECTIVE
IS THIS THE WOMAN OF YOUR DREAMS?
SHE'S A KILLJOY CRUSADER
SO MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRADE HER

Midge passes by and they notice.

BUCK & RUSTY (cont'd)

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

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

They collapse into laughter.

TRIPP

See, this...this is exactly why I
wanted to move away from here.

BUCK

Aww, don't tell me you caught The
Wokeness out there!

TRIPP

Buck, do you even know what "Woke"
means? Hmm?

BUCK

Of course! It means...it's...it's like
when...well...YOU know!

TRIPP

I do know. It means that instead of
being blind to the injustice and
inequity in the world, you have
awakened to recognize unfair privilege
and call it out when you see it.

BUCK

Whoa, whoa, whoa, back up...did you get
your brains scrambled out there in La
La Land? Have you gone...Democrat?!

TRIPP

Buck, our whole family was always
Democrats!

SANDY

Yeah! Didn't you see our Clinton signs
last election?

BUCK

Those were yours? I thought...I
thought...I don't know what I
thought...just give me a minute to wrap
my mind around this.

TRIPP

I can't believe this is news to you.

BUCK
I guess we never talked politics
before, I just assumed...

TRIPP
But we're still friends, right?

BUCK
(a bit dazed)
Yeah yeah, sure...still friends...

Midge returns from taking an order and passes them.

MIDGE
Buck, I got customers needin' three
cheeseburgers all with fries.

Buck snaps out of his shock and gets up.

BUCK
Uh...yeah, yeah, yeah, sorry guys, I
gotta get back to work.

TRIPP
(shaking his head)
Still stuck making burgers and fries,
huh?

SANDY
I'm still dreamin' about your barbecue
Buck!

BUCK
Aw, that's kind o' ya! But yeah, gotta
make what Kitty tells me to. Great
seein' ya, Tripp, Sandy.

SANDY
I'll see you soon for a haircut, right?

BUCK
(pointing at her)
For sure, thanks. Later!

He heads into the kitchen.

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

RUSTY
You too guys.

TRIPP

C'mon Sandy.

Tripp and Sandy leave. Rusty pulls out his phone and calls someone, and we hear his side of the conversation.

RUSTY

Mr. Miller, it's Rusty. Got some more names for your Antifa list....Yeah, Buck an' me just saw Tripp Carson here, an' I found out...well, I guess you already knew about his mom an' dad, but guess what I just found out: Tripp is also a Democrat! ...I know!...An' his little sister too. Yeah, right, Sandy, that's her name....what? Yeah, all of 'em, so Bill, Eleanor, Sandy and Tripp! No, me neither, I can hardly believe it! Anyhow, thought you should know.... You're welcome. Bye now.

Rusty disconnects the call and shakes his head as the lights go down on Kitty's and up at the Carsons' house, where Sandy is doing homework at the dining table with her laptop and books open. A knock comes at the door, and Sandy answers it. It's Buck.

SANDY

Oh hey, Buck. You here for a haircut?

BUCK

(still undecided)

If...that's okay? Or I could come back if this ain't a good time for ya?

SANDY

No, no, come on in, now's a good time, no problem!

BUCK

You sure? 'Cause I could just...wait...

SANDY

Buck, I said it's a good time! Come on in, what's the matter?

BUCK

I just don't wanna be...uh...

SANDY

Are you worried about a godless commie Democrat comin' at you with scissors?

BUCK

(laughing)

I do feel a little like I'm enterin'
the lion's den, now I know y'all are...
different...than I thought.

SANDY

Oh my god, I won't bite you! Get in
here! Did you think I'm gonna..what...
infect you with wokeness or somethin'?

Buck comes in, and as they talk, Sandy sits him in a chair and
fetches a barber's cape that she puts on him.

SANDY (cont'd)

I wouldn't have any clients if I talked
politics while I work.

BUCK

Wait...you have clients?

SANDY

Yes I have clients! Matter of fact,
right now while Daddy's off work for
the pandemic, my haircuttin' is our
only source of income.

BUCK

Look at you, little Sandy runnin' a
business! Y'know, 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

I guess Tripp an' me mostly hung out in
Dad's shop, so that's why you an' me
ain't crossed paths in a while.

SANDY

I guess. Hey Buck, y'know, if I close
my eyes an' picture you, you're
standin' in front of a big barbecue
with a drippin' sauce brush an' a long-
neck beer...

(dreamy)

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

BUCK
(pointing at her)
Like the summer street fair last year!

SANDY
Exactly! 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 - I got the name all picked out an' everything: "Buck's Ribs."

SANDY
Good name. So what's stoppin' ya?

BUCK
Well, right now I'm like you, me workin' kitchens is keepin' us afloat, so Dad won't let me try it.

SANDY
So you're workin' two jobs, payin' all the bills, an' he still 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? Can't you use that for your business? I mean, it'd be a great education, wouldn't it?

BUCK
An' what are Mom an' Dad gonna live on? Can't leave 'em high an' dry, can I?

SANDY

Yeah, I guess I know whatcha mean. But I get to keep some of the money I make, don't you?

Buck has a sudden realization.

BUCK

Wait a second! What's this haircut gonna cost me?

SANDY

Well, old friend o' the family, let's just say this one's one the house.

BUCK

(hugely relieved)

Aw, thanks, Sandy! I get a bit, but Dad's pretty tight with the purse strings.

SANDY

Unless it's for dates, right?

BUCK

Dates?

SANDY

I hear you're out with a different girl every week!

BUCK

Who told ya that?

SANDY

Tammy. She says you're a terrible ladies' man.

BUCK

Aw she's just mad I won't take her out.

SANDY

What's wrong with Tammy?

BUCK

Are you kiddin'? Tammy's one o' those loony lefties with her Women's Lib an' her rainbow handbag.

SANDY

I have scissors, Buck.

BUCK

I...I...I didn't mean nothin' by it, Sandy, she just...ain't my type is all. An' I ain't any ladies' man, it's Dad's idea for me to play the field. He wants me to find a wife to help him look after mom.

SANDY

Seriously? So you're not really datin'! You're just out recruitin' a nursemaid for your mom. Hey, how is your mom, anyhow? What is it again? Some kinda breathin' problem?

BUCK

She's pretty good most o' the time. Just has to make sure she don't run outta those puffers, y'know?

SANDY

Long as she ain't got that new Covid thing.

BUCK

No, no. she was coughin' bad this mornin' though, Dad took her to the hospital for emergency puffers just 'fore I came over here.

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

Ain't you worried she's 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! Not bad! You are full o' surprises, ain't ya!

SANDY

(dryly)

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

BUCK

(chuckling)

I guess so. Thanks, Sandy.

SANDY

(flattered)

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

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

BUCK

(glancing at the phone screen before answering)

Hey dad!

(his face changes as listens)

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!

(he sings)

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

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

SANDY

Buck? 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

That's exactly what she meant! Some kinda leftist anti-family cult thing, ain't 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

Oh great, you're gonna 'have a word with her.' That ain't gonna keep Buck at home though, will it?

BILL

Clint, I doubt Buck's thinkin' on leavin' you any time soon now Trixie's gone, an' I doubt Sandy's got much sway over him anyhow. Far as I know, they hardly know each other. But we'll help if we can, won't we El?

Eleanor nods.

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 anyhow, you can go ahead an' 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. It wasn't phones 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.

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)

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 wanted to tell you about 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 says to me, "Don't he keep a roof over your head?" She says, "You know how I think of it El? Every car repair 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, there was some blowhard braggin' he knows the secret ingredient in the barbecue sauce. "Sesame oil!" he keeps sayin', "It's sesame oil!" An' Trixie says, "Not a chance," an' he says, "What makes you so sure?" an' Trixie says, "'Cause he's my son an' he's makin' 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 this virus! I mean, President Trump says it escaped from some lab in China, so, what, is it a bioweapon?

BILL

(laughing)

Well, not to put you down, but just a coupla minutes ago it was caused by...5G was it? An' now it's some kinda bioweapon? An' if that came from Mister Trump, I'm more inclined to believe the 5G story!

Clint has been getting more agitated as Bill speaks, and as the intro for *I Ain't Puttin' You Down* starts, he stands.

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!

(MORE)

CLINT (cont'd)
 (sung)
 TO BURY THE TRUTH

BILL
 I KNOW YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT I'M

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

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

(spoken)
 Now, do you really believe that?
 Really?

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

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

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

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

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

CLINT
 I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

BILL
 I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

CLINT
 I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

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

Oh, you're a lifesaver! Thanks for
doin' this on the sly, if Dad catches
me here I'm dead.

SANDY

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

BUCK

He ain't worried about Tripp, it's you
he's got it in for.

SANDY

Me? How come?

BUCK

Well, you remember that idea you had
about usin' my college fund for my
business?

SANDY

Yeah?

BUCK

Well, I asked him about it, but I...
uh...I mighta mentioned it was your
idea.

SANDY

An' what did he say?

BUCK

Well, he hit the roof an' 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, then he flipped out again an' started rantin' about the woke mob. Then it turns out he already spent the college fund payin' the bills, so...

SANDY

The whole thing? How much was there?

BUCK

I never knew, an' that money was still his, so it don't matter if he wants to spend it donatin' to build the wall, or whatever, it's his to spend.

SANDY

(shocked)

Did he do that?

She stops and sighs, realizing asking this will just aggravate Buck.

SANDY (cont'd)

Oh, never mind, none o' my business. I only wanna see you succeed, Buck.

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 up on Kitty's, where Clint is drunk and obstreperous, haranguing Midge at the bar. Tripp is sitting at the downstage center table.

CLINT

(loud and angry)

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

MIDGE

(staying out of it)

Could be, I guess.

CLINT

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

MIDGE

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

CLINT

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

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

TRIPP

(to Midge)

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

MIDGE

Sure!

(nods knowingly)

Thanks Tripp.

Tripp heads for the kitchen.

CLINT
 (contemptuously)
 Is that the Carson boy? The u-nee-ver-
 si-ty student? Get back out here, boy,
 I don't need you fillin' Buck's head
 with more o' your crap about leavin'
 the nest!

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...gagin' 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.

CLINT
 (slurring and falling)
 I'm fine.

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

TRIPP

You want me to get him home?

BUCK

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

Tripp looks at Sandy.

SANDY

Don't let me stop you.

TRIPP

Sure, Buck, I'll 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
ain't gonna drag you to a Black Lives
Matter protest 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'll 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 there's a whole Under Twelve menu on
 the back here!

Sandy playfully smacks him on the forehead.

SANDY
 I am not a little kid any more!
 (she pauses)
 An' I know you know that, Buck; you
 remember when Tripp came home an' you
 saw me? You were sittin' right here,
 an' you called me "Beautiful!"

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

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

BUCK
 'Cause what?

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

SANDY & SINGERS
 (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 don't matter if he goes or not 'cause he's just one person. Says 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' the mortgage,
 y'know?

CLINT
 (exploding)
 An' you ain't worried about what
 happens if we let them charlatans steal
 our election like that! That's it! The
 whole country's gonna be gone!

RUSTY
 Yeah!

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

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

RUSTY
 It's that new girlfriend.

BUCK
 (hissing at Rusty)
 Rusty! Zip it!

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

They glare at each other for a moment.

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
AND DON'T PRESUME YOU KNOW ME BECAUSE
I AIN'T THE MAN YOU THOUGHT I WAS

RUSTY

(singing)

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

CLINT

(singing)

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

BOY,

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

RUSTY

(singing)

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, I just found out about it myself, an' I ain't pleased 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

Heard you kicked him out over it.

CLINT

Huh? No, no, it wasn't him datin' her so much as him gettin' corrupted by her an' goin' against my orders.

BILL

Your orders?

CLINT

Yeah! I told him he was committed to go to Washington for the rally, an' he backed out. I blame that girl o' yours, she's tryin' to mess with the forces of good.

BILL

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

CLINT

Well sure I am! You should be too, we should all be gung-ho about it, they stole the election!

BILL

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

CLINT

(interrupting)

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

BILL

An army? What kind of protest you think this is gonna be? Is this what you fought with Buck about?

CLINT

(counting them off on his fingers)

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

BILL

I ain't heard nothin' believable about any o' that, but I bet I know what station you watch on TV. Y'know, just because it says 'News' in the name don't mean a big chunk of it ain't just half-baked opinions.

CLINT

Oh no, they got this investigative reporter who's lookin' into the election!

BILL

Investigative reporter? Who's that?

CLINT

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

The intro to *Tell The Truth* begins.

CLINT (cont'd)

(in time with the beat)

Now what's his name?

(singing)

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

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

HE TELLS IT LIKE IT HAPPENED
THERE IN THE VOTIN' BOOTH

HE AIN'T AFRAID TO DO THE ONE THING NO ONE ELSE WILL
HE CAN TELL THE TRUTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SANDY

C'mon in, Buck. Mom's just gettin' the guest room ready, so if you could wait 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

I'm sorry, Sandy, I didn't mean to yell. It's just...this ain't a great time for me, fightin' with Dad an' gettin' kicked out so I have to mooch offa you.

SANDY

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

BUCK

I had it all planned out: I was gonna keep workin' an' save up for my own place...maybe for our own place...if you wanted.

SANDY

Oh!

BUCK

An' now it's all gonna be messed up, 'cause even if I ain't payin' Dad's bills no more, it's gonna cost way more for a place o' my own, an' I'll just keep fallin' behind more an' more.

SANDY

You could save a lot by just stayin' here for longer. What if you chipped in just a little bit, like payin' rent? Then you could save all the rest!

BUCK

Look, Sandy, I don't think you really understand what's gonna happen when Dad figures out how much I been payin' for. He'll be crazy on the warpath, an' if I'm stayin' here, he's gonna find out, an' I don't know what kinda hell he's gonna raise when he does, but I really don't want you an' your family in the middle of it. No, I'm gonna start lookin' for a place tomorrow.

Sandy steps back from him, defeated.

BUCK (cont'd)

Aww, don't be sad about it though, it's...it's a new year, a fresh start somehow, even if it ain't how I planned it!

SANDY

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

The intro to *Luxury* begins.

BUCK

Maybe at first, but you know, Sandy, if you an' me both just keep workin' hard as we can, it's all gonna be worth it in the end, I promise! Listen:

(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...tomorrow night off, is that still..?

BUCK

Yep, kitchen still closes early on Sundays.

SANDY

Tomorrow 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 drive 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 yeah, 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...Woke Whipped.

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! Good to see ya, buddy! Listen, I gotta talk to you.

SANDY

Rusty, if you don't mind, this is our date, we're takin' the night off for just 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 pour a round o' those shooters on me?

Midge nods and starts pouring them drinks.

BUCK

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

RUSTY

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

BUCK

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

RUSTY

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

BUCK

He told you that?

SANDY

Buck!

RUSTY

Oh, yeah, he was down here all day 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 - Rusty's right, 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 back that lie, all 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. Eleanor is seated, and Sandy is pacing, holding her phone.

SANDY

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

ELEANOR

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

SANDY

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

ELEANOR

Is that how you really feel though?

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

SANDY

(crying)

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

Sandy grabs a jacket and heads out the door.

ELEANOR

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

SANDY

(distracted)

Sure Mom, bye now!

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

TRIPP

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

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

TV ANNOUNCER

...and now we're seeing protesters actually inside the building now, they are inside the building.

(MORE)

TV ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

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

*ELEANOR

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

I think Sandy should see this.

TRIPP

Yeah.

ELEANOR

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

TRIPP

I'll come with you.

ELEANOR

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

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

TV ANNOUNCER

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

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

SANDY
**What the hell..?

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
broke into the Capitol!

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

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

SANDY

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

CLINT

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

SANDY

(exasperated)

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

The intro for *Insurrection* starts.

CLINT

(working himself up)

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

(singing)

MAN, WE'VE HAD IT
IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO LIST THE THINGS WE'RE MAD
AT
ALL THESE VOTERS
THEY WANNA SHOW YOU YOUR ELECTION FRAUD IS OVER
WE KNOW HE HEARS THE SECRETS THEY DON'T SHARE
THAT'S THE REASON HE'S A BILLIONAIRE
AND HOW HE KNOWS IT WASN'T FAIR

SANDY

(spoken)

Unbelievable!

(singing)

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

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

(all the Democrats in
Kitty's join her)

INSURRECTION!

CLINT

(singing)

IT'S A CORRECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS

(singing)

INSURRECTION!

CLINT
OF OUR ELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
IT'S A REJECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
OF YOUR SELECTION

SANDY
(singing solo)
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
(spoken)
I tell ya what...

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

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

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
IT'S A CORRECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
OF OUR ELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
IT'S A REJECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
OF YOUR SELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
IT'S A PROTECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
FROM YOUR INFECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS
INSURRECTION!

CLINT
IT'S OUR OBJECTION

SANDY
(singing solo)
INSURRECTION!

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

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

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

Sandy burst out crying and hugs Eleanor.

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

TRIPP

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

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

SANDY

(screaming)
Mom!

TRIPP

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

CLINT

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

SANDY

(sobbing)
You shot her! You shot Mom!

The lights go down suddenly to end the act.

ACT III

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

Anyhow, I'm grateful. Even if he did jack it all up in the end, at least you tried. Y'know, I always knew Dad was a hothead, but I never thought he'd do somethin' like this! Anyhow, thank you Tripp, an' I gotta ask, what's the news about your mom?

TRIPP

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

He trails off, shaking his head.

BUCK

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

But that's just it, Tripp, it don't feel like it was just him, he was in thick with some heavy dudes, I think they were the ones wanted him to send me to D.C. An' then when we got there, we were so sure we were doin' the right thing, but now it's over, we're gettin' painted as bad guys!

TRIPP

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

(interrupting)

But we were...

TRIPP

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

BUCK

(amused)

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

TRIPP

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

The intro to *Golden Rule* begins.

TRIPP (cont'd)

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

(singing)

ADAM WAS THE RICHEST MAN
WHO EVER WALKED THE EARTH
'CAUSE HE HAD THE WHOLE WORLD TO HIMSELF
AND EVER SINCE THERE'S BEEN A WAR
TO KEEP THE BIGGEST SHARE
THAT'S HOW EVERY RICH MAN GOT HIS WEALTH

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

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

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

WHY SHOULD A POOR MAN
ONLY GET PAID A FRACTIONAL PORTION
'CAUSE ALL OF HIS WORK IS MAKIN' A FORTUNE

SHOULDN'T HE GET THE PENTHOUSE SOMEDAY?

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

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

KITTY'S PATRONS

(singing)

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

TRIPP

THE GOLDEN RULE

KITTY'S PATRONS

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

TRIPP

THE GOLDEN RULE

KITTY'S PATRONS

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

TRIPP

THE GOLDEN RULE

KITTY'S PATRONS

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

TRIPP

WE GOT THE GOLDEN RULE

BUCK

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

But what about all those reports about voter fraud?

TRIPP

Those reports only played on a couple of stations, the ones the billionaires own. The other stations all ran stories about how every one of those claims had been debunked in court cases.

BUCK

(pauses, then)

Well now don't I feel like a sucker. No wonder Sandy won't talk to me, I'm one o' the saps who fell for the swindle.

TRIPP

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

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

BUCK

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

TRIPP

Buck, how'd you get this far without understanding a girl in love?

BUCK

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

TRIPP

So when you go talk to her...

BUCK

Yeah?

TRIPP

Don't wear your Trump T-shirt.

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

SANDY

That's pretty, Papa, what is it?

BILL

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

SANDY

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

BILL

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

SANDY

(after a pause)

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

BILL

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

Sandy runs over to him and hugs him.

SANDY

(crying)

Oh Papa!

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

TRIPP

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

SANDY

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

BILL

I was just tellin' Sandy, Doc Shapiro has not...filled me with hope.

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)
 I'm gonna head over an' see if they'll
 let me sneak past the lockdown to spend
 a little time tellin' her to wake up,
 or at least...sayin' goodbye.

Sandy starts crying a little again.

TRIPP
 Hey, can I get a ride with you? I got
 an errand by the hospital.

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

TRIPP (cont'd)
 What the hell was that?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SANDY

(angry)

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

BUCK

I'm sorry, Sandy. Sooooo sorry.

TRIPP

Yeah, maybe getting polluted in our
 shed wasn't your best opening line. But
 go on, say what you came to say.

(MORE)

TRIPP (cont'd)

Dad, c'mon, you an' me gotta head over to the hospital.

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

BILL

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

TRIPP

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

BILL

Change of heart?

BUCK

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

BILL

Welll, if Tripp says you're okay now... Sandy, you can hear him out, an' if you don't like what you hear, kick him right back out.

SANDY

Oh, I will!

BUCK

Thank you, that's all I ask.

BILL

An' no monkey business! Okay, c'mon, Tripp.

Bill grabs a coat and his guitar, and he and Tripp head off stage left, with Tripp motioning Buck to get on with it.

SANDY

Well? Whaddaya got to say for yourself?

BUCK

I came to say I'm sorry.

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

Tripp laid it out? So this is the 'change of heart' he was talkin' about? Was it also his idea for you to come over here and get drunk in the shed?

BUCK

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

SANDY

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

And you stayed to drink the whole bottle?

BUCK

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

SANDY

Scared? Of me?

BUCK

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

SANDY

Well, you should be scared. You broke your promise to me. An' then gettin' wasted in the shed like a coward? 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 to Washington, partly to make Dad happy, but also because I really believed that we were doin' the right thing. But I understand now that we were all just caught up in a lie, those TV people tricked us into believin' a lie. And Sandy, I do know what's true, an' that's you. You are why I'm back here, beggin' your forgiveness, an' ready to start over doin' it right this time.

SANDY

(initially impressed)

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

BUCK

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

SANDY

Right.

BUCK

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

He pauses, unable to put it into words

BUCK (cont'd)
So I'm sorry. I am truly sorry.

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

BUCK
Completely. Know how I see it now?

He starts singing *Make It Great*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THROUGH ALL THE HISTORY OF OUR DEMOCRACY
THE FIGHT WAS RICH AND POOR, NOT LEFT AND RIGHT

BUT WE'VE BEEN MAKIN' WAR AGAINST EACH OTHER NOW
'CAUSE BILLIONAIRES SAY WHO WE SHOULD FIGHT

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

KITTY'S PATRONS
(singing)
MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK
YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS
(singing)
MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK
YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS
(singing)
MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK
OH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS
(singing)
MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK
MAKE IT GREAT!

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

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

STILL IN LOVE

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

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 food 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 ain't talked to Rusty in months,
 an' now he'll be way too busy gettin'
 the food truck back up an' runnin' to
 talk to anyone, even me! Everybody I
 know can't wait to get some o' Buck's
 ribs!

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, you didn't tell her?

BILL

(waving his hand)

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

SANDY

Tell me what?

ELEANOR

Oh come on. I'm gonna tell her!

BILL

Well...okay if you must.

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

TRIPP

WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

TRIPP

WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

TRIPP

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

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

TRIPP

WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

TRIPP

WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS

WHOOOA

TRIPP
WELCOME HOME!

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

KITTY'S PATRONS
WHOOOA

TRIPP
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS
WHOOOA

TRIPP
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS
WHOOOA

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