

DON'T KNOW NOBODY THAT BOOGIES ANYMORE
A musical in two acts by Andy Gaus

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CAST

DANNY—white male, 20s or early 30s. A brilliant but condescending half-baked would-be poet. High baritone or tenor.

SUZY—white female, 20s or early 30s. A down-to-earth young Jewish woman from a lower-middle-class background. Alto.

ELAINE—black female, 20s or early 30s. A sympathetic young black woman who combines a compassionate nature with conservative beliefs. Alto or mezzo-soprano.

MARSHALL—black male, 20s or early 30s. A rakish young ladies' man with a sensitive side. Baritone.

REVEREND GARNETT—black male, 40s or 50s. A gifted orator and a man of immense learning and personal magnetism, but a stern defender of traditional Christian morals. Bass.

Place: A big city

Time: 1970s

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

“Don’t Know Nobody that Boogies Anymore”	Danny
“Sing Me No Songs”	Suzy
“The Slow Dance”	All
“Who Are You Now?”	Suzy and Danny
“Come Live With Me and Be My Love”	Danny and Suzy
“When You Love a Plant”	Suzy and Elaine
“It Seems So Much Simpler That Way”	Danny and Elaine
“Make Their Day a Little Harder”	Danny and Marshall
“When You Love a Man”	Elaine and Suzy
“Comfortable”	Marshall and Waiter
“The Grass Is Legal in Spain”	Danny, Suzy, and Marshall

Act Two

“Straight Man”	Danny and Trio
“Food Farewell”	Suzy
“My Woman Elaine”	Marshall
“Or Else They’ll Win”	Rev. Garnett
“Building My House on Sand”	Suzy and Elaine
“Our Wedding Day”	Elaine, Marshall, and Rev. Garnett
“Sparrows”	Elaine, Marshall, and Rev. Garnett
“You Know How These Things Go”	Suzy and Danny

Scene 1

DANNY

(Paging through French dictionary, talking to himself as lights come up slowly.) Octopus, octopus, octopus, octopus. Ah! La pieuvre. La pieuvre, eh? Boy, you could have fooled me. Don't think I ever saw that one before. Good. Now I can form such useful sentences as "Bonjour madame, je suis une pieuvre." Or perhaps "La pieuvre de ma tante est sur--"

(Phone rings.) Stockwell! Big news, eh? Hold on, I'm fastening my seatbelt. All right. Wow! I'm real honored, man, you have no idea. I've never been a best man at a wedding before... By the way, does that imply that you and Lisa are getting married? You too, eh? Well, I've got to say this about you: I've been watching 'em drop over the years and you've held out longer than most. I hope you and I still have a few nights left to ramble about and paint the town some pretty colors before the knot actually forms around your person. And starts begetting little knotlets of its own. Which, what with you so virile and her so nubile, kind of has to be expected. Man, I'll miss you as a boon companion, but don't worry, I'll occupy my time with saying the rosary. In the meantime, the grass I just scored is pretty good and worth a try

if you do get a moment free. Whenever. Give me a call. Good--
Just a second, I almost forgot to say congratulations.
Congratulations to you both, man, and thanks again for thinking
of me. Goodbye.

(Sings. And dances.)

Don't Know Nobody That Boogies Any More

DON'T KNOW, DON'T KNOW NOBODY
THAT BOOGIES ANY MORE.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY IN CHURCH
THEY SPEND THE NIGHT INDOORS.
AND THEY DON'T GET DRUNK,
THEY DON'T GET STONED,
THEY LEAVE ME HERE TO SMOKE ALONE.
DON'T KNOW, DON'T KNOW NOBODY THAT BOOGIES ANY MORE.

DON'T KNOW NOBODY WITH WHOM A BODY
COULD SET THE NIGHT ABLAZE.
EVERYBODY'S DANCING SHOES
HAVE SEEN THEIR GLORY DAYS.
THEY DON'T GET HIGH,
THEY DON'T GET DOWN,
THEY'RE CIRCUMSCRIBED SO CLOSELY ROUND.
DON'T KNOW, DON'T KNOW NOBODY THAT BOOGIES ANY MORE.

HEY THERE,
EVERYBODY OUT FOR SKITTLES AND BEER.
HEY THERE...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU GUYS, CAN'T YOU HEAR?

(**DANCE BREAK.**)

DON'T KNOW, NO, NO, NO, NO, NOBODY
THAT BOOGIES ANY MORE.
I'M JUST A BIT MORE OUT OF IT

THAN CAESAR'S GALLIC WAR.

I GOT NO COOL,

I GOT NO FLAIR,

ENSCONCED UPON MY DERRIERE.

DON'T KNOW, DON'T KNOW NOBODY THAT BOOGIES ANY MORE.

HEY THERE,

ANYBODY LIKE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME?

HEY THERE...

I CAN TAKE A HINT, YOU GUYS, NEVER MIND.

DON'T KNOW, DON'T KNOW NOBODY THAT BOOGIES--JAMAIS PLUS!

ET SANS MES BONS COMPAGNES JE SUIS TOTALEMENT PERDU...

I'M CRACKING UP,

I'M BREAKING DOWN,

SOMEWHERE OUT IN LONELYTOWN,

DON'T KNOW,

DON'T KNOW NOBODY THAT BOOGIES,

DON'T KNOW NOBODY THAT BOOGIES,

THAT BOOGIES,

THAT BOOGIES ANY MORE!

Scene 2

SUZY

(Paging through Italian recipe book as lights come up slowly.

Judy Collins's "Whales and Nightingales" is on the stereo.)

Octopus, octopus, octopus, octopus. Ah, baked octopus with linguini, that sounds perfect. Let's see, I have the tomato sauce, I don't have basil but I can use oregano, what's the--

(Phone rings.)

Elaine! How's by you, dear heart? Why are you jumping up and down? Try to hold the receiver steady! Oh? That's OK, I'm sitting down. It's "Whales and Nightingales," but I can turn it off. (She does so.) You met a guy! Does the fact that you're jumping up and down mean that he's cute? Wow, Elaine, mazel tov, but I hope this

doesn't mean I never see you again. You're about as good a friend as I've got. Where'd you meet him? Isn't that something? So do I get to meet him sometime before he sweeps you off to his castle? No castle? Give him time! Well, Elaine, that's wonderful. In the meantime, if you have any evenings when your prince isn't waltzing with you, I'd sure like to have you over for dinner: I really haven't seen you in ages, seems like. Whenever. Give me a call. I'm really happy for you. I hope everything works out for the best. Bye.

(Sings.)

Sing Me No Songs

SING ME NO SONGS, YOU NIGHTINGALE,
AND HUSH, YOU WHIPPOORWILL.
I NEED A MAN TO HOLD ME TIGHT
WHEN ALL THE NIGHT IS STILL,
WHEN ALL THE NIGHT IS STILL.

I LIE EACH NIGHT AND TWIST UP THE SHEETS,
THEN I SLEEP TILL THE MORNING COMES.
AT BREAK OF DAY I RISE AND I PRAY,
I STRETCH OUT MY EMPTY ARMS,
I STRETCH OUT MY EMPTY ARMS.

SOMETIMES I THINK THAT IT'S ME,
THAT I DON'T REALLY WANT LOVE.
BUT THEN, WHAT IS THIS FILLING MY HEART
THAT KEEPS MAKING ME
HOWL LIKE A DOG AT THE MOON?

SOMETIMES I THINK I'M OK,
THAT I DON'T REALLY NEED LOVE.
BUT THEN, WHAT'S THIS THAT WON'T LET ME
LAY MY HEAD DOWN TILL I FIND IT,
I FIND IT OR DIE?

THE WEEKS GO BY, THE SEASONS FLY,
ANOTHER YEAR IS GONE.
GOD, CAN THIS BE MY DESTINY,
TO LIVE OUT MY LIFE ALONE?
TO LIVE OUT MY LIFE ALONE?

SING ME NO SONGS, YOU NIGHTINGALE,
AND HUSH, YOU WHIPPOORWILL.
I NEED A MAN TO HOLD ME TIGHT,
WHEN ALL THE NIGHT IS STILL,
WHEN ALL THE NIGHT IS STILL.

Scene 3

DANNY

Walking down street, thinking to himself.) Bonjour madame, je
suis une pieuvre.

SUZY

DANNY?

DANNY

SUZY?

SUZY

What did you just say? You're a what?

DANNY

Pieuvre? An octopus.

SUZY

(Laughs.) You're an octopus?

DANNY

Well, so to speak.

SUZY

Are you living here in the city?

DANNY

Yes. Are you?

SUZY

Yes. I'm pursuing a biology degree at Tufts New England
and working as a biology lab technician.

DANNY

Pouring germs from one test tube to another? Dissecting frogs?

SUZY

Close. I'm doing animal work, mostly mice, some chickens.

DANNY

Do you have to kill them sometimes?

SUZY

Oh, all the time. I can snap a little mousy's neck so quick--
(She shows.) What are you doing? Are you still writing poetry?

DANNY

Maybe.

SUZY

I know. If you were, you wouldn't tell me much about it. Anything published? (He quickly shakes his head.) Are you working?

DANNY

Proofreader.

SUZY

Is it a good job?

DANNY

Notice my continued existence? Notice my weight about normal, due to continued eating? Notice my skin, kept smooth by the continued roof over my head?

SUZY

You're bringing back a flood of memories. I never did know when I was going to ask the wrong question and you would turn into a bear.

DANNY

I'll be nice. And you look nice.

SUZY

I've put on a lot of weight, of course. When I think you knew me in high school ... oh brother! I'm never going to look like that again. You don't still have that picture we took at the junior prom, do you?

DANNY

I think I do, yes. Should I dig it up sometime? Would you like to see it?

SUZY

No, I don't want to know.

(Sings.)

The Slow Dance

SUZY

YOUR TUXEDO AND MY GOWN BOTH CAME FROM SCHLOSSMAN'S.

DANNY

AND YOUR ORCHID FROM THAT FLOWER SHOP NEAR BY.

BOTH

BUT WE LITTLE GUESSED THE POWER

THAT AWAITED US THAT HOUR

WHEN WE DANCED THE SO-CALLED "SLOW DANCE," YOU AND I.

(The players playing MARSHALL, ELAINE and REVEREND
GARNETT, disguised in snazzy eyeshades and nightclub
costumes, appear as the prom's entertainment.)

CHORUS

YES, WE DANCED THE SO-CALLED "SLOW DANCE," YOU AND I.

SUZY

YOUR "FAST DANCE" ALWAYS FELL APART COMPLETELY.

DANNY

I GUESS IT TAKES A SWINGING KIND OF GUY.

BOTH

BUT WHEN THE SPEED CAME DOWN TO

WHERE I COULD PUT MY ARMS AROUND YOU,

THEN WE DANCED THE SO-CALLED "SLOW DANCE," YOU AND I.

THEN WE FELT AN INDESCRIBABLE SENSATION

THAT TRANSMOGRIFIED OUR BEINGS THROUGH AND THROUGH,

WHICH HAD ELUDED EVERY PREVIOUS GENERATION,

AS WELL AS EVERY BOY AND GIRL BUT ME AND YOU.

SUZY

I THINK WE MOVED A LITTLE BACK AND FORWARDS.

DANNY

WE TURNED AROUND--AT LEAST, GAVE IT A TRY.

BOTH

WE DIDN'T NEED NO FANCY MOVES,
PIROUETTES AND PAS DE DEUXS,
JUST TO DANCE THE SO-CALLED "SLOW DANCE," YOU AND I.

CHORUS

OUR DANCE WAS ONE NO DANCING-SCHOOL IMPARTED.
NO DANCING MASTER MADE US TOE THE LINE.
AND YET IT SEEMED THE MOMENT THAT WE STARTED,
I HAD DANCED WITH YOU BEFORE THE DAWN OF TIME.

DANNY AND SUZY

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABOUT ELEVEN-THIRTY,
DANNY I RETURNED YOU TO YOUR MOTHER'S
WATCHFUL EYE.

SUZY

BUT FIRST YOU KISSED ME.

DANNY

YES, I DID.

BOTH

IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE KIDS:
WE HAD DANCED THE SO-CALLED "SLOW DANCE," YOU AND I.

Scene 4

(DANNY's apartment. It's a slum.)

SUZY

I remember thinking all the while, "So this is what it's like.
This is what everybody's been talking about." So I got home and
my mother was already asleep.

DANNY

You mean all her eyes were closed at once?

SUZY

Oh, stop. She's my mother! And I was thinking, "Will she look at
me and know?" So I got to a mirror, and I looked at myself for a
while. And I said, "Well, I don't look any different." And it's

as if all of it fell away--all those years of hearing about good girls and bad girls and always being a virgin--all in that instant when I looked at myself and said, "I don't look different."

DANNY

So simple for you, so complicated for me.

SUZY

Why was it complicated for you?

Or don't you want to say? (Pause.) That bad, eh?

DANNY

Maybe another time when I'm ready to go into it.

SUZY

I can wait if you want to have a few stiff drinks.

DANNY

No, really.

SUZY

Man, it almost frightens me knowing there's something about you that's so hidden and dark that--

DANNY

Erupts.) Well, too bad, you just have to put up with it, because you have to have some respect for my privacy, is that clear? SUZY Don't bite my head off! I was just telling you how I feel.

DANNY

(Through his teeth.) And I'm just telling you how I feel.

SUZY

(Pleading.) Oh come on, be nice.

DANNY

All right, all right. (Pause.) So you left virginity behind and life still goes on, eh?

SUZY

Last I looked it was.

DANNY

Good. Then it won't come as so much of a shock what I was going to ask you next.

SUZY

Oh?

DANNY

Oh! (Moves toward her as lights dim. They strip to reveal another layer of clothing for the next scene.)

Scene 5

(DANNY's apartment.)

SUZY

It was like this. She was away for two weeks and she asked if I could just water her plants--she only has a few and they never get very big, obviously--so I said sure. Anyway, there was this one philodendron that actually wasn't doing too badly--philodendrons are pretty hardy, even with someone like her taking care of them. But it was getting pot-bound. I was looking at the size of the stem and leaves, and I could just hear all those tangled roots screaming to get out. So I repotted it in a larger pot with more soil and some vermiculite--she never uses vermiculite, don't even try to explain to her about drainage. It's a wonder the poor thing hadn't drowned to death. And then there was a section that was way too long, so I lopped it and took it as a cutting and put it in water and then later put it in soil and put it on the windowsill of my room. Anyway, the rest of the plant did fine. Just in those two weeks she was gone it got bigger and bushier with a healthier color to it. It was like a whole new plant. But then when she came back, she took one look at it and started yelling,

ELAINE

"What's it doing in that pot? Who told you you could fool around with my plants like that? I don't like that color pot, it doesn't go with the room..."

SUZY

Then when she saw the cutting, she said,

ELAINE

"You cut part of my plant off and took it for yourself--who told you you could do that?"

SUZY

I mean it needed pruning anyway. If I'd thrown it in the garbage she'd have never noticed. And I said, But it was going to die if it wasn't moved to a bigger pot, and you know what she said?

DANNY

I think I can guess.

ELAINE

"Well, maybe it lives and maybe it dies, but it's my plant alive or dead!"

DANNY

That was my guess.

SUZY

Can you believe it?

DANNY

Yeah, I can believe it all to hell, specially since she's right.

SUZY

She's right? How can she be right when her plant was declining and I brought it back better than ever?

DANNY

For you, whether a plant flourishes or fails is a question that crowds out all others. For her the question of private property crowds out all others. But she's entitled to that view. The law may forbid cruel treatment of animals, but it so far doesn't extend to plants; it leaves them hanging, so to speak. So if

you see someone mistreating their plants, your heart may go out to those abused plants, but you aren't authorized to conduct a horticultural commando mission to rescue them.

SUZY

Some friend you are! I feel under attack and I need support.

DANNY

Would you settle for a backrub?

SUZY

No, this is serious. That was three days ago, and it's been like the Ice Age in that apartment ever since. You're my one source of moral support.

DANNY

If moral supportiveness means I actually have to think in the very special way that you do, I can't always guarantee that. If it means being here to help, I'm here to help. For starters, you want to sleep here tonight?

SUZY

Yes, I'd love to. I dread going back there.

DANNY

And then tomorrow night and the next night and the night after that?

SUZY

You'd probably get tired of having me around all the time like that.

DANNY

I'm saying I don't think so.

SUZY

You're serious? You want me to move in here? Just like that?

DANNY

Not just like that. I've been thinking about it for a while now.

SUZY

Oy, and with everything else on my mind right now. I don't think I can commit myself on the spot. Do you understand?

DANNY

Of course. I can get you a few stiff drinks while you make a decision.

SUZY

It's just a lot to think about. I don't want to end up fighting with you worse than with my roommate now.

DANNY

I'll at least always talk with you. I'll never leave little notes on your door.

SUZY

But won't you resent my invasion of your space?

DANNY

As far as the looks of the place after you hit here, realistically speaking, I'm talking about total surrender. There'll be nothing left of the place to be proprietary about. I'll feel like a stranger and guest here myself. SUZY But you won't mind that?

DANNY

I don't think so. I haven't been in this place long enough to fix all its little details in my soul, and what you do with it is bound to be an improvement on the merits.

SUZY

Won't I be in the way of your writing?

DANNY

This isn't such a large place, but it does have a walk-in closet with a light bulb and room for a chair. That's all I need. If necessary I can also install a lock.

SUZY

Why don't you just carry a knife? And if I bother you when you want to be alone in your closet you can just chase me away with it.

DANNY

I think we can work out something better than that. At any rate, I know I want you here. So will you think about it?

SUZY

Will I ever think about it! Oy, and with everything else on my mind!

DANNY

That's the second time you've said "with everything else on my mind." What's on your mind?

SUZY

Well, there's two things. Last night I had the strangest dream.

DANNY

All your dreams are the strangest.

SUZY

This one was REALLY strange. I was at work, and my boss came to see my carrying this weird animal like nothing I'd ever seen, kind of like an armadillo with a head more like a weasel and a long sort of ratlike tail, and these strange little quivering paws. It was so ugly. And my boss said, "Your job today is to cut this animal open alive with no anesthetic and look at its heart." And I said "No, no, I won't do that," and he went away. And then after he was gone, it was like something came over me, and it started controlling my arms and legs against my will like a robot. I couldn't control myself at all. And I went and took the animal and held it down and cut it open and looked at its heart, just like my boss had said. Then when I was finished it let go of me and I ran to the bathroom and started vomiting and vomiting. And then I woke up. But the dream stayed with me, and I think it was telling me something.

DANNY

Like you don't want to do animal work any more.

SUZY

You got it.

DANNY

What changed your mind?

SUZY

I think I always felt this way, but it was covered up because I was so gung ho about this great biology career I was going to have.

DANNY

That reminds me of what they say about autumn leaves: that all those beautiful colors are actually present during summer, but the naive youthful chlorophyll just greens over everything.

SUZY

Well, I guess my chlorophyll wore off. So now I have to think about finding a new job as well as another place to stay.

DANNY

So that's one thing. You said there were two things.

SUZY

Well, it's kind of a long story. There was this guy Eric that I knew in college. I had kind of a crush on him for a while. At any rate, I ran into some college friends of mine on the street yesterday. And they said he's living in Greenwich Village and he's a SWISH.

DANNY

Ucch!

SUZY

And I'm so bewildered--I would never have guessed it. It's like you can't tell about anybody any more. (With an affectionate touch.) You aren't a swish, are you? I sure hope not! DANNY

Could you use ANY other term than that--faggots, perverts, degenerates, abusers of themselves with mankind?

SUZY

Why? Does that bother you so much? (Pause.)

DANNY

Suzy... Do you want a stiff drink?

SUZY

Seriously? No thanks.

DANNY

Mind if I get myself one?

SUZY

Go right ahead.

(He leaves and returns with a whiskey bottle and a shot glass. He takes a couple of shots in front of her and settles onto the couch beside her.)

DANNY

Suzy, you know that stuff I said I wasn't ready to tell you the other night? Well, I'm still not ready, but I guess I have to

anyway. Look, Suzy, if it bothers you so much to know that this other friend of yours feels all these strange homosexual attractions and sleeps with other men, then you should also know that I feel those same strange homosexual attractions--very strongly, more so than to women in most cases--and I've slept with men already on a few occasions now.

SUZY

I don't believe it.

DANNY

You have to believe it. I don't have any photographs or anything. At the same time my feelings about you are no less real because of what I've said before, and I think I've given you, uh, ample expression of those feelings.

SUZY

My head is whirling. I can't think or talk or anything.

DANNY

You can leave thinking and talking for the morning. How about some going to bed and sleeping?

(They sing, back to back in the dim light.)

Who Are You Now?

DANNY AND SUZY

WHO ARE YOU NOW?

DID YOU JUST CHANGE?

DID YOU JUST TURN INTO SOMEBODY STRANGE?

WHO ARE YOU NOW?

ARE YOU STILL YOU?

HAVE YOU JUST TURNED INTO SOMEBODY NEW?

WAS THAT YOUR MASK?

IS THIS YOUR FACE?

OR HAS SOME STRANGER JUST TAKEN YOUR PLACE?

ALL OF THIS TIME,

DIDN'T I SEE

WHO IT WAS STANDING THERE RIGHT NEXT TO ME?
WHO ARE YOU NOW?
WHO ARE YOU NOW?
IS THIS YOU I SEE?

STILL THE SAME SHAPE,
STILL THE SAME SIZE,
IS THE SAME PERSON INSIDE OF YOUR EYES?
ARE WE STILL HERE?
ARE WE STILL US?
ARE WE A NUMBER THAT'S MINUS OR PLUS?
I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT SOMEHOW:
WHO ARE YOU NOW? (Blackout.)

Scene 6

DANNY'S apartment. Morning comes. He is up before her. Hands her coffee.)

DANNY

How are you doing? Are you going to move out of my life or into my apartment, or some third option?

SUZY

I'm still deciding. It's a lot to think about. And I had the strangest dream last night.

DANNY

You didn't.

SUZY

Actually it was a recurrence of a dream I had when I visited Czechoslovakia: I was on this vast concrete plain, like an airport runway, and it was night, but with bright floodlights

popping off and sweeping round from random directions. And I was on a motorcycle, and there were these planes overhead, but they were in the shapes of crosses.

DANNY

Oh, flying crosses!

SUZY

Yes, and they were swooping down and buzz-bombing me and the other people on motorcycles. And there was a dim blue line in the distance, and I knew that was the border and I had to reach the border. Then one of the planes flew over me and hovered there and threw a spotlight down on me and followed me as I sped along. I couldn't get out of the beam, and it was blinding me, and the plane was coming down closer, and then I woke up.

DANNY

Wow, strafed from the air by the cross of Christ! Was there much anti-Semitism in Czechoslovakia?

SUZY

I didn't see it overtly, but in Czechoslovakia, being Jewish is something you tell only your best friends about, kind of like being gay in the United States.

DANNY

So you had this dream in Czechoslovakia and you're having it again now?

SUZY

Exactly. It's weird: why now?

DANNY

Maybe your Jewish identity feels assaulted by the idea of setting up housekeeping with a boyfriend who's a--not a shiksa, what's the word?

SUZY

Shegitz.

DANNY

Right, with a shegitz boyfriend.

SUZY

Could be.

DANNY

Just a second. I think I have something to clear your head: an appropriate selection from Christopher Marlowe:

(Finds poetry anthology in bookcase and looks up Christopher Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd to His Mistress.")

Come live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove,
That valleys, groves, hills and fields,
Woods or steepy mountains yields.
The shepherd swains shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May morning.
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me and be my love.

SUZY

Do you think they'll let you keep sheep in here?

DANNY

Now, don't be so literal. The point is, that stud was offering
what he had, which was groves and hills and wildflowers and so
on, and I'm offering you... what I have. (Sings.)

Come Live With Me and Be My Love

COME LIVE WITH ME AND BE MY LOVE,
MY LIVIN', LOVIN' TURTLEDOVE.
WE'LL RUN RIGHT THROUGH A BARREL OF
THE PLEASURES LIFE CAN GIVE.
BUT THAT WILL NEVER COME TO BE
IF YOU WILL NOT COME HERE WITH ME.
COME LIVE WITH ME AND BE MY LOVE,
I'D LOVE TO LIVE WITH THEE.

NOW NEVER FEAR, MY SWEETING,
IF THERE'S HANGUPS WITH THE HEATING
WE'LL JUST CROUCH AROUND THE STOVE AND COOK WITH GAS.
AND THE SURFACE OF MY SHOWER
HAS THOSE STICK-ON RUBBER FLOWERS
THAT WILL KEEP YOU SAFE FROM FALLING IN THE BATH.
(CHORUS)

SUZY

WE'LL LISTEN ON THE STEREO
TO MOZART'S IMPRESARIO

DANNY

UNLESS YOU'D RATHER HEAR THE KINKS INSTEAD.
AND I WON'T BELIEVE HOW LUCKY
I'LL BE EVERY TIME MY DUCKY
TAKES MY ARM AND PULLS ME GENTLY OFF TO BED.
(CHORUS AND DANCE BREAK)

DANNY

WHAT SAY BUT WE MIGHT DABBLE
IN A SHILLING'S WORTH OF SCRABBLE.

SUZY

DO YOU PROMISE IF I WIN YOU WON'T GET MAD?

DANNY

WHY, OF COURSE I'LL BE QUITE CIVIL—

SUZY

MEANING ANGRY AS THE DEVIL.
IF YOU BARELY KEEP THE LID ON, I'LL BE GLAD.
I GUESS WHEN PUSH HAS COME TO SHOVE,
I'LL LIVE WITH YOU AND BE YOUR LOVE,
THOUGH I SEE NO SOLUTION OF
THE PROBLEM THAT IS YOU.

DANNY

JUST LIVE WITH ME AND BE MY LOVE,
AND--WHO KNOWS--MAYBE I'LL IMPROVE!

SUZY

I WOULDN'T BET ON THAT, MY LOVE,
IF EITHER OF US WERE YOU.

DANNY

I'M IDIOSYNCRATIC
AS THE BATS IN GRANDMA'S ATTIC,

BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT MAINSTREAM NOTIONS I'LL EMBRACE?
AND THE WEIRDEST OF MY CUSTOMS,
I WILL CHEERFULLY ADJUST 'EM
IF THAT'S WHAT WILL PUT A SMILE UPON YOUR FACE.

BOTH

COME LIVE WITH ME AND BE MY LOVE,
MY LIVIN', LOVIN' TURTLEDOVE.

WE'LL RUN RIGHT THROUGH A BARREL OF
THE PLEASURES LIFE CAN GIVE.
BUT THAT WILL NEVER COME TO BE
IF YOU WILL NOT COME HERE WITH ME.
COME LIVE WITH ME AND BE MY LOVE,
I'D LOVE TO LIVE WITH THEE.
I'D LOVE TO LIVE WITH THEE.

Scene 7

(As the scene begins, there is a great moving in and out of furniture and furnishings, with SUZY directing the STAGE MANAGER where to put things. As the lights come up, the place is barely recognizable. It's like human beings live here now. In particular, many plants have been added.)

ELAINE

What's that one?

SUZY

That's a terebinth fern.

ELAINE

Suzy, this is just amazing. So many plants, and all so big and bushy and green and full of life! How do you do it? SUZY
Water, light, fertilizer, and the right size pot.

ELAINE

There's got to be more to it than that. This is like magic. I mean, I have a little philodendron, and I water it, and give it some of the fertilizer, but it just barely hangs on without keeling over.

SUZY

Elaine, do you love your plant?

ELAINE

I think I do. I don't know.

SUZY

No, Elaine, you don't love your plant.

ELAINE

How do you know if I love my plant if I don't know myself?

SUZY

Because if you loved your plant, you'd know. (Sings.)

When You Love A Plant

WHEN YOU LOVE A PLANT,
IT'S CLOSER TO YOU THAN YOUR UNCLE OR YOUR AUNT,
AND FULLY AS RELIABLE IN TIMES OF STRESS,
UNHAPPINESS,
AND THINGS THAT MAKE YOUR SPIRITS DROOP.

WHEN YOU LOVE A PLANT,
TO YOU IT'S SOMETHING BIGGER THAN AN ELEPHANT,
DEEPER THAN THE ROOTS IT SENDS INTO THE SOIL,
MORE FIRM, MORE LOYAL,
AND TWICE AS STEADFAST AS A TREE--
YES, THAT'S WHAT LOVE,
THAT'S WHAT PLANT LOVE MEANS TO ME.

BOTH

WITH A PLANT AT YOUR SIDE
YOU WON'T SEARCH FAR AND WIDE
FOR THE COMFORTING TOUCH OF A FRIEND.
AND EACH MINUSCULE SHOOT,
SO NAIVE AND SO CUTE,
MEANS THE WORLD HASN'T COME TO AN END.

SUZY

WHEN YOU LOVE A PLANT,
YOU NO LONGER KNOW THE MEANING OF "I CAN'T."
ALL YOU EVER KNOW IS THAT YOU'VE GOT TO TRY,
IT'S DO OR DIE.
HOW COULD YOU TELL A PLANT YOU'VE FAILED?

WHEN YOU LOVE A PLANT,
YOU ACCEPT WHATEVER ELSE YOUR FATE MAY GRANT,
KNOWING AS YOU DO
THAT THERE IS SOMEONE WHO

DEPENDS ON YOU
AND HANGS ON YOU ITS DESTINY--
YES, THAT'S WHAT LOVE,
THAT'S WHAT PLANT LOVE MEANS TO ME.

BOTH

AND ONE DAY, WITH A START,
YOU WILL LOOK WITH YOUR HEART
LIKE YOUR HEART HAS JUST OPENED ITS EYES.
AND YOU'LL SEE THAT IT'S TRUE:
THAT THE PLANT HAS RAISED YOU
AND HAS MADE YOU GROW TALL AS THE SKIES.

SUZY

WHEN YOU LOVE A PLANT,
ALL THE UNIVERSE TAKES ON A DIFFERENT SLANT,
WHORLING OUTWARD FROM THE LEAVES THAT TURN TO ME,
SO TENDRILLY,
AS IF MY EYES WERE LIKE THE SUN--
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
I'VE LET A PLANT GROW ALL OVER ME.

ELAINE

(Speaking again.) Oh, it's almost four. I guess I have to miss
Reverend Garnett today.

SUZY

Oh, you could turn on the radio here. I'd be interested to listen
to a little bit of it, as long as I don't have to BELIEVE.

ELAINE

Have I ever tried to force my beliefs on you?

SUZY

I was just kidding. Actually, I did try once to read part of the
New Testament, but I didn't get very far. You know how it seemed
to me? (Elaine gestures that she doesn't know.) It seemed to me
like the Old Testament was a whole history of a whole people, but
the New Testament was like just a great big advertisement for one
single person.

ELAINE

(Laughs.) You got it! That's just what it is! (Switches on radio.)

RADIO

I'd like to thank you all for being with me, because we've got a lot to talk about this afternoon. (Radio is switched on somewhere during middle of previous sentence.) I hope my listeners are prepared to put on the breastplate of righteousness and be strong in the Lord--

SUZY

(Uneasily.) I should check and see how the cake is doing.

ELAINE

I understand.

RADIO

--for truly the battle is upon us, a battle in which Satan is aiming for our very souls.

(DANNY enters quietly while ELAINE continues to listen. He is holding a small bunch of grapes.)

RADIO

It seems our so-called representatives in the State Legislature have once again introduced a bill that would ban so-called "discrimination against homosexuals," thus allowing them to march unhindered into our schools, our businesses, even our churches, there to advertise their chosen lifestyle and proselytize among the younger generation with complete impunity.

(DANNY drops a grape on the floor. He picks it up and eats it.)

RADIO

We must not let this cancer spread to our young ones.

ELAINE

Oh! How can you eat that?

RADIO

Please, if you have a child or know anyone who does,--

DANNY

(Gestures toward radio.) How can you swallow that?

RADIO

--write to your senator and representative and ask them to vote No, for the Children's Sake.

ELAINE

Is it bothering you? I'll turn it off.

RADIO

This same slogan, No, for the Children's Sake, is also available on a bumper sticker--

DANNY

(With an edge in his voice.) Please.

RADIO

--with any contribution of \$15 or more to No, for the Children's Sake, care of Keystone Baptist Church, 24 Hunter Street--(ELAINE shuts it off.)

DANNY

Not very big on gay people, is he?

ELAINE

He has to go by the Bible: it's a sin.

DANNY

Ooh. Everything's a sin in the Bible. If I worried about the Bible I'd never get up in the morning. And speaking of sins, what's wrong with eating a grape off the floor?

ELAINE

It isn't clean.

DANNY

Well, maybe Miss Prissyface likes to be fancy about her food, but I don't.

ELAINE

What? The food I eat is fancy? You mean, like Chef Boyardee? No, it isn't fancy, but it's supposed to be clean.

DANNY

Does the Bible say to wash your food like a raccoon?

ELAINE

The New Testament says that every human body is a temple of God. You didn't build it, you're more like the janitor, and you're

supposed to be a responsible janitor, so for instance you shouldn't consort with prostitutes.

DANNY

I can see that. A good janitor doesn't let too many strangers in and out of the building at all hours.

ELAINE

Nope. And a good janitor doesn't run down the building in other ways. So we believe in no smoking and no drinking, and certainly no doing drugs. (DANNY winces.)

DANNY

So if I eat my dirty grape and wash it down with a beer and you throw your dirty grape in the trash and drink a glass of mineral water--

ELAINE

--tap water--

DANNY

--does that make you better than me?

ELAINE

I'm not allowed to make that judgment. I think I make myself better by living this way, yes.

DANNY

Mostly, what I think religion makes is just a lot of stuff to fight about. That's what it's always done. If we could throw all the religions overboard, we could cut the Defense Budget by a third, not to mention the boost to the economy from not having to maintain all those useless buildings.

ELAINE

You mean churches? And you say Reverend Garnett is prejudiced!

It Seems So Much Simpler That Way

DANNY (SINGS)

ALL THROUGH THE AGES, IT'S BEEN ONE BIG FIGHT
AMONG PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC AND ISRAELITE.

I HAVE AN IDEA: LET'S KEEP IT LIGHT.

IT SEEMS SO MUCH SIMPLER THAT WAY,

IT SEEMS SO MUCH SIMPLER THAT WAY.

ELAINE

IN EVERY AGE SINCE GOD FIRST MADE THE LIGHT,
SOME THERE HAVE BEEN WHO HAVE WALKED IN HIS SIGHT.
AND THEY PRAYED FOR HIS GUIDANCE AND STROVE TO DO RIGHT,
CAUSE IT SEEMED SO MUCH BETTER THAT WAY,
CAUSE IT SEEMED SO MUCH BETTER THAT WAY.

DANNY

IT SEEMED SO MUCH BETTER, THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE BETTER,
THEY THOUGHT THEY'D BEEN GIVEN A MISSION FROM GOD,
AND THE WORK OF THE LORD WAS TO PUT TO THE SWORD
THOSE WHO HAD NOT THE SAME FAITH AS THEY.
YES, IT SEEMED SO MUCH BETTER THAT WAY.

ELAINE

AND I KNOW THAT THERE'S TRUTH IN THE THINGS THAT YOU SAY.
BUT NOW THAT IT'S OUR TURN AT KEEPING THE FLAME,
WHAT OTHERS GAVE US, WILL WE GIVE THE SAME?
WILL WE PASS IT ON, JUST AS BRIGHT AS IT CAME?
WILL WE CHERISH AND HAND DOWN THE FLAME
AND NOT LET IT GO OUT AGAIN?

DANNY

AND NOT LET THE BICKERING COME TO AN END
ABOUT HOW MANY ANGELS CAN DANCE ON A PIN.

ELAINE

UP TO TEN.

DANNY

OR DO THEY NOT DANCE
CAUSE DANCING'S A SIN?

ELAINE

NOT FOR THEM.

DANNY

WHAT CRAZY ARGUMENTS

DANNY AND ELAINE

PEOPLE GET IN!

DANNY

WHY NOT LIVE HERE AND NOW FOR THE DAY?

ELAINE

ARE YOU TELLING ME SIMPLY TO THROW IT AWAY?

AFTER ALL OF THE AGES SINCE

ELAINE

GOD FIRST MADE LIGHT,
AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO
WALKED IN HIS SIGHT,
AS THEY PRAYED FOR HIS
GUIDANCE AND STROVE TO
DO RIGHT,
LET US STRUGGLE TO
FOLLOW GOD'S WAY,
THOUGH IT'S NOT ALWAYS
SIMPLER THAT WAY,
THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE
SIMPLER, IT SEEMS SO
MUCH BETTER THAT WAY!

DANNY

ONE BIG FIGHT,
AMONG PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC,
AND ISRAELITE,
I HAVE AN IDEA:
LET'S KEEP
IT LIGHT.
IT SEEMS SO MUCH SIMPLER
THAT WAY,
YES, IT SEEMS SO MUCH
SIMPLER THAT WAY,
YES IT SEEMS SO MUCH
SIMPLER, IT SEEMS SO
MUCH BETTER THAT WAY!

Scene 8

(Lights up on sub shop. Phone rings as MARSHALL comes in from the back room with several rolls of paper towels under each arm. He drops the whole pile on the floor and answers.)

MARSHALL

Madelena's Subs. What? (Hangs up as DANNY walks in.) Help you, sir?

DANNY

Yes, a large tuna fish with lettuce, onions and mayonnaise.

MARSHALL

Ugh, tuna fish! How boring! (Putting away the towels he dropped.)

DANNY

Oh, and I'll have it without the commentary, please.

MARSHALL

Excuse me, I'll just stop breathing.

DANNY

After you fill the order, of course?

MARSHALL

What a nice customer! What puts you in such a nasty mood? Did you just get mugged on the street?

DANNY

Yes I did! And in the worst way--spiritually.

MARSHALL

What'd they get? Your Bible?

DANNY

I wouldn't have missed that. I use mine to prop open one of my windows that has a broken sash cord. But these guys were trying for my mind. Fortunately, I resisted.

MARSHALL

With what?

DANNY

The force of my mind, of course. You know that guy out there with the clipboard?

MARSHALL

Oh, I think I know the one.

DANNY

"Do you want a free personality test?"--"No, buddy, I already know that I hate you." Those guys want your heart and soul first and your wallet soon after. And the way they seek out and pounce upon their victims is like a white slave trade.

MARSHALL

You mean I'm safe this time around?

DANNY

Strike that expression. But I'm particularly bitter about Scientology, 'cause I lost a good friend once when he caught a bad case of Scientology and it turned out to be irreversible. By the time he "went clear," as they say, they had cleared out everything.

MARSHALL

You know, I hate those guys worse than you. But the worst is, there can be a hundred people out there preaching a real, actual religion and trying to turn people back to Jesus, and then you get one of those goons out there with his personality tests and his tin cans, and it turns people off not just to that one, but to the whole hundred and one.

DANNY

They can have the whole hundred and one, and frankly Jesus too, as far as I'm concerned.

MARSHALL

Oh! Don't say that!

DANNY

No offense, man, but after eight years of parochial school I had plenty enough religion to last me at least two lifetimes.

MARSHALL

When your next life comes, maybe you'll find out whether you had enough religion!

DANNY

Any amount would be too much. Who needs it? How about all the people who steal and kill? They could use some religion.

DANNY

They could use some education.

MARSHALL

What'll you do? Teach them logic? They'll tell you it's perfectly logical to steal, cause then they get what they want, and it's logical to kill, cause then the other son of a bitch is out of the way.

DANNY

But you don't have to believe in God to know right and wrong.

MARSHALL

No, but your sense of right and wrong still comes from God, even if you don't acknowledge it.

DANNY

If you like; I won't try to argue it with you. By the way, do I ever get my sandwich?

MARSHALL

Coming up. (Starts to make it.)

DANNY

Do you run a church youth group or what?

MARSHALL

No, I haven't been to church in years. I don't usually talk like that either. You just got me going when you said we should throw out all religion and Jesus too. I definitely don't believe that.

DANNY

But do you really follow the religion you were raised with? Are you going to stay a virgin till you're married because that's what the Bible says?

MARSHALL

Well, I think Jesus knows I'm no angel.

DANNY

Your little black book is full of numbers, eh?

MARSHALL

Not that full. A lot of them call me. (Hands over sandwich.)
Three ninety-five, plus. . . Four fifteen. Take care now, and watch out. They may still be out there with their clipboards and their personality tests and their perfect teenage masters and who knows what. This area draws a lot of them.

DANNY

Maybe it's time to stop being so passive.

MARSHALL

Are you gonna punch them out?

DANNY

No, not exactly. It's more like, if they can be offensive, well, I can be counter-offensive. (Sings.)

Make Their Day

THERE'S A MAN DOWN ON THE CORNER

HALTING ALL THE PASSERSBY.

I DON'T KNOW IF HE SELLS FLOWERS OR
MULTIPLIES YOUR BRAIN TIMES PI.

I KNOW THOSE GUYS DON'T HAVE IT EASY,
BUT AS THEY TRUDGE LIFE'S WEARY ROAD,
EACH OF US CAN DO THOSE LITTLE THINGS
TO EXACERBATE THEIR LOAD.

MAKE THEIR DAY A LITTLE HARDER,
IF IT'S ONLY JUST TO SNEER.
THINGS LIKE THAT CAN REALLY HURT A GUY
AND MAKE IT HARD TO PERSEVERE.

MAKE THEIR ROAD A LITTLE LONGER,
SCATTER THUMBTRACKS IN THEIR WAY.
IF WE WERE ALL A LITTLE SMARTER,
WE'D MAKE THEIR DAY A LITTLE HARDER,
AND THEY JUST MIGHT GO AWAY.

EVERY LIFE MUST HAVE ITS SORROWS,
EVERY LIFE MUST HAVE ITS CARES.
EVERYBODY NEEDS A HELPING HAND.
TRY TO SEE THEY DON'T GET THEIRS.

MAKE THEIR WORK A BIT MORE WEARY
AND A LITTLE MORE IN VAIN.
IF WE MAKE THEIR JOURNEY BITTER,
THEN THEY JUST MIGHT RECONSIDER
AND GO BACK THE WAY THEY CAME.
JUST A MORSEL OF HARASSMENT,
JUST A HOSTILE WORD OR TWO,
TO LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
AND DON'T CARE WHAT THEY'RE GOING THROUGH.

MAKE THEIR DAY A LITTLE HARDER:
RIP THEIR PAMPHLETS INTO SHREDS,

TOSS THE FRAGMENTS IN THEIR FACE AGAIN,
AND SHOUT, YOU NO-GOOD KNUCKLEHEADS!

MAKE THEIR NIGHT A LITTLE DARKER; LET
THEM STUMBLE, LET THEM FALL.
IF OUR JUDGMENT HAD BEEN SOUNDER,
THEN WE MIGHT HAVE KEPT THE BOUNDERS
FROM EVER SHOWING UP AT ALL.

THERE ARE DAYS A MAN MUST WONDER
HOW TO KEEP UP AMID THE PAIN.
IF AT THAT POINT YOU AIM A WELL-PLACED BLOW,
HE MAY NEVER RISE AGAIN.

MAKE THEIR DAY A SILLY MILLIMETER HARDER, HARDER,
LIKE A BIG UNLUCKY STAR,
HANGING OVER THEM TO LEAD THEM FALSE
SO MAYBE THEY WON'T GET THAT FAR.

MAKE THEIR ROAD A SILLY KILOMETER LONGER, LONGER,
STREW SOME QUICKSAND IN THEIR WAY.
IF WE WERE ALL A LITTLE SMARTER,
WE'D MAKE THEIR DAY A LITTLE HARDER,
AND THEY JUST MIGHT-OOOH!-GO AWAY!

Scene 9

(DANNY is sitting moping and looking around the room.)

SUZY

Out of dope, and prowling like a dog. You're probably wondering
where I put that little stash you said to hide for a rainy day.

DANNY

Yeah, I am.

SUZY

Is this really the rainiest day?

DANNY

No, I guess I'll tough it out. I just can't get the energy to submit this poem to this magazine.

SUZY

You have a copy of the poem?

DANNY

Yeah, here.

SUZY

You have the magazine?

DANNY

Yeah.

SUZY

You have an envelope?

DANNY

Yeah.

SUZY

Can you put the envelope in the typewriter?

DANNY

OK.

SUZY

Type your return address. Now where's the address to send to?

DANNY

(Flip flip flip.) Here. (Types it.)

SUZY

Do you need a cover letter?

DANNY

Actually, no, it's understood. I just need to type my address on the copy of the poem.

SUZY

So do that. Now do you have a stamp?

DANNY

Yeah.

SUZY

You know where it goes on the envelope?

DANNY

Yeah, I know where it goes on the envelope.

SUZY

I think you're going to have to fold-

DANNY

Yes, I know.

(He puts the poem in the envelope and seals it. She takes it and puts it by the door.)

SUZY

There. First one out the door takes it to the mailbox. We can consider it done.

DANNY

You're amazing! ("You make things so easy.")

SUZY

You're amazing! ("You make things so hard.")

Scene 10

(Divided stage. Suzy in apartment, Elaine in office, manning switchboard.)

ELAINE

And can you believe he was actually making calls to her from my house? And putting the tolls on my bill, saying he needed to call an employment agency in the suburbs? SUZY
Incredible! Amazing!

ELAINE

I just happened to pick up the extension one time and heard "See you later, Sugarlips."

SUZY

Did you say something to him?

ELAINE

I told him he should get an employment agency that acts a little more professional.

SUZY

So you're dumping him, right?

ELAINE

I don't know yet. It's hard. I love him.

SUZY

Even after this?

ELAINE

What can I do? I can't just turn my feelings on and off. I love him.

SUZY

Elaine, I love my plants too, but sometimes a plant just gets sicker and sicker no matter what I do, and it's time to throw it out.

ELAINE

Well, that's what I'd do too if he was a plant. But he's not a plant. (Sings.)

When You Love a Man

WHEN YOU LOVE A MAN,
YOU WANT TO LET HIM HOLD YOU LIKE A WINNING HAND:
YOU WANT TO BE HIS ACES IN THE FINAL ROUND,
WHEN CHIPS ARE DOWN,
AND YOUR WHOLE FUTURE'S ON THE LINE.

WHEN YOU LOVE A MAN,
YOU FIND OUT YOU CAN DO MORE THAN YOU THINK YOU CAN.
AMAZING WHAT A BURST OF LOVING ENERGY
BOLTS RIGHT THROUGH ME,
JUST WHEN THINGS ARE MORE THAN I CAN STAND.
THAT'S WHEN IT MEANS THE MOST TO ME
TO LOVE A MAN.

ELAINE AND SUZY

AND ONE DAY WITH A START
YOU WILL LOOK WITH YOUR HEART
LIKE YOUR HEART HAS JUST OPENED ITS EYES. AND
YOU'LL SEE THAT IT'S TRUE:
THAT THE COLD NIGHT IS THROUGH,
AND THE DAWN'S JUST BEGINNING TO RISE.

ELAINE

WHEN YOU LOVE A MAN,
YOU WANT TO LET HIM KEEP YOU LIKE A TALISMAN,
YOU WANT YOUR LOVE FOR HIM TO BE A MAGIC CHARM
AGAINST ALL HARM,
TO MAKE HIM FEEL LIKE SOMEONE GRAND,

TO MAKE HIM FEEL
THE WAY IT MAKES ME FEEL,
LOVING THIS MAN.

Scene 11

DANNY (on the phone)

Stockwell, buddy, great news: I think I may have replaced you as a boon companion. Just in time, too. I was beginning to think my partying days were over. (Pause for Stockwell's question.) His name is Marshall, I met him in a sub shop, and as party animals go, he's at least a triceratops. We've been going out drinking and clubbing just about every weekend, and it's been like a master class in fun. Of course, by the end of the evening, he's always scored a chick--I mean, they accost him--so I generally go home by myself. But that's OK. I guess I'm a born sidekick. And you know what's funny? We have just about nothing in common except one core principle, namely, that youth shouldn't die without a struggle. And right now it feels like I'm winning. So how's almost-married life? Well, good. I've never been that big on marriage, but I suppose it's the best way for the world to end up with more people like you. Stay well, man. Goodbye! (Sings.)

Don't Know Nobody That Boogies Any More (Reprise)

DON'T KNOW, BUT I JUST MIGHT BOOGY
SEVERAL SEASONS MORE.
THERE'S TIME FOR ONE ADDITIONAL
SWEEP AROUND THE FLOOR.
SO WHAT AM I?
A SIDEKICK GUY?
THAT'S A CHARGE I WON'T DENY.

DON'T KNOW...I JUST MIGHT BOOGY
LIKE I NEVER DID BEFORE.

Scene 12

(MARSHALL and DANNY are in a singles bar.)

MARSHALL

I'm just tired of slinging salami. I want a change.

DANNY

So you're gonna quit the sub shop?

MARSHALL

Not till I get something else. But I'll bet if I tried I could
get a job as a bartender.

DANNY

You'd like that?

MARSHALL

It's better money, man. Plus you get more girls--unless it's a
fag bar.

DANNY

Would you work in a gay bar?

MARSHALL

Yeah, I would. At least for a while to start out, if I couldn't
get another job. I wouldn't be afraid.

DANNY

You wouldn't be AFRAID?

MARSHALL

Nah. If any of those fags tried to get too close (puts his hand
confidentially on DANNY's shoulder) I'd just break off the end of
a beer bottle and I'd have a perfect weapon.

DANNY

Yeah, that'd probably do it.

MARSHALL

Oooh, look at THAT fox. I could go deep-sea diving with her. How
about you?

DANNY

She IS pretty.

MARSHALL

"She IS pretty." Not much enthusiasm. Are you too much of a gentleman to ever talk dirty, or do you just not go for black chicks? You'd probably rather have a nice Scandinavian blonde.

DANNY

Oh, come on!

MARSHALL

Hey, no offense. Every man's got his tastes. I like my black beauties, you can have your Scandinavian cuties. How about her? (Gestures toward an invisible blonde.)

DANNY

(Trying.) She's pretty nice.

MARSHALL

She doesn't ring your bell either, does she? Of course, you HAVE a woman, maybe that's the difference.

DANNY

(Relieved.) I think you hit it. Suzy's just about the only woman I really want.

MARSHALL

Wow! She must be one fine, satisfying woman, if she's all you want. Me, I want 'em all.

WAITER

What do you gentlemen want?

DANNY

I'll have a white wine spritzer.

WAITER

And you, sir? The usual?

MARSHALL

Yep, the usual. (Sings.)

Comfortable

BRING THE STARS TO DECK THE HEAVENS,
BRING THE MOON AND DON'T BE LATE.
AFTER EIGHT IT'S TIME FOR GETTING COMFORTABLE.

WAITER

COMFORTABLE

MARSHALL

CHECK MY HAIR AND CHECK MY SHOESHINE,
CHECK TO SEE MY PANTS ARE PRESSED.
STEPPING OUT WELL DRESSED MAKES ME FEEL COMFORTABLE.

WAITER

COMFORTABLE

BOTH

WHAT A COMFORT TO BE TREATED
TO THE COMFORT I DESERVE.
THAT'S WHAT I COME FOR, TO BE COMFORTABLY SERVED.

MARSHALL

BRING A CROWD OF HANDSOME PATRONS,
STYLISH GUYS AND GLAMOR QUEENS.
CHECKING OUT THE SCENE MAKES ME FEEL COMFORTABLE.

WAITER

COMFORTABLE

MARSHALL

MAESTRO PLEASE: A LITTLE MUSIC,
SOMETHING TO IMPROVE THE ROOM.
TAKING IN SOME TUNES MAKES ME FEEL COMFORTABLE.
IF IT'S HIGH STYLE, THEN IT'S MY STYLE,
THAT'S THE ONLY STYLE I BUY.
AND THAT'S WHY UNTIL I DIE I'M LIVING HIGH.

COMFORTABLE

WAITER

LA LA LA
LA LA LA FEELING COMFORTABLE
IF IT'S HIGH STYLE
THAT'S THE ONLY STYLE YOU BUY

AND THAT'S WHY UNTIL YOU DIE YOU'RE LIVING HIGH
COMFORTABLE

WAITER

WHAT A PLEASURE IT WILL BE, SIR,
TO MAKE ALL YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE.
IS THERE ANY FURTHER THING THAT I CAN DO?

MARSHALL

JUST ONE OR TWO:
BRING ME NOTES FROM NEIGHBORING TABLES,
BRING ME GLANCES HOT AND SWEET.
YOU SEE, I'M HERE TO MEET WITH SOMEONE COMFORTABLE.

WAITER

COMFORTABLE

MARSHALL

BRING ME ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE,
BRING ME LAUGHTER, BRING ME LOVE,
AND OOPS, ALMOST FORGOT, A JUG OF WINE.

WAITER

ONE JUG OF WINE

MARSHALL

CAUSE I'VE GOT A DATE, A DATE WITH FATE,
A DATE WITH FATE TO CELEBRATE,
AND IT'S TIME,
YES IT'S TIME,
YES IT'S

BOTH

TIME TO HAVE A COMFORTABLE TIME!

(Speaks again.) Hey, look! (A black woman with red hair shades
and hotpants is coming over.)

MISSY

What you looking at, fella?

MARSHALL

You, babe. Come here. (She does so.) What's your name, girl?

MISSY

Missy.

MARSHALL

I'm Marshall, and this is my friend Danny.

MISSY

Hello.

DANNY

Hi. Pal, I think I'll be taking off.

MARSHALL

You don't have to leave, man. Stick around.

DANNY

Nah, I should be getting back to Suzy.

MARSHALL

Too bad she doesn't like to come drinking, I'd like to meet the woman who can satisfy you so completely.

DANNY

Come for dinner. She's a great cook.

Scene 13

(MARSHALL, ELAINE, DANNY and SUZY are having a party, playing "Dictionary.")

DANNY

All right, how many votes for the "small saltwater fish of the North Atlantic"? Two. How many votes for "an ancient Polynesian magical ceremony"? None. How many for the "device for regulating the tension of a tentrope"? One. And that leaves no votes for the "concoction of fried vegetables prized among the Egyptian nomads." In fact a "euphroe" is a device to regulate the tension of a tentrope, AND Marshall was responsible for the "saltwater fish," so he gets one point for voting for the correct definition and two points for fooling two people with his bogus definition. So Marshall wins with 3 points. Congratulations, man. I never suspected you'd be such a smooth and multifarious liar.

MARSHALL

(Graciously.) Well, I guess if you've got it in you, it's gotta come out sometime.

DANNY

And now, let's get stoned!

MARSHALL

Sounds good to me.

ELAINE

You're gonna smoke MARIJUANA?

SUZY

I think that's what he meant.

ELAINE

I've always stayed away from drugs.

DANNY

You don't have to smoke with us if you don't want.

ELAINE

But what if the police come?

MARSHALL

They won't bother us here, Elaine.

DANNY

And we can just tell them that we're a branch of the Spanish Consulate, and therefore subject to Spanish law.

ELAINE

What does that mean?

DANNY

Why, in Spain, don't you know? Grass is legal.

ELAINE

Marijuana is legal? Completely legal?

DANNY

Completely legal. (Sings.)

The Grass Is Legal in Spain

IN SPAIN, WHEN THEY GROW MARIJUANA, IT
GROWS TOO FAR TO SEE WITH THE EYE.
THEY MAKE A RESINOUS MULCH
TO FILL EACH VALLEY AND GULCH
SO IN SPRING ALL THE FLOWERS GROW HIGH,
IN SPRING ALL THE FLOWERS GROW HIGH.

OH, THE GRASS IS LEGAL IN SPAIN,
THE GRASS IS LEGAL IN SPAIN.
SO IF YOU PUFF ON A JOINT,
IT'S NOT A BIG LEGAL POINT
BECAUSE THE GRASS IS LEGAL IN SPAIN.

OH, TO BE THERE IN ESPAÑA
WHEN THE CANNABIS BLOOMS ON THE PLAIN.
I'D GLADLY TRAMPLE ITS TURF
AS THE LOWLIEST SERF
JUST TO SMOKE ITS SWEET BLOSSOMS AGAIN, JUST
TO SMOKE ITS SWEET BLOSSOMS AGAIN.

DANNY, SUZY, MARSHALL

OH, THE GRASS IS LEGAL IN SPAIN
THE GRASS IS LEGAL IN SPAIN.

DANNY

YOU CAN TAKE A DEEP DRAW
BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW
BECAUSE THE GRASS IS LEGAL IN SPAIN.

SUZY, MARSHALL (ACCOMPANIMENT)

AH, THE GRASS IS LEGAL IN SPAIN
SOMEDAY I'LL GO TO ESPAÑA,
AND WHETHER I'LL COME BACK IS DOUBTFUL.
I'LL STRIKE A FIGURE BIZARRE
WHEN I LIGHT UP MY CIGAR
AND START SNORTING SMOKE BY THE SNOUTFUL, AND
START SNORTING SMOKE BY THE SNOUTFUL.

SUZY, MARSHALL (ACCOMPANIMENT)

AH, AH, AH, AH, AH LA LA, AH LA LA

OH, THE GRASS IS GREENER IN SPAIN.
DOPE TRANSACTIONS ARE CLEANER IN SPAIN.
YOU SIMPLY STEP IN THE STORE

AND SAY, "SOME POT, POR FAVOR,"
AND COUNT YOUR MONEY OUT AND POCKET THE CHANGE.

SUZY, MARSHALL (ACCOMPANIMENT)

AH LA LA LA LA, AH LA LA LA LA,
AH, LA LA LA LA LA LA

SUZY

SI ESTUVIERA EN ESPAÑA,
!AY AY, TAN CONTENTO ESTARÍA!
CON MI AMIGO JOAQUÍN YO
FUMARÍA SIN FIN CON MUCHÍSIMA
ALEGRÍA, MUCHÍSIMA ALEGRÍA.

O HIERBA LEGAL EN ESPAÑA, EN
ESPAÑA ES LA HIERBA LEGAL.
ASI EN TODO LUGAR
SE PUEDE TODO FUMAR
Y SEÑORITA, NO ES CRIMINAL.

O HIERBA LEGAL EN ESPAÑA,
EN ESPAÑA ES LA HIERBA LEGAL.
ASI EN TODO LUGAR
SE PUEDE TODO FUMAR
Y SEÑORITA!

DANNY, MARSHALL (ACCOMPANIMENT)

O HIERBA LEGAL EN ESPAÑA,
AH AH AH
HIERBA EN ESPANIA AH AH AH Y SENORITA!

ALL THREE

NO ES CRIMINAL!

ACT II

Scene 1

SUZY

(From offstage, sleepily.) Are you going out?

DANNY

No, just restless. (He stumbles onstage in pajamas, starts rolling a joint as he sings.)

Straight Man

LAST NIGHT, COLD AND WINDY,
WITH THE RAIN A-COMING STRONG,
I SNEAKED OUT IN THE DARKNESS
AND CAME BACK WITH THE DAWN. MY
WOMAN ON THE DOORSTEP
ASKS ME WHERE I BEEN.
WELL I GOT THINKING ABOUT MY STRAIGHT MAN
AND RUNNING STRAIGHT TO HIM.

(The three entertainers from DANNY and SUZY's prom
return and sing along with him.)

NOW MY WOMAN IS A GOOD ONE,
TREATS ME LIKE A KING.
AND I DO NOT WANT TO HURT HER,
NOT FOR ANYTHING.
THE LOVING THAT SHE GIVES ME IS
THE SWEETEST KIND OF ALL.
AND SHE'S NEVER MEAN OR JEALOUS
'CEPT WHEN STRAIGHT MAN COMES TO CALL.

I WONDER IF MY STRAIGHT MAN
KNOWS THE SHAPE I'M IN.
I HELP HIM CHASE HIS WOMEN
WHILE I'M CHASING HIM.
I've JUST ABOUT DECIDED NOT TO
TRUCK WITH HIM NO MORE.
BUT AS SOON AS I GET LONESOME,
YOU CAN'T SCRAPE ME OFF HIS DOOR.

STRAIGHT MAN A FRIEND TO ME.
STRAIGHT MAN, SO STRAIGHT
HE CANNOT SEE.
WONDER WHERE I BEEN:
THINKING ABOUT MY STRAIGHT MAN
AND RUNNING STRAIGHT TO HIM,

THINKING ABOUT MY STRAIGHT MAN
AND RUNNING STRAIGHT TO HIM.

Scene 2

(SUZY is standing in the apartment alone, with a food
cart heaped with various dishes.)

SUZY

You may be wondering why I've asked you all to be here tonight.
It's to say goodbye. They say you are what you eat, and you've
been a great me, but you've made too much of me. And now we can't
go on seeing each other like this, because I can't go on seeing
myself like this. I've just got to cut the cookie and let it
crumble, you understand? Oh come on, please: don't steam. This is
hard enough for me already. (Sings.)

Food Farewell

GOOD NIGHT, CHICKEN PARMIGIANA;
GOOD NIGHT, GOOD NIGHT, QUICHE LORRAINE.
FAREWELL, HASTA LA MAÑANA,
TILL WE MEET AGAIN.

GOOD NIGHT, GOOD NIGHT, VEAL MARSALA,
AU REVOIR, BUTTERED ESCARGOTS.

I'LL SEE YOU IN THAT DIM VALHALLA
WHERE THE GOOD FOODS GO.

I SUPPOSE OVER TEA
YOU'LL BE ASKING AFTER ME:
WHERE IS SHE WHO LOVED US FANCY DISHES?
AS OUR CHAMPION SHE WAS STOUT,
AND WE KNEW HER INSIDE OUT--
BUT SHE'S MOVED ON, AND WE RESPECT HER WISHES.

GOOD NIGHT, GOOD NIGHT, BAKED LASAGNA.
SO LONG, POUND CAKE BY THE POUND.

KALLINYKHTA, DO SVEDANYA*:

YOU WON'T SEE ME ROUND.

IT MAY BE THAT SOME DAY
IN A SAINT TROPEZ CAFE
FROM A NEIGHBORING TABLE YOU'LL SURPRISE ME.
"AH, 'T WAS YOU SO LONG AGO.
I LOOK DIFFERENT NOW, I KNOW.
JUST THINK: YOU'D SCARCELY RECOGNIZE ME."

(SPOKEN) GOOD NIGHT... GOOD NIGHT... (SUNG/SPOKEN TO END.)

GOOD NIGHT, CURRIED LAMB WITH CHUTNEY!
GOODBYE, PIES: PEACH, APPLE, LIME...
PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL TASTE JUST AS GOOD (ULP) WITHOUT ME
TILL ANOTHER TIME!

(As the song ends, the food cart rolls offstage by itself.)

Scene 3

(DANNY enters sub shop as MARSHALL is hanging up the phone.)

MARSHALL

(Fervently.) See you soon, beautiful. (As DANNY comes in.) Hello,
how are you, man?

DANNY

Well, fine. Haven't heard from you much, and you're never there
when I call, so I thought I'd try you here before going to the
police.

MARSHALL

I've been busy, that's true, and I have you to thank. You sure
introduced me to one fine woman.

*"Good night" in Greek, "goodbye" in Russian.

DANNY

Elaine? You're really locked into her now?

MARSHALL

Rock solid, man. That's where I spend most of my time now, with her.

DANNY

Wow, what a cataclysmic change in your social life! Does that mean you only have time for five or six women, including Elaine?

MARSHALL

I have ONE woman including Elaine.

DANNY

Amazing! Elaine is a real nice person, but I'd expect you'd have to loosen her up a little.

MARSHALL

What do you mean, loosen her up?

DANNY

Well, to get her drinking and dancing and not being quite so hidebound religiously.

MARSHALL

Well, if that's how you look at it, I have bad news. She's introduced me to a whole new life in Jesus.

DANNY

You didn't say that. I didn't hear those words.

MARSHALL

You heard me. I joined her congregation, I'm going to services with her. Look, do you have a problem with that?

DANNY

I'm sorry, I have a sarcastic way of speaking that gets the better of me sometimes.

MARSHALL

Well, I'm not being sarcastic, I'm serious. That's my religion you're talking about, and Elaine's too, and do you have any respect for that?

DANNY

Yeah, I do. I won't let it happen again.

MARSHALL

What is it with you? You don't care if somebody's black or white or rich or poor or a PhD or a dropout, but when it comes to religion, you're circling with both fists raised.

DANNY

I guess when it comes to religion, I feel like I'm about to get attacked.

MARSHALL

What for? For smoking dope?

DANNY

That's only part of it. The worst is the sexual oppression.

MARSHALL

Because you're sleeping with Suzy? Maybe you'll get married and make it right.

DANNY

You should talk.

I know. But I already know I want to marry Elaine. Do you want to marry Suzy?

DANNY

Maybe, but I don't know! That's the other thing.

MARSHALL

What is?

DANNY

Oh hell... Let's put it this way: religion kind of attacks you if you sleep with a woman, but it really attacks you if you sleep with a man.

MARSHALL

You mean, if a woman sleeps with a man?

DANNY

No, if I sleep with a man.

MARSHALL

If you sleep with a man!

DANNY

That's right, because I have.

MARSHALL

Really? (Shakes his head.) That's heavy stuff. But that was before you met Suzy, right? So that's probably mostly in your past now, like a teenage experiment.

DANNY

No, that's not true. Since I met Suzy too.

MARSHALL

Recently?

DANNY

Last week.

MARSHALL

Even with Suzy there at home, you have to go out and get this other thing on the side?

DANNY

Correct.

MARSHALL

Whew! I don't know what to say. Did you try seeing a shrink?

DANNY

Yeah, in college I saw the shrink for a few sessions.

MARSHALL

Any results?

DANNY

After those few sessions I decided I could live with the homosexuality but if I kept talking with that guy, I'd go crazy.

MARSHALL

So what are you doing with Suzy, if it's men you like?

DANNY

Well, I like her too. I guess I thought that being with her would change me more than it has, as far as making the other stuff go away.

MARSHALL

Sounds like you got a mess on your hands. Listen, I honestly don't much like hearing about this gay stuff, and it bothers me,

but I think you're an OK guy, and it's no reason for us not to be friends.

DANNY

(Relieved and grateful.) You're an OK guy too.

MARSHALL

It must be tough. I feel sorry for you.

DANNY

Why?

MARSHALL

Well, just because you can never be as solid with Suzy as I can be with Elaine.

DANNY

True. Things between us will always be wobbly, but I hope they'll wobble on.

MARSHALL

I don't want me and Elaine to wobble. I want us to fly.

DANNY

You've got Elaine on your brain.

MARSHALL

I've got Elaine on my soul. (Sings.)

My Woman Elaine

MY WOMAN ELAINE,
SHE'S MY MAIN WOMAN,
SHE'S MY SPECIAL HUMAN.
OF ALL THE WORLD OF WOMEN,
THE ONE THAT I AM GIVEN:
I DO MAINTAIN
THAT'S WHAT ELAINE
MY WOMAN IS TO ME.

MY WOMAN ELAINE,
JUST LIKE IN THE GOSPEL,
THE MAN WHO FOUND A FINE PEARL,
HE GAVE UP ALL HIS FORTUNE

TO HAVE IT AS HIS PORTION:
THAT'S WHAT I GAINED
THE DAY ELAINE
MY WOMAN CAME TO ME.

I USED TO THINK,
I THOUGHT THAT LIFE WAS JUST A PARTY:
I'LL PARTY TILL I'M FORTY
AND THEN I'LL CASH IT IN.
BUT WITH ELAINE,
I GOT SOMETHING TO BUILD ON
TO MAKE ME WANT TO LIVE LONG:
I FEEL LIKE, HEADS OR TAILS I WIN.

MY WOMAN ELAINE,
NO MATTER WHAT MAY HAPPEN,
THOUGH THE SKY MAY BLACKEN,
THOUGH MY WILL MAY WEAKEN,
SHE'S SHINING LIKE A BEACON
THERE IN MY PAIN,
THAT'S WHAT ELAINE
MY WOMAN GIVES TO ME.

I USED TO THINK,
I THOUGHT THAT LIFE WAS FOR THE TAKIN'.
BACK THEN I WAS MISTAKEN,
IN FACT I WAS INSANE.
CAUSE NOW I'VE LEARNED
A BETTER WAY OF LIVING,
AND LIFE IS FOR THE GIVING:
I WANT TO GIVE IT TO ELAINE.

MY WOMAN ELAINE,
SHE'S MY CONSOLATION,
SHE'S MY LOVE SENSATION,
MY STEADIEST FOUNDATION,

MY HIGHEST EXALTATION--
ALL THAT AND MORE,
AND SWEET LIBERTY,
GOD BLESS HER NAME,
THAT'S WHAT ELAINE
MY WOMAN IS TO ME.

DANNY

(Speaks.) I sure wish you two the best, even if she has made a churchgoer out of you. (Laughs.) I wonder what your pastor would think if he could see you standing around here talking with an evil homosexual.

MARSHALL

(Doesn't laugh.) Yeah, I wonder... (Blackout.)

Scene 4

(MARSHALL and REVEREND GARNETT in the Reverend's office.)

REVEREND GARNETT

That's right, they don't look any different because they aren't any different. That's the whole thing they're trying to put over

on you: that being gay is just "the way they are" and there's nothing to do about it. But God doesn't make two types of people, heterosexual and homosexual. That's like saying God creates two types of people, thieves and non-thieves. Nonsense! You don't say "God created me a thief": you desist from your stealing. You don't say, God created me a homosexual, you desist from your homosexual activity. But they don't want to stop committing deviant sexual acts, instead they want us to accept them as some kind of persecuted minority and pass laws to protect their "civil rights" to engage in this sort of behavior. MARSHALL
Well, I understand that, Reverend, but my friend didn't ask me to join any movement, he was just telling the truth about himself.

REVEREND GARNETT

No, it was not the truth! He may be confused now about his sexual identity, but God put him here on the earth to be fruitful and multiply just as much as anyone else.

MARSHALL

Let's put it this way: he was trying to be honest, and he didn't make any kind of pass at me or ask me to come to a gay political action meeting or anything.

REVEREND GARNETT

No, but those people tend to be connected by a network that may not be visible to you. And as for him making a pass at you, perhaps not yet, but that may still be on the way. I advise you to have nothing further to do with him.

MARSHALL

What am I supposed to do? Call him up and say "I don't know you any more?"

REVEREND GARNETT

Don't call him, don't look him up or anything. If he calls you, say you don't want to talk to him.

MARSHALL

Look, Reverend, I know he's a sinner, but I'm a sinner, and Mary Magdalen was a sinner, and we're all sinners, but we don't cut each other off like that.

REVEREND GARNETT

In most cases, no. In a case like that, yes. Remember, what Mary Magdalen succumbed to was a natural weakness. What your friend is into is a willful abomination against nature. "Cast out the sinner from your midst." That's what Saint Paul said. And that was only in a case of a man sleeping with his stepmother, not a man with another man, which is even worse.

MARSHALL

So I don't do anything to help him or show concern even.

REVEREND GARNETT

He can help himself by turning back from his sin. It's more important for you to keep free of any contact with the so-called "gay movement." (Sings.)

Or Else They'll Win

LIKE A WOLF IN SHEEPSKIN CLOTHING
THAT ADVANCES ON THE HERD,
SO THOSE PEOPLE DRESS IN SOOTHING
SORTS OF SIMPLE-MINDED WORDS.

AND THEY SAY IT'S JUST A "LIFESTYLE,"
AND THEY SAY IT'S REALLY "IN."
AND THE WAY THAT THINGS ARE GOING,
LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL WIN.

GOTTA STAND FIRM,
GOTTA DIG IN,
GOTTA STRIVE WITH YOUR WHOLE MIGHT AGAINST THEM,
TRUST GOD TO RECOMPENSE THEM,
OR ELSE THEY'LL WIN.

RIP OFF THEIR SHEEPSKIN.
GOTTA STRIVE WITH YOUR WHOLE MIGHT AGAINST THEM,
OR ELSE THEY'LL WIN.
SEE, IT ISN'T JUST ONE PERSON--
LIKE YOUR FRIEND WHO SEEMS OK:
IT'S A SITUATION WORSENING
AROUND US EVERY DAY.

IT'S A LOBBY, IT'S A MOVEMENT
THAT IS BOUND TO HAVE ITS WAY
WITH OUR FAMILIES, OUR RELIGION,
THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN...
DON'T LET THEM WIN,
DON'T LET THEM WIN.

DON'T LET THEM SAY WHAT'S FILTHY
IS NATURAL AND HEALTHY.
DON'T LET THEM SAY THAT SIN ISN'T SIN.

GOTTA STRIVE WITH YOUR WHOLE MIGHT AGAINST THEM,
OR ELSE THEY'LL WIN.

IT SUFFICES FOR THE VICTORY
OF THE LOWEST OF THE LOW
IF THE WHOLE REST OF THE COUNTRY
WINKS AN EYE AND LETS IT GO.

IT'S THE DUTY OF ALL CHRISTIANS
TO RISE UP AGAINST THE FOE
WHO IS CERTAIN OF TRIUMPHING
UNLESS DECENT MEN DO SOMETHING.
DON'T LET THEM WIN,
DON'T LET THEM WIN.

THEIR EVIL DEEDS DISCLOSE THEM,
BUT NOW WE MUST OPPOSE THEM,
CAUSE THEY KNOW JUST HOW
TO WORM THEIR WAY IN.
GOTTA STRIVE, PUT YOUR STRONG MIGHT AGAINST THEM,
AND PREPARE FOR A LONG FIGHT AGAINST THEM,
OR ELSE THEY'LL WIN!

Scene 5

SUZY

I almost wish he was more like your Rodney.

ELAINE

Don't you call that man my Rodney.

SUZY

All right, that Rodney. But you know what I mean: I almost wish he would do something bad enough to galvanize me into action. But most of the time he's not that bad to live with; he's just not husband material.

ELAINE

Do you think he loves you?

SUZY

It seems like it when we're alone. But if some hunky guy shows up, Danny forgets I'm alive.

ELAINE

No, not husband material! (Short pause.) Do you want to get married?

SUZY

Eventually...

ELAINE

Eventually can mean never if you don't make up your mind to do something.

SUZY

Oh, I know you're right, it's going nowhere in the long run. But right now, day by day, it feels like home, and I keep dreaming that things will fix themselves.

ELAINE

How long are you going to keep dreaming?

SUZY

That's a good question. (Sings.)

Building My House on Sand

WELL THOUGH I KNOW,
ONWARD I GO,
BUILDING MY HOUSE ON SAND.
BEAMS OF SUPPORT SEEM TO
FALL SHORT
FOUNDED UPON A MAN.

FIRST TIME THE STORM BLOWS,
LOOK, THERE MY HOUSE GOES,
HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM LAND.
SOMEHOW THAT DOESN'T CAUSE ME TO STOP
BUILDING MY HOUSE ON SAND.

PAINTING THE EAVES,
RAKING THE LEAVES,
TENDING MY BEACHFRONT HOME,
PLANNING GREAT THINGS,
EAST AND WEST WINGS,
TOPPED BY A GOLDEN DOME...

JUST THE FOUNDATIONS
NEED RENOVATIONS,
EVERYTHING ELSE IS GRAND.
I COULD LIVE HERE THE REST OF MY LIFE,
TOO BAD IT'S BUILT ON SAND.

ELAINE

LISTEN, MY FRIEND,
WHERE WILL THIS END?
YOU CAN'T JUST DRIFT ALONG.
LIFE COULD PASS BY
WHILE YOU DECIDE;
YOU'VE GOT TO RISE UP STRONG.
(spoken) I mean, just listen to you!

ELAINE

FIRST TIME THE STORM BLOWS,
LOOK, THERE YOUR HOUSE GOES,
HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM LAND.

SUZY

FIRST TIME THE STORM BLOWS,
LOOK, THERE MY HOUSE GOES,
HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM LAND.

ELAINE

SERIOUSLY, GIRL, YOU NEED TO STOP

ELAINE

BUILDING YOUR HOUSE ON SAND.

SUZY

BUILDING MY HOUSE ON SAND.

Scene 6

(MARSHALL and DANNY on opposite sides of stage on telephones.)

MARSHALL

Madelena's Subs. Hello.

DANNY

Marshall! I thought you left town.

MARSHALL

No, I still live here.

DANNY

You could have fooled me. I call you at home, I leave messages with your roommates, I call the sub shop, I leave messages there, and you're never here, and you're never there, and you never call back. After a while it gets depressing, and makes me feel like a fool. You know what I mean?

MARSHALL

Yeah, I do.

DANNY

Does that mean you're sorry or you're doing it on purpose?

MARSHALL

Listen, I have bad news for you. I can't hang around with you any more.

DANNY

Why not?

MARSHALL

Well you know, because of your lifestyle.

DANNY

I thought you said--

MARSHALL

I know what I said, but I talked to Reverend Garnett about it, and he says I definitely have to cut you off.

DANNY

You mean, cast me out as a sinner?

MARSHALL

That's just about the exact words he used.

DANNY

Because I was born this way?

MARSHALL

Because you're an unrepentant homosexual who refuses to cease from his homosexual practices.

DANNY

Well, I guess if you look at it that way, that's about right.

MARSHALL

It's the Bible that looks at it that way.

DANNY

Look, I don't know the Bible real well, but I know the Constitution says you don't condemn somebody in his absence. You get to face your accusers. That man judged me without ever seeing me. What's so just and moral about that? And what about you? If you're so Christian and decent, couldn't you at least get together with me one last time to talk things out and make our peace and say goodbye like human beings, if that's what we have to do?

MARSHALL

I'm telling you goodbye right now, if you really need to hear the word. The truth is, I already told you goodbye,. That's why I don't call back when you keep calling.

DANNY

I kept calling because I wanted to at least say goodbye to you, but all right, I see you're too self-righteous and too cowardly to face me. How about Reverend Whatsisname? Is he man enough to face me?

MARSHALL

Reverend Garnett? Well, if you really want to meet him, you can come to one of our prayer services and speak to him afterwards. The service is open to all.

DANNY

Where?

MARSHALL

Keystone Baptist Church, 24 Hunter Street, corner of Shelton Avenue.

DANNY

When?

MARSHALL

Ten a.m.

DANNY

I'll be there.

MARSHALL

We'll be glad to welcome you there. Who knows? Maybe Jesus will touch your heart.

DANNY

Maybe he'll give me a break. All right, goodbye, man. (Hangs up.)
(SUZY enters.)

DANNY

Suzy? Where've you been?

SUZY

Hello, lover. I went with Clare--she works in the lab with me--to see her place and we talked for a while.

DANNY

It was a nice place? You had a good time?

SUZY

Uh-huh. She's going to be in France for the next three months. She's leaving Friday.

DANNY

Oh, good for her! (He's getting bored and wants to change the subject.)

SUZY

So I could sublet her place for practically nothing.

DANNY

(It sinks in.) Oh. If you decide to move out. Or I guess you have decided.

SUZY

No, I haven't decided. But this means I can decide.

DANNY

What do you mean?

SUZY

I'd never leave if I had to choose between staying here or leaving and suddenly having to find a new place and pack and move right away. But now I can just decide, do I want the apartment with the gay boyfriend who's very sweet but whom I'm never going to marry, or do I want the apartment that gets kind of lonely but where my life is my own again?

DANNY

Sounds like you want what's behind the curtain.

SUZY

Nothing's decided. Give me a hug: I'm still here. I haven't gone anywhere yet. (They hug.) Oh, and I have another job. Dr. Hunter wants an executive secretary, and he can pay as much as my old technician's job and a 5% raise.

DANNY

And no animal work.

SUZY

That's what I told him. And he promised me I wouldn't have to kill anything that wasn't human and didn't deserve it.

DANNY

Is this the end of your bright, blooming career as a biologist?

SUZY

I'm afraid so. I'm just not cut out for it. And the departmental politics! It's like you have to kill small animals while warding off larger predators. I'll get more respect as a secretary who sends letters and files documents than as a secretary in the lab who washes glassware and decimates chickens. (Pause; she's hungry.) I've got to fix myself something, I'm starving. You want anything?

DANNY

I had a sandwich. By the way, where's my Bible?

SUZY (offstage)

You used it to prop the window up, remember?

DANNY

Of course. How could I forget?

(He pulls it out of the window. SUZY goes to exit. They sing.)

Who Are You Now(Reprise)

DANNY AND SUZY

WHO ARE YOU NOW?

CAN I BE SURE?

ONE THING YOU AREN'T IS THE SAME AS YOU WERE.

IS THIS THE END?

IS THIS THE LAST?

ARE WE A VERB THAT IS PRESENT OR PAST?

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT SOMEHOW:

WHO ARE YOU NOW?

(SUZY exits to kitchen.)

Scene 7

(Keystone Baptist Church. MARSHALL, ELAINE and DANNY are all in the congregation, REVEREND GARNETT officiating.)

REVEREND GARNETT

And that's why the Pharisees were wrong. They said Jesus wasn't supposed to heal the man's shriveled-up hand on the Sabbath, because that was a day of rest and healing is hard work. They were quoting the Bible at Jesus, but he always knew how to turn it right back on them. He said, "If any of you would reach out to haul your sheep or your cow out of a ditch on the Sabbath, how can I be wrong by extending my hand to help my fellow-man on the Sabbath?" But of course the Pharisees didn't know who they were dealing with. They didn't think Jesus was the Messiah, they probably didn't even think he was a real healer. And after that day was done, they still didn't know Jesus was the Messiah, but they knew he was a healer. When he said "stretch forth your hand," the man's hand was completely healthy and functional; all of a sudden he could do everything people do with their hands. He was healed!

And when Jesus did that for that man, he did it for us! That was a sign to all of us that Jesus can heal, he can heal a withered hand and he can heal a withered soul, and even today we have Pharisees saying he can't, but he can! The alcoholic says, "No one can help me," but if he will turn from his drinking and put his faith in the Lord, Jesus can and will heal him. The members of the "gay" community say, "Jesus can't heal me of this, this is just the way I am," but if they will turn from their abominable sin, Jesus can heal them too. They don't have to be homosexuals any more, they can be cleansed and made just in the sight of God. Everyone who turns to Jesus will be like the leper who said to Jesus, "Lord, if you want to, you can heal me." And

Jesus said to him, "I DO want to: be healed." (Pause.) And now, do any of you wish to give personal testimony? Marshall?

MARSHALL

I'd like to ask the prayers and blessings of the congregation on my coming marriage to Elaine.

ELAINE

And I'd like to ask the prayers and blessings of the congregation on my coming marriage to Marshall.

REVEREND GARNETT

My warmest, warmest congratulations to you both. (DANNY also applauds.) When's the blessed day?

ELAINE

Well, Pastor, you know that, you already said you'd do the wedding. (Smiles and laughter. Elaine sings.)

Our Wedding Day

ELAINE

OUR WEDDING DAY
IS THE TWENTY-NINTH OF MAY.
SEE YOU ALL THERE,
SEE YOU ALL THERE.

WE'RE INVITING YOU GOOD AND HEARTY,
WANT YOU TO BE PART OF OUR WEDDING PARTY.
MARK DOWN THE DAY:
TWENTY-NINTH OF MAY.

MARSHALL, GARNETT (ACCOMPANIMENT)

SEE YOU ALL THERE,
SEE YOU ALL THERE,
OO,OO, MARK DOWN THE DAY
TWENTY-NINTH OF MAY.

MARSHALL

THE TWENTY-NINTH OF MAY,
THAT'LL BE OUR WEDDING DAY,
I'M PROUD TO SAY,
SO DON'T STAY AWAY.
I WANT YOU ALL SPREAD OUT BEFORE ME
WHEN THE BRIDE THAT GOD MADE FOR ME
COMES MY WAY,
ON OUR WEDDING DAY.

ELAINE, GARNETT (ACCOMPANIMENT)

I'M PROUD TO SAY,
YOUR WEDDING DAY.
OOH, OOH, COMES YOUR WAY.

REVEREND GARNETT

ON THIS ACCOUNT,
A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER
AND ON THIS ACCOUNT
SHALL A WOMAN LEAVE HER MOTHER

REVEREND GARNETT, ELAINE AND MARSHALL

AND BE HUSBAND AND WIFE
AS LONG AS BOTH HAVE LIFE,
COME WHAT MAY,
COME WHAT MAY.

ELAINE

OUR WEDDING DAY
IS THE TWENTY-NINTH OF MAY.
SEE YOU ALL THERE,

SEE YOU ALL THERE.
WE'RE INVITING YOU GOOD AND HEARTY,
WANT YOU TO BE PART OF OUR WEDDING PARTY.
MARK DOWN THE DAY,
TWENTY-NINTH OF MAY.

GOT THAT STRAIGHT NOW? THAT'S
OUR WEDDING DAY.

MARSHALL, GARNETT (ACCOMPANIMENT)

SEE YOU ALL THERE,
SEE YOU ALL THERE,
OOH, MARK DOWN THE DAY,
TWENTY-NINTH OF MAY.

REVEREND GARNETT

I certainly hope the congregation will turn out in force for this wonderful event. And again, my warmest congratulations. (DANNY motions to speak.) And you, sir, you wish to bear witness?

DANNY (standing)

I will not ask for your prayers or blessings, just your fairness. I want you to stop persecuting me.

REVEREND GARNETT

I didn't know I was persecuting you. I never met you before.

DANNY

But you told two of my friends to shun my presence. (Indicates MARSHALL and ELAINE.)

REVEREND GARNETT

(To MARSHALL.) Is this the friend you spoke of? (MARSHALL nods.) Then yes, I said to cease contact with you as long as you choose to maintain a gay lifestyle.

DANNY

My life is not a style! And being gay is not something I choose or ever chose.

REVEREND GARNETT

It is the opinion of many eminent experts that this sort of activity is basically voluntary.

DANNY

It is the opinion of a dwindling number of idiot dinosaurs! And if it's voluntary for me, is it voluntary for you? Did you decide to be straight? Could you decide to be gay tomorrow, except that you're too nice a guy?

REVEREND GARNETT

I didn't have to decide, I was guided by nature.

DANNY

I followed my nature too. This is the way I am.

REVEREND GARNETT

That's what everybody says. The alcoholic says, "This is the way I am." The drug addict says, "This is the way I am!" The thief says, "This is the way I am." That's why Saint Paul keeps saying that you are a new man in Christ. You don't have to be the person

you think you are any more, you can be someone new, someone better.

MARSHALL AND ELAINE

Amen!

DANNY

But who says being heterosexual makes you better or more moral? That's your opinion.

REVEREND GARNETT

No, son, it isn't my opinion. Nothing I say here is my opinion. If I cannot ground what I say in the words of Scripture, then I say it to my friends or I say it to the wall, but I don't say it in front of the congregation, because I'm not here to run my own personal philosophical society, I'm here to preach the word of God.

DANNY

As YOU see it!

REVEREND GARNETT

No, as I read it. I read in the Old Testament that man lying with man as with woman is an abomination. I read in the New Testament that men performing indecencies with men are storing up the

reprisals that must follow on their sins." I also read in the Epistles that "abusers of themselves with mankind shall not enter the kingdom of God." Saint Paul also says to "cast out the offender from your midst." And that was in the case of a man sleeping with his stepmother. I can't even imagine what Saint Paul would have said if it had been his stepfather!

DANNY

Saint Paul, why do people always drag out Saint Paul? It's because Jesus never said homosexuality was wrong. If Jesus was revolutionary enough to think women were as good as men, how do we know he didn't also think that gay love was as real and as dignified as straight love?

REVEREND GARNETT

Well, if that was one of the thoughts of Jesus, he surely didn't give it much expression. Does it say in the Gospels, "If you're a man, be sure to marry a man with compatible interests?"

DANNY

No, but it all comes down to how you interpret the Bible, and a hell of a lot of people have interpreted the Bible a hell of a lot of different ways, you must know that.

REVEREND GARNETT

But that's just it: those people interpret the Scriptures. They theorize, they symbolize, they get lost in speculations. But I repeat that I do not interpret the Scriptures, I read them. And when you just read them, it's amazing. You discover that God means just what He says, and what He says is very clear.

DANNY

You really take the whole Bible literally?

REVEREND GARNETT

Yes sir, I do, and most especially I hold the Four Gospels to be directly authored by the Holy Spirit.

DANNY

Well, if you take literally everything Jesus says to do in the Gospels—

REVEREND GARNETT

And I do--

DANNY

Then can I ask you a question?

REVEREND GARNETT

Ask.

DANNY

Have you made yourself a eunuch for the sake of the kingdom of heaven?

REVEREND GARNETT

(Angry pause.) If you are going to turn the Gospel of Jesus into a smutty joke, I am going to have to ask you to leave.

DANNY (Rising to do so. To MARSHALL and ELAINE.)
I can't even say goodbye. All I can say is, I sure don't know you any more.

MARSHALL

(Brutally.) That's been true for a while.

(DANNY darts out.)

REVEREND GARNETT

There I think we have an example of the kind of people Paul meant when he said "avoid him, knowing that he is beyond reaching and will keep on sinning." And now, Elaine, would you lead the closing hymn?

ELAINE

(She is distraught and nervous and is about to say something but doesn't. She starts in, a bit unsteady the first couple of lines, but then with firm resolve.)

Sparrows

YOU MATTER MORE, YES, MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS,
MORE THAN ALL THE WINGED CREATURES OF THE AIR;
THOUGH TRUTH TO TELL, IF YOU WERE JUST A SPARROW,
GOD WOULD STILL FIND TIME TO KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.

THEY SAY NO PRAYERS, BUT STILL THE FATHER HEEDS THEM:
IN THE FLICKER OF AN EYE HE HEARS THEM PRAY.

THEY GROW NO CROPS, BUT STILL THE FATHER FEEDS THEM.
AND SOMEHOW THERE ARE SPARROWS EVERY DAY.

SOMEWHERE THEY REST AND GET THEIR NEST TOGETHER,
TO HATCH SOME CHICKS BEFORE THEIR LIFE IS THROUGH.
AND NOT ONE FALLS TO EARTH WITHOUT THE FATHER.
AND HE KEEPS IN EVEN CLOSER TOUCH WITH YOU.

YOU MATTER MORE, YES, MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS,
MORE THAN ALL THE WINGED CREATURES OF THE AIR;
THOUGH TRUTH TO TELL, IF YOU WERE JUST A SPARROW,
GOD WOULD STILL FIND TIME TO KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE,
GOD WOULD STILL FIND TIME TO KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.

THE LILIES OF THE FIELD, THEY ALL DO NOTHING.
THEY DO NOT TOIL AND NEITHER DO THEY SPIN.
BUT SOLOMON HAD NEVER YET SUCH CLOTHING,
AND GOD WILL DRESS YOU MORE RESPLENDENTLY THAN HIM.

YOU MATTER MORE, YES, MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS,
MORE THAN ALL THE WINGED CREATURES OF THE AIR;
THOUGH TRUTH TO TELL, IF YOU WERE JUST A SPARROW,
GOD WOULD STILL FIND TIME TO KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.
GOD WOULD STILL FIND TIME TO KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.

Scene 8

(DANNY comes in to find SUZY packing.)

DANNY

What are you doing?

SUZY

I'm leaving. I'm leaving while I still have the heart to leave
you.

DANNY

Why so quickly?

SUZY

If I don't leave now, I'll never go.

DANNY

Where will you go?

SUZY

I called Alice, and she says I can stay there with her while I'm looking for a sublet or an apartment to rent.

DANNY

Alice? The one you fought with so much?

SUZY

Yeah, but I called her and told her it was an emergency, and she said OK. We both agreed it would be two weeks tops. I can always find at least a temporary place by checking the bulletin boards down at the medical school. Somebody's always moving and looking to sublet.

DANNY

What made you make up your mind so suddenly?

SUZY

Last night I had the strangest dream.

DANNY

Oy!

SUZY

I dreamt I came back here and I called your name but you didn't answer, and then I saw this guy in the kitchen, sitting at the kitchen table, drinking a cup of coffee, and he said "He went that way" and pointed out the window. I was terrified and I ran outside and started running down one street and then another, and finally I ran down this long narrow dead-end street and there was a house at the end with a second-story balcony. And you were there on the balcony, and so was the same man I'd seen in the kitchen, and you were kissing and feeling each other, and I shouted, "Danny! Danny!" but you didn't hear me. And then I woke up.

DANNY

Well, I think I can interpret the symbolism of the "dead-end street."

SUZY

When I woke up I was still terrified. You had already left the house for your prayer-meeting. I sat there and trembled. And as the dream wore off, the realization came on. I had to decide something. It was like today or never. Either I want to hang around with you for the rest of my life, or I have to end the relationship at some point. And I love you, but I don't want to hang around with you the rest of my life. I want to get married and have kids.

DANNY

All right, you have to leave. But do you have to leave right now?

SUZY

Yes, it has to be today. That dream gave me the strength to leave today. I don't know if it gave me the strength to leave tomorrow.

DANNY

Don't go!

SUZY

I've got to go, I've got to go now. Don't make it harder. (Pause.) I've got all this stuff to carry. Could you help?

DANNY

(Gives in.) Yes. (Helps her carry several items outside the door.) Are you going to carry all this on the trolley? SUZY I'm calling a cab.

DANNY

I hope you at least don't feel too bitter toward me.

SUZY

No, I don't. I don't see you as having deceived me: I think I deceived myself a lot. You really told me very clearly what was coming.

DANNY

I didn't know what was coming.

SUZY

But you were honest with me. And I wasn't honest with myself. I kept saying, "That stuff with other men was all in the past, that was just a teenage confusion." I kept thinking that till that night when we had Marshall over for dinner and Elaine was there too. OhmyGod, you kept staring at him as if you were watching a FIRE or something. It was like he was striding nine feet tall in your eyes. And I felt two feet tall, completely inadequate,

completely unable to compete with the beautiful, magnificent man that you were all eyes for.

DANNY

I didn't mean to hurt you or be rude.

SUZY

No, you didn't think about it and say, "I'll be rude," you didn't think about me at all, that's the point. And if that's how you felt, I would have found out sooner or later. That night I sure found out with a bang.

DANNY

I'm sorry...

SUZY

I forgive you. At any rate, I realized then that I'd been telling myself a lot of garbage. You were just as homosexual now after all this time of our living and sleeping together as you had ever told me you'd been before, and that wasn't gonna change. It was always going to be this giant part of you that I couldn't get ahold of or deal with or compete with, and that would always be threatening to pull us apart.

DANNY

(Nods.)

SUZY

And even after I realized that, I said to myself, "I love him and I don't want to leave him, so what can I do?" And I kept myself from realizing that I HAD to do something. Until last night.

DANNY (Shakes his head, dumbfounded.)

SUZY

And now if you'll excuse me, I'm afraid I have to call a cab.
(Dials.) Yes, could I have a cab at 237 Allston Street, please?
Thanks. Goodbye. (Hangs up.) They said ten minutes.

DANNY

You've lost weight.

SUZY

Yes, I lost a few pounds. I started out doing it to help hold
onto you and ended up just doing it for myself.

DANNY

You look nice.

SUZY

Thank you.

DANNY

(Pause.) I keep thinking of your dream of the dead-end street. I
think I could have settled into a very comfortable dead end with
you.

SUZY

But you never asked me to marry you.

DANNY

No. Do you wish I had? Do you wish we'd gotten married? SUZY
I don't now. Sometimes I thought about it a lot. Other times I
thought no.

DANNY

Sometimes I thought about it a lot too.

SUZY

Maybe Fate decided it was better if we didn't both think of it
too hard at the same time.

DANNY

Maybe so. And so it seems like it's all come to nothing. And yet
I'm not sorry I came this far with you.

SUZY

Nor am I. (Sings.)

You Know How These Things Go

I WISH I KNEW SOME WAY TO SAY GOODBYE

WHEREBY I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FINALLY TURN AND LEAVE YOU.

I ALSO WISH THAT I COULD LOOK YOU IN THE EYE,
BUT IF I DID I MIGHT NOT HAVE THE HEART TO LEAVE YOU.
YOU KNOW HOW THESE THINGS GO,
YOU KNOW HOW THESE THINGS GO.

DANNY

AND I WISH I COULD REACH INSIDE YOUR MIND:
WE HAD OUR PROBLEMS BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU.
BUT TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME.
YOU SAY YOU LOVE ME--

SUZY

YES, I DO.

DANNY

--AND I BELIEVE YOU.

DANNY AND SUZY

YOU KNOW HOW THESE THINGS GO,
YOU START TO SEE IT GO,
YOU HOPE TO TURN THE TIDE.
AND THEN ONE DAY,
AND THEN ONE DAY,
YOU SIMPLY LOOK AND IT HAS DIED.

SUZY

YOU MAY NOT KNOW JUST WHAT I FEEL INSIDE,
BUT YOU MUST KNOW I REALLY LOVE YOU.

DANNY

I BELIEVE YOU.

SUZY

AND MORE THAN THAT, YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN
HOW MUCH I TRIED TO WORK IT OUT SOME OTHER WAY
AND NOT TO LEAVE YOU.

DANNY

I KNOW, MY LOVE, I KNOW.
I KNOW HOW THESE THINGS GO.

SUZY

I TOLD MYSELF I WASN'T GOING TO CRY,
AS IF IT DIDN'T BREAK MY HEART IN TWO TO LEAVE YOU.

DANNY

I'D SAY, "IT'S JUST AS WELL," BUT THAT WOULD BE A LIE:
YOU WERE THE ONE SOUL ON THIS EARTH I HAD TO CLEAVE TO.

DANNY AND SUZY

YOU KNOW HOW THESE THINGS GO,
YOU START TO SEE IT GO,
YOU HOPE TO TURN THE TIDE.
AND THEN ONE DAY,
AND THEN ONE DAY,
YOU SIMPLY LOOK, YOU LOOK AND IT HAS DIED.

DANNY

I FEEL SO STRANGE, LIKE SOMEHOW I SHOULD TRY
TO RAISE MY VOICE OR STRETCH MY HAND OUT AND RETRIEVE YOU.

SUZY

IT WOULDN'T WORK,
THE TIME FOR THAT IS BY.
GIVE ME YOUR HAND,
GIVE ME A KISS.
GIVE ME A HUG...
NOW I MUST LEAVE YOU.

(The song trails off a cappella, and SUZY exits. DANNY
turns away from the door, comes back into his
apartment and thinks again of the hidden stash of
dope.)

DANNY

Now this is a rainy day. And I'm going to find that dope if I
have to rip apart every book page by page and chop up every piece
of furniture into kindling.

(As he braces for the assault, there is a knock. It's
SUZY. She holds a few letters.)

SUZY

Sorry to disturb you. It's in your desk, way in the back of the
bottom drawer.

DANNY

(Lunges for the stash.) Were you looking through my desk all the
time?

SUZY

No, I promise you. I pulled out the drawer with my eyes covered and facing the other way and stashed it in by just feeling with my hands. I figured it'd be safe there till you cleaned out your desk maybe five years from now.

DANNY

Thanks for having mercy on a suffering animal.

SUZY

I'm a suffering animal too. (He goes for her. She draws back.)
You have mail. (Gives him letters.) See you. (Exits.)

DANNY

(Takes three envelopes, tosses two quickly into wastebasket, opens third.)

"Dear Mr. Daniels: We would be pleased to publish such a fine poem as your submission 'An Interesting Fact,' but we have been forced to suspend publication with the current issue. Please accept..."

Now that's what I call a moral victory. (Reads the poem.)

"AN INTERESTING FACT

It's an interesting fact that in fall The
leaves don't 'turn' any colors.

The colors they turn,

They always were,

But they were so green you couldn't see."

THE END