

Doc Hollywood

**A musical by Travis Sentell, Adam Roberts, and Joshua Tarkan, M.D.
Based on the Book, *What? Dead...Again?* by Neil Shulman, M.D.**

**Book by Travis Sentell
Music and Lyrics by Joshua Tarkan, M.D.
Additional book, music and lyrics by Adam Roberts**

**Copyright © 2001 Travis Sentell, Adam Roberts, and Joshua Tarkan, M.D.
CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Dr. Benjamin Stone.....mid-20s, a young doctor
Beloula Hogue.....mid-20s, a paramedic, the love interest
Mayor Needham.....warm and personable
Melvin Dryden..... mechanic
Bruce.....mechanic, speaks in a monotone
Nurse Baines.....codgy old nurse
Dr. Hogue.....town doctor, stodgy but wise
Dream George Lubin.....glitzy and suave, stereotype of success
Dr. George Lubin.....esteemed plastic surgeon
Simon Springer.....hack inventor, town entrepreneur
Joanna Alexander.....wife and mother, warm and caring
Hank Alexander.....hard-working and honest
Tom Alexander.....young son of Hank and Joanna
Sally McCormick.....an adolescent girl
Otis.....a pig
Sandra Westmoreland.....A Los Angeles native

And several townspeople

ACT I

SONG: YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE

Company:

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE.
IF YOU PUT UP FRONTS,
PEOPLE SOON FIND OUT.

Solo:

IF YOU'RE NOT A STUNTMAN
DON'T DO STUNTS.
YOU'LL GET HURT,
WITHOUT A DOUBT.

Company:

YOU ONLY GET ONE ATTEMPT,
ONLY ONE AT-BAT,
AND NO ONE IS EXEMPT
FROM THAT.
SO MAKE IT SO THE DREAMS YOU DREAMT
COME TRUE!

AND WHEN THE DAY IS OVER
AND YOU HANG YOUR HAT,
MAKE SURE YA GREW!

Solo (spoken):

WAIT A MINUTE! WAIT A MINUTE!
WAIT A MINUTE! WAIT A MINUTE!
HOLD ON...

(sung)

THAT'S A MORAL WITHOUT A STORY!
CAN'T HAVE A MORAL WITHOUT A TALE!

Company:

THAT'S LIKE AN UDDER WITHOUT A COW!
THAT'S LIKE A HAMMER WITHOUT A NAIL!

Solo:

SOMETHING'S MISSING:
IT'S THE STORY OF A MAN

Company:

AND A WOMAN,
AND A TOWN,
AND A PIG,
AND A PLAN!

ANYWAY,
THERE ARE STORIES THAT WE HOLD,
STORIES THAT UNFOLD,
STORIES THAT ARE TOLD
A LOT.
SOME FOR THE DRAMA,
SOME FOR THE COMEDY,
SOME FOR THE SCENERY,
SOME, THE PLOT.

EVERYBODY REMINISCES
EVERYWHERE;
WE ALL HAVE HITS AND MISSES
TO SHARE.
THERE ARE STORIES
IN THE AIR
WE BREATHE!

AND WE HEAR THEM
FROM THE DAY
WE TEETHE!

SO LET'S BEGIN
WITH THE STORY OF THE MAN.
AND THE WOMAN,
AND THE TOWN,
AND THE PIG,
AND THE PLAN—
A YARN WE WOVE FROM THREADS WE STEADILY SPUN!
BUT ENOUGH OF THIS SMALL TALK!
LET'S GET ON WITH IT!
TIME'S A'WASTIN!
WE START WITH
CHAPTER ONE!

Blackout.

1.1

MAYOR NEEDHAM

(addressing the audience as he scans it) Well I gotta tell ya—it's mighty fine to see so many people comin out to hear my story—and a whopper it is too— I promise you you

aren't gonna be disappointed—I've never seen anything like it in all my days. (pause) You know, stories are funny things—you got your everyday stories like Crazy Joe spillin kerosene on his shoes and toastin up all eleven of his toes, and you got your not-so-everyday stories, like Marsha Milliford surviving all them lightning strikes in only 48 hours, or the time Farmer Mosley's cattle lead that revolt against him and his fine wife Josie—God rest her soul. This story's one I guess falls right smack dab in the middle—and it happened right here in Brayden, Alabama—right here on this very spot. Now since it's my job to tell it to ya straight, I'm gonna do my darndest to tell it right—exactly the way I remember it—with all the romance, all the destiny, all the pigs, all in under an hour. Maybe two, if things get goin good. Now I guess this story starts in a big ole hospital, up north somewhere, latitudinally speaking that is...before any of us'd even heard the name Doc Hollywood.

1.2

BEN and SURGEON #1 stand over two tables. SURGEON #2 rushes in.

SURGEON #2

(in a frenzy) Prep a table! We got a guy with third degree burns, he's losing his pulse, needs surgery now! We're bringing him in!

BEN

Oh, c'mon! I'm wrapping up my last case—I'm outta here in five minutes.

SURGEON #2

This is a bad one, Ben. None of us are good enough to save this guy.

BEN

Fine. (all business now, to SURGEON #1) Jerry, scrub in. (to SURGEON #2) Rob, call the nurse—tell her to create a sterile field. I'll get anesthesia down here. Roll the patient in stat.

SURGEON #3 (offstage)

I'm on fire! It's burning my flesh! O God, the pain!

BEN

(stopping what he's doing) What?

SURGEON #3 enters, carrying a cake with candles ablaze.

SURGEONS #1, 2, 3
Surprise!!

BEN

Not funny, guys.

SURGEON #1

You didn't think you'd get out of here without a going away party, did you?

SURGEON #3

Eat up, Ben. There's punch in the waiting room. Everybody came to say goodbye.

BEN

A fake burn victim? Great way to start a party, guys—this is better than the Tea Cups at Disneyworld.

SURGEON #2

Oh come on Ben—loosen up—we just wanted to say goodbye and we know you wouldn't stick around if we planned a big party. Grab some cake!

BEN

I'll have some cake, but I'd better hold off on the punch...I got a long drive ahead of me.

SURGEON #1

Yeah, three thousand miles... that's a hell of a trip.

SURGEON #2

Hope you got a good book on tape.

SURGEON #3

We're gonna miss ya, Ben. You sure three years of hemorrhoids and hernias were enough?

BEN

(with mock arrogance) Neil, it's time the world came to terms with my skill and I came to terms with its money—I'll leave the hemorrhoids to you guys.

SURGEONS #1, 2 & 3

Whoa...

SURGEON #1

I see how it is—but Ben, seriously—I don't understand why you wanna work with George Lubin.

BEN

Lubin's a legend! He did Janet's cheeks, Madonna's boobs, and Cher's...well...all of Cher.

SURGEON #2

But you doing plastic surgery Ben—that's like Beethoven writing jingles.

BEN

Look, if Lubin gives me this job—*when* Lubin gives me the job—I'll have my own private residency! And if I never have to smell another emergency room again, I'll be a happy man.

SONG: PLASTICS

Ben:

FOR ME, 'TIL NOW,
MEDICINE'S BEEN ALL ABOUT
MAKING THE SICK PEOPLE WELL.
BUT AFTER A WHILE,
AFTER BLOOD,
AFTER BILE,
ALL THAT ILLNESS
MAKES ONE DEPRESSED.
I REALIZED I COULD
STILL DO GOOD
BY MAKING THE WELL PEOPLE
APPEAR THEIR BEST,
AND I KNEW THAT THE HEALTHY PEOPLE—
THE WEALTHY PEOPLE—
LIVE OUT WEST.

I WANTED A LIFE
WHERE THERE'D BE NO DYING,
NO CRYING,
NOTHING UNSURE.
NO SICKNESSES I'D BE TRYING
TO CURE.
WHERE I'D USE A DIFFERENT SKILL,
WHERE THE PATIENTS AREN'T ILL,
THERE'S NO DENYING
THAT'S THE ALLURE
OF
ONE WORD—
PLASTICS!

NO MORE GASTROENTERITIS,
NO ACUTE APPENDICITIS,
NO MORE TREATING THE COMMON COLD.
NO MORE AMPUTATION,
NO MORE CHRONIC CONSTIPATION;
THAT GETS OLD!

NO MORE FRESH FROZEN PLASMA,
NO MORE WHEEZING, NO MORE ASTHMA,
NO MORE LOWER BACK PAINS.
NO MORE URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS,
NO MORE TETANUS INJECTIONS;
GIVE ME YOUR VARICOSE VEINS!

I WENT TO COLLEGE IN
NEW HAVEN
FOUND THAT I WAS HANDY WITH KNIVES.
NOW DON'T GET ME WRONG
I KNOW THAT COLLAGEN
ISN'T SAVIN'
LIVES!

BUT I'M A SURGEON
WITH A BURGEONING
CAREER;
CLEFT LIP!
LEFT HIP!
THE WAY IS CLEAR!

THERE ARE WRINKLES TO ERASE
I'LL MAKE 'EM FADE WITHOUT A TRACE.
THERE ARE EYEBROWS WAITING TO BE PLUCKED!
FACE-LIFTS
I'VE YET TO FACE,
IMPLANTS I'VE YET TO PLACE,
TUMMIES WAITING TO BE TUCKED!

RECONSTRUCTION,
LIPOSUCTION,
EVEN A BREAST REDUCTION
OR TWO!
GO UNDER THE KNIFE,
IMPROVE YOUR LIFE!
I'VE SO MANY THINGS TO DO!

NO MORE TUBERCULOSIS,
NO MORE OSTEOPOROSIS,
NO MORE VANCOMYCIN TROUGH.
NO MORE CARDIAC ARRESTS,
NO MORE CRACKING PEOPLE'S CHESTS,
NO MORE TURN YOUR HEAD AND COUGH!

NO MORE EMPHYSEMA
OR PERIPHERAL EDEMA,
NO MORE HEMORRHOIDECTOMIES.
NO MORE DIURETICS,
NO MORE DIABETICS,
NO MORE DISEASE!

PREDNISONE!
SILICONE!
AND ALL OF THE ABOVE!

I'M GLAD TO HELP THE GREEDIER PATIENTS
(GIVES ME THE MEANS TO HELP THE NEEDIER PATIENTS!)
THIS IS THE LIFE I WANT!
THIS IS THE LIFE I SEEK!
THIS IS THE HAND I'M DEALT!
THESE ARE THE WORDS I SPEAK!
WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE—
THIS IS THE KIND OF STUFF
I THINK OF!

AND SO I MAKE MY WAY
WESTWARD TOWARDS L.A.,
THE CITY WHERE DAY AFTER DAY,
I'LL LIFT MANY A WEAKENING CHIN!
AND THE CITY WHEREIN
I MAKE MY NEW BEGINNING.
I'M SET,
SO LET IT
BEGIN!

BEN drives offstage. Sound of a car crash in the blackout.

1.3

BEN reenters—smudged and shaken from his accident—and he looks lost.

MAYOR

(to audience, but looking at BEN) Yep- it was a car accident caused by Mabel Guffman's smart, prize-winning cattle that brought Doc Hollywood here to Brayden. But it was no accident that he arrived on the day of the 79th Annual Vegetable Festival.

**A TOWNSPERSON enters with a sign that says "Brayden, Alabama—2 miles,"
BEN sees it and exits (piano cue).**

1.4

The 79th Annual Vegetable Festival—with signs, banners, costumes, etc. Throughout the song, SALLY runs around with a basket, getting the men to sign their names on blue tickets and the women to sign their names on pink tickets.

SONG: THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL

Townspeople:

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR.
AND ON THIS DATE
WE CELEBRATE
THE CROPS WE GROW HERE!

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT'S QUITE SUPERB!
WE SHOWCASE THE BEST OF ALL
OF BRAYDEN'S HERB!

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT STARTED LONG AGO.
WE PARADE IN
THE HERBS THAT ARE MADE IN
BRAYDEN;
HAVE A GLASS OF LEMONADE AN'
ENJOY THE SHOW!

HERE COMES THE CORN
WE PICKED THIS MORNING,
FRESH FROM THE FARM OF FARMER BOB.
LOOK AT THOSE EARS!
THREE CHEERS!
THREE CHEERS!
IT'S ON THE COB!
IT'S ON THE COB!

HERE COME THE POTATOES—
THE TORNADOES
DIDN'T DESTROY THEM.
THEN AGAIN, NEITHER DID THE FLOODS!
EVERYONE LIKES A TATER;
THESE ARE GREATER
THAN GREAT!
SO HAVE YOUR WAITER
BRING A PLATE!
WE AWAIT
THE SPUDS!

HERE COMES THE RADISH
THAT WAS FADDISH LAST FALL.
LOOK HOW RED!
WE THINK THEY'RE QUITE DELECTABLE
AT LEAST, WELL, RESPECTABLE.
THEY KEEP US WELL FED!

HERE COME THE ZUCCHINI—
THEY ARE GREENER THAN MOST.
MAYBE NOT AS GREEN AS THE GREEN BEANS
BUT THEY STILL GIVE US REASON TO BOAST!

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR.

AND ON THIS DATE
WE CELEBRATE
THE CROPS WE GROW HERE!

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT'S QUITE SUPERB!
WE SHOWCASE THE BEST OF ALL
OF BRAYDEN'S HERB!

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT STARTED LONG AGO.
WE PARADE IN
THE HERBS THAT ARE MADE IN
BRAYDEN;
HAVE A GLASS OF LEMONADE AN'
ENJOY THE SHOW!

Stage left.

HOGUE

Best festival weather we've had in quite a few years, eh, Carla?

NURSE BAINES

78 degrees under partly cloudy skies, Dr. Hogue. Mmm, hmm.

Stage right.

TOM

(running towards his parents, HANK and JOANNA)

Mama, papa! Sally said her tomatoes are gonna beat ours in the Vegetable Contest this year!

HANK

Don't you worry son—no one grows bigger tomaters than your old man.

JOANNA

(mock warning) Well Hank, you better win after spendin all that time in the garden! And remember boys—blue ribbons means pecan pie for dessert!

HANK and TOM

Pecan pie!!!

Center Stage.

MAYOR

Say, Simon, What ever happened to that invention you were working on? An electric cucumber slicer, wasn't it?

SIMON

That thing? That's amateur stuff; I'm beyond that now.

MAYOR
Oh, yeah?

SIMON
Yeah. Once I unveil my newest project, this town will never be the same again. I just need five hundred dollars to make it happen.

MAYOR
Sure, sure. Make it happen, son. Make it happen!

Townsppeople:

HERE COMES THE PUMPKIN;
EVERY COUNTRY BUMPKIN KNOWS
THAT WE USE 'EM ON HALLOWEEN.
YOU CAN CARVE A FACE IN 'EM;
THERE'S A LOT OF SPACE IN 'EM,
BUT, THROW THEM OUT BEFORE NOVEMBER EIGHTEEN!

HERE COME THE TOMATOES—
LOOK HOW RIPE!
SO WHAT IF THEY'VE GOT SEEDS?
YOU SEE, SOME WOULD SAY THEY'RE FRUIT,
BUT THAT'S HYPE!
STEREOTYPE!
THEY MEET OUR NEEDS!

HERE COME THE BRUSSELS SPROUTS
AMAZING THEY SURVIVED THE DROUGHTS;
THE BRUSSELS SPROUT IS QUITE A STRONG PLANT.
CHILDREN TRY TO AVOID 'EM,
TRY TO EVADE 'EM,
TRY TO TRADE 'EM,
BUT THEY CAN'T!

Stage right.

SALLY
Thanks so much for helping me with my algebra homework, Miss Beloula.

LOU
My pleasure, Sally. Don't forget—Whatever you do to one side of the equation you gotta do to the other. (then: indicating the slip of paper SALLY hands her) Sign it here?

SALLY
Yes'm, on the dotted line.

BEN enters and tries to get people's attention. He taps MAYOR NEEDHAM on the shoulder.

BEN

Look, I need some help—

MAYOR

(as he turns around) Well sure son, I—(seeing BEN for the first time, surprised) I don't believe I know who you are. (shaking BEN'S hand vigorously) And it is my mayorly duty to welcome you to our fine city and to our fine Vegetable Festival. What's your name, son?

BEN

Benjamin Stone. Look, my car broke down, and I'm in sort of a hurry.

MAYOR

Well Mr. Stone, we'll be more than happy to help you in just a bit—

BEN

Actually, it's Dr. Stone, and I don't have a lot of time—

MAYOR

Doctor?

BEN

Yes.

MAYOR

A doctor! Well of all the—I mean—that's fantastic! (to SALLY) Sally! Come over here hun! (to BEN) You here to stay?

BEN

Stay? Here? No—Listen, I'm really pressed for time...

MAYOR

(looking around) Oops—I gotta run. You stick around here a bit, and we'll have a nice chat. (Sally runs over) Now you make sure that Doc Stone here signs a raffle ticket. Doc—don't go away—I'll be right back! (MAYOR ascends to the upstage podium)

Townspople:

FINALLY! FINALLY!
HERE COME THE TURNIPS.
THEY NEVER TURN UP ON TIME!
THEY'RE LAST BUT NOT LEAST,
AND THEY COMPLETE THE FEAST,
AND I'M—
GOING TO THE—

ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT STARTED LONG AGO.
WE PARADE IN
THE HERBS THAT ARE MADE IN
BRAYDEN—
HAVE A GLASS OF LEMONADE ‘AN
ENJOY THE SHOW!

WE ROOT FOR THE ROOT,
AND ALL THINGS AGRARIAN!
WE SALUTE
ALL THINGS VEGETARIAN!
SOME MIGHT SAY
WE’RE RATHER “ORDINAR-IAN,”
MUCH LIKE AN ONION RING.

HERE IN THIS LOCALE—
(THIS IS WHAT WE DO, THIS IS WHAT WE GROW)
LET ME TELL YA SOMETHING PAL—
(THIS IS WHO WE ARE, THIS IS WHAT WE KNOW)
I SPEAK FOR EVERY GUY AND GAL—
(THIS IS HOW WE LIVE)
THIS IS WHY WE SING!
IT’S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL—
(SYMBOLIC,
BUCOLIC,
WE’RE READY TO FROLIC!)
WHAT DID YOU BRING?!

MAYOR NEEDHAM

Welcome everyone!! (cheering) Welcome to the 79th annual Brayden Vegetable Festival, the single largest gathering of home-grown vegetable goodness this side of Birmingham! (cheering) I also want to remind everyone to “Make it Happen” this year, vote to re-elect Mayor Needham—24 years and running! (cheers) It’s now three o’clock, on the first day of our fine festival, and according to Brayden tradition it’s time to crown a Vegetable King and a Vegetable Queen to preside over the harvest. Now, I assume you all filled out your raffle tickets there. Sally, would you bring all the names up here please?

SALLY

Here ya go Mayor! I didn’t drop any of ‘em this year!

MAYOR

Well, thank heavens for small blessings! Anyway, as we do every year, we engage in this double-blinded, randomized, lottery-like process letting the powers that be decide the royal court for this year’s harvest. Now...the Vegetable Queen of this year’s Vegetable Festival is...(drawing name) well come up here, Beloula, darlin’! Congratulations! (cheers) (crowning of BELOULA—a gaudy crown of vegetables) Now...to find her

mate, her King, her partner in Vegetable royalty...I know you boys must be itchin to get up here with Beloula, (grunts of affirmation from MEN) so I won't keep you waitin' any longer...The King of this year's Vegetable Festival is...(obviously pleased) Well... I'll be! Dr. Benjamin Stone! Come on up here, Dr. Stone!

There is confusion in the crowd—BEN turns around surprised and makes his way up to the stage.

BEN

(as he approaches the MAYOR) What is this?

MAYOR

(to crowd) Everyone, Doc Stone here just got into town today: let's give him a good ole-fashioned Brayden welcome!

Cheers

MAYOR

You're right lucky son, you've just been crowned king of our annual Vegetable Festival. (pushing BEN onto the stage) Now, go on up and stand next to your queen.

BEN

My queen?

Until this moment, he hasn't looked at BELOULA. When his eyes meet hers, the lights and music quickly define the moment and return. The attraction is instantaneous and obvious. Piano cue.

MAYOR

And so—having crowned our King and Queen—it's now time for the closing ceremony over at Brill's Creek. Delilah Hayward and the ladies have made their famous lemon ices, so let's mosey on over! Melvin, could I talk to you for a second?

The CROWD mosies on over, leaving BEN and LOU alone onstage. The MAYOR talks quickly to MELVIN, who runs offstage. MAYOR exits. BEN stays behind, still wearing his Vegetable crown. He is confused by what has just happened, and watches the crowd exit. He slowly looks around him.

BEN

Hi.

LOU

Hi.

BEN

Crazy festival huh?

LOU

Yeah...it's my favorite part of the year.

BEN

Yeah.....it's... (looking at LOU) beautiful.

LOU nods slowly.

BEN

Um...Your crown's a little crooked...(reaches over and fixes it)

LOU

Thanks... (pause) I gotta run; I promised I'd get to the creek before the ices melt.

LOU exits.

BEN

Bye—

MELVIN walks on with a sign that says: "Melvin and Bruce's Body Shop—We Wreckin' We're The Best!! Right this way!" (piano cue)

BEN

(looking at it) Perfect.

He follows MELVIN offstage.

1.5

BRUCE sits alone at a desk doing the books. MELVIN enters.

BRUCE

(droning) ...plus five is 17, plus 2 is 19, plus 5 is 24, plus—

MELVIN

Oohhhhhh—Whayadoncha Shuddup!!!!

BRUCE

Oops.

MELVIN

Usea da calcamalata like everrybuddy else!

BRUCE

Now I have to start again...1 plus 3 is 4 plus 5 is 9 plus 3—

BEN enters.

BEN

Excuse me—I'm looking—

BRUCE
Oops.

MELVIN
You seewhatchadone? You done messsad uphis countin. He gots to start alllllll overagain.
Thankayaverrrymuch. (goes over and whispers to BRUCE)

BEN
Excuse me?

MELVIN
(to BEN) Youexcused. Thankayoufo bein polite.

BEN
Right...look, can you help me fix my car?

BRUCE
You want help fixing it or you want us to fix it for you?

MELVIN
Wouldya Talkatoda man! Whaddid I tellya bout dem social skills? Now sirr, how can we
two fine gentlemen helpya?

BEN
I crashed my car about two miles from here—I can't fix it—

BRUCE
Any survivors?

BEN
Survivors?...No! I mean yes! I mean—look, I need my car fixed! I'm on my way to
L.A., and—

MELVIN
Ohhhh...dat's where I'ma from! Louisiana, deep in Nawlins—born'n'raised—beautysun
swamprisin wittda Jazz— (trails off, silently reminiscing)

BEN
No, look, Los Angeles, I have a very important interview with a *very* important surgeon...
are you listening?

BRUCE
In general, or right at this moment?

BEN
Can you help me?

MELVIN

Wellll Idunno. I mean, we're closed.

BEN

Your sign said you were open for another six hours.

MELVIN

WhattI meant wazzat we can't fix da cars.

BEN

You can't fix cars? This is a body shop!

MELVIN

Well, we do, but it's verrrrrry expensive, see?

BEN

How much does it cost?

BRUCE

How much can you pay?

BEN

Whatever it takes, I just need to get out of here...Look, what credit cards do you take?

BRUCE

We don't accept credit cards.

BEN

Why?

BRUCE

It's complex. Do you watch the X-files?

BEN

No. What *do* you accept?

BRUCE

Cash only.

MELVIN

Cassssshhonly!!! We likeada cashonly!

BEN

How much do you think it'll be?

BRUCE

I only work with numbers that can be expressed by one letter in Roman numerals. The price is D.

BEN
D?

BRUCE
Five hundred dollars. Cash.

BEN
Look, isn't there—

BRUCE
Five hundred. Cash.

MELVIN
Fiiiiiiiiive hundddred.

BEN
I know—look, where the hell am I supposed to get cash? Is there an ATM near here?

BRUCE
Auntie Em? You know her? And Dorothy and Toto and the scarecrow—

BEN
No...Nevermind. What about a wire service?

BRUCE
Can't be trusted.

MELVIN
(almost overlapping) Noooosirrr....canna be trusted.

BEN
Well, how close is the nearest town?

BRUCE
Brayden is at the vertex of a three-point isosceles triangle—forty miles equidistant from either town.

MELVIN
Too far ta walk! Gotta take a car!

BEN
But I can't drive! Tell me—how am I supposed to get out of here? I have an interview very soon—

MELVIN
You gotta ask da mayor.

BEN
What?

BRUCE
The Mayor's the only one who could help you.

BEN
You think he'll help me?

BRUCE
Why not? He helped Crazy Joe Mortimer back when his shoe caught on fire.

BEN
(sighing) Well, where is he now?

BRUCE
Well after the conviction, he went to Bangladesh and bought himself a Russian lady of the night—

BEN
No, the mayor! (pause) Why are you so weird?

BRUCE looks hurt and stops talking.

MELVIN
Umm... da Maya told me he's comin over ta meetcha outside the store.

BEN
How'd he know—? Ok, look, I'll wait outside.

BEN exits. Pause.

MELVIN
Whatsda matta, Bruce? Whyso pensive?

BRUCE
I'm lonely.

MELVIN
Oh. (pause) Well, backta work.

1.6
Brill's Creek. LOU, JOANNA, and five other TOWNSWOMEN are mixing and distributing lemon ices throughout the scene.

JOANNA
You sure are right Jean—I haven't seen such a fine looking boy in a long time—and a doctor!

WOMAN #1

I think I might wake up tomorrow mighty sick—might need a bit of hands on treatment...

Laughter from all the ladies.

LOU

Oh come on, Jo Cathy! What about Jim? He's a fine man—all you women got fine husbands. There's nothing special about this new boy—he'll be gone in a day. (pause)

Besides... he's not that cute.

Laughter from all the ladies.

LOU

What?

JOANNA

Oh honey, the whole town saw the way you were looking at that boy...I thought our lemon ices were gonna melt waitin for you to finish makin eyes at each other!

LOU

I was not! You ladies know I'm done with relationships—no place in my life for that.

JOANNA

You can't let one man ruin it for you honey—they ain't all bad—in fact, some of em are actually pretty good.

SONG: "A GIRL, CONTENT"

Joanna:

A LIFE WITHOUT COMPANION
IS AS EMPTY AS A CANYON,
DRY AS THE DESERT SAND.

Woman #2:

LIVING WITHOUT A MAN
IS LIKE EMBARKING ON A TRIP
UPON A SHIP
WITHOUT A SKIPPER
ON-HAND.

Woman #3:

AND YOU CAN'T LEAVE A CLIPPER
UN-MANNED:
OR ELSE YOU'LL SAIL,

AND SAIL, AND SAIL,
BUT YOU'LL FAIL
TO LAND ON LAND.

Beloulah:

I KNOW IT WOULD BE NICE
TO HAVE SOMEONE TO COME HOME TO,
SOMEONE I COULD RUN TO
WHEN I CRY.
I KNOW IT WOULD BE NICE
TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE ME,
SOMEONE WHO WOULD LOOK ME
IN THE EYE.

BUT I'VE BEEN SCARRED,
AND I'VE BEEN SCARED,
AND I CAN'T DISREGARD
WHAT'S UNREPAIRED.
WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE,
THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES!
AND SO I LIVE
AS A GIRL, CONTENT,
WITH INDEPENDENT
TENDENCIES!

Woman #4:

A LIFE WITHOUT A FELLOW
IS AS HOLLOW AS A CAVE,
BARREN AS THE SANDY DUNES.
YOU NEED A MAN
WITH WHOM TO PERCH
UPON THE PORCH
ON SCORCHING
SUMMER AFTERNOONS.

Woman #5:

AND A FELLA'
WHO WILL LEND YOU HIS UMBRELLA
WHEN THE RAINS BECOME MONSOONS.

Woman #6:

AND SOMEONE WHO WILL KEEP YOU WARM
WHEN THE STORMS
BECOME TYPHOONS.

Beloulah:

I KNOW IT WOULD BE NICE
TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO'D BE NEAR ME,
SOMEONE WHO WOULD HEAR ME
WHEN I HUM.
I KNOW IT WOULD BE NICE
TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO WOULD CLUTCH ME,
SOMEONE WHO WOULD TOUCH ME
WHEN I'M NUMB.

BUT I'VE BEEN SCARRED,
AND I'VE BEEN SCARED,
AND I CAN'T DISREGARD
WHAT'S UNREPAIRED.
WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE,
THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES.
AND SO I LIVE
AS A GIRL, CONTENT,
WITH INDEPENDENT
TENDENCIES!

I'VE CHOSEN TO ESCAPE ENTWINEMENT.
SOLITARY CONFINEMENT'S
REALLY NOTHING NEW!

I'M SECLUDED,
BUT I'M ROOTED,
UNDERNEATH A ROOF
THAT WASN'T BUILT FOR TWO!

AND UPON THAT ROOF
IS A WEATHERVANE;
I DON'T NEED A MAN
TO KEEP ME FROM THE RAIN!
AND I DON'T NEED A MAN
TO BE STANDING BY!

I'M HAPPILY SINGLE!
ALL I NEED IS A SHINGLE
OVERHEAD,
TO KEEP ME DRY!

Blackout.

MAYOR

(to audience) Well now as you can all see, Doc Stone would've been a great addition to our town—and I was gonna do everything in my power to make sure he realized all the good things he'd be missin out on if he left. I mean, it was for his own good, right?
(pause) Well in any case, Stone sure was a tough sell.

1.8

Town square. Throughout the scene and song, various TOWNSPEOPLE are smiling and greeting the MAYOR as they clean up from the Vegetable Ceremony.

MAYOR

(stepping into the scene)...and this bush was planted 14 years ago by Jimmy Sue Spear to commemorate the 65th annual Vegetable Festival. It's ironic cause this bush is actually not a vegetable at all, horticulturally speaking.

BEN

Mayor, look, I'd love to see more—but I really need to get out of here.

MAYOR

What's your rush?

BEN

I have an interview—

MAYOR

Stop! Look down. It was in that very spot that Woodrow Jenkins single-handedly rescued little Johnny Peters from two grizzly bears nearly thirty-five years ago. Saved the boy's life with his bare hands. Heh! Bear hands!

BEN

That's terrific Mayor, but I need to find some cash, quick. I'm good for it—

MAYOR

Cash?

BEN

Your mechanics only take cash—and I need my car fixed so I can—

MAYOR

--get to your interview, I see. Now I suppose this has something to do with you bein a doctor, am I right?

BEN

You sure are, Mayor Needham, and I'm asking for your help.

MAYOR

And I'm askin for yours Doc Stone. We've been looking for extra help for years. I think it's a *sign* that you crashed your car here, coincidentally speaking I mean, and right in

time for the festival, and getting crowned king and all... do you believe in fate, Doctor Stone?

BEN

Mayor, cows in the middle of the road aren't a sign of anything except poor city planning. Besides, don't you have a doctor already?

MAYOR

We do. Doc Hogue is a fantastic doctor, but he's getting on in years, and we sure could use somebody to help him out and give him a few nights off every now and then. And of course, eventually take over his job...

BEN

You're looking for someone to stay here permanently?

MAYOR

You got it! And people here would make sure you were happy. Watch how friendly everybody is! (to townspeople) Hey everyone, our Vegetable King here is thinking about stayin in Brayden and bein' our doctor for good! (various reactions from town)

BEN

Hey, don't do that!

MAYOR

Now, I'm not much of a salesman, Ben, but believe me when I tell you that you couldn't do better than to practice medicine here in Brayden.

SONG: AN APPLE A DAY

Mayor:

HERE IN BRAYDEN, ALABAMA
THE POPULATION'S SMALL.
WE GOT
A MARKETPLACE
BUT NOT
A MALL.

BRAYDEN IS A CHARMING PLACE,
A FARMING PLACE
WHERE
IT'S SAFE TO DRINK THE WATER
AND BREATHE THE AIR.

.
THE BOYS PLAY CATCH
ON THE THATCH
OVER THERE,
AND WHEN THEY PLAY

THEY PLAY
FAIR.

AND OVER IN THE SHADE
BY THE GLADE
ARE THE GIRLS OF
BRAYDEN,
BRAIDIN'
EACH OTHER'S
HAIR.

NOW THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH DOCTOR HOGUE,
HE'S STILL THE BEST IN THE LAND.

Townsperson 1:

HE FIXED MY FOOT

Townsperson 2:

HE CURED MY COLD

Mayor and Townsperson 1 and 2:

BUT BEN—
SUPPLY AND DEMAND.
DOCTOR HOGUE IS STILL WORTH PAGING,
BUT DOCTOR HOGUE IS AGING AND AGING—
AND HE COULD USE A HELPING HAND.

Townspeople:

BEN, WE NEED
ANOTHER HEALER.
SOMEONE TO FEEL OUR
PAIN.
TO GIVE US PILLS,
TO CURE OUR ILLS,
TO KEEP US, TO KEEP US, TO KEEP US...
SANE...

AN APPLE A DAY
KEEPS THE DOCTOR AT BAY,
KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY
FROM ME,

BUT EVERY APPLE HAS ITS WORMS,
EVERY PERSON HAS ITS GERMS,

AND EVERY TOWN ITS INFIRMARY!

AND THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH
YOU CAN TOUCH
WITH A HOME REMEDY!

WHO WILL ADMINISTER
FIRST AID?
WHO WILL LISTEN TO MY LUNGS?
WHO'S GONNA TAKE
THE WOODEN BLADE
AND MAKE
US STICK OUT
OUR TONGUES?

WHO WILL REDESIGN
MY CROOKED SPINE;
I THINK I'VE GOT SCOLIOSIS!
THAT IS THE ASSIGNMENT:
MY ALIGNMENT.
WHO WILL GIVE ME A DIAGNOSIS?

WHO'S GONNA TREAT MY
STREP THROAT?
WHO'S GONNA LOOSEN MY PHLEGM?
WHO'S GONNA KEEP
OUR HOPES AFLOAT
AT THREE A.M.?

AN APPLE A DAY
KEEPS THE DOCTOR AT BAY,
KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY
FROM ME,

BUT EVERY APPLE HAS ITS WORMS,
EVERY PERSON HAS ITS GERMS,
AND EVERY TOWN ITS INFIRMARY!

AND THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH
YOU CAN TOUCH
WITH A HOME REMEDY!

WHO'S GONNA FIX OUR
BROKEN BONES?
WHO'S GONNA TAP MY KNEE?
WHO'S GONNA SET MY
KIDNEY STONES FREE?

WHEN THE PIMPLES I'VE NEGLECTED
GET INFECTED,
WHO'S GONNA DRAIN THE PUS?
AND WHEN WE CUT OURSELVES
IN THE FUTURE,
WHO'S GONNA SUTURE US?

Women:

WHO'S GONNA DO MY BREAST EXAMS?

Men:

YOUR MAMMOGRAMS?

Solo:

MY YEARLY PAP?

All:

IN THIS LITTLE TOWN
WITH ONLY ONE DOC, WE'RE AN
ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN!

Men:

WHO WILL TREAT MY
POISON IVY?

Women:

WHO WILL RESTORE MY SIGHT?

All:

WHO WILL KEEP US ALIVE
ELEVEN,
TWELVE O'CLOCK, AT NIGHT?

AN APPLE A DAY
KEEPS THE DOCTOR AT BAY,
KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY
FROM ME,

BUT EVERY APPLE HAS ITS WORMS,
EVERY PERSON HAS ITS GERMS,
AND EVERY TOWN ITS INFIRMARY!

AND THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH
YOU CAN TOUCH
WITH A HOME REMEDY!

(dance break)

WHO WILL DO THE HEIMLICH WHEN WE CHOKE?
WHO WILL TELL US NOT TO SMOKE?
WHO'S GONNA SAVE US
IF WE DROWN?

Mayor:

LISTEN BUDDY—

Townspeople:

WHO'S GONNA BE THERE
WHEN WE'RE SHORT OF BREATH?—
WHO'S GONNA BE THERE
WHEN WE'RE CLOSE TO DEATH?—

Mayor:

WHO'S HANDS,
WHEN THINGS GET MUDDY,
WILL BE BLOODIER THAN
LADY
MACBETH?

All:

BEN,
WE BLEED!
BEN,
INDEED!

BEN, WE NEED YOU
IN THIS TOWN!

MAYOR
So, whaddya think?

BEN
You guys don't need a doctor—you need an agent.

MAYOR

So doc, you gonna stay or what?

BEN

Look, Mayor...No. I'm sorry. I just need my car fixed, so I can get on my way.

MAYOR

Now look son, we can offer you a competitive salary—

BEN

How competitive?

MAYOR

Something to the tune of seven dollars an hour and a free place to stay.

BEN

Mmmhmmm...Look, I'll tell you what. You advance me enough money to get out of here and I'll pay you back double—

MAYOR

Well I don't need money really—

BEN

Triple the amount—whatever you want—I just need some cash.

MAYOR

When would you need it by?

BEN

As soon as possible—I have to be there in three days.

MAYOR

But Doc, you have to stay here. Just try to relax!

BEN

I don't have to do anything except get to my interview.

MAYOR

No, I thought you knew...you have to stay in Brayden til the week's over.

BEN

What?

MAYOR

According to Brayden law, statute number...3-7-4, clause B, the official duties of the Vegetable King and Queen last for exactly one week during which they must—under all circumstances—stay within the city limits.

BEN

There's no way—

MAYOR
There are perks...

BEN
Perks?

MAYOR
Sure! Respect, free parking, the dream...

A lighting cue frames the phrase “the dream”. (piano cue)

BEN
The dream?

MAYOR
According to Brayden tradition, the first dream you have after being crowned Vegetable King will show you your future.

BEN
Oh really.

MAYOR
Legend has it—

BEN
Look, I should've been gone an hour ago—

MAYOR
The law clearly states one full week—

BEN
Come on—

MAYOR
(talking quick now) And in light of that time period, I'll see if I can coerce the Brayden business board to bump your salary up to seven fifty or eight dollars an hour. (calculating in his head) That way, by the end of the week, you'll have just enough to pay for your car. Now, why don't you go reschedule your interview—that is, if we don't convince you to stay before you leave.

BEN
All right, look, is there a phone anywhere?

MAYOR

(pleased) Sure is. Right down the street. I'll go ahead and let Nurse Baines over at Trafford Memorial—that's our hospital—I'll let her know that Doctor Stone is on his way! You can stay there tonight—it's getting kinda late.

BEN

Sure. Thanks.

MAYOR

(as he exits, placing crown back on BEN's head) No, thank you, your highness.

MAYOR exits, and BEN walks downstage, taking crown off.

1.9

A pay phone. BEN enters it, looks up a number and dials.

BEN

(on the phone) Right, I need a cab to the nearest airport...I'm in the phone booth...my voice doesn't sound familiar? I'm a tourist. Right. From Philly...Philadelphia... Pennsylvania... Yeah, I'm a surgeon...How'd you know my name?...Yes, I'm the Vegetable King...But I need a cab...No, I'm not trying to—hello? Hello?

BEN hangs up the phone and starts to flip through the phone book.

(delivering this next line upward and dialing) If this is for the time I put ex-lax in the teacher's lounge coffee pot, I'm sorry! What? Oh yeah, sorry, I was trying to call Brayden Travel...Hi, I need to book a plane or a train or a boat out of here. My name? Can I just give you a credit card number? Great... it's 5104 2987—What?... yes that's me...They warned you I'd call? Who's they?...Yeah, I'm sorry too. (hangs up angrily)
AAAAH!

Phone rings.

Hello?...Hi Mayor Needham... Yeah, I'm on my way. (hangs up and sighs.)

Blackout.

1.10

Trafford Memorial Hospital. NURSE BAINES sits behind a desk, smoking a cigarette. BEN enters. NURSE BAINES does not acknowledge his entrance.

BEN

Hi—here's what I'm gonna need from you. I need to get all the patients' charts, the X-rays, the CTs, EKGs, put that cigarette out, but most importantly, I'm gonna need a place to stay—Is the call room made up?

NURSE BAINES

(without looking up) Got photo ID?

BEN
Excuse me?

NURSE BAINES
Got photo ID?

BEN
Uh, sure. Here.

NURSE BAINES
(glances at it) Call room is the second door on the left. Towels are in the closet. The combination to the lock is 4. Charts are across the hall in the desk drawer. There's no CT scanner. There's no X-Ray machine. For that, call Birmingham General. There's a phone in the room. There's a fold-out cot, leaning against the back wall. Mmmhmmm.

BEN
(exasperated) Anything else?

NURSE BAINES
Bathroom is at the end of the hall. Try not to flush.

BEN
Of course not. What about—

NURSE BAINES
Coffee machine is broken. Vending machine is empty.

BEN
Nothing? Is there anywhere close to here I could get a drink? A beer, or maybe a glass of wine?

NURSE BAINES
Diner's around the corner. Seventeen beers, eleven domestic, six imported. Three kinds of wine. Red, red and white.

BEN
Thanks. (pause) I'm just gonna go to bed early I guess. (pause) Good night.

BEN exits.

NURSE BAINES
(without looking up) Sleep tight. Don't let the bed bugs bite.

1.11

The call room. As BEN is preparing to go to bed, the phone in the call room rings. (piano cue)

BEN

(into phone) Hello?... (confused) Speaking.... Dr. Lubin's office? How did you find me?... Right—No, no, I'm sure he is a very powerful man... Yes, I'm sorry, go ahead.... Confirm my interview? Right... look, I've run into some problems here and I might be tied up for a while. Is there any way I could reschedule?... Oh come on, there has to be an opening—could you check again?... a cancellation next week?... That's fine, yes, I'll be there. Oh, please, give my apologies to Dr. Lubin. I'll see you in a week. (hangs up)

BEN prepares for bed and lies down on his cot as the lights change to suggest night.

1.12

As BEN lies there, we hear the MAYOR'S voice echo: "The first dream will show your future...your future...your future..." (piano cue)

During this song, the dream version of DR. GEORGE LUBIN enters wearing a fur coat and fancy jewelry. Scantly clad NURSES enter bringing with them various symbols of prosperity—including many bottles of expensive wine.

SONG: LUBIN'S WINE

Offstage (chorale):

LUBIN'S WINE!
LUBIN'S WINE!
LUBIN'S WINE!

Doctor Lubin:

YOU CRASHED YOUR CAR
AND NOW YOUR STAR
SEEMS LIKE IT'S GONNA FADE.
YOU THOUGHT YOU'D DRINK MARTINIS
BUT INSTEAD, IT'S LEMONADE.
BUT DON'T YOU FRET—
YOU STILL MIGHT GET
A TASTE OF THAT SUCCESS.
A GLASS POURED FROM A BOTTLE
BY A PROMINENT PLASTIC SURGEON
(MORE OR LESS).

MEDICINE'S A TRICKY FIELD FOR SOME FOLKS,
BENNY.
FOLLOW ME AND YOU WILL MAKE A
PRETTY PENNY.
GLITTER AND PERFUME,
PLUCKED FROM THE VINE—
THE PLEASURE'S ALWAYS MINE!

UGLY PEOPLE HAVE IT BAD—

ADMIT IT, SONNY
YOU AND I CAN HELP THEM
WHILE WE TAKE THEIR MONEY.
HALF OF IT'S YOURS—
OR ALL OF IT'S MINE—
THE HEAD OF HIS CLASS
GETTING SOME ASS
STRAIGHT FROM THE GLASS
OF DOCTOR LUBIN'S WINE!

NURSES WILL ASSIST YOU WITH A SMOOTCHY

Girls:

CAN WE GIVE HIM A KISS?

Doctor Lubin:

SCRUBS AND GLOVES WILL COME TO YOU FROM GUCCI

Girls:

WEAR 'EM LIKE THIS!

Lubin:

MOVIE STARS—
THEIR FAMILIES—
WILL COME TO YOU IN HORDES,
AND MENTION YOU AS THEY ACCEPT ACADEMY AWARDS

(dance break)

Lubin and Girls:

BEAUTY'S ONLY SKIN DEEP
'TIL YOU STICK THE TUBE IN.
FOLLOW THE ADVICE
OF DOCTOR LUBIN.
GET BETTER WITH AGE
AND EARN WAGES LIKE MINE—
YOU'RE RIGHT ON THE BRINK
OF WEARING A MINK—
WHO CARES WHAT THEY'LL THINK—
OUR GLASSES WILL CLINK—
THEN YOU'LL TAKE A DRINK
OF DOCTOR LUBIN'S WINE!
LUBIN'S WINE!

LUBIN'S WINE!

1.13

BEN is woken up by the voice of NURSE BAINES over the loudspeaker.

NURSE BAINES

Stone to the front desk. Paging Dr. Stone.

BEN

Wha...Huh...Ok, Ok, I'll be right out.

NURSE BAINES' desk. BEN enters. Enter SALLY. She's doubled over in pain. During the following, SALLY is helped onto an examining table or a bed.

BEN

When did the pain start?

SALLY

I'm not sure.

BEN

Throwing up?

SALLY

Once.

BEN

(examining her belly) What's your name?

SALLY

Sally.

BEN

(pressing on her belly, starting on her left side) Sally, does it hurt here?

SALLY

No.

BEN

Here?

SALLY

No.

BEN

(pressing now on her right side, below the belly button) Here?

SALLY

(almost jumps off the table in pain) Yes!

BEN

(nodding, all business now) How about when I let go quickly? (as he pushes into her belly slowly and quickly releases)

SALLY

Ouch!

BEN

Lie down and try to relax.

SALLY

But I—

BEN

Nurse Baines, we're gonna need to call Birmingham General and tell them that we got a girl with acute appendicitis. Tell them she needs surgery now. And call Dr. Hogue!

NURSE BAINES

Can't. It's past 5 o'clock, and Dr. Hogue leaves specific orders that he is not to be bothered except in cases of uncontrollable hemorrhage, lost limbs...(she continues her list under the next three lines)...decapitation, rabid dog bites, drinking poison, really headaches, gunshot wounds, death, schizophrenia...

BEN

I don't care! This is an emergency! She's in danger of rupturing any minute and she could die! Do you understand?! She could die!

SALLY

(sitting up) I have to tell—

BEN

(pushing her back down) Don't worry sweetie. We're gonna let you sleep, and when you wake up you'll feel a lot better.

NURSE BAINES

... firework accidents, migraine headaches, teenage pregnancy...

BEN

Fine. I'll call him myself.

NURSE BAINES

(dialing it for him) Don't say I didn't warn you.

BEN

(on phone) Doctor Hogue? This is Dr. Benjamin Stone at Trafford. We got an appendix here that needs to go to the O.R. tonight. She's vomiting, she's got right lower quadrant

pain, rebound tenderness, and she's got a fever... Her name's Sally... No, I didn't ask her what she ate for dinner... Deacon Charlie's Diner? TUMS?... Listen, I'm not sure you understand... She's got an acute abdomen. She needs to go to Birmingham and I don't have admitting privileges there. So why don't you wake yourself up, and get in your car or your horse, or your donkey, or whatever you use for transportation, and get down here, now!! (hangs up).

(calm again) Don't worry. Everything's under control. Nurse Baines, please call Sally's parents and let them know what's happening. As soon as Doc Hogue shows up we'll—
(SALLY moans) You know what? There's no time—we need to move now. Call the parents from the O.R. Let's wheel her outside. (to SALLY) Hang in there sweetie. You holdin' up okay?

SALLY
Yes, doctor.

BEN
Try to relax. This'll all be over soon.

NURSE BAINES wheels **SALLY** downstage. Enter **DR. HOGUE**, wearing pajamas and a night cap.

BEN
She's getting worse—We need to get into that belly.

HOGUE
You're Dr. Stone? Did you give her a TUMS?

BEN
She doesn't need a TUMS. She needs an appendectomy.

HOGUE
(He glares at BEN and walks toward SALLY). Nurse Baines, could we give Sally a TUMS please? (NURSE BAINES gives SALLY a tablet and they all stop and watch and wait for about 10 seconds, after which HOGUE begins to examine her)... Does this hurt?

SALLY
No.

HOGUE
How about this?

SALLY
No, doctor.

HOGUE
Mmmhmm. Sally, where did you eat dinner tonight?

SALLY
Deacon Charlie's Diner.

HOGUE
And what did you eat?

SALLY and HOGUE
The popcorn shrimp.

BEN
(embarrassed and frustrated) (to SALLY) Why didn't you tell *me* that?

SALLY
(scared) I tried to!—(starts crying)

HOGUE
(to NURSE BAINES) Cancel the ambulance. (to SALLY) It's okay, Sally, it's been a rough night—go on home and tell your mother hello for me. (to BEN) Son, the next time you wake me up in the middle of the night, it better be for a real crisis—and if it is, you do what I say, when I say it. Let's not forget that I'm the attending physician in this hospital. I know my patients. I'm going back to bed.

HOGUE exits.

NURSE BAINES
You don't call Doc Hogue past five—

BEN
Yeah, thanks—

NURSE BAINES
That's his Matlock time—

BEN
Fine.

NURSE BAINES
Patients arrive at eight—

BEN
(looking at his watch) Oh, God—

NURSE BAINES
Be up by seven—

BEN
(miserably) Seven—

NURSE BAINES
Lou will wake you and show you around—

BEN
Lou?

NURSE BAINES
Our ambulance driver.

BEN
(as he starts to exit) Fine.

NURSE BAINES
(almost reluctantly) Had any dreams yet?

BEN
(stops abruptly) You know about that?

NURSE BAINES
Everyone knows about that.

BEN
Oh—

NURSE BAINES
Twenty-three years ago I had my dream. Dreamt of this hospital ... saw myself behind
this desk...but don't believe all of it. I dreamt I'd fall in love...(sigh)

BEN
You were the Queen?

NURSE BAINES
Yep. (sighs)

BEN starts to leave again.

NURSE BAINES
It was wonderful.

BEN
(still trying to go back to bed) That's great.

NURSE BAINES
Never did find love.

BEN
Nope?

NURSE BAINES

Dreamt about it. Never found it. Mmmhmmm.

Blackout.

1.14

Lights up on MAYOR NEEDHAM.

MAYOR

(to audience, after watching the end of scene 1.13) Carla Baines is quite a character—used to be a lovely woman... boys comin over all the time to see her...you know, it's always been interestin to me to see how the males of the species decide to approach the females of the species. I think it works different ways in different areas of the country—something Benjamin Stone found out reallll quick like, let me tell you. (laughing)

Blackout.

1.15

Lights up on BEN the next morning; he is getting dressed. After a few seconds, LOU enters.

LOU

Oh, sorry, I didn't know—

BEN

No, no, it's ok, come on in. (turning around) Oh, it's you—

LOU

Who'd you expect?

BEN

Just some guy named Lou that's supposed to come wake me up and show me around.

LOU

Some guy huh? Probably some bigshot in the hospital or somethin?

BEN

In this hospital? With a name like Lou? I'm picturing a fat plumber!

LOU

(extending hand) I don't think we've officially met.

BEN

Dr. Benjamin Stone—I'll be the doctor around here for the next couple of days. But, um... you can call me Ben.

LOU

I'm Beloula. I'm the volunteer ambulance driver here at the hospital. But, um...you can call me Lou—

BEN
You're Lou? Oh, I'm an idiot—

LOU
I'll just call you Ben if it makes you feel better.

BEN
I'm sorry, I didn't know...

LOU
So you're only here for a few days, huh?

BEN
Yeah, I have an interview in a week—I gotta leave as soon as I can.

LOU
That's what I figured.

BEN
What's that mean?

LOU
Just that you big city boys are all easy to read—all the same.

BEN
You think you got me all figured out after knowing me for roughly six minutes?

LOU
Am I wrong?

BEN
Yes. I mean, I don't know what you think, but—

LOU
(with mock surprise) So you're not going out to some big city like Los Angeles?

BEN
Well, yeah—

LOU
And I suppose you've never owned a Palm Pilot.

BEN
Well, I mean, it's required—

LOU

Oh, and I suppose you find this town real quaint, but you can't wait to get out of here.

BEN

Well I wouldn't say that—

LOU

And I suppose the one and only reason you became a doctor is to help people.

BEN

Ouch. Ok, ok, I get it. Where are you going with all this?

LOU

I'm just sayin'. You big city boys are all the same.

BEN

I promise I'm not. Look, I think we got off to a bad start—let's sit down and talk over dinner or something, and I'll show you that I'm not what you're thinking.

LOU

You're asking me on a date?

BEN

No...I'm asking you to sit down with me at a restaurant, engage in scintillating conversation, perhaps followed by coffee or dessert, all of which I will, of course, pay for.

LOU

Look, you get through your first day of work here and if you can still stand up, we'll talk about dinner.

BEN

Well I hope you like to eat early—I'll be done here soon.

LOU

(checking her watch) You bout ready to start working, *Doctor Stone*? Patients have been lining up for nearly an hour.

They begin to exit.

BEN

(trailing LOU as they exit) For an hour? Is there some sort of Vegetable Festival Special at the hospital today? Bring a turnip, get a free check-up? Hello?

1.16

Doctor's office. BEN enters and finds HANK, JOANNA and TOM waiting for him.

BEN

All right—how can I help you guys?

HANK

Well Doc, I gotta tell ya, I've been havin these pains...my arms and legs are real sore, it hurts to walk.

BEN

(examining HANK) How long has this been going on?

JOANNA

Oh, he's been hurtin about four years now Doc. He just came once to Doc Hogue who told him he should lay off the work for a while, but Hank cain't afford to be laid up this time of year, so he hadn't come back. I heard there was a new Doc in town and thought maybe you could help.

HANK

Doc Hogue told me to go to Birmingham and get some of them medicines, but I really cain't afford nuthin' like that, and besides—Birmingham's too far away.

BEN

Well Mr....

HANK

Oh you can call me Hank. And this is my wife Joanna, and my boy Tommy.

BEN

Well it's nice to meet you all. Now Hank, I'm not entirely sure, but it looks to me like you got yourself a simple case of the gout. And I happen to have a bottle of colchicine pills in my bag here. Take these twice a day and see how that does ya. If it works out, I'll make sure you can get a regular prescription 'til it clears up.

HANK

I cain't take that Doc.

BEN

Why not?

HANK

I appreciate the offer, but I'm an honest man Doc, I don't take no charity.

BEN

It's my pleasure Hank. I don't wanna see you in pain during the harvest!

HANK

No thanks Doc, I'll make do.

BEN

Well all right Hank, how about this? I'll give you these pills and you see if they work. If they do, then you can just owe me the payment. If they don't, they're free of charge.

HANK

Well...I suppose that makes sense to me Doc—I 'preciate it!

BEN

Great! So was that it?

JOANNA

There was something else Doc—

BEN

Fire away.

JOANNA

This is our son Tom, and I'm worried bout his hearin'.

BEN

Why's that?

JOANNA

Ever since yesterday, he ain't been listenin' to a word I said.

BEN

(to TOM, who is not paying attention) Tom? Tom? (goes over to him and examines his ears)

JOANNA

Is it serious Doc?

BEN

(smiling and thinking for a second) Hmm... it appears we got ourselves a mighty serious case of Legume-Pasted Audio-Blockage.

JOANNA

(overlapping) Oh no.

BEN

In layman's terms, Tom here has what looks like peanut butter blocking both ear canals—deep down in there.

JOANNA

(overlapping) Tom!

BEN

Give him a bath and he should be just fine.

JOANNA

Thank you so much Doc!

BEN

(opening door for them to leave) Now you guys have a nice day!

JOANNA

(whispers) Umm... There's just one more thing. Could I talk to you in private?

BEN

Sure thing.

JOANNA

Hank, why don't you take Tom to check out with Nurse Baines at the front desk? (loud whisper to HANK) Female problems.

HANK

Ohhhh... Anyway, thanks Doc. I shore do 'preciate it.

HANK and TOM exit.

BEN

Well, what seems to be the problem Joanna?

JOANNA

Well Doc—

BEN

You know what? You can call me Ben.

JOANNA

Well Ben, Hank and I have been havin' some troubles in the bedroom—

BEN

Your sex life?

JOANNA

Shhh! Yeah, with that. The thing is...I want another baby—and well, Hank just ain't the same anymore, and I was wonderin' if maybe there was something medically wrong with him...

BEN

How long have you been married?

JOANNA

Eight years.

BEN

Eight years, hmmm...Have you tried playing records—a little music?

JOANNA

Yup.

BEN

Candles?

JOANNA

Yup.

BEN

(reluctantly) Toys?

JOANNA

Tommy doesn't let us borrow his things.

BEN

Never mind.

JOANNA

Is it hopeless, doc?

BEN

Not quite. Joanna, when's the last time you and Hank had a night alone?

JOANNA

Gee, doc, I can't remember.

BEN

Hmmm... let's see... Do you guys have anyone who can babysit for you?

JOANNA

Well I can't think of anybody offhand, Doc. I mean, Ben.

BEN

Hmmm.... (making a snap decision, looking at JOANNA) You know what? When I get off work, I have a hunch I'm gonna have some free time. Why don't you send Tommy over here to the hospital, I'll watch him for the night, and you and Hank can have some quality time alone.

JOANNA

Oh—I couldn't, Doc!

BEN

Go ahead—have a night on the town.

JOANNA

That's awfully nice of you Doc, you sure you don't mind?

BEN
I didn't really have any plans—it's my pleasure.

JOANNA
So, about Hank, you don't think it's a medical problem?

BEN
(smiling) No, I don't.

JOANNA
Okay, Ben, thanks. (as she exits) I sure wish you were stayin around Doc—I bet you'd love it here!

JOANNA exits.

BEN
(shaking his head and calling out the door to NURSE BAINES) Send in the next patient please—

1.17

Enter SIMON and NURSE BAINES. SIMON is dressed very eccentrically, with unkempt hair. He is holding a piece of lettuce that he tears up throughout the scene and puts in his pocket.

NURSE BAINES
(announcing the patient) Simon Springer.

BEN
What can I help you with?

SIMON
(glancing nervously at NURSE BAINES) Ummm...my leg and arm and stuff.

BEN
Your leg and arm and stuff? Can you be more specific?

SIMON
(gesturing towards NURSE BAINES) My body's messed up, and my hair...

BEN
Excuse me?

SIMON
You know, stuff.

BEN
I don't know stuff.

SIMON

(in a loud whisper) Can I talk to you alone?

BEN

Oh jeez...Nurse Baines, could you leave Simon's—

SIMON

Mr. Springer.

BEN

Could you leave Mr. Springer's chart on the table and step outside?

NURSE BAINES exits, glaring at SIMON.

SIMON

Whew! Listen Doc, I gotta talk to ya!

BEN

I can tell—You have a sexual problem, don't you?

SIMON

Actually, yes...But that's not why I'm here. Listen—I need your help.

BEN

Well, that's what I'm here for.

SIMON

No, I *really* need your help.

BEN

And that's what I'm *really* here for.

SIMON

I'm here to talk about our future.

BEN

Oh man, is this more Vegetable Festival stuff?

SIMON

No—*our* future...together.

BEN

Mr. Springer, I'm not sure what you're getting at.

SIMON

I'm talking about Beloula.

BEN

Lou?

SIMON

Of course! You're the Vegetable King right?

BEN

So I've been told—

SIMON

And you have access to the Vegetable Queen right?

BEN

Access? I don't think—

SIMON

She hasn't dated anyone in eight years. Not even held a hand or gone out for dinner, or...

BEN

Or?

SIMON

Kissed anyone...

BEN

Okay...

SIMON

No one can get anywhere. For the past eight years she's been as closed as a...door.

BEN

What does this have to do with me?

SONG: FIFTY-FIFTY

Simon:

BELOULAH IS AN ENCHANTING GIRL,
A MODERN JULIET.
ALL OF US WANTED HER
AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER
BUT BROTHER—
SHE'S HARD TO GET!

AND SO WE BOYS HAVE A BETTING POOL.
ANY FOOL
CAN PLAY.
AND EVERY SO OFTEN THE POT GOES UP
AS SOMEBODY NEW IS TURNED AWAY.

THE WINNER IS WHOMEVER
IS THE FIRST TO KISS HER
ON THE LIPS.
THE LATEST SUM:
A THOUSAND BUCKS
AND THAT IS NOT INCLUDING TAX OR TIPS!

BUT A FELLOW LIKE YOU

Ben:

A FELLOW LIKE ME

Simon:

HAS A CHANCE
TO WIN HER HEART.
IT WON'T BE A BREEZE,
IT WON'T BE EASY,
BUT IT'S FEASIBLE
ONCE YOU START.

Ben:

IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE,

Simon:

INACCESSIBLE,

Ben:

UNEXPRESSIBLE,
THE CHANCES-- GRIM.
UNATTAINABLE,

Simon:

UNACCOUNTABLE,

Ben:

INSURMOUNTABLE,
THE ODDS ARE SLIM.

BUT A THOUSAND BUCKS,
THAT'S A LOT OF CASH.
PERHAPS IT'S WORTH A SHOT.

Simon:

NOW HOLD ON, BEN—
THERE IS ONE CATCH
I JUST FORGOT:

I NEED MONEY TOO.
I AM POOR.
I HAVE THIS INVENTION;
I CAN'T IGNORE.
THIS GIZMO
IS MOMENTOUS
BUT I'M FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS SHORT.
WHAT'S AMAZING, BEN,
IS YOU NEED FIVE HUNDRED TOO.
NOW THE BALL IS IN YOUR COURT:

WE SPLIT IT DOWN THE MIDDLE;
WE MAKE A LITTLE PACT.
A SUBTLE TRANSACTION—
A SIMPLE ACT.

Ben:

A LITTLE SUBTRACTION,

Simon:

A LITTLE FRACTION,

Both:

AND A LITTLE ACTION ON THE SIDE!
ISN'T IT GREAT
WHEN TWO DIFFERENT MOTIVES
COLLIDE!

Simon:

I GET HALF FOR LETTING YOU KNOW,
AND YOU GET TO GO, BEN!
YOU GET TO GO!

Ben:

I GET HALF, I FIX MY CAR!
AND THERE YOU ARE, SIMON!

THERE YOU ARE!

Ben:

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS
I DON'T HAVE
UNLESS WE DIVIDE
THE THOUSAND DOLLAR PRIZE!

Both:

FIFTY-FIFTY!
ISN'T IT NIFTY!
ISN'T IT CRAFTY!
ISN'T IT WISE!

Simon and backup singers:

I HAVE A CREATION!
(CREATION!)
I HAVE A PRODUCTION!
(PRODUCTION!)
I (HE) HAVE (HAS) AN INVENTION
TO UNVEIL!
(YES, HE DOES!)
ONE LITTLE BRUSH!
(BRUSH!)
ONE LITTLE PECK
AND THE CHECK
IS IN THE MAIL!

TO GET YOUR HONEY
(HONEY!)
YOU GOTTA FACE THE BEES.
NOW, DON'T BE AFRAID OF GETTING STUNG!
(NO! NO! NO!)
ONE LITTLE KISS!
(KISS!)
ON THE LIPS!
WITH OR WITHOUT TONGUE!

Ben:

WE EACH GET HALF,
ZERO-POINT-FIVE!
AND ALL I GOTTA DO IS APPROACH THE HIVE!
GET TO THE HONEY
AND AVOID THE BEE,

COLLECT THE MONEY
AND THEN I FLEE!
I PICK HER UP,
AND I MAKE A BUCK
IF I PUCKER UP
AND THEN—
IT'S SAY GOODBYE
TO BRAYDEN, ALABAMA,
BEN!

Both:

NOW I KNOW
WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

Simon:

I MAKE HISTORY!

Ben:

I MAKE OUT!

Together:

YOU AND I WILL WIN AN EASY GRAND!
FIFTY-FIFTY!
ISN'T IT NIFTY!
SHAKE MY HAND!

Blackout.

1.18

BEN is leaving Trafford, having finished his day. **HOGUE** is there waiting for him.

BEN
Dr. Hogue—

HOGUE
Stone, I didn't come here for small talk...

BEN
Well I—

HOGUE
So come on, I got a few things to say.

They enter the town square. TOWNSPEOPLE greet **HOGUE** as they see him.

BEN
About last night, Dr. Hogue—

HOGUE
Stone, I'm not here to tell you how to do your job—I'm just here to make sure you don't mess things up any more than you already have.

TOWNSPERSON (JIM)
(yelling) Dr. Hogue! The whisky did the trick—my throat ain't sore no more.

HOGUE
Now Jim, what'd I tell ya about yellin for the next week or two?

JIM
All right Doc, I'll—(whispering) Oops! Thanks Doc Hogue.

HOGUE
Stone, I've seen your type a thousand times.

BEN
And what type is that?

HOGUE
Just an overgrown boy shootin for the moon. But until you get the stars out of your eyes, you won't be able to see where you're goin. And the sooner you get that through your head, the sooner you'll stop making mistakes like the one you made last night.

BEN
That's the first time that's happened.

HOGUE
I didn't come here to listen to excuses. Now are you gonna let me finish what I gotta say or not?

BEN
Dr. Hogue, with all due respect, I made a mistake. It won't happen again. And I'd appreciate it if you'd just let me do my job.

HOGUE
Hmph...you got a lot to learn about medicine Stone. Let me tell you a story—

BEN
(leaving) Look, I appreciate the offer, but—

HOGUE
About my daughter, Beloula.

BEN
(stopping) Lou's your daughter?

HOGUE
When Beloula was six, she came to me complaining about a rash on the bottom of her feet. It got worse and worse, and each day, I'd pull out my medical school textbooks and find some new exotic disease that matched her symptoms. But no matter what I gave her—lotions, ointments, pills—it wouldn't go away. (pause) Charlotte's the one who figured it out.

BEN
What was it?

HOGUE
Sneakers. Her little red shoes had worn through right to the sole, and she was runnin' around without any socks on. A new pair of shoes cleared up the problem within the week. And that's you're problem Stone—you still see a rash, but you're gonna have to start seein the sneakers if you wanna be a real doctor.

Enter HANK, holding OTIS.

HANK
(walking up to BEN) Doc Stone!

BEN
Hey, Hank—

HANK
Doc Hogue, Doc Stone here made my gout go away. I ain't got no pain no more!

HOGUE
Well I'm right happy to hear it Hank.

HANK
Doc Stone, I wanted to pay you for what you did for me today.

BEN
Oh, no, that's all right—

HANK
So I want you to have Otis, my pig.

BEN
Your pig—Oh, no, no, nononono—

HANK
Please, Doc Stone, the pills worked right nicely, and we can't afford to pay you—it's the only way we can show our appreciation—He's worth a lot of money—

BEN
I can't. Besides, pigs are dirty.

HANK
Actually, pigs are pretty clean. They just like the mud cause it keeps em cool in the sun.

HOGUE
Take the pig, Ben.

BEN
What am I gonna do with a pig?

HOGUE
Thank you Hank, he's taking the pig.

HANK
(handing OTIS to BEN, then leaving) All right! Here, Doc Stone, here's the papers—
already made out in your name. Treat him well. Take care Otis. Be good to Doc Stone.
We'll miss you.

BEN
(holding OTIS) A pig...

HOGUE
You see a pig, *I* see a gift.

BEN
But I don't need a pig.

HOGUE
Let it teach you a lesson, Ben.

BEN
What lesson?

HOGUE
Medicine's not about moons and cash, son, it's about swine.

BEN
I don't get it.

HOGUE
Well maybe one day you will.

Blackout.

1.19

MAYOR NEEDHAM

Now although I've met people who've made mistakes, I can't personally say that I've ever made one. Course, I also can't say I've ever been given such a nice gift as Doc Stone got on that first day of work. Otis is a fine, fine pig, I wish I could do him justice in my description. The way I remember it though, Doc Stone didn't want Otis at first—kept tryin to get rid of him—and the whole time, lookin for a way out of Brayden.

1.20

MELVIN and BRUCE'S office. BEN enters stage left with OTIS the pig on a leash. BRUCE is sitting at the desk, MELVIN is messing with various auto parts scattered around the stage.

BRUCE

1 7 3 8 9 4 9 1 6 3 8 2 7 1—

BEN

Hey fellas!

BRUCE

Oops.

MELVIN

Nowayadone it! He gots to start allll over—

BEN

What's he doing?

MELVIN

(proudly) Bruce's memorizin' pi.

BRUCE

3.1 4 1 5 (he drones on in the background of the scene)

MELVIN

Whatacan do yafor sir?

BEN

Just came by to check up on my car—shouldn't you be working on it?

BRUCE

(stopping) Melvin said that we shouldn't—

MELVIN

(intentionally stepping over BRUCE's last line) Ohhhh....goodgoodgood Doc. Car isa almostready barrin any unforeseen difficulties of course. See, I been doinsome tradin and I gotcha da front engine block for your car from Bolivia! (excited) I been usin da internet! Its da wave of da future!

BEN

Fine. That's fine. And the car will still be ready in three days like you said?

MELVIN

Itsa possibility.

BEN

What?

MELVIN

The car'll be ready soon, but we need da compensation—You comeby wittda cash, we comeby wittda car.

BRUCE

Actually, you come by and we stay here.

BEN

Look, that's what I wanted to talk to you about. Are you guys interested in this pig?

BRUCE

Doctor Stone, this may be the South, but—

BEN

No, no! Interested in buying it! He's a fine pig, worth a lot of money. Could I possibly pay with this?

BRUCE

I'm a vegetarian.

MELVIN

Anda eva sincea got dat dere internet, I converted toda Islam. No pork!

BEN

(giving up) Fine—look, is there anyplace I could sell this pig?

MELVIN

Jimbo da butcher likes pigs.

BEN

(looking at OTIS) The butcher? Isn't there anyplace else?

MELVIN

Hmmmm... Nope. No place else you can get money—Not in Brayden, dat is.

BRUCE

What if he went to—?

MELVIN

You handle da numbers, I'll handle da customas.

BRUCE

(looking sad and upset over the chastisement) 3. 1 4 1 5 9 2 6... (droning on)

BEN

Look, I'll just hold onto him for now. Okay, Otis? (pause) Anyway, you know where I am, come by if you think of anything. I'll be back soon for my car.

BEN exits.

BRUCE

5 7 1 (stops and sighs)

MELVIN

Whatsa matta Bruce? Whydya stop?

BRUCE

I'm incomplete.

MELVIN

Oh. (pause) Well, Backta work!

1.21

BEN and LOU on a walk through town square.

LOU

Whew! I'm stuffed—Mae's Place makes the best banana pudding.

BEN

I think we might have put that buffet out of business!

LOU

(laughing) So I told you all about me...What about you? What's it like to grow up in a big city?

BEN

Well, I tell people I'm from Philadelphia, but I'm really from a smaller town in north Pennsylvania.

LOU

You? From a small town? I don't believe it.

BEN

Oh yeah—born and raised. But I don't think small towns in the North are quite the same thing as small towns in the South.

LOU

I know—I've been through some of them.

BEN

Really?

LOU

What—did you think I'd never stepped off the sacred Brayden soil?

BEN

No, I was just surprised—

LOU

So what'd you do for fun?

BEN

Fun? In a small town in Pennsylvania? Nothing. It was boring. Nothing fun to do for miles.

LOU

Come on, there had to be something...

BEN

Not in Mayville. The closest thing that ever happened was concerts in Philadelphia. I'd get in the car with a bunch of my friends and drive out there—always the designated driver—med school bound, right from the start.

LOU

There's always one in the group.

BEN

Yep—I'm that guy. The best road trip we ever took was when my favorite band of all time came through Philly—I couldn't believe it—it turned out that this was the last nationwide tour that Journey ever did—

BEN and LOU

--with all its original members!

LOU

Oh my god! I saw the same tour! They're *my* favorite band!

BEN

(singing) "Just a small town girl! Livin in a lonely world!"

LOU

(laughing) Steve Perry is so awesome!

BEN

Ross Valory—amazing bassist!

LOU
I know! I have all their CDs!

BEN
What's your favorite?

LOU
Their best album was easily—

LOU and BEN
Journey.

LOU
Why do bands always name their first album the name of the band? That's when you need to establish your band name— people might think they're called "Journey Journey" or something.

BEN
Like the hit single, "Big Country", off of the album "Big Country", by the band "Big Country". Who's idea was that?

LOU
That's so weird that we saw the same tour!

BEN
And it came close to Brayden?

LOU
It's not an island Ben, it's a normal city.

BEN
I wasn't saying...nevermind.

They walk in silence.

BEN
So you do this festival every year?

LOU
Yep. This is my first year in this particular role, but I've been going since I was a little girl.

BEN
Must be nice to have a party everyone comes to.

LOU

Sometimes...this place is like having a really big family—complete with crazy uncles and in-laws who stick around your house waaaaay too long.

BEN

(laughing) I think I met some of those crazy uncles.

LOU

Sometimes I think there's more of them than anyone else.

BEN

I never had anything like that—just me and my mom. Just about as small as you can get. We didn't even know our next-door neighbors.

LOU

Me and my dad felt alone for a while, but... (pause) What happened to your family?

BEN

Just your run-of-the-mill, average American broken family. I grew up watching my mom struggle to make ends meet, while my dad lived in a mansion somewhere in D.C.

LOU

How old were you when they split up?

BEN

Only four or five—he cheated on her during his last year of medical school and she left him—took me with her. I haven't really seen him since.

LOU

Your dad's a doctor?

BEN

Yeah—good steps to follow in, huh? I just always thought I'd try to be the kind of guy that my dad wasn't.

LOU

So you're going into plastic surgery?

BEN

It's too good of an offer to pass up Lou—I'm a good—no, strike that, I'm an *excellent* surgeon—one of the best. People would kill to interview with this guy. And besides, I *like* plastic surgery.

LOU

How do you know you'll get the job?

BEN

Why wouldn't I? I always manage to get the things I really want.

LOU
Always?

BEN
(as he reaches for her hand) Always.

LOU
(pulling away) You can't do this.

BEN
Do what? What's wrong?

LOU
Your big city act doesn't work here. Things don't turn out the way you want them to—
Life doesn't work that way.

BEN
How do you know?

LOU
Because I've been there before Ben. Things don't work out that way for people like me.

BEN
Fine—what about your life here? What's your future?

LOU
I'm gonna get my master's degree and be a teacher.

BEN
So you can get out of Brayden?

LOU
No Ben, so I can stay in Brayden. To help my family, and to teach people, and to be a part
of something bigger than myself—you wouldn't understand.

Pause.

They start walking again in silence.

LOU
Ben?

BEN
Yeah?

LOU
When you asked me on this date—why'd you do that?

BEN

I—I don't know. Because it seemed like a good idea.

LOU

I'd just walked in a few seconds before.

BEN

I know, but I'd met you at the festival, and had time to think about you...

LOU

Think about me?

BEN

I mean, think about the whole festival...and you. You just seemed different. I mean, all the women I know throw themselves at guys—can't stand up for themselves. You weren't like that—I was just curious I guess.

LOU

(She stops walking) About me, or about what would happen?

BEN

(leaning in) About both...

Suddenly, OTIS enters, oinking loudly.

BEN

What is it boy? Did something happen?

OTIS keeps oinking.

LOU

Maybe he's happy to see you.

BEN

No, something's wrong.

TOWNSPERSON runs onstage.

TOWNSPERSON

Dr. Stone! Lou—your dad's having a heart attack! Come quick!

Blackout.

1.22

BEN and LOU enter as lights go up on HOGUE sitting on a hospital bed, clutching his chest, struggling to breathe. He is wearing a nasal cannula hooked to oxygen. He has EKG leads on his chest and he is hooked up to a monitor. NURSE BAINES stands by the bed, looking concerned.

LOU
(entering) Dad—

BEN
How long has this been going on?

HOGUE
What are you doing here? I'm fine--

BEN
You're not fine, lay back. (he looks at the EKG) (to NURSE BAINES) Okay— He's got huge ST segment elevations in the anterior leads. I don't think we have time to get him to the cath lab. He's gonna need TPA.

HOGUE
I don't need you telling me—

BEN
You're having an M.I.

HOGUE
I'm fine. Just a little chest pain, that's all.

BEN
A heart attack, Dr. Hogue.

HOGUE
Dammit! Don't you dare come in my hospital and tell me what's wrong with me!

BEN
Dr. Hogue—Let me help you.

(HOGUE makes eye contact with BEN, then lies down, resigned)

BEN
(To NURSE BAINES) Okay—Let's give him an aspirin and some nitroglycerin, and let's get a pulse ox, a stat portable chest, and a CBC.

HOGUE
Aren't you gonna draw some cardiac enzymes?

BEN
Right. And three sets of enzymes.
(BEN starts to listen to HOGUE'S chest with his stethoscope.)

LOU
Do you think he'll be all right?

BEN

He'll pull through; he's stable. Why don't you go on home and get some rest. I'm gonna be here for a while. I'll call you.

LOU looks at BEN and stays where she is.

Blackout.

1.23

MAYOR

(to audience) You know, whenever the pulse of a town drops, everyone in it feels a little faint—and Brayden was sent to jitters at the thought of Doc Hogue having a heart attack.

It's like the town fire marshall catchin' on fire—who's gonna put him out? Word got around real quick that without Doc Stone, they might no longer have Doc Hogue, and of course without Doc Hogue, Brayden would sure be in a heap of trouble. After that happened, you couldn't keep people away from Trafford Memorial Hospital—even if you tried.

Blackout.

1.24

Various hospital rooms.

SONG: BRAYDEN MONTAGE: IN THREE DAYS/THE OFFICE IS BUSY/WORTH THE WAIT/YOU GOT A DISEASE?/OTIS' LAMENT

Mayor and two townspeople:

IN THREE DAYS—
A LOT CAN HAPPEN.
IN THREE DAYS—
A LOT CAN OCCUR.
IN THREE DAYS—
A LOT TRANSPIRES.
TO SOME OF US
IT'S ALL A BLUR.

AND AS THE HOURS PASS
AND THE HOURGLASS
LETS OUT ALL THE SAND,
ALAS!
AS ANY SPAN OF TIME
IS SPANNED—
WE END UP A FEW DAYS OLDER,
A FEW DAYS WISER,
AND—

WHO WE ARE TODAY
WILL SOON BE
WHO WE WERE.

Nurse Baines (on the phone):

THE OFFICE IS BUSY
YOU'RE DIZZY?
WHEN IS HE FREE?
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ON THE PHONE
FOR DOCTOR STONE
OUR VERY OWN
M.D.

WE'RE OVERBOOKED,
NOBODY'S OVERLOOKED,
THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GOT TO BE.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ON THE PHONE
FOR DOCTOR STONE
OUR VERY OWN
M.D.

BEN
How can I help you?

PATIENT #1
Well Doc, my right knee's been hurtin' a lot.

BEN
Lemme take a look at it. It's probably just a touch of arthritis.

PATIENT #1
What's that caused by Doc?

BEN
Mainly old age—just a natural part of the aging process.

PATIENT #1
(thinking) I don't think it's arthritis Doc.

BEN
Why's that?

PATIENT #1
Cause my left knee don't hurt, and it's the same age as my right knee.

BEN
(looking startled) Right...

Nurse Baines:

THE OFFICE IS BUSY
YOU'RE DIZZY?
WHEN IS HE FREE?
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ON THE PHONE
FOR DOCTOR STONE
OUR VERY OWN
M.D.

WE'RE OVERBOOKED,
NOBODY'S OVERLOOKED,
THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GOT TO BE.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ON THE PHONE
FOR DOCTOR STONE
OUR VERY OWN
M.D.

Patients A and B overlapping with Nurse Baines:

Patient A:

DO YOU HAVE THE TIME?

Patient B:

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

Patient A:

THANKS, I LEFT MY WATCH AT HOME

Patient B:

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Patient A:

NINETY MILES AWAY,
BY THE SEA.

Patient B:

THAT'S PRETTY FAR,
AT LEAST FOR ME.

Nurse Baines continues,

Patients A and B continue,

Patients B and C, overlapping:

I'M SO TIRED OF WAITING ALL THESE HOURS,
CATCHING EVERYBODY'S COLD
I'M FEELING SICK ALREADY
JUST BY SITTING QUIETLY HERE.

BEN
Hey, Skippy.

TOM
Who?

BEN
Never mind.

JOANNA
Tom's been sounding real nasal.

TOM
And I cain't smell things too good.

BEN
(looking into TOM's nose, pulling out a dime with a tweezer)
Using your nose as a piggy bank, Tom? Ten cents is a lot of money!

HANK
Oh! So that's why I bounced that check!! (laughing at his own joke)

Townspople:

REST YOUR FEET,
HAVE A SEAT
IN THE WAITING ROOM.
YOU CAN ASSUME
THERE WILL BE A WAIT.
YOU'RE WAITING TO BE SEEN,
YOU'RE READING HIGHLIGHTS MAGAZINE
FROM NINETEEN SEVENTY-EIGHT!

BUT IT'S WORTH STATING
THAT IT'S WORTH THE WAITING
IN THE ROOM
THAT'S GLOOMY
AND DIM,
'CAUSE IT'S OUR DOCTRINE

THAT THE VERY BEST DOCTORIN'
IS THE KIND
YOU'LL FIND
IN HIM!

BEN
And what can I help you with?

PATIENT #2
Doc, I think I got the amnesia.

BEN
Really? Well, when did it start?

PATIENT #2
I don't remember.

BEN
Ok... and how did this happen?

PATIENT #2
You know, I'm not sure.

BEN
Right...well, why do you think you have amnesia?

PATIENT #2
Honestly doc, I don't remember why I thought that.

BEN
Well you know what? (getting out a long needle) I think you need the amnesia vaccine—
let me draw some up in one of these big syringes over here—

PATIENT #2
Wait a minute—you know what? It's all coming back to me... wait, yes... I remember
everything, and uh... I'm late for...this thing...I gotta go.

Patient #2 exits as BEN looks at the syringe, smiling.

Ben:

YOU GOT A DISEASE?
TAKE TWO OF THESE
AND TAKE THEM EVERY NIGHT.

WHEN THEY'RE SICK
THEY NEED ATTENTION QUICK
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S RIGHT!

THEY MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
I GIVE THEM OINTMENT
ALL FOR A VERY SMALL FEE

AND WHEN THEY HURT,
WHEN THEY ACHE,
WHEN A LOT'S AT STAKE
THEY JUST
PUT THEIR TRUST
IN ME!

BEN
And what can I do for you today?

PATIENT #3 (female)
Doc, I've been hearin' voices—I can't get em out of my head.

BEN
Really? Well, what do the voices say?

PATIENT #3
They say, "Combo number three, Veggie Supreme, Combo number three, Veggie Supreme." I hear em at work and at home Doc, everywhere I go.

BEN
And where do you work?

PATIENT #3
The drive through at Deacon Charlie's Diner.

BEN
I see...Where exactly do you live?

PATIENT #3
The back room at Deacon Charlie's Diner.

BEN starts writing on a pad of paper.

PATIENT #3
What are you prescribing for me Doc?

BEN
(still writing—shaking his head) One loooooong vacation and a bigger menu at Deacon Charlie's.

Townspeople:

REST YOUR FEET,
HAVE A SEAT
IN THE WAITING ROOM.
YOU CAN ASSUME
THERE WILL BE A WAIT.
YOU'RE WAITING TO BE SEEN,
YOU'RE READING HIGHLIGHTS MAGAZINE
FROM NINETEEN SEVENTY-EIGHT!

BUT IT'S WORTH STATING
THAT IT'S WORTH THE WAITING
IN THE ROOM
THAT'S GLOOMY
AND DIM,
'CAUSE IT'S OUR DOCTRINE
THAT THE VERY BEST DOCTORIN'
IS THE KIND
YOU'LL FIND
IN HIM!

BEN
What seems to be the trouble?

SIMON
How's it comin' doc?

BEN
Oh, it's been a busy day.

SIMON
No, I mean Lou... Our money. Remember, one kiss and you're outta here—

BEN
Simon, let's talk about this some other time.

SIMON
All right, Doc. But while I'm here, could I get a thermometer and some cotton swabs?
I'm working on a little side project.

Mayor and two townspeople:

IN THREE DAYS—
A LOT CAN HAPPEN.
IN THREE DAYS—
A LOT CAN OCCUR.
IN THREE DAYS—
A LOT TRANSPIRES.
TO SOME OF US

IT'S ALL A BLUR.

AND AS THE HOURS PASS
AND THE HOURGLASS
LETS OUT ALL THE SAND,
ALAS!
AS ANY SPAN OF TIME
IS SPANNED—
WE END UP A FEW DAYS OLDER,
A FEW DAYS WISER,
AND—
WHO WE ARE TODAY
WILL SOON BE
WHO WE WERE.

End of Day 3. DR. HOGUE'S hospital room. HOGUE is resting in bed. NURSE BAINES is at the bedside with BEN, LOU and OTIS.

BEN

Nurse, let's give him two of morphine.

HOGUE

Two? That's a pediatric dose! How about five?

BEN

Three.

HOGUE

Five.

LOU

Dad—

HOGUE

Four.

BEN

Four, and let's give him a Valium too.

HOGUE

Fine... Now let me rest.

**(NURSE BAINES gives HOGUE his medication through his IV, and then she exits.
LOU begins to pet OTIS.)**

LOU

(indicating OTIS) So, is he going to California with you?

BEN
California? I don't think so. Probably not.

LOU
Then where—

BEN
I'm not sure.

LOU
Well, if you have to leave him here, I could take him.

BEN
Yeah?

LOU
Yeah. We'll go to the Brayden Swine Bureau and switch legal ownership.

BEN
Swine Bureau??

LOU
Right. Bring your papers and you'll sign him over to me.

BEN
Is that okay with you, Otis?

BEN and LOU freeze in a conversation tableau, oblivious to OTIS' despair.

SONG: OTIS' LAMENT

Otis:

NO! NO!
NOT AGAIN! NOT AGAIN!
I'VE BEEN GIVEN AWAY
LIKE A USED UNDERSHIRT.
I'VE BEEN TRADED,
PARADED—
FROM PEN TO PEN;
EVERY DAY,
DIFFERENT DIRT.
AND I HURT.
AND I HURT.

I FEEL LIKE LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE
I FEEL LIKE OLIVER TWIST.
I FEEL LIKE PEOPLE FEEL LIKE

I DON'T EXIST.

I'M TIRED OF THEM TAKIN' ME
TO DIFFERENT DOORS.
I'M TIRED OF AWAKENING
ON DIFFERENT FLOORS.
WHEN YOU BRING HOME THE BACON,
BRING IT HOME;
THEN IT'S YOURS
TO KEEP!
AND ALL I WANT SOMEDAY
IS MY VERY OWN HAY
ON WHICH TO SLEEP.

WHEN WILL I FINALLY SETTLE DOWN?
WHEN WILL I FINALLY FIND A HOME?
SOMEWHERE I CAN FINALLY LIVE—
A PLACE WHERE I COULD GRAZE AND ROAM.
WHEN WILL I FINALLY FIND A DAD?
WHEN WILL I FINALLY FIND A MOM?
WHO WILL TEACH ME HOW TO ADD?
WHO WILL TAKE ME TO THE PROM?

I'D RATHER BE ALONE,
BE A LONER,
I SWEAR—
THAN BE WITH AN OWNER
WHO'S NEVER THERE.
I'M SICK OF ALL THIS FOSTER CARE,
MOVING FROM STY TO STY.
THE FUTURE IS HAZY
FOR THIS HOG.
I'LL GO CRAZY
LEST WE LIFT THE FOG.
STICK A FORK IN THIS PORK
AND HANG ME OUT TO DRY!
I'M A HAM!
YES I AM!
WATCH ME CRY!!!

(The next choruses simultaneously, overlapping)

Otis:

WHEN YOU BRING HOME THE BACON,
BRING IT HOME,
THEN IT'S YOURS
TO KEEP,

AND ALL I WANT SOMEDAY
IS MY VERY OWN HAY
ON WHICH TO SLEEP.

Nurse Baines:

WE'RE OVERBOOKED
NOBODY'S OVERLOOKED
THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GOT TO BE.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ON THE PHONE
FOR DOCTOR STONE,
OUR VERY OWN
M.D.

Ben:

WHEN THEY HURT,
WHEN THEY ACHE,
WHEN A LOT'S AT STAKE
THEY JUST
PUT THEIR TRUST
IN ME!

Otis, Ben, Nurse Baines continue, and add:

Townspeople (Group A):

IT'S WORTH RESTATING
THAT IT'S WORTH THE WAITING
IN THE ROOM
THAT'S GLOOMY
AND DIM,
'CAUSE IT'S OUR DOCTRINE
THAT THE VERY BEST DOCTRIN'
IS THE KIND
YOU'LL FIND
IN HIM!

Townspeople (Group B):

IN THREE DAYS,
IN THREE DAYS,
A LOT CAN HAPPEN
IN THREE—

Together:

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ON THE PHONE

FOR DOCTOR STONE
OUR VERY OWN
M.D.!

Blackout.

1.25

MAYOR

(to audience) Now this is as close to the truth as I can get—I'm telling it to ya just like it happened—right here on this very spot. Never forget this is a true story, that's what makes it so great! Anyhow, Ben Stone, M.D.—thinkin he had his whole life planned out—every step of the way—ends up the first half of our story in a place he never could have planned out—the Brayden Swine Bureau.

Blackout.

1.26

BEN and LOU sit side by side on a bench outside the Brayden Swine Bureau.

BEN

Do you think he'll pass?

LOU

Pass?

BEN

Aren't there extensive swine tests to get registered or something? I mean, I failed my driving test three times.

LOU

Oh, he's a good pig—I think he'll make it. Besides, he doesn't have to parallel park.

Laughter and then silence.

BEN

Thanks for taking him for me...

LOU

No problem.

Silence.

LOU

Ben, do you ever do anything impulsive?

BEN

Like jumping in a cold river butt-naked?

LOU

I'm being serious. Like something you know you shouldn't do, but you just go ahead and do it anyway? Because you feel like if you do it, you might be making one of the worst decisions in your life, but if you don't do it, you'll regret it forever, and that's much worse.

BEN

Not too often, no.

LOU

Look Ben, I know all about this betting pool.

BEN

You do? Then why—

LOU

It's been going for years, and it would've kept going. The bottom line is that I can't find anyone to be happy with in this town—I'm surrounded by people I love, but I'm all alone. And I'm scared I'll never find someone again. And I'm scared my dad's gonna die and leave me here alone—

BEN

Lou, listen—

LOU

And I know if I let you kiss me I'll never want you to leave. But if we kiss, you can get enough money to leave me here alone.

BEN

I won't—

LOU

(deciding) You will. You have to. Kiss me.

BEN

(leans in to kiss her, and then pulls away abruptly) I can't.

SONG: FIRST, DO NO HARM

Ben:

PART OF ME THINKS
I SHOULD STAY
BECAUSE HEY,
IN A WAY
THIS IS WAY
OVERDUE.

BUT PART OF ME WONDERS,
WHY I KEEP THIS BREWING;
WHAT AM I DOING,
PURSUING
YOU?

I TOOK THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH,
AND WE BOTH
KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS:
“FIRST, DO NO HARM.”

YET HERE WE ARE,
WE ARE NEAR
YET WE ARE FAR,
ARM IN ARM.

I WON'T BE HERE FOR WEEKS,
YET IF I LEAVE IT TO THE GREEKS
AND THE WORDS OF HIPPOCRATES,
I MIGHT MISS OUT
ON MOMENTS LIKE THESE...

IF I MUST DESERT HER
I SHOULDN'T HURT HER;
OKAY.

I KNOW IF I DON'T NEED HER
I SHOULDN'T LEAD HER
ASTRAY.

CAN'T LEAD HER TO BELIEVE
I WOULDN'T LEAVE HER
SOMEDAY.

BUT IF I CANNOT LOVE HER
I MUSTN'T SHOVE HER
AWAY.

“FIRST, DO NO HARM,”
I SAY.

BUT ON THIS EVE
I NOW BELIEVE
THAT IN LOVE,
WE'RE NOT IMMUNE.

AND TONIGHT

I ADMIT
IT FEELS RIGHT
AS WE SIT
HERE, LIT
BY THE LIGHT
OF THE MOON!

Lou:

MAYBE IT DOES FEEL RIGHT, BEN,
AND MAYBE IT'S JUST ONE NIGHT, BEN—
I'M TIRED OF ALL THE 'DON'T'S AND 'WON'T'S AND 'CAN'T'S.
LET US FACE UNCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES!
LET US TAKE UNEXPECTED CHANCES!

BEN,
WE MIGHT NOT HAVE THIS TIME AGAIN.
HOLD ME CLOSELY NOW.
BEN,
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE IN LOVE;
I NEVER KNEW HOW.

Ben:

LOU,
YOU,
KNOW THIS CANNOT LAST.
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WHEN.
WHAT'S NOW PRESENT
WILL SOON BE PAST.
WHAT THEN?
WHAT THEN?

Lou, overlapping:

AND THIS MOMENT
SEEMS SO TIMELESS
NOW THAT I'M WITH BEN!
WHAT'S NOW PRESENT
WILL SOON BE PAST.
WHAT THEN?
WHAT THEN?

Both:

AND ON THIS EVE
I NOW BELIEVE
THAT IN LOVE,

WE'RE NOT IMMUNE.

AND TONIGHT
I ADMIT
IT FEELS RIGHT
AS WE SIT
HERE, LIT
BY THE LIGHT
OF THE MOON!

TONIGHT
I ADMIT
IT FEELS RIGHT
AS WE SIT
HERE, LIT
BY THE LIGHT
OF THE MOON!

LOU kisses BEN.

SIMON jumps up from his hiding place, takes a picture of BEN and LOU kissing, and runs offstage. BEN and LOU do not notice.

Curtain.

End Act I

Act II

SONG: YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

Company:

WE'VE KNOWN SINCE LONG AGO,
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW,
THE GROUND IS YOURS TO TILL,
BUT IF THE GROUND IS SLANTED
EVERYTHING YOU PLANTED
GROWS DOWNHILL.

EVERY NOW AND THEN YOU MUST
PLOW THE FIELD—
SOMETIMES THE YIELD
IS LOW.
AND WEEDS CAN GET UNWIELDY,
SO—

WHEN THE DAY IS OVER
AND YOUR ONION'S PEELED,
MAKE SURE YA GROW!

BUT IF YOUR GARDEN
IS LOOKING DRY,
AND THE GROUND IS HARDENING
AT YOUR FEET—

IF THERE'S A FAMINE
DON'T BLAME THE SKY.
YOU MUST EXAMINE
THE SOIL YOU TREAT!

Solo:

PLANTS NEED RAINFALL,
AND A LITTLE BIT OF LIGHT.

All:

ATTENTION AND ROTATION—
THEY DON'T GROW OVERNIGHT!

BUT ANYWAY,
THAT'S A FIGURE OF SPEECH
AND AS METAPHORS GO,
THAT'S QUITE A REACH!

BUT NONETHELESS,
THERE'S STILL A LOT TO DO!
SO ENOUGH OF THIS SMALL TALK!
LET'S GET ON WITH IT!
TIME'S A'WASTIN!
WE TURN TO
CHAPTER TWO!

2.1

MAYOR NEEDHAM

(to audience, holding a book in his hand) Well welcome back—listen up now, this is where things start to get good. You know, I've been telling stories every year for 24 years now, and sometimes I still can't find the right words. The effect that Doc Stone had on this town after only a few days was just gigantic. It was said best by Brayden's own author and poet laureate, Stanley Carlos Williams, in his poem "Small Town Gossip"—

“The word is passed over white picket fences,
The word is worth more than dollars and centces.
They'll talk about who's going out,
They'll talk about your mama's gout.
In the end, towns have no secrets,
So just open up—don't try to keep it
quiet.

(closes book) Well, I guess that about says it all.

Blackout.

2.2

In various locations throughout the town.

SONG: I'VE GOT NEWS

Women (solos):

HEY! I HEARD THAT LOU KISSED BEN!
I THOUGHT THAT BEN KISSED LOU!
HEY! I HEARD THEY DIDN'T GET HOME
TILL TEN MINUTES TO TWO!

I HEARD SHE TOOK HIM TO THE PARK.
I HEARD IT WAS THE ZOO!
DOWN BY THE RIVER, AFTER DARK,
I HEARD THEY RENTED A CANOE!

I HEARD SHE TOOK HIM TO THE STORE
TO BUY HIM PERT SHAMPOO!
I HEARD THEY GOT ARRESTED,

THEY GOT CAUGHT RED-HANDED SNIFFING GLUE!

Together:

IT MAY BE FALSE,
IT MAY BE TRUE—
THE INFORMATION'S MINE.
IT'S SAD HOW A RUMOR
SPREADS LIKE A TUMOR,
BUT THIS ONE IS BENIGN!
IN A TOWN SO SMALL
IT'S NO SURPRISE WE ALL
KNOW EVERYTHING 'YA DO—
THAT'S FINE!
EVERY BALL 'YA THROW
WE KNOW
YOU THREW;
THE BUBBLES 'YA BLOW
WE KNOW
YOU BLEW.
BEFORE 'YA KNOW IT—
WE KNEW!—
THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE!

Men (solos):

I HEARD HE'S BENCHED THREE HUNDRED POUNDS,
I HEARD IT'S MORE THAN THAT!
I HEARD HE RUNS A FOUR-MINUTE MILE
IN SIXTY SECONDS, FLAT!

I HEARD THAT HE AND LOU ARE DOING WELL,
THAT'S NO SURPRISE!
I HEARD THEY'VE GOTTEN BIBLICAL—
THEY KNOW EACH OTHER, BIBLE-WISE!

HE KNOWS THE FEMALE ANATOMY!
HE KNOWS JUST WHAT TO DO!
I HEARD THAT HE IS GIVING LESSONS—
MAYBE HE'LL SHOW US A THING OR TWO!

Together:

I'VE GOT NEWS!
I'VE GOT NEWS!
AND I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE
BY SHARING IT WITH YOU TODAY.
WHETHER IT'S EXACT,

OPINION OR FACT—
DOESN'T MATTER,
THAT'S OKAY!
WHAT MATTERS
IS YOUR INTENTION
AS YOU MENTION
THE THINGS YOU SAY!
AND NOTHING'S BLACK OR WHITE,
AND NOTHING'S WRONG OR RIGHT—
IN LIFE THERE ARE MANY SHADES OF GRAY!

Women (group A):

I HEARD THAT DOCTOR STONE
WAS CALLED TO SAVE OUR FAVORITE PRIEST.

(group B)

YEAH, I HEARD THAT REVEREND MURPHY
WAS ATTACKED BY A SAVAGE BEAST!

(group C)

NO! I HEARD THAT MURPHY IS DECEASED!

(group A)

I HEARD BEN GAVE YOU VITAMINS!

(group B)

I HEARD HE SPLIT THE SIAMESE TWINS!

(group C)

I HEARD HE CURED SAMANTHA OF CROUP!

(solo)

I HEARD HE WALKED A HUNDRED BLOCKS
TO CURE MISS COX
OF CHICKEN POX,
BUT FOUND, INSTEAD, SOME CHICKEN SOUP!

Together:

IT MAY BE FALSE,
IT MAY BE TRUE—

THE INFORMATION'S MINE.
IT'S SAD HOW A RUMOR
SPREADS LIKE A TUMOR,
BUT THIS ONE IS BENIGN!
IN A TOWN SO SMALL
IT'S NO SURPRISE WE ALL
KNOW EVERYTHING 'YA DO—
THAT'S FINE!
EVERY BALL 'YA THROW
WE KNOW
YOU THREW;
THE BUBBLES 'YA BLOW
WE KNOW
YOU BLEW.
BEFORE 'YA KNOW IT—
WE KNEW!—
THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE!

Men (group A):

I HEARD THAT DOCTOR STONE
FIXED REVEREND MURPHY'S MURPHY BED.

(group B):

NO, I HEARD HE REATTACHED THE CLEVER REVEREND'S
SEVERED HEAD!

(group C):

NO, I HEARD THAT REVEREND MURPHY'S
DEAD, DEAD, DEAD!

(group A):

I HEARD BEN CURED ED'S HANDICAP;

(group B):

I HEARD HE CURED THE MILKMAN'S CLAP.

(group C):

I HEARD HE CURED THE MAYOR'S LEFT EYE!

Melvin or Dr. Hogue (entering, singing to Men and Women):

I HEARD THAT BEN IS LEAVING SOON.

HE CHANGED HIS TUNE—
HE HAD THE MOON—
BUT NOW HE WANTS TO OWN THE SKY.

All:

I GUESS WE CAN'T HAVE HIM FOREVER...

Tommy:

I HEARD
THAT EVERY BIRD
MUST SOMEDAY FLY.

Together:

WELL, THERE'S ONLY
ONE THING LEFT TO DO—
SPREAD THE WORD!
IT'S TRUE!—
IT'S THIS:
WE'LL MISS THAT GUY!

Men and women overlapping:

I'VE GOT NEWS!
I'VE GOT NEWS!
AND I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE
BY SHARING IT WITH YOU TODAY.
WHETHER IT'S EXACT,
OPINION OR FACT—
DOESN'T MATTER,
THAT'S OKAY!
WHAT MATTERS
IS YOUR INTENTION
AS YOU MENTION
THE THINGS YOU SAY!
AND NOTHING'S BLACK OR WHITE,
AND NOTHING'S WRONG OR RIGHT,
AND NOTHING'S DARK OR LIGHT,
AND NOTHING'S DAY OR NIGHT,
AND NOTHING'S DIM OR BRIGHT,
IN LIFE THERE ARE MANY SHADES OF GRAY!

IT MAY BE FALSE,
IT MAY BE TRUE—
THE INFORMATION'S MINE.
IT'S SAD HOW A RUMOR

SPREADS LIKE A TUMOR,
BUT THIS ONE IS BENIGN!
IN A TOWN SO SMALL
IT'S NO SURPRISE WE ALL
KNOW EVERYTHING 'YA DO—
THAT'S FINE!
EVERY BALL 'YA THROW
WE KNOW
YOU THREW;
THE BUBBLES 'YA BLOW
WE KNOW
YOU BLEW.
BEFORE 'YA KNOW IT—
WE KNEW!—
THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE!

Together:

IN LIFE THERE ARE MANY SHADES,
MANY SHADES OF GRAY!
AND I'VE GOT NEWS!
I'VE GOT NEWS!
THAT I'M SURE YOU COULD USE
TODAY!

Blackout.

2.3

BEN is walking towards MELVIN and BRUCE'S shop. He runs into LOU, who is leaving the shop.

BEN
Lou!

LOU
Going to pick up your car?

BEN
No, I'm going to say that I can't pay for the car.

LOU
But your interview—

BEN
They have to reschedule—it's fine. Look—

LOU
Ben, I can't talk right now.

BEN

I wanted to see you. I wanted to talk to you about last night.

LOU

Let's not talk about it. Ben, we made a mistake. Let's put it behind us.

BEN

A mistake?

LOU

I don't blame you—it's no one's fault. We weren't thinking.

BEN

I thought we—

LOU

It was a stupid idea—you're leaving and I'm not.

BEN

But I don't have—

LOU

And I've been thinking, Ben, it's probably best if we don't see each other any more.

BEN

What?

LOU

Because you have California. You have to go—you can't stay here—

BEN

Then come with me!

LOU

And—What?

BEN

You come *with* me.

LOU

I—I can't.

BEN

Yes you can—you have some time to think. My car's probably not ready anyways, and besides—I can't leave yet. My Vegetable statute isn't up for another three days.

LOU

Oh give me a break! You know that's not keeping you here! And Ben, your car's been ready for days—Melvin can fix anything. This whole town is doing everything they can to keep you here because they think you're gonna end up staying— the Mayor, Melvin, everybody. I know better. (pause) They even tried to call that Dr. Lubin and tell him how you needed to stay here.

BEN
Are you serious?

LOU
Don't worry, I stopped them.

BEN
(angered by the news) Well I'm going to L.A.—they can't change my mind. But I want you to come with me. Think about it.

LOU
I don't need to think about it. This wouldn't work. *We* wouldn't work.

BEN
You don't mean that. Look, Lou, is this about the money? I'm not taking the money... I'll go tell Simon—

LOU
No, Ben, I don't care about the money. I swear, it wouldn't work out for us. We're very different people...

BEN
No we're not—

LOU
I mean we've only known each other four days.

BEN
But last night we—

LOU
Last night we registered a pig. That's it.

BEN
But what about—?

LOU
Stop it Ben. Just go. You know you don't belong here.

LOU turns her back on BEN, and BEN exits.

SONG: DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OF THIS

Lou:

DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OF THIS
I TELL MYSELF
DON'T TAKE TOO MUCH FROM THIS
PUT IT BACK ON THE SHELF
DON'T INVEST EMOTIONS YOU CAN'T KEEP
YOU'LL JUST CRY YOURSELF TO SLEEP
AND IN THE MORNING HE'LL BE GONE.

DON'T MAKE A CASE OF THIS
LEAVE IT ALONE
JUST TURN YOUR FACE FROM THIS
AND MAINTAIN YOUR TONE
DON'T YOU BLOCK HIS FUTURE IT'S NOT YOURS
WHO ARE YOU TO CLOSE HIS DOORS?
YOU'RE NOT A PART OF PLANS HE'S DRAWN..

AND MAYBE IT'S NOT FATED
THOUGH I FEEL LIKE I'VE WAITED
A LIFETIME JUST TO TELL HIM TO STAY
AND MAYBE I'M IN LOVE
BUT WHAT'S THE USE—THOUGH I THINK OF HIM
HE'LL ACCUSE ME OF STANDING IN HIS WAY.

DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OF THIS
JUST HELP HIM GO
AND KEEP A TOUCH OF THIS
THINK OF IT AS THOUGH
YOUR PATHS WERE NEVER MEANT TO MEET
HIS FUTURE ISN'T YOURS TO CHEAT
DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH—
YOU'LL BE ALONE.

AND MAYBE I'M IN LOVE
BUT WHAT'S THE USE—IT'S NOT ABOVE HIM
TO ACCUSE ME OF STANDING IN HIS WAY

DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OF THIS
LEAVE IT ALONE
DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OF THIS
LOVE HIM ON YOUR OWN

DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE—
TAKE JUST WHAT'S YOURS TO TAKE—

DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OF THIS,
LET HIM GO.

SOMETIMES WHAT SEEMS LIKE YES
IS REALLY NO.

Blackout.

2.5

SIMON'S Lab. SIMON has a dustbuster/vacuum cleaner mechanism—and he takes a bowl of lettuce, sucks it up in the vacuum, and then shoots it back out into four bowls.

BEN enters.

SIMON
We did it!!!

BEN
(overlapping with SIMON) I kissed her, Simon, or...she kissed me...but we're not taking the money...I refuse...it's wrong...

SIMON
I can finally make my invention!!

BEN
Right...and if you really need that money, I'll lend it to you, or you can take out a loan, but I refuse—

SIMON
(showing picture to BEN) Ben, look! You did it! We got the money! Lou was just here

BEN
And...she—what?

SIMON
Ben, she told us everything—about the fancy dinner at Mae's Cavern, about the serenading, and the flowers—and she said you were a real gentleman—and that you could teach us boys a thing or two about how to treat a lady. And I saw you two down by the Swine Bureau (gazing at the picture)— it was beautiful.

BEN
She—?

SIMON
And she took the pot—or at least your share, five hundred bucks, and she went to pay for your car.

BEN
What?

SIMON
She said that you knew—that you sent her—

BEN
I didn't—

SIMON
The boys put your name on a plaque.

BEN
Excuse me.

BEN rushes off. Pause.

SIMON
(emotional) A plaque does things to a man.

Blackout.

2.6

Town square. All the TOWNSPEOPLE assemble to see BEN off. There is random chatter until BEN enters. The town responds with monstrous applause.

MAYOR
Doc Stone, I'll be the first to say it—I'm gonna miss ya.

BEN
What is this?

MAYOR
We had a town meetin' to discuss your predicament, and we do respect it. There was some nice speech makin' on your behalf, and we've decided to suspend the Vegetable Statute for the first time in Brayden history so you can make your interview. You can leave today.

BEN
(angry) Mayor, I know you've been keeping me here. I know there's no statute—You—
Look, where's Lou?

MAYOR
Well Doc, you can't blame us for trying can ya?

BEN

I *can* blame you—you could have cost me my job—I've worked my whole life for this.
Melvin, Bruce... Joanna?—Was *everyone* in on it?

MAYOR
Does it matter?

BEN
What do you mean does it matter?

MAYOR
You're here now. Part of you wants to stay. Does it matter what brought and kept you here? Does it make a difference if it really was fate?

BEN
Yes! Of course it does!

MAYOR
Well, it's just that we really like you Doc. That's all. Don't we, everybody?

Cheers

BEN
Look, I need to talk to Lou.

MAYOR
Of course you do, you ole devil! (glaring at SIMON) That move on you and Simon's part is what necessitated the necessary community meeting. But Lou said she had some business to attend to and so she says goodbye and good luck—she knows how important this is to you. Now there's a couple of things that we wanted to give you before you left—a couple of people who wanted to express their gratitude for your philanthropic... philanthropy to the community.

HANK
We shore do 'preciate all your help Doc—

JOANNA
Yes, we do.

HANK
I never felt so good, and Joanna and I's happier than ever.

JOANNA
And lil' Tom's never been so healthy before neither—we cain't thank ya enough Doc.

BEN
(pause, then genuinely) It's my pleasure—

JOANNA

You helped our marriage and we're gonna miss ya.

BEN

Well, I'll miss you too. And Tom, you keep that racecar set in good shape—that was a heck of a race we had the other night. But be careful, ok? Keep an eye on him for me, would you Joanna? Either keep small objects away, or put earmuffs and a nose clamp on that boy. He'll have nowhere else to shove those things.

JOANNA

Sure thing, Ben.

NURSE BAINES

Be careful. Take Bovine Lane back up to the river. Take a right at the Shell station, and get on Antebellum Highway toward Montgomery, where you wanna jump on I-20—due West. Watch for the rain and mudslides. Mmmhmmm.

BEN

Thank you, Nurse Baines. I'll always remember the way that you...sat and smoked.

MELVIN

Have a safe trip, doc. Sorry 'bout da car bizness. Da Mayor made me do it.

BEN

Well, it worked out Melvin—you must be a heck of a mechanic.

BRUCE

(pausing and staring at BEN) I'll miss you.

BEN

I'll miss you too, Bruce.

HOGUE

(arms crossed) Well, I hope you find what you're lookin' for.

BEN

Yeah...

MAYOR

I know you gotta be runnin Doc, so thanks for spending some time with us... (BEN is looking at the town assembled behind the MAYOR) And we got your car already here, we all chipped in and put a full tank a gas in it— you're all loaded up and ready to go—

BEN

(breaking out of his thoughts) Tell Lou that I—

MAYOR

Let's here it for Doc Hollywood!

Cheers

Blackout.

2.7

MAYOR

So despite our best efforts, Doc Stone packed up and left us. In the end, we had to do what was right, and let him go. Seemed that despite all our efforts, we couldn't make a round circle fit into a square...square. So our story follows the Doc out to California—where his future and his dreams awaited him.

Blackout.

2.8

Lights up on the waiting room at LIFT-UP: a glitzy, high tech office in Los Angeles. Four SECRETARIES sit at desks, answering phones. Various patients enter and exit the office. There is a lot of movement on stage.

BEN enters during the song, and tries to get the secretaries' attention.

SONG: TIED UP (PART 1)

Secretaries:

HELLO?
YES?
THE DOCTOR IS IN.
BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S TIED UP.
HOLD ON—
OTHER LINE—

HELLO?
YES?
THE DOCTOR IS IN.
BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S TIED UP.
HOLD ON—
OTHER LINE—

(Etc., etc... the lines begin to overlap... then...)

ON HOLD?
HOW LONG?
I'M SO SORRY!

ON HOLD?
HOW LONG?
I'M SO SORRY!

ON HOLD?
HOW LONG?
I'M SO SORRY!

(The secretaries begin to become physically “tied up” in the phone cords as they answer different phones. Then, they sing the next lines while they are on their respective phones.)

Solos:

BREAST AUGMENTATION—
LINE ONE!

EXFOLIATION—
LINE TWO!

SCHEDULING THE LIPO—

OOPS I MADE A TYPO—
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

LISTEN PAL,
YOU'LL NEED A STOMACH STAPLE—
TAPE'LL
NOT HOLD UP!

ROBERT DOWNEY'S
BAKING US BROWNIES!
BUT HE SAYS WE CANNOT MAKE HIM
PEE IN A CUP!
PEE IN A CUP!
PEE IN A CUP!
PEE IN A CUP!

Together:

PEE IN A CUP!

Solos:

BEN STILLER—
LINE THREE!

PHYLLIS DILLER—
LINE FOUR!

DENNIS MILLER—

LINE FIVE!

LINE SIX—
PAULY SHORE!

CHIROPRACTORS—

ATKINS DIET...

STARVING ACTORS—

(Same voice as Atkins diet line)
...YOU SHOULD TRY IT!

UMA—

OPRAH—

LYLE LOVETT...

DEEPAK CHOPRA—

(Same voice as Lyle Lovett line)
...NEEDS MORE OF IT

TAE-BO—

TOM HANKS—

PLANET SMOOTHIE—

BILLY BLANKS—

(overlapping)

ON HOLD?
HOW LONG?
I'M SO SORRY!

ON HOLD?
HOW LONG?
I'M SO SORRY!

HELLO—

PROZAC—

PAXIL—

AXL ROSE—

LAKER GIRLS—

HOOKERS—

‘HOS—

KEANU REEVES—

MEDITATIONS—

PET PEEVES—

MALFORMATIONS—

NEW YEARS’ EVES—

LONG VACATIONS—

Together:

ECHINACEA TEA!

LUNCH—

YOGA—

GOLF—

GLAMOUR—

PERSONAL TRAINERS—

KELSEY GRAMMER—

Solo:

ROBERT DOWNEY’S
IN THE SLAMMER!!

Together:

CAN’T YOU SET HIM FREE?!

(Ben enters.)

SECRETARY #1

(to Ben) Welcome! Take a number, please! (to a patient in the waiting room) Doctor Lubin is ready to see you, ma'am! And sir, you're next in line!

BEN

Oh, I'm not here to—

SECRETARY #2

Please feel free to browse through our catalog of famous faces. What's your favorite letter?

BEN

Um... J?

SECRETARY #3

(pulling out a massive tome labeled "J") Find a face you like—we'll see how it fits you!

Secretaries:

WE CAN MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE ANDREW JACKSON,
STONEWALL JACKSON,
SHOELESS JOE!
JESSE JACKSON,
ACTION JACKSON,
REGGIE JACKSON—
OR BO!
JACKSON POLLACK,
JACKSON BROWNE,

Ben:

SAMUEL L.!

Secretaries:

THERE YA GO!

JERMAINE, MICHAEL,
MARLON, RANDY,
TITO, JACKIE—
HEAD TO TOE!
AND ALL YOU GOTTA DO
IS MAKE IT THROUGH
THE SURGERY ALIVE!
AND YOU CAN LOOK
LIKE SOMEONE TOOK
A PICTURE OF THE JACKSON FIVE!

(music vamps)

BEN

I think there's a misunderstanding. I'm not a patient—I'm here to interview with Dr. Lubin for the new position.

SECRETARY #4

Oh, you must be Dr. Stone!

SECRETARY #1

We didn't recognize your face!

Secretaries #2, 3, 4 (as SECRETARY #1 escorts BEN into DR. LUBIN'S office):

HELLO?

YES,

THE DOCTOR IS IN.

BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S TIED UP.

HOLD ON

OTHER LINE!

2.9

Music continues vamping underneath. DR. LUBIN sits in a swivel chair with his back to the audience and BEN.

DR. LUBIN

Whoa baby baby baby—chill on the floor and let me smell you...

BEN

Sir?

DR. LUBIN

(sniffing the air) Is that the eau de Polo Sport cologne I'm vibing?

BEN

Actually, yes sir. It is.

DR. LUBIN swivels around in his chair—he is the complete opposite of BEN'S dream version—gaudy and over-animated.

DR. LUBIN

Booyah! Ten for ten, baby doll—no one has a honker like George Lubin.

BEN

Yes sir—

DR. LUBIN

Tells me a lot about a person there kid—you know what they wanna smell like, you know what kind of person they wanna be, are you diggin me?

BEN
I think so—

DR. LUBIN
You gotta use your senses to check the cash—you follow my logic there? Can't get all Jean Dixon on me, comprende?

BEN
No sir, I—

DR. LUBIN
Had lunch with her the other day. Nice girl. Quite a 'tude though. Can't have 'tude if you wanna make it in the biz, kid, you get me? You have any 'tude there?

BEN
Me sir?

DR. LUBIN
Of course you don't! You wear Polo Sport—you're headin for the moolah!

BEN
I'm trying sir—

DR. LUBIN
(offering a bottle) White wine spritzer?

BEN
No thanks.

DR. LUBIN
Dig this baby, the Lubin Institute for True, Unique Perfection has a mantra...

BEN
What's that sir?

DR. LUBIN
“At LIFT-UP, we lift up more than your body—we lift up your spirit. And make you not ugly.”

BEN
That's catchy sir,

DR. LUBIN
L.A. is a dirty place kiddo. And we make people clean... you dig?

BEN
Yes sir, I dig.

DR. LUBIN
Moist towelette?

BEN
No thanks, I washed.

DR. LUBIN
Have you ever met an ugly person?

BEN
What? I mean, I guess—

DR. LUBIN
Well I have seen an ugly person kiddo, and let me tell you, it's not pretty. And I change that—BAM—zero to hero in under an hour.

BEN
I love your work sir.

DR. LUBIN
Of course you do baby, of course you do. You ever parasail?

BEN
(pause) Not really sir.

DR. LUBIN
You dance? Cut a rug? Shake it down?

BEN
On occasion sir... a little I guess.

DR. LUBIN
Ever played mah jong?

BEN
No.

DR. LUBIN
Wanna give it a roll?

BEN
Sure.

DR. LUBIN
Smooth baby, you got an open mind, and I feel that. Fantastic—you'll start tomorrow.

BEN
Playing mah jong?

DR. LUBIN
(on intercom to SECRETARY) I hired the new surgical enhancement provider position baby doll—I'm headin to Tahiti manana. (to BEN) Take care of my business and she'll take care of you kiddo—don't screw it up. (to SECRETARY) And bring in my 4:17 appointment, Candy.

BEN
Thank you sir, it's an honor—

DR. LUBIN
Ben, I can scope a good surgeon when I see one—you're in—hired—signed on, mi compadre—but I can't have you hangin around the office all the time like this baby, you're crampin up on my style—I gotta have room to work, you feel me?

BEN
(as he exits) Sorry sir, I mean yes sir, I feel you. I'll be here first thing tomorrow morning.

DR. LUBIN
(on intercom) Send in the sushi and prep patient 1-1-2 for her posterior adjustment.

2.10
LIFT-UP waiting room.

SONG: TIED UP (PART 2)

Solos:

HELLO?
YES?
THE DOCTOR IS IN.
BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S TIED UP.
HOLD ON—
OTHER LINE—

HELLO?
YES?
THE DOCTOR IS IN.
BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S TIED UP.
HOLD ON—
OTHER LINE—

ON HOLD?
HOW LONG?

I'M SO SORRY!

ON HOLD?
HOW LONG?
I'M SO SORRY!

ON HOLD?
HOW LONG?
I'M SO SORRY!

Solos:

SEX SCANDALS—

ANGELENOS—

LOVE HANDLES—

MOCHACCINOS—

PRIVATE SCREENINGS—

POWER BARS—

DOUBLE MEANINGS—

MOVIE STARS—

Together:

ALBINOS,
RHINOPLASTIES,
ALL THE NASTY THINGS!

AT THE END OF THE DAY
DOCTOR LUBIN BRINGS US
A GLASS OF WINE!

HELLO?
YES?
THE DOCTOR IS IN!
BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S TIED UP!

HOLD ON—
I'M ON
THE OTHER LINE!

Blackout.

2.11

Lights up on BEN, talking into a tape recorder, looking at notes.

BEN

Patient number two hundred and seventy-nine, rhinoplasty and small anterior lesion removal on lower abdomen. No complications. Patient number two hundred and eighty, rhinoplasty, liposuction to mid and anterior regions. No complications. Patient number two hundred and eighty-one that I did by myself because Dr. Lubin keeps going out of town, rhinoplasty, breast enlargement. No complications. Patient number two hundred and eighty-two...(rummaging through papers) Scratch that. Her name is Mrs. Smythe.

She had a nose job to look like Cameron Diaz and a breast enlargement to look like Pamela Anderson. No complications. Net profit for the day—(calculating) More than my college tuition. (BEN smiles)

Blackout.

2.12

Various scenes at LIFT-UP that parallel the patient montage from Act One.

**SONG: L.A. MONTAGE: DOCTOR LUBIN'S ON VACATION/YOU WANNA
LOOK FANTASTIC?/LET'S FACE IT**

Secretaries:

DOCTOR LUBIN'S ON VACATION;
HIS PARTNER'S FILLING IN.
BENJAMIN STONE, YEAH
HE'S THE YANG
TO DOCTOR LUBIN'S YIN!
IN FACT, WE THINK
HE'S PRACTICALLY
LUBIN'S NEXT OF KIN!

DR. STONE IS READY TO SEE YOU, MA'AM,
AND SIR, YOU ARE THE NEXT IN LINE!
HAVE PATIENCE,
MY FRIEND,
HIS PATIENTS
TEND
TO COME OUT LOOKIN' FINE!

BEN

And what can I do for you?

PATIENT #1
I want the works!

BEN
I'm sorry?

PATIENT #1
I want it all. Whatever's hot. Whatever the kids are doing these days.

BEN
Well, there's not really a standard—

PATIENT #1
I want a body wax and bicep implants. I want hair plugs and a tummy tuck. I want my legs elongated, a face transplant, and a new set of pectoral muscles flown in from...say... Germany. I want you to lift my butt so high that I can rest my head on it if I lean back. I want Vanity Fair knocking down my door, saying, "Welcome to the big time!! Roll out the red carpet!! Show us your tight body!!!"

Ben (this verse into dictation tape recorder):

YOU WANNA LOOK FANTASTIC?
LEAVE IT TO THE PROS.
THE BODY'S QUITE ELASTIC—
SOMETIMES IT SHOWS.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING DRASTIC,
MAYBE JUST FIX THAT NOSE,
AND THOSE,
AND THOSE.
THAT'S WHY I LOVE PLASTIC;
THIS IS THE LIFE I CHOSE!

BEN
How can I help you?

PATIENT #2
I need a new identity, and I need it fast.

BEN
What's the hurry?

PATIENT #2
There are many people after me. The witness protection program sent me here to complete my new persona.

BEN
Well I'll do my best. What did you want done?

PATIENT #2
(pulling out papers) They gave me two options. I have the papers to be either Rosa, a small Hispanic woman from Nicaragua, or Boris, a large Russian man from Moscow.

BEN
(slowly) At LIFT-UP we usually just lift things up...

Patients:

LET'S FACE IT!
WE'RE TALKIN' BEAUTY!
EMBRACE IT!
IT'LL GET YOU FRIENDS!
LET'S FACE IT!
ANYONE WHO SAYS IT'S SUPERFICIAL—
PRETENDS.
LET'S FACE IT!
IT'S NOT CHEAP!
LET'S FACE IT!
IT'S NOT SKIN DEEP!
YOU GOTTA LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP
BUT IF YOU LOOK LIKE A HEAP
OF JUNK—
THEN YOU'LL LEAP THROUGH LIFE
LIKE A FRIGHTENED FROG
IN A FUNK!

BEN
What can I do for you little girl?

PATIENT #3 (a young girl)
No time for small talk. Here's what I need: breast enlargement, liposuction of the left forearm, collagen injection to the right side of my upper lip, and a cappuccino.

BEN
(taken aback) Hold your horses, sweetie, I think we should wait a few years, don't you?

PATIENT #3
Honey, I'm 47 years old. I've got enough plastic in my body to keep MasterCard fully stocked for the next thirty years. Now can you help me?

BEN
(pausing, then trying to cover) Umm... sure! Will you be paying for this with paper or plastic? (nervous laugh)

PATIENT #3
You're a sad little man.

Secretaries:

DOCTOR LUBIN'S ON VACATION;

HIS PARTNER'S FILLING IN.
BENJAMIN STONE, YEAH
HE'S THE YANG
TO DOCTOR LUBIN'S YIN!
IN FACT, WE THINK
HE'S PRACTICALLY
LUBIN'S NEXT OF KIN!

DR. STONE IS READY TO SEE YOU, MA'AM,
AND SIR, YOU ARE THE NEXT IN LINE!
HAVE PATIENCE,
MY FRIEND,
HIS PATIENTS
TEND
TO COME OUT LOOKIN' FINE!

DR. LUBIN on vacation sitting at a Tiki Bar, downstage.

DR. LUBIN

(on cell phone to BEN) Benny baby, how's life hangin at LIFT-UP? Happy six month anniversary!! Do me a favor would ya kiddo? Slip Mrs. Applebaum a little extra piece of silicone will ya? I owe her. (to WAITRESS) Hey hey sugar! (to BEN) Not you Ben. (to WAITRESS) Hook me up with a glass of your finest white wine babycakes. (to BEN) Stick it right under the left buttock. (to WAITRESS) Not you sugar tush—(sniffing) is that White Diamonds perfume you're wearing? (to BEN) No, I know you wear Polo Sport kiddo... (WAITRESS begins to exit) Listen, I gotta scope another call, got a beep, gotta run. (He hangs up.) (to WAITRESS) And leave the 'tude at the bar, honey!

Ben:

NO LONGER SO ATHLETIC?
UNHAPPY WITH YOUR THIGHS?
SURE, PART OF IT'S GENETIC,
BUT PART OF IT IS THOSE FRENCH FRIES.
A LITTLE LOCAL ANESTHETIC,
A LITTLE COMPROMISE,
WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS COSMETIC
IT'S AMAZING WHAT MONEY BUYS!

YOU WANNA LOOK LIKE ELIZABETH HURLEY
NOT LIKE LAVERNE AND SHIRLEY,
YOU GOTTA START EARLY—
I MEAN YOU!

YOU WANNA LOOK LIKE MIRA SORVINO
NOT LIKE JANET RENO,
YOU GOTTA SEE AN M.D., NO
OTHER WAY WILL DO!

YOU WANNA LOOK LIKE COURTENEY COX,
NOT COURTNEY LOVE!
THIS IS THE KIND OF THING
I THINK OF!

Patients:

LET'S FACE IT!
WE'RE TALKIN' BEAUTY!
EMBRACE IT!
IT'LL GET YOU FRIENDS!
LET'S FACE IT!
ANYONE WHO SAYS IT'S SUPERFICIAL—
PRETENDS.
LET'S FACE IT!
IT'S NOT CHEAP!
LET'S FACE IT!
IT'S NOT SKIN DEEP!
YOU GOTTA LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP
BUT IF YOU LOOK LIKE A HEAP
OF JUNK—
THEN YOU'LL LEAP THROUGH LIFE
LIKE A FRIGHTENED FROG
IN A FUNK!

(the next verses overlapping)

Ben:

YOU WANNA LOOK FANTASTIC?
LEAVE IT TO THE PROS.
THE BODY'S QUITE ELASTIC—
SOMETIMES IT SHOWS.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING DRASTIC,
MAYBE JUST FIX THAT NOSE,
AND THOSE!
THAT'S WHY I LOVE PLASTIC;
THIS IS THE LIFE I CHOSE!

Secretaries:

DOCTOR LUBIN'S ON VACATION;
HIS PARTNER'S FILLING IN.
BENJAMIN STONE, YEAH
HE'S THE YANG
TO DOCTOR LUBIN'S YIN!
IN FACT, WE THINK

HE'S PRACTICALLY
LUBIN'S NEXT OF KIN!

DR. STONE IS READY TO SEE YOU, MA'AM,
AND SIR, YOU ARE THE NEXT IN LINE!
HAVE PATIENCE,
MY FRIEND,
HIS PATIENTS
TEND
TO COME OUT LOOKIN' FINE!

Patients:

LET'S FACE IT!
WE'RE TALKIN' BEAUTY!
EMBRACE IT!
IT'LL GET YOU FRIENDS!
LET'S FACE IT!
ANYONE WHO SAYS IT'S SUPERFICIAL—
PRETENDS.
LET'S FACE IT!
IT'S NOT CHEAP!
LET'S FACE IT!
IT'S NOT SKIN DEEP!
YOU GOTTA LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP
BUT IF YOU LOOK LIKE A HEAP
OF JUNK—
THEN YOU'LL LEAP THROUGH LIFE
LIKE A FRIGHTENED FROG
IN A FUNK!

Together:

DOCTOR LUBIN'S ON VACATION;
HIS PARTNER'S FILLING IN.
BENJAMIN STONE, YEAH
HE'S THE YANG
TO DOCTOR LUBIN'S YIN!
IN FACT, WE THINK
HE'S PRACTICALLY
LUBIN'S NEXT OF KIN!

DR. STONE IS READY TO SEE YOU, MA'AM
AND SIR, YOU ARE THE NEXT IN LINE!
HAVE PATIENCE,
MY FRIEND.
HIS PATIENTS
TEND

TO COME OUT LOOKIN' FINE!

HAVE PATIENCE,
MY FRIEND.
HIS PATIENTS
TEND
TO COME OUT LOOKIN' FINE!

After the last chord, Dr. Lubin enters the office, back from his vacation. He drops his luggage on the floor with a thud, simultaneous with, blackout.

2.13

A fancy restaurant. BEN and SANDRA are at a table, eating.

SANDRA

So I was like, oh my god, you know? Like, you can set me up on a date with a real plastic surgeon?

BEN

Yeah, Cathy's great—

SANDRA

I mean, it pays to have a friend that's a secretary at LIFT-UP. Everybody knows about that place.

BEN

It does good business.

SANDRA

And you are like, so well known, it's like I'm on a date with a celebrity.

BEN

I wouldn't go that far—maybe a B-grade celebrity. Like...umm.. Ms. Garrett from the Facts of Life.

SANDRA

Who?

BEN

You know, (singing) "You take the good, you take the bad, you..." (as SANDRA slowly shakes her head)

BEN

Nevermind. Look, do you wanna order?

SANDRA

Oh, yeah. I love this place. It's the best. Do you wanna split a bottle of wine and a large order of pork chops? They're to die for here. The marinade is like, so good that like, it makes you want to eat all of them.

BEN

Actually, it's pretty funny, I haven't eaten pork in nearly a year now.

SANDRA

Why? Are you on the modified Atkins Diet?

BEN

Well I had this pet pig for a while—

SANDRA

A pig? For a pet? That is like, so gross. Pigs are the most disgusting animals.

BEN

Actually, pigs are pretty clean. They just like the mud because it keeps them cool in the sun.

SANDRA

Well get them some SPF 50 and give them a bath if you ask me. I can't believe you had one for a pet!

BEN

Yeah, well I guess it doesn't matter. That was a long time ago.

SANDRA

So I had the craziest day today. I showed up for my 2:00 tanning appointment, and I got in the bed right? And someone had unplugged it! I laid in the bed for ten minutes before I realized it! Isn't that crazy?

BEN

(forcing a laugh) Sure is.

SANDRA

I mean, has anything like that ever happened to you? Where you just feel so awkward?

BEN

No, not that I can remember. (pause) You know what? I think I'm ready to order.

SANDRA

Great—I'm gonna order a bottle of wine to start off with.

BEN

I'm think I'm just gonna have some iced tea and a Caesar salad... I'm not so hungry.

SANDRA

Suit yourself! Oh my god, I have the funniest story about Caesar salad! So me and three of my best girlfriends went out one day and there was this guy and like four other guys— so there's like three of us and like, umm...five of them, right? And I was like...(she continues to ramble)

Blackout.

2.14

BEN'S bedroom at night. He is preparing to go to sleep.

SONG: THIS IS ME

Ben:

SOME PEOPLE SAY
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE JOURNEY.
MY JOURNEY'S TAKEN ME
SO LONG.

BUT I'M FINALLY HERE
AND IT'S BEEN ALMOST A YEAR,
AND MY CAREER
IS CLEARLY
STRONG.

IT'S EVERYTHING I'VE WANTED
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.
EVERYTHING I DID
WAS TO GET TO THIS.
IF I STAYED IN
BRAYDEN,
I'D NEVER GET TO
THE THINGS I DREAMED I'D DO;
THERE'S NOTHING THAT I MISS.

THOUGH I GOTTA SAY
IT'S A LITTLE LONELY
AT THE TOP.
IF ONLY—
WELL, NO—
THAT WAS MONTHS AGO—
BEN, STOP.
BEN, STOP.

SEE THAT SMILE?
SEE THAT GRIN?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
BUT I'M FINALLY IN!

AT LAST,
I'M WHERE I WANT TO BE.
THIS IS WHO I AM.
IT'S THE SEA I SWAM.
THIS IS ME,
THIS IS ME.
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW—
THIS IS ME!

2.15

Phone rings. BEN answers.

BEN

Hello?... Collect call from Brayden, Alabama? I accept the charges...(long pause while call is connected—BEN is visibly excited and anxious) Lou!! Oh...sorry...hi Simon— How are ya?... Yeah, go ahead...No, I don't know how well that type of invention would go over here in L.A. Well, there's just not a big demand for salad here...Yes, I'll keep an eye open for marketing opportunities... Well, thanks for calling...Wait—How is everyone? So you're getting along with people better? Great...no, Bruce is a great person to hang out with—you guys'll be good friends...Good, good...and how's Doc Hogue?... And Nurse Baines?...And Lou?...Tell her I said—Never mind. Yeah, look, I gotta go.

Hangs up.

2.16

BEN picks up his vegetable crown and holds it for a second as he sings.

SONG: THIS IS ME (REPRISE)

Ben:

THERE'S NOTHING THAT I MISS,
THERE'S NOTHING THAT I MISS.

BEN then sets the crown at the foot of his bed. He turns out the lights and gets into bed.

2.17

BEN falls asleep.

SONG: DREAM #2

(chorale)

LUBIN'S WINE
LUBIN'S WINE
LUBIN'S WINE

Lights up on the real Dr. Lubin. He stands on a blank stage, lit by an overhead spotlight. This time, there is no glitz, glamour or women. Each of the following lines are said in different locations on the stage, and each is lit by a single overhead spotlight. Otherwise, the stage should remain in blackout, and the effect should be a series of dream images that run quickly through BEN'S head. Music vamps underneath and builds to a climax at the end of the dream.

DR. LUBIN

At LIFT-UP, we lift up more than your body—we lift up your spirit. And make you not ugly. L.A. is a dirty place. And people want to feel beautiful. We don't just make them beautiful, we treat them beautiful. Do you understand?

MAYOR

The dream will show you your future, your future, your future...

JOANNA

This is our son Tom, and I'm worried bout his hearin'. Ever since yesterday, he ain't been listenin to a word I said. Can you help us Doc?

NURSE BAINES

Diner's around the corner. All they got's beer. Avoid the popcorn shrimp. Bathroom's down the hall. Try not to flush. And if you have to flush, make sure to jiggle the handle. Be gentle with the handle, but jiggle it with authority. You can sleep in the call room. MmmmHmmm.

BRUCE

I only work with numbers that can be expressed by one letter in Roman numerals. The price is D.

DR. HOGUE

Medicine's not about moons and cash, son, it's about swine.

MAYOR

...and this bush was planted 14 years ago by Jimmy Sue Spear to commemorate the 65th annual Vegetable Festival. It's ironic cause this bush is actually not a vegetable at all, horticulturally speaking.

SALLY

Here ya go Mayor! I didn't drop any of em!

SIMON

She hasn't dated anyone in eight years. Not even held a hand or gone out for dinner...

HANK

Doc Stone, I wanted to pay you for what you did for me today.

DELILAH

Here's to the new Vegetable Queen!

MELVIN

See, I been doinsome tradin and I gotcha da front engine block for your car from Bolivia!
(excited) I been usin da internet!

PATIENT #3 (Act 1)

Combo number three, Veggie Supreme, Combo number three, Veggie Supreme!

TOM

I put the racecar in my mouth and swallowed it!

MAYOR

I'll say goodbye to Lou for ya...

BRUCE

I'll miss you.

LOU

It's not an island Ben, it's a normal city.

DR. HOGUE

Medicine's not about moons and cash, son, it's about swine.

MAYOR

I'll say goodbye to Lou for ya.

LOU

It's not an island Ben, it's a normal city.

DR. HOGUE

Medicine's not about moons and cash, son, it's about swine.

MAYOR

Goodbye to Lou.

LOU

It's not an island Ben.

DR. HOGUE

It's about swine.

These last three lines begin to overlap until we clearly hear, "LOU BEN SWINE" emphasized. The music swells to accentuate this change.

Townspople:

LOU BEN SWINE
LOU BEN SWINE

LOU BEN SWINE

Blackout.

2.18

Lights up on BEN as he wakes up and looks to his right, where the lights fade up just enough to show the entire town looking directly at him—unmoving, the afterimage of a vivid dream. He looks down and sees his vegetable crown, which is still laying at the foot of the bed. Simultaneously, when BEN touches the crown, blackout on the TOWNSPEOPLE. BEN is left alone, holding the crown. He turns upstage, and sees that the TOWNSPEOPLE are gone.

He slowly gets up, puts on his white coat, and gets ready for work.

Blackout.

2.19

MAYOR

(to audience) I think Sigmund Freud said it best—your dreams, your fate—all that stuff—all it is is the things you want in life. You control all that stuff. And sometimes I guess the stuff changes. Well, you all know how that is. Regardless, we couldn't possibly have been aware of Doc Stone's struggles—life always goes on as usual here in Brayden, Alabama.

Blackout.

2.20

The 80th Annual Vegetable Festival.

SONG: FINALE A: THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL (REPRISE)

Townspeople:

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR.
AND ON THIS DATE
WE CELEBRATE
THE CROPS WE GROW HERE!

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT'S QUITE SUPERB!
WE SHOWCASE THE BEST OF ALL
OF BRAYDEN'S HERB!

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT STARTED LONG AGO.
WE PARADE IN

THE HERBS THAT ARE MADE IN
BRAYDEN;
HAVE A GLASS OF LEMONADE AN'
ENJOY THE SHOW!

**Music Vamps under these scenes.
Stage Right.**

HOGUE

Best festival weather we've had in quite a few years, eh, Carla?

NURSE BAINES

78 degrees under partly cloudy skies, Dr. Hogue. Mmm, hmm.

Stage Left.

SIMON

Mayor! Mayor!

MAYOR

What is it son?

SIMON

It's here!

MAYOR

(looking around nervously) Where? What?

SIMON

My invention! It's finally done, I'm gonna go pick it up right this minute! (exiting) This is where things start to happen!

MAYOR

(to no one in particular) Make it happen son. Make it happen!

Townspeople:

HERE COMES THE CORN
WE PICKED THIS MORNING,
FRESH FROM THE FARM OF FARMER BOB!
LOOK AT THOSE EARS!
THREE CHEERS!
THREE CHEERS!
IT'S ON THE COB!
IT'S ON THE COB!

Stage Right.

WOMAN #1

You think Lou'll show up?

WOMAN #2

I don't know...this might be the first festival she's ever missed.

WOMAN #1

Well, she'll be all right—you just keep making your apple cobbler for her—that'll cheer anyone up.

WOMAN #2

I'll run home and drag her up here—she'll have fun once she sees all these fine vegetables.

Stage Left.

TOM

(running towards his parents, wearing ear muffs and a clothespin on his nose) Momma, papa! I won a big ole stuffed cucumber at the ring toss!!

HANK

That's my boy! Winning some green!

JOANNA

(visibly pregnant and rubbing her stomach) Great, honey! You can give it to your new baby brother or sister!

Center Stage.

SALLY

Noo!! You have to sign your name!

BRUCE

How do I know you won't steal my identity?

MELVIN

(to SALLY) Don't mind Bruce, dis here is his first Festival—I'm makin' Bruce into a socialite!

Townspeople:

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR.
AND ON THIS DATE
WE CELEBRATE
THE CROPS WE GROW HERE!

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT'S QUITE SUPERB!

WE SHOWCASE THE BEST OF ALL
OF BRAYDEN'S HERB!

IT'S THE ANNUAL VEGETABLE FESTIVAL
IT STARTED LONG AGO.
WE PARADE IN
THE HERBS THAT ARE MADE IN
BRAYDEN;
HAVE A GLASS OF LEMONADE—

Music is interrupted by JOANNA'S cries, and continues to vamp under the following scene.

JOANNA
(loudly) Ohhhhhhh!!!!

HANK
What is it honey?

JOANNA
Baby's comin' now!

HANK
What? Not now!

HOGUE
(running up) All right now Joanna, just lay back... it's gonna be fine.

HANK
Can I help Doc?

HOGUE
Sure thing Hank, run to Trafford and get me a bunch of clean towels.

HANK exits.

JOANNA
It's comin' Doc!

HOGUE
(looking) Whoa...sure is Joanna... OK, we don't have much time.

JOANNA
Much time?

HOGUE
I can see it—let me get—(he stops and looks alarmed)

JOANNA
(noticing his expression and in pain) What is it Doc?

HOGUE
Stop pushing.

JOANNA
What??

HOGUE
Joanna, listen to me, you gotta stop pushin'—

JOANNA
Why??

HOGUE
The head's too large.

JOANNA
What?????

HOGUE
It's too big! It ain't gonna fit!

SIMON enters excitedly with a large box.

SIMON
Everyone!! It's here!! It's here!! My invention!!

No one notices because they are focused on the birth.

HOGUE
There's no time to get my tools, you gotta hold on while I try to get it loose.

JOANNA
I cain't Doc... I cain't!!!

SIMON
(unwrapping box, oblivious- on the opposite side of the stage) Wait 'til you guys see this thing! It's gonna change this town!

HOGUE
Don't push, Joanna, it's tryin' to come, but I gotta find a way to make it fit—

JOANNA
Cain't!

HOGUE

Try!

JOANNA
I am!

BEN enters, but no one sees him. He attempts to get people's attention until he takes in the situation and figures out what's going on.

SIMON
(triumphantly thrusting his invention in the air—a mechanical device that includes salad tongs that open and close by themselves) Taaa Daaaa! The first Fully-Automated Salad Center. Complete with Battery Operated Salad Tongs!

HOGUE
Damn it! I need forceps!!

JOANNA
I cain't stop! It's comin'!!

BEN
(grabbing SIMON'S invention and throwing it to HOGUE) Doc! Catch! Use these!!

HOGUE
(catching the invention) What?

JOANNA
Ohhhhhh!!!!!!

HOGUE uses the salad tongs as forceps and begins to successfully deliver the child as BEN runs over and assists him.

HOGUE
Hold on...hold on... I think I got it!!

JOANNA
Here comes!

HOGUE
Go head! Push Joanna! Push!!

BEN
I'm right here Joanna, just keep pushing!

JOANNA
I... am!!!

BEN
Here it comes!! I got it!!

Cheers.

HOGUE
(turning to BEN) Where'd you come from?

BEN
Thought you might need some help...

TOWNSPEOPLE begin to talk as word gets around that BEN is back.

HOGUE
(looking at BEN) Well I'll be darned...

BEN
(still holding baby) Congratulations Joanna.

JOANNA
(to no one in particular) What is it Doc?

HOGUE (looking at Ben)
Well, doc?

BEN
(holding the baby up to the town) It's a boy!!

Cheers.

BEN hands the child to JOANNA.

HANK runs in with towels and hands them to BEN and HOGUE. Lots of handshaking. BEN greets various TOWNSPEOPLE throughout the song.

SONG: FINALE B: IN THE END (PART 1)

Ben:

I THOUGHT I KNEW MY FATE,
I THOUGHT I KNEW MY THEME—
BUT HEY, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE
TO DREAM A DIFFERENT KIND OF DREAM!
'TIL NOW I'VE BEEN A DIFFERENT BEN,
WITH A DIFFERENT PLAN,
BUT THAT WAS THEN!
I'M A DIFFERENT MAN!
AND THIS IS NOW!
AND NOW I KNOW
MY CALLING;

I'D BEEN FALLING
FAST!
BUT NOW I STAND
WITH THINGS UNPLANNED,
IN A LAND
I LOVE AT LAST!

Townspeople:

A CAR,
AND A CRASH,
AND A BROKEN FENCE.
FIVE HUNDRED CASH
TO FIX THE DENTS—
AND TWELVE MONTHS LATER,
COMMON SENSE
BROUGHT HIM BACK!

IN THE END,
WHAT'S NEAT
IS WE'RE COMPLETE;
LIFE IS SWEET
WHEN THERE'S NOTHING
THAT YOU LACK!

AND SO IT ENDS—
FENCES MENDING—
OLD FRIENDS—
HAPPY ENDING—

Solo:

WELL—
HAPPIER THAN LAST JULY!

Nurse Baines:

A SMOKING NURSE!

Doctor Hogue:

A VETERAN DOC!

Simon:

A HACK INVENTOR
DOWN THE BLOCK!

Mayor:

A MAYOR WHO NEVER BATS AN EYE!

Patient #1 from Act 1:

A LADY WITH A LIMP,

Hank:

A MAN WITH GOUT

Sally:

POPCORN SHRIMP
WE COULD DO WITHOUT!

All:

A MECHANIC MEMORIZING PI!

LOVE SONGS!
POWER BALLADS!
SALAD TONGS!
CAESAR SALADS!
AND A PIG WHO FINALLY FINDS A STY!

OTIS drags LOU in during the last stanza so they end up down center stage by the last line. The music and lights change as BEN and LOU'S eyes meet, echoing the same moment in Act One.

BEN

You didn't think I'd miss my last official day as Vegetable King, did you?

LOU

You just passing through again?

BEN

I want to stay here, Lou. For good.

LOU

(nervously) Why'd you come back?

BEN

For the past year, I had everything I always thought I'd wanted. And all I could think about every day was you.

LOU

And you think I'm just gonna take you back?

BEN

(gesturing to OTIS) Well we can't very well let Otis grow up in a single parent household, now can we?

LOU laughs, grabs BEN and kisses him.

Ben (to Lou):

I MISSED THIS TOWN!
THE SIMPLE THINGS!
THE SUNNY DAYS
THE WEATHER BRINGS!
THE FARMS,
THE CHARMS,
THE BIRDS
WITH WINGS
THAT SOAR!

AND IT'S COLD LIVING WITHOUT YOU,
(I'VE TRIED).
I'D FOLD WITHOUT YOU
AS MY GUIDE.
I'D GROW OLD WITHOUT YOU
BY MY SIDE,
AND MORE—
I WANNA HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS
AND TELL YOU EVERYTHING
I NEVER DID BEFORE!

Lou and Otis:

IN EVERY ROAD
THERE IS A FORK—

Lou:

THIS WAY: FREEDOM

Otis:

THAT WAY: PORK

Lou and Otis:

BUT BEN,
YOUR ROAD NEVER SPLIT

OR HIT
A WALL.
INSTEAD,
IT HAD NO ENDING,
JUST A BENDING
CUL-DE-SAC,
AND BEN, BEN, BEN, BEN—
WELCOME BACK,
AFTER ALL.

SONG: FINALE C: FIRST, DO NO HARM (REPRISE)

Ben and Lou:

AND ON THIS DAY
I NOW CAN SAY
THAT IN LOVE,
WE TWO ARE ONE!
THIS IS IT!
I ADMIT!
IT FEELS RIGHT
HOW WE FIT
HERE,
LIT
BY THE LIGHT
OF THE SUN!

Music vamps over the following scenes.

MAYOR

(to SALLY) Well, we need to get this thing going! Where are all the names?

SALLY

I gave them to him!! (points at TOM who is smiling broadly and is still wearing earmuffs and a clothespin on his nose.)

MAYOR

Well get 'em back!

SALLY walks over to TOM.

SIMON

(to a group of TOWNSPEOPLE, while holding his invention) Yep!! Automated Salad Dresser, Automated Dicer, Automated Chopper, all in one handy-dandy station. It's changing salad makin'.

TOWNSPERSON

Whaddya call it?

SIMON
I call it—the Veggie Supreme!!

PATIENT # 3
(turning around to see SIMON) What did you say?

SIMON
I said “Veggie Supreme”.

PATIENT #3
(walking towards him) It’s you! Your voice! It’s been haunting me all year! Where have you been all my life?

PATIENT #3 kisses SIMON.

MAYOR
(at the podium) Well welcome everyone!! Quite a day!! Welcome to the 80th Annual Brayden Vegetable Festival, the single largest gathering of home-grown vegetable goodness this side of Birmingham! (crowd cheers) In light of all of today’s events—a new addition to the Brayden family, little Benjamin over there, Reverend Murphy not being dead despite all the rumors (REVEREND MURPHY enters and waves, as TOWNSPEOPLE react), and of course the return of Doc Stone to our little town—let’s just get right to it and announce the Vegetable King and Queen for this year. Sally?

SALLY
(whispering) Tom couldn’t find but two names. He said the rest are stuck.

MAYOR
(whispering) Well give em to me, quick! (she does) Ahem. Without further ado, the Vegetable King and Queen for this year’s Vegetable Festival...Nurse Carla Baines, and Mr....Bruce!

Confused cheering as BRUCE and NURSE BAINES take the stage. They gaze longingly at each other.

NURSE BAINES (to herself)
24 years, 4 presidents, and three hip replacements later. It’s like I’m young again.

BRUCE
I want to know what love is. I want you to show me.

BRUCE kisses NURSE BAINES.

Bruce (singing in a monotone) and Nurse Baines:

THIS IS IT!
I ADMIT

IT FEELS RIGHT,
HOW WE FIT,
HERE, LIT
BY THE LIGHT
OF THE SUN!

SONG: FINALE D: IN THE END (PART TWO)

Townspople:

THE CROPS HAVE GROWN!
BROCCOLI!
CORN!
AND ALL IS SEWN
WHICH ONCE WAS TORN!
AND ON THE THRONE—
ROYALTY—
SWORN
IN!
AND WHAT A JOY
AS A BABY BOY
IS BORN
AMONG THE DIN!

HERE IN BRAYDEN
A MAN MET HIS MAIDEN
AND NOW WE'RE BADIN' YOU
FAREWELL!

WE SAY,
GOOD-DAY!
GOOD-LUCK!
AND GOOD-BYE!
FROM EVERY FARMER
IN EVERY DELL!

AND WHAT WILL BECOME OF US?
ONLY TIME WILL TELL!

Piano Cue.

LOU

(looking around her) I always thought the Vegetable Festival dream was a legend—

BEN

Nope—I definitely had mine—just took me a while to figure it out. What'd you see in your dream?

LOU
(looking around and at BEN, amazed and smiling) This.

LOU kisses BEN.

All:

WE LEAVE YOU WITH THIS:
THERE ARE THINGS YOU CANNOT PLAN—
THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T DISMISS
THOUGH YOU THINK YOU CAN.
EVERY MADNESS
HAS ITS METHOD,
AND THUS—

IN THE END,
MUCH OF LIFE
IS LEFT TO CHANCE;
YOU CAN PLAN THE PICNIC
BUT NOT THE ANTS,
SO GRAB YOUR PARTNER
AND HAVE A DANCE
ON US!

Curtain.