

The Family Drive-in
A Musical Comedy

Book, Music and Lyrics
By Jerry Hunt

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Character Breakdown- The Family Drive-in

Jerry: boy- ages 7-11.

A naive but hopeful child with an impish edge.

Sandra: girl- 9-13

Less naive than her little brother with a cynical, brash attitude.

Nancy: female- Alto - mid 20s-early 30s.

She's Blanche DuBois meets Mama Rose. A wannabe Southern Belle with an acid tongue.

Pat: male-early 30s-baritone.

Smart but a milquetoast - self-pitying, avoids conflicts. A heavy drinker, caught up in a sentimental fog, living in the past and full of regrets.

Carl: male-early 30s- baritone

Somewhere between an ignorant redneck and a good ol' boy, Carl is a schmoozer.

The following four roles (and perhaps should) be played by the same actor:

Ted Flodgers- Male 35+, Baritone

A cloyingly sweet neighbor.

Stanley Kubrick: male-any age over 30-Bass/low baritone.

The famous film director.

Slob Angel: Baritone-Adult /Male but could be played by a woman.

A fallen guardian angel who drinks, smokes and wears dirty wings.

Mr. Ciggie: Any adult male- high baritone.

A talking, singing cigarette.

Mom Suiter: 45+, Alto

A hard-scrabble life has made her guileless and sometimes cringey.

Game Show Host: Male Baritone, 25+

A smarmy game show host.

Eva Killebrew (Big Mama): Alto/Soprano, +40

A bitter country woman full of regrets.

Mr. Sloan- Male, 60+ (non-singing)

A sweet little old man.

Mean Dean- Male, 30+, (non-singing)

Macho rancher type full of bravado.

Fantasy Dance characters:

Costumed characters - Hump-a-Lump, Dingle-Dongle

ACT I

SCENE 1

CLARKSVILE, TENNESSEE- DRIVE-IN MOVIE/SUBURBAN HOUSE- 1968.

It's 1968 in a small suburban ranch house that opens to a living room and kitchen in period style. An illuminated drive-in movie screen looms over the house in the background.

A beam of light hits the screen as scratchy, slightly garbled AUDIO echoes from the drive-in as a countdown SMPTE "boop" animation appears, shifting in and out of focus. This is followed by a cartoon animated clock.

NARRATOR

Six minutes 'til showtime!

On the screen: a luridly colorful image of concession stand food.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Is Mother grumpy tonight? Is she in one of her moods again? Maybe she needs a night off from cooking at the Drive-In, where the whole family can enjoy an array of delicious foods. Why there's corn sticks! Wienie rolls! Tricky Chicken! Popcorn Pip-Pops! And Candy Dandies for dessert. Now wash it all down with a delicious coke. Now Mother's happy!

On the screen: a retro cartoon graphic of a car and drive-in speaker.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

For your safety, please carefully place your speaker back on the stand when you exit. The management of this theater is not responsible for damage. Loose speaker cords can strangle and maim.

ON THE SCREEN: "TRY MISTER CIGGIE CIGARETTES!" Graphic of cigarette with top hat and white gloves and shoes with smoke pouring out of his top hat.

MR. CIGGIE VOICE-OVER

Stressed and bothered by the daily grind and those annoying kids? Time to relax and have some time for yourself with a delicious Mr. Ciggie cigarette! Ahhh! So satisfying! Nine out of ten doctors agree that Mr. Ciggies are the healthiest smokes for you and your annoying family!

ON THE SCREEN: cartoon graphics of a suburban family praying at dinner, looking bored in their living room and happily driving to the drive-in theatre.

NARRATOR

Are you tired of the tedious monotony of the average modern American household? Bored with the withering routines and endless pressures? Make the drive-in part of your weekly escape from quiet desperation.

ON THE SCREEN: a crude cartoon graphic reads "Please Visit Our Sponsors." The amateurish animation scrolls through as the NARRATOR speaks with cheery lounge MUSIC under it.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The next time you're in downtown Clarksville, please visit one of our sponsors.

ON THE SCREEN:

"Magic Fingers Salon"

"Beans and Greens"

"Mount of God and Ministries and Buffet- Now open late."

"Miss Kitty's Lingerie and Bait Shop"

"Porks!" (with a dancing cartoon pig)

"Flat-Top Barbershop"

"Les Men Flamingo Fondue"

CARTOON GRAPHIC of a man shooting a rifle and a dead bird with "X's" over his eyes.

REDNECK VOICE-OVER

(country hick accent)

This year's Clarksville Pigeon shoot will be held on April 24, So come on downtown, bring your firearms and join us as we clean up the rooftops of beautiful Main Street.

ON THE SCREEN: cartoon of an empty car at the drive-in. Steam builds up on the windows.

NARRATOR

Please remember that this is the "Family Drive-in"- not the "Let's Make a Family Drive-in." As many young children walk to the concession stand without parental escort, please keep in mind that they can easily see into car windows and can possibly be scarred for life.

ON THE SCREEN: a preview. The title reads: "COMING SOON! The Erotic Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". We see two sets of bare feet rubbing together sensuously atop a hay bale. Giggling, slight moaning and retro porno MUSIC play under.

HUCKLEBERRY FINN (OFF)

I reckon I done had every woman from here to Hannibal Mo and I'm now I'm gonna tell you all about it in my first erotic adventure.

SEXY WOMAN VOICE

Oh Huck! Oh Huck! Ooh, Finn.

NARRATOR

Coming Soon to this theatre.

On the screen: A title card reads "Old Feller" in retro, Disney style.

A young COUNTRY BOY is walking up to his COUNTRY MOTHER with a decrepit old man, OLD FELLER, by his side.

COUNTRY BOY

Ma, I found him face down in the creek. Can I keep him?

COUNTRY MOTHER

Now Jebediah, are you sure you will take good care of him?

COUNTRY BOY

Sure I will, Ma!

Happy images of the BOY and OLD FELLER playing together (attempting to anyway.)

ON THE SCREEN: a country field, day. COUNTRY DAD is carrying a shotgun next to OLD FELLER.

COUNTRY BOY:

Pa! Pa! Where are you takin' Old Feller?

COUNTRY DAD

I'm sorry, son. Old Feller has rabies. Gotta take him back to the river and-

COUNTRY BOY

No, Pa, no!

OLD FELLER

Would you all just shut the hell (fuck) up and get on with it?

On the screen: a graphic: "Our Featured Presentation".

NARRATOR

And now, our featured presentation!

ON STAGE: JERRY, about 8, ENTERS and addresses the audience.

JERRY

My family lives under a giant drive-in movie, always there looking over us. On warm summer nights, we can open the windows and listen to the sounds coming from the screen. It all sounds so different from what you hear from our house.

ON THE SCREEN: The opening of "The Sound of Music", Julie Andrews swirling on an Austrian mountain.

JULIE ANDREWS

The hills are alive with the sound of music!

NANCY (OFFSTAGE)

You goddamn son-of-a-bitch!

ON THE SCREEN: a scene from "Oliver!"- Oliver holds his empty bowl up to scary Mr. Bumble.

OLIVER

Please, sir, I want some more.

MR. BUMBLE

What!?

OLIVER

Please, sir, I want some more.

In the KITCHEN, NANCY is CRASHING dishes and frantic.

NANCY (OFFSTAGE)

Y'all get your lazy butts in here! I made a big ol' platter of corn dogs and tater tots.

ON THE SCREEN: The scene from "Planet of the Apes" when Charlton Heston is trapped in a net, facing his gorilla captors.

CHARLTON HESTON

Get your hands off me, you damn dirty ape!

In the KITCHEN, a second shadow figure has joined NANCY.

NANCY (OFFSTAGE)

Get your hands off me, you damn dirty ape!

The DOORBELL RINGS.

DELIVERY MAN (O.S.)

Delivery for the Hunt family.

JERRY opens the door. He signs a form from the DELIVERY MAN. The DELIVERY MAN brings in a giant black monolith from "2001" and places it in the center of the living room.

DELIVERY MAN (CONT'D)

Enjoy!

JERRY

Thanks!

THEME FROM "2001" PLAYS

NANCY, 30, blond, pretty and stylishly dressed, ENTERS, trying to escape the clutches of PAT, 33, her husband. Pat has a blond flattop haircut and a slight beer belly.

JERRY and SANDRA, age 12, walk and move to the music groove as the four characters hunch like Neanderthals as they circle the black monolith.

NANCY
I HATE YOU.

PAT
I LOVE YOU.

NANCY
I'M SO ABOVE YOU.

PAT
I WON'T DEBATE YOU.

NANCY
I AGGRAVATE YOU.

PAT
(handing her a beer.)
I'LL JUST SEDATE YOU.

NANCY
I'LL ANNIHILATE YOU.

JERRY waves his arms like a conductor. The monolith flies awkwardly flies away.

Stop!!

NANCY and PAT freeze in place. NANCY holds a plate in her hand, about to strike PAT over the head. PAT holds his arms up in defensive posture.

JERRY tries to remove the plate from her hand but it won't budge. SANDRA tries- No luck. They shrug and SANDRA grabs a plate and puts it in PAT'S hand.

JERRY
SO NOW LET'S WATCH MY FAMILY GOING AT IT.
IT SEEMS ONCE AGAIN LIKE THEY'VE REALLY HAD IT.
BUT NO, IT'S JUST ANOTHER TUESDAY NIGHT.
TOMORROW WILL COME AND WE'LL BEGIN AGAIN
AS WE WATCH ANOTHER MOVIE-

JERRY AND SANDRA
AT THE FAMILY DRIVE-IN.
IT CHEERS UP THE NIGHT WITH ITS
MAGICAL GLOWING LIGHT.

SANDRA
I'M SANDRA.

JERRY
AND I'M HER LITTLE BROTHER.

SANDRA
WE GET ALONG 'CAUSE WE HAVE A CRAZY MOTHER.

JERRY
OTHERWISE, WE'D ALWAYS FIGHT.

SANDRA
AND OUR DADDY'S SO SAD.

JERRY
HE CAN'T TAKE IT MUCH LONGER.

SANDRA
LIVING WITH THAT SCREAMING WARMONGER.

JERRY AND SANDRA
WE JUST WISH IT WOULD ALL JUST END TONIGHT.

The MUSIC BUILDS and JERRY waves his hands and NANCY and PAT unfreeze, smashing the plate and glass on each other's heads. LOUD CRASHING SOUND.

PAT/NANCY/SANDRA/JERRY
THE FAMILY DRIVE-IN.
THE MOVIES ALWAYS PLAYING.
THE SCREEN THAT'S ALWAYS SAYING
"ESCAPE INTO THE PAST".
THE FAMILY DRIVE-IN.
IT BECKONS AND IT BEAMS.
JUST SLIP INTO A DREAM
AND WE'LL ALL BE HAPPY AT LAST.

The "2001" monolith rises and flies off, hitting the set a few times.

ON THE SCREEN: the logo of "The Parent Trap".

JERRY
I PRAY EVERY NIGHT
THAT THEY'LL STAY TOGETHER.
MAYBE THEY DON'T LOVE ME.

SANDRA
WELL, NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.

JERRY

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
THE MOVIES TELL ME WHAT IS REAL.
BUT I KNOW THAT THEY REALLY LOVE
EACH OTHER.
WHY WOULDN'T THEY?
THAT'S MY DADDY AND MY MOTHER.

SANDRA

WAKE UP, JERRY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU REALLY FEEL.

*NOTE: PERCUSSION SOUNDS FOR EACH
LINE.*

NANCY AND PAT

CURSE!
SCREECH!
YELL AND WAIL!
LOSER.
BITCH!
STUPID.
ASININE.

WITCH!
HISS!
SWING AND MISS.
MEANIE.
WHINE!
CRAZY.

*JERRY climbs up on a chair, takes
his water gun and lifts it to his
head like a gun. A DRUM ROLL. He
shoots himself.*

JERRY

BANG!!

JERRY falls onto the couch.

PAT

Oh my lord, is he okay?

NANCY

Eh, he did the same thing yesterday.

NANCY/PAT/JERRY/SANDRA

THE FAMILY DRIVE-IN.
THE MOVIES ALWAYS PLAYING.
THE SCREEN THAT'S ALWAYS SAYING
"ESCAPE INTO THE PAST".
THE FAMILY DRIVE-IN.
STORIES TOLD WITH LIGHT
THAT BRIGHTEN UP THE NIGHT.
SO THAT WE'LL ALL BE
HAPPY AT LAST.

*The MOVIE SCREEN reflects images
for each line that follows.*

NANCY

I WANT THE GLAMOUR OF THE PAST.
BUT NOW IT'S ALL OVERDONE.

PAT

MOVIES ARE CHANGING.
BUT THEY'RE STILL A LOT OF FUN.

SANDRA

ELVIS IS PLAYING A MEXICAN
OR FALLING IN LOVE WITH A NUN.

NANCY

EVEN CLINT EASTWOOD IS SINGING.
WHILE REACHING FOR HIS GUN.

JERRY

MONSTERS EXPLODING!

NANCY

MORALS ERODING!

JERRY

ROCKET SHIPS SOAR!

PAT

LET'S ALL GO TO WAR!

NANCY

LOVE STORIES TURNING INTO NASTY SEX!

PAT

HOW FAR WILL THEY GO?

SANDRA

YEAH, WHAT COMES NEXT?

PAT/NANCY/SANDRA/JERRY

SO HERE WE ARE.
IT SEEMS WE'VE REALLY HAD IT.
THE TIMES MAY BE CHANGING BUT
WE'RE STILL GOING AT IT.

WE'LL WATCH ALL THE MAGIC
IN OUR LITTLE HIDEAWAY.
IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
BUT THAT WON'T SPOIL OUR DAY.
WHO CARES ABOUT THE WEATHER
WHEN YOU'RE LIVING IN A THUNDERSTORM?

OH, FAMILY DRIVE-IN
WE KNEEL BEFORE YOUR POWER!
IT'S ALMOST MAGIC HOUR.
SO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS!
GO PULL BACK THE DRAPES!
WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT!
WE'RE REALLY NOT APES!
LET'S GO WATCH A MOVIE TONIGHT!

On the screen: Scarlett in front of Tara in "Gone With the Wind" as "TARA'S THEME" PLAYS. NANCY stops suddenly and is in a trance, staring back at the screen.

JERRY

Living next door to a drive-in movie is so much fun. The movies are always there in the front yard, just like the old elm tree and the killer Doberman that lives across the street.

SANDRA

And this movie is Mama's favorite. It comes back every year and we always go see it again.

NANCY

Oh Pat, when you buy me the new house in Atlanta, I want it to be the biggest and grandest one in town. I want everyone who was ever mean to me to be pea green with envy!

PAT

You'll have your mansion someday, my dear, that and a whole lot more. But we will have to cut down on expenses! You'll need to save your green stamps and clip coupons! And then we will just have to wait for my parents to die.

NANCY

Oh, Pat! You're so good to me!

They KISS.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Oh, stop it! You taste like Schlitz.

NANCY pulls back from him, disgusted.

PAT

Schlitz is a good beer with a rich, malty taste and it's just as good as the fancy ones and not so high.

NANCY

Pat, I've decided...I don't want to have any more children. I mean- I know you could divorce me for this.

PAT

Yeah, I'm with you. They're too damn expensive.

NANCY

That's not what I meant. What I'm trying to say is...

PAT looks through the paper. The screen switches from "Gone with the Wind" to the "James Bond" logo.

PAT

Hey, look at this! There's a James Bond double feature tonight at the drive-in! "Goldfinger" and "You Only Live Twice"! We should open up the windows and listen! Or even better, we can sit out on the front yard in the folding chairs.

NANCY

Open the windows? Why can't we just go to the movies? They're right down the street!

PAT

Why spend the money when we can stay right here and have dinner and make our own popcorn?

NANCY

Why are you so damn cheap, Pat?

PAT

Okay, alright. We'll go!

NANCY

No, forget it.

PAT

You just said-

NANCY

I hate James Bond. He's always so cocky. Always getting every woman to just drop their panties for him. Sean Connery thinks he's some God of Sex with all that hair on that tan, muscular chest. Just forget it. Disgusting.

PAT

Well, I'm not going all the way downtown to the Roxy. That means buying four tickets. With the drive-in, you only pay by the car!

NANCY

Never mind! I've got sewing to do and about six loads of dirty drawers. Just go drink your beer and mope, like you do every night.

PAT

Nancy, why are you so angry all the time? You're my darling wife.

NANCY

Darling? Really? Pat, you don't talk like real people. You belong on that screen.

PAT flops down on the couch. He takes out an album LP and puts it on the stereo.

Just Kill Me Now

PAT

JUST KILL ME NOW.
I DON'T WANT TO GO ON.
IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE.
PLEASE FIND ME A HEARSE.
'CAUSE OUR LOVE IS GONE.

JUST PUT ME DOWN
LIKE AN OLD DOG AT THE END.
I'M BONY AND BLIND
AND YOU'RE SO UNKIND.
YOU'RE NO LONGER MY FRIEND.

I DON'T WANT TO LIVE
IF LIVING'S WITHOUT YOU.
BUT LIFE TOGETHER IS HELL.
I CAN'T WIN BUT OH WELL
I'LL JUST CRY AND BE BLUE.

JUST KILL ME NOW.
I DON'T NEED THIS ANYMORE.
THESE DAYS ARE MY LAST.
THE BEST DAYS HAVE PASSED.
WHAT WAS ALL THIS FOR?

I JUST WANT TO DIE.
SAY GOODBYE TO ALL THIS.
I'D JUMP OFF A CLIFF.
BUT I'D PROBABLY MISS.

NANCY

GODDAMN, YOU'RE A BORE!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!

PAT

SO BRING ME MY BEER
SO I CAN DRINK TO THOSE DAYS

WHEN LIFE WAS SO FINE.
WHEN YOU STILL WERE MINE
NOW ALL LOST IN THE HAZE.

(spoken)

Those old songs just make me so happy.

NANCY slams the door as PAT collapses on the couch. JERRY walks in, looks at his dad, seemingly passed out. He puts on lipstick, climbs on the couch and kisses the wall above the couch, leaving a big "smooch mark".

JERRY

Mmmwahhh!

SCENE 2

JERRY'S BEDROOM -EVENING

JERRY is putting himself to bed-carefully arranging his stuffed animals on the top bunk and turning on all the lights. He gets under the covers and is terrified by the scratching at the window. He pulls the blanket up tight under his chin.

JERRY

Down in the valley where the green grass grows,
I know an old lady who wears no clothes.
Fatty, Fatty, two-by-four. Couldn't get through
the bathroom door. King Kong plays ping-pong
with his...King Kong plays ping-pong with
his...King Kong-

NANCY storms in.

NANCY

What did you just say?

JERRY

Nothin'! I didn't say anything. Sometimes I
have like crazy thoughts in my brain when I'm
trying to fall asleep.

NANCY sticks out her hand, holding bright candy pills.

NANCY

What are these?

JERRY

What?

NANCY

What are these? I found them in your winter coat when you got home from school. They look like some kind of pills. Are you on drugs? They're red and purple and yellow and orange. What are they?

JERRY

Candy.

NANCY

Candy...O-Kay.

NANCY turns without reacting, embarrassed, and pretends like nothing happened.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Well, they'll ruin your coat if you leave them in your pockets. I was just about to wash that coat so-

JERRY

Mama, read me a book.

NANCY

What?

JERRY

Read me a bedtime story. Or tell me one. You never do that.

NANCY

Oh, Jerry, I've got to bleach my hair and do my nails and wash clothes-

JERRY

Please sit down with me and we can read this one- "A Day at the Zoo" by Doctor Moose. It's real short.

NANCY

Alright. I'll read this one, but just one. I like Doctor Moose. His books are cute.

JERRY

You gotta sit here.

NANCY

I'm fine right here. Your bed sheets look as nasty as a mud fence and I've got white slacks on. What have you been doing in this bed?

JERRY

Okay, I'm ready.

NANCY

Ahem..."A Day at the Zoo" by Doctor Moose.
Oh, the things that we'll see.
The things we can do!
All the beasts and the wild things we
can visit at the zoo.

She hesitates, uncomfortable.

JERRY

Go on.

NANCY

Have you ever seen a Hump-a-Rump?

The HUMP-A-RUMP ENTERS, a Seuss-like happy monster with an awkward humping gait.

NANCY (CONT'D)

He never stops to eat. He just humps and humps
and shlumps and strumps a big loud trumpet
bleat.

*Hump-a-Rump makes a TRUMPET BLEAT.
She pauses but JERRY nods to keep
on.*

NANCY (CONT'D)

Wait til you meet the Dingle-Dongle-

The DINGLE-DONGLE ENTERS.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Shaking his big trunk. He comes from France. He
loves to dance when he gets a little drunk.
Okay, that's enough for now.

JERRY

You haven't even gotten to the best part where
they go see the monkeys and apes! Please,
please, please go on!

NANCY

Here's a creature called "The Schmoo".
Oh, the things he'll put you through-

NANCY slams the book shut.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Okay, enough. This book is nasty, Jerry! I
can't believe you even have it in your room.
(MORE)

NANCY (CONT'D)

Where did you get it? Your Daddy gave it to you, I bet.

JERRY

You did, last Christmas! You got me the whole Doctor Moose set.

VAMPING MUSIC STARTS.

NANCY

Well, whatever sicko wrote it, he's not normal. And I don't like zoos! I went to the Memphis Zoo with your daddy once and that big gorilla was looking me all up and down, sideways and back ways. He had just one thing on his mind! Like he could see me without my shimmy. Now get to bed and turn out that light. You need to start sleeping like a normal person.

A Day at the Zoo

LIGHTS DIM - NANCY is isolated in a sensual spotlight. As she sings, three Seuss-like monsters ENTER: The DINGLE-DONGLE, the HUMP-A-LUMP, and the SHAZOOO.

This scene should play out like the insane "We're Going to War" number in "Duck Soup".

NANCY (CONT'D)

OH, THOSE THINGS.
THOSE NASTY THINGS.
THOSE FILTHY STARES!
OH, THOSE LEERS.
THOSE FURRY EARS.
AND ALL THAT DARK, UNNECESSARY HAIR!
ALL THOSE THINGS THAT
THEY WANT YOU TO DO.
THAT WAS MY DAY
AT THE MEMPHIS ZOO.

OH, YOU BEAST!
YOU AWFUL BEAST!
THOSE KNOWING EYES.
THEY NEVER LIE.
OH, YOU BRUTE!
YOU'RE RATHER CUTE.

(TO THE AUDIENCE)

HOW DARE YOU MORALIZE!
ALL THESE THINGS THAT MEN PUT YOU THROUGH.
THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT THE WILD BEASTS DO.

NANCY
DOWN IN THE VALLEY
WHERE THE GREEN GRASS GROWS-

BEAST ENSEMBLE
I KNOW AN OLD LADY WHO WEARS NO CLOTHES.

NANCY
YET SHE SPENDS ALL HER MONEY
ON HER DELICATES AND SCANTIES.
WHILE FENDING OFF ADVANCES
FROM HER UNCLES AND HER AUNTIES.

KING KONG-

BEAST ENSEMBLE
BOP BA DA DO DAH!

NANCY
PLAYS PING PONG-

BEAST EMSEMBLE
BOP BA DA DO DAH!

NANCY
KING KONG
PLAYS PING PONG
WITH HIS DING, DING,
DING A LING-

BEAST ENSEMBLE
SING SONG SCHLING-ALING-

NANCY
RING DING BOOGA BONG!

BEAST ENSEMBLE
SCHLONG GONG - THAT'S SO WRONG.

NANCY
BONG BONG
BHATTA BING-

BEAST ENSEMBLE
RIGHT AND WRONG
LOTTA DING-

NANCY
BLING BLONG
SING ALONG!

BEAST ENSEMBLE
SING SONG
WHATTA LONG

NANCY

DING DING
DING-A-LING

NANCY/BEAST ENSEMBLE

DING
DING
DING
DING
DINGA DINGA DINGA DINGA
DINGA DINGA DINGA DINGA
DINGA DINGA DINGA DINGA BING!
WOOOOOOOOOO!!

*ENSEMBLE goes into a WILD FRENZIED
SWING DANCE. A CLOCK CHIME BONGS,
ending their fun, like
"Cinderella."*

NANCY

(wearily, vulnerable)

AS THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE IT GOES
DING, DONG, DING, DONG, DING!

NANCY (CONT'D)

OH, YOU CADS!
YOU NAUGHTY LADS!
OH, YOU BRAWLERS!
PLEASE, OH, PLEASE, WON'T YOU BE
MY GENTLEMAN CALLERS?
OH, WHO WANTS TO DO
THE THINGS THEY DO AT THE ZOO?
WELL
LET ME TELL YOU
WELL
I THINK
YES I REALLY THINK
I THINK
I DO.
WELL, I DO!

*NANCY, now alone, stops herself,
realizing she's gone too far in
her reverie.*

JERRY ENTERS.

JERRY

Mama, I'm scared! I heard weird animal noises!

NANCY

You get to bed! You didn't hear anything.

JERRY

It sounded like when that cat was outside all night howling-

NANCY

I said get to bed!

A distant jungle animal ROAR.

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 3

JERRY'S BEDROOM-EVENING

JERRY is in bed, watching an old RKO Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers movie on his little TV. SANDRA walks in, holding egg cartons and a lipstick.

SANDRA

What are you watching?

JERRY

I don't know. Some old movie with a lot of dancing and singing. I got gypped! TV Guide said they were gonna show "Three Stooges Go to Mars".

NANCY walks in, scaring Sandra. She hides the egg cartons.

NANCY

What are you watching? Oh, Fred and Ginger! She's beautiful in that gown. He's a big sissy but he's very elegant. Jerry, you need to get to bed. We've got to go clothes shopping for school tomorrow.

JERRY

Oh no! Please, do I have to go?

NANCY

Yes, you do. You need some new slacks. You've moved from Slims to Huskies. And Sandra, wash your hair. You look like Dorothy Byard!

SANDRA

Who is Dorothy Byard?

NANCY

She was the dirtiest girl in my high school. Just nasty!

NANCY EXITS. SANDRA makes sure it's safe and holds out the egg cartons.

SANDRA

Did you do this?

JERRY

What?

SANDRA

These egg cartons. They were glued to the ceiling in the hallway but I got them down before Mama saw them. She would kill you if she saw that.

JERRY

I thought it would look neat. I like their purple color.

SANDRA

You've been doing really weird things lately. Every day there's some kind of strange art project. Are you trying to get Mama mad? And what about this lipstick. You took Mama's lipstick, didn't you?

JERRY

I used it for my art. She wouldn't care.

SANDRA

Are you crazy? So, you put this on and kissed the walls in the living room? What is that supposed to mean? There's little kissy lips up and down in there over the piano.

JERRY

Yeah, that was hard to do. I had to use the kitchen ladder and I'm afraid of heights.

SANDRA

What are you up to? I can't keep covering for you. Mama is going to catch you eventually.

JERRY

I was just kissing the walls.

SANDRA

Why?

JERRY

I guess I love our house and I don't want to lose it.

SANDRA

What about the egg cartons?

JERRY

I thought I could fill them with eggs and then I could pull a string and the eggs would fall on Mama and Daddy's heads when they walked under them.

SANDRA

Maybe Mama's right. Maybe you do need to be put in the Mental Health Center.

SANDRA EXITS. JERRY gets down and kneels beside his bed.

JERRY

Dear Guardian Angel, Mama told me I have a guardian angel beside me and that you are always here, watching over me. That's really kinda creepy if you think about it but it wouldn't be so creepy if you'd show me what you look like. Just real quick, you can show up and then you can go invisible again. It's been really scary lately and I can't sleep without the light on. There's so much going on in our house right now. I need you to come and talk to me...to help me.

A theatrical effect- smoke or lights- and tacky GAME SHOW HOST BUDDY DOUBT appears in the room, in loud polyester and holding a long skinny microphone as cheesy game show music plays.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Aughgh! Who are you?

BUDDY DOUBT

I'm Dirk Flash, your guardian angel. Welcome to our show where you can win lots of exciting prizes and change your fate if you make the right choices.

JERRY

You're my guardian angel?

BUDDY DOUBT

Who did you expect? Bob Eubanks?

JERRY

You don't look like any angel I've ever seen.

BUDDY DOUBT

But I'm your guy. So are you ready to play the big game?

JERRY

What big game?

BUDDY DOUBT

Your challenge today is called "Tick Tock Tick". It's a fun little test of fate with no certain outcome. Ready to play?

JERRY

I don't wanta play a game. You're supposed to keep my parents together.

BUDDY DOUBT

Why would you want that? Haven't you been hurt enough?

JERRY

I hurt now. You didn't protect me from anything.

BUDDY DOUBT

Eh, you don't get it. They never do.

MUSIC starts.

TICK TOCK TICK

The GAME SHOW HOST brings out a metronome from the piano and starts it TICKING.

BUDDY DOUBT

Mr. Conductor, strike up the band! Reset the clock! It's time to play "Tick-Tock-Tick!"

TICK TOCK TICK

TICK-TOCK-TICK
GOES THE METRONOME.
WITH EACH SOUR CLICK
GOES YOUR FAMILY HOME.
SO, KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND
TELL 'EM WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR.

THOSE BLISSFUL DAYS
THEY TURN SO FAST.
YOU NEED TO KNOW THEIR
TIME HAS PASSED.
YOUR DAY OF RECKONING
IS DRAWING NEAR.

IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
THE INNOCENTS GET THROWN
INTO THE FIRE.
WHILE THEIR PARENTS TOSS THEIR SINS-

(aside)
And no one wins..

UPON THE EVER GROWING PYRE.

TICK-TOCK-TICK
ALL THAT HURT AND PAIN
CAN'T YOU SEE THE
TRACK HAS LEFT THAT TRAIN.
SO GO AHEAD AND CRY
IF YOU HAVE TO-
SAY A SWEET GOODBYE
IF YOU HAVE TO-
OR AS YOUR WISE OLD MAMA
WOULD PROBABLY SAY
"TRY NOT TO GO-O-O-O-OHH INSANE."

JERRY
Mama, come in here quick! There's a weird guy
in my room!

*BUDDY jumps up, menacingly
blocking the door.*

BUDDY DOUBT
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
I'M NOT WEIRD.
I JUST DON'T CODDLE
WITH A LOT OF TWADDLE.
YOU SAY A PRAYER
AND I HEAR.
I'M REALITY'S SPOKESMODEL.

TICK TOCK TICK-
THE TIME CLICKS BY.
FACE YOUR REALITY.
WAIL AND CRY.
SOON THEY'LL SPLIT
AND LOVE WILL DIE.
BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER!
GO AHEAD AND STEAL YOUR DADDY'S BEER.
YOU CAN PLAY THEM OFF EACH OTHER.
PIT YOUR DAD AGAINST YOUR MOTHER.
YOU'LL GET TWO BIRTHDAYS EVERY YEAR.
TRY A GUILT TRIP!
SHED A TEAR!

THEN AT CHRISTMAS TIME, THEY'LL SHOVE
A LITTLE GUILT UNDER THE TREE
WITH BRIGHT, SHINY RIBBONS FOR ALL TO SEE.
BUT AS WINTER COMES, YOU'LL HAVE NO CHOICE.
SHIPPED OFF AGAIN, YOU'LL HAVE NO VOICE.
WITH DADDY GONE, YOU'RE STUCK WITH MOTHER.
UNTIL SHE SHIPS YOU RIGHT BACK TO THE OTHER.

I'M SORRY IF MY WORDS ARE PAINFUL.
SOMETIMES I FORGET YOU'RE JUST A CHILD.
I CAN SOUND OH SO DISDAINFUL.
WHEN'S THE LAST TIME THAT YOU SMILED?
THE TRUTH IS RARE SO DON'T SQUANDER IT
TAKE TIME NOW TO JUST PONDER IT.
AND CONSIDER THAT
PERHAPS THEIR LOVE FOR YOU IS
JUST A SHAM.
OR AS YOUR MOTHER WOULD SAY-
"FRANKLY, MY DEAR,
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN."

My goodness, what a terrific audience you've
been. We'll see you next time on "You're
Screwed!" And remember! Don't forget to ask
your mother to have you spayed or neutered!
Goodbye, everybody!

*BUDDY DOUBT disappears in a cloud
of smoke.*

JERRY

Auggghh!

*JERRY runs off to the hallway. We
HEAR O.S. FURIOUS KNOCKING.*

JERRY (CONT'D)

Can I sleep with you? Please? Please? Please?
I'm really scared. I mean it! There was a weird
man in my room.

NANCY/PAT

Noooooooo!!

LIVING ROOM: DAY

*NANCY enters with a shopping bag
that she places on the kitchen
table. PAT is sacked out n the
couch. He's had a few.*

NANCY

I'm home.

PAT

You've been shopping again.

*PAT ruffles through the shopping
bag.*

PAT (CONT'D)

Nancy, my parents didn't go work in Detroit during the war so you could buy a bagful of- whatever these are...

NANCY

Stay out of there! Are you borrowing money from them again? You always get this way when you're borrowing money. I guess you have to on a schoolteacher's salary.

PAT

My parents give us that money out of love. You should appreciate it.

NANCY

You want to be in debt to them? I don't. When you owe them, they start commenting on everything we buy. We've been down that road before. I'm not going back.

PAT

They're not loans. They're gifts. And I'm going to pay it all back someday. That's why I get my butt up every day at five am to go teach those pimply face little shits while you've got more clothes than Carter had oats. Always a new wardrobe- running up a charge account at every women's shop in Clarksville.

NANCY

I tried to get my own credit card and the bank won't let me! They say it has to be in the husband's name. The husband! So I make half of my clothes to save money. If you weren't so damn timid, you would go for that principal job, and we'd have enough money.

PAT

I've told you. They won't hire me. I'm not qualified.

NANCY

Oh, Pat, of course, you are! They asked you to apply!

PAT

I could have once, a few years ago, when Dr. McKay was still Superintendent but it's too late now. I would have and maybe I should have but I just didn't think...I'm sorry, Nancy. I didn't mean to get upset. It's just that we never seem to get ahead.

NANCY

No, we don't.