

STOP THE PARADE

a musical comedy in two acts

CAST OF CHARACTERS

13

(in order of appearance)

LUCY TAYLOR, An Old Timer feminist
 ROYANN BONNER, Woman in conflict; WAYNE BONNER'S wife
 LOUISE, CLINT'S wife, A timid feminist
 JAKE TREEMONT, Owner of the Low Down Saloon; mentor to RIBBONS
 AMY CANTRELL, FELIX CANTRELL'S wife a bold feminist;
 CLINT, Clerk at the Hotel Cantrell Arms; LOUISE'S husband
 WAYNE BONNER, The Sheriff, a man in conflict; ROYANN BONNER'S husband
 RIBBONS, Singer at the Low Down Saloon; a woman in a man's body, passes as a woman
 BEN MOODY, A Gay bandit
 LINDA LONGSTREET, A Con artist
 PETE, A varmint
 ROGER, Another varmint
 FELIX CANTRELL, Owner of Hotel Cantrell Arms; AMY CANTRELL'S husband

LUCY TAYLOR/doubles as WOMEN CHORUS in Act one, Scene 8
 LOUISE/doubles as WOMEN CHORUS in Act one, Scene 8
 AMY CANTRELL/doubles as WOMEN CHORUS in Act one, Scene 8

ACT ONE

Scene 1 LOW DOWN SALOON
 Scene 2 HOTEL CANTRELL ARMS, LOBBY
 Scene 3 RIBBONS'S ROOM, in LOW DOWN SALOON
 Scene 4 HOTEL CANTRELL ARMS, LOBBY
 Scene 5 LOW DOWN SALOON
 Scene 6 LUCY TAYLOR'S KITCHEN
 Scene 7 HOTEL CANTRELL ARMS, HALLWAY
 Scene 8 LOW DOWN SALOON

ACT TWO

Scene 1 AROUND THE TOWN
 Scene 2 HOTEL CANTRELL ARMS, LOBBY
 Scene 3 MAIN STREET, in front of HOTEL CANTRELL ARMS

Musical Numbers

ACT I

STOP THE PARADE	COMPANY
LADIES PLEASE	ROYANN, LOUISE, LUCY, AMY
LILAC MIST	CLINT, WAYNE
JUST LIKE A WOMAN	WAYNE, ROYANN
EYE OF THE BEHOLDER	RIBBONS
PUT IT IN THE BOOK	ROGER, PETE, COMPANY
TOO MUCH TO ASK	ROYANN
BETWEEN FRIENDS	BEN, WAYNE
HOT HOUSE ROSE	RIBBONS, COMPANY
NOT NOW	WAYNE, ROGER, PETE, JAKE, RIBBONS, COMPANY

ACT II

THE LONGEST NIGHT	ROYANN, LOUISE, CLINT, LUCY, AMY,
CANTRELL	
EYE TO EYE	LINDA, ROYANN
A NICE CLEAN HOUSE	LINDA, CANTRELL
BETWEEN FRIENDS (Reprise)	BEN, RIBBONS
DEPUTIES	WAYNE, COMPANY
LADIES, PLEASE / STOP THE PARADE (Reprise)	WOMAN
LILAC MIST (Reprise)	ROYANN
STOP THE PARADE (Reprise)	COMPANY

PROLOGUE

STOP THE PARADE

CLINT

JUST AN ORDINARY TOWNSHIP
WITH AN ORDINARY BUNCH OF FOLKS
KINDA QUIET, BUT IT'S NICE
YOU BLINK TWICE
YOU'VE PASSED THROUGH

WAYNE

AND OUR WOMENFOLK ARE GENIAL
 SETTING SUPPER, WHILE THE CHIMNEY SMOKES
 PAST A LITTLE PICKET FENCE
 PLEASIN' GENTS'S
 WHAT THEY DO

BOTH

EVERYTHING IN PLACE
 THE WAY WE LIKE IT, NICE AND PLAIN
 AIN'T THE KINDA TOWN
 WHERE PEOPLE GO AGAINST THE GRAIN

CLINT

DID SOMEONE SAY A PARADE?
 SOMEONE SAID THERE'LL BE WOMEN MARCHIN'?

WAYNE

START A STINK
 AND A LOTA HENS'LL FOLLOW RIGHT BEHIND
 AND THE CARAVAN KEEPS GROWIN'
 ONCE THE BATTLE CALL IS PLAYED

CLINT

ALL JOIN IN

BOTH

ONCE THEY BEGIN
 GUESS YOU CAIN'T STOP THE PARADE

CANTRELL

EVERYTHING IS NICE AND PEACEFUL
 JUST A PLEASANT LITTLE WHISTLE STOP
 THINGS ARE DANDY ... THEN BY GOD
 AIN'T IT ODD
 HOW THINGS CHANGE
 HANDS ARE WRAPPED AROUND A BANNER
 THAT WERE ONCE AROUND A BROOM AND MOP

WOMEN
 GET THE VOTE

CLINT

AND THE PLAIN AND SIMPLE FACT
 IS ... THEY'RE ACT-
 IN' PLUMB STRANGE

WOMEN
 WE WANT RIGHTS!

WAYNE

USED TO BE SO COMFY, COZY
 NOW THEY'RE ALL A BUZZ

THREE HUSBANDS
 GOTTA BE A WAY TO PUT 'EM
 BACK THE WAY THEY WAS

WOMEN

WELL YOU CAIN'T STOP THE PARADE
 STRAIGHT AHEAD IS THE SOLE DIRECTION
 TAKE STEP AND ANOTHER FOLLOWS
 LIKE IT HAD A MIND
 AND YOU GOTTA TAKE YOUR CHANCES
 OR YOU'LL ALWAYS BE AFRAID
 JOIN ON IN
 ONCE THEY BEGIN
 YOU JUST CAIN'T STOP THE PARADE

ALL MEN

AND THE DISTANT DRUMS WILL BE DRUMMIN' LOUDER
 COMIN' ROUND THE BEND
 AND THE TANTARA OF THE TRUMPETS SPLIT THE AIR (WITH MUSIC)

ALL WOMEN

AND THE FAR-OFF CRASH OF THE CYMBALS ECHO
 LIKE THEY'LL NEVER END
 AND THE STREAMERS FLY

MEN

ALMOST CAIN'T SEE THE SKY.

ALL

MAKES YOU WANNA CRY
 WHEN YOU TURN AND LOOK!
 IT'S THERE

ALL WOMEN

THERE'S THE SWEETEST KIND OF HUSH THEN
 MAKES YOU KIND OF FEEL A RUSH INSIDE
 CAUSE YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE A PART
 OF THE START
 AIN'T IT GRAND?
 AND IT KEEPS ON GETTING STRONGER

MEN

DON'T EVEN START

WOMEN

TILL YOU KIND O'WANNA POP WITH PRIDE
 AND YOU'RE TAPPIN' BOTH YOUR FEET

TO THE BEAT
 OF THE BAND

MEN

STOP WOULD YOU
 OUT THERE IN THE
 STREET
 THERE'S THE BEAT
 OF THE BAND

ALL
 EYERYBODY'S HUMMIN', TAPPIN', BEATIN' LIKE TO BUST
 MAKES YOU SEE THE POINT OF STIRRING UP A LITTLE DUST.
 YOU CAIN'T STOP THE PARADE
 HELL, DON'T BOTHER TO LOOK BEHIND YOU
 UP AHEAD ARE THE LIGHTS AND COLOR
 YOU WERE MEANT TO FIND
 AND THE LIGHTS KEEP GROWIN BRIGHTER AND THE COLORS NEVER FADE
 YOU CAIN'T STOP THE PARADE
 FALL IN LINE, AND THE LINE WILL TAKE YOU
 PLACES BRIMMIN' WITH SIGHTS AND SOUNDS
 OF EVERY SHAPE AND KIND

WOMEN
 AND YOU'LL LOOK BACK WITH AMAZEMENT
 TO THAT FIRST SMALL STEP YOU MADE

ALL, EXCEPT HUSBANDS
 SO JOIN IN
 ONCE THEY BEGIN
 YOU CAN RANT AND YOU CAN FRET

HUSBANDS
 AND YOU CAN CURSE AND YOU CAN SWEAT
 UNTIL YOU DROP

EVERYBODY
 BUT YOU CAIN'T STOP
 STOP
 THE PARADE

HUSBANDS
 WON'T SOMEONE
 THE PARADE

Scene 1

JAKE TREEMONT's Low Down Saloon.
 Late Afternoon. JAKE is in a backroom.

LUCY
 Follow me, Daughters!!
 (ROYANN follows LUCY TAYLOR to the bar. LOUISE enters, but stays near the door)

ROYANN
 Jake, how about a little service!

Barkeep!!
LUCY

Barkeep!
ROYANN

Not so loud, somebody might hear you.
LOUISE

And see us. Right, Louise?
ROYANN

Royann!
LOUISE

Louise, what are we here for?
ROYANN

Yes, but do you have to be so noisy about it?
LOUISE

ROYANN
(Banging on the bar)

YES!

What the -- what -- what's going on here?
JAKE

Sarsaparilla, Jake, all around, I'm buying.
ROYANN

You march yourself out of here, young lady, before Wayne Bonner rips this place apart.
JAKE

My husband would never rip this place apart, Jake. That would be against the law.
ROYANN

Wayne Bonner is the law!
JAKE

No, Sir, Mr. Bonner is the Sheriff elected to enforce the law. And come next November, when we women have the vote -- Mr. Bonner may find himself looking for another job -- no offense, Royann.
LUCY

ROYANN

No offense taken, Lucy.

JAKE

Ladies, please, it's bad enough all the trouble you're stirrin' up with this damn parade--wanting to vote-- now don't get me wrong, I'm not-sayin' you shouldn't, but what the hell are you women doin' in my saloon?

LUCY

Challengin' taboos, Jake. Challengin' taboos.

JAKE

Don't you voodoo me, Lucy Taylor! God rest Norman's soul if he could see you now.

LUCY

He'd pee in his pants. I guarantee it.

ROYANN

Louise, IN! Come in!

LOUISE

This is as far in as I intend to go!

JAKE

Well, you might as well leave, cause I ain't servin' ya 'till ya get the vote. So vamoose!

ROYANN

Bring us that sarsaparilla right now, Jake Treemont, or this here town's gonna hear the loudest yell ever since Butch Breezy was bit by Elmer Wilson's imported bulldog.

JAKE

NO!!

(ROYANN starts yelling, LUCY joins her, then LOUISE yells from fear)

Hold it, dammit, I'm gettin' it, I'm gettin' it. Just get the hell away from the bar. Go sit at one of the tables.

(ROYANN and LUCY oblige him as HE opens bottles and grumbles)
Women voting -- next thing you know Lucy Taylor, you'll be wanting to be Sheriff.

LUCY

I'm preparing my campaign speech already, Jake, so you better watch yourself.

(To ROYANN)

Why not?

Hear, hear!!

ROYANN

We'll be needin' some glasses.

LUCY

No glasses!

JAKE

I think that sounds fair.

LOUISE

Louise, come in! All the way in!!

ROYANN

Glasses. I'm at my own funeral.

JAKE

LOUISE

(Stepping inside)

Oh, for heaven sake, Jake, hurry it up so we can get the hell out of here!

ROYANN

That's the spirit, Louise. We're here to have a drink and by golly that's what we're gonna do!

(SHE raises her glass)

To Elizabeth Cady Stanton!

LUCY

Lucretia Mott!

LOUISE

And Susan B!!

WOMEN

To the Daughters of the Ballot! Victory!!

LADIES, PLEASE

LOUISE

ONE LITTLE SIP?

LUCY

ONE GIANT STEP FOR WOMANKIND
FROM LITTLE SEEDS COME GIANT OAKS

A TINY SWALLOW?
 LOUISE

AND WATCH US SOAR
 TO HEIGHTS A WELL-BRED LADY NEVER CLIMBED BEFORE.
 LUCY

A TEENY GULP
 LOUISE

INSTEAD OF PEEKING IN
 THIS TIME WE WALKED IN THROUGH THE DOOR.
 LUCY

I'LL HAVE SOME MORE.
 LOUISE

LADIES, PLEASE
 WE'VE ONLY TASTED THE WATERS
 IT TOOK GUTS
 ROYANN

LUCY
 IT TOOK PLUCK

IT TOOK NERVE,
 ALL THREE

BUT UP AHEAD I SEE A WHOLE STRING OF DOORS
 UNTIL WE GET WHAT WE DESERVE.
 ROYANN

DON'T EVEN THINK IT.
 LUCY
 (To JAKE)

LADIES, PLEASE
 THIS IS THE CALL OF TOMORROW,
 ALL WE DID WAS GET HERE FIRST
 ROYANN

IT'S JUST THE START OF THE TRIP
 FUNNY, ONE LITTLE SIP
 GIVES YOU ONE HECK OF A POWERFUL THIRST.
 ALL

Will we be seeing you at the parade tomorrow morning, Jake?
 LUCY

Everybody out!!
 (JAKE draws his gun)
 JAKE

Oh, put that thing away. LUCY

(Entering out of breath)
Is it over? Am I too late? AMY

Yes, everybody's just leavin'.
(THEY ignore HIM) JAKE

Not before I see that picture. The one with the bosoms and the rocks and the waterfall. AMY

Well, there it is, hanging over the bar!! LOUISE

Ohhhhhhhhh, that's absolutely obscene. AMY

LADIES, PLEASE (Part 2)

AMY
ONE LITTLE LOOK AT WHAT THE BOYS DON'T GET AT HOME
A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF MALE TYPE FOLKS
A-WETTIN' WHISTLES AND CHEWIN' FAT
A RARE EXCURSION TO THEIR NAT'RAL HABITAT.

LUCY
A LITTLE PEEK INTO THE ROOSTER'S MIND.

AMY
THANK HEAVENS HENS DON'T THINK LIKE THAT.

LOUISE
WE'D BETTER SCAT!

ROYANN
LADIES, PLEASE, WE'VE ONLY TASTED THE WATERS

LUCY
THEY WERE SWEET.

LOUISE
THEY WERE ... WET ...

AMY

(Tasting)
THEY WERE STALE.

ROYANN
FOR EVERY STEP WE'VE GOT A NICE LITTLE BARRICADE
THAT'S PUT UP BY SOME MALE.

AMY
NOT U.S. POSTAL.

ROYANN
LADIES, PLEASE! WE HEAR THE CALL OF THE FUTURE

ALL
AND IT'S MUSIC TO OUR EARS
JUST PUT THE GLASS TO YOUR LIPS
FUNNY, TWO LITTLE SIP
LIKE A SNAP
WATCH HOW THE WALL DISAPPEARS.

AMY
Come on ladies. Let's get out of this den of iniquity.

LOUISE
Gladly.

ROYANN
I'm meetin' Wayne for supper, Jake. I'll give him your regards.

JAKE
I guess I'll go out and buy myself a real pretty wreath.

LADIES, PLEASE, (Part 3)

ROYANN
LADIES, PLEASE

ALL
ONLY WAY THROUGH THE DOORWAY IS TO STICK IN THAT FIRST TOE

ROYANN
IF IT GETS STUCK IN THE DOOR
WELL, THERE'S NINE DIGITS MORE

AMY
AND ONCE IT OPENS A CRACK
THEN THERE'S NO TURNING BACK.

ALL

CAUSE FROM THAT ONE LITTLE SIP
 YOU COULD START FEELIN' TIP-
 SY WITH ONE HECK OF A POWERFUL GLOW.

ROYANN

(Spoken) Battle Stations.

ALL

THERE'S ONE HECK OF A LONG WAY TO GO.

(THE WOMEN DANCE OUT)

LIGHTS CHANGE

SCENE 2

Hotel Lobby, The CANTRELL ARMS.

WAYNE BONNER, the Sheriff, puts the finishing touches on a romantic supper for two. HE is dressed in his best suit, wears no gun and no badge.

CLINT, the hotel clerk, polishes two wine glasses and is annoyed about being delayed.

CLINT

How much longer is it gonna be, Sheriff?

WAYNE

Royann'll be here on time like I told her.

CLINT

I sure hope so.

WAYNE

(Opening a decorative box, holds up nightgown)
 I know so, fella! Take a look at this nightie. It's my piece 'd resistance.

CLINT

(Embarrassed)

It's very nice.

WAYNE

(Putting nightgown back into box)

Nice?! It's perfect! This here nightie's gonna get Royann to come on back home where she belongs.

CLINT

I got to go, Sir. I only get one-half hour for supper. One-half hour.

WAYNE

Quit worryin' and lend me a dab of your sweet smellin' cologne.

CLINT

(HE gets cologne)

I wish you and Royann would have this here rendezvous upstairs in your own room.

WAYNE

I told you -- Royann and me are having our differences, are you deaf or somethin'?

CLINT

No, sir!! You want Lilac Mist or Persian Leather?

WAYNE

Hell, I don't know one from the other. Just gimme the one's gonna do the trick.

CLINT

Lilac Mist. That oughta do it.

LILAC MIST

CLINT

LILAC MIST,
I'LL BE DURNED
IF IT DOESN'T JUST MAKE 'EM GO WILD.

WAYNE

Lilac Mist! Sounds kinda prissy to me.

CLINT

URNS A GROWN WOMAN'S HEAD
MAKES HER ACT LIKE A RATTLE-BRAINED CHILD

WAYNE

Yeah?

CLINT

(Crossing with scent)
Yeah, but just use a little.

WAYNE
(Smelling scent)
WILL HER SASSY IDEAS ALL SEEM SILLY
SHE'LL FORGET
AS SHE LETS DOWN HER HAIR

CLINT/WAYNE
AND ITS SOFTNESS COULD CRADLE A FELLER'S FACE
TO REMIND HIM THE WORLD IS A PERFECT PLACE
WITH A LADY WHO STAYS ...
AND THE LILAC MIST
TO KEEP HER THERE.

WAYNE
Does your little filly, Louise, know about this?

CLINT
Just between you and me, sir, yes sir.

WAYNE
Well all right!! Hand it over.
(Splashing it on his face and neck)
Whoooooeee! She'll never know what hit her.

CLINT
LILAC MIST, JUST A DASH,
MAN, YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE GAL FAINT
(Spoken) Too late now.

JUST LIKE A WOMAN

WAYNE
LIGHT SOME CANDLES, POUR SOME WINE
WATCH THE FILLY FALL RIGHT INTO LINE
AIN'T THAT JUST LIKE A WOMAN
THEN MY TALK GETS SWEET AND MILD
SHE'LL FORGET WHY SHE EVER GOT RILED
CAUSE THAT'S JUST LIKE A WOMAN
THEN I'LL YANK HER RIGHT OUT ON THE FLOOR
AND I'LL SHOW HER WHAT HEEL-KICKIN'S FOR
WE'LL SASHAY TILL HER FEET ARE PLUMB SORE
I GUARANTEE
IF SHE PUTS UP ANY FIGHT
I'LL JUST GRAB HER AND SQUEEZE HER REAL TIGHT
YOU CAN BET BY THE END OF THE NIGHT
THE GAL'LL BE
JUST LIKE A WOMAN

STUCK ON A FELLER
LIKE ME.

CLINT

I've really got to go, sir. Louise gets kinda ornery when her soup gets cold.

WAYNE

(Explodes into temper tantrum)

You'll go as soon as Royann sets her pretty little foot in the door!

(ROYANN enters quietly. SHE carries morning paper)

That was our deal, and you're gonna stick to it whether you like it or not, you got me, fella!!

CLINT

Yes, sir!

ROYANN

Well, both pretty little feet are here.

CLINT

Boy, am I glad to see you.

WAYNE

Honey! -- Have a nice supper, Clint, and give my respects to your lovely wife, Louise.

CLINT

Thank you, Sir.
(HE exits)

WAYNE

(Referring to supper table)

Lookie here.

ROYANN

Yellin' again.

WAYNE

I wasn't yellin', hon, I was makin' a point.
(Pulls chair out for ROYANN to sit)

ROYANN

Wayne, you look so handsome.

WAYNE

I done my best.

ROYANN

(Crossing to sit)

This reminds me of before we got married. You being so sweet and considerate.

WAYNE

You bet. I picked up all afternoon, too.

(SHE sits. WAYNE kisses her neck and lingers for a moment)

ROYANN

Honey, what is that smell?

WAYNE

(Picking up wine bottle and pours)

Could it be Lilacs? Have some wine. It's French. The best.

JUST LIKE A WOMAN

WAYNE

STRAIGHT FROM EUROPE ... MIGHTY FINE

ROYANN

NOW SINCE WHEN DO I RATE FOREIGN WINE?

WAYNE

AIN'T THAT JUST LIKE A WOMAN?

AND THE TABLE ... QUITE A SPREAD

ROYANN

WILL THE LAST COURSE BE SERVED UP IN BED?

WAYNE

AIN'T THAT JUST LIKE A WOMAN?

THERE'S SOME BREAD AND SOME NICE MOLDY CHEESE

AND THE NAPKINS ARE LACE, IF YOU PLEASE,

WHY, (Teasing) YOU ALMOST DON'T NOTICE THE FLEAS

THE LIGHT'S SO LOW

BETTER EAT UP NICE AND QUICK

ROYANN

SO MUCH CULTURE COULD MAKE A GIRL SICK

WAYNE

GAL, YOU'RE LUCKY MY SKIN IS SO THICK

ROYANN

AND DON'T I KNOW?
I'M JUST A WOMAN (Sarcastic)

WAYNE

I'M JUST A FELLER ...
(HE leans in to kiss her)

ROYANN

GO SLOW (Spoken) I brought you the morning paper.

WAYNE

I done seen it.
(Lifting wine glass)
To us, Royann.

ROYANN

Wayne, you promised me a serious conversation.

WAYNE

We got plenty a time.

ROYANN

Our picture is on the front page, look, me and Lucy and the rest of us; The Daughters of the Ballot -- marching tomorrow for the first time -- front page news! Times are changing, Wayne. Women are on the move, it's wonderful and excitin'.

WAYNE

Diddlelie-poop! That parade's about important as a locust on a toad. But if you want to talk about it, go ahead, I'm not stoppin' ya.

ROYANN

Are you tellin' me that wantin' more out of livin' is unimportant?

WAYNE

I don't hear no complainin' from most of the women in this here town. Hey, have some more wine, I'm gonna have some.

ROYANN

Wayne, you have a way of changin' a subject that lacks manners.

WAYNE

You didn't have no complaints before you started goin' to them dern meetin's and readin' them god-for-saken pamphlets.

ROYANN

The ones you burned!

WAYNE

Damn right I burned 'em!

ROYANN

Those pamphlets belonged to me, Wayne Lee Bonner!!

WAYNE

I told you never to call me Wayne Lee, Miss Priss!

ROYANN

(Gathers herself together)

Wayne -- I want you to come with me to the parade. Lucy Taylor's gonna give a speech that I want you to hear.

WAYNE

Now there's the troublemaker.

ROYANN

Lucy Taylor happens to be a very intelligent woman and a very good friend.

WAYNE

(Pats his thigh)

Hey, honey, come 'ere. Lookie here, I got you a present. Open it up right now. Come on over here, honey. I picked it out myself. You're gonna love it.

ROYANN

That smell seems to be gettin' stronger.

WAYNE

Could it be lilacs?

ROYANN

I don't think so.

WAYNE

Well it is!

ROYANN

Wayne, please come with me to the parade.

WAYNE

(Mimics her)

Wayne, please come with me to the parade.'

ROYANN

Stop it. That kinda teasin' hurts my feelin's and you know it.

WAYNE

I'm sorry, Royann, but you're like a baby bird that's fallen out of the nest. And I don't wanna see ya get hurt. Now there's certain things that a woman's not fit to do, and there's nothin' in them stupid pamphlets gonna change that.

JUST LIKE A WOMAN

WAYNE

NICE'N EASY, LITTLE BIRD,
MADE YA SAD ... I TAKE BACK EVERY WORD
AIN'T THAT JUST LIKE A WOMAN?
YOU NEED ARMS THAT ARE PATIENT AND STRONG
AND A COZY LAP WHERE YOU BELONG

ROYANN

JUST AS LONG AS I WARBLE YOUR SONG.

WAYNE

BEFORE I'M THROUGH
YOU'LL BE PERCHIN' IN THE NEST
WHERE YOU'LL GIVE ALL THAT CHIRPIN' A REST
I'M A FELLER WHO RECKONS THAT'S BEST
FOR YOU KNOW WHO.
JUST LIKE A FELLER
STUCK ON A GAL IS MEANT TO DO
WHEN HE'S STUCK ON A WOMAN LIKE YOU.

ROYANN

Diddle-poop!

WAYNE

Jesus woman, you're lucky I'm a patient man. Now you be a good little girl, and come on over here and sit on my lap where you belong. -- I'm waitin'!!

ROYANN

I'll be by tomorrow to collect some more of my things. If you can't meet me halfway, then there's nothin' left between us.

WAYNE

I'll make that decision if the occasion arises.

ROYANN

I just made it.

WAYNE (Yelling)

Listen, Miss Priss, you better come to your senses quick, or I'm liable to find myself another filly, one that knows how to behave herself.

ROYANN

Wayne Lee Bonner, every time somethin' doesn't go your way, you start yellin' and get bossy and I'm not going to live like that anymore. And while you're so busy being bossy, tell Clint to air this place out!

(SHE exits)

WAYNE

Bossy? Where do you git off callin' me bossy? Hey! You git back here, woman. Hey, Miss Priss! -- Damn! You didn't even open your present!

LILAC MIST DOES THE TRICK!

Damn this stuff stinks!

LIGHTS CHANGE

Scene 3

Same evening. RIBBONS' room
RIBBONS is asleep.

JAKE knocks on door. HE holds a
mug of coffee

JAKE

Up and at 'em, song bird.

(Crows like a rooster)

Time to get ready for your number.

(pause)

Ribbons!

(Jiggles door handle)

RIBBONS

(Waking up alarmed)

Don't you dare open that door, Jake Treemont. Don't you ever dare to open that door without my permission.

JAKE

I thought maybe you weren't in there.

RIBBONS

Where else am I gonna be? I've been here for ten years. You better watch yourself, Jake. I'm liable to change my mind and go back to St. Louie!

JAKE

Back to St. Louie? Singin' to the wallpaper?

RIBBONS

I don't see no 'standin' room only, like somebody I know promised.

JAKE

Since when don't I keep my promises? You got a lock on your door, don't ya?

Okay. RIBBONS

And pink soap all year 'round? JAKE

I said, OKAY! RIBBONS

And how about that smelly water that costs more than a case of whiskey? JAKE

Parfume, Jake, French parfume. RIBBONS

Not to mention the war paint. JAKE

Make-up is not war paint. RIBBONS

You ain't never seen it comin' at ya the way I have. JAKE

What? Apaches? RIBBONS

No! Women! So-called respectable, civilized women. So git up and get ready for your number. One of these days, we're gonna have 'em swinging from the rafters, I promise. JAKE

Great! Now how about a little peace and quiet, and somethin' to eat? RIBBONS

Why is it sometimes I feel like I don't know you? JAKE

You know everything you need to know. Now go on and make me them flapjacks that make me scream and holler. RIBBONS

Your coffee's gettin' cold. JAKE

Just leave it. RIBBONS

(JAKE puts cup down outside of door)
 You still mad at me?

JAKE
 Naw -- what for? See ya out front.
 (HE exits)

RIBBONS
 Yeah, see ya out front.

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

RIBBONS
 ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER DOLLAR
 ANOTHER ENDLESS NIGHT OF RIBBONS, GOOD-TIME GAL.
 ANOTHER CHANCE TO SCREAM AND HOLLER
 AT GENTS WITH MANNERS FIT FOR ANY FINE CORRAL.
 THOSE WHISKEY-SWILLIN' SONS OF B'S WON'T MAKE ME FRET
 A LITTLE POWDER...A LITTLE POUF ...
 AND WHAT THEY SEE AIN'T WHAT THEY'LL GET
 (RIBBONS rises. We see that RIBBONS is a man. After HE puts on
 makeup and a wig HE looks exactly like a woman. Cautiously,
 RIBBONS opens door to get coffee)

IT'S ALL IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER
 THE VIEW ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU SEE
 SOME FOLKS LOOK AND SEE A RUSTIC ATMOSPHERE
 IT'S A LITTLE SHABBY HAVEN TO ME
 IT'S A TOUGH JOB TO HAVE TO SIT AND SMOLDER
 WHILE THE SHERIFF IS BREAKIN' UP A BRAWL
 STILL I PRIMP AND I PAMPER AND I ATOMIZE WITH CARE
 FROM THE CURVE OF THE ANKLE
 TO THE ROSEBUDS IN THE HAIR
 IF THEY CAIN'T SEE PERFECTION
 WELL, AT LEAST I KNOW IT'S THERE
 GUESS I'LL FACE ANOTHER EVENING AFTER ALL.

RIBBONS (CONTINUED)

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER DOLLAR,
 I COO AND CUDDLE AND I BAT MY PRETTY EYES
 I KEEP 'EM HOT UNDER THE COLLAR
 CAUSE FURTHER DOWN WOULD THEY BE IN FOR A SURPRISE!
 IT'S ALL IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER
 I'M ARMED WITH A BRUSH AND POWDER PUFF
 OTHER FOLKS MAY PACK A PISTOL ... THAT'S THEIR STYLE
 ME, I'M DRESSED TO KILL, THAT'S WEAPON ENOUGH
 JUST A DRAPE AND TUCK ACROSS THE SHOULDER
 AND THEIR JAWS DROP AS I COME DOWN THE HALL

AND THEY STARE AND THEY WHISTLE ... WHEN THE LIGHTIN' AIN'T TOO
 BRIGHT
 CAUSE IT'S ALL AN ILLUSION AND A MIGHTY PRETTY SIGHT
 SEE THE GAL IN THE MIRROR?
 WELL SHE HAPPENS EVERY NIGHT
 YES, IT'S ALL THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER
 EACH HAIR IN PLACE
 AND I CAN FACE
 A NEW TOMORROW AFTER ALL

LIGHTS CHANGE

Scene 4

Lobby of THE CANTRELL ARMS. WAYNE
 sits at supper table, drunk and irritable.

BEN MOODY, a bandit, enters, carrying a
 small leather bag over one shoulder.

BEN

Howdy good-lookin'.

(Drawing gun)

This here's a stick-up. Lemme see some gold quick or this town's gonna be shy one
 more pretty face!

WAYNE

What?

BEN

Empty your pockets, dude, and then you can do the same with the cash box.

WAYNE

(Emptying pockets)

Well I'll be damned.

BEN

(Picking up money)

Thank you.

WAYNE

Thank you?

BEN

(Referring to WAYNE'S money)

This is feeble!! Really feeble!

WAYNE

You're pushin' your luck, fella.

BEN

I think you're pushin' yours. Okay, head over to the cash box.

WAYNE

I don't work here. He's out to supper. So you can git!!!

BEN

Hey, this is stupid! You do like I'm tellin' ya, fella, or you're gonna make me do somethin' against my principles. I don't like killin', so don't push me to it. Okay, now head on over to the cash box!

WAYNE

I told you I don't work here! Are you stupid or somethin'?

BEN

Big stuff!

WAYNE

You got that right!

BEN

Big talker!

WAYNE

And doer! I do big! Do you know who I am fool?!

BEN

I don't know the people I'm robbin'!! It ain't my style to take from friends!

WAYNE

Can you read?

BEN

Course I can read. Big and small print.

WAYNE

(Taking newspaper clipping out of a pocket)

Well here you damn fool, look this article over. Compare the picture with the original.

BEN

(Looking at picture)

Oh, my Lord -- Sheriff Wayne Bonner -- Why didn't you say so?

WAYNE

I don't recall you askin'.

BEN

(Giddy)

I can't believe it. The Wayne Bonner. Standin' right in front of me. Lordy, if certain people knew about this they'd bust a gut! 'F.J. --- Grady, guess who I bandidoed?' Hell, they'd just laugh in my face. Oh God, you gotta put it in writin'! Sign your name to somethin'. Anythin'! I don't care what. Here? How about this?

(Hands WAYNE the newspaper clipping)

WAYNE

(Flattered)

Sounds pretty silly to me. But I guess if it means so much to ya.

(Signs the newspaper clipping, gives it back to BEN)

Here go, I got plenty more. And gimme back my change, you damn fool!

BEN

You bet! Sheriff, you just made my day. Imagine me holding you up, pretty funny, huh?

WAYNE

I feel like gettin' drunk. I got some whiskey up in my room. Wanna join me?

BEN

Up to your room?

WAYNE

Yeah, I picked up all afternoon.

BEN

You did? That's terrific.

WAYNE

Yeah, I thought so. Wait a minute?

(Shows the nightie to BEN)

What do you think?

BEN

Do you think it'll fit?

WAYNE

I'll damn well make it fit.

BEN

Well then, I like it.

WAYNE

(Starting upstairs)

Yeah, so do I.

BEN
 (Following WAYNE upstairs)
 There is no way F.J. and Grady are going to believe this.

LIGHTS CHANGE

Scene 5

JAKE TREEMONT's Low Down Saloon LINDA
 LONGSTREET enters, goes to bar.

LINDA
 Whiskey.

JAKE
 Straight up?

LINDA
 Not watered down.

JAKE
 One whiskey, comin' up. -- New in town?

LINDA
 Nosy bastard, ain't ya?

JAKE
 Just makin' casual con.
 (Gives her drink)

LINDA
 Sure, Sure.
 (Drinks it down)
 I think I'm being followed.

JAKE
 Two sneaky-lookin' varmits.

LINDA
 You got it.

JAKE
 Ignore 'em. Couple a damn fools.

LINDA
 Hotel near by?

Ain't it always? JAKE

Right. LINDA
(SHE crosses to a table, takes out a deck of cards, plays solitaire)

You look so dern familiar. JAKE

That's an old line. LINDA

Man would be a damn-fool to use a yarn with you. JAKE

Nice of you to say so. LINDA
(PETE and ROGER sneak in. THEY watch LINDA. ROGER circles her)

Buy you a drink, ma'am? ROGER

Who's buyin'? LINDA

My name's Rog, and this here is cousin Pete. ROGER

No thanks. LINDA

Umm-hum. ROGER
Holds up two fingers to JAKE to indicate HE's buying two drinks.
JAKE pours ROGER and PETE a drink. ROGER gets his drink, circles
LINDA again, then quietly to PETE)

Them is marked cards, Pete. ROGER

But why would anyone want to play solitaire with marked cards? PETE

Good question. Right good question. ROGER

PETE
What's she up to?

ROGER
We'll watch her and find out.

PETE
I wish we were gettin' paid for all this watchin'.

ROGER
That's just the point. We'll watch this here honey, find out she's up to no good, go to the Sheriff, he takes her in and gets the whole dirty scheme printed in the newspaper.

PETE
(Excited)
Yeah!

ROGER
Yeah, and when people know us Dicks are friendly with the Sheriff, they'll give us some respectable Dick jobs to investigate.

LINDA
Did I hear someone say, dick?

(PETE is unnerved; ROGER remains cool; crosses to LINDA)

ROGER
What'cha doin'?

LINDA
Relaxin'.

ROGER
You're doin' pretty good there.

LINDA
I got marked cards.

PETE
What'd she say?

ROGER
She said she's playing with marked cards.

PETE
But that don't make no sense.

ROGER

(To LINDA)
Mind if we watch?

LINDA
And if I do?

ROGER
Then we'll just excuse ourselves right up to the bar.

LINDA
Do that. And since you boys are being so accomodatin', stop followin' me around, comprende?!!

ROGER and PETE go back to the bar, as JAKE crosses to LINDA with a bottle)

PETE
I don't like her attitude.

ROGER
Get out the book, we got notes to take.

PETE
I got it right here, somewhere.

PUT IT IN THE BOOK

ROGER
PUT IT IN THE BOOK,
MAKE A NOTE OF IT
NEVER SAW A MORE SUSPICIOUS FACE

PETE
PUT IT IN THE BOOK,
EVERY WORD OF IT
MAKE AN EXTRA COPY, JUST IN CASE.

BOTH
AIN'T IT PLAIN AMAZIN'
HOW A TEENY, TINY
RUMOR REALLY GETS BEGUN
PUT IT IN THE BOOK,
IF SHE DON'T LOOK SHADY NOW,
WAIT'LL WE GET DONE

JAKE
(To LINDA)
This one's on the house.

LINDA
That's mighty kind of ya.

ROGER

PUT IT IN THE BOOK, A CONSPIRACY
NEVER SAW A MORE SUSPICIOUS PAIR.

PETE

PUT IT IN THE BOOK I CAN GUARANTEE
WE CAN SEE CONNIVIN' ANYWHERE

BOTH

AIN'T IT JUST A WONDER
HOW A LITTLE DOUBLE-DEALIN' GIVES YOU TWICE THE THRILL
PUT IT IN THE BOOK, IF THEY AIN'T A SCHEMIN' YET,
YOU CAN BET THEY WILL

LINDA

(To JAKE)

Why don't you get it off your chest so we can both relax.

JAKE

It ain't possible you're Besse Longstreet's daughter, is it?

LINDA (Gathering up cards)

Where'd you say that hotel was?

JAKE

Wait a minute! Don't you remember me? -- I put up that tree house you'd never come down from. Don't you remember? Bessie almost chopped that tree down and me along with it.

LINDA

Whistling Jake? Oh my Lord.

JAKE

Then it is you.

LINDA

Let's keep this between you and me, Jake, know what I mean.

JAKE

Sure do. Tell me, what's the caper? Who's your mark?

LINDA

I don't know what you mean, Jake.

JAKE

Hey, you can trust me. I played a part for your ma once, a Preacher Man. She said I did real good too, God rest her soul.

LINDA

-- I kinda have a weakness for hotels.

JAKE

Look out Felix Cantrell!

LINDA

Thanks for the tip. I like to work fast, then clear out.

JAKE

Just like your maw.

LINDA

Right neighborly of you to say so.

PETE

ALL O' THIS DECEPTION MAKES ME SHIVER
CLEAR DOWN THROUGH MY SPINE
SOMEONE'S GOTTA KEEP 'EM HONEST, PRAISE THE LORD!

ROGER

SOMEONE'S GOTTA TURN THE SCOUNDRELS IN
AND, SIR THE PLEASURE'S MINE
'SPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO PICKIN' UP
A JUICY, FAT REWARD.

LINDA

Thanks for the drink, Whistling Jake.

JAKE

My pleasure.

LINDA

You'll be glad to hear that tree is still standin'. Taller than ever.

JAKE

Course it is.

(LINDA EXITS)

BOTH

PUT IT IN THE BOOK, MAKE A NOTE OF IT
NEVER HEARD A MORE SUSPICIOUS TALE.
PUT IT IN THE BOOK, EVERY BIT OF IT

ROGER

NEVER KNOWN MY EXPERT NOSE TO FAIL.

PETE

TAKE IT FROM A BLOODHOUND,
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL,

SOMETHIN' FUNNY'S GOIN' DOWN.

BOTH
 PUT IT IN THE BOOK IF WE'RE LUCKY
 WE'LL INVOLVE THE WHOLE DURN TOWN.
 (THEY INVESTIGATE' ALL THE CUSTOMERS)

PETE
 WANNA SEE A SCANDAL IN THE MAKIN?
 NEEDN'T LOOK TOO FAR
 THERE'S A RATTLER HIDIN' UNDER EVERY STONE.

ROGER
 WANNA FIND A PACK OF VARIMITS,
 TAKE A GANDER ROUND THIS BAR
 EVERY STOOL HAS GOT A SKELETON

BOTH
 AND WE KNOW EVERY BONE.
 PUT IT IN THE BOOK,
 UNBELIEVABLE!
 GOTTA SAVE IT FOR POSTERITY
 PUT IT IN THE BOOK

ROGER
 INCONCEIVABLE
 ANYONE COULD SLIP A THING PAST ME.

PETE
 TAKE IT FROM AN ACE,
 WHEN THINGS ARE GETTIN' SHADY
 MAKE A NOTE, AND NOT A FUSS.

BOTH
 PUT IT IN THE BOOK

ROGER
 YOU CAN USE IT LATER.

BOTH
 PUT IT IN THE BOOK

PETE
 THE RETURNS ARE GREATER.

BOTH
 PUT IT IN THE BOOK
 IF WE PLAY OUR CARDS RIGHT,
 ONLY ONES AIN'T IN IT WILL BE US.

LIGHTS CHANGE

Scene 6

LUCY TAYLOR's kitchen. ROYANN, LUCY, and AMY are baking bread.

ROYANN

And then he tries to bribe me into bed with a present.

AMY

What was it?

ROYANN

We didn't get that far.

LUCY

Here, Royann, you do the kneadin'.

(ROYANN kneads and beats the dough)

ROYANN

And when I asked him to come with me to the parade, he starts makin' fun of me like he always does. That man makes me so mad.

(SHE becomes aware of punching the dough)

AMY

When I told Felix he was joinin' me in the parade the man looked so pitiful that I told him he could donate ten dollars to the cause instead. Anonymously of course.

ROYANN

And?

AMY

He gave me twenty.

ROYANN

Ohhhhhhhh, men make me so mad!

(SHE hits the dough really hard)

LUCY

Easy there, Royann.

ROYANN

At least you don't have to put up with that kind of nonsense from Norman anymore.

LUCY

I never did. One thing my Norman was not was a hypocrite. He never pretended to me or anybody else that women were less than peers. You would have liked Norman.

AMY

He was a honey.

ROYANN

I'm sorry, Lucy, I just figured Norman was like every other man in this town.

LUCY

What I've been tryin' to tell you Royann, is that every man in this town is not the same, and all we're doin' is helping some of them admit what they already know.

ROYANN

And what is that?

LUCY

That women can do anything men can do if they're just given the chance.

AMY

Hear, hear.

ROYANN

Are you telling me Wayne Bonner already knows that?

LUCY

He might. Somewhere, deep inside.

ROYANN

(Mildly amused)

How deep?

LUCY

Real deep. Very, very deep.

AMY

My Felix knows the truth. He's just waitin' for the rest of the men-folk to catch up, so he can save face.

ROYANN

Save face. I hate that expression and everything it stands for.

(LOUISE enters)

LOUISE

Sorry I'm late. I had to wait until Clint finished his supper. He gets kinda ornery if he has to eat by himself.

ROYANN

Diddlepoop!

AMY

So what did you decide, Louise?

LOUISE

I don't know what to do. I want to march, but I'm scared of how mean people get when you do somethin' they don't believe in.

LUCY

People don't 'get mean', Louise, they get meaner.

LOUISE

Well doesn't that scare you?

ROYANN

Makes me want to learn how to shoot a gun.

LOUISE

Royann Bonner, you don't mean that.

ROYANN

Try me.

LUCY

Look Louise, we're all scared. But being scared doesn't change the fact that tomorrow morning there's goin' to be a parade. The Daughters of the Ballot are going to march for their right to vote, and we want you right along side of us.

ROYANN

You're either with us or against us, Louise!!

LOUISE

Oh, Royann stop being so bossy!

ROYANN

Bossy?

LOUISE

Mooooooooooooo!!

ROYANN

I'm bossy?

AMY

We need you, Louise, and just think, with you marchin' it's like the future walkin' with us.

LOUISE

Well -- how mean could somebody be to a woman who's carryin' a baby?

LUCY

Then you're with us?

LOUISE

Dear God, let tomorrow morning come and go in peace.

LUCY

Hooray.

ROYANN

Louise, excuse me -- You really think I'm bossy?

LOUISE

Not all the time.

ROYANN

That's wonderful. Imagine me, bossy.

LOUISE

You mean you're not mad?

ROYANN

Mad? I should say not. Wayne Bonner is so blamed bossy I never knew I had an ounce of bossy in me.

LOUISE

Well I think it's a little more than an ounce, Royann.

ROYANN

Louise, I really do thank you so much for your wisdom, but -- that's enough.

TOO MUCH TO ASK

ROYANN

AM I BOSSY? AM I BOLD?

WOULD YOU SAY I'M A BIT OF A SCOLD?

WELL, AT LEAST I DON'T FIT IN THE MOLD

THEY BUILT FOR ME

SOME LITTLE NINNY, JUST LIKE A WOMAN'S MEANT TO BE

WHEN SOMEWHERE ELSE I SEE

A QUIET PLACE THAT'S ALL MY OWN
 WHERE I CAN, MAYBE SPEND A LITTLE TIME ALONE
 IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?
 IS THAT TOO MUCH?
 A GENTLE MAN TO STROKE MY HAIR,
 BUT NOT FORGET THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON UP THERE
 WHO SOMETIMES EVEN LISTENS WITH HIS HEART
 IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?
 IT'S JUST A START.
 WHO NEEDS A HERO? WHO NEEDS A GUIDE?
 SURE THE ROAD IS EASIER WITH SOMEONE AT YOUR SIDE,
 BUT WHEN YOU WALK BEHIND
 THE JOURNEY'S TWICE AS LONG,
 AND TWICE AS LONELY.
 THIS TRAV'LER ONLY
 WANTS A SPACE TO REST MY HEAD AT NIGHT
 AND IF THE OTHER PILLOW'S EMPTY,
 SOMETIMES THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
 BUT STILL, HIS FOOTSTEPS ECHO IN THE HALL
 TILL I RECALL
 THE MAN WHO NEVER TIRED
 TO SEE THE WOMAN LOOKED INSIDE
 THAT'S REALLY NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK AT ALL.
 THE LITTLE SPARROW, THE LITTLE WIFE

ROYANN (Continued)

GUESS THAT'S MIGHTY COZY, IF YOU WANT A LITTLE LIFE.
 BUT OPEN UP YOUR EYES AND ONCE YOU GET A GLIMPSE,
 THE VIEW IS BLINDING
 AND KEEPS REMINDING
 ME A LITTLE LIFE IS NOT ENOUGH
 THERE'S CHALLENGE AND ADVENTURE...
 SO NIGHTS GET A LITTLE TOUGH
 BUT SOON ENOUGH THE ACHING WILL GROW DIM
 THE FACT IS SIM-
 PLE, HE COULD NEVER LET
 ME BE THE WOMAN I'M NOT YET.
 ENOUGH IS MUCH TOO MUCH TO ASK
 OF HIM.

LIGHTS CHANGE

Scene 7

HOTEL CANTRELL, hallway, outside of WAYNE's room. CLINT bangs on WAYNE's door.

CLINT

(Angry but cautious)

Sheriff, It's not right to leave that mess down there and expect me to clean up.
Royann, I'm surprised at you especially.

(Knocks again)

I'm sorry, but one of you has got to come downstairs and help me clean up that
mess. I don't care what you're doin' in there. Mr. Bonner, open up, I'm mad!!

(Knocks harder. BEN opens the door)

Who the hell are you?

BEN

Your timin' stinks, fella. I suggest you get lost! Pronto!!

CLINT

I'm the clerk downstairs!!

BEN

Well, I'm the man upstairs!

CLINT

I need to speak to Mr. Bonner!

BEN

Wayne is relaxin'.

CLINT

-- Then lemme talk to Royann.

BEN

Judging from what Wayne told me, Royann doesn't live here anymore. It's all over.

(Confidentially)

So why don't you come back later. Much later.

WAYNE' VOICE

Git rid of him!!

BEN

You heard the man. Vamoose!

CLINT

Sheriff, I need to talk to you right now!

WAYNE

(Coming to door)

She's gone, and I think it was your dern Lilac Mist that's the cause of it all.

BEN

(Overlap)

Ohhhh, Lilac Mist!

CLINT

Mr. Bonner, you need to git downstairs and clean up your mess. You're liable to cost me my job.

BEN

Lordy, if you'd of been here twenty-minutes earlier, you might not of had a job anyway. I was fixin' to hold you up, maybe shoot you dead.

CLINT

What are you talkin' about?

WAYNE

That's right, Clint.

(To BEN)

What's your name, Bandit?

BEN

Benjamin Madison Moody, but my friends call me Ben. Call me Ben, Wayne.

WAYNE

Ben here was fixin' to make off with the cash box, but I guess I got that straightened out, right, Ben?

BEN

(Giggles)

Sure did. Thanks to Wayne here, you're in no danger now.

CLINT

(Carefully)

Will you be wantin' a room of your own -- Mr. Moody.

BEN

I'll let ya know --- right, Wayne?

WAYNE

Right!

CLINT

I need a drink.

BEN

(To WAYNE)

Whatdoya say you and me mosey over to the saloon and let me buy you one.

WAYNE

Much obliged. That's mighty friendly of ya.

CLINT

I'll say.

BETWEEN FRIENDS

BEN

(Spoken) Well, hell --
WHAT'S A LITTLE NIP OR TWO, BETWEEN FRIENDS?

WAYNE

I COULD USE A GALLON 'BOUT NOW.

BEN

I CAN SENSE WE'LL BE THE TRU-
EST OF FRIENDS.

WAYNE

I CAN'T RIGHTLY FIGURE OUT HOW.

BEN

SOMETHIN' IN YOUR EYE IS TELLIN' ME
WE WERE MEANT TO CLICK

WAYNE

WELL, MAYBE IT'S A TICK
IS THAT ANY BETTER?

BEN

THIS DAY IS RED LETTER
'CAUSE WAS THERE EVER SUCH A BOND
BETWEEN FRIENDS?

WAYNE

SOMETHIN' HERE JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

BEN

I JUST KNOW WE'LL BE THE FOND-
EST OF FRIENDS.

WAYNE

AM I WRONG? IS THIS GUY INTENSE?

BEN

FROM THE MINUTE I FIRST SPOTTED YOU
THERE IT WAS...THAT LINK
AND IT'LL JUST KEEP GETTIN' STRONGER.

WAYNE

I SHOULD OF SLEPT A FEW DAYS LONGER
BUT SINCE I'M UP AND THE FELLA'S BUYIN'
WHAT'S A DRINK?

AND LATER ON...WHO KNOWS?
I'M FEELIN' RIGHT FRISKY.

WAYNE

LETS GO STRAIGHT TO WHISKEY.

BEN

A DRINK'S THE LEAST THAT WE COULD SHARE
BETWEEN FRIENDS.

WAYNE

JUST A DRINK CAN'T DO ANY HARM

BEN

I'M THE KIND WHO TAKES GOOD CARE
OF MY FRIENDS.

WAYNE

GOOD TO KNOW -- LET GO OF MY ARM

BEN

FROM THE SECOND WE CONNECTED,
IT HAD TO BE FOR LIFE
AND NOW MY LIFE TO YOU I'D TRUST.

WAYNE

YET,
I WOULDN'T STASH MY PISTOLS JUST YET
BUT WHEN THERE'S SYMPATHY YOU AIN'T GETTIN' FROM YOUR WIFE

BOTH

THERE'S YOUR FRIENDS.

BEN

Anytime you're ready, Wayne.

WAYNE

Listen, you call me Sheriff or Sir, like everybody else around here, Bandit. Now hold it a minute, I'm goin' to put my badge on.

(HE reaches into his pocket and takes out his badge; puts it on)

BEN

Yes, sir, Sheriff, sir. Anything you say. Just take your time.

CLINT

That's right, Sheriff, sir, just take your time.

WAYNE

(To CLINT)

As I recall, you don't swim, do ya, Clint.

CLINT

No sir, not a stroke.

WAYNE

Then you better shut your face, or you're gonna be swimmin' in Lilac Mist.

BEN

Lilac Mist, one of my favorites.

CLINT

I never seen it to fail.

BEN

FROM THE INSTANT WE FIRST MET
I KNEW WE'D BE SPENDIN' TIME
AND WHAT A WAY TO SPEND IT THIS IS

WAYNE

WON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO THE MRS.

BEN

THE TIMIN' JUST COULDN'T BE MORE PERFECT
YOU SEE I'M

WAYNE

COME TO THINK OF IT I'M

BOTH

BETWEEN FRIENDS
BETWEEN FRIENDS

LIGHTS CHANGE

Scene 8

The Low Down Saloon. JAKE is behind the bar. PETE and ROGER are at a table. DANCER/COWBOYS and DANCE HALL GIRLS are also in the bar.

PETE

Ain't it showtime yet?

ROGER

Showtime. Showtime!

PETE

We want Ribbons. We want Ribbons.

JAKE
(Crossing to piano)

Keep it down you two.

ROGER

Well, we want her!

PETE

Shooooooooowtime!!

(RIBBONS enters)

RIBBONS

(To PETE and ROGER)

Shh!!!!

(SHE Readies herself)

Jake ...

(JAKE begins to play intro music)

HOT HOUSE ROSE

RIBBONS

YOU LOOK UP HERE AND SEE A LOVELY FLOWER
AND YOU'VE GOT JUST THE PLOT THIS BLOOM WILL FIT
THE SCENT IS GROWING SWEETER BY THE HOUR
YOU CAN'T RESIST IT...I DON'T BLAME YOU,
NOT ONE BIT.

BUT UNDERNEATH THIS COOL AND CALM DEMEANOR
A RAGING PASSION FLOWER'S GOING TO SEED
IF ONLY I COULD LET THESE PETALS PEEL,
YOU'D WEEP TO HEAR THE TALE THAT THEY REVEAL.

I'M JUST A HOT HOUSE ROSE
WHO'S FAR TOO DELICATE FOR HER OWN GOOD.
IT'S MIGHTY LONELY IN THIS CHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD
WHEN YOU'RE A HOT HOUSE ROSE.

I DO MY BEST, LORD KNOWS,
TO RAISE THE TEMPERATURE, BUT AS OF YET
I'M LUCKY IF THE FELLAS EVEN BREAK A SWEAT.

RIBBONS (Continued)

WHAT GOOD'S A HOT HOUSE ROSE?
WHEN ALL THE MEN THESE DAYS
ARE BORING OR SMELLY OR RUDE
AND IT'S DOWN HILL FROM THERE
I'M NOT BITTER, I SWEAR,
I'M JUST IN A VERY BAD MOOD.
A FRAGILE HOT HOUSE ROSE
AN UNPICKED ORCHID IN THIS NO MAN'S TOWN

I TELL YOU, BOYS, THE CLIMATE'S REALLY GOT ME DOWN
SEE, I'M NOT THE TYPE OF BLOSSOM TO OPPOSE

(WAYNE and BEN enter and go straight to bar. ROGER and PETE are
distracted by BEN)

A LITTLE-SNIFF OR TWO BEFORE MY BLOOM IS SHOT
SO MY SPIRIT'S WILLING, BUT THEIR FLESH IS NOT
PITY THIS HOT HOUSE ROSE.

(RIBBONS recognizes BEN and wants to disappear, but can't.
(Spoken, on Vamp)

Oh, no, Ben Moody, I'm done for!!!

(SHE tries to hide her face)

BEN

(To WAYNE, on Vamp)

She's great!

WOMEN / CHORUS

SHE'S JUST A HOT HOUSE ROSE
WHO'S FAR TOO DELICATE FOR HER OWN GOOD
IT'S MIGHTY LONELY IN THIS CHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD
WHEN YOU'RE A HOT HOUSE ROSE
SHE DOES HER BEST, LORD KNOWS,
TO RAISE THE TEMPERATURE, BUT AS OF YET
SHE'S LUCKY IF THE FELLAS EVEN BREAK A SWEAT.
WHAT GOOD'S A HOT HOUSE ROSE?

PETE (TO ROGER)

Who's the pansy?

ROGER

I don't know, but he's with the Sheriff. Write it down.

RIBBONS

CAUSE WHEN YOU'RE JUST A SPROUT
IT'S ALL SUNNY SKIES UP AHEAD
LIFE IS ROSY, YOU THINK
THEN BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK

RIBBONS (Continued)

THERE'S WAY TOO MUCH ROOM IN THE BED
INSTEAD

WOMEN / CHORUS

A FRAGILE HOT HOUSE ROSE
AN UNPICKED ORCHID IN THIS NO MAN'S TOWN
I TELL YOU BOYS, THE CLIMATE'S REALLY GOT HER DOWN
SHE'S HAD PLENTY POLLINATION, GOODNESS KNOWS

RIBBONS

(Gives CHORUS a dirty look)

BUT, STILL, IT'S NICE TO KNOW BEFORE YOUR BLOOM IS SHOT
THAT SOME GENTS STILL WANT TO SWEETEN UP YOUR POT

ALL

WHEN YOU'RE A HOT HOUSE ROSE.

(RIBBONS gets applause from the folks in the bar)

BEN

Wonderful. Great. Fantastic. Gosh, that singer looks so familiar.

WAYNE (To JAKE)

Whiskey. Straight up.

BEN

Make that two. Remember, I'm buying, Wayne.

(RIBBONS crosses to bar)

RIBBONS

Gimme one, Jake!!

JAKE

(Serving WAYNE and BEN)

You were great baby, just great.

RIBBONS

Thanks.

JAKE

Won't be long, they will be swingin' from the rafters.

RIBBONS

(Fearful and a little abrupt)

Where's that drink?

(JAKE is confused as HE pours her a drink)
BEN crosses to RIBBONS)

Oh no!!

BEN

Oh, Miss. You were just great.

RIBBONS

(Turning away)

Thanks.

BEN

I was just tellin' Wayne here, you look so dern familiar. Any idea where I might have seen you?

RIBBONS

No. None. Jake!!

BEN

Ever been to San Francisco?

RIBBONS

No. Never. JAKE!!

JAKE

What's goin' on?

BEN

Corpus Christi?

RIBBONS

(Forced politeness)

Excuse me.

(SHE moves away from BEN and motions for JAKE to follow her, which HE does)

BEN

(Crossing back to WAYNE)

Sure thang.

RIBBONS

(To JAKE, whispers)

Get him out of here. Bounce!!

JAKE

But he's with the Sheriff.

RIBBONS

I don't care who he's with. Get him out of here.

JAKE

I can't throw a man out with no good reason.

RIBBONS

I got a good reason. He was gettin' a little too familiar. Know what I mean!!

JAKE

Oh, he was, was he?

RIBBONS

He certainly was!

(JAKE crosses to WAYNE and BEN)

WAYNE

Fill 'er up, Jake.

JAKE

Sorry to have to do this, Sheriff, but I'm gonna have to ask your friend to leave.

WAYNE

What's the problem?

RIBBONS

(Losing control)

The problem is him!! He's been botherin' me ever since he came in and I want him out.

BEN

All I said was you look familiar.

RIBBONS

JAKE!!!

JAKE

Clear out, Mister.

BEN

I haven't finished my drink.

JAKE

(Picking up BEN's glass)

You have now!! So git!

RIBBONS

That's right! Git!

BEN

Like hell I will!

WAYNE

Now lookie here, Ben, don't start no trouble.

BEN

Well then we'd better leave, Wayne.

ROGER

(Drawing his gun)

Need some help with the pansy, Sheriff?

WAYNE

Who's callin' who a pansy?

ROGER

Me and Pete spotted him right off.

PETE

Sweet as apple pie.

BEN

I'm ready, Wayne.

WAYNE

Pansy?

(ROGER cocks his gun)

BEN

Wayne, you better tell that dummy to put that gun away.

RIBBONS
Will somebody get him out of
here.

ROGER
I'll dummy you!

PETE
Kill 'em, Rog. Drop
'em!

WAYNE

Now hold it! You boys try anythin' like that and you'll be instant dead. Got that!

BEN

Let's just get out of here, Wayne.

ROGER
(putting his gun in holster)

Okay, but he better not call me a dummy again.

WAYNE

He won't.

BEN

I might.

ROGER

Damn!!

WAYNE

That's enough --

BEN

I'll say!

WAYNE

Clear out, Ben!

What?
 BEN

You heard him, clear out!
 RIBBONS

Git the hell out of here, now!!!
 WAYNE

I took you for a gent, but I can see I was dead wrong.
 BEN

Yeah, well, I took you for a man, so now we're even.
 WAYNE

You're gonna be sorry for this, Sheriff!
 (To RIBBONS)
 And you!! I know we've met, and I'm gonna figure it out! I'll be back!!
 BEN

In about five seconds I'm gonna sic these boys on ya!!
 WAYNE

To think you're nothin' but a damn tease!
 (BEN exits)
 BEN

Huh -- what?
 WAYNE

Whooooooooooooooooope!!!!!!!
 PETE

Who was that fella, anyway?
 (To RIBBONS)
 JAKE

How'm I suppose to know?
 RIBBONS

He says he knows ya.
 JAKE

He's crazy. Just gimme a another drink.
 (JAKE pours her a drink)
 RIBBONS

WAYNE

Jake, how would you describe me?

JAKE

As a mighty fine lawman, Sheriff.

WAYNE

I know that, you jerk! -- Ribbons, how would you describe me? As a man.

RIBBONS

Big. Real Big.

WAYNE

Then how could Royann do it? How?

JAKE

Do what?

WAYNE

We're busted.

RIBBONS and JAKE

NO!!

WAYNE

It's that dern parade!

JAKE

Don't worry. She'll be back. Sure, after this parade is over everythin'll get back to normal, you'll see.

WAYNE

You know what? I didn't give no license for a parade. Nobody asked me nothin'!

JAKE

So?

WAYNE

So -- there ain't gonna be no parade. This is my town, Jake, and I'm tellin' you right now there ain't gonna be no unlicensed parade in this here town.

JAKE

I don't recollect any law like that.

WAYNE

That's because I just made it up.

RIBBONS

(To JAKE)

He's drunk.

WAYNE

I'll show these 'Daughters' who's boss. But I'll need some help. I'll need some Deputies. How about you, Ribbons? You ain't plannin' on marching in that thing, are ya!?

RIBBONS

Well, no, Sheriff -- I hadn't planned on it --

WAYNE

Good! Then you're one of my deputies. And as a reward for services rendered I personally will get you that full house Jake keeps promising. Guaranteed by the end of the week.

RIBBONS

Did you hear that, Jake?

JAKE

Absolutely not! You can't be no deputy!!

WAYNE

Are you tryin' to obscure justice?

JAKE

No, but --

WAYNE

Then shut your face, or you'll be spendin' a month in jail. That's how long you'll have to wait before the judge gets back to town before I hang ya.

JAKE

You can't do that!

WAYNE

Who's gonna stop me?

ROGER

Sheriff, I need to have a word with ya in private!!

WAYNE

You damned hothead!

ROGER

Oh, that weren't nothin'. You oughta see me when I'm really mad.

PETE

Yeah, he's just plain awful. Me too. Tell the Sheriff how we took care of that cowpoke up in Durango. Them's his boots Rog is wearin'. Show him your boots, Rog.

ROGER

(Showing WAYNE his boots)

It weren't nothin'.

PETE

The hell it weren't. Hell, I'll never forgit it. Sundown. Just the chink, chink, chink of spurs. Then, bam bam!! That son-of-a bitch never knew what hit him. It was beautiful. Bam, Bam, Bam!! We got two-hundred dollars, and them fancy boots.

WAYNE

(To ROGER)

If you got somethin' to say, say it pronto!

ROGER

(Confidentially)

I think you'll be very interested to know that me and Pete see thing's goin' on. Things that might interest you from time to time.

WAYNE

Like what?!

NOT NOW

ROGER

Well --
THERE WAS A RIGHT PECULIAR WOMAN
PLAYIN' CROOKED SOLITAIRE
AND I SENSED SHE WASN'T UP TO ANY GOOD.

WAYNE

Well, you just keep an eye on her, okay.

ROGER

AND MISTER JAKE BEHIND THE COUNTER
WITH THE CONDESCENDIN' AIR
PAID A LITTLE MORE ATTENTION THAN HE SHOULD

WAYNE

Do tell.

PETE

THERE'S A KETTLE FULL OF FISH ALL SET TO STEW
AND WE HEAR FROM YOUR RENOWN
YOU'RE THE ONE TO COOL IT DOWN.

BOTH
 HECK, THE FATE OF THIS WHOLE TOWN
 DEPENDS ON YOU KNOW WHO.

WAYNE
 NOT NOW.
 YOU GOT A BEE STUCK IN YOUR BONNET
 NEEDS A SWAT...WHAT'S NEW?
 NOT NOW
 BECAUSE A GLASS WITH MY NAME ON IT
 NEEDS ATTENDIN' TO
 I'M SICK OF FIXIN' UP AND TAKIN' CARE AND DOIN' FOR
 TONIGHT THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO'S GOING TO HAVE TO
 TEND THE STORE
 I'M CLOSIN' SHOP...AND TOSSIN' OUT THE KEY.
 NOT NOW...PLEASE NOT NOW...
 OR AT LEAST ... NOT ME.

JAKE
 (To WAYNE)
 THESE FELLAS MAKIN' YOUR ACQUAINTANCE?
 (To ROGER and PETE)
 WELL, THAT REDEYE'S MEANT TO SELL
 DO YOU SEE A SIGN THAT SAYS "DRINKS ON THE HOUSE?"
 AIN'T IT CLEAR WE CATER TO A REAL EXCLUSIVE CLIENTELE,
 AND I'M NOT THE SORT OF GENTLEMAN TO GROUSE,
 BUT IT SEEMS THAT YOUR ACCOUNT IS OVERDUE
 AND I'M THINKIN' THERE'S A CHANCE
 YOU GOT MONEY IN THEM PANTS
 LET'S EXCHANGE SOME OR YOU'LL ANSWER
 TO OL' YOU KNOW WHO
 (Indicates WAYNE)

WAYNE
 NOT NOW
 I CANNOT STAND ANOTHER MINUTE
 YOU CAN WAIT YOUR TURN
 RIGHT NOW
 I GOT A GLASS WITH WHISKEY IN IT
 THAT'S MY SOLE CONCERN.
 I'M SICK OF PATCHIN' UP AND MAKIN' SURE AND SETTIN' RIGHT.
 WAYNE (Continued)
 THERE'S GONNA BE SOME NEWLY INDEPENDENT FOLKS TONIGHT
 THERE'S DUTIES I'M INTENDIN' TO FORGET
 NOT NOW...NO, NOT NOW...
 OR AT LEAST, NOT YET.

HEY, SHERIFF, HOW'S THE LITTLE WOMAN?

RIBBONS
KEEP IT DOWN, THE MAN'S IN PAIN.

II
HEY, SHERIFF, WALTER HERE'S BEEN USIN' LOADED DICE.

III
YEAH, PROVE IT.

IV
SHERIFF, IS THAT BIG PARADE STILL GOIN' ON?

RIBBONS
RUB SALT IN, WON'T YOU?

IV
I THINK THEM BIG FLOATS ARE MIGHTY NICE

JAKE
NOT THAT KIND.

I
SHERIFF, I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP

II
SHERIFF, IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY HELP

III
SHERIFF, WE DEPEND UPON YOUR HELP

IV
SHERIFF, WE'D BE LOST WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

WAYNE
(Shouts)
HELP!
NOW AIN'T I EARNED A LITTLE QUIET?
DON'T I GET A LITTLE REST?
CAN'T I HAVE A COUPLE SECONDS OF MY OWN?

ROGER and PETE
FIRST FELLA MOVES, WE PLUG.

WAYNE
I GOT A COUPLE JUICY SORROWS RAISIN' CAIN INSIDE MY CHEST
SO JUST LEAVE ME AND MY MEDICINE ALONE.

ROGER and PETE

GIVE THAT POOR MAN A JUG.

WAYNE

IF THE WHOLE DANGED WESTERN SEABOARD DROPS FROM VIEW
IF YOUR NEIGHBOR DID YOU DIRT
OR YOUR GUMS BEGAN TO HURT
WELL THE MAN TO SAVE YOUR SHIRT
WILL NOT BE YOU KNOW WHO.

MEN
(Apologizing)
NOT NOW

NOT NOW
I GOT A LADY WHO'S DEPARTIN'
AND I'M FEELIN' LOW

WYANE (Continued)

NOT NOW
I GOTTA JUST PICK UP MY HEART 'N'
LET THE WOMAN GO.
I'M SICK OF TALKIN' BOUT AND WORKIN' ON...
HELL, WHERE'S MY PRIDE?
IF SHE DON'T LIKE THE ROOM I'M IN,
THE DOOR IS OPEN WIDE.
AND I'LL MOVE ON...I AIN'T RIGHT CERTAIN HOW.

MEN
NOT NOW

OTHERS

NOT NOW
SCARCE.

PETE & ROGER
BETTER MAKE OURSELVES

WAYNE

OH, SHE CAN HAVE HER LITTLE GLORY
SHE CAN BUST A GUT.

JAKE
HE'S IN A MOOD.

OTHERS
NOT NOW

ROGER
MAKE A NOTE

WAYNE

CAUSE IT'LL BE A DIFFERENT STORY
WHEN THAT DOOR STAYS SHUT.
FORGET THOSE NIGHTS WE SHARED AND DAYS WE SPENT

PETE
HE SURE CAN DRINK

WAYNE
AND PLANS WE MADE
I SWEAR BY GOD THAT THERE AIN'T
GONNA BE NO DAMNED PARADE
UPON THIS GLASS

RIBBONS
HE'S ACTIN' RUDE.

I MAKE A SOLEMN VOW

OTHERS

WAYNE
NOW TONIGHT,
NOT TOMORROW
NOT FOREVER
I MEAN NEVER
MOST OF ALL
MESSAGE ONE AND ALL

THE SHERIFF'S
LOADED,
LET'S MAKE TRACKS
OR GET THE AX.

WE GET THE

NOT NOW.

ALL

(WAYNE PASSES OUT

BLACKOUT

ENC OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO
Scene 1

THE LONGEST NIGHT

ROYANN

A PARADE
 WHAT COMES TO MIND
 FUN, ADVENTURE, BANNERS FLY AND SPIRITS SOAR
 FOLKS ACT LIKE KIDS ONCE AGAIN
 AND I CAN'T TELL YOU WHEN
 I HAVE DREADED ANYTHING MORE

ROYANN, LOUISE

THE LONGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE

CLINT

ARE YOU STILL FRETTIN'?

LOUISE

A MILLION MINUTES THAT NEVER END.

CLINT

ENDLESS, THIS WHOLE NIGHT IS SHOT.

LOUISE

WE SHAKE THINGS UP AND I GET TO SPEND
 THE LONGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE

CLINT

ARE YOU FUSSIN' AGAIN?

ROYANN/LOUISE

NOT TEN GOOD MINUTES OF SLEEP

LUCY

THE LONGEST NIGHT, BOY --

ROYANN/LOUISE/LUCY

THE CLOCK KEEPS TICKING AND OH MY GOD
 IT'S THREE AM WHEN I START TO NOD
 THEN SNAP, I'M BACK COUNTING SHEEP

AMY

NOT A CHANCE I'LL SLEEP TONIGHT
 NOT BEFORE A GOOD FIGHT
 GOOD NIGHT ... IDLE WORDS
 WHEN YOU'RE GEARED TO FACE OFF WITH FATE

LOUISE

FATAL, CAN INSOMNIA BE FATAL?

ROYANN, LUCY, LOUISE
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, IT'S TOO EARLY TO BE LATE

AMY
THIS IS THE LONGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE

CANTRELL
AND DON'T I KNOW IT?

LOUISE, AMY
I CANNOT WAIT TO STIR UP THIS TOWN
AND STIR IT UP GOOD

CANTRELL, CLINT
SETTLE DOWN NOW

ROYANN, LUCY
SLUMBER'S COMING, I FEEL IT, KNOCK ON WOOD

ALL
WHAT ... SLEEP?
ON THE LONGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE, WHO COULD?

ROYANN
THE LONGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE
THERE'S TWICE THE BED THAT THERE WAS BEFORE
AND WHERE'S THAT AWFUL FAMILIAR SNORE?
THE LONGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE

WOMEN
WE'RE NO LONGER ALONE
SLEEP

MEN
ALONE, I COULD

ROYANN
ALONE, WHAT A BREAK ... I CAN TOSS AND TURN TILL I'M BLUE

MEN
YOU, WOULD YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND REST NOW?

ROYANN
OR RISE TO FACE A DAWN THAT'S SCARY, YES, BUT NEW

WOMEN (With ROYANN)
THIS IS THE LONGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE
LIGHTER
RELIEF'S AN IMPOSSIBILITY

MEN
IT'S GETTING

CAUSE ANY SECOND I'LL TURN AND SEE

WOMEN (With ROYANN)
THE SUN.

MEN
WHY LOOK, THERE'S
THE SUN.

ROYANN (With WOMEN)

A BRAND NEW LIFE
I'M STANDING ON THE BRINK
I HAVEN'T SLEPT A WINK
AND THERE'S THE SUN

ALL
OH, LORD! GUESS THE LONGEST DAY OF MY LIFE HAS BEGUN.

AMY, LOUISE
BETTER GET HOPPIN'

LOUISE
STILL A FEW HOURS

ROYANN
WHAT AM I DOING?

LIGHTS CHANGE

Scene 2

Lobby, The Hotel Cantrell.. Early morning. PETE and ROGER are sleeping in the lobby CLINT reads a Western Thriller behind the counter LINDA LONGSTREET enters.

LINDA
Mornin', Clint. You still here?

CLINT
Oh, I've gone and come.

LINDA
Sounds good.

CLINT
Beg pardon, Ma'am?

LINDA
Who's the owner of this here hotel?

(PETE wakes up, listens, and quietly tries to wake up ROGER)

CLINT

That'd be Mr. Cantrell. You have a complaint? Anything I can do?

LINDA

(To CLINT)

Excuse me.

(Crossing to PETE)

Need some help?

PETE

Huh?

LINDA

(To ROGER)

Git up you ugly bastard!! Your friend wants to talk to ya!!

ROGER

(Waking up)

Huh? What? What's goin' on?

LINDA

(Crossing back to CLINT)

How's your pay, Clint?

PETE

(To ROGER)

She's up to somethin'!

CLINT

I git by.

ROGER

I knew it!

LINDA

When you work for me you'll do better.

CLINT

Huh?

ROGER

Note time.

(ROYANN cautiously enters the lobby)

PETE

(Taking out book)

Gotcha.

ROYANN

(Whispers)

Clint.

CLINT

Well, lookie who's here.

ROYANN

(Whispers)
Shhhhhhhh. Is Wayne upstairs?

CLINT

(Whispers)
I don't know. I reckon he is. I ain't seen him.

ROYANN

Well, would you go up and take a peek. I came to pick up some of my belongings and I don't want no trouble.

CLINT

(Whispers)
Golly, okay, but what if he's up there? Then what?

ROYANN

Then nothin'. I'll come back later.

CLINT

Okay, shhhh, be right back.

(ROYANN waits, twisting handkerchief)

LINDA

You're about to turn that hanky into a has been.

ROYANN

Oh.

LINDA

You like him a lot, don't you.

ROYANN

I love him.

LINDA

Then what's the problem?

ROYANN

We don't see eye to eye much any more.

LINDA

Runnin' out?

ROYANN

I wouldn't call it that.

LINDA

Well what would you call it?

ROYANN

If you knew Wayne, you might understand.

LINDA

It's mighty difficult for a woman to be on her own. You better consider that.

ROYANN

Now you sound like Wayne.

LINDA

I'm speakin' from experience. Being on my own feels mighty lonely sometimes.

ROYANN

Then you are on your own.

LINDA

For some time now.

ROYANN

And you're doin' it!

LINDA

I take my chances.

ROYANN

At least they're your chances. Not somebody else's. That's the kind of woman I want to be. Standin' on my own.

LINDA

Breakin' the rules.

ROYANN

They're not my rules. I don't want any part of them.

EYE TO EYE

LINDA

INDEPENDENT MEANS UNPROTECTED
 CAUSE ELBOW ROOM AIN'T CHEAP
 WHERE'S YOUR NEXT SUPPER COMIN' FROM, MISS
 AND WHERE YOU GONNA SLEEP?
 YOU'RE THE KIND OF A LADY
 ALL THOSE POLITE FOLKS LEAVE ALONE

PRETTY SOON THE ONLY EAR
 YOU GOT TO BEND'S YOUR OWN
 YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE YOU EVER ASK TO TEA.
 MA'AM, I GOT TO TELL YOU,
 THAT'S THE LIFE FOR ME.

CAUSE, OH, YOU GOTTA GIVE UP A LITTLE TO GET
 A LITTLE HAPPY, A LITTLE REGRET
 A LITTLE LUCK, WHILE A LITTLE SLIPS BY
 NOW YOU AND ME, WE'RE IN TWO DIFFERENT OCEANS
 AND WE'RE JUST PADDLING TO KEEP OURSELVES DRY
 BUT WHEN THE SEA'S EXTRA ROUGH
 ONE OAR JUST AIN'T ENOUGH
 BUT TOGETHER WE'LL KEEP OUR CHINS HIGH
 AND OH, THERE IS A CHANCE WE'LL BE SEEIN' THINGS
 EYE TO EYE

ROYANN

BAKIN' BREAD AND THEN MAKIN' SUPPER
 A MILLION LITTLE CHORES
 SET THE TABLE AND DO THE DISHES AND WHAT'S HE DO?
 HE SNORES.

DARNIN' SOCKS AND THEN MENDIN' QUARRELS
 AND PATCHING UP THE QUILT.
 SWEEPIN' UP AND SCRUBBIN' DOWN THE COZY NEST WE'VE BUILT.
 EVERY NOW AND THEN A REASSURING KISS.
 MA'AM, THERE'S GOT TO BE A LIMIT TO ALL THIS.
 I KNOW YOU GOTTA GIVE UP A LITTLE TO GET
 A LITTLE HAPPY, A LITTLE REGRET
 A LITTLE LUCK, BUT A WHOLE LOT SLIPS BY

TAKE YOU, YOU SOAR THROUGH A DAILY ADVENTURE,
 WHILE ME, I'M BARELY JUST LEARNING TO FLY
 BUT WHEN I'M LOST IN YOUR SHADE
 AND MY WINGS START TO FADE
 I JUST LOOK FOR THAT SPECK IN THE SKY
 AND OH, A LITTLE TIME WE'LL BE SEEING THINGS
 EYE TO EYE.

LINDA

DIFFERENT CHOICES, DIFFERENT BREAKS.

ROYANN

YOU CAN BET WE MADE DIFFERENT MISTAKES.

LINDA

AND I'LL MAKE A LOT MORE DOWN THE LINE.

ROYANN

BUT, FROM NOW ON, AT LEAST THEY'LL BE MINE.

BOTH

CAUSE OH,

LINDA

YOU ONLY GIVE UP IF YOU'RE GONNA GET.

ROYANN

WHAT IS THE USE OF A LITTLE REGRET
WITHOUT SOME HAPPY FOR EASING THE WAY?

LINDA

NOW YOU'RE CONVERSIN' IN MY KIND OF LINGO.

ROYANN

I COUNT ON YOU, MA'AM TO LEAD ME ASTRAY.

LINDA

HON, ALL YOU NEED IS A NUDGE
WHEN YOUR FEET JUST WON'T BUDGE,
I'LL BE WITH YOU IN SPIRIT.

ROYANN

OH, LORD, I CAN HEAR IT
NOW, OH (Linda echoes)
YOU ONLY GIVE UP IF YOU'RE GONNA GET
WHAT IS THE USE OF A LITTLE REGRET
IF ALL THAT "HAPPY" IS PASSIN' YOU BY?

BOTH

NOW YOU AND ME, WE'RE LIKE STORE-BOUGHT AND HOMESPUN
WE CANNOT BE LESS ALIKE IF WE TRY.

ROYANN

BUT THERE'S A LINK WAY DOWN DEEP
SAYIN" STOP COUNTIN' SHEEP
ON ACCOUNT OF SOME NO-ACCOUNT GUY.
AND SO WE'LL FACE 'EM ALL IF WE LOOK 'EM STRAIGHT
EYE TO EYE,

LINDA

TO EYE

ROYANN

TO EYE

LINDA

TO EYE

ROYANN

TO EYE

BOTH

TO EYE.

(CLINT appears at foot of stairs)

CLINT

Psssst, Royann, quick!!

ROYANN

(Rushing up the stairs)

I'll be as fast as I can, and please, please, don't let him up!!

CLINT

How am I gonna do that?

LINDA

Don't you worry 'bout a thing. Whoever he is, all Clint has to do is point him out.

ROYANN

Thank you!!

(SHE exits upstairs)

CLINT

It's awful nice of you to help.

LINDA

Helpin' her is like helpin' myself.

(CANTRELL enters)

CANTRELL

Mornin', Clint. Beautiful day, beautiful!!

CLINT

Mr. Cantrell, sir, I'd like you to meet Miz Longstreet here. She checked in last night.

CANTRELL

Nice to meet you, ma'am. I hope you're comfortable here.

LINDA

Comfortable? Why, Mr. Cantrell, the Cantrell Arms is one of the finest in the territory. Everybody's talkin' about it.

CANTRELL
(Flattered and confused)

Oh, well, thank you. Everybody you say? You travel a bit do you?

LINDA
Indeed I do, it's part of my business and that's really why I'm here.

CANTRELL
Oh is that so? What kind of business are you in?

LINDA
Buyin' and sellin' and I've got a little business proposition especially for you.
(Takes out a huge roll of currency and lays one bill out at a time)
You just say when. One thousand. Two thousand--

CANTRELL
What's this?

LINDA
U.S. currency. You keepin' count? Four -- Five --

CANTRELL
Yes, yes, but what's it for?

LINDA
Your beautiful hotel.

ROGER
(To PETE)
Put it in the book.

CANTRELL
But this place is not for sale. Is it?

LINDA
Eight thousand -- nine --

CANTRELL
I really should discuss this with my lawyer.

LINDA
Ten --

CANTRELL
And my wife --

LINDA
Eleven --

CANTRELL

Amy likes to know about these things.

LINDA

(Gathering up the cash)

Oh, let's just forget I ever brought it up. Think I'll get myself some breakfast.

CANTRELL

Oh, no, wait, wait, wait, I've thought it over. I have. Sold. How much was down there at the time -- eleven? You got yourself a deal!

LINDA

You sure you know what you're doin'?

CANTRELL

One thing about me and business, we always know what we're doin'!

LINDA

(Adding another bill)

Twelve for being so cooperative.

CANTRELL

Twelve, oh my -- I'll have my lawyer draw up the final papers for you right now. I won't be long. Now don't you move!

(HE exits)

LINDA

(Calling after him)

You know where to find me.

CLINT

Golly.

LINDA

How many residents we got here, Clint?

CLINT

Golly.

LINDA

Clint, I'm talkin' to ya. How many residents we got? Make me a list.

CLINT

You want me to put full timers on one list and over-nighters on another?

LINDA

Tell you what, to save time, you go on up and tack a notice on everybody's door tellin' 'em they've got twenty-four hours to clear out.

CLINT

But that ain't nice.

LINDA

It ain't a matter of nice. This here place is no longer open to the general public on a general basis. And while I'm at it --

(To ROGER and PETE)

Are you two varmits registered here?

ROGER

What if we are?

LINDA

Then you got five minutes to pack your gear, pay your bill and find the door!!

ROGER

Come on, Pete, we ain't got no choice.

PETE

You ain't no lady.

LINDA

Now you pass that around town. Never could beat word-of-mouth. Now vamoose!!

PETE

(Exiting upstairs)

And you were gonna buy that dern female a drink too.

ROGER

Shutup and make a note.

(THEY are out)

LINDA

Clint, you have work to do.

CLINT

Nope, I can't do it. I can't tack up no notice like that.

LINDA

Now if you're workin' for me, you've got to do like I tell ya.

CLINT

I'm sorry, ma'am. I guess I ain't workin' for you.

LINDA

I wish you'd reconsider.

CLINT

Nope. My mind is made up.

(WAYNE enters. HE has a hangover and is mumbling to himself. Heads upstairs)

I'll just collect my gear.

WAYNE

Deputies. Got to git me some deputies.

LINDA

You're just in time, cowboy. You've got twenty-four hours to clear out.

WAYNE

Clint, wake me up in about two hours. I got plenty to do today.

LINDA

You'll have it in writin' just so's we keep it legal.

CLINT

I don't work here no more.

LINDA

I just bought the place, it ain't open to the general public any more.

WAYNE

Tell me all about it after Clint wakes me up.

CLINT

I'm tryin' to tell you I ain't gonna be here.

WAYNE

Listen, you jerk. You wake me in two hours or else!!
(HE continues upstairs)

CLINT

Yes sir!

WAYNE

You're a deputy, Clint!

CLINT

Yes, sir.

WAYNE

I'm a deputy too.

(ROYANN enters and comes quickly downstairs, carrying two bags and wearing a large hat that covers her face)

Oh my lord, it's him. CLINT

Excuse me, Ma'am. WAYNE
(Continues upstairs and exits)

Thank the lord. CLINT

I'll say. LINDA
(To ROYANN)
You better scoot.

ROYANN
Just knowin' you were down here was a help. Thank you.
(Turning to CLINT)
I guess I got lucky.

the (SHE exits and CANTRELL enters. HE is feeling
few drinks he's just had to celebrate. HE carries
papers for LINDA to sign)

CANTRELL
Sorry I took so long. I stopped over to the bar to have a little drink. A little
celebration.
(Handing her the papers)
Here you are. I've already signed.

So I see. LINDA

CANTRELL
Now if you'll just sign, I'll collect my money and the place is yours.

(LINDA signs copies)

I know you'll be very happy here.

How do you know that? LINDA

CANTRELL
You've just got that look about ya.

LINDA
(Finishing signing)
That's it.
(Taking out cash)

The money's yours.

(CANTRELL takes the money)
Don't spend it all in one place.

(Giddy)
Just a little.

CANTRELL

A NICE CLEAN HOUSE

LINDA
NOW, I'M ANNOUNCING A WHALE OF A PARTY
ONCE I GET THIS PLACE LOOKING IT'S BEST.
AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO EAT AND DRINK HEARTY
MR. C., YOU'LL BE MY SPECIAL GUEST.

CANTRELL
(Spoken) Imagine me, a guest in what was once my own hotel.

LINDA

A HOTEL ISN'T REALLY MY VISION
I'LL BE REDECORATING...A LOT.
I'VE GOT PLENTY OF PLANS.

CANTRELL
WELL, EXACTLY WHAT PLANS HAVE YOU GOT?

Linda

Dinin', dancin' and a little on the side.

CANTRELL
Oh, ain't that nice.

LINDA

And I run a clean house.

CANTRELL
A clean house. -- A clean house? Wait a minute, you mean --

LINDA

I RUN A NICE CLEAN HOUSE
WITH A REAL NICE CROWD
AND THE SHINE ON THE BEDPOSTS
WOULD DO YOU PROUD
WE CRANK UP THE PIANOLA WHEN THE BOYS GET LOUD
IT'S A NICE CLEAN HOUSE.

CANTRELL

(Spoken) You mean ...

LINDA

WE ROLL OUT THE WELCOME MAT
 FOR THE CARRIAGE TRADE
 WANT YOUR PILLOW FLUFFED, HON?
 RING THE UPSTAIRS MAID
 IF YOU GET A LITTLE FRISK
 SHE'LL JUST PULL DOWN THE SHADE...
 IT'S A NICE CLEAN HOUSE.
 THE SETTEES ARE ALL COVERED IN VELVET
 AND THE CEILINGS ARE GENUINE TIN
 AND THERE'S CHANDELIERS, TOO,
 SO YOU GET A NICE VIEW,
 AND YOU LEAVE WITH A PERMANENT GRIN
 ALL THE BEDCLOTHES ARE LINED IN WHITE SATIN
 SILKY SMOOTH...WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH TAKE A NAP
 THEN ITS STRAIGHT OUT THE DOOR
 SO YOUR WIFE DON'T GET SORE
 HECK, I'LL PUT THIS FOOL TOWN ON THE MAP.

CANTRELL

(Spoken) What'll Amy say when she finds out?

LINDA

TELL HER I RUN A NICE CLEAN HOUSE
 ALL MY GIRLS ARE SWEET
 ALSO VERSATILE, FRIENDLY AND SO DISCREET
 BUT YOU TRY ANY ROUGH STUFF,
 YOU'RE OUT IN THE STREET
 IT'S A NICE CLEAN HOUSE

CANTRELL

Miz Longstreet, you just got to reconsider. Think of my reputation. I'm deacon at First Baptist Church. This'll ruin me for sure.

LINDA

Nonsense! Some of my best customers are Baptists.

CANTRELL

You -- you Jezebel! You won't get away with this.

LINDA

Felix, I don't mean to shoo you off, but I've got work to do, so shoo!

CANTRELL

Clint!

CLINT

Yes, sir?

CANTRELL

What do you have to do with all this?

CLINT

Nothin', sir.

CANTRELL

Then why are you hangin' around a place like this?

CLINT

I have to wake the Sheriff up in two hours or else.

CANTRELL

SO YOU RUN A NICE CLEAN HOUSE
AND YOU TAKE A GREAT PRIDE
WELL, NO WONDER, THE SHERIFF IS ON YOUR SIDE
WHEN I'M THROUGH, HE'LL BE THE ONLY GENT LEFT
WHO'LL RESIDE
IN YOUR NICE CLEAN HOUSE

CLINT

(Spoken) You got it all wrong, Mr. Cantrell.

CANTRELL

DON'T SEND OUT THE 'INVITES' YET.

LINDA

WORD'LL GET AROUND.

CANTRELL

KINDLY TAKE MY ADVICE, MA'AM, WHY SETTLE DOWN
WHEN TOMORROW YOU'LL BE HUNTIN' FOR A BRAND NEW TOWN
FOR YOUR NICE CLEAN HOUSE.

LINDA

TELL ME, HOW CAN THE TOWNSFOLK RESIST ME?
WAIT A WEEK...WATCH THE REAL ESTATE BOOM.

LINDA (Continued

THEY'LL COME DOWN FROM THE HILLS
WE'LL BE PACKED TO THE GILLS
BUT YOU STOP BY, I'LL SAVE YOU A ROOM.
AND I'LL EVEN PROFFER YOU A DISCOUNT
THAT'S MY WORD, NOT A WHOLE LOT OF TALK.
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, GIVE A SHOUT
I'LL ESCORT YOU BACK OUT,

THAT'S PROVIDING YOU'RE ABLE TO WALK.

I BOUGHT ME A NICE CLEAN HOUSE
 OWN IT, FAIR AND SQUARE
 COME ON, FELIX, RELAX AND LET DOWN YOUR HAIR
 I CAN TELL THERE'S A TIGER
 JUST WAITIN' IN THERE
 AND HE'S WELCOME
 IN MY
 COZY, COMFY
 NICE, CLEAN HOUSE.

CANTRELL
 WELL YOU'RE WRONG.
 YOU AREN'T LONG
 FOR THIS
 NICE, CLEAN HOUSE.

CANTRELL

(To CLINT)

You think you know a man's worth and he turns out to be a miserable, no good, ordinary, double-dealin', bonafide disappointment!

(To LINDA)

I'm goin' over to fire my lawyer, and then I'll be back to take care of this mess -- so don't you move!

(HE exits as RIBBONS and JAKE enter)

RIBBONS
 Where's the Sheriff!!!?

JAKE
 Drunk men don't remember
 Promises.

RIBBONS
 Well this one's gonna!!
 Well, where is he?

(To CLINT)

CLINT
 Sleepin'.

RIBBONS
 Well wake him up--

LINDA
 Howdy, Jake.

JAKE
 Howdy.

RIBBONS
 --the parade's gonna start any minute.

CLINT
 So?

RIBBONS
 Don't you know the Sheriff aims to stop it!

CLINT

He didn't say nothin' about the parade when he came in.

RIBBONS

Well I'm here to tell you, stupid, that if you don't wake him up right now, you'll be wishin' you were dead.

CLINT

Why is everybody hollerin' at me?

JAKE

(To RIBBONS)

You'll be wishin' you were dead if you don't come with me.

RIBBONS

Listen, Deputy --

JAKE

Don't you call me deputy. I never took no oath, and neither did you.

(BEN enters)

RIBBONS

(To CLINT)

Are you gonna get the Sheriff or do I have to do it for ya?

BEN

All right!!! Where's Wayne Bonner? I'm gunnin' for him, and after I take care of him -

(To RIBBONS)

I'm gonna take care of you, Bobby Ray Odem.

RIBBONS

Oh, no!!

BEN

Ohhhhhhh, yes!!!

JAKE

Who's Bobby Ray Odem?

RIBBONS

Ben, please, don't tell.

JAKE

Hey, you said you didn't know him.

BEN

After what you done to me!

RIBBONS

Ben, please, I'm happy now.

BEN

Should of thought of that before you made a fool outta me back at the bar.

RIBBONS

I'm sorry!

BEN

Too late!!

(To CLINT)

One of you buzzards give the Sheriff a message for me. You there!

CLINT

Why me?

BEN

Tell the Sheriff I'll be out on the street. Waitin'. Tell him -- he's done for.

RIBBONS

Ben, wait, what are you gonna do?

BEN

About you? Well now --

BETWEEN FRIENDS (REPRISE)
WHAT'S A LITTLE SECRET SHARED
WITH A FRIEND?

RIBBONS

(Wanly)

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...WHAT A TREAT...

BEN

NEVER KNEW HOW MUCH YOU CARED,
MY OLD FRIEND.

RIBBONS

SEEING YOU, MY LIFE IS COMPLETE

BEN

WHAT A PERFECT TIME IT IS TO REKINDLE CHERISHED TIES.

RIBBONS

OR SAY SOME QUICK "GOOD BYES"
THE SHORTER THE BETTER

BEN

THIS DAY IS RED LETTER
CAUSE ISN'T EVERY DAY YOU CALL
ON OLD FRIENDS.

RIBBONS
ALWAYS WERE THE NEIGHBORLY KIND.

BEN
I INTEND ON MEETIN' ALL
O' YOUR FRIENDS

RIBBONS
NOT FOR MY SAKE, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

BEN
AND I GOT SOME INFORMATION
THEY'RE BOUND TO UTILIZE
GOOD STORIES ALWAYS BEAR REPEATING
AND SO COME NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY MEETING
I'LL TURN THIS HEN BACK INTO A PEACOCK ...
SOME SURPRISE
FOR YOUR FRIENDS.

(RIBBONS screams and faints)
Still the same ole Bobby Ray. Well--
(Referring to RIBBON's dress)
-- almost the same.
(HE exits as WAYNE enters from upstairs)

JAKE
Bobby Ray? Who the hell is Bobby
Ray?

WAYNE
What in tarnation is goin' on down
here?

(EVERYONE speaks at once)

CLINT
(Overlap)
Mr. Cantrell's fumin' about Mz. Longstreet buyin' the hotel and he's got it in his
head that I had somethin' to do with it. You too. No tellin' what he's plannin' to do,
and that fella Ben was here, he's gunnin' for ya! And now, I'm goin' home.

JAKE
(Overlap)
What the hell do you think you're doin' turnin' Ribbons against me, makin'
promises, about full houses, startin' trouble. And now there's this Bobby Ray person
--

LINDA
(Overlap)

Don't forget you're out of here in the morning. Nothin' personal, the place just ain't open to the general public as of tomorrow morning. So pack your gear and vamoose.
(THEY all stop talking at the same time as RIBBONS comes to life)

RIBBONS
(Frantic, dazed)

Don't do it, Ben, Please don't tell!

WAYNE

What the hell's goin' on down here?

CLINT

Cantrell's after your hide and that gent called Ben is gunnin' for ya. Now I'm goin' home.

(Begins to collect his belongings as ROGER and PETE appear on the stairway and WE hear the musical sounds of the parade)

RIBBONS

The parade's about to start!!!!

WAYNE

Don't move. Don't nobody move. Everybody raise your right hand. I need deputies and you are them.

ROGER
(Shouts)

We're with you, Sheriff!

WAYNE

(Drawing his gun)

You're all with me.

DEPUTIES

WAYNE

GONNA MAKE SOME DEPUTIES TODAY
GONNA TAKE SOME HOMETOWN BOYS
AND TURN 'EM INTO MEN
'N' I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO SWEAR IN
EXTRA FRISKY FILLIES NOW AND THEN

WAYNE (Continued)

FACT IS, EVERY LOCAL RESIDENT'S FAIR GAME
GONNA MAKE SOME DEPUTIES
NEED A PACK OF DEPUTIES
WOULD YOU KINDLY LINE UP PLEASE
GOT A PACK O' HOOLIGANS TO TAME.

JAKE
Damnit!

CLINT
Now listen, Sheriff

WAYNE
IF YOU WANNA KEEP IT, RAISE YOUR HAND
(To LINDA)
EVEN IF YOU'RE PASSIN' THROUGH,
WHAT MATTERS IS YOU'RE HERE
'N' I EXPECT COOPERATION,
DO I MAKE MYSELF RIGHT CLEAR?
'CAUSE I'M NOT THE KIND OF GENT YOU WANT TO RILE.
I'M JUST MAKIN' DEPUTIES
WHAT AN HONOR! DEPUTIES
AND THERE AIN'T NO LEGAL FEES,
ALL YOU DO IS RAISE YOUR HAND (To CLINT) AND SMILE.
(THEY all raise their right hands)

DO YOU SWEAR TO HOLD UP...I MEAN UPHOLD
ALL THE LAWS OF THIS HERE STATE?
AND THERE'S BYLAWS AND A BUNCH O' TINY PRINT
HELL, THE ONLY THING I NEED TO KNOW IS
CAN YOU FOLLOW ORDERS? GREAT!
I COULD GET THE BOOK BUT IT WOULD ONLY MAKE ME SQUINT
ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS WHAT I SAY
YOU CAN BET YOUR BADGES I'LL BE SAYIN' QUITE A LOT

JAKE
SO WHO'S GOT BADGES?

WAYNE
DON'T GET TECHNICAL
BE GLAD O' WHAT YOU GOT
SOMEDAY YOU'LL LOOK AT YOUR GRANDKIDS AND YOU'LL SAY
YOU WERE ONCE A DEPUTY
YEAH! A REAL LIVE DEPUTY
AND THAT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ME
AND HERE AND NOW
AND WHY AND HOW
AND WHAT WE DID TODAY.
(Spoken) Answer I do!

ALL
I do.

WAYNE
Good. You are all now United States Deputies. You belong to me! Has everybody got that?

ROGER

What's your plan, Sheriff?

WAYNE

Stake yourselves along Main Street. Our job is to stop this parade. Under no circumstances is this parade to get past us. Not one damn woman gets past our blockade! Do I make myself clear? Now check your weapons.

LINDA

(To CLINT)

That man needs help.

CLINT

I ain't carryin' no gun, I don't care what!

JAKE

(To RIBBONS)

When this is over, we're through.

RIBBONS

I need you, Jake -- now more than ever.

JAKE

Treated you like my own daughter.

PETE

I'm gonna have some fun, you jest wait and see.

ROGER

Take it easy boy.

WAYNE

KEEP IT DOWN, BOYS,
WE GOT WORK TO DO

ROGER and PETE

WE ARE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.

LINDA

THE WAY THAT MAN TALKS!

CLINT

TALK SENSE, WOULD YOU, SHERIFF?

WAYNE

I'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO
BUT THERE COMES A TIME
WHEN THERE'S NOTHIN' LEFT TO SAY.

LEFT TOO LONG IN THE SUN
IS THE MAN OVERHEATED?

OVERWORKED

OVER ... HUNG

OVER EVERYTHING TODAY

EVER SEE A SORRIER CONTINGENCY?

I NEVER THOUGHT TO LOOK.

ALL JOIN RANKS...IT'S TIME TO SHOW WHAT'S RIGHT IS RIGHT
EVERYONE IN BATTLE STATIONS

HELL, WE'LL FINALLY DO IT BY THE BOOK.

I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'LL BE GOIN' DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT

OH, LORD, THIS TIME HE MEANS IT.

WAYNE
WENT AND MADE SOME DEPUTIES TODAY
MADE A TOWN MILITIA...
SO YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE GREEN
TO TELL THE TRUTH,
YOU'RE 'BOUT THE SORRIEST PLATOON I'VE EVER SEEN
BUT A LITTLE SPIT AND POLISH, YOU'LL DO FINE
AND I NEED MY DEPUTIES
NEED A PACK OF DEPUTIES

WAYNE (Continued)
WHEN THE LADY SHOWS UP SHE'S
GONNA SEE A LINE
OF DEPUTIES
(Yells)
All right!!! We got work to do!

JAKE

CLINT

RIBBONS

ALL

CLINT

LINDA

WAYNE

ROGER and PETE

WAYNE

ALL

WAYNE (Continued)

(SCENE begins to change to MAIN STREET in front of the HOTEL CANTRELL)

PETE
You jest say when, Sheriff!

WAYNE
YOU AIN'T MUCH,
BUT, DAMN, IF YOU AIN'T MINE.

LIGHTS CHANGE

Scene 3

Main Street, just in front of the HOTEL CANTRELL. WAYNE, CLINT, PETE, ROGER, LINDA, RIBBONS and JAKE are on the street.

CLINT, LINDA, JAKE and RIBBONS are in Conference.

At the same time, a few blocks away -- LUCY, LOUISE and ANY are preparing for the Parade.

LUCY
Louise, hold that banner up ---

WAYNE
I need a volunteer.

ROGER
That's me, Sheriff.

LUCY
Up!!!

WAYNE
Scout on up the road and check their position!

LUCY
When your end drops it reads Women Suffra --

ROGER
Then what?

LUCY
-- it doesn't make any sense.

WAYNE

Then report back, you dumb jerk. Now move out.

(ROGER exits)

LOUISE

I'm doing the best I can.

LUCY

I'm sure you are.

LOUISE

I don't have to take that from you, Lucy Taylor.

LUCY

Louise, I appreciate your participation, but when you let your end drop, something goes out of the message.

LOUISE

(Holding her end higher)

Is this better?

LUCY

Much. Keep the elbow a little higher than your bosom.

(ROGER ENTERS and spies on THEM)

LOUISE

Really, Lucy -- mind your language.

(AMY practices her tuba)

PETE

Better watch how you talk to Rog, Sheriff. he used to be a sergeant with the calvalry. He's tough when he wants to be. I served under him.

WAYNE

Well you're servin' under me now. So git behind that barrel and wait for further orders.

(PETE does)

AM

(To LUCY, referring to ROGER)

Who is that carrion over there? He's staring at us and writing things down.

LUCY

Let's find out.

(LUCY and AMY cross to ROGER as CLINT crosses)

(To WAYNE)
Are you friend or foe?

ROGER
I'm just passing through.

LUCY
We're all just passing through, brother.

ROGER
Huh?

CLINT
Sheriff, we've been talkin' and we were
just wonderin' if you could handle this a
better way.

WAYNE
This here is an illegal parade.

(ROYANN enters)

ROYANN
(To LUCY)
Sorry I'm late.

WAYNE
That's enough out of all of ya!

LUCY
(To ROGER)
Stop sneaking around here or I'll be obliged to get the Sheriff.

WAYNE
Now git back to your posts before
you make me do somethin' your
gonna be sorry for --

ROGER
(Laughing)
You just do that, lady.

WAYNE
Move it!
(THEY move away from HIM)

ROYANN
(To ROGER)
Did Wayne Bonner send you here?

ROGER
What if he did?

ROYANN
Well you go back and tell Mr. Bonner that he has my permission to do whatever he
has to do -- I certainly intend to do what I have to do.

Be much obliged.
 ROGER

AMY
 Wait a minute, I know you!! You're registered at the Cantrell Arms, three weeks behind in your rent.

ROGER
 So what!

AMY
 (Blows tuba in his face)
 So this!!

ROGER
 (Moving away)
 Hey, watch it.
 (SHE chases him with tuba)
 You're gonna be sorry for that!
 (HE escapes)

AMY
 (Blows a final long blast)
 I haven't had so much fun in years!

(Lights down on the WOMEN up on WAYNE and COMPANY)

LINDA
 (To WAYNE)
 Listen you damn fool, somebody's liable to get hurt.

CLINT
 Yeah, and what about Ben? He's out here somewhere gunnin' for ya.

RIBBONS
 And Ben is mean, Sheriff. He's liable to shoot you right in the back. I know him. I've seen him do it.

JAKE
 (To RIBBONS)
 So you finally plain out admit it. You know who he is.

PETE
 Here comes Rog!

WAYNE
 TAKE COVER!!

That ain't Rog.

PETE

(CANTRELL enters)

CANTRELL

I see ya, Sheriff! Don't try to hide from me. I've wired the governor about you and your partner, Linda Longstreet. By tonight you can be sure you won't be Sheriff of this good town.

WAYNE

I got work to do, Cantrell, move off the street.

CANTRELL

Don't play dumb cowboy with me.

WAYNE

You better do like I told ya and move your butt.

CANTRELL

Mizz Longstreet, I'm willing to buy the place back.

WAYNE

Raise your right hand, Cantrell.

LINDA

The place ain't for sale.

CANTRELL

I'll pay you double.

WAYNE

Do you swear to uphold the laws
of this here state?

LINDA

You want to buy it back, do ya?

CANTRELL

Yes I do!!

WAYNE

That's just fine. You're my deputy now, Cantrell. You're takin' orders from me now.

CANTRELL

Huh? What's this all about?

LINDA

Stoppin' parades.

CANTRELL
(To WAYNE)

Have you gone crazy?

WAYNE
You're my deputy. Swore you in, in front of witnesses.

CANTRELL
But I can't mess with this parade. Don't make me do it, Sheriff.

WAYNE
You're in, Cantrell. So stop your snivelin' and find yourself a barrel.

CANTRELL
Damn!

PETE
I see him. Rog is comin'!!

CANTRELL
(To LINDA)
Psssssssssst.

WAYNE
It's about damn time.

LINDA
(To CLINT)
Excuse me. Business.
(Goes to CANTRELL)

(ROGER enters)

ROGER
They're gettin' ready to march, and I got a message for ya.

WAYNE
You let her see ya you dumb bastard, you're gonna ruin the whole thing.

ROGER
She don't know nothin!

(BEN enters)

RIBBONS
Oh, No!!

BEN
Sheriff, you git my message?

WAYNE
Sure did.

BEN

You ready?

Actually, I'm kinda tied up right now.

WAYNE

Tied up?

BEN

Watch it, Ben, you're out-numbered.

RIBBONS

What are you scared of. What's he got on you?

JAKE

Damn.

(Really frustrated)

ROGER

(All freeze except CANTRELL and LINDA)

JUST TELL ME HOW MUCH!!

CANTRELL

Four times my price. Gold. Take it or leave it.

LINDA

That's crazy.

CANTRELL

(ALL freeze except JAKE and RIBBONS)

I'm talking to you, woman.

JAKE

That's just the point. I ain't exactly a woman and Ben knows it.

RIBBONS

Well if you ain't a woman what are ya?

JAKE

(ALL freeze except BEN, WAYNE, PETE, and ROGER)

I'm prime.

BEN

Let me take care of him for ya, Sheriff.

ROGER

(SOUND of the Parade approaching)

PETE

Let me kill 'em, Rog. I'll just swat me a fly.

(ALL freeze except RIBBONS and JAKE)

(RIBBONS takes off her wig and reveals to JAKE that SHE is a HE)

RIBBONS

Please don't hate me, Jake. I'll explain everything.

JAKE

Well I'll be damned.

(ALL freeze except CANTRELL and LINDA)

CANTRELL

(To LINDA)

You win. I'll pay your price. I'll make the arrangements.

LINDA

Don't bother. I already have.

(SHE hands him prepared papers)

Sign on the dotted line.

CANTRELL

(As he signs)

Jezebel.

(ALL move normally)

WAYNE

Git ready!

BEN

Damnit, Wayne Bonner.

LINDA

You got your job back, Clint. Cantrell owns the hotel again.

CLINT

I ain't workin' for him ever again.

WAYNE

No one gets past this point. If you have to shoot, shoot over their heads.

JAKE

I don't want to shoot nobody!

RIBBONS

Don't worry, I took your bullets out back at the saloon.

JAKE

Damnit, Ribbons, you're fantastic.

RIBBONS

Then you don't hate me?

JAKE

Hate my own daughter? What do you take me for?

RIBBONS

I love you, Jake Treemont.

JAKE

The feelin' is mutual, girlie, the feelin' is mutual.

BEN

You're makin' a fool outa me, Bonner.

(The LADIES in the PARADE enter)

DRAW, COWARD!!!

(WAYNE turns to BEN and draws his gun, shooting over Ben's head. The bullet ricochets; ALL go into slow motion ducking the bullet as ROYANN sinks to the ground)

ROYANN

Wayne ...

(After ROYANN is on the ground, ALL return to natural movement)

WAYNE

Hold it, nobody move! Royann's been shot!! Somebody git the doc.

(CLINT rushes off as HE crosses to ROYANN)

Royann, darlin' -- don't die on me.

ROYANN

Wayne --

WAYNE

Shhhh, don't say nothin'. I love you, woman, don't die. I'll do anything you want.

ROYANN

Wayne, what are you doin' out here?

WAYNE

(Interrupting)

Save your strength, don't talk. The doc'll be here any minute.

ROYANN

Would you please help me up?

WAYNE

Would you please shut up!

ROYANN

I aim to finish this parade, Wayne.

WAYNE

My God, woman, relax!! You've been shot.

ROYANN

I have not been shot, Wayne.

WAYNE

You have so!

ROYANN

I have not!

WAYNE

Then what the hell are you doin' on the ground?

ROYANN

Because some damn fool shot off his gun and scared the hell out of me and I fell down. Now will you please help me up?

WAYNE

Oh lord, thank God. Thank you God.

(To the CROWD)

She's not dyin' ...

(The crowd murmurs, 'She's not dyin'.')

WAYNE offers ROYANN his hand. ROYANN stands. One of her ankle's is painful and difficult to stand on)

ROYANN

(Near tears)

Well, I hope you're happy now. I can hardly walk.

WAYNE

I'm sorry honey.

ROYANN

Sorry?! Just what do you think you're doin'?

WAYNE

Well, uhhhh, I been thinkin' that uhhhh, well uhhh, well hell, Royann, I'm all confused.

ROYANN

Wayne Lee Bonner, I'm gonna finish being in this parade even if I have to crawl, and this is the very last time I askin' -- will you join me?

WAYNE

(Taking a moment to ponder)

All right everybody. Holster your iron and-join in.

ROYANN

No! No more bullyin'. I'm askin' you to join me.

LILAC MIST (REPRISE FINALE)

WOULD YOU PLEASE
STOP AND THINK
NOW, BEFORE THE DRAMATICS BEGIN
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, DEAR SIR (MY DEAR)
IF, FOR ONCE ONE OF US DIDN'T WIN?
IF, FOR ONCE WE WERE STANDING TOGETHER
SOMEWHERE HALFWAY BETWEEN ME AND YOU
JUST A MAN AND A WOMAN TOO CLOSE TO SEE
WHICH ONE'S RIGHT ...
THEY'RE JUST WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE
STANDING TALL ... EYE TO EYE ...
YOU JUST WALK AWAY
IF THAT'S TOO MUCH TO ASK.
Yes or no?

WAYNE

Awww, honey ...
(Mumbles)
On one condition.

ROYANN

What?!!

WAYNE

(Quietly)
Don't you ever call me Wayne Lee again.

ROYANN

And don't you call me 'Miss Priss' anymore either.

(Kisses her)
 I'll think about it.

WAYNE

Wayne, I mean it.

ROYANN

Mr. Bonner, if you please.

BEN

Wayne, who is that man?

ROYANN

Well uhhhh ...

WAYNE

He's Benjamin Madison Moody, my friend who's gonna shut up now and comere and give me a hug.

RIBBONS

Too late.

BEN

It's never too late Ben Moody. Now you git over here and give me a hug before you make me do somethin' against my principles.

RIBBONS

Well, if you put it that way.

BEN

I do.

(HE crosses to her and THEY hug; then he gives WAYNE a long yearning look)

RIBBONS

(To PETE)
 Make a note.

ROGER

(About BEN)
 Wayne? Who is that man?

ROYANN

Uhhhh, he's a friend, that's all.

WAYNE

(To PETE)
 You got that?

ROGER

WAYNE

Comere, woman.

(HE hugs her tightly as AMY blasts her tuba)

AMY

Enough of the mush! Let's get this show on the road! Felix, as long as you're here, you're in.

(Music begins STOP THE PARADE Reprise)

CANTRELL

To WAYNE)

This is all your fault.

WAYNE

Whatever you say, Felix. Whatever you say.

(EVERYONE joins in the parade, PETE and ROGER follow taking notes. EVERYONE exits)

CLINT enters with the Doctor. THEY stand on the street onfused, as WE hear the sounds of the continuing Parade)

END OF MUSICAL PLAY

