

LOVE AND AN OIL CHANGE
A Romantic Musical Comedy

By
Script - Klay Rogers
Lyrics - Klay Rogers and Brent Rogers
Music - Brent Rogers

CAST OF CHARACTERS

3 women / 6 men

3 women Ensemble or more (both men and women) at Director's discretion.

Veronica (Roni): Certified master mechanic, assertive, sharp-minded, principled, age late 20's-early 30's.

Johnny Ray Ratchet: Racecar driver, inept and earnest privately yet demonstrating a false bravado publicly. Same age as Roni (late 20's to early 30's). (Comedic role.)



Grandma Myrtle: Petite, out-spoken, gray-headed, age 70's. Married to Paw Paw. (Comedic role.)

Paw Paw: Bossy and grouchy former store owner. Harsh to the men and kind to Veronica. Married to Grandma Myrtle, Age, 70's. (Comedic role.)



Louraine (pronounced Lou'-rain): Full-figured, quick to laugh, boy crazy floozy, and best friend to Roni, age late 20's to 30's. (Comedic role.)

Curt: Store manager, gregarious, full-figured, smiling, reassuring, African-American, age mid 40's.

Pedro: Pitman (technician who works under the cars), sincere, sensible, sometimes naïve, Hispanic immigrant worker age mid 30's. Speaks Spanish.

Sparky: Hood technician, grungy, snotty and compliant, age late 20's to 30's. (Comedic role.)



Buster and Bowser: Grubby, lazy and opportunistic, redneck, age 40's. (Comedic role and a canine.)

Track Announcer

Note: The roles of Buster and Track Announcer may be double cast at the director's discretion. The track announcer must be adept at RAP.

Special Effects

The special visual and sound effects of the oil change shop and stock racing are prominent in the show. There is a never performed before race reenactment scene.

Music and Dance

The show offers a wide variety of music and dance styles including: Rhythmic Dance (1), Jazz (1), Broadway ballads (3), Broadway story songs (5), Country humor (3), RAP (1), Latin (1), and R&B (1).

Synopsis

Love and an Oil Change tells the story of Veronica ("Roni"), a young woman working in the NASCAR world as a master mechanic. The show starts after she's been fired from her job by the famous driver, Chuck Champion, but not because of job performance but because the guys on her team didn't like having a woman around. She's returned to her small hometown of Hokes Bluff, Alabama where she's working at the oil change business where she grew up (This is the setting for the show). She's over qualified for the job. Nevertheless, she is disparaged (in a comical manner) by the country redneck men that frequent the local business.

Enter Johnny Ray Ratchet, a down and out racecar driver that's been out of racing for a year because the same Chuck Champion ran him into the wall and injured his knee. He's qualified for the big Talladega race the next weekend but he can't get his dang motor to run right. He hears that there's a master mechanic in town, but he doesn't want to go there because he knows the mechanic is a woman. Finally, he relents and he goes to talk to her. We learn that they already know each other. They were boyfriend/girlfriend from the 8th grade, and they don't like each other. But since they have the same enemy, they decide to work together for the big race.

The teamwork between Johnny Ray and Roni rekindles the spark of romance between the two and more importantly, because of Roni's expertise, they win Talladega in a nose-to-nose battle with Chuck Champion. Then, Johnny Ray, in a chauvinistic moment of self-indulgence ignores Roni at the trophy presentation. Roni returns home alone in tears and with a broken heart.

Act II is a comical back and forth dialogue between Johnny Ray and Roni that ends up with him understanding his big mistake. The men in the shop are consistently nosy about Roni's secret love life (in a very humorous manner). Finally, Johnny Ray drives to the oil change business and publicly apologizes to Roni. He gives her proper credit for his racing victory and publically expresses his affections for her as only a racecar driver can. They embrace and continue their teamwork and romance in a perfect racecar romance.

Subplots abound to tell the love stories of all the characters: Roni's best friend Louraine and Pedro, Grandma

Myrtle and Paw Paw, Curt and his food, and Buster and his dawg. Louraine is a vibrant floozy that, at Roni's urging, finds her first "respectful relationship." Paw Paw, at Roni's urging, shows long overdue appreciation to Grandma Myrtle. Curt sings of his love for food and the ladies that cook for him, and Buster finds his perfect mate in his dog Bowser. These colorful characters are a laugh a minute.

The special visual and sound effects of the oil change shop and stock racing are a big part of the show.

The show offers a wide variety of music and dance styles including: Rhythmic Dance (1), Jazz (1), Broadway ballads (3), Broadway story songs (5), Country humor (3), RAP (1), Latin (1), and R&B (1).

SONG LISTING

Act I

1. I Drive Fast - *Johnny Ray*
2. Oil Change Dance Theme - *Company*
3. Yard Sale Olympians (Intro)- *Louraine, Grandma Myrtle*
4. Woman in a Truck - *Louraine, Buster, and Company*
5. Back on the Track - *Johnny Ray and Veronica*
6. Grease Monkey Girl - *Veronica, Curt, Sparky Pedro*
7. In a Man's World - *Veronica, Curt, Sparky Pedro*
8. Free Advice - *Pedro, Veronica, Curt, Sparky*
9. Lonely Lovers' Game - *Veronica, Johnny Ray*
10. Back on the Track (Reprise) - *Veronica, Johnny Ray*
11. A Good Day for Racing - *Veronica and Johnny Ray*
12. Race Day - *Company*

Intermission

13. Yard Sale Olympians - *Louraine, Grandma Myrtle and Ensemble*

Act II

14. These Things - *Louraine and Pedro*
15. En Limbo - *Pedro, Veronica and Company*
16. Drive-Thru Pleasure Zone - *Curt, Sparky, Pedro*
17. Bowser - *Buster, Curt, Sparky and Pedro*
18. Who Is This Man? - *Veronica, Curt, Sparky Pedro*
19. Only One for Me - *Paw Paw and Grandma Myrtle*
20. Connections - *Johnny Ray and Company*
21. Oil Change Dance Theme (Finale) - *Company*

ACT I

Scene 1

Friday morning of a typical day at the Oil Change business, located in the small northeastern Alabama town of Hokes Bluff, present day.

(Auditorium is completely dark.)

(There is the sound of a performance car pulling up. JOHNNY RAY is heard over the speaker system.)

JOHNNY RAY RACHET

That's good. That's good.

That's good. That's good.

(Motor sputters.)

No. No.

(Motor sputters more.)

No, don't do that!

*(Motor knocks and dies.)
(Spot light on Johnny's face sitting in car #5).*

Dang it! I need a mechanic!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET *(Sings)*

(Lights up on stage apron.)

(MUSIC: #1 I DRIVE FAST!) << TRACK 1 >>

Verse 1

I'M RACING CARS AND HAVING A BLAST.
WHEN IN DOUBT I STEP ON THE GAS.
I'LL WIN THAT RACE AND SPIN IN THE GRASS.
I'M JOHNNY RAY RATCHET AND I DRIVE FAST.

Verse 2

CUT ME OFF, I'LL MAKE A PASS.
 WHEN WE RACE, YOU'LL LOOK LIKE TRASH.
 OUT ON THE STREET, I RIDE IN CLASS.
 'CAUSE I DRIVE FAST.

Chorus

I DRIVE FAST, HAVING A BLAST.
 STEP ON THE GAS, I DRIVE SO FAST.
 SPIN IN THE GRASS, MAKE A PASS.
 I'M JOHNNY RAY RATCHET AND I DRIVE FAST!

*(Motor runs sputters and dies
 as before. Johnny moans and
 puts his head down.)*

*(Two young girls cross,
 Johnny changes tone abruptly
 and speaks with his bravado
 and charm.)*

JOHNNY RAY RACHET

Hello Ladies. I guess you've heard of the number 5
 car. Wanna check it out?

ENSEMBLE GIRLS

*(Girls look at each other
 roll their eyes and giggle.)*

Who's your sponsor, a cough syrup company?

*(Girls mimmick the sputter
 sounds heard before, then
 laugh.)*

Cough, cough, cough-cough... Putttttttttter, puut.

JOHNNY RAY RACHET

You get along! Go on! Go on! Shoo, shoo, shoo.

(Girls exit.)

Verse 3

SLEEP FAST, WALK FAST, I'M ON THE RUN.
 EAT FAST, TALK FAST, GIVE IT THE GUN.
 RUN FAST, DRESS FAST, I'M NOT DONE.
 PIT FAST, GO FAST, HAV'N FUN.

Chorus

I DRIVE FAST, HAVING A BLAST.
 STEP ON THE GAS, I DRIVE SO FAST.
 SPIN IN THE GRASS, MAKE A PASS.
 I'M JOHNNY RAY RATCHET AND I DRIVE FAST!

(Johnny raises his hood and
 looks at the motor. Paw Paw
 crosses.)

PAW PAW

So what's your problem?

JOHNNY RAY RACHET

I'm doing just fine, thank you.

PAW PAW

If you knew what's good for ya you'd drive that car
 into that oil change business right there and get
 their master mechanic to get it running.

JOHNNY RAY RACHET

There's no master mechanic in Hokes Bluff, Alabama.
 That's silly.

PAW PAW

Yes there is. In fact, their master mechanic will
 make this car run like a bandit down a back alley. Ha
 ha ha.

JOHNNY RAY RACHET

I'll keep that in mind if I ever need one.

*(Bends over and reaches under
 the hood.)*

PAW PAW

*(Looks at his back side and
 then speaks to the audience.)*

Looks like I'm gonna need to give him a swift kick in
 the buttocks just to turn his brain on.

(Speaking to Johnny Ray.)

Good day to you sir.

JOHNNY RAY RACHET

And a good day to you.

Verse 4

STOP AT A SIGN, THAT'S CRAZY.
 WAIT IN LINE, THAT'S LAZY.
 SPIN MY TIRES, IT'S HAZY.
 'CAUSE I DRIVE FAST.

Chorus

I DRIVE FAST, HAVING A BLAST.
 STEP ON THE GAS, I DRIVE SO FAST.
 SPIN IN THE GRASS, MAKE A PASS.
 I'M JOHNNY RAY RACHET AND I DRIVE FAST!
 I'M JOHNNY RAY RACHET AND I DRIVE FAST! [END SONG]

*(Pedro enters stage left
 during song and is dozing on
 the park bench.
 Lights up on full stage.
 Johnny walks to speak to
 him.)*

JOHNNY RAY RACHET
 What time you guys open up?

PEDRO *(Sleepishly with yawn.)*
 It will not be too long.

JOHNNY RAY RACHET
 We'll I can't wait long, I'm racing on Sunday and I
 gotta get to a meeting. But I heard you got a master
 mechanic working here.

PEDRO
 Si senior, she is new for a week.

JOHNNY RAY RACHET
 Hold on. Did you just say "she"?

PEDRO
 This is true senior. And she went to the college and
 she has many tools.

JOHNNY RAY RACHET
 Well, I can have some woman working on my car.

PEDRO

You should not say that senior. She knows everything about the cars and, and she smells like gasoline.

(Grins real big.)

JOHNNY RAY RACHET

I don't know, I don't know, I gotta go. Later Bro!

PEDRO

You come back later and she will make the car go fast!

(JOHNNY RAY exits with car #5.)

(Full stage lights come up. RONI appears from inside the store. She crosses the stage, raises the doors and turns on the "open" sign. There are car noises.)

RONI

Good morning Pedro!

PEDRO

Buenos dias Ms. Roni. The man just comes for you.

RONI

We've got a car outside already! Go guide them in.

(Driveway bell.)

PEDRO

(Shop call.)

We have inbound Bay 1.

RONI

(Shop call echo.)

Inbound on Bay 1.

PEDRO

This man has this fast car and wants to speak to you ...

(A car pulls in with a man and woman and ensemble members. PEDRO and RONI guide the car in, open the hood and begin servicing the car. RONI ignores PEDRO.)

RONI

What are you talking about, Pedro? Get busy on that car!

CURT

(CURT enters from stage right. He is walking quickly to the office.)

Mornin' Roni, Pedro.

PEDRO

Buenos dias Señor Curt.

RONI

Mornin' Curt.

*(Driveway bell sounds.)
(LOURAINÉ'S truck pulls in Bay 2 with GRANDMA MYRTLE.
RONI guides the car in, opens the hood and begins to check the motor.)*

CURT

Y'all got that car?

RONI

Yeah.

(Shop call.)

Inbound on Bay 2

PEDRO

(Shop call echo.)

Inbound on Bay 2.

SPARKY

Morning guys!

(Smiles insincerely as he slips in; he knows he is late to work.)

CURT *(Sarcastically.)*

Nice to see you on time this morning, Sparky.

(All the noises of the shop start to indicate the beginning of the work day. A rhythm begins to build for the upcoming song.)

SPARKY

Man, you're not going to believe what happened last night. I was just minding my own business and --

CURT

(Cutting him off.)

I'm not gonna believe that I might get a day's work out of you! Go help with those two cars.

SPARKY

I'm on it, chief.

(Enter TOWNSPEOPLE for full ensemble dance. Singing.)

(MUSIC: #2 OIL CHANGE DANCE THEME) << TRACK 2 >>

(Instrumental and full ensemble dance, utilizing various props to beat rhythms: Oil cans, tools, mufflers hanging on the wall, shop boxes (box drums), car fenders, etc. Roni starts a group then moves to the next. She becomes the music director.)

(Group 1 w/ Roni)

COME ON IN! (AD LIB: WE'RE OPEN, TIME TO START)

MEET A FRIEND!

(Group 2 w/ Pedro)

SIT A WHILE!

SHARE A SMILE! (AD LIB: IT'S A FRIENDLY KIND OF PLACE.)

(All)

AT THE OIL CHANGE.

OIL CHANGE.

(Group 3 w/ Curt)

HAVE A CUP!

DRINK IT UP!

(Group 4 w/ Sparky)

HAVE A SEAT!

WHILE YOU MEET!

(Group 1 w/ Roni)

SAY HELLO! (AD LIB: BE FRIENDLY LIKE)

OFF YOU GO!

(Group 2 w/ Pedro)

SHARE SOME NEWS!

YOU CAN USE!

(All)
 AT THE OIL CHANGE.
 OIL CHANGE.
 AT THE OIL CHANGE.
 OIL CHANGE.

OIL CHANGE! (AD LIB: YOU GUYS ARE LOOKING SLUGGISH!)
 OIL CHANGE! (AD LIB: I'VE POURED TWO POTS OF FRESH
 COFFEE, NOW LETS GET GOING!)
 OIL CHANGE! (AD LIB: LET'S GET THIS THING STARTED)
 OIL CHANGE! (AD LIB: ALRIGHT. HERE WE GO!)

PEDRO (Spoken)
 Clear to add Bay 1.

SPARKY (Spoken)
 Clear to add Bay 1.

(Group 3 w/ CURT)
 CELEBRATE!
 LIFE IS GREAT!
 (Group 4 w/ PEDRO)
 LOVE THIS TOWN!
 HANG AROUND!
 (Group 1 w/ RONI)
 CHECK MY BRAKE!
 PIECE OF CAKE!
 (Group 3 w/ CURT)
 COOLANT GREEN!
 THEN IT'S CLEAN!

(All)
 OIL CHANGE.

PEDRO (Spoken)
 Clear to add Bay 2.

SPARKY (Spoken)
 Clear to add Bay 2.

OIL CHANGE.

(Instrumental and dance.)

SPARKY (Spoken)
 Clear to start Bay 1.

PEDRO (Spoken)

Clear to start Bay 1.

(RONI AD LIB: OHH, HEY AYY. You know I got more, Here we go OHHHH OH OH)

OIL CHANGE.

OIL CHANGE. (AD LIB: ALRIGHT!)

OIL CHANGE. (AD LIB: SING IT GIRL.)

OIL CHANGE. (AD LIB: MR CRAWFORD YOUR ALTERNATOR IS LOOKING JUST FINE. NOW YOU CAN LEAVE HERE WITH A SMILE.)

OIL CHANGE!

OIL CHANGE!

OIL CHANGE!

BRING US, BRING US,
BRING US YOUR CAR. [END SONG]

SPARKY (Spoken)

Clear to roll Bay 1.

PEDRO (Spoken)

Clear to roll Bay 1.

(The car in bay 1 is backed off stage during the next dialogue without audible shop calls or driveway bell.)

RONI

Hey, Lou.

LOURAINE

Good morning Darlin'!

RONI

Hey, Grandma Myrtle, it's so good to see you!

(GRANDMA MYRTLE and RONI hug.)

GRANDMA MYRTLE

It's good to have you home sweet heart.

RONI

And it's good to be home.

(Now to LOURAININE.)

Am I swapping out plugs for you this morning?

LOURAININE

Oh, just fix what needs fixin'. We're goin' shoppin' and I don't want problems.

SPARKY

Louraine, why you got that concrete elephant in your truck?

(SPARKY starts looking at items in the truck.)

LOURAININE

That's my tradin' ammunition. I might need it to close a deal.

SPARKY

What kind of deals you making?

(Puts on a flashy hat.)

GRANDMA MYRTLE

Don't you know it's yard sellin' season? There's a gold mine waitin' for us right up highway 127.

(MUSIC: #3 YARD SALE OLYMPIANS, Intro) << TRACK 3 >>
L = Louraine, GMM = Grandma Myrtle, B = Both

Chorus

B - YARD SALE OLYMPIANS,
L - WE'RE GOING FOR GOLD.
B - YARD SALE OLYMPIANS,
GMM - THIS GAME NEVER GETS OLD!
L - WE'RE GONNA KICK A HOME RUN
GMM - AND SLAM A HOLE IN ONE.
B - READY-SET-GO NOW AND BRING ON THE FUN.

CURT

Sparky, take out the trash! And Pedro, go make sure the bathrooms are clean.

(Grabs the hat from SPARKY and tries it on. He looks at stuff too.)

GRANDMA MYRTLE

That hat'll cost you \$10, Mister, and you better take it now 'cause our stuff's going fast.

LOURAINE

But... we can work a deal if you'd like.

(She pats CURT on the chest flirtingly and he hands her some money for the hat as the guys go to their jobs.)

RONI

Louraine!!

CURT

I'll be in the office.

(All guys have walked away.)

LOURAINE

(With a clear change of tone. She's ready for some girl talk.)

Alright, now tell us fast. What happened at the club last night?

RONI

(Dejected, shaking her head.)

Oh, Louraine.

LOURAINE

(Stomps her foot down.)

Don't say "Oh, Louraine" me. We go all the way to Atlanta for some girl fun and to find you a man. Then I see you talking with a gorgeous hunk in a blue shirt. And the next thing there's blood's everywhere!

RONI

He said he had new chrome headers on his truck. But when I bent over to check the install he grabbed me!

(Grabs her own buttocks.)

So, I hit him in the mouth.

LOURAINE *(disappointed)*

Oh, honey.

RONI

You see, I have this dream...

LOURAINE

I know all about your dream.

RONI

...That someday I'll find a guy who wants a real relationship and we'll fall in love with each other and we live happily ever after.

LOURAINE

Oh, I should have never let you watch the "Little Mermaid" 40 times.

RONI

His headers weren't even chrome.

LOURAINE

You're not supposed to hit him.

GRANDMA MYRTLE (*interjecting*)

Way to go girl!

LOURAINE

You're supposed to play with the boys and sell them what they're buying!

RONI

Listen Louraine, those boys are gonna respect me or they're getting a fat lip!

GRANDMA MYRTLE (*interjecting*)

Darlin' you show 'em who's boss!

LOURAINE

Grandma, she's gonna wind up an old maid if she don't turn off the tough talk and turn on her pretty. She's just too darn old fashion.

GRANDMA MYRTLE

Ain't nothing old fashion about a fat lip. It saved my marriage a time or two.

LOURAINE (*Frustrated.*)

Ohhh, you two!

(*PEDRO enters with the cups of coffee.*)

PEDRO

Be careful. El café esta muy caliente, hot!

LOURAINE

Well thank you darling.

(To PEDRO in a seductive tone.)

Did you put any sugar in it?

(Flirts with PEDRO and then back to RONI.)

We'll finish this conversation later.

CURT

Hey guys, let's finish pickin' up.

PEDRO

Si, I will clean.

(CURT and PEDRO get busy sweeping and stacking and getting ready for the day. They each start a rhythm and dance a bit as they do this. RONI goes to work under the hood making clanging noises and buzzing an air wrench.)

LOURAINE

I'm goin' to the lobby to freshen up. Grandma, you comming?

GRANDMA MYRTLE

I'm coming darlin'.

(LOURAINE goes into the lobby.)
((Driveway bell sounds.))

CURT

(Shop call.)

We got inbound on Bay 1.

(CURT stands to direct a truck to the right and left as it pulls in. RONI makes work noise during the following dialogue; SPARKY and PEDRO go to the inbound truck.)

PEDRO

(Shop call echo.)

Inbound on Bay 1.

CURT

That's it, right there!

(Knocks on the hood and then opens it. Everyone recognizes the driver as a regular customer. He drives an old beat up jalopy pickup truck.)

BUSTER

Hey there, Sparky!

SPARKY

Aren't you up early this morning?

BUSTER

Long time no see. How you been?

(They shake hands. They are old friends.)

SPARKY

I been staying out of trouble. You know, probation restrictions!

BUSTER

I hear that, bro.

Hey, y'all going to Talladega this weekend? I heard Chuck Champion just set a new track record!

(There is a loud clanking as Roni intentionally drops her tools on the floor.)

CURT

Sounds like he won the pole again.

(More noise, RONI spins her air wrench in defiance.)

BUSTER

Yeah, I love watching him destroy the competition. But what's up with Miss charming over there?

CURT

I think you hit her sore spot.

RONI

You mean Chuck-the-Champion-cheater!

BUSTER

No! I mean one of the greatest drivers of all time.

RONI

Have you ever wondered how many people he's stepped on? Do you have any concern for the character of the man you're cheering for?

(Long pause, CURT and BUSTER stare.)

BUSTER

(In a loud whisper.)

Curt, why you got that little lady working here?

CURT

(In a loud whisper.)

Don't worry, I'll keep my eye on her.

What're we doing... *(clears his throat.)*

(In normal tone.)

What're we doing for you today?

BUSTER

I want your best oil in my truck. I gotta make her last a while.

CURT

Then we'll use synthetic in this fine vintage machine.

(Checks oil and other items under the hood.)

(Shop Call.)

Clear to drain on Bay 2.

PEDRO

(Shop Call echo.)

Clear to drain on Bay 2.

CURT

(Spoken out to SPARKY, then back to BUSTER.)

Sparky, tires are at forty pounds.

SPARKY

Forty pounds boss.

(He puts air in the tires.)

Buster, why don't you get you a new truck like that one right there?

(Pauses and points to the truck in the other bay. Then he describes the truck slowly.)

Look at that paint job! Those chrome roll bars, fog lights and rims. You don't get rims better than those.

BUSTER

And I could use it at the deer lease!

CURT

Calm down cause that truck costs big money!

SPARKY

Yeah, you'd have to get a real job to drive that one.

(SPARKY and CURT laugh.)

BUSTER

Oh come on guys, I won't need a job to drive that truck. I'll drive it for free!

SPARKY

Free?

CURT

Now how you gonna drive that truck for free?

BUSTER *(confident)*

All I gots to do to is call up the woman who owns it. Snuggle up a little bit, pretend I like her. Then I'll be driving hers for free!

(Cocky, adjusting his belt.)

CURT

(In disbelief.)

Yeah, right.

SPARKY *(Laughing)*

You're dang brilliant, Buster!

RONI

(Spoken loudly from her spot working on the other truck. Everyone thought she was ignoring them.)

I think you guys are pathetic. What about your wife, Buster boy?

CURT

Now Roni! You gotta stay out of customer affairs.

RONI

Customer affairs is right.

(RONI buzzes her power drill in defiance.)

BUSTER

Who owns this truck?

PEDRO

That truck is for Ms. Louraine. She is coming right now.

BUSTER

I swear, these ladies just don't get it! They could have a date every night if they'll just drive a pickup truck.

(Adjusts his belt.)

LOURAINE

(Walks real prissy back to her truck.)

Now Roni, honey. I want you to come to a makeup party tonight. Leave the tomboy at the garage and come see how to sell your merchandise.

RONI

Louraine, we need to talk about this some other time.

LOURAINE

(She notices the guys staring at her and starts to flirt with them.)

Oh, hi there boys! How are all y'all gettin' along?

(She bends over to look at the motor of her truck and sticks out her bum. All the

*guys are locked in lustful
gazes.)*

Ewe.

*(Speaking to the men and
flirting.)*

I don't know anything about motors. They seem dirty
and I'm just not that kind of girl...
Do you like my nails? I just got them done--

RONI

They're very nice.

*(RONI grabs LOURAINÉ and
breaks the gaze of the men.)*

Let's go to the lobby. I need to talk to you about
"respectful relationships."

LOURAINÉ

Sure, honey. ...Whatever!

*(She walks back across the
stage to the lobby, swinging
her bum the whole way. All
eyes follow her as she
crosses.)*

RONI

Louraine!!

*(RONI tries to stop and cover
up Louraine's swinging bum.
All ladies go to the lobby.)*

BUSTER

There's something sexy about a woman who drives a
truck.

SPARKY

Buster, do you want that woman or do you want that
truck?

BUSTER

I like 'em both.

CURT

Don't you go getting us in the news again!

BUSTER *(Sings)*

(MUSIC: #4 WOMAN IN A TRUCK) << TRACK 4 >>

Verse 1

LOOK AT THAT GIRL, WHAT PRETTY BLUE EYES!
THAT TRUCK SHE'S IN IS CLOSER TO MY SIZE.
BED LINER, ROCK GUARD A WHOLE LOT MORE.
TAKE ANOTHER LOOK IT'S A 4X4!!

Chorus

I'M IN LOVE WITH HER PICK UP TRUCK. HOPE SHE'LL MARRY ME.
LIFE'S MORE FUN IN HER PICK UP TRUCK; I'LL DRIVE HERS FOR FREE!!
I'LL MARRY THAT WOMAN FOR HER PICK UP TRUCK, IF SHE'LL JUST SAY YES!
A WOMAN IS SEXY IN A PICK UP TRUCK; I ONLY DRIVE THE BEST!

Verse 2

I WANNA MARRY THAT GIRL WITH HER MILLION DOLLAR SMILE.
'CAUSE SHE'S GOT A TRUCK THAT'LL LAST A LONG WHILE.
ROLL BARS, FOG LAMPS, LOUVERED TAILGATE.
SHE'S EVEN GOT HER OWN CUSTOM LICENSE PLATE.

Chorus

I'M IN LOVE WITH HER PICK UP TRUCK. HOPE SHE'LL MARRY ME.
LIFE'S MORE FUN IN HER PICK UP TRUCK; I'LL DRIVE HERS FOR FREE!!
I'LL MARRY THAT WOMAN FOR HER PICK UP TRUCK, IF SHE'LL JUST SAY YES!
A WOMAN IS SEXY IN A PICK UP TRUCK; I ONLY DRIVE THEBEST!

(Spoken words as interjections between
RONI, LOURAINÉ, and GRANDMA MYRTLE
while in the lobby.)

RONI - NOW LISTEN HERE, GIRL. LOURAINÉ - UH HUH.
RONI - YOU NEED TO WATCH OUT. LOURAINÉ - OH YEAH?
RONI - HE DON'T LOVE YOU. HE JUST WANTS TO TRY HIS LUCK. RONI - JUST WATCH OUT. LOURAINÉ - YOU BET.
GRANDMA MYRTLE - OH HEAVENS TO BETSY. ALL WOMEN - HE DON'T LOVE YOU. HE JUST WANTS TO DRIVE YOUR TRUCK!

(The song pauses momentarily.)

LOURAINE

(Spoken to RONI in the lobby.)

Oh... I don't want to do this.

RONI

And don't forget, "Respectful!"

(LOURAINE and GRANDMA MYRTLE walk to her truck. LOURAINE is torn between flirting and doing what RONI asked. She keeps looking back at RONI. Then to BUSTER. Then back to RONI. RONI watches her closely.)

BUSTER

Hey there, little darling! Come on over here.

LOURAINE

(Emphatically throwing shoulders back.)

I know what you want!

BUSTER

You got the prettiest eyes I think I ever saw.

LOURAINE

You just want my truck! And since you don't want to know my heart or my mind, just keep driving that ol' bucket of rust!

(She stomps her foot down and points at BUSTER'S truck.)

Let's go Grandma!

(RONI celebrates in the lobby. CURT, PEDRO, and SPARKY respond by pointing, back slapping and shaking their heads at BUSTER.)

GRANDMA

I'm a coming.

BUSTER

Bucket of rust? This truck is a classic.

LOURAINE

(Very calmly.)

Thank you boys, I'll see y'all later.

*(She climbs into her truck
with GRANDMA MYRTLE and they
back off the stage. Guys
speak in unison.)*

CURT

Later Lou!

(Shop call.)

Clear to roll Bay 1.

PEDRO

(Shop call echo.)

Clear to roll Bay 1.

See you Ms. Myrtle, Ms. Louraine.

SPARKY

See ya baby doll!

(Driveway bell sounds.)

Verse 3

*(CURT, PEDRO, and SPARKY = All,
B = Buster)*

A - SHE DROVE AWAY IN HER TRUCK BEFORE HE OFFICIALLY
PROPOSED.

A - SHE BROKE HIS HEART AND TURNED HIS LUCK WHEN SHE
SLAMMED HER NEW DOOR CLOSED.

A - AW, THE CHROME-PLATED TOOLBOX, A FAVORITE
WORKBENCH.

B - AND I SURE COULD'A USED HER POWER WINCH.

Chorus (All the men)

A - HE'S IN LOVE WITH HER PICK UP TRUCK.

B - HOPE SHE'LL MARRY ME.

A - LIFE'S MORE FUN IN A PICK UP TRUCK; HE'LL DRIVE
HERS FOR FREE!!

A - HE'LL MARRY THAT WOMAN FOR HER PICK UP TRUCK, IF
SHE'LL JUST SAY YES!

*(Final chorus CURT, PEDRI, and SPARKY sing Barbershop
quartet style.)*

A - A WOMAN IS SEXY IN A PICK UP TRUCK; HE ONLY DRIVES
THE BEST!

A - A WOMAN IS SEXY IN A PICK UP TRUCK; AND I ONLY
DRIVE THE BEST! [END SONG]

BUSTER

(Dejected and adjusting his belt again.)

Awe, she don't know nothin'. She'll probably be calling me tonight.

RONI (Laughing)

Oh, I'm sure. In fact, I hear your wife calling you right now!

SPARKY

Roni, he ain't married to Mildred.

BUSTER

And young lady, this may surprise you, but me and my lady have a special kinda connection. She don't exactly want me around all the time. And that works for us.

SPARKY

Yeah, would you want him snoring in your bed every night with potato chips everywhere? ...Where's the dog gonna sleep?

BUSTER

Yeah, what about my dog?

(He Laughs)

SPARKY

(Shop call.)

Clear to roll Bay 1

BUSTER

Later!

(Gets into his truck.)

PEDRO

Adios Buster!

(Shop call echo.)

Clear to roll Bay 1.

(Truck leaves.)

(Driveway bell sounds.)

RONI

Well bless his heart, Curt, but why do we have to work for creepy customers?

PEDRO

I'm glad Ms. Louraine turned him down. I think she has a very smart mind and a good heart.

RONI

Calling up woman because you like her truck! That's creepy.

SPARKY

Well you're not so perfect. I heard you were fired from the #13 Black Beast race team.

RONI

Who told you that?

CURT

Sparky, you're best to leave that alone.

SPARKY

What for? I get fired all the time.

RONI

'Cause you don't know what you're talking about, that's why.

SPARKY

When I get the boot I go work on my cousin's truck under the oak tree in the back yard. Roni, you want to work on my cousin's truck with me? After that we can go inside and hub-nub-an-bootle a little bit! It'll make you feel better.

RONI (*Directly*)

Stop right there! Let's get a few things perfectly straight.

Number 1, You don't know nuthin' about what really happened and you ought not start rumors.

Number 2, I ain't working on your cousin's truck under a shade tree.

And number 3, I don't know what hub-nub-an-bootlin' is, but I'm sure it's something I ain't ever goin' to be doing with you!! You got all that?

SPARKY

Whew! Talk about a grouch!

CURT

Y'all stop it. Get over here, Sparky. And Roni, you go take a break in the office.

RONI

Ugh!

(Stage lights down.)
[End of Scene]

Scene 2

JOHNNY RAY is alone with his thoughts on one side of the stage. His is in a private room and he reveals a brace that's on his knee.

RONI is alone on the other side of the stage in the office.

(Spotlight on JOHNNY RAY.
Spotlight on RONI. Stage
lights down.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Taking off a knee brace.)

Doctor said this would help. They won't let me drive if I'm on pain killers. But I wish it would just stop throbbing.

RONI

Dating a woman for her truck! What's wrong with these guys?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

No one remembers my name. I'm not connected to anybody.

RONI

Times have changed because this is not how I remember Hokes Bluff.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I've gotta get back. I gotta prove I can win again.

RONI

What's happening to me? What's happened to my dreams?

(MUSIC: #5 BACK ON THE TRACK) << TRACK 5 >>

JRR - HOW'D I GET HERE?
Roni - TELL ME, WHAT'S GOING ON?
JRR - NOTHING IS CLEAR.
Roni - NOW MY PURPOSE IS GONE.
JRR - I NEED TO DRIVE.
Roni - STARTING OVER AGAIN, TO WIN.
JRR - THEN I'LL SURVIVE.
Roni - THAT'S NOT HOW IT HAS BEEN.

BACK ON THE TRACK, WHERE I'M HOME.
WHERE I BELONG, WHERE I AM STRONG.
BACK ON THE TRACK, WHERE I'M HOME.
WHERE I BELONG.

JRR - STILL FEELING PAIN.
Roni - I'VE BEEN PUSHED TO THE EDGE.
JRR - TIED TO A CHAIN.
Roni - STANDING OUT ON A LEDGE.
JRR - I'M AT THE PLACE.
Roni - GOT MY WRENCH IN MY HAND, I'M READY.
JRR - I'VE GOT TO RACE.
Roni - MY STRATEGY PLANNED.

BACK ON THE TRACK, WHERE I'M HOME.
WHERE I BELONG, WHERE I AM STRONG.
BACK ON THE TRACK, WHERE I'M HOME.
WHERE I BELONG.

THAT'S WHERE I WANT TO BE.
THAT'S WHERE I NEED TO BE.
THAT'S WHERE I BELONG.

THAT'S WHERE I WANT TO BE.
BACK WHERE MY HEART IS FREE.
ON THE TRACK I'M AT HOME. [END SONG]

*(Spotlight off JOHNNY RAY.
Spotlight off RONI.
Stagelights up.)
[End of Scene]*

Scene 3

Continuing the dialogue in the Oil Change shop.

(Stage lights up.)

CURT

(*Shop Call.*)

We got inbound on Bay 1.

(*Driveway bell sounds.*)

SPARKY

(*Shop Call echo.*)

Inbound Bay 1.

Hey, it's Paw Paw, again!

(*Directing the car in with hands motioning left and right. It is PAW PAW, who can barely see over the wheel.*)

Little more, little more. Ya'll watch out, we may go "code red" any second.

RONI

Pedro, help him with his door.

PEDRO

Sure. Sure.

RONI

Good morning Paw Paw.

SPARKY

(*Deliberate and loud, as if speaking to someone hard of hearing.*)

Hel-lo-Paw-Paw. How-have-you-been? We-have-not-seen-you-here-in-two days!

RONI

Sparky!!

PAW PAW

(*He gets out of his car and walks slowly with his cane.*)

(*Spoken to Sparky.*)

Don't you get smart with me you mud flap; I get free service for life. It's in my contract when I sold this store!

SPARKY

*(Walking away from PAW PAW.
Quietly mocking him.)*

I'll set your tires at 28 pounds and check your radiator fluid.

PAW PAW

(Spoken to everyone.)

I want you to set my tires at 28 pounds and check my radiator fluid.

SPARKY

And you're seeing the doctor tomorrow.

PAW PAW

I'm seeing the doctor tomorrow.

SPARKY

And you don't want any problems.

PAW PAW

And I don't want any problems.

RONI

Don't worry, Paw Paw. I'll check your tires.

SPARKY

I'll do it. I just don't think they've changed in two days.

PAW PAW

Thank you, young lady. You're the only one I can trust around here.

RONI

Oh, that's sweet Paw Paw. Thank you.

CURT

Hey Paw Paw. How you doin' today?

PAW PAW

(Very grumpy, standing with his cane.)

Horrible! Seems like I've got to throw a monkey wrench just to get some service on my car!

CURT

Guys, get to working on Paw Paw's car!

PAW PAW

When I was your age I had to work for my money. Except for the young lady, the rest of you guys are lollygaggers.

CURT

(Trying to change the subject.)

How's Grandma Myrtle been doing? Are you keeping her happy?

PAW PAW

Don't you change the subject or I'll give you a swift kick in the buttocks. It might knock some sense into you.

RONI

It's OK, Paw Paw. Let's go out on the park bench? I'll walk you over there. Come on.

(RONI helps him walk to the park bench to stage right.)

PAW PAW

Thank you, sweetheart. Don't let them make you do all the work.

(PAW PAW and RONI talk briefly to themselves for a bit. He dozes off during the next dialogue.)

CURT

Either of you guys heard of removing the harmonic balancer on a car? Does it increase horsepower?

PEDRO

Harmonic what?

SPARKY

I don't know about that one, boss. How did it come up?

CURT

Buster asked me when we were talkin' the other day.

(RONI returns from helping PAW PAW.)

RONI

Did I hear a mechanical question?

SPARKY

Yeah, but it's probably over your head, corn nubbin'.

CURT

I've never heard it before.

RONI

What was the question?

CURT

Does removing the harmonic balancer increase horsepower?

RONI

Tests show that removing it can increase torque. But it also decreases the life of the crankshaft because there's more vibration. And, taking it off voids your warranty, so I wouldn't recommend it.

CURT

I should have known. You're an A-#1 grease monkey girl.

RONI

Grease monkey girl? Paw Paw's right. You guys are jerks.

SPARKY

Whoa, we mean it as a compliment! Greasy girls are my favorite. Whew baby, talk about sexy!

RONI

That's just what I need to hear.

(Pouting.)

I'm already tired of you guys and it ain't even lunch time.

CURT

Oh, baby doll, don't go acting like that. We're trying to make you feel better. Come here guys.

(MUSIC: #6 GREASE MONKEY GIRL) << TRACK 6 >>
 C = CURT, S = SPARKY, P = PEDRO, A = All Men

Verse 1

C - YOU'RE OUR GREASE MONKEY GIRL; YOU'RE THE BEST
 WE'VE SEEN.
 C - YOU GET REAL DIRTY AND CAN BE REAL MEAN.
 S - RONI YOU'RE GREAT BECAUSE YOU'RE ONE OF THE GUYS.
 S - YOU CAN CARRY A LOAD THAT'S TWICE YOUR SIZE.
 A - YOU'RE A GREASE MONKEY GIRL; WORKIN' ON OUR
 MACHINES.

Verse 2

P - PEOPLE DON'T LIKE YOU WHEN THEY FIRST SEE YOU
 HERE.
 P - THEY THINK YOU SHOULD BE WORKING UP FRONT AS A
 CASHIER.
 C - YOU'RE FIVE FOOT AND FIERY AND A WHOLE LOT OF FUN.
 S - I KNOW TO WATCH MY BACK WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE GREASE
 GUN.
 A - YOU'RE A GREASE MONKEY GIRL UNDERNEATH A
 LIMOUSINE.

Verse 3

A - PULLING OUT SOME PLUGS? AIN'T NO BIG DEAL TO YOU.
 A - YOU'LL SWAP THEM OUT THEN WE'LL SEE WHAT THAT
 MOTOR CAN DO.
 A - BUT IF WE TRY TO TAKE YOU OUT OR SOMETHING LIKE
 THAT
 A - WE MIGHT END UP IN MORTAL COMBAT!

Chorus

R - GREASE MONKEY GIRL, (C S P ECHO) GREASE MONKEY
 GIRL
 R - GREASE MONKEY GIRL, (C S P ECHO) GREASE MONKEY
 GIRL
 R - WORKING ON YOUR MACHINE, UNDERNEATH A LIMOUSINE.
 R - SO I'M A GREASE MONKEY GIRL; A - AND WE WONDER
 WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE CLEAN.

(Dance Interlude: Saxophone Solo)

Verse 4

C - WELL, GIRLS WEAR DRESSES AND PUT STUFF UP ON THEIR FACE.

S - YOU WANT OVERALLS AND TICKETS TO A CAR RACE.

P - I CAN SMELL THE PERFUME ON GIRLY CLOTHES.

P - YOU SMELL MORE LIKE GAS AND HAVE GUNK ON HER NOSE.

A - YOU'RE A GREASE MONKEY GIRL; AND WE WONDER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE CLEAN.

Chorus

R - I'M A GREASE MONKEY GIRL, (C S P ECHO) GREASE MONKEY GIRL.

R - GREASE MONKEY GIRL, (C S P ECHO) GREASE MONKEY GIRL.

R - WORKING ON YOUR MACHINE, (C S P) UNDERNEATH A LIMOUSINE.

R - I'M A GREASE MONKEY GIRL; (C S P) WE WONDER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE CLEAN.

R - I'M A GREASE MONKEY GIRL; (C S P) WE WONDER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE CLEAN. [END SONG]

CURT

There, there, now. We all know you're the best mechanic anywhere, alright?

PEDRO

Yes, you are the best.

RONI

Thanks, but I'm still not convinced that --

SPARKY

(SPARKY is still lost in the song, singing a capella.)

... AND I WONDER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE, I WONDER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE CLEAN ... Actually, I don't wonder what she looks like clean. I wonder what she looks like naked!

(Beams proudly.)

RONI

(Very angry.)

Ohhhhh, he's doing it again! Those are fightin' words. I'm gonna let him have it!

(She grabs her large 18" wrench from the tool box and charges Sparky. PEDRO and

CURT intercept her, picking her up off the floor, leaving her feet kicking.)

SPARKY

Curt!

CURT

Whoa, girl.
Calm down!

RONI

(Animated, using her finger to point.)

You're a ... You're a ...

(To CURT poking him in the chest.)

Curt, he's a pervert!

CURT

Everybody knows that!

RONI

Why do you let him say those things?

CURT

It's 'cause he can't get a nice girl like you. All he can do is dream about it.

PEDRO

Yeah, let him have his dreams.

RONI

But, I don't like him to think that stuff about me.

CURT

His brain don't think.

(PEDRO walks RONI back to her tool box and takes her wrench.)

(To SPARKY.)

Pedro and Sparky, I suggest you to stay clear of her. She knows how to use that wrench.

SPARKY

I didn't mean nothin' by it. She gets upset and I was just jokin'.

RONI

Grrrrr!

CURT

(To RONI.)

Roni, go on outside and tell Paw Paw his car is ready?
... Take your time and cool down a bit.

RONI

(She approaches PAW PAW slowly because he has fallen asleep. Lights go down in the shop, spotlights up on PAW PAW and RONI.)

(In a whisper, gently touching his shoulder.)

Paw Paw, your car is ready.

PAW PAW

(With eyes closed and head tilted, but in a normal voice.)

I'm not sleeping. I heard everything they said.

RONI

Well I thought you--

PAW PAW

Do you realize how much work I avoid by just pretending I'm asleep?

RONI

Well, I never thought about it.

PAW PAW

Those boys are pickin' on you again, aren't they?

RONI

The story of my life!

PAW PAW

I heard what happened to you on the racing team.
Everyone says you got fired, but that doesn't sound like the young lady that grew up working in my garage.

RONI

I know that's what they're sayin', but it ain't true.
(She sits next to PAW PAW on the park bench. She puts her head down. There is a pause.)
And, they all think I'm stupid.

PAW PAW

I know the truth. I saw you adjust the lifters on a 454 big block when you were 10 years old. You were so little you had to sit under the hood with both feet on the manifold. That's the day you stole my heart.

RONI

Oh, Paw Paw.

(PAW PAW pats her hand.)

It was my first season as lead mechanic. The #13 Black Beast was running great! We'd won at Daytona and Pocono and were leading in points. But those pit guys were filthy, foul-smellin' morons! They'd bring their groupie girls into the garage at night just to party. Sometimes I was still working, so I ran 'em off.

PAW PAW

Uh huh. And what did they do?

RONI

They set me up.

(RONI stands up.)

They put the wrong fuel mixture in the car when we ran during happy hour... I know I had it right. And it caused two pistons to burn. I worked all night putting in the backup engine. Then, during the race, the suspension tech put in the wrong spring wedge. The car spun out and hit the wall. We didn't finish the race.

PAW PAW

Honey, you're working in a man's world and you went and stirred up a hornet's nest.

RONI

Then the big famous driver "Chuck Champion," and you know his real name is Marion Whipple, went psycho and blamed me for everything. Heaven knows he didn't pay me like the guys. The next day I was gone.

PAW PAW

Come here darlin'.

RONI

That's when I came home to Hokes Bluff.

(RONI sits down again.)

To tell you the truth, I didn't have anywhere else to go.

PAW PAW

You got good reasons to be upset.

(He gives her a small hug as song starts.)

RONI

Those guys were so hateful.

Sometimes I want to run and hide from 'em.

Sometimes I want to hit 'em square in the mouth.

Sometimes I just... I just want someone to hold me.

(MUSIC: #7 IN A MAN'S WORLD) << TRACK 7 >>

Verse 1

HOPING, PRAYING, WATCHING, WAITING.

USED AND ACCUSED YET NOT SO AMUSED.

THOSE MEN DID NOT RESPECT ME.

Men - SHE WANTED TO FIT IN.

FIGHTING, BRUISING, LOVING, LOSING.

CRUDE AND LEWD THEN RUDE TO EXCLUDE

HURTING ME SO CARELESSLY

Men - SHE HID HER PAIN WITHIN.

Chorus

IS IT SO WRONG?

THAT I BELONG.

IN A MAN'S WORLD?

Men - IN A MAN'S WORLD.

Verse 2

DECEIT AND LIES SEEN IN THEIR EYES.
 SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT.
 THERE'S NO DOUBT I WAS PUT OUT.
 (Spoken) THEN THE 'OL "WE'RE SORRY" BIT.
 WORDS WERE SPOKEN, TRUST WAS BROKEN.
 ILL MOTIVES YOU CAN SEE.
 I'VE LEFT THEIR LAIR, OUT OF THEIR HAIR.
 I FEEL GOOD, I FEEL FREE.

Men - SHE NEEDED TO BE FREE.

Chorus

IS IT SO WRONG?
 THAT I BELONG.
 IN A MAN'S WORLD?

Men - IN A MAN'S WORLD.

IS IT SO WRONG,
 THAT I BELONG.
 IN A MAN'S WORLD?

Men - IN A MAN'S WORLD.

Bridge

I FOLLOW MY HEART. THIS IS MY LIFE TO LIVE.
 THEY'LL LEARN SOON THAT I DON'T QUIT, I'VE GOT SO
 MUCH,
 SO MUCH TO GIVE.

Chorus

NO! IT'S NOT WRONG,
 FOR ME TO BELONG,
 IN A MAN'S WORLD.

Men - IN A MAN'S WORLD.

I WILL BE STRONG,
 I KNOW I BELONG,
 IN A MAN'S WORLD.

Men - IN A MAN'S WORLD.
 ...I KNOW THEY NEED ME! [END SONG]

PAW PAW

Darlin', to be in this business you need to have thick skin and be aggressive. I think the time has come for you to take charge of the whole team. You need to be crew chief.

RONI

Crew chief? I'm not sure I'm ready for that, Paw Paw.

PAW PAW

Oh, I think you're more than ready. You're a natural leader. Just tell 'em what to do and mean what you say.

RONI

Paw Paw, you've always believed in me.

(RONI hugs PAW PAW.)

But, I'm not even near the track now.

PAW PAW

Ah, don't worry about that, it'll happen when it's supposed to happen.

RONI

Oh, I don't know what I'd do without you.

(Lights dim)

[End of Scene]

Scene 4

Continuing the dialogue in the Oil Change shop.

(Lights up in the shop.)

SPARKY

(Calling out.)

Come on, Paw Paw, what's taking you so long? We've put grease on your break pads and filled up your headlights with water. The only problem I see is the loose nut behind the steering wheel!

(SPARKY laughs at his own joke.)

PAW PAW

Don't get smart with me you dip-stick. I'm liable to give you a swift kick in the buttocks so you can turn on your headlights you dim wit!

PEDRO

He's just joking, Paw Paw.

PAW PAW

Well, he ain't funny, lover boy.

CURT

Paw Paw, everythin' is fine with your car. Come back to see us whenever you plan to go to the doctor.

PAW PAW

(Grumbling under his breath.)

You guys are hooligans.

(Now louder, and points at PEDRO.)

And Mr. Lover boy ain't got nothing but girls on his mind ... trying to look up their skirts when he's under the cars. You think I was born yesterday?

CURT

You talking 'bout Pedro?

PEDRO

Who me?

SPARKY

(Spoken thoughtfully to himself.)

Wow, I haven't thought of that! Maybe I should be the pit man.

PAW PAW

I've been around here long enough to know all your tricks.

PEDRO

But, there are no girls here, Señor Paw Paw.

PAW PAW

(Arguing as he climbs in to his car.)

I know when a guy wants a little monkey dancing with a lady.

PEDRO

But Señor, nobody's dancing.

PAW PAW

Don't deny it or I'll give you a swift kick in the buttocks just to make you see straight!

CURT

Are we gonna see you next week?

PAW PAW

I don't know. I'm awful busy.

CURT

Well, if you need us then come on by and we'll check your tires again and top off your fluids.

(Shop call.)

Clear to roll on Bay 1.

PAW PAW

(Spoken to RONI, and he backs out.)

Good-bye, young lady.

RONI

(Shop call.)

Clear to roll on Bay 1.

See you later Paw Paw, and tell Grandma Myrtle that I want to know how she did yard sellin' today.

(Driveway bell sounds.)

SPARKY *(To PEDRO.)*

I'd say he read you like a book, Pedro.

PEDRO

I don't know why he says this to me. And, I do not know this type of dance.

SPARKY

I saw you taking an close look at Ms. Louraine's pretty legs! Let me give you some advice!

(Mimics his looking at her from the creeper.)

CURT

Humm huh. Pedro, you looking to connect with Ms. Louraine? Let me tell what to do.

PEDRO

Oh, no. Do not say these things.

RONI

Well, just for the record, you guys are lost. Just flat lost. Just listen to me.

PEDRO

Now please leave me to be alone. I am Ok to live my life in the limbo.

(MUSIC: #8 FREE ADVICE) << TRACK 8 >>

C = CURT, S = SPARKY, P = PEDRO, R = RONI, A = R, C, S

Verse 1

C - IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR A WOMAN LET ME TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.

C - THIS WORKED FOR ME AND I KNOW THAT IT WILL WORK JUST GREAT FOR YOU.

C - TAKE HER TO THE WRESTLING MATCH; YOU GOTTA TO SPEND SOME MONEY.

C - THEN BUY A BEER WITH CHIPS AND FRIES, THEN SHE'LL BE YOUR HONEY.

Verse 2

S - NAW! TAKE HER DOWN TO SKEETER CREEK. THERE'S A GREAT SPOT UNDER BRIDGE 142.

S - HOOK A CATFISH AS LONG AS YOUR ARM. SHE'S GOTTA SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO.

S - THEN SCOOT ON OVER TO THE PANCAKE HOUSE AND BUY HER A BLUEBERRY STACK.

S- IT'LL BE A NIGHT SHE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER. I GUARANTEE SHE'LL BE COMING BACK.

Chorus

P - DEAR NOSY FRIENDS, YOU'RE ALL SO NICE.

P - THANK YOU FOR YOUR FREE ADVICE.

P - PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE AND LET ME BE.

P - THINGS WILL WORK OUT JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE.

Verse 3

R - JUST BE YOURSELF, LET HER SEE YOUR HEART. JUST ... BE ... KIND.

R - A MAN WHO IS A GENTLEMAN, WHO OPENS THE DOOR, THEY ARE SO VERY HARD TO FIND.

R - BRING HER FLOWERS; HOLD HER HAND AND TELL HER THAT SHE'S PRETTY.

R - DON'T TAKE HER TO DOWN SKEETER CREEK. THAT'S CRAZY! TAKE HER TO THE GLAMOROUS CITY.

Verse 4

(Staged as a church choir on one side of the stage.)

A - WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE, WE KNOW WHAT TO DO.
 A - THIS HAS WORKED FOR US, IT WILL WORK FOR YOU.
 A - TAKE OUR ADVICE AND MAKE NO MISTAKE.
 A - SOON WE'LL BE EATING FROM YOUR WEDDING CAKE.

Outro

(PEDRO sings into his broom stick as if it is a microphone on side of stage opposite church choir.)

P - DEAR NOSY FRIENDS, YOU'RE ALL SO NICE.
 P - THANK YOU FOR YOUR FREE ADVICE.
 P - PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE AND LET ME BE.
 P - THINGS WILL WORK OUT JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE.

(Improvisational riffing, repeat to finish. PEDRO speaks Spanish interjections to finish.)

A - FREE ADVICE HERE EVERY DAY
 A - WORTH ALL THAT YOU HAVE TO PAY.

P - FREE ADVICE. GET YOUR FREE ADVICE.
 P - COME ON GET YOUR FREE ADVICE.
 P - FREE ADVICE, FREE ADVICE ... [END SONG]

*(Phone rings.)
 (Spotlight on LOURAINÉ,
 making phone call, stage
 right.)*

CURT
 Oil Change. How may I help you?

LOURAINÉ
 Hey, honey. Let me speak to Roni.

CURT
 Hold on. Roni, you got a phone call. It sounds like Louraine.

RONI
 I'm coming ...
(Pause.)
 This is Roni ...

LOURAINE

*(Frustrated and near to tears, but
still dingy.)*

Roni, darlin'...

RONI

Hey, Lou.

LOURAINE

I got a flat tire.

RONI

You probably picked up a nail. Which tire is it?

LOURAINE

Oh!...It's the big round black one.

RONI

Where are you?

LOURAINE

At the Bargain Buy on 14th.

RONI

Alright, I'm coming to get you ...

LOURAINE

Wait a second. ... I was just thinkin' that you could
send that cute guy who brought me coffee this morning.

RONI

No, I don't think so.

LOURAINE

Tell him I'm a helpless girl in distress. Then maybe
he'll come and take advantage of me!

RONI

No! I'm coming myself.

LOURAINE

I shoulda' called the guy who loved my truck. But,
you made me run him off. Now look at what you've
done.

RONI

That was leading to nothing but trouble. I'll be
right there.

LOURAINE

Oh! Bye, darlin'.

(Spotlight off LOURAINE.)

RONI

Hey, Curt, Louraine has a flat tire. I need to go help her.

CURT

Whoa, whoa, hold on a minute. You don't need to go fixin' her tire.

RONI

Why not?

CURT

'Cause I'm needin' you here a lot more. You're my #1 man.

RONI

#1 man ... you're still jokin' right?

CURT

No, I mean it. I need you here to run the shop.

RONI

Well, who you going to send, Mr. Probation? Puleez!
(She points to SPARKY.)

CURT

No, I'm gonna send Pedro. He can change out that tire and bring it back here to fix it.

RONI

Curt, you can't do that!

CURT

Why not? Pedro, come here.

RONI

Cause you don't know what you're startin'.

PEDRO

Si?

CURT

I need you to go and help Ms. Louraine.

PEDRO

Oh! I can do that.

SPARKY

Don't twist his arm so hard!

RONI

Curt! Listen to me.

CURT

(To RONI.)

No, you listen to me. It's just a small quick job and I need you here.

(To PEDRO.)

Ms. Louraine has a flat. Can you go put on her spare and bring the flat tire back over here so we can plug it?

PEDRO

Si.

RONI

And will you please treat her respectfully at the same time?

PEDRO

Si, I can do this.

SPARKY

Eureka! It's your big chance Pedro!! You fix her tire and then you can take her dancing. Oh you're sneaky smooth!

CURT

(To SPARKY.)

Lay off, Sparky.

(To PEDRO.)

Just go swap out her tire, alright?

PEDRO

Si, where is she?

(PEDRO gathers some tools.)

RONI

At the Bargain Buy on 14th. You got tire tools in your car?

PEDRO

Si, I have the jack and the wrench.

(Leaves stage right.)

RONI

Remember, respectful! Got it?

CURT

(Calling out as PEDRO leaves.)

Call if you need any help.

SPARKY

(Serious tone.)

Mr. Probation! Oh no, I almost forgot! It's Friday afternoon! I meet my probation officer today. What time is it?

RONI

Time for you to leave?

SPARKY

Curt, I gotta go meet my probation officer or I'm fried. And, I forgot, you're supposed to go with me. We need to be in Gadsden in 20 minutes. Oh man...

CURT

Come with you? I can't come with you.

SPARKY

Don't you remember? We talked about this last month. You need to give a report on my work performance.

CURT

Oh, Sparky!

SPARKY

If you don't come I'm goin' to spend the weekend in the pokey. I got a ticket to the race on Sunday and I wanna go this time!

CURT

You need to remind me before the very second we gotta leave! Roni, you're gonna have to run the whole shop by yourself for a while. Can you do that?

RONI

Yes, I can run the shop! I'm the grease monkey girl, don't you remember?

CURT

I'm sorry 'bout this. It won't take long. Let's go, Sparky.

(SPARKY and CURT leave stage right.)

RONI *(yelling)*

Y'all don't speed down 278. They were giving out tickets this morning...

(She stands dejected as the shop has gone quiet.)

Now what am I going to do? One minute we're hopping busy and then the next I'm here alone and nothin's going on.

(Pause.)

Let's see. Sparky ain't coming back. He'll go for a beer after his meeting.

(Pause.)

Then Curt'll hit all the drive-thru's and get free food all afternoon and evening just for flirting.

(Pause.)

And Pedro, he'll take his good 'ol easy time. Who knows what'll happen with Louraine involved?

(Pause and sigh.)

I'm not gonna stay here all by myself. I'm just gonna call it a day and go home.

(She turns off the light and flips the sign to "Closed." She walks into the office and takes off her hat and brushes her hair. For the first time she reveals a bit of her femininity.)

(JOHNNY RAY enters stage right.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

They're closed! I thought they stayed open all day!

RONI *(Disgusted)*

Did you hear what they said today? I'm their #1 man! I'm a woman and a mechanic. Why can't they respect that?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Great! I can't get my dang motor to run right and I'm racing on Sunday.

RONI

I don't need those guys. I'd rather be alone ...

(Sigh)

But, it would be nice to have someone to go home to.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

And, where's is everybody?

(JOHNNY RAY looks in the window and then sits down on the park bench and takes a deep breath.)

That guy said she was a master mechanic and she'd make my car go fast. I really need to talk to her.

RONI

Maybe Louraine was right. I need to be more of a lady when I leave the shop. Who wants to be romantic with a Grease Monkey Girl that's gonna hit 'em in the mouth?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Oh, maybe I should call it quits.

RONI

I want a man that'll look me in the eyes and hold me without even saying a word. A man who'll love me because I'm a mechanic.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I want to find a girl who'll support me and understand this crazy life I have. She'll be a girl who will love me because I'm a driver!

RONI

...But a man like that is only a dream.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

...But a woman like that is only a fantasy.

(They sing in separate locations, JOHNNY RAY outside, RONI inside the office. They are unaware of each other.)

(MUSIC: #9 LONELY LOVERS' GAME) << TRACK 9 >>

Verse 1

Roni - WHEN YOU HEAR THE MUSIC OF MY HEART, ALL YOU
HEAR IS LOVE.
WHILE IN MY DREAMS I KISS YOUR FACE, GENTLE LIKE A
DOVE.
YOU KISS ME SOFTLY AND HOLD ME CLOSE; I DON'T EVEN
KNOW YOUR NAME
THEN YOU SING THE MUSIC OF MY HEART, IN THIS LONELY
LOVERS' GAME.

Verse 2

JRR - YOUR EYES ARE ENCHANTING TO MY SOUL. I'LL MAKE
YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE.
MY HEART STOPS BEATING, I CAN'T BREATHE, WHEN I'M
CLOSE TO YOU.
YOU FEEL WARM AND YOUR SKIN'S SO SOFT. AND OUR
FEELINGS ARE THE SAME.
I WILL NOT LEAVE NOR WILL I PLAY, IN THIS LONELY
LOVERS' GAME.

Chorus

Roni - YOU GIVE ME BUTTERFLIES.
JRR - I'LL BRING YOU FLOWERS.
Roni - I'VE BEEN WAITING MUCH TOO LONG.
JRR - I'M HERE WHERE I BELONG.
Roni - NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO MEET.
JRR - I'M WAITING AT THE DOOR.
Both - YOU'RE MY EVERY DREAM.
Roni - WILL I EVER KNOW YOUR NAME?

Verse 3

Roni - NOW YOU HOLD MY HEART HERE IN YOUR HANDS.
JRR - YOUR HEART IS SAFE WITH ME.
Roni - YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, HERE IN MY
FANTASY.
Both - LOVE ME FOREVER, BE BY MY SIDE, WITH YOU I'LL
FIND MY RACING FAME.
Roni - I WILL GO ON BELIEVING IN THIS LIE, IN THIS
LONELY LOVERS' GAME.

Chorus

Roni - YOU GIVE ME BUTTERFLIES.
 JRR - I'LL BRING YOU FLOWERS.
 Roni - I'VE BEEN WAITING MUCH TOO LONG.
 JRR - I'M HERE WHERE I BELONG.
 Roni - NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO MEET.
 JRR - I'M WAITING AT THE DOOR.
 Both - YOU'RE MY EVERY DREAM.
 Roni - WILL I EVER KNOW YOUR NAME?

Both - THEN YOU SING THE MUSIC OF MY HEART, IN THIS
 LONELY LOVERS' GAME. IN THIS LONELY LOVERS' GAME.
 [END SONG]

*(JOHNNY RAY sits with his
 head down on the park bench.
 RONI leaves, locking the door
 with her back to JOHNNY RAY.)*

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
(Speaks with a fake tough guy persona.)
 Veronica, is that you?

RONI
 Johnny Ray?
*(JOHNNY RAY and RONI had been
 teen-age rivals. They have a
 love/hate relationship. She
 gives him a cold reception.)*

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
 What are you doing here?

RONI
 I work here.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
You're the new mechanic?

RONI
 What's it to ya? You want me to tune up the number 5?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
 The number 5 is running just fine, thank you.

RONI
 It wasn't the last time I heard it run.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Why are you talking like that? Are you still mad at me for beating you racing?

RONI

You mean that go-cart race at Peter's Playland and Pizza?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Yeah baby!

RONI

That was in the eighth grade, Johnny Ray!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

It don't matter. I still beat you.

RONI

You're still full of yourself, aren't you?
I'm leaving. I gotta go.

(She tries to leave and he stops her and drops the tough guy act.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(He is apologetic.)

Wait, wait, wait, don't leave. I didn't really mean all that.

RONI

What do you want?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I heard what happened with the Black Beast. Did you know "The Great" Chuck Champion ran me into the wall?

RONI

That sounds just like him. I'd like to hit that guy right square in the mouth.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I wish you would. I had to rehab my leg for a year cause of him.

(He's getting excited.)

Veronica, I'm racing on Sunday. I really do want you to look at the Number 5. I'd love to smoke that guy.

RONI
You're qualified for Talladega?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
Yes, I am.

RONI
Who's your crew chief?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
I don't have one.

RONI
Where's your pit crew?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
I'm using alternates.

RONI
What's your starting position?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
I'm way up in 43rd.

RONI
Johnny Ray, you're starting in last place!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
That way nobody's gonna pass me!

RONI
Well, at least not on the first lap.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
Nobody's passing me ever if you'll make my motor run.
I drive fast!

RONI
(*Shaking her head.*)
Oh, Johnny.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
(*Very emphatic.*)
I'm just spittin' vinegar want'n to beat the Black
Beast. Are you gonna help me or not?

RONI

(She pauses, takes a breath, you can see her scheming.)

Where's the Number 5?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

At the track.

RONI

OK. I'll look at it!

RONI and JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Yes!!

(They give each other the high five.)

(MUSIC: #10 BACK ON THE TRACK (reprise)) << TRACK 10
>>

BACK ON THE TRACK.
BACK IN THE GAME.
LEADING THE PACK.
PEOPLE YELLING MY NAME.

BACK ON THE TRACK.
BACK IN THE GAME.
WINNING THE RACE.
WE'LL BE SPRAYING CHAMPAGNE.

THAT'S WHERE I WANT TO BE.
THAT'S WHERE I NEED TO BE.
THAT'S WHERE I BELONG.

THAT'S WHERE I WANT TO BE.
BACK WHERE MY HEART IS FREE.
ON THE TRACK,
ON THE TRACK I'M AT HOME. [END SONG]

(Light outs)
[End of Scene]

Scene 5

Sunday in the garage at the race track. RONI and JOHNNY RAY are working alone taking care of final adjustments to the #5 car before he leaves for the track and she leaves to go to the tower in the pit area.

RONI

Johnny, get out of the bathroom. I need your help!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I'll be right there.

RONI

Are you combing your hair again?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I'm sure I'll do some interviews. I gotta look my best!

RONI

Then look good and pull the duct tape off your fender.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I can't do that. I don't want it dragging the ground.

RONI

I repaired the bracket last night. The whole chassis's fine. And, where are those alternates you promised? I need your extra tires in the pit.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

They'll meet us in the pit. Now quit bossing everybody around.

RONI

We're running behind. You gonna be like this all day?

(MUSIC: #11 A GOOD DAY FOR RACING) << TRACK 11 >>

Verse 1

JRR - SO WHY'S YOUR HEAD SO HARD!

Roni - AND HOW DID YOURS GET SO FULL OF LARD?

JRR - I KNOW I CAN WIN IT ALL.

Roni - WITHOUT MY HELP YOU'LL STALL.

Verse 2

JRR - DON'T NEED YOUR HELP TO DRIVE.

Roni - SO, WHERE'S THE TROPHIES FOR CAR NUMBER FIVE?

JRR - THERE'S GOT TO BE A BOSS.

Roni - AND WITH NO TEAM A LOSS.

Verse 3

JRR - SO NOW YOU SEE MY POINT?
Roni - NO AND I HATE TO DISAPPOINT.
JRR - YOU DIDN'T HEAR WHAT I SAID.
Roni - I THINK YOU'RE GOING OUT OF YOUR HEAD.

Verse 4

JRR - I'M GOING TO WIN THAT RACE.
Roni - AND BY YOURSELF YOU'RE IN LAST PLACE.
JRR - WHY YOU KEEP TALKIN' LIKE THAT?
Roni - NO ONE LIKES A SPOILED BRAT.

Chorus

JRR - IT'S SUCH A GOOD DAY FOR RACING!
JRR - IT'S ME THAT THEY'LL BE CHASING!
Roni - GIMMIE THAT POWER TOOL,
Roni - AND STOP ACTING LIKE A FOOL.
JRR - YA IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR RACING.
JRR - I'M GONNA BE FIRST PLACE'IN.
Roni - RADIO'S IN THE CAR. NOW STOP TRYING TO BE A
STAR.

Roni - GO GET ME MY BIG WRENCH.
JRR - IT'S LYING OVER ON YOUR BENCH.
Roni - WALK YOUR FEET OVER THERE.
JRR - AND WHAT IF PEOPLE START TO STARE?

Roni - WE'VE GOT TO THINK LIKE ONE.
JRR - I WANT TO GO AND HAVE SOME FUN.
Roni - WITH NO CREW YOU WON'T GO FAR.
JRR - THEY WANT PICTURES OF ME AND MY CAR.

Roni - PUT YOUR MIND ON THE RACE.
JRR - IT'S NEVER BEEN ANOTHER PLACE.
Roni - THEN TELL ME HOW YOU'RE GONNA BEAT CHUCK.
JRR - WELL I'VE HAD A CHANGE OF LUCK.

Chorus

JRR - AND IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR RACING!
 JRR - ITS ME THAT THEY'LL BE CHASING!
 Roni - STOP STANDING IN MY LIGHT.
 Roni - SO I CAN GET THE TRACK BAR RIGHT.
 JRR - IT'S SUCH A GOOD DAY FOR RACING.
 JRR - I'M GONNA BE FIRST PLACE'IN.
 Roni - THEY'RE LINING UP ON THE TRACK.
 Roni - ALL I GET FROM YOU IS SLACK.
 JRR - YEA IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR RACING! THE FIVE CAR IN
 FIRST PLACE THEN!
 Roni - WE GOTTA FIND A CREW.
 JRR - ALL WE NEED IS YOU KNOW WHO!
 Roni - JOHNNY I DISAGREE.
 JRR - I THINK YOU GOT THE HOTS FOR ME. [END SONG]

RONI

No chance of that happening. I don't date people I
 work with.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

You remember that time you hit me in the mouth?

RONI

Yeah, what about it?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I thought you were awesome! I told everybody that it
 hurt so good!

RONI

Good, cause I'm about to hit you again.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

And, that time at Peter's Playland?

RONI

Yeah?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

You were awesome then too. You see, I had to take the
 wheel nut loose so the tire would fall off. That's
 the only way I beat you, and you almost beat me
 anyway.

RONI

Am I supposed to be impressed?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Roni, I'm just excited to be racing again. This is what I was born to do. And, you're the best dang mechanic I've ever known.

(JOHNNY RAY instinctively kisses RONI. It is a slow sweep-me-off-my-feet romantic kiss. Then he realizes what he's done. RONI was surprised so she stands dazed and breathless for a minute.)

RONI

Johnny Ray, just go drive as fast as you can, will ya?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Uh, I gotta go.

RONI

(Stilled dazed. She speaks so softly and he doesn't hear this line.)

And, do what I say so we can beat the Black Beast.

(Lights out.) [End of Scene]

Scene 6

Setting: at the race track. RONI is stage right and in a stand as if she is in the pit on the viewing platform (scaffolding). She's wearing headphones with a mic and has binoculars. JOHNNY RAY is stage left in his car wearing racing gear and helmet with a mic.

The ENSEMBLE will be center stage as if in the grandstand. The TRACK ANNOUNCER is also center stage and has binoculars. LOURAINÉ and PEDRO are stage front in the grandstand.

Special note: The Act II dialogue assumes RONI was not seen by the shop crew at the large race track (other than the direct conversation with JOHNNY RAY). Therefore spotlights are used on RONI and JOHNNY RAY so that they appear separate from and unseen by the grandstands.)

(LCD backdrop (if available) shows racing from multiple perspectives.)

Lights out to begin. There are 15-20 seconds of sounds of cars racing around the track. Special lighting can show car lights circling the auditorium walls. It is a loud and intense outdoor scene.

(Lights up. Race Car sounds continue.)

TRACK ANNOUNCER

(Speaking over the track PA System)

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Talladega Superspeedway.

RONI

(Speaking loudly over the radio headset to JOHNNY RAY.)

Johnny, can you hear me?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Loud and clear.

RONI

How's it running?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Power to spare.

RONI

Good. You're gonna need it. I want you to run with the front pack.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Got it.

RONI

Pick a middle line so we can move if we need to.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Will do.

RONI

(Pause, then in a personal tone. The two connect.)

Johnny Ray, it's a good day for racing and I think we got' a chance, but we gotta work together...

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

You're right. Now let's make it happen, together.
(Car sounds and crowd noise.)

(MUSIC: #12 RACEDAY) << TRACK 12 >>
 (At the Directors discretion, the ANNOUNCER'S RAP can be performed as a solo or duet or divided among members of the ensemble. The Script is written as a solo.)

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.
 WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.
 WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.
 WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

Verse 1

Announcer - GOTTA FULL FIELD IN THE BIG RACE TODAY.
 EVERY DRIVER SAY, GET OUT OF MY WAY.
 GREEN FLAG A WAVING, MOTORS START TO ROAR.
 STANDING ON THE PEDAL, PUSH IT TO THE FLOOR.

RUNNING 1-90 UP AGAINST THE WALL.
 BETTA TURN IT LOOSE LIKE A BOWLIN' BALL.
 BLACK BEAST IS ON, THINKS HE'S GONNA WIN.
 JOHNNY RAY SAYS, YOU BETTER THINK AGAIN.

*(The following RONI and JOHNNY RAY
 spoken dialogue is over the two-way
 radio.)*

RONI

You're moving up.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Almost there.

RONI

Keep pushing it.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I can do that.

RONI

You still got more power. Now use it!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Roger that.

RONI

Give it full throttle coming out of turn 3.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I'm getting there. I'm getting there. Man this car is fast.

[SINGING]

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

Verse 2

Announcer - PIT BOSS YELLIN' ON THA' RADIO.

PIT CREW IS READY, GIVE 'EM TWO AND GO.

PUSH DE WEDGE, FILL DA FUEL.

TIRES A GRIPIN', 'DIS RACERS NO FOOL.

CARS BE DRAFTIN' UP ON THE BUMPER

GETTING SO CLOSE HE GONNA THUMP 'ER

CLOSER CLOSER, FASTER FASTER

PUSH THE LIMIT, CAUSE A DISASTER!

EVERYONE IN THE STANDS

(Spoken interjections.)

Curt - Yeah, Pedro - He's not backing down, Sparky - More left turns, Curt - Go Faster, Louraine - Oh for crying in a bucket, get with the program, Paw Paw - Dang Sunday driver get out of the way, Grandma Myrtle - Get the lead out, Sparky - Woohoo, This is so much better than going to jail. Everyone - Yelling and cheering.

[SINGING]

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

Verse 3

Announcer - LINE FORMIN' LEFT, 8 FINDS A HOLE,
 ANOTHER FORMIN' RIGHT, ONE HIGH ONE LOW
 RUNNIN' FULL OUT, GOIN' THREE WIDE.
 ONE BAD MOVE AN' EVERYBODY'S FRIED.

CROWD'S A CHEERIN', PACK'S GOT DA SPEED.
 UP FROM THE BACK, JUNIOR TAKES THE LEAD.
 MOTOR'S A SCREAMIN', 'BOVE THE RED LINE.
 ONE CAR'S A SMOKIN', BLOWN NUMBER 9.

EVERYONE IN THE STANDS

(*Spoken interjections.*)

Everyone - Yelling and cheering, Yeehaw. Curt - Come on, faster, you got him. Go Johnny Ray. Pedro - He's not backing down, Louraine - He is not backing down! Curt - Oh yeah!

[SINGING]

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.
 WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.
 WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.
 WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

Verse 4

Announcer - SEVEN LAPS TO GO, THINGS GETTING' TIGHT.
 DA BEAST CAR IS MOVIN', LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT.
 TEMPER'S A'FLARIN', HOT ON THE TRACK.
 DRIVERS ARE SWEARIN', HEAR 'EM TALKIN' SMACK.

13'S A'DRAFTIN' 'HIND NUMBER 2
 LOOKIN' FOR A BREAKAWAY, THAT'S WHAT THEY DO.
 DOWN THE BACK STRETCH AND INTO THE TURN.
 HE GOT THE POWER THE MONEY TO BURN.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET (*Spoken*)

These guys are slow pokes.

RONI

Listen good, the Black Beast is draftin' 'till two laps are left. Then he'll breakaway in the back stretch.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

What do I do?

RONI

You gotta be under him to block him.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

How do I get there?

RONI

On turn two go high, then go low down the back stretch
and stay low into turn three.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Got it.

EVERYONE IN THE STANDS

(Spoken interjections.)

Sparky - Go faster. Pedro - Johnny Ray is magic. He's
not backing down, Paw Paw - Go go go go go go! Curt -
Go Johnny, Grandma Myrtle - Go go go Johnny Ray,
Everyone - Yelling and cheering. Go Johnny Ray.

[SINGING]

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

Verse 5

Announcer - TWO LAPS TO GO, SETTIN' SIDE BY SIDE
HUNDRED MILES PER HOUR NO PLACE TO HIDE.
GAS TANK IS EMPTY IS IT GONNA LAST?
THINK ABOUT IT LATER, TIME TO DRIVE FAST.

LOOKIN' FOR SPACE, TAKE IT TO THE RIM,
GETTING IN THE MARBLES CHANCES LOOKIN' SLIM.
MOVIN' TO POSITION, ENGINE RUNNIN' HOT
NO SECOND CHANCES, NOW'S YOUR ONLY SHOT!

RONI *(Yelling)*

He's moving! Go go go! Stay with him, stay with him!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET *(Yelling)*

I'm on it!

RONI *(Loud)*

He'll fake left and go right.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET *(Yelling)*

Got it!

RONI

Go go go! You've got him, you've got him! Stand on it!

(Everyone is very intense. The grandstand crowd is standing and LOURAINÉ squeals and hugs PEDRO. Car noises are loud.)

[SINGING]

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

WATCH 'EM GO AROUND THE TRACK.

Verse 6

Announcer - JOHNNY AND THE BEAST GOIN' NOSE TO NOSE.

CHECKERED FLAG IS READY, NOBODY KNOWS.

BEAST IS GOIN' LEFT, NO! HE'S GOIN' RIGHT

JOHNNY GONNA TO BLOCK HIM WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.

HEADIN' INTO TURN THREE, PEDAL TO THE FLOOR.

THEY'RE FLAT-OUT RACING, THAT'S WHAT WE CAME FOR.

CHEERS LIKE THUNDER, NOSE'S GOIN' UNDER

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET WINS BY A BUMPER!!! [END SONG]

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Spoken simultaneously with cheers.)

I got him.

RONI

(Spoken simultaneously with cheers.)

Yes, yes!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Spoken simultaneously with cheers.)

I got him. Ha ha ha.

RONI

(Spoken simultaneously with cheers.)

You got him. We won! We won Talladega.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Spoken simultaneously with cheers.)

I did it.

RONI

(Spoken simultaneously with cheers.)

We beat the Black Beast.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Spoken simultaneously with cheers.)

Johnny Ray Ratchet is back!

(There are signs written with lipstick, "I love you, Johnny Ray" and Sign saying "Marry me, Chuck" is marked out to say "Marry me, Johnny Ray". JOHNNY RAY is ecstatic and lost in stardom. JOHNNY RAY gets out of his car and moves through the crowd to a podium for a trophy ceremony. Everyone is celebrating.)

EVERYONE IN THE STANDS

Whoo hoo! Yeah! Johnny Ray wins! Johnny, Johnny, Johnny! Wooo, Yes!! He's done it! Go Johnny Ray Go!

TRACK ANNOUNCER

Let's have a round of applause for today's winner, Johnny Ray Ratchet. Johnny hails Hokes Bluff, Alabama!

FEMALE ENSEMBLE MEMBER

I love you Johnny Ray.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET *(Interjecting)*

I love you Baby Doll.

TRACK ANNOUNCER

...He came from last place to set a new track record to beat points leader Chuck Champion and the #13 Black Beast.

Hey, Hey, Johnny Ray! Johnny Ray Ratchet come on up here, man. Johnny, you are our Champion. Congratulations on an exciting victory. Tell us, what was your strategy for winning today?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

My strategy? Ha! I knew that I'd be the winner if I got there first!

TRACK ANNOUNCER

And, how did you beat Chuck Champion? What were you thinking?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Oh I don't waste time thinking. I just listen to the voice in my head and follow my instincts. I drive fast!

FEMALE ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

I love you, I love you, I love you!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I love you too, Sweetie Pie!

TRACK ANNOUNCER

You started in the last row, Johnny. How did you get your car to perform so well?

(RONI has left the scaffolding stand on stage right (in auditorium) and made her way through the crowd (breaking the 4th wall and including the audience as the crowd) and she'll arrive at the end of the trophy ceremony. She is being left out and totally ignored.)

RONI

(Calling)

Johnny!...Hey Johnny!...We did it!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Hey, me and the number 5 car are old buddies.

RONI

Hey, Johnny, over here! Let me through, I'm part of the crew.

TRACK ANNOUNCER

Congratulations, Johnny Ray Ratchet. You are our champion!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Johnny Ray Ratchet is back!

*(Holds trophy above his head.
Crowd cheers.)*

TRACK ANNOUNCER

*(Miss Alabama, dressed
provocatively, hands him a
big trophy.)*

And now, presenting the trophy is the beautiful Miss Alabama!

RONI

Johnny Ray! Johnny!... Johnny!

*(She is pushed back by the
crowd.)*

TRACK ANNOUNCER

Make a toast and have some Champaign.

*(The crowd picks up JOHNNY
RAY on their shoulders and
carries him off to stage
left.)*

RONI

Let me through. Let me through, I'm on the team.

*(RONI is pushed back by the
crowd again. Finally she
gives up.)*

RONI

Johnny!...Johnny!...Johnny.

(Voice cracking, about to cry.)

I can't believe this has happened again.

*(Lights Out)
[End of Scene]
[End of Act I]*

INTERMISSION

ENSEMBLE GIRL #1

Some folks think that people in Alabama only cheer for football or car racing.

ENSEMBLE GIRL #2

Well that ain't true because there's a whole nuther sport people don't even talk about.

ENSEMBLE GIRL #3

You tell 'em girl.

ENSEMBLE GIRL #1

It's a hunting sport for us professionals.

ENSEMBLE GIRL #2

Yeah, we're professional bargain hunters.

ENSEMBLE GIRL #3

Look at this tradin' ammunition!

ALL

And our sport is yard sellin'!

GRANDMA MYRTLE

You see it all begins in Gadsden Alabama and goes all the way up to Michigan.

ENSEMBLE GIRL #3

It's been documented on television, don't you know.

ENSEMBLE GIRL #2

Most the time...

(MUSIC: #13 YARD SALE OLYMPIANS) << TRACK 13 >>

Verse 1

WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE HEADED OR WHAT WE'RE GONNA GET.

BUT WE'RE IN A HURRY!

WHAT TREASURES WE'LL FIND -- WE DON'T KNOW YET.

MIGHT BE SOMETHING FURRY!

I NEED A GIFT FOR MY BROTHER, AND HIS CUTE LITTLE BRIDE.

THEY WERE MARRIED LAST WEEK.

FIND A ASTRO POOL TABLE, SO HE CAN PLAY OUTSIDE.

NOW THAT'S SOMETHIN' UNIQUE.

Chorus

YARD SALE OLYMPIANS, WE'RE GOING FOR GOLD.
YARD SALE OLYMPIANS, THIS GAME NEVER GETS OLD!
WE'RE GONNA KICK A HOME RUN AND SLAM A HOLE IN ONE.
READY-SET-GO NOW AND BRING ON THE FUN.

Verse 2

EG 1 - I BOUGHT AN AUTOGRAPHED JACKET WORN BY SIR MICK
JAGGER.
GMM - THEN SHE GOT A GEE-TAR.
EG 1 - AND SOME RED LEATHER PANTS TO ADD TO MY
SWAGGER.
EG 2 - NOW SHE'S A FIVE DOLLAR ROCK STAR!
EG 2 - THERE'S A MILLION MILES OF YARD SALES UP
HIGHWAY 127.
GMM - ALL THE WAY TO O-HI-O.
EG 3 - COME ON GIRL, LOOK AT THEM PRICES, I'VE DIED
AND GONE TO HEAVEN.
ALL - IT'S A PARADISE, OH-WE-KNOW.

Chorus

A - YARD SALE OLYMPIANS, FINDIN' BARGAINS GALORE.
A - YARD SALE OLYMPIANS, HEY, IT'S CHRISTIAN DIOR!
A - WE'RE GONNA FIRE THE START GUN, THE DAY HAS JUST
BEGUN.
A - READY SET GO NOW AND BRING ON THE FUN!
A - BRING ON THE FUN! [END SONG]

ACT IIScene 1

Early Monday morning at the Oil Change business.

The stage is dark. A rooster is heard crowing. Louraine's truck is parked in Bay 1, just as in ACT I. It appears that the store is vacant because no one is visible. There is a stirring in the truck and PEDRO gets out and the lights come up. He straightens his clothes. He yawns and goes and gets two cups of coffee from the office area. He puts them on a shop box and begins to pick things up from around the floor including a woman's shoe and purse. There is a bra hanging on the antenna of the truck. PEDRO is upbeat and alert. No one has seen LOURAINE at this point but she will wake in a moment with a hangover.

PEDRO

(Spoken into the truck.)

Buneos dias, amor de mis amores. *(Interpretation: Love of my loves.)*

(Pause.)

I have fresh coffee for you.

(Pause.)

... come and I will help you.

(LOURAINE'S head pops up from the cab of her truck. She is in total disarray and half asleep. Her hair is way off to the side, lipstick smeared, and blouse untidy. PEDRO helps her out of the truck by pulling her arm. She has one shoe on and she walks sleepily to the front of the truck to sit on one of the shop boxes. She sits and holds her head.)

LOURAINE

Oh, why is this building spinning?

(Pause.)

PEDRO

I have coffee here for you.

(She takes it and drinks a sip.)

LOURAINE

How did I get here?

PEDRO

Usted no me creerá si le digo. *(Interpretation: You will not believe me if I tell you.)*

But, I could not let you drive.

LOURAINE

Oh, Pedro. My head is pounding and you are still charming.

PEDRO

Yes, my love. My heart is full because of you.

LOURAINE

(She takes a clear second look at the bra.)

Oh! Why is my bra on that antenna?

PEDRO

(Embarrassed and upset. He gets progressively worked up.)

Oh no! No no no no no! And we drive through town like this? I do not know how this happened!

LOURAINE

That's just great. My bra is out there flapping like a flag.

PEDRO

I will fight the man who has done this.

LOURAINE

Pedro! Pedro darlin', you don't understand. You see, that's a padded bra! That will ruin my reputation!
(Pauses to gather and look at herself.)

PEDRO

I will find him and challenge him to a fight.

LOURAINE

Oh wait, that's not my bra. I'm still wearing mine.
*(She lays the bra where its
 seen on the car.)*

PEDRO

It will fight him unto the death.

LOURAINE

It must've come from a yard sellin' box.

PEDRO

My love, I will defend your honor!

LOURAINE

*(She tries to calm PEDRO
 down.)*

It's OK, Pedro!

PEDRO

But my love, I will--

LOURAINE

Come here and sit down beside me.

PEDRO

I will--

(MUSIC: #14 THESE THINGS) << TRACK 14 >>

Verse 1

PEDRO - IT'S EARLY IN THE MORNING. THERE'S BARELY ANY
 LIGHT.

LOURAINE - I MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT 'CAUSE I'VE
 HELD YOU IN MY ARMS ALL NIGHT.

L - BUT WHEN THE SUN RELIEVES THE MOON,

L - WE WILL BE RETURNING TO

BOTH - THESE THINGS THAT WE CALL LIFE.

Verse 2

P - I LIVE MY LIFE IN LIMBO, IMPROVISING LINES.
 P - ALL THE LOVE WE FELT LAST NIGHT HAS LEFT THINGS IN
 A DIFFERENT LIGHT
 P - I WANT TO SEE WHERE THIS WILL LEAD,
 L - FAR BEYOND MY HOPES AND DREAMS.
 B - I'LL LOVE YOU THE REST OF MY LIFE.

LOURAINE

*(PEDRO puts his arm around
 her. Then they dance.
 Spoken.)*

You are so respectful. No one's ever treated me like
 this before. I, I like it!

[SINGING]

Bridge

B - I DRAW YOU IN AND TOUCH YOUR HAIR, KISS YOUR LIPS
 BREATHE IN YOUR AIR.
 B - AND HOPE THAT I WILL FIND A WAY TO BE WITH YOU
 EVERY DAY

Verse 3

B - I MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT 'CAUSE YOU HELD ME
 IN YOUR ARMS ALL NIGHT.
 B - BUT WHEN THE SUN RELIEVES THE MOON.
 B - WE WILL BE RETURNING TO THESE THINGS THAT WE CALL
 LIFE.
 THESE THINGS THAT WE CALL LIFE. [END SONG]

*(RONI enters, she is short
 tempered and stressed out
 from the disappointment of
 the weekend.)*

RONI

Pedro? Louraine? What are ya'll doing parked here on
 Monday morning?

PEDRO

Good morning Ms. Roni.

RONI

I have asked you both to be respectful and this is
 what I get?

LOURAINE

Wa ah--

PEDRO

But Ms. Roni--

RONI

You've you spent the whole weekend together, haven't you?

LOURAINE

Well, uh--

RONI

What are people gonna say? And look right there, that's your bra!

LOURAINE

Wo ah...

PEDRO

That is the pantie bra. It can ruin Ms. Louraine's reputation.

LOURAINE

Roni, will you calm down?

RONI

But I like to be ignored.

LOURAINE

What happened to you this weekend?

RONI

Ya'll just cast me aside like I'm a nothing nobody.

LOURAINE

You're not a nobody. You're my best friend.

RONI (*loud*)

Well, you coulda' fooled me. Cause nobody listens to me or gives me an ounce of credit for what I do.

LOURAINE

I don't know why you would ever say that. We have just had the best weekend I could ever imagine because of you.

RONI (*louder*)
Well, you're going about it wrong.

LOURAINE
Roni, with your inside voice can you tell me what's going on with you?

PEDRO
Ms. Roni, I do not know how to say this. I do not have the life from one moment and one day. I do not plan for tomorrow. This is the life I call, "En Limbo."

RONI
Whatever, Pedro.

PEDRO
I have the good weekend, but I do not plan!
(*Pause.*)
In these days I think that life is like a dance. I enjoy the moments.

RONI
Pedro! You're not making sense except when you ignore me.
(*PEDRO dances around RONI.*)

PEDRO
Now close your eyes. I will show you the life En Limbo and how it is with me and Ms. Louraine.

RONI
Ugh!
(*RONI just looks at him as he dances Latin style.*)

(MUSIC: #15 EN LIMBO) << TRACK 15 >>

Verse 1

ON THE DAYS THAT WE MEET,
I FEEL LIGHT ON MY FEET.
I WANT TO DANCE, EN LIMBO.
I KNOCK ON HER DOOR,
AND SHE OPENS IT MORE,
THAN I EVER HOPED FOR, EN LIMBO.
WE DANCE, ENTRANCED, ROMANCE FILLS THE AIR.
EVERYWHERE, EN LIMBO.

PEDRO (*Speaking*)
Now you dance! Come on!

RONI
I'm not in the mood to dance.

LOURAINE
Come on.

PEDRO
Dance with the music.
It's easy.

*(CURT arrives. One car
drives into Bay 2 with
ENSEMBLE members and without
shop calls or driveway bell.
CURT directs them in. They
watch and will participate in
the dance.)*

Verse 2

MOVE YOUR FEET YOU WILL SEE.
WHEN YOU DANCE YOU FEEL FREE.
YOU'RE DANCING WITH ME, EN LIMBO.
CLOSE YOUR EYES, FEEL THE BEAT.
IMPROVISE, MOVE YOUR FEET.
DANCE HERE WITH ME, EN LIMBO.
NOW DANCE, ENTRANCED, TAKE A CHANCE AND LET GO.
LIFE IS A DANCE, EN LIMBO. LIMBO.

LOURAINE
*(LOURAINE and PEDRO dance as
she laughs)*
Laughs...

*(SPARKY and CURT arrive along
with other crew and
customers. Everyone joins in
the dance.)*

Verse 3

THIS IS NOT JUST FOR ME.
 IT'S FOR ALL YOU WILL SEE.
 WE TAKE A CHANCE, EN LIMBO.
 IT FEELS GOOD MOVE YOUR FEET.
 CLOSE YOUR EYES FEEL THE BEAT.
 NOW DANCE HERE WITH ME, EN LIMBO.
 NOW DANCE, TAKE A CHANCE, LET YOURSELF GO.
 LIFE IS A DANCE EN LIMBO.

WE DANCE, ENTRANCED.
 ROMANCE FILLS THE AIR, EVERYWHERE.
 EN LIMBO. EN LIMBO.
 (CHORUS) EN LIMBO.
 EN LIMBO
 (CHORUS) EN LIMBO.

PEDRO (*Speaking*)

Ad lib: Venga. Venga. La musica que quiere. Quieres bailar. Es facil. Sigüeme. Si! (Translation: Come on. Come on. The music wants you. Do you want to dance? It is easy. Follow me. Yes.)

(Whistle blows and a full ensemble Latin dance follows.)

Come here. Everyone, do this!
 This is good. Let the music lead.
 Do like this.

(*Ad lib from ensemble during dance.*)

[END SONG]

(*People return to their places in cars, in the lobby and work positions.*)

LOURAINE

(*Spoken to PEDRO and RONI.*)

Yoo-hoo. I gotta run. I'll call you later.

(*LOURAINE leaves. All the guys are upbeat and excited as they start to talk about the race. RONI is detached. Another car arrives.*)

CURT

(Shop call.)

Clear to roll on Bay 1

Let's get these cars outta here. Roni, I'll help with Bay 1.

RONI

(Shop calls.)

Clear to roll on Bay 1.

Clear to drain Bay 2.

(Driveway bell.)

(PEDRO

(Shop Call echo)

Clear to drain Bay 2.

CURT

We're gonna be busy all day because of race weekend.

SPARKY

That was the best race I've ever seen.

*(Driveway bell.)**(Shop call.)*

Inbound Bay 1

PEDRO

Si! It was good man.

(Shop call.)

Inbound Bay 1.

CURT

There were over 200,000 people at the track.

SPARKY

I even saw Elvis Presley, in person!

PEDRO

Ha, I hear the track priest gives 17 weddings!

SPARKY *(beaming)*

And, I heard nine babies were born and they named 'em all Junior!!

RONI

None of that's true!

(RONI gets progressively dirty during Act II to contrast with her clean appearance in the finale.)

PEDRO

(Shop call)

Clear to add and start on Bay 2.

CURT

(Shop call echo)

Clear to add and start on Bay 2.

Did you see Johnny Ray Racht come out of nowhere?

SPARKY

I've never seen him run like that.

CURT

It's like he had some new inspiration.

PEDRO

Did you see the race, Roni?

RONI *(Unenthused)*

Yeah, I saw it.

CURT *(Enthused)*

Now don't you think he drove a great race?

RONI

(Under her breath and shaking her head.)

A driver doesn't win by himself, you know.

SPARKY

I heard he's been offered a big money contract to have his own team.

CURT

I heard that too.

RONI

Where'd you hear that?

CURT

On the radio this mornin'.

RONI

His own racing team?

SPARKY

(Shop call.)

Bay 2 is clear to roll.

CURT

(Shop call echo.)

Bay 2 is clear to roll.

(Driveway bell.)

SPARKY

What did you do this weekend Roni?

(Phone rings.)

RONI

(Answering phone.)

Oil Change. How can I help you?

(Spotlight on JOHNNY RAY making phone call, stage right.) (SPARKY lingers near RONI to eavesdrop.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Boastful and arrogant.)

Hey, Veronica. It's you know who, Johnny Ray Ratchet and I drive fast!

RONI *(Tersely)*

Oh, hello.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET *(Excited)*

You won't believe this morning! I've given three television interviews and they want me to do a photo shoot with Miss Alabama this afternoon. She'll be in a bikini and be sitting next to me in car number 5!

RONI *(Unenthused)*

Well that's nice.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

And you're not going to believe who offered me a contract!

RONI *(Terse)*

I heard the news.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET *(Excited)*

I'm gonna have a trailer and a bus and a whole team.

RONI

(Now cold and disconnected, she's thinking she has been left out.)

Well, that's good for you.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Still very boastful and full of himself.)

Johnny Ray's back! This is how it ought to be.
Everybody loves me!

RONI

(She sees SPARKY watching her.)

That's just fine. And we're open Monday to Friday 9-5
and Saturdays till noon. Goodbye.

(She slams down the phone.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Veronica? Veronica? Are you there?

(He looks into the phone.)

Did I say something wrong?

(Spotlight off JOHNNY RAY.)

CURT

(CURT speaks to customers.)

Now thank you for comin'. Come on back to see us.

(Shop call.)

Clear to roll on Bay 1

(Customers in Bay 1 leave. PEDRO guides them out. The Bays will be empty for the next song.)

PEDRO

(Shop call echo)

Clear to roll on Bay 1

(Driveway bell)

SPARKY

(To RONI.)

Who you talking to?

RONI

A customer.

SPARKY

But, what's his name?

RONI

Dirt. John Dirt.

SPARKY

That ain't a customer.

RONI

And why are you prying into my business?

SPARKY

I ain't prying into your business.

RONI

You eavesdropped on my whole phone call.

SPARKY

No I didn't.

RONI

Yes, you did. Curt, Sparky's getting into my business again.

SPARKY

But Roni, why you gotta be so moody? Are you running a fever?

(He reaches to feel her forehead and she knocks his hand away.)

RONI

Curt, what if I go prying into your business and show ya how it feels?

CURT

Darlin'--

RONI

Don't "Darlin'" me! I know all about you and your two hour lunch breaks.

CURT

(To SPARKY and disgusted.)

Dawg gone Sparky, you've done set her off again!

RONI

First, you're at the Butter Barn, then the Pig-n-Out, then the Mile Wide Pie on 278. Curt, you can't be that hungry!

CURT

Roni, why are you so upset today?

RONI

What's your deal, burgers, pizza, donuts? Or is it really, Pam, Marguerite, and Darla?

CURT

Listen here, I ain't got no secrets.

RONI

Don't tell me you're putting out coupons.

CURT

I've got relational opportunities and responsibilities that are appropriate for man of my upstanding social position.

SPARKY

Yeah, he's got relational pernatunities!

RONI

Now how does it feel when someone's getting into your business. Next I'm gonna start making stuff up.

SPARKY

Don't let her get away with it.

CURT

Sparky, you started this.
...Now there ain't nothin' wrong with me making my kind of love connection. It might not be for you, but we all got our own style. Sparky's gonna leave you alone. But let me set the record straight.

*(During the song the guys
pull out blue and red
revolving lights and
flashlights to transform the
stage into a make shift
disco.)*

(MUSIC: #16 DRIVE-THRU PLEASURE ZONE) << TRACK 16 >>

Prelude

NOW DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'VE GOT GIRLS ALL OVER TOWN.
WHEN I NEED MY LOVIN', (SPOKEN) IT'S ALL COOL,
I JUST DRIVE AROUND.
ALL OVER TOWN.

Verse 1

MY GIRL PAM IS AT THE PIG-N-OUT,
I LOVE HER CARMEL COLORED EYES.
GRILLING BURGERS STACKED WITH BACON.
AND SWEET POTATO FRIES.
...YEAH YEAH, I LOVE THEM FRIES.

AND I GO TO THE DONUT SHOP,
I MEET MY DEAR MARGUERITE. YEAH.
I PULL IN AND SAY, "HEY BABY,"
MAKE ME SOMETHING SWEET, OH SO SWEET TO EAT.

Chorus

FRENCH FRIES, FRIED PIES, ICE CREAM CONES.
TACOS, NACHOS, I NEVER EAT ALONE.
FRENCH FRIES, FRIED PIES, ICE CREAM CONES.
TACOS, NACHOS, THE DRIVE THRU PLEASURE ZONE.

CURT

(Spoken ad lib)

Hey Baby, every time I come here and I see that
wonderful look in your eyes I get so excited because I
love it when you feed me baby. And, every time you
look into my eyes and smile I get a certain kind of
feeling deep inside of me. I want more. A lot more.

Verse 2

PUTTIN' BUTTER ON MY TATERS.
THAT'S WHY MY DARLA IS THE BEST. OH SWEET DARLA.
FRY MY MEAT UP IN HER SKILLET.
OH MAN, I LOVE THAT CHICKEN BREAST.
OH, IT'S FIRMER THAN THE REST.

Bridge

SO IN LOVE WITH A GIRL AT THE DRIVE THRU,
 MY SOUL CRIES FOR HER FOOD
 OH BABY, HEY NOW BABY
 FEED ME SO I CAN BE IN A REAL GOOD MOOD.
 OH BABY..

Chorus

FRENCH FRIES, FRIED PIES, ICE CREAM CONES.
 TACOS, NACHOS, THE DRIVE THRU PLEASURE ZONE.

CURT (*Speaking*)

Give me a burger with some bacon on it.
 And the chicken breast that I love so much.
 It tastes so good.

Chorus

FRENCH FRIES, FRIED PIES, ICE CREAM CONES.
 TACOS, NACHOS, THE DRIVE THRU PLEASURE ZONE.

CURT (*Speaking*)

Nachos and tacos, Marguerite, make it hot for me baby.
 Oh yes. All that good stuff. Bring it to me baby.

Chorus

FRENCH FRIES, FRIED PIES, ICE CREAM CONES.
 TACOS, NACHOS, THE DRIVE THRU PLEASURE ZONE.

CURT (*Speaking*)

Oooh, you know I love those French fries and ice cream
 cones. Baby I love the drive-thru. The drive-thru
 pleasure zone.

Chorus

FRENCH FRIES, FRIED PIES, ICE CREAM CONES.
 TACOS, NACHOS, THE DRIVE THRU PLEASURE ZONE.

All: OOOEEEOOO.

CURT (*Speaking*)

Tacos, nachos, and all that good stuff. Never eat
 alone.

[END SONG]

*(Spotlight on JOHNNY RAY,
making phone call, stage
right.)*

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Worried, calling on the phone.)

Oh, if I don't have Veronica helping me this week, I'm
a goner. I gotta talk to her.

(Phone rings.)

SPARKY

Oil Change. How can I help you?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Hello, I need to speak to your mechanic.

SPARKY

The who?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

You know, the new girl.

SPARKY

Uh, hold on.

(Pause, then speaking falsetto.)

Hello, this is Spar-kita the mechanic. He he he he.
How can I help you?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

You're not the mechanic!

SPARKY

Well, that other girl is not here anymore.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Not there anymore!!

RONI

Sparky! Is that a call for me?

SPARKY

Why don't you just come on by and we'll fix you up.
Good bye.

(Hangs up the phone.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

She's not there anymore? I've got to talk to
Veronica!

*(Spotlight off of JOHNNY
RAY.)*

RONI

Who was that on the phone?

SPARKY

Just a customer wanting a tune up.

RONI

I don't think so.

(Shop call.)

In bound Bay 1.

(Driveway bell. Truck enters Bay 1.)

SPARKY

(Shop call echo.)

In bound Bay 1.

CURT

(To customer.)

Hey there, Buster. I see you got your friend along
with you today.

BUSTER

I can't live without Bowser here. He goes everywhere
with me. Come here boy, XXX. *(Kissing sound)*.

SPARKY

What about that race yesterday! I heard a rumor that a
mysterious woman mechanic helped that racer win
Talladega yesterday!

RONI

Where'd you hear that?

BUSTER

Bless her heart, I'm sure it ain't true. A little
woman making a race car go 200 miles per hour. That's
just crazy! Ha ha ha.

CURT

What are we doing for you today?

BUSTER

I need a tall cup of hot black coffee. I had an awful weekend.

SPARKY

What happened?

BUSTER

I had to cut bait with my best girl Mildred.

CURT

Now you gotta be kiddin' me! You two made a great couple.

BUSTER

We got along just fine, except for one thing. She just didn't like Bowser.

(PEDRO and SPARKY walk over to Bowser.)

SPARKY

(Offended, flabbergasted.)

What? She didn't like Bowser? What's wrong with her?

PEDRO

(To Bowser, now CURT, SPARKY and PEDRO are kneeling and petting him.)

Bowser is a great dog.

BUSTER *(serious)*

Mercy me, I just don't know.

But what I do know is a guy's gotta have two things in life; A good work truck and a faithful dog.

SPARKY

And a faithful dog is hard to find.

RONI

(Yelled from shop, trying to get the guys to work again.)

Hey Sparky Dog! You think you can check the tire pressure on this truck?

SPARKY

(First to BUSTER and then to RONI and walks back to truck.)

And dogs don't boss you around like some women I know.

(RONI glares at SPARKY.)

RONI

Wanna womun wassa noo.

PEDRO

(Shop call.)

Clear to add Bay 1.

RONI

(Shop call echo.)

Clear to add Bay 1.

CURT

What did she want you to do? Kick him outta' bed?

BUSTER

It was worse than that, Curt.

CURT

What could be worse than that?

BUSTER

*(Spoken slowly as if in anguish and
about to cry.)*

She ... she ... Curt, she kicked him out of the house!

CURT

No way!

*(PEDRO and SPARKY return to
console the dog.)*

BUSTER

He spent the whole night alone in the back yard!

SPARKY

I can't believe that. That's horrible!

BUSTER

(Still very heavy, shaking his head.)

And, you won't believe this either.

It was his birthday!!

CURT, PEDRO, SPARKY *(Unison)*

Gasp!

PEDRO

We call this woman, El Diablo!

RONI

(Aggravated and direct. She points to the truck.)

Sparky, finish the tires! Pedro!

SPARKY

Oh, he's got a heart of gold.

BUSTER

And he loves me no matter what.

CURT

She coulda hurt his feelings.

PEDRO

What did you do?

BUSTER

(To Bowser, kneeling at first.)

Come here boy.

I did the only thing a decent man could do.

(MUSIC: #17 BOWSER) << TRACK 17 >>

Verse 1

BOWSER'S HIS NAME - HE'S GOT BIG BROWN EYES.
 BEEN MY MOST LOYAL FRIEND - SPEAKS NO LIES.
 FOLLOWED ME THROUGH FUN AND FEAR, THROUGH THICK AND
 THIN.
 WHEN HE SITS AT MY SIDE I FEEL HIS LOVE.
 AND THE BACK OF MY TRUCK FITS HIM LIKE A GLOVE.
 BEEN WITH ME FOR MANY A YEAR, MY NEXT OF KIN.

Chorus

NOW SHE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD TO GO.
 I SAID COME ON GIRL I JUST DON'T KNOW.
 IT'S NOT FAIR; IT WAS ONLY SOME DOG HAIR!
 THAT SHE FOUND ON HER NEW WHITE DRESS.
 AND IF SHE'D THINK TWICE THEN SHE'D HAVE TO CONFESS.
 THAT SHE LAUGHED WHEN HE GAVE HER THAT KISS.
 BOWSER'S MY BEST FRIEND; BOWSER'S MY BEST FRIEND.

Verse 2

SHE WAS HOT AND FUN, THAT GIRL WON'T STOP.
 SHE DANCED SO SMOOTH IN THAT HALTER-TOP.
 COULD'A STAYED WITH ME FOR MANY A YEAR THROUGH UPS AND
 DOWNS.
 I WANTED THAT GIRL IN MY TRUCK IN HER SEAT.
 WITH HER HAIR PULLED BACK SHE LOOKED REAL SWEET.
 ME AND YOU AND BOWSER TOO, WE'D OWN THIS TOWN.

*(Bowser is placed in the
 center of the men singing.)*

Chorus

BUT SHE WAS BREAKING MY HEART SAYING HE HAD TO GO.
 WELL COME ON GIRL I JUST DON'T KNOW.
 IT'S LIKE THIS; IT WAS JUST HIS WAY TO KISS.
 HE LIKED HER WHEN HE HOPPED IN HER LAP.
 THEN SHE HAD TO GO AND SLAP HIM LIKE THAT.
 ON THE NOSE ... I WOULD'A BOUGHT HER NEW CLOTHES!
 BUT SHE MADE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN HER AND MY DOG. (Dog
 panting.)

Final Chorus - (All men singing.)

BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND, BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND.
 (Dog barking.)
 BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND, BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND.
 BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND, BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND.
 BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND, BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND.
 (Dog barking.)

BUSTER *(Spoken)*

Bowser, come here boy.

(Singing)

BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND, BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND.
 BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND, BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND.
 BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND, BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND.
 BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND, BOWSER'S OUR BEST FRIEND.
 (Dog barking.) [END SONG]

BUSTER

COME ON BOWSER, GET IN THE TRUCK, LET'S GO.
X X X COME ON BOY.

*(All the men are melodramatic
and ready to break out in
tears.)*

SPARKY

Oh, that's so sad. I don't blame you one bit.

CURT

They can be so unreasonable.

PEDRO

Some of the women have the cold heart.

BUSTER

A good dog listens to you. And a good dog accepts you
no matter what. What's better than that?

SPARKY

*(To BUSTER, as he puts his arm around
his shoulder.)*

I feel for ya bro.

BUSTER

*(BUSTER puts his arm around SPARKY'S
shoulder.)*

Thanks, Sparky.

RONI

(She breaks them apart.)

Now just hold it right there. I'm sorry to break up
you boys' silly pity party, but we still have work to
do.

CURT

No party today, Sparky. Come back to see us Buster.

(Shop call.)

Bay 1 clear to roll.

RONI

(Shop call echo.)

Bay 1 clear to roll.

(Buster leaves quietly.)

(Phone rings, RONI answers.)

Oil Change, how can I help you.

(Spotlight on JOHNNY RAY, stage right.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
*(One long phrase, spoken without
breathing.)*

Hello Veronica it's Johnny Ray-don't-hang-up-I-didn't-sign-that-contract-and-I-canceled-the-photo-shoot-with-Miss-Alabama-in-her-bikini. ...Are you still there?

RONI

Yes.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
I know I've been acting like a jerk. But Veronica, I couldn't have won on Sunday without you. You knew how to beat Chuck Champion and the Black Beast. Everybody gives me the credit and they yell my name. But, I know that you made it happen.

RONI

Winning is a team effort.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
And, I think we're a match made in heaven.

RONI (Unsure)
The car ran great.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
(Very nervous.)
Listen, I didn't sign that contract because I have a proposal for you.

RONI
*(RONI sees the guys
eavesdropping.)*
You mean a contract proposal?
Hold on a minute. I need some privacy in this store.
*(RONI puts the phone down and
walks to the office.)*
*(The guys act as if they were
not listening.)*
(Then from the office phone.)
OK, what kind of contract do you have?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Well, it's more of a regular proposal than a contract.
I want to know ... I want to know ...

RONI

Johnny Ray, do you know where you're going with this?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Yes, I do.

RONI

Sounds to me like you're going in circles again.

JOHNNY RAY

... I want to know ... I want to know if... Ugh!

(Now he chickens out.)

If I proposed that we race with 36 pounds in the tires
instead of 38. What would you say?

RONI

Well, it depends on how it feels. You're the driver.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Yes, I'm the driver ...

But tell me, if I said the track-bar was too tight
would you trust me?

RONI

We make a good team, but I'm not sure I can trust you
yet Johnny Ray. I need to know how you drive a little
better.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

But, sometimes you just need to take a chance and give
it a go.

RONI

That's what I've heard. ...So go ahead and loosen the
track-bar and get back to me.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I'm talking about trusting me? Do you trust me?

RONI

Trusting someone with a serious proposal is scary.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

But, how do you feel about it?

RONI

I'm afraid to get hurt.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I'm the one that get's a fat lip!

RONI

Johnny Ray, I'm at work. I gotta go.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I want to come see you.

RONI

I can't talk right now.

(She hangs up. Spotlight off JOHNNY RAY.)

(RONI stays in the office to reflect on the phone call. SPARKY is near the office door with CURT and PEDRO close by.)

SPARKY

I know she's got some guy she's not telling us about.

CURT

I'm sure it's just another no good guy trying to hustle her!

PEDRO

I don't want her to become hurt.

SPARKY

Yeah, I can't stand the idea of some 'ol sleaze bag hittin' on her.

(CURT and PEDRO pause then look at SPARKY like he's crazy.)

You know what I mean. Some other sleaze bag ...

(MUSIC: #18 WHO IS THIS MAN) << TRACK 18 >>

R= RONI, C = CURT, S= SPARKY, P=PEDRO, M=All Men

(First phase: RONI sings in the office. The men sing in the shop.)

RONI (*Spoken*)

Match made in heaven? Contract proposal? Trust? I'm so confused.

(*Singing*)

Verse 1

R - WHO IS THIS MAN CALLING ME?
 C - IS IT A MAN? THAT CAN'T BE?
 R - WHO IS THIS MAN ON THE PHONE?
 P - I THINK IT IS JUST BY HER TONE.
 R - IS THIS THE LOVE I'VE WAITED FOR?
 S - IT'S JUST SOME JERK THERE'S NOTHING MORE.
 R - IT FELT SO GOOD, HE KISSED ME, YES!
 C - HE'LL NOTCH HIS BELT WITH HER CONQUEST.

Chorus

R - IS THIS LOVE FOR ME? WILL HE COME FOR ME?
 R - DOES HE THINK OF ME WHEN HE'S ALONE?

 M - WHO IS THIS GUY? HE SHOULD MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN.
 M - WHO IS THIS MAN, THAT'S ON THE PHONE?
 M - WHY CAN'T HE MAKE HIMSELF BE KNOWN?
 M - WHO IS THIS MAN, THAT'S ON THE PHONE?
 M - WHY CAN'T HE MAKE HIMSELF BE KNOWN?

(Second phase: THE MEN move to work in different areas of the shop. RONI moves to the shop area and sings to the men individually.)

Verse 2

R - HE CAME TO ME AND TOOK A STANCE.
 S - SHE'S SO DESPERATE, SHE'LL TAKE A CHANCE.
 R - THEN HE GAZED - INTO MY EYES.
 C - ALL THAT TALK, JUST FULL OF LIES
 R - HE TOOK MY HAND AND KISSED ME QUICK.
 P - HE'LL PICK HER UP, AND ACT REAL SLICK.
 R - WHAT DOES HE MEAN? I JUST DON'T KNOW.
 C - HE'LL BREAK HER HEART. THEN WATCH HIM GO.

Final Chorus

R - IS THIS LOVE FOR ME? WILL HE COME FOR ME?
 R - DOES HE THINK OF ME WHEN HE'S ALONE?

*(Third phase: men question
RONI as she sits and stands
in the middle of them.)*

M - WHO IS THIS GUY? HE SHOULD MAKE HIMSELF BE KNOWN.

M - WHO IS THIS MAN, THAT'S ON THE PHONE?

M - WHY CAN'T HE MAKE HIMSELF BE KNOWN?

M - WHO IS THIS MAN, THAT'S ON THE PHONE?

M - WHY CAN'T HE MAKE HIMSELF BE KNOWN?

M - WHO IS THIS MAN, THAT'S ON THE PHONE?

M - WHY CAN'T HE MAKE HIMSELF BE KNOWN?

M - WHO IS THIS MAN, THAT'S ON THE PHONE?

M - WHY CAN'T HE MAKE HIMSELF BE KNOWN?

R - IS THIS LOVE FOR LOVE ME? CAN I LET MY HEART GO-
O-O-OH?

R - WILL HE COME FOR ME? I JUST DON'T KNOW.

ALL - WHO IS THIS MAN? WE JUST DON'T KNOW! [END SONG]

CURT

(Shop call.)

We have inbound on Bay 1.

PEDRO

(Shop call echo.)

Inbound on Bay 1.

SPARKY

(Spoken with a rhythm.)

Hey, hey, hey. Paw Paw's here again today!

(Driveway bell.)

RONI

And he's got Grandma Myrtle with him.

CURT

Wow, they're lookin' angry.

(Pause.)

I'd say they're havin' a little tiff.

SPARKY

OK, I'm staying out of this one.

*(RONI guides their car in.
She helps GRANDMA MYRTLE.)*

RONI

Hey, Grandma Myrtle. It's so good to see you again.

GRANDMA MYRTLE

And it's good to see you too, darlin'.

RONI

You're looking pretty today. How are you today?

GRANDMA MYRTLE

I'm fine, but you better steer clear of Mr. Grouchy Pants over there. He's on a tear.

RONI

He's on a tear? I can't imagine that!
Why don't you go over there and wait on us. It will only take a few minutes.

(RONI points to the bench on stage right.)

GRANDMA MYRTLE

Thank you, darling.

(She walks to the park bench outside the front of the lobby.)

SPARKY

(Spoken from behind the car to hide him from PAW PAW.)

So, why is Grandma Myrtle so upset?

PAW PAW

Ain't none of your dang business.

CURT

Sparky, I thought you were staying out of this.

RONI

Now Paw Paw, Grandma is upset at you and she's been your best girl for over 50 years.

PAW PAW

Best girl? Humph. Well, she's gone and done it now!

RONI

And what can she do that's so bad?
Go on, give me the bad news. I can take it.

PAW PAW

She wouldn't get me a cop of cuppy. I mean a cup of coppy. Oh horsefeathers, you know what I mean.

CURT

You mean a cup of coffee?

SPARKY

(Sarcastic.)

You're kidding me. Grandma Myrtle wouldn't get you a cop of cuppy?

RONI

(Mouthed but not spoken, and behind PAW PAW'S back. Then CURT grabs him.)

Sparky! Get away!

(To PAW PAW.)

Now Paw Paw, I bet Grandma Myrtle wants to get your coffee every morning. But, maybe there's a good reason for why she didn't bring it to you. Did you ask her?

PAW PAW

I said it three times.

RONI

Did you think that maybe you could get your own coffee and give her one day of rest? She's made yours for years without a single vacation.

PAW PAW

Why would she need a vacation?

RONI

Every now and then you should just say "thank you." Grandma Myrtle has feelings too. How long has it been since you took her out to a movie?

PAW PAW

Aw, movies are a waste of time. Besides, they hadn't made any good ones since *Dirty Harry* got that punk. ...And, he made my day, too.

RONI

Paw Paw, you need to show her that you appreciate her.

PAW PAW

Aww-ph, that's silly.

RONI

(Lecturing in a mild tone).

I'm going to tell you something. One of these days you might not be able to enjoy her like you're used to.

I want you to go over there right now and tell her you love her and appreciate her and then you treat her real special. I mean real special!

PAW PAW

(Mumbling under his breath.)

What am I supposed to say? I already told her I loved her when I married her. Why do I have to repeat myself?

RONI

Now, get on over there right now.

(Pause.)

She's sitting there waiting on you.

PAW PAW

(Still Mumbling. Paw Paw mindlessly walks in the wrong direction.)

Huh... just sitting there waiting on me... Love. Appreciation?

RONI

She's over there!

(Pause.)

(RONI points to stage right. PAW PAW is very reluctant and holds his head down and walks slow.)

Go on now. Go tell her you love her!

(PAW PAW sits down beside GRANDMA MYRTLE. She ignores him. She is very skeptical of everything he says until the end when she levels with him.)

(Stage lights dim and the spotlight is on the two.)

PAW PAW

Myrtle, I reckon I need to tell you something.

GRANDMA MYRTLE

Well, you better not sass me or I'll kick you in the buttocks if it's the last thing I ever do.

PAW PAW

Oh don't go talkin' like that.

(MUSIC: #19 ONLY ONE FOR ME) << TRACK 19 >>

PP = PAW PAW, GM = GRANDMA MYRTLE, B = Both

Verse 1

PP - REMEMBER THE NIGHT OF OUR SENIOR PROM?

GM - THE FIRST TIME THEY THREW YOU IN JAIL?

PP - WHILE EVERYONE WAS FIGHTIN,' YOU REMAINED CALM.

GM - SOMEBODY HAD TO MAKE BAIL.

Chorus

B - HONEY, I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME ...
THE ONLY ONE FOR ME.

PAW PAW (*Spoken*)

You want to go to Paris?

GRANDMA MYRTLE (*Spoken*)

Let me think about it.

(*Singing*)

Verse 2

GM - I WON'T FORGET WHEN OUR TWIN BOYS WERE BORN. I
LAID THERE HOLLERIN' IN BED.

PAW PAW (*Spoken*)

Yeah, you were loud.

(*Singing*)

PP - I ASKED THE DOCTOR, "ARE YOU SURE THERE'S NOT
MORE?"

GM - I SWORE THAT YOU'D LOST YOUR HEAD.

Chorus

B - HONEY, I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME.
THE ONLY ONE FOR ME.

PAW PAW (*Spoken*)
Can I buy you that diamond ring?

GRANDMA MYRTLE (*Spoken*)
Oh, the real big one?

(*Singing*)

Bridge

PP - FOR SO MANY YEARS YOU'VE STOOD HERE BY ME. YOU
MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A KING.

B - WE SNUGGLE, WE CUDDLE, WE TAKE OUR LOVERS' WALKS.

PP - (*Spoken*) Honey, you are amazing.

GRANDMA MYRTLE (*Spoken*)
You always talk the talk.

(*Singing*)

Verse 3

PP - YOU'VE CARED FOR ME SO GOOD AS I NOW LOOK BACK.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY FAVORITE PLEASER.

PP - HONEY I'M GETTING YOU THAT NEW CADILLAC.

GM - YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT A BIG 'OL TEASER.

Chorus

B - HONEY, I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME.
THE ONLY ONE FOR ME.

PAW PAW (*Spoken*)
Well, you've treated me better than the dog!

GRANDMA MYRTLE (*Spoken*)
I don't know why. The dog at least obeys me.
(*Musical interlude, then spoken.*)
Listen here. If you want to treat me special,

(*Singing*)

Bridge

GM - DON'T TAKE ME TO PARIS. I DON'T WANT THAT DIAMOND RING.

GM - NO BIG FANCY CAR, IT'S NOT MY THING.

GM - I WANT TO BE SHOPPING, CLOSE TO MY HEART.

GM - I WANT EVERYDAY LOW PRICES; JUST TAKE ME TO WAL-MART.

PP - WAL-MART?

Chorus

GM - FOR SO MANY YEARS YOU'VE STOOD HERE BY ME. YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A QUEEN.

B- WE SNUGGLE WE CUDDLE WE TAKE OUR LOVERS' WALKS.

PAW PAW (*Spoken*)

Honey, you are amazing.

(*Pause, then spoken.*)

Wal-Mart?

GRANDMA MYRTLE (*Spoken*)

Wal-Mart baby. That's all. Wal-Mart.

(*Musical interlude, then spoken.*)

Well, I heard there's this sale going on. If I buy four boxes of Kellogg's Rice Krispies for \$2.99 I can get a bra with that for free.

PAW PAW (*Spoken*)

Everybody knows that if they ain't got it at Wal-mart it ain't worth havin' to begin with.

(*Pause, then spoken*)

And maybe you can get some more coffee.

GRANDMA MYRTLE (*Spoken*)

And maybe you can just go buy that coffee yourself!

PAW PAW (*Spoken*)

Well, I said it three times.

GRANDMA MYRTLE (*Spoken*)

Uh huh. [END SONG]

(*Lights rise, GRANDMA MYRTLE and PAW PAW walk quietly to their car.*)

SPARKY

Y'all look over there.

(They all act as if they are looking down the street. Some are pointing.)

That looks like Johnny Ray Ratchet's car and a television truck.

CURT

It IS Johnny Ray and car number 5. What's he doing around here?

RONI

(Spoken to herself, she is about to panic.)

Oh no!

PEDRO

He has many people follow him.

RONI

(Still spoken to herself.)

I don't want him coming here. And he's bringing a television crew!

SPARKY

He's going slow; seems like he's looking for something.

CURT

He's turning in here! Johnny Ray Ratchet is coming to the Oil Change! Now I've seen everything!

RONI

(RONI is separated from the activity. No one notices her anxiety.)

Oh no! What does he want with me?

(CURT, SPARKY and PEDRO are out front and loud. They'll mug for the camera when possible.)

CURT

Johnny Ray Ratchet's comin' in for an oil change!
Everybody, we've got a celebrity in the house!

*(RONI goes into the office
and crawls under the desk
with her feet sticking out.
Changes position several
times to hear what is being
said in the shop. She crawls
around on her hands and
knees.)*

CURT

(Speaking as a race car announcer.)
Inbound on Bay 2. It's the Number 5 car of Johnny Ray
Ratchet, the best race car driver in the land!

SPARKY

(Echoing as an announcer too.)
Inbound on Bay 2, It's the Number 5 car of Johnny Ray
Ratchet; hometown boy done good!

*(JOHNNY RAY drives in and
gets out of the car. He is
wearing a driver's jumpsuit.
He's drawn a crowd. All
available ensemble members
plus LOURAINÉ and BUSTER come
to see JOHNNY RAY. PAW PAW
and GRANDMA MYRTLE come over
to his car.)
(Driveway bell.)*

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

How's it going guys?

*(Everyone is excited and asks
questions rapid fire.)*

SPARKY

Man, oh man! Johnny Ray Ratchet, can you drive a car
or what?

PEDRO

My first time to go to Talladega and I cheer for you!

CURT

We're all huge fans.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Thanks guys!

SPARKY

How fast were you running? What was your top speed?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

It was, uh--

CURT

And tell me, what's the redline on that engine?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Well, that's about--

CURT

And how did you calculate the gas in that car?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Well, it was really--

PEDRO

I like that you did not back down!

LOURAINE

Oooh! Yes.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Whoa, whoa, guys, slow down. You're getting ahead of me, and I cannot let that happen.

SPARKY

Johnny Ray, can I get your picture? Everybody's gonna call me a liar if I ain't got your picture.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Well, I got a whole stacek of picture right here in my car.

(He reaches in his car and pulls out a life-size stand-up poster of himself and some head shots.)

LOURAINE

*(To JOHNNY RAY as if to
flirt, then to Pedro with a
smile and a wink.)*

Oh, I'd like one, honey! But this time make it out to
"Pedro and Louraine."

CURT

What brings you to our oil change business?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Well, actually I'm looking for a girl named Veronica.
She's the girl with everything.

SPARKY

Veronica? No, we don't have a girl named Veronica
working here.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Well, she's about this tall and she's cute as a
button.

CURT

Nope, no one here looks like that. Can she cook?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I don't know, but she's the smartest dang mechanic
I've ever met. I found out quick that she knows
everything about cars. She was here on Friday.

PEDRO

I think he is looking for Roni. She is good, man!

LOURAINE

And where is Roni?

CURT

Wait a minute. Roni! Are you holed up in here?

*(PEDRO and CURT walk to the
closed and locked office
door. RONI is in the office
in a panic.)*

RONI

(Yelled through the door.)

I'm not here.

CURT

Baby doll, we know you're in there!--

RONI

(Yelled through the door.)

Leave me alone.

CURT

No! You come out here right now!

RONI

I got things on my mind. Now go away!

PEDRO

(Spoken to JOHNNY RAY.)

She does not want to come out.

SPARKY

(Spoken to JOHNNY RAY.)

You want us to get her for you? It'll take all three of us! But we'll get her.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Oh no, don't make her come out if she don't want to.

LOURAINE

Hold on a minute. Let me talk to her. This is a woman's job.

GRANDMA MYRTLE

Heavens to Betsy! I'm coming too! There's just no tellin' what that girl's got herself into!

LOURAINE

(Yelling through the door.)

Honey, us girls are here. You can let us in.

RONI

(Yelling back.)

I'm not coming out! Ya'll go away!

GRANDMA MYRTLE

(Still yelling.)

Darlin', it's Grandma Myrtle here. Now everything's gonna be fine. Don't you worry!

LOURAINE

We wanna come in!

(She grabs the door knob and forces her way into the office.)

Now open-the--door!

(Roni backs away from the door of the office.)

LOURAINE

Oh, bless your heart, you've been keeping secrets again!

RONI

That's not Johnny Ray Ratchet! That's Johnny Ray Anderson from the eighth grade!

LOURAINE

The boy you used to race in go-karts?

RONI

Yeah, that's him.

LOURAINE

Wasn't he the first boy you hit in the mouth?

RONI

Because he tried for second base!

(She shakes her fist.)

LOURAINE

Oh, he was cute. I'd a let him hit me a home run.

RONI

He came by on Friday after everyone had gone. He'd qualified for Talladega, but he was starting on the last row and his car wouldn't run. I felt so sorry for him.

GRANDMA MYRTLE

(Mumbling in agreement.)

I know how you felt. When a man has a problem the whole world's gotta stop!

RONI

So I got his car running and talked him thru the race.

GRANDMA MYRTLE

Did he listen to you?

RONI

Before he got into the car, he kissed me and it took my breath away. And then he took my advice when I told him how to beat the Black Beast. It was perfect until after the race when he went and ignored me. Now he says he's real sorry, and I think he means it. He's been calling me all day and now he wants to give me a proposal.

LOURAINE

Honey, it sounds like you have found a man!

RONI

But, it's going too fast.

LOURAINE

What do you expect? He's a race car driver!

RONI

He's supposed to bring me flowers ...and be romantic ...and, and be a gentleman.

GRANDMA MYRTLE

Sweetheart, sometimes you just gotta get rid of your checklist.

RONI

But, it's not supposed to happen like this.

GRANDMA MYRTLE

Now listen to me. Times have changed, even in Hokes Bluff. The old days are gone. Now-a-days people have all kinds of relationships. Some are open, some are romantic with friends, and some folks have come out about things we didn't even talk about in the old days. But, what's most important is that you listen to your heart. What's your heart telling you?

LOURAINE

I know what it's saying! It's telling you to look like a lady. Come here girl, we're gonna give you a one-minute overhaul!

RONI

I don't want an overhaul!

LOURIANE

I'll take the top half, and Grandma, you take the bottom.

RONI

I'm just fine, ya'll stop it...

LOURAINE

Like it or not we're gettin' you ready for a proposal.

(They move out of sight. RONI will change out of the coveralls and clean up her face.)

CURT

Johnny Ray, looks like this is gonna take a while.

SPARKY

And you better get used to that!

PAW PAW

Pardon me there young man, but I'd like to know why you're looking for this young lady?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Well, Sir, I think I've found the most incredible girl I've ever known right smack under my hood.

PAW PAW

(PAW PAW talks to JOHNNY RAY pointedly.)

So, you're talkin' true love? Well, you ain't foolin' me.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

What do you mean?

PAW PAW

I'm gonna give you a word to the wise. You wanna know how I stayed married all these years? I learned long ago to show my lady appreciation. I bring her flowers and take her shopping. You ain't got no flowers now do you?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Oh no! I didn't bring her flowers.

PAW PAW

True love and no flowers? Lover boy, do you need a swift kick in the buttocks?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Oh no! You're right!

PAW PAW

I know that girl and you better straighten up real quick.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

What am I going to do? Will somebody get me some flowers?

PEDRO

We don't have no flowers. This is the oil change business!

SPARKY

U, we got spark plug wires.

(They start to fashion some spark plug wires together to look like a bouquet.)

PEDRO

That's a good idea.

CURT

Roni, we're tired of waitin' on you. Are you comin' out or are we comin' in?

LOURAINE

She's coming.

(LOURAINE and GRANDMA MYRTLE come out followed by RONI, who looks sexy and beautiful.)

Ta dah!

RONI

Hi, Johnny Ray, I wasn't expecting you to come by this quick.

PEDRO *(Surprised)*

Roni, is that you?

SPARKY *(Surprised)*

Dang! I've never seen you without your overalls on.

CURT

Baby girl, you look so good I could sop you up with a biscuit.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

That's the girl I'm looking for. And I've got something for you.

(SPARKY hands and JOHNNY hands RONI the spark-plug-wire bouquet.)

RONI

Oh, Johnny Ray, it's beautiful! It's a bouquet! And look, they're silicone sleeve magnetic core high performance plug wires too. This is so romantic!

(RONI hugs JOHNNY RAY.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Takes her hand.)

Yes, it is romantic. Veronica, you're an incredible mechanic, and you're a beautiful woman!

SPARKY

You already know Roni?

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Know her? Hey, everybody!

(Presenting her.)

This girl named Veronica is the reason I won Talladega yesterday!!

EVERYONE

(Applauding and celebration)

Way to go, Roni. Woo Hoo. You go, girl!

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I've come here to propose somethin' to you, and it's real important. And I mean real important.

RONI

Johnny Ray!

(MUSIC: #20 CONNECTIONS) << TRACK 20 >>

Verse 1

WE MET AGAIN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I COULDN'T TELL
YOU WHY.
YOU SAID, "OK! LET'S GO CHECK YOUR PLUGS?" I KNEW IT
WAS RIGHT, BY THE LOOK IN YOUR EYE.
YOUR TOOLS DID ALL THE TALKING, YOUR LIPS LUSCIOUS AND
WET.
I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "SHE'S IN A LEAGUE OF HER OWN,"
AND THIS IS THE GIRL, I'M GONNA GET."

Chorus

CONNECTIONS LIKE THIS ARE RARE,
AND YOU, APPEARED FROM OUT-OF-THIN-AIR.
ALL I KNOW, I COULD'A SEARCHED THE WORLD THROUGH,
FOR A SPECIAL GIRL, NOW I'VE FOUND YOU.

Verse 2

YOU WORKED WITH SPEED AND CONFIDENCE AND EVEN SHOWED
YOUR CHARM.
YOU MADE THAT ENGINE RUN SO SWEET, YOU KEEP MY MOTOR
WARM.
R - I'M A LADY WHO CAN BUILD A CAR THAT'S SURE TO WIN
THE RACE.
R - AND IF YOUR GONNA RACE WITH ME, THEN YOU'LL BE, IN
FIRST PLACE!

Chorus

B - CONNECTIONS LIKE THIS ARE RARE,
B - AND YOU, APPEARED FROM OUT-OF-THIN-AIR.
B - ALL I KNOW, I COULD'A SEARCHED THE WORLD THROUGH,
JRR - FOR A SPECIAL GIRL,
R - FOR A SPECIAL GUY,
B - NOW I'VE FOUND YOU.

Verse 3

R - WITH YOU I WANT TO RACE AGAIN, YOUR KISS STARTS MY IGNITION.

JRR - THE BEST MECHANIC IN THE WORLD WORKS WITH FEMALE INTUITION.

B - YOU CAME TO ME FROM OUT-OF-THE-BLUE,

B - AND YES, YOU'VE CHANGED MY LIFE.

JRR - THE ONLY QUESTION LEFT TO ASK IS, WILL YOU BE MY ... UMM, UMMM.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Speaking but he can't bring himself to say it. His mouth just can't get it out.)

Wa, woo, wau...

(Then a second try ...)

Wa, wee, woo...

CURT

What's wrong Johnny. Can't you say it?

PEDRO

Maybe he is backing down.

SPARKY

Stop! Don't do it! Think about it!

(Everyone grabs SPARKY and pulls him away.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

No, no I want this and I can do this. If I can win Talladega, I can do this.

(Gathers his courage)

(Singing)

JRR - YOU CAME TO ME FROM OUT-OF-THE-BLUE,

AND YES, YOU'VE CHANGED MY LIFE.

JRR - THE ONLY QUESTION LEFT TO ASK IS,

JRR - WILL YOU BE MY ...

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET
(Speaking JOHNNY RAY mumbles again, he can't say it. Everyone is waiting breathlessly in silence.)

Wa, woo...

This is crazy! Veronica, will you ...

(JOHNNY RAY kneels on one knee presents her with his car keys.)

...will you be my crew chief?

RONI

Oh, Johnny Ray! Yes, oh yes! I'll be your crew chief!
 I thought you'd never ask!

EVERYONE

*(Applause and cheering.)
 (RONI hugs him and JOHNNY RAY swings her around with her feet up in the air. They kiss and hug romantically.)*

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Honey, I need to leave for Bristol, Tennessee, tonight. I got that short track this weekend. I think I can win it too, but only if you're there ... I need you to be there. Can you come with me right now?

CURT

Do you think you can win again?

SPARKY

Yeah, can you knock off Chuck Champion again?

RONI and JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

(Spoken simultaneously to everyone.)

Chuck Champion!

(Spoken simultaneously to each other.)

You know his real name is Marion Whipple.

(They laugh and hug again.)

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

Yeah, working as a team we can knock off Chuck Champion and the Black Beast every time.

RONI

Curt, I don't want to walk off a job without giving notice. But, do you care if I go with Johnny Ray?

CURT

Darlin', you go on with Johnny Ray and live your dream. We'll be just fine here.

JOHNNY RAY RATCHET

I love you, Veronica!

RONI

I love you too, Johnny Ray!
(*They embrace.*)

(Singing)
Final Chorus

PP & GMM - CONNECTIONS ARE EVERYWHERE, AND YOU, YOU
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THERE.

LOU & PEDRO - CONNECTIONS ARE EVERYWHERE, AND YOU,
LOU - (SPOKEN) YOU CAME TO PUT ON MY SPARE!

All - CONNECTIONS ARE EVERYWHERE, AND SHE, APPEARED
FROM OUT-OF-THIN-AIR.

All - ALL WE KNOW, HE COULDA SEARCHED THE WORLD
THROUGH, FOR A SPECIAL GIRL, NOW HE'S FOUND YOU.

All - FOR A SPECIAL GIRL, NOW HE'S FOUND YOU.
[END SONG]

(Final curtain calls to the "Oil Change" theme.)

(MUSIC: #21 OIL CHANGE DANCE THEME (FINALE))

Song: Oil Change Dance Theme - Reprise

(Instrumental and dance.)

OIL CHANGE! OIL CHANGE! OIL CHANGE! OIL CHANGE! OIL
CHANGE! OIL CHANGE! OIL CHANGE!

BRING US, BRING US, BRING US YOUR CAR.
END SONG]

[*End of Act II*]

THE END