

"21 BAKER ROAD"

A NEW MUSICAL

READING SCRIPT

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TROUTT THEATER NASHVILLE TENNESSEE

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21 BAKER ROAD

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CHARLIE BRIGADE

42. The patriarch of the Brigade family, a former jazz horn player. An out of work house crazy Curmudgeon who dies.

**My Room Our House - Don't You Think - Jane's Lament - Horn of Plenty
Buster Crane Part One- One Perfect Charlie- The Place- Get Out of My House
I Miss You- My Room Our House – reprise- Where Do I Go From Here
Maggie's Theme- We're Each Other's Angels**

JANE BRIGADE

35 to 60 – Charlie's housewife, put upon, taken advantage of, stoic for the sake of her husband and kids, the example that Charlie should aspire to.

**My Room Our House- Jane's Lament- I Miss You- Silly Lily-
My Room Our House – reprise- We're Each Other's Angels**

JASON BRIGADE

Jason at 10 is Charlie and Jane's wide-eyed son and aspiring horn player, a good kid who ask a lot of questions.

My Room Our House- The Place- We're Each Other's Angels

Jason at 19 is grown into an accomplished horn player and army private. He dies in Vietnam and joins Charlie in the great beyond.

Like Crazy Do- The Place- We're Each Other's Angels

MAGGIE BRIGADE

Maggie at 12 lost without her father, Lily's best friend.

Maggie's Theme- One Perfect Lily- We're Each Other's Angels

Maggie at 23 marries Eddie gives birth like her mom at 21 Baker Road to Charlie Jr.

One Perfect Love- My Room Our House – reprise- We're Each Other's Angels

LILY KAMINSKI

Ages from 12 to her early twenties - a beautiful innocent, wise beyond her years. AL'S adopted daughter and the one who sees everything and judges nothing.

**One Perfect Lily- Silly Lily- My Room Our House – reprise
We're Each Other's Angels**

AL KAMINSKI/HOST

Ages from 30 to mid fifty's - a neighbor, contractor and friend. As the host he is a little bit friend and foe, light and dark.

**My Room Our House- Buster Crane Part One- Buster Crane Part Two
The Place- My Room Our House – reprise- We're Each Other's Angels**

DORIS GORMAN

Is Jane's hypochondriac older sister who ages 40 to mid sixties -spinster hairdresser to the stars who only wants to belong and Charlie's house.

**Don't You Think- Get Out of My House- My Room Our House - reprise
We're Each Other's Angels**

EDDIE TUCKER

Age's 19 to 25; EDDIE is a friend of JASON'S and a member of his band, a bright young man with a big heart and a caring nature. He marries MAGGIE after JASON dies.

**Like Crazy Do- One Perfect Love- My Room Our House – reprise
We're Each Other's Angels**

CHROUS SONGS

**My Room Our House- Buster Crane Part Two- Like Crazy Do
The Place- Get Out of My House- Half Way To Heaven Blues
My Room Our House – reprise- We're Each Other's Angels**

Extras - chorus, a garage band of five and two thugs.

THE TIME

Various between 1957 and 1986...

THE PLACE

A single set - a cross section of five rooms, two up and three down, a yard on the left, a porch on the right side.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE:

1957.

AT RISING:

A trumpeter plays his trumpet then bows to applause.

JANE

Come on Charlie; let's go home.

CHARLIE, JANE and YOUNGER JASON
enter followed by **AL**, his
clipboard and a chorus of
construction workers.

CHARLIE

Al, I've been saving up ten years to
build this place. Just cause you're my
neighbor don't mean you can lie down on
the details. This house is a reflection
on me; if it's not right, people will
think I'm not right.

AL

Believe you me Mr. Brigade; I know
twelve thousand dollars is a lot to pay
for a new house. But even a 1957 state-
of-the-art, "Al Kaminski Wonder House"
is bound to have a few bugs.

YOUNGER JASON

Cool!

JANE

Bugs; I hate Bugs!

"MY ROOM, OUR HOUSE"

Reyland-Gore

CHARLIE

Look at this place!

THERE IS PLASTER PEELING FASTER THAN ANYONE CAN FIND.
WE'VE GOT HOLES I DO NOT KNOW IF BY ERROR OR DESIGN.
EVERY ROOM IS MAROON IS THAT WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND?

AL

My mom picked out the color.

CHARLIE

Beautiful!

AL

Thanks, I'll tell her.

CHARLIE

HALF THE STUDS THEY'RE DUDS WE NEED CAULKING OVER THERE.
I SEE TERMITES BY THE PORCH LIGHT CRACKS ABOVE THE STAIR.
THERE ARE WINDOWS INNUENDO NOT WITHSTANDING NEED REPAIR.

AL

I'll make a list.

CHARLIE

Better write a book.

YOUNGER JASON

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? ISN'T IT GREAT!
A ROOM THAT'S ALL MINE, UNLIKE MY FATE!
I CAN FILL IT WITH MY STUFF, NOT STUFF I HATE!

AL

Crank it up Harry James.

JASON blows his trumpet badly.

(FAMILY CHORUS) MY ROOM...

YOUNGER JASON

IS MY GET LOST IN SPACE, MY TOP SECRET PLACE,
HOW COULD I WANT MORE?

(FAMILY CHORUS) MY ROOM...

IS A DREAM COME TRUE, WITH A BIRDS EYE VIEW,
OF THE TWINS WHO LIVE NEXT DOOR!

CHARLIE

WHEN THE WASHER'S WASHING, THE PIPES ALL PLAY A TUNE,
EVERY FIXTURE IS A MIXTURE OF NUEVO AND NEW BUFFOON.
AND THE DRYER WAS ON FIRE WHEN IT DANCED OUT OF THE ROOM.

AL

Combustible appliances, codes won't like that.

CHARLIE

DO YOU THINK THIS IS PAINT? COLORED WATER FROM A MOP,
CRACKING SPACKLING AND I'M ASKING ARE THOSE NAILS ABOUT TO
POP? THE DOORS WON'T CLOSE OR OPEN...

AL

Charlie can you stop, I'm out of paper.

CHARLIE

I'm out of patience.

JANE

ISN'T IT AMAZING; ISN'T IT NEAT?
ALL OF THESE BOOTIES FOR TWO LITTLE FEET,
A MUSIC BOX MOBILE AND POLKA-DOT SHEETS....

AL

There's plenty of storage Mrs. B. We
lined the hamper with lead.

(FAMILY CHORUS) MY ROOM...

IS A WARM EMBRACE, A GROWING PLACE, A FEELING THAT'S FINE?

(FAMILY CHORUS) MY ROOM...

IS A PURE DELIGHT, A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT, A PLACE FOR MY WINE.

AL

Was there anything else, Charlie?

CHARLIE

WELL, THE FINISH IS LAST THE WATER IS STANDING.
DETAILS IN THE MAIL ARE NOT TOO DEMANDING.
A CROOKED MAST HEADER A HOLE IN YOUR SWEATER.
A CRACK IN MY CEILING OR A LOSE FITTING PEALING?
LOSE HINGES SQUEAKING A LEAK THAT IS SINKING.
A PIPE ON THE BRINK OR A CLOG IN THE MASTER...
THERE'S SO MUCH TO TELL CAN'T YOU WRITE ANY FASTER?

AL

Write any faster, I got it...

CHARLIE

ISN'T THIS GREAT? AIN'T IT A SIGHT,
TOOL HANGERS BATHED BY A BARE NAKED LIGHT?

AL

IT WILL EVEN LOOK BIGGER WHEN IT'S ALL PAINTED WHITE.

Wired you up with a double two-twenty
and an extra one-ten Mr. Brigade.
That's a total of five hundred thirty.

(FAMILY CHORUS) MY ROOM...

IS A FUNCTIONAL SPACE, A PRIVATE PLACE, MY HALL OF FAME.

(FAMILY CHORUS) MY ROOM...

A MANS REWARD, FOR THE MANORS' LORD, A KINGS DOMAIN.

JASON

MY ROOM IS A SECRET PLACE.

JANE

MY ROOM IS A WARM EMBRACE.

CHARLIE

MY ROOM IS A FUNCTIONAL SPACE.

(UNISON) MY ROOM - OUR HOUSE

AL

Here's the list Mr. B.

CHARLIE

Well, EXCEPT FOR THE PIPES AND THE MICE AND THE HEADERS
THE JOISTS THAT ARE MOIST AND THE HOLE IN YOUR SWEATER.
SOME DRYWALL THAT BY ALL ACCOUNTS SHOULD BE FIRED...
AND WINDOWS I'M SURE SURELY SHOULD BE RETIRED.
THE MOLDING THAT'S FOLDING AND THE CIRCUITS OVERLOAD.

JANE

I pronounce this house a home....

ALL

21 BAKER ROAD.

SCENE TWO:

One month later. Charlie sits in his living room in an over stuffed chair and reads by flashlight.

CHARLIE

Crossword puzzles are hard but they make you smart. Let's see, three across, a five-letter word for a hairy and horrible blood-sucking beast?

DORIS enters turning on lamps.

DORIS

Hello! How are all the little people?

CHARLIE

(Flat)
Hey Doris...

DORIS

Charlie, what's the matter; you live in this wonderful new house and here you sit in the dark?

CHARLIE

Al put drywall over the light switches.

DORIS

Oh for Pete's sake, you'll end up as short sighted as Eisenhower.

CHARLIE

Dwight's the man.

DORIS

He's the old man; Nixon's the future.

CHARLIE

What are you doing here?

(Pause)
D-o-r-i-s...

DORIS

You forgot to call me. You always forget to call me. Don't you like me Charlie?

CHARLIE

The doctor said the baby wouldn't be here for another week.

DORIS

What do they know? I've had a rash on my buttocks for a month; I could have the cancer, they don't care.

CHARLIE

You celebrities are all alike, me, me me!

DORIS

Me a celebrity, I groom Arthur Godfrey's toupee, Marty; but I do love show business. Jason! Your favorite Aunt is here, come give us a hug.

CHARLIE

He's not here. He's over at Fat Larry's house.

(Pause)

Something's wrong with his puberty.

DORIS

Don't you mean his pituitary?

CHARLIE

No. The little freaks spend the entire afternoon in Fat Larry's garage torturing their instruments.

DORIS

How sweet.

CHARLIE

I told em boys, you can't make money dreaming.

DORIS

You outta know.

CHARLIE

Sure, you're only twelve, but get married; get a real job.

DORIS

Become a bitter has-been obsessed with a house.

CHARLIE

Yeah, but I don't miss it Doris.

DORIS

Liar!

CHARLIE

But I do miss long legged blondes named "Amber" with limited clothing allowances walking up my street backward.

DORIS

Jane!

CHARLIE

I miss long legged blondes a lot.

DORIS

Jane, don't leave me out here!

CHARLIE

Are you a blonde Doris?

DORIS

Honestly!

"DON'T YOU THINK?"

Reyland-Gore

DORIS

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME THAT YOU CHANGED, CHARLIE?
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LOUSY LONG ENOUGH?
DON'T YOU WANT TO BE RE-ARRANGED, CHARLIE?
IF NOT FOR ME, FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD, DO IT FOR THEM.

CHARLIE

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU BUTT OUT, DORIS?
THAT PAIN IN MY REAR, IT COULD BE YOUR CAREER.
DON'T YOU WANT A BIT SMALLER BUTT, DORIS?
IF NOT FOR ME, FOR THE GUYS AT THE HOME, DO IT FOR THEM.

DORIS

I'm hungry, what's to eat around here?

CHARLIE

We got nothing, your sister's eaten everything in the house, isn't that right baby?

JANE

That's right dear.

JANE enters nine months pregnant.

DORIS

Jane!

JANE

We better get to the hospital.

CHARLIE

What for? Hospital food is terrible!

JANE

I think it's time.

DORIS

Hospital!

CHARLIE

Time!

JANE hits the couch in pain.

JANE

Charlie you creep! I'll kill you!

AL enters.

AL

I got those chocolate éclairs you wanted Mrs. B.

JANE

I hate you too Al!

AL

OK.

CHARLIE

Hey? I'll take one of those.

DORIS

Is that all you think about?

DORIS grabs an éclair.

DORIS

For Gods sake you're having a baby! Call an ambulance. I'm having a stroke.

The group runs in circles. JANE lies down out of view.

Baby's coming, got a baby coming.

JANE

Ahhhh! Coming right here, coming right now!

AL

In the Army I worked in delivery.

CHARLIE

If we need anymore-baked goods we'll call you.

AL

It was hospital delivery.

DORIS

Isn't that's what nurses do?

JANE

Charlie, you're dead where you stand!

CHARLIE

I know honey but we just found out that Al was a nurse.

JANE

I don't care if he's an Alice; if he knows about birthing babies let him through!

CHARLIE

I'm watching you.

AL

All right, I'll need some boiling water, plenty of towels, some chewing gum, and newspapers, a ball of string, a bicycle pump, a mop, a large potted plant, a ham sandwich and a bullet, silver. Well, what are you waiting for?

"DON'T YOU THINK?" PART TWO

Reyland-Gore

DORIS

WELL IT'S SURE LUCKY I'M HERE!
 IT WOULD BE A DISASTER IF I HADN'T SHOWED.
 YOU'D BE HIDING IN CLOSETS AND DROWNING IN BEER,
 IF I WASN'T HERE...

CHARLIE

PARDON ME BUT I'M GOING TO THROW-UP!
 I ALWAYS GET SICK WHEN I SEE YOU CLOSE-UP.
 WE'D BE FINER THAN FROG HAIR AND FIT AS A PUP,
 IF YOU HADN'T SHOWED UP...

DORIS

Bite me!

AL

Good evening Mrs. Brigade. Would you
 like some help?

JANE

Did you wash your hands?

AL

Yes ma'am. Just relax and when I say
 push, you push.

JANE

OK. So you're a nurse Al... Ahhhh!

AL

Push!

JANE

Ahhhh!

AL

Push!

JANE

Ahhhh!

DORIS

WHAT DOES JANE SEE IN YOU YOU'RE SO FAT?
 SHE SHOULD HAVE MARRIED FRANK FROM THE LODGE.
 SHE'D BE GOING TO PARTIES WITH LARGE FUNNY HATS,
 NOW LOOK WHERE SHE'S AT...

CHARLIE

WELL YOU'RE WRONG BECAUSE I DO HAVE A HAT!
 YOU'RE DREAMING IF YOU THINK I'D SHOW YOU.
 IT'S BIG AND IT'S FUNNY AND IT'S FURRY IN BACK,
 YOU CAN'T SEE MY HAT.

DORIS

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME THAT YOU CHANGED, CHARLIE?
 HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LOUSY LONG ENOUGH?
 DON'T YOU WANT TO BE RE-ARRANGED, CHARLIE?
 IF NOT FOR ME, FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD, DO IT FOR THEM.

CHARLIE

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU BUTT OUT, DORIS?
 THAT PAIN IN MY REAR WELL I'M NAMING IT YOU.
 WOULDN'T YOU LIKE A BIT SMALLER BUTT, DORIS?
 IF NOT FOR ME, FOR THE GUYS AT THE HOME, DO IT FOR THEM.

DORIS

Bite me!

CHARLIE

Get out of my way.

AL

Push!

JANE

Ahhhh!

CHARLIE

I couldn't find a silver bullet, sorry.

AL

Push!

JANE

Ahhhh!

The baby cries (SFX) as DORIS faints.

CHARLIE

Oh man, will you look at that!

AL

Indoors plumbing!

JANE

It's a girl!

CHARLIE

Well, since you just delivered the plumbing and didn't actually install it, it outta work.

AL

Have you picked out a name?

JANE

Maggie. I love you Charlie.

CHARLIE

Yeah, yeah...

JASON enters and checks out sister.

JASON

Wow, how come you guys do all the cool stuff while I'm gone?

CHARLIE

Jason, say hello to your sister and get me a beer. Make that two.

LIGHTS

SCENE THREE:

One month later, the nursery and TV room at 21 BAKER ROAD, JANE is playing and singing at the piano. Young JASON stands next to CHARLIE'S chair holding a beer. CHARLIE passes the nursery on his way to the TV room and stops.

JANE

ONE LIFE, ONE LOVE
ONE LITTLE GIRL I DREAM OF
MY RED HEADED QUEEN OF HEARTS
WITH PIGTAILS AND A SMILE

CHARLIE

You think you could hold it down?

**JANE stops playing and gets up when
MAGGIE starts to cry (SFX).**

JANE

Now look what you've done.

JANE, holding MAGGIE up to CHARLIE...

Here, maybe she'll stop crying for you.

CHARLIE

But the games about to start...

JANE

How can you be so indifferent to
innocence? I know this isn't what you
wanted but now that we're here, maybe you
could try and show a little love?

CHARLIE

We didn't have that in our house.

JANE

This is your house Charlie. You could
have it your house.

CHARLIE turns and yells for JASON.

CHARLIE

Jason I'm looking for you.

CHARLIE turns up the TV. (SFX)

YOUNG JASON

Good game huh dad?

(Pause)

Hey dad, there's a family of Cardinals nesting in our maple tree.

CHARLIE

If I catch you throwing rocks up there!

YOUNG JASON

I wouldn't do that.

CHARLIE

Well I would; when I was your age. Wait a minute; why wouldn't you?

YOUNG JASON

Cause I might hit one.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

YOUNG JASON

Dad, can we go outside and play baseball?

CHARLIE

(At the TV)

Come on you bum!

YOUNG JASON

I need your help. I can't seem to hit the curve.

CHARLIE

You see that guy? That's Ted Williams; a one hundred thousand dollar contract, the richest man in baseball and he can't hit the curve.

(At the TV)

Oh for crying out loud!

(Pause)

You're gonna miss that curve your whole life boy, and five minutes in the back yard won't change that.

YOUNG JASON

Does that mean we can't play?

CHARLIE

Look, when I watch the game I do that for me. And when you grow up, you'll do the same thing to your kid. We're all the product of our raising.

YOUNG JASON

And five minutes in the back yard won't change that?

START MUSIC

CHARLIE

Yeah, got any more questions?

YOUNG JASON

No sir.

CHARLIE

Good, I'm glad we had this little talk. Now go on, get outta here.

JASON exits, lights dim on CHARLIE still watching TV and come up on JANE holding MAGGIE.

"JANE'S LAMENT"

Reyland-Gore

JANE

NOW THERE MAGGIE DON'T CRY, MOMMA IS HERE.

CHARLIE

Jane, I need another beer.

JANE

MAGGIE DON'T CRY, DADDY'S HERE TOO.

He loves you you're his angel, he loves momma too.

LIFE IS HARD WHEN THE TRUTH IS BARE,
NAKED LIES DIE STANDING THERE BEFORE YOUR WEARY EYES.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT DAYS THAT MAY NOT COME,
WORRY ABOUT JOY AND THE BOYS THAT YOU'LL KNOW.

CHARLIE

I'm waiting in here?

JANE

AND SOMEDAY YOU'LL FIND HIM, A ONE OF A KIND HIM,
 AS STRONG AS HIS PROMISE, AS SWEET AS A ROSE...
 IT'S THE DAY THAT YOU'LL WAIT FOR.
 IT'S THE TIME YOU REMEMBER.
 ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'LL BE WONDERING, DREAMING OF HIM.
 WHEN YOUR LOVE STANDS BEFORE YOU, HE'S THE ONE WHO ADORES YOU.
 WITH HIS FREE FLOWING GOODNESS, SOFTLY HE'LL SAY:
 COME WITH ME, YOUR LIFE WILL BE DIFFERENT NOW.
 ALL YOU SEE, I WILL GIVE YOU, SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW.
 TIME WILL STAND STILL, HE'LL LOVE YOU, HE WILL.
 IT'S THE DAY THAT YOU WAIT FOR
 IT'S THE TIME YOU'LL REMEMBER
 ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'LL BE WONDERING, DREAMING OF HIM.

CHARLIE

Are you listening to me?

JANE

I HEAR YOU CHARLIE, I ALWAYS HEAR YOU
 FOR RICH OR FOR POOR, FOR BETTER FOR WORSE
 TILL DEATH, TILL LIFE DO US PART?
 I TOOK A WALK ON THE GREEN AND I SAID TO MYSELF,
 SHOULD I TRY ANY LONGER?

CHARLIE YOU SEE IS MY KNIGHT IN SHINING AMOUR.
 WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME NOTHING COULD BE FARTHER FROM MY MIND.
 THE HURT HE LEAVES BEHIND.

I GAVE AWAY ALL MY DREAMS AND IN SPITE OF MYSELF,
 I HAVE TO BE STRONGER.

CHARLIE YOU SEE IS MY HUSBAND EVER AFTER
 I KNOW HE'S SAD AND HE'S WEAK BUT I'M WILLING TO FORGIVE

I'd do anything for my kids.

I CAN SEE HIS LIGHT THROUGH THE DARK
 I WILL TAKE HIS HAND THROUGH HARDEST PART
 I'D DO IT ALL FOR A WHOLE NEW START
 BUT IT NEVER COMES, IT NEVER COMES

I WOULD CRAWL TO HIM ON MY KNEES
 I WOULD LET HIS PAIN BE MY DESTINY
 I'D DO IT ALL FOR OUR FAMILY
 WOULDN'T YOU, WOULDN'T YOU.

JANE

YOU KNOW THAT FATHERS WEEP, MOTHERS CRY,
THEIR TEARS FALL DOWN FROM ANGELS EYES.
AS DADDY'S HURT JUST ROLLS ON BY,
--AND NOBODY KNOWS IT BUT ME.

IT'S THE DAY THAT YOU WAIT FOR
IT'S THE TIME YOU'LL REMEMBER
ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'LL BE WONDERING, DREAMING OF HIM.

LIGHTS

SCENE FOUR:

CHARLIE turns off the television and walks out onto his porch, looking up.

CHARLIE

Hey you, if you're even up there. All I ever wanted was to play this horn. That girl, those kids, they took it away from me. Now what are you going to do about it?

CHARLIE sits and plays his horn while writing song lyrics on a piece of paper between sips of beer.

"Horn Of Plenty"

Reyland - Gore

CHARLIE

I GOT A HORN OF PLENTY
SHINY - WHEN IT WAS NEW
PLENTY OF SOUL,
I HAD PLENTY OF GROOVE - TILL I MET YOU.

CHARLIE plays a melody on his horn.

I MET A GIRL NAMED JANIE
SHINY - WHEN SHE WAS NEW
THEN CAME A DAY
I WENT AND GAVE IT AWAY
AND WHAT DID I GET FROM YOU?

CHARLIE plays a melody on his horn.

I GOT A HORN OF PLENTY
I FILLED IT WITH REGRET
IT'S OVER AND MISSED,
IT'S DONE, IT'S KISSED - GOODBYE

CHARLIE plays the melody on a sad, soulful, muted horn, and then writes.

I GOT A HORN OF PLENTY
I WAS BORN TO PLAY.
I GOT A HORN OF PLENTY
PLENTY OF REMEMBER WHEN.
PLENTY OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

AL calls from off stage.

AL

Hello there, anybody home?

CHARLIE

Over here...

AL

It's me Al, Al Kaminski?

CHARLIE takes his lyrics and puts them into the bell of the horn, covering them with the mute. He puts the horn in the arms of a stone cherub half buried in the garden; a ladder is propped up on the side of the house, **CHARLIE** hurries up the ladder and calls to **AL** from the roof, **AL** enters.

CHARLIE

You better have some beer if you're coming in this yard.

AL

Hey neighbor. There was some mighty fine music coming from over here. Was that you on the horn?

CHARLIE

No, it must have been the radio.

AL

All right, say I thought I'd come over to cheer you up.

CHARLIE

And you didn't bring any beer?

AL

I'm sorry you lost your job.

CHARLIE stands tall on his roof.

CHARLIE

Yeah so what; my old man used to say, "If you want to be successful in life you need two degrees from any university." Hell, I'm a hundred and eighty degrees from every university and look what I got.

AL

They'll be some long lines at the A&P starting Monday.

CHARLIE

Yeah, well I won't be there to see em.

AL climbs halfway up the ladder.

AL

You're not going to jump are you?

AL climbs the rest of the way and sits timidly on the roof.

CHARLIE

(Amused)

What, and leave my house? I love this house more than some people I know.

AL

Maybe you better sit down then.

CHARLIE

You can see seven states from up here.

AL

Old man Crane, he liked to walk on top of his house too. Everybody sure liked good old Buster Crane.

CHARLIE

Good ole' Buster Crane? He lived in a one bedroom Ranch! What did Buster Crane have that I ain't got?

AL

Good Grammar?

CHARLIE

And lousy balance...

AL

It's dangerous up there; a sudden gust of wind and you'll end up like Buster, sleeping with your marigolds.

CHARLIE

Yeah, yeah but I got both my legs.

"BUSTER CRANE"

Reyland-Gore

AL

STAND UP FOR BUSTER CRANE-- HE'D DO THE SAME FOR YOU.
HE ONLY HAD JUST ONE LEG BUT IT WORKED LIKE IT WAS TWO.
BUSTER WAS A CHARMING GUY-- WHO THOUGHT THAT HE COULD FLY
TROUBLE WAS HIS CHARM WORE OFF AND THEN HE WENT AND DIED.

AL AND CHARLIE

BUSTER CRANE, BUSTER CRANE, WEAR YOUR HAT WHEN IT RAINS
WATCH YOUR STEP, HOLD ON TIGHT, USE YOUR CANE.
BUSTER CRANE, BUSTER CRANE YOU MUST REALLY BE INSANE
--ALWAYS EARN YOUR WINGS BEFORE YOU FLY.
BUSTER WAS A STAND UP GUY.

CHARLIE

STAND UP FOR BUSTER CRANE-- HE HAD A HEART OF GOLD.
HE NEVER SAID AN UNKIND WORD AND GOSSIP HE NEVER TOLD.
BUSTER WAS A BUDDY PAL-- WITH SHAKES AND SMILES AROUND.
BUT ALL HIS PALS AND BUDDY BOYS SURE CAN'T HELP HIM NOW.

AL AND CHARLIE

BUSTER CRANE, BUSTER CRANE,
WEAR YOUR HAT WHEN IT RAINS.
WATCH YOUR STEP, HOLD ON TIGHT, USE YOUR CANE.
BUSTER CRANE, BUSTER CRANE YOU MUST REALLY BE INSANE
--ALWAYS EARN YOUR WINGS BEFORE YOU FLY.
BUSTER WAS A STAND UP GUY.

AL

You'd think a man with one leg would be
more careful.

CHARLIE is balancing on one leg.

CHARLIE

It's all about balance Al.

AL

Busters in a better place now.

CHARLIE

There is no better place for a man than
on top his house. Someday they'll give
tours of this place. Press the button;
hear Charlie play his horn. Hear about
Charlie's tragic childhood.

CHARLIE

Did you know I slept in a single bed with eleven brothers? Ah, why don't you just pay the two dollars and take the tour, you cheap or something?

AL

A man's got to be careful where he spends his two dollars.

CHARLIE

Yeah, well take my advice and invest it in today. Because even though it's printed in the TV guide, there's no guarantee they'll be a tomorrow.

AL

(Amused)

Don't you want to go to Heaven someday?

CHARLIE

I got insurance; got no use for Heaven.

A large thunderclap (SFX) followed by a lighting strike that almost hits CHARLIE. AL runs back down the ladder.

Wow, that almost hit me! Hey, did you call that in?

AL

No.

CHARLIE

I'm still here.

(Laughing)

I'm still standing. See, I told you that Heaven stuff was a load of dog logs! Ha! Ha! Uh Oh! Wahoo!

CHARLIE loses his balance, falls backward off the top of the house, crashing out of sight.

AL

Charlie! I'm coming Charlie! Are you all right? Charlie! Charlie!

AL runs to the back of the house. The scene changes to a funeral service with flowers and a large color photo of CHARLIE. JANE, baby MAGGIE, DORIS, JASON, AL and a chorus of mourners.

AL

STAND UP FOR CHARLES BRIGADE; HE'D NEVER DO IT FOR YOU.
HE LOVED HIS HOUSE, HE LOVED HIS HOUSE,
HE REALLY LOVED HIS HOUSE.
CHARLES WAS A CHARMING GUY- WHO THOUGHT HE HAD SOME LUCK.
TROUBLE WAS HIS CHARM WORE OFF WHEN LIGHTENING ALMOST STRUCK.

AL AND CHORUS

CHARLES BRIGADE, CHARLES BRIGADE
HAD A HOUSE HAD IT MADE-
WATCH YOUR STEP, HOLD ON TIGHT, THINGS THEY FADE.
CHARLES BRIGADE, CUSTOM-MADE WAS THE PRICE THAT HE PAID
--ALWAYS EARN YOUR WINGS BEFORE YOU FLY.
CHARLIE WAS A STAND UP GUY.

AL

STAND UP FOR CHARLES BRIGADE-- HE HAD A PRIVATE WAY.
HE HAD A LOVELY FAMILY AND THEY'RE ALL HERE TODAY.
CHARLES RAN HIS LIFE ALONE-- WITH ZEST AND SELF ASSURANCE.
AND ALL HE LEFT BEHIND WERE BILLS AND PLENTY OF INSURANCE.

The family turns and smiles in unison.

AL AND CHORUS

CHARLES BRIGADE, CHARLES BRIGADE
HAD A HOUSE HAD IT MADE-
WATCH YOUR STEP, HOLD ON TIGHT, THINGS THEY FADE.
CHARLES BRIGADE, CUSTOM-MADE WAS THE PRICE THAT HE PAID

--ALWAYS EARN YOUR WINGS BEFORE YOU FLY.
CHARLIE WAS A STAND UP GUY.

JANE

Thank you Al, Charlie would have liked that.

AL

Yes I think so. So, what are you going to do now, Jane?

JANE

Miss my Charlie.

AL

Say, I could bring Lily over sometime,
to play with Maggie, seeing as how we're
both widows now.

JANE

Sure, anytime, Al.

JANE and the children exit...

AL

See ya then, Jane.

CHARLES BRIGADE WAS MY FRIEND
DON'T KNOW HOW- DON'T KNOW WHY
BUT CHARLIE WAS A STAND UP GUY

LIGHTS

SCENE FIVE:

CHARLIE is in a Heavenly place; fog and soft lights reveal a row of Burma-Shave signs. CHARLIE enters holding his back, takes out his glasses and reads each sign.

CHARLIE

Oh geese, I must have been riding with the luggage. "It's OK to wonder - if you're up - or if you're down? Everybody does - as soon as they hit town. The answers are much clearer - higher in the sky - but first you have to try your luck - and talk to this guy?"

A game show host appears played by AL; he stands by a large carnival wheel with every number a black six except for a single red number one.

HOST

Step right up and spin the wheel. Try your luck, come on, do it for the kids.

CHARLIE

Al, what are you doing here?

HOST

What about you sir? Want to impress the little lady?

CHARLIE

Don't you recognize me Al?

HOST

No.

CHARLIE

Sure you do. You were up on the roof, you were down in the yard, you didn't bring any beer, remember?

HOST

I'm sorry. Why don't you spin the wheel; last chance for a lifetime.

CHARLIE

What is this place Pat Sajak Hell?

HOST

Every one knows that place is where you host the same game show over and over and over and over...

CHARLIE

Next to the same hot married woman?

HOST

Everyday of your long long long life...

CHARLIE

What's happened to me? I'm up on my house, one leg, thunder and lightning, a crash, good ole' Buster Crane? Oh for crying out loud, am I dead?

HOST

Welcome to where you are Charlie. If you don't remember getting here then you won't remember leaving.

CHARLIE

If you're not Al how did you know my name?

HOST reaches to read his manual.

HOST

I know a lot of things. For example, if you have any baggage then you have to spin the wheel.

CHARLIE

I ain't spinning nothing, not until I see my union rep. Tell the big guy Charlie Brigade is here.

HOST

Oh, he already knows. You wouldn't believe how many newspapers he gets.

CHARLIE

Hey, did a cripple named Buster Crane come through here?

HOST checks his book.

HOST

Crane, Buster; let me see; one leg?

CHARLIE

That's him; did he spin your wheel?

HOST

No. But you get extra points for missing limbs. Come on be a sport, spin the wheel and claim your prize.

CHARLIE spins the wheel (SFX) and it lands on the red number one.

(Indifferent)

Oh surprise surprise; you've won a heavenly power.

CHARLIE

What kind of power?

HOST

The miracle of motion, it's always the miracle of motion. Can we get some different prizes in here please?

CHARLIE

I want to spin again.

HOST

I don't think that's a good idea.

CHARLIE spins again landing on red.

HOST

Look at that, motion.

CHARLIE spins again, landing on red.

A power, heavenly, motion; please stop you'll break it.

CHARLIE

Is this fixed; you got midgets back there?

CHARLIE and HOST circle the wheel. Lights come up on MAGGIE and LILY sitting on the bed in MAGGIE'S room.

Hey, who's that?

HOST

That's Al's little girl Lily; the
redhead is Maggie, your Maggie.

CHARLIE

I haven't been gone that long.

HOST

You haven't been gone at all.

LILY

I have to tell you a thing, a secret
thing. I'm in love with a boy. You must
believe me, in love since yesterday.

MAGGIE

You're too young to be in love Lily.

LILY

No way. It's only one boy; it's only a
small love.

MAGGIE

Just one, really, is it a boy from school?

LILY

I don't like school! Why is it so
special? Some pigtail pulling, arm
pinching babies if you want to ask me...
I only love Jason.

MAGGIE

Oh brother.

LILY

That's right, your brother, I'm in love
with a brother. You won't say anything;
maybe you will? He's handsome.

CHARLIE

The kid takes after his father.

LILY

Jason should know he's handsome.

MAGGIE

He knows it all right.

LILY looks through teen magazines.

LILY

Davie Jones I love you too you Monkey.
You're so pretty Maggie, I like your
blouse. I could kiss you boy. I'm perfect
for a perfect boy, my boy, my Jason?

MAGGIE

Love isn't perfect Lily and boys aren't either!

LILY

We're just teenagers, we don't know how
to or why to or where or when too.

MAGGIE

My mom said that my father; my father
was the perfect man. He was generous and
kind and would hold me all night if I
cried; he even wrote me a song.

ONE LIFE, ONE LOVE
ONE LITTLE GIRL I DREAM OF
MY RED HEADED QUEEN OF HEARTS
WITH PIGTAILS AND A SMILE

I hope I meet a boy as wonderful as my
dad someday.

CHARLIE

She said; did you hear what she said?

MAGGIE

This is his picture.

CHARLIE

Hey, here I am the real thing.

HOST

She can't hear you. She does you know.

CHARLIE

What?

HOST

She'll find a nice young man someday.
You didn't hear it from me.

LILY

He's cute.

MAGGIE

How will I find my perfect boy Lily?

LILY

He'll find you, lovely girl my best friend. You'll be minding your business and he'll come up to your eyes and say your name, Maggie. Just one word, one little word and then you know.

"ONE PERFECT LILY"

Reyland-Gore

ONE PERFECT WORD WHEN YOUR HEART FILLS WITH THUNDER.
ONE PERFECT WORD JUST TO HOLD ALL THE WONDER OF ONE PERFECT
FEELING THAT LASTS YOUR LIFE LONG..
TO HOLD IN YOUR ARMS AND WATCH IT GROW STRONGER.

TO ONE PERFECT LIFE WITH THE BOY THAT YOU'VE DREAMED OF
HIS ONE PERFECT WIFE WITH THE HOPE AND THE THEME OF
A MODERN DAY ROMANCE AND HE GETS THE GIRL, HE GETS YOUR
HEART, HE'LL BE YOUR WORLD.

AND YOU THINK YOU WON'T CRY AND YOU'LL NEVER BE LONELY BUT
TIME HAS A WAY OF ITS OWN. YOU WATCH IT SLIP BY AND WONDER
IF ONLY YOUR ONE PERFECT MOMENT, WILL FIND YOU, REMIND YOU
OF, ONE PERFECT DREAM, ONE PERFECT WORD, ONE PERFECT LOVE.

MAGGIE

Maybe he'll have a brother.

LILY

Oh brother, maybe he is your brother.

**LILY and MAGGIE chase each other
around the room laughing. They stop
and end with a Waltz.**

MAGGIE and LILY

AND YOU THINK YOU WON'T CRY AND YOU'LL NEVER BE LONELY BUT
TIME HAS A WAY OF ITS OWN. YOU WATCH IT SLIP BY AND WONDER
IF ONLY YOUR ONE PERFECT MOMENT, WILL FIND YOU, REMIND YOU
OF ONE PERFECT DREAM, ONE PERFECT WORD, ONE PERFECT LOVE.

MAGGIE

Guess what?

LILY

Don't tell me.

MAGGIE

OK.

LILY

Tell me! Tell me!

MAGGIE

Jason has some friends coming over today; some of them are even cute.

LILY

Come on; hurry up.

LILY and MAGGIE exit laughing.

Jason I'm coming my cute boyfriend.

CHARLIE

I want to go with them.

HOST

OK. No. Let's try this again. You're not there but you are, and you've not really arrived here but you have.

CHARLIE

You talk like a lawyer.

HOST

Thank you. Here, it's all written down for you.

CHARLIE gets into the HOST face.

CHARLIE

I don't understand!

HOST

(Softens)

Look, it's not specified but implied that someone could use his or her prize to change something, to learn about someone.

CHARLIE

Who?

HOST

To evolve to a place far beyond the
place that they're not really in now?

CHARLIE

Why would they want to do that?

HOST

Because they can, but they don't have
to; nobody would blame them if they
didn't; sign here.

**HOST gives CHARLIE a paper and he
signs it.**

CHARLIE

AND YOU THINK YOU WON'T CRY AND YOU'LL NEVER BE LONELY BUT
TIME HAS A WAY OF ITS OWN. YOU WATCH IT SLIP BY AND WONDER
IF ONLY YOUR ONE PERFECT MOMENT WILL FIND YOU REMIND YOU OF

One perfect life, I must have been a
real jerk to deserve this?

HOST

Balance, it's all about balance.

LIGHTS

SCENE SIX:

CHARLIE is sitting high on a pile of boxes as the garage fills with JASON'S friends who enter and begin setting up their instruments. JASON enters carrying his trumpet. JANE enters picking up things.

CHARLIE

Neil Armstrong can walk on the moon but my kid can't clean up my garage?

JASON

Mom, you're not supposed to clean a garage; it won't sound like a garage anymore.

EDDIE

Acoustics are very important Mrs. B.

JANE

So is college...and dental floss, are you boy's hungry?

ALL BAND MEMBERS

(In unison)

Sure!

JANE

I'll fix lunch.

JASON

Mom, we got to practice.

JANE

When your father got out of the army, he played his horn in a jazz band. He was so handsome.

CHARLIE

We were "Charlie and the Tuna Salad."

JANE

They were called Charlie and the Tuna Melts, I think.

EDDIE

I don't like tuna, are we having Tuna for lunch?

JANE

I have his record here somewhere.

CHARLIE

Oh Jane don't you want the boy to remember his old man as a strong, confident, self-centered man?

JANE

Here it is, "Like Crazy Do," "Charles Brigade and the Tuna Salad?"

EDDIE

I'll crank it up for you Mrs. Brigade.

JANE

Thank you Jason's friend...

JASON

Mom, his name is Eddie.

JANE

Thank you, Eddie. Would you like a tuna sandwich?

EDDIE

No, thank you.

A YOUNG CHARLIE

"LIKE CRAZY DO"

Reyland-Gore

IT'S THE STARS IN YOUR EYES
THE LONG LATE GOOD-BYES
TELL ME HOW IS A GUY GOING TO FIGHT THAT?

JASON and the BAND snicker.

CHARLIE

What are you laughing at?

Charlie knocks over a road case.(SFX)

JASON

That's Dad?

JANE

He had more hair then dear.

JASON

Hold your cases over there.

YOU'VE KEPT ME WONDERING HOW IT COULD BE.
IT WAS YOU AND ME BABY, NOW IT'S JUST ME.
DON'T YOU LOVE ME LIKE MAYBE--LOVE ME LIKE CRAZY DO.

CHARLIE picks up the needle and
scratches the record to a halt. The
group looks at each other in terror.

JASON

Quit messing around. Mom?

JANE

I'll get lunch.

JANE exits, **JASON** tries to scare the band.

JASON

Eddie? Come on you guys. That's weird.
What's happening here? Cases dropping,
isn't that strange? Hey, what if, what if
my old man heard his tune and came back
to check it out? Right here in this
garage, trying to get our attention, to
communicate with us from beyond. Wait, I
feel it, he's here. He need's help with
something. Will you help him? You? How
about you Eddie? Who will help Charlie?
(Amused)
I hear him calling, "Get me a beer!"

EDDIE

Is that true?

CHARLIE holds out his hand.

JASON

Na! He never came around when he was
alive, why would he come around now?
(Pause)
What do you think fellahs; want to swing
this dinosaur?

BAND MEMBERS

Yeah. OK.

MAGGIE enters pushing LILY. They both stand very still and watch. The band cranks on a new version of the song. JASON sings and plays.

"LIKE CRAZY DO"

Reyland-Gore

IT'S THE STARS IN YOUR EYES
THE LONG LATE GOOD-BYES
TELL ME HOW IS A GUY GOING TO FIGHT THAT?
BUT LATELY IT SEEMS I'M OUT OF YOUR DREAMS
AND FRANKLY MY DEAR I DON'T LIKE THAT.

YOU'VE KEPT ME WONDERING HOW IT COULD BE.
IT WAS YOU AND ME BABY, NOW IT'S JUST ME.

SO DON'T LOVE ME LIKE MAYBE--
LOVE ME LIKE CRAZY DO.

THE FIRST TIME I LAID EYES ON YOU
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE AN ANGEL
YOU STOLE MY HEART WHAT COULD I DO?
I FELL IN LOVE WITH HEAVEN ABOVE.

SO DON'T LOVE ME LIKE MAYBE -
LOVE ME LIKE CRAZY DO.

THE FIRST TIME I LAID EYES ON YOU
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE AN ANGEL
YOU STOLE MY HEART WHAT COULD I DO?
I FELL IN LOVE WITH HEAVEN ABOVE.

DON'T LOVE ME LIKE MAYBE-
SAY I'M YOUR BABY- HUG ME AND KISS ME--
SAY THAT YOU'LL MISS ME--
LOVE ME LIKE CRAZY - LOVE ME LIKE CRAZY DO--

EDDIE

Hey that was great, great everybody.

JASON

Sweet, just like the old man taught me.
Oh, I almost forgot.

JASON pulls a letter from his pocket.

JASON

I got a letter yesterday from Uncle Sam; he's wants me to do a gig in Vietnam this summer, all expenses paid.

EDDIE

Vietnam? Where's that?

JASON

It's over in Asia somewhere.

EDDIE

Uncle Sam must be lonely; maybe Nixon should go and keep him company.

JANE enters with the sandwiches, hears JASON and drops them and runs crying.

JASON

Boot camp next month and I'm back before you know it. It's OK mom.

EDDIE

Hey, Elvis did it and when he came back he was bigger than ever, started going out with Ann Margaret.

JASON plays revelry. MAGGIE and LILY approach JASON, MAGGIE accidentally backs into EDDIE who is carrying, then drops a road case. Taken with each other, there is an awkward pause as LILY tries to keep MAGGIE moving toward JASON.

EDDIE

I'm sorry I didn't see you there. But I'm glad I do now.

MAGGIE

Oh no, it was my fault.

EDDIE

They kind of like it; the cases I mean. I try and do it as much as I can. So, did you come around to watch the band?

MAGGIE

Kind of, this is my garage.

LILY pulls at MAGGIE.

LILY

We have an appointment.

EDDIE

Then you must be Jason's sister?

JASON

Get away from my sister Eddie.

MAGGIE

Kind of...This is Lily.

LILY

Hi.

JASON

She's only fifteen Eddie. She doesn't go for eighteen year olds.

MAGGIE

Oh yes I do. I mean, nice to meet you.

EDDIE

Want to see me carry two of these cases?

MAGGIE

I have to go.

EDDIE

See ya.

MAGGIE drags LILY over to JASON.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry you're going away big brother.
I'll miss you.

JASON

Thanks Magz.

MAGGIE

Remember Lily, my friend from next door?

JASON

Hey.

MAGGIE

She's mostly just seen you through
binoculars; never close up.

LILY

I'll miss you too.

JASON

Thank you. Who knows what's going to
happen huh?

(To LILY)

Do you know what's going to happen Lily?

LILY

Yes, yes I do.

JASON laughs, LILY and MAGGIE exit.

SCENE SEVEN:

The lights fade to a single spot; young JASON sits on a bench. CHARLIE walks up behind him. The HOST watches.

"THE PLACE"

Reyland-Gore

CHARLIE

MY SON HE SAID --

YOUNG JASON

DAD, I FOUND THIS REALLY GREAT BIRD,
HE FELL DOWN FROM OUR TREE - DOES HE BELONG TO ME?
IF HE DOES, WELL THEN I THINK HE SHOULD FLY,
HE WANTS TO BE FREE - HE BELONGS IN THE SKY.

CHARLIE

AND DAD --

YOUNG JASON

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ONCE HE FLIES SO FAR SO HIGH.
JUST A SPECK IN THE BLUE AT THE END OF HIS SONG,
DADDY WHERE DOES HE GO WHEN HE'S GONE?

HOST

TO THE PLACE THAT THE SEA GOES WHEN IT TURNS UPON THE SAND.
IT'S THE SAME PLACE HIS BIRD FLIES WHEN IT'S FREE FROM HIS
HAND. IT'S THE PLACE FOR ALL THE RAINBOWS WHEN THE SKY IS
GRAY WITH STORMS. AND IT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE MUSIC WHEN
YOUR RECORDS OLD AND WORN. HIS BIRD HAS GONE TO MEET THE SEA
IN A PLACE FAR AWAY; A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL SOMEDAY BE,
WHERE RAINBOWS LIVE AND MUSIC PLAYS AND PLAYS.

TO THE PLACE THAT THE SEA GOES WHEN IT TURNS UPON THE SAND.
IT'S THE SAME PLACE YOUR BIRD FLIES WHEN IT'S FREE FROM YOUR
HAND. IT'S THE PLACE FOR ALL THE RAINBOWS WHEN THE SKY IS
GRAY WITH STORMS. AND IT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE MUSIC WHEN
YOUR RECORDS OLD AND WORN. YOUR BIRD HAS GONE TO MEET THE
SEA IN A PLACE FAR AWAY; IT'S WHERE YOU WILL SOMEDAY BE,
WHERE RAINBOWS LIVE AND MUSIC PLAYS AND PLAYS.

CHARLIE

I'M NOT SO SURE THERE IS SUCH A PLACE.
I HAVE TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF
THERE ARE SO MANY QUESTIONS THAT I NEED ANSWERS TO.
WHERE IS THIS PLACE; HOW WILL I GET THERE?
WHEN I GET THERE - WHAT WILL I SEE?

CHARLIE

AND WILL THEY TAKE A MAN - WILL THEY TAKE A MAN LIKE ME?
IN THIS PLACE; THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE

YOUNG JASON

DAD I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED, WHERE DOES HE GO WHEN HE'S GONE?

CHARLIE

What's going to happen to him?

HOST

That depends on how you look at it.

CHARLIE

Why are you showing me all this? It's too late to change me now.

HOST

You think that's my job? The Alaskan cruise isn't for everyone; maybe you'd like something a little more humid.

CHARLIE

I don't know what to do. Can you give me a hint?

HOST

OK, what about Jane, do you miss her?

CHARLIE

I will if you want me to.

HOST

You still don't get it do you? Even if you make the right decision against huge odds there are no guarantees.

CHARLIE

I never told her. I never said goodbye.

HOST

Even though it's printed in the TV guide there is no tomorrow, unless you get this right.

CHARLIE

I'm trying, but you gotta help me. I thought you were my angel, Charlie's angel?

HOST

You think its easy doing this Sparky?
Wearing this suit this hat; I got
questions too pal, granted they're more
educated ones than you but I got em. Your
decisions got you here; now you decide
how you get out. Take the class, read the
book, try a few recipes and if you pay
attention you'll end up where you're
suppose to be. But it's your journey, and
as much as I'd like to I can't do it for
you. Like Ted Williams, you got to take
what comes at you and deal with it.

**HOST pushes CHARLIE into the room.
JANE is working a crossword, as soon
as CHARLIE speaks the HOST exits.**

CHARLIE

Hi baby.

JANE

Charlie liked word puzzles.

CHARLIE

They're hard but they'll make you smart.

JANE

He was never the sharpest knife in the
drawer. I wonder what time it is.

CHARLIE

You look good.

JANE

I have some bread in the oven.

CHARLIE

A little older but good...

JANE

It's time for "Doris Day."

CHARLIE

"You don't know what you got till it's
gone." They have that on a tee shirt at
the Touched by an Angel gift shop.
You've done a great job.

JANE

I suppose I have...

CHARLIE

I like Doris Day.

JANE

A little more time...

JANE picks up her cross word.

Twenty-one across, a five-letter word
for hypochondriac sibling..

DORIS enters.

DORIS

I have wonderful news sister!

JANE

D-O-R-I-S, it's so good to see you.

DORIS

Do I look pale to you? I counted extra
spots this morning. I brought a Spam and
breadcrumbs cheesy bake for while we
watch the world turning.

JANE

What day is it?

DORIS

It's Friday. Oh Jane, I worry about you
all alone in this house.

JANE

I'm fine . . . Doris Day is on.

DORIS

Doris is at three O'clock. I have news.

JANE

I don't want to watch the news.

DORIS

The news is at six o'clock. I've finally
done it! Twenty-five years primping
those over rich, over ripe movie stars
and I'm through, retired.

JANE

But you're a young woman?

DORIS

Thank you, I'm going to be an interior designer. Your house seems much bigger dear; have you added on?

JANE

Charlie always wanted to.

DORIS

I'll make more money selling Uncle Miltie a new den than a hinny wax. Is that your famous banana bread I smell?

JANE

Charlie loved my banana bread.

DORIS

A loaf at a time as I remember, does my hand look swollen to you?

JANE

Doris, I've been thinking.

DORIS

You always were the smart one.

JANE

This house is too big for me.

**A tight spot and a major chord hit
CHARLIE. (SFX)**

With the children gone, and now with your new job, I want you to have it.

DORIS

Don't be silly; I couldn't possible take your house.

CHARLIE

Don't be silly; she couldn't possible take my house.

DORIS

Are you sure? 21 Baker Road?

CHARLIE

I knew it! She's always wanted my house.

DORIS

I've always liked this place.

JANE

You fix it up and show the world what a wonderful designer you are.

DORIS

Well I do have an eye.

CHARLIE

In the middle of your forehead...

JANE

It's settled then, I'll give you the house, for a dollar.

CHARLIE

A dollar!

CHARLIE runs into the kitchen.

DORIS

You are the best! I'll turn on Doris and we'll have cheesy bake to celebrate.

JANE reaches under her chair for her wine bottle. Black smoke wafts in.

JANE

The heck with that, I have a better idea.

DORIS

You're such a bad girl.

JANE

Oh my goodness, my banana bread is burning!

JANE runs and DORIS yells after her.

DORIS

Careful dear, let's not damage sissy's new house.

JANE exits, CHARLIE a ghostly laugh. DORIS remains center stage in the dark with a spotlight sipping some wine.

"GET OUT OF MY HOUSE" (The Haunting)

Reyland-Gore

DORIS

THERE COMES A TIME - WHEN EVERY GIRL SEES -
 THAT GOOD IS FOR SUCKERS BUT GRAND IS FOR ME -
 SO DON'T TELL MY SECRET, BE QUIET AS A MOUSE,
 I LIKED MY WALK UP, BUT I LOVE THIS HOUSE!

**Lights up to show CHARLIE'S house
 under renovation.**

I THINK I'LL TRY STATUARY - THAT CORNER IS WEAK -
 MAYBE SOMETHING MARBLE - NAKED AND GREEK - COME ON BOYS!

**DORIS and a chorus of dancing
 designers move through the room.**

DORIS

IF CHARLIE COULD SEE ME NOW - IF CHARLIE WERE HERE,
 OH WHAT A WOW THERE WOULD BE...

CHARLIE

Wow!

DORIS

IF HE COULD SEE ME...

CHARLIE

Get out of my house!

DORIS

IF CHARLIE COULD JUST BE HERE, A FLY ON THE WALL,
 OH WHAT A LEER THERE WOULD BE...

CHARLIE

I've got your leer right here!

DORIS

HE'D BE PEA GREEN!

CHARLIE

Get out of my house!

DORIS

I GOT PLANS FOR THIS PLACE- BIG PLANS FOR THIS SPACE-
 NOT A MOMENT TO WASTE- NOT A SECOND TO LOSE-
 WHEN I GET THE URGE- WHEN THE SPIRIT MOVES-

CHARLIE

I DON'T THINK SHE KNOWS, IN WHOSE HOUSE SHE'S MESSIN
I DON'T LIKE SQUATTERS, SHE'LL LEARN A VALUABLE LESSON
WAIT TILL SHE GETS A LOAD, OF MY KIND OF SURPRISE
IT'S WAITING IN MY ABODE, THE KIND SHE WON'T ABIDE

CHARLIE moves some furniture.

DORIS

WHAT WAS THAT? DID THAT JUST MOVE?
AN OPTICAL ILLUSION; A SPIRITUAL INTRUSION?
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS? I'M SEEING THINGS!

DORIS takes a painting.

CHARLIE

Get out of my house!

DORIS

THIS PAINTING'S LAME, A TROLL IN A FRAME -
IF CHARLIE WERE HERE HE WOULD DIE. WHO IS THAT GUY?

CHARLIE

That's my mother!

**The painting flies out of DORIS'S
HAND and the chair moves.**

DORIS

THAT CHAIR JUST MOVED, FROM HERE TO WHERE -
IT CLEARLY BREAKS UP THE FLOW.

Charlie breaks the chair.

CHAIRS DON'T JUST BREAK YOU KNOW.

CHARLIE

Get out my house!

DORIS

STOP, WHOMEVER YOU ARE AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW.
STOP, WHEREVER YOU ARE WHERE EVER IT IS YOU'RE GOING.
STOP, WHATEVER YOU ARE AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT GLOWING.

**The stage goes dark; actors dressed in
black hold items that are black
lighted and appear to be floating.**

DORIS

SOMETHING'S FUNNY TODAY, DAISIES HOW NICE.
A FOOT STOOL IN MID AIR -
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE THERE?

CHARLIE

The Miracle of motion!

DORIS

TABLE'S DON'T WALK, WITH HIGH FLYING LAMPS,
DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT IT STALKS?

CHARLIE

I'm talking to you Doris!

DORIS

OR MAYBE IT TALKS.

CHARLIE

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY LITTLE SURPRISES?
YOU WON'T MAKE IT TILL THE SUNRISES.
DON'T COME AROUND HERE AND FLAUNT IT!
DON'T GO WHERE YOU'RE NOT WANTED!

DORIS

IF CHARLIE COULD SEE ME NOW, IF CHARLIE WERE HERE,
OH WHAT A WOW THERE WOULD BE...

CHARLIE

Wow!

DORIS

IF HE COULD SEE ME...

CHARLIE

Here I am Doris!

DORIS

IF CHARLIE COULD JUST BE HERE, A FLY ON THE WALL,
OH WHAT A LEER THERE WOULD BE...

CHARLIE

I've got your Leer - my dear!

DORIS

NOW I'M PEA GREEN . . .

CHARLIE

Get out my house!

DORIS

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME THAT I CHANGED - HOUSES?
HAVEN'T I BEEN AROUND HERE LONG ENOUGH?
I DON'T WANT TO BE REARRANGED, THANK YOU.
NOW THERE'S A WOW, I'M LEAVING NOW!

CHARLIE

Get out my house!

**A floating vase chases DORIS around
the house and out the door.**

LIGHTS

ACT TWO**OVERTURE**

Reyland-Gore

SCENE ONE:

Eight years later 21 Baker Road has fallen into disrepair.

AT RISING:

Vagrants dance a ballet among the ruins. After their exit a single spot shows CHARLIE with his horn standing in front of his band. The HOST steps up to the mike to applause.

HOST

Thank you. Thank you. I have a joke,
let's see, it seems there were two
baseball fans that made a deal with each
other, whoever dies first has to come
back and tell the other if they have
baseball in heaven. Let me know if you've
heard this. So one of them dies and comes
back and says to his friend I have good
news and bad news. The good news is they
have baseball in heaven, but the bad news
is - you're pitching tomorrow.

(Rim shot)

Thank you. Ladies and gentleman, you're
in for a real treat. Club Paradise is
proud to present, direct from Seventh
Heaven, "Charlie and the Tuna Salad".

Applause as CHARLIE performs.

"THE HALFWAY TO HEAVEN BLUES"

Reyland-Gore

I GOT A TICKET TO DREAMLAND
I CLOSE MY EYES,
WAITING ON THE SANDMAN TO GIVE ME A RIDE
I'M SO TIRED - ALL I WANT TO DO IS SNOOZE
I'VE GOT THE HALFWAY, HALFWAY TO HEAVEN BLUES

ALL I DO IS STAND AROUND HERE
WASTING MY TIME
WAKING EVERY MORNING ON CLOUD NUMBER NINE
WAITING AND WONDERING - ABOUT A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

I'VE GOT THE HALFWAY, HALFWAY TO HEAVEN BLUES
 FANTASY IS LAZY - ILLUSION IS WISE
 NIRVANA IS CRAZY HERE IN CLUB PARADISE
 IF I LEFT RIGHT NOW I'D BE LEAVING TOO SOON.
 CAUSE I'VE GOT LUNCH WITH THE MAN IN THE MOON

SO BRING ME YOUR HEAVEN - LEAVE ME WITH A KISS
 THE RAPTURE IS SWEETER BABY
 WHEN YOU'VE GOT BLISS LIKE THIS
 I GOT TO FIGURE IT OUT - WITHOUT MANY CLUES
 I'VE GOT THE HALFWAY - HALFWAY TO HEAVEN BLUES

SO BRING ME YOUR HEAVEN - LEAVE ME WITH A KISS
 THE RAPTURE IS SWEETER BABY
 WHEN YOU'VE GOT BLISS LIKE THIS
 I GOT TO FIGURE IT OUT - WITHOUT MANY CLUES
 I'VE GOT THE HALFWAY - HALFWAY TO HEAVEN BLUES

ECSTASY - HARMONY - THE HUMAN RACE
 FALL FROM GRACE AND FALL ON YOUR FACE -
 DARK OR LIGHT- WRONG OR RIGHT- EVERYBODY HAS TO CHOOSE
 I GOT THE HALFWAY, AND I'M NOT TURNING BACK
 I GOT THE HALFWAY, YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT
 WE ALL GOT THE HALFWAY, HALFWAY TO HEAVEN BLUES

**As the HOST enters clapping, JANE is
 reveled sitting in CHARLIE'S chair.
 The HOST appeals for more applause.**

HOST

Let's hear it! You and the band are the
 hit of the Heavens Charlie. You could
 have been big.

CHARLIE

It was time for a man to put away
 childish things.

(Pause)

Do you think she heard the music;
 Jane I mean?

HOST

Sure.

CHARLIE

I hope so.

HOST

Do you say your prayers at night?

CHARLIE

No. I don't, not on purpose. But sometimes I feel something when I play.

HOST

Music touches you whether you want it to or not.

(Pause)

Everybody thinks he's so quiet. It's not true. You talk him Charlie, and the music; the music is how he speaks to you.

CHARLIE crosses to JANE picks up a letter on the table beside her chair and begins to read it. As he reads his voice is heard overhead as if from Heaven.

CHARLIE

Mrs. Brigade, it is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of your son, Private Jason Brigade. He was a brave member of his unit and when confronted by the enemy Private Brigade protected his fellow soldiers with his very life, his greatest honor. I offer to you and your family our country's most sincere condolences. Major David Cooper, United States Army.

CHARLIE places a rose in JANE'S lap.

"I MISS YOU"

Reyland-Gore

JANE

I KNOW GOD IS GOOD AND I PRAY YOU'RE SAFE
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN TIME AND SPACE
BUT WHILE I'M HERE AND YOU ARE THERE
I STILL MISS THE LIFE WE SHARED
I STILL SEE YOUR FACE IN EVERY MIRROR
I CAN HEAR YOUR VOICE IN EVERY ROOM
I CAN FEEL YOUR HEART IN ALL MY HEARTBEATS
WILL THIS SORROW EVER LEAVE? JASON I MISS YOU
I KNOW GOD IS GOOD AND I KNOW HE CARES

CHARLIE

MAYBE YOU NOT ME-

JANE

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

CHARLIE

I STILL WANT TO SEE

JANE

I FEEL YOUR PRESENCE WITH ME NOW

CHARLIE

HELP ME TO BELIEVE

JANE

I HEAR YOU CALLING FROM THE STAIR

CHARLIE AND JANE

I STILL SEE YOUR SMILE IN EVERY SHADOW
I CAN HEAR YOUR LAUGH FROM EVERY DOOR
I CAN FEEL YOUR HEART IN EVERY HEARTBEAT

JANE

WILL THIS SORROW EVER LEAVE?
CHARLIE I MISS YOU.

HOST enters eating an apple.

CHARLIE

The sadness is killing her.

HOST

It's killing all of you.

CHARLIE

What are you eating?

HOST

It's an apple, hungry?

HOST checks his Blackberry (SFX)

Oh great, what's this, you're sister-in-law is homeless?

CHARLIE

What?

HOST

You see, now that's why we can't have nice things.

CHARLIE

Did you see what she did to my house?

HOST

Oh please, you're like a kid, give them a little responsibility and when they screw up you have to take it all away. I can take it all away Charlie; it only hurts for a minute.

CHARLIE

She took my house!

HOST

Cry baby!

CHARLIE

The thing about a house is if you want it warm it's warm, if you want it empty it doesn't care. You can leave it and it won't make you feel guilty or want your money or make you quit the only thing you've ever loved.

HOST

Why do guys love houses when all they really have to do is love what's inside?

LILY enters and walks by.

LILY

Hey dad, good tie. How was the chili?

CHARLIE

Did she just call you dad?

HOST

It's the heavenly father complex thing.

CHARLIE

No it isn't. I told you, you look just like!

HOST

I don't think so.

CHARLIE

You can't tell me she didn't see...

HOST

You'd be surprised what the special ones can see.

(Pause)

Lily has a heart defect; she's going home soon. I'm aware of the irony. They'll be lots of crying, raised fists at the boss it won't change anything.

LILY crosses to JANE who is weeping.

LILY

What's wrong Mrs. Brigade?

JANE shows LILY a picture.

JANE

Lily. Do you remember my Jason?

LILY

Do I? You bet ya. I miss him he was cute and charming, but he's been gone a long time ago if that's why you're crying?

JANE

Eight years. I'll always miss him.

LILY

Don't be sad. Cheer up and remember Jason because he was cute and kind. He should have been in magazines with pictures of cute guys; that makes me happy. Maggie's got a cute boyfriend you know.

JANE

Yes I know.

LILY

Eddie is handsome but not as handsome as me.

JANE

(Laughs)

Lily, you are so funny.

"SILLY LILY"

Reyland-Gore

LILY

SOME PEOPLE SAY I'M SILLY, SILLY LITTLE LILY
 I'M A WILLIE NILLY- A FRILLY- A LILY HILLBILLY YOU KNOW.
 SOME PEOPLE SAY I'M FUNNY THEY ALL LAUGH AT LILY -
 I'M A FUNNY BUNNY WITH MONEY- A SUNNY SWEET HONEY YOU KNOW.
 SMILE AWAY YOUR FROWNS TURN THEM UPSIDE DOWN
 TURN YOUR SAD INTO GLAD TURN YOUR HEART AROUND
 WASH AWAY YOUR TEARS FOR A THOUSAND YEARS
 YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THERE'S NO MORE TO FEAR.
 WHEN SILLY IS AS SILLY DOES AND FUNNY STANDS ON ITS OWN
 SO BE FUNNY LIKE LILY - BE SILLY LIKE LILY -
 BE HAPPY LIKE LILY TOO.

When I'm sad, and I get sad sometimes, I
 think of something funny to make me
 laugh. You try it Mrs. Brigade.

JANE

I got it, Charlie in a Speedo, a red one with
 little Cupids, bows and arrows.

LILY

That's great, funny, what's a Cupid?

SO SMILE AWAY THE SADNESS, WELCOME ALL THE GLADNESS

JANE

YOUR HEART WILL FLY ON WHITE ANGEL WINGS
 SEES FAMOUS THINGS- FUNNY IS PEACEFUL YOU KNOW.

LILY

Yes I know.

JANE & LILY

BE HAPPY BE SILLY BE FUNNY BE GLAD, BEHOLD THE WONDERFUL
 LIFE THAT YOU HAVE, BE HAPPY BE SILLY BE FUNNY BE GLAD -
 BE SILLY BE HAPPY BE YOU.

JANE

Come on Lily, the ice creams on me.

LILY

A little club soda will get that off.

The music continues as they exit.

SCENE TEN:

MAGGIE and EDDIE enter walking hand in hand and sit on the front porch swing in front of 21 BAKER ROAD.

MAGGIE

Edward Lewis, all my life I've heard about it and now I've finally seen it; the worst movie ever made.

EDDIE

It wasn't that bad.

MAGGIE

I could see the strings on the flying saucer.

EDDIE

Plan Nine from Outer Space is an Ed Wood classic. You can't let reality set in or it ruins the whole thing.

MAGGIE

You should have warned me.

EDDIE goes to kiss MAGGIE she dodges.

EDDIE

It's hard to know what's real and what's not.

MAGGIE

I don't see any strings.

EDDIE

When I first met you I knew.

MAGGIE

That day in my garage, you were carrying two cases at one time.

EDDIE

Three and I didn't drop one.

MAGGIE

I almost forgot you were Jason's friend before you were mine.

EDDIE holds up his hand, toasting.

EDDIE

Private Jason Brigade. Here's to the greatest, bravest, most talented friend in the all the world. Long may you play wherever you are?

MAGGIE

(Moved)

When I'm with you my perfect life gets a little better.

EDDIE

She's beautiful and a poet too.

MAGGIE

After my brother died you waited for me everyday after school.

EDDIE

I promised my friend I'd look after his little sister.

MAGGIE and EDDIE embrace.

MAGGIE

Eddie, what do you want to do with the rest of your life?

EDDIE

Eat a lot of celery I love celery.

MAGGIE

What I meant was; what do you want to do with the rest of your life?

EDDIE laughs, slightly nervous. EDDIE clears his throat and looks around.

EDDIE

What is this place?

MAGGIE

You're always making jokes.

(Pause)

It's my house; where we met? Don't you recognize it? 21 Baker Road.

EDDIE

You were just a girl.

MAGGIE

You were just a boy.

EDDIE

It looks different now; maybe we're different now.

MAGGIE

My mom gave it to my Aunt Doris, for some reason she never moved in.

EDDIE

It's been boarded up all these years?

MAGGIE

Lily and I used to sit on this porch and laugh about boys in her teen magazines. We dreamed we'd grow up and marry the perfect boy.

EDDIE

How perfect?

MAGGIE

Lily said he'd walk up, look me in the eye and say something magical.

"DREAMING OF HIM" - "ONE PERFECT LOVE" (REPRISE)

Reyland- Gore

EDDIE

ONE PERFECT WORD WHEN YOUR HEART FILLS WITH THUNDER
ONE PERFECT WORD JUST TO HOLD ALL THE WONDER OF ONE PERFECT
FEELING THAT LASTS YOUR LIFE LONG TO HOLD IN YOUR ARMS AND
WATCH IT GROW STRONGER.

MAGGIE

IT'S THE DAY THAT YOU WAIT FOR IT'S THE TIME YOU'LL REMEMBER
ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'LL BE WONDERING DREAMING OF HIM
WHEN YOUR LOVE STANDS BEFORE YOU,

EDDIE

The name is Eddie.

MAGGIE

HE'S THE ONE WHO ADORES YOU
WITH HIS FREE FLOWING GOODNESS SOFTLY HE'LL SAY.

EDDIE

COME WITH ME, YOUR LIFE WILL BE DIFFERENT NOW.
 ALL YOU SEE, I WILL GIVE YOU, SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW.
 TIME WILL STAND STILL, I'LL LOVE YOU, I WILL.

MAGGIE

Will we live happily ever after?

EDDIE

I'll always be there.

MAGGIE AND EDDIE

AND YOU THINK YOU WON'T CRY AND YOU'LL NEVER BE LONELY
 BUT TIME HAS A WAY OF ITS OWN
 YOU WATCH IT SLIP BY AND WONDER IF ONLY
 YOUR ONE PERFECT MOMENT WILL FIND YOU
 REMIND YOU OF ONE PERFECT WORD

EDDIE (COUNTER POINT)

WHEN YOUR HEART FILLS WITH THUNDER
 ONE PERFECT WORD JUST TO HOLD ALL THE WONDER OF ONE PERFECT
 FEELING THAT LAST YOUR LIFE LONG TO HOLD IN YOUR ARMS AND
 WATCH IT GROW STRONGER

MAGGIE (COUNTER POINT)

IT'S THE DAY THAT YOU WAIT FOR IT'S THE TIME YOU'LL REMEMBER
 ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'LL BE WONDERING DREAMING OF HIM
 WHEN YOUR LOVE STANDS BEFORE YOU, HE'S THE ONE WHO ADORES
 YOU. WITH HIS FREE FLOWING GOODNESS SOFTLY HE'LL SAY-

MAGGIE

My father's friend Al has been
 renovating this old place.

EDDIE

I think I'll buy it.

MAGGIE

What do you need with a house like this?

MAGGIE AND EDDIE

COME WITH ME, YOUR LIFE WILL BE DIFFERENT NOW.
 ALL YOU SEE, I WILL GIVE YOU, SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW.
 TIME WILL STAND STILL, I'LL LOVE YOU, I WILL.
 IT'S THE DAY THAT YOU WAIT FOR IT'S THE TIME YOU REMEMBER
 ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'LL BE WONDERING DREAMING OF HIM.
 ONE PERFECT DREAM, ONE PERFECT WORD, ONE PERFECT LOVE.

SCENE ELEVEN:

21 Baker Road has been renovated. A pregnant MAGGIE, her husband EDDIE, JANE, DORIS and LILY are gathering for a tour. As the lights come up, LILY is sitting on the front porch as MAGGIE enters. LILY jumps to her feet.

LILY

My dear Maggie; do you remember me, your friend from long ago.

MAGGIE

Don't be a silly Lily; I saw you last week, you said I looked fat.

LILY

Boys will make you forget things, if you spend too much time with them.

MAGGIE

Is this about me spending more time with Eddie than with you?

LILY

No. I'm not your husband.

MAGGIE

No Lily you're not, but I still love you.

LILY

I like boys in my magazines and I can read about their favorite color and their favorite food and how they like to walk along the beach.

MAGGIE

Lily I'm sorry we haven't seen much of each other, with the wedding and now the baby.

LILY'S puts her hand on MAGGIE'S stomach.

LILY

You got a baby in there! Can I see it?

MAGGIE

Any day now...

LILY

I love babies. I got a boy friend too but I don't have a baby cause I'm not married; yet!

MAGGIE

Lily that's great! How come you didn't tell me? Is he from your school?

LILY

He's from out of nowhere and he's cute and I love him and he loves me.

MAGGIE

I'm so happy for you Lily.

LILY

He has a job too.

MAGGIE

What does he do?

LILY

He's in the Army. When he picks me up we're going out; don't tell my dad.

MAGGIE

Why?

LILY

Daddies don't like losing their little girls.

MAGGIE

Then I won't tell him.

LILY

He already knows.

MAGGIE and LILY hug. CHARLIE and the HOST are sitting inside a dark 21 BAKER ROAD. JANE, DORIS and EDDIE join MAGGIE and LILY outside the entrance.

HOST

How was that seminar on after-life annuities?

CHARLIE

A waste of my perception of time...

HOST

That's what everybody says.

CHARLIE

That Moses has such a big head; all he did the whole time was brag about how the plagues and the whole "Red Sea" thing were his idea.

HOST

Yeah, ever since he got tenure, he's been out of control.

The HOST checks his watch.

Wow, hey I got to go, double booked. I'll catch up with you after while.

CHARLIE

Where you going?

HOST

How about we get together at Club Paradise later, you and me? Donna's working tonight she's an angel.

The HOST exits and CHARLIE listens to his family gathering outside.

MAGGIE

Mom, isn't this exciting, a brand new start for this old place. Dad would be so proud.

JANE

If your father were here he would be making sure everything was perfect. Eddie, you'll have to stand in for Charlie.

EDDIE

Yes ma'am.

JANE

Maggie, how are you feeling?

MAGGIE

I feel big mom.

JANE

Hello Lily.

LILY

My dad knows everything.

JANE

He does? Doris, it's so nice to see you.
You remember Maggie and Lily?

DORIS

Hello dears, my you've all grown up.

DORIS pulls JANE to the side.

Why am I here Jane? You know I have
issues; some of them are with this
house. Besides I'm not well, something
terrible is coming on. Do I look pale?

JANE

Nonsense, please stay; I have a surprise
for you.

**AL comes running in from stage right
huffing and puffing.**

AL

(As Host)

I'm sorry I'm late.

(As Al)

Lily, how's daddies little girl?

LILY

I'm all grown up, that lady said so.

AL

Well then we'll miss you, that little girl
you were. You'll call us won't you?

**LILY reaches into the garden and pulls
the horn left by CHARLIE from the
stone cherub all those years ago. It
won't make a sound as LILY tries to
blow into it. JANE steps up and takes
it from her. CHARLIE shows concern at
their discovery.**

LILY

When I need you I'll just blow this horn, like Gabriel.

JANE

Lily don't you dare, there's no telling where that's been.

JANE takes the horn and looks at it.

Why this was Charlie's; this was your father's horn.

AL

Alright now everybody, before we go in I'm proud to say that 21 Baker Road is as good as it was when the Brigade family first bought it in 1957. And it comes complete with a brand new mother and sister-in-law suites.

Doris swallows her gum hard.

Yes sir, there's not a thing wrong with this "Al Kaminski Wonder House."

DORIS

I don't believe in ghosts.

MAGGIE

Come on Lily!

JANE

Come on Doris!

"MY ROOM, OUR HOUSE." (REPRISE)

Reyland-Gore

AL

THERE'S NO PLASTER PEELING FASTER THAN ANYONE CAN FIND?
THOSE HOLES I STILL DON'T KNOW IF BY ERROR OR DESIGN.
EVERY ROOM IS MAROON, THAT'S WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

EDDIE

It looks good to me Al.

CHARLIE

What!

CHARLIE

HALF THE STUDS THEY'RE DUDS WE NEED CAULKING OVER THERE.
I SEE TERMITES BY THE PORCH LIGHT CRACKS ABOVE THE STAIR.
THERE ARE WINDOWS, INNUENDO NOT WITHSTANDING, NEED REPAIR.

AL

Would you like me to make a list?

EDDIE

Whatever's wrong we fix it together Al?

DORIS

I want to go home.

CHARLIE

Hey Doris! I brought you something.

DORIS

Jane!

**CHARLIE stands behind DORIS WITH A
ROSE THEN holds her arms moving them
like a puppet.**

CHARLIE & DORIS

WHEN THE WASHERS WASHING, THE PIPES ALL PLAY A TUNE,
EVERY FIXTURE IS A MIXTURE OF NUEVO AND NEW BUFFOON.
AND THE DRYER WAS ON FIRE WHEN IT DANCED OUT OF THE ROOM.

EDDIE

You sure did a fine job on this renovation.

AL

Thanks; it's easy when you build it
right the first time.

CHARLIE

Here ya go baby.

DORIS

I don't believe in ghosts.

JANE

Doris, I saw pictures of your condo, I
was so impressed.

DORIS

They have bingo by the pool on Tuesdays.
Last week I had a natural, it felt good.

MAGGIE

MY ROOM IS SATIN AND LACE.

EDDIE

MY ROOM IS A FUNCTIONAL SPACE.

JANE

MY ROOM IS A WARM EMBRACE.

DORIS

MY ROOM IS A SPIRITED PLACE.

LILY

WELL EXCEPT FOR THE PIPES AND THE MICE AND THE HEADERS.
THE JOIST THAT ARE MOIST AND THE HOLE IN MY SWEATER.
SOME DRYWALL THAT BY ALL ACCOUNTS SHOULD BE FIRED...
AND WINDOWS I'M SURE SURELY SHOULD BE RETIRED.
THE MOLDING THAT'S FOLDING AND THE CIRCUITS OVERLOAD...

CHARLIE

Ah, for crying out loud.

EDDIE

I PRONOUNCE THIS HOUSE A HOME....

ALL

21 BAKER ROAD.

MAGGIE sits alone. JANE joins her.

JANE

What's that dear?

MAGGIE

The words to a song...

JANE

How does it go?

MAGGIE

It's a sad song, about broken dreams.

JANE

Sweetheart, are you OK?

MAGGIE smiles then realizes she's in labor; she crumbles the paper in her hand before JANE can read it.

MAGGIE

Mom, I'm sorry to ruin the occasion, but I think I'll have a baby now.

JANE

Oh my dear girl!

EDDIE

The baby isn't due for another week?

MAGGIE

Eddie I'm going to kill you! You're dead where you stand!

DORIS

I'm not afraid of babies.

EDDIE

Relax; you'll be all right, right Al?

AL

I'm going to need some boiling water, plenty of towels, a heat lamp, some chewing gum, and a large wheel of cheese.

JANE

I'm not doing this again. Call the ambulance, Eddie you get the bag, Maggie, bring the baby and follow me! Don't worry about a thing. Doris, shake a leg!

MAGGIE leads a frantic train around the room and out the door. At the last minute LILY remains, she turns and sees JASON standing there in his full dress uniform.

AL

Some newspaper, a bullet, silver and a philodendron; what are you waiting for?

AL'S speech slows to a stop. CHARLIE is silent as JASON motions to LILY.

JASON

Lily.

LILY

Maggie is having a baby. I'm an uncle.

JASON

Lily, it's time to go.

LILY

OK. The other girls will be so jealous. That's a nice uniform can I wear it?

JASON

It won't fit you, Silly Lily.

LILY

Jason, are you my boyfriend?

JASON

I hope so.

JASON and LILY exit.

CHARLIE

How many more of these parlors do I have to endure before I get to see the King?

HOST

The world, it's all connected, like a jigsaw; no wait, like a crossword puzzle. If everything doesn't work together, then you've got nothing.

CHARLIE

Do you even know what you're talking about?

HOST

Or it could be completely accidental; a billion spirits on a collision course, bouncing off of each other like so many cosmic pinballs? Maybe it's both?

CHARLIE

You don't do you?

HOST

No.

CHARLIE

Look, I appreciate the effort but I; this is Charlie Brigade! I'm a homeowner! It's Charlie, your summer camper; remember me, solving your challenges like some reality TV show.

"WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?"

Gore

I STAND AT THE CROSSROADS OF MY LIFE
 LOOKING FOR A SIGN TO SHOW ME MY DESTINY
 SHOULD I GO LEFT, SHOULD I GO RIGHT?
 SHOULD I STAY AND FACE THESE CHALLENGES INSIDE OF ME
 I WANT TO HIDE, ESCAPE THE PAIN,
 IT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE
 I'M SO TIRED OF LEAVING AND BEING ON THE RUN.

PLEASE GOD IF YOU'RE REALLY THERE
 OR IF YOU EVEN CARE
 I NEED TO KNOW WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

I GO DEEP INSIDE MY HEART
 SEARCHING FOR A PATH THAT GIVES ME SERENITY
 I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING I KNOW
 SOMETHING THAT COULD SHOW ME HOW TO FIND THE PEACE I NEED
 MY FRIEND HAS SHOWN ME KINDNESS I HAVE NEVER KNOWN
 I'M TIRED OF FIGHTING BATTLES ON MY OWN

PLEASE GOD IF YOU'RE REALLY THERE
 OR IF YOU EVEN CARE
 I NEED TO KNOW WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

SPEAK TO ME IN A VOICE THAT I CAN HEAR
 HELP ME FIND A MESSAGE THAT IS CLEAR.
 SHOUT IT LOUD OR SOFTLY IN MY EAR
 I WILL OBEY, MY PRIDE HAS HAD ITS DAY

JUST ONCE, BEFORE I FLY
 I'D LIKE TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT
 NO MATTER WHAT THE COST TO ME
 A MAN GROWN UP FROM YOUTH,
 A BEARER OF THE TRUTH
 A MAN WHO WALKS WITH DIGNITY
 I WILL DO WHATEVER IT IS THAT I MUST DO
 BUT I NEED TO HEAR IT CLEARLY AND KNOW THAT IT'S THE TRUTH
 PLEASE GOD IF YOU'RE REALLY THERE
 OR IF YOU EVEN CARE,
 I NEED TO KNOW WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE

**CHARLIE exits into a park, EDDIE'S
 reading the newspaper with MAGGIE
 and Little CHARLIE as HOST enters.**

HOST

You're nuttier than me if you think that's going to work.

CHARLIE

Hey, that's my family over there.

HOST

Yeah.

CHARLIE

They look happy.

HOST

Could have been you...

CHARLIE

The things I valued are things that fade.

HOST

That's pretty much it.

CHARLIE

Maggie, Jason, my Jane, if they never knew...

HOST

Really, this is all so shocking and totally unexpected but do go on.

CHARLIE

I need your help. All I got to work with is this motion thing I need something else. Can you fix me up? Like put my face in a cinnamon roll?

HOST

That's always been one of my favorites.

CHARLIE

I never meant to hurt them.

HOST

Of course not...

CHARLIE

I didn't want to hurt anyone.

HOST

You've just been a little.

CHARLIE

Selfish...and whose fault is that?

**Two men enter and begin walking toward
Eddie sitting on the bench.**

HOST

You're almost there Charlie.

(Pause)

Oh, this doesn't look good.

CHARLIE

I know that's why I need your help.

HOST

No, young Eddie there is about to meet
with an unfortunate accident.

CHARLIE

Don't try and change the subject. What
kind of accident?

HOST

You see those two men there?

CHARLIE

You want me to go over and tie their
shoelaces together?

HOST

They'll walk up to Eddie and ask him the time.

CHARLIE

He doesn't have a watch.

HOST

Then they'll want money to buy food. Eddie,
the gentle soul he is will give it to them.

CHARLIE

What a good boy that Eddie is.

HOST

They have a gun; they'll ask him for his
life.

CHARLIE

This neighborhood has gone to hell!
Wait, we could stop them!

HOST

We, we can't do anything, dangerous.

CHARLIE

He's the father of my grandchild; my little girl loves that boy. They could hurt the baby, my Maggie!

HOST

Charlie, maybe its time we had a little talk.

CHARLIE

What, now?

HOST

I haven't been exactly straight with you.

CHARLIE

I'll drop a bus stop on their heads.
I'll tie their shoelaces around there..

HOST

You could do that.

CHARLIE breaks to the men, he turns back to the HOST and the scene freezes.

But if you do, if you use what you've been given for something good and true, then everything will change. You won't see your wife and your daughter anymore; you won't see your grandchild grow up. Your house; you'll never see your house again. You were gone to them a long time ago, if you do this, if you chose to be selfless, then they'd be gone to you. I tell people all the time, save your self the hassle, go ahead and buy the extended warranty. But no, they think they'll last forever that they'll always have one more chance and then, just like good old Buster Crane, they don't. They show up here and I try and talk them into it, I try and talk them out of it. I try and make them understand, the honors in the choosing.

CHARLIE

What are you saying?

HOST

The reward is in the choice.

CHARLIE

ONE LIFE, ONE LOVE
ONE LITTLE GIRL I DREAMED OF
MY RED HEADED QUEEN OF HEARTS
WITH PIG TAILS AND A SMILE

MAGGIE

Did you hear that?

EDDIE

The Choir? They've been practicing all morning in the band shell.

MAGGIE

No, it's something else, something familiar. We better go. Little Charlie's is getting hungry.

EDDIE

Charlie, my little man, did your mother buy you a toy trumpet?

MAGGIE

He takes after his grandfather.

CHARLIE

Little Charlie, did you hear that; he takes after me?

As MAGGIE, EDDIE and the BABY begin to exit; CHARLIE grabs the two men a hand on each shoulder. He spins them around before they reach EDDIE and MAGGIE and when they stop they're smiling and shaking hands then exit laughing. EDDIE exits with the baby and MAGGIE is alone.

MAGGIE

Goodbye Daddy.

MAGGIE exits. HOST hands CHARLIE a load of stuff. Music ends.

HOST

Well, I guess that's it then.

CHARLIE

A couple of nice guys, those guys, just a little misguided that's all. What do you mean? Where you going?

HOST

Here's your hat and your coat, your book, three baseballs and three milk bottles.

CHARLIE

What, milk bottles?

HOST

We're not using the wheel anymore, the gambling commission. I have to go, the shuttle's leaving and I hate standing.

CHARLIE

Leave, you just got here. What am I supposed to do with all this stuff?

HOST

I didn't tell you?

CHARLIE

No.

HOST

I'm sure I did.

CHARLIE

What?

HOST

It's standard heavenly procedure; before you can go home you have to train your replacement. You're up Charlie. Here, you'll need this.

**The HOST gives CHARLIE his HORN.
JASON appears in full uniform and
hugs CHARLIE. LILY runs to JASON.**

"EACH OTHER'S ANGELS"

Reyland-Gore

HOST

NOT A MOMENT GOES BY THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD A HELPING
HAND REACHES A GRATEFUL HEART. AND THAT HEART GOES ON TO
TAKE ITS TURN THAT'S WHY WE LIVE AND THAT'S HOW WE LEARN
THAT NONE OF US ARE STRANGERS WE'RE EACH OTHER'S ANGELS.

JASON, THE CAST & CHORUS

THINK OF ME AS YOUR ANGEL
WHEN YOUR HEART IS SAD AND TIRED OF HOPING
WHEN YOUR SPIRITS WEAK AND YOUR DREAMS ARE BROKEN
WHEN THE WORLD FILLS UP YOUR MIND
AND WHEN YOUR HEART IS BREAKING
IN PIECES YOU MAY NEVER FIND
THINK OF ME AS YOUR BEST FRIEND
THINK OF ME AS YOUR ANGEL

LOVE GOES ON I KNOW AS LONG AS WE TRY.
PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED AND HOPE NEVER DIES.
WE'RE NEVER STRONGER THAN THE MOMENT WE CARE.
MIRACLES HAPPEN YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT THERE.

THINK OF ME AS YOUR ANGEL
WHEN YOUR HEART IS SAD AND TIRED OF HOPING
WHEN YOUR SPIRITS WEAK AND YOUR DREAMS ARE BROKEN
WHEN THE WORLD FILLS UP YOUR MIND
AND WHEN YOUR HEART IS BREAKING,
IN PIECES YOU MAY NEVER FIND
THINK OF ME AS YOUR BEST FRIEND
THINK OF ME AS YOUR ANGEL
NOT A MOMENT GOES BY THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD A HELPING
HAND REACHES A GRATEFUL HEART. AND THAT HEART GOES ON TO
TAKE ITS TURN - THAT'S WHY WE LIVE AND THAT'S HOW WE LEARN
THAT NONE OF US ARE STRANGERS - WE'RE EACH OTHER'S ANGELS.

THE END**"21 BAKER ROAD"****A NEW MUSICAL**

By Jim Reyland/Addison Gore

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