

BURGERTOWN

A MUSICAL IN TWO ACTS

Book by Ken Jones
Music by Jamey Strawn
Lyrics by Christine Jones

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SYNOPSIS: BurgerTown is a delicious new musical comedy set in the Windy City. This is the story of Danny O'Reilly, a timid fry cook who accidentally invents the hottest new craze in the fast-food world, the Triangle Burger, and takes the humble BurgerTown restaurant from its lowly place beneath the tracks of the Fullerton train station to soaring new heights. In this fun and kooky new musical, our shy hero encounters bad guys, big business, and burgers. He struggles to hold onto his sanity as he chases his dreams for success, romance, and a fast-food fortune.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 MEN, 5 WOMEN, FLEXIBLE)

PRINCIPALS:

DANNY O'RILEY (m)A young, inventive nerd. He works as a fry cook at the BurgerTown restaurant. DANNY wants to be successful, but he doesn't have a clue where to start. He is in love with JAN, but he only admires her from a distance. Once, in high school, DANNY tried to kiss a girl and was immediately struck with "hysterical lockjaw." His dating life has only gone downhill since that event. However, DANNY is thoughtful, caring and kind. *(204 lines)*

SAL SPUMONI (m)The stringy and cranky owner of BurgerTown. SAL is old and grumpy. He has borrowed money from the mob to open his restaurant, and because of the lack of business, he is quite sure that his legs will be broken any day now. When asked which two men he admired most, SAL answered, "Ebenezer Scrooge and myself." *(57 lines)*

JAN SOKOWSKI (w)A beautiful young waitress. JAN has worked at the BurgerTown restaurant since it opened, and for the last two years, she has been taking classes to become a dental hygienist. JAN is very sweet and has often found herself without train fare because she has given her money away to the beggars on the street. JAN has a thing for DANNY, but she's afraid to get too close. One time, she touched his hand while he was cooking, and he accidentally caught his apron on fire. JAN's only goal in life is to be happy. *(162 lines)*

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PATTY RAMONE (w)A sexy bombshell who wants to be number one. PATTY is hired by SPUMONI to be the BurgerTown restaurant mascot, Miss BurgerTown. PATTY began her climb to the top as a stripper, where she was best known for the use of balloons and a live badger. After her badger was hit by a Winnebago, she got into beauty pageants and calendars. Nothing has ever stopped her from trying to achieve her dream of becoming the “wealthiest woman in the world.” Her preference is to reach her goal wearing all her clothing. (115 lines)

The following five ENSEMBLE actors each play a series of roles:

ACTOR 1 (w)

SALESPERSON, a chorus member (1 line)
CUSTOMER 5 (3 lines)
MISS BURGERTOWN BACK-UP GIRL (non-speaking)
ONION WORLD GIRL (3 lines)
REPORTER 2 (2 lines)
ANGEL BACK-UP (non-speaking)

ACTOR 2 (w)

ARTIST, a chorus member (1 line)
CUSTOMER 4 (5 lines)
MISS BURGERTOWN BACK-UP GIRL (non-speaking)
SPANKY’S CAFÉ BABE (3 lines)
REPORTER 1 (4 lines)
ANGEL BACK-UP (non-speaking)

ACTOR 3 (w)

RECEPTIONIST, a chorus member (1 line)
CUSTOMER 3 (3 lines)
LAWYER (32 lines)
MISS BURGERTOWN BACK-UP GIRL (non-speaking)
FRY BY NIGHT SUPERHERO (3 lines)
REPORTER (non-speaking)
ANGEL BACK-UP (non-speaking)

ACTOR 4 (m, large)

BUSINESSMAN, a chorus member (1 line)
CUSTOMER 1 (6 lines)
GUIDO, a mob hit-man (31 lines)
TREASURE BURGER PIRATE (3 lines)
PIRATE (non-speaking)

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ACTOR 5 (m, slight)

BLUE COLLAR WORKER, a chorus member (*1 line*)

CUSTOMER 2 (*1 line*)

FRANKIE, a mob hit man (*26 lines*)

RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK CLOWN (*4 lines*)

REPORTER (*non-speaking*)

NOTE: For larger groups, the ENSEMBLE roles can be played by separate actors.

SETTING

The action of the play occurs in Chicago, in a small diner beneath the tracks of an elevated train.

TIME: Present.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE (*The present*)

SCENE 1: THE DINER

SCENE 2: NO BUSINESS

SCENE 3: THERE'S STILL HOPE

SCENE 4: THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

SCENE 5: SAL'S WATERLOO

SCENE 6 THE WILL

ACT TWO (*One year later*)

SCENE 1: THE JINGLE WARS

SCENE 2: BACK HOME

SCENE 3: REUNION

SCENE 4: THE PRESS

SCENE 5: THE DREAM

SCENE 6: ALL TIED-UP

PRODUCTION NOTES

SET:

The set should represent a diner left over from the fifties, which has been forgotten about and built over by progress. The tracks of the elevated train can be seen hovering above the silver dome of the diner's roof. A set of stairs lead down from the tracks to the street level stage right. There is a sidewalk and street area in front of the diner. The diner itself contains a counter with the grill and soda machines behind it. When grilling burgers, the characters face the audience over the counter. There is a door leading to the kitchen and back room. This is behind the counter. Also, an open pass through window separates these two areas. Another door upstage leads to the tiny apartment which is never seen. The diner has two or three tables which sit along a representative wall, and

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there are several bar stools lining the counter. A shabby BurgerTown logo sign hangs above it all.

NOTE: The only change in the second act is a Historic Landmark Sign which sits stage left outside the diner walls.

ORCHESTRATION:

BURGERTOWN is scored for Piano/Conductor, Guitar, Bass, Drums, Alto Saxophone and Flute (1player.)

The orchestra/band should be hidden beneath the stairs of the train.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

SONG #1	BURGERTOWN OVERTURE
SONG #2	LITIGATION SERENADE
SONG #3	BURGERTOWN
SONG #4	HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD
SONG #5	WAITING STILL
SONG #5A	TRIANGLE CHORD
SONG #6	BURGERTOWN REPRISE
SONG #7	UNDER THE TRAIN
SONG #8	JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT
SONG #9	MISS BURGERTOWN
SONG #10	FUNNY BUSINESS
SONG #10A	WILL MUSIC
SONG #11	WAITING STILL REPRISE

ACT TWO

SONG #12A	ENTR' ACTE
SONG #12B	JINGLE WARS UNDERSCORE
SONG #13	THE JINGLE WARS
SONG #14	A SIMPLE MAN
SONG #15	BETTER DEAL
SONG #16	THAT SPECIAL SOMETHING
SONG #17	SAL'S SONG
SONG #18	WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
SONG #19	A SATISFYING ENDING
SONG #20	BOWS AND EXIT MUSIC

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ACT ONE, SCENE 1 THE DINER

AT RISE:

Lights up to reveal a small diner. One counter, a couple of tables and few chairs make up this poor excuse for a restaurant called "BurgerTown." A long counter with bar stools sits in the middle with a grill facing the audience.

The city is Chicago. The time is now, or as close to now as one can get. The tiny, dirty diner is situated under the elevated train. The track runs directly over the roof, and the support beams frame the sides of the silver restaurant. Oil, water, and gook drip from the tracks onto the flickering "BurgerTown" neon sign. Steam from the manholes along the street seems to hiss and cough.

Suddenly, there is a rumbling.

SONG #1: BURGERTOWN OVERTURE (INSTRUMENTAL ONLY)

Five people enter, representing the various types found in this section of Chicago. A BUSINESSMAN, a BLUE COLLAR WORKER, a RECEPTIONIST, a WAITRESS, and an ARTIST.

NOTE: These five actors will play various other characters throughout the show.

SONG #2: LITIGATION SERENADE (DANNY, ENSEMBLE)

The ENSEMBLE is silhouetted in the darkness before the diner.

They move as a group, until slowly, one by one, each person steps forward to deliver his story.

ENSEMBLE:

HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS.
HURT 'EM WHERE IT COUNTS.
LITIGATE, RETALIATE
AND WATCH THE LAWYERS POUNCE.

HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS.
HURT 'EM WHERE IT COUNTS.
LITIGATE, RETALIATE
AND WATCH THE LAWYERS POUNCE.

SUE 'EM. I'M GONNA MAKE SOMEBODY PAY.
SUE 'EM. I FEEL LIKE GETTING RICH TODAY.

BUSINESSMAN steps up.

BUSINESSMAN: I used to eat at Burger Town every day. Lunch and dinner. For breakfast, I would just grab a box of Twinkies and a six-pack of Yoo-Hoo, but by lunchtime, I was ready for a BurgerTown Meganormous Meal. *(Pause.)* The doctor says that I'm not healthy. That's why I'm suing. The people at BurgerTown are responsible for my high blood pressure and clogged arteries. They should have watched out for my health. I'm finished with BurgerTown anyway. Once they added salads to the menu . . . it just wasn't the same.

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ENSEMBLE:

HURT 'EM WHERE IT COUNTS.
HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS.
DECIMATE, OBLITERATE
THEY'RE GONNA LOSE THEIR SHIRTS.

SUE 'EM. WE'RE GONNA BRING THOSE SUCKERS DOWN.
SUE 'EM. WE'RE GONNA SUE 'EM UP AND DOWN . . .
AND SIDEWAYS!!

A voluptuous young woman moves forward to speak. She seems uncomfortably bound by her clothing.

WAITRESS: I started working at a BurgerTown restaurant. They were on my case from the beginning. They said my t-shirts were too tight. My shorts were too short. My thong was showing. I finally figured out that they didn't want any part of my body to be seen. *(Pause.)* So I am filing a discrimination suit against BurgerTown enterprises. With the money I get, I want to open up my own restaurant. No T-shirts, no short shorts, no thongs . . . no nothing. I'm going to call it . . . "Nude Food."

ENSEMBLE:

HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS.
HURT 'EM WHERE IT COUNTS.
CASTIGATE, ACCUMULATE
YOUR CASH IN LARGE AMOUNTS.

SUE 'EM. SOMEBODY ELSE'LL FOOT THE BILL.
SUE 'EM. IF YOU DON'T SOMEONE ELSE SURE WILL!

The ARTIST nervously steps forward.

ARTIST: Well, last week, I was leaving the courtroom after my traffic hearing, and I decided to stop at BurgerTown to get a bite to eat. Well, you've heard of people eating a burger and biting into a nail? Well, I bit into a hammer. The whole hammer, lying right there beside the pickle. *(Pause.)* Well, it did a lot more than just chip my tooth. Most likely, my whole face will have to be remade. We'll be in court by the end of the year. That's okay. I can wait. By that time, I should be done with my case against the tuna industry. I still have a scar from that fish hook!

ENSEMBLE:

HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS.
HURT 'EM WHERE IT COUNTS.
LITIGATE, RETALIATE
AND WATCH THE LAWYERS POUNCE.

HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS.
HURT 'EM WHERE IT COUNTS.
LITIGATE, RETALIATE
AND WATCH THE LAWYERS POUNCE.

SUE 'EM. I'M GONNA MAKE SOMEBODY PAY.
SUE 'EM. I FEEL LIKE GETTING RICH TODAY.

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The BLUE COLLAR WORKER steps forward.

BLUE COLLAR WORKER: Typically, I prefer buffets. However, BurgerTown was advertising a "Meat Marathon." As many juicy burgers as you could put away, or least that's what I thought was meant by the sign. Not so. After burger twenty-three, I was asked to leave. I flatly refused and immediately handcuffed myself to the ketchup dispenser. *(Pause.)* I once handcuffed myself to a chicken fryer at Plucky's Poultry, and last week, I latched myself to a giant burrito outside of Tito's Taco Trailer. *(Pause.)* Anyway . . . I am suing BurgerTown for breach of contract. In my opinion, I was owed another twelve burgers, so I figure a million dollars a burger. Doesn't that seem fair?

ENSEMBLE:

HURT 'EM WHERE IT COUNTS.
HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS.
INSTIGATE THEN TERMINATE!
COLLECT YOUR JUST DESSERTS!
THEY'RE DELICIOUS . . . !

The RECEPTIONIST slinks forward.

RECEPTIONIST: I am now divorced because of BurgerTown. My husband and I were once so happy together. *(Pause.)* But on that fateful day, I drove my car through the drive-through window at a BurgerTown. I ordered the frozen-latte coffee delight. I placed the drink between my legs and I drove off. A car shot in front of me. I slammed on the brakes! Blam! The frozen coffee spilled all over my lap, and in that moment, my happy life ended. *(Pause.)* Nothing was the same after that. My husband said I was cold. He said he couldn't warm up to me. Our love was frozen. So I want BurgerTown to pay . . . If my pain can help others, then it's worth the suffering . . . as well as the five million dollars.

ENSEMBLE:

LITIGATE, RETALIATE,
DECIMATE, OBLITERATE,
CASTIGATE, ACCUMULATE,
INSTIGATE THEN TERMINATE!

DON'T RUMINATE OR MEDITATE,
MEDIATE OR MEDICATE,
INCRIMINATE, EVISCERATE 'EM,
HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS!

Lights out on the ENSEMBLE. DANNY O'RILEY approaches the audience. He is dressed in a very expensive suit. DANNY speaks to the audience.

DANNY: How did I get here? Lawsuits, hostile takeovers, and corporate espionage. How did it get so . . . out of control? *(Looking at audience.)* This is the middle, and for you, that is a confusing place to be. Most likely, you'd prefer to start at the beginning. *(He takes off his jacket.)* I'm Danny O'Riley, the CEO of BurgerTown Industries, but that's not information you really need. You're about to get the whole story. *(DANNY steps into the diner and removes an old apron from behind the counter. He puts on the apron.)* I'm sure that all of you have dreams. Some big, some small. For some of you, those dreams have come true, and for others, those dreams may never happen. But there's another group out there . . . a group of

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people whose dreams come true, but they are just too busy to realize it. (*The ENSEMBLE begins to sing. It is now the "past," actually the "beginning."*) Careful what you wish for . . .

DANNY puts on his paper fry-cook hat and starts to clean the counter.

SONG #3: BURGERTOWN (ENSEMBLE)

ENSEMBLE does fifties doo-wop throughout.

CUSTOMER 1 AND 2:

THERE'S A LITTLE PLACE YOU SHOULD EXPLORE
WITH A LITTLE GREASE SPOT ON THE FLOOR
AND A LITTLE SIGN OVER THE DOOR,

ALL:

BURGERTOWN.

ENSEMBLE:

IT'S A LITTLE WEIRD, A LITTLE WRONG
HOW YOUR LITTLE LUNCH WON'T STAY FOR LONG
TAKE A LITTLE MEDICINE ALONG
TO BURGERTOWN, BURGERTOWN.

FOR A LITTLE DOUGH, YOU CAN REQUEST
A LITTLE CHOW THAT AIN'T THE BEST,
IN A LITTLE JOINT FAR FROM THE REST.
BURGERTOWN, BURGERTOWN.

WOMEN:

NOTHING NEW
NOTHING MORE
NOTHING FRESH
WHAT'S IN STORE
FOR BURGERTOWN
BURGER-T-T-T-O-WN.

ENSEMBLE:

BURGERTOWN

CUSTOMER 2:

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

ENSEMBLE:

BURGERTOWN

CUSTOMER 1 AND 2:

IF YOU ALWAYS WANT MORE.

ENSEMBLE:

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CUSTOMER 1:

JUST A LITTLE DIVE CALLED

ENSEMBLE:

B-B-B-B-URGER-T-T-T-OWN!

SAL SPUMONI, the owner, storms into the diner through a swinging door from the kitchen. Sal is a man who is always troubled and always in trouble. His biggest concern in life is making a buck. A cigarette is positioned under his upper lip and bounces as he talks.

SAL: Does anyone care if I drop dead right here in the middle of this restaurant?

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DANNY O'RILEY rushes in from a small apartment which connects to the side of the restaurant. His job is doing everything that needs to be done at the restaurant. DANNY is a kindhearted young man who works so hard at trying to be good at his job that the rest of his life does not exist.

DANNY: Did you need something, Mr. Spumoni?

SAL: I need a full head of hair, forty thousand dollars and three and half minutes with a . . . a . . . well . . . I am quite sure that I'm not going to get any of those things . . . so I'll settle with someone standing over the grill with a spatula flipping the patties!

DANNY: Well, Mr. Spumoni, that's my job.

SAL: Exactly. And that is why my arteries are clogging as we speak! I fed you. I clothed you. I gave you a place to live. And all I have asked in return is nineteen hours a day of loyal service.

DANNY: You've been very kind.

SAL: So when I see that the burgers are not ready . . .

DANNY: I made the patties . . . they're in the fridge.

SAL: And the fries . . .

DANNY: I peeled the potatoes through the night and cut them this morning.

SAL: Lettuce, tomato, onions and pickles?

DANNY: Sliced, diced and ready to go.

SAL: You'd better be prepared. I have a feeling that today is the day! Now get your signboard on and get out into the street. The train will be here any minute.

DANNY: Yes, sir.

SPUMONI crashes through the swinging door and into the back room.

DANNY runs behind the bar and puts on a large signboard that reads: "COME TO BURGERTOWN. IT AIN'T GREAT, BUT IT'S FOOD." He joins the ENSEMBLE on the street in front of the diner.

CUSTOMER 5:
THERE'S A LITTLE SMELL YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN

CUSTOMER 2:
LIKE A LITTLE CAT LEFT IN THE RAIN

CUSTOMERS 1 AND 2:
AND A LITTLE RUG WITH A BIG STAIN

ENSEMBLE:
BURGERTOWN BURGERTOWN.

CUSTOMER 4:
THERE'S A LITTLE SPILL ON THE COUNTER TOP

CUSTOMER 1:
AND A LITTLE CRASH AS THE DISHES DROP

CUSTOMER 4:
SO IT'S LITTLE WONDER NO ONE STOPS

ENSEMBLE:
BURGERTOWN BURGERTOWN!

WOMEN AND DANNY:
SOMETHING NEW
SOMETHING MORE
SOMETHING GREAT
WHAT'S IN STORE FOR

BURGERTOWN
BURGER-T-T-TOWN!

ENSEMBLE:

BURGERTOWN

SOMETHING GREAT

CUSTOMERS 1 AND 2:

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

ENSEMBLE:

SOMETHING MORE

CUSTOMERS 1 AND 2:

DON'T YOU ALWAYS WANT MORE?

ENSEMBLE:

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR

CUSTOMERS 1 AND 2:

JUST A LITTLE DIVE CALLED

ENSEMBLE:

B-B-B-B-BURGER-T-T-T-TOWN

CUSTOMER 1:

WITH A LITTLE LUCK A PLACE CAN GO

CUSTOMERS 1 AND 2:

FROM A LITTLE DUMP TO STATUS QUO.

CUSTOMER 2:

JUST A LITTLE CHANGE

YOU NEVER KNOW

ENSEMBLE:

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BURGERTOWN-

B-B-B-B-BURGER-T-T-T-TOWN!

The CHORUS exits, leaving DANNY standing in front of the diner alone. Suddenly, JAN appears carrying her book bag filled with her schoolbooks. JAN SOKOWSKI is a wonderful person. She works at the diner as a waitress. Actually, she is the only waitress. She loves her job because it allows her to be close to the man she loves, DANNY. She has never told him and probably never will. JAN works hard to stay in night school, where she is studying to be a dental hygienist.

JAN: Danny! Hi there. I'm sorry that I'm late.

DANNY: Hi, Jan. You're not really that late.

JAN: Well, it's almost noon, and Mr. Spumoni wanted me here at nine o'clock. He had a list of chores for me to finish.

DANNY: I took care of it. The chores are all done.

JAN: You did that . . . for me?

DANNY: Well, I remembered you said you had a big exam to study for -

JAN: - on molar maintenance -

DANNY: - so I figured you'd be up late.

JAN: I was. Very late. And when my alarm went off this morning, I just slept right through it.

DANNY: It wasn't a problem.

JAN: You know, when I first dreamed of being a dental hygienist, I thought it was just about cleaning teeth. *(Pause.)* I was so naive.

DANNY: I just had my teeth cleaned.

JAN: Yeah?

DANNY: Fluoride treatment, too.

JAN: They look great. Very white and healthy. I always say that the teeth are the pathway to the soul.

DANNY: And the stomach.

JAN: That's so true. *(She pulls out a small present.)* I brought you something.

DANNY: You did? *(He opens the small box, and removes the gift.)* Dental floss!

JAN: It's new. It was developed by NASA. It cleans your teeth and lowers your cholesterol.

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DANNY: Wow!

JAN: And it's mint flavored.

DANNY: My favorite.

JAN: I know.

DANNY pulls out a small gift box.

DANNY: I brought you a gift, too.

JAN: Danny . . . ! *(She opens the box and pulls out an old pencil.)* A pencil?

DANNY: That's my lucky pencil. I always got an "A" on every test I ever took with it. Never failed.
Don't mind the teeth marks . . . I was always nervous in school.

JAN: I can't take your lucky pencil.

DANNY: Sure you can. You take that "old number 2" in there and give those incisors hell!

JAN: Molars.

DANNY: Exactly.

JAN leans over to kiss him on the cheek, but somehow her lips and his face aren't in sync with each other.

JAN: You're the nicest man I have ever met.

DANNY: And you're . . .

SAL storms out into the street.

SAL: - LATE!!

JAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Spumoni. I was studying for my exam.

SAL: Uh-oh. I think someone is expecting me to listen to a story.

JAN: It's just that I have to pass this test or my grades will drop, and I might get kicked out of night school.

SAL: Have I not offered to help you pay for your school?

JAN: Actually, no. You haven't.

SAL: Well, don't expect it now! I pay the both of you nearly minimum wage plus all the food that we're going to throw away at the end of the day. I also allow O'Riley to live in the apartment attached to the diner.

DANNY: It's more like a closet.

SAL: If you were living in Ethiopia, it would seem like a damn palace.

DANNY: Do they have diners in Ethiopia?

SAL: Metaphor . . . moron.

JAN: Danny's not a moron . . . he's a genius, Mr. Spumoni. All those inventions.

SAL: Here we go again.

JAN: His pickle-slicer is amazing, and so is his automatic patty-pounder.

SAL: Genius?! His pickle-slicer almost removed my fingers, and his patty-pounder -

DANNY: That was my fault. I had just placed it on the chair for a second.

SAL: Well, let's just say that my patties got pounded! Now, why don't the two of you get inside and get to work, or would you prefer taking a romantic stroll to the unemployment office?

They all enter the diner.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2 NO BUSINESS

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DANNY: Are you sure you want me to start cooking? We only sold one burger yesterday . . . and I'm the one who bought it.

SAL: I have to come up with something soon or we are all out of business.

JAN: Mr. Spumoni, Danny has some wonderful ideas.

SAL: Ideas won't keep my arms from being broken. I owe a lot of money to a lot of people. The only way I bought this joint was to borrow from every mobster I could find and soon they'll be cashing in.

JAN: Mr. Spumoni, your life's not over.

SAL: Well, it should be. What have I got? My life is empty . . . I have no one.

DANNY: But there's your family. I've seen all the photographs in your wallet.

SAL: Those people aren't my family. Those are the pictures that came with the wallet. *(Pause.)* And the next time I catch you looking at my wallet, O'Riley, you're fired.

DANNY: Yes, sir.

SAL: Now, both of you . . . get back to work. I've got a truckload of old buns in the back. That's a lot of heavy lifting. So Jan . . . you'd better get started.

JAN: Yes, Mr. Spumoni.

JAN exits to the back room.

SAL: Danny, I want to see some patties flying.

DANNY: Flying or frying?

SAL: Don't throw your technical terms at me, O'Riley. Start cooking!

DANNY: Yes, Mr. Spumoni.

SAL: You know, Danny. Here's a bit of advice for you.

DANNY: I was just going to start the grill -

SAL: - When the world knocks you down -

DANNY: - I'll listen to the advice first -

SAL: - stay down. It's not worth getting back up.

DANNY: My mother always said, "When at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

SAL: What? Was she drunk?

DANNY: No!

SAL: Worst advice I ever heard.

DANNY: I never even saw her drink a glass of wine.

SAL: She probably had it hidden all around the house.

DANNY: She was my mother.

SAL: And she let you down . . . by hiding behind the bottle.

DANNY: I don't think we should talk about my mother.

SAL: Too painful? I understand.

DANNY: I should get the grill started . . .

SONG #4: HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD
(SAL AND DANNY)

SAL grabs DANNY by throwing his bear-like arm around DANNY's tiny neck.

SAL:

TAKIN' MY LUMPS, SOMETIMES TAKIN' 'EM TWICE.

RISKY BEHAVIOR, LOUSY ADVICE.

MAKIN' MISTAKES WHEN I TRY TO MAKE NICE . . .

IT'S A HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD.

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DANNY joins in, trying to put a positive spin on the song.

DANNY:

WHEN HUMPTY DUMPTY FELL APART,
IT WASN'T THE END.
HE PUT THE PIECES OF HIMSELF TOGETHER AGAIN.
HE SCRAMBLED BACK UP ON THE WALL,
DETERMINED TO TRY
TO LEARN TO BE A BETTER HUMPTY DUMPTY . . . GUY.

SAL:

FEELIN' THE STING FROM THE CRISIS DU JOUR,
WANTIN' MY SHARE OR A LITTLE BIT MORE.
WONDERIN' "HEY, WHAT THE HELL'S THIS ALL FOR?"
IT'S A HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD.

DANNY:

WHEN HUMPTY DUMPTY FELL APART,
IT WASN'T THE END.
HE PUT THE PIECES OF HIMSELF TOGETHER AGAIN.
HE SCRAMBLED BACK UP ON THE WALL,
DETERMINED TO TRY
TO LEARN TO BE A BETTER HUMPTY DUMPTY GUY.

SAL:

WE'RE GONNA GET BROKEN, WE'RE GONNA GET BRUISED.
GONNA GET TAKEN, WE'RE GONNA FEEL USED.
WE KNOW WE CAN'T WIN, WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO LOSE?
IT'S A HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD.

DANNY:

THE NEXT TIME THAT YOU FALL APART,
IT ISN'T THE END.
JUST PUT THE PIECES OF YOURSELF TOGETHER AGAIN.
YOU'LL SCRAMBLE BACK UP ON YOUR FEET,
AND YOU'LL FIND A WAY
TO SOMEHOW FACE ANOTHER HUMPTY DUMPTY DAY.

BOTH:

FUNNY HOW MANY HITS WE CAN TAKE.
CRAZY HOW LIFE'S JUST A GIANT MISTAKE.
LUCKY WE MEND JUST AS WELL AS WE BREAK.
IT'S A HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD.

DANNY:

RUNNIN' IN CIRCLES, AND FALLIN' BEHIND.

SAL:

SEEMS LIKE THE SIGHTLESS ARE LEADING THE BLIND.

DANNY:

LOSIN' THE RACE?

SAL:

GOD! I'M LOSIN' MY MIND!

BOTH:

IT'S A HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD!

IT'S A HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD!

SAL and DANNY sit depressed.

DANNY: Mr. Spumoni, there's got to be more to life.

SAL: Sure there is . . . Just remember what your dear old mother told you, "If first you don't succeed . . . have a bottle of bourbon."

BURGERTOWN

DANNY: No. My mother didn't -

JAN enters carrying a large bag of buns.

JAN: Mr. Spumoni, I unloaded the truck, but I think the buns are stale.

SAL: Then Danny-boy has a lot of work to do. Danny, you need to cut off the stale parts before the dinner rush. I'll be in my office counting the sugar packets.

SAL exits to the back room. He pinches JAN on her bottom as he passes by.

JAN: Oooh!

SAL: Wasn't me!

SAL exits, laughing to himself.

JAN: Danny, I'm afraid that Mr. Spumoni will close down the diner and I'll lose my job.

DANNY: That's not going to happen. And even if it did, you're a terrific waitress, Jan. You could work anywhere.

JAN: You're sweet, Danny, but the truth is I stink as a waitress. I stink at every job I have ever had. This is my forty-second restaurant I've worked at in two years.

DANNY: Wow. That's a lot of restaurants.

JAN: I'm still paying for all the broken dishes.

DANNY: But you do so well here.

JAN: I think that's because of you.

DANNY: Really?

JAN: That's why I'd hate to leave here. I need the job to pay for my dental hygienist school, and I need you to help me get through the day.

DANNY: Then that's what will happen. I'll think of something! I'll think of something that will make this place work. I promise.

SAL wheels in a dolly loaded with hamburger buns.

SAL: O'Riley, my buns are cold and stale! Now get to work! I'm going to see Manny the Torch. I'm hoping he'll give me an extra week to get him his money. If I'm not back in two hours, then get out, lock the doors and call the fire department.

SAL exits to the diner. DANNY moves to the grill. He drags the buns behind the counter.

JAN: Danny . . . I have a test to study for . . .

DANNY: Go. And don't forget to use the lucky pencil.

JAN: You're such a sweetheart. *(She gathers her things together.)* I'll be back before dinnertime. *(She goes to exit, and then runs back, kissing DANNY on the cheek.)* And I know everything will be all right. Somehow . . . I just know.

She exits. DANNY watches her leave.

SONG #5: WAITING STILL
(DANNY)

Music starts.

BURGERTOWN

DANNY: She believes in me, and I don't even believe in myself. I wake up in the morning knowing that I'll ultimately disappoint myself before the day is through. Toothpaste on my toothbrush. Whitening formula, but I don't know if it's working. Always the same amount. Rinse and spit. Mouthwash. The commercial said, "one minute," so I do three. Powder Fresh Deodorant under each arm. One swipe. Comb the hair. Part it on the side. A dab of aftershave, Frigid Winter, behind each ear. Put on my clothes. Nothing too flashy. I don't want to be noticed. One piece of toast with a little butter. Don't forget the juice. And off to work. Get up the guts to try a new idea. Get shot down. Back off and back to work.

He sings.

DANNY:

YOU ALWAYS HEAR THEM SAY,
"I TOOK A SHOT, I MADE IT.
I DID IT ALL MY WAY.
I JOINED THE GAME, I PLAYED IT."
FOR EVERYONE WHO TOOK A CHANCE
WHO HEARD THE SONG AND DARED TO DANCE.
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO IS WAITING STILL
LOTS OF "SOMEONES" WAITING STILL
TO TRY
TO FLY.

WAITING STILL.
I'M STILL WAITING.
BUT WILL SOMEONE TELL ME WHY.
IT'S NOT THAT I'M AFRAID TO FAIL,
ONLY THAT I'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO TRY.
SO I'M WAITING STILL.
WAITING
EVEN THOUGH SOMETIMES
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHY.

AT SOME POINT DON'T YOU SAY
"IT'S NEVER GONNA HAPPEN.
THE DREAM DIES HERE TODAY
I JUST CAN'T MAKE IT HAPPEN."
I MAY NEVER GET A TURN TO TRY
TO SEE IF I WOULD FALL OR FLY.
THERE'S JUST NOT ROOM FOR ALL THE DREAMS
OF ALL THE GUYS WHO WAIT, IT SEEMS,
TO TRY
TO TRY.

I WISH I KNEW THE END,
THE FINISH TO THE STORY
WILL I GO THROUGH THE DOOR?
WILL IT OPEN UP BEFORE ME?
IT'S NOT JUST THOSE WHO LOSE OR WIN
IT'S ALL THOSE GUYS WHO CAN'T BEGIN.
I'D WAIT A LIFETIME JUST TO LEARN
THAT IF I WAIT, I'LL GET MY TURN
TO TRY,
TO FLY.

BURGERTOWN

WAITING STILL.
I'M STILL WAITING.
BUT WILL SOMEONE TELL ME WHY.
IT'S NOT THAT I'M AFRAID TO FAIL.
ONLY THAT I'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO TRY.
SO I'M WAITING STILL.
WAITING.
EVEN THOUGH SOMETIMES I CAN'T REMEMBER WHY.

DANNY flips a burger on to a bun.

DANNY: Oh, gosh, this bun is stale. I'll just have to cut off the edges. *(Cuts the edges off the burger, creating a triangle-shaped burger.)* Wow. Look at that. A Triangle Burger.

A beam of light illuminates DANNY and his new burger as an ominous musical chord is heard. DANNY looks up to the light, confused by its appearance, as well as the musical chord.

CUSTOMER 1 enters.

CUSTOMER 1: I'll have a burger.

DANNY: Here you go. Sorry . . . about the way it looks . . . I had to cut off . . .

CUSTOMER 1: A triangle burger? I've never seen a triangle burger before.

DANNY: I could throw that one away and make you another?

The CUSTOMER takes a bite out of the burger.

CUSTOMER 1: This is delicious! And look . . . you eat a corner at a time . . . *(She takes another bite.)* . . . and in three bites you're done!

DANNY: You see our bread was stale--

CUSTOMER 1: How much do I owe you?

DANNY: Well, it's kind of a new burger . . .

CUSTOMER 1: Here's a twenty. Keep the change. Wait until my friends hear about this!

DANNY: Thanks.

CUSTOMER 1 exits.

INTERLUDE

A chorus of CUSTOMERS walks across the stage singing a reprise of "BurgerTown" which is faster than before.

**SONG #6: BURGERTOWN REPRISE
(ENSEMBLE)**

CUSTOMERS:
THERE'S A LITTLE PLACE YOU SHOULD EXPLORE.
WITH A LITTLE GREASE SPOT ON THE FLOOR.
AND A LITTLE SIGN OVER THE DOOR.
BURGERTOWN BURGERTOWN!

FOR A LITTLE DOUGH YOU CAN REQUEST.
A LITTLE CHOW THAT'S SHAPED THE BEST,
IN A LITTLE JOINT FAR FROM THE REST.

BURGERTOWN

BURGERTOWN. BURGERTOWN.

SOMETHING NEW.
SOMETHING MORE.
SOMETHING FRESH.
WHAT'S IN STORE
FOR BURGERTOWN,
BURGER T-T-T-TO-OWN
CUSTOMERS 3 AND 4:
BURGERTOWN,
CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR . . .

The CUSTOMERS finish at the counter. JAN is ringing up their orders.

ACT ONE, SCENE 3 THERE'S STILL HOPE

DANNY is at the grill making the Triangle Burgers.

JAN: *(To CUSTOMER 4.)* Now, let's see. You had twenty Triangle Burgers and one fries?

CUSTOMER 4: And this is my second time today!

JAN: Well, we appreciate your business.

CUSTOMER 4: Is there any way you could open another diner closer to downtown? I have a bad heart and the two block walk here is killing me.

JAN: I'll talk to the owner. Thank you.

She takes the money and CUSTOMER 4 staggers out of the restaurant with his bag of burgers.

DANNY: I'm exhausted. I don't think my wrist can take flipping another burger.

DANNY leaves the grill and sits at a table. JAN joins him.

JAN: Well, Dan, you did it. You really did it. The last two weeks have been incredibly busy.

DANNY: Yeah, I'm glad for Mr. Spumoni.

JAN: He was so happy he gave me a raise.

DANNY: That's wonderful. Now you can pay for your dental hygienist school.

JAN: I know. In five short months, I'll be asking people to spit.

DANNY: That's exciting.

JAN: And it's all because of you, Dan.

DANNY: Me and a lot of stale bread.

JAN: But you knew what to do with those buns. Anyone else would have just thrown them away.

DANNY: Well, I have always been good with buns . . . *(JAN laughs.)*

. . . not people buns . . . bread buns . . . do you know what I mean?

JAN: Yes. I know what you mean.

DANNY: Jan, I know we've been to the movies and everything . . . but we didn't actually sit together.

JAN: It was very crowded.

DANNY: Do you think maybe . . . we could try again? You know, to sit together.

JAN: You mean a date?

DANNY: If that's okay with you?

JAN: I thought you'd never ask!

BURGERTOWN

PATTY, MISS BURGERTOWN, enters from the street.

PATTY: So this is it?

JAN: I'm sorry, Miss, but we're closed for the night.

PATTY: (*Looking around.*) You should be closed forever . . . look at this place. I'd call it a dive, but it's more like a belly-flop.

JAN: Can we help you?

PATTY: You must be the dentist.

JAN: Hygienist. And I will be one soon.

PATTY: And you must be Danny. The inventor of the soon to be famous Triangle Burger. (*She moves seductively toward DANNY.*)

JAN: We still don't know who you are.

SAL enters from his office.

SAL: This is Patricia Ramone . . . Our very own Miss BurgerTown.

JAN: What?

DANNY: Miss BurgerTown?

SAL: We have the burger . . . now we need the pizzazz!

PATTY: Call me Patty, and aren't I a hell of a lot better than some old big-haired clown?

JAN: That's to be determined.

PATTY takes off her coat, and she is dressed in a sparkling short evening dress with a "Miss BurgerTown" sash. She is a knockout.

SAL: Now that's going to raise our profit margin.

PATTY: Raising things is my specialty.

PATTY and SAL giggle.

JAN: So what do you do?

PATTY: Well, first I'll stand here, and then I'll sit at some point. And then I'll stand again. It'll go on like that all day. I really perfected the whole system when I was "Miss Southern Crunchy Chicken" in Alabama.

DANNY: So you're from the South?

PATTY moves over to DANNY.

PATTY: Is that where you'd like me to be from . . . ?

DANNY: (*Nervously.*) That's fine. The South is nice.

SAL: (*To JAN.*) Oh, look at that. She's good. She's real good.

JAN: Well, we'd better go. Come on, Dan.

PATTY: (*To DANNY.*) Oh, you're leaving?

DANNY: I don't know. Am I?

JAN: The movie? Remember? We were going to sit together this time.

PATTY: Whoa! You'd better slow down! First you sit together and the next thing you know you'll be sharing a straw at the soda shop. Right, George? Right, Emily?

PATTY smiles at JAN.

BURGERTOWN

SAL: Dan, now I think you need to come to dinner with Miss Ramone and myself.

DANNY: I can't.

SAL: You can't? Did you just say, "I can't?"

DANNY: I think I did.

PATTY: Don't worry about it, Spumoni. I'll catch Dan another time.

SAL: No. I want you to catch Dan right now.

DANNY: Jan, would you mind? Maybe we could go to the movies tomorrow night?

JAN: It's fine. I need to study up on gingivitis anyway.

SAL: Great. Let's get a steak.

DANNY: Wow! A steak?

SAL: Well, you can get the chopped meat, and I'll get the steak.

DANNY: That's fine. I like chopped meat.

PATTY, DANNY and SAL go to exit the diner. PATTY squeezes SAL's arm as they walk out.

PATTY: Ooh! What big muscles you have . . . !

SAL giggles again as they exit. JAN is left alone. She finishes wiping down the tables.

SONG #7: UNDER THE TRAIN

(JAN)

JAN:

A BOX BENEATH THE TRACKS

A PAYCHECK LESS THAN ZIP.

A CHANCE TO BREAK MY LUMBAR

FOR NOTHING MORE THAN TIPS.

IT'S NOISY

AND IT'S CROWDED

AND YOU ONLY SEE THE RAIN.

IN MY WORLD THE RED LINE STOPS,

UNDER THE TRAIN.

ALTHOUGH THE COFFEE STINKS,

IT'S BETTER THAN THE VIEW.

THIS PLACE IS KIND OF UGLY,

THE CUSTOMERS ARE, TOO.

THEY'RE STINGY

AND THEY'RE SURLY,

BUT IT'S POINTLESS TO COMPLAIN.

IN THIS FAIRY TALE FROM HELL,

UNDER THE TRAIN.

BEYOND THIS DINGY DINER,

THERE'S A CASTLE THAT'S FOR REAL.

AND MAYBE IF I'M LUCKY

I'LL SERVE MY PRINCE HIS NEXT MEAL.

AND EITHER I'LL GO UP FROM HERE

OR ELSE I'LL GO INSANE.

"X" MARKS THE SPOT,

"HERE'S" ALL I GOT,

UNDER THE TRAIN.

BURGERTOWN

SOME LADIES DREAM OF JEWELS,
SHOPPING SPREES AND TRIPS.
MY LIFE IS ONE LONG NIGHTMARE
OF DORKS, DOPES AND DRIPS.
AND EVERY TIME I TRY TO LOOK UP
I JUST CAN'T EXPLAIN
WHAT I AM DOING HERE,
UNDER THE TRAIN.

A TRAIN pulls into the station. A couple rushes down the stairs of the platform. They stop to kiss before they exit. JAN sits on the steps.

JAN:

A PALACE OR A PLACE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE.
THERE'S LANDSCAPES
AND SOME LAWN CHAIRS
WITH SOME ACREAGE TO SPARE.
AND EVEN IF BEYOND THE RAINBOW
THERE'S ONLY RAIN,
AT LEAST I'LL TRY
TO SEE THE SKY
UNDER THE TRAIN.

ACT ONE, SCENE 4 THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

SAL and DANNY are working together trying to keep the customers in burgers. JAN seems left out as she waits on customers. PATTY is standing on a pedestal getting her picture taken with men.

**SONG #8: JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT
(PATTY, DANNY, SAL)**

SAL:

OH IT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT
OH I LIKE IT JUST THIS WAY
NOW THE BURGER BIZ IS SIZZLIN'
AND THE DINER'S HOT TODAY!
I HAND OVER BURGERS
HAND OVER FIST
THEY HAND OVER MONEY
BUCKETS OF MONEY
I TOOK MY SHOT AND NOW MY DREAM HAS COME TRUE!

SAL, DANNY, PATTY:

THEY LOVE TRIANGLE BURGERS.

SAL:

AND TRIANGLE BURGERS
MEAN BUCKETS OF MONEY FOR ME.

CUSTOMERS:

TRIANGLE BURGERS, THREE CORNERS OF FUN.
TRIANGLE BURGERS, THREE BITES AND YOU'RE DONE!

SAL:

AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT

PATTY:

BURGERTOWN

OH, I LIKE IT JUST THIS WAY
THOSE TRIANGLE BURGERS
MY STEPPING STONES
THEY'RE HEAD OVER BURGERS FOR ME!
ALL THESE HUNGRY HUM DRUM HOPEFULS
EMPTY STOMACHS
EMPTY LIVES.
THEY NEED ME
THEY WANT ME
THEY LOVE ME!

CUSTOMERS:

WE LOVE YOU PATTY,
WE RELISH YOUR BUNS!
THAT A WAY PATTY
YOU'RE "A" NUMBER ONE!

SAL:

HEY I USED TO BE A LOSER.

PATTY:

BUT YOU'RE NOT A LOSER NOW!

SAL:

THEY HAND OVER MONEY
BUCKETS OF MONEY

PATTY:

THEY'RE HEAD OVER BURGERS
THEY'RE STARVING FOR ME.

SAL:

WHAT IS THIS THAT I AM SMELLING?

SAL AND PATTY:

OH, IT'S SMELLING LIKE SUCCESS.
NOW THEY LOVE WHAT WE'RE SELLING,
AND OUR BURGERS TASTE THE BEST.

DANNY:

IT'S JUST AS I'D IMAGINED
OH I KNEW IT'D WORK SOMEDAY
MY TRIANGLE BURGERS,
THREE CORNER GOLD!
NOW WE'RE MAKING MONEY
BUCKETS OF MONEY!
IT'S CRAZY THAT A DINNER,
MADE ME A WINNER.
SO, WHY AREN'T I HAPPIER?
I SHOULD BE HAPPIER.
DIDN'T ALL OF MY BURGER DREAMS
FINALLY COME TRUE?

CUSTOMERS:

YOU DID IT DANNY IT'S TIME TO ENJOY
GO FOR IT DANNY! YOU'RE OUR BURGER BOY!

DANNY:

ISN'T THAT THE WAY I LIKE IT?
DO I LIKE IT JUST THIS WAY?
NOW THAT EV'RYTHING IS CHANGING,

JAN:

DO YOU LIKE IT NOW THIS WAY?

JAN, PATTY, SAL AND DANNY:

THEY LOVE TRIANGLE BURGERS!

SAL:

AND TRIANGLE BURGERS MEAN BUCKETS OF MONEY

BURGERTOWN

DANNY:
TRIANGLE BURGERS MEAN BUCKETS OF CHANCES
PATTY:
TRIANGLE BURGERS MEAN BUCKETS OF GLORY
JAN:
TRIANGLE BURGERS MEAN BUCKETS OF HEARTACHE,
PATTY, DANNY, JAN AND SAL:
FOR ME!
ALL:
BURGERTOWN, BURGER-T-T-TOWN.

The following is not together.

DANNY:
IS IT JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT?
SAL AND DANNY:
IT IS JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT!
SAL, DANNY AND PATTY:
OH, IT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT!

JAN: (*Speaking.*) Hope you like it now this way!

JAN carries some dishes into the kitchen. SAL leaves DANNY and PATTY in the burger shop alone.

PATTY: So, Dan?
DANNY: Yes, Patty.
PATTY: Do you ever dream of getting out from behind the grill?
DANNY: I like the grill.
PATTY: But the world has many grills.
DANNY: Well, sure.
PATTY: And many other things.
DANNY: I know that.
PATTY: A smart guy like you could go far.
DANNY: I don't know about that.
PATTY: With your burger . . . you could make a lot of money.
DANNY: It's not really my burger.
PATTY: You invented it.
DANNY: It was an accident.
PATTY: And so was Velcro . . .
DANNY: Really?
PATTY: And ice cream!
DANNY: Are you sure?
PATTY: Penicillin!
DANNY: The Triangle Burger is no penicillin.
PATTY: To you maybe, but to the burger industry it's gold!
DANNY: Well, Mr. Spumoni would be the one -
PATTY: - to get down on his knees and beg you not to take your Triangle Burger away. Dan, for centuries, men have been eating round burgers.
DANNY: So?
PATTY: So . . . you've designed a more efficient way to consume burgers. Look at them, they can't get enough Triangle Burgers.

BURGERTOWN

CUSTOMER 5: This is fantastic!

CUSTOMER 4: I'll have another!

CUSTOMER 3: It's a geometric wonder!

PATTY: See! Three bites and they're done. *(She crosses to a male customer at the table. She turns on the "sex" as she says the next line.)* It's so fast. *(She builds in intensity as she plays with guy's hair.)* It's so . . . o . . . o . . . o . . . American! *(The CUSTOMER passes out and his head falls on top of his burger.)*

DANNY: I never thought of it being that important.

PATTY: Well, it's only important if you consider money to be important.

DANNY: Wow.

PATTY: Dan, you're driving this car over the cliff of success. You've got the baton in the relay race of your dreams. *(PATTY snuggles up to DANNY.)* You've got the fortune cookie of lifetime and all you have to do is break it open and read the good news!

JAN comes out of the back room.

JAN: Danny . . .

DANNY: Hey, Jan. Busy day, huh?

JAN: Isn't it great?

PATTY: *(Sarcastically.)* It's peachy.

DANNY: Yeah, great.

JAN: Hey, guess what?

DANNY: What?

JAN: I got a B+ on my exam!

CUSTOMER 1: Way to go!

CUSTOMER 2: Don't overdo it!

CUSTOMER 3: Brainiac!

DANNY: Oh, my gosh! That terrific. I feel terrible that I never even asked you how it went.

JAN: I know. I wanted to surprise you.

DANNY: I am so happy for you.

JAN: I knew you would be. That's what makes telling you so special.

DANNY: We should celebrate.

JAN: Really?

DANNY: Sure. Soon you'll be scraping tartar, and there won't be much time for fun.

JAN: There's still that movie.

DANNY: Together.

JAN: Maybe we could share a popcorn?

DANNY: We could share -

PATTY: Uh-oh. Dan, darling.

JAN: Darling?

PATTY: Dan, how are your pickles?

JAN: Your what?

DANNY: My pickles?

PATTY: Yes. The pickles. Sal . . . Mr. Spumoni said we're almost out of pickles. And you know how crazy the dinner rush is?

DANNY: Yes. I forgot. I was supposed to get more pickles.

PATTY: I suppose I could go to the store for you. You've been working so hard . . .

The same male CUSTOMER as before . . . upon hearing the word "hard" passes out in his burger again.

BURGERTOWN

PATTY: I'd really like to do that . . . favor . . . for you.

DANNY: You would?

PATTY: I love doing little things for people I care about . . .

DANNY: That's really thoughtful of you.

JAN: I want to get your pickles.

PATTY: I bet you do.

JAN: I think I know exactly what pickles Dan likes.

PATTY: I didn't realize you were that close.

JAN: Oh, really. I thought that was quite clear.

PATTY: I suppose I haven't been here long enough to see clearly. Or maybe it's my new contact lenses.

JAN: Dan . . . I'll get your pickles!

Again, the male CUSTOMER falls in to his food.

DANNY: Are you sure? It's really no trouble for me to go.

JAN: I'll be back in a little while, and then, Dan, you and I . . . *(JAN walks over to DANNY. She tries to out-sex PATTY, but she's not very good at it.)* . . . can celebrate. Together. Next to each other. Alone. *(JAN leans over and kisses DANNY on the cheek.)* See you soon . . . baby.

DANNY: Baby?

JAN: *(In a sexy voice.)* Baby.

JAN slinks out of the diner and down the street. DANNY is noticeably heated up. DANNY rushes after her, but PATTY stops him.

DANNY: Jan, maybe I should go with you!

PATTY: Whoa there, cowboy! I'd let that little filly go by herself. I mean after all . . . she really wants to do you a favor.

DANNY: I've never really seen Jan like that.

PATTY: Who could blame her? You're a good-lookin' fella, and she's . . . okay . . . For a dentist.

DANNY: Hygienist.

PATTY: Exactly. And if okay is good enough for you, then I hope you're both happy.

A CUSTOMER at one of the tables calls to PATTY.

CUSTOMER 4: Excuse me, Miss. May I have some more coffee?

PATTY: Hey, get it yourself. What the hell do you think this is? A restaurant?

CUSTOMER 4: *(Timidly.)* Well, yes.

Another CUSTOMER calls to PATTY.

CUSTOMER 5: Miss, I need some ketchup.

PATTY: Don't we all, buster. But life's not fair. We don't get everything we want . . . every time we want it!

CUSTOMER 5: I just want a little ketchup.

PATTY throws a bottle of ketchup to the CUSTOMER who snags it out of the air.

BURGERTOWN

CUSTOMER 3: Can I get a refill?

PATTY: (*Shouting.*) ENOUGH! All of you . . . on your feet!

The two male CUSTOMERS snap to attention. During the following number, they become PATTY's "boys" as she sings and dances around them. The two FEMALE customers serve as her backup singers.

PATTY: I am not a waitress! I am not a hostess! I am Miss BurgerTown!

SONG #9: MISS BURGERTOWN
(PATTY, ENSEMBLE)

PATTY:

A LITTLE PERSUASION

A BODY THAT COOKS.

A SMART GIRL LEARNS EARLY

YOU GET BY ON YOUR LOOKS.

I'LL MAKE YOU A PROMISE

THAT'S SEALED WITH A KISS . . .

I'M MISS . . .

BURGERTOWN.

She dances with her BOYS.

THE CUSTOMERS LOVE ME

AND BUSINESS IS GOOD.

WOMEN:

LOOK OUT. MISS BURGERTOWN'S HERE.

PATTY:

YOU KNOW THAT THEY WANT ME

I KNEW THAT THEY WOULD

MEN:

YES MA'AM, IT'S GETTIN' HOT IN HERE!

PATTY:

SO, DAN, GET TO KNOW ME

AND THEN YOU'LL KNOW BLISS . . .

I'M MISS . . .

BURGERTOWN!

CUSTOMERS:

YOU'RE MISS BURGERTOWN

YOU'RE LOOKIN' SO GOOD.

YOU'LL MAKE ME EAT MORE THAN I KNOW I SHOULD.

OOOH . . .

PATTY moves in on DANNY like a panther after her prey.

PATTY:

THIS PLACE WAS PATHETIC

A SHAMBLES

A HOLE IN THE WALL.

CUSTOMERS:

HOLE IN THE WALL.

PATTY:

IF IT WASN'T FOR BAD LUCK AND BAD FOOD

YOU'D HAVE NONE AT ALL.

BURGERTOWN

CUSTOMERS:

NONE AT ALL.

PATTY:

THEN IN WALKED THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.

YOUR MEAL TICKET OUT.

CUSTOMERS:

AH, WATCH OUT!

PATTY:

FOR ONCE TAKE IT EASY

I KNOW IT SOUNDS CHEESY

BUT THAT'S WHAT A BURGER'S ABOUT!

CUSTOMERS:

SOMETHING NEW.

SOMETHING MORE.

SOMEONE FRESH.

WHAT'S IN STORE

FOR BURGERTOWN

BURGER-T-T-T-OWN.

DANNY: I think it's getting hot in here.

PATTY: And I haven't even turned the heat on yet.

DANNY: I really should get back to work.

PATTY: All work and no fun makes Dan a dull -

DANNY: - I really shouldn't be doing this.

PATTY kisses DANNY.

PATTY:

SOMEBODY LOOKS HUNGRY

A BOY'S GOTTA EAT.

CUSTOMERS:

LOOK OUT! WATCH OUT,

FOR MISS BURGERTOWN.

PATTY:

GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN

IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT

THERE ISN'T A COMBO

THAT'S BETTER THAN THIS

I'M MISS . . . BURGERTOWN.

A SHAKE WITH THOSE FRIES

CUSTOMERS:

HE'S SHAKIN'

PATTY:

A NICE SET OF BUNS

CUSTOMERS:

NOT BAD.

PATTY:

JUST SHOW ME SOME LETTUCE

I'LL SHOW YOU SOME FUN

CUSTOMERS:

I BET YOU WILL.

PATTY:

YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANT ME

CUSTOMERS:

WE WANT YOU, OOH . . .

BURGERTOWN

PATTY:
I KNEW THAT YOU WOULD!
CUSTOMERS:
OH YES WE DO . . .
PATTY:
I'M GOOD . . .
CUSTOMERS:
YOU'RE GOOD.
PATTY:
FOR BURGERTOWN . . .
CUSTOMERS:
SO GOOD . . .
PATTY:
SO GOOD FOR . . .
CUSTOMERS:
OOH . . .
PATTY:
BURGERTOWN . . .
CUSTOMERS:
LOOK OUT
PATTY:
I'M MISS . . . I'M MISS . . .
ALL: BURGERTOWN!

PATTY grabs DANNY in an embrace just as JAN walks in with a jar of pickles.

JAN: Danny!
DANNY: Jan! I was just . . . just . . . ?
JAN: Just kissing?
DANNY: Yes.
PATTY: (*Innocently.*) Oh, look the pickles are here.

PATTY takes the pickles from JAN.

PATTY: Why don't I just put them in the back room? Give you
two . . . a little privacy.

PATTY exits. JAN and DANNY just stand staring at each other.

DANNY: Aren't you going to speak?
JAN: I just have one wish.
DANNY: What?
JAN: That I had the guts to do that before she did.

JAN crosses to the coat-stand and grabs her white hygienist lab coat. She goes to leave but stops at the door. JAN moves back to DANNY. She removes the "lucky pencil" from her coat pocket.

DANNY: My lucky pencil.
JAN: Good old number two.
DANNY: Sorry about my teeth marks.
JAN: I didn't mind. Goodbye, Dan.
DANNY: What about the movie?

BURGERTOWN

JAN puts her finger on DANNY's lips to shut him up. She then leans over and kisses him passionately . . . with a goodbye kiss.

JAN: Maybe another time.

JAN runs out of the diner and down the street crying as she goes. Lights fade.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from BURGERTOWN by Ken Jones, Jamey Strawn, and Christine Jones. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:

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