

BURGERTOWN

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

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SYNOPSIS: *BurgerTown* is a delicious musical comedy set in the Windy City. When Danny O’Riley, a timid fry cook accidentally invents the hottest new craze in the fast-food world; the Triangle Burger, he takes the humble BurgerTown diner from its lowly place beneath the tracks of the Fullerton train station to soaring new heights. Along the way, Danny encounters bad guys, big business, and beautiful women. While he struggles to hold onto his sanity as he chases his dreams for success, romance, and a fast-food fortune.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5-14 females, 4-10 males; 0-8 extras)

DANNY O’ RILEY (m)A young inventive nerd who is sincere, caring and kind. Works as a fry cook at BurgerTown. Wants to be successful, but he doesn’t have a clue where to start. In love with Jan, but he only admires her from a distance. Once, in high school, he tried to kiss a girl and was immediately struck with “hysterical lockjaw.” His dating life has only gone downhill since then.

SAL SPUMONI (m)The stingy and cranky owner of BurgerTown. Borrowed money from the mob to save his failing restaurant but the lack of constant customers has his blood pressure at an all-time high. When asked which two men he admired most, Spumoni answered, “Ebenezer Scrooge and myself.”

- JAN SOKOWSKI (f)A lovely young waitress who has worked at BurgerTown diner since it opened. For the last two years, Jan has also been taking classes to become a dental hygienist. She is very sweet and has often found herself without train fare because she has given her money away to the needy. 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 biggest desire in life is to bring happiness to everyone... hopefully including herself.
- PATTY RAMONE (f)A sexy beauty who looks out for Number One. Patty is crowned "Miss BurgerTown" by Sal, who hopes her "assets" will increase business at the diner. Patty began her climb to the top as a stripper, who was best known for her use of balloons and a live badger. After her badger was hit by a Winnebago, Patty moved on to beauty pageants and reality television. Nothing has ever stopped her from trying to achieve her dream of becoming the "wealthiest diva in the world." Her preference is to reach her goal still wearing all of her clothing.

ENSEMBLE ACTORS: Each play a series of roles.

ACTOR 1 (f)

CUSTOMER 1 (2 lines)
 MISS BURGERTOWN BACK-UP GIRL (Non-speaking)
 ONION GIRL Mascot for Onion
 World. Is a young girl
 with a "Pollyanna-like"
 gingham style dress
 and her hair in pigtails.
 She weeps as the
 onions make her cry.
 (3 lines)
 WAITRESS A voluptuous young
 woman. (1 line)
 SALESPERSON (1 line)
 REPORTER 2 (2 lines)
 ANGEL BACK-UP (Non-speaking)
 WOMAN 1 (Non-speaking)

ACTOR 2 (f)

CUSTOMER 2 (2 lines)
 MISS BURGERTOWN BACK-UP GIRL (Non-speaking)
 SPANKY'S GIRL Mascot for Spanky's
 Café. Is a leather clad
 woman carrying a
 whip. (3 lines)
 ARTIST (1 line)
 REPORTER 1 (4 lines)
 ANGEL BACK-UP (Non-speaking)
 WOMAN 2 (Non-speaking)

ACTOR 3 (f)

CUSTOMER 3 (2 lines)
 LAWYER (32 lines)
 MISS BURGERTOWN BACK-UP GIRL (Non-speaking)

SUPERHERO	Mascot for Fry By Night. Is a masked character much like a mix between the McDonald's Hamburglar™ and Zorro. (3 lines)
RECEPTIONIST	(1 line)
REPORTER.....	(Non-speaking)
ANGEL BACK-UP	(Non-speaking)
ACTOR 4 (m, large)	
CUSTOMER 4	(8 lines)
GUIDO	mob hit-man (31 lines)
PIRATE	Mascot for Treasure Burger. Is a Pirate sporting a spatula for his missing hand. (3 lines)
BUSINESSMAN	(1 line)
ACTOR 5 (m, slight)	
CUSTOMER 5	(4 lines)
FRANKIE.....	mob hit-man (26 lines)
RICK.....	Mascot for Rick's Lunch On A Stick. Is a clown in overalls with a burger on a skewer. (4 lines)
BLUE COLLAR WORKER.....	(1 line)
REPORTER.....	(Non-speaking)

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

DURATION: 110 minutes

SETTING: Chicago, a small diner beneath the tracks of the elevated train

TIME: Present.

MUSICAL SYNOPSIS**ACT ONE: THE PRESENT****SCENE 1: THE DINER**

- SONG #1:** **OVERTURE**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #2:** **BURGERTOWN**
ENSEMBLE
- SONG #3:** **HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD**
SAL, DANNY

SCENE 2: NO BUSINESS

- SONG #4:** **WAITING STILL**
DANNY
- SONG #4A:** **TRIANGLE CHORD**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #5:** **BURGERTOWN REPRISE**
ENSEMBLE

SCENE 3: THERE'S STILL HOPE

- SONG #6:** **UNDER THE TRAIN**
JAN

SCENE 4: THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

- SONG #7:** **JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT**
PATTY, DANNY, SAL, JAN
- SONG #8:** **MISS BURGERTOWN**
PATTY, ENSEMBLE
- SONG #8A:** **TRANSITION MUSIC**
INSTRUMENTAL

SCENE 5: SAL'S WATERLOO

- SONG #9:** **FUNNY BUSINESS**
SAL, FRANKIE, GUIDO

SCENE 6: THE WILL

- SONG #9A:** **WILL MUSIC**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #10:** **WAITING STILL REPRISE**
DANNY

ACT TWO: ONE YEAR LATER**SCENE 1: THE JINGLE WARS**

SONG #11: **ENTR'ACTE**
INSTRUMENTAL

SONG #12: **JINGLE WARS UNDERSCORE**
INSTRUMENTAL

SONG #12A: **JINGLE WARS**
*PIRATE, ONION GIRL, RICK, SPANKY'S GIRL,
SUPERHERO*

SCENE 2: BACK HOME

SONG #13 **A SIMPLE MAN**
JAN, PATTY

SCENE 3: LITIGATION SERENADE

SONG #14: **LITIGATION SERENADE**
ENSEMBLE

SCENE 4: REUNION

SONG #15: **A BETTER DAN**
DANNY

SCENE 5: THE PRESS

SONG #16: **THAT SPECIAL SOMETHING**
PATTY, ENSEMBLE

SCENE 6: THE DREAM

SONG #17: **TAKE THE DEAL**
SAL, ANGELS

SCENE 7: ALL TIED UP

SONG #18: **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**
DANNY, JAN

SONG #19: **A SATISFYING ENDING**
FULL COMPANY

SONG #20: **BOWS and EXIT MUSIC**
INSTRUMENTAL

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 a tiny apartment which is never seen. The diner has two or three tables which sit along a representative wall, and there are several bar stools lining the counter. A shabby BurgerTown logo sign hangs above it all.

ORCHESTRATION: BurgerTown is scored for Piano/Conductor, Guitar, Bass, Drums, Alto Saxophone and Flute (1 player). The orchestra/band should be hidden beneath the stairs of the train.

Revised 2018

ACT ONE, SCENE 1

THE DINER

SONG #1: OVERATURE

INSTRUMENTAL

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 gunk 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 #2: BURGERTOWN

ENSEMBLE

ENSEMBLE does a fifties doo-wop throughout.

CUSTOMER 1 and CUSTOMER 2:

THERE'S A LITTLE PLACE YOU SHOULD EXPLORE
WITH A LITTLE STAIN 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.

ENSEMBLE: *(Continued.)*

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

WOMEN:

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

ENSEMBLE:

BURGER TOWN.

CUSTOMER 2:

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

ENSEMBLE:

BURGER TOWN

CUSTOMERS 1 and 2:

IF YOU ALWAYS WANT MORE.

ENSEMBLE:

BURGER TOWN

CUSTOMER 1:

JUST A LITTLE DIVE CALLED

ENSEMBLE:

B-B-B-BURGER-T-T-T-OWN!

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 lip and bounces as he talks. He storms into the diner through a swinging door from the kitchen.

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

DANNY 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 a half minutes with a hoo... well... I am quite sure that I'm not going to get any of those things... so I'll settle for 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 in 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:

OR A LITTLE CLOG DOWN IN THE DRAIN.

ENSEMBLE:

BURGER TOWN BURGER TOWN.

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 A LITTLE WONDER NO ONE STOPS

ENSEMBLE:

BURGER TOWN BURGER TOWN!

WOMEN and DANNY:

SOMETHING NEW
SOMETHING MORE
SOMETHING GREAT
WHAT'S IN STORE FOR
BURGER TOWN
BURGER-T-T-TOWN!

ENSEMBLE:

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

CUSTOMER 2:

FROM A LITTLE DUMP TO DYNAMO

CUSTOMER 3:

JUST A LITTLE CHANGE

YOU NEVER KNOW

ENSEMBLE:

BURGERTOWN

BURGERTOWN.

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

CHORUS exits, leaving DANNY standing in front of the diner alone. Suddenly, JAN enters carrying her book bag filled with her schoolbooks.

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.

JAN and DANNY enter the diner.

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 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 naïve.

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. *(Pulls out a small present.)* I brought you something.

DANNY: You did? *(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.

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! *(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 DANNY mistakenly thinks they are going to kiss on the lips. Awkwardly, their faces collide. DANNY realizes his mistake and immediately looks away. JAN gently reaches out and turns his face back to hers. She kisses him sweetly on the forehead.

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

DANNY: And you're...

SAL storms onstage.

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 to work, or would you prefer taking a romantic stroll to the unemployment office?

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. *(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 #3: HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD

SAL, 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.

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,
TAKIN' ADVANTAGE TO EVEN THE SCORE.
SEALIN' MY FATE, "WHAT THE HELL'S THIS ALL FOR?"
IT'S A HUMPTY DUMPTY WORLD.

WE'RE GONNA GET BROKEN, AND THEN WE'LL BE FRIED.
ROLL OVER OVER-EASY, WHEN IT'S JUSTIFIED.
THE YOLK'S ON US, THERE IS NO SUNNY SIDE!
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:

CRAZY HOW LIFE'S A ROTTEN SOUFLE.
FLATTER THAN BURGERS WE MADE YESTERDAY.
TRUST ME, SO BAD, COULDN'T GIVE EM' AWAY.
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 LOSING MY MIND!

DANNY and SAL:

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 at first you don't succeed... have a bottle of bourbon."

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! (*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 the 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 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. *(Gathers her things together.)* I'll be back before dinnertime. *(Crosses to exit, and then runs back, kissing Danny on the cheek.)* And I know everything will be all right. Somehow... I just know. *(Exits.)*

ACT ONE, SCENE 2
THE DISCOVERY

AT START: *Lights change creating a shift in the mood. DANNY is left alone.*

SONG #4: WAITING STILL

DANNY

Music underscores DANNY'S monologue.

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. Always the same amount. Whitening formula, but I don't know if it's working. 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.

DANNY: (*Singing.*)

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 GOT A CHANCE
 WHO HEARD THE SONG AND DARED TO DANCE.
 THERE'S SOMEONE WHO IS WAITING STILL
 LOT'S OF "SOMEONE'S" 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 THERE WAS A WAY
TO SEE IF I AM FATED.
TO EVER LIVE AS MORE
THAN JUST "THE GUY WHO WAITED."
IT'S NOT JUST THOSE WHO LOSE OR WIN
IT'S ALL OF US 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!

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 onto 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.

SONG #4A: TRIANGLE CHORD
INSTRUMENTAL

DANNY looks up to the light, confused by its appearance, as well as the musical chord. CUSTOMER 4 enters.

CUSTOMER 4: I'll have a burger.

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

CUSTOMER 4: A triangle burger? I've never seen a triangle burger before.

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

CUSTOMER 4 takes a bite out of the burger.

CUSTOMER 4: This is delicious! And look... you eat a corner at a time... (*Takes another bite.*) and in three bites you're done!

DANNY: You see our bread was stale—

CUSTOMER 4: How much do I owe you?

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

CUSTOMER 4: Here's a twenty. Keep the change. Wait until my friends hear about this!

DANNY: Thanks.

CUSTOMER 4 exits. A chorus of CUSTOMERS walks across the stage singing a reprise of "BurgerTown" which is faster than before.

SONG #5: BURGERTOWN REPRISE

ENSEMBLE

CUSTOMERS:

THERE'S A LITTLE PLACE YOU SHOULD EXPLORE.
WITH A LITTLE STAIN ON 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.

SOMETHING NEW.
SOMETHING MORE.
SOMETHING FRESH.
WHAT'S IN THE STORE
FOR BURGERTOWN,
BURGER T-T-T-TO-OWN

CUSTOMERS 1,2 and 3:

BURGERTOWN,
CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR...

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

ACT ONE, SCENE 3
THERE'S STILL HOPE

AT START: *Transition of time from day to night to day again. During the time shift, DANNY and JAN have changed into their new and improved BurgerTown aprons and hats. The diner is making money! DANNY is at the grill making the Triangle Burgers.*

JAN: (To CUSTOMER 5.) Now, let's see. You had twenty Triangle Burgers and one large fry?

CUSTOMER 5: And this is my second time today!

JAN: Well, we appreciate your business.

CUSTOMER 5: Is there any way you could open another diner closer to downtown? I have a bad heart and the two block walk is killing me.

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

JAN takes the money and CUSTOMER 5 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

DANNY: ...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 a few times... 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!

PATTY 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. (*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 be good to raise our profit margin.

PATTY: Raising things is my specialty.

SAL and DANNY moan.

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: *(Crossing to DANNY.)* 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? *(Smiles at JAN.)*

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 cross to exit the diner.

PATTY: *(Squeezes SAL'S arm as they walk out.)* Ooh! What big muscles you have...!

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

SONG #6: UNDER THE TRAIN

JAN

JAN:

A BOX BENEATH THE TRACKS
 A PAYCHECK LESS THAN ZIP.
 A CHANCE TO BREAK MY LUMBAR
 FOR ONE MORE LOUSY TIP.
 IT'S NOISY
 AND IT'S CROWDED
 AND YOU ONLY SEE THE RAIN.
 IN MY WORLD, THE RED LINE'S TOPS,
 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.

JAN: *(Continued.)*

SOME LADIES LIVE THE DREAM OF PARTIES,
DIAMONDS, 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.

A PALACE OR A PLACE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE.
I DON'T HAVE TO CLOSE MY EYES
TO SEE THE BEAUTY THERE.
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

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

SONG #7: JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT

PATTY, DANNY, SAL, JAN

SAL:

OH IT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT
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 CAUGHT A BREAK AND NOW MY DREAM HAS COME TRUE!

SAL, DANNY, and 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:

THAT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT

PATTY:

I LIKE IT JUST THIS WAY
THOSE TRIANGLE BURGERS,
THE PERFECT SHAPE TO ANGLE MY WAY TO THE TOP!
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:

IT'S SMELLING LIKE SUCCESS.

SAL:

NOW THEY LOVE WHAT WE ARE SELLING.

PATTY:

AND I REALLY LOVE THIS DRESS.

DANNY:

IT'S JUST AS I IMAGINED

OH I KNEW I'D HAVE MY DAY.

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 HAPPY?

I SHOULD BE HAPPY.

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 EVERYTHING 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.

DANNY:

TRIANGLE BURGERS MEAN BUCKETS OF QUESTIONS.

PATTY:

TRIANGLE BURGERS MEAN BUCKETS OF GLORY!

JAN:

TRIANGLE BURGERS MEAN BUCKETS OF HEARTACHE,

JAN, PATTY, SAL, and DANNY:

FOR ME!

ALL:

BURGERTOWN, BURGER-T-T-TOWN.

DANNY:

IS IT JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT?

SAL and DANNY:

YEAH, IT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT!

PATTY, SAL, and DANNY:

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 exits leaving DANNY and PATTY in the diner 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.

CUSTOMER 1: This is fantastic!

CUSTOMER 2: I'll have another!

CUSTOMER 3: It's a geometric wonder!

PATTY: See! Three bites and they're done. *(Crosses to a male CUSTOMER at the table. She turns on the "sex" as she says the next line.)* It's so fast. *(Builds intensity as she plays with the guy's hair.)* It's so... ah... ah... ah... American!

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. *(Snuggles up to DANNY.)* You've got the fortune cookie of a 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 over do it!

CUSTOMER 3: Brainiac!

DANNY: Oh, my gosh! That's 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...

Another male CUSTOMER, upon hearing the word "hard," passes out in his burger.

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

DANNY: You would?

PATTY: I love doing little things for the 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!

Both male CUSTOMERS fall into their 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... *(Crosses to DANNY. She tries to out-sex PATTY, but she's not very good at it.)* can celebrate. Together. Next to each other. Alone. *(Leans over and kisses DANNY on the cheek.)* See you soon... baby.

DANNY: Baby?

JAN: *(In a sexy voice.)* Baby. *(Slinks out of the diner and down the street.)*

DANNY: *(Noticeably heated up, rushes after JAN.)* Jan, maybe I should go with you!

PATTY: *(Stopping DANNY.)* 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.

CUSTOMER 4: *(Calling to PATTY.)* 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.

CUSTOMER 5: *(Calling to PATTY.)* 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 wanted a little ketchup.

PATTY throws a bottle of ketchup to CUSTOMER 5 who snags it out of the air.

CUSTOMER 4: Can I get a refill?

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

SONG #8: 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.

The ENSEMBLE MEN jump up and become PATTY'S "boys." She dances with them.

PATTY: *(Continued.)*

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 GETTING 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.

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

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 play makes Dan a dull—

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

PATTY kisses DANNY.

PATTY:

SOMBODY 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 FIRES

CUSTOMERS:

HE'S SHAKEN

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...

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 exits. JAN and DANNY just stand staring at each other. There is a long silence. DANNY timidly moves to JAN.

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 crosses to exit but stops at the door. JAN moves back to DANNY. She removes the "lucky pencil" from her coat pocket. She hands the pencil back to DANNY.

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?

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.

SONG #8A: TRANSITION MUSIC
INSTRUMENTAL

ACT ONE, SCENE 5
SAL'S WATERLOO

AT START: *Lit by the moonlight, SAL is dragged into an alley by GUIDO and FRANKIE.*

FRANKIE: Sal. Sally. Salster. You've been leaving the Boss out of your success.

SAL: But I paid him back. Every penny, plus interest.

GUIDO: You came to the Boss in times of need, and he opened his heart and his wallet... and he gave to you.

SAL: And I gave it all back.

GUIDO: True. But then the Boss had a little mishap.

FRANKIE: Tragic.

SAL: A mishap?

GUIDO: Yeah. He ended up dead. He accidentally swallowed a footstool.

SAL: A footstool?

GUIDO: Freakish.

SAL: Accidentally?

GUIDO: That's what they said.

FRANKIE: It was part of a set. All leather, nice cushion, mahogany legs.

GUIDO: So we have a new Boss.

SAL: But that doesn't concern me.

GUIDO: That's not what the new Boss says.

FRANKIE: You should have been sharing your new wealth.

GUIDO: Your new success.

FRANKIE: But you haven't been.

GUIDO: So that's why we're here.

SONG #9: FUNNY BUSINESS

SAL, FRANKIE, GUIDO

GUIDO:

SOMETHIN' SMELLS FUNNY AND IT AIN'T THE FOOD
IT STINKS TO HIGH HEAVEN

SAL:

WELL, I THINK THAT'S RUDE.

GUIDO:

WE'RE TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS,

SAL: (*Speaking.*) Mister, what's your beef?

GUIDO:

IT'S TIME TO PAY THE NEW BOSS
WHAT YOU OWE HIM, CHIEF.

FRANKIE:

YOU'RE FINALLY MAKIN' MONEY, BUT YA JUST WON'T SHARE.
YOU KEEP FORGETTIN' ALL IT TOOK TO GET YA HERE.

GUIDO:

WE'RE TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS AND YER OTTA LUCK.
WHAT'S THE DAILY SPECIAL?

FRANKIE and GUIDO:

PAL, IT'S SITTIN' DUCK!
IT'S FUNNY... THIS FUNNY BUSINESS...

GUIDO:

SOMETIMES, GRAND PIANOS JUST FALL FROM THE SKY,
AND NO ONE COULD STOP 'EM FROM CRUSHIN' A GUY.
WHO POSSIBLY, SOMEHOW WAS JUST PASSIN' BY,
AT THE VERY SAME MOMENT, A BIG FAT PIANO
JUST HAPPENED TO FALL FROM THE SKY.

FRANKIE:

SOMETIMES FISHING TRIPS TAKE A WRONG TURN OFF SHORE,
AND NO ONE (EXCEPT SHARKS) WOULD CARE ANYMORE.
IF POSSIBLY, SOME GUY WHO WAS BREATHIN' BEFORE
JUST NEVER RETURNED FROM AN ILL-FATED FISHING TRIP
TAKIN' A WRONG TURN OFF SHORE.

GUIDO:

SOMETIMES CERTAIN DINERS JUST GO UP IN FLAMES
AND NO ONE WOULD EVER GUESS WHO WAS TO BLAME
AND PROBABLY SOMEONE INSIDE WE WON'T NAME,
WOULD BE CHARRED EXTRA CRISPY IF THIS CERTAIN DINER
JUST HAPPENED TO BURST INTO FLAMES!

SAL:

WAIT!
HOLD THE PHONE!
THERE'S A MISUNDERSTANDING
AND I AM DEMANDING YOUR EXIT.
GET OUTTA MY FACE!
LEAVE!
ME ALONE!
THERE'S A TIME FOR REPAYING THE GAMES I'VE BEEN PLAYING,
BUT NOW'S NOT THE TIME OR THE PLACE.

I WON'T SHARE MY BED
WITH A SEVERED HORSE HEAD,
WON'T SIT WITH MY BACK TO THE DOOR,
OR BATHE BY MYSELF ANYMORE.
OH WHY DID I CHEAT THE MAFIA?
DON'T WANT TO MEET JIMMY "HOFFIA"!
THIS WHOLE FUNNY BUSINESS IS NOT VERY FUNNY,
NOT FUNNY AT ALL ANYMORE!

FRANKIE:

STOP!
SAVE YER BREATH!
NOW THAT SOUNDS MISLEADING
SINCE YOU WON'T BE NEEDING YOUR BREATH ANYMORE AFTER ALL.

GUIDO:

TIME!
FOR YOUR DEATH!
IT'S TIME FOR REPAYING
THE GAMES YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING
(NOW PLEASE WON'T YOU STEP IN THE HALL.)

SAL:

LOOK, I GOT LOTS A MONEY, SO LET'S MAKE A DEAL.

FRANKIE:

DOUBLE CROSS THE NEW BOSS?

GUIDO:

C'MON PAL,

FRANKIE and GUIDO:

GET REAL!
WE'RE TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS,
TAKIN' CARE OF YOU.
IF BUSINESS AIN'T "COMPLETED"
THEN WE'RE GONNERS TOO!

GUIDO and FRANKIE both draw their guns. SAL is standing between them as they both aim the pistols at his head. SAL gasps, cries out and dies of a heart attack. The thugs look at each other and then the audience.

FRANKIE and GUIDO:

IT'S FUNNY... THIS FUNNY BUSINESS...

FRANKIE:

SOMETIMES GREEDY OLD GUYS
JUST DROP TO THE FLOOR.

GUIDO:

AND SOMETIMES THEIR OLD TICKERS
DON'T TICK ANYMORE.

FRANKIE and GUIDO:

AND CERTAINLY, SOME DAYS WITH MURDER GALORE,

FRANKIE:

THIS WHOLE FUNNY BUSINESS,

GUIDO:

THIS FUNNY FUN BUSINESS,

FRANKIE and GUIDO:

JUST ISN'T MUCH FUN ANYMORE.

Blackout.

ACT ONE, SCENE 6

THE WILL

AT RISE: *Lights up on the diner. JAN, DANNY and PATTY are dressed in black. PATTY'S outfit is more like a sexy cocktail dress.*

JAN: He was just a nice man.

PATTY: He was a stingy old coot who never gave a dime to anyone.

JAN and DANNY are shocked by her lack of sensitivity.

PATTY: But... he was a good gambler. And he could cuss like nobody's business.

DANNY: I know he sometimes put me down... well, he always put me down. And there were those few occasions where he threw pots at me, but I always thought of Sal Spumoni as the father I never had.

LAWYER enters. She's wearing a neck-brace and carrying a very beat-up briefcase.

LAWYER: Is there a Mr. O'Riley here?

DANNY: I'm Dan O'Riley. Can I help you?

LAWYER: Yes. Mr. O'Riley... I'm Bonita Butcherelli of Butcherelli, Markowitz and Clementine. I represent a Mr. Sal Spumoni.

DANNY: Oh, I'm so sorry. He passed away.

LAWYER: Exactly why I am here. I also need to find a Miss Sokowski and a Miss Ramone.

JAN: I'm Jan Sokowski.

LAWYER: Charmed.

PATTY: I'm Ramone. What's the deal?

LAWYER: The deal... Miss Ramone... *(Pulls the neck-brace off.)* ...that's better... I had a case earlier today.

DANNY: Did someone run into you?

LAWYER: Actually, I ran into them, but I sued first... and let me tell you, my friend, that is half the battle.

PATTY: Before you have to chase another ambulance, could you tell us why you're here?

LAWYER: The will.

PATTY, JAN and DANNY: The will?!

LAWYER: The will. The Last Will and Testament of a one Mr. Salvatore Napoleon Spumoni.

LAWYER pulls out a will and begins to read. Behind and above, SAL'S face is illuminated as he speaks the words.

LAWYER: I, Sal Spumoni, being of sound mind and one heck of a body for a man of my age...

SONG #9A: WILL MUSIC**INSTRUMENTAL**

SAL: ...hereby, and forthwith declare the following statements to be true and accurate, showing off my overwhelming generosity and kindheartedness. I would like to bestow to Jan Sokowski the exact sum of monies to allow her to finish night school and be certified as a dentist.

LAWYER: *(Correcting the ghost of SAL.)* Hygienist.

SAL: Yes. Thank you. Hygienist. She was a terrible waitress, but I always enjoyed her warm smile and her sweater puffs. And be it known, that the said aforementioned sweater puffs, were never touched in any way by me... other than by an accidental elbow encounter in the meat locker.

JAN: I just thought he was very clumsy.

SAL: To Patty Ramone, I bequeath my red, convertible Chevy Impala.

PATTY: Nice.

SAL: It was in the back seat of this beautiful car that she convinced me that love was still in the cards for me.

DANNY and JAN: Ooh!

PATTY: He was old. He needed a dream.

SAL: And finally, to Danny O'Riley, who annoyed me every day for three years, who wasted more of my time than any other person on the face of this planet, I leave five hundred thousand dollars from my life insurance policy... and the BurgerTown diner.

PATTY: What?

JAN: Oh my goodness.

DANNY: The diner. Five hundred thousand dollars?

LAWYER: ...Sincerely in death. Sal Spumoni. There it is. If anyone has any questions you can reach me during visiting hours at the State Penitentiary for Women.

JAN: Is that where you work?

LAWYER: No. That's where I live. They got me clean on a witness tampering charge. But, hey, I wear an electronic anklet, and I'm out during the day. If I stray too far, it's a 100 volts and Bam! I'm back in my cell. *(Looks at her watch.)* Whoops! It's almost time for lockdown. Love to stay and chat, but I gotta run. *(Exits quickly.)*

PATTY: (*Exit running after LAWYER.*) Hey, wait. Are you sure Spumoni only left me a car?

SONG #10: WAITING STILL REPRISE

DANNY

JAN: Danny! It's yours. The diner. The Triangle Burger. You can finally try all of your ideas. It's all yours!

JAN hugs DANNY and rushes off. DANNY is left alone onstage.

DANNY:

I GET A CHANCE TO WRITE THE NEXT PIECE OF MY STORY.
THIS TRIANGLE DREAM. WILL IT BRING GRIEF? OR GLORY?
NO MATTER IF I LOSE OR WIN,
AT LEAST TODAY I CAN BEGIN.
I'VE WAITED SO LONG JUST TO LEARN
THAT IF I'D WAIT I'D GET MY TURN
TO TRY, TO TRY!

WAITING STILL,
NO MORE WAITING
NOW FINALLY I'LL KNOW WHY.
I'VE NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO FAIL
ONLY THAT I'D NEVER GET A CHANCE TO TRY.

NO MORE WAITING STILL,
NO MORE!
I'M NOT WAITING STILL,
I'VE GOT MY CHANCE TO FLY!

Blackout.

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO, SCENE 1
THE JINGLE WARS

SONG #11: ENTR'ACTE

INSTRUMENTAL

AT RISE: *Lights up to reveal PIRATE, RICK, ONION GIRL, SPANKY'S GIRL, and SUPERHERO. They are poised to sing in traditional choral formation. The following song occurs downstage in pools of light. The tone of the song should be approached with the seriousness of classical Opera.*

SONG #12: JINGLE WARS UNDERSCORE

INSTURMENTAL

PIRATE: In an effort to feed the ever-growing hunger of the country's consumerism—

SPANKY'S GIRL: —the fast-food industry focuses its efforts not on the quality of its food, but instead on the cleverness of its marketing.

RICK: It is not a battle of the strong over the weak—

ONION GIRL: —but instead a battle of the glitzy over the boring.

SUPERHERO: There is no room for the ordinary.

PIRATE: It is a world dominated by giant boys in overalls—

ONION GIRL: —and little red-haired girls with braids.

RICK: It promises to deliver happiness in meals at a place where Kings and Clowns are equal.

SPANKY'S GIRL: Where fast food giants rule from White Castles in a land of Krystal blue skies.

SUPERHERO: In its blind determination to grab the dollars of the hungry...

RICK: —the industry finds itself embroiled in one of the most catastrophic battles—

PIRATE: —of inane and often tuneless musical works—

ONION GIRL: —designed to capture the minds of a needy nation.

SUPERHERO: This dark phase of history is known simply as...

SPANKY'S GIRL: "The Jingle Wars."

SONG #12A: JINGLE WARS*RICK, ONION GIRL, SPANKY'S GIRL, PIRATE, SUPERHERO***RICK:**

RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK
 A REALLY NEAT TRICK.
 JUST SOME TAKE YER PICK
 RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK!

FREE STICK WITH EV'RY MEAL
 YA GOTTA LOVE THE DEAL.
 JUST COME TAKE YOUR PICK,
 AT RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK!

ONION GIRL:

ONION WORLD,
 WHERE FOLKS GO TO EAT AND CRY.
 ONION WORLD
 SO GOOD YOU WANNA CRY.

RICK: *(Simultaneously with ONION GIRL.)*

RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK,
 A REALLY NEAT TRICK.
 JUST COME TAKE YER PICK
 RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK!

FREE STICK WITH EV...
 FREE STICK...
 RICK'S STICK...
 UH... LUNCH...

ONION GIRL: *(Simultaneously with RICK.)*

TEARS OF HUNGER!
 TEARS OF JOY!
 AT ONION WORLD TODAY!
 ONION WORLD,

ONION WORLD
 WHERE FOLKS GO TO EAT AND CRY,
 SO GOOD YOU WANNA CRY.

RICK: *(Spoken.)* Aw, Stick it!**SPANKY'S GIRL:**

GET IT HOT AND FAST AT SPANKY'S CAFÉ.
 FOOD CAN BE NAUGHTY,
 SO WHAT-DA-YA SAY?

RICK: (*Spoken.*) Stick?

SPANKY'S GIRL:

NAUGHTY'S DELICIOUS
AT SPANKY'S WE'RE VICIOUSLY GOOD,

ONION GIRL:

TEARS OF HUNGER!

SPANKY'S GIRL:

SO WHAT-DA-YA SAY?!

PIRATE, ONION GIRL, RICK, and SPANKY'S GIRL sing simultaneously.

PIRATE: (*Simultaneously.*)

YA HO, YA HO!
YA HO, YA HO!
YA HO, YA HO!

ONION GIRL: (*Simultaneously.*)

EAT AND CRY...
TEARS.
CRY...

RICK: (*Simultaneously.*)

FREE STICK WITH EV'RY MEAL
STICK RICK.

SPANKY'S GIRL: (*Simultaneously.*)

HOT DELICIOUS!
OUR FOOD IS VICIOUSLY GOOD!

PIRATE: (*Spoken.*) You ho!

PIRATE:

PIRATE PIZZA, WHERE KIDS EAT THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD.
PIRATE PIZZA, WHERE PIRATE'S GRUB IS SOLD!

SUPERHERO:

FRY BY NIGHT CHICKEN
MORE GREASE THAN THE REST.

PIRATE:

YA HO!

SUPERHERO:

WE SLIDE BY ON LARD,
THAT'S WHY WE'RE THE BEST!

PIRATE: (*Simultaneously with SUPERHERO.*)

FIND YOUR PIZZA TREASURE,
STUFFING YOU'S OUR PLEASURE!
PIRATE PIZZA, WHERE KIDS EAT THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD.
PIRATE PIZZA, WHERE PIRATE'S GRUB IS SOLD!

SUPERHERO: (*Simultaneously with PIRATE.*)

FRY BY NIGHT 'N, FRY BY NIGHT 'N,
FRY BY NIGHT 'N, FRY BY NIGHT 'N.
TRY A BITE 'N, TRY A BITE 'N,
TRY A BITE 'N, TRY A BITE 'N.
TRY A THIGH, SLIDE ON BY.

SPANKY'S GIRL cracks whip.

RICK:

RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK,

SPANKY'S GIRL: (*Spoken.*) Hot!

RICK:

A REALLY NEAT TRICK.

SPANKY'S GIRL: (*Spoken.*) Ooh!

The following are sung simultaneously:

ONION GIRL:

ONION WORLD,
SO GOOD YOU WANNA CRY.
ONION WORLD,
WHERE FOLKS GO TO EAT AND CRY.
ONION WORLD,
SO GOOD YOU WANNA CRY.
TEARS OF HUNGER,
TRY ONION WORLD TODAY
TEARS OF JOY
AT ONION WORLD TODAY!

RICK:

JUST COME TAKE YOUR PICK,
RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK.

FREE STICK WITH EVE'RY MEAL
YA GOTTA LOVE THE DEAL.
JUST COME HAVE A LICK...
RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK.
MY LUNCH ON A STICK
I'M NOT JUST A HICK!
SO COME TAKE YOUR PICK,
RICK'S LUNCH ON A STICK.

SPANKY'S GIRL:

GET IT HOT AND FAST AT SPANKY'S CAFÉ.
FOOD CAN BE NAUGHTY
SO WHAT-DA-YA SAY?!
NAUGHTY'S DELICIOUS
AT SPANKY'S WE'RE VISCIOS.
FOOD CAN BE NAUGHTY
SO WHAT-DA-YA SAY?!

PIRATE:

YA HO!
PIRATE PIZZA, WHERE PIRATE'S GRUB IS SOLD.
PIRATE PIZZA, WHERE KIDS EAT THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD.
PIRATE PIZZA, WHERE PIRATE'S GRUB IS SOLD!

SUPERHERO:

FRY BY NIGHT 'N, FRY BY NIGHT 'N,
TRY A BITE 'N, TRY A BITE 'N,
FRY BY NIGHT CHICKEN,
MORE GREASE THAN THE REST.
WE SLIDE BY ON LARD,
THAT'S WHY WE'RE THE BEST!

End simultaneous singing. There is a loud boom in the orchestra as the world-dominating BurgerTown jingle begins.

DANNY, JAN, AND PATTY:

BURGERTOWN,

COMPETITORS:

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR...

DANNY, JAN, AND PATTY:

BURGERTOWN,

COMPETITORS:

WHERE YOU ALWAYS EAT MORE.

DANNY, JAN, AND PATTY:

BURGERTOWN,

COMPETITORS:

JUST A LITTLE PLACE WITH

ALL:

TRIANGLE BURGERS, THREE CORNERS OF FUN.

TRIANGLE BURGERS, THREE BITES AND YOU'RE DONE!

BURGERTOWN!

ALL exit when the song has finished.

ACT TWO, SCENE 2*BACK HOME*

AT START: *Lights up on the diner. It looks almost exactly the same. There are a few newer items, but for the most part, the diner is the diner. There are two noticeable differences. 1) The old BurgerTown sign now has a trademark symbol after the logo, and 2) a historical landmark sign sits downstage of the diner. This sign states that "This was the original home of the BurgerTown Restaurant, and the site of the first Triangle Burger." PATTY enters from stage right as JAN enters from stage left. They meet downstage.*

JAN: Patty? Patty Ramone?

PATTY: Well, bless my bleeding gums... If it isn't our own rinse and spit girl.

JAN: I received an invitation.

PATTY: Yes. The diner is being dedicated as a national landmark. A tribute to the all-American dream. We thought you should be here.

JAN: I got here a while ago, but they said you hadn't arrived yet.

PATTY: Yes, well, Mabel, my assistant—

JAN: —I thought her name was Margaret?

PATTY: Margaret... Mabel... She's new. Anyway, she did mention that a woman was wandering around...

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

BURGERTOWN

By Ken Jones, Jamey Strawn, and Christine Jones

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