

# VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL

A MUSICAL IN TWO ACTS

**Book by Eddie McPherson**  
**Music, Lyrics and Orchestration by Allen Koepke**

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**VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL**

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(12 WOMEN\*, 8 MEN, NON-SPEAKING EXTRAS IF DESIRED)*

Mama Hooper .....	Eloise, Margaret's mother. (60 lines)
Papa Hooper .....	Leonard, Margaret's father. (31 lines)
Papa Sludge .....	Harley Wayne, Virgil's father. (26 lines)
Reverend Davis.....	An absent-minded minister. (14 lines)
Bertha Mae .....	Margaret's best friend. (50 lines)
Margaret Hooper.....	A simple country girl engaged to Virgil. (81 lines)
Virgil Sludge.....	Margaret's fiancé. (69 lines)
Ellard .....	Virgil's best friend. (63 lines)
Ms. Delanie.....	A wedding director from the city. (76 lines)
Mama Sludge* .....	Beatrice, Virgil's mother. (30 lines)
Barbie.....	Ms. Delanie's assistant. (33 lines)
Mr. Wright.....	Ms. Delanie's boss. (29 lines)
Moe Moe* (Male or Female).....	Acts as the wedding host/ess. (26 lines)
Grandma* .....	Virgil's grandmother. (20 lines)
Mr. Perky .....	Margaret's great grandfather. (13 lines)
Tiny.....	Margaret's cousin. (3 lines)
Aunt Polly.....	Lester's deaf wife. (1 line)
Uncle Lester.....	A deaf relative. (2 lines)
Curly Sue .....	Moe Moe's sister. (2 lines)
Larry Sue.....	Moe Moe's other sister. (5 lines)
Extras (Optional) .....	Additional wedding guests.

*\*Mama Sludge and Grandma can be played by the same actor. This adds to the fun of the play. If doubling, see PRODUCTION NOTES. Also, with a few line changes, Moe Moe can be played by a man (optional lines notes in script).*

## VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL

### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE, SCENE 1:	The church.
ACT ONE, SCENE 2:	Margaret's dressing room.
ACT ONE, SCENE 3:	The church.
ACT ONE, SCENE 4:	The forest.
ACT TWO:	The church.

### PRODUCTION NOTES

This play is written to be simply staged in the following ways:

#### ACT ONE, SCENE 1

The church. Reverend Davis is down stage center with his back to the audience. On his left (stage right), as he faces the "congregation," is the groom's family and friends including Mama and Papa Sludge, Grandma, Uncle Lester, Aunt Polly, and Ellard. On the Reverend's right (stage left), is the bride's family and friends including Mama and Papa Hooper, Tiny, Moe Moe, Curly Sue, and Mr. Perky. Almost off stage (right or left), are Ms. Delanie, Barbie and Mr. Wright. Everyone eventually sings alone except for Mr. Perky.

#### ACT ONE, SCENE 2

Margaret's dressing room. This scene is played in front of the permanent set. A card table is moved down stage center for Margaret's dressing table. An oval mirror on a stand and/or a floor lamp may be brought in for background. When the characters look into the dressing table's mirror, they're actually looking out over the audience.

#### ACT ONE, SCENE 3

The church need be no more than a small platform up center with a lectern sitting on it where Reverend Davis will perform the ceremony. Chairs sit around the stage or playing area. A cardboard cutout of a stained glass window may hang right behind the lectern to set a nice chapel mood. There needs to be a place up right for a few characters to disappear to. This area acts as the back room of the chapel. All other entrances and exits are from stage left. A couple of simple, yet elegant flowers or ferns need to be brought in for the wedding as well as a couple of candle stands if possible. The audience can fill in the rest with their imagination.

#### ACT ONE, SCENE 4

The forest. A refrigerator box turned on its side makes a perfect **lizard trap**. It may be covered with brown burlap or a camouflage covering or painted. An artificial undecorated Christmas tree may sit to the side but is optional. If available, use cricket or bird sound effects in the background.

## **ACT TWO**

For the wedding ceremony, have the guests sitting on each side of the stage facing toward the audience. Bertha Mae stands on the lectern beside Reverend Davis facing Margaret and Ellard stands on the other side of the Reverend in the same fashion. Virgil and Margaret face Reverend Davis but turn toward the audience when they exchange their vows.

### **MARGARET'S WEDDING DRESS**

Margaret's wedding dress. The wedding dress she actually wears in the wedding isn't the ugly one Mama brings out of the box earlier. Barbie has found a different dress for her. This doesn't have to be a real wedding dress. It can be a simple white dress that fits Margaret nicely. A small veil may or may not be worn. Margaret needs to really be beautiful for her wedding. Her make-up is flawless and her hair is exquisite.

### **DUMMY OPTION**

If you decide to use the dummy option, the actress who plays Mama Sludge returns as Virgil's grandmother, the wedding guest. The dummy hangs on a stand in the back of the chapel wearing an ugly dress and a large rimmed hat. The dummy portrays Mama Sludge who is mad and sulking. This adds to the fun especially when Grandma is talking to her "daughter" and Papa dances with it during the finale. If you choose to use two actors, the dummy isn't used. Either way will work.

### **PROPS**

Sling (Papa)  
Empty shoebox (Ellard)  
Small tape or CD player, broom (Margaret)  
A bottle of mouth freshener (Grandma)  
Little black notebook (Mr. Wright)  
Ugly plastic flowers (Mama Hooper)  
Wild, very curly wig (Margaret)  
Purse (Mama Hooper)  
Clipboard (Ms. Delanie)  
Boa (Tiny/Optional)  
Small ugly lawn decoration (Mama)  
Shoebox with stick inside it (Ellard)  
Box of decorations (Papa)  
Various bandages (Papa Sludge)  
Another box of Christmas decorations including garland and a string of Christmas lights (Virgil)  
Two large funnels (Polly/Lester)  
Shoebox with stick inside (Ellard)  
Large piece of tape (Curly Sue)  
Piece of Christmas garland (Ms. Delanie)

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A dress box with an ugly dress inside (Mama)  
Registration Book/pen (Moe Moe)  
Box of matches (Papa Hooper)  
Bouquet of flowers (Margaret)  
Various pages of notes (Reverend Davis)  
Sheet of paper (Virgil)  
Mops – 2 (Papa Hooper and Papa Sludge)  
Umbrella (Grandma)  
Walking cane (Mr. Perky)  
Tissue (Mama Hooper)  
Diploma of promotion (Mr. Wright)  
Large lizard box (Ellard)  
Suitcase (Virgil)  
Garter (Virgil)

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**MUSICAL NUMBERS**

**ACT ONE**

SONG #1	<b>GETTIN' HITCHED</b> .....(Length of song) 2:10 ENTIRE CAST EXCEPT MARGARET, VIRGIL, AND BERTHA MAE
SONG #2	<b>JUST IMAGINE</b> ..... 3:10 MARGARET AND BERTHA MAE
SONG #3	<b>JUST IMAGINE (REPRISE)</b> ..... 0:35 MARGARET
SONG #4	<b>JUST IMAGINE (SCENE CHANGE COVER)</b> ..... 0:20
SONG #5	<b>TOGETHER, AS A TEAM!</b> ..... 2:45 MAMA AND PAPA SLUDGE, MAMA AND PAPA HOOPER, MS. DELANIE, BARBIE, AND MARGARET
SONG #6	<b>MY LOVELY CURLY TOP</b> ..... 1:20 VIRGIL, MARGARET, ELLARD, MS. DELANIE, BARBIE, MAMA HOOPER, MAMA SLUDGE
SONG #7	<b>A WEDDING WE ANTICIPATE</b> ..... 2:40 MARGARET, MR. WRIGHT, BERTHA MAE, MS. DELANIE, AND BARBIE
SONG #8	<b>A WEDDING WE ANTICIPATE (SCENE CHANGE COVER)</b> ..... 0:25
SONG #9	<b>PUPPY LOVE</b> ..... 3:45 VIRGIL AND ELLARD
SONG #10	<b>PUPPY LOVE (INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE)</b> ..... 1:20
SONG #11	<b>NOBODY KNOWS</b> ..... 0:15 VIRGIL

**ACT TWO**

SONG #12	<b>ENTR'ACTE</b> ..... 4:10
SONG #13	<b>BLESS HER HEART</b> ..... 2:10 ENTIRE CAST EXCEPT MS. DELANIE, PAPA SLUDGE, AND MOE MOE
SONG #14	<b>THAT YUMMY TINGLY ITCH</b> ..... 3:00 GRANDMA AND MR. PERKY
SONG #15	<b>WHERE'S VIRGIL AT?</b> ..... 1:15 ENTIRE CAST EXCEPT VIRGIL AND MARGARET
SONG #16:	<b>PUPPY LOVE (INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE)</b> ..... 1:20
SONG #17	<b>HERE COMES THE BRIDE</b> ..... 0:35 TINY AND CONGREGATION
SONG #18	<b>WEDDING VOWS</b> ..... 2:50 VIRGIL AND MARGARET
SONG #19	<b>WEDDING VOWS (REPRISE/INCIDENTAL MUSIC)</b> ..... 1:00
SONG #20	<b>GETTIN' HITCHED (REPRISE)</b> ..... 3:00 ENTIRE CAST
SONG #21	<b>BOW MUSIC</b> ..... 3:00
SONG #22	<b>EXIT MUSIC</b> ..... 3:15

## A WORD ABOUT CHARACTERIZATION

Lickskillit is a very small rural community in the middle of nowhere USA. The people who live there are simple country people. You are welcome (and encouraged) to use southern dialect; however, the intent is to contrast city and country. Though their qualities are exaggerated, they still need to be played somewhat down to earth and not so much like a melodrama (except maybe when Margaret is telling Mr. Wright that she can't marry him). Ms. Delanie may choose to use a southern belle dialect (i.e. Scarlet O'Hara) or no southern accent at all. The country folk need to dress tacky and silly, especially for the wedding. This should be in sharp contrast to the sophisticated attire of Ms. Delanie, Barbie and Mr. Wright. The Reverend may want to wear a black robe or a nice suit.

### ... AND FINALLY

This is a musical comedy. The action should move very quickly to be effective. Slow moments and long blackouts between scenes will be annoying and distracting. Keep it moving and have fun!

***Country meets city with hilarious results in these classic comedic adventures by Eddie McPherson:***

- *Virgil's Wedding: The Musical*
- *Virgil's Wedding—Full Length*
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- *Virgil's Family Reunion*
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- *Virgil's Christmas Catch*

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**—Allen Koepke**

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ACT ONE, SCENE 1

**SETTING:**

The church. Reverend Davis is down stage center with his back to the audience. On his left (stage right), as he faces the "congregation," is the groom's family and friends including Mama and Papa Sludge, Grandma, Uncle Lester, Aunt Polly, and Ellard. On the Reverend's right (stage left), is the bride's family and friends including Mama and Papa Hooper, Tiny, Moe Moe, Curly Sue, and Mr. Perky. Almost off stage (right or left), are Ms. Delanie, Barbie and Mr. Wright. Everyone eventually sings alone except for Mr. Perky.

**AT RISE:**

It's the wedding day and the entire cast except MARGARET, VIRGIL and BERTHA MAE are on stage. Excitement is in the air!

**SONG #1: GETTIN' HITCHED**

**(ENTIRE CAST, EXCEPT MARGARET, VIRGIL, AND BERTHA MAE)**

Orchestra begins the song, the following dialogue is heard during Measures 6 through 13 and through Measures 4 and 5 on the repeat.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(With enthusiasm.)* I can't believe the day has finally arrived that our little girl is gettin' married! I'm jes' all teary-eyed.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Ah, now, pumpkin, you promised you wasn't goin' to start blubberin' today.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Yeah, at least wait until the ceremony starts.

**MAMA HOOPER:** I think it's past time to get started.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Ever'body jes' hush up and get this show on the road!

*(ALL applaud and celebrate.)*

**ALL:**

RIGHT HERE IN LICKSKILLIT, WE'VE COME TO GATHER 'ROUND;  
A WEDDIN'S GONNA HAPPEN, EVER'BODY GOT SPELLBOUND.

MARG'RET AND OL' VIRGIL- THEY'RE BOTH A BIT BEWITCHED;

AND WHEN THEY SAY THEM WORDS, "I DO," BY CRACKY, THEY'LL BE HITCHED!

**REFRAIN**

**ALL:**

GETTIN' HITCHED, (BRIDE'S SIDE), SHE FIN'LY GOT'ER MAN!

GETTIN' HITCHED, (GROOM'S SIDE) SHE'LL BE ONE OF OUR CLAN.

**MS. DELANIE:**

THE QUESTION IS, "WHERE'S VIRGIL?"

**BARBIE:**

WE'RE READY TO BEGIN.



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**MR. WRIGHT:**

IF HE DON'T SHOW I'LL HAVE TO MARRY HER AND BE HER KIN!

**MAMA HOOPER, GRANDMA & AUNT POLLY:**

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS DAY IS HERE, I THINK I'M GONNA CRY.

**PAPA HOOPER:**

MY INSTINCT SAYS OL' VIRGIL'S SPLIT, THE BOY JES' GOT GUN-SHY.

**ELLARD:**

WE WAS TOGETHER YESTERDAY TO SET MY LIZARD TRAP.

**TINY:**

THE DAY BEFORE HIS WEDDIN'? THAT BOY'S A LOONY SAPI!

**MAMA SLUDGE (TO TINY):**

NOW WATCH YOUR MOUTH OR SOON YOU'LL FIND YOUR LIP WILL NEED SOME STITCHIN'.

**PAPA SLUDGE:**

MY BOY CAN WED SOMEBODY ELSE, TODAY HE WON'T BE HITCHIN'.

**MR. PERKY (TO THE GROOM'S SIDE):**

NOW JES' HUSH-UP AN' SETTLE DOWN-YOU MISBEHAVIN' GROUP!

**UNCLE LESTER:**

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, OL' VIRGIL JES' GOT SCARED AND FLEW THE COOP?

**REFRAIN**

**ALL:**

HE FLEW THE COOP, ETC.

(THEY CONTINUE REPEATING THIS AS THE OTHERS SING THEIR LINES)

**GROOM'S SIDE:**

THEY WON'T BE HITCHED, WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

**BRIDE'S SIDE:**

THEY WON'T BE HITCHED, THAT POINT IS VERY CLEAR!

**MOE MOE, CURLY SUE & LARRY SUE:**

WE JES' DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY OUR BEST FRIEND JES' GOT DITCHED.

**REVEREND DAVIS (TURNS AND FACES THE AUDIENCE):**

I CAME HERE FOR A FUNERAL BUT SOMEHOW THIS ALL GOT SWITCHED!

**REVEREND DAVIS:** *(Moving center stage.)* Stop the music! Hold on, everyone, what's this all about? What do you mean the groom's not showing up?

**MAMA HOOPER:** It's a long story, Reverend Davis. It all started two days ago when Bertha Mae was helping Margaret with last minute wedding preparations. *(The lights go out or the curtain closes as MAMA HOOPER continues to speak. ALL exit as the DRESSING ROOM SCENE is brought out.)* My Margaret was all nervous about the weddin' and ever'thing and Bertha Mae had come over to our house to help calm her

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nerves. Margaret had been practicin' puttin' her makeup on all mornin' when she called and asked Bertha Mae to come over - -

**ACT ONE, SCENE 2**

*Margaret's dressing room. There is a chest of drawers stage left. This doubles as the preacher's pulpit later. [Check PRODUCTION NOTES.] A table acts as a dresser, which sits down stage center. It has hairbrushes and other odds and ends spread out over it. The "mirror" is invisible. The people who look into it actually are looking out to the audience. MARGARET enters followed closely by BERTHA MAE, her best friend. MARGARET wears a housecoat, big fluffy house shoes and some type of beauty mask on her face. She has curlers in her hair covered by a hair net.*

**BERTHA MAE:** What's the matter, Margaret? What did you want to show me?

**MARGARET:** *(Sitting down at the dresser and looking into the mirror.)* There, Bertha Mae. Right there. Ain't it awful?

**BERTHA MAE:** *(Looking at MARGARET in the mirror.)* Ain't what awful? All I see is your reflection.

**MARGARET:** Exactly. I was practicing my make up this morning and all of a sudden it dawned on me. *(Pointing to her "reflection" in the "mirror.")* Why would Virgil want to marry somethin' that looked like that?

**BERTHA MAE:** Oh, Margaret, you just have cold feet is all. You know Virgil loves you regardless of what you look like.

**MARGARET:** Thanks a lot.

**BERTHA MAE:** What I mean is, Virgil's no Prince Charmin' hisself so he can't be all that choosy.

**MARGARET:** *(Putting her head down.)* Ohhhhhhhhhh.

**BERTHA MAE:** Look at me, I'm tryin' to make you feel better, but I don't know how to do it.

**MARGARET:** That's okay, Bertha Mae. You're right. I'm just nervous I guess. But lately all these doubts have been comin' into my head.

**BERTHA MAE:** Doubts about what?

**MARGARET:** Doubts about Virgil's love for me. Can I make him happy? When we wake up in the mornin's and he sees this, will he be sorry he married me at all?

**BERTHA MAE:** You've got a point there.

**MARGARET:** What?

**BERTHA MAE:** What I mean - -

**MARGARET:** Bless your heart, Bertha Mae; that's what I love about you: Your primitive honesty.

**BERTHA MAE:** Virgil's my brother and I know for a fact he loves you, Margaret. He talks about you all the time at home.

**MARGARET:** *(Stands.)* He does? What does he say?

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**BERTHA MAE:** He talks about what a good fisherman you are; how you make him laugh when you do your beaver impressions and how that there ain't nobody who can milk a cow with the poise and confidence that you have.

**MARGARET:** Milk a cow? No, I mean have you ever heard him say lately that I was beautiful, or pretty or even mildly attractive?

**BERTHA MAE:** Well -

**MARGARET:** That's what I thought. (*Looking back into the mirror.*) I'm just plain ugly and Virgil's going to realize it before he says I do and he'll call the whole thing off.

**BERTHA MAE:** That's silly talk, Margaret.

**MARGARET:** Maybe I should have waited for Mr. Right.

**BERTHA MAE:** Who's Mr. Right?

**MARGARET:** My mama always told me that when Mr. Right came along I should hang on to him and marry him because he will be the man I was meant to marry. But I never met a Mr. Right. (*Music begins.*) Virgil came along and I fell for him so I knew he was the man for me.

**SONG #2: JUST IMAGINE  
(MARGARET AND BERTHA MAE)**

**MARGARET:**

MAMA ALWAYS TOLD ME MR. RIGHT WOULD COME ALONG.  
HE'D HOLD ME CLOSE AND THEN I'D KNOW THAT'S WHERE I BELONG.  
SHE SAID THAT IF I LISTEN TO MY HEART THAT I'D BE STRONG;  
AND MR. RIGHT WOULD HOLD ME TIGHT, AND NOTHIN' WOULD GO WRONG.

**BERTHA MAE:**

I KNOW JUST WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'. I FEEL THE SAME WAY TOO.  
I'D LIKE TO MEET PRINCE CHARMING - TO FIND OUT IF IT'S TRUE  
THAT SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL CAN MAKE MY WHOLE WORLD NEW;  
SOMEONE WHO WILL TOUCH MY SOUL AND SAY, "I LOVE YOU."

**BOTH:**

JUST IMAGINE HOW GREAT IT WOULD BE;  
ALWAYS SINGING LOVE SONGS IN TWO-PART HARMONY.  
A WINK, A GRIN, MAKING MY HEAD SPIN;  
JUST IMAGINE, JUST IMAGINE.

**MARGARET:**

I KNOW THAT I'M JUST DREAMING, BUT FANTASY IS FUN.  
PRETENDING CAN BE CRUEL WHEN HOPING FOR SOMEONE  
WHO'S JUST LIKE YOUR PRINCE CHARMING  
OR JUST LIKE MR. RIGHT.  
MARCHING DOWN THE WEDDING AISLE WOULD BE THE GRANDEST SIGHT.

**REFRAIN**

**BOTH:**

JUST IMAGINE HOW GREAT IT WOULD BE;  
SHOWIN' OFF OUR MEN FOLK FOR ALL THE TOWN TO SEE.  
WE'D TWIRL, WE'D SPIN, PARADING OUR NEW KIN.  
JUST IMAGINE, JUST IMAGINE.

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**MARGARET:** All the make believe in the world can't make Virgil love me.  
(*She plops back down and buries her face in her arms.*)

**BERTHA MAE:** Speakin' of Virgil, he said him and Ellard was gonna stop by on their way to check Ellard's lizard trap.

**MARGARET:** What? Virgil's comin' here? Bertha Mae, why didn't you tell me?

**BERTHA MAE:** I just did.

**MARGARET:** I can't let Virgil see me lookin' like this. He'll stop lovin' me for sure. Here, help me get these curlers out of my hair.

**VIRGIL:** (*Off stage.*) Margaret? Where are you, you little love dove you?

**MARGARET:** They're here? Bertha Mae, I will never forgive you for this!

**BERTHA MAE:** Here, I'll get this one. (*She pulls a curler.*)

**MARGARET:** Ohhhhhhhhh!

**VIRGIL:** (*His voice a little closer.*) Margaret, you in there?!

**MARGARET:** (*Without thinking.*) No!

**BERTHA MAE:** (*To MARGARET.*) Shhhhhhh! (*Then to VIRGIL who is still off stage.*) She means, YES!

*VIRGIL and ELLARD enter.*

**VIRGIL:** Hey Bertha Mae. (*Sees MARGARET, but doesn't recognize her.*) Hello. (*Turns to BERTHA MAE.*) Bertha Mae have you seen Margaret?

**BERTHA MAE:** Huh?

**VIRGIL:** I was gonna see if she wanted to go over to the holler with us.

**ELLARD:** You can go with us, Bertha Mae. (*Holding up a shoe box.*) I'm gonna catch myself a red-tailed lizard to put in this here box.

**BERTHA MAE:** (*Turning to MARGARET.*) Why, she's right - - (*MARGARET stomps her foot.*) Iyyyyyyyyyyyy.

**VIRGIL:** She's right where?

**BERTHA MAE:** (*Looking at MARGARET and getting her cue from her.*) She's - -right - - on the other side of town picking up some things for the weddin'.

**VIRGIL:** That's what I love about my Margaret. Always on top of things when something needs to be done. (*Turns to MARGARET.*) Bertha Mae, aren't you going to introduce me to your friend?

**BERTHA MAE:** Well, this here is Mar - go, Margo. She's a friend of mine who has come in for the weddin'.

**VIRGIL:** Nice to meet you, Margo. I'm Virgil, the groom to be and this here is Ellard, my best man. (*MARGARET doesn't say anything.*) Oh, I see. Shy huh? I can understand that.

**ELLARD:** Yeah, most homely lookin' people are shy.

**BERTHA MAE:** Ellard! (*MARGARET runs out crying.*) Ellard, that was a terrible thing to say!

**ELLARD:** I'm sorry, I didn't mean to hurt her feelin's. It just slipped out. (*VIRGIL and ELLARD begin to snicker.*)

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**BERTHA MAE:** Your brains must have slipped out for saying such a cruel thing to a girl.

**VIRGIL:** Your friend can't help it 'cause she's ugly, bless her heart. The guy that ever marries her sure will be a loser. (*VIRGIL and ELLARD laugh bigger.*)

**BERTHA MAE:** I'm ashamed that you are even my brother!

**VIRGIL:** I'm sorry, but it's just that your friend there needs to go back to the haunted house before the sun comes up. (*ELLARD and VIRGIL fall on each other's shoulders with laughter. BERTHA MAE puts her hands on her hips with contempt.*)

**BERTHA MAE:** Stop that silly immature behavior right now! She's goin' to the beautician tomorrow.

**ELLARD:** Beautician? She needs a mechanic. (*The boys laugh more.*)

**BERTHA MAE:** Stop it! Both of you! (*They try to straighten up, but now they've got the giggles.*) Virgil, it's hard to believe you are gettin' married this weekend the way you're behavin'! (*Running after MARGARET.*) Margaret? Where did you go? Margaret? (*She exits.*)

**ELLARD:** (*Still laughing.*) Guess we are pretty mean, Virgil. Callin' that girl ugly and everything.

**VIRGIL:** (*Also laughing.*) I know, Ellard. I guess it's just my nerves actin' up before the big weddin' and all. (*They stand there grinning, looking out to the audience. VIRGIL holds his grin as he says his next line.*) Ellard?

**ELLARD:** Yeah, Virgil?

**VIRGIL:** What did Bertha Mae call that girl as she ran out just now?

**ELLARD:** (*Still laughing a little.*) Sounded like 'Margaret'.

**VIRGIL:** (*Holding his grin as it slowly sinks in.*) You don't suppose that could have been my Margaret standin' here just now?

**ELLARD:** I don't know, but if it is you'd better be runnin' for the hills come this weekend. (*ELLARD laughs but VIRGIL doesn't this time. Suddenly BERTHA MAE enters pulling MARGARET in behind her.*)

**BERTHA MAE:** Come on now. You might as well face the music right now than later.

**VIRGIL:** (*Quickly crossing to her.*) Uh, hello there Margaret. You sure are lookin' awful-

**MARGARET:** That's a terrible thing to say to your fiancée right before you marry her!

**VIRGIL:** You didn't let me finish, Margaret, I was just sayin' you sure look awful nice today.

**BERTHA MAE:** Awful and nice don't even belong in the same sentence.

**ELLARD:** Margaret, I'm sorry I called you homely. If I knew it was you I would have kept that little remark to myself.

**MARGARET:** But you still would have thought it.

**ELLARD:** Well, yeah.

**BERTHA MAE:** You're not helpin' matters, Ellard.

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**MARGARET:** That's okay, Bertha Mae. At least the truth is out no matter how it hurts. I'm homely and ugly and Virgil if you marry me, you're goin' to have to see this every mornin' for the rest of your life!

**BERTHA MAE:** Margaret, you're talkin' crazy. *(To VIRGIL.)* Virgil, tell her she's talkin' crazy.

**VIRGIL:** *(Trying his best to help.)* You're crazy Margaret.

**MARGARET:** *(Starts to cry and sits down in front of the mirror of her dresser.)* Now, I'm ugly and crazy!

**ELLARD:** Ugly and crazy. Gosh, Virgil you sure you want to marry her?

**BERTHA MAE:** Ellard, get on out of here before you mess up the whole weddin'!

**ELLARD:** I didn't do nothin'! Give me my shoe box. I'm gonna catch me a lizard! *(She throws him out and crosses over to VIRGIL and pulls him away from MARGARET.)*

**BERTHA MAE:** Virgil, Margaret is just gettin' all nervous about the weddin'. She thinks you might not really love her. You need to talk to her and reassure her of your commitment. I'll be right back. *(She exits.)*

**VIRGIL:** *(Crossing to MARGARET.)* Now, Margaret, I know you've been nervous and all for these last few days and just to be honest with you, so have I. Those butterflies I've had flyin' around in my stomach have turned into buzzards. Big buzzards. Big, ugly buzzards just flappin' around in there. But don't think for one minute I don't love you 'cause that is crazy.

**MARGARET:** *(Stands and hugs him.)* Oh, Virgil. Thank you for sayin' that. You must think I'm just the silliest thing.

**VIRGIL:** Well -- *(Then looks at her and realizes he can't say anything negative.)* nooooooooooooo. Now, uh you keep on doin' what, uh you've been doin' there with your face -- and hair and, uh I'll see you later on over at the chapel.

**MARGARET:** Okay, Virgil. *(VIRGIL begins to leave.)* Oh, Virgil? *(He turns.)* Are you sure your last name's not Right?

**VIRGIL:** No, it's Sludge, why?

**MARGARET:** Ah, nothin'. See you tomorrow, Virgil.

**VIRGIL:** Bye.

**ELLARD:** *(Reentering.)* Virgil, are we goin'?

**VIRGIL:** I'm comin'! *(BERTHA MAE enters and MARGARET sits back down looking into the mirror.)*

**ELLARD:** Gosh, ugly and crazy!

**VIRGIL:** Shut up, Ellard! *(VIRGIL pulls ELLARD out.)*

**BERTHA MAE:** *(Crosses to MARGARET.)* Well? Are you feelin' better?

**MARGARET:** He was so sweet Bertha Mae. He told me I was beautiful, and that he truly does love me.

**BERTHA MAE:** Then everything's okay.

**MARGARET:** Do you think he really meant it? Maybe he was just sayin' it because he felt sorry for me.

**BERTHA MAE:** You're drivin' me coo-coo. Now, I'm goin' with the boys and if you knew what was good for you, you would go too and give your mind a rest.

**MARGARET:** No, I need some time alone, Bertha Mae.

**BERTHA MAE:** Okay, suit yourself. Just stay here and throw your little pity party. See you in a bit. (*BERTHA MAE exits.*)

### **SONG #3: JUST IMAGINE (REPRISE) (MARGARET)**

**MARGARET:**

JUST IMAGINE HOW GREAT IT WILL BE;  
MR. RIGHT WILL HOLD ME, MY LIFE WILL BE CAREFREE.  
A TOUCH, A KISS, LIFE WILL BE SUCH BLISS;  
JUST IMAGINE, JUST IMA -- (*SHE LOOKS IN THE MIRROR AS HER "DREAM" IS SHATTERED*)

*MARGARET looks into the mirror another second then stands as a reprise of "Just Imagine" plays. MARGARET crosses and grabs a broom that's leaning against the wall. She pretends it's her Prince as she dances around the room. She passes at the mirror, stops and bends down to look into it. She touches her face as she sits again.*

**MARGARET:** Ugly and crazy? (*She begins crying – then BLACKOUT.*)

### **SONG #4: JUST IMAGINE (SCENE CHANGE COVER MUSIC)**

## **ACT ONE, SCENE 2**

*It's the chapel. The chest of drawers in MARGARET'S room is transformed into the pulpit that REVEREND DAVIS stands behind. The table is taken off and about ten chairs are brought in and set up. [Check the PRODUCTION NOTES for set up options.] MAMA HOOPER comes rushing in carrying some rather ugly plastic flowers. She's yelling back to her husband who hasn't entered yet.*

**MAMA HOOPER:** Get a move on, now. All the family will be porin' in here later on and we need to have all this work done. (*She looks for a place to set the flowers. She rushes over to the pulpit and places them at its base. She looks off stage again.*) Are you bringin' those flowers in? Move it!

**PAPA HOOPER:** (*He enters stooped over as far as he can carrying some more ugly flowers.*) I'm movin' as fast as I can. My back just went out on me again.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Not your back again of all days. What happened? (*She takes the flowers from him.*)

**PAPA HOOPER:** I was just gettin' out of the car and somethin' clicked in there. Ohhhhh, the pain!

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**MAMA HOOPER:** Bless your heart, I told you to eat more bananas. Your bones are weak.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Ah, now dumplin, don't scold me. The pain is killin' me.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Taking off her shoes.)* All right, get down on the floor.

You know we've got lots of work to do don't you? *(She continues to talk as PAPA HOOPER lies face down on the floor center stage as she steps up on his back.)* Our little girl gettin' married tomorrow and all and now here you are with a bad back again. I told you to eat more bananas. Potassium, that's what your body needs.

**PAPA HOOPER:** A little higher Mama.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Begins to "hula" and "surf" as she continues on his back.)* I can't believe our Margaret is walkin' down the aisle this weekend. It seems like just yesterday she was a little baby in my arms, lookin' up at me through those little thick rimmed glasses and blowin' those bubbles with her little mouth.

**PAPA HOOPER:** It was gas.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(They've had this conversation before.)* It was not gas!

**PAPA HOOPER:** That girl had enough gas when she was a baby to drive a Greyhound Bus to New York City.

**MAMA HOOPER:** It wasn't gas. She was gurglin' tryin' to form her first words, 'I love you mama'.

**PAPA HOOPER:** A little lower. That's it.

**MAMA HOOPER:** I always told Margaret not to rush love and to wait for Mr. Right to come along and I think she's found him. Virgil's a fine boy.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Little to the left.

**MAMA HOOPER:** That's enough. *(Stepping off.)* Now, get up. There's work to be done. *(She bends down and helps him stand, but when he does, he's still stooped over.)* Are you feelin' any better?

**PAPA HOOPER:** I think it's worse. Honey, are you puttin' on a little weight?

**MAMA HOOPER:** No and that back pain's not gonna get any better with you sleepin' on the couch.

**PAPA HOOPER:** I don't sleep on the couch.

**MAMA HOOPER:** You will if you keep up those little remarks. *(MARGARET rushes in. Her hair is a complete mess.)*

**MARGARET:** Mama! Mama, look what they did to me!

**MAMA HOOPER:** Honey, what in the world happened to you?

**PAPA HOOPER:** What? What's wrong? What's the matter?

**MARGARET:** I went to get it fixed just now and she put too much curly in my hair. Look at me mama, look at me! *(She falls on her mama's shoulder and starts to cry.)*

**PAPA HOOPER:** *(Trying to stand.)* What did they do to you? What's wrong?



*VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL*

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(To MARGARET.)* There now. Don't cry. We'll fix it tonight.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Fix what? What's the matter?

**MARGARET:** Everything is turning out just terrible, Mama. The day before my weddin' and I look like a worn out paintbrush.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Would you please tell me what you're talkin' about?

**MAMA HOOPER:** Honey, your daddy wants to see it.

**MARGARET:** *(Stoops down so PAPA can see her hair.)* I feel so ugly.

**PAPA HOOPER:** *(Lifting his head to see her hair.)* Good night girl, what have you done to yourself?

**MARGARET:** Daddy, what are you lookin' for?

**PAPA HOOPER:** Relief, baby. Relief.

**MARGARET:** Well, I hope you find it. *(Faces MAMA HOOPER.)* Mama, are you sure we can fix it?

**MAMA HOOPER:** Of course, now stop your fretin'. Help me get these flowers arranged.

**MARGARET:** Has the city lady from Mason's Junction been here yet?

**MAMA HOOPER:** Should be any minute. That's why I was tryin' to get things in order. I don't want her to think we don't have any class. *(Crossing over to the window.)* I think I heard a car drive up. Yep, it's Ms. Delanie *(She starts fluffing her hair.)* How does my hair look?

**MARGARET:** Next to mine it looks wonderful.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Crossing to PAPA HOOPER.)* Dear, can't you try to stand up. These people are classy. We can't let them see you all stooped over like that. *(She tries to help him stand.)*

**PAPA HOOPER:** Ohhhhhh, I can't do it! I'm doomed to be a cripple the rest of my life.

*MS. DELANIE and BARBIE enter. MS. DELANIE carries a clipboard.*

**MS. DELANIE:** Excuse me, I'm looking for the Hooper-Sludge wedding.

**MAMA HOOPER:** This is the place. I'm Mrs. Hooper. *(MS. DELANIE shakes their hands.)* This is Margaret, my daughter and this is my husband. I'm afraid his back has gone out - - *(PAPA HOOPER lifts his head to get a glimpse of the two ladies. When he sees them he stands straight up with no trouble at all. He stands there with his mouth hanging open staring at the two attractive city ladies.)*

**MS. DELANIE:** Hello Mr. Hooper, Margaret. This is my assistant, Barbie Whithers. *(To MARGARET.)* So, you're the auspicious demoiselle who is to stroll down the aisle of marital bliss?

**MARGARET:** No ma'am, I'm the one gettin' married.

**PAPA HOOPER:** *(Has been staring this whole time.)* I think you two ladies are the preetiest thing I've ever laid these eyes on.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Ushering him to the door stage left.)* There are some more flowers out in the car, dear. Why don't you fetch them in like a nice husband. And take your time. *(She pushes him out.)* Us women need

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time to talk about the weddin'. (PAPA HOOPER exits.)

**MS. DELANIE:** (She hands BARBIE the clipboard and rubs her hands together as she looks around.) Now, let's see. Barbie, take notes. Oh, dear, look at all these atrocious flowers.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Thank you, I picked them out myself.

**MS. DELANIE:** You mean, these are for the wedding? Goodness, I can't let my boss - - I mean your guests see something so horrific.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (Entering with PAPA who carries a box of stuff. MAMA carries a rather ugly lawn decoration.) I'm here everybody. Sorry I'm late, we had to drive over on Harley Wayne's four-wheeler. My hair must be a mess.

**MS. DELANIE:** It is rather loathsome.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Well, good, I was afraid it might look bad. Like I always say, a bird of a feather always shows itself at supper time. That reminds me I ran over a opossum over on Highway 40. I'll freeze it and we can have a barbecue over at my house next week. It's a big sucker. Come on out and take a gander at it.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Beatrice, we'll look at it later. I'd like for you to meet Ms. Delanie, the weddin' director and her assistant, Barbie. This is Mr. and Mrs. Sludge, the groom's mama and papa.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** (Has stared at MS. DELANIE ever since he entered.) If you don't mind me sayin' so, you look like somethin' out of *Popular Mechanics* magazine

**MS. DELANIE:** (Flattered.) Oh, go on.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Okay, (Drops his box.) where we goin'?

**MS. DELANIE:** That was just a figure of speech.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** (Looking her up and down.) Speakin' of figure, do you mind me sayin' you - -

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Don't go there Harley Wayne.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Where *are* we goin'?

**MAMA SLUDGE:** You're goin' to the doghouse if you keep up that kind of talk.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** All I said was she looked like a model out of one of them there advertisements.

**MS. DELANIE:** (Enjoying every minute.) Why, thank you Mr. Sludge.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** How come you never told me I look like somethin' out of a magazine?

**PAPA SLUDGE:** I did honey. Just last week.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (Patting her hair, flattered.) I don't remember, tell me again.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Yeah, baby, I was clipin' a coupon from that Alpo ad and I said - -

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (Cutting him off.) Never mind! I remember after all.

**MS. DELANIE:** Oh, Mr. Sludge, you are so funny.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (Sarcastic.) Yeah, he's a laugh a minute.

**MS. DELANIE:** Listen to me every one. There is a lot of work yet to be done if this wedding is going to take place at all. We've got to spruce this place up! We've got to stop this bickering and start working together as a team!

**SONG #5: TOGETHER AS A TEAM  
(MAMA AND PAPA SLUDGE, MAMA AND PAPA HOOPER, MS. DELANIE, BARBIE, MARGARET)**

**ALL EXCEPT MARGARET:**  
TEAM! TEAM! TOGETHER AS A TEAM!  
WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER IF WE WANT TO GET THINGS DONE.

**MS. DELANIE:**  
YOU MEN JUST STEP RIGHT UP HERE, WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN!

**PAPA SLUDGE:**  
"FUN" YOU SAY, WELL NOW YER' TALKIN'!

**PAPA HOOPER:**  
WHEN I HEAR "FUN" MY FEET START WALKIN'!

**BOTH MAMAS:**  
YOU OL' FOOLS JES' STOP YER' GAWKIN'  
"FUN" MEANS "WORK," NOW DON'T START SQUAWKIN'.

**PAPA SLUDGE:**  
"FUN MEANS WORK."

**PAPA HOOPER:**  
SO WORK IS FUN(?)

**BARBIE:**  
SUCH GOOD LOGIC TO GET THINGS DONE!

**PAPA SLUDGE:**  
WE'LL WORK HARD,

**PAPA HOOPER:**  
UNTIL WE DROP!

**MS. DELANIE:**  
"FUN" IS CLEANING, SO FIND A MOP!

**BOTH PAPAS:**  
OH, HOW WE LOVE TO WORK!

**BOTH MAMAS:**  
WE THINK THEY'VE GONE BERSERK!

**BARBIE:**  
"FUN MEANS WORK" WORKS!

**MS. DELANIE:**  
BECAUSE WE'VE FOUND TWO JERKS!

VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL

**BOTH PAPAS:**

HERE WE ARE, A MOPPING WE WILL GO!

**BOTH MAMAS:**

THERE THEY ARE, ACTING ALL "GUNG HO."

**PAPA SLUDGE:**

I'M GETTIN' POOPED, AN' FEELIN' KINDA BAD.

**PAPA HOOPER:**

WE'VE JUST BEEN DUPED, I THINK WE'VE JUST BEEN HAD!

**MARGARET:**

IT JUST ISN'T FAIR WHAT THEY DID TO MY HAIR.  
WEDDING GUESTS WILL STARE, EVEN FRANKENSTEIN I'D SCARE!  
NO ONE WILL LIKE ME, I'LL BE LEFT ALONE;  
WOLFMAN, THAT IS ME! I LOOK LIKE HIS CLONE!

*For the ending, Margaret sings the last verse (immediately above) while the others sing the following, resulting in a series of duets, ending in a trio.*

**MS. DELANIE & BARBIE:**

WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER IF WE WANT TO GET THINGS DONE.  
(WITH) IT JUST ISN'T FAIR WHAT THEY DID TO MY HAIR.

**BOTH PAPAS:**

BUT PUSHING MOPS AROUND THE CHURCH JUST ISN'T ANY FUN.  
(WITH) WEDDING GUESTS WILL STARE, EVEN FRANKENSTEIN I'D SCARE!

**MS. DELANIE & BARBIE:**

BUT AREN'T YOU PROUD, THE FLOOR IS SHINING!  
(WITH) NO ONE WILL LIKE ME.

**BOTH MAMAS:**

AND NOW, QUITE LOUD, YOU MEN ARE WHINING.  
(WITH) I'LL BE LEFT ALONE.

**TRIO**

**ALL WOMEN:**

WORK MEANS FUN, AND FUN MEANS WORK!

**(WITH) BOTH PAPAS:**

WE DON'T THINK THAT "WORK IS FUN."  
NOW HEAR THIS, OUR "FUN" IS DONE!

**(WITH) MARGARET (MAKING THE TRIO):**

WOLFMAN, THAT IS ME! I LOOK LIKE HIS CLONE!

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Harley Wayne, go get them other boxes off the four-wheeler like a good slave - - I mean husband. *(He drops his head and exits. MAMA turns to MS. DELANIE.)* Ms Dillon, I brought this little lawn decoration that sets down by our well house. I thought it would look rather good somewhere close to the altar.

**MS. DELANIE:** But that will look vapid and tawdry.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Glad you agree! *(Looks at MARGARET and crosses to her.)* Margaret, I love that new hat you're wearin'. It sure is amazin' what

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they can do with skunk fur these days. Speakin' of beautiful animals, I've still got to get those plastic flamingos from Gracy's garage. And the flowers' look wonderful, Eloise.

**MS. DELANIE:** Flamingos? Could I see you for a moment Barbie. *(She pulls BARBIE to the side.)* Excuse us please. *(They cross stage left while MAMA SLUDGE joins MAMA HOOPER and MARGARET who are arranging the chapel.)* Where did these people come from?

**BARBIE:** *(Innocently.)* I think they are charming.

**MS. DELANIE:** They're incompetent barbarians who don't know the first thing about social graces. How am I supposed to look good for management with plastic flamingos in the chapel?

**BARBIE:** There is something sweet and innocent about these people don't you think?

**MS. DELANIE:** There's nothing sweet about not getting a promotion.

**BARBIE:** But they are so cute with their way of talking.

**MS. DELANIE:** Barbie, you have to remember that it's a dog-eat-dog world, so you can not become emotionally attached to your clients. We're here to get a job done and that's it.

**BARBIE:** But - -

**MS. DELANIE:** And that is it! Now just keep your eyes open and your mouth closed and watch how I handle the situation.

*They cross back to MAMA SLUDGE.*

**MS. DELANIE:** Excuse me Mrs. Sludge, but I do have a few garnishing proposals I would like to constitute, of course, with your approbation.

*MAMA SLUDGE, MAMA HOOPER and MARGARET stop and stare at MS. DELANIE.*

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Did you just cuss me out?

**BARBIE:** No, Mrs. Sludge, what Ms. Delanie meant was would you mind very much if we made a few decorating suggestions here in the chapel?

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Well, why didn't she say so in the first place bless her heart? *(To MS. DELANIE.)* Ms. Mahogany, make all the suggestions you want as long as I get to use my plastic flamingos.

**MS. DELANIE:** But that's just it, plastic flamingos would be dowdy, seedy and frumpish.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Don't forget classy!

*VIRGIL and ELLARD enter.*

**VIRGIL:** *(Carrying a cardboard box with a few Christmas decorations sticking out the top.)* Hey everybody.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Come on in, Virgil.

VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL

**MAMA HOOPER:** Hello boys, you're just in time to help us decorate.

**VIRGIL:** *(Crossing center stage setting the box on the floor or in a chair.)*

That's why we're here. Mama, these are the decorations you wanted me to get out of the basement.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** *(Pulling red and green garland out of the box.)* This garland is going to look so good wrapped around the porch banisters outside.

**VIRGIL:** I couldn't find the lava lamp, so Ellard said we could use the one in his room.

**MAMA HOOPER:** That sure is sweet of you, Ellard.

**MS. DELANIE:** *(To BARBIE.)* Lava lamp? Christmas garland? I feel a headache coming on. I have some aspirin out in the car. Cover for me until I return.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Don't worry about a thing in here, Ms. Bologna. We got it covered!

*MS. DELANIE drops her head and exits.*

**MARGARET:** Virgil, aren't you goin' to say anything about my hair?

**VIRGIL:** *(Pretends not to notice her hair's hideousness and looks up, down and around trying NOT to look at it.)* Your hair? Is there something different about your hair?

**MARGARET:** The woman at the beauty shop put too much curly in it.

**VIRGIL:** Well, I think it's -- uh -- why, it's just -- it sure is -- big.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(As VIRGIL continues to stare at her hair.)* Now, we'll have it back to normal before the weddin' gets here.

**ELLARD:** *(Referring to BARBIE who is looking over her clipboard.)* Hello there sophisticated lookin' lady. *(Holds out the shoe box he's holding.)* Do you want to take a look at my red-tailed lizard? I named him Bernard. *(The box he's holding shakes wildly as though something is running around inside.)*

**BARBIE:** He seems a little restless.

**ELLARD:** I don't think he likes staying in this here box very much. *(To the box.)* Now you settle down in there little Barney. I call him Barney 'cause that's short for Bernard. *(Holds up the box to her.)* He won't hurt you if you want to pet him.

**BARBIE:** Well --

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Ellard, don't open that box in here. That lizard will get loose and we'll never be able to find it. Like I always say, a lizard loose is a penny earned. Come on Eloise, let's see what this garland's goin' to look like out on the front porch. *(They exit excited.)*

**BARBIE:** *(Turning back to ELLARD.)* So, do all the boys grow as tall and strong as you out here in the country?

**ELLARD:** No, sometimes they look like Virgil.

**BARBIE:** All the boys in the city are pampered and soft; only thinking how they can make life easy for themselves.

VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL

**VIRGIL:** *(To MARGARET on the opposite side of the stage. He can't keep his eyes off her hair.)* Margaret, are you gettin' any more hairy, I mean nervous?

**MARGARET:** I get knots in my stomach sometimes but then they go away. What about you?

**VIRGIL:** I'm as nervous as a long tail cat in a room full of rockin' chairs.

**BARBIE:** *(To ELLARD.)* Feel of those muscles. How do you get so brawny?

**ELLARD:** *(Thinks a second.)* I brush my teeth a lot.

**BARBIE:** *(Giggles.)* You say the waggish things.

**ELLARD:** I'm sorry, I won't do it again.

**BARBIE:** I think it's enchanting.

**ELLARD:** Is that good or bad?

**VIRGIL:** *(To MARGARET.)* Sometimes I get little panic attacks. I have to step outside for a breath of fresh hair - AIR!

**MARGARET:** *(Touching her hair.)* Does my hair look that bad?

**VIRGIL:** Not at all. *(Speaking before he thinks.)* I hardly even noticed it lookin' like a briar patch.

**MARGARET:** *(Buries her face in her hands.)* Ohhhhhhhh - -

**BARBIE:** *(To ELLARD.)* So, do you have a steady girlfriend?

**ELLARD:** Yeah, I have a girlfriend but she's not very steady. As a matter of fact she's down right clumsy.

**VIRGIL:** *(To MARGARET.)* Well, I need to go see if I can find that lava lamp for Mama, I guess I'll see you later on.

**MARGARET:** *(He turns to leave but she stops him.)* Virgil, are you sure you - love me?

**VIRGIL:** *(Thinking for a moment then smiling sweetly.)* Is the Pope Presbyterian? *(He crosses to Ellard leaving MARGARET behind smiling.)* Come on Ellard, we need to go get that lava lamp.

**ELLARD:** Did you hear that Barney, we're going for a little ride. *(The box shakes.)*

**BARBIE:** If that were to ever get loose, you'd never find it.

**ELLARD:** I'm gonna catch me another lizard to put in there with him. That will help settle him down.

**BARBIE:** How in the world do you catch something that quick?

**ELLARD:** I built a box. I call it my lizard-catchin'-box. That's 'cause I catch lizards with it. Virgil named it.

**VIRGIL:** Ahh, Ellard it was nothin'.

**MARGARET:** *(Has been thinking about it the whole time and crosses to VIRGIL.)* Wait a minute. The Pope's not Presbyterian, Virgil.

**VIRGIL:** Huh?

**MARGARET:** I asked you if you loved me and you said, 'Is the Pope Presbyterian?' But the Pope's not Presbyterian so that means you don't really love me.

**VIRGIL:** Are you sure the Pope's not Presbyterian?

**ELLARD:** I think he's Baptist.

VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL

**BARBIE:** The Pope is not Baptist.

**MARGARET:** Ohhhhhhhhh, Virgil!

**VIRGIL:** Thanks a lot Ellard. The Pope's not Baptist!

**MARGARET:** I just knew it! Virgil don't love me at all.

**ELLARD:** (*Sincerely.*) Maybe it's your hair.

**VIRGIL:** Ellard!

**SONG #6: MY LOVELY CURLY TOP**

**(VIRGIL, MARGARET, ELLARD, MS. DELANIE, BARBIE, MAMA HOOPER, MAMA SLUDGE)**

**VIRGIL (TO MARGARET):**  
YOU'RE MY LOVELY CURLY TOP,

**VIRGIL (TO MARGARET):**  
YOU'RE MY COVER GIRL.  
YOU'RE THE CREAM OF THE CROP.

**VIRGIL (TO MARGARET):**  
YOU'RE MY MOTHER OF PEARL.

**ELLARD:**  
SHE NEEDS A BARBER SHOP!

HER HEAD LOOKS LIKE A CORN POP!

**ELLARD:**  
YEAH RIGHT, JUST LOOK AT THAT MOP!

**MARGARET:**  
VIRGIL, I FEEL LIKE A PROP,

*MS. DELANIE enters with PAPA SLUDGE and PAPA HOOPER on her heels. She unknowingly drags a piece of Christmas garland that has stuck to the bottom of her shoe.*

**MARGARET:**  
JUST TRADE ME OFF IN A PAWN SHOP!

**VIRGIL:**  
MAR'GRET, I SEE A TEAR DROP,

**MARGARET:**  
VIRGIL, I NEED A "FLAT TOP."

**VIRGIL:**  
MAR'GRET, I LOVE YOUR CURL.

**MARGARET:**  
VIRGIL, I LOOK LIKE A SQUIRREL!

**VIRGIL:**  
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY GIRL!

**DOO WOPPERS:**

MY BAH BUH DOO WOP,

DOO WAH

MY BAH BUH DOO WOP.

DOO WAH

DOO WAH

BOP, DOO BAH BAH DOO WOP!

NOW ELLARD, YOU JUST BETTER  
STOP!

BOP!

DOO DUH WOP BOP!

DOO DUH WOP BOP!

DOO DUH WOP BOP!

DOO WAH

DOO DUH WOP BOP!

DOO WAH DOO WAH

BOP!



VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL

**MS. DELANIE:**

IF THOSE TWO DON'T STOP, I WILL "HURL."

**VIRGIL & MARGARET:**

LOVING YOU IS THE BEST!

**MAMA SLUDGE, BARBIE & ELLARD:**

DOO WAH DOO WAH!

**MAMA HOOPER:**

MARRIAGE IS LIFE'S GREATEST TEST!

**VIRGIL, MARGARET & ELLARD:**

DOO WAH DOO WAH

**MS. DELANIE & BARBIE:**

WHY ARE WE GETTING SO STRESSED?

**BOTH MAMAS AND ELLARD:**

BOP!

**VIRGIL & MARGARET:**

JUST KNOWING YOU, I'VE BEEN BLESSED.

**EVERYONE EXCEPT VIRGIL & MARGARET:**

THEY'VE BEEN BLESSED!

BOP DOO WOP!

**BARBIE:** (*Crossing to MARGARET.*) Listen Margaret, I know a little about cosmetology. I think maybe I can help you with your hair. We can have it looking as beautiful as ever with the right tools.

**ELLARD:** Like a weed-eater? (*He laughs but nobody else does. They just stare at him. He pretends to pull a string on a weed trimmer and makes a cranking noise with his mouth. They just stare. He drops his head in embarrassment.*)

**MS. DELANIE:** I really appreciate your offer gentlemen, but I really can't think of anything for you to do at the moment.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Are you sure Ms. Delanie? I can sweep the chapel or mow the grass or climb a ladder.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** And I can wash your car or build you a house.

**VIRGIL:** Don't look now ma'am, but you're being trailed by a piece of Christmas decoration.

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Snatching it off her foot.*) Really! They're out there decorating the chapel courtyard with two-dollar Christmas garland.

**PAPA HOOPER:** You want to watch me drive my tractor?

**MS. DELANIE:** Not in the near future, no.

**ELLARD:** (*His box shakes wildly.*) I think Barney's gettin' hungry Virgil.

**MARGARET:** What time do you want to work on my hair, Ms. Barbie?

**BARBIE:** Why don't I pick you up around eight.

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Crossing and standing between BARBIE and MARGARET.*) What do you mean "work with your hair"?

*VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL*

**BARBIE:** I told Margaret I would see what I could do to help her with her hair problem.

**MS. DELANIE:** You are not her personal stylist, do you understand?

**BARBIE:** But I thought I could do it after hours so that - -

**MS. DELANIE:** I said NO!

**PAPA HOOPER:** I'd be glad to assist you with anything you need Ms. Delanie .

**PAPA SLUDGE:** I'll even assist you with anything you don't need.

**MS. DELANIE:** Please sit down and stop interrupting. *(They sit quickly.)*

Virgil, would you and the nincompoop please take these flowers out and burn them somewhere?

**ELLARD:** *(Hands on hips.)* What did she call me?

**VIRGIL:** Nincompoop!

**ELLARD:** *(Moving to the flowers.)* I was just wonderin'.

**PAPA HOOPER:** *(Standing and pushing VIRGIL out of the way.)* I'll get rid of the flowers for you, Ms. Delanie.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** *(Standing.)* I can do that, too.

**MS. DELANIE:** Fine! *(She crosses upstage with her clipboard.)*

**ELLARD:** Let's go, Virgil. *(To BARBIE.)* Goodbye Ms. Barbie. I guess I'll see you later on.

**BARBIE:** See you later, you brawny thing you.

**VIRGIL:** What did she mean by that?

**ELLARD:** I'm not sure but I think she likes my teeth. *(The box shakes as he runs off the stage.)*

*MAMA SLUDGE and MAMA HOOPER enter each carrying some garland. MAMA HOOPER carries a small shopping bag.*

**MAMA:** Virgil, where you runnin' off to? Are you goin' to get me that lava lamp?

**VIRGIL:** Yes ma'am, just as soon as Ellard and me find him another lizard for his box. Bye Margaret!

**MARGARET:** *(Quickly crossing to him.)* Virgil, wait! Aren't you goin' to kiss me before you leave?

**VIRGIL:** *(Stares at her for a moment then speaks.)* You mean with my lips?

**MARGARET:** *(Sadly.)* That's okay, Virgil. You don't have to kiss me if you don't want to.

**VIRGIL:** It's not that, Margaret. You know how shy I am around people.

**MARGARET:** I said it was okay, Virgil.

**VIRGIL:** *(He realizes he'd better kiss her. He searches for a way to do it without getting too embarrassed; finally, he tilts her head sideways and kisses the top of her head.)* Bye! *(He rushes out.)*

**MARGARET:** *(Having a seat stage right.)* Mama, I think Virgil hates me.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Holds up a strand of Christmas tree lights.)* Where can we hang these lights so they get the most attention?

*VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL*

**MAMA SLUDGE:** I thought we could hang them around the stained window.

**MARGARET:** Maybe this whole wedding thing is all wrong.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Ignoring MARGARET.)* That's nice dear.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** *(Sees that PAPA and PAPA HOOPER have gathered the flowers into one pile.)* I don't think them flowers need to go in one big pile like that.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Papa, what in the world are you all doin'?

**PAPA HOOPER:** We're gonna take these flowers out back and burn 'em

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(With hands on hips.)* Says who?

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Ms. Delanie.

**MS. DELANIE:** *(Crossing downstage.)* Those plastic fabrications don't belong in a wedding ceremony.

**MAMA HOOPER:** They're not plastic fabrications, they're plastic azaleas.

**MARGARET:** Does anybody care that my whole life is ruined if Virgil don't want to marry me?

**MS. DELANIE:** My job is to make sure this wedding is the prettiest affair this backward county has ever seen.

*The BOYS are about to carry out some flowers.*

**MAMA SLUDGE:** *(Standing in front of him.)* You just march right back over there and put them flowers back down.

*They turn and see MS. DELANIE.*

**MS. DELANIE:** And I say, they should go outside and be destroyed.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** They stay!

**MS. DELANIE:** They go!

**BARBIE:** It's certainly a shame something as beautiful as Margaret won't be noticed. *(MAMA HOOPER and MAMA SLUDGE look at BARBIE puzzled.)* If you use something as beautiful as these flowers, I'm afraid they will take all the attention off the bride.

**MARGARET:** *(To herself.)* I guess there are other things I could do besides get married.

**MAMA HOOPER:** I certainly don't want to take attention away from my little girl.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Miss Barbie, do you really think we're as dumb as all that? *(Repeating sarcastically.)* "Take all the attention off the bride. Margaret could possibly be overlooked." Come on now.

**BARBIE:** *(To MAMA.)* Of course, they'll take all the attention off of you as well.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** *(Quickly, shouting to the men.)* What are you boys doin' standin' around? Get them flowers out of here! *(They do.)*

**MARGARET:** *(Continuing to herself.)* I guess I could become a nun and join one of them there cornvents.

*VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL*

**BERTHA MAE:** (*Enters with MR. WRIGHT.*) Right this way sir, everybody should be in here. Here they are.

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Rushing over to him.*) Ohhhh, yes, we've been waiting for you. How was your ride out to Lickskillit?

**MR. WRIGHT:** It was a little bumpy, but quite non-eventful.

**MS. DELANIE:** Allow me to introduce you to the family. This is Mrs. Sludge, the groom's mother. And this is Mrs. Hooper, the bride's mother. (*Crossing to MARGARET.*) And this is the sweet little bride herself, Margaret.

**MARGARET:** My hair's not usually this big.

**MR. WRIGHT:** (*Kissing her hand.*) So, you're the auspicious demoiselle who is to stroll down the aisle of marital bliss?

**MARGARET:** No sir, I'm the one who's gettin' married.

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Pulls MR. WRIGHT center stage as though she's introducing the President.*) Everyone, this is my distinguished boss, Mr. Wright.

**MARGARET:** (*Slowly stands looking straight out as she whispers the words.*) Mr. Right?

**MS. DELANIE:** Mr. Wright, I have so many ideas I would like to share with you if we could begin outside on the front sidewalk. Barbie, would you bring the clipboard? (*Everyone but MARGARET and BERTHA MAE exit.*)

**MARGARET:** (*She's visibly upset.*) Bertha Mae, did you hear that? I was just introduced to Mr. Right.

**BERTHA MAE:** So?

**MARGARET:** Don't you remember what I told you yesterday? My mama always told me that when Mr. Right came along that I should—

**BERTHA MAE:** (*Catching on.*) Oh, Margaret! What does this mean?

**MARGARET:** (*Thinking it through.*) Mr. Right just walked into my life. If it was meant for me to marry Mr. Right, then this means I can't marry Virgil.

**BERTHA MAE:** What are you going to do?

**MARGARET:** I tell you what I'm not goin' to do. I'm not goin' to walk down that aisle tomorrow with the wrong man on my arm.

**BERTHA MAE:** Poor Virgil.

*MS. DELANIE reenters with MR. WRIGHT and BARBIE.*

**MS. DELANIE:** And I thought in here we would decorate with posies. Did you get that, Barbie dear?

**BARBIE:** (*Writing on her clipboard.*) Posies, yes ma'am.

**MS. DELANIE:** Finally, I thought a nice recording of soft piano music would fit nicely during the processional.

**MR. WRIGHT:** It sounds as though everything is in order, Ms Delanie.

(*Crossing to MARGARET.*) It fills my heart with such merriment to see fine young people joined together in Holy matrimony.

**MARGARET:** Don't worry Mr. Right, I'll do the right thing.

**MR. WRIGHT:** I beg your pardon?

**MARGARET:** (*Starting to cry a little.*) But it sure don't seem very fair showin' up like this the day before the weddin'. It don't give a girl time to think things through and all.

**BARBIE:** (*Crossing and consoling MARGARET.*) Margaret, it's okay. (*Turning to MR. WRIGHT.*) She's had a very tiring day. Her thoughts are just a little muddled.

**MR. WRIGHT:** Well, I can certainly understand that. Most brides get nervous just before the wedding.

**MARGARET:** You're right, Ms. Barbie. I am tired, but not too tired to know who I really love so Mr. Right, I'm afraid the answer is no! (*Everyone is staring.*)

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Pause.*) What was the question?

**MARGARET:** It's no use tryin' to hide it Ms. Delanie. I know why Mr. Right is here.

**BERTHA MAE:** She knows all about Mr. Wright's plans to propose and get rid of Virgil tomorrow.

**BARBIE:** Get rid of Virgil?

**MARGARET:** I have made up my mind! I can't marry anybody but my Virgil. He's the only one for me. (*Becoming dramatic.*) I know this breaks your heart Mr. Right. We were just two ships who passed in the night! You must pick up the broken pieces and move along and search for another—

**MR. WRIGHT:** I beg your pardon?

**MARGARET:** Oh, please don't beg! Just go. GO! And be gone and I won't have to look upon your sad countenance any more!

### **SONG #7: A WEDDING WE ANTICIPATE**

**(MARGARET, MR. WRIGHT, BERTHA MAE, MS. DELANIE, BARBIE)**

*The following 4 lines are sung in a melodramatic recitative operatic style.*

**MARGARET (TO MR. WRIGHT):**  
I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL INSIDE  
AS YOUR HEART IS BREAKING;

**MR. WRIGHT (TO MARGARET):**  
AH, YES, I STAND HERE TEARY-EYED  
MY HEART IS TRULY ACHING.

**BERTHA MAE (REFERRING TO MR. WRIGHT):**  
MR. "COOL" IS ALL TONGUE-TIED,  
HE'S REALLY BAD AT FAKING.

**MS. DELANIE:**  
CALM DOWN, JUST TAKE THIS ALL IN STRIDE,  
HER LOVE SHE'S NOT FORSAKING.

*The following lines are spoken in a patter rap style.*

**MS. DELANIE:**  
I'LL TRY TO MAKE MY CASE AND NOT PONTIFICATE;

*VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL*

I'M HERE TO PLAN A WEDDING, I'M HERE TO EDUCATE.

**MARGARET (TO MS. DELANIE):**

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, FOR ALL YOU DO, I DO APPRECIATE;  
BUT I FEEL BAD FOR MR. RIGHT, HIS LIFE I'LL DEVASTATE.

**MS. DELANIE/BARBIE/BERTHA MAE:**

DEVASTATE, APPRECIATE, EDUCATE, PONTIFICATE,  
WORDS WE NOW MANIPULATE!

**BERTHA MAE:**

NOT TO WORRY, MAR'GRET DEAR, YOUR LOVE WON'T FLUCTUATE.  
JUST KEEP YOUR EYES ON VIRGIL, AND PLEASE DON'T SPECULATE.

**MR. WRIGHT (TO THE AUDIENCE):**

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EARS, I WILL HALLUCINATE!  
I CAN'T FIND MY "NERVOUS PILLS," I NEED TO MEDICATE!

**MS. DELANIE/BARBIE/BERTHA MAE:**

MEDICATE, HALLUCINATE, SPECULATE, AND FLUCTUATE,  
WORDS WE NOW CONTAMINATE.

**BARBIE:**

PLEASE DON'T WORRY, MR. WRIGHT, LET ME PUNCTUATE;  
WE'RE HERE TO PLAN A WEDDING, WE'RE HERE TO DECORATE.

**MR. WRIGHT (TO BARBIE):**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FOCUS DEAR, LET ME REITERATE;  
WHATEVER STUPID THING I SAID I NOW TERMINATE!

**MS. DELANIE/BARBIE/BERTHA MAE:**

TERMINATE, REITERATE, DECORATE, AND PUNCTUATE,  
WORDS WHICH WE ACCUMULATE.

**BERTHA MAE:**

THIS DOESN'T NEED TO BE CONFUSING, LET'S NOT COMPLICATE.  
THIS WEDDING WILL GO FORWARD NOW, ALL ELSE ELIMINATE.

**MARGARET:**

MR. RIGHT, YOUR VOW IS VOID, I DO EMANCIPATE;  
YOUR OBLIGATION AS MY GROOM, GO FIND ANOTHER MATE!

**MS. DELANIE:**

THIS CONVERSATION IS SO LAME, I THINK I'LL STRANGULATE  
ANYONE WHO SAYS JUST ONE MORE THING; OF THAT THERE'S NO DEBATE!

**MARGARET:**

AS A BRIDE I'LL RADIATE!

**BARBIE:**

AS A BRIDE, SHE'LL BE FIRST-RATE!

**BERTHA MAE:**

ON VIRGIL SHE MUST MEDITATE.

**MR. WRIGHT:**

ON VIRGIL SHE MUST GRAVITATE!

**MARGARET:**

*VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL*

I FEEL MY LOVE REGENERATE!

**MR. WRIGHT:**

ALL OTHER THOUGHTS ELIMINATE!

**MS. DELANIE:**

I THINK THAT I'LL REGURGITATE!

**ALL:**

A WEDDING WE ANTICIPATE!

*EVERYONE goes hysterical!*

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Reentering, speaking to MARGARET.*) Listen you poor simpleton, Mr. Wright wasn't going to propose to --

**MR. WRIGHT:** (*Stopping her.*) That's all right Ms. Delanie. Margaret is right. If she loves her Virgil that much then who am I to stand between such a match made in heaven? I will just drift into the distant landscape never to forget the woman who will always be upon these kissless lips!

**MARGARET:** I hope I didn't break your heart too much, Mr. Right.

**MR. WRIGHT:** My poor heart has been crushed into a million pieces! But not to worry, I will survive your rejection somehow. (*On his knees.*) Make me one promise Margaret Hooper! If it doesn't work out with Virgil, you will be betrothed to me.

**MS. DELANIE:** Uh, Mr. Wright I wouldn't say that if I were you.

**MARGARET:** It's a deal Mr. Right. That's the least I can do for you after you've been so understandin'.

**BERTHA MAE:** But don't get your hopes up Mr. Wright, 'cause Virgil will be here! Virgil loves Margaret and nothin' will keep him out of this chapel tomorrow. Nothin! Come on' Margaret, before you change your mind.

**BARBIE:** I'll be at your house first thing in the morning Margaret. We'll take care of that hair and I'll bring my make up. (*BERTHA MAE pulls MARGARET out.*)

**MS. DELANIE:** Mr. Wright, what were you doing?

**MR. WRIGHT:** (*Snapping out of it.*) I -- I don't know. I guess I just got a little caught up in the drama of the moment. It's my exhaustive desire to want to please the customer.

**BARBIE:** But if Virgil doesn't show up tomorrow, you are going to be in a great deal of trouble.

**MR. WRIGHT:** You don't think there's a chance of that do you? (*Silence.*) Do you?

**MS. DELANIE:** Don't worry, nothing will keep these hillbillies from getting married. Birds of a feather flock together. I guess that goes for coo-coos as well.

*MAMA SLUDGE and MAMA HOOPER rush in.*

**MAMA HOOPER:** It's here, it's here! Just in time! It's here!

**MS. DELANIE:** What's here?

VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (*Holding up a dress box.*) Margaret's weddin' dress.

Thelma just dropped it off on her way to the strawberry fields. She's the valley's seamstress.

**MAMA HOOPER:** We paid an arm and a leg for it, but it is worth every cent.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (*Brings out a very ugly dress.*) Ohhhh, look at that will you?

**MAMA HOOPER:** Have you seen anything like it in all your life?

**MS. DELANIE:** That's the most awful looking...

**MR. WRIGHT:** (*Interrupting.*) Awesome! She means that's the most AWESOME looking thing she has ever seen!

*PAPA HOOPER enters quickly.*

**PAPA HOOPER:** Ya'll want to come watch the bonfire?

**MAMA HOOPER:** What you yappin' about, bonfire?

**PAPA HOOPER:** We're goin' to burn them flowers like Ms. Delanie said.

We siphoned some gas out of the four-wheeler and soaked 'em real good. Papa wants to put a match to it.

**MAMA HOOPER:** I was goin' to use those flowers to put out on the front porch.

**BARBIE:** (*To PAPA HOOPER.*) That sounds a little dangerous.

**MAMA HOOPER:** No, I put flowers on the front porch all the time.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (*Crossing to the door stage left and shouting out to him.*)

Harley Wayne, don't be strikin' no match so close to the four-wheeler!

**PAPA HOOPER:** (*Getting matches out of his wife's purse.*) Here, Harley, I found some matches! (*He runs out.*)

**MAMA HOOPER:** I can't look!

**MR. WRIGHT:** He's going to do it!

**MS. DELANIE:** Maybe someone should stop them!

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Bless their hearts, they're just like little boys when they get around gasoline and matches. Like I always say, a wise man changes his mind but the road to hell is paved with idiots.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Mr. Wright, too bad you're not marryin' my Margaret.

You could be the one watchin' her walk down that aisle in this dress to your open arms.

**MR. WRIGHT:** (*That thought makes him very nervous.*) Ms. Delanie, could you get me a glass of water? I'm feeling a little faint.

*Suddenly there's an explosion off stage.*

**MAMA HOOPER:** (*Unconcerned, picking at the dress.*) There it goes! (*All gather at the door looking off stage.*) Well, he's on fire. (*Shouting off.*)

Harley Wayne, get down on the ground! (*Louder.*) Get down on the ground! Stop, drop and roll!! Papa Hooper, stop laughin'!

**MS. DELANIE:** Is he alright?



**MAMA SLUDGE:** Yeah, he's out now! But that four-wheeler will never be the same again! (*BLACKOUT.*)

**SONG # 8: A WEDDING WE ANTICIPATE (SCENE CHANGE COVER MUSIC)**

**ACT ONE, SCENE 4**

*The forest. One or two trees have been brought out as well as ELLARD'S lizard trap which sits center stage. [Check PRODUCTION NOTES for an easy way to make a lizard trap.] VIRGIL and ELLARD enter and cross to the trap.*

**ELLARD:** Here's the trap, I wonder if it's caught any lizards yet.

**VIRGIL:** How do you know if it's caught anything?

**ELLARD:** I have to crawl inside it to see. (*He hands VIRGIL the box he's holding and the box shakes wildly.*)

**VIRGIL:** Hold on in there Barney. It's just your old buddy Virgil.

**ELLARD:** (*Before he opens the end of the box.*) Now be careful Virgil, if there's somethin' wild in there, it'll come runnin' out the end. (*ELLARD slowly opens the end of the box. Nothing happens so he crawls half way inside.*) Let's see here. Well, hello there little fellow, what are you doin' in here. (*He holds up a stuffed rabbit and VIRGIL takes it and lets it run free off the stage. Then ELLARD holds up another small animal handing it to VIRGIL. Then he hands up a skunk. VIRGIL reacts and throws it off stage. Then out comes a snake. VIRGIL screams and throws it out into the audience. NOTE: Use your imagination concerning what to pull out of the box. Maybe a fish, a bat, etc. But, let the last thing be a rubber snake. ELLARD crawls out.*) Well, that's it.

**VIRGIL:** It caught everything in the forest except a lizard.

**ELLARD:** (*Taking his shoebox again.*) Well, little Barney, it seems you're going to have to be a single lizard until I can get you a girlfriend.

**VIRGIL:** (*Looking the trap over.*) How in the world does this thing work anyway, Ellard?

**ELLARD:** It's really neat, Virgil. My daddy helped me build it. (*As he demonstrates the box.*) You see, the door on the end here opens into the box. The animal runs in but the door won't open out so he can't get out unless someone opens it up from the outside.

**VIRGIL:** What's this hole here on top?

**ELLARD:** A breathin' hole. So the lizards can breath.

**VIRGIL:** What do you use for bait?

**ELLARD:** (*Pause.*) Bait?

**VIRGIL:** Yeah. Don't you put somethin' in the box to lure the lizard?

**ELLARD:** (*Pause.*) Lure the lizard?

**VIRGIL:** To make him want to go inside?

*VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL*

**ELLARD:** Ohhhhhhhhh! No I've never thought of that before.

**VIRGIL:** Duh! Ellard. A lizard's not goin' to go in there unless there's a reason to go in there. You need some lizard bait; you know, like bugs and worms and stuff like that.

**ELLARD:** Of course, Barney loves bugs.

**VIRGIL:** So all we have to do is find some bugs. *(Points stage left.)* You look over there and *(Points stage right.)* I'll look over here.

**ELLARD:** *(Gets down on his knees.)* Okay. Here buggy buggy buggy - -

**VIRGIL:** I can't believe I'm out in the middle of the woods lookin' for bugs on the day before my weddin'.

**ELLARD:** It shows what kind of true friend you are, Virgil.

**VIRGIL:** I wouldn't do it for anybody but my best friend that's for sure.

**ELLARD:** You'd do it for Margaret.

**VIRGIL:** I'd do anything for Margaret. I tell you, that girl. All this nonsense about me not thinkin' she's beautiful. But you know Ellard, it's like my mama always says, "Beauty is in the eyes of the shallow minded."  
*(Pauses to think.)* That didn't sound right.

**ELLARD:** I think you're thinkin' of the sayin' that goes, "He who laughs last just saw Margaret without her make up."

**VIRGIL:** When we first started datin', some people tried to tell me it was just puppy love.

**ELLARD:** What did you say to that?

**VIRGIL:** I told 'em that if it was puppy love, I sure liked the way she wagged her tail.

**SONG #9: PUPPY LOVE  
(VIRGIL AND ELLARD)**

**VERSE #1**

**VIRGIL:**

WHEN I FIRST MET HER SHE HAD FRECKLES ON HER FACE.

**ELLARD:**

PIGTAILS POKING HERE AND THERE THAT SEEMED ALL OUT OF PLACE.

**VIRGIL:**

I NEVER DID COMPLAIN THAT SHE WAS A SCATTERBRAIN.

**ELLARD:**

EVERYBODY WONDERED IF SHE CAME FROM OUTER SPACE!

**VERSE #2**

**VIRGIL:**

I HEAR WHAT YER' SAYIN', SHE WEREN'T NO FASHION PLATE.

**ELLARD:**

FOLKS WOULD TAKE ONE LOOK AT HER AND NEED TO MEDICATE.

**VIRGIL:**

BUT SHE GREW FROM A SCARECROW INTO A GORGEOUS RAINBOW.

*VIRGIL'S WEDDING: THE MUSICAL*

**ELLARD:**

HOW DID THIS CHANGE HAPPEN? PLEASE ILLUMINATE.

**REFRAIN**

**VIRGIL:**

IT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE, YOU ASK, "HOW DOES IT START?"  
ALL IT TAKES IS 'PUPPY LOVE' TO STIR UP SOMEONE'S HEART.

**ELLARD:**

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN WHEN YOUR FACE BEGINS TO GLOW?

**VIRGIL:**

IT TELLS THE WORLD THAT ARROWS FOUND THEIR MARK FROM CUPID'S BOW.

**BOTH:**

PUPPY LOVE, IT HAPPENS TO US ALL;  
PUPPY LOVE, IT'S JUST A WAKE-UP CALL  
THAT TELLS THE WORLD WE'RE GROWIN' UP,  
IT TELLS THE WORLD WE'RE SHOWIN' UP,

**ELLARD:**

MY BODY SAYS I'M BLOWIN' UP!

**BOTH:**

PUPPY LOVE, SWEET PUPPY LOVE.

**VERSE #3**

**ELLARD:**

THE WORDS YOU SAY, THEY SURE SOUND 'PURDY,' YOU SHOULD BE A POET.

**VIRGIL:**

I NEED TO SAY THESE THINGS TO HER, IF I DON'T, I'LL BLOW IT.

**ELLARD:**

YOU SOUND LIKE SOME ROMÉO STANDING UNDER MISTLETOE.

**VIRGIL:**

'PUPPY LOVE' HAS NOW GROWN UP, I GUESS IT'S TIME I SHOW IT.

**REFRAIN**

**VIRGIL:**

I LOVE HER AND I'LL CARE FOR HER AND IT'S HER LOVE I FEEL.  
I CAN ONLY THINK OF HER, THAT'S WHY I KNOW IT'S REAL.  
I ASKED HER, "WILL YOU MARRY ME?" MY LOVE TO HER I SWORE.  
AND NOW I KNOW IT REALLY CAN'T BE 'PUPPY LOVE' ANYMORE.

**VIRGIL & ELLARD (DUET):**

PUPPY LOVE, IT HAPPENS TO US ALL;  
PUPPY LOVE, IT'S JUST A WAKE-UP CALL  
THAT TELLS THE WORLD WE'RE GROWIN' UP,  
IT TELLS THE WORLD WE'RE SHOWIN' UP,

**ELLARD:**

MY BODY SAYS I'M BLOWIN' UP!

**VIRGIL:**

AND NOW, I BEST BE SLOWIN' UP,  
'CAUSE I DON'T HAVE 'PUPPIES' ANYMORE.

**BOTH:**

PUPPY LOVE, SWEET PUPPY LOVE.

**VIRGIL:** (*Dreamy, out to the audience.*) I tell you, I can't wait to see Margaret walkin' down that aisle tomorrow lookin' as pretty as a sweet honey suckle shootin' forth its springtime vinery through the soft wetness of a dewy mornin'.

**ELLARD:** (*Holding up a worm turning a romantic moment into a crass one.*) I just hope she gets her hair pruned in time.

**VIRGIL:** Here, Ellard, I'm goin' to put these bugs down in this hole. (*He sticks his hand inside the hole and brings it out again.*)

**ELLARD:** And here's mine. Do you think these will be enough bugs?

**VIRGIL:** I think so. Here we have wasted a whole hour checkin' your lizard trap. I've still got to go over to Ms. Harper's and borrow more Christmas garland for Mama.

**ELLARD:** What time is it anyway?

**VIRGIL:** (*Looks at his arm and notices his watch is missing.*) That's funny, my watch band must have broke and fell off some where. Never mind that, Ellard you take the truck and run on over and get the lava lamp. I'll cut through the woods here on foot to Ms. Harper's house. She only lives about a mile from here. I'll get the paintin' and I'll see you at the chapel tomorrow. Look for my watch on your way back to the truck. If you find it bring it to me tomorrow.

**ELLARD:** Okay. Bye, Virgil. (*He exits.*)

### **SONG #10: PUPPY LOVE (INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE)**

*VIRGIL looks around for his watch for a second. He may accuse a few people in the front row of the audience of stealing the watch or ask if they've seen it. He walks all the way around the box. He stops and kneels down and peeps in the hole on top of the trap where he placed the bugs. He feels around in the hole but comes up empty handed. He thinks a moment then moves down to the main opening to the trap. He opens the end of it and looks inside. He can't see anything so crawls a little way inside the trap. Then a little more. Finally, all that shows are his feet. Then his feet go in. The end of the box closes. (Music stops.) There's a pause. The box shakes a little. Then a little more.*

**VIRGIL:** (*Softly.*) Ellard? (*We hear ELLARD'S truck drive off.*) Ellard?!!!! (*Pause, then loudly.*) Anybody? (*Pause, then softly.*) Nobody? (*Seven-second pause, then he sings.*)

**SONG #11: NOBODY KNOWS  
(VIRGIL, A CAPPELLA)**

**VIRGIL:**

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen.  
Nobody knows my sorrow.

*Immediate slow fade with complete blackout on the word "sorrow."*

••• END OF ACT ONE •••

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