

THE DRYER

SOME FOLKS MARCH
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS.

ROSE

Take it, or use it for cleaning or something.

THE DRYER

SOME FOLKS PROSPER,
THEN THEY'S THOSE . . .
PICKIN' COINS FROM DIRTY CLOTHES.

ROSE

See you upstairs

(Rose leaves.)

THE DRYER

CAROLINE,
SOMETHING ELSE
ON YOUR MIND SIDES
JINGLE BELLS.
YOU THE QUBEN OF KEEP-AT-BAY
WHAT-WAS-ONCE OR MIGHT-HAVE-BEEN.
LITTLE CHANGE, AND STRANGE TO SAY,
YESTERDAY COME CRASHIN IN.
SMALL DOMESTIC TRAGEDIES
BRING STRONG WOMEN TO THEIR KNEES . . .

#29. - I Saw Three Ships

(Jackie and Joe appear singing "I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing.")

(In the basement, Emmie rises up out of the laundry basket.)

EMMIE

MAMA THERE'S MONEY
DOWN IN THE LAUNDRY!
DIG FOR THE MONEY
DOWN IN THE LAUNDRY!
MAMA COME HOME.
JACKIE GOT A CAVITY,
EATING THAT CANDY YOU ALWAYS BUYING NOW,
HE NEEDS THE DENTIST, AND I NEED FIVE DOLLARS

(EMMIE)

TO GO TO BEAUMONT,
TO SEE THE LIVE NATIVITY,
AND CHRISTMAS IS COMING,
AND MONEY WANTING.

EMMIE

MAMA
THERE'S MONEY
DOWN IN THE LAUNDRY!
DIG FOR THE MONEY
DOWN IN THE LAUNDRY!
MAMA COME HOME.

CAROLINE

THE HANDSOME BOY.
THE NAVY MAN.
LARRY NOW IN VIETNAM . . .
. . . SOMEWHERE NEAR
CHINA,
NEAR JAPAN.

Scene 8 The Chanukah Party

#30. - The Chanukah Party

All the Gellmans, and Rose's father, Mr. Stopnick, in the living room, gathered around the menorah.

In the kitchen, preparing the food, Caroline, Dotty and Emmie; Caroline and Dotty in maids uniforms and Emmie in a Sunday dress.

THE GELLMANS AND MR. STOPNICK

CHANUKAH OH CHANUKAH,
OH DREIDEL AND MENORAH!
WE CELEBRATE IT EVEN THOUGH
IT ISN'T IN THE TORAH!
TALMUD BARELY MENTIONS IT,
THE WAY THEY KEPT THAT CANDLE LIT;
SAGES IN THEIR COLLOQUIES
SAY BUPKES BOUT THE MACCABEES
AND HOW WITH VERY LITTLE FUSS
THEY ROUTED KING ANTIOCHUS.
ANTIOCHUS! POOH!
WHO CARES WHAT ALL THE SAGES SAY?
WE CELEBRATE IT ANYWAY!
CHANUKAH OH CHANUKAH,
FROM ASTRAKHAN TO PANAMA,

EMMIE

... WHEN I DON'T, THEN I STAY.

ROSE

GO SEE IS NOAH ALL RIGHT.

EMMIE

GOT MAGICAL BRACELETS, SO BULLETS BOUNCE AWAY . .

ROSE

TUCK HIM IN FOR THE NIGHT.

EMMIE

IN EVERY ROOM A TV, AND MY OWN TELEPHONE,
 AND I LIVE IN MY HOUSE
 AND I LIVE IN MY HOUSE
 BY MYSELF, ALL ALONE.
 AND IF I'M LONELY, DOESN'T MATTER,
 I THINK THEY'S WORSE THAN BEIN' LONELY—
 THEY'S PEOPLE WHO FREEZE
 WHILE THEY WAIT ON THEIR KNEES
 AND THEY DON'T KNOW FOR WHAT
 AND THEY JUST BEEN FORGOT
 AND I
 AIN'T WAITIN NO MORE.
 YOU JUST WAIT FOREVER
 IF YOU CAN'T SAY WHAT FOR.
 THE DAY COME SOON, I'LL PACK UP THE NOTHIN I OWN.
 AND I'LL LIVE IN MY HOUSE, AND I'LL MAKE IT OK,
 BY MYSELF, ALL ALONE.

#38. - *Moon, Emmie, Stuart Trio*

(The Moon appears, vocalizing. She is a new moon, dark.)

(Inside:)

THE MOON

DONAH, DONAH . . .

EMMIE

ALL ALONE -

STUART

(Starting up the stairs, then freezes; aside:)

TO HIM I HAVE GROWN AS REMOTE AS TIBET.
 THE BIGGER HE GROWS, THE STRANGER WE GET.

(STUART)

GONE ARE THE DAYS OF OUR SIMPLE DUET:
HIS PICCOLO PIPING, MY BASS CLARINET.
ALL GONE, NOTHING LEFT BUT A NOTE OF REGRET.

THE MOON

DONAH, DONAH . . .

STUART

NEVER OH NEVER OH NEVER
FORGET HER
NEVER FORGET HER OH NEVER
FORGET.

(Rose is below, watching.)

ROSE

LOOK, SEE ROSE'S HUSBAND,
GONE STIFF IN MIDAIR,
THE HEARTBROKE MUSICIAN
WHO FROZE ON THE STAIR.
OH STU DO YOU LOVE ME?
THE QUESTION'S UNFAIR:
HOW CAN YOU BE LOVED BY
SOMEONE WHO'S-NOT THERE?

STUART

CAN'T GO UP TO SEE HIM, I'LL ONLY UPSET
MY SAD LITTLE SON; BUT I CAN'T GO DOWN YET.
SHE NEEDS FROM ME THINGS THAT I CANNOT PROVIDE:
CONVERSATION, SUPPORT, AND A HEART . . . THOSE ALL DIED.
I'LL STAND HERE EIGHT DAYS TILL THE LAST CANDLE'S BURNED,
AND THE GUESTS AND THE MAID AND POOR ROSE HAVE RETURNED
TO WHEREVER THEY CAME FROM. TILL NOAH HAS GROWN,
HE AND I WILL LIVE HERE, IN THIS HOUSE, ALL ALONE,
AND I'LL SAY TO HIM, "NOAH, THE MOON SHONE SO BRIGHT
WHEN SHE PLAYED HER BASSOON THAT LAST CHANUKAH NIGHT.
OH DO YOU REMEMBER? THE WAY THAT IT SHONE?

MOON

DONAH, DONAH . . .

EMMIE

AND I LIVE IN MY
HOUSE,
AND I'LL MAKE IT
OK,
MAMA I'M SORRY
I CALLED YOU A
MAID.

STUART

ON THE HOUSE,
ON THE THREE OF US
HERE,
ALL ALONE . . .
ALL ALONE . . .

(ROSE)

Good!
Say thank you, honey.

NOAH

Thank you.

MR. STOPNICK

NOAH!
NEVER FORGET!

GRANDMA GELLMAN

STUART, PLAY THE CLARINET!

(Stuart plays again. Noah is frozen, looking at the twenty.)

ROSE

RIGHT!
A HAPPY HAPPY CHANUKAH NIGHT!
WHAT A PARTY, WHAT A GOOSE!
FUN, HUH? NOAH?

(Noah runs upstairs.)

ROSE

Oh what's the use?

#37. - I Hate the Bus

(Outside.)

DOTTY

IT'S COLD TONIGHT; MY FEET ARE NUMB;
I'M TIRED WAITING FOR A BUS THAT WON'T COME.

EMMIE

I HATE THE BUS, I WANT MY OWN CAR,
A CAR WITH A HEATER, WANT A TV SET, AND MORE;
A BIG OLD HOUSE LIKE THIS ONE, BUT EVERYTHING NEW,
WHERE CAN'T NOBODY EVER
CAN'T NOBODY EVER
TELL ME WHAT TO DO.
GO OUT WHEN I WANT TO . . .

ROSE

STUART.

EMMIE

... WHEN I DON'T, THEN I STAY.

ROSE

GO SEE IS NOAH ALL RIGHT.

EMMIE

GOT MAGICAL BRACELETS, SO BULLETS BOUNCE AWAY . .

ROSE

TUCK HIM IN FOR THE NIGHT.

EMMIE

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 AND I LIVE IN MY HOUSE
 AND I LIVE IN MY HOUSE
 BY MYSELF, ALL ALONE.
 AND IF I'M LONELY, DOESN'T MATTER,
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 THEY'S PEOPLE WHO FREEZE
 WHILE THEY WAIT ON THEIR KNEES
 AND THEY DON'T KNOW FOR WHAT
 AND THEY JUST BEEN FORGOT
 AND I
 AIN'T WAITIN NO MORE.
 YOU JUST WAIT FOREVER
 IF YOU CAN'T SAY WHAT FOR.
 THE DAY COME SOON, I'LL PACK UP THE NOTHIN I OWN.
 AND I'LL LIVE IN MY HOUSE, AND I'LL MAKE IT OK,
 BY MYSELF, ALL ALONE.

#38. - Moon, Emmie, Stuart Trio

(The Moon appears, vocalizing. She is a new moon, dark.)

(Inside:)

THE MOON

EMMIE

DONAH, DONAH . . .

ALL ALONE -

STUART

(Starting up the stairs, then freezes; aside:)

TO HIM I HAVE GROWN AS REMOTE AS TIBET.
 THE BIGGER HE GROWS, THE STRANGER WE GET.

#26. - *Oooh Child*

THE WASHING MACHINE

OOOH CHILD, WATCH YOURSELF,
 STRUCK BOSS LADY LIKE A HAMMER!
 LEAVE THEM COINS UP ON THAT SHELF!
 OOH, CHILD, GONE TOO FAR!

(Caroline irons. Rose is shocked, looks down at the shirt. They're both silent.)

THE WASHING MACHINE

OOOH CHILD, WATCH YOURSELF,
 STRUCK BOSS LADY LIKE A
 HAMMER!
 PLEASE PLEASE BOSS LADY BOSS
 LADY NEW YORK LADY DON'T
 DON'T
 FIRE ME FIRE ME CAN'T DO
 WITHOUT
 DO WITHOUT DO WITHOUT
 MONEY!

THE RADIO

TALK LIKE THAT, TALK LIKE THAT,
 YOU WON'T BE A MAID NO MORE
 OOOH CHILD, WATCH YOURSELF,
 STRUCK BOSS LADY LIKE A
 HAMMER!
 LEAVE THEM COINS UP ON THAT
 SHELF!

#27. - *Rose Recovers*

ROSE

Caroline, I . . .
 Never mind.
 I wanted to tell you
 my father is coming
 for Chanukah soon.
 So let's make up the guest room
 when you get a second,
 and also next Sunday
 could you ask Dot and Emmie
 to help with a party
 from seven to ten?

CAROLINE

I have to ask Dotty.

ROSE

I'm just trying to help you,

(ROSE)

you know, with the money.
It was only a game.

(Aside:)

SO SUB ME ALREADY,
MISS CRABBY APPLETON!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S EATING YOU!
SOME PEOPLE, HONESTLY!
THERE'S OPPRESSION AND MISERY,
AND THEN THERE ARE PEOPLE
WHO'RE JUST PLAIN NASTY.

(To Caroline:)

JUST TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY.
JUST TRYING TO BE A FRIEND.

(Caroline nods, not looking up from the ironing.)

ANYWAY THE SHIRT'S STILL GOOD.
LOOK! WHERE THE QUARTER WAS!
YOU CAN ALMOST READ THE LITTLE WRITING!
LIBERTY! IN GOD WE TRUST!

You must've been ironing mighty hard,
that's why the clothes
come out so crisp.

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
WOULD APPROVE OF YOU.
HOW'RE THOSE KIDS?

(The Dryer bell dings!)

THOSE KIDS OF YOURS?

#28. - Dryer Gloria

CAROLINE

Got to get the clothes out the dryer,
Mrs. Gellman.

THE DRYER

SOME FOLKS GOES
TO SCHOOL AT NIGHTS.

ROSE

The shirt's still good, just a little burnt.

(Pause. Dotty takes out a pack of cigarettes, offers one to Caroline. The Moon rises.)

DOTTY

Want a smoke, Miz Piety and Rectitude?

#10 - Moon Change

THE MOON

MOON CHANGE, MOON CHANGE,
GLOWING BRIGHT, LIGHT UP THE NIGHT,
MAKE YOUR DRESS OF SPOTLESS WHITE
TURN TO PURPLE, TURN TO GLEAM . . .
COOL AND DRY,
FREE AND HIGH,
MILES FREE FROM BASEMENT STEAM.
CHANGE COME FAST AND CHANGE COME SLOW
BUT CHANGE COME, CAROLINE THIBODEAUX.

#11 - Moon Trio

CAROLINE

I'M WEARIN WHITE HOSE,
MY KNEES AIN'T ON DISPLAY,
I WEARS A WHITE DRESS,
THEY LIKE THEY MAIDS THAT WAY,
DON'T WANT EM DRESSED FOR PLAY.

CAROLINE

I PUT ALL THAT AWAY,
THAT'S ALL I GOT TO SAY
YOU WAIT FOREVER
FORE THAT DAMN BUS COME.
MY KIDS SHOULD BE IN BED
I'M WAITIN HERE INSTEAD

DOTTY

ONCE YOU WAS QUICK,
AND ONCE YOU WAS BRIGHT
NOW IT SEEM YOU COME TO
SOME CONFUSION,
YOU LOSIN COURAGE,
YOU LOSIN LIGHT
LOST YOUR OLD SHINE
LOST CAROLINE

CAROLINE

MOON GONE CHANGE AND CHANGE
AGAIN FORE THAT DAMN BUS TAKE
ME HOME . . .

CAROLINE

COME ON

I GOT TO GET HOME

IT BEEN A ROUGH DAY

I PUT ALL THAT AWAY
NOTHING EVER
CHANGES
 UNDER GROUND IN
LOUISIANA.

MOON

MOON CHANGE, MOON CHANGE,
GLOWING BRIGHT, LIGHT UP THE NIGHT,
MAKE YOUR DRESS OF SPOTLESS WHITE
TURN TO PURPLE, TURN TO GLEAM . .

MOON

COOL AND DRY,
FREE AND HIGH,
MILES FREE FROM
BASEMENT STEAM.
CHANGE COME FAST
AND CHANGE COME
SLOW
BUT CHANGE COME,
CAROLINE
THIBODEAUX.

DOTTY

AND
EVERYONE CHANGIN
THEIR TUNE
LIKE THE FROGS, AND
THE WORLD, AND THE
MOON
AND THE SKY GO FROM
CLOUDY TO CLEAR
TIMES CHANGE,
CAROLINE, EVEN HERE.

#12 - The Bus

(The Bus arrives. He sings in a terrible voice of apocalypse.)

THE BUS

OO-- OO--
THE EARTH,
THE BARTH HAS BLED!
WOE-SINGING WIND DOWN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
HE IS GONE NOW! GONE FOR GOOD!
HOO-HOO-HOO,
GONE FOR GOOD!
DELUGE FLOOD ICE WATER RISE.
TEAR YOUR HAIR YOUR CLOTHES
YOUR EYES.
SISTERS, SHED
TEARS OF BLOOD.
THE EARTH HAS BLED!

(THE BUS)

NOW COME THE FLOOD.
 APOLOGIES FOR BEING LATE,
 MAKING EVERYBODY WAIT.
 TONIGHT THE MOON ILLUMINATE
 MORE THAN JUSTA CITY BUS:
 I AM THE ORPHAN SHIP OF STATE!
 DRIFTING! DRIVERLESS!
 MOVING SLOW
 NEATH MY AWFUL FREIGHT OF WOE.
 THE EARTH,
 THE EARTH HAS BLED.
 THE PRESIDENT, THE PRESIDENT IS
 OH BLIGHT NOVEMBER WINTER NIGHT
 THE PRESIDENT IS DEAD.
 HOO HOO HOO HOO- HOO

(Little pause with frogs, which get louder.)

#13 - The President Is Dead

CAROLINE AND DOTTY

THAT CAN'T BE.

THE BUS

SOME MAN KILL HIM.
 DEAD IN DALLAS.

(Inside the house, Rose is holding the bleach cup.)

ROSE

NOAH DARLING LOOK
 I FOUND CHANGE
 IN YOUR PANTS POCKETS AGAIN.

(Outside:)

THE BUS

NEWS COME SLOW HERE
 CHANGE COME SLOW,
 LIGHT GONE OUT NOW, DARKNESS COME
 STEP ON BOARD;
 TIME FOR DEPARTING . . .