

PAUL SANCHEZ & COLMAN DEKAY'S

# NINE LIVES

A MUSICAL STORY OF NEW ORLEANS

## LYRICS

### ACT ONE

#### FINE IN THE LOWER NINE

*Narrator:*

OUT ON DESLONDE STREET,  
LIFE ROLLED BY LIKE A GREAT SLOW-MOVING WHEEL  
I KNEW EVERY PEBBLE, EVERY LIVE OAK TREE  
EVERYTHING I COULD SEE AND FEEL

*RONALD LEWIS:*

LIFE ACROSS THE CANAL  
WAS HEAVEN FOR FOLKS FROM THE COUNTRY  
LOTS WERE JUNGLY, BIG ENOUGH FOR CHICKENS  
PIGS, GOATS AND HORSES, BIG ENOUGH FOR WISHING

NEIGHBORS KNEW EACH OTHER SO WELL  
WE'D TALK ON THE PORCH WITHOUT SPEAKING  
TAKE CARE OF OUR FAMILIES, MAKE CHURCH WHEN YOU CAN,  
CASH OUR PAYCHECKS ON THE WEEKEND

WE WERE FINE, FINE IN THE LOWER NINE  
LET 'DEM CREOLES IN THE CITY DRESS UP AND PARADE IN THE STREET  
WE WERE FINE, FINE IN THE LOWER NINE  
IT'S A TEN ACRE WORLD AND THAT'S ENOUGH WORLD FOR ME

WHEN THE BANANA BOATS WOULD ROLL IN  
THE WHOLE BLOCK SMELLED SO SWEET  
BANANA BREAD PUDDING, BANANA CREAM PIE  
FRIED BANANAS AT BREAKFAST, BANANAS 'TIL YOU CRY

SITTIN' AROUND THE KITCHEN TABLE  
IT'S ALL SHOULDERS AND ELBOWS AND KICKS  
OKRA, CORN AND TOMATOES AND BISCUITS THIS HIGH  
AND "GIMME THAT, FOOL, GET YOUR OWN DAMN GRITS!"

WE WERE FINE, FINE IN THE LOWER NINE  
OYSTER SHELLS CRUSHING UNDER BARE FEET  
WE WERE FINE, FINE IN THE LOWER NINE  
WASTING AWAY A SUMMER DAY WIT' MY BEST BUDDY, PETE

COUSINS, THEY'D SHOW UP FROM THIBODAUX  
LOOKING FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE CITY  
TALKING IN PLANTATION ACCENTS 'BOUT THAT ALLIGATOR  
LONG AS CADILLACS AND NOT NEAR AS PRETTY

EVERYBODY SHOUTING AND LAUGHING 'TIL MAMA SHUTS 'EM UP BY SNAPPING  
*GRANDMA (SPOKEN):* WHEN I DIE, DO NOT BRING ME BACK TO THAT PLACE

WE WERE FINE, FINE IN THE LOWER NINE  
HEY! GOOD MORNING MR. BUTLER, MISS PIE HOW 'BOUT 'DIS HEAT?  
OH, WE WERE FINE, FINE IN THE LOWER NINE  
HERE IN OUR BLUE HEAVEN DOWN ON DESLONDE STREET  
HERE IN OUR BLUE HEAVEN DOWN ON DESLONDE STREET  
HERE IN OUR BLUE HEAVEN DOWN ON DESLONDE STREET  
HERE IN OUR BLUE HEAVEN DOWN ON DESLONDE STREET

**BETSY'S COMING**- INSTRUMENTAL

### **SCHOOL SONG/FIGHT SONG**

*CHORUS*

HERE AT DEAR COR JESU HIGH  
THE PARENTS AND THE PRIESTS TAKE PAINS  
TO RECOGNIZE AS HOLY WRATH  
OUR RECENT BLESSED HURRICANE

SHE WASHED AWAY THE FILTHY SINS  
OF A WRETCHED NEW ORLEANS  
(BUT SOMEHOW MISSED THE FRENCH QUARTER  
WITH ALL ITS FAGGOTS, DRUNKS AND QUEENS)

SOLEMNLY WE BOW OUR HEADS  
THANKFUL FOR OUR PURITY  
AND THAT WE DID NOT LOSE OUR HOMES  
LIKE THOSE Y'ATS IN ARABI

THE COLOREDS IN THE LOWER NINE  
GOT TORN TO PIECES BY THE STORM  
SILENTLY WE GIVE OUR THANKS  
THAT GOD CLEARLY LOVES US MORE

*PRIEST*

THE CONSENSUS IS TO ACCEPT THE STORM AS EVIDENCE OF GOD'S INFINITE GRACE AND MERCY

*FOOTBALL PLAYER:*

(BUT I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT SIN, I WANNA TO TALK ABOUT FOOTBALL AND PUSSY)

*CHORUS*

WE'RE GONNA HIT SOMEONE TODAY  
WE'RE GONNA POUND THEM 'TIL THEY SCREAM  
WE'RE GONNA POP OUR ZITS, SQUEEZE SOME TITS  
AT LEAST IN OUR WET DREAMS

WE'RE GONNA SMASH THOSE FAGS TO HELL  
SHOW'EM WHAT ABOMINATION MEANS  
LET'S GET OUT AND FIGHT, SHOW'EM WE'RE RIGHT  
LET'S FUCK THE OTHER TEAM

WE'RE GONNA STUFF THEM AT THE LINE  
AFTER WE PENETRATE THEM DEEP  
WE'RE GONNA MAKE THEM CRAWL AND RAM THAT BALL  
RIGHT BACK DOWN THEIR TEETH

WE'RE GONNA PILE ON FROM BEHIND  
THEY'RE GONNA BEG AND CRY AND SCREAM  
WE'LL HIT 'EM HIGH, WE'LL HIT 'EM LOW,  
WE'LL STICK IT WHERE THE SUN DON'T GO  
LET'S FUCK THE OTHER TEAM

*JOHN:*

IF THE CHOICE IS FUCK OR FIGHT  
I SURE DO HOPE I GET ONE RIGHT

WE'RE GONNA SMASH THOSE FAGS TO HELL  
SHOW'EM WHAT ABOMINATION MEANS  
LET'S GET OUT AND FIGHT, SHOW'EM WE'RE RIGHT  
LET'S FUCK THE OTHER TEAM  
LET'S FU-U-U-U-CK THE OTHER TEAM

*NUN:* BOYS! SUCH LANGUAGE! YOU KNOW THE DRILL! PUT ON THE WIGS AND THE SKIRTS.

*FOOTBALL PLAYERS:* AW, SISTER

*JOHN:* OK, SISTER!

*FOOTBALL PLAYERS:* ... WE'RE GONNA HIT SOMEONE TODAY... WE'RE GONNA POUND THEM 'TIL THEY SCREAM...

*NUN:* JOHN GUIDOS!! THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PUNISHMENT!

*JOHN:* YES, SISTER...

## **BLOW MY OWN HORN**

*FRANK MINYARD:*

MAMA BOUGHT ME A SECOND HAND HORN  
WE HAD NO MONEY FOR LESSONS OF COURSE  
SHE TAUGHT ME HYMNS OF GRIEF I PRACTICED HARD  
AS IF TRYING TO CHANGE MY LIFE BY FORCE

IN THE HOT SUMMER DAYS OF MY YOUTH

I'D BEG TO GO SWIM IN THE AUDUBON POOL  
SHE'D SAY POOR WHITES LIKE US DON'T MIX WELL  
WITH THOSE UPTOWN SWELLS AND THOSE JEWS

I'LL BLOWN MY OWN HORN THROUGH MY TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS  
I'LL BLOWN MY OWN HORN WHEN I'VE SUCCEEDED AND I'VE FAILED  
THROUGH MY GREATEST GLORIES AND WORST HUMILIATIONS  
I'LL BLOW MY OWN HORN 'TIL I'M COLD, STIFF, DEAD AND PALE

I FIND THAT SUCCESS IS A BREEZE WHEN YOU'RE WONDERFUL AS ME  
GOT MY PHD IN GYNECOLOGY, I GOT GIRLS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE  
ON BOURBON STREET I'M DOCTOR JAZZ, THEY DIG THE WAY I TOSS MY CASH  
I LIVE IN A PALACE MY WIFE PICKED OUT, BUT I REALLY GO THERE JUST TO CRASH

I'LL BLOWN MY OWN HORN THROUGH MY TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS  
I'LL BLOWN MY OWN HORN WHEN I'VE SUCCEEDED AND I'VE FAILED  
THROUGH MY GREATEST GLORIES AND WORST HUMILIATIONS  
I'LL BLOW MY OWN HORN 'TIL I'M COLD STIFF DEAD AND PALE

(EAT YOUR HEART OUT, FREDDY DECORDOVA.)

FROM TIME TO TIME A DARKNESS GETS THE BEST OF ME  
I FIND MYSELF BERATING MY SWEET EMELIE  
ONCE JUST BECAUSE SHE CHANGED HER HAIR I SCREAMED AT HER FROM UP THE STAIRS  
OUR DINNER GUESTS WERE HORRIFIED AND SO WERE WE

ON MY PATIO TONIGHT, SOAKING IN THE MOONLIGHT  
I SLUG MY DRINK STARE AT THE STARS BUT SOMETHING IN ME DON'T FEEL RIGHT  
OH GOD! MY VISION IS GOING BLACK, MY BREATH IS GROWING SLACK  
MY YACHT IS SINKING IN A SEA OF USELESS POINTLESS CRAP

I'LL BLOWN MY OWN HORN THOUGH I'VE HAD A FEW LIBATIONS  
I'LL BLOW MY OWN HORN 'CAUSE IT'S ALWAYS WORKED BEFORE  
THIS IS NOT THE END, NO, MY TRAIN AIN'T LEFT THE STATION  
I'LL BLOW MY OWN HORN TILL THEY DRAG ME OUT THE DOOR  
I'LL BLOW MY OWN HORN TILL I'M FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR  
I'LL BLOW MY OWN HORN TILL THERE AIN'T NO ME NO MORE

## **IT'S LIKE A DANCE**

*MAN 1:*

BROKE IN A NEW GUY LAST NIGHT  
A LITTLE BITTY LIGHT SKINNED FELLA  
MAN, HE WAS JUMPIN' UP AND DOWN IN THE HIRIN' HALL  
ACTIN' THE FOOL, PLAYIN' IT COOL ,WAVIN' AND CLIMBING THE WALLS

A MAN'S GOT TO LEARN

*DOCKWORKERS:* A MAN'S GOT TO LEARN

A MAN'S GOT TO BE TAUGHT

*DOCKWORKERS:* A MAN'S GOT TO BE TAUGHT  
HEY CATCH ME A BEER  
*DOCKWORKERS:* YOU ALREADY BEEN CAUGHT  
GOTTA GRAB IT BY THE SEAT OF THE PANTS  
IT'S LIKE A DANCE, LITTLE FELLA, IT'S LIKE A DANCE

*MAN 2:*  
HE'S OUT ON THE DOCKS GRABBING SACKS  
HUMPING THEM ALL BY HISSELF  
I SAID "OOH, STOP, SON, YOU'RE DOIN' IT ALL WRONG"  
I SAID "BUP BUP BUP BAM, EASY-LIKE,  
YOU GOTTA KEEP IT UP ALL NIGHT LONG"

A MAN'S GOT TO LEARN  
*DOCKWORKERS:* A MAN'S GOT TO LEARN  
A MAN'S GOT TO BE TAUGHT  
*DOCKWORKERS:* A MAN'S GOT TO BE TAUGHT  
HEY CATCH ME A BEER  
*DOCKWORKERS:* YOU ALREADY BEEN CAUGHT  
GOTTA GRAB IT BY THE SEAT OF THE PANTS  
IT'S LIKE A DANCE, LITTLE FELLA, IT'S LIKE A DANCE

*MAN 3*  
HEY THERE, SON, COME HAVE YOU ONE  
BEEN STUCK IN THAT DUMPSTER ALL DAY  
SIT RIGHT HERE, CRACK THIS BEER  
TELL US HOW MUCH YOU GET PAID

*BILLY:* \$80 A WEEK  
*MAN 3:* 80 A WEEK? WHATCHA GONNA DO WITH 80 A WEEK?  
*BILLY:* SAVIN' UP FOR A CAR.  
*MAN 3:* WHAT KINDA CAR YOU GONNA GET ON THAT MONEY?  
*BILLY:* VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE, BRAND NEW  
*MAN 3:* DAMN BEETLE, THAT AIN'T NO CAR. CADILLAC FLEETWOOD BROUGHAM, NOW  
THAT'S A CAR!  
*BILLY:* WELL, GOTTA SAVE SOMETHIN' FOR WHEN I GET MARRIED.  
*MAN 3:* YOU SAVE YOUR MONEY AND GET MARRIED BUT KEEP A LITTLE SOMETHING ON THE SIDE  
*BILLY:* WHY WOULD I WANT THAT?  
*MAN 3:* 'CAUSE SON LET ME ASK YOU WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING TO EAT?  
*BILLY:* STEAK, POTATOES AND PEAS, I GUESS.  
*MAN 3:* WHO'D WANT A EAT THAT MEAL, EVERY DAY, 21 TIMES A WEEK?

A MAN'S GOT TO LEARN  
*DOCKWORKERS:* A MAN'S GOT TO LEARN  
A MAN'S GOT TO BE TAUGHT  
*DOCKWORKERS:* A MAN'S GOT TO BE TAUGHT  
HEY CATCH ME A BEER  
*DOCKWORKERS:* YOU ALREADY BEEN CAUGHT  
GOTTA GRAB IT BY THE SEAT OF THE PANTS  
IT'S LIKE A DANCE, LITTLE FELLA, IT'S LIKE A DANCE

YOU GOTTA GRAB IT BY THE SEAT OF THE PANTS  
IT'S LIKE A DANCE, LITTLE FELLA, IT'S LIKE A DANCE  
GOTTA GRAB IT BY THE SEAT OF THE PANTS  
IT'S LIKE A DANCE, LITTLE FELLA, IT'S LIKE A DANCE

## **RUN AGAINST YOU AND WIN**

*FRANK:*

TELL ME, FATHER THERIOT, ARE WE REALLY HELPING THEM?  
THESE FOLKS WERE FINE A WEEK AGO, NOW THEY'RE WALKING GHOSTS AGAIN

*FATHER THERIOT:*

THE CELL BLOCK IS THE EASIEST PLACE IN THE CITY TO GET SMACK  
THEY ALL THAT SAY THAT

*JUNKIES:* WE ALL SAY THAT

*FATHER THERIOT:*

SEE HER IN THE GOLD LAMÉ? SHE WAS STARTING TO GET CLEAN  
SHE WENT IN FOR SHOPLIFTING, CAME OUT ON HEROIN  
THE CELL BLOCK IS THE EASIEST PLACE IN THE CITY TO GET SMACK  
THEY ALL THAT SAY THAT

*JUNKIES:* WE ALL SAY THAT

*FRANK:* THEN WE GOT DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE JAILS

*JUNKIES:* YES, YOU GOT DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE JAILS

*FATHER THERIOT:* FRANK, YOU GOT DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE JAILS

*JUNKIE:* YEAH, YOU GOTTS TO DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT THEM JAILS

*ALL:* YEAH, WE GOT TO DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT THE JAILS!

*FRANK:* MR. HEYD, PLEASE, FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME

*SHERIFF HEYD:* I'LL GIVE YOU TWO, AND BY THE WAY, IT'S "SHERRIF" HEYD TO YOU

*FRANK:*

WELL, SHERIFF, I WORK AT THE ST. AUG'S MISSION  
GIVING JUNKIES METHADONE  
BUT THEY GO THROUGH YOUR JAIL, GET HOOKED AGAIN  
AND COME BACK WITH THEIR JONES  
BUT MAYBE TOGETHER WE CAN SOLVE THIS

AT LEAST ACKNOWLEDGE IT EXISTS  
PERHAPS THE GOOD LORD WILL ABSOLVE US  
WE'RE NO SAINTS BUT THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN FIX

*SHERIFF HEYD:*

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD, THIS PRISON'S BEING SUED  
THE HEALTH OF INMATES ISN'T EVEN PART OF MY PURVIEW

SEE THE CORONER INSTEAD, HE CONTROLS THE JAILBIRDS AND THE DEAD  
THERE'S REALLY NOTHING MORE THAT I CAN DO  
I SINCERELY HOPE THE TWO OF YOU CAN SOLVE THIS  
MAYBE HE'LL ACKNOWLEDGE YOU EXIST  
I GOTTA RUN, I HOPE THAT YOU RESOLVE THIS  
THE SAINTS ARE PLAYING, I JUST SCORED FREE TICKETS

*CORONER RABIN:*

COME IN, COME IN, DR. MINYARD. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SEE ME TODAY?  
HAPPY TO ACCOMMODATE A FELLOW SAWBONES  
JUST MOVE THOSE FOLDERS OUT OF YOUR WAY

*FRANK:* I CAN SEE YOU'RE BUSY, SIR, I'LL GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT  
THERE'S LOTS OF BACK SLIDING-JUNKIES THAT FAIL...

*CORONER RABIN:* YEAH, ONCE A DOPE FIEND, ALWAYS A DOPE FIEND.

*FRANK:* MY THERAPY WORKS AND I CAN PROVE IT LET ME BRING METHADONE IN YOUR JAIL

*CORONER RABIN:* YOU TELLING ME YOU WANT TO BRING DRUGS INTO A JAIL?

*FRANK:* I'VE BEEN RUNNING THIS PROGRAM FOR MONTHS -- IT WORKS , DOCTOR!  
MY PATIENTS JUST NEED CONTINUITY OF CARE.

*CORONER RABIN:* NO, SIR.

*FRANK:* YOU'RE SURE OF THAT? WELL THEN, WHO'S YOUR BOSS?

*CORONER RABIN:* I DON'T HAVE A BOSS. I'M ELECTED!

*FRANK:* WELL, IN THAT CASE...

*FRANK:*

I'M GONNA RUN AGAINST YOU AND WIN YOU SON OF A BITCH!

(*CORONER RABIN:* WHATTA YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?!)

STICK THOSE WORDS BACK DOWN YOUR THROAT UNTIL YOU CHOKE AND SPIT

(*CORONER RABIN:* GET OUTTA MY OFFICE!)

I'LL TAKE YOUR JOB I'LL TAKE YOUR LIFE MIGHT EVEN SCREW YOUR WIFE TONIGHT

(*CORONER RABIN:* D'OH!)

GONNA RUN AGAINST YOU AND WIN, YOU SON OF A BITCH!

(*CORONER RABIN:* YEAH, YOU JUST TRY!)

I'LL SIT BEHIND THAT DESK OF YOURS AND SOLVE THIS

(*CORONER RABIN:* YEAH RIGHT!)

AT LEAST I KNOW THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST

(*CORONER RABIN:* YEAH, YOU THINK YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE?)

NEXT ELECTION THE VOTERS CAN RESOLVE IT

(*CORONER RABIN:* WE'LL SEE ABOUT DAT!)

GONNA RUN AGAINST YOU AND WIN YOU SON OF A BITCH!

(*CORONER RABIN:* GET OUTTA HERE!)

GONNA RUN AGAINST YOU AND WIN YOU SON OF A BITCH!

(*CORONER RABIN:* I OUGHTTA PULL THIS THING OUT AND--)

GONNA RUN AGAINST YOU AND WIN YOU SON OF A BITCH!

(*CORONER RABIN:* GOOD LUCK WIT' DAT!)

## HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE

*BILLY:*

AH, THE REX MANSION...  
BEEN CURIOUS MY WHOLE LIFE, A QUEEN ANNE MASTERPIECE  
ONE OF THE FINEST HOUSES ON ST. CHARLES  
THE REGAL BANNERS HANGING ON THE BALCONY  
HONOR FORMER KINGS AND QUEENS OF CARNIVAL  
HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE NOT TO CLUE ME IN  
SIMPLY SAID COME TO DINNER AT MY AUNTIE'S

*GEORGE:*

ALL RIGHT NOW...  
THIS IS ROBERT HENRY DOWNMAN, ANNE'S GREAT GRANDFATHER  
ONE OF THE FINEST MEN WHO EVER WALKED THE EARTH  
HE FOUNDED THE LOUISIANA LOTTERY  
A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LEVEE BOARD, FOR WHAT THAT'S WORTH

BEHIND THE SCENES, THESE KINGS AND QUEENS

*(BILLY: HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE NOT TO TIP HER HAND)*

WHO MASK WITH GRAND DECORUM

*(BILLY: SIMPLY SAID COME TO DINNER AT MY AUNTIE'S)*

POP PILLS AT WILL, DUCK GROCERY BILLS

*(BILLY: HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE NOT TO TIP HER HAND)*

I ADORE 'EM WHILE I DEPLORE 'EM.

*(BILLY: TO PROTECT ME FROM MY OWN AMBITION)*

*GEORGE:*

THIS IS MY FATHER HE WAS LAWYER TO SAM ZEMURRAY  
WHO PARLAYED A BANANA STAND IN MOBILE INTO OWNING UNITED FRUIT  
GOT HIMSELF THROWN INTO A HONDURAN PRISON  
WHERE HE NEVER LOST HIS DIGNITY THOUGH HE LANGUISHED IN ABJECT MISERY UNTIL SENATOR JOE  
RANDELL, MY GREAT-UNCLE AND I'M PROUD TO SAY PERHAPS HUEY LONG'S GREATEST ENEMY, SENT  
A FLEET OF NAVY GUNBOATS TO BLOCKADE THE PORT OF TEGUCIGALPA UNTIL THEY FREED MY FATHER  
AND ..  
ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME SON?

*GEORGE:*

BEHIND THE SCENES, THESE KINGS AND QUEENS

*(BILLY: HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE NOT TO CLUE ME IN)*

*(BIG ANNE, SWEET ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: THESE FABULOUS KINGS AND QUEENS, WHO LIVE BEYOND  
THEIR MEANS)*

WHO MASK WITH GRAND DECORUM

*(BILLY: SIMPLY SAID COME TO DINNER AT MY AUNTIE'S)*

*(BIG ANNE, SWEET ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: AT LAST YOU'RE ONE OF THEM)*

POP PILLS AT WILL, DUCK GROCERY BILLS

*(BILLY: HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE NOT TO TIP HER HAND)*

*(BIG ANNE, SWEET ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: THESE FABULOUS KINGS AND QUEENS, WHO LIVE BEYOND  
THEIR MEANS)*

I ADORE 'EM WHILE I DEPLORE 'EM.



(BILLY: TO PROTECT ME FROM MY OWN AMBITION)  
(BIG ANNE, SWEET ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: AT LAST YOU'RE ONE OF THEM)

BILLY:  
THIS IS AMAZING BUT HOW ABOUT MY SWEET ANNE  
THAT FIGURE, THOSE EYES, THAT GRAVELLY LAUGH  
SHE DOESN'T GIVE A FIG FOR THE POMPOSITTY  
OR WHETHER I DRIVE A BUG OR A BENTLEY

HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE NOT TO CLUE ME IN  
SIMPLY SAID COME TO DINNER AT MY AUNTIE'S

HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE NOT TO TIP HER HAND  
(GEORGE: BEHIND THE SCENES, THESE KINGS AND QUEENS)  
TO PROTECT ME FROM MY OWN AMBITION  
(GEORGE: WHO MASK WITH GRAND DECORUM)

HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE, I'M PUTTY IN HER HANDS  
(GEORGE: POP PILLS AT WILL, DUCK GROCERY BILLS)  
(BIG ANNE, SWEET ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: THESE FABULOUS KINGS AND QUEENS, WHO LIVE BEYOND  
THEIR MEANS)

I'LL DO ANYTHING THAT SHE HAS PLANNED FOR ME  
(GEORGE: I ADORE 'EM WHILE I DEPLORE 'EM)  
(BIG ANNE, SWEET ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: AT LAST YOU'RE ONE OF THEM)

HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE NOT TO CLUE ME IN  
(GEORGE: BEHIND THE SCENES, THESE KINGS AND QUEENS)  
(BIG ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: THESE FABULOUS KINGS AND QUEENS, WHO LIVE BEYOND THEIR MEANS)  
(ANNE: ONE DAY YOU WILL BE THE KING OF CARNIVAL!)  
SIMPLY SAID COME TO DINNER AT MY AUNTIE'S  
(GEORGE: WHO MASK WITH GRAND DECORUM)  
(BIG ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: AT LAST YOU'RE ONE OF THEM)  
(ANNE: ONE DAY YOU WILL BE THE KING OF CARNIVAL!)

HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE, NOT TO TIP HER HAND  
(GEORGE: POP PILLS AT WILL, DUCK GROCERY BILLS)  
(ANNE: ONE DAY YOU WILL BE THE KING OF CARNIVAL!)  
TO PROTECT ME FROM MY OWN AMBITION  
(GEORGE: I ADORE 'EM WHILE I DEPLORE 'EM)  
(BIG ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: AT LAST YOU'RE ONE OF THEM)  
(ANNE: ONE DAY YOU WILL BE THE KING OF CARNIVAL!)

HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE, I'M PUTTY IN HER HANDS  
(GEORGE: BEHIND THE SCENES, THESE KINGS AND QUEENS)  
(ANNE: ONE DAY YOU WILL BE THE KING OF CARNIVAL!)  
I'LL DO ANYTHING THAT SHE HAS PLANNED FOR ME  
(GEORGE GEORGE: WHO MASK WITH GRAND DECORUM)  
(BIG ANNE, AUNT VICKIE: AT LAST YOU'RE ONE OF THEM)

(ANNE: ONE DAY YOU WILL BE THE KING OF CARNIVAL!)

HOW VERY LIKE SWEET ANNE TO TAKE ME BY THE HAND  
AND LEAD ME TO A PLACE THAT ALL MY LIFE I'VE CHASED

### **I WISH IT WAS TOMORROW**

*BELINDA:*

I WISH I WERE A TV SHOW WITH A NORMAL MOM AND DAD  
WHERE EVERY PROBLEM SOLVES ITSELF BEFORE THE FINAL AD  
I WALK OUT EACH EVENING THROUGH THE LOWER NINE  
DRINKING PLACES, SWEATY FACES, NONE OF THEM ARE MINE

I WISH IT WAS TOMORROW AND I WERE FAR AWAY  
I'D FOLLOW CLUES WITH NANCY DREW, WE'D ALWAYS CRACK THE CASE  
WHERE CHILDREN COME HOME LAUGHING AND COPS ARE ON YOUR SIDE  
WHERE MEN YOU LOVE LIKE FATHERS, DON'T CHEAT YOU, LEAVE OR DIE

PEOPLE SAY YOU'RE DREAMING GIRL, THEY LOOK AT ME AND LAUGH  
I'M ONLY EIGHT BUT I CAN TASTE IT I WANT OUT OF HERE SO BAD  
I'LL GET MYSELF THROUGH COLLEGE, THOUGH I'M NOT WHAT THAT MEANS  
BUT IT MUST BE BETTER THAN THIS LIFE OF ENDLESS WORK,  
SAD-EYED MOMS, IDIOT BROTHERS, UNPAID BILLS, EVENING MEALS OF GRITS AND GREENS

I WISH THE WORLD WERE DIFFERENT THAN WHERE I LIVE RIGHT NOW  
HOPE I TURN OUT GOOD ENOUGH TO FIND THAT WORLD SOMEHOW  
BUT RIGHT NOW GRANDMA'S YELLING "GET THE BABIES OFF THE LAWN  
AND BE SURE TO KISS YOUR MAMA 'FORE SHE GOES TO WORK 'TIL DAWN"

### **DISRESPECT**

*DA:* HELLO, BOYS

*BOYS:* HEY, DA

*DA:* DONE YOUR CHORES?

*BOYS:* YUP

*DA:* HOMEWORK?

*BOYS:* YUP

*DA:*

HMMM

YOU CALL THAT DOING DISHES I CALL IT WORLD WAR THREE  
IF YOU REALLY DONE YOUR SCHOOLWORK YOU BEST BRING IT HERE TO ME  
WHICH A' YOU BUSTED MAMA'S LAMP BETTER FIX IT 'TIL IT WORKS  
AND WHOEVER ATE THEM COOKIES HAS ALREADY HAD DESSERT

*CHORUS:*

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND I'LL BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU  
BUT IF YOU TELL ME YES AND THEN YOU BUST THE RULES  
THAT'S DISRESPECT, THAT'S DISRESPECT

*DA:*

BOY, SIT YOUR ASS DOWN  
WIL, I KNOW YOU JUST A BOY BUT YOU GONNA BE A MAN  
WATCH EGZACTLY WHAT I DO, BE PR'SICELY WHO I AM  
YOU ARE WILBERT RAWLINS JR., THAT NAME'S MY LEGACY  
I DID NOT GIVE YOU MY NAME FOR YOU TO THROW IT IN THE STREET  
ONE THING I WON'T STAND FOR IS THAT YOU EMBARRASS ME

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND I'LL BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU  
BUT IF YOU TELL ME YES AND THEN YOU BUST THE RULES  
THAT'S DISRESPECT, THAT'S DISRESPECT

*DA:* YOU BOYS BEHAVE YOURSELF, I GOT A GIG WITH MISS IRMA AND I CAN'T KEEP HER WAITING

*IRMA THOMAS:*

WHAT'S A WOMAN DREAMING ABOUT, AIN'T SO MYSTERIOUS  
JUST A CLEAN HONEST MAN, WHO'S GOOD WITH HIS HANDS  
SHE WANTS SOMEONE SHE CAN TRUST  
I WANNA KNOW I'M SAFE WITH MY GUY AND WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME  
HE KNOWS I'M HIS WHOLE WORLD, THERE AIN'T NO OTHER GIRLS  
I'M THE ONLY ONE HE SEES

*DA AND IRMA:*

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND I'LL BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU  
BUT IF YOU TELL ME YES AND THEN YOU BUST THE RULES  
THAT'S DISRESPECT, THAT'S DISRESPECT

*DA:* WILBERT, LOOK SHARP!

YOU'RE ONLY MAN IN CENTER FIELD, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GAME  
YOU CAN DO IT, SON, YOU GOT TO WORK ON THROUGH THE PAIN  
HOW YOU GONNA MAKE THE PLAY IF YOU AIN'T ON THE DIAMOND  
SOMETIMES THE WORLD'LL KNOCK YOU DOWN, YOU GOT TO KEEP ON TRYING

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND I'LL BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU  
SO IF YOU TELL ME YES AND THEN YOU FOLLOW THROUGH  
SON, THAT'S RESPECT, THAT'S RESPECT

## **TOOTIE**

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE! TOOTIE! PUT DOWN THAT NEEDLE! YOUR SPY BOY SAY...

*INDIANS:* KOOWAH!

*JOYCE:* THE WHOLE TRIBE SAY...

*INDIANS:* KOOWAH!

*JOYCE:* ALL WAITIN' FOR YA! TOOTIE! TOOTIE!

*TOOTIE:* I CAN'T HELP THAT, JUST TELL EVERYONE IT'S MARDI GRAS MORNING,  
MY SUIT'S NOT FINISHED, I'LL GET THERE WHEN I'M DONE!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE!

*INDIANS:* BIG CHIEF!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE!

*INDIANS:* BIG CHIEF!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE! WE GONNA BE LATE FOR MAYOR MORIAL. MARDI GRAS INDIANS...

*INDIANS:* INJUNS!

*JOYCE:* BEIN' HONORED...

*INDIANS:* OOMBA OOMBA!

*JOYCE:* AT GALLIER HALL. TOOTIE!

*INDIANS:* UNHEARD OF!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE!

*INDIANS:* AIN'T NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE!

*TOOTIE:* I CAN'T HELP THAT! I'M WORKING CAN'T YOU SEE? I AIN'T DONE AND THE MAYOR AIN'T  
NOTHIN' BUT A SEVENTH WARD CREOLE SON LIKE ME!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE!

*INDIANS:* BIG CHIEF!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE!

*INDIANS:* BIG CHIEF!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE! TOASTING THE KING OF REX...

*INDIANS:* OFAY!

*JOYCE:* WHITE KING...

*INDIANS:* TWO-WAY POCKY WAY!

*JOYCE:* AND A BLACK CHIEF...

*INDIANS:* BIG CHIEF!

*JOYCE:* IN A NEUTRAL MEETING PLACE. TOOTIE! TOOTIE!

*TOOTIE:* I CAN'T HELP THAT! JUST TELL EVERYONE BIG CHIEF'S BUSY AND HIS SUIT'S NOT FINISHED AND  
I'LL GET THERE, GET THERE WHEN I'M DONE!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE! TOOTIE!

*INDIANS:* DON'T RUSH BIG CHIEF ON A MARDI GRAS DAY!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE! TOOTIE!

*TOOTIE:* I'LL GET THERE WHEN I'M DONE!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE! TOOTIE!

*INDIANS:* DON'T RUSH BIG CHIEF ON A MARDI GRAS DAY!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE! TOOTIE!

*TOOTIE:* I'LL GET THERE WHEN I'M DONE!

*JOYCE:* TOOTIE!

## **BRING THE MOUNTAIN TO HIM**

*Mayor Dutch Morial (spoken):*

IF EVERYTHING I'VE HEARD ABOUT CHIEF TOOTIE IS TRUE, HE'S NOT GONNA BUDGE FROM HIS HOUSE  
'TIL HIS SUIT IS READY. SO SINCE MOHAMMAD WON'T COME TO THE MOUNTAIN, I BROUGHT THE  
MOUNTAIN TO HIM.

*INDIANS:*

BIG CHIEF GOT TO SEW

MUHAMMAD WON'T GO TO THE MOUNTAIN, BRING THE MOUNTAIN TO HIM

BIG CHIEF GOT TO SEW

MUHAMMAD WON'T GO TO THE MOUNTAIN, BRING THE MOUNTAIN TO HIM  
BIG CHIEF CAN'T GO  
MUHAMMAD WON'T GO TO THE MOUNTAIN, BRING THE MOUNTAIN TO HIM  
BIG CHIEF CAN'T GO  
MUHAMMAD WON'T GO TO THE MOUNTAIN, BRING THE MOUNTAIN TO HIM  
BIG CHIEF GOT TO SEW  
MUHAMMAD WON'T GO TO THE MOUNTAIN, BRING THE MOUNTAIN TO HIM  
A YELLOW BOY RULER!  
BIG CHIEF GOT TO SEW  
BRING IT TO HIM! BRING IT TO HIM!

### **GLORIA ON THE PHONE**

*FRANK:*

I'M GLAD I BOUGHT THIS COTTAGE AT THE BEACH  
A PLACE WHERE I'M ALMOST COMPLETELY OUT OF REACH  
AS CORONER I'M ALWAYS DEALING WITH THE DEAD  
HERE I GET TO DEAL WITH MY LIFE AND CHASE A LITTLE TAIL INSTEAD

*(RING RING)*

*FRANK:* HELLO?

*GLORIA:* HELLO, DOC? LISTEN, I HATE TO DISTURB YOU BUT THE NEW UNDERTAKER YOU HIRED? WELL,  
HE'S TALKING TO GHOSTS.

*FRANK:* GHOSTS! WHAT? ARE YOU KIDDIN'??

*GLORIA:* CRAZY AS A BESSIE BUG

*FRANK:* DO THEY TALK BACK?

*GLORIA:* I GUESS SO...

*FRANK:* THEY DO?

*FRANK:*

MY UNDERTAKER'S TALKING TO GHOSTS  
MY FAVORITE COP GOT BUSTED WITH BLOW  
THEY FOUND HIM IN BED WITH A GRAM AND A DAME  
THE REPORTERS ARE ASKING FOR ANSWERS AGAIN  
WHILE WAY UPTOWN A TULANE GRAD BURNED A GROCERY DOWN  
HE'S CRYING AND DRUNK AT HIS FAMILY'S HOME  
IT'S GLORIA ON THE PHONE  
IT'S GLORIA ON THE PHONE

*GLORIA:* OH, AND NBC CALLED.

*FRANK:* THERE'S MORE?

*GLORIA:* YEAH, PETE FOUNTAIN SAID THE JOHNNY CARSON SHOW SAID NO TO YOU PLAYING ON THE  
SHOW.

*FRANK:* OH, GLO, NO!

*GLORIA:* OH! AND JUDGE DUPLANTIER WAS ARRESTED FOR DANCING NAKED AGAIN,  
THIS TIME ON TOP OF THE SUPERDOME!!!

*FRANK:*

JOHNNY CARSON TURNED ME DOWN  
EVEN PETE FOUNTAIN COULDN'T BRING HIM AROUND

A COMICAL CORONER WITH A TRUMPET TO BLOW  
BUT PETE SAID THAT JOHNNY SAID THAT FREDDIE SAID NO

AND JUDGE YOU-KNOW-WHO  
NAKED 'CEPT A FLEUR-DI-LIS TATTOO  
IS DANCING AND STONED ON THE ROOF OF THE DOME  
IT'S GLORIA ON THE PHONE  
GLORIA ON THE PHONE

*FRANK:* SO... YOU'VE TAKEN CARE OF ALL THAT?

*GLORIA:* YEAH, BUT...

*FRANK:* GOOD GIRL

*FRANK:*

I'M CORONER, DR. JAZZ, MR. FIX-IT  
IF YOU GOT A PROBLEM CALL MY OFFICE  
MY POSITION CARRIES A BURDEN, GOD KNOWS I FEEL IT'S WEIGHT  
THANK GOODNESS I HAVE GLORIA AND KNOW HOW TO DELEGATE

*GLORIA:* MR. DUPREE CALLED AGAIN SAYS HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR A YEAR

*FRANK:* WELL, SHELVE THAT. HE'S BEEN WAITING A YEAR. WHAT'S ANOTHER WEEKEND...

*FRANK:*

I'VE WORKED ENOUGH FOR TODAY  
TOMORROW THERE'LL BE MORE DRAGONS TO SLAY PLUS  
I FEEL A POWERFUL THIRST COMING ON  
GLORIA, GET OFF THE PHONE

*GLORIA:* ALRIGHT, IF YOU'RE SURE...

*FRANK:* GLORIA, GET OFF THE PHONE

*GLORIA:* OKAY THEN...

*FRANK:* GLORIA, GET OFF THE PHONE

*GLORIA:* YEAH, I GOT THINGS TO DO MYSELF. BYE-BYE

*FRANK:* C'MERE SUGAH! I FINALLY GOT GLORIA OFF THE PHONE

## **KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT SNAKE**

*MR JONES:*

YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK AT THIS SCORE AS A SNAKE  
EVERY PIECE OF MUSIC WE PLAY IS DIFFERENT  
YOU MIGHT HAVE HANDLED A COBRA BEFORE  
BUT THIS ANACONDA WILL GET YOU TWITCHING

SO KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT SNAKE OR HE'LL BITE YOU  
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT SNAKE OR HE'LL BITE YOU

LET ME HEAR THE MELLOPHONES IN C  
BARITONES, GIVE IT TO ME IN G

*WILBERT:*

MR. JONES, CAN YOU HEAR ME  
YOU GOT US SACRIFICING OUR INTENSITY  
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE C TO THE BARITONES  
GIVE THE G TO THE MELLOPHONES

*MR. JONES:*

WILBERT, DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE?  
THIS MY DAMNED BAND, I'LL DO AS I PLEASE

*WILBERT:* AT LEAST MY DA' ALWAYS EXPLAINS THINGS TO ME

*MR. JONES:*

I'M THE BAND INSTRUCTOR HERE, YOU WILL LISTEN TO ME

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT SNAKE OR HE'LL BITE YOU  
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT SNAKE OR HE'LL BITE YOU

*WILBERT:*

YOU KNOW I'M GONNA GET THAT DEGREE  
THEN I'M GONNA BLOW YOU OUT, JUST WAIT AND SEE

*MR. JONES:*

YOU KNOW WHAT, WILBERT'S RIGHT  
SWITCHING THE KEYS WOULD SOUND MORE POWERFUL  
BUT I DON'T WANT ALL THAT MIGHT  
MUSIC HAS TO START SOFTLY  
AND GROW LIKE THIS

THAT'S HOW IT LIFTS THE SOUL, CHILDREN  
THAT'S HOW IT LIFTS THE SOUL  
THAT'S HOW IT LIFTS THE SOUL  
THAT'S HOW IT LIFTS THE SOUL

### **COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE**

*MA:* HUSH! HOLD THE DOOR -- THAT'S ENOUGH NOW CHILDREN LEAVE YOUR DA ALONE

*DA:* YES BOYS, IT HURTS, IT HURTS BAD, BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

*CHORUS:*

COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

*IRMA THOMAS:*

I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU OUT TONIGHT  
YOU'RE SAFE WITH ME, EVERYTHING GONNA BE ALRIGHT  
LIFE CAN BE A MYSTERY, LOVE CAN BE A CURSE

AND WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD, REMEMBER IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

*CHORUS:*

COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

*IRMA THOMAS:*

LIE BACK IN THE GRASS WHILE THE SAXOPHONES PLAY  
LET THEM WASH OVER YOU LIKE A HOT SUMMER SUNDAY  
YOUR PUZZLE'S MISSING PIECES AND THERE'S NOTHING IN YOUR PURSE  
BUT WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD, REMEMBER, HONEY, IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

*CHORUS:*

COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

*IRMA THOMAS:*

I'LL TAKE YOU WHERE THE MOCKING BIRDS PLAY  
AND MELODIES FLOAT IN ON THE BREEZES  
AND IF YOU STAY THERE YOU'LL FIND YOUR SASHAY  
JOIN IN WITH YOUR HEART, SING THE SWEETER PARTS  
SEE THERE'S NO TIME TO CRY WHEN YOU'RE LEARNING TO FLY  
LET'S GET GOING, SWEETHEART

*CHORUS:*

NO TIME TO CRY LEARNING TO FLY  
WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

*IRMA THOMAS:*

CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR NOW, LET THE RHYTHM FLOW THROUGH YOU  
I WILL BE YOUR LULLABY WHEN YOU'RE SUFFERING WITH THE BLUES  
AND IF YOU WANT A RIGHTEOUS REMEDY LISTEN TO YOUR NURSE  
WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD REMEMBER, HONEY, JUST REMEMBER  
IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

NOTHING'S EVER BAD AS IT SEEMS, IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE  
WHEN YOU'RE A MAN YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN, IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE  
WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD REMEMBER, REMEMBER, IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE  
NOTHIN' AS BAD AS IT SEEMS, IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE HA!  
IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

BEEN THERE, DID THAT AH, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SAY  
IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE, OH, IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE  
NOTHIN'S EVER BAD AS IT SEEMS, BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE  
REMEMBER, IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

*CHORUS:*

COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE



## **NOW THAT KATHY'S GONE**

*KATHY (SPOKEN) :*

ALL RIGHT, JOHNNY, I GOTTA GO TO WORK NOW. GIMME A KISS.  
DO YOU THINK I GAINED TOO MUCH WEIGHT SINCE THE BABY?

*JOHN (SPOKEN):*

NAH, YOU'RE THE RIGHT SIZE FOR ME, BABY ... I MEAN, YOU'RE JUST MY SIZE ... I MEAN YOU... YOU'RE JUST THE RIGHT SIZE ...

*CHORUS:*

NOW THAT KATHY'S GONE

*JOHN:*

IN MY FAMILIAR PERSONAL HEAVEN  
TAINTED, PAINTED, DRESSED AND ALONE  
THE INTOXICATING CYLINDER OF PLASTIC VIBRATIONS  
DISSOLVING THE TENSION WHEN KATHY'S NOT HOME

*CHORUS:*

NOW THAT KATHY'S GONE

*JOHN:*

PLACED JUST SO IT RADIATES THROUGH ME  
JUST A LITTLE FARTHER AND I START TO MOAN  
SPASMS IN MY CHASMS DELIGHT AND CONFUSE ME  
THIS BOILING SENSATION WOULD MELT IRON STONE

OHHH, ALL OF THAT LONELINESS AND SHAME  
KEEPS BUILDING IN MY SINEW EVERY DAY  
I PRESS A LITTLE HARDER AND IT ALL FADES AWAY  
WHERE DID IT GO... WAIT ... WAIT -- WHERE'D IT GO?!?

OH MY GOD! KATHY GETS HOME IN FORTY-FIVE MINUTES  
I CAN HEAR THAT THING BUZZING IN ME DEEP INSIDE  
MY DESPERATE GRUNTING AND POKING DO NOTHING  
GOTTA SEE ME A DOCTOR, I'VE SWALLOWED MORE THAN MY PRIDE

*NURSE (SPOKEN):* WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

*JOHN (SPOKEN):* I THINK I NEED A DOCTOR, STAT!

*NURSE (SPOKEN):* WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

*JOHN (SPOKEN):* I HAVE A VIBRATOR STUCK INSIDE ME.

*NURSE (SPOKEN):* HAVE A SEAT.

*JOHN (SPOKEN):* I THINK I'LL STAND.

*KATHY:* JOHNNY WHAT HAPPENED? NO ONE WOULD TELL ME NOTHING  
ALL NIGHT I FEARED THE WORST, BABY, IS IT BAD?

*JOHN:* WELL, I HAD A LITTLE DIZZY SPELL BUT THERE'S NO REPERCUSSIONS  
THEY RAN A BUNCH OF TESTS, BABY, I'M FINE, DON'T BE SAD.

*NURSE:* GOOD MORNING, I HAVE YOUR THINGS  
JUST STAY IN BED, I'LL PUT 'EM HERE ON THE CHAIR

*JOHN (SPOKEN):* KATHY, HOW'RE THE KIDS? ARE THEY WITH YOUR MOM'N'EM? AWWW,  
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT MY STUFF BABY AW, JUST, LEAVE IT -- LEAVE IT OVER THERE

*KATHY (SPOKEN):* WHAT'S THIS?!?

*JOHN (SPOKEN):* OH, B-B-B-BABY, I CAN EXPLAIN --

*KATHY (SPOKEN):* OH, JOHN!

*JOHN (SPOKEN):* BABY, I CAN EXPLAIN ... I WOULD'VE TOLD YOU BUT I FEEL SO ASHAYAYAYAMED!

*KATHY (SPOKEN):* YOU MAKE ME SICK I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, JOHN, YOU'RE  
DISGUSTING TO ME!

*JOHN (SPOKEN):* NO BABY, PLEASE DON'T GO!

*DOCTOR AND NURSES:*

NOW THAT KATHY'S GONE

*(NURSE: YOU'RE FINE. WE'RE STILL WORKING ON YOUR PAPERWORK)*

NOW THAT KATHY'S GONE

*(NURSE: BAH-BYE, HAVE A NICE DAY)*

NOW THAT KATHY'S GONE

*(NURSES: DID Y'ALL HEAR WHAT THAT MAN WAS IN HERE FOR?)*

NOW THAT KATHY'S GONE

*(NURSE: YEAH GIRL, BUT DID YOU HEAR WHAT WAS IN THAT MAN?)*

NOW THAT KATHY'S GONE

*(NURSE: MEOOOWWW, KITTY KITTY)*

NOW THAT KATHY'S GONE

### **THESE PIES**

*CHICKEN:* PSST! HEY, WIL! PSST! HEY, WIL!

*DA:* HEY, SON

*WIL:* YEAH, DA?

*DA:* LOOK LIKE YOUR FRIEND CALLIN' YA

*CHICKEN:* OH, WIL! HOLLA AT YOU, BOY!

*WIL:* OH DAT'S CHICKEN. GONNA GO DOWN THERE AND TALK TO HIM. LET ME GO TALK TO HIM. I'LL BE  
RIGHT BACK

*DA:* OH, ALRIGHT, OK. JUST MAKE SURE YOU COME INSIDE.

*WIL:* OK, DA

*DA:* WE GOT SOME STUFF TO DO NOW.

*CHICKEN:* WHAT UP, WIL

*WIL:* WHAT UP, CHICKEN

*CHICKEN:* COME HOLLA AT ME

*WIL:* I CAN'T RIGHT NOW, MAN, I'M CHILLING WITH MY PEEPS

*CHICKEN:*

BUT I GOT A PLAN FOR US TO RUN THESE STREETS

YOU'LL HAVE MONEY OUT THE ASS IF YOU COME AND HELP ME

I CAME UP ON THE WORK MAN THE 1.5  
IF YOU'S A MAN BOUT YOUR BUSINESS  
HELP ME MOVE THESE PIES

*WIL:*  
IF IT AIN'T COOKED IN THE KITCHEN,  
CHICKEN, I AIN'T WITH IT  
AND IF MY DA CATCH ME OUT HERE PITCHING IMA GET IT

*CHICKEN:*  
MAN, STOP ALL OF YOUR BITCHING, YOU SCARED OF YOUR POPS  
ALL YOU GOT TO DO IS HELP YA BOY MOVE THE ROCK  
ME AND YOU TOGETHER WE CAN TAKE OVER THE BLOCK  
WE CAN BALL OUT OF CONTROL SO SHOW ME WHAT YOU GO

*WIL:*  
MAN I'M INTO MY MUSIC, I AIN'T TRYING TO BUBBLE  
IF DA CAUGHT ME OUT HERE SLINGING I'D BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

*DA:* WIL, WHAT YA'LL TALKING BOUT

*WIL:* OH NOTHING, DA! CHICKEN, SHUT THE FUCK UP YOU TRYING TO GET ME POPPED

*DA:* YOU SHOULD COME INSIDE, WIL

*CHICKEN:* OLD MAN, KEEP WALKING, HE'LL COME INSIDE WHEN WE'RE FINISHED, RIGHT NOW WE'RE TALKING.

*DA:* EXCUSE ME, SON?

*CHICKEN:* MAN, I AIN'T YOUR SON AND I SAID WE'RE TALKING, HE'LL COME IN WHEN WE'RE DONE

*WIL:* SAY MAN, DON'T DISRESPECT MY DAD ARE YOU CRAZY

*CHICKEN:*  
MAN, FUCK YOU AND YOUR DAD, BOY YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A BABY  
IMA GET MONEY MAN AND STACK IT TO THE SKY  
AND YOU GON HELP ME DO IT BY MOVING THESE PIES

*CHORUS:*  
YOU GON HELP ME MOVE THESE PIES, BOY  
YOU GON HELP ME MOVE THESE PIES, BOY  
YOU GON HELP ME MOVE THESE PIES, BOY  
YOU GON HELP ME MOVE THESE PIES, BOY

*WIL:*  
LOOK, CHICKEN, YOU GON STOP DISRESPECTING MY DA  
CAUSE IF YOU KEEP IT UP, HOMIE, IMA MAKE YOU STOP

*DA:* SON, I DON'T CONDONE FIGHTING, OK?  
YOU'LL STILL BE A MAN IF YOU WANTED TO WALK AWAY

*WIL:* OK, LOOK, CHICKEN, JUST GO AHEAD AND LEAVE,

CAUSE IF YOU DON'T YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME

*CHICKEN:*

WELL, GUESS WHAT? HERE'S WHAT I'LL DO  
SINCE YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A BITCH, HOW BOUT I DISRESPECT YOU  
HOW BOUT I PUSH YOU AND PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE  
AND KICK YOU WHILE YOU'RE DOWN, THAT SHOULD PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE  
YOU'RE A COWARD JUST LIKE THE MAN YOU CALL DAD, YOU BOUT TO MOVE THESE PIES OR I'MA KICK  
YOUR ASS

*WIL:*

MAN, I DON'T WANT THE LIFE, MAN, IT'S NOT FOR ME  
I DON'T WANT THE HEAT AND I'M NOT BUILT FOR THESE STREETS  
AND I DON'T WANT MY DA TO LOOK DOWN ON ME  
AND I'M TRYING TO DEAL WITH M-U-S-I-C

*DA:* WILL?

*WIL:* YEAH, DA?

*DA:*

I DONE SEEN AND HEARD ENOUGH,  
THIS 'LIL BOY HE REALLY THINKS HE'S TOUGH  
HE THINKS HE A MAN AND HE THINKS HE'S BAD  
AND I DON'T CONDONE FIGHTING BUT YOU NEED TO KICK HIS ASS

*WIL:* DON'T YOU DISREPECT MY DA LIKE THAT... YOU COWARD

*CHICKEN:* OW... OW... OW... GET HIM OFF ME... GET HIM OFF ME... PLEASE... I'M SORRY, WIL...

*WIL:* SORRY, MY...

*DA:* DAT'S ENOUGH, WIL. DAT'S ENOUGH, SON.

*WIL:* I TOLD YOU I'M NOT MOVING NO PIES!

## **WHY CAN'T I SEE TOMORROW**

*BELINDA:*

WHY CAN'T I SEE TOMORROW INSTEAD OF THIS DEAD END  
LONELY IN MY RESTLESSNESS I'VE STOPPED TRYING TO PRETEND  
TRIED TO KEEP MY DISTANCE BY STICKING TO MY PLAN  
TO HIT THE BOOKS AVOID THE LOOKS OF BOYS BECOMING MEN

BUT MY FIRST TASTE OF ALCOHOL AND A BLANKET BY THE LAKE  
STOLE MY BRIGHT FOREVERS, THREW IT ALL AWAY  
I ONCE BELIEVED IN DREAMING AND HEARTS SO FULL THEY ACHE  
NOW I'M LOST INSIDE THE NEVER ENDING CIRCLE OF MISTAKES

## FEEL LIKE A LADY

*BETH:*

OKAY, BREATHE, YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS  
NOD IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...  
OKAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*JOHN:* UH, JOHN

*BETH:* JOHN'S A NAME FOR MEN

YOU NEED A NAME THAT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE A LADY

*BETH:* I'M BETH, AND BOB

*DRAG QUEEN (spoken):* SHE'S JUST FREAKING YOU OUT

*BETH:*

DID YOU BRING YOUR CLOTHES?  
YOU CAN CHANGE RIGHT IN THERE, BABY  
YOU'LL SEE HOW A LITTLE MAKE-UP AND SOME PANTY HOSE  
CAN REALLY MAKE A MAN FEEL LIKE A LADY

HEY, EVERYBODY! QUIET A MINUTE  
I WANT YOU ALL TO MEET JOHN  
NOW, HE'S A LITTLE NERVOUS, BE NICE TO HIM  
THIS IS HIS FIRST TIME

*REAL GIRL:*

HEY, HON, I'M THE REAL THING  
THAT'S MY HUSBAND OVER THERE  
THE ONE IN THE BLONDE WIG AND YELLOW SUNDRESS  
AND, BY THE WAY, NO, I DON'T CARE

*BETH:* GIRL, YOU LOVE IT!

*REAL GIRL:*

ALL RIGHT LADIES BACK OFF NOW,  
LET'S LET OUR NEW FRIEND BEGIN  
GIVE HIM A MOMENT TO DRESS HIMSELF  
THEN WE CAN ALL START IN

*ALL:*

DO A SHOT OF TEQUILA,  
REMEMBER TO LACE UP YOUR PUMPS REAL TIGHT  
HONEY, YOU'LL BE A KNOCKOUT  
LISTEN TO US AND YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT

IF YOU WANT TO BE PRETTY,  
A TOUCH OF ROUGE WILL SUFFICE  
DIAL BACK THE EYE-LINER

THROW ON SOME TITS  
TAKE A DRAG QUEEN'S ADVICE  
TAKE A DRAG QUEEN'S ADVICE

*JOHN:*

MY LIFE'S A MESS  
'CAUSE I LIKE TO DRESS  
AM I A FREAK? I LOST MY JOB, MY WIFE, MY FRIENDS  
THIS'LL NEVER WORK  
I'M BUILT LIKE A TURK  
BUT IF SLINKY LADIES CAN GET SHADY WHY NOT BURLY MEN?  
AH, WHAT THE HELL  
I MAY AS WELL! WHO KNOWS?  
I MIGHT NOT EVER GET THIS CHANCE AGAIN!

*BETH:* JUST LOOK AT US! WE'RE FABULOUS!

*ALL:*

TAKE A DRAG QUEEN'S ADVICE  
TAKE A DRAG QUEEN'S ADVICE  
TAKE A DRAG QUEEN'S ADVICE

*JOHN:*

I FEEL WEIGHTLESS, LIGHT AS FEATHER  
TERROR IS GONE I'M NOT AFRAID  
MY LUNGS ARE FILLED WITH AIR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE  
NOW I REALLY FEEL LIKE A LADY

*ALL:* NOW HE REALLY FEELS LIKE A LADY

*JOHN:* NOW I REALLY FEEL LIKE A LADY

*ALL:* NOW HE REALLY FEELS LIKE A LADY

*JOHN:* NOW I REALLY FEEL LIKE A LADY

*ALL:* NOW HE REALLY FEELS LIKE A LADY

*JOHN:* NOW I REALLY FEEL LIKE A LADY

## **KING FOR A DAY**

*RONALD LEWIS:*

TODAY NOTHING ELSE MATTERS, NO  
I'VE BEEN WAITING ON THIS ALL YEAR  
IT'S THE 9TH WARDS BIGGEST PARTY, YEAH  
WELL GUESS WHAT? NOW IT'S HERE

I GOT THAT BRASS BAND COMING,  
SECOND LINE IS JUMPING  
EVERYBODY HAVING FUN, THIS HOW WE DO IT  
IF YOU SPENT TIME IN NEW ORLEANS,  
YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN  
WE DANCING IN THESE STREETS

AND I'M CLEAN, THEY WATCHING ME AND THEY SAY

THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY AND THEY SAY  
THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY  
THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY  
THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY

MY LEGS ARE ACHING SO BAD, YEAH,  
BUT MY FEET CAN'T FAIL ME NOW, NO  
IM A DO JUST WHAT I WANNA, YEAH,  
I'M BOUT TO BUCK JUMP FOR THIS CROWD

I GOT THAT BRASS BAND COMING  
SECOND LINE IS JUMPING  
EVERYBODY HAVING FUN THIS HOW WE DO IT  
IF YOU SPENT TIME IN NEW ORLEANS  
YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN  
WE DANCING IN THESE STREETS  
AND I'M CLEAN, THEY WATCHING ME AND THEY SAY

THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY AND THEY SAY  
THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY  
THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY  
THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY

THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY AND THEY SAY  
THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY  
THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY  
THAT MAN IS A KING FOR A DAY

## **ACT TWO**

### **JUMP OUT BOYS**

*TIM BRUNEAU (SPOKEN):* TO HELL WITH IT! LET'S GO DO SOME POLICE WORK!

*COPS:* GRAB A PURSE, DEAL A BAG, WAVE A GUN AT A RIVAL  
AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS WILL COME DOWN ON YOU FAST  
ROUGH 'EM UP, HAUL 'EM IN, USING MAXIMUM FORCE  
AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS'LL STICK A BOOT IN YOUR ASS

*TIM BRUNEAU:*  
THEY STAY IN THEIR HOUSES THAT GRANDMAMA GAVE 'EM  
SIT ON THEIR ASSES AND WATCH 'EM FALL DOWN  
THEY MAKE IT SO EASY FOR ME IT'S AMAZING  
SET UP THE SCUMBAGS UP, KNOCK 'EM ON DOWN

*COPS:*  
GRAB A PURSE, DEAL A BAG, WAVE A GUN AT A RIVAL

AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS WILL COME DOWN ON YOU FAST  
ROUGH 'EM ,UP HAUL 'EM, IN USING MAXIMUM FORCE  
AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS'LL STICK A BOOT IN YOUR ASS

*TIM BRUNEAU:*

THE SKINNY ONE THERE BETCHA' HE'S A FAST BASTARD  
NO WAY OF TELLING HOW TOUGH HE MIGHT FIGHT  
LOOK AT HIM BEGGING TO BE ARRESTED  
IF THE LITTLE BITCH BLINKS HE GOES DOWN TONIGHT

*COPS:*

GRAB A PURSE, DEAL A BAG, WAVE A GUN AT A RIVAL  
AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS WILL COME DOWN ON YOU FAST  
ROUGH 'EM, UP HAUL 'EM IN, USING MAXIMUM FORCE  
AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS'LL STICK A BOOT IN YOUR ASS

*BRUNEAU AND COPS:*

IT'S ALWAYS (ALWAYS, ALWAYS)  
"OH, MR. OFFICER, I GOT IT HARD"  
"OH, MR. OFFICER, CAN'T FIND A JOB"  
"NO, MR. OFFICER, IT AIN'T MY YARD"  
"OH, MR. OFFICER, I AIN'T DONE NOTHING"

*COPS:*

GRAB A PURSE, DEAL A BAG, WAVE A GUN AT A RIVAL  
AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS WILL COME DOWN ON YOU FAST  
ROUGH 'EM UP, HAUL 'EM IN, USING MAXIMUM FORCE  
AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS'LL STICK A BOOT IN YOUR ASS

*BRUNEAU:*

YEAH, I'M THE MAN, YOU BETTER NOT CROSS ME  
NOPD GONNA TAKE BACK THE STREETS  
GET OUT THE WORD WE'RE DOING IT UGLY  
WITH A KNIFE IN YOUR RIBS AND A GUN IN YOUR TEETH

*COPS:*

GRAB A PURSE, DEAL A BAG, WAVE A GUN AT A RIVAL  
AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS WILL COME DOWN ON YOU FAST  
ROUGH 'EM UP, HAUL 'EM IN, USING MAXIMUM FORCE  
AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS'LL STICK A BOOT IN YOUR ASS

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AND THE JUMP OUT BOYS'LL STICK A BOOT IN YOUR ASS



## FULL TIME JOANN

*JOHN:*

WHEN MOM WAS SICK IN BED SHE LOOKED UP AT ME AND SAID  
"PROMISE I WON'T SEE YOU IN A DRESS UNTIL I'M DEAD"  
GAZING AT MY MANICURE, SHE SEEMED SO TIRED AND SAD  
THAT I SMILED AND WHISPERED "I'LL BE A MAN FOR YOU AND DAD."

BUT I MADE A RESOLUTION ON THE DAY MY MOMMA DIED  
I NEEDED TRANSFORMATION STARTING ON THE OUTSIDE  
NO MORE JOHN, NO MORE SWITCH-HITTING, NO MORE TRYING TO PRETEND  
RUN AND GET YOUR SCALPEL, DOC, IT'S TIME TO GENDER-BEND!

RALPH LAUREN BLACK CHAPS AND BUTTON DOWN SHIRTS  
ALL THE EMBLEMS OF MY LIFE AS A MAN  
BURNED MY WHOLE WARDROBE REPLACED IT WITH SKIRTS  
GOOD RIDDANCE, JOHN, NOW ON IT'S FULL TIME JOANN

TWO LONG YEARS OF ELECTROLYSIS  
COME ON, BABE, YOU KNOW Y'ALL WANT TO TOUCH IT  
ESTROGEN INJECTIONS MADE THE D CUP THAT I AM  
LOOK AT ME WORLD, IT'S FULL TIME JO-ANN

*JOHN AND CHORUS:*

FULL TIME, FULL TIME JOANN!  
FULL TIME, FULL TIME JOANN  
THIS TIME, IT'S FULL TIME JOANN!  
FULL TIME, FULL TIME JOANN!  
FULL TIME, FULL TIME JOANN  
THIS TIME, IT'S FULL TIME JOANN!

*JOHN:*

MY MOMMA AND GRANDMOMMA WERE BIG-BUSTED SO I GUESS  
BETWEEN THE NEEDLES AND THE DNA, I'M POSITIVELY BLESSED  
NOW SEXUAL SOPHISTICATES CAN TAKE ME AS I AM  
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR QUESTIONS NOW IT'S FULL TIME JOANN

NO MORE HIDING IN THE CLOSET HOPING THAT I WON'T BE SEEN  
THE ONLY GUN I HAVE LEFT IS MY FATHER'S M16  
WHEN IT'S REMOVED THEN YOU CAN'T PROVE I EVER WAS A MAN  
BUT I'M NO LADY I'M A BROAD AND I'M --

*JOHN AND CHORUS:*

FULL TIME, FULL TIME JOANN!  
FULL TIME, FULL TIME JOANN  
THIS TIME, IT'S FULL TIME JOANN!  
FULL TIME, FULL TIME JOANN!

FULL TIME, FULL TIME JOANN  
THIS TIME, IT'S FULL TIME JOANN!

*JOHN:*  
FULL TIME JOANN!!!

### **WALKING ON GLASS**

*BELINDA:*  
LIONUS TURNED OUT TO BE A GOOD MAN  
WE BOUGHT A HOUSE ON DELERY STREET  
HE WAS EVERYTHING EVERYBODY EVER TOLD HIM THAT HE OUGHT TO BE  
WE WEREN'T HAPPY BUT NEVER LET ON  
ONE DAY ME AND THE GIRLS WERE JUST GONE  
YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK WHEN YOU LOOK AT MY PAST  
WAS I WALKING ON GLASS? WAS I WALKING ON GLASS?

SNOOKER, DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING  
HOW'D I EVER GET MIXED UP WITH HIM  
HOPING PEOPLE AT THE OFFICE COULDN'T SEE THE BRUISES UNDER MY DARK SKIN  
HE NEVER DID A THING BUT DRINK UP MY PAY  
BEAT ME DOWN AND SLEEP IT OFF ALL DAY  
YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK WHEN YOU LOOK AT MY PAST  
WAS I WALKING ON GLASS? WAS I WALKING ON GLASS?

"ON MY OWN" IS MY NEW ANTHEM  
NO MORE HUSBANDS, NOT AGAIN  
NO MORE BEING HANDED CELL PHONE NUMBERS FROM VERY MARRIED MEN

ONE DAY I WALKED INTO A PARTY,  
SAW HIM BOUNCING ON THE BALLS OF HIS FEET  
WITH A CROOKED LITTLE GRIN HE ASKED ME DO I WANT A BITE TO EAT  
SWEET BUT NOT WORTH A SECOND GLANCE  
WILBERT RAWLINS JR. DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE  
YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK, WHEN YOU LOOK AT MY PAST,  
WAS I WALKING ON GLASS?  
LOVE DOESN'T LAST, YOU SHATTER IT FAST  
WHEN YOU'RE WALKING ON GLASS  
WHEN YOU'RE WALKING ON GLASS  
WHEN YOU'RE WALKING ON GLASS

### **WE ARE THE BAND**

*WILBERT:*  
ALRIGHT, LISTEN UP, CHILDREN,  
SOON AS THEY FINISH OVER THERE  
WE'RE GONNA START PLAYING JUST LIKE BACK IN THE BAND ROOM  
DON'T SIT THERE AND STARE CHILDREN, DON'T SIT THERE AND STARE

LOOK SHARP  
PLAY JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED  
THEY'RE A MUCH BIGGER BAND IT'S TRUE  
BUT I'VE BEEN WAITING MY WHOLE LIFE TO PROVE MYSELF,  
YEAH, LIKE ALL OF YOU  
PROVE MYSELF LIKE ALL OF YOU

'CAUSE WE ARE THE BAND AND THESE ARE MY CHILDREN  
'CAUSE WE ARE THE BAND AND THE MUSIC LIVES, THE MUSIC LIVES

DON'T LET THAT OTHER BAND FOOL YA'  
THEIR UNIFORMS ARE PRETTY AND THEY FIT  
BUT WE PRACTICED HARD AND WE BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER  
SO WE CAN BLOW 'EM TO BITS, YES, WE WILL BLOW 'EM TO BITS

'CAUSE WE ARE THE BAND AND THESE ARE MY CHILDREN  
'CAUSE WE ARE THE BAND AND THE MUSIC LIVES, THE MUSIC LIVES

'CAUSE WE ARE THE BAND AND THESE ARE MY CHILDREN  
'CAUSE WE ARE THE BAND AND THE MUSIC LIVES  
THE MUSIC LIVES

## **THE KING OF MARDI GRAS**

*GEORGE:*

OH, CALM YOURSELF, BILLY, THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR  
HERE COME YOUR ROYAL SUBJECTS, YOUR PEERS  
THIS IS THE MOMENT YOU KNEW WOULD APPEAR  
YOU'RE THE KING OF MARDI GRAS  
WHO'D'VE THOUGHT YOU'D REACH SUCH DIZZYING HEIGHTS  
THERE'S NO PLACE TO GO BUT DOWN FROM TONIGHT

*BILLY:*

DON'T WANT TO BRAG BUT IT JUST SEEMS RIGHT... THAT I'M THE KING OF MARDI GRAS

I'M THE SQUEAKY, SHINY, FRESHLY MINTED KING OF MARDI GRAS THIS YEAR  
POLICE WILL BOW THE CROWDS KOWTOW WHEN MY ROYAL FLOAT DRAWS NEAR  
I GET TO TOAST THE MAYOR, BE DRUNK BY NOON  
I GET MY REGAL FACE ON EVERY SINGLE REX DOUBLOON

*BILLY (SPOKEN):* OKAY, I'M READY TO RECEIVE. ANTOINE, LET THEM IN.

*GEORGE:*

LOOK AT POOR LEON, SUCH A SORDID AFFAIR  
SOLICITING BOYS IN JACKSON SQUARE  
EVERYONE KNOWS, JUST MAKE SURE THEY DON'T STARE  
YOU'RE THEIR KING OF MARDI GRAS

HERE COMES OLD CEDRIC, HE'S HAD A FABULOUS YEAR  
A HUSH FILLS THE ROOM AS HIS YOUNG WIFE DRAWS NEAR  
HE PIMPS HER OUT FREELY TO ADVANCE HIS CAREER  
AND YOU'RE THEIR KING OF MARDI GRAS

MISS HELEN'S BEEN SICKLY SINCE THE HUEY LONG DAYS  
SHE SWEARS IT'S CONSUMPTION BUT IT'S ALCOHOL HAZE  
THEY'RE DRESSY BUT MESSY IN SO MANY WAYS  
AND YOU'RE THEIR KING OF MARDI GRAS

*GEORGE AND CHORUS:*

YOU'RE OUR SQUEAKY, SHINY, FRESHLY MINTED KING OF MARDI GRAS THIS YEAR  
AT THE BOSTON CLUB YOU'RE FREE TO SNUB YOUR BEST FRIENDS AND WE'LL CHEER  
YOU GET TO CONDESCEND IF YOU SO CHOOSE  
TO THE RIFF-RAFF AND THE COMMONERS ON ST. CHARLES AVENUE

*GEORGE:*

WE'RE NOT CRASSLY DEMOCRATIC LIKE THOSE GHASTLY SUPER KREWES  
THEY'LL TAKE ANY ED OR HARRY WHO CAN PAY THE PALTRY DUES  
YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH OUR MOTTO -- "PRO BONO PUBLICO"  
WHICH MEANS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC, AT LEAST THE ONES WE KNOW

*GEORGE AND CHORUS:*

WE'RE THE BLUE-EST OF BLUEBLOODS, THE FOIE-EST OF GRAS  
BEJEWELED AND ENCRUSTED, ENTITLED AND FLAWED  
BACK-SLAPPING, BOOZY, SOIGNE' AND RAW  
AND YOU'RE OUR KING OF MARDI GRAS

IT'S THIS CLUSTER OF CRONIES TONIGHT AT THE BALL  
WHO CAN COVER OUR ASSETS WITH ONE SIMPLE CALL  
SO WHAT IF THE BANKS MAY EVICT US COME FALL?  
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE THE KING OF MARDI GRAS YOU'RE OUR KING OF MARDI GRAS

*BILLY:* I'M THE KING OF MARDI GRAS

## **QUIT THIS JOB**

*WILBERT:* HOW'S YOUR MIRILTON, BABY?

*BELINDA:* MMMMM, BUTTERY

*WILBERT:* YEAH, THEY ALWAYS DO IT UP RIGHT HERE. YOU OK?

*BELINDA:* IT'S THE STUDYING AND THE CLASSES. I'M A LITTLE OVERWHELMED

*WILBERT:* ON TOP OF THAT YOU'RE WORKING EVERYDAY

*BELINDA:* YEAH

*WILBERT:* BELINDA, I BEEN DOING A LITTLE THINKING

*BELINDA:* OH, WILBERT, I HOPE THAT DIDN'T HURT

*WILBERT:* LISTEN TO ME, PLEASE. THAT LIFE OF DRUDGERY IS ONLY GOING TO BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES

*WILBERT:* QUIT YOUR JOB

*BELINDA:* QUIT MY JOB?

*WILBERT:* QUIT THAT JOB

*BELINDA:* BUT I LIKE MY JOB

*WILBERT:* NO, YOU DON'T. LET ME CARRY US WHILE YOU FINISH COLLEGE. IT WON'T BE FOREVER. ONCE YOU GOTTEN YOU'RE DEGREE YOU'LL MAKE THAT MUCH MORE MONEY

*BELINDA:* SO YOU'RE BEING SELFISH

*WILBERT:* THAT'S RIGHT. IT WILL ALL COME BACK TO ME. THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FAMILY. THIS IS HOW WE GET AHEAD. IT'S US WORKING AS TEAM

*BELINDA:* WE'LL SEE

*WILBERT:* YOUR JOB CAN BE TO FIND A HOUSE THAT WE CAN BUY. I WANT DA TO SEE US SETTLED WHILE HE'S STILL ALIVE

*BELINDA:* HOW 'BOUT ALL THE TIME YOU'RE SPENDING TEACHING BAND? HOW MUCH CAN THE CHILDREN LEARN? AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE JUST LEAVING ME ALONE LIKE EVERY OTHER MAN

*WILBERT:* BABY, THERE'S A REASON I DO WHAT I DO.

*BELINDA:* IF THERE IS I HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

*BELINDA:* WILBERT, WHAT ARE THOSE KIDS DOING ON THE CORNER?

*WILBERT:* OH, THOSE BOYS, BABY? THOSE BOYS ARE MY STUDENTS. WHAT ARE YOU BOYS DOING OUT HERE THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

*BOYS:* HEY MR. RAWLINS! HEY! WE JUST MAKING SOME BANK!

*WILBERT:* QUIT THIS JOB, BOYS. THIS IS NO JOB. YOU ALL LOOK TERRIBLE, RAGGED AND DIRTY. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE SOME MONEY I KNOW A BETTER WAY. YOU BOYS ARE A BAND SO PLAY

## **KAJUN'S PUB**

*JOANN:*

IT'LL BE THE BEST KIND OF BAR YOU'VE EVER SEEN  
I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT RE-IMAGINING  
IF YOU'RE GAY OR STRAIGHT, BLACK OR WHITE,  
OR GUTTER PUNK, COME OUT TONIGHT

I SEE A PAIR OF TIPSY NELLIES SUCKING ON CIGARS  
LAUGHING LOUDLY WITH A YAT WHO'S PLAYING AIR GUITAR  
A CHICK WITH A CHIHUAHUA PUMPS A BUSTED ATM  
WHILE A TOOTHLESS QUEEN IN BACKLESS JEANS TRIES TO MAKE A FRIEND

AT KAJUN'S PUB, A FAMILY CLUB  
JUST DOWN THE BLOCK FROM THE ASIAN RUB AND TUG  
AT KAJUN'S , KAJUN'S PUB

*PATRONS:* KAJUN'S PUB!!!

I KNOW KATHY AND RONEY WILL FIX IT UP WITH ME  
IF I LET THEM LIVE UPSTAIRS FOR FREE  
MY EX-WIFE, HER HUSBAND, MY NEW LOVER MAKES THREE  
A GAY STRAIGHT BI-CURIOUS MENAGERIE

A SOCIAL AID AND PLEASURE CLUB SITS DOWN TO WET THEIR BEAKS  
NEAR A LEATHERY LONGSHOREMAN WHO BARKS WHEN SOMEONE SPEAKS  
FRIDAY'S DRAG QUEEN BINGO NIGHT FOR NERVOUS BUSINESSMEN  
SATURDAY'S MIMOSAS WITH THEIR WIVES AND FRIENDS

AT KAJUN'S PUB, A FAMILY CLUB  
JUST DOWN THE BLOCK FROM THE ASIAN RUB AND TUG  
AT KAJUN'S, KAJUN'S PUB

*PATRONS:* KAJUN'S PUB!!!

IT AIN'T FANCY WIT' IT'S CEMENT FLOOR  
IN FACT IT'S KIND OF A WRECK  
I KNOW MY WAY AROUND A HARDWARE STORE  
I'LL DO THE WORK, GET THIS JOINT INSPECTED  
KNOW I'LL PASS 'CAUSE I'M WELL CONNECTED  
LIKE ME THIS BAR WILL BE RESURRECTED, TOO

WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THAT IT'S THAT KIND OF PLACE  
WHERE FOLKS CAN BE THEMSELVES AND ANYBODY CAN FEEL SAFE  
AFTER FIFTY YEARS OF CAMOUFLAGE IT'S MORE THAN A JOB  
MY MISSION FROM NOW ON'S TO PROTECT THIS MOTLEY MOB

AT KAJUN'S PUB, A FAMILY CLUB  
JUST DOWN THE BLOCK FROM THE ASIAN RUB AND TUG  
AT KAJUN'S, KAJUN'S, YEAH  
KAJUN'S, KAJUN'S  
WE'RE OUT AND RAGING  
NO ONE'S AGING  
AT KAJUN'S PUB  
KAJUN'S PUB  
KAJUN'S PUB  
KAJUN'S PUB  
KAJUN'S PUB

*PATRONS:* KAJUN'S PUB!!!

NOW, BE NICE OR GET THE FUCK OUT!

### **BILLY'S FALL FROM GRACE**

*BILLY:*  
FISHY, THEY CALLED IT!!!!

I'M SIMPLY ASTOUNDED THAT I LIVE IN AN AGE  
WHERE THE TIMES PICAYUNE'S EDITORIAL PAGE  
CLAIMS MY DEAL FROM THE CITY IS A FRIGHTFUL OUTRAGE  
ME! THE KING OF MARDI GRAS

I SIMPLY COLLECTED TAXES LONG OVERDUE  
GOT MY THIRTY PER CENT BUT I MIGHT JUST BE SCREWED  
BEEN DONE IN BY DUNNING, THE POWERFUL FEW  
ME! THE KING OF MARDI GRAS

IN MY SANCTUM HERE I'LL DISAPPEAR FROM VULTURES' PRYING EYES  
THE LONG FAKE BEARD I WORE THIS YEAR'S WILL BE AN EXCELLENT DISGUISE  
MY REIGN AS KING IS CLEARLY IN THE PAST  
WHEN ASHTON PHELPS TRIES TO HELP BY PUBLISHING THIS TRASH

A CLUSTER OF CRONIES IN CAHOOTS WITH THE MAYOR  
"WILLIAM GRACE," THEY WRITE, "KING OF REX THIS YEAR..."  
I'M APPALLED THAT THE PAPER WOULD TAKE PART IN THIS SMEAR  
I'M THE KING OF MARDI GRAS

WILL IT BE MY FATE TO EXPLAIN ENDLESSLY  
I'M NO "MONUMENT TO GREED AND EFFRONTERY"? GREED?!!!  
WHERE ELSE BUT NEW ORLEANS IS IT A SIN TO SUCCEED  
I'M THE KING OF... OHHH, SCREW IT!

*SWEET ANNE, BIG ANNE, AUNT VICKIE:*

HAVE A SIP OF EGGNOG, A NIBBLE OF DUCK, THE GUESTS ARE OVERDUE  
YOUR OLDEST FRIENDS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO SLING MUD AT YOU  
UPTOWN LIFE CAN'T BE SERVED A LA CARTE  
PUT THIS GREEN AND WHITE PILL ON YOUR TONGUE TAKE A SIP, SWALLOW HARD

## **HEY, MR. WIL**

*CURTIS:*

HEY, MR. WIL

*WILBERT:* SO MUCH FOR "DAD."

*BELINDA:* THESE BAGS ARE MINE. I'LL BE BACK FOR THE REST. I CAN'T COMPETE. YOU'VE GOT YOUR BAND. THAT'S ALL YOU NEED.

*WILBERT:* WAIT! SIT DOWN A MINUTE... BELINDA, PLEASE. I'VE GOT RESPONSIBILITIES.

*BELINDA:* WHAT ABOUT TO ME AND YOUR KIDS RIGHT HERE?

*WILBERT:*

I LOVE MOOKEY, CURTIS AND NIECEY, BUT THEY HAVE YOU, DEAR.  
THE CHILDREN IN THE BAND DON'T HAVE ANYONE. THERE'S SOMETHING YOU COULD DO.  
YOU COULD GET TO KNOW THEM, TOO. SEE FOR YOURSELF IT'S TRUE. I HAVE A HUNDRED SONS.

*BELINDA:* WHAT WAS LAST NIGHT? YOU GET A CALL, YOU'RE UP AND OUT THE DOOR.

*WILBERT:*

THAT WAS RAMONE'S MOM CALLING ME IN TEARS. YOU KNOW RAMONE? HE PLAYS THE MELLOPHONE? HE'S HAS RHYTHM, HE'S GOT AN EAR. WELL, LAST NIGHT HE SAYS "FUCK YOU" TO HIS GRANDMOTHER.

*BELINDA:* SO?

*WILBERT:* SO! BOY SAYS THAT TO HIS GRANDMOTHER, I HAD TO GO OVER THERE AND PUT THE WOOD TO HIM.

*BELINDA:* YOU'RE THE BAND TEACHER, WILBERT, NOT THE FATHER.

*WILBERT:*

I'M ALL THE FATHER SOME OF THEM WILL EVER KNOW.

THIS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A BAND LEADER. YOU NURTURE THE SOUL, NOT JUST THE PART THAT BLOWS THE HORN, THE WHOLE.

*BELINDA:*

THAT'S FINE THEN, WIL. YOU HAVE YOUR FAMILY, SO YOU WON'T MIND IF I TAKE THIS ONE WITH ME.

## **HOUSE OF DANCE AND FEATHERS**

*RONALD LEWIS (SPOKEN) :*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'D LIKE TO TAKE Y'ALL ON A TRIP  
TO A PLACE I CALL THE HOUSE OF THE DANCE AND FEATHERS  
THAT'S MY PERSONAL MUSEUM, THE THINGS THAT I LOVE.  
SO WON'T YOU COME WITH ME TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCE AND FEATHERS

YOU'LL BE KNEE-DEEP IN CULTURE  
GET IN LINE, GET IN LINE  
GATHER 'ROUND, GATHER 'ROUND  
DANCE AND FEATHERS

HELLO, WORLD, COME AND TAKE A WALK WITH ME  
LET ME TAKE YOU TO A PLACE THAT'S A PART OF ME  
SOON AS YOU CROSS THE FOOT OF THE BRIDGE  
YOU HAVE ENTERED INTO THE PLACE IN WHICH I LIVE - THE LOWER NINE  
SOME SAY "ACROSS THE CANAL"  
BUT DOWN BY ME, WE SAY "CTC"  
WHEN SOMETHIN' HAPPENS, YOU KNOW WAY BEFORE THE POLICE  
EVERYBODY KNOW EVERYBODY SO EVERYBODY AT PEACE

COME DOWN CLAIBOURNE MAKE A RIGHT ON ALAMO,  
LEFT ON URQUHART AND A LEFT ON TUPELO  
GO THREE HOUSES UP, YOU CAN PARK RIGHT THERE  
I'LL BE SITTING ON THE PORCH WAITING IN MY CHAIR

LET'S TAKE A WALK TO THE BACK, I'LL GIVE YOU A TOUR OF MY SPOT  
(ARE THEY PLAYING DOMINOES?) OH YEAH, THEY DO THAT A LOT  
THAT'S MY SONS AND MY NEPHEWS, MAN, THEY DON'T EVER STOP  
AND MY MUSEUM ALSO DOUBLES AS MY SON'S BARBER SHOP

I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU, LIKE TO WELCOME YOU



TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCE AND FEATHERS  
I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU, WELCOME YOU TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCE AND FEATHERS  
I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU, WELCOME YOU TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCE AND FEATHERS  
I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU, WELCOME YOU TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCE AND FEATHERS

SECOND LINE DANCE AND INDIAN SUIT FEATHERS  
I FIGURED THERE'S NO PHRASE TO DESCRIBE THIS PLACE BETTER  
LEMME SHOW YOU AROUND, PLEASE GET IN LINE  
THIS IS FROM AN INDIAN SUIT, THIS FROM A SECOND LINE

IT ALL STARTED WITH SOME FANS AND A COUPLE OF PICTURES  
OVER THE YEARS IT GOT BIGGER AND BIGGER  
COLLECTIN' THIS AND THAT IS HOW I GOT MY START  
AND NOW I GOT A SUIT IN A MUSEUM IN NEW YORK

SPREADIN' NEW ORLEANS CULTURE, KEEPIN' IT PURE  
I'M THINKIN' ABOUT TAKIN' MY MUSEUM ON TOUR  
'CAUSE IT'S THE GRASS ROOTS THE WHOLE WORLD NEEDS TO SEE  
THE HISTORY OF THE CITY SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF ME

IT GOES DOWN IN THE NINE, NOT ONLY IN TREMÉ  
WHERE YOU CAN REALLY SEE FATS DOMINO AROUND THE WAY  
I'M GLAD YOU LET ME SHOW YOU 'ROUND  
(HEY, I'M GLAD YOU DONE IT, BUT WHAT IS THIS SPOT FOR?)  
IT'S FOR MY NEPHEW'S TRUMPET -- SHAMARR!

I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU, LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCE AND FEATHERS  
I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU, WELCOME YOU TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCE AND FEATHERS  
I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU, WELCOME YOU TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCE AND FEATHERS  
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### **SLAM BAM THANK ME MA'AM**

*JOANN:*

I WENT TO SEE MY SON IN THE NAVY  
SO WORRIED ABOUT MEETING HIS FRIENDS  
I BOUND MY BREASTS WITH A SPORTS BRA AND VEST  
THOUGHT I MADE A PRETTY CONVINCING GENT

BUT THE BOYS ALL WANTED TO SHAKE MY HAND THEY'RE GLAD MY SON'S A NAVY MAN  
WELL, SLAM BAM THANK ME MA'AM  
IN ORDER TO BE FREE MEN IT TAKES A LOT OF SEAMEN  
SO SLAM BAM THANK ME MA'AM

AND THE MOMENT THAT FILLED ME MOST WITH PRIDE  
WAS WHEN THEY SAID "MISS, THE LADIES ROOM IS ON THE OTHER SIDE"  
HIS CARRIER SET SAIL AGAIN I'M HEADING TO MY BAR AND THEN  
IT'S SLAM BAM THANK ME MA'AM

A LADY HAS TO ACT LIKE A LADY  
'SPECIALLY IF SHE BEGAN AS A MAN  
WHEN MY SURGERY'S DONE  
I'LL SHOW EVERYONE  
THE PERSON I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN I AM

ALLOW ME THEN TO SAY AGAIN SO SIMPLETONS WILL UNDERSTAND  
SLAM BAM THANK ME MA'AM  
AFTER YEARS OF BEING FEARFUL, LISTEN HERE'S AN EARFUL  
SLAM BAM THANK ME MA'AM

YOU GOBS ARE GOOD AT FOLLOWING COMMANDS  
SO CLEAR THE DECKS AND WAVE TO A WAVE I CALL JOANN  
HOIST THE BLUE AND RING MY BELL  
IF YOU DON'T ASK THEN I WON'T TELL  
SLAM BAM THANK ME MA'AM

*SAILORS:*  
SOMEONE SAID YOU ONCE WERE A MARINE  
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN THE TOUGHEST QUEEN  
THE CORPS HAS EVER SEEN  
SO HAUL YOUR ANCHORS AWEIGH ME BOYS

*JOANN:*  
WHEN YOU'RE IN PORT BELAY ME BOYS  
SLAM BAM THANK ME MA'AM

SO WAVE YOUR JOLLY ROGER AROUND  
I'LL SHIVER YOUR TIMBERS AND BLOW YOU DOWN  
SLAM BAM THANK ME MA'AM

**KATRINA AND THE FLOOD** Instrumental

## **YOU AND ME**

*COP (SPOKEN):* BE SERIOUS, TIM. YOU CAN'T BRING A BODY INTO THE PRECINCT HOUSE. DO WHAT THAT GUY FROM CHARITY SAID AND PUT THAT TRASH BACK ON THE STREET WHERE YOU FOUND IT.

*TIM:*  
WELL, MARIE, IT'S YOU AND ME  
DID THAT MAN CALL YOU TRASH? WELL, I'M SORRY 'BOUT THAT  
PRETTY GIRL DEAD AT TWENTY THREE

FROM JACKSON AVENUE SHE NEVER HAD GODDAMN CHANCE  
WITH ALL THE BURNED OUT WHORES AND HOMES  
THE DEALERS, DRUNKS, THE PIMPS AND ... WHOA!  
WHAT KIND OF HIPPIE THINKING SHIT IS THAT?

*MARIE:*

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO BREAK OUT OF THERE?  
IF I TRIED WHAT WOULD PEOPLE SAY?  
THEY'D CALL ME UPPITY CAUSE IF I COULD GET OUT WHY CAN'T THEY?  
BUT I TELL YOU WHAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
HOW IT'S DONE OR EVEN WHERE I'D GO  
MAYBE THE MAN AT THE HOSPITAL'S RIGHT  
I'M TRASH BUT WHAT ELSE COULD I BE IN THIS LIFE?

*TIM:*

I REALLY NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP  
TALKING TO MYSELF I MIGHT NEED HELP  
THIS IS THE LAND OF THE MOTHERFUCKING FREE  
YOU CAN BE ANYTHING LEAST THAT'S THE DREAM THEY SELL  
BUT FACES LOOM BEHIND MY EYES AN ENDLESS STREAM OF BATTERED WIVES  
A POTPOURRI OF PROSTITUTES -- THE DESPERATE, DEAD AND DESTITUTE  
YET YOU'RE BACK THERE MAKING YOUR EXCUSE

*MARIE:*

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO BREAK OUT OF THERE?  
IF I TRIED WHAT WOULD PEOPLE SAY?  
THEY'D CALL ME UPPITY CAUSE IF I COULD GET OUT WHY CAN'T THEY?  
BUT I TELL YOU WHAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
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MAYBE THE MAN AT THE HOSPITAL'S RIGHT  
I'M TRASH BUT WHAT ELSE COULD I BE IN THIS LIFE?

*TIM:* WELL, MARIE IT'S YOU AND ME

*MARIE:* HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO BREAK OUT OF THERE IF I TRIED WHAT WOULD PEOPLE SAY?

*TIM:* PRETTY GIRL DEAD AT TWENTY THREE

*MARIE:* THEY'D CALL ME UPPITY CAUSE IF I CAN GET OUT WHY CAN'T THEY?

*TIM:* I REALLY NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP

*MARIE:* I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW IT'S DONE OR EVEN WHERE I'D GO

*TIM:* I REALLY NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP

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*TIM:* I REALLY NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP

*MARIE:* I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW IT'S DONE OR EVEN WHERE I'D GO

*TIM:* WELL, MARIE, IT'S YOU AND ME

*MARIE:* WHERE I'D GO

*TIM:* PRETTY GIRL DEAD AT TWENTY THREE

*MARIE:* THEY'D CALL ME UPPITY CAUSE IF I CAN GET OUT WHY CAN'T THEY?

*TIM:* I REALLY NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP

*MARIE:* I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW IT'S DONE, HOW IT'S DONE

*TIM:* WELL, MARIE

*MARIE:* OR EVEN WHERE I'D GO,

*TIM:* IT'S YOU AND ME, WELL, MARIE  
*MARIE:* OR EVEN WHERE I'D GO  
*TIM:* PRETTY GIRL DEAD AT TWENTY THREE  
*MARIE:* I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
*TIM:* THIS IS THE LAND OF THE MOTHERFUCKIN ... FREE.  
*MARIE:* WHERE WOULD I GO?

## **WHERE ARE THE BODIES?**

*FRANK:*  
IF THE WATER'S OVER MY HEAD ON CANAL STREET,  
WHAT THE HELL IS IT LIKE AT THE LAKE  
THE SKY IS EERILY SILENT AND EMPTY  
ALL THE BIRDS HAVE BEEN MISSING FOR DAYS  
WHAT AN IDIOT I WAS TO SWIM UP HERE  
NOW I'LL HAVE TO SWIM OUT AGAIN  
THE CORONER'S OFFICE IS FLOODED AND SHUTTERED  
AND NOBODY KNOWS BUT THE DEAD HOW IT ENDS

WHERE ARE THE BODIES?  
WHERE ARE THE BODIES?

WHERE ARE THE BODIES IF MY OFFICE IS CLOSED?  
HAVE THEY BEEN TENDED TO OR JUST LEFT TO DECOMPOSE  
WHERE ARE THE BODIES? IT'S BEEN NEARLY A WEEK  
WHO BUT ME SPEAKS FOR THOSE WHO CAN NO LONGER SPEAK?

WHERE ARE THE BODIES?  
WHERE ARE THE BODIES?

*NATIONAL GUARDSMAN:*  
WE SAVED YOU A COT BY THE BLACKBOARD  
THROW THE COLORING BOOKS ON THE FLOOR  
THERE'S A GARDEN HOSE FOR A SHOWER  
LET ME SHOW YOU THE WAY TO THE MORGUE  
HERE'S A PHALANX OF SUB-ZERO SEMIS  
WHERE THE UNITS WILL BE RECEIVED  
DECONTAMINATED, FINGERPRINTED, DNA'D AND ID'D.

*FRANK:*  
WHERE ARE THE BODIES? NOT HERE IT SEEMS  
YOU'VE GIVEN ME STACKS OF FACTS BUT NOT TOLD ME A THING  
WHERE ARE THE BODIES? WHERE DO WE STAND?

*ARMY OFFICER:*  
I'M WITH THE EIGHT-SECOND AIRBORNE, WE ARE IN COMMAND  
WE WERE ORDERED TO COLLECT THE BODIES  
BUT OUR MISSION'S OFFICIALLY DEAD  
THERE'S A RISK OF INFECTION ON FURTHER INSPECTION SO THE DOD HAS SAID

NOPD IS IN A SHAMBLES AND LOUISIANA STATE POLICE  
ARE OVERCOME AND WAY TOO NUMB  
TO PROTECT OR PRESERVE THE DECEASED

*FRANK:*

WHERE ARE THE BODIES IF NOT IN THIS PLACE?  
THIS IS AN UTTERLY UNCONSCIONABLE DISGRACE  
WHERE ARE THE BODIES? WHERE WILL THEY LIE?  
HAS RED TAPE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DIE?

WHERE ARE THE BODIES?  
WHERE ARE THE BODIES?

*ALL:* WHERE ARE THE BODIES?

## **JOANN**

*JOANN:*

MY PEOPLE GOT NOWHERE TO GO, I'M NOT LEAVIN' 'EM

*DRUNK GUY AT BAR:*

IF I'M GONNA DIE, I'M GONNA DIE HERE  
NOT DODGING THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

*GIRL RUNNING INTO BAR:*

I COULDN'T TAKE BEING IN MY HOUSE ALONE  
WITH THE WIND SCREAMING DOWN THE NEUTRAL GROUND  
SWALLOWED MY FEAR AND A BEER, SMOKED A BONE  
I DIDN'T GET SHOT AND I DIDN'T GET DROWNED IN THE RAIN

*JOANN:*

PUT SOME FUCKING OIL IN THE GENERATOR  
SWEEP THE WATER AWAY  
SEE THOSE FOOLS BY THE POOL TABLE NOT SHOOTING POOL  
BAD CHOICE, WRONG BAR, WRONG DAY

THE IDEA OF JUMPING IN MY PICK UP TRUCK  
DRIVING OUT OF THE HEAT AND THE STINK  
GROWS IN ME LIKE THE POWER OF LOVE  
INSTEAD I MOP THE FLOOR AND POUR ANOTHER DRINK

*JOANN AND CHORUS:*

"JOANN" THEY YELL AND THEY BANG ON THE BAR  
"JOANN" THEY CALL FROM THE DOOR  
"JOANN, WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE,  
THANK GOD, YOU'RE NOT JOHN ANYMORE"

*JOANN:*

EVERYTHING'S GONE, MY CITY'S AT WAR  
THE FLOOD BROUGHT US TO OUR KNEES

THERE'S A TV CREW PASSED OUT ON THE FLOOR  
SLEEPING IN JAPANESE

NOPD AND THE BLACKWATER CREW  
BASTARDS DIDN'T LEAVE MUCH BEHIND  
TOOK MY NINE MILIMETER AND MY .38, TOO  
ALL I HAVE LEFT TO LOSE NOW IS MY MIND

*JOANN AND CHORUS:*

"JOANN" THEY YELL AND THEY BANG ON THE BAR  
"JOANN" THEY CALL FROM THE DOOR  
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*JOANN:*

THEY YELL AND THEY BANG ON THE BAR  
THEY CALL FROM THE DOOR  
NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET THIS FAR  
THANK GOD, I'M NOT JOHN ANYMORE

WE YELL AND WE BANG ON THE BAR  
WHEN THEY CALL FROM THE DOOR  
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET THIS FAR  
THANK GOD I'M NOT JOHN ANYMORE  
ANYMORE...

*CHORUS:* JOANN, JOANN

*JOANN:* MY PEOPLE GOT NOWHERE TO GO  
I'M NOT I'M NOT LEAVIN' THEM.

## **THE SILENCE GROWS**

*BILLY:* WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR MAYOR NAGIN LET'S HAVE A SEAT. HAVE WE  
MARSHALED ALL OUR RESOURCES YET? LET'S NOT LIMIT OUR THINKING, DRINKING WATER  
GENERATORS, MEDS, FOOD, TRUCKS, WHAT CAN WE RUSTLE UP?

*BILLY:* MR. MAYOR! THANK YOU FOR COMING. WHAT IS YOUR PLAN OF ACTION, SIR? HOW CAN WE  
HELP?

*MAYOR NAGIN:* I HAVEN'T HAD A PLAN SINCE THIS THING BEGAN...

*BILLY:* YOU MUST HAVE A POSITION STILL?

*NAGIN:* NIL

*BILLY:* REPEAT PLEASE SIR IF YOU WILL

*NAGIN:* NIL

*BILLY:* THAT WAS AWKWARD BUT I HAVE AN IDEA THE ANSWER COULD BE IN THIS ROOM RIGHT HERE  
*ASSEMBLED BUSINESS MEN:* ROOM RIGHT HERE

*BILLY:*  
THE COLLECTIVE WEALTH AROUND THIS TABLE  
IS THE JUST THE RESOURCE THAT OUR CITY NEEDS  
IF WE PLEDGE A MILLION DOLLARS EACH  
WE COULD START TO STAUNCH THE BREACH  
I'M READY TO PONY UP BOYS, WHO'S WITH ME?  
WE'LL PLEDGE A MILLION DOLLARS EACH  
CASH FOR THE RECOVERY  
I'M GONNA TO PONY UP WHO'S WITH ME?

THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME!  
HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET THE CHANCE TO SAVE AN ENTIRE CITY?  
ARE YOU WITH ME?  
ANYBODY? ANYBODY?

AND THE SILENCE GROWS AT THE MEETING'S CLOSE

I GUESS THE ANSWER'S "NOOOOOO"

## **SHOULD'VE BEENS**

*FRANK:*  
WHAT GOOD HAVE I DONE FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW ORLEANS  
WITH MY CHOKE-CHAIN OF A VAIN AND DECADENT LIFE  
WHERE'S THE PLEASURE GONE, CAN I GET BACK TO THE GLITTER  
THAT KEPT ME BUZZED THROUGH MY BLUNDERS AND BLACKEST NIGHTS.

WHAT A RUN -- WHEN I WAS POOR ALL I WANTED TO BE WAS RICH  
WHEN I WAS RICH ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS MATTER, AIN'T THAT A BITCH  
WAS I USEFUL? I DON'T KNOW AND IT'S NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE  
TRUTH IS IT NEVER WAS, JUDGE ME AFTER I DIE.

LOOKING BACK AT A HOUSE BUILT OUT OF WOULD HAVE BEENS  
SURROUNDED BY THE WALLS AND SADNESS OF COULD HAVE BEENS  
THERE'S NO SENSE IN DWELLING ON THE TELLING SHOULD HAVE BEENS  
I'LL PICK UP THIS OLD HORN AND BLOW IN AND OUT AGAIN.

LOOKING BACK AT A HOUSE BUILT OUT OF WOULD HAVE BEENS  
SURROUNDED BY THE WALLS AND SADNESS OF COULD HAVE BEENS  
AND WHEN I GET TO THE END I'D GLADLY LIVE IT ALL AGAIN  
ALL THE WOULD HAVES, AND THE COULD HAVES AND THE SHOULD HAVE BEENS

## **TO BE CONTINUED**

*TBC BRASS BAND:*

I'M IN THE RIGHT NOW TRYING TO GET TO THE NOT YET  
WE ALL BEEN THROUGH SOMETHING WE'D RATHER FORGET  
ALL THE TEARS I DONE SEEN COULD'VE MADE A FLOOD ITSELF  
BUT THE MUSIC WAS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP  
I SAY THE MUSIC WAS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP

SOME OF US NEVER HAD DADS THAT WAS WORTH A DAMN  
WOULD'NA BEEN CUTTING UP IN THE QUARTERS LATE AT NIGHT IF WE HAD  
WE FIXED OUR BROKEN TRUMPETS MARCHED OFF OF THE STREETS  
TELLIN' EACH OTHER, "BROTHER, YOU GOT TO BELIEVE"  
HEY EVERYBODY, WE'RE THE TBC

IT WAS OUR DAD WHERE THERE WERE NO DADS  
THE MUSIC TAUGHT US WHAT LIFE WAS ABOUT  
WE MADE A BAND WHERE THERE WAS NO BAND  
OH, MUSIC, WE WOULDN'T BE ALIVE WITHOUT YOU  
SAY THE MUSIC, WE WOULDN'T BE ALIVE WITHOUT YOU

WE WERE A CITY OF NEGLECTED AND FORGOTTEN KIDS  
WE'D THANK SONS AND DAUGHTERS, BROTHERS, SISTERS YES WE DID  
LIFE IS TO BE CONTINUED, NOW THERE AIN'T NO DOUBT  
OH, MUSIC, WE WOULDN'T BE ALIVE WITHOUT YOU  
I SAY MUSIC, WE WOULDN'T BE ALIVE WITHOUT YOU  
I SAY MUSIC, WE WOULDN'T BE ALIVE WITHOUT YOU!

## **THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION**

*Billy:*

I CAN HEAR THE CROWD OUT FRONT ON THE NEUTRAL GROUND  
HOISTING CHILDREN ONTO LADDER SEATS  
EATING PO'BOYS, BUYING BEER,  
AFTER THE FLOOD I FEARED  
CARNIVAL WOULD BE OBSOLETE  
IN THE OLD DAYS I'D BE OUT THERE ON THE PORCH  
CHEERING WITH BIG ANNE, SWEET ANNE, AND GEORGE

LUNDI GRAS WAS GEORGE'S FAVORITE DAY TO PASS  
PROTEUS WOULD ROLL BY, HE COULD RELAX  
HE STARES SIGHTLESS AT THE CEILING SO FINELY DRESSED  
WITH A REX MEDALLION RESTING ON HIS COLD, COLD CHEST  
WILL ELEGANCE AND GRACE BE LEAVING, TOO?  
MAYBE UPTOWN'S DAY IS FINALLY THROUGH

NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION  
(SWEET ANNE: NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION)  
THE DELIGHTFULLY FRIVOLOUS LIFE I KNEW IS QUICKLY VANISHING



(SWEET ANNE: THE DELIGHTFULLY FRIVOLOUS LIFE I KNEW IS QUICKLY VANISHING)  
A DREAM OF LEAVING NEW ORLEANS HAS BECOME MY LATEST PASSION  
(SWEET ANNE: A DREAM OF LEAVING NEW ORLEANS HAS BECOME HIS LATEST PASSION)  
NOBODY OUT THERE KNOW THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION  
(SWEET ANNE: NOBODY OUT THERE KNOW THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION)

*ANTOINNE:* PARDON ME, MR. BILLY

*BILLY:* YES, ANTOINNE?

*ANTOINNE:* THERE'S TWO CHILDREN AT THE DOOR TO SEE YOU

*BILLY:* REALLY? HOW CAN I HELP YOU, LITTLE GIRLS?

*LITTLE GIRL:* MAY WE, PLEASE, SEE THE DECEASED KING?

*BILLY:* NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION

*BILLY:*  
THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN IN MY SWEET ANNE'S FAMILY  
FOR EXACTLY ONE CENTURY  
THE FLOOD DIDN'T REACH ST. CHARLES  
BUT THE WATER FOUND US ALL  
THERE'S NO WAY NOW I CAN LEAVE  
FINALLY IT'S TIME TO FACE THE FACTS  
HELLO AGAIN, NEW ORLEANS, BILLY'S BACK

NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION  
(SWEET ANNE: NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION)  
THIS PAINTED LADY HERE BEFORE ME WHO IS BARELY STANDING  
(SWEET ANNE: THIS PAINTED LADY HERE BEFORE ME WHO IS BARELY STANDING)  
SPEAKING, CREAKING, CRYING OUT TO ME FOR MY COMPASSION  
(SWEET ANNE: SPEAKING, CREAKING, CRYING OUT TO ME FOR MY COMPASSION)  
NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION  
(SWEET ANNE: NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION)  
NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION  
(SWEET ANNE: NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION)  
NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION  
(SWEET ANNE: NOBODY OUT THERE KNOWS THE SADNESS OF THE REX MANSION)

## **REBUILD RENEW**

*NARRATOR:*  
STORM'S OVER, YOU GOT TO SHAKE A LEG OUT THERE  
BUY YOURSELF A TICKET BACK HOME FROM I DON'T KNOW WHERE  
WHETHER YOU TAKE A BUS OR WHETHER YOU TAKE THE TRAIN  
PICK YOURSELF UP, GET YOUR ASS ON SOLID GROUND AGAIN

*NARRATOR AND RONALD LEWIS:*

REBUILD RENEW, THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO  
REBUILD RENEW, THAT'S WHAT WE DO

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MESSED UP HERE BUT IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY HOME  
TILL YOU BEEN STUCK SOMEPLACE ELSE, MAN, YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW  
COME ON DOWN NEXT MARDI GRAS IF YOU WANNA FEE-NA-NEY  
IN EVERY OTHER CITY IN AMERICA IT'S JUST ANOTHER TEDIOUS TUESDAY

REBUILD RENEW, THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO  
(THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DOO-OO-OO)  
REBUILD RENEW, THAT'S WHAT WE DO

FACES TIRED AND EYES AFIRE THE MUSIC LIFTS OUR HEARTS  
THE GOOD TIMES AT A SECOND LINE FILLS THE STREET, MOVES OUR FEET  
WILLS US TO RESTART

*JARREL ALLEN:*

MAN, OH MAN, I LOVE THIS PLACE, WHEN THE HURRICANE HIT YOU SHOULDA SAW MY FACE,  
MOVED ME TO HOUSTON 'CAUSE IT FLOODED MY BLOCK ,I GOTTA GET BACK HOME 'CAUSE NEW  
ORLEANS ROCKS!

MARDI GRAS, SECOND LINES AND THE GOOD OL' SAINTS  
I'LL REBUILD MY OWN HOME, WHERE'S THE PAINT? IN NEW ORLEANS, DOWNTOWN, CTC  
THERE'S A LOTTA OTHER PEOPLE THAT FEEL LIKE ME!

*NARRATOR AND MEM SHANNON:*

REBUILD RENEW, THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO  
(THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DOO-OO-OO)  
REBUILD RENEW, THAT'S WHAT WE DO

*CHORUS:*

REBUILD, RENEW, 'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO  
REBUILD, RENEW, 'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO  
REBUILD, RENEW, 'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO  
REBUILD, RENEW, 'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO

*MEM SHANNON:*

REBUILD, REBUILD AND RENEW THAT'S WHAT WE DO  
AND I'M GONNA REBUILD IT FOR YOU

*JOANN GUIDOS:*

I HAD TO REINVENT MYSELF, MAKE A REDO, BABY, IF I CAN REBUILD ME, DARLIN', SO CAN YOU!  
212, 213, IT'S ALL 'BOUT 504 TO ME, YEAH YOU RIGHT!

*ANDERS OSBORNE:*

WHEN YOU GOT NOTHIN' LEFT TO LOSE, YEAH YOU REBUILD, YOU RENEW THAT'S WHAT YOU DO, YEAH  
YOU REBUILD, BABY, AND YOU RENEW THAT'S WHAT I DID, YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I DID

*MAYOR MITCH LANDRIEU:*

EVERYBODY, WE ALL KNOW IT'S TRUE, STILL GOT A LOTTA WORK TO DO

YOU HELP ME, YEAH, I'LL HELP YOU, TOGETHER WE CAN REBUILD AND RENEW!

*JOHN BOUTTÉ:*

EVERYTHING I SEE, FEEL AND I DO TELLS ME REBUILD AND RENEW, REBUILD AND RENEW!

*NARRATOR:*

FILL UP THAT CUP, Y'ALL, LET'S BUILD IT UP, BUILD IT UP I SAID, YEAH!

*MAYOR MITCH LANDRIEU:*

ONE DREAM, ONE FIGHT, ONE VOICE, ONE CITY  
WE LOVE NEW ORLEANS, AHHH, AIN'T SHE PRETTY?

*ALL:*

REBUILD! REBUILD AND RENEW! THAT'S WHAT WE DO!