

**“Hot Rod Hot Dogs”**

**A Musical in Two Acts**

**Written by**

**Kevin T. Baldwin**

## **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

### Act 1, Scene 1

Opening montage with Betty Jean, TJ, Joanne, Jake, Swenson and Dirk

### Act 1, Scene 2

Swenson's house with Swenson, Old Lady Swenson, Three Old Neighbors

### Act 1, Scene 3

Betty Jean with Cheerleaders

### Act 1, Scene 4

Garage with Jake

### Act 1, Scene 5

Hot Rod Hot Dogs with Tad, Shelly, Reggie, Betty Jean, Mimi, Skip, Tom Dale, Jake

### Act 1, Scene 6

Sheriff's office with Tom, Druyor, Mayor and Swenson

### Act 1, Scene 7

Hot Rod Hot Dogs with Mimi, Skip, Lone Wolves, Dirk, Joanne, TJ, Betty Jean and Druyor

### Act 1, Scene 8

Garage with Jake, Waitresses, Joanne, and Betty Jean

### Act 1, Scene 9

Betty Jean with Cheerleaders, Jake

## **INTERMISSION**

### Act 2, Scene 1

Blakesville Beauty Salon with Reggie, Shelly and Tad

### Act 2, Scene 2

Hot Rod Hot Dogs with Skip and Mimi

### Act 2, Scene 3

Joanne and Dirk

### Act 2, Scene 4

Jake and Betty Jean

### Act 2, Scene 5

Jail with TJ, Druyor, Mayor, Swenson, Skip, Mimi, Tom and Betty Jean

### Act 2, Scene 6

Jake, Joanne, and Dirk

### Act 2, Scene 7

Hot Rod Hot Dogs, Final scene with Full Cast

## **Finale**

## **“Hot Rod Hot Dogs”**

### **SYNOPSIS:**

*“Hot Rod Hot Dogs” is set in a restaurant in the town of Blakesville, California, circa 1958. The owner of the restaurant, Mimi Nawrocki, is in danger of losing her business if the drag strip across the street gets closed down by Mr. Benson, the corrupt deputy mayor of the town.*

*Swenson has convinced Mayor Tyrone J. Meane that the town needs to convert the real estate currently being "wasted" by the drag strip into a new, much more lucrative, golf course.*

*The kids who race at the strip would be forced to drag race in unsafe areas, such as in the streets of town or in the nearby desert.*

*Betty Jean Dale, one of the teens that hang out at "Hot Rod Hot Dogs", is very upset to hear that the strip and restaurant could be shut down. Betty Jean's father, Tom Dale, is the architect who designed the drag strip and got the town to approve it, against the deputy mayor's wishes.*

*Tom argues with Swenson and tries to convince the local police, headed by longtime friend sheriff Roger Druyor, not to shut down the strip. The strip is ordered shut down.*

*Betty Jean's new boyfriend, Jake Carson, is a hotrodder who suffered a tremendous loss in a race when he was pitted against the mysterious "masked racer". Shortly thereafter, his girlfriend, Joanne Caputo, dumped him and joined a gang called the "Lone Wolves".*

*Jake starts seeing Betty Jean, and Joanne starts going out with the mayor's troubled son, TJ Meane, who has secretly been in love with Betty Jean for years. But Joanne's not really attracted to TJ. She has been forced to spend time with TJ to distract him from the frame-up being perpetrated by the leader of the "Lone Wolves", Dirk Skagg. Dirk is being paid by Swenson to plant evidence linking TJ to the destruction of some private property in town.*

*This would get the boy sent to juvenile hall, subsequently disgracing the mayor, paving the way for Swenson to become the new mayor of Blakesville.*

## **SONGS:**

(All songs are considered to be in public domain unless otherwise indicated)

### **ACT 1**

#### **Overture – One Song Title After the Other (Instrumental)**

##### **1) Journey of Love – Skip Glass**

Journey of Love BMI Work #776647  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Harshman Sharon Na 0  
Publishers: Brunswick Music Pub Co BMI 4447118

##### **2) Betty Jean – Jake**

Betty Jean (Legal Title) BMI Work #109789  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Aldrich Charlie BMI 473534  
Boyce Tommy BMI 3970895  
Gregorette Gene Na 0  
Publishers: Robin Hood Music Co BMI 26273791

##### **3) I Want to Know – Betty Jean**

Information Unknown

##### **4) Baby Let Your Hair Down - Skip Glass**

Baby Let Your Hair Down BMI Work #73226  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Barberis Bill ASCAP 2036157  
Hart Bobby (USA 1) BMI 13494991  
Publishers: Universal Songs of Polygram In BMI 353265272

##### **5) Pees and Queues – Dirk and the Lone Wolves**

Pees N Ques (Legal Title) BMI Work #1161872  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Boyce Tommy BMI 3970895  
Hart Bobby (USA 1) BMI 13494991  
Publishers: Screen Gems-Emi Music Inc. BMI 36205509

##### **6) I Think It's Called a Heartache - Mimi**

I Think It's Called a Heartache (Legal Title) BMI Work #680019  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Harshman Robert L BMI 13493403  
Publishers: Pen-Brook Music BMI 44908473

##### **7) Give Me the Clue – Jake**

Information Unknown

##### **8) The Girl I Used to Know - TJ**

Girl I Used to Know, The (Legal Title) BMI Work #470751  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Harshman Robert L BMI 13493403  
Publishers: Bamboo Music BMI 1956404  
Brunswick Music Pub Co BMI 4447118

**9) Remember You're Still a Teenager – Cheerleaders and Waitresses**

Remember You're Still a Teenager (Legal Title) BMI Work #1242428  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Boyce Tommy BMI 3970895  
Publishers: Calboy Music Publishing Co BMI 4835699

**Act 2**

**Entre'act – Pees and Ques (Instrumental)**

**10) Girl in the Window (Written By Sharon Harshman) - Skip Glass**

Girl in the Window (Legal Title) BMI Work #471005  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Harshman Robert L BMI 13493403  
Publishers: Brunswick Music Pub Co BMI 4447118

**11) A Million Things to Say - Joanne**

Million Things to Say (Legal Title) BMI Work #992356  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Boyce Tommy BMI 3970895  
Publishers: Calboy Music Publishing Co BMI 4835699

**12) Come Here Joanne – Dirk**

Come Here Jo Anne (Legal Title) BMI Work #229560  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Biegler Mark Na 0  
Boyce Tommy BMI 3970895  
Publishers: Calboy Music Publishing Co BMI 4835699

**13) A Million Things to Say (Reprise 1) - TJ**

Same As Above

**14) Have You Had a Change of Heart - Betty Jean**

Have You Had a Change of Heart (Legal Title) BMI Work # 532660  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Boyce Tommy BMI 3970895  
Kelly Betty Jean Na 39276463  
Publishers: Calboy Music Publishing Co BMI 4835699

**15) A Million Things to Say (Reprise 2) - TJ and Betty Jean (Reprise)**

Same As Above

**16) The People Next Door - TJ**

People Next Door (Legal Title) BMI Work #1164680  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Harshman Robert L BMI 13493403  
Publishers: Pen-Brook Music BMI 44908473

**17) One Song Title After the Other – Tad and the Full Cast**

One Song Title After The Other (Legal Title) BMI Work #1125343  
Songwriter/Composer Current Affiliation CAE/IPI #  
Boyce Tommy  
Publishers: BMI 3970895

## **CAST**

**BETTY JEAN DALE** - A Teenager, Very Perky  
**JAKE CARSON** – A Handsome Young Man, A “Greasemonkey” (Mechanic, Loves Cars)  
**TJ MEANE** – A Troubled Young Man  
**JOANNE CAPUTO** – A Troubled Young Female  
**SKIP GLASS** – An Adult, A Reporter  
**MIMI NAWROCKI** – An Adult, Hostess and Owner of “Hot Rod Hot Dogs”  
**DIRK SKAGG** – Leader of a hotrodding Street Gang  
**DEPUTY MAYOR SWENSON** – An Adult, Evil Manipulator  
**TAD BLAKE** – One of Betty Jean’s Teenage Friends, Musician  
**SHELLY ROGERS** – One of Betty Jean’s Teenage Friends, Book-Worm  
**REGINA “REGGIE THE WRENCH” ROGERS** – A Teenager, Grease monkey, Tom-Boy  
**TOM DALE** – Betty Jean’s Father  
**SHERIFF ROGER DRUYOR** – An Adult, Law Enforcement for the Town of Blakesville  
**MAYOR MEANE** – TJ’s Father, the Mayor of Blakesville  
**OLD LADY SWENSON** – The Deputy Mayor’s Mother  
**RON BEALS** – One of Swenson’s Cronies  
**PHIL RICKETT** – Another One of Swenson’s Cronies  
**WAITRESS # 1** – Works for Mimi – Doubles as Other Characters in Story  
**WAITRESS # 2** – Works for Mimi – Doubles as Other Characters in Story  
**WAITRESS # 3** – Works for Mimi – Doubles as Other Characters in Story  
**CHEERLEADER # 1** – Teenage Girl  
**CHEERLEADER # 2** – Teenage Girl  
**CHEERLEADER # 3** – Teenage Girl  
**CHEERLEADER # 4** – Teenage Girl  
**OLD NEIGHBOR # 1** – Elderly Adult  
**OLD NEIGHBOR # 2** – Elderly Adult  
**OLD NEIGHBOR # 3** – Elderly Adult  
**THE LONE WOLVES** - Gang Members  
**ASSORTED TOWNSPEOPLE and STUDENTS** may be added as needed

## ACT ONE

### Act 1, Scene 1 - Opening montage with Betty Jean, TJ, Joanne, Jake, Swenson and Dirk

(After **Overture**, music vamp for “**Journey of Love**” begins. Closed curtain. LIGHTS UP center. Two teenage couples are standing center stage, each boy leaning over to sweetly kiss their respective girl. BETTY JEAN DALE and JAKE CARSON are one couple. TJ MEANE and JOANNE CAPUTO are the other. TJ and JOANNE are both wearing leather jackets that have the "Lone Wolves" logo on the back. As the music continues to vamp, the curtain opens to reveal "Hot Rod Hot Dogs". Far stage right, the front grill of an old style fifties car is seen. SKIP GLASS is singing from behind the wheel. He is a well-dressed man in his thirties, wearing a suit, tie, and a hat. While SKIP sings the following song, BETTY JEAN and JAKE exit as JOANNE and TJ cross to sit at a table stage left to share a malted. JOANNE pantomimes spilling the drink onto TJ's leather jacket and pants. She gestures for TJ to remove the jacket and hand it to her so she can dry it for him. TJ takes off the jacket and hands it to JOANNE, then he exits off stage left, presumably going to the men's room to clean his pants. JOANNE then immediately takes the jacket over to the door stage right and whistles to DIRK SKAGG to enter. DIRK enters. He is a slovenly hood in his late teens or early twenties, also dressed in a "Lone Wolves" gang jacket. DIRK takes TJ's jacket from JOANNE. He pinches her cheek, much to her disdain. DIRK then exits as TJ re-emerges from the men's room. TJ looks around for his jacket but can't find it. JOANNE shrugs her shoulders to indicate she has no idea what happened to it. TJ scratches his head in bewilderment as LIGHTS DIM and the curtain closes)

SKIP:

#### **“Journey of Love”**

*I Said Goodbye To The Friends That I Know  
I Packed My Bags And I'm Ready To Go  
There's A Girl Waiting Somewhere I Know  
I'm Gonna Take A Journey Of Love.  
Too Many Years I Been Waiting Around  
For A Girl That I Never Found  
Its Time That I Started Looking Around  
I'm Gonna Take A Journey Of Love.  
I Gotta See A Lot Of Places That I Heard About  
I Wanna Climb Up The Mountain Of Love  
I'm Gonna Get Me A Thrill On Blueberry Hill  
And We'll Go Swimming In The Sea Of Love  
I Got My Blues And My Heartaches Packed*

*Car's Hit Full Steam I Know My Future Is Black*  
*I Don't Care If I Never Come Back*  
*I'm Gonna Take A Journey Of Love.*

(During the instrumental break, with the curtain still closed, DIRK enters center stage and meets DEPUTY MAYOR SWENSON, a well-dressed man in his thirties, wearing a suit, tie, and hat. DIRK hands SWENSON the jacket and SWENSON gives DIRK money. SKIP then continues his song as DIRK exits right and Swenson exits left)

*I Got My Blues And My Heartaches Packed*  
*Car's Hit Full Steam I Know My Future Is Black*  
*I Don't Care If I Never Come Back*  
*I'm Gonna Take A Journey Of Love.*  
*Whoa! Journey Of Love!*

(Repeat four times then song *ENDS* as LIGHTS DIM. SKIP exits as the curtain re-opens. A table with a telephone placed upon it and a chair is placed onto center stage as the scene TRANSITIONS to Act 1, Scene 2)

## **Act 1, Scene 2 - Swenson's House with Swenson, Old Lady Swenson and Three Old Neighbors**

(LIGHTS UP stage left. SWENSON is pacing when we hear the sound effect of a hot rod screeching or "peeling out". Next, OLD LADY SWENSON, a woman in her sixties, is heard screaming offstage)

OLD LADY SWENSON - Ahhhh! My azaleas!

SWENSON - (Chuckles, then feigns concern) What Is It, mother dear?

OLD LADY SWENSON - (Rushing in holding TJ's leather jacket in her hands. She has a group of THREE OLD NEIGHBORS behind her. The NEIGHBORS are all as old as she) My azaleas! One of those awful hotrodders just ran over my beautiful lawn, destroying all my flowers, including my prize winning azaleas!

SWENSON - Why, how do you know it was a hotrodder, Mother?

OLD LADY SWENSON - Look! (Shows him the jacket) He left a calling card!



SWENSON - (Takes the jacket and looks at it) Why, this is a leather jacket belonging to one of the "Lone Wolves", that awful street gang. Goodness, this is just terrible, Mother. (To the THREE OLD NEIGHBORS) Did you all see this person?

OLD NEIGHBOR # 1 - Well, I didn't get a good look.

OLD NEIGHBOR # 2 - It all happened so fast.

OLD NEIGHBOR # 3 - I got these cataracts, y'see.

OLD LADY SWENSON - (To Swenson) Well? Don't just stand there like a dummy. You're the deputy mayor! Do something about those ruffians! Get them off the streets!

SWENSON – Yes, Mother. I'll take this jacket and go to the mayor at once. I promise all of you, these hooligans shall be dealt with accordingly!

OLD LADY SWENSON - Well, it's about time! (She exits off with the rest of her NEIGHBORS, leaving SWENSON alone on stage as the phone rings)

OLD NEIGHBOR # 1 - They should lock 'em all up.

OLD NEIGHBOR # 2 - They're all just a bunch of no good kids.

OLD NEIGHBOR # 3 - I got these cataracts, y'see.

SWENSON - Very good. Everything is going exactly to plan. (Picks up the phone) Hello? (After a beat) Why, hello there. (Beat) Yes, things are moving along quite nicely, sir. I'd say you can alert the press that we'll have that deal for the new golf course closed within one week's time. (Takes a beat, then holds up the jacket to look at it) I guarantee it. (Laughs as the LIGHTS DIM and the scene TRANSITIONS to Act 1, Scene 3)

### **Act 1, Scene 3 - Betty Jean with Cheerleaders**

(LIGHTS UP center stage with a closed curtain as teenager BETTY JEAN DALE enters. She is dressed in a "poodle skirt" that falls below her knee. She carries many books in her arms as she meets FOUR CHEERLEADERS who all wearing blue and white uniforms and carry matching pom-poms)

CHEERLEADER # 1 - It's Betty Jean!

CHEERLEADERS # 2, # 3 And # 4 - Hi, Betty Jean!

BETTY JEAN - Hi, girls!

CHEERLEADER # 2 – I'll bet you are as excited about the hop this weekend as we are!

CHEERLEADER # 3 - Yeah!

CHEERLEADER # 4 - Has anyone "special" asked you to it, yet?

BETTY JEAN - (Playing coy) Why, whatever do you mean, girls?

CHEERLEADER # 3 - Come on, Betty Jean. You know who we're talking about!

CHEERLEADER # 1 - Like maybe that dreamboat, Jake? (Sighs) He is just the absolute most!

CHEERLEADER # 4 - Yeah! And he's only been following you around school like a little lost puppy dog for the last two weeks.

CHEERLEADER # 3 - Well, the poor boy hasn't gone out with anyone since Joanne dumped him to be with that creep, TJ Meane. (BETTY JEAN hears TJ's name and looks away from the CHEERLEADERS) Oh. Sorry, Betty Jean. I forgot TJ was once your guy.

BETTY JEAN - That's okay. That was a long, long time ago. Weeks, even.

CHEERLEADER # 2 - "Creep" is right. TJ is nothing but trouble.

CHEERLEADER # 1 - Trouble?

CHEERLEADER # 2 – Yeah, big trouble, and so is that Joanne Caputo. I hear she (Takes a beat then whispers) I hear she's "fast".

CHEERLEADER # 4 - What makes you say that?

CHEERLEADER # 2 - Because they both hang out with Dirk Skagg and the "Lone Wolves". (Motions them all closer to whisper) I hear those two have even been seen down by the railroad tracks together, and you *know* what that means.

CHEERLEADER # 1 – (After a beat, not understanding) No, what? (CHEERLEADER # 2 pinches her arm) Ow!

CHEERLEADER # 4 - They give hotrodding a bad name. I don't care if he is the mayor's son, TJ's just no good, believe you me.

CHEERLEADER # 3 – Yeah, and you're right about Joanne, too. You know, poor Jake hasn't come out of that school garage since she dumped him. He just buried his head under the hood of that hot rod of his.

CHEERLEADER # 1 - I don't know why he works so hard on that car. It's already such an awesome suped-up screamer!

CHEERLEADER # 4 - He's probably trying to figure out how he got blown away in the drag race last month to that mysterious "Masked Racer". (Several dissonant chords are heard. Everybody looks around, trying to figure out where the sound came from, then they continue with the conversation)

CHEERLEADER # 3 - Joanne's a big fake. But, after those two major downers like that, I never thought Jake would recover.

BETTY JEAN - Well, I guess he has (building the suspense, then says excitedly) because he just asked me out last night! (All CHEERLEADERS shriek)

CHEERLEADER # 2 - That is just so cool, Betty Jean! (All the CHEERLEADERS make a formation to do a cheer) We could all just flip! Ready girls?

CHEERLEADERS:

*Jake And Betty Jean Sitting In A Tree  
K-I-S-S-I-N-G  
First Comes Love, Then Comes Marriage  
Then Comes...Then Comes...*

(They stop cheering with puzzled looks on their faces)

CHEERLEADER # 2 - What comes next?

CHEERLEADER # 4 - I don't know.

CHEERLEADER # 3 - (To CHEERLEADER # 1) I thought *you* knew.

CHEERLEADER # 1 – Uh-uh. Beats me. Let's go practice.

ALL CHEERLEADERS - Bye, Betty Jean!

(ALL CHEERLEADERS exit leaving BETTY JEAN alone on stage as LIGHTS DIM. The curtain remains closed as the scene TRANSITIONS to Act 1, Scene 4)

## **Act 1, Scene 4 - Garage with Jake**

(LIGHTS UP isolating stage left. We see another car. This time, the view is of the front grill, and the car has its hood open. JAKE CARSON is checking under the hood of the car. He is dressed in an old-style garage mechanic's jumpsuit. JAKE enters out in front of the car to sing his song "Betty Jean". He is backed up by THREE WAITRESSES, who in this scene are dressed as garage mechanics. They later will sing back-up for most of the songs in the show)

JAKE:

### **Betty Jean**

*WATRESSES - Betty Jean, Betty Jean*

*JAKE - Well I'm So Keen*

*WATRESSES - Wha-Wha*

*JAKE - On Betty Jean*

*WATRESSES - Betty Jean*

*JAKE - Such A Dream*

*WATRESSES - Wha-Wha*

*JAKE - Oh Betty Jean*

*WATRESSES - Betty Jean*

*JAKE - But Will She Ever Know*

*My Heart Is Yearning So*

*To Have Her Teenage Love*

*WATRESSES - Betty Jean, Betty Jean, Betty Jean, Betty Jean*

*JAKE - Well I'm So Keen*

*WATRESSES - Wha-Wha*

*JAKE - On Betty Jean*

*WATRESSES - Betty Jean*

*JAKE - She's A Dream*

*WATRESSES - Wha-Wha*

*JAKE - Oh Betty Jean*

*WATRESSES - Wha-Wha*

*JAKE - But All My Friends At School*

*Tell Me I'm A Fool*

*To Think That She'll Be Mine*

*WATRESSES - Betty Jean, Betty Jean, Betty Jean, Betty Jean*

*JAKE - But After School One Day*

*She Walked Along My Way*

*I Asked Her To The Hop*

*And She Said "Yes"*

WATRESSES - *She Said "Yes"*  
JAKE - *I Thought My Happy, Happy, Happy Heart Would Break*  
WATRESSES - *Heart Would Break*  
JAKE - *But I'm So Keen*  
WATRESSES - *Wha-Wha*  
JAKE - *On Betty Jean*  
WATRESSES - *Betty Jean*  
JAKE - *She's My Queen*  
WATRESSES - *Wha-Wha*  
JAKE - *Oh Betty Jean*  
WATRESSES - *Betty Jean*  
JAKE - *Now Everyone Will See*  
    *Our Love Was Meant To Be*  
    *Until The End Of Time*  
WATRESSES - *End Of Time, End Of Time, Betty Jean, Will Be Mine*  
*(Instrumental - Dance Break)*  
JAKE - *Then After School One Day*  
    *She Walked Along My Way*  
    *I Asked Her To The Hop*  
    *And She Said "Yes"*  
WATRESSES - *She Said "Yes"*  
JAKE - *I Thought My Happy, Happy, Happy Heart Would Break*  
WATRESSES - *Heart Would Break*  
JAKE - *But I'm So Keen*  
WATRESSES - *Wha-Wha*  
JAKE - *On Betty Jean*  
WATRESSES - *Betty Jean*  
JAKE - *She's My Queen*  
WATRESSES - *Wha-Wha*  
JAKE - *Oh Betty Jean*  
WATRESSES - *Betty Jean*  
JAKE - *Now Everyone Will See*  
    *Our Love Was Meant To Be*  
    *Until The End Of Time*  
WATRESSES - *End Of Time, End Of Time, Betty Jean, Will Be Mine*  
*Betty Jean, Betty Jean, Pretty Betty Jean, Betty Jean!*

(As the song ENDS, JAKE finds a picture under the visor in his car. It's a picture of his former girlfriend, JOANNE. He stares at it longingly for a moment)

JAKE – Oh, wow. It’s a picture of Joanne. (Sighs) I wonder what she’s doing tonight? (Getting upset) Oh, why can’t I forget you? (Determined, speaks to the photo) No! I’m with Betty Jean now and you can’t take that away from me. (JAKE tears the picture in half and throws the pieces into the car. HE exits off left. The WAITRESSES take off their garage mechanic's outfits to reveal their actual waitress uniforms. They cross to center stage as the curtain opens and the scene TRANSITIONS to Act 1, Scene 5)

**Act 1, Scene 5 - Hot Rod Hot Dogs with Tad, Shelly, Reggie, Betty Jean, Mimi, Skip, Tom Dale and Jake**

(LIGHTS UP on the “Hot Rod Hot Dogs” diner. Several kids are seen dancing to an instrumental reprise of "Journey of Love" which plays on a jukebox far left. MIMI NAWROCKI, the owner, is cleaning behind the ice cream counter upstage center. She is a woman in her thirties with long hair pulled up in a hairnet. She wears a white apron around some appropriate working clothes for the restaurant. As the music fades, BETTY JEAN enters from door stage right. She brings her books over to a table center where her teenage friends are sitting: TAD BLAKE, who wears a crew cut and who is holding a guitar, sits with SHELLY POWERS, who wears reading glasses and who wears her hair in a ponytail, and who is reading a book, and REGINA "REGGIE THE WRENCH" ROGERS, a tom-boy, wearing a mechanic's uniform and is working on a car's starter. TAD faces the big glass window of the restaurant, which follows along the wall stage right. BETTY JEAN puts her books down on the table)

BETTY JEAN – Hi, Gang!

TAD, SHELLY AND REGGIE – Hi, Betty Jean!

BETTY JEAN – Reggie. What are you working on there?

REGGIE – It’s the starter to my dad’s car. He said he was having trouble with it, so I’m giving it a shot.

BETTY JEAN – Does he know you took it?

REGGIE – No, but I think it’ll be pretty obvious when he goes to start his car.

(TAD strums his guitar and plays a horrible chord)

BETTY JEAN - Tad, are you still trying to write that hit song of yours?

TAD – You just wait, Betty Jean. It'll come to me any day, now, any day. (Strums the guitar again, this time playing an even worse chord) Ewww. Just not today, I think.

SHELLY - Hmmph. I'd like to throw that guitar in the river. Do you know what it's like to go out with a guy who'd rather be with his guitar than me?

Tad – Stop it, Shelly. (Smiling at her) You know that you're the only girl in the world for me.

SHELLY – Oh, yeah? Then fine. Next time we go down to the railroad tracks? Leave your guitar at *home*!

TAD - (Holds his guitar close and speaks to it, reassuring) She didn't mean that.

SHELLY - Oooh, musician!

TAD - Bookworm!

BETTY JEAN - (Chuckling at their ongoing argument) Oh, you two.

SHELLY - (Changes The Subject) Hey, Betty Jean. I heard Jake finally got up the nerve to ask you to the hop. Have you two decided just how you're going to get there?

BETTY JEAN - You mean he didn't tell you? (Looking around) Why, where is Jake? He was supposed to meet me here.

REGGIE - Dunno. Last I saw him he was still working at the school garage.

BETTY JEAN - Still? He spends hours there! What keeps him there, I wonder?

TAD - So you two *are* going to the hop, aren't you?

BETTY JEAN – Yes, and we're going in Jake's green '41 Ford Coupe Street Rodder!

SHELLY – Wow! You mean Jake's finally putting the old "tail dragger" back on the road? Holy cow!

REGGIE – That hunka junk? Why, I wouldn't be caught dead in a jalopy like that!

SHELLY – Reggie, You also wouldn't be caught dead wearing a dress.

REGGIE – You’re darn tootin’, Shelly. Can you imagine how dirty my fancy crinoline would get from me being underneath Jake’s car, fixing that bucket all day? (ALL laugh) Face it! Take the chrome off of that hot rod and add a handle, and all you’ve got is a wagon.

BETTY JEAN – Cool It! Scoff all you want to, my dear regina, but jake promises he’s going to have her spic and span by this weekend.

REGGIE – Yeah, and 78's are gonna make a comeback. Girl, you better lift the needle and change that record. We’ve all heard that story before.

BETTY JEAN – And just what is that supposed to mean?

REGGIE - That hot rod used to be cherry with a classy chassis till Jake blew the points and plugs off the thing in his last race. That chariot is deader than a doornail. Jake may be taking you to the hop, but it's his car that he *really* digs.

BETTY JEAN – (Somewhat defensive) I know Jake's the best hotrodder in the county, but I'm sure he could show a girl a good time.

REGGIE - (In disbelief, to TAD) She's gone!

TAD - (To REGGIE) Yeah, real gone!

SHELLY - Hey, Reggie, do *you* have a date to the hop?

REGGIE - (Defensive) Eww! D.D.T.

TAD – D.D.T?

REGGIE – Yeah, as in “Drop Dead Twice”! Why would I wanna go to the hop?

SHELLY - Maybe so guys could see that there is actually an attractive female presence underneath all that grease and dirt.

TAD - Or at least a cube?

REGGIE - A cube?

TAD - Yeah: A normal person! Hahaha!



REGGIE – (Lunging toward TAD’s guitar) You better fire up and flat out on outta here as fast as you can, musician!

SHELLY - Stop it, both of you! (BETTY JEAN picks up SHELLY’s book)

BETTY JEAN – Say, Shelly. What's this book you're reading?

SHELLY - (Excited, grabs the book back) Oooh, It's real interesting. It's all about life...in the future! (Opens to a page) It says here that someday soon we're all gonna be able to communicate by computers.

TAD - That's clutched\* (\**Note=Means Rejected*).

BETTY JEAN - What's a computer?

SHELLY - And that car radios will have more than one frequency on them.

REGGIE - Nonsense. What *commie* wrote this book?

BETTY JEAN - What's a frequency?

SHELLY - And it also says that someday, telephones will all be push-button, and you won't even need cords to connect them to the wall with.

TAD - Come off it! How are they supposed to work, then?

SHELLY - They'll bounce a signal off a satellite in outer space.

REGGIE - (Laughs) Right! And Ronald Reagan will become president someday, too, I'll bet!

SHELLY - (Looks at the book) As a matter of fact...

BETTY JEAN - What's a satellite?

TAD - When's this all supposed to happen?

SHELLY - What?

TAD – All this junk you’re talkin' about. When’s it supposed to take place?

SHELLY - (Reading, then says ominously) 1973.

BETTY JEAN, REGGIE, AND TAD - (Ominously) Oooh!

BETTY JEAN - (Looking at the clock on the back wall behind the counter) I do wonder what's keeping Jake?

SHELLY - Well, I for one hope that things work out for the two of you. Jake was tops at hotrodding, till that mysterious "Masked Racer" beat him at the strip last month.

(Several dissonant chords are once again heard. EVERYBODY looks around then continues with the conversation)

REGGIE – Oooh, yeah. The "Masked Racer". (The chord doesn't play. REGGIE looks around) I said...the "Masked Racer". (Chords are heard again. REGGIE smiles while everybody looks around, then continues) Crazy, man. That was one hopped up machine. a real jacked up hottie, know what I mean? You know, we never did find out who that driver was. Then, foom! He was like gone, disappeared without a trace! It was the last we ever saw of (after a beat)...of him.

(SKIP GLASS enters "Hot Rod Hot Dogs". He has a tape recorder in his briefcase. He goes up to the counter where MIMI is working)

SKIP – Excuse me. (Notices how attractive MIMI is) Well, well, well! Hello, there, Dollface. Could you tell me where I might find Rod?

MIMI – Rod? Rod who?

SKIP – Rod. The guy who runs this place.

MIMI – What makes you think there's anyone named "Rod" here?

SKIP – Well, the neon sign outside says "Hot Rod's Hot Dogs", doesn't it?

MIMI – That's *my* new sign, and it says "Hot Rod Hot Dogs". (SKIP looks bewildered) As in "hot rod"? (SKIP still doesn't understand) as in "cars"? (SKIP shrugs his shoulders) Sheesh. In case you hadn't noticed, we're located right along the Blakesville drag strip.

SKIP – (Goes over to the window stage right and points out) Oh! So that's the drag strip? When I pulled in the parking lot, I wondered why I kept seeing the same cars passing me by over and over.

MIMI - (Rolling her eyes) Jeez Louise.

SHELLY - (To TAD and BETTY JEAN) Like wow. Cast an eyeball over there. Who's the square over there jawin' with Mimi?

TAD – Not sure, but I know he's from out of state.

BETTY JEAN - What makes you say that?

SHELLY - Yeah. You psychic or somethin'?

TAD - (Goes over to the window stage right and points out) No, I can see his car out front. His rag top has Nevada license plates on it. (Crosses back to the table and sits)

BETTY JEAN - Cut the gas, Tad. I'm trying to listen!

MIMI - (As Skip Comes Back To The Counter) I'm Mimi. Mimi Nawrocki. This is my place. What's your scene, man?

SKIP - I beg your pardon?

MIMI - What do you do? How can I help you?

SKIP – I'm a reporter for "Surf's Up Magazine". We do stories on California teenagers. We interview kids who, when they're not hitting the beach, they're hitting drag strips. We like showing how strips like the one here in Blakesville are keeping the kids from drag racing in unsafe places such as the streets in town or worse, in the nearby desert.

MIMI – Well razz my berries! You? You're a reporter?

SKIP – Yeah. Why? Does that surprise you?

MIMI – Kind of. You just don't seem to be all that observant, is all.

SKIP – (He leans over the counter and smiles at MIMI) I observed you all right, Doll!  
(MIMI picks up a big menu and firmly "thwacks" SKIP's face with it)

MIMI – Want to order something?

SKIP – (Takes menu and starts reading it) Come to think of it, I *could* use a bite.

MIMI - (Sarcastically) Funny, I was just thinking the same thing.

SKIP – Very funny. I mean I haven't eaten all day. (Closing menu) Guess I'll have a hamburger and chips.

MIMI - The name of the place is "Hot Rod Hot Dogs", remember?

SKIP - I guess make that a hot dog and chips. (MIMI nods and goes over to her grill) You know, I must have driven nearly two hours through the burning desert before the highway led me here. Southern Cal is sure a strange place. I went from pure isolated desert to Pacific coastline in a matter of minutes.

MIMI - (Hands over plate with hot dog and chips on it) Here you go. You wanna drink with that?

SKIP - What do you have?

MIMI – Water, chocolate malts, root beer, more water.

SKIP - That's it?

MIMI - Water, chocolate malts, root beer, more water.

SKIP - No ginger ale?

MIMI - Water, chocolate malts, root beer, more water!

SKIP - Lotsa choices.

MIMI - Root beer?

SKIP - Root beer. (MIMI goes over to the soda fountain and pours out a glass of root beer)

MIMI - I bet you travel a lot in your line of work.

SKIP – Well, this is actually the first really big story that my magazine's sent me out to cover.

MIMI – (Hands SKIP his drink) What story's that?

SKIP – The closing down of the Blakesville Drag Strip.

(ALL the kids overhear this statement and are in immediate shock)

KIDS – (Ad Lib) What? What do you mean? They can't close the strip! No way! (MIMI signals to the kids to settle down)

MIMI - Wait a minute, kids. Give the man a chance to explain. (To SKIP) Close down the strip? What are you talking about? They can't close down the strip, Mister...?

SKIP - Glass. Skip Glass. You can call me "Skip", Doll.

MIMI - (Disinterested) Look, *Mister* Glass, just how did your paper get wind of such a ridiculous rumor?

SKIP - The people wanting to build the golf course called my editor about it yesterday. Said it would be the biggest and best eighteen-hole golf course in the whole country. (MIMI's shocked) So, my editor told me to lay a patch and cover this story a.s.a.p. So, here I am...asap.

MIMI – You got that right. (Distraught) But, that's just crazy. I get ninety-nine percent of my business from the drag strip. If they shut it down...

TAD - That means "Hot Rod Hot Dogs" shuts down, too!

SHELLY - Not necessarily. Wouldn't Mimi get more business from the golf course?

SKIP - I'm no developer, girly-girl, but it would seem to me that if this course is going to be as big as they've described, it's a safe bet Mimi could expect a nice big fairway coming straight through the middle of this diner.

MIMI - What? That means I'd have to close! Let my waitresses all go!

WATRESSES - (Shrieking) Eeek! (Hide behind the counter)

SKIP – Sorry, cats. (Pulls out tape recorder from his jacket) I'm just telling you what my editor told me. He sent me down here to interview people to find out what your reaction is. (Starts tape recorder and holds it up to REGGIE's face) What about you, young...uh, lady, is it? What's your reaction to the whole shebang?

REGGIE - I'll tell you what my reaction is. It royally...(both TAD and SHELLY cover REGGIE's mouth. SKIP stops his tape recorder. BETTY JEAN's father, TOM DALE, enters the diner. He is a well-dressed man in his forties, wearing a suit, tie, and a hat)

TOM – Hi, kids. Looks like a big meeting about something. What's going on?

BETTY JEAN - (Upset, approaches her father) Oh, Dad. It's just awful! (BETTY JEAN starts sobbing uncontrollably into TOM DALE's suit and tie)

TOM – Oh, now *what's* so awful, Betty Jean?

TAD - They're closing down the drag strip and "Hot Rod Hot Dogs", Mr. Dale.

TOM - What? Why? (Passes the upset BETTY JEAN over to MIMI then crosses right to SKIP who is now at the counter) Excuse me. May I ask who you are?

SKIP - The name's Glass. Skip Glass. I'm a reporter for "Surf's Up Magazine". And you are Mister...?

TOM – I'm Tom Dale. I'm an architect. I designed the whole Blakesville Drag Strip.

REGGIE - He's been sent here to do a story on why the mayor is closing down the strip, Mr. Dale. (ALL kids echo)

TOM - Now everyone just relax. I built that strip, got all the permits. The town council approved its construction, and the mayor can't close it down without the town council's okay.

BETTY JEAN - (raising her head for a moment, still blubbering) B-B-But, Daddy...

SHELLY - Actually, sir, I've been studying town government, and according to "article seven, paragraph thirteen" of the town's by-laws, they can do it with an official vote made at the next town meeting. If nobody opposes it, they don't even have to have a hearing. It's called a majority lock.

TAD - (To TOM) Scary, ain't she?

TOM – I know what it's called, Shelly.

SKIP - I'm Sorry, Mr. Dale. (Reaches into his breast pocket of his suit and pulls out a notepad) but, apparently (reading his notepad), the mayor's already got the okay from three out of five on the town council.

SHELLY - Then it appears the mayor's already *got* a majority lock.

TOM - Not if I can convince at least two of those three voters to change their minds.

MIMI – Hey! That's right!

TOM - We'll call a special town meeting this weekend and take an emergency vote on the whole issue.

MIMI - (Moving the still blubbing BETTY JEAN over to REGGIE) What's your plan, Tom?

TOM - First, I'll find out who those three people are that voted for shutting down the strip. The mayor doesn't get a vote, but Deputy Mayor Swenson does. I suspect he's behind this somehow. So, I'll talk to Sheriff Druyor tomorrow morning. He follows all the meetings pretty closely. He'll probably know who the other two voters are. I'll ask him if he'll help persuade them to change their minds.

MIMI - Anything I can do to help?

TOM - As a matter of fact, yes. Town Hall is being painted. Can we use your place to hold the special meeting?

MIMI - Absolutely. "Hot Rod Hot Dogs" is all yours.

TOM - Great. Thanks, Mimi. (KIDS become hopeful, BETTY JEAN smiles again) Don't worry kids. They won't tear this place down without a fight! (KIDS cheer) Come on, Betty Jean. I'll take you home.

BETTY JEAN - (Feeling better) That's okay, Daddy. Jake is going to pick me up in his car in a few minutes.

TOM - Okay. Call me if you do need a ride. I know how forgetful he can be.

BETTY JEAN - Oh, Daddy.

MIMI - I'll see that she gets home all right, Tom.

TOM - Thanks, Mimi. (TOM exits)

TAD - We better get going, too.

SHELLY - Tad And I are going to help set up the gym for the hop. Saturday night is almost here and there's so much to do!

REGGIE - And I better get my Dad's starter back to him pronto!

TAD, REGGIE AND SHELLY - (Ad Lib) Bye, Betty Jean. (Before all the KIDS can reach the door, MIMI stops them)

MIMI - Wait a minute! (Runs back behind the counter. The WAITRESSES return, startled)

REGGIE - What? (All the KIDS turn back towards MIMI)

MIMI - (Smiles and lifts up about a dozen tabs) Your tabs? They may try to put me out of business, but I ain't there yet. And I'm not giving food away here, either, so pay up! (All the KIDS go up to MIMI's cash register at the counter to pay their bills. SKIP goes over to a table towards the back with his hot dog and root beer. As the KIDS exit, JAKE enters)

JAKE - Whoa! Where's everybody going?

BETTY JEAN - Jake! Where have you been?

JAKE – Sorry, I, uh, lost track of the time. I was at the school garage working on my car.

BETTY JEAN - You were supposed to meet me here a half hour ago. Honestly, Jake Carson. Sometimes I think you care more about that car than me.

JAKE – Baby, I'm just trying to get her in shape to take you to the hop.

BETTY JEAN – Jake, your car is fine. She's in great shape. You need to get over last month. (Walks away from JAKE, taking a beat) or perhaps you're just trying to keep your mind off ...other things?

JAKE - What "other things"?

BETTY JEAN – (Turns back to JAKE) Like Joanne Caputo?

JAKE - Joanne? What are you talking about?

BETTY JEAN - You know what I mean.

JAKE - No, I don't.

BETTY JEAN - There's been talk around school. Jake, we've been going out for two whole days, now. But, people have been saying you still have feelings for her, which is why you spend so much time on your car instead of with me.

JAKE - (Hiding his true feelings) Whose been saying those things? (Music starts)

BETTY JEAN – (Admitting) Okay, me. I just want to know for sure, Jake, that's all.



BETTY JEAN:

**"I Want To Know"**

*I'm Not Sure Baby  
That You Love Me So  
I've Got A Funny Feeling  
That You Want To Go  
If You Love Me Tell Me  
Or If You Don't Say So  
I'm Not Sure Baby  
So, I Want To Know  
When I First Met You Baby  
You Were So Nice To Me  
I Took You In My Arms  
And Kissed You Tenderly  
But Now You're Acting Strange  
I Hope That It's Not So  
I'm Not Sure Baby  
So, I Want To Know  
If You're Taking Me For A Ride  
Please Tell Me So  
My Heart's Been Broken Before  
And It Just Can't Take Much More  
I Know It Might Sound Silly  
But I Had To Let You Know  
'Cause I'm Not Sure Baby  
So, I Want To Know  
(Instrumental Break)  
If You're Taking Me For A Ride  
Please Tell Me So  
My Heart's Been Broken Before  
And It Just Can't Take Much More  
I Know It Might Sound Silly  
But I Had To Let You Know  
'Cause I'm Not Sure Baby  
So, I Want To Know  
(End)*

JAKE – That is the *dumbest* thing I've ever heard. Why it's just silly. Betty Jean Dale, you are the best thing to happen to me in a long, long time...weeks, even! And I'd be real honored if you would be my date to the hop. (Gets down on one knee) So, I ask you again: Will you go with me?

BETTY JEAN - (Laughs) Get up off the floor, you goof! Of course I'll go with you.

JAKE - Good. I better get you home before your neighbors talk about us again. But, hey!  
(Indicating SKIP at the back) Who's the square?

BETTY JEAN - I'll explain on the way. Come on. Take me home. (They exit, leaving only MIMI, SKIP and the WAITRESSES on stage)

MIMI - Okay, girls, take a break! (WAITRESSES exit. MIMI comes around from behind the counter to a table over stage left. Starts to clean the table) I swear, the mess these kids make. (Wipes her brow) Whew! I need to rest. Too much happening in one day. Think I'll sit for a minute or two.

(As MIMI sits, SKIP makes his way over to the jukebox. He puts in a coin in the jukebox and Music starts for the next number. SKIP slowly makes his way down to MIMI and sings)

SKIP:

**“Baby Let Your Hair Down”**

*Come A Little Closer*  
*Please Don't Be So Shy*  
*Once You Get To Know Me*  
*You'll Find I'm A Real Nice Guy*

(SKIP tries to take off MIMI's hairnet)

*Baby Let Your Hair Down*

(MIMI smacks SKIP)

*Baby Let Your Hair Down*

(SKIP puts his arms around MIMI)

*Put Your Arms Around Me*  
*Kiss Me And You'll See*

(MIMI smacks SKIP again then, playfully, runs away)

*When We Get To Kissin' Baby  
You'll Be Thankin' Me  
Baby Let Your Hair Down  
Baby Let Your Hair Down*

(SKIP brings MIMI closer and they dance)

*Now You've Been Sittin' There  
Quiet As Can Be  
Come Over Here  
And Keep Me Company*

(MIMI kicks SKIP in the shins)

*Whoa!*

(MIMI returns to sit at the table)

*Please Don't Say You Don't Know  
What I'm Puttin' Down*

(SKIP limps over to MIMI's table)

*Tell Me You're Pretending And  
That You're Gonna Come Around  
Baby Let Your Hair Down*

(MIMI stands and looks at SKIP, now interested)

*Baby Let Your Hair Down  
Come On Baby  
Let Your Hair Down  
I'm A Real Nice Guy  
Baby Don't You Be So Shy!*

(MIMI takes her hairnet off and her hair falls around her shoulders. SKIP dips MIMI and then lifts her back up and they kiss as LIGHTS DIM)  
*(End)*

(The curtain closes as the scene TRANSITIONS to Act 1, Scene 6)

**Act 1, Scene 6 - Sheriff's Office with Tom, Druyor, Mayor And Swenson – Next Day**

(LIGHTS UP isolating stage right on the office of SHERIFF DRUYOR. It is the next morning. SHERIFF DRUYOR approaches his desk carrying some forms. He is clumsy, and as he sits down he shrieks in pain as if he has sat on something sharp. He falls forward off the chair and under the desk. He then gets back up)

SHERIFF – Dang handcuffs. (DRUYOR pulls out a set of handcuffs from his rear belt loop. He puts them back onto his rear belt loop and then places his forms down on the side of the desk. The forms begin to tumble off the desk. He quickly tries to retrieve them before they fall and winds up himself falling over the desk. He gets back up) Dang forms. (DRUYOR picks up the forms and places them on his desk. He starts to sit back down, but as he does the telephone rings. The ring startles him and as he sits he feels the pain from his backside again and this time falls backward in the chair, taking the chair with him. He quickly recovers to answer the phone) Hello? (After a beat) Yes, Mr. Mayor? (Beat) You'll be right over? (Beat) Yes, sir. (Hangs up the phone on his hand and he winces in pain again. He picks up his hurt hand and shakes the pain away as he gets back to work. Once again he tries to sit down, slowly, carefully, and then stands back up quickly. He removes the handcuffs from his rear belt loop) Ah-ha! (Speaking to the handcuffs) Thought you were gonna get me that time, didn't you? Well, not again! I'm gonna put you in a place where I can keep my eyes on you! (He takes the handcuffs and attaches one cuff to a handle on his desk drawers, then the other cuff to his wrist) There, I guess we now know who's smarter. (He sits down at his desk and starts to go for a pencil in a holder located on the side of his desk with his cuffed hand. He cannot move because he has just locked himself to his desk drawer) Oh, no. Not again. Now, where'd I put that master key? (Starts searching around his desk as TOM DALE knocks on the door stage left. DRUYOR grabs a pencil with his un-cuffed hand and starts writing on forms as he hides his cuffed hand below his desk) Uh, come.

TOM - (Entering) Hello, Roger.

SHERIFF - (Smiles) Tom. Good to see you. (Continues writing) Uh, how can I help you?

TOM - Well, you can start by telling me what the mayor's up to.

SHERIFF - (Stops writing, then looks up at TOM) Oh, so you've heard.

TOM - That's right. What gives? What's he doing?

SHERIFF - Well, you can ask him yourself. Just got a call from him a second ago and both he and Swenson are on the way over here, right now.

TOM - Roger, you go to all the council meetings. What's kind of crazy scheme is this?

SHERIFF - One word, Tom. Golf.

TOM – What? He golfs?

SHERIFF - Not a stroke, but he knows they're building golf courses all over the country. They're becoming one of the biggest real estate investments today. (Unbeknownst to TOM, MAYOR MEANE, a large man in his forties, has entered with SWENSON right behind him. MEANE is carrying a large paper bag. He has overheard the conversation)

TOM – What does he even know about golf?

MAYOR MEANE – All I need to know, Tom, is that golf courses bring in big bucks. (TOM turns to see the mayor)

TOM – (Surprised) Mayor Meane! Mr. Swenson.

MAYOR MEANE - That's right, and this mayor knows a good opportunity when he sees one. I've made arrangements with a local developer to demolish that ugly little drag strip and we're gonna build us a swanky new golf course.

TOM - But you once supported the strip. Why have you changed your mind?

MEAN- Why? Why? (Not Sure) Why. Why Don't You Explain It, Swenson?

SWENSON - Gladly, Mr. Mayor. (To TOM) Because it will mean more tourists, which means more money for me, I mean, the town.

TOM – (Suspicious) I see.

SWENSON – Yes. This would be a chance to finally get on board with all those golf tours that travel the country. A golf course in Southern California could make millions in no time at all, which, in my opinion, is quite a contrast to that decrepit little drag strip of yours which brings in no tourists and can barely pay its own bills.

TOM – Listen, Swenson, you little...

SWENSON - Once I mentioned to the town council that the developer would be doing it for *nothing*, the town council's ears all perked right up.

TOM – (Surprised and even more suspicious) Why would any developer do it for nothing?

SWENSON – Civic pride, perhaps? But who can guess, really. What can I say? I guess he just understands the meaning of "building good will".

MAYOR MEANE - I hear you're thinking of calling a special town meeting for this Saturday night?

TOM - That's right. I want a vote called for.

SWENSON - Fine. Call your meeting. I doubt very much that you'll be able to convince anyone to stop progress.

TOM - (To MAYOR MEANE) I can't believe you'd go along with this. I mean, the kids, Mayor. What about the kids?

MAYOR MEANE - I can't help them. I've got my own problems. (Crosses in front of TOM to get to SHERIFF DRUYOR)

TOM - But, Mayor Meane, I...

MAYOR MEANE - Roger. Here is that "evidence" we discussed earlier. (He throws DRUYOR the large paper bag. DRUYOR starts to catch it and nearly lifts the desk off the ground, knocking the forms and the phone on the floor) locked yourself to your desk again, eh, Roger?

SHERIFF - (Embarrassed) Yes, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR MEANE – (Annoyed) Sigh. I trust you'll follow up on this immediately? (Hands him a piece of paper) Here's the warrant.

SHERIFF - (Taking the bag) Are you sure you want me to do this, sir?

MAYOR MEANE - Absolutely. We've got to put a stop to these shenanigans by making an example of this individual, whoever he is. And as soon as you apprehend the perpetrator, I want him kept here until we know better what to do with him.

SHERIFF - (Sighs) Yes, sir.

MAYOR MEANE - Take care, Roger. Be seeing you, Tom.

TOM - You can count on it, Mayor. (MAYOR MEANE exits. TOM approaches SWENSON) and you can bet I'll be seeing more of you, Mr. Swenson. (SWENSON glares at TOM then exits. DRUYOR scrambles to find his keys) Roger, what did the Mayor mean when he said "I've got my own problems"?

SHERIFF - TJ. He's been getting into trouble again.

TOM - (Leaning on DRUYOR's desk) Mm-hmm. TJ. That poor kid. You know, we used to have him over the house all the time. He and Betty Jean used to be real close. I always thought...(Hesitates) Well, never mind, but ever since he got himself hooked up with those "Lone Wolves", well I...I just can't have him over anymore.

SHERIFF - He's gone bad, that kid, but, I don't believe it's all his fault. (Finds keys in his desk) Ah-ha! There you are. (Starts to unlock himself) I blame it more on his father. Ever since TJ's mom passed away they've been at odds with one another.

TOM - It's just so sad.

SHERIFF - (Now free) There. You know, I also blame that lousy Dirk Skagg TJ's gotten hooked up with.

TOM - The gang leader?

SHERIFF - The one and only, thank goodness. He and his "lone wolves" have been tearing up the streets all over town, hotrodding through neighborhoods at two, three o'clock in the morning. Take a look at this. (Pulls out a leather jacket from the paper bag. Shows Tom the "Lone Wolves" logo on the back)

TOM - A "Lone Wolves" jacket?

SHERIFF – (Nodding) One of them ran over and destroyed old lady Swenson's lawn, killing all her prize-winning azaleas.

TOM - (Shocked) No! The deputy mayor's mother?

SHERIFF - That's right, but I don't hold that against her, she's a nice lady. Whoever it was left behind this jacket. Mrs. Swenson showed the jacket to her son who brought it to the mayor. Now he wants the kid picked up, booked, and probably winding up in juvie upstate for at least a year.

TOM - Swenson's got the Mayor convinced that *all* hotrodders are bad, and you know that's just not true.

SHERIFF – Course I do, but this whole thing has given Swenson the ammunition he needs to get what he wants from the town council and the Mayor.

TOM - Roger, you know as well as I do that as long as there are teenagers and cars there's going to be hotrodders. What we've done by building this drag strip is we've given them a safe place to do it in, a controlled environment with as many safety precautions and as much supervision as can be provided.

SHERIFF – (Holding up his hands) Okay, I surrender! Look, Tom, you're preaching to the choir here. I know how much you did for those kids by building that strip and I know you've probably saved a lot of lives and made my job a lot easier.

TOM – Then isn't that good enough reason to keep it going?

SHERIFF - Not to the Mayor, and certainly not to Swenson. All they see right now are the dollar signs.

TOM - Do you know who the three voters were? I imagine Swenson was one. Who were the other two?

SHERIFF - Ron Beals, the hardware store owner, and (thinking) uh, oh, yeah. Phil. Phil Rickett. (Returns handcuffs to back belt loop)

TOM – Doesn't Phil also do land developing?

SHERIFF – Sure does.

TOM – Well, then, that figures. So, we have our work cut out for us.

SHERIFF - To do what?

TOM - To try and change some minds in this town. You talk to Beals. You two are friends. If he'll listen to anyone, it's you. I'll try and persuade Rickett.

SHERIFF - (Shaking his head) Ha! Save your breath. You'll get nowhere with Phil. That development deal is gonna put big bucks into his pocket. I'll talk to Beals, though, and see what he says. I can't promise anything, though.

TOM - Well, then I guess it'll be up to fate, Roger. (Turns away from DRUYOR who starts to sit in his chair again, feeling pain from his back belt loop and falls backward in his chair. TOM continues talking without noticing) We have four days before the town meeting this weekend. Betty Jean, Jake and all those other kids will be at the hop. (DRUYOR quickly gets back up and pretends nothing has happened as TOM turns back around to him) So, you and I can go to the meeting and see if we can sway the vote.



SHERIFF – Fine, but in the meantime (handing TOM a piece of paper from the messy forms on his desk) here.

TOM - What's this?

SHERIFF - It's a "cease and desist" order. I need you to deliver it to the folks over at the drag strip.

TOM – What?

SHERIFF - Pending Saturday's vote, all drag racing is hereby suspended, per the Mayor.

TOM - But Roger! That'll put more kids into the neighborhoods at two or three o'clock in the morning. Don't they realize that?

SHERIFF - (Holding up his hands again) Still preaching to the choir! Don't you think I tried to tell the Mayor that? But, this is what he wants. He's even put us on alert to watch out for any rabble rousers. So, you tell these kids to keep their noses clean, or they won't have a snowball's chance in a Los Angeles July of getting their drag strip back. I'll be in touch.

TOM - (Heading for the exit) Okay. Thanks, Roger. I'll break the news. (TOM exits. DRUYOR picks the phone up off the floor and dials a number)

SHERIFF - (Into the phone) Sarah? Get Me Ron Beals over at the hardware store. (LIGHTS DIM as the curtain re-opens and the scene TRANSITIONS to Act 1, Scene 7)

**Act 1, Scene 7 - Hot Rod Hot Dogs with Mimi, Skip, Lone Wolves, Dirk, Joanne, TJ, Betty Jean and Sheriff Druyor – Friday Afternoon**

(LIGHTS UP on "Hot Rod Hot Dogs". It is now Friday afternoon. MIMI is leaning over the counter smiling and staring into SKIP's eyes. He's smiling, too, gently holding her hands)

MIMI - You know something, Skip?

SKIP - What's that, Doll?

MIMI – I'm kind'a glad it's been slow. These last few days with you have been the best!

SKIP - Me too, Mimi. I feel like I've been waiting for someone like you my whole life.

MIMI - (Sighs) Really?

SKIP - Really. How come a gal like you never got married?

MIMI - Never had the time. I started working right after high school and ever since I've constantly been running "Hot Rod Hot Dogs". You know, seems like I'm always helping other people with *their* love lives that I've never had time for one of my own. I can't even recall the last date I had, but that's okay.

SKIP – Why would something like that be okay?

MIMI - No boyfriends means no broken heart.

SKIP - So why you goin' out with me?

MIMI - Well, you seemed so desperate, I figured I'd cut you a break.

SKIP - (Laughing) Oh, Mimi. (Hears the roaring and screeching sound of hot rods pulling up to the restaurant) Hey, the whole room is shaking. What's that?

MIMI - (Groans) Ug! Hotrodders.

SKIP - From the drag strip? I thought it was closed.

MIMI - No. These are coming from outside my restaurant.

(DIRK SKAGG enters through the restaurant door. He has a GIRL in each arm and SEVERAL OTHER GANG MEMBERS lurking behind him. ALL wear "Lone Wolves" jackets)

DIRK - Okay, "Lone Wolves". Take a powder. (GIRLS and the "LONE WOLVES" go sit at a table right as DIRK walks up to the counter) Hey! Mimi! How's it goin'?

MIMI - (Groans) Fine, jerk...I mean, Dirk. What can I get you?

DIRK - Sick if I look at ya too long. Har-har-har! Listen, gimme a peanut butter, sauerkraut and tuna fish sandwich, wouldja?

MIMI - (Groans) I see. Your "usual", then?

DIRK – Yeah, and a root beer. As a matter of fact, sarsaparillas for the whole gang, I mean "social club". (Looks back at the door, then crosses back and opens it) Hey! Come on, you nosebleeds! What's taking you two so long? Come up for air once and awhile, wouldja? Sheesh! (DIRK goes to sit at a table right next to the table where the LONE WOLVES are sitting. JOANNE and TJ enter the restaurant and join DIRK at his table)

JOANNE – Hi, Mimi! Any coffee on?

MIMI - It's on, Joanne. Say, shouldn't you kids all be in school?

JOANNE - I don't got class this afternoon.

DIRK - (Cracking wise to TJ) I'd say she don't got class no time of the day. Har-har-har! (Slaps TJ's back, TJ winces)

JOANNE - (After a cold stare to DIRK, she says to TJ) I'm gonna go get us some coffees. (Kisses TJ on the nose) Now, don't go away. (TJ smiles. JOANNE walks back up to the counter to get the coffees from MIMI)

DIRK - (To TJ) If she keeps that up, I think I'm gonna hurl *before* I get the food.

TJ - Your mix is running a little too rich. Ease off, Dirk.

DIRK - (Hits TJ in the arm) Just joshin'! Don't be so sensitive! Har-har-har!

TJ - (As JOANNE brings back drinks) Kinda dead today, ain't it, Mimi? Anything wrong? (JOANNE sits on TJ's lap)

MIMI – Well, business hasn't exactly been the greatest since they suspended racing at the strip. It'll pick up. Kids should be out of school soon. (Pulls out a number of food slips from her apron pocket and approaches DIRK) Hey, Dirk. About that thirty dollar tab you've run up?

DIRK - Say no more, Doll! (Stands up and pulls out a huge wad of bills from his vest pocket) I just came into a lot of money recently so, (handing her the money) here's a fifty. Keep the change.

JOANNE - (Stands up, cautioning DIRK) Dirk!

TJ - (Stands up) Dirk! Where'd you get all that money? You knock over a liquor store or something?

DIRK - (Quick look to JOANNE) Uh, (to TJ) that's *my* business.

MIMI - (Hands DIRK his extra twenty dollars back) Here, Dork, uh, Dirk. I don't think i want a tip from you. (She goes back to her counter. DIRK puts the money back into his vest pocket)

TJ - (Pointing towards the rest rooms, says to JOANNE) I gotta go use the, uh...I'll be right back. (He exits off left)

JOANNE - (Slaps DIRK on the shoulder) What's the matter with you? You almost blew it!

DIRK - What?

JOANNE - Do you want TJ finding out that it's his father's deputy mayor that's been paying you to make noise all over town the last couple of weeks?

DIRK - Relax, wouldja? That's why I got you to keep him "occupied", my little chickadee. (DIRK pinches JOANNE on the cheek) But just you don't forget who your real boyfriend is.

JOANNE - You're not my boyfriend, Dirk. You could never *ever* be my boyfriend.

DIRK - (Angrily pulls on JOANNE's arm) Don't forget what i got on you, Dollface! (Pats his breast pocket) You just mind your pees and ques and your secret will be safe with me.

JOANNE – Okay, okay. Fine, but you're still dreaming if you think I'd ever go out with a guy like you.

DIRK - You'll sing a different tune when this whole deal is over with and I got the dough. Swenson will be the most powerful guy in the whole county after we help him finish off the mayor and get his embarrassing kid out of the way. Then, you'll see.

JOANNE – But what about poor TJ?

DIRK – “Poor TJ”? “Poor little TJ”? Boo-hoo-hoo! He'll be sent off to “juvie” hall to pay for the terrible acts of vandalism he'll have been found guilty of committing all over town. (Snickers, then crosses right to the door) As a matter of fact, I'd expect Sheriff Druyor should be showing up here anytime now.

JOANNE – (Crossing up to DIRK) I hate this whole rotten, stinking scheme, Dirk.

DIRK - Yeah. But you dig the Dirkster, don'tcha doll?

JOANNE - (Groaning) I'd rather dig the Dirkster's grave.

DIRK - You'll sing a different tune soon enough, chickee, so don't you get too carried away with lover boy, over there. (Music starts) Here's why:

DIRK:

**“Pees N Ques”**

*DIRK - I Like Coffee I Like Tea*

*And I Like You A Lot*

*But You Can't Have Every Boy You See*

*And Keep The One You've Got*

*Dirk's Girls - You'd Better Watch Your Pees And Ques*

*If You Know What's Good For You*

*DIRK - Cause If You Don't I'm Gonna Get Mad*

*Gang Member - Powpowpowpowpowpowpowpowpowpow*

*DIRK - Draw A Circle On The Old Man's Back*

*And Hope That It Turned Out Right*

*'Cause I'll Be Down By The Railroad Tracks*

*Watching You Tonight (Har-Har-Har)*

*Dirk's Girls - You'd Better Watch Your Pees And Ques*

*If You Know What's Good For You*

*DIRK - Cause If You Don't I'm Gonna Get Mad*

*Gang Member – Powpowpowpowpowpowpowpowpowpow*

(Instrumental Break. The LONE WOLVES dance all over the diner's tables and chairs)

*DIRK - London Bridges Falling Down*

*And You Can't Get Across*

*Tell Me Who's That Guy You're Hanging 'Round*

*Got You Thinkin' He's So Boss (Har-Har-Har)*

*Dirk's Girls - You'd Better Watch Your Pees And Ques*

*If You Know What's Good For You*

*DIRK - Cause If You Don't I'm Gonna Get Mad*

*Dirk's Girls - And You'll Lose The Best Friend You Ever Had*

*You'd Better Watch Your Pees And Ques*

*You'd Better Watch, You'd Better Watch*

*You'd Better Watch Your Pees And Ques*

*You'd Better Watch, You'd Better Watch*

(End)

MIMI - (Furious) All Right! That's it! All of you! Out of here! Now!

DIRK - We'll go when we *feel* like going! No chick's gonna tell *us* what to do. (MIMI comes around the counter with a frying pan) Okay. *Now* we'll go. Come on, Lone Wolves. Let's agitate the gravel and take our business *elsewheres*.

(DIRK drags JOANNE out as the LONE WOLVES exit. TJ re-enters and sees that the restaurant is now empty)

TJ – Wow. I've gotta stop using the men's room here. First I lose my jacket and now...where'd everybody go?

MIMI - (Puts frying pan down on the counter) They remembered a prior engagement with the funny papers. Oh, TJ, what are you doing, kid? (Comes over to him) Why do you hang around with the likes of these guys? You are the son of the...

TJ - I know who I am, Mimi. I'm the son my Dad never wanted.

MIMI – That's not true. Your Dad cares about you. I know he does.

TJ – Nah. He *used* to care about me but, when Mom died, well, things changed. Now, this gang has been the closest thing to a family I've known in a long time.

MIMI – TJ, don't you remember? Tom Dale and his family have always been very good to you over the years.

TJ - Yeah. Well, (thinking about BETTY JEAN) it's complicated.

MIMI – Why? Because you're in love with Betty Jean and not Joanne?

TJ - (Stunned) How'd you know?

MIMI – I've watched all you kids grow up and there's not much I don't catch around here. I've seen the way you two look at each other for years. Anyone can tell two people in love when they just look at each other the right way. You should tell her how you feel.

TJ – Nah. It'd never work, Mimi. Her neighbors have always had it in for me, some of them calling me a loser. Maybe they're right, though. Maybe I am a loser. Always have been and always will be.

MIMI - That's not true, TJ. I know those neighbors and all those old people are just plain wrong, and so are you if you believe them.

TJ - Anyways, it doesn't matter. I hear she's going out with Jake, now.

MIMI – He's just taking her to the hop this weekend. But if you ask, I'm sure she'd rather go with you. You've just got to let her know.

SKIP - Hey, Mimi? (BETTY JEAN enters through the door. She stops and stares at the sight of TJ. TJ turns to see her and stares as well)

MIMI - Just a minute, Skip. (Looks at TJ then at BETTY JEAN) Yep. That's the look, all right. (Returns to the counter)

BETTY JEAN - TJ.

MIMI - What is it, Skip?

SKIP - Don't you think you might want to consult with this Jake kid *before* you hook these two kids up?

MIMI – Oh, hush. You're new to this town, so let me clue you in on something. Mimi Nawrocki *always* knows what she's doing.

SKIP - I sure hope so, Doll.

TJ - (Not knowing what else to say) Uh, how are you, Betty Jean?

BETTY JEAN – Oh, fine, fine. (Long pause) My Dad was just talking about you last night. We, I mean, he'd like you to see him. Would you wanna stop by the house?

TJ - I don't think that'd be a good idea. You know those nosy old neighbors of yours have never particularly cared for the likes of me.

BETTY JEAN - (Approaches him) That's their problem. We never felt that way about you. at least (gently touching his shoulder) I never did.

TJ - (Breaking away) Maybe so, but I don't think your new boyfriend Jake would appreciate me stopping by.

BETTY JEAN - (Not understanding) What's Jake got to do with it?

TJ - Isn't he taking you to the hop Saturday night?

BETTY JEAN - That's right.

TJ - (Walks up and gently puts his hands on her shoulders) Do you love him?

BETTY JEAN - (Looking Down) I guess. (Looks up again) He's very sweet. (Takes a beat, then asks) Do you love Joanne?

TJ - (Lets go of BETTY JEAN's shoulders. Looking down, insecure) I Guess.

SKIP - Boy! These sure are ringing endorsements, aren't they? (MIMI hits his arm) Ow. (A police siren is heard)

TJ - Well, I better get going. (The siren ends. SHERIFF DRUYOR enters with DIRK and JOANNE behind him)

SHERIFF - Not so fast, TJ.

BETTY JEAN - Sheriff Druyor!

SHERIFF - I just ran into the rest of the "Lone Wolves". These two told me I'd find you here. (Holding out jacket) This your jacket?

TJ - (Nodding) Yes.

SHERIFF - (Pulls out handcuffs) Then, I'm afraid you're going to have to come with me, TJ.

TJ - What? What for?

SHERIFF - There's a warrant out for your arrest. You've been identified as the vandal who trashed through old lady Swenson's yard the other night.

TJ - What? But I wasn't there! Just ask Joanne! I was out on a date with her. We were down by the railroad tracks. Right, Joanne? (JOANNE looks at DIRK, then at TJ. Shakes her head to DRUYOR) Joanne! (JOANNE runs out. DIRK exits laughing. DRUYOR puts handcuffs on TJ) Who issued the warrant, anyway?

SHERIFF - Your father. I'm sorry, son. Let's go.

MIMI - Sheriff...

SKIP - Mimi. (Holds her back) This is serious. You shouldn't get involved. (MIMI waits)



BETTY JEAN - Don't worry, TJ. I'll talk to my father. He'll...

TJ - No! Don't you see? This is the story of my life. It's not gonna get any better from here. Just forget about me. I'm not worth it. Have fun with Jake at the hop. Let's go, Sheriff. (They exit. BETTY JEAN turns to look back at MIMI for advice. SKIP holds MIMI back. BETTY JEAN runs out the door in tears)

MIMI - Jeez Louise! Why'd you stop me, Skip?

SKIP - No Offense, Doll, but maybe you'd better lay off.

MIMI - What do you mean?

SKIP – It just seems like it's none of your business.

MIMI - (Insulted) Maybe, as a reporter, you're supposed to remain detached from your stories, but I've known these kids most of their lives. And I'm not a reporter, so I will reach out to them whenever I see fit. And if you can't understand that, then maybe you'll never understand me, either. So, maybe you just better climb back into your car and head back to Nevada!

SKIP - (Angry) Well, maybe I just will!

MIMI - Fine! Go then! (SKIP storms out. MIMI starts crying. Music starts The WAITRESSES form a triangle around the set with MIMI center as she sings her song)

MIMI:

**“I Think It's Called A Heartache”**

*MIMI - This Is My First Broken Heart  
So I Don't Know The Words To Say  
To Explain The Way I Feel  
But There's Something In My Eye  
Making Me Cry*

*MIMI - Whoa-Whoa,*

*WAITRESSES - Whoa-Whoa*

*MIMI - Whoa-Whoa*

*Waitresses – Whoa*

*MIMI - I Think It's Called A Teardrop  
There's Something My Heart  
Tearing It Apart*

*MIMI - Whoa-Whoa,  
WATRESSES - Whoa-Whoa  
MIMI - Whoa-Whoa  
WATRESSES - Whoa  
MIMI - I Think It's Called A Heartache  
    You Taught Me To Love You  
    But You Forgot To Teach Me How To Cry  
    You Taught Me To Need You  
    But You Forgot To Teach Me How To Say Goodbye*

(Waitresses All Clink Glasses)

*But There's Something On My Mind  
    Hurting All The Time  
MIMI - Whoa-Whoa,  
WATRESSES - Whoa-Whoa  
MIMI - Whoa-Whoa  
WATRESSES - Whoa  
MIMI - I Think It's Called Your Memory  
    You Taught Me To Love You  
    But You Forgot To Teach Me How To Cry  
You Taught Me To Need You  
    But You Forgot To Teach Me How To Say Goodbye*

(Waitresses All Clink Glasses)

*But There's Something On My Mind  
    Hurts Me All The Time  
MIMI - Whoa-Whoa,  
WATRESSES - Whoa-Whoa  
MIMI - Whoa-Whoa  
WATRESSES - Whoa  
MIMI - I Think It's Called Your Memory  
(End)*

(At End Of Song, LIGHTS DIM as the curtain closes and the scene TRANSITIONS to Act 1,  
Scene 8)

**Act 1, Scene 8 - Garage with Jake, Waitresses, Joanne and Betty Jean – Moments Later**

(LIGHTS UP stage left as JAKE and the WAITRESSES, now changed into their mechanics uniforms again, are seen surrounding the open hood of JAKE's car, with their backs all to the audience. It appears as though they are repairing the engine, but the scene plays out as if major surgery is taking place)

JAKE - (Back to audience, reaches out) Wrench.

WAITRESS # 1 - (Hands him wrench) Wrench.

JAKE - (Takes wrench. Does some work then returns item to WAITRESS # 1. Reaches hand out again) Scissors.

WAITRESS # 2 - (Hands him scissors) Scissors.

JAKE - (Takes scissors. Does some more work then returns the item to WAITRESS # 2. reaches out again) Roll of tape.

WAITRESS # 3 - (Hands him the roll of tape) Roll of tape.

JAKE - (Takes tape. Pulls out a long strip and proceeds to work again. Returns tape to WAITRESS # 3, then closes the hood of the car and faces the audience. He holds in his hands the repaired picture of JOANNE. Music starts) There. (Sings)

JAKE:

**“Give Me The Clue”**

*You Tell Me That You Want Me Then You  
Change Your Mind  
I Guess I'll Never Know If You Are  
Really Mine  
Give Me The Clue, The Clue  
To Win Your Love  
Sometimes When You Kiss Me Baby,  
I Feel You're True  
You Keep Me So Mixed Up Inside,  
I Don't Know What To Do  
Give Me The Clue, The Clue  
To Win Your Love  
I Don't Know Why I Let You Treat Me  
Like You Do  
I Guess It's Just Because I'm So In*

*Love With You  
Give Me The Clue, The Clue  
To Win Your Love  
(Instrumental Break)  
I Only Hope And Pray Someday That  
You'll Be True  
Until Then Baby I'll Just Go On  
Loving You  
Give Me The Clue, The Clue  
To Win Your Love  
Give Me The Clue  
(Ends)*

(At end of song, the WAITRESSES exit. JOANNE enters from stage right)

JOANNE - Hello, Jake.

JAKE - Joanne! Wait a sec. (Looks Up) Is this a clue?

JOANNE - (Rushes up to JAKE into his arms) Oh, Jake. I've missed you so much.

JAKE - (Pushing her away) Missed me? That's a laugh! How can you say that? You dumped me quicker than an Edsel to hang out with TJ and the "Lone Wolves"!

JOANNE - I had to. Dirk made me do it! I felt awful about the whole thing and now, as a result, TJ's in jail.

JAKE - TJ's been arrested? Really? Why?

JOANNE - (Nodding) Vandalism. That's why I came to see you.

JAKE – Me? What do you expect me to do about it?

JOANNE - You and TJ used to be the best of friends.

JAKE – That's right, "used to be". As you may have guessed, right now TJ and I aren't on speaking terms.

JOANNE – Please don't blame TJ. If you're going to blame somebody, blame me, but I was only seeing TJ because of Dirk.

JAKE - Dirk? What's he got to do with it?

JOANNE - I'm not supposed to tell anybody this, but Dirk's been doing some dirty work for Mr. Swenson and he threatened me to help him.

JAKE - Threatened you? How?

JOANNE – I...He...well I...oh, Jake, I can't tell you.

JAKE - Oh, don't give me that! Everybody's seen you two hanging out together. Well, if he's the one you want, that's just fine by me. I don't need you. Here. Just watch. (Starts to rip the photograph, but can't because of the tape) Boy, that sure is darn good tape. (Throws picture into car instead)

JOANNE - Jake. TJ's a great guy, but he means nothing to me. I swear it's you that I'm just crazy about. (Leans over to kiss JAKE just as BETTY JEAN enters from stage right)

BETTY JEAN - Jake! How could you? (She exits stage right, running out crying)

JAKE - Betty Jean! (Starts to go after her, stops, turns back to JOANNE who reaches out for him. JAKE continues off, running after BETTY JEAN) Betty Jean! Wait! (Exits. JOANNE starts crying, as well as LIGHTS DIM and the scene TRANSITIONS to Act 1, Scene 9)

### **Act 1, Scene 9 - Betty Jean with Cheerleaders and Jake – Moments Later**

(With curtain still closed, LIGHTS UP on BETTY JEAN, who is still crying. BETTY JEAN goes to center stage where she interrupts the CHEERLEADERS who are practicing)

CHEERLEADER # 1 - Hi, Betty Jean! (BETTY JEAN stops crying)

CHEERLEADER # 2 - Your father asked us to work on a cheer to perform before the town meeting. It's supposed to help keep the drag strip open. Wanna hear it? (BETTY JEAN says nothing as the CHEERLEADERS get into formation)

CHEERLEADERS:

Gimme A "V"

"V"

Gimme A "R"

"R"

Gimme An "O"  
"O"

Gimme Another "O"  
"O"

Gimme A "M"  
"M"

What Does It Spell?  
Vroom!  
What Does It Spell?  
Vroom!  
What Does It Spell?  
Vroom!  
Keep The Drag Strip Open!  
Vroom!  
Keep Your Kids Safe!  
Vroom!  
Keep The Drag Strip Goin'!  
Vroom!  
Yay! Yay! Yay!

(At the end of the cheer, BETTY JEAN returns to uncontrollable crying)

CHEERLEADER # 3 - (Noticing Betty Jean Crying) Well, I know it needs a little bit of work, but was it that bad?

CHEERLEADER # 4 - (As the CHEERLEADERS surround BETTY JEAN) What's the matter, Betty Jean?

BETTY JEAN - J-J-J-Jake! He was, and then he, and then I (goes back to uncontrollable sobbing as JAKE enters onto the stage. The CHEERLEADERS back away)

JAKE - Betty Jean! Why did you run away like that?

BETTY JEAN - You...you fink! Why do you think I ran away? There you were! Kissing Joanne right in front of me! I knew you still wanted to be with her.

JAKE - No I wasn't! I swear! I wasn't kissing Joanne!

BETTY JEAN – You weren't?

JAKE – No! Of course not! (After a beat) Joanne was kissing *me!*

BETTY JEAN – (Shocked) Like *that's* any better?

JAKE – Sure it is, because *I* wasn't interested. Honest I wasn't. Just listen (JAKE claps his hands and the Music starts. The WAITRESSES enter, still in their mechanics uniforms, to sing back-up for JAKE on the next number, with the CHEERLEADERS doing additional background choreography)

JAKE:

**“The Girl I Used to Know”**

WATRESSES - *La-La-La-La-La*

JAKE - *The Girl I Used To Know*

WATRESSES - *Ahhhh*

JAKE - *Used To Hold Me, It's True*

WATRESSES - *Ahhhh*

JAKE - *But How Much Difference Can It Make*

*When I Love Only You*

WATRESSES - *Ahhhh*

JAKE - *The Girl I Used To Know*

WATRESSES - *Ahhhh*

JAKE - *Wants To Keep Us Apart*

WATRESSES - *Ahhhh*

JAKE - *But Don't Believe The Things She Says*

*Darling Just Ask Your Heart*

WATRESSES - *La-La-La-La-La*

JAKE - *I Was Just Her Plaything*

*But I'll Be Your Slave Or Your King*

*I Gave Her Kisses*

*But I'll Give You Love And My High School Ring*

*The Girl I Used To Know*

WATRESSES - *Ahhhh*

JAKE - *Wants To Keep Me From You*

WATRESSES - *Ahhhh*

JAKE - *But Darling Don't Believe Her Lies*

*For My Love Will Be True*

WATRESSES - *La-La-La-La-La*

JAKE - *I Was Just Her Plaything*

*But I'll Be Your Slave Or Your King*

*I Gave Her Kisses*

*But I'll Give You Love And My High School Ring*

*The Girl I Used To Know*  
WATRESSES - Ahhhh  
JAKE - *Wants To Keep Me From You*  
WATRESSES - Ahhhh  
JAKE - *But Darling Don't Believe Her Lies*  
*For My Love Will Be True*  
WATRESSES - *La-La-La-La-La*  
(End)

(JAKE ends the number on his knees at BETTY JEAN's feet, holding out his high school ring. When he rises, he leans over to kiss her)

BETTY JEAN – Jake...I don't believe you! (Slaps JAKE hard, then heads to exit stage right. She turns back briefly to say) Jake Carson, we're through! I never want to see you again! (Exits)

JAKE - Betty Jean! Please don't go! (To CHEERLEADERS) Girls, please tell me what I have to do? I just lost the best girl in the world. (Music starts as the CHEERLEADERS try to console JAKE through song backed up by the WAITRESSES)

CHEERLEADERS:

**“Remember You're Still a Teenager”**

*You Say You're Feeling Blue*  
*Your Heart's Just Been Broke In Two*  
*But Soon You'll Forget About Her*  
*'Cause Remember You're Still Just A Teenager*  
*Go Out And Have Yourself A Ball*  
*Don't You Worry About A Thing At All*  
*Any Time That You Think Of Her*  
*Remember You're Still A Teenager*  
*Until The Right One Comes Along*  
*Just Be Happy And Sing A Song*  
*Any Time That You Think Of Her*  
*Remember You're Still A Teenager*  
*Now's The Time To Sing And Shout*  
*Tell The World What It's All About*  
*All Your Hopes, Your Plans And Schemes*  
*Tell 'Em All About Your Teenage Dreams*  
*So Listen Buddy What We're Telling You*  
*Keep On Smiling Now And Don't Feel Blue*  
*Any Time That You Think Of Her*  
*Remember You're Still A Teenager*



(During the Instrumental Break, a despondent JAKE exits, not finding this advice helpful at all)

*Remember You're Still A Teenager  
Now's The Time To Sing And Shout  
Tell The World What It's All About  
All Your Hopes, Your Plans And Schemes  
Tell 'Em All About Your Teenage Dreams  
So Listen Buddy What We're Telling You  
Keep On Smiling Now And Don't Feel Blue  
Any Time That You Think Of Her  
Remember You're Still A Teenager*

(LIGHTS DIM)

**Blackout**

**END OF ACT 1**