



A stage play written by...
Denny Magic & Jeanne Wood

*Based upon an original story idea by Denny Magic with contributions
derived from "The Hero of Paris Valley" storybook written by Jeanne Wood*

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408 / 224 - 1958

"The Hero of Paris Valley"

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POB 18192 – San Jose, California 95158-8192 (408) 224 – 1958 United States of America

Music Cue: "Hero Overture" - played in it's entirety (4:43)

Music Cue: "Midtown Jubilee" –Condensed version (plays until Mayor Headly begins to speak)

(ACT I - Scene I)

The Paris Valley, Town Square – Set #01

The curtain rises as a Dixieland band plays. The scene reveals a countryside backdrop circa 1919-1920 with a gazebo. A wheel-type push cart is loaded with flags, campaign ribbons, buttons, etc. Several gaslamps and a park bench are there. The gazebo is decorated brightly in red, white and blue with political banners indicating the mayoral election. A podium is at center, and people are milling around enjoying the music and awaiting the beginning of the political speeches. On the downstage left apron are a large tree, and a rock. Phillip is reclining lazily at the base of the tree completely unimpressed, as Gravitts climbs up the back side of the tree to get a better look.

GRAVITTS Been a long time since we've had any music 'round this burg.

PHILLIP Yep. Not much happens around Paris Valley. And... As far as I'm concerned, that's just fine with me. I kinda like just kicking back and relaxing all the time. Feels good, don't it?

(Dressed shabbily, with a straggly beard and a stiff-brimmed old brown straw hat)

The Dixieland band complete with tuba, trombones, and bass drum concludes their song and joins the rest of the crowd. The townspeople clap wildly, while the rather elderly Mayor Headly is escorted by Officer Kruspy to the podium.

GRAVITTS Yeah, beats working... That's for sure. Hey... Mayor Headly is gonna say sometin'.

PHILLIP Big deal. Who wants to listen to that old windbag?

GRAVITTS Yeah, but... if my pa was running for mayor I'd want to hear what old man Headly had to say about it.

PHILLIP Oh alright.

Phillip moves higher on the tree to get a better look. In complete disregard, Phillip pushes himself against the tree getting to his feet, which causes his stiff-brimmed hat to be pushed up in front exposing a large green frog sitting atop his head. The frog sound is heard RIBBIT! RIBBIT! Phillip stands tall and half-heartedly pays attention to what is about to be said.

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MAYOR HEADLY

Ladies and Gentlemen of Paris Valley,
I just want to say that I am very proud
to have had the opportunity to serve
as your mayor for all these years.

The crowd applauds.

Thank you very much.
However, all things must come to an end,
and although I will miss serving as your mayor,
it's well beyond the time for me to retire.
The good news is, you have before you today
two gentlemen from whom to select,
to carry Paris Valley into the 1920's.

The crowd applauds.

Now I'm not going to give some overdone speech
showing my political support for one candidate over
the other. Instead I want to provide my nonpartisan
support for both of these prominent businessmen,
Willard McCobb, our town's undertaker,

McCobb walks to left of the podium, twists his moustache evilly, and Bumbles and Phincher run through the crowd holding up "applause" signs, blowing whistles and forcing an audience response.

and Jonathan Gracey, our town's banker.

Gracey walks to right of the podium as the crowd cheers.

PHILLIP

Gravitts, this is boring.

Phillip slides back down the tree, again catching his hat, exposing the frog on his head, RIBBIT, RIBBIT is heard again and the hat falls back into place as he reclines back under the tree. Beautiful Magdalena walks through the crowd to the podium as the crowd responds positively to her beauty.

MAYOR HEADLY

At this time I have the pleasure
of introducing the Town Clerk of
Paris Valley, Miss Magdalena Stafferd.

GRAVITTS

Phillip, me tinks you should see dis.

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PHILLIP Gravitts, I told you I'm just not interested in politics. Besides, I had to listen to that speech my dad is about to give, all week. I probably know it better than he does.

GRAVITTS Phillip, you really need to see dis! Wow!

PHILLIP "Wow" is right! I don't remember seeing her before.
(Reluctantly he looks)

GRAVITTS That's Magdalena, the Town Clerk.

MAYOR HEADLY Magdalena has been a very valuable assistant during the past year. Thank you my dear. And... She will be in charge of this election. Also, it is my sincere hope that she will remain on, as Town Clerk for the new mayor. Whoever that turns out to be.

The crowd applauds. Mayor Headly motions for her to come to the podium to address the crowd. She smiles, proudly but shy.

MAGDALENA Thank you Mayor Headly. First I'd like to thank all of you for accepting a big city girl like me into your wonderful community. I have never felt so welcome before, and I hope I'll be able to serve Paris Valley for many more years to come.

Applause emits from crowd.

I'd like to begin the debate by letting the two candidates speak for themselves. First we'll hear from Jonathan Gracey, and then Willard McCobb. Mr. Gracey?

Jonathan Gracey takes the podium as Phillip Gracey begins to lip-synch his every word. After mimicking his father's speech, Phillip moves closer to Magdalena, smiles, and tips his hat, exposing his pet frog. She is obviously very disappointed at him for mocking his father.

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JONATHAN GRACEY ... and that is one-reason why I feel qualified to ask for your votes today. Another important issue that surrounds this election is...

Phillip reaches down to the lawn and snatches up a handful of dandelions, arranging them in a make-shift bouquet and hastily handing them to Magdalena.

PHILLIP Why... Hello there gorgeous.
(*speaking to Magdalena*) These are for you!

Magdalena ignores Phillip and his pseudo-bouquet, turning her attention back to Jonathan Gracey. Phillip recognizes his effort in futility and quickly tosses the weeds away, swiping his hands together to remove the dirt and such. He wipes them on his pants, which Magdalena quickly takes notice of. It's obvious that she's thinking something derogatory of Phillip at this moment.

(*Trying to impress*) That's my dad up there!

MAGDALENA That's odd; I fail to see the resemblance.

At that, Magdalena turns on her heels and Phillip feels the sting of her rejection.

PHILLIP Come on, Gravitts. Let's get outta here.

GRAVITTS Where to?

PHILLIP The swimmin' hole, where else?

Phillip and Gravitts walk downstage left. The lights begin to fade slowly and the curtain is drawn on the political campaign set and then re-open. Now Phillip and Gravitts are alone, presumably at the "swimming hole".

GRAVITTS Great! That Magdalena, wow, what a doll, huh?

PHILLIP Yeah... But it's obvious she doesn't think much of me.
(*pauses deep in thought for a moment, then smiles.*)

GRAVITTS Awwww, who cares. Come on, let's go.
YAHOO! Race ya...

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Gravitts and Phillip quickly disrobe to their shorts and run offstage as the lights dim. When the lights return, Gravitts and Phillip are walking back onstage, their hair wet (from swimming). Phillip shakes his wet head... no towel, no comb. The pet frog is seen on top of a rock, RIBBITING loudly. Phillip, picks up his hat and covers the frog to silence it. Phillip and Gravitts take a seat downstage, dangling their legs over the edge of the stage, facing the audience. Phillip puts a piece of straw in his mouth and Gravitts imitates him. The curtain closes behind them, to prepare for the next scene setup.

GRAVITTS That Magdalena seems very soo-phiss-tick-krat'ed to me.

PHILLIP You mean sophisticated?

GRAVITTS Yeah, that's what I meant.

PHILLIP But she's out of my class.

GRAVITTS You haven't been in school for years.

PHILLIP When I say class, I don't mean like a school. I mean she's... She's "classier" than I am.

GRAVITTS Because she has better clothes?

PHILLIP Well... Yes, that's part of it. But what I mean is... she's more refined... Cultured. She probably comes from a rich family. You know what I'm getting at?

GRAVITTS Oh, I get it. She's a "hobby-snobby", a "high-falooter", a "better-n-you-are", a...

Phillip stops, crosses his arms and frowns at Gravitt's obvious prejudicial comments.

Sorry. But you come from a rich family, and you're not a "snooty-tooter".

PHILLIP I didn't say that she was one of those. And me... Well, I'm different. I want to be who I am, not what everyone else wants me to be.

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GRAVITTS You kind of like her, don't ya?

Phillip smiles and nods yes.

Then why didn't ya say something nice, when ya had the chance?

PHILLIP Because I just met her, that's why.

GRAVITTS That's how us possum would do things. We "Strike while the iron is hot." We "Shake-A-Leg"... we...

Phillip gives Gravitts a "look", and Gravitts shuts up.

PHILLIP These things take time. And besides, I can already tell that she doesn't like me, at least the way I am.
(making excuses)

GRAVITTS Well if you like her, then you could change, right?

PHILLIP Now you're beginning to sound like my dad.

GRAVITTS What's dat 'post to mean?

Phillip stands and begins to sing.

Music Cue: "Let Me Be Me" - played in it's entirety (3:30)

When the song is over, Phillip smiles with raised eyebrows, and nudges Gravitts who has slept through it. He indicates with a wave of his hand that they should go now. Phillip & Gravitts work their way through the audience to the back of the house, as the lights slowly dim.

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(ACT I - Scene II)

Inside the Gracey Home – Set #02

The curtain opens, revealing the inside of the Gracey home, a Victorian parlor to the audience's left complete with tables and chairs, a loveseat and fireplace. To the audience's right, the kitchen with the traditional sink, and kitchen table and chairs. Mrs. Gracey walks across the room to the table with a pie in her hands. She sets the pie on the table and then exits. Phillip enters from what appears to be the back porch through the rear kitchen door he immediately smiles, wrings his hands and walks to the pie. Just as he goes to stick his finger in it, he hears his mother.

MRS. GRACEY Phillip, is that you?

PHILLIP Yes mother!
(He pulls his finger back quickly)

He moves his finger back towards the pie again, as we hear his mother's voice again.

MRS. GRACEY Don't you dare touch that pie!
(from offstage) That's for dinner this evening.
AND... We have a guest!

She enters from the back doorway in the kitchen, and begins to put out plates and forks.

Oh, here they are now.

Walking across the parlor, Jonathan and Garret enter the kitchen, discussing the campaign.

JONATHAN GRACEY Phillip... I'm glad you're here.
I want you to meet an old friend of mine,
and if I'm lucky enough... my new campaign
manager, Garret the Parrot. Garret, this is my boy,
Phillip.

PHILLIP Hello, Mr. Parrot.

GARRET Phillip please, just call me Garret.

JONATHAN Did you hear my speech today, son?
(speaking to Phillip)

Phillip speaks as he exits upstage through another door. This door leads to another part of the house.

PHILLIP I've heard it all week Dad, remember?

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JONATHAN Um-Hum.

(somewhat disappointed he pauses briefly)

I really don't know what to do with Phillip.
His mother and I can't seem to get him interested
in anything productive.

GARRET
(confidently)

He's a growing boy, Jon. Give him time.

JONATHAN

Time, that's all he has! His mother and I think it's
time that he cleaned himself up and found a decent
job.

*Mrs. Gracey turns and begins working on dishes in the kitchen sink. Mr. Gracey unruffles his own
feathers, and starts again.*

I'd like to see him in a snappy suit from your clothing
store, with a nice haircut, and most of all, I'd like him
to shave off that pitiful excuse for a beard.

Pauses briefly.

You know, Garret, you're going to make a great
campaign manager, I just know it. Too bad you can't
work some of your magic on our son.

GARRET

It would be a bit of a challenge...
But certainly not, an "impossibility".

(scratches his chin)

*Mr. Gracey smiles and seems to perk up while paying close attention to what Garret is
saying.*

However, he has to be self-motivated before I can
accomplish anything. Jon, no offense but, Phillip
would have to approach me first.

JONATHAN

But if he did, I bet you could help him.

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(ACT I - Scene III)

A Side Street, Downtown Paris Valley – Set #03

The lights come up on a side street in town. Jonathan and Garret are standing there with the same push-cart from scene one. This time it's filled with campaign posters, hammers and nails and a group of eager children stand by, ready-to-go-to-work. McCobb, Bumbles and Phincher are hiding upstage around the corner, taking it all in.

JONATHAN GRACEY All right everyone, simmer down!
You'll all get your chance.
Now, you take these, and here's some for you.
Listen, listen to me, please! Remember where
you put these up now...and...
why should you remember that?

CHILDREN Because we get an extra dime for each one
we bring back after the election!

JONATHAN That's right! And remember not to nail them
on anyone's house! Now off with you!

Children scurry in all directions nailing up posters & handing them to people saying, "Vote for Gracey!".

GARRET Don't worry, Jon. After the election is over,
I'll take a walk around and double check so
all the posters are removed.

JONATHAN Thank you, my friend.

Jonathan and Garret exit talking, as McCobb, Bumbles & Phincher move to center stage.

WILLARD MCCOBB Right on schedule. Now, you two know what to do?

BUMBLES Right Boss. We put your posters up, then we RIP 'EM
DOWN!

McCobb is incensed at the stupidity, he removes his hat slaps his forehead and rolls his eyes. Phincher wisely steps between Bumbles and McCobb quickly, knowing that Bumbles is wrecking everything. As he steps in front of Bumbles Phincher gives him a quick jab with his elbow. Bumbles moves aside, clumsily.

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PHINCHER Put a sock in it, Chubby!
It's simple, Boss. We find Gracey's posters,
we take 'em down and then we replace 'em with
yours. Then we take Gracey's posters for "a little ride
out the country" where no one will ever find 'em.

MCCOBB Um-hum. And what happens if you get caught?

PHINCHER Oh, dats easy! We 'splain that we noticed some of
Gracey's posters had fallen down and we were just on
our way to nail 'em back up.

BUMBLES Yeah, we was just puttin' 'em back
(smiling proudly) the way we found 'em before we took 'em down.
Phincher elbows Bumbles again.

PHINCHER Don't worry, Boss. I knows what to do.
And I'll be in charge poysonally, so's nutin' goes
wrong.

MCCOBB Okay, good Phincher. One more thing.
Pulls out a billy-club and taps his hand.

What are you going to do when you see prospective
voters?

PHINCHER We tell 'em to vote for you and we remind 'em
(nervously) of all the great things you're gonna do for Paris Valley.

MCCOBB Alright, then... When I get elected, I'll be rich.
(satisfied) Ahhh. I mean... "We'll" be rich.
(Intimidating) Don't forget that! UNDERSTOOD?
*The two rats trembling, nod their heads yes. McCobb puts away the billy-club and hands
them a pile of posters.*

Good! Now get to work!
And make me proud for once.

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McCobb exits. Bumbles & Phincher immediately begin ripping down Gracey's posters and replacing them with McCobb's. Enter Officer Kruspy.

OFFICER KRUSPY Well, well,well, if it isn't the two sneakiest rats in town,
(With a thick, Irish brogue)
Bumbles and Phincher. Now, tell me... what kind of trouble are you two crooks getting into, these days?

BUMBLES Oh, nothin' Osee-fer Krew-pee.

KRUSPY It's Kruspy! Officer Kruspy!
(angry)

BUMBLES Oh ah... Yes, sir, dat's what I said sir. Officer Kruspy, sir.

Before Bumbles can do any more damage, Phincher steps up to the plate.

PHINCHEROfficer Kruspy sir, so nice to see you again.
Why, Bumbles and me are now gainfully employed, and we have given up our crooked ways. No more crime for us. No sir! We've changed our ways, seen the light, learned our lessons, why, we've...

KRUSPY OK. OK., I've heard enough Phincher.
(Interrupts)
I'm wise to you two delinquents, so don't think you're gonna pull-the-wool over my eyes! What's in that bag?

PHINCHER So nice of you to ask, Officer...this, is the source of our new-found good-fortune. Why this represents the golden egg, the mother lode, why this is our "pot of gold" at the end of the...

KRUSPY Yeah. Yeah. I heard it all before Phincher!

Reaching in the bag with his night-stick, he taps on one of McCobb's campaign posters.

And what specifically is this?

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PHINCHER This? Oh yeah... Why, these are campaign posters for the next mayor of Paris Valley. The Honorable Willard McCobb. Me and Bumbles, are his campaign managers!

KRUSPY
(Laughing) McCobb will never be the next mayor, and if he hired you two, he's even dumber than I thought.

PHINCHER Why Officer Kruspy, sir... I am deeply saddened by your comments, and dis-stink lack of confidence in our polit-tickle involvement with the Willard McCobb election committee.

KRUSPY Smells fishy to me Phincher. But...
I guess we'll just have to wait and see how things turn out now, won't we?

(Suspiciously) If you two decide to walk the straight and narrow, I'll be the first to get behind ya, all-the-way.

But if ya backslide, even one little inch!
I'll be the first to put the cuffs on... see?

That ya can be sure of. OK, now be on yer way!

Bumbles & Phincher hastily exit through the audience, Kruspy watches from stage, as he taps his palm with his night-stick

Somehow, I just don't think those two can be trusted.

The lights fade to dim as Officer Kruspy swings his nightstick in circles and walks off stage whistling. Bumbles & Phincher make small talk while they walk up the isle of the theatre drawing attention away from the stage for the next set change.

End Scene III

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(ACT I - Scene IV)

Inside the Gracey Home – Set #02

The curtain opens as Mrs. Gracey is serving pancakes to Phillip in the kitchen. Mr. Gracey and Garret are having a discussion in the parlor.

MRS. GRACEY What are you up to today, Phillip?

Phillip is daydreaming and does not respond.

Phillip?

PHILLIP I'm sorry, Mom. I was listening to Dad and Garret.

MRS. GRACEY Uh Humm...Why the sudden interest in your father's politics?

PHILLIP I'm just trying to show that I'm a responsible person. That's what you and dad want, isn't it?

MRS. GRACEY Phillip, I'm your mother, you could care less about politics!

Phillip knows that he can't put one over on his mother. He laughs

PHILLIP OK. You're right. I'm interested in a girl. A beauty named Magdalena.

Mrs. Gracey smiles and shakes her head at her ability to see right through her son's intentions.

MRS. GRACEY Oh, I see. Our cute little town clerk, huh?

PHILLIP Yeah. I can't believe that I've never noticed her before.

MRS. GRACEY That's because you're starting to grow up, it's about time that you start taking note of things, like girls... AND... getting yourself a job!

Phillip gives his mother a look, and then there is a pause in that bit of business between the two of them.

PHILLIP I thought I heard Garret mention her name earlier.

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MRS. GRACEY Your father asked Garret to register at Town Hall to make things officially. To become your father's campaign manager?

(Pauses) You know Garret accepted the job, right?

Phillip didn't, but he knows more information now. His mother continues.

Maybe you could offer to run the paperwork downtown for them? It would probably be a good excuse for you to see this Magdalena.

PHILLIP Hey! That's a great idea mom, thanks!
(Phillip perks up)

Phillip bursts into the parlor where his dad and Garret are working.

Ahhh Dad, excuse me. May I have a word with you and Garret?

JONATHAN GRACEY Well, we're are a little busy right now, son. Campaign business you know?

PHILLIP I know... in fact it's about that! I understand that Garret is planning a trip to Town Hall to register some paperwork to become your campaign manager. Right?

JONATHAN That's right. Go on...

PHILLIP Well, I was thinking that maybe I could help. Ahhh, by running that errand?

Suspicious Mr. Gracey tries to initially put his son off a bit.

JONATHAN But I thought you weren't interested in politics.

PHILLIP Yeah, well, ahhh...
(a tiny bit defeated) I just thought I could save you a trip, that's all.

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GARRET

*(seizing the opportunity
to help bridge the gap
between father and son)*

I think that's a smashing idea, and...
it would certainly save me some valuable time.

JONATHAN

I guess that would be helpful, son. But you have to
treat this task with the attention it deserves.
It's a responsibility, and an important one too!

GARRET

I'm sure Phillip understands how important this task
is. Right Phillip?

Phillip smiles and nods.

Good! Then it's settled!

(Stretching out his arm with the paperwork)

All you need to do is find Magdalena
and hand her these documents.

PHILLIP

*(he smiles &
grabs paperwork)*

That's it?

GARRET

That's it, for now.

PHILLIP

Swell. Hey, this politics stuff is easy!

Annoyed at Phillip's simpleton approach to everything he does, his dad begins to lecture.

JONATHAN

There's a lot more effort involved,
than just making deliveries, son.

GARRET

OK. OK. We appreciate your help Phillip,
and there's plenty to do if you're interested
in helping us again.

PHILLIP

I'll have to check my schedule.
I'm kind of busy these days, you know.

Somewhat irritated at his son's comment.

JONATHAN

"Busy" doing what?

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Garret, anxious to quiet down a potential family squabble.

GARRET Phillip my boy, we're happy to have whatever time you can spare. Every little bit helps.

Phillip leaves and Garret turns to Jonathan.

Relax Jonathan. He's running his first errand for us. That's a start, right?

JONATHAN Yes, of course you're right. I guess I need to exercise some patience.

Jonathan Gracey smiles and nods in agreement.

End Scene IV

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(ACT I - Scene IV)

Inside the Town Clerk's Office, at Town Hall – Set #04

Lulu Filbert (a female possum and Gravitt's counterpart) as well as several other ladies who work for Magdalena, are working behind a counter. Magdalena is standing at the counter across from an empty Mayor's office (upstage), a few towns people are milling around in front of the counter being helped by Magdalena's staff. The election Ballot box is on a small table downstage at the end of the counter. Phillip enters and walks to Magdalena who is standing behind the counter. Phillip tips his hat without thinking and reveals his frog who RIBBITS on cue. He embarrasses himself.

PHILLIP Hi. Ahhh... Magdalena, right?

MAGDALENA Yes, I'm Miss Stafferd.
(Magdalena acts uninterested) How can I help you?

PHILLIP Yes. Ahh... I'm Phillip! Jonathan Gracey's son?
Ahhh, look... we may have gotten off on the wrong foot the other day...

MAGDALENA Oh, yes, yes, Now I remember who you are
(unimpressed.) Mr. Gracey. How can I help you?

PHILLIP I ah... have paperwork, to file on behalf of "Garret the Parrot"... my father's campaign manager?

MAGDALENA OK. Great. You can let "Garret", and your father, know that I'll file these documents, before the end of the business day.

Magdalena reaches out her hand and gently takes a hold of the end of the rolled up documents, but Phillip is so taken by her that he gets caught up in the moment and unconsciously fails to let go of his end of the paperwork. The two of them start a sawing motion back and forth over the counter. Magdalena finally stops and then laughs. Phillip realizes what he's been doing, releases his grip in a comical maneuver... and embarrassed he laughs along with her. There is a special moment between them, a pregnant pause. Phillip is caught up in the moment. Then Magdalena speaks.

Yes. Well, eh...Will that be all Phillip? I mean Mr. Gracey?

Said deliberately, not sarcastically, but in a way that his response matches hers.

PHILLIP Why yes Magdalena, eh... I mean Miss Stafferd.

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(Startled by her response, he smiles back)

Magdalena's office staff chuckles. Phillip turns to leave and trips as he exits the room, embarrassing himself.

LULU

(To Magdalena)

My, oh my. I'd say that there's a young handsome man who definitely has his eye on you... "Miss Stafferd".

MAGDALENA

I doubt that. I'm quite sure that you're mistaken Lulu. Why I just met the man. He doesn't know me from Adam. So whatever gave you an idea like that?

LULU

Honey, I know men, and that man made it very clear, that he'd like to get to know you a whole lot better.

For a moment Magdalena loses herself, she smiles and looks lovingly in the direction where Phillip departed.

MAGDALENA

You think so?

She catches herself and regains her businesslike composure.

I mean... I think not, and besides...
I don't have time for that sort of nonsense.

LULU

Nonesense, what are you saying?
You're talking about love, and love is not "nonsense."
Everyone needs a little love in their life, why...
love makes the world a very special place.

You've got to make room in your life for love.

Music Cue : "He's In Love" – (4:01)

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(ACT I - Scene V)

The Paris Valley, Town Square – Set #01

After exiting City Hall, Phillip takes a seat at a park bench in the town square. He lifts his hat to scratch his head. There's that darn frog again, as we hear a very loud 'RIBBIT'.

PHILLIP And that's about all I want to hear from you today!
(he returns hat to normal position)

Gravitts appears and walks over to greet him.

GRAVITTS Phillip you don't look too happy.
Is everything okay?

PHILLIP Oh I guess I'm just a little bit embarrassed.
Kind of feeling like a donkey's behind. That's all!

GRAVITTS You don't look like a donkey's behind.
(realizing his error) How silly of me, of course you don't look like a donkey's behind. What I meant was....

PHILLIP I know what you meant.

GRAVITTS So, why the long face?

PHILLIP I was just over at Town Hall making a fool of myself
in front of Magdalena and her entire staff!

GRAVITTS Why'd you go and do that?

PHILLIP I didn't do it on purpose! Oh, forget it.

GRAVITTS In front of Magdalena and her entire staff huh?

PHILLIP Yes.

GRAVITTS I tink I know whad's happening here.
I've heard of 'dis' before.

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PHILLIP You've heard of what before?

GRAVITTS I hate to be the one to tell you, ole buddy,
but me tinks you're getting' dat ting humans get.
I've heard that it's kind of like a disease...

Phillip begins to look a little worried, and grabs his own throat as if he's coming down with some illness.

PHILLIP A disease? What kind of disease?

GRAVITTS L-O-V-E, Love! Yes, Phillip my friend,
you're takin' a long walk off the short pier of
emotional commitment. LOVE. L-O-V-E. LOVE!

PHILLIP Yeah right. And even if that were true...
What does a possum know about human love?

GRAVITTS OK. OK. I may not know anything about that kind,
but... I know a lot about possum love! OK?

Almost a little angry with Phillip.

Anyway... It looks like love to me.

PHILLIP Hummm, well maybe you're right for once.
(ponders his buddy's analysis) But even if you are... She doesn't even act like I exist.

GRAVITTS Hey, cheer up old pal. All is not lost.
She's probably in love too, but she just doesn't know
it yet. You just need to get her attention somehow.
You need to make... how do they say... a "fashion-
statement". A quick makeover, that's all you need.
You're just lacking all that stuff that you said she had,
and that you didn't.

PHILLIP And what was that?

GRAVITTS Ah, let's see... So-fista... ehhhh... so-fista...

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PHILLIP Sophistication?

GRAVITTS Yeah, that's it.

PHILLIP Any bright ideas how I can get sophisticated in a big hurry?

GRAVITTS "The clothes make the man"

But hey... how should I know?
I'm just a possum. Remember...

PHILLIP Sorry, I didn't mean anything by that.

GRAVITTS Apology accepted. You Know... Maybe you should talk to "Garret the Parrot." He owns a clothing store. If anyone would know how to help, he would.

PHILLIP He's too busy helping my father get elected. And besides, why should he want to help me?

GRAVITTS Since he's your father's friend, what could it hurt to ask? Besides... In between helping your dad, he still needs to run his clothing store, right?

PHILLIP Hummmmmmm? OK.
(scratches his chin) Nothing ventured, nothing gained... Let's go.

Phillip and Gravitts jump down from the stage and exit up the theatre isle – the stage lights dim as the scene changes.

End Scene V

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(ACT I - Scene VI)

McCobb's Funeral Parlor – Set #05

Curtain opens to reveal Bumbles & Phincher carrying bags of campaign posters. They are walking down the hallway at McCobb's Funeral Parlor and headed towards the "coffin room". The hallway is dimly lit, with candles burning. Scary for the weak of heart like Bumbles.

BUMBLES Hey, Phincher.

PHINCHER What now?

BUMBLES I thought we was gonna bury the Gracey posters, someplace outta town.

PHINCHER Yeah dats right, but I wanted the boss to see 'em first. That way he knows we did things just like he told us.

BUMBLES Well, I'll wait outside while you talk to da boss.
(looks a little scared) But be quick about it, OK?

PHINCHER Are you still afraid to be in here?

BUMBLES This place gives me the creeps.

PHINCHER Look, did I or did I not get you this job?

BUMBLES Yeah. You got me the job.

PHINCHER Then you have to do what I say. Right?
Besides. Do you see anything here to be afraid of?
Do you see dead people?

BUMBLES No I don't see dead people. And I don't wanna see dead people! That's it. I'm not staying in there!
(starts to leave)

PHINCHER Don't be silly!

BUMBLES Better to be a silly rat then a shriveled up dead one!

PHINCHER Oh for cryin' out loud, get going you big sissy.

Phincher motions for him to get going through the doorway into the "coffin room".

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BUMBLES Where?

PHINCHER In the Coffin Room, where the boss is waiting!

BUMBLES COFFIN ROOM? Do you know what's in there?

PHINCHER Yeah. A bunch of empty BOXES.

BUMBLES COFFINS! NOT BOXES!

Phincher waits for him to regain his composure.

Empty boxes, huh? No dead bodies?.

(Phincher folds his arms and shakes his head "no")

WILLARD MCCOBB Who's out there?

BUMBLES DID YOU HEAR THAT VOICE ?
(really scared)

Phincher answers Bumbles first, quietly.

PHINCHER Yeah... I did... It's the boss, stupid.

Addresses the Boss, in a louder voice

IT'S US GUYS, BOSS !

Bumbles, still reluctant, turns to run. Phincher grabs his collar and drags him inside. Bumbles and Phincher find their way to the center of the coffin room. There are several caskets on display, some have their lids up and some are closed, McCobb appears from out of the darkness.

MCCOBB So tell me some good news. Things went well, right?
(wringing hands in delight)

PHINCHER Eh, well, ah, I guess so.

MCCOBB That's not the kind of answer I want to hear Phincher. I was counting on you boys to get the job done!

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PHINCHER

(smiling nervously)

We did just like you told us, boss.
We tore down the Gracey's posters,
and replaced them with yours.

BUMBLES

Tell him about Occerfer Krappy.

MCCOBB

(Skeptical)

OFFICER KRUSPY?
Phinnnncherrrrr?

PHINCHER

There's nuttin' to worry 'bout, boss.
Kruspy couldn't pour water out of his boot,
if the instructions were printed on the heel.

BUMBLES

Yeah, boss. He's not as smart as me and Phincher.

PHINCHER

(Nervously)

So's, anyway... Nothing to worry yourself about, boss.

MCCOBB

Hmmmm, for your sake, I hope what you're saying is
true Phincher. Kruspy isn't as dumb as he looks.

Pauses looking the two of them up and down.

And did you tell everyone to vote for me?

BUMBLES

(blurts out)

We told them, but nobody wants to vote for you,
boss.

MCCOBB

(angry)

WHAT? Don't you get it?

(corrects himself)

If I don't win this election, I'll... I mean...
"We" will lose everything. Do you get my drift?

PHINCHER

Yeah, boss. We get it.

MCCOBB

NO! I don't think you do.
In order to succeed, you must be Diabolical!
You need to think like me.

Music Cue : "And Then There's Me" – (2:53)

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Music Cue : "The Abyss" – (1:42) Played in the background as soon as McCobb starts his next line.

McCobb Points his boney finger at Bumbles & Phincher.

Boys, boys, pay attention to what I'm about to say,
You need to be as EVIL as I am!
Now you two repeat this after me.

**ALL 3
TOGETHER**

WE NEED TO BE AS EVIL AS YOU ARE!
WE NEED TO BE AS EVIL AS YOU ARE!
WE NEED TO BE AS EVIL AS YOU ARE!

MCCOBB
(smiles)

That's right, my little minions.
Again!

McCobb laughs demonically, and has them repeat it over and over until they are worked up into frenzy.

**BUMBLES &
PHINCHER**

WE NEED TO BE AS EVIL AS YOU ARE!
WE NEED TO BE AS EVIL AS YOU ARE!
WE NEED TO BE AS EVIL AS YOU ARE!

MCCOBB

Good! Now come closer and
I'll tell you the plan that will make us all rich!

(leans over and addresses Bumbles & Phincher with his putrid breath)

Now tell me, what does Paris Valley have
lots of, that Penner City needs more of?

Bumbles & Phincher contort their faces and start counting on their fingers. McCobb grows impatient.

Its WATER! You idiots!
Paris Valley has the water that Penner City
needs desperately. Especially if they expect to grow
and prosper. Water means growth and growth means
money, and there are people in power who are willing
to pay for it! Once I'm elected Mayor, I'll make that
happen by agreeing to allow Penner City to build a
new dam!

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BUMBLES

(worried)

But what about the people in Paris Valley?
Don't they need the water?

MCCOBB

Well. They'll just have to learn to pay Penner City
for it... Or... live with less, now won't they.

He laughs demonically, and feigns sympathy.

PHINCHER

So we's guys allow Penner City to build a dam, and
then Everyone here in Paris Valley has to pay for the
water? But boss... How are we going to get rich if
everyone is paying Penner City?

MCCOBB

(feigns concern)

Phincher, Phincher, Phincher.
What am I going to do with you?

He grabs Phincher by the ear and twists, leading him and dropping him to his knees.

Why do I waste my time with you two numbskulls?
Look. I've already made arrangements with
Mayor Bruin in Penner City. He's already made, shall I
say, a few "bonus payments" to me... uh... I mean,
us.

Those "bonus payments" will come directly to us in
the form of cold, hard cash, and they will continue
as long as I'm the mayor of Paris Valley.

Did you think I wanted to become mayor so
I could collect that pittance of a salary?

Nevermind! Here's what I need you two to do.

He turns around and starts to open the lid of the closest coffin... while he continues speaking...

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I want you two, to get inside...

Bumbles let's out a shriek, and Phincher immediately covers Bumbles' mouth. McCobb stops mid sentence looks at the action that just took place, and then , pulls out a bag from the coffin. He is completely unaware of how his words were misunderstood by Bumbles. He repeats himself.

McCobb *(continued)* I want you two to get inside, the Ballot Box, at Town Hall. You'll have to be very careful, very sly, you understand? Magdalena is in charge of that Box, and she keeps an eagle eye on it. You'll have to distract her while you pick the lock, because she wears the key around her neck, and won't give it to anyone.

You'll remove all the real ballots, and replace them, with these phony ballots.

He hands Bumbles & Phincher the bag.

PHINCHER You can count on us, boss!

MCCOBB If she should ask what you're doing there, tell her that you've come to cast your votes.

The two rats nod in agreement.

Remember, everything we are trying to accomplish rests on your shoulders boys. Now don't let me down! And... If you're successful,

Pauses.

I'll be the next mayor of Paris Valley and we...

Well, "we"... my friends...
Will be very, very, rich indeed!

And... As a special gift to myself...
I'll end up with Magdalena!

They all laugh hysterically as the scene fades to black and the curtain closes.

End Scene VI

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(ACT I - Scene VII)

Garret the Parrot's Haberdashery – Set #06

As the curtain opens, Phillip and Gravitts are entering Garret the Parrot's Haberdashery. Garret meets them at the doorway with his arms crossed, looking at them curiously.

GARRET Hello, boys. And what manner of mischief are you up to today?

GRAVITTS Uh, Phillip is in love with Magdalena, but Magdalena ain't in love with Phillip, and we, uh, I mean, Phillip here, thought that you'd be able to offer some good "dress up" advice.

PHILLIP Will you pipe down, Gravitts?

GARRET
(scratching his beak and thinking...)
Never mind. I understand. Hmmmmm.

Music Cue : "Dressed For The Part" – (4:11)

End Scene VII

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(ACT I - Scene VIII)

The Paris Valley, Town Square – Set #01

Phillip and Gravitts step out the door to Garrett's Clothing Store to the street. There they run into Magdalena who is walking up the street towards the two of them. Phillip tips his new hat, and smiles.

PHILLIP Good day, Miss Stafferd.

Magdalena quickly glances and walks on by without responding.

Did you see that? I can't believe it!
She didn't even recognize me.

GRAVITTS Ahhh... Women.
Can't live wid 'em, can't live wid out 'em.

The two exit the scene and suddenly Magdalena stops, and looks back at the retreating Phillip and Gravitts. She scratches her chin, and finally smiles with a revelation.

MAGDALENA Phillip Gracey! That's who that was!
My oh my. He looks real nice all cleaned up!

End Scene VIII

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(ACT I - Scene IX)

Inside the Town Clerk's Office, at Town Hall – Set #04

Inside Town Hall, where towns people are being taken care of by Magdalena and her staff. People are milling around and chatting and there's lots of commotion. Bumbles and Phincher are at the end of the counter picking the lock on the ballot box. They quickly remove the real votes from the box and replace them with fake votes cast for McCobb. Two votes fall to the floor.

MAGDALENA Oh, I'm sorry.
I didn't see you two gentlemen come in.
How can I help you?

PHINCHER We just came by to cast our votes.

They pick up the ballots off the floor and hand them to Magdalena, who stuffs them into the slot on the top of the ballot box. That's when she notices that the padlock is unlatched. She quickly locks it. Phincher chimes in.

You know, you should keep that box locked at all times.

Phincher and Bumbles exit quickly - stage left.

MAGDALENA Hummm... How did that get left open?

She turn towards her staff of ladies.

Lulu, do you know how this was left unlocked?

Lulu comes over looking very concerned.

LULU No. I'm sure it was locked earlier when I helped Mr. Pennifore vote. Actually, I'm positive about that!

MAGDALENA Hummm... OK. Well, it's locked now.

She looks past Lulu to the rest of her staff members.

Ladies, let's all make sure that this ballot box is kept locked at all times alright?

End Scene IX

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(ACT I - Scene X)

The Paris Valley, Town Square – Set #01

It's the next day. The votes are all in, and have been counted by the city clerk's office. The Town Clerk's Office set is struck, and the original gazebo is added to the Paris Valley Town Square set. The lights come up as towns people gather for the announcement of the winner of the Mayoral race. MAGDALENA seems visibly shocked as she steps up to the platform, with the results in hand. She is reluctant to step forward as she spots Willard McCobb gleefully encouraging her to speak.

MAGDALENA I would like to announce that the new mayor of Paris Valley is...

She clears her throat and swallows hard.

Mr. Willard McCobb.

The audience gasps in disbelief, and begins a dull roar of questions and concerns. McCobb is standing stage right, smiling and twirling his mustache. He then steps forward to the podium in the center of the gazebo.

WILLARD MCCOBB Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for electing me as your new Mayor. I promise no new taxes, and... every other week will be some sort of a holiday. Plus Paris Valley will never again have anything to worry about, now, that I've been elected... Mayor.

Pauses and smiles demonically.

VOICE IN CROWD I didn't vote for you... McCrook!

VOICE IN CROWD Me either!

MCCOBB Well that may be true sir, but obviously others did, and it is those wise citizens to whom I am grateful.

Voices In Crowd Boooooooooo!

McCobb reaches his hand out toward Magdalena...

MCCOBB Come, come, my dear... we have work to do...

Magdalena shakes her head in disgust and ignores McCobb's hand. She leaves the gazebo.

End Scene X

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(ACT II - Scene I)

The Mayor's Office within (upstage) the Town Hall Set – Set #04-B

At the Mayor's Office in Town Hall, several days later. Lights come up on Lulu, who is seated at a desk working. She is busy doing paperwork, and obviously dislikes the new mayor. McCobb is seated behind his desk in his open walled cubical (his office) upstage. He picks up the phone and dials.

WILLARD MCCOBB Hello, Phillip? This is Mayor McCobb.
I have an important offer to make you my boy.
Can you please come over right away to discuss it?

Now would be fine. Wonderful! Then I'll look forward to seeing you shortly.

He hangs up and says the following, under his breath, so Lulu can't hear, laughing with glee.

Magdalena will be mine in no time, as long as I can get Phillip, and that little possum, out of my way.

Phillip appears at Town Hall somewhat winded, and is directed by Lulu to McCobb's office.

PHILLIP OK. Mr. McCobb, here I am... what's this all about?
(said with slight sarcasm)

MCCOBB Look Phillip, Let's try to set aside our differences
(doesn't like Phillip's attitude) for the good of Paris Valley. All right?

McCobb smiles at Phillip reassuringly, then clears his throat before launching into his spiel.

Frankly my boy, I need a couple of smart fellows like you, and ah, what's your little friend's name?

PHILLIP Gravitts.

MCCOBB Yes, yes, Gravitts. That's right.
(slaps his own forehead) Anyway, I want to offer both of you a job.
How does that sound my boy?

Phillip knows how important it is to his parents that he find a job... thinks for a second or two then answers.

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PHILLIP A job! Wow! OK. We'll take it!
Ah, that is... Gravitts and I will accept.
But what do we have to do?

MCCOBB Basically you just have to have fun.
You ah, you spread the good word
about how great it is to live in Paris Valley to others.
I'll have Lulu type up a brief job description, and
get a copy to you tomorrow.

PHILLIP Great!

Phillip stands and shakes hands with McCobb

I must say Mayor McCobb,
I guess I had the wrong idea about you.

MCCOBB Yes, well ah, it's often difficult to get people to
recognize the "good-in-me". You know towns folk
rarely like anyone who runs the local funeral parlor.
It scares them, you know? Nice people like myself,
just have to learn to "grin-and-bear-it" as part of the
job. I don't take it personally... MUCH! Anyway...
Welcome aboard son.

Phillip shakes McCobb's hand. As Phillip leaves McCobb's office, he runs into Magdalena. They both stop and stare into each other's eyes for a brief moment, enough to qualify for a pregnant pause.

PHILLIP Miss Magdalena.
You're looking as beautiful as ever.

MAGDALENA Why, thank you Phillip... So are you, I mean...
You're looking very handsome, these days!
I especially like the new look!

PHILLIP Why thank you, it's partly your fault you know?
I wanted to make a good impression.

Magdalena blushes

And I have a new job too!
Mayor McCobb has just appointed me
and Gravitts diplomats for Paris Valley!

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MAGDALENA I see. Well, I was impressed! And...
My congratulations on the new job.

(suspicious of anything the new mayor does)

PHILLIP Thanks! Say... why don't you help me celebrate?

MAGDALENA That would be nice. I'm off work in 10 minutes.

PHILLIP Great! I'll meet you in town square. We can take a walk together? And, ahhh talk, you know... get to know each other?

MAGDALENA I'd like that very much. See you in 10 minutes.

The two go their separate ways. Meanwhile back in McCobb's office.

WILLARD MCCOBB Yes, hello, This is the mayor, I'd like to send a telegram. To Mr. Pico De'Maage, City Councilman in Penner City... Um hum.... yes, make it say... Pico...(stop) I am sending Phillip Gracey and Gravitts to Penner City, and have appointed them as diplomats to Paris Valley...(stop) Please keep them busy and entertained...(stop) More later....(stop)
Signed, Willard McCobb

Pauses.

Yes... That will be all. Send the bill over to me at city hall. Yes... Good day to you too sir.

Hangs up the phone.

There. That, should take care of those two distractions. Now, I'll have all the time I need, to pursue Magdalena for myself.

He laughs demonically, then puts on his hat and cape and exits upstage.

End Act II - Scene I

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(ACT II - Scene II)

The Paris Valley, Town Square – Set # 01

Outside in the town square we see Phillip and Magdalena. They walk arm in arm over to a park bench and take a seat.

PHILLIP Hey, can you believe it? I've finally got my own job.
(Phillip, almost giddy)

MAGDALENA Oh Phillip, I'm so happy for you.
(happy but cautious of McCobb) You sound so excited, that I'm excited too!

Phillip smiles then boldly leans over and kisses her on the cheek. She blushes.

PHILLIP Sorry.

For a brief "smitten" moment he gazes into her face. Then regains his composure.

You know... I'm not really sorry!
I've wanted to do that for a long time.

MAGDALENA You're a romantic, Mr. Gracey.
(a bit smitten she laughs)

PHILLIP Mostly I'm clumsy, I've never thought of myself as romantic. Maybe that comes to people when they fall in love?

MAGDALENA Are you... "falling in love"?

PHILLIP From the first moment I saw you.
(very seriously)

MAGDALENA Me too.
(Laughing with happiness...)

PHILLIP Well... That's good. I'm glad we got that out of the way.

Both of them share a great big laugh. Looking for something to say to make things a bit more comfortable. Looks at her lovingly.

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PHILLIP And, now that I've been appointed Ambassador by the mayor, maybe my life will start to settle down. It's probably time for me to be thinking seriously about my future... Maybe even to be thinking about a future that includes you...

MAGDALENA That would be a grand idea, Phillip!
(she smiles from ear to ear)

Pauses for a moment of serious discussion

Phillip, Naturally I'm glad to hear about the new job. But I would certainly warn you to keep an eye on McCobb if I were you. I can't help but sense that he has something devious up his sleeve. Just be cautious, OK?

PHILLIP That's probably good advice, but he really doesn't seem so bad? Maybe he means well, but is kind of misunderstood? You know how people are... everyone is leary of the person Who owns the local funeral parlor.

MAGDALENA No one here holds that against McCobb.

PHILLIP Well I've heard that those things do happen. Besides, McCobb isn't dumb. He owns his own business. And... After all, he did pick ME and Gravitts for this job.

MAGDALENA OK, but... be careful, I'm just a little worried about you and Gravitts. That's all.

PHILLIP I'll be extra careful. Now that I've found you.
(smiles lovingly) When you find someone special, your whole life seems to change!

MAGDALENA Yes. I know.
Magdalena smiles, she leans over and they kiss tenderly for the first time on the lips.
End Act II – Scene II

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(ACT II - Scene III)

The Town Clerk's Office, at Town Hall – Set #04-A

It's the next day. Phillip enters town hall and proceeds to McCobb's office.

PHILLIP Mr. Mayor? You wanted to see me?

WILLARD MCCOBB Yes, Phillip my boy. Good, good, thanks for coming.
(wings his hands) Well. Are you and Gravitts ready to serve your fine city, young man?

PHILLIP Yes sir.
(wings his hands)

MCCOBB Good, good. Alrighty then.
I need you gentlemen to go to Penner City and do some "glad-handing".
An associate of mine, city councilman Pico De'Maage, will meet you at the train station.
Pico will get you fellows set up in a nice hotel.

Pauses, sneaks a quick glance at Phillip, as if checking to see if Phillip believes everything that he is making up as he goes.

I want you and Gravitts to go and enjoy yourselves and wait... Ahhhh, wait until Pico gives you my instructions. Is that clear?

PHILLIP Ahhh... Yes, sir. But all we do is wait?

MCCOBB Yes. That's it. Just wait.
Enjoy yourself, see the sights, be a tourist for a change! Easy huh?

PHILLIP Yeah, it sounds too good to be true.
But... OK. If that's what you want.

McCobb nods and smiles.

When do we go?

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MCCOBB Why ahhh. This afternoon.

Smiling he begins to pat Phillip on the back as he walks him out of his office towards the door

The train leaves at two-thirty.
So get Gravitts, pack your bags, and make sure...
that the two of you are on that 2:30 train. OK?

PHILLIP

(somewhat reluctantly)

OK. But, ahhh, that seems awfully sudden.
You know, Magdalena and I were just starting to
get to know each other, and...

MCCOBB

Oh come, come, now boy.

McCobb interrupts, and smiles at Phillip reassuringly.

There'll be plenty of time for that lovee-dovee stuff
later! After... ahhh, after you've earned yourself some
money, right? Right now, duty calls!

PHILLIP

(somewhat reluctantly)

Well alright, I guess there's no better time than the
present.

MCCOBB

(smiles at Phillip reassuringly)

Wonderful! Now that's the team spirit.
OK. Now off with you. I'll look forward
to receiving word of your safe arrival from Pico.

*McCobb returns to his office, while Phillip exits the building.
On his way out he runs into Magdalena.*

MAGDALENA

(smiles)

Phillip, What are you doing back here?

PHILLIP

Well... guess what? The Mayor just sent me and
Gravitts, on our first assignment. We're off to Penner
City. I was hoping to find you, to say good bye.

MAGDALENA

(obviously disappointed)

When will you be coming back?

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PHILLIP

(Kissing her hand)

I'm sure it won't be too long. At least I hope not, my dearest. Once I finish the job for McCobb, I'll rush back... I swear! I have to go, and I still have to find Gravitts, and then we have to pack our bags, so we can catch the 2:30 train.

There is a quick but tender kiss on the lips between them, and then Phillip is off on his way. Phillip gets as far as the end of their two extended arms, then recoils back to a laughing Magdalena for a long drawn out kiss, finally motions goodbye, and exits. Magdalena watches Phillip go, she sighs, and walks back into city hall. McCobb who has been watching all of this from the wings, slowly walks over to her, and places a rose in an empty vase on the counter in front of where she is standing.

MCCOBB

Oh well.

Smiles smugly, almost sarcastically. He mocks Phillip then walks away to his office.

I guess you'll just have to make the most of the situation?

"My dearest".

She picks the rose out of the vase, glares at McCobb, positions her arm so that it's directly over her waste paper basket and drops it in, THUD. She smiles back at McCobb, who drops his own smile and is frowning with a raised eyebrow at her open defiance. He walks away defeated.

End Act II – Scene III

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(ACT II - Scene III)

Train Station Penner City – Set # 07-A

The lights come up downstage right at the Penner City train station. Phillip and Gravitts are walking slowly with their bags. Pico DeMaage' appears.

PICO DeMAAGE' You must be Phillip.

PHILLIP That's right. I'm Phillip and this is my little buddy, Gravitts.

PICO Uh, Huh! Yeah... I kind of figured that one out for myself. You're the human and he's the possum.

Pauses to look at the audience for a second, as if to say, "DUH".

Anyway, I'm city councilman Pico De'Maage. I'm here to take you to your hotel and to make you comfortable while you're here in Penner City.

GRAVITTS Wow, Phillip, were gonna stay in a hotel?

PICO Hey! That's right furball!
(somewhat sarcastic) Probably a whole lot nicer than that hole you've been sleeping in, eh?

GRAVITTS My name is... Gravitts!
(miffed)

PICO OK. OK. Don't get your fur in a tizzy... My apologies. Now... Anything you fellows want, you just go ahead and ask me, OK? McCobb said to treat you two fellows like kings! Right this way your royal highnesses.

End Act II – Scene III

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(ACT II - Scene IV)

The Town Clerk's Office, at Town Hall – Set #04-B

Reopens back at the city hall offices (interior) it is later that same evening. McCobb with a smirk on his face sneaks up behind Magdalena and startles her by grabbing her waist with both hands. Magdalena jumps and shoves his hands away.

Music Cue : "Debate For A Date" – (2:55)

End Act II – Scene IV

(ACT II - Scene V)

The Paris Valley, Town Square – Set # 01

Scene opens to the outside, Town Square - Paris Valley at night. Magdalena is disturbed by McCobb's advances and the absence of the man she's come to love, Phillip. She dances with the next best thing... a ghostly aberration she conjures up in her mind, of Phillip... while singing her haunting waltz.

Music Cue : "Forever With You" – (5:08)

End Act II – Scene V

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(ACT II - Scene VI)

Penner City Night Club – Set # 08

Gravitts, Phillip, Mayor Bruin are seen milling around in a restaurant / night club in Penner City. Tables and chairs are on center stage, where patrons are seated having dinner. Some are dancing to the small band on stage.. Phillip and Gravitts notice Pico enter. Pico walks over to the Mayor's table and he stands there while speaking to the mayor.

PHILLIP Gravitts, wait right here.
Pico just came in, and I think he might be looking for us.

Phillip crosses towards Pico. As Phillip approaches Pico from behind he overhears them and immediately realizes that he and Gravitts are the topic of conversation, he positions himself so he can hear them better. He realizes that he & Gravitts have never been introduced to Penner City's mayor, so there is little chance that he would be recognized by Mayor Bruin. Pico is not aware that Phillip is standing behind his back.

MAYOR BRUIN Do those two bubble-heads from Paris Valley know anything about the proposed dam project?

PICO Naw, they're just a couple of country bumpkins. They haven't the slightest idea of what's going on.

MAYOR BRUIN Good, you know we can't let a word of this out until the deal is finalized. I've already sent McCobb the first payment. Oh, and... Thanks for setting up this deal, Pico. You'll get your cut soon.

Phillip angrily walks back over to Gravitts, angry that they have been duped.

PHILLIP Gravitts, we've got to get back to Paris Valley...
TONIGHT!

GRAVITTS Can't we eat first?

PHILLIP No! We've got to get going now!

GRAVITTS What happened over there?

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PHILLIP

I just found out that McCobb's a crook,
and we've got to let the good people of
Paris Valley know, before... it's too late.

End Act II – Scene VI

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(ACT II - Scene VII)

Train Station Penner City – Set # 07-A

Phillip and Gravitts exit quietly to avoid being detected by Pico. There's the sound of thunder and lightning crashes. Then we hear the sound of rain. The railroad station is emersed in the storm. The lights come up on the bench, where Phillip and Gravitts are seated. Then the station master comes out to where they are waiting for the next train to arrive.

GRAVITTS

Oh oh.

PHILLIP

Yeah, something must be wrong.

PORTER

Attention everyone! The railroad bridge to Paris Valley may have sustained some damage in tonight's storm. We won't know for sure until we can check it tomorrow morning. So there will be no trains south until further notice.

Ladies and Gentlemen... We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

PHILLIP

(disappointed)

Turns to Gravitts.

Pauses

Well that's just great!

OK. New plan!

We've got to get to Paris Valley tonight!

That means that we're going to have to walk!

If we get started now, we can be there by morning!

GRAVITTS

Walk in the dark? In a storm?

PHILLIP

We'll be just fine.

GRAVITTS

(lifts his bags)

What about our stuff?

PHILLIP

Leave it! We've got to go... now!

Come on!

End Act II – Scene VII

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PHILLIP

(he kisses her sweetly)

Here comes Gravitts with my dad, and
it looks like he's got the whole town with him too!

Garret, Jonathan, Gravitts, Phillip, and Magdalena arrive, followed by the Townspeople led by Lulu. We see Phillip jump up on a picnic table... he is gesturing as he tells everyone the full story...

...and that was all part of McCobb's elaborate plan.
This whole election was a set up, right from the start.
Just so McCobb could line his pockets by having
Penner City sell our own water back to the citizens of
Paris Valley.

MAGDALENA

Now that I think of it, I found the ballot box unlocked,
right when Bumbles and Phincher showed up
supposedly to vote. They must have stuffed the box
with votes for McCobb. How could I have been so
stupid? I'm so sorry, Mr. Gracey!

JONATHAN GRACEY

It's not your fault Magdalena, he had us all fooled.

GARRET

Everything happens for a reason, my dear.

JONATHAN

That's right, Magdalena.

Phillip's father turns towards Phillip and praises him for his Hero-Like actions.

Phillip, I'm very proud of you, son.
You've come through for the whole town.
You're a hero, my boy!

PHILLIP

We'll before I can be a real hero, we'll have to catch
McCobb first! Look. Over there at the train station.
Come on everyone, it's McCobb!

End Act II – Scene VIII

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(ACT II - Scene IX)

Train Station Paris Valley – Set # 07-B

The whole town is in tow behind Phillip and they all migrate from Town Square to the Paris Valley Train Station. The first person they come across is Officer Kruspy, who has obviously apprehended McCobb, Phincher, and Bumbles.

OFFICER KRUSPY I had a hunch that something wasn't right , and from the looks of this crowd I guess my hunch was right!

I had gone over to talk to McCobb at the funeral parlor, but when McCobb and these two, saw me coming I guess they thought I figured something out that I wasn't supposed to know, so they made a run for the train station. I was already suspicious so I followed.

MCCOBB
(interrupts) We gentlemen, were just headed out of town on business. I really don't see what all the fuss is about?

Music Cue : "A Suspect Like Me" – (4:04)

KRUSPY The "proof" is right here McCobb! So be quiet! Little Bumbles here, dropped this sack of cash, and as a result, I caught them red handed. Now I'm not exactly sure what it is that they did, but sure as shootin'it must have been something bad. I guess from the looks of this crowd, I was right?

PHILLIP Your hunch was correct Officer Kruspy!
We'll fill you in on all the details later.

BUMBLES
(to McCobb) But what about the slip, Boss?

McCobb holds up his finger to Bumbles attempting to "Shush" him..

PHINCHER What slip?

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BUMBLES The one the Boss told us we were gonna give Kruspy and the rest of the people from Paris Valley?

Looks around Phincher directly at McCobb.

Remember Boss? When you saw everyone coming you said, "Come on, let's give 'em the slip?"

PHINCHER
(angry)

Be quiet motor-mouth!

MCCOBB

Oh what's the use. You're both a couple of idiots.

KRUSPY

I finally got you McCobb! This time you and Phincher are going away to the 'big house' for a long, long time. And I hope they throw away the key!

He looks at Bumbles, with a raised eyebrow.

And as for you, Bumbles. Here's how I see it. I find it hard to believe that you understood what kind of man McCobb was.

Points at Phincher.

And that Phincher too.
Did you know what a 'rat' he was?

Bumbles raises his eyebrows, and shakes his head no.

BUMBLES

No. I taught he was a mouse.
Hummmmmmmmm.

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KRUSPY Anyway... Bumbles... because you have a clean record I'm going to propose that we give you a chance to start over.

(looks at the towns folk)

What do you say everyone?

The crowd cheers Officer Kruspy's suggestion.

Alright then! So it's your decision Bumbles. Do you want to go to jail with your friends here? Or... are you willing to change your ways and become a decent citizen of Paris Valley?

Bumbles takes his hat off, scratches his head, as if thinking

GRAVITTS Come on now, Bumbles. Wouldn't you like a second chance?

BUMBLES Yeah, I want to be a good rat!

The crowd cheers.

GARRET I suggest we all head back to Town Hall and re-cast our votes for the man who should have been our mayor in the first place, Mr. Jonathan Gracey!

The crowd cheers. Gravitts in his excitement while cheering accidentally drops his arm around Lulu. He immediately catches himself, pulls it back and apologizes to her.

GRAVITTS Ooops! I'm sorry Lulu, that was an accident.

LULU That's OK. It was a HAPPY accident.

(really smiles, and replaces his arm)

Phillip and Magdalena laugh at this humorous exchange between Lulu and Gravitts. They look at each other, hug and then join the crowd who is also happy for Gravitts and Lulu. They Cheer... happy at the outcome, and Gravitts and Lulu, give us their cute little possum giggles.

Music Cue : "Another Sunny Day" – (2:54)

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The crowd with all their arms raised, and smiling... freezes on the last note of the song holding this pose while the curtain closes. The curtain re-opens and the entire ensemble is now on stage, they begin to take their individual bows.

Music Cue : "Momma's Gone" – (2:37) (Plays in background during the entire curtain call)

After the last bows the curtain is closed... When this song is finished the curtain reopens and the orchestra takes their bows from the entire cast onstage.

THE END