

*BROADWAY ANGELS*  
*AN ANGELIC MUSICAL*

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY

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AND JOHN D. NUGENT

BASED ON A STORY BY  
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ORCHESTRATIONS BY  
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## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

**(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)**

**MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL**

**THE DOMINICAN SISTERS**

**GABRIEL, THE ARCHANGEL**

**SISTER MARY DAVID**

**SISTER JRENE**

**SISTER ANNA**

**SISTER ANGELA**

**SISTER RITA**

**CARDINAL MONAHAN**

**FATHER KELLY**

**POTTER LOWMAN**

**DONAHUE (THE DEVIL)**

**JAILER**

**JERRY, THE FED EX GUY**

**JUDGE GEORGE MURPHY**

**MICHAEL MOORE (LAWYER FOR THE NUNS)**

**HOWARD TORT (LAWYER FOR THE CARDINAL)**

**OSCAR PETERSEN (CITY ATTORNEY)**

**ANGEL GEORGE**

**ANGEL BETTY**

**JAMES CAGNEY LOOK-A-LIKE**

**CHORUS**

SETTINGS

ACT ONE SCENE ONE:EXT. DOMINICAN CONVENT DURING A STORM  
ACT ONE SCENE TWO:INT. THE DOMINICAN CONVENT LIBRARY

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# "BROADWAY ANGELS"

1.

## "BROADWAY ANGELS"

### ACT ONE

### SCENE ONE

#### MUSIC #1: OVERTURE

#### AT RISE:

*(The year is 1998. It's Tuesday of Easter Week. The CURTAIN opens on a Dominican Convent on a hilltop in Vermont which has seen much better days. Much better. It is surrounded by Maple Trees, almost as if it represents itself as a shrine in the perverted world. We hear tremendous THUNDER, and LIGHTNING flashes across the sky. LIGHTNING strikes a maple tree, and it begins to crash toward the Convent. It stops, being held up by a mysterious force. Inside the Convent, we hear the SISTERS chanting.)*

#### OVERTURE ENDS AND SEGUES INTO:

#### MUSIC #2: PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL

SISTERS (OFFSTAGE)

SANCTE MICHAEL ARCHANGELE DEFENDE NOS IN PROELIO CONTRA  
NEQUITIAM ET INSIDIAS DIABOLI ESTO PRESIDIUM, IMPERET ILLI DEUS  
SUPPLICES DEPRECEMUR TUQUE PRINCEPS MILITIE CELESTES  
SATANAM ALIUSQUE SPIRITUS MALIGNOS

*(The STORM continues to rage. We hear a massive celestial VOICE, like the Voice of God. That voice belongs to GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL)*

GABRIEL'S VOICE (OFFSTAGE)

Oh Michael, it's your favorite nuns again. Massive prayer request.

MICHAEL (OFFSTAGE)

Again?

**(CONTINUED)**

# "BROADWAY ANGELS"

2.

SISTERS (OFFSTAGE)  
DEFEND US IN BATTLE, DEFEND US TODAY  
OUR WOES ARE FINANCIAL, BUT YOU KNOW THE WAY  
STATI UNITI NELLA BATTAGLIA  
DEFUND STATI UNTILLA NOSTRA NOIA SONO  
FINANZIARIO MA CONOSCETE IL SENSO

A NUN'S VOICE (OFFSTAGE)  
Hurry, Saint Michael, hurry!

MICHAEL  
Oh, alright, already. Boy, do I have a soft heart or what?

## MUSIC #2: PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL ENDS

*(As the MUSIC ENDS a bolt of LIGHTNING strikes the same tree, and it looks like it might crash directly into the center of the Convent. A flash of LIGHT appears, even brighter than the lightning, and the tree is removed and replanted in a more congenial place. MICHAEL the Archangel appears in his entire splendor and looks toward the convent.)*

## MUSIC #2A: OUT OF HARM'S WAY

MICHAEL  
*(sings)*  
MY PLEASURE, DEAR SISTERS, YOU'RE OUT OF HARM'S WAY,  
BUT I HAVE THE FEELING YOU'VE MUCH MORE TO SAY  
TELL THIS OLD ANGEL JUST WHAT YOU NEED  
I'LL TRY TO HELP YOU AND MAKE YOU SUCCEED

SISTERS  
*(sing)*  
FINANCIAL WOES ARE PRESSING: WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO  
OH MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL TO US REMAIN SO TRUE  
THEY WISH TO SELL OUR CONVENT AND SELL THE LAND FOR HOMES  
WHERE WILL WE RESIDE THEN OR WILL WE NEED TO ROAM?

MICHAEL  
Close the convent? The Archdiocese again? Looks like  
we need another miracle, Lord.

**(CONTINUED)**

*(We hear a clap of THUNDER and see a flash of LIGHTNING.)*

**MUSIC #3: GIVE THEM A BREAK LORD**

MICHAEL

*(sings)*

GIVE THEM A BREAK LORD, GIVE THEM A CHANCE  
GOOD OLD GREED, LORD IS LEADING THE DANCE  
WHAT ARE THEY TO DO? WHERE ARE THEY TO GO?  
WHERE ARE THEY TO LIVE? GIVE THEM A BREAK LORD!  
THERE'S SO MUCH AT STAKE, LORD!  
THEY'RE REALLY GOOD EGGS LORD, AND I OUGHT TO KNOW!

CHOIR OF ANGELS

*(sings)*

GIVE THEM A BREAK LORD, THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN DEAR.  
FOR GOODNESS SAKE LORD, THEY'VE NEVER KNOWN FEAR.  
THEY'VE BEEN AROUND SINCE SAINT DOMINIC'S DAYS.  
DON'T LET THEM GO UNDER. MAKE A MIRACLE WONDER.  
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST; GIVE THEM A CHANCE!  
AND YOUR VERY BEST MIRACLE! YOUR VERY BEST MIRACLE!  
YOUR VERY BEST MIRACLE NOW!

MICHAEL

YOUR VERY BEST WONDER: OVER THE TOP!  
SOMETHING JUST FOOLPROOF. HERE'S NO PLACE TO STOP.  
YOUR VERY BEST MIRACLE! YOUR VERY BEST MIRACLE!  
YOUR VERY BEST MIRACLE NOW!

*(From out of nowhere, like manna in the desert, falls a sea of LOTTERY TICKETS. MICHAEL doesn't notice what they are until he picks one up and looks at it. Then HE smiles from ear to ear.)*

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Lottery tickets? Winning lottery tickets? But the  
Archdiocese wouldn't sell the Convent to these nuns?  
Or would they?

*(There is heard THUNDER again.)*

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Forget the Convent? How? Why?

**(CONTINUED)**



# "BROADWAY ANGELS"

4.

*(MICHAEL looks to Heaven. More THUNDER.)*

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Think Broadway? New York's Broadway? What does a group of cloistered Dominican nuns from Vermont know about Broadway theatre?

*(a beat, as he listens)*

No performances?

*(a beat --THUNDER again-- MICHAEL listens to God)*

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Just buy a theatre and move into the dressing rooms? Whoa, that is different! And no one will bother them there? Why, sure, they can even build an altar on the stage. How about that! They can even open and close the curtains at each Mass!

*(THUNDER again.)*

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

OK, OK, Lord. I understand. Keep it simple.

*(THUNDER and a big bolt of LIGHTNING frighten Michael. a disgruntled ANGEL GABRIEL appears suddenly in a FLASH.)*

GABRIEL

Stop! Stop! Stop! (LOOKING HEAVENWARD) You'll forgive me, this intrusion, dear Lord, but why are we housing nuns in a Broadway theatre? An abandoned Broadway theatre at that!

MICHAEL

We must do the will of God, Gabriel.

GABRIEL

Yes, and I've been doing just that for centuries, but I think we've missed the point, and the immediate need here.

**(CONTINUED)**

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Maybe I'm just getting terribly logical in my old age, but why, oh why, can't we just let these nuns buy out the Archdiocese? It's simple, easy, fast uncomplicated... That's what the critics would tell you, after all.

*(A SHOOTING STAR flies over the stage and into the audience. IT makes a direct hit in the upper levels of the mezzanine.)*

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

What was that?

MICHAEL

The will of God in a shooting star. What it hit, dear comrade... (A BEAT) was a critic.

GABRIEL

Isn't that where Frank Rich used to sit?

MICHAEL

Not anymore?

*(a beat)*

Moment of silence.

*(another beat)*

That's enough.

GABRIEL

OK, back to the argument. Why don't we let the nuns...

MICHAEL

Buy out the Archdiocese? Knowing Cardinal Monohan's ego as you do, do you really think he'll permit that?

GABRIEL

Secret buyers maybe? Worked for Disney in Florida. You know Disney World!

MICHAEL

Yahweh doesn't work that way.

GABRIEL

(CONSPIRATORIALLY) I'm still trying to figure "that way" out.

*(We hear a BIG BOOM of THUNDER\_*

**(CONTINUED)**

# "BROADWAY ANGELS"

6.

MICHAEL

Aren't we all?

GABRIEL

OK, OK, I give up! Who gets to deliver the message to the nuns?

MICHAEL

Hey "messenger angel?" You really have to wonder about that, huh?

GABRIEL

Natch. But I was hoping, after all these years, you understand, I wouldn't be haunted by typecasting anymore.

MICHAEL

Think how original His plan is. Dominican Sisters, cloistered for years, making maple syrup and moccasins... Now take them from danger and house them in a deserted Broadway theatre. Think of the possibilities.

## MUSIC #4: VERY BEST MIRACLE

MICHAEL

*(sings)*

HE HAS JUST DONE HIS VERY BEST MIRACLE  
HE HAS JUST MADE THEIR LIVES COME AROUND  
MIRACLE ROSES: THE BEST SINCE OLD MOSES  
THE VERY BEST TREASURE TO EVER BE FOUND  
TOO BAD THE WORLD DOESN'T PAY MORE ATTENTION  
TO ALL THE WONDERS HE CAN PERFORM  
YOUR WAY AND YOUR DEEDS ARE DISASTER'S PREVENTION  
YOU KEEP THE WORLD AWAY FROM THE STORM  
THAT IS THE MIRACLE THESE SWEET NUNS HAVE NEEDED  
NOW THERE'S A CHANCE FOR THEM TO SURVIVE  
HERE IS THE WONDER THESE POOR NUNS SO DEFEATED  
SEE HOW THEY'VE PLEADED. JUST TO STAY ALIVE

GABRIEL

*(sings)*

SO HOW DO YOU WANT ME TO GIVE THEM THE NEWS?  
WHAT IS THE THEATRE ON BROADWAY TO CHOOSE?  
I'D LIKE TO ASSUME THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE  
HERE AT ALL, HERE AT ALL, HERE AT ALL!

**(CONTINUED)**

# "BROADWAY ANGELS"

7.

*(Another huge METEOR streaks across the sky, spelling out "THE GEORGE M. COHAN THEATRE.")*

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

WHO GETS TO SELL THEM A DOOMED BROADWAY THEATRE?  
WAIT, I CAN GUESS, IT HAS TO BE ME.  
HOW LONG CAN THEY STAY IN A DOOMED BROADWAY THEATRE?  
WHAT CAN THEY DO THERE, HOW LONG CAN THEY BE?

MICHAEL

FIND THE ANSWER, GABRIEL

GABRIEL

HOW LONG CAN THAT BE?

MICHAEL

THEY NEED YOU, DON'T YOU SEE?

CHOIR OF ANGELS (OFFSTAGE)

THE BROADWAY ANGELS, THE BROADWAY ANGELS  
THE BROADWAY ANGELS

GABRIEL

AND ME!

MICHAEL & GABRIEL AND THE ANGELS  
THE BROADWAY ANGELS AND ME!

**BLACKOUT**

**END OF THE SCENE**

**MUSIC #4: "VERY BEST MIRACLE SEGUES INTO..."**

**MUSIC #4A: VERY BEST PLAYOFF**

ACT ONE

SCENE TWO

*(It's the next morning. The LIGHTS rise on the Library of Saint Anthony of Mercy Dominican Convent. The design and the furnishings are definitely left over from the 1950's. A fireplace is burning on this chilly Winter day. Pictures of Saints line the walls, but the bookshelves are empty.)*  
SISTER ANNA, the Librarian, directs the efforts of SISTER ANGELA, SISTER MARY DAVID - the Convent chauffeur - and SISTER IRENE - the Convent School Principal, who are lacklusterly packing remaining books into boxes. SISTER ANNA, as this occurs, is also talking to SISTER RITA, the cook - a Cuban immigrant.)

MUSIC #4A: ENDS WITH STAGE BUSINESS AND DIALOGUE

SISTER MARY DAVID

It's a sad day, my Sisters. I never dreamed we would all be evicted like this.

SISTER IRENE

Well, you know what they say...

SISTER ANGELA

Uh-oh, here it comes. Another cliché from the pearl of wisdom.

SISTER ANNA

Well, there was a cheap shot.

SISTER IRENE

Can we try to remember we are still holy Christian nuns here?

SISTER ANGELA

Not for long, Sister Pollyanna.

*(The SISTERS stop what they are doing, shocked at this outburst.)*

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER ANGELA (CONT'D)

Look, I bought into the possibility of a miracle last month, last year, and even up to last week! Let's face it, Sisters. This small group of religious is no match for the greediest Cardinal in the world. This guy would evict the Holy Family from the stable. He's worse than Bernard Law!

SISTER RITA

(WITH A PUERTO RICAN ACCENT) Who is he?

SISTER ANGELA

Better you should never ask, Sister.

SISTER IRENE

Has the Mayor returned our call?

SISTER MARY DAVID

And what call was that, dear? Number seventeen? Number sixty-eight? The answer is no. I get more out of the Baptists!

SISTER RITA

Who are Baptists?

SISTER ANGELA

The other side, dear.

*(a beat)*

The far side of the moon.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Now, now dear Sisters, all is not lost.

**MUSIC #5: PRAYING OUR LITTLE BEADS OFF**

*(SISTER ANGELA shoots a look of pure unadulterated sarcasm as SISTER MARY DAVID begins to sing.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

*(sings)*

WE'VE BEEN PRAYING OUR LITTLE BEADS OFF  
FOR OUR GREAT AND MANY NEEDS OFF  
EVERY PRAYER THAT WE COULD THINK OF DON'T YOU KNOW?  
HAVE A PRAYER INTO SAINT JUDE, DEAR

**(CONTINUED)**

# "BROADWAY ANGELS"

10.

SISTER MARY DAVID (CONT'D)

*(continues to sing)*

AND SAINT ANTHONY'S BEEN PURSUED HERE  
AND EVERY ANGEL THAT WE OUGHT TO NAME OR KNOW.

SISTERS EXCEPT ANGELA

*(sing together)*

WE'VE BEEN PRAYING OUR LITTLE BEADS NOW  
THOUGH IT SEEMS SO HOPELESS SOMEHOW  
EVERY ROSARY BEAD IS DOING OVERTIME  
WE'RE PRAYING OUR LITTLE BEADS OFF  
AND CHECKING ALL OUR NEEDS OFF  
WE'RE PRAYING HERE AND LOOKING FOR A SIGN

SISTER ANGELA

*(sings)*

IT'S GOING TO BE A FRICKIN' MIRACLE  
TO SAVE US FROM THIS JAM  
FOR THE DEAR LORD HAS MUCH BETTER THINGS TO DO  
WE COULD RAISE OUR VOICES SO LYRICAL,  
BUT IN LOOKING FOR A MIRACLE  
KNOW THAT GOD DRAWS STRAIGHT WITH CROOKED LINES!

SISTERS (EXCEPT ANGELA)

*(sing)*

BUT PRAYER IS ALWAYS HEARD, SO  
WE'VE GOT THE WILL TO TRY. OH, WE CAN'T GIVE UP  
NO MATTER WHAT THE CHANCE.  
WE'RE PRAYING OUR LITTLE BEADS OFF.  
AND CHECKING ALL OUR NEEDS OFF.  
WE'RE PRAYING HERE AND LOOKING FOR A SIGN.

SISTER MARY DAVID

WE'VE PRAYED TO ALOYSIUS,  
PETER, PAUL AND THE SUSPICIOUS  
SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE FOR THIS CHANCE!  
MARGARET MARY AND GENESIUS  
OH WE LOVE THAT SAINT TO PIECES  
AND EACH SAINT WE TRY INCREASES A RESPONSE

SISTERS INCLUDING ANGELA

*(sings)*

WE'VE BEEN PRAYING OUR LITTLE BEADS OFF:  
FOR OUR GREAT AND MANY NEEDS OFF  
EVERY CANDLE WE'VE BEEN LIGHTING.  
EACH NOVENA WE'VE BEEN CITING.

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTERS INCLUDING ANGELA  
(CONT'D)

*(sings)*

WE'VE BEEN PRAYING OUR LITTLE BEADS OFF:  
DONT YOU KNOW?

SISTER ANNA

But Sister Mary David, this is only Wednesday. We have until Monday. The day after Easter.

SISTER RITA

God works in mysterious ways.

SISTER ANGELA

If He was any more mysterious, he'd be a modern day politician. We, my dear souls, are small potatoes in the grand scheme of God's many plans.

SISTER RITA

I no have small potatoes!

SISTER ANNA

Yes, Sister, we understand.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Well I've been a Dominican nun for twenty-seven years. Even if our prayers fail - sometimes it's true - everything good must come to an end. If it does happen, I guess I could go live with my sister in Chicago.

SISTER ANGELA

Your sister in Chicago is a lesbian.

SISTER ANNA

Oh my!

SISTER RITA

What is that word?

SISTER ANGELA

She doesn't need to know that word!

SISTER RITA

Of course I do. How I learn English language without knowing all words?



SISTER MARY DAVID

Maybe I can help her.

SISTER ANGELA

Doing what?

SISTER MARY DAVID

It's possible. We were both baptized and raised as two good Catholic girls.

SISTER ANGELA

Both baptized at once?

SISTER MARY DAVID

We were twins.

SISTER ANGELA

Yeah, and when you first got here, you used to say the Devil slipped something in the water when it came time for her baptism.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Oh my. Me and my big mouth. I keep forgetting you Sisters have memories like elephants.

SISTER ANGELA

Not to mention the waistlines, I should say.

*(a beat)*

Though I hate to repeat myself, Sister Rita doesn't need to know that word.

SISTER IRENE

I agree.

SISTER MARY DAVID

I don't.

SISTER RITA

Don't keep me in dark. I afraid of it.

SISTER ANGELA

Now there's a loaded line if I ever heard one.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Would you give us some time alone?

SISTER ANGELA

To do what? Oh, Okay, okay, already!

*(SISTER MARY DAVID gives SISTER ANGELA a look and goes over to Sister RITA.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

Mind if we chat?

SISTER RITA

What is this thing you say? Chat?

SISTER MARY DAVID

You know, have a little talk?

SISTER RITA

Oh yes, Sister. I would like very much.

SISTER MARY DAVID

What we were talking about before.

SISTER RITA

Oh yes. Your sister is a Presbyterian.

SISTER ANGELA

Close, but no cigar.

SISTER MARY DAVID

(IF LOOKS COULD KILL) Do you mind?

SISTER ANGELA

Fine, I'll take a vow of silence! What's one more vow when you're having so much fun with the other three?

SISTER MARY DAVID

Much appreciated.

SISTER IRENE

Come on, Sisters. Let's give the two of them some alone time.

SISTER ANNA

An excellent idea.

SISTER ANGELA

In other words, she wants us to take a powder.

SISTER ANNA

Which might just improve your disposition.

SISTER ANGELA

It left.

SISTER IRENE

How well we know, Sister. How well we know.

*(All the SISTERS exit, except SISTER MARY DAVID And SISTER RITA.)*

**MUSIC #5A: MARY DAVID AND RITA**

SISTER MARY DAVID

Sister Rita, you know that we sisters all have chosen a life of celibacy and we have all taken vows to bind us to that promise.

SISTER RITA

That much I know.

SISTER MARY DAVID

And you should also know that we Sisters have given up our lives to the service of God.

SISTER RITA

Say something I do not know. Would that be all right?

SISTER MARY DAVID

But of course. Well, what you might not know is... well... some women are attracted to someone other than a man.

*(SISTER RITA looks puzzled.)*

SISTER RITA

What else could there be?

SISTER MARY DAVID

A woman.

SISTER RITA

As friends?

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER MARY DAVID

More.

SISTER RITA

This sounds odd to me. Man and woman destined to be together.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Not always.

SISTER RITA

Must be always. Scripture says so.

SISTER MARY DAVID

God bless, Scripture, Sister, but the word "must" is a word that doesn't always happen.

SISTER RITA

But is odd!

SISTER MARY DAVID

Nothing is odd that is made by God.

**MUSIC #6: WHAT IS PUT TOGETHER**

SISTER MARY DAVID

*(sings)*

IN A WORLD OF MANY PEOPLE ON THIS CRAZY PLACE CALLED EARTH.  
UNDER EVERY ROOF AND STEEPLE PEOPLE CHOOSE.  
WHO THEY ARE ATTRACTED TO, WHO THEY CARE TO LOVE,  
WHO MAKES THEIR HEART SEEM HAPPY.  
EVERY HEART HAS DIFFERENT VIEWS.  
WHAT IS PUT TOGETHER ARE BIRDS OF A FEATHER.  
RAINY DAYS AND WEATHER THE FLOWERS AND THE TREES.

WHAT IS PUT TOGETHER IS THE LOSER WITH THE LONELY.  
WHO HAS THIS ONE FRIEND ONLY.  
AND HOW HAPPY IS THE PAIR AND SOMETIMES  
THOUGH WE DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.  
GOD PUTS MAN WITH ANOTHER MAN.  
OR A WOMAN WITH A LADY AND THE WORLD MAY CALL IT QUEER,  
BUT IT'S OH SO VERY CLEAR  
IT'S LOVE, IT'S LOVE! AND FROM GOD THAT IS ALWAYS A SIGN.  
IT'S LOVE, IT'S LOVE! AND THERE IS NO BETTER DREAM WE CAN FIND.

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER RITA

*(spoken)*

So what God wills is never odd?

SISTER RITA (CONT'D)

*(sings)*

WHAT WE PUT TOGETHER: WE NO UNDERSTAND IT!  
OR HOW THE GOOD LORD PLANNED IT. EVERY DAY THAT WE LIVE.

SISTER MARY DAVID

WHAT IS PUT TOGETHER CAN BE ODD WHEN WE SEE IT.  
OH HOW CAN THERE BE IT IN THIS WORLD!

SISTER MARY DAVID AND SISTER RITA

*(sing together)*

BUT WITH LOVE IN OUR HEART. A QUITE GOOD PLACE TO START.  
BE ACCEPTED NOT REJECTED ONE DAY SOON.  
AS SOMETHING PUT TOGETHER AND ASSUMED,  
TO BE FOREVER. SO GIVE THEM ROOM.

SISTER MARY DAVID

*(spoken)*

So does that make it less confusing?

SISTER RITA

(SMILING) I'll say.

*(SISTER ANGELA bursts into the room  
followed by SISTER IRENE and SISTER  
ANNA.)*

SISTER ANGELA

Bad news from the front!

SISTER RITA

The front?

SISTER ANGELA

Yeah. From Cardinal Doom, Gloom and Grumpy.

SISTER IRENE

A little respect please, Sister.

SISTER ANGELA

How little should I make that?

# "BROADWAY ANGELS"

17.

SISTER MARY DAVID

There she goes again!

SISTER ANGELA

I'm sorry, dear sister, but I'm a little old to attend the "Optimism 101" class! What do you think?

SISTER MARY DAVID

You can't even spell "optimism."

SISTER IRENE

Well, I will admit to you all that it wasn't very good news at all!

SISTER ANNA

Oh no, it certainly was not.

SISTER MARY DAVID

We expected that.

SISTER ANGELA

(TO SISTER MARY DAVID) Look here, Sister Mary Sunshine, Wile E. Coyote stands in the middle of the desert in those stupid Warner Brothers cartoons and expects a big boulder to fall on him - but not the Titanic! Catch my drift?

SISTER MARY DAVID

The Titanic, Sister?

SISTER ANGELA

(EMOTIONALLY, BUT FUNNY) OK, OK, forget the Titanic! The cockamamie Greyhound bus will be here to pick up us, our bags and our Rosary Beads on Saturday morning at 4:45 AM. To take us to God-forsaken Buffalo! Before Easter! Penguins don't go to Buffalo! Especially before Easter! Imagine this: The Sun isn't up at 4:45 AM! But we will be, because the bulldozers arrive at Seven! Is that Titanic enough for you?

SISTER RITA

What is bulldozers?

SISTER ANGELA

Stubborn lesbians.

**(CONTINUED)**

"BROADWAY ANGELS"

18.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Will you stop that please?

SISTER RITA

We need pray more. Maybe pray each prayer twice, just in case.

SISTER IRENE

God is not hard of hearing.

SISTER ANGELA

But sometimes, he doesn't answer his e mail.

SISTER IRENE

Well, Sisters, let's hope that this time, he does.

BLACKOUT  
END OF THE SCENE

MUSIC #6A: PRAYING OUR LITTLE PLAYOFF

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ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

*(We are back outside the Convent. The STORM is still going on, but it is much calmer. GABRIEL and MICHAEL enter. They are wearing normal clothing and they are dragging a large trunk - with a lot more difficulty than an Angel should experience.)*

MUSIC #6A: PRAYING OUR LITTLE PLAYOFF ENDS WITH DIALOGUE

MICHAEL

You just had to doubt Him, didn't you? You just had to have one last best show.

GABRIEL

I'm entitled to an opinion, you know.

MICHAEL

Since when?

GABRIEL

I thought it was called "free will?"

MICHAEL

Not for you. Not for me. And not for anything with wings.

GABRIEL

All I did was offer a logical Mr. Spock-like perception of wisdom.

MICHAEL

Oh really? Look here, logical one, that little declaration of independence of yours just cost us our angelic powers, until this little annunciation mission is over. You doubted Him, and I got blamed for "going along." I have never been stripped of my powers in all of these centuries!

GABRIEL

Well, I haven't either! I was blown away when Yahweh did that.

**(CONTINUED)**



MICHAEL

You better pray Lucifer doesn't hear of this!

GABRIEL

Now, *that* would be embarrassing!

MICHAEL

Pick a stronger word, will you?

GABRIEL

But I'm your best friend up there. Why wasn't I consulted? Now we're stuck. How do we go, about telling those nuns, as mere mortal men, that because of their many prayers to heaven, that they have just come into the possession of one hundred and fifty thousand winning scratcher lottery tickets. All from the great state of Vermont, ranging from five dollars to a million dollars each, which just for water cooler gossip, you understand, has just been delivered, "manna style," from heaven. *Why?* Well, because these sweet nuns didn't pray to Saint Jude! Oh No! Lets not be silly! They prayed to *you*, their patron angel, and their patron saint! Now, isn't that special? Warm and cozy and even  
(a beat)

*saccharine !*

(another beat)

Now, just how do you think that bit of news is going to go over? Especially coming from two famous, ex-archangel schmucks, who have no "little miracles" at their fingertips, and who are now ringing the doorbell, mortal style, in the middle of these nuns' eviction! How do you think that is going to go over?

MICHAEL

Not well

GABRIEL

Not well? You're a bigger cockeyed optimist than Nellie Forbush!

MICHAEL

Oh, I just love Rodgers and Hammerstein.

GABRIEL

Will you stop that, please? If you want to do something for musical theatre, then stop doing

**(MORE)**

**(CONTINUED)**

miracles for Andrew Lloyd Webber! "Phantom in Pittsburgh?" Give me a break!

MICHAEL

So how would you tell them?

GABRIEL

Me? Why heck, bro, that's a no-brainer.

**MUSIC #7: TELL 'EM A WHOPPER, TELL 'EM A LIE**

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

*(sings)*

TELL 'EM A WHOPPER, TELL 'EM A LIE!  
NOW THAT WE'RE NOT ANGELS, IT'S A PLOY WE CAN TRY  
WE'LL MAKE UP A STORY, THAT'S AS BOLD AS THE SKY!  
SO TELL 'EM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER  
DO IT UP BROWN, NO STOPPER  
TELL 'EM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER. TELL 'EM A LIE

MICHAEL

*(spoken)*

And we're not in enough trouble as it is?

GABRIEL

*(resumes singing)*

TELLING THE TRUTH HERE, THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE  
DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF HERE WE'LL BE SOUNDING NAIVE  
SO TELL 'EM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER!  
DO IT UP BROWN, NO STOPPER!  
TELL THEM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER!  
OVER THE RIDGE: SELL THEM A BRIDGE  
GIVE 'EM A BAG OF GOODIES THAT THEY WILL SURELY BUY!  
TELL THEM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER! TELL 'EM A LIE!

MICHAEL

*(spoken)*

I've never told a "whopper" in my entire life. And as that old song goes, "That's a long long time."

GABRIEL

Hey Irving Berlin, you've never been reduced to a mortal being in your entire life either!  
Desperate times call for desperate measures.

GABRIEL (CONT'D (CONT'D)

*(resumes singing)*

THINK TRICKY DICK HERE, A PRESIDENT'S PLOY  
THINK REALLY SICK HERE, MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY THIS  
WE'LL GET OUT OF THIS UNDERHANDEDLY  
ONLY AFTER WE'VE CONCEIVED SO CAREFULLY  
TELL THEM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER. TELL 'EM A LIE

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

*(spoken)*

Look, Gabriel, call it research. We're stuck being mortals just like Moses was stuck without the land of milk and honey. So let's act like Man so we can understand the heart, mind and psyches of Man.

MICHAEL

And what happens if God gets really mad at us?

GABRIEL

I don't think so. Besides, how much worse can it be?

MICHAEL

Don't forget the pitchforked wonder. He has a theme park that just won't quit!

GABRIEL

Look, we're safe enough for now. God ain't going to take over the constant messages we're in charge of!

*(a beat)*

You know what? Speak of the Devil, I think He's made another bet with Lucifer. He loves doing that, you know. That's why we got what we got! He's never gotten over the fun he had with dear old Job!

MICHAEL

And He does this even though He knows the outcome?

GABRIEL

God treats men's lives like new math. He poses the problem, throws it into your life like a spot quiz, and even though He knows how it will turn out, He just wants to see how Mankind gets to the same answer.

MICHAEL

You know what? You're absolutely right!

**(CONTINUED)**

# "BROADWAY ANGELS"

23.

MICHAEL & GABRIEL

*(sing together)*

TELL 'EM A WHOPPER, TELL 'EM A LIE  
NOW WE'RE NOT ANGELS, WE CAN TRY  
MAKE UP A STORY THAT'S AS WILD AS THE SKY

MICHAEL & GABRIEL (CONT'D)

*(singing together)*

SO TELL 'EM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER  
DO IT UP BROWN, NO STOPPER,  
TELL 'EM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER TELL 'EM A LIE  
THERE'S TIME WHEN LIFE'S DILEMMAS  
THROW A CURVE IN YOUR DESIGN TRUTH IS NEVER UNDERSTOOD  
SO GIVE A FAR-FETCHED LINE  
TELLING THE TRUTH HERE, THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE  
DONT HAVE ANY PROOF HERE WE'LL BE SOUNDING NAIVE  
SO TELL 'EM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER. DO IT UP BROWN, NO STOPPER  
TELL 'EM A GREAT BIG WHOPPER TELL 'EM A LIE

MICHAEL

So who do we tell these nuns we are anyway?

GABRIEL

It's gotta be good.

MICHAEL

Yeah. We're a little too majestic to pose as the "prize patrol" from Publisher's Clearing House.

GABRIEL

Where are these nuns headed?

MICHAEL

Buffalo.

GABRIEL

Buffalo? It's Hell in a hand basket in Buffalo!

MICHAEL

Greyhound bus. Saturday. 4:45 AM.

GABRIEL

4:45 AM?

MICHAEL

You got it!

**(CONTINUED)**

GABRIEL

God didn't get up that early when he created the world!

MICHAEL

Go figure.

GABRIEL

Guess anyone going to Buffalo has to sneak into town.

MICHAEL

It's got quite a reputation. Like Jersey.

GABRIEL

Nothing like that place. When a Broadway show bombs, they send the sets to Jersey to be burned. I remember back in the 1980's, the whole State got this amazing electrical blackout. The power was out for eleven days. Lots of prayers that time! It almost put the place out of business.

MICHAEL

Really? Poor old Garden State.

GABRIEL

And I don't know who was applauding more, the city of New York, or the Statue of Liberty

*(a beat)*

Which is tough to do with a torch in one hand.

MICHAEL

So what do we say?

GABRIEL

I got it! Remember about two years ago when the dear sisters at the Convent was short on potatoes? Those nuns put a statue of Saint Anthony under the bed with half a potato and a note pleading for more.

MICHAEL

And Anthony pleaded for a miracle. And because God can't resist Saint Anthony, dear Yahweh sent these very same nuns a surplus truck full of half-potatoes.

*(a beat)*

Now, how does that help us?

GABRIEL

Hey, wait a minute! There's a lottery ticket sitting under the statue of Saint Anthony in that Convent right now.

MICHAEL

But these lottery tickets will be worthless if we cut them in half.

GABRIEL

I know that! Look, this is Easter week. Here's what we'll do. We'll pose as Catholic city garbage men, and tell the nuns that somebody threw the tickets in the dump and, being very good Catholic garbage guys..

MICHAEL

You mean very *stupid* Catholic garbage guys...

GABRIEL

That too! These devout garbage guys have both heard of the poor nuns eviction in the papers, and they thought after just receiving the sacraments, and with the pure kindness of their hearts that the nuns might just be able to use them.

MICHAEL

You're pretty sneaky without wings.

GABRIEL

I'm *desperate* without wings. However, if we do this right, and claim "temporary insanity" we might be able to get back in God's good graces.

MICHAEL

This might require a little Purgatory time, you know. And if I go down, you're going down with me. Capice?

GABRIEL

No problem. Just as long as it isn't Buffalo!

**BLACKOUT**  
**END OF THE SCENE**

**MUSIC #7A: A WHOPPER OF A PLAYOFF**

ACT ONE

SCENE FOUR

*(The LIGHTS rise on the office of Cardinal Joseph MONOHAN. The decor of the office betrays an owner who obviously has never taken a vow of poverty - or of anything else for that matter. The desk is cluttered with hor d'oeuvres of every description. MONOHAN is seated at his desk smoking a big fat Cuban cigar, drinking a glass of a fine spirit and talking on the telephone.*

MUSIC #7A: A WHOPPER OF A PLAYOFF ENDS WITH DIALOGUE

MONOHAN

INTO THE PHONE) Why yes, Howard. It's a done deal. I sent the notice to the Sisters a week ago.

*(he listens: a beat)*

Yeah, they have to be out by Saturday. I'm sending them to Buffalo.

*(he listens: another beat)*

Yeah, yeah, who goes deliberately to Buffalo?

*(he listens: another beat)*

Well there's this little Catholic museum there that has ten beds, two baths, a kitchen and a community room.

*(he listens: another beat)*

It' was once an arbor museum! No, Howie, not for Catholic trees. Just a museum that protects endangered trees. You know Joyce Kilmer with a rosary and a medicine stick. Oh yeah. Important to the American Independence or some such nonsense. The Daughters of the American Revolution gave up the place in February-- but the termites didn't!

*(he listens: another beat)*

Yeah, Howie, but the old broads will probably croak before those little white savages anyway.

*(he listens: another beat)*

What's that? No, no, the dozers can't be there on Sunday. It's Easter. We still have to keep the that day holy, you know.

*(he listens: another beat)*

**(MORE)**

**(CONTINUED)**

Well at least until I finish saying the big Mass in the cathedral.

*(he listens: another beat)*

Oh this deal is going to pay for a lot of our mistakes, old friend. Hey, Okay, buddy, no problem. Goodbye.

*(MONOHAN puts the phone down just as Father Michael KELLY enters. He is a young Irish priest. He has a ledger in his hands.)*

FATHER KELLY

Good morning, Your Eminence.

MONOHAN

It's a beautiful morning!

FATHER KELLY

Yes indeed. When you're planning something devious, it's always good to have the weather on your side.

MONOHAN

You're not going to save those nuns with benign sarcasm, you know.

FATHER KELLY

I only reached benign? Gee, let me go out there, come back in and take better aim.

MONOHAN

Forgetting who I am, Huh?

FATHER KELLY

I could never forget who you are, your Eminence. That's why I'm leaving you, and the Church. Four more days. That's it, and I'm out of here! If I wanted to be on the sneaky squad, I'd go work for the IRS!

MONOHAN

The IRS? You don't say?

FATHER KELLY

I should have walked out the day I discovered this little "masterpiece." But no. Dear old Father Kelly is finishing the prepping the books and ledgers, fair and square. I'm doing the payroll, just like the nice guy who I am.

**(CONTINUED)**



FATHER KELLY (CONT'D)

I only gave you a week's notice because my mother told me it was the Christian thing to do.

MONOHAN

She's absolutely correct.

FATHER KELLY

My mother also thinks being smashed out of her head is the Eleventh Commandment.

MONOHAN

Wouldn't mind that commandment, myself.

FATHER KELLY

Figures.

MONOHAN

Do you have any idea how much that property is worth?

FATHER KELLY

Why yes I do, you old fox. You know it was guys like you who tortured Galileo!

MONOHAN

I only do what is best for the Archdiocese.

FATHER KELLY

The Archdiocese won't see a dime. I saw the check from the developer. It had your name on it.

MONOHAN

A simple mistake, I'm sure

FATHER KELLY

It's "Love Thy Neighbor", not "Screw thy neighbor!"  
Although I've seen you do the latter many times  
*(a beat)*

It's amazing just how many "flower ladies" this Archdiocese has.

*(The developer POTTER LOWMAN enters, unobserved.)*

MONOHAN

So what are you going to do? Blow the whistle on me?

MUSIC #8: I'M GONNA PRAY

FATHER KELLY

*(sings)*

SOME PEOPLE PRAY FOR AN END OF THEIR TROUBLES.  
NO BREAKING OF BUBBLES CALLED DREAMS.  
AND SOME PEOPLE PRAY TO ESCAPE.  
BUT A THING THEY CALL LIVING PORTRAYS  
A VERY MEAN VILLAIN: THE BAD PENICILLIN  
PEOPLE IN LIFE JUST LIKE YOU.  
SO I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'M GONNA DO.  
WITH YOU I'M GONNA PRAY FOR GOD'S GREATEST ANTIC.  
A GREAT BIG TITANIC: THE SINKING OF YOU.  
I'M GONNA PRAY THAT YOU GET COME UPPENCE.  
GET LEFT WITH MERE TUPPENCE OF WHAT YOU HAD DUE.  
I'M GONNA PRAY FOR LIGHTNING AND THUNDER.  
YOUR DOWNFALL AND PLUNDER: AN EARTHQUAKE WILL DO.  
I'M GONNA PRAY WITH A THOUSAND MONKS CHANTING,  
RAVING AND RANTING: A WITCH DOCTOR TOO.  
I'M LEAVING THIS LIFE WHERE THE GOOD BOOK'S ABUSED  
AND GOODNESS CONFUSED WITH AMBITION GALORE  
I'M LEAVING THIS PHONY WORLD OF RELIGION.  
I'M JUST NOT A PIGEON NO MORE.  
I'M GONNA PRAY I'M GONNA PRAY.  
I'M GONNA PRAY FOR THE DOWNFALL OF YOU!  
I'M GONNA PRAY I'M GONNA PRAY!  
I'M GONNA PRAY FOR THE DOWNFALL OF YOU  
AND YOU'LL NEVER KNOW  
HOW MUCH I KNOW OR WHEN I'LL DO SOMETHING NEW!

*(POTTER grabs a heavy object and  
sneaks up behind Father Kelly.)*

FATHER KELLY (CONT'D)

I'M GONNA PRAY. I'M GONNA PRAY!  
I'M GONNA PRAY FOR THE DOWNFALL OF YOU  
THE DOWNFALL OF DEAR OLD  
YOU, YOU, YOU, YOU, YOU: THE END OF DEAR OLD YOU

*(POTTER bashes Kelly upside the head,  
and he goes down hard.)*

MONOHAN

So you're going to pray for the end of me, are you? I  
think not.

**(CONTINUED)**

POTTER

So what do you want to do with him?

MONOHAN

We'll put him where nobody will ever find him.

POTTER

Where? What?

MONOHAN

I have it! It's perfectly devious.

POTTER

You know what? You could have been King Herod back in the Bible days.

MONOHAN

Maybe I was, dear boy. Maybe I was. Now, I'll tell you what you do.

BLACKOUT.

END OF THE SCENE

MUSIC #9: PLAYOFF: "THE PACKAGE"

Perusal  
Only FOR  
NOT FOR  
PRODUCTION

ACT ONE

SCENE FIVE

*(It's Good Friday morning. THE LIGHTS rise back in the convent. The NUNS are entertaining GABRIEL and MICHAEL, in their study. THE TWO ANGELS are dressed as City Garbage Men.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

This is all very interesting. You say that you gentlemen are Catholic?

GABRIEL

Oh yes, indeed, sister. All the way!

MICHAEL

Devout!

GABRIEL

More than you'll ever dream - or imagine - possible.

*(SISTER ANGELA gives a priceless expression to that piece of bull shit. SISTER IRENE enters with a tray. On the tray are cups of coffee, which she will give Gabriel and Michael. The trunk full of lottery tickets sits closed next to the nuns and the two angels.)*

SISTER IRENE

Here we are! Coffee for our guests!

MICHAEL

Coffee?

GABRIEL

(LOOKS TO MICHAEL) Oh Sisters, I don't think my friend and I drink... coffee. It's so mortal. I mean, it's bad for flying. I mean, trying.

SISTER ANGELA

Every garbage man I know in this city drinks coffee.

MICHAEL

They do?

**(CONTINUED)**

GABRIEL

Really?

SISTER MARY DAVID

But that's a matter of...

SISTER ANGELA

You can bet your beads on it.

*(SISTER MARY DAVID, disbelieving Sister Angela's audacity, does an extreme double-take.)*

MICHAEL

Now, now, sisters, I wouldn't say that!

GABRIEL

Not the beads!

MICHAEL

Definitely not the beads.

SISTER ANGELA

Especially what we nuns add to it!

*(GABRIEL and MICHAEL react.)*

SISTER ANGELA (CONT'D)

It's not easy being a nun these days

MICHAEL

Was it ever?

SISTER ANGELA

Yeah when Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote "The Sound of Music" it was a breeze!

MICHAEL

I just love that show!

GABRIEL

You would.

SISTER MARY DAVID

You, gentlemen told Sister Rita-- she's the nun who answered the door, and let you in, and dragged this trunk in here with the two of you.

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER RITA

I'm sorry, sister

SISTER MARY DAVID

It's all right. As I said, Sister Rita, here has said that this trunk was very heavy and that you have a really big surprise for us.

SISTER RITA

That's what they told me. Honest, sister, they...

SISTER MARY DAVID

That's enough, sister

SISTER ANGELA

I'll say.

MICHAEL

Look, we're pretty sincere here.

SISTER ANGELA

That's what they all say.

MICHAEL

(BRIGHTLY) There is no "sin" in "sincere."

SISTER ANGELA

Give me a break.

GABRIEL

Ah, ha, I can tell faith is not here

SISTER ANGELA

Yeah, it left the building on Tuesday. It refused to go to Buffalo.

*(a beat)*

Hope and charity weren't far behind!

SISTER MARY DAVID

Well, gentlemen, it's not that we don't believe you.

SISTER ANGELA

And we don't.

*(a beat)*

Would you?

MICHAEL

It isn't the first time we've had to prove ourselves.

GABRIEL

Hell no.

*(MICHAEL stares at Gabriel for that outburst. As he stares, not paying attention here, SISTER IRENE throws SISTER ANGELA a big reel of strong rope.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

You told Sister Rita you found some... tickets?

GABRIEL

Lottery tickets. Wanna see?

*(GABRIEL opens the trunk and the SISTERS gasp. SISTER ANGELA gets up, shuts the trunk hard and makes the Sign of the Cross.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

And you thought of us?

MICHAEL

Why, yes we did.

SISTER ANGELA

It didn't happen to say "Ten Foolish Virgins" on a sign somewhere outside, did it?

GABRIEL

Now that's funny.

SISTER ANGELA

I'm glad you thought so. (QUIETLY TO SISTER ANNA)  
Call the cops quick.

*(SISTER ANNA gets up quietly to make the phone call.)*

GABRIEL

We heard about your eviction!

SISTER MARY DAVID

Did you now?

GABRIEL

It's all over the newspapers.

SISTER ANGELA

It could be...

*(a beat)*

In its present form!

SISTER MARY DAVID

And what makes you think, we could use spent lottery tickets?

MICHAEL

Who said they were spent?

SISTER IRENE

They're not?

*(SISTER MARY DAVID opens and then shuts the trunk again.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

They're not.

SISTER ANGELA

New lottery tickets?

GABRIEL

Well of course they are!

SISTER ANGELA

If this story gets any thicker, I'm serving day old oatmeal next!

SISTER MARY DAVID

Why wouldn't you keep them yourselves?

MICHAEL

Oh, we couldn't do that!

GABRIEL

Heaven's no. (ONLY AS AN ANGEL WOULD SAY THIS)  
What the hell would we spend them on?



SISTER ANGELA

Buffalo's looking better and better.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Look, gentlemen, it's not that we don't believe you...

SISTER ANGELA

And we don't.

MICHAEL

Oh ye of little faith.

SISTER ANGELA

Not to mention tap shoes and Crisco.

SISTER MARY DAVID

As I was saying, it's not that we don't believe you, and faith is a wonderful thing, but nobody, not even our very own mothers would give us...

SISTER ANGELA

Faith has nothing to do with it. Sure, we're in a big problem. We're the first nuns, in the history of the church to be evicted over Exxon. Now the school closes. Now our dreams all go on hold.

MICHAEL

These nuns have hopes and dreams!

SISTER ANGELA

Just we because we put on a habit and a wimple, doesn't mean we're dead from the neck up, you know! We've always wanted to form a nun's choir.

*(SISTER ANNA returns from her "mission" and quietly sits back down looking very guilty.)*

MICHAEL

We both sing in choirs- big ones. Easter's a big day for us.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Is it now? Us too! We won't get that chance *this* year!

SISTER ANGELA

But since we don't exactly want to call ourselves "The Sing-Sing Sisters"-- if you catch my drift. We don't need stolen lottery tickets to save us from...

SISTER ANNA

Don't say the "B" word again. I beg you.

MICHAEL

Stolen?

GABRIEL

We would never...

SISTER MARY DAVID

Gentlemen, we don't wish to seem ungrateful, and we don't think that you personally stole them. But there's a lot of lottery tickets in that trunk of yours. It's full to the brim., and somebody quite obviously...

**MUSIC #9: WE'RE NOT AS DUMB AS PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK**

SISTER ANGELA

What Sister Beat Around the bush is trying to say, is...

SISTER ANGELA (CONT'D)

*(sings)*

WE'RE NOT PAWNS IN SOME GREAT CON HERE.  
AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GONE ON HERE.  
OR WHAT SCAM YOU BIRDS ARE TRYING HERE TO PULL.  
WE'RE NOT DUMB CLUCKS IN A CLOISTER.  
OR THOSE STUPID LITTLE OYSTERS  
THAT THE WALRUS AND THE CARPENTER KNEW WELL.  
WE DIDN'T FALL OFF THE TURNIP TRUCK ON THURSDAY.  
BORN YESTERDAY OR TRANSFORMED INTO ROOKS.  
WE'RE NOT AS SIMPLE AS THEY SAY IN BOOKS.  
WE'RE NOT AS DUMB AS PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK.

THE SISTERS

*(sing)*

NOT AS DUMB, NOT AS DUMB, NOT AS DUMB  
AS PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK

SISTER ANGELA

WE WEREN'T BORN HERE JUST LAST MONDAY  
OR SOME DUMB CLUCKS ON A SUNDAY!

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER ANGELA (CONT'D)

*(continues to sing)*

OR UNDERNEATH THESE WINTHROPS ARE WE DENSE!  
NONE OF US WERE BORN ON VENUS.  
WE'VE GOT BRAINS THOUGH WE'VE NO PENIS.  
AND WE'RE JUST NOT BUYING WHAT YOU HAVE TO FENCE

THE SISTERS

OOH, OOH.

SISTER ANGELA

YOU JUST ARRIVE TRY TO CONNIVE.  
THIS GREAT BIG LOAD OF CRAP.  
YOU TRY TO PUT GOOD FORTUNE IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR LAPS.  
BUT WE'RE NOT BUYING TRICKY DICKY  
GET RICH QUICK SCHEMES, VERY SLICKY.  
THOUGH IT MEANS WE LAND IN BUFFALO.  
WE'RE NOT AS DUMB AS PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK. NO, NO, NO!  
WE'RE NOT AS DUMB AS PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK!

*(SISTER ANGELA throws a bundle of rope  
to each Sister. The SISTERS tie up Gabriel  
and Michael.)*

THE SISTERS

WE'RE NOT AS DUMB AS PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK!  
YOU JUST ARRIVE, TRY TO CONNIVE  
THIS GREAT BIG LOAD OF CRAP! YOU TRY TO PUT GOOD FORTUNE  
IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR LAPS.  
BUT WE'RE NOT BUYING TRICKY DICKY.  
GET RICH QUICK SCHEMES, VERY SLICKY.  
THOUGH IT MEANS WE LAND IN BUFFALO.  
WE'RE NOT SO SURE OF THE SCHEME YOU'D LIKE TO COOK!

*(DANCE SEQUENCE. We hear SIRENS in  
the distance.)*

THE SISTERS (CONT'D)

NO, NO, NO!  
BUT WE'RE NOT AS DUMB AS PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK.

*(The POLICE burst in and take the  
flabbergasted Gabriel and Michael into  
custody. The POLICE begin to lead their  
captives toward the door.)*

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER ANGELA

What've you got to say for yourselves now, boys?

MICHAEL & GABRIEL

We're telling you nuns the truth.

SISTER ANGELA

I hate to be an apostle in a rowboat here.

GABRIEL

That hurt.

SISTER ANGELA

But you got no proof, boys.

MICHAEL

You want proof?

SISTER MARY DAVID

We should give them a chance.

POLICEMAN #1

Make up your minds, Sisters. Please?

POLICEMAN #2

Yes, sisters, that would be very helpful.

SISTER ANGELA

(TO SISTER MARY DAVID) Butt out, Sister Mary Sunshine. (TO POLICEMAN #1) That direct enough for you.

POLICEMAN #1

Yes, sisters, very direct. Thank you for your help in this little scheme.

MICHAEL

Scheme? I'm crushed!

SISTER ANGELA

(SING SONGY) I'll play Mary Magdalen and throw the first stone.

GABRIEL

That really hurt.

*(THE POLICEMEN start to move the mortal angels towards the door)*

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Here's your proof! Look under your statue of Saint Anthony.

MICHAEL

There's a lotto ticket underneath - with a note from Sister Rita begging for a last minute miracle.

SISTER ANGELA

Try another line, boys!

POLICEMAN #2

Tough bunch of penguins!

SISTER ANGELA

Off with their heads!

POLICEMAN #2

Yeah, the Captain was thinking about bringing back the guillotine.

SISTER ANGELA

Paint their roses red, boys.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Could we please refrain from the Queen of Hearts routine?

SISTER ANGELA

And if it were up to you, sister. Al Capone would be leading the Tin Pan Alley Heavenly Choir!

*(a beat: To the Cops)*

Don't let them get away!

POLICEMAN #2

Sister Angela, you're just as crazy as you were when I was in Seventh Grade!

SISTER ANGELA

Crazier, and I still have my medicine stick.

POLICEMAN #2

I'll just bet you do, Sister.

**(CONTINUED)**

"BROADWAY ANGELS"

41.

SISTER ANGELA

Take these nut cases to the Twilight Zone!

POLICEMAN #1

We'll take good care of them, sister.

*(The POLICE start to take the two ex-Archangels away.)*

MICHAEL

Nut cases? That hurt worse than the apostle in the rowboat.

SISTER ANGELA

Good.

GABRIEL

Wait'll Raphael gets wind of this one.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Raphael?

*(And they're gone!)*

SISTER ANGELA

Those birds never had a chance with me around here.

SISTER RITA

I did do that.

SISTER ANGELA

You did do what?

SISTER RITA

Don't yell at me, but I put lotto ticket under Saint Anthony like they said. I wrote word, "please," on ticket.

THE SISTERS

O.M.G!

**MUSIC #9A: NOT AS DUMB REPRISE**

*(The SISTERS and all begin to corner SISTER ANGELA.)*

**(CONTINUED)**

"BROADWAY ANGELS"

42.

SISTER MARY DAVID  
WE'RE NOT SURE OF THE SCHEME YOU'D LIKE TO COOK  
BUT WE'RE NOT AS DUMB AS PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK

MUSIC #9A: NOT AS DUMB REPRISE segues into...

MUSIC #9B: A DUMB PLAYOFF

BLACKOUT  
END OF THE SCENE

Perusal  
Only  
NOT FOR  
PRODUCTION

ACT ONE

SCENE SIX

*(The next day. Holy Saturday. THE LIGHTS rise inside the City Jail. MICHAEL and GABRIEL are locked up in the same cell with ARTHUR DONAHUE, the district's devilish drunk. DONAHUE is asleep and occasionally snoring at a volume which Gabriel and Michael find very disturbing.)*

GABRIEL

I can't believe this. I just can't believe it. The two most famous Archangels, in all of Creation's long history are now spending time in jail on Holy Saturday for being charitable to a group of Dominican nuns. You, Patron Saint Schmuck, and me "Mr. Blameless Victim."

MICHAEL

Pronouns please. Let's not do drama here.

GABRIEL

Oh, to Hell with that!

MICHAEL

I beg your pardon!

GABRIEL

We're mortals now! None of that holier-than-crap counts anymore.

MICHAEL

I beg your pardon? Crap? Want to be a mortal forever?

GABRIEL

Bite your tongue, halo boy. This is the worst moment of my life!

MICHAEL

Well, it's no great shakes to me either.

*(DONAHUE emits a loud snore.)*

GABRIEL

Who the hell was that?

**(CONTINUED)**



MICHAEL

Local color?

GABRIEL

Looks like he's more colorful than Disneyland.

MICHAEL

Walt would give you "the eyebrow" for that remark.

GABRIEL

Well, brother, He certainly thinks so.

*(a beat)*

So I have a question. A basic one, really.

**MUSIC #10: HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?**

GABRIEL

*(sings)*

HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE? WE CAN'T JUST UP AND DISAPPEAR  
TROUBLE IS, I HAVE THIS FEAR THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING!

*(DONAHUE bolts upright and listens.)*

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

HOW DO WE GET OUT OF THIS? HOW MANY BACKSIDES MUST WE KISS?  
WE CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS  
FROM HERE THERE'S NO WINNING!  
THIS IS INSANITY, SOMEHOW PROFANITY  
WITH A TOUCH OF BLASPHEMY THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE  
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN NOW? THIS SCENE IS NUTS AND HOW!  
THIS THING MAY JUST ENDOW PERMANENT MARKING HERE  
I'VE HEARD HOW MAN HAS TRIALS SOME ARE THE DEVIL'S WILES  
BAD LUCK GOES MILES AND MILES  
WHEN THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU  
SO WHAT'S THE ANSWER HERE?  
THERE'S NO SOLUTION. WE HAVE NO MYSTIC NEAR  
OUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL SIMPLY BE FORGOTTEN, DON'T YOU SEE?  
WE GOTTA GET OUR WINGS BACK  
THOSE WOND'ROUS FLYING THINGS BACK  
WE GOTTA GET OUR WINGS BACK RIGHT NOW

DONAHUE

Hey, you birds.

MICHAEL

Now, look who you woke up.

**(CONTINUED)**

GABRIEL

(TO DONAHUE) Don't mind us.

DONAHUE

The Hell with that. What do you mean, get your wings back? Wings, like, you guys are birds or something?

MICHAEL

He's all yours, baby!

GABRIEL

You just wouldn't understand.

DONAHUE

I wasn't always a drunk, you know. Try me.

GABRIEL

It's a Catholic thing.

MICHAEL

It's a Jewish thing also. Don't forget they love me too.

GABRIEL

(TO MICHAEL) Would you stay out of this, please?

DONAHUE

Oh, here we go. I've been both.

GABRIEL

Did you now? You became one of each, huh?

DONAHUE

And a Baptist and a Presbyterian.

*(Donahue laughs like hell!)*

DONAHUE (CONT'D)

And a little priest. Very little. It started with the wine.

GABRIEL

Usually does.

Donahue

But then God and I had a little disagreement.

MICHAEL

This, I gotta hear!

**(CONTINUED)**

DONAHUE

It was a "power" thing.

MICHAEL

A power thing?

DONAHUE

God wanted "Thy will be done" and I wanted "ME"

MICHAEL

There's a metaphor going on here that's starting to make my skin crawl.

DONAHUE

That might be fun to watch.

MICHAEL

I beg your pardon?

DONAHUE

You boys, gay?

MICHAEL

Hardly.

GABRIEL

It was nuns who got us thrown in here.

DONAHUE

(SLYLY) I'll be damned. Really? You boys look like the angelic type.

GABRIEL

Past tense.

DONAHUE

Of course. Of course. Naked. Corset. Habit. Women haven't been trustworthy since the Garden of Eden!

*(DONAHUE laughs)*

MICHAEL

You can say that again.

GABRIEL

Your Freudian slip is showing.

DONAHUE

Well boys, I have a feeling you're in for the long haul.  
You got a lawyer?

GABRIEL

Fresh out.

DONAHUE

That's tough in this country. Me? They just let me sleep  
it off, and then release me.

GABRIEL

You could reform.

DONAHUE

Now what the Hell would I want to go and do that for?  
Sober or drunk, I really can't lose here. You can. But I  
can't.

GABRIEL

He's reminding me of someone we know very well

DONAHUE

Really? What a small, small world.  
*(a beat)*

After all.

GABRIEL

If he starts singing that damned thing, we really are  
doomed.

MICHAEL

I know this guy!

DONAHUE

We're on the tips of each others tongues.

MICHAEL

I certainly hope not.

*(The JAILER enters with the SISTERS.)*

GABRIEL

What are they doing here?

MICHAEL

Beats the Hell out of me!

**(CONTINUED)**

*(DONAHUE will listen intently. The JAILER unlocks the cell, and the SISTERS enter.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

Gentlemen, the good Sisters and I are here to rectify a huge mistake.

GABRIEL

You are?

SISTER IRENE

Yes, yes, it was all a terrible mistake.

SISTER RITA

We are very sorry that we doubted you.

SISTER ANGELA

Me too. I feel really foolish.

GABRIEL

May I ask why we are witnessing this one hundred and eighty degree turn in your behavior?

SISTER MARY DAVID

Those lottery tickets...

GABRIEL

What about them?

SISTER ANGELA

We tracked them.

SISTER MARY DAVID

They were purchased fair and square.

SISTER RITA

We're rich.

DONAHUE

(ASIDE) Damn!

SISTER MARY DAVID

We've come to bail you out.

SISTER IRENE

Will you ever forgive us?

**(CONTINUED)**

GABRIEL

Certainly, my dear.

MICHAEL

But does anyone know of this?

SISTER IRENE

No. We wanted to bail you out first. The first three tickets alone were worth half a million dollars.

DONAHUE

Half a million dollars?

GABRIEL

You must tell no one.

SISTER IRENE

But why?

MICHAEL

Because the cardinal would never let you keep the money.

DONAHUE

(ASIDE) The cardinal? Interesting.

GABRIEL

You all took a vow of poverty.

SISTER ANGELA

The Hell with that! The hell with poverty.

DONAHUE

Damn!

*(The JAILER and the SISTERS lead  
MICHAEL and GABRIEL from the cell.)*

JAILER

You're free to go, boys. Try and stay out of trouble next time.

MICHAEL

They're ain't gonna be a next time.

JAILER

That's what they all say.

**(CONTINUED)**

*(The JAILER locks the cell door and saunters away.)*

GABRIEL

You can't say "The hell with poverty" You took three vows before God. You're going to have to resign and start a new life.

SISTER MARY DAVID

I hate to say this, but he's right!

MICHAEL

Of course, he's right. That greedy carnivore of a cardinal will devour those lottery winnings.

SISTER MARY DAVID

So we all resign-- then what?

MICHAEL

You'll need a great place to hide.

SISTER ANGELA

Why?

GABRIEL

Because greedy Cardinals have even greedier lawyers.

MICHAEL

With real teeth.

SISTER ANGELA

You got a suggestion?

MICHAEL

Of course.

SISTER MARY DAVID

We ain't going to Buffalo. No way.

GABRIEL

But you are going to New York.

MICHAEL

Broadway to be precise.

SISTER ANGELA

Broadway Angels, no doubt.

**(CONTINUED)**

GABRIEL

Exactly.

SISTER ANGELA

Who are you really?

GABRIEL

We're not garbage men.

SISTER ANGELA

Surprise, surprise!

MICHAEL

We'll tell you later.

GABRIEL

Right now, we've got to get you girls and those tickets to New York.

MICHAEL

There's an abandoned theatre on Forty-Third.

GABRIEL

You girls will take over the dressing rooms.

MICHAEL

And make the stage an altar.

GABRIEL

Nobody will ever know you're there.

SISTER MARY DAVID

This is so exciting.

**MUSIC #11: INCOGNITO**

SISTER ANGELA

No one will know we're there.

SISTER MARY DAVID

*(sings)*

INCOGNITO: WE'LL BE LIVING IN SNEAKY STYLE.  
GONNA LEAVE THIS TOWN A WHILE.  
GONNA GO US SEVERAL MILES INTO OBSCURITY.

**(CONTINUED)**



SISTER MARY DAVID (CONT'D)

INCOGNITO!

NOBODY WILL LEARN OF THIS. THIS PLAN CAN'T EVER MISS  
THIS IS OUR FONDEST WISH, A LIFE OF CONTENTMENT SISTERS  
INCOGNITO. WE'LL BE LIVING THERE IN EASE  
WE'LL BE DOING AS WE PLEASE  
THERE IN OBSCURITY INCOGNITO SOUNDS  
NO TROUBLE WILL COME 'ROUND  
HERE'S A TREASURE THAT WE'VE FOUND  
I'D SAY INCOGNITO SOUNDS OH YES, IT REALLY SOUNDS  
INCOGNITO SOUNDS SO FINE

*(The SISTERS, MICHAEL and GABRIEL  
exit.)*

**MUSIC #11A: DONAHUE'S TRANSFORMATION**

*(DONAHUE makes a transformation. It  
seems the district's devilish drunk really is -  
the Devil.)*

DONAHUE

Incognito, is it? (HE LAUGHS) I don't think so, girls, I  
don't think so.

**MUSIC #11B: TIME TO PACK**

**BLACKOUT**  
**END OF THE SCENE**

ACT ONE

SCENE SEVEN

*(It's EASTER SUNDAY. LIGHTS rise in the Convent study. Pretty much everything is packed now, so none of the settings from before are in place. The SISTERS are frantically trying to organize for the move, but in the style of a well-oiled machine.)*

MUSIC #12: BUSY BUSY, IN A HURRY

THE SISTERS

*(sing together)*

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, IN A HURRY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, IN A FLURRY  
MAKING ALL THE PREPARATIONS, FOR A BRAND NEW SITUATION  
PACKING EVERY ITEM THAT WE OWN  
SHIPPING EVERYTHING TO OUR NEW HOME  
BUSY, BUSY, THINGS ARE HECTIC  
TURN THE GAS OFF AND ELECTRIC  
ROLL THE RUGS UP AND PACK THE BOOKS  
DON'T FORGET THE CUPBOARD HOOKS  
BUSY, BUSY, WE ARE BUSY NOW  
WE WILL MAKE THIS MOVE THIS DAY SOMEHOW  
WE COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED THAT WE'D EVER LEAVE THIS PLACE  
WE COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED THIS BEFORE  
SO HERE WE ARE SO LATE IN LIFE  
HAVING THIS ADVENTURE IT'S A VENTURE  
THAT NO SISTER'S HAD BEFORE  
BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, IN A HURRY. BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, IN A FLURRY  
BUT NO MATTER WHERE WE GO. AT LEAST IT'S NOT OLD BUFFALO  
WE'RE BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, DON'T YOU KNOW?  
DON'T YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU KNOW,  
DON'T YOU KNOW? BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, DON'T YOU KNOW?

SISTER ANGELA

OK, pots and pans are in this crate. Dishes are separate, Irene! Sister Rita, have you packed all the pillowcases and towels?

SISTER RITA

You got it, Chief.

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER MARY DAVID

Chief?

SISTER ANGELA

Somebody has to be organized around here. This is a big organization. I gotta take charge. Make it ship shape.

SISTER MARY DAVID

(SALUTING HER) Oh yes, ma'am... er... Admiral.

SISTER ANGELA

Don't be a smart mouth.

SISTER MARY DAVID

As opposed to what?

SISTER IRENE

This is so exciting, sister. We're going to Broadway!

SISTER MARY DAVID

We're going to reside in a Broadway theatre, dear sister. I wouldn't break out the "Top Hats" and the high heels, just yet!

SISTER ANGELA

Sure beats Buffalo.

SISTER MARY DAVID

I don't think they breathe much in Buffalo.

SISTER ANGELA

True. Point well taken. But you do realize that once we get there we must live very - what's the word we all used back at the jailhouse? Incognito. That is, until Cardinal Monohan accepts our agended resignations.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Oh yes, the red-robed monster.

SISTER IRENE

Why all the hush-hush, Sister?

SISTER MARY DAVID

Because those lottery tickets are mostly unclaimed, and they were all delivered here while we were still nuns under vows.

SISTER ANGELA

Oh the heck with those things! I might just go find me a man.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Oh yeah? And what would you do with him?

SISTER ANGELA

Damn. You know me too well.

SISTER IRENE

Don't we all?

SISTER MARY DAVID

We will still be nuns, sisters, we just won't be under the Archdiocese any longer!

SISTER ANGELA

I wish I could be a fly on the wall when that money-grubbing Monohan discovers the money we're worth.

SISTER MARY DAVID

That would be worth a paid admission.

*(There is a KNOCK at the door. SISTER RITA answers. JERRY, the Fed-Ex guy, enters with a huge crate. HE is young. Not older than twenty four.)*

SISTER ANGELA

What the heck is that? On Easter Sunday?

JERRY

(CALLING OUT) Thanks, Mario, I wouldn't have done this without your help! I'll drop you back home afterwards!  
(TO SISTER MARY DAVID) Hello, sister. Big Delivery for you nuns. Very special next day air. Somebody paid a small fortune getting it here today. Double overtime for me and Mario out there

SISTER MARY DAVID

Well bring it in

*(And Jerry rolls it in)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

Good for you and Mario, Jerry, but we're leaving here.

**(CONTINUED)**

JERRY

I know that! And this huge box was supposed to go direct to Buffalo with the rest of the stuff the Cardinal sent you, super duper rush delivery! But this crate had two addresses: this one and the one in Buffalo. So, my big supervisor checked and saw how heavy it was and he decided to have it delivered here, and let you nuns sort it out.

SISTER MARY DAVID

The Cardinal had this delivered?

JERRY

What can I say?

SISTER MARY DAVID

What would the Cardinal be sending us?

SISTER ANGELA

The remnants of Vatican II.

JERRY

You're so funny, sister.

SISTER ANGELA

Keep those cards and letters coming.

SISTER MARY DAVID

This is crazy.

*(SISTER MARY DAVID signs for the package. The other SISTERS begin opening it.)*

JERRY

Thanks, Sisters. I'll miss you.

SISTER ANGELA

We won't.

JERRY

Sister, you're the reason I gave up the faith when I was an altar boy. You were my Seventh Grade teacher.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Another victim, huh? Along with that poor cop!

SISTER ANGELA

You gave up something else when you were an altar boy too.

JERRY

Father Bright said it came with many blessings

SISTER ANGELA

Yeah that's it, all right! Seat of the pants blessings from Father Bright, with the lights out..

JERRY

Yeah, those were the days

*(a beat)*

So what does a nun do in Buffalo, anyway?

SISTER ANGELA

We penquins look for a cliff we can share with a few Baptist lemmings!

*(a beat)*

But, surprise, we're not going to Buffalo.

JERRY

Really?

SISTER ANGELA

A little change of fortune.

SISTER RITA

I made sandwiches, dear. Come to kitchen, and I'll get some for you and your friend Mario.

JERRY

Thanks, Sister. You know how to please two gay men's hearts.

SISTER ANGELA

Boy, you are easier than I thought.

*(JERRY laughs and goes to the kitchen with Sister Rita.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

So what do you think this is?

SISTER ANGELA

Well, it's not personal salvation. Not from God's favorite.

SISTER MARY DAVID

That's for sure. Well, whatever it is, if we can't use it, we can always give it to the poor.

SISTER ANGELA

Oh yes, the meek inheriting more of the Earth.

*(The SISTERS open the crate. It is filled with the unconscious FATHER KELLY . HE is dressed in a nun's outfit. SISTER IRENE screams, which brings the other SISTERS around.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

What is it?

SISTER ANGELA

A very desperate recruit, or a very ugly nun. Or both.

SISTER MARY DAVID

I've heard of desperate recruitment tactics, but this is ridiculous.

SISTER ANGELA

Coming from the Cardinal, I am not surprised.

SISTER IRENE

And just think, this crate was supposed to go to Buffalo.

SISTER ANGELA

Something it richly deserves.

*(FATHER KELLY comes to.)*

FATHER KELLY

What hit me?

SISTER ANGELA

Oh my God, it's a man.

*(a beat)*

My prayers have been answered.

SISTER MARY DAVID

In your dreams.

FATHER KELLY

What hit me?

SISTER MARY DAVID

A touch of Halloween, maybe?

SISTER ANGELA

This isn't Hollywood, so it can't be a publicity stunt.

FATHER KELLY

You're those Vermont nuns, aren't you?

SISTER ANGELA

Why yes we are!

*(a beat)*

Longing to be one of us are we? . er...

FATHER KELLY

Father Kelly. How do you do?

SISTER ANGELA

Cardinal Monohan's Father Kelly?

FATHER KELLY

One and the same, but no longer.

SISTER ANGELA

Sounds like Archdiocesan double-talk to me.

FATHER KELLY

What I meant to say is... How can I say this?

SISTER ANGELA

Fresh, direct and honest might be refreshing.

FATHER KELLY

Well, I am no longer with the Cardinal.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Dressed like that, you may no longer be sane.

FATHER KELLY

I think I was knocked out.



SISTER ANGELA

In that outfit, you could be knocked up, and never be the wiser.

FATHER KELLY

You're funny.

SISTER ANGELA

Keeps me from going crazy.

FATHER KELLY

Look Sisters, I know all about you.

SISTER MARY DAVID

We've heard of you, ourselves. You have a reputation.

FATHER KELLY

Past tense. I've offered my resignation to the Cardinal, and I'm leaving the priesthood.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Leaving the Cardinal doesn't require great motivation, but why the priesthood?

FATHER KELLY

The corruption is pretty bad.

SISTER MARY DAVID

The Cardinal's corruption is pretty bad. Who do you think bought that cheese sandwich with the supposed image of the Virgin Mother on it? Then resold it to a museum for double the money.

FATHER KELLY

I handled the deal.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Really?

FATHER KELLY

And I'm ashamed.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Somebody had to do it.

FATHER KELLY

The Cardinal is a piece of work.

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER IRENE

He's a piece all right. Cold as a statue.

SISTER ANGELA

Yeah, and all the pigeons of the world are taking great aim at him.

FATHER KELLY

So off to Buffalo?

SISTER ANGELA

I wouldn't send Bernard Law to Buffalo.

SISTER ANNA

We're going to...

SISTER MARY DAVID

Sister! Remember.

SISTER ANNA

Oh yeah. Incognito.

*(a beat)*

Sorry, Padre. Trade secret.

FATHER KELLY

I guess my credibility, dressed like this...

SISTER ANGELA

Is one hundred percent zero. But thanks for playing.

FATHER KELLY

I'd like to help.

SISTER ANGELA

Dressed like that, you're not.

FATHER KELLY

I don't suppose you have an extra pair of pants hanging around.

SISTER ANGELA

Oh yeah. Last time we had ourselves a man in this place, we all asked him for his trousers as a special souvenir.

FATHER KELLY

I meant, from the poor basket.

SISTER MARY DAVID

I could go look.

*(a beat)*

For a shirt too.

FATHER KELLY

Don't forget the shoes.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Let me check my list. Shirt, pants, loaves, fishes and a pair of shoes.

FATHER KELLY

I think I really could help you girls.

SISTER ANGELA

In what way are you proposing, exactly? I haven't been a girl in a hell of a long time.

FATHER KELLY

You need an inside connection.

SISTER ANGELA

For what, may I ask?

FATHER KELLY

Look. I don't know where you're going, but I'm betting it's not Buffalo. I think you have another plan.

SISTER ANGELA

Why yes we do.

SISTER ANNA

We're being... What's that word again?

*(SISTER MARY DAVID enters with clothes and shoes for Father Kelly.)*

SISTER MARY DAVID

Incognito.

SISTER ANGELA

Incognito.

SISTER ANNA

Incognito.

FATHER KELLY

Under wraps?

SISTER ANGELA

Honey, we've been "under wraps" most of our lives.

FATHER KELLY

But you're not dealing with any ordinary Cardinal here.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Tell us something we don't know. And nobody in that blue-haired congregation he oversees would ever recognize what he's doing on the side. Nobody. If he were the monster, dear Doctor Frankenstein wouldn't recognize him.

FATHER KELLY

If he ever gets wind of this, your little plan is kaput.

SISTER ANGELA

Nobody can force us to remain nuns.

FATHER KELLY

Remaining nuns is what's going to save your lives. Look Sisters, you got dumped because this property is worth millions, and the good Cardinal just had a check delivered to him for four million - made out to his name.

SISTER ANGELA

Why that dirty, low down...

SISTER MARY DAVID

Sister! It's Easter.

SISTER ANGELA

And we're dealing with the bad thief on the cross!

SISTER IRENE

This is starting to sound very scary.

FATHER KELLY

It is. Look. I'm here because I was knocked out, drugged and dressed in this getup. I guess I was meant to be shipped to Buffalo with the other crates from the Cardinal. By the time you got there, it would have been too late for me.

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER IRENE

That's very true, Father Kelly. You would have been a goner!

FATHER KELLY

And since no one but ordered nuns under the vow of obedience would ever go to this place...

SISTER MARY DAVID

Read this loud and clear. Unless we're dead, and it's the new Purgatory, there is no Buffalo in our future.

FATHER KELLY

That much I guessed. Still, what are you going to do? You can't stay here. The bulldozers will be here on Tuesday. The cardinal was aiming for today but no dice.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Let them come. We'll be out of here tomorrow thanks to Fed Ex. Do you believe in miracles?

FATHER KELLY

Do I believe in...? Of course I believe in miracles! I'm Irish, for God's sake!

SISTER IRENE

Should we tell him?

SISTER MARY DAVID

Gotta tell somebody.

FATHER KELLY

I'm all ears.

SISTER ANGELA

In that getup, you're all something, but I'm not sure what the Hell that is.

*(FATHER KELLY removes his headdress. SISTER MARY DAVID hands him clothes from the poor basket. FATHER KELLY changes quickly, keeping propriety, of course.)*

FATHER KELLY

Better?

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER MARY DAVID

Improving. You're an ugly nun, but a very handsome man!

FATHER KELLY

Thanks for the clothes.

SISTER MARY DAVID

My pleasure.

FATHER KELLY

OK. What's up?

SISTER MARY DAVID

We've come into the possession of some winning lottery tickets.

SISTER IRENE

There's the understatement of the year. A lot of winning lottery tickets.

SISTER RITA

You can say that again.

FATHER KELLY

And why are you nuns still here?

SISTER RITA

I ask same question.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Suppose that I were to tell you that two mysterious men donated them. With some kind of crazy proviso attached like a rock that none of us really understand.

FATHER KELLY

I'm listening. What's the proviso?

SISTER MARY DAVID

That we buy and occupy a deserted Broadway theatre.

FATHER KELLY

Broadway. As in New York City?

SISTER ANGELA

As in Forty Third Street. We're to occupy the dressing rooms and use the stage for a chapel.

**(CONTINUED)**

FATHER KELLY

You're gonna need some help for that.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Well, that's where you might come in. We need a Priest to have a Chapel. And to buy the things for the altar.

SISTER ANGELA

You haven't quit yet, have you?

FATHER KELLY

Not officially. They knocked me out and packaged me up before I could have my letter of resignation officially delivered and signed for.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Thank God.

SISTER ANGELA

Besides, we'd pay you better than the cardinal.

FATHER KELLY

That wouldn't take much.

*(a beat)*

And this theatre? It's already been purchased?

SISTER MARY DAVID

By the two men who donated the tickets. They're posing to the New York real estate boys as evangelists on a crusade. Looking for a brand new home!

FATHER KELLY

This could be very exciting. I suppose the City won't know about it.

SISTER MARY DAVID

If you were the City of New York, would you allow one of your landmark theatres to become a Convent?

FATHER KELLY

I think not!

SISTER MARY DAVID

So there we are.

FATHER KELLY

Well then, let me get started organizing things for you. I haven't any other place to go anyway.

SISTER MARY DAVID

You know what? It's true. God draws straight with crooked lines.

BLACKOUT  
END OF THE SCENE

MUSIC #12A: TO BROADWAY

Perusal  
Only  
NOT FOR  
PRODUCTION



ACT ONE

SCENE EIGHT

*(The LIGHTS rise on a MONTAGE of all the sights and scenes of New York City. The SISTERS enter THE GEORGE M. COHAN THEATRE with FATHER KELLY opening the two big doors. All are smiling and enthusiastic. Before their entry into the theatre, FATHER KELLY points out all the sights of NYC to the Sisters.)*

MUSIC #13: BROADWAY

SISTERS AND FATHER KELLY  
*(sing together)*

BROADWAY. WE'RE GOING TO BROADWAY  
IT MAY SEEM A LONG WAY BUT WHAT DO WE CARE?  
TIMES SQUARE AND CENTRAL PARK  
MAGIC'S HERE FROM DUSK 'TILL DARK  
NO FEAR WE'RE GONNA BE PART OF THE SHOW

BROADWAY WE'RE GOING TO BROADWAY  
AND HERE WE JUST MIGHT STAY FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES  
WALL STREET AND THE BATTERY  
HERE'S THE LIFE THAT'S RIGHT FOR ME  
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, WE'LL ALL BE A STAR

WE'VE HAD SO MANY DREAMS, BUT THEN  
WE'VE HAD THOSE DREAMS SINCE WHO KNOWS WHEN  
ABOUT BROADWAY, GOING TO BROADWAY  
BEING A PART OF THE SCENE THIS IS SO GRAND, IT SEEMS  
AND WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE! SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE LONG AGO

GIVING REGARDS TO THE GREAT WHITE WAY  
LOOK OUT, NEW YORK, WE'RE COMING HURRAY  
THE BROADWAY ANGELS, THE BROADWAY ANGELS  
THE BROADWAY ANGELS AND ME!

*(The NUNS "arrive" just outside a Broadway theatre, which looks like it was condemned - in the 1800's. A marquee reads, "The George M. Cohan Theatre.")*

**(CONTINUED)**

SISTER MARY DAVID

I think this is it, girls.

SISTER ANNA

Looks a little run down to me.

SISTER ANGELA

Remember "This Ol' House?" This is it! With seats!

FATHER KELLY

It's a classic old theatre.

SISTER IRENE

(PERFORMING) "To be, or not to be. That is the question."

SISTER ANGELA

Oh goody. More drama.

*(a beat)*

I don't think you'll find nuns in Shakespeare.

SISTER IRENE

An oversight, I'm sure.

SISTER ANGELA

I can just see it now. Sister Lady Macbeth!

SISTER MARY DAVID

Wouldn't that be you, dear?

SISTER IRENE

Say what you want, but this is going to be a whole new life for us.

FATHER KELLY

In a very exciting place.

SISTER ANNA

It sure beats Buffalo.

SISTER ANGELA

That wouldn't take much. Just *outside* Buffalo, sure beats Buffalo.

SISTER MARY DAVID

It's time to be an optimist, Sister Angela.

SISTER ANGELA

An optimist? In New York?

FATHER KELLY

As crazy as that sounds, yes.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Look. The door's open.

SISTER RITA

They are all waiting for us.

SISTER ANGELA

Andrew Lloyd Weber and all of his "phantom" friends.

FATHER KELLY

He still has friends, huh?

SISTER ANGELA

Sure, when you've befriended a phantom for ten years, you can get respect from any one.

SISTER MARY DAVID

Smile. You're on Broadway now.

SISTER ANGELA

Alert the media.

SISTER MARY DAVID

In we go, come Hell or high water.

*(A piece of the marquee falls down almost hitting the nuns. They scream out loud.)*

SISTER ANGELA

Or both.

**MUSIC #13A: ENTERING THE THEATRE**

*(The SISTERS walk into the theatre door as DONAHUE, the devil in full devil regalia appears.)*

**(CONTINUED)**

DONAHUE

Damn. Damn. Damn. I should have used something bigger.

*(a beat)*

Like Andrew Lloyd Webber.

*(He disappears with a big flourish and...)*

THE CURTAIN FALLS

END OF ACT ONE

Perusal  
Only  
NOT FOR  
PRODUCTION