

The Possession of Mrs. Jones

Book BY D'Arcy Drollinger
Music By D'Arcy Drollinger & Ted Hamer
Lyrics By D'Arcy Drollinger

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ACT 1
Scene 1

(Morning at the Jones residence. A deliveryman has just finished installing the new washing machine.)

DELIVERYMAN

That should do it. She's all plugged in and ready for action.

(Evelyn stands back and takes in the machine.)

EVELYN

A Power-Jet DynaWash 2000, Ultra-Deluxe, Fully-Automated Hydro-Atomic washing machine by Product-O-Matic* - the answer to my prayers.

DELIVERYMAN

If you could just sign here, Mrs. Jones.

EVELYN

(While signing.)

This is going to change my life around here, that's for sure.

DELIVERYMAN

And if you'll just put an X right here by your name, we'll be all set.

(Evelyn places an X on the clipboard. The deliveryman tips his hat and exits. Evelyn looks at her new washing machine and takes a deep breath.)

"X MARKS THE SPOT"

EVELYN

(Sings)

***I'll vacuum the carpets, send the kids off to school
Load my new washer
Then I'll sink in the sofa and take my Valium
And watch the soap operas***

(Adam is tying his tie.)

ADAM

***'Cause we just bought the American dream - A brand
new washing machine
A home can be a castle for every man
The modern appliance has lent its hand to me***

(Evelyn sees Jimmy through the window and opens the door. Jimmy enters there with a bag of groceries.)

JIMMY

Hello Mrs. Jones I brought the groceries over that you ordered last afternoon.

EVELYN

Thank you Jimmy, I'll get you a tip.

JIMMY

What smells so good?

EVELYN

Why it's my new perfume.

JIMMY

Let me help you put your things away in the kitchen.

EVELYN

Why, you're so sweet.

JIMMY

Since you are such a good customer Mr. Whipple threw in an extra pound of meat.

EVELYN

An extra pound of meat!

EVELYN, JIMMY

*X marks the spot where everything is good
A happy home, upstanding neighborhood*

JIMMY

With folks like you no one would feel alone

EVELYN

Hold on a minute, I think I hear the phone

(The phone rings. Evelyn answers it.)

EVELYN

Hello?

GEORGE

Hello, Evelyn dear - Mayor Applegate here

I was simply calling to say we're delighted that you invited us for dinner at eight.

EVELYN

*Well, that's news to me,
But I'm happy to see you and Gloria.
I'll whip up something great.*

EVELYN, GEORGE

*X marks the spot where everything is nice.
The children behave, the grown-ups are polite*

GEORGE

*I'd love to chat, but I really must go.
Good-bye*

EVELYN

Good-bye.

(Evelyn hangs up.)

PHONE

Ring - Ring

(Evelyn picks the phone back up.)

EVELYN

Hello?

MARGARET

Hi!

*I'm your new neighbor, just moved in to live
I'm a Tupperware representative
My name is Margaret and I'm calling to see
If you would host a Tupperware party - say Saturday?*

EVELYN

Love to.

EVELYN, MARGARET

*X marks the spot where everything's preserved
Neighbors are welcome, every dog is curbed*

MARGARET

It's people like you that this world needs more

GLORIA

Ding dong.

EVELYN

Excuse me, Gloria's at the back door.

(Gloria enters.)

GLORIA

*Hello, Evelyn. How are you doing?
I came by to return your bundt cake pan.
And to R.S.V.P. for your Tupperware party.*

EVELYN

News travels fast.

GLORIA

Can I bring Pam?

EVELYN

*Of course Gloria bring whoever. Have I shown you my new
washing machine?*

GLORIA

No, but I heard that you bought one.

EVELYN

It's ultra-deluxe

GLORIA

Wow, it sounds like a dream!

EVELYN, GLORIA

*X marks the spot where everything's serene,
Where the whites sparkle, things come out clean.*

(Judith and Richard enter. Gloria pinches their
cheeks.)

GLORIA

Where the streets are safe for our children to play.

(The doorbell rings.)

EVELYN

*Goodness there's the front door. Calgon take me
away.*

(Evelyn opens the front door.)

PAM

Avon!

EVELYN, PAM, GLORIA

*X marks the spot where everything is fresh,
And natural causes are the only form of death.*

ALL

*X marks the spot where everything is good
A happy home, upstanding neighborhood
In this abundant state and the countries that
surround
On this big blue marble in space spinning 'round and
'round*

EVELYN, ADAM, JUDITH, RICHARD

With me!

NEIGHBORS

*X marks the spot where everything is good
A happy home, upstanding neighborhood
X marks the spot where everything is nice
The children behave and the grown-ups are polite*

*X marks the spot where everything's preserved
Neighbors are welcome, every dog is curbed
X marks the spot where everything's serene
Whites sparkle, things come out clean with me*

EVELYN

With me.

(Gloria and Pam exit. Judith and Richard run into the living room.)

EVELYN

Whoa, slow down, you two. What's the rush?

(Adam enters.)

ADAM

Well, I think I've done it.

EVELYN

Done what, darling?

ADAM

Tied the perfect tie.

EVELYN

Did you hear that, children? Your father's mastered the knot.

RICHARD

That's swell, Dad.

EVEYLN

Richard Jones, I will not have that kind of language in this house.

RICHARD

But, mom -

EVELYN

No buts, young man.

JUDITH

Father, will you show me how to tie a tie?

(Evelyn and Adam laugh.)

EVELYN

Now Judith, you know very well that ties are for boys and dresses are for girls. Enough with this rough housing you two; your father's a busy man.

ADAM

Not too busy for a kiss.

(Evelyn gives Adam a little peck.)

"THE AMERICAN DREAM"

EVELYN

(Sings)

With your love only, I'm never lonely again

ADAM

'Til death do us part, I'll love 'til the end

EVELYN, ADAM

***Nothing can come in between you and me
Two hearts that beat - synchronicity***

(Judith and Richard tug on their parents. Evelyn and Adam look at their children and then include them in the tender moment.)

EVELYN, ADAM, JUDITH, RICHARD
Nothing can come in between you and me
Four hearts that beat - synchronicity
The American dream

ADAM

So long, Eeve. Oh I almost forgot, I invited the Applegates over for dinner tonight.

EVELYN

I know. Eight o'clock.

(Adam shoots her a look.)

Mayor Applegate called this morning while you were tying.

ADAM

The presentation for the board of directors! I completely forgot.

EVEYLN

(Handing Adam a blueprint tube.)

Don't worry dear; finished this morning, after waxing the linoleum and steam cleaning the upholstery.

ADAM

And they say a dog is man's best friend. Honey, I love you.

EVELYN

Mr. Jones! Not in front of the children.

(Seeing the school bus approaching.)

There's the school bus.

(Handing Judith and Richard their sack lunches.)

I made your favorites, cheese spread on Wonder bread, no crusts.

JUDITH, RICHARD

Bye mom.

(Judith and Richard exit.)

EVELYN

Good-bye, Judith. Good-bye Richard.

(To Adam.)

You too, Mr. Jones. You're going to be late for work.

ADAM

I'll see you tonight, Mrs. Jones.

(Adam exits. Evelyn closes the door and is finally alone.)

EVEYLN

Well, what a queer morning this has been.

(Evelyn takes the bottle of pills from her apron pocket and pops another.)

Thank Goodness for mommy's little helper.

(Evelyn sees Jimmy, who has been standing quietly in the corner through all this.)

JIMMY

Mrs. Jones?

EVELYN

(Startled.)

Jimmy! The groceries! Heavens to Betsy, you'd think my head wasn't screwed on straight this morning. Now let me get you that tip.

JIMMY

Mrs. Jones you really don't-

EVELYN

(Going into the laundry room.)

It's Evelyn, and yes I do. I'm sure I have something around here somewhere.

(She opens the washing machine and God pops out. He hands her a dollar.)

Thank you.

(She walks back into the other room and hands Jimmy the bill.)

Thank you, Jimmy.

(She hands Jimmy the dollar, but before she lets go she suddenly realizes what she has seen in the other room. She looks at the dollar then back at the laundry room then at Jimmy, who has become a bit uncomfortable.)

JIMMY

(Nervously)

Uh, I gotta go. See you Mrs. Jones...I mean Evelyn.

(Jimmy yanks the dollar away from Evelyn and exits.
Evelyn heads back into the laundry room. God is now
sitting on top of the washing machine)

EVELYN

Pardon me, but may I ask what you're doing in my laundry room?

GOD

Ma'am I'm God.

Evelyn

Excuse me?

(A knock comes from the washing machine.)

Would you please?

(Evelyn opens the door to the washing machine.
Satan climbs out.)

SATAN

(To God.)

Thanks for waiting.

GOD

And my associate here, well, he's Satan.

EVELYN

Nice to meet you. I'd love to stay and chat, but I really must
get back to my cleaning. The refrigerator needs defrosting.
I've got to scower the stove, scrub the tub, not to mention the
laundry. I'm not the kind of woman who sends her husband out of
the house with ring around the -

SATAN

This is ridiculous.

(Satan points his finger at Evelyn and her mouth
shuts. She tries to scream, but she can't.)

I told you this would happen. She's useless. Let me light her
on fire or something.

GOD

You know, you're really not helping.

SATAN

Oh, so now this is all my fault.

(Evelyn begins to suffocate, but God and Satan are
too involved in their fight to realize it.)

GOD

I didn't say that.

SATAN

You insinuated. And that's almost worse.

GOD

Why must you always be so cranky?

SATAN

You're the one who let this whole thing happen. I kept telling you that the times they were a-changing. But no, you wouldn't listen.

GOD

How was I supposed to know they'd sell us out?

SATAN

Because you're You. You're supposed to know.

GOD

There's no need to raise your voice.

SATAN

We lose Heaven and Hell and you tell me there's no need to raise my voice. That's it! I'm out of here.

GOD

I'm sure she'll help us, if we just reason with her.

(To Evelyn)

Ma'am?

(Evelyn finally passes out and falls over.)

GOD

Oh, Jesus!

(God snaps his fingers and Evelyn gasps for air.
Jesus pops his head out of the washing machine.)

JESUS

Yes, Father?

SATAN

Why does he have to always be tagging along?

GOD

Not now, Son.

(Jesus disappears back into the washing machine.)

SATAN

This place gives me the creeps. It's so...clean.

GOD

I thought you were leaving.

SATAN

I'm not getting into that washing machine with Him.

GOD

I'm so sorry for my colleague's...

(Giving Satan a stern look.)

Misplaced aggression. Ma'am, are you all right?

EVELYN

Uh hu. One too many Valium, Evelyn.

SATAN

One too many Valium, huh? Well take this.

(Satan uses his powers to create an earthquake.
They are all thrown off balance.)

GOD

Do you mind? Enough with the special effects.

SATAN

Fine.

(Satan snaps his fingers and the house is still.)

GOD

I thought we'd take the more civil approach.

(God snaps his fingers and the music starts.)

"BELIEVE"

GOD

(Sings)

***I know it's hard to understand, but here I am
The God of Man, Earth, Sun and Moon
Standing in your laundry room***

SATAN

*I'm here too, don't forget me - The master of all
misery
The prince of darkness, burning man
Traveled here through that tin can*

(He points towards the washing machine.)

GOD, SATAN

The number one duo in eternity

SATAN

He's good

GOD

He's bad

SATAN

He's holy

GOD

He speaks blasphemy

GOD, SATAN

*It's a yin and yang thing and we're here to
entertain you now*

GOD

You can float up on cloud nine with me

SATAN

Or paddle down the river Styx with yours truly

GOD, SATAN

We're here, we're there, we're everywhere

EVELYN

God, in my house?

GOD, SATAN

*You gotta believe - Keep the faith
Try just a little bit harder now
All the power that you have inside ya grows
stronger, just as long as you
Believe - Keep the faith
Soon you'll see why we have come
Divine intervention from your DynaWash 2000*

EVELYN

*Let me get Gloria, yes I should
Then I'll introduce you to the neighborhood*

GOD, SATAN

*Please don't make such a big fuss
You're the only one who can see us*

GOD

We know that you love that new washing machine

SATAN

How'd you like to meet the head of the company?

GOD

There's one thing we ask in return

GOD, SATAN

Kill him!

EVELYN

What?!

GOD, SATAN

*You gotta believe - Keep the faith
Don't be shocked or awe inspired
We know you didn't apply
But baby, you've been hired*

GOD

You see, Product-O-Matic*, the company who manufactures your washing machine as well as most of your household appliances, in a hostile, aggressive take over scheme, bought out the Afterworlds, AKA Heaven and Hell.

SATAN

And we want the son-of-a-bitch who did this dead.

GOD

You can be so gauche.

(God pulls out a huge contract, which glows ethereally.)

It states right here, in the merger contract, Section Six Thousand Eighty-two, that the deed to the Afterworld would be returned to the rightful owners if said President of Product-O-

Matic* were to die at the hand of a housewife with the initials E.J., residing at 1864 Utopia Park way.

EVELYN

Hey, that's my address. And those are my initials!

SATAN

What a coincidence.

GOD

Now I'm sure you're thinking to yourself, why don't they just strike him down with lightning, or I don't know, unleash a plague or something.

(Satan grabs the contract.)

SATAN

Addendum four hundred and thirty-nine states that if we tamper with human life in regards to this agreement we lose our golden parachutes, our "special privileges"...

GOD

Not to mention the executive lounge at the airport.

GOD, SATAN

***You gotta believe - keep the faith
Try just a little bit harder
All the power that you have inside ya grows
stronger just as long as you
Believe - Keep the faith
Remember you're the only who we feel safe
To tell about our plan and do our honest deed
Oh Evelyn, baby, darling, all you gotta do is
believe***

EVELYN

Me? Kill someone? That doesn't seem very appropriate, now does it? And the President of Product-O-Matic*? My husband works for Product-O-Matic*. He could lose his job over something like that. No to mention, I'm on the board of Civilians for Morality and Common Decency - Not to mention the PTA. I simply can't just go around killing people!

GOD

Sure you can. Haven't you heard of murder in the name of God? People do it all the time.

EVELYN

Well, I don't.

GOD

(Finally starting to lose it.)

You don't? You don't?! I haven't been down here since Moses and, "Well, I don't" is the answer I get?

(To Satan.)

You know what? You were right. Go ahead, light her on fire!

SATAN

Whoa. Relax.

GOD

I ask one simple request!

SATAN

I know.

GOD

I even sang and danced.

EVELYN

Would you just look at the time? My husband will be home from work any minute.

(Adam enters.)

ADAM

Honey, I'm home.

EVELYN

(To God and Satan.)

If you'll excuse me?

(Evelyn goes into the living room.)

EVELYN

Hello darling, how was your day at the office?

ADAM

I'm up for a promotion.

EVELYN

That's fantastic news. Adam, guess who I met today?

(The doorbell rings. They both look at each other.)

ADAM

I'll get the door.

EVELYN

I'll get the appetizers.

(They both turn. Evelyn sees the contract. She quickly shoves it under one of the couch cushions.)

EVELYN

I made your favorite, Oscar Meyer mini hot dogs and spreadable cheese.

ADAM

Mmmm, cheese.

(Adam answers the door. Gloria and George enter.)

ADAM

Well, come in you two.

GEORGE

Adam.

ADAM

Mayor. Lovely evening isn't it?

GLORIA

(Marching into the house and snooping around.)
If you like a full moon.

ADAM

(Calling to Evelyn who is still in the kitchen.)
Evee, the Applegates are here.

(Evelyn pops a pill and takes a deep breath.)

GOD

Ma'am, I'm begging you.

EVELYN

(Handing God a bowl of hotdogs.)
Here, hold this.

(To God and Satan.)

I don't see how you let this happen.

GLORIA

(While inspecting for dust.)

Evelyn, darling can I help?

EVEYLN

Just relax Gloria. I'll be right in.

(Evelyn takes a tray from the cupboard and hands it to Satan.)

SATAN

Inner peace and love thy neighbor only goes so far these days. People started wanting something to hang onto. Something tangible.

GOD

So they chose Product-O-Matic* over me.

GEORGE

(From the other room.)

Did I hear that Velveeta and ground beef casserole is on the menu tonight?

(Evelyn begins to arrange the hot dogs on the tray.)

EVELYN

With extra Velveeta.

(Satan tries to sample a hotdog, but Evelyn slaps his hand away.)

SATAN

Ouch!

(George and Adam have walked to the corner of the room to talk.)

GEORGE

Adam, I like your style - a true blue American, with the kind of family values that you can sink your teeth into. I hear you're up for a promotion. I'll see if I can put a good word in for you.

ADAM

Gee George, I don't know how to thank you.

GEORGE

You could start by having us over more often. In Evelyn you've got a fine little lady. If she can cook half as good as she looks, you must be one happy man.

(In a whisper.)

I wish she'd give Gloria some "cooking" lessons.

(George laughs at his joke, while Adam smiles, a bit uncomfortable.)

GLORIA

George!

(To Evelyn, who is still in the kitchen.)

Say, Evelyn, what do you really know about Margaret Serarty?

EVELYN

The Tupperware lady? I only just met her.

GLORIA

Exactly!

(Gloria's snooping goes so far as to look behind the picture frames and lift up the couch cushions, where she finds the contract.)

SATAN

Think of it as a mercy killing.

EVELYN

(Not paying attention.)

Okay... I mean, no. I'm not killing anybody! I'm trying to have a dinner party.

GLORIA

What was that, my dear?

(Evelyn takes the tray of appetizers from Satan and enters into the living room.)

EVELYN

Hors d'oeuvres?

(Gloria quickly hides the contract in her purse.)

GLORIA

Evelyn.

EVELYN
Gloria.

EVELYN
George.

GEORGE
Evelyn.

EVELYN
Cheese? Wieners?

(God and Satan enter.)

GLORIA
(Helping herself.)
Don't mind if I do.

EVELYN
(To God and Satan, under her breath.)
What are you doing?

GLORIA
I'm absolutely ravenous.

GOD
It could be as simple as hanging.

EVELYN
Shhh!

GLORIA
(With a mouth full of food.)
What?

EVELYN
(Covering.)
Shhh...sure hope you enjoy them.

GEORGE
Now, Evelyn, Gloria tells me you've joined Civilians for
Morality and Common Decency.

SATAN
Or a stake through the heart.

EVELYN

No!

(To Goearge.)

I mean yes. It's true.

GEORGE

We need more families like yours to set a standard in these precarious times.

GOD

Gun shot!

EVELYN

Oh dear!

GEORGE

Oh dear, is right. Godless communists running rampant in our communities.

SATAN

Burning!

EVELYN

Stop it.

GLORIA

I know.

SATAN

Strangulation.

GEORGE

Activist judges.

EVELYN

Not that!

GLORIA

My sentiments exactly.

GEORGE

Women not wearing make up.

SATAN

Poison.

EVELYN
What?!

GLORIA
Or proper undergarments.

GOD
Stabbing.

ADAM
That's terrible.

EVELYN
It most certainly is.

SATAN
Or you could just run the bastard over with the station wagon a couple of times.

EVELYN
Shut up! Shut up! Shut up! I hate you. Get out of my house!

(Everyone stares at Evelyn in shock.)

GLORIA
Well, I never.

ADAM
Evelyn, I think you owe the Applegates an apology.

EVELYN
(Realizing what she has just done.)
Uh, if you'll all excuse me, I think my cheesy beef is burning.

(Evelyn exits into the kitchen, a bit hysterical.)

GEORGE
I feel terrible about all this.

ADAM
Nonsense, George. Evelyn can get a bit...over-excitabile.

GLORIA
I'll say. We all get upset by the sight of a woman without make up, or the proper undergarments, but I mean, really, after all...

GEORGE

Let me see if I can't cheer her up a bit.

GLORIA

That is so sweet of you, George.

ADAM

Yeah, thanks George.

(George goes into the kitchen. He looks at Evelyn with heated lust.)

"BIG BAD WOLF (WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN)"

GEORGE

(Sings)

*I feel like the big bad wolf - wanton lust in my eyes
Your body looks so good - It moistens then whets my
appetite
Hush, hush, don't say a word - You don't have to pretend
I know that you want me - And I want to, so let me,
stick it in!*

EVELYN

*Get away from me! What are you doing?
Gloria's in the other room!*

GEORGE

*Yeah and she won't suspect a thing, Just shut up!
And I'll be done soon!*

GOD

(To Satan)

Are you causing this?!

SATAN

It was a long time ago - just one or two fantasies. I didn't think he'd go through with it.

GOD

*We can't stand by, stand by and watch
As our whole plan gets all botched up*

SATAN

*Well put your money where your mouth is and do
Something about it*

GEORGE

I'm a big bad wolf gonna stick it in!

EVELYN

Can't you do something to stop him?!

EVELYN, SATAN

*Put your money where your mouth is
And do something about it*

ALL

*Put your money where your mouth is
And do something about it*

(The scene breaks apart. Everyone dances together. By the end of the dance God grabs George, and holds him back.)

GOD

Get out of here.

EVELYN

Well I'm trying.

GOD

Go on. Now you're free.

GEORGE

*What's happening?
It feels like some one's got a hold of me!*

(Evelyn runs out. God lets go of George, who runs out right behind her.)

Gloria

What took you two so long?

(Evelyn rings a dinner bell.)

GOD, SATAN

(Sings)

*This will never work
We don't have the right control of her
We need an in to fix this mess*

We need to be near her in the flesh

(Judith and Richard look around and realize that something suspicious is happening.)

GOD, SATAN

***What about the children? A daughter and a son
We could live in their bodies - 'til this job is done***

(God, Satan, Evelyn, Judith, Richard, Adam, Gloria and George sing simultaneously)

GOD, SATAN

***What about the children? A daughter and a son
We could live in their bodies - 'til this job is done
What about the children? A daughter and a son
We could live in their bodies - 'til this job is done***

EVELYN

***Don't take my children - No, not my children
Don't take my children - No, not my children***

JUDITH, RICHARD

***Don't take us! Please help us!
Don't take us! Please help us!***

ADAM, GLORIA

***What about the Children
What about the Children***

GEORGE

I feel like the big bad wolf!

(Judith and Richard start to shake and then go into violent convulsions. Everyone watches as the two children are thrown on and off stage three times; when they fly back on the fourth time, God and Satan are in their clothing, though Evelyn, nor the audience can see their faces at this point. They fall to the floor with their heads down.)

EVELYN

Judith. Richard. Are you okay?

(Satan looks up. We see his face, though Evelyn does not.)

SATAN

Mother?

EVELYN

Yes, children?

(God looks up.)

GOD

Will you please kill the president of Product-O-Matic*?

(Evelyn screams.)

GOD, SATAN

Possession is nine tenths of the law

(Lights out.)

END SCENE 2

ACT 1
Scene 3

(The scene opens in the schoolyard. God, as Judith, is playing with her two best friends, Henrietta and Eleanor. They are two very awkward girls; Henrietta wears thick glasses, while Eleanor has on a neck brace.)

HENRIETTA

Come on Judith; let's practice our arithmetic for today's pop quiz.

GOD

Not now my child. I've got much more important things to think about at the moment.

HENRIETTA

Gosh Judith, what's more important than good marks on your report card? And my name is not child, it's Henrietta.

GOD

Please, I am trying to concentrate. You mortals go ahead and practice your funny little number games all you want.

ELEANOR

What? Us mortals? Jeepers, Judith, there must have been something funny in your Tang this morning.

GOD

(Trying desperately to hold it together.)

Henrietta, was it?

(To Eleanor.)

And you are?

ELEANOR

(Miffed.)

Eleanor.

GOD

Henrietta, Eleanor, be good disciples, heed my words...go pray.

ELEANOR

Pray? Gosh, Judith! What's with this holier-than-thought attitude?

HENRIETTA

Yeah Judith, Who do you think you are, God or something?

(Satan, as Richard, is pushed on stage by Eugene, a school bully.)

EUGENE

Fork over your milk money, you pansy or you're going to get a knuckle sandwich.

SATAN

Look, little kid, you have no idea who you're dealing with.

EUGENE

Did you just call me a little kid? You're dead meat, Richard Jones.

SATAN

You really don't want to mess with me. Seriously.

EUGENE

Chicken.

(He makes some clucking noises.)

SATAN

You asked for it.

(Satan points his fingers at Eugene and attempts to light him on fire, but nothing happens. He is stunned and tries again, but still nothing.)

EUGENE

Richard Jones fights like a girl.

SATAN

I do not!

EUGENE

I'm gonna make mincemeat out of you, Jones.

SATAN

I'm sure we can work something out. I've got connections.

EUGENE

The only thing you're gonna get is a fat lip, now put 'em up.

(Jimmy enters.)

JIMMY

Hey Eugene, quit pickin' on Richard. Go pick on someone your own size.

EUGENE

Okay.

(Eugene punches Jimmy in the stomach.)

JIMMY

Ow!

(Satan is obviously upset by this.)

SATAN

You didn't have to do that. He wasn't hurting anybody.

EUGENE

You're next. Put up your dukes, sissy boy!

SATAN

No, I'm not going to fight you.

EUGENE

Fine, have it your way.

SATAN

Oh, shit.

(Eugene chases Satan off the stage.)

JIMMY

(While running off stage.)

Principal Needles!

(God enters on the other side, followed by Henrietta and Eleanor who have not stopped talking.)

HENRIETTA

Golly, Judith, if you don't care about arithmetic, what's next, History?

ELEANOR

Yeah, or Home Ec?

HENRIETTA

Yeah or...

(God tries to use his powers to quiet Henrietta and Eleanor, but nothing happens. Henrietta and Eleanor look at him for a moment, perplexed and then begin

talking. God continues to tries in vain to get his powers to work.)

ELEANOR

Gosh, Judith, you're beginning to scare me.

HENRIETTA

Me too, Judith. You know how rude it is to point.

GOD

Shut the fuck up!

(Henrietta and Eleanor are completely stunned by God's use of the "F" word. God is a bit stunned as well.)

GOD

(Trying it again.)

Fuck.

HENRIETTA

Judith, you said the F word.

ELEANOR

Twice.

GOD

Felt good didn't it?

HENRIETTA

Kinda.

ELEANOR

Fuck!

(They all look at each other and then start to giggle.)

HENRIETTA

Fuck!

(They all laugh again. The principal enters. Henrietta and Eleanor notice, but God doesn't.)

GOD

Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!

PRINCIPAL

Judith Jones! Such language.

(She grabs God by the ear.)

You're coming to my office, young lady. I'm going to wash that filthy mouth out with soap.

(The principal drags God off stage. Eleanor and Henrietta run off as well, just as Satan and Eugene enter. Eugene has Satan in a headlock and is punching him in the face.)

SATAN

Ow! Ow!

EUGENE

Are you ready to fight me yet?

SATAN

No. Ow!

(The principal enters dragging God by the ear. Jimmy is right behind them.)

PRINCIPAL

Richard Jones! Such behavior!

(Eugene lets go of Satan.)

It looks like I arrived just in the nick of time. Eugene, are you okay?

EUGENE

Yes, Principal Needles.

PRINCIPAL

Good. Now Eugene, run along and play. And say hello to your father, Mayor Applegate.

EUGENE

Yes, Principal Needles.

(The Principal grabs Satan by the ear.)

PRINCIPAL

Richard Jones, you're coming to my office, young man. I'm calling your parents.

(She drags Satan and God off stage. Suddenly Jimmy is left alone with Eugene who turns and looks at him with an evil grin. Jimmy turns and runs. Eugene follows.)

(Lights up at the Jones residence. Adam is talking on the phone. Evelyn pops a valium. Then decides on a second one before continuing her cleaning.)

ADAM

(Hanging up the phone.)

Principal Needles called. Richard and Judith have been expelled.

EVELYN

For goodness sakes, whatever for?

ADAM

It seems that Judith was using obscenities and foul language. And Richard has been practicing non-violence.

EVELYN

Oh dear, I knew something like this would happen. Adam, about the children...

(God and Satan, as Judith and Richard, enter. They are disheveled and upset.)

ADAM

Well, there you are. What do you have to say for yourselves?

(God begins crying, which quickly escalates into a rage.)

GOD

I can't take it! I can't take it!

(God storms off to Judith's bedroom.)

ADAM

What in God's name has gotten into Judith?

EVELYN

That's just it.

ADAM

And as for you, Richard, you're in a heap of trouble, young man. Non-violence, in public!

SATAN

I know. I know! What's happening to me?!

(Satan runs off stage.)

ADAM
What the devil's wrong with Richard?

EVELYN
Exactly.

ADAM
I'm going to have a word with that boy.

EVELYN
Darling, there's something I've got to tell you.

ADAM
(Frustrated.)
What is it now, Evelyn?!

EVELYN
It's about the Children...

(Adam looks at Evelyn for a moment. Horror music plays. Adam interrupts.)

ADAM
Judith and Richard are going through their awkward teenage years. That is the only cause of their behavior. Is that clear? I don't want to hear another word about it.

(Adam takes off his belt.)
Richard.

(He exits.)

(Lights out.)

END SCENE 3

ACT 1
Scene 4

(Lights up in Judith's room.)

"I WANNA BE BAD"

GOD

(Sings)

*I put on my knee socks - A baby doll dress
The perfect disguise, I covered all the angles
Just look at me, trying to be the model teen
Papa's little angel
Then all the traumas set in
And I don't know how to deal with them*

*My friends irritate me, my teacher she hates me
My mouth tastes like soap and my hair lost its curl
So I look to the B girls - The skirts and the tough
chicks
They really rock my world - I wanna be bad*

GOD

*Could it be that I'm slipping now
Am I going crazy, man?*

(Judith's two nerdy girlfriends enter.)

HENRIETTA, ELEANOR

*Could it be that you're flipping out
Our gracious God is turning bad!*

GOD, HENRIETTA, ELEANOR

*I wanna be bad - kick ass, fuck you!
Wear spike heels, rat my hair - shoplift a thing or two
I wanna be bad - Grind my teeth in the middle of the
night
Do drugs - Shoot up - Get fucked - Get in a fight
I wanna be bad - I wanna be so*

GOD

*The thought of breaking every rule - Fills me with
eternal joy
Wear tight clothes, get tattooed - Become a convict's
sex slave toy*

HENRIETTA, ELEANOR

Become a convict's sex slave toy

GOD, HENRIETTA, ELEANOR
I wanna be bad

GOD
Pack a piece and a switchblade knife

HENRIETTA
Cut school!

ELEANOR
Wear make-up to bed!

GOD, HENRIETTA, ELEANOR
Every Goddamn day of my life!
I wanna be bad

(Little Old Lady 1 comes on stage.)

GOD
Push an old lady down in the street

(The three girls push the Little Old Lady down.)

HENRIETTA
Chew and swallow my fingernails!

ELEANOR
Get stone!

GOD, HENRIETTA, ELEANOR
Eat raw meat!

(The Little Old Lady joins in.)

I wanna be bad - I wanna be bad
I wanna be bad - I wanna be bad
I wanna be bad - I wanna be bad
I gotta be so bad!

(The three girls exit. The Little Old Lady follows. Just before exiting, she turns and flips off the audience. Lights out.)

END SCENE 4

ACT 1
SCENE 5

(The scene opens in the Jones' living room. A Tupperware party is under way.)

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And on the eighth day, God created Tupperware.

(The women come to life and start talking frantically.)

GLORIA

Evelyn darling, where are the hors d'oeuvres?

EVELYN

(Preoccupied)

What? Oh goodness, I forgot.

GLORIA

You forgot! Listen to me, Evelyn and listen to me good. If you want to stay on the "A" list, you'll go into the kitchen right now and whip something together. These women are about to shop; they're going to need food.

(Evelyn goes into the kitchen and looks around aimlessly.)

EVELYN

Hors d'oeuvres! Hors d'oeuvres!

(A loud bang is heard from the laundry room. Evelyn goes to investigate. Another bang is heard, this time clearly coming from the washing machine. She slowly opens it. She is happily surprised. She pulls out a tray of hors d'oeuvres.)

EVELYN

Don't ask how Evelyn, just serve 'em.

(She walks into the living room.)

Cheese spread?

"TUPPERWARE"**MARGARET***(Sings)*

*Isn't Tupperware great? Food stays fresh for days
 With a design so sleek
 My meatloaf lasted an entire week
 I like to use it as a cook-n-serve
 For my Jell-O salad, and my prune preserves
 The colors well they go with any decor
 The possibilities are endless. Would you like to hear
 more?*

EVELYN

Will my cheese spread stay creamy?

MARGARET

Like it's just been whipped!

PAM

And my candied cherries?

MARGARET

Like they've just been dipped.

GLORIA

*What about my fried chicken?
 Will it stay finger lickin'?*

MARGARET

*If you got Tupperware,
 You got a friend!*

MARGARET

Now, I'll have you know that Tupperware is made from 100% plastic, created by the earth's never-ending resource of crude oil and petroleum.

(The women ooh and aah.)

Plastics today play a very important part in our up-to-the-minute technologies such as the space program, bulletproof vests, prosthetic limbs and food storage. As an added bonus for all you girls concerned with brand names, have I got news for you. As of yesterday, Tupperware is now a proud sister company of Product-O-Matic*.

(The women applaud.)

EVELYN

Gloria, can I talk to you in private for a moment?

GLORIA

Sure Evelyn darling. What is it?

MARGARET

(Sings)

*Tupperware's like a lucky clover,
The kids won't recognize leftovers.
Your refrigerator won't retain an odor.
Who'd like to be the first to sign up and order?
Sign up and order.*

MARGARET, PAM

Sign up and order.

MARGARET, PAM, GLORIA, EVELYN

Sign up and order.

MARGARET

Isn't Tupperware great!

GLORIA

You liar mouth! You tramp, trollop. You hussy...Floozy! You, you...

PAM

Bimbo.

GLORIA

You Bimbo!

(To Pam)

Thank you Pam.

(Back to Evelyn)

How dare you say those things about my loving husband! George would never! And even if he did, I'm sure you instigated the whole thing! Frankly Evelyn, I can only blame myself for not seeing through your goody-two-shoes façade earlier. You back stabbing, two-timing slut!

(Gloria begins filling her purse with the Tupperware. She even takes the hors d'oeuvre tray. We see that the contract is still in her purse.)

Mark my words, Evelyn. I'll make you pay for this. Ladies, if I were you, I'd watch your husbands around Mrs. Jones. I for one am leaving.

(She goes to the front door.)

MARGARET

What about the Tupperware?

(God enters with Henrietta and Eleanor on either side. They are all done up in tawdry outfits, with teased hair, though Henrietta and Eleanor still wear their glasses and neck brace. God has a gun, Henrietta has a switchblade knife and Eleanor is wielding a chain. God fires three gunshots.)

GOD

No one's buying any of your Tupperware, Margaret.

EVELYN

Judith Jones, what is the meaning of this?!

GOD

It's Judy now, mother. And the meaning of this, well, it's a stick up. You know the money you all were gonna use to buy Tupperware with? Well we want it. All of it! The girls want numchucks and I need an abortion.

EVELYN

Judith!

HENRIETTA

You tell 'em Judy.

GOD

So, how's about them purses, ladies? I've got one itchy trigger finger and a real bad attitude!

(Henrietta pulls out a large bag and begins collecting the goods.)

EVELYN

When your father hears about this.

ELEANOR

(Swinging her chain.)

You heard her. Empty those pocket books.

(Henrietta pulls out a black pillow case and holds it in front of Gloria. Gloria drops her purse in, which includes the Afterworlds contract.)

HENRIETTA

Your jewelry too.

GLORIA

Now listen here young lady.

GOD

No, you listen here! Put your hands in the air or I'm gonna blow your brains out!

(Satan, as Richard, enters with Jimmy. They are dressed like beatnik hippies and carry protest signs.)

SATAN

Hold it, Judy.

EVELYN

Richard?

SATAN

Can we talk this thing out?

EVELYN

Jimmy?

JIMMY

Hello Mrs. Jones.

GOD

What the Hell do you want?

SATAN

(To Judy)

I think we can avoid this immature and violent out-burst, if we examine the root of your hostilities; which I'd speculate comes from your insecurities.

JIMMY

Wow, that was beautiful, Richie.

MARAGRET

(Whimpering.)

Help us.

HENRIETTA

I got a knife Judy, and I wanna use it!

GOD

Relax, Henrietta.

(To Satan.)

What's your problem? Can't you see I'm on your side now! I had it all planned out, you and me - raping, pillaging, destruction. Good times. And now this? How could you do that to me?!

"SATANIC LOVE CHILD"

SATAN

(Sings)

*I finally see the light - Oh God you were right
My soul it just took flight on the airline called love*

*And in my darkest hour - I found the mighty power
Unfolding like a flower with the pollination that I
like to call love*

SATAN

*There are people killing one another
A pastime I've enjoyed myself before
But now I found elation in this generation
Started making love - stopped making war*

*There is so much goodness in every living creature
Throw off these shackles set you free
This is the dawning of a new age
I found myself when I found me*

ALL

*And now the sun is shining like a great big ball of
love in the sky today
Free your soul and soon you'll know that you are on
your way
If you listen to your heart it's gonna tell you what
to say
We're all brothers and sisters, everything's gonna be
okay*

*You are a satanic love child
Sure you sinned, but you're born again
You are a satanic love child
Spread peace, love and joy, boy you're so wild*

SATAN

I've been there people. I was out of control, living in the fiery depths of Hell, literally - The cocaine, the all-night parties, the fast cars. I didn't care about anybody or anything, just the next big score. All the people I fucked over just to get ahead. Sure I could have gotten help, but I didn't even think I was sick. Until one day I woke up in a pool of my own vomit, next to four naked midgets and a dead donkey in a Santa costume and I knew I'd hit rock bottom. So I went to a meeting and it was there, that I was reborn into the person I am today. A tender seed that sprouted and grew into a beautiful flower, opening to the radiance of life itself. Save the whales! You know, if I could, I'd take the world in my arms and squeeze it really tight, just like a little fuzzy kitten. And I'd say, "Kiss me darlin'. I wanna feel your arms around me. I wanna feel your - Arms around me!"

CHORUS

***You are a satanic love child
Sure you sinned, but you're born again
You are a satanic love child
Spread peace, love and joy, boy you're so wild***

***You are a satanic love child
Sure you sinned, but you're born again
You are a satanic love child
Spread peace, love and joy, boy you're so wild***

GOD

(Tapping his heel.)

Are you finished?

EVELYN

(Whispering.)

What have you done with my children?

SATAN

Looks like you need a hug.

GOD

Can it, sissy.

(To Evelyn.)

Look, when we possessed your fucking kids we lost our Goddamned powers!

EVELYN

Language!

GOD

Which means we can't transform back into our righteous selves until the president of Product-O-Matic* dies.

SATAN

In other words, don't just do it for us, do it for the kids.

GOD

Would you please shut up?

SATAN

You can't kill love, Judy.

GOD

One more word out of you and so help me!

SATAN

...Love.

GOD

(To her gang.)

Get 'em!

(God, Henrietta and Eleanor attack Satan and Jimmy. A fight ensues. Evelyn wanders through the chaos trying to apologize to her guests as they are all in a knockdown, drag-out fights.)

EVELYN

I apologize, all of you. My children really aren't usually like this.

(She opens her pill bottle, but it is empty. She finally begins to crack under the pressure.)

You see, these aren't my kids, I mean, they are my kids, but, well... My children are possessed by God and Satan.

(Everyone is silent for a moment. They look at Evelyn dubiously.)

GLORIA

Judith?

PAM

Richard?

MARGARET

God?

Satan?

ALL

Uh huh.

EVELYN

(Everyone sing simultaneously.)

"WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN (REPRISE)"

GLORIA, PAM, MARGARET, ELEANOR, HENRIETTA, JIMMY
(Sing)

*What about their children, a daughter and son
Terrorizing neighbors with love and a gun
What about the parents who have no remorse
Sooner or later they'll wind up divorced*

*What about their children, no ifs, ands or buts
He's got radical notions. She's a teenage slut
What about the parents who led them astray*

EVELYN
*They're not my children
No not my children*

GOD, SATAN
*If you want your children
You have got to kill him*

EVELYN
Alright! I'll do it! Just tell me who I'm supposed to kill!

(Adam bursts in.)

ADAM
Honey, I've got great news. I was just promoted. You're looking at the new President of Product-O-Matic*.

(God and Satan look over at Adam. Evelyn lets out a blood-curdling scream.)

ALL
Don't know who, but someone must pay!

END ACT 1

ACT 2
Scene 1

(The stage is dark. We hear the sound of a rotary phone being dialed. The music begins. A spot light appears on Gloria. She is on the phone.)

"DID YOU HEAR WHAT EVELYN SAID"

GLORIA
(Sings)

*Did you hear what Evelyn said?
She's not playing with a full deck in her head
Those children need juvenile detention
Her husband must be at his wit's end.*

(Gloria hangs up and then dials again.)

GLORIA

*Did you hear what Evelyn said?
She's got bats in her belfry, a screw loose in her
head.
I ask you Margaret, who knew?
Don't stand too close to her it might rub off on you,
'Cause she's cuckoo!*

(One by one spotlights appear on all the neighborhood women as they gossip about Evelyn.)

PAM

I heard a rumor that she's got a Latin live-in lover

MARGARET

I hear she's baking cookies for the communists

LITTLE OLD LADY

You won't believe it, but I saw her pumping her own gas

NEIGHBOR 2

I found unpaid bills, in her trash

NEIGHBOR 3

Someone once told me that they saw her with no stockings on

MARGARET

And have you noticed dry patches in her lawn

PAM

Word is she's using those new tampons that you insert

ALL

I get the strong impression Evelyn has finally gone berserk!

Did you hear what Evelyn said?

It's a code red

Did you hear what Evelyn said?

It's a code red

It's a code red

It's a code red

(Lights out.)

END SCENE 1

ACT 2
Scene 2

(The scene opens in the kitchen. Gloria enters through the back door.)

GLORIA

Evelyn, are you home?

(Evelyn enters. She's seen better days.)

EVELYN

Gloria. I'm so glad you're here. About yesterday -

GLORIA

(Interrupting.)

Don't bother. I've merely come over to tell you in person that you have been thrown out of Civilians for Morality and Common Decency, barred from the PTA and eighty-sixed from Bridge Night. I am returning every last thing I have ever borrowed from you, including the Tupperware that you bought yesterday that I borrowed, that cup of sugar I borrowed last month -

EVELYN

Gloria, you really don't have to do this.

GLORIA

Oh, yes I do.

(Gloria pours a cup of sugar from a measuring cup into the large Tupperware container.)

Along with the two eggs -

(She cracks two eggs into the bowl as well. Then she throws in the shells.)

And the quart of milk.

(Gloria opens and pours an entire quart of milk into the bowl. She then tosses in the container. She turns to leave and then stops.)

Oh, and I almost forgot, your electric carving set.

(She hands the set to Evelyn.)

EVELYN

Actually, you borrowed that from Pam.

GLORIA

Oh, the audacity! Accusing me of lying!

(The doorbell rings. Evelyn looks towards the door and then back at Gloria.)

GLORIA

Well? What kind of a woman are you? You can't even answer the door properly.

(Evelyn puts the carving set on the counter and heads for the front door.)

Mark my words Evelyn Jones. I will not rest until you are destroyed! Have a nice day!

(Gloria storms out the back door. Evelyn opens the front door and Margaret storms in.)

MARGARET

Evelyn, I'm here to take back the Tupperware you bought.

EVELYN

Margaret, this isn't about yesterday, at the party it it?

MARGARET

(Storming into the kitchen.)

That's nothing compared to some of the other things the girls have been saying.

(Looking around.)

Where is it?

EVELYN

But I paid for it.

MARGARET

It's called a forced return.

(She goes for the large Tupperware bowl.)

I see it's been used! Just what I'd expect from someone like you! Please forget you ever met me. And I will gladly do the same.

(Margaret marches to the front door. Evelyn lets her out. *The back doorbell rings.* It's Pam.)

EVELYN

Pam, not you too?

PAM

No, Evelyn. I thought about it and just can't believe that you would do the sort of things people are saying about you.

EVELYN

Oh, thank heavens. I was beginning to think everyone was going completely mad.

(Pam spots her electric carving set.)

PAM

Evelyn, is that my electric carving set?

EVELYN

Oh, well, yes, actually it is. Gloria was just here -

PAM

(Interrupting Evelyn.)

Oh Evelyn, how could you?

(Pam pushes Evelyn aside and collects her carving set.)

EVELYN

Pam, I know it's your carving set -

PAM

To think I stood up for you. Do you have any idea how many rump roasts I've had to carve by hand?

EVELYN

No.

PAM

Plenty!

(Pam marches out the back door.)

Consider your Avon order permanently cancelled.

(The front doorbell rings again.)

EVELYN

Who's left?

(Evelyn opens the door. A Little Old Lady enters.)

LITTLE OLD LADY

Evelyn Jones, I never want to see your face again as long as I live.

EVELYN

I'm sorry, but do I know you?

LITTLE OLD LADY

Oh, no dear. But just in case you ever do, I'm dropping you as a friend. Good day!

(The Little Old Lady turns and leaves.)

"GARDEN OF PARADISE 1"

EVELYN

(Sings)

*I lost my family, I lost my friends
I even lost my religion
I dust and fussed, I cooked and cleaned with all of my
machines
Where did I go wrong? Where did I go wrong?*

*I learned how to bake an apple pie
I was subservient and never cried
Now sweet Evelyn has died!
Here I am, the garden of paradise
Surely I have obeyed and paid the price
To deserve a better life than this
Talk to me so that I can see
How to act and how that I should be
Feed me the fruit from the forbidden tree*

(A knock is heard from the washing machine. Evelyn opens the door and pulls out a skimpy, shiny, gold dress.)

EVELYN

A dress. For me? It's beautiful. I'll model it for you.

(She takes off her clothes and puts on the dress.)

I've always wanted a dress like this, but Adam didn't approve. And I'm sure the neighborhood wouldn't either. I mean I'd lose my friends and...What friends? Look, it fits perfectly! Oh I love it! I feel like a new woman. I feel like a real woman.

EVELYN

(Sings)

*Here I am, the garden of paradise
I am real, and for once I'm twice
The woman that I was before
And I'm sick of cleaning this ordinary house
Acting prim and proper like a mouse
I need to burn, I want to break, I'm gonna tear, I
need to shred, I want to crush, I have to scream*

(Evelyn begins to trash the house, sweeping things off shelves, pulling paintings off the wall, smashing vases, kicking in the TV, etc. Adam enters.)

ADAM

Stop it!

(The music stops suddenly. They both look towards the musicians for a moment then continue.)

ADAM

Evelyn, what on Earth is going on?

EVELYN

Stay away from me! I don't want to hurt you.

ADAM

You've already succeeded in doing that. I just came from a meeting with the board of directors at Product-O-Matic*. They were forced to let me go.

EVELYN

Oh Adam, that's fantastic news!

(She runs to him, but he is cold.)

ADAM

Fantastic news? Mayor Applegate says you accused him of taking liberties the other night, but that in fact it was you who threw yourself at him.

EVELYN

Adam -

ADAM

(Getting angry.)

And that its people like us - no, people like you are what's destroying the moral fiber of this country!

EVELYN

Adam, I didn't!

ADAM

You didn't? Just look at what you're wearing! And what have you done with your brazier?

EVELYN

I burned it!

"PROOF"

ADAM

(Sings)

*What happened to the little girl, the blushing bride
that I once married - took a vow to honor and obey*

*Now she's in a tawdry dress, let the house become a mess
and she's sleeping with the neighbor, so they say*

EVELYN

*Adam, don't you see?
It was him, it wasn't me.*

ADAM

*Since you and that Power-Jet DynaWash 2000 met
Something's changed. I see a strange look in your eyes
And it's no surprise what the neighbor's wives all say*

EVELYN

*How can you stand there and insinuate
That I'd have hanky-panky with Mayor Applegate?
First the neighbors, now my husband,
My God I've been betrayed
I've even been disbarred by the PTA
At my Tupperware party Satan was a guest
And God showed up with a gun, in a dress
Then I was all out of pills, then they asked me to kill
I know it sounds crazy, I'm not mentally ill*

ADAM

*Oh, all you have to do is show me some proof.
Here's your chance to show me it's true.*

EVELYN

*Help me now
I don't know how
To show you the truth
When darling, I have no proof.*

EVELYN

The contract! That's it! That's the proof!

*(Evelyn runs into the living room and looks under the
sofa cushion; but the contract is not there.)*

It's got to be here some place.

(She begins tearing the house apart.)

ADAM

It's that machine, that damn washing machine is causing all this! I'm going to destroy it. I've got to destroy it, before it destroys us!

(Adam goes to the closet and grabs a large ax. He pushes Evelyn away and heads for the laundry room to demolish the washing machine. Evelyn runs in-between Adam and the washing machine.)

EVELYN

Adam! No. Not the Power-Jet DynaWash 2000, ultra-deluxe, fully-automated hydro-atomic washing machine by Product-O-Matic*. You'll have to kill me first!

ADAM

(Sings)

*You had better choose between, me and that machine.
Either it goes or I do.*

EVELYN

Oh Adam, I love you.

(Evelyn begins to loosen Adam's tie.)

EVELYN

Why don't we just try loosening your tie?

ADAM

What are you doing?

EVELYN

Set you free.

ADAM

I'm warning you!

EVELYN

Darling, trust in me.

(Evelyn begins to untie Adam's tie. He slaps her. They are both stunned. Adam is ashamed of what he has done. He turns and runs from the house. Evelyn looks up with an insane sparkle in her eyes.)

"GARDEN OF PARADISE 2"**EVELYN***(Sings)*

*Call me mad, you call me a whore
Well I'll give you what you're all asking for
You made this monster out of me*

(Jimmy looks in the window, and sees what is going on.
He rings the doorbell.)

EVELYN

Jimmy!

(Evelyn opens the door. She starts to seduce him.)

EVELYN*(Sings)*

*Come on Jimmy, do you want to play cowboy?
I'll teach you how to ride - don't act so coy
I'll take you higher make you see fireworks inside
your head
Come on Jimmy let's go to bed
Cowboy let's go to bed*

JIMMY

Mrs. Jones.

EVELYN

Evelyn.

JIMMY

Evelyn, I have to tell you something.

EVELYN

It can wait, Jimmy. Now it's time for you to experience a real woman.

(Evelyn starts to unzip Jimmy's pants.)

JIMMY

Mrs. Jones!

EVELYN

We both know the spark has always been there. I know what you want. I've seen the desire growing in your eyes, Jimmy. Let's see how it's growing down here!

(Evelyn pulls Jimmy's pants down around his ankles.)

JIMMY

Mrs. Jones! Evelyn!

(Jimmy runs away from her with his pants down.)
I'm in love with your son.

EVELYN

(Sings)

*How can you tell me this - you were my fantasy
My last hope for strength, then you
Screw my son instead of me*

Where did I go wrong?

JIMMY

I'm sorry Mrs. Jones.

*I can't hide my feelings anymore.
I never felt like this before.*

EVELYN

*Can't you see my son's the devil!
A planted seed. You don't understand.*

JIMMY

*You may think our love's a sin but what you say is out
of hand.*

EVELYN

*Don't be a fool you can't see the truth at all
That boy he's Satan's devil doll
And while we're at it, my daughters possessed as well
But by God; she's a vixen criminal*

JIMMY

Enough!

(God enters and strikes a tableau with a gun. Satan enters and goes to Jimmy's side. They kiss each other, and then hold hands. The lights come up on Adam in a bar. He is dancing with Henrietta, Judith's friend.)

ADAM

(Sings)

*I should have stopped it, for now look where I am
In a bar that smells of stale smoke, some booze and
angry men
I should have seen it, something changed inside her
When that damn machine it stole away my Evelyn*

(Adam and Jimmy sing simultaneously.)

ADAM

*I should have stopped it, for now look where I am
In a bar that smells of stale smoke, some booze and
angry men*

JIMMY

I'm sorry Mrs. Jones, I mean Evelyn

GOD

*I'm coming up I found my real exaltation
A bad mama-jama is my new vocation*

SATAN

*I heard the angels singing then took off my Devil's
glove
To find new stimulation in boy love*

(God, Satan, Adam & Jimmy simultaneously.)

GOD

The need inside me is so great to cause harm

SATAN

All my anger turned to love, happiness from harm

ADAM

I should have seen it, before it caused harm

JIMMY

We didn't mean to cause anybody harm

EVELYN

*I've a feeling that my husband's in some other woman's
arms.*

(Evelyn begins to sob. Lights out.)

END SCENE 2

ACT 2
Scene 3

(God, Satan and Jimmy are holed up in the Jones' living room. God, still as Judith, is madly going through the Bible, crossing out passages he does not like anymore. Satan is playing with Jimmy's hair. They are singing Kumbaya.)

GOD

Will someone please tell me what the hell I was thinking when I wrote this thing? Thou shall not this, thou shall not that? Who cares? Thou shall not steal? Oh, please.

(God scribbles into the Bible.)

Thou is allowdith to taketh whatever thou can get thy grubby paws on! That's what I'm talkin' about.

SATAN

While you're at it, could you be a little more clear about the whole "Thou shalt not kill" thing? People don't seem to be hearing you.

GOD

Fine. I'll work on that as soon as I get past all these begots.
(He tears out a bunch of pages.)
Jeez, this is going to take all night.

SATAN

And when you're done, we need to discuss the plan.

JIMMY

What plan, Richie?

GOD

(Mocking.)

What plan, Richie.

(To Satan.)

Why is he still here?

SATAN

Cause I want him here. Look, about the plan. Just so you know, I'm thinking of asking Jimmy to move in.

JIMMY

Wow, Richie, you mean it?

GOD

(To Satan.)

Are you out of your freakin' mind?!

SATAN

I think he'd like Hades. And I know that all the demons would just adore him - That cute little smile.

GOD

First of all, he's only 16.

SATAN

So?

GOD

You're 3,540.

SATAN

Age is not a factor when you find your soul mate.

GOD

Soul mate?! You're Satan, for Christ sakes!

(Satan pulls God towards the door.)

SATAN

Shhh.

JIMMY

That's all right, Richie. I know what they've been saying about you.

SATAN

Look, he's coming back with me and that's final.

JIMMY

And I don't care.

GOD

Over my dead body!

(Gloved hands reach on and pull God and Satan off stage.)

JIMMY

Because I love...

(Jimmy turns around to find God and Satan gone.)

you.

"MY KIND OF MAN"

JIMMY

(Sings)

They say our love is so wrong
 That we're too young to be getting it on
 They say we're going to hell, that's for sure
 But they have never fooled around with Lucifer

He may be Satan, but I love him
 Horns, a tail, I don't give a damn
 With all his darkness he loves me
 Satan's my kind of man.

Star-crossed lovers, the same old story
 I'm from Cali, he comes from Purgatory
 I'm a scout leader, he's the anti-Christ
 My mom says I got a little of the devil in me
 She's kind of right

He may be Satan, but I love him
 He burns a hole in my heart like nobody can
 He starts a fire inside me
 Satan's my kind of man

He may be from Hell, but he sure rings my bell
 He's my one and only, my fallen teen angel
 I'll sell him my soul. I'm his biggest fan

Satan's my kind of man
 Satan's my kind of man
 Satan's my kind of man

(Lights out)

END SCENE 3

ACT 2
Scene 4

(In darkness we hear a thumping sound. As the lights come up Evelyn is beating her head against the washing machine.)

(George enters.)

"BIG BAD WOLF (REPRISE)"

GEORGE

(Sings)

*I feel like the big bad wolf
Slither like a snake
There's no one who can stop me
So be smart, don't make the same mistake*

(George comes up behind Evelyn.)

EVELYN

George, please!

GEORGE

You know, I should have figured they'd try something like this.

EVELYN

Who?

GEORGE

You know who. The big G and his little buddy Beelzebub.

EVELYN

How did you know? You're behind all this?

GEORGE

Me and Product-O-Matic*. You guessed it baby, religion - the perfect marketing tool. Just think what it will do for my political career.

EVELYN

But it's wrong.

GEORGE

Wrong? Can't you see they've used you, just like they've used people for centuries. They've always steered us in the wrong direction. Promising things that you can't see or touch.

Illusive truths. Love. What can you buy with love? Nothing! Product-O-Matic* is an unstoppable machine, Evelyn. So now, all you need to do is know your place and be a good little girl. If you play your cards right, then maybe, just maybe, I'll make you my concubine.

(Evelyn turns to run but falls over the washing machine. George tries to mount her, but can't. He decides to get a running start. He backs up.)

"GARDEN OF PARADISE (REPRISE)"

EVELYN

(Sings)

*Oh dear God, don't let it end this way
I've got no choice, no matter the price I pay*

(The lid to the washing machine opens and Pam's electric carving knife appears. Evelyn takes it.)

EVELYN

Pam's electric carving knife. What's this doing here? Oh, goodness, she'll think...Mister Applegate, if you'll excuse me, I've got to return Pam's -

(Evelyn turns around. George runs towards her unaware of the knife in her hand and impales himself.)

Electric carving knife.

GEORGE

(Staggering)

Et tu, Eevee?...Oh Charlie, I could have been somebody. I could have been a conten...conten...

(He falls down dead. Then pops his head for one last gasp.)

Rose bud!

(Evelyn is left standing with the bloody knife in hand. Jimmy walks by after getting dressed. He sees George and then Evelyn. Jimmy lets out three incredibly high-pitched screams. He runs off stage. Lights out.)

END SCENE 4

ACT 2
Scene 5

(Adam is sitting in a bar with Henrietta.)

HENRIETTA

Hey bartender, I'll have one large booze. Make it a double.

(The bartender walks over and eyes Henrietta.)

BARTENDER

You got some ID?

(Henrietta puts the loot bag on the bar and pulls out Gloria's purse. She starts pulling things out of Gloria's purse - some jewelry, the Afterworlds contract, then Gloria's wallet. Adam picks up the contract and starts reading it. Henrietta fishes out Gloria's ID.)

HENRIETTA

Here you go, sucker.

(The bartender looks at the ID.)

BARTENDER

Gloria Applegate, Huh? You sure look awful young to be the Mayor's wife.

HENRIETTA

What? You never heard of Oil of Olay? Now pour!

BARTENDER

(Handing back the ID.)

Whatever you say, lady.

HENRIETTA

(To Adam.)

Hey, what's that?

ADAM

Proof.

(Jimmy bursts in.)

JIMMY

Come quick, there's a mob forming. Mrs. Jones, I mean, Evelyn just stabbed Mayor Applegate and they're calling for a lynching!

ADAM

(Jumping to his feet.)

Evelyn!

(Adam races out the door with the contract. Jimmy and Henrietta follow. Lights out.)

END SCENE 5

ACT 2
Scene 6

(Evelyn runs through the house. She has sloppily packed a suitcase and is wearing a fur coat. A mob has assembled outside. Consisting of Gloria, Margaret, Pam and the Little Old Lady, carrying a lantern, a plunger and a meat cleaver. Gloria has a bullhorn.)

GLORIA

Murderer!

PAM

Liar!

MARGARET

Thief.

LITTLE OLD LADY

Whore!

(The women finally break down the front door.)

GLORIA

Mrs. Evelyn Jones. We know that you're in here. You cannot run. Give yourself up.

PAM

Surrender, Evelyn!

EVELYN

I am not a monster! Leave me alone!

GLORIA

You have been blacklisted! Your credit has been dissolved, your drivers license suspended, you have been permanently removed from the paper route and little Sammy Jenkins has refused to mow your lawn.

EVELYN

No!!!!

MARGARET

She's playing hardball. I told you she wouldn't go down with out a fight. I think it's time for the heavy artillery.

GLORIA

(Yelling off-stage.)

Bring in the children!

(A corrections officer brings in God and Satan as Judith and Richard. They are in handcuffs. The officer jabs them with an electric prod.)

We have apprehended your delinquent children and placed them in protective services.

EVELYN

You can't do this to us. We're American citizens.

GLORIA

Evelyn Jones, you are accused of the following heinous crimes against humanity: lewd and lascivious behavior, adultery, lying, stealing, the refusal to wear a bra, the loosening of a man's tie, rearing children of ill repute, suggesting that God can speak directly to you, stabbing my husband and the gross indecency of deliberate and flagrant over-use of spreadable cheese.

(The crowd gasps in horror.)

How do you plead?

EVELYN

Not guilty.

(The crowd explodes.)

MARGARET

Kill the traitor!

Little Old Lady

Let's torch the place.

PAM

You're gonna burn, Jones!

(Jimmy runs in.)

JIMMY

Stop it! Get away from her! It wasn't her fault.

EVELYN

It's no use, Jimmy. I have done all the things that they accused me of. And more. They won, Jimmy. It's over.

JIMMY

Not if you -

"BELIEVE (REPSRISE)"

JIMMY

(Sings)

***Believe, keep the faith; try just a little bit harder
The power that you have inside you grows stronger
Just as long as you believe***

(Everyone is moved. Gloria even sheds a tear, then has a second thought.)

GLORIA

Burn the witch!

MARGARET, PAM, GLORIA, NEIGHBOR 1

Jones! Jones! Jones! Jones! Jones! Jones! Jones! Jones!

EVELYN

Wait! I've got something to say!

(Everyone is suddenly silent. Evelyn is shocked and then quickly continues.)

Jimmy, you're right. We've got to believe...in ourselves. It's not Product-O-Matic*.

(Everyone turns to do their usual Product-O-Matic face, but Evelyn stops them.)

Don't! Or religion, or even nosy next-door neighbors that control us. We have become possessed, possessed by our possessions. I refuse to be asleep at the wheel any longer. Wake up! There's more to life than a world where we would sell out our friends, our loved ones, ourselves. You know what? I hate to clean. And what's more, I think women deserve equal rights. I'm going to vote next year, even. I dream of one day joining a movement for women all across this beautiful country - A women's liberation movement. You want the truth? My daughter is a kleptomaniac with loose virtues. And my son is a homosexual. And I am not ashamed...Thank you.

(There is an awkward pause and then Margaret speaks.)

MARGARET

I secretly dream of being a rodeo clown...and often sleep in the nude.

(Margaret walks over to Evelyn who is stunned, and touched.)

GLORIA

Margaret! And to think I bought Tupperware from you!

(There is silent then Pam steps forward.)

PAM

I am a diagnosed schizophrenic and I dream of one day becoming a female boxer...and I hate Avon!

(Pam walks over to Evelyn.)

GLORIA

Pam!

JIMMY

I dream that one day people will be allowed to marry whoever they love, not matter what super natural plane they're from.

(Jimmy joins Evelyn.)

LITTLE OLD LADY

I think my grandkids are ugly. And I hate them.

(She marches over and joins Pam, Margaret and Evelyn.)

CORRECTIONS OFFICER

Grandma!

(The corrections officer lets God and Satan goes to the Little Old Lady.)

LITTLE OLD LADY

You stay back, ugly.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER

I just want to be loved.

LITTLE OLD LADY

Oh, hell, come to Granny.

(The two embrace.)

GLORIA

You ladies are making a grave mistake.

(Adam runs in.)

ADAM

No Mrs. Applegate, your husband is the one who made the mistake. It's all here in black and white.

(To Evelyn.)

I found the contract, Evelyn, for the Afterworlds.

EVELYN

I'm not crazy?

ADAM

Far from it. It also proves that Mayor Applegate committed over 30 counts of illegal business dealings in the attempted appropriation of Heaven and Hell.

EVELYN

You mean no one else has to die?

(Adam rushes to Evelyn's side.)

ADAM

The acquisition of the Afterworlds was illegal - insider trading. This contract is null and void. Oh Evelyn, I love you, Brazier or not!

(They embrace. When they pull away, Evelyn realizes that Adam is not wearing his tie.)

EVELYN

Adam, what happened to your tie?

ADAM

I burned it.

GLORIA

You people are sick. Do you hear me? Sick! You haven't heard the last from me, Jones! I'll make you all pay for this. George, honey, I'm coming.

(Gloria turns and dives into the washing machine. The machine begins to devour her. Hair, clothing and shoes fly into the air.)

EVELYN

Must unplug it.

(Evelyn and Adam, together, battle the wind and fury of the machine, until they are able to unplug it. Gloria pops out of the washer. Her hair is sticking straight up. She has been through the ringer.

"THE AMERICAN DREAM (REPRISE)"

EVELYN, ADAM

***Nothing can get in the way, our love will stay
Day by day, scene by scene
The new American dream***

SATAN

(Interrupting.)

Hey lady, can we talk about an exorcism or something?

EVELYN

Not now Richard, Mommy's singing.

GOD

Yeah, but we still want to go home.

EVELYN

No buts, young lady. You are home. You're my children and I will love you no matter who you grow up to be.

(God and Satan look at each other with the realization of what is going to happen.)

ADAM

But Evelyn, if this is true and God and Satan are here, where are Judith and Richard?

(Evelyn steps forward. She looks up. White light fills the sky.)

EVELYN

Judith.

JUDITH (V.O.)

Yes Mother?

(Evelyn looks down. Red light appears from bellow.)

EVELYN

Richard?

RICHARD (V.O.)

Yes mother?

EVELYN

Just checking.

"KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES"

JIMMY, SATAN, NEIGHBOR 2, OFFICER

(SINGS)

*This is the story 'bout Mrs. Jones and how it
came to be
She saved the world with love and spreadable
cheese*

GLORIA, PAM, MARGARET, GOD

*Her Power-Jet washing machine made quite a scene.
Her world turned up side down
And now they shout all over town*

ALL

*keep on keeping up
keep, keep on keeping up
You gotta keep, keep, keep on keeping up with the
Jones
Keeping' up, keepin' up with the Jones*

*keep on keeping up
keep, keep on keeping up
You gotta keep, keep, keep on keeping up with the
Joneses*

ADAM, EVELYN

*Nothing can come in between you and me - you and me
baby
Two hearts that beat as one - in synchronicity*

GOD, SATAN

*Nothing can come in between you and me - you and me
baby*

ALL

All hearts that beat as one - in perfect harmony

*keep on keeping up
keep, keep on keeping up*

*You gotta keep, keep, keep on keeping up with the
Jones
Keeping' up, keepin' up with the Jones*

*keep on keeping up
keep, keep on keeping up
You gotta keep, keep, keep on keeping up with the
Joneses*

*Keepin' up, Keeping up with the Jones
Keepin' up, Keeping up with the Jones
Keepin' up, Keeping up with the Jones
Keepin' up, Keeping up with the Jones
Keep on keepin' up!*

THE END