NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

by

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based on the music written and performed by Billy Joel.
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FADE IN:

EXT. MANHATTAN PIANO BAR- FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

1985

BILLY, from behind, locks up the front door of his bar. He puts his hat on, turns and begins walking down the street. His breath can be seen as he breathes in and out. Music starts in the background.

BILLY
(sings)
Some folks like to get away
Take a holiday from the neighborhood
Hop a flight to Miami Beach
Or to Hollywood
But I'm talking a Greyhound
On the Hudson River Line
I'm in a New York state of mind

BILLY walks along and empty times square.

BILLY (con't)
(sings)
I've seen all the movie stars
In their fancy cars and their limousines
Been high in the Rockies under the evergreens
But I know what I'm needing
And I don't want to waste more time
I'm in a New York state of mind

BILLY down an alleyway.

BILLY (con't)
(sings)
It was so easy living day by day
Out of touch with the rhythm and blues
But now I need a little give and take

A MOMENT LATER
EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

BILLY dances through the park, passing people. The people watching stare at him awkwardly.

BILLY (con't)
(sings)
It comes down to reality
And it's fine with me 'cause I've let it slide
Don't care if it's Chinatown or on Riverside
I don't have any reasons
I've left them all behind
I'm in a New York state of mind

It was so easy living day by day
Out of touch with the rhythm and blues
But now I need a little give and take

EXT. DOCKSIDE - NIGHT

BILLY emerges from the shadow and into a street light. He stares out at the Hudson river and the lights, singing.

BILLY (con't)
(sings)
It comes down to reality
And it's fine with me 'cause I've let it slide
Don't care if it's Chinatown or on Riverside
I don't have any reasons
I've left them all behind
I'm in a New York state of mind

I'm just taking a Greyhound on the Hudson River Line
'Cause I'm in a New York state of mind

BILLY, teary eyed stares out at a few boats passing by.

BLACK SCREEN WITH WHITE LETTERS: BILLY
EXT. DOCKS - NIGHT

BILLY blows air into his cold hands. From the right a figure emerges from the darkness. BILLY, cautious, calls to him.

BILLY
(into darkness)
Hello? Hello there?

PAUL emerges from the shadows and steps on to the dock. BILLY stares at him.

BILLY
Who are you?

PAUL
Who are you?

BILLY
I asked you first... who are you?

PAUL
My name is PAUL. I was told to come here tonight- I'm a little early.

BILLY
Yea, me too. Only I knew to come... I was told by a friend.

PAUL
That's good. You, uh, you nervous?

BILLY
I'm nervous.

PAUL
Why are you nervous? You should feel relieved. You get to get outta this place.

PAUL leans up against the railing, looking out at New Jersey.

PAUL
I used to live out there- Bergenfield. Before I moved here, and before all this mess happened, I was a somebody. Yea, man I was king of that place.

BILLY
(interested)
OK... well, I dunno you very well, and you don't have to answer this but... but you wanna talk about it
(MORE)
or something?

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: PAUL

INT. STRIP CLUB- NEW JERSEY - NIGHT

PAUL counts money at the bar, the place is packed and PAUL begins to walk the room.

PAUL
(sings)
Well you went uptown riding in
your limousine
With your fine Park Avenue clothes
You had the Dom Perignon in your
hand
And the spoon up your nose
And when you wake up in the
morning
With your head on fire
And your eyes too bloody to see
Go on and cry in your coffee
But don't come bitchin' to me

Because you had to be a big shot, didn't you
You had to open up your mouth
You had to be a big shot, didn't you
All your friends were so knocked out
You had to have the last word, last night
You know what everything's about
You had to have a white hot spotlight
You had to be a big shot last night

PAUL gets up on stage, he dances and sings while throwing dollar bills out to the crowd.

PAUL (con't)
(sings)
They were all impressed with your
Halston dress
And the people that you knew at
Elaine's
And the story of your latest
success
Kept 'em so entertained
Aw but now you just can't remember
(MORE)
PAUL (cont'd)
All the things you said
And you're not sure you want to know
I'll give you one hint, honey
You sure did put on a show

Yes, yes, you had to be a big shot, didn't you
You had to prove it to the crowd
You had to be a big shot, didn't you
All your friends were so knocked out
You had to have the last word, last night
You're so much fun to be around
You had to have the front page, bold type
You had to be a big shot last night

PAUL now stands in an empty bar, a beautiful woman stares at him, he takes her—kisses her and dances with her on the bar.

PAUL (con't)
(sings)
Well, it's no big sin to stick your two cents in
If you know when to leave it alone
But you went over the line
You couldn't see it was time to go home
No, no, no, no, no, no, you had to be a big shot, didn't you
You had to open up your mouth
You had to be a big shot, didn't you
All your friends were so knocked out
You had to have the last word, last night
So much fun to be around
You had to have a white hot spot light
You had to be a big shot last night

EXT. DOCK- RAILING - NIGHT

BILLY and PAUL talk against the railing.
PAUL
And that was it, a month later— I lost the club, the bar, the money— my girl. All gone.

BILLY
I owned a bar too. Closed it today— just tonight, just before I leave.

PAUL
I should have never come here, this city can kill ya.

BILLY
No. No it's alright. It's a great city— she just got a little mixed up is all.

An explosion is heard in the background, a slight flash of light is seen behind the buildings. BILLY and PAUL look up— when the lights stop they pan down and see a Priest standing there.

FATHER CARMINE
They blew up most of the upper east side. Burning, riots, you name it.

BILLY
I saw that this morning.

FATHER CARMINE
The explosions are them trying to restore orders up there...

PAUL
You here for the boat too?

BILLY
He's a father PAUL, he can't be...

FATHER CARMINE
(walking to them)
No, no it's ok...

FATHER CARMINE walks to them and takes off his collar, handing it to PAUL.

FATHER CARMINE
I was a man of GOD... until today.
PAUL looks in his hand at the collar. FATHER CARMINE walks past the men...then sits by the railing.

PAUL
No offense but I never been to church before father.

FATHER CARMINE
Please, I am not a father anymore...just do not call me that.

BILLY
So...so your leaving here too?

FATHER CARMINE
There isn't much I can do anymore—for anyone. See, people think because you wear that collar you don't have a past...

PAUL
Everyone has a past...even priests.

FATHER CARMINE
Exactly. What time is it?

BILLY looks at his watch.

BILLY
Eight, still have some time before it gets here.

PAUL
So what happened?

FATHER CARMINE
You don't want to know son...

BILLY
I think we do... nothing else to do— no judgement here.

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: FATHER CARMINE

FATHER CARMINE stands up— pictures of his "non-catholic" life show his mistakes in life.

FATHER CARMINE
(sings)
If it seems like I've been lost
In let's remember
If you think I'm feeling older
(MORE)
FATHER CARMINE (cont'd)
And missing my younger days
Oh, then you should have known me
much better
'Cause my past is something that
never
Got in my way
Oh no

Still I would not be here now
If I never had the hunger
And I'm not ashamed to say
The wild boys were my friends
Oh
'Cause I never felt the desire
'Til their music set me on fire
And then I was saved, yeah
That's why I'm keeping the faith
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Keeping the faith

FATHER CARMINE begins to dance and sing around the dock,
PAUL and BILLY watch.

FATHER CARMINE (con't)

(sings)
We wore old matador boots
Only Flagg Brothers had them with
a Cuban heel
Iridescent socks with the same
color shirt
And a tight pair of chinos
Oh
I put on my shark skin jacket
You know the kind with the velvet
collar
And ditty-bop shades
Oh yeah
I took a fresh pack of Luckies
And a mint called Sen-Sen
My old man's Trojans
And his Old Spice after shave
Oh
Combed my hair in a pompadour
Like the rest of the Romeos wore
A permanent wave, Yeah
We were keeping the faith
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Keeping the faith
You can get just so much
From a good thing
You can linger too long
In your dreams
Say goodbye to the
(MORE)
Oldies but goodies
'Cause the good ole days weren't
Always good
And tomorrow ain't as bad as it seems

FATHER CARMINE grabs BILLY'S hat and continues...

FATHER CARMINE (con't)
(sings)
Learned stickball as a formal education
Lost a lot of fights
But it taught me how to lose O.K.
Oh, I heard about sex
But not enough
I found you could dance
And still look tough anyway
Oh yes I did
I found out a man ain't just being macho
Ate an awful lot of late night drive-in food
Drank a lot of take home pay
I thought I was the Duke of Earl
When I made it with a red-haired girl
In the Chevrolet. Oh yeah
We were keeping the faith
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Keeping the faith

You know the good ole days weren't always good
And tomorrow ain't as bad as it seems

I told you my reasons
For the whole revival
Now I'm going outside to have
An ice cold beer in the shade
Oh, I'm going to listen to my 45's
Ain't it wonderful to be alive
When the rock 'n' roll plays, yeah
When the memory stays, yeah
I'm keeping the faith
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Keeping the faith
I'm keeping the faith,
Yes I am
As he finishes, FATHER CARMINE, sits back down fiddling with BILLY'S hat. He looks sad. PAUL walks to him, hands him the collar.

PAUL
You might need this again some day... you never know.

FATHER CARMINE looks and exchanges the hat for the collar.

BILLY
Ah, it's not so bad. Everyone has made mistakes in life...no big deal ya know?

FATHER CARMINE
Mistakes are only mistakes, when you don't mean to do them. Besides, who said anything about mistakes?

PAUL
Kind of depressing isn't it?

They three men sit in silence on the dock looking in three different directions. BILLY picks out a picture from his pocket. He smiles and giggles.

PAUL
What? What's so funny?

BILLY
You remember this?

It is a picture of the lights on Broadway.

PAUL takes it and passes it to FATHER CARMINE.

FATHER CARMINE
I used to love the theatre... my family would come in and go see a show a few times a few times a year.

BILLY
It was something special...the lights.

PAUL
I hardly remember it, seems like another life.
Music begins to play in the background. As BILLY, PAUL, and FATHER CARMINE sing— the scenes reflect the lyrics.

BILLY
(sings)
Seen the lights go out Broadway
I saw the Empire State laid low
And life went on beyond the Palisades
They all bought Cadillacs
And left there long ago

They held a concert out in Brooklyn
To watch the island bridges blow
They turned our power down
And drove us underground
But we went right on with the show

PAUL
(sings)
I've seen the lights go out on Broadway
I saw the ruins at my feet
You know we almost didn't notice it
We'd seen it all the time on Forty second street

They burned the churches down in Harlem
Like in that Spanish civil war
The flames were everywhere
But no one really cared
It always burned up there before

I've seen the lights go out on Broadway
I saw the mighty skyline fall
The boats were waiting at the battery
The union went on strike
They never sailed at all

FATHER CARMINE
(sings)
They sent a carrier out from Norfolk
And picked the Yankees up for free
They said that Queens could stay
And blew the Bronx away
And sank Manhattan out at sea
BILLY  
(sings)  
You know those lights were bright  
on Broadway  
That was so many years ago  
Before we all lived here in  
Florida  
Before the Mafia took over Mexico  
There are not many who remember  
They say a handful still survive  
To tell the world about  
The way the lights went out  
And keep the memory alive

Back on the dock, BILLY stares at the picture again. PAUL looks at the Hudson and FATHER CARMINE folds his arms with a smile on his face.

ANTHONY (OS)  
Was that what it was like?

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: ANTHONY

Pan out to see young ANHTONY standing there, still in his apron from work.

ANTHONY  
Was it like you all said? I wouldn't know... I was sorta new here.

More explosions in the distance. Planes overhead.

PAUL  
What's your name kid?

ANTHONY  
ANTHONY, ANTHONY LEONE. Nice to meet you all.

BILLY  
BILLY...that PAUL and FATHER CARMINE...you here for a spot on the boat?

ANTHONY  
Yea, yea I was told to get here before 10. I didn't miss it did I?

FATHER CARMINE  
Only nine o'clock... we're all waiting.
ANTONY takes off his apron and folds it.

BILLY
Just got off work?

ANTHONY
Yea, it's my first job.

BILLY
Where at?

ANTHONY
Kind of embarassing but, uh I work at the Save Rite, on third ave... just for now.

PAUL
For now? As of tonight your officially unemployed.

BILLY
What he means is that once the boat comes and you get on- you aren't going to be coming back.

ANTHONY looks some what cautious.

FATHER CARMINE
You OK son?

ANTHONY
Sure...just thinking. I could have left here, before the election and all. Before the crazy stuff started...but I didn't listen.

BILLY
Few people do.

PAUL
Yea don't beat yourself up over it. We already established we all make mistakes... no worries kid.

Music starts playing.

INT. GROCERY STORE- NYC - DAY

ANTHONY begins bagging some groceries and sings as he bags, stocks shelves and packs meat.
ANTHONY
(sings)
Anthony works in the grocery store
Savin' his pennies for someday
Mama Leone left a note on the door,
She said,
"Sonny, move out to the country."
Workin' too hard can give me
A heart attack
You oughta know by now
Who needs a house out in
Hackensack?
Is that what you get with your money?

It seems such a waste of time
If that's what it's all about
If that's movin' up then I'm movin' out.

ANTHONY dances through ailes, on registers, in the back room
with a mop.

ANTHONY (con't)
(sings)
Sergeant O'Leary is walkin' the beat
At night he becomes a bartender
He works at Mister Cacciatore's
down
On Sullivan Street
Across from the medical center
He's tradin' in his Checy for a Cadillac
You oughta know by now
And if he can't drive
With a broken back
At least he can polish the fenders

It seems such a waste of time
If that's what it's all about
If that's movin' up then I'm movin' out.

ANTHONY juggles fruit and races a cart through the lanes.

ANTHONY (con't)
(sings)
You should never argue with a crazy mind
You oughta know by now
You can pay Uncle Sam with overtime

(MORE)
ANTHONY (cont'd)
Is that all you get for your money?
It seems such a waste of time
If that's what it's all about
If that's movin' up then I'm movin' out.

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT
ANTHONY stands there, somewhat embarrassed. PAUL smiles at him.

FATHER CARMINE
Ah, to be young again.

PAUL
Second that FATHER. Second that.

PAUL takes out a flask and takes a swig, then he hands it out to ANTHONY.

PAUL
Drink up kid, you never know if this damn boat will actually make it... might as well enjoy your night.

BILLY laughs and ANTHONY drinks, swallows and suffers the burn.

FATHER CARMINE
My turn, ha! Is it whisky?

He drinks and they four of them laugh. For a moment, all is calm and safe. From the dark, a young lady emerges. She is no seen but softly talks.

VIRGINIA
(low)
Excuse me...excuse me.

The men are so into the alcohol and jokes they tell to each other they dont notice her there.

VIRGINIA
Is this where we wait for the boat? At 10 o'clock?

BILLY notices her and sees her, the other men see her now as well.
16.

VIRGINIA
The boat? We are supposed to come here and meet up? Ten o'clock tonight?

BILLY
Yes that's right, but I don't think we all were to meet here. It just happened.

FATHER CARMINE, walks to her slow. He looks upset.

FATHER CARMINE
What are you doing here? I thought you got out weeks ago?

VIRGINIA
I wanted to, but I wanted to see you get out first. The church, they said you had left for the last boat.

FATHER CARMINE
(angry)
You shouldn't have come, you should not be on the island. It's not safe- you were supposed to be safe.

VIRGINIA
I am safe, I just wanted to see you father.

Loud crash is heard and more lights in the sky.

PAUL
Doesn't sound very safe...

ANTHONY
He's not a priest anymore, see no collar.

VIRGINIA
I know that...

BILLY
Yea, but you called him father, so...

VIRGINIA
I know I called him that...
FATHER CARMINE
(to the guys)
She's my daughter...

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: VIRGINIA

FATHER CARMINE
But she should not be here...she should be safe.

VIRGINIA
But I had to see you, I wanted to tell you- I'm pregnant. I am gonna have a son.

ANTHONY
(drinks)
Congrats!

FATHER CARMINE covers his mouth and walks to the railing. VIRGINIA follows him to talk alone.

VIRGINIA
Did you hear what I said?

FATHER CARMINE
I did, but... I dunno VIRGINIA.

VIRGINIA
Arent you happy, even a little?
For me... for your son?

FATHER CARMINE
And who is the father? huh?

VIRGINIA
He, he left...for overseas a month ago. He had too... he had no choice.

Music starts to play.

VIRGINIA
(sings to FATHER CARMINE)
Some love is just a lie of the heart
The cold remains of what began with a passionate start
And they may not want it to end
But it will, it's just a question of when
I've lived long enough to have learned

(MORE)
VIRGINIA (cont'd)
The closer you get to the fire the
more you get burned
But that won't happen to us
Because it's always been a matter
of trust

I know you're an emotional girl
It took a lot for you to not lose
your faith in this world
I can't offer you proof
But you're gonna face a moment of
truth
It's hard when you're always
afraid
You just recover when another
belief is betrayed
So break my heart if you must
It's a matter of trust

VIRGINIA holds her belly and smiles, she walks into the
street light and everything is blacked out but her.

VIRGINIA (con't)
(sings)
You can't go the distance
With too much resistance
I know you have doubts
But for God's sake don't shut me out

This time you've got nothing to lose
You can take it, you can leave it
Whatever you choose
I won't hold back anything
And I'll walk away a fool or a king
Some love is just a lie of the mind
It's make believe until it's only
a matter of time
And some might have learned to adjust
But then it never was a matter of trust

I'm sure you're aware love
We've both had our share of
Believing too long
When the whole situation was wrong

FATHER CARMINE steps out and sings with her.
FATHER CARMINE
(w/ VIRGINIA)
Some love is just a lie of the soul
A constant battle for the ultimate state of control
After you've heard lie upon lie
There can hardly be a question of why
Some love is just a lie of the heart
The cold remains of what began with a passionate start
But that can't happen to us
Because it's always been a matter of trust

They hug. A thunderous flash and boom is heard. It startles them all. VIRGINIA holds onto her dad. BILLY looks up.

BILLY
I can only imagine what is going on out there...only GOD knows.

ANTHONY
I wonder if i'll ever see my parents again ya know?

BILLY
Anything is possible, anything. You may one day.

BILLY looks at his watch, he turns to PAUL.

PAUL
What is it?

BILLY
It's late, a few minutes late is all. Nothing to get worked up about.

ANTHONY
Are you sure? How late?

BILLY
A few minutes...

FATHER CARMINE
I am sure it will be here, with the bridges being gone they have to be careful coming in and out ya know.
VIRGINIA
Let's hope they make it through.

ANTHONY
They'll make it through though, right? I mean...

BILLY
/arm around
ANTHONY)
It'll be fine- it will make it here.

ANTHONY
Yea, I guess better late than never ya know?

PAUL sifts through some rubble of screen and pulls over a few garbage cans, he turns them upside down and offers them as chairs.

PAUL
Here, in case you were tired of standing, like me.

VIRGINIA, PAUL and ANTHONY sit. FATHER CARMINE looks into the distance.

FATHER CARMINE
Hey, you hear that? I think I hear sirens...

BILLY
(alarmed)
Sirens? Where?

FATHER CARMINE
Out there... listen, shhhh.

Everyone listens, police sirens are heard. They are all alarmed.

BILLY
Shoot, they are sirens, the police are coming.

ANTHONY
What do we do?

BILLY
Stay calm... let me think- can we hide?
FATHER CARMINE
There is no where to hide, its a dock.

PAUL
There are OTHER ways of handling this...

BILLY
That's crazy, dont talk like that.

VIRGINIA
Yea, what are you some kind of criminal?

PAUL
No, lady, I am realist and I wanna get on this boat and no cop is gonna stand in my way... that's all. I'll do what it takes.

BILLY
OK, enough... look follow my lead ok? Just follow what I say.

The headlights stop just short of the dock and a police officer steps out of his car.

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: BOBBY

MARTY walks over with his flashlight and hand on his hip. He glances over the group one by one. BILLY stands up to him.

BILLY
Evening officer... something the matter?

BOBBY
That depends on what you all are doing out here past hours?

BILLY
Just sight seeing, it's still legal to come out here and get some air isn't it?

BOBBY
I suppose, large group of you to be out here though, seems... suspicious.
PAUL
We're old friends, haven't seen each other in a while...

BOBBY walks to the railing, looks down to the water, then back to the group.

BOBBY
You guys wouldn't be waiting for a boat now would you?

ANTHONY
No, what boat?

PAUL
There's is no boat...

BOBBY
It's late.

BILLY
How did you know that?

VIRGINIA gets anxious.

VIRGINIA
BILLY!

BOBBY
It's ok m'am. I know all about the boat, i know that's why your hear...

BOBBY takes off his trooper hat, holding it in his hands.

BOBBY
I know this, because that's why I am here.

BILLY
Really?

BOBBY
Yes really.

PAUL
Well that is a relief officer.

FATHER CARMINE
AMEN to that.

BOBBY
What are you a priest?
PAUL
Used to be.

BILLY
(confused)
Wait, wait. Why would a New York city officer want off the island? I thought the government took good care of you? Why run?

BOBBY
Well, because... I have a family. Ya know? I have a brother- his name is John. He lives back in Hollywood- that's my home town. I came here to help- ended up causing more problems... and now I want out.

ANTHONY
That sounds fair enough.

BOBBY
Living there was so much different...

BOBBY begins his song, as he sings we flash back to the West coast he sees younger days riding around with his brother. We also see BOBBY has left his lover back in California.

BOBBY
(sings)
Bobby's drivin' through the city tonight
Through the lights in a hot new rent-a-car
He joins the lovers in his heavy machine
It's a scene down on Sunset Boulevard
Say goodbye to Hollywood
Say goodbye my baby
Say goodbye to Hollywood
Say goodbye my baby

Johnny's takin' care of things for a while
And his style is so right for troubadours
They got him sitting with his back to the door
Now he won't be my fast gun anymore
Say goodbye to Hollywood
(MORE)
BOBBY (cont'd)
Say goodbye my baby
Say goodbye to Hollywood
Say goodbye my baby

Movin' on is a chance that you have to take
Any time you try to stay - together
Whoa
Say a word out of line
And you find that the friends you had
Are gone - forever
Forever

So many faces in and out of my life
Some will last
Some will be just now and then
Life is a series of hellos and goodbyes
I'm afraid it's time for goodbye again
Say goodbye to Hollywood
Say goodbye my baby
Say goodbye to Hollywood
Say goodbye my baby

Movin' on is a chance that you have to take
Any time you try to stay - together
Whoa
Say a word out of line
And you find that the friends you had
Are gone - forever
Forever

So many faces in and out of my life
Some will last
Some will be just now and then
Life is a series of hellos and goodbyes
I'm afraid it's time for goodbye again
Say goodbye to Hollywood
Say goodbye my baby
Say goodbye to Hollywood
Say goodbye my baby
Back at the Dock, BOBBY looks around. The group seems to be saddened a bit.

PAUL
And here I thought all cops were bad news...sorry for your troubles.

BOBBY
It's all I think about... getting out of here, righting my wrongs.

More explosions, more flashed of light. VIRGINIA clings to FATHER CARMINE as she is scared.

BOBBY
You know what those sounds are?

BILLY
Bombs? Trying to hold back the mobs?

VIRGINIA
Not quite, see they're testing explosives under and around the island...to loosen her up, before...

FATHER CARMINE
They get the call to let her float to sea.

BOBBY
That's right, should not be long now. And most poor bastards dont know what is coming to them.

PAUL
That's terrible, is there anything we can do?

FATHER CARMINE
There is no time son.

BILLY
How long?

BOBBY
Not long, the best thing we can hope for is the boat gets here sooner than later.
ANTHONY
It's already late, who knows if it will even show up.

Everyone hangs thier head, they are all upset and BILLY stares at his watch. FATHER CARMINE talks to VIRGINIA trying to lighten the mood.

FATHER CARMINE
Baby, what's the first thing you're gonna do when we get off the boat? Tell me...

VIRGINIA
I'm gonna find a place, a quiet place on a quiet street somewhere. Nothing too big—just big enough for me and the baby and you to visit. A warm bed, a garden, and a baby blue bedroom. Wouldn't that be nice father?

FATHER CARMINE
Your mother would have loved it.

VIRGINIA
What about you ANTHONY?

ANTHONY
Finish school. Meet a nice brown haired girl. Get married, start a life of my own. My own American dream. It's gonna be great... what about you PAUL?

PAUL
I want to open a club, the clean way this time, open for business on a Friday night in June and watch the crowds come in. It's gonna be amazing, the best club you've ever seen, hardest one to get into— but all of you go to the front of the line, I mean it.

They all smile and laugh.

PAUL
How about you BILL?

BILLY
Oh I dunno. Find a little pub, get a gig playing the piano on Saturdays. There's something about (MORE)
BILLY (cont'd)
it, seeing the faces when you
play...you can tell your touching
them in one way or another. The
faces, yea, that's what I'll do-
make them feel good in this
terrible time... how about you?

BOBBY
Easy. Back to the West coast, find
my girl- kiss her for an hour
straight and take her for a ride
with the top down. Like heaven.

They all smile again. BILLY looks at FATHER CARMINE and his
big smile as the mood is now light.

BILLY
You, you never told us what you
would do...

FATHER CARMINE
(low)
Find a church... pray.

PAUL
OK, so now your back in the
church?

FATHER CARMINE
Pray for the souls of the
thousands that have no way out...

BILLY
You're a good man...

From off screen a lady's voice is heard, the group all turn
from thier conversation. A man and woman stand there in the
headlights. They are holding hands.

BRENDA
Hello. I'm sorry...

EDDIE
We're here for the boat, did we
miss it?

BILLY
No, it's on it's way...you are in
time.

BRENDA
Oh thank god.
PAUL
Join the club folks...

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: BRENDA AND EDDIE

BRENDA and EDDIE walk to the group.

BILLY
I guess since we're all on the same path I should introduce. I am BILL, that's PAUL there, FATHER CARMINE, his daughter VIRGINIA, ANTHONY and...

BOBBY
BOB. Nice to meet you guys.

EDDIE
Same here... how long you all been waiting?

PAUL
Just about all night- give or take.

BRENDA
You do still think the boat is coming don't you?

BILLY
Positive. It will be here...

VIRGINIA
So are you guys together?

EDDIE
Together?

VIRGINIA
Yea, like a couple?

BRENDA
(smiles)
Oh, I see. I guess it would look that way.

EDDIE
Yea, no we're not... together. Just here right now together.

PAUL
Sounds complicated.
ANTHONY
I'll say. Very complicated.

FATHER CARMINE
Now guys, let them be. I am sure you have reasons.

EDDIE
It's OK, see we used to be, ya know together together but things got...I dunno.

BILLY
(jokes)
Complicated?

EDDIE
Exactly.

BRENDA
And we promised we would help each other if we ever needed it, and with all this terrible stuff going on we needed each other's help.

EDDIE
I heard about the boat and she was the only person I could think to call.

PAUL
(jokes)
Sweet, how cute!

BILLY
Now, now I think it is.

PAUL
You would Piano man!

VIRGINIA
I think so too. Tell us, what happened?

EDDIE
It's a long story...we'd need a lot of time.

ANTHONY
So how come you to never hooked up?
INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

EDDIE sits across from BRENDA by the window at an Italian Restaurant. The table riddles with glasses and wine bottles. They sing.

EDDIE
(sings)
A bottle of white, a bottle of red
Perhaps a bottle of rose instead
We'll get a table near the street
In our old familiar place
You and I--face to face

A bottle of red, a bottle of white
It all depends on your appetite
I'll meet you any time you want
In our Italian Restaurant.

They jump up and dance through the tables or people eating.

BRENDA
(sings)
Things are okay with me these days
Got a good job, got a good office
Got a new wife, got a new life
And the family's fine
We lost touch long ago
You lost weight
I did not know
You could ever look so good after
So much time.

EDDIE
(and BRENDA)
I remember those days hanging out
At the village green
Engineer boots, leather jackets
And tight blue jeans
Drop a dime in the box play the
Song about New Orleans
Cold beer, hot lights
My sweet romantic teenage nights

As they sing, they act out the lyrics as they relive moments of their lives together.

BRENDA
(sings)
Brenda and Eddie were the popular steadies
And the king and the queen of the prom
Riding around with the car top
(MORE)
BRENDA (cont'd)
don't and the radio on
Nobody looked any finer
Or was more of a hit at the
Parkway Diner
We never knew we could want more
than that out of life
Surely Brenda and Eddie would
always know how to survive.

EDDIE
(sings)
Brenda and Eddie were still going
steady in the summer of '75
When they decided the marriage
would be at the end of July
Everyone said they were crazy
"Brenda you know you're much too
lazy
Eddie could never afford to live
that kind of life."
But there we were wavin' Brenda
and Eddie goodbye.

They got an apartment with deep
pile carpet
And a couple of paintings from
Sears
A big waterbed that they bought
with the bread
They had saved for a couple of
years
They started to fight when the
money got tight
And they just didn't count on the
tears.

BRENDA
(and EDDIE)
They lived for a while in a very
nice style
But it's always the same in the
end
They got a divorce as a matter of
course
And they parted the closest of
friends
Then the king and the queen went
back to the green
But you can never go back there
again.
BRENDA
(sings)
Brenda and Eddie had had it already
By the summer of '75
From the high to the low
To the end of the show
For the rest of their lives
They couldn't go back to the greasers
The best they could do was pick up the pieces
We always knew they would both find a way to get by
That's all I heard about Brenda and Eddie
Can't tell you more than I told you already
And here we are wavin' Brenda and Eddie goodbye.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY
BRENDA and EDDIE sit int he table by the window— in love, gazing at one another.

BRENDA
(and EDDIE)
A bottle of red, and bottle of white
Whatever kind of mood you're in tonight
I'll meet you anytime you want
In our Italian Restaurant.

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT
BRENDA and EDDIE finish telling their story. The others listen closely. PAUL lightens the moment.

PAUL
That's the thing about living in the moment, it always will pass.

VIRGINIA
I think it's romantic...

BILLY
I am glad you could be there for each other... gives us all something to look forward to.
A loud horn is heard. They all turn to the dock end, a boat is coming.

FATHER CARMINE
There it is!

BILLY
Here we go, I knew it would come.

PAUL
About damn time!

They begin to all make their way down to the end of the dock. The boat docks and a man with a beard talks to the crowd from the captain's deck.

CAPTAIN JACK
I'm CAPTAIN JACK, and I am here to take you down river. I don't know who you are, and I don't wanna know who you are- I have 7 spots open and only 7. So come on up and move fast!

BILLY
Wait! Seven spots? We have eight people here.

CAPTAIN JACK
Too bad son, my crew members come first and I have a sick cook. He needs to lay down and takes up a spot. One of you will have to stay- I'm sorry.

ANTHONY
But who's gonna stay behind?

BOBBY
This is nuts... I'm not staying.

PAUL
Me either, I am goin.

CAPTAIN JACK
5 minutes I leave with seven of you.

CAPTAIN JACK heads in. BILLY turns to the crowd.

BILLY
OK, ok lets see. We don't have much time to decide.
PAUL
No this is wrong... it can't be this way.

BILLY
Fact is it's unfair but it's reality. So... VIRGINIA you have to go, your dad too. ANTHONY and BRENDA and EDDIE go. PAUL, you too and BOBBY as well.

ANTHONY
And you? Your going to stay?

BILLY
What can I do? I would rather seven of us live long lives than die here on this dock... it's the only way.

Silence. Then FATHER CARMINE steps up.

FATHER CARMINE
No, there is another way. I am staying.

VIRGINIA
(mad)
WHAT? No way.

BILLY
No, no way, you're getting on that boat.

FATHER CARMINE
Son, I have lived a long life- you have many years left to make a difference.

FATHER CARMINE turns to his daughter.

FATHER CARMINE
Go with them, be safe, have my grand baby and love him like you never loved before. I will see you again...

VIRGINIA
(crying)
Daddy, please...
FATHER CARMINE
(hugs her)
I love you VIRGINIA, always.

FATHER CARMINE looks to all the crowd and then to BILLY.

FATHER CARMINE
Look after my girl. I will pray
for all of you- it was a blessing
to have met you all.

BILLY nods and one by one they begin to get on board the
ship. BILLY gets VIRGINIA on and she blows a kiss to her
father. BILLY gets on and unites the rope. Flashes are seen
in the sky and the boat engine starts up. FATHER CARMINE
stands on the dock looking at the boat pull away. The others
all sad, stare at him as BILLY hold VIRGINIA close. Before
long, sirens are heard and FATHER CARMINE cannot see the
boat in the distance.

FATHER CARMINE
(sings)
Goodnight, my angel
Time to close your eyes
And save these questions for
another day
I think I know what you've been
asking me
I think you know what I've been
trying to say
I promised I would never leave you
And you should always know
Wherever you may go
No matter where you are
I never will be far away

Goodnight, my angel
Now it's time to sleep
And still so many things I want to
say
Remember all the songs you sang
for me
When we went sailing on an emerald
bay
And like a boat out on the ocean
I'm rocking you to sleep
The water's dark
And deep inside this ancient heart
You'll always be a part of me

Goodnight, my angel
Now it's time to dream
And dream how wonderful your life
will be

(MORE)
Someday your child may cry
And if you sing this lullabye
Then in your heart
There will always be a part of me

Someday we'll all be gone
But lullabyes go on and on...
They never die
That's how you
And I
Will be

When done FATHER CARMINE finds his collar on the dock ground and picks it up. Puts it back on and smiles up at the sky. He then turns, and walks into the darkness. Bombs are heard in the distance. The light on the dock, goes out.

TEN YEARS LATER

EXT. BUS STATION- PENNSYLVANIA - DAY

An older BILLY steps out of the bus station with his hat in hand. He looks around and begins to walk down the road.

EXT. CARNIVAL- GROUNDS - NIGHT

BILLY arrives at the Carnival and sees many people playing games and riding rides. He smiles as he makes his way past them and to a tent marked PRIVATE, he takes a breath and enters the tent.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

As BILLY walks in he sees everyone and they let out a collective "HEY!!!" BILLY tears up and walks to them. VIRGINIA is first to meet him with a small child in hand. BILLY kisses her cheek and bends down to the boy.

BILLY
(to boy)
Hey there fella? How are you?

VIRGINIA
(older)
It's good to see you again BILL.
Meet my son, William Carmine.
(tears)
Oh VIRGINIA...

They hug. Next, PAUL comes over and shakes BILLY'S hand.

PAUL
(older)
Look who it is!

BILLY
PAUL, how are you?

BILLY sees a ring on PAUL'S finger.

BILLY
Well I see!

PAUL
(smiles)
Who knew huh?

An older ANTHONY comes up to BILLY, and hugs him.

ANTHONY
Been so long my friend! You look great.

BILLY
Ha, and you still look to young- just like that night on the dock. Haven't ages a bit!

BILLY sees BRENDA and EDDIE there as well. He walks to them. They smile.

BILLY
And you too?

EDDIE
What? Still friends...

BRENDA
Best of friends...good to see you BILL.

BILLY
(jokes)
You too will never learn ha!

ANTHONY
Where is BOBBY?
BILLY
I uh, heard last year- he died. Cancer of the lungs. He didn't know...but he did make it back west. God Bless him.

PAUL passes out drinks.

PAUL
Lets toast.... to BOBBY, to FATHER CARMINE, to CAPTAIN JACK, and to each other. We will always have eachother.

They all clang glasses and drink. Music starts in the background. They exit the tent and begin to sing as they ride, play games, and enjoy each other for that one night.

EXT. CARNIVAL - NIGHT

"BILLY lives in New Jersey. He opened his Piano Bar in Newark and named it CARMINE'S. He now no longer plays piano but still loves the faces of his customers"

BILLY
(sings)
Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red China, Johnny Ray South Pacific, Walter Winchell, Joe DiMaggio

Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon, Studebaker, Television North Korea, South Korea, Marilyn Monroe

"PAUL lived in Boston for a while, but was killed by a drunk driver recently. He was married to a girl from Brooklyn. She still lives there today."

PAUL
(sings)
BILLY
(w/ ALL)
We didn't start the fire
It was always burning
Since the world's been turning
We didn't start the fire
No we didn't light it
But we tried to fight it

"ANTHONY graduated from Brown. He is a teacher of law in Philadelphia where he is engaged to a blonde girl named Annabelle."

ANTHONY
(sings)
Joseph Stalin, Malenkov, Nasser
and Prokofiev
Rockefeller, Campanella, Communist
Bloc
Roy Cohn, Juan Peron, Toscanini,
Dancron
Dien Bien Phu Falls, Rock Around
the Clock

"VIRGINIA lives in Washington DC with her son. He is in school and she works as a waitress at night and banker by day. She recently paid a visit to her father's grave located in Patterson NJ."

VIRGINIA
(sings)
Einstein, James Dean, Brooklyn's
got a winning team
Davy Crockett, Peter Pan, Elvis
Presley, Disneyland

Bardot, Budapest, Alabama,
Khrushchev
Princess Grace, Peyton Place,
Trouble in the Suez

BILLY
(w/ ALL)
We didn't start the fire
It was always burning
Since the world's been turning
We didn't start the fire
No we didn't light it
But we tried to fight it

"Brenda is married, and still keeps in contact with EDDIE from time to time. She owns a dry cleaning store in Miami."
BRENDA
(sings)
Little Rock, Pasternak, Mickey Mantle, Kerouac
Sputnik, Chou En-Lai, Bridge On The River Kwai
Lebanon, Charles de Gaulle, California baseball
Starkwether, Homicide, Children of Thalidomide
Buddy Holly, Ben Hur, Space Monkey, Mafia
Hula Hoops, Castro, Edsel is a no-go

"EDDIE never married. He is motivational speaker and travels a lot. He has no kids and anytime he is Miami he takes BRENDA out for a nice Italian dinner."

EDDIE
(sings)
U2, Syngman Rhee, payola and Kennedy
Chubby Checker, Psycho, Belgians in the Congo

BILLY
(w/ ALL)
We didn't start the fire
It was always burning
Since the world's been turning
We didn't start the fire
No we didn't light it
But we tried to fight it

BILLY
(sings)
Hemingway, Eichman, Stranger in a Strange Land
Dylan, Berlin, Bay of Pigs invasion

Lawrence of Arabia, British Beatlemania
Ole Miss, John Glenn, Liston beats Patterson

VIRGINIA
(sings)
Pope Paul, Malcolm X, British Politician sex
J.F.K. blown away, what else do I
(MORE)
VIRGINIA (cont'd)

have to say

BILLY
(w/ ALL)
We didn't start the fire
It was always burning
Since the world's been turning
We didn't start the fire
No we didn't light it
But we tried to fight it

PAUL
(sings)
Birth control, Ho Chi Minh,
Richard Nixon back again
Moonshot, Woodstock, Watergate,
punk rock

ANTHONY
(sings)
Begin, Reagan, Palestine, Terror
on the airline
Ayatollah's in Iran, Russians in
Afghanistan

BRENDA
(sings)
Wheel of Fortune, Sally Ride,
heavy metal, suicide
Foreign debts, homeless Vets,
AIDS, Crack, Bernie Goetz

EDDIE
(sings)
Hypodermics on the shores, China's
under martial law
Rock and Roller cola wars, I can't
take it anymore

BILLY
(w/ ALL)
We didn't start the fire
It was always burning
Since the world's been turning
We didn't start the fire
No we didn't light it
But we tried to fight it

Fire works end the night with the groups dancing under the
night sky. FADE

FADE OUT.