

Just You and Me

Book, Music, and Lyrics by
Daniel A. Wolf

Cast of Characters

Wendy Rosenberg

Rick Ellis

Tom McMillan

Leslie Stiles

Julian Goodman

Sammy Davis

Jeff Kaye

Ed Sullivan

Mel (Rick's agent)

Barry (comedy writer)

Two audience plants

Fred Stafford

Mark Wright

Doctor

Nurse

Master of Ceremonies (Grendel's, Woodstock, convention moderator)

Vince Beasley

Max

Voiceover

Sound and light technicians

ACT I

SCENE 1

(Circa 1965. RICK ELLIS and TOM MCMILLAN sit in the back seat of a bus on the way to Boston. RICK holds a guitar and is writing on a notepad. TOM's guitar remains in the case. Both are in their early to mid-twenties, medium build. Their hair is of average length as the counter culture movement has not yet fully taken root.)

RICK: *Here, I think I got the first verse.*

TRACK 1. "BOSTON" (SHORT)

RICK

*When I got to Boston
I was all alone
But I knew I was home
and everybody was my friend*

TOM: *Amazing. We're still a day out of Boston and you already have a song. Why don't you wait 'til we're there?*

RICK: *I don't need to wait. It's all here in this book. (He displays a book titled "Boston".) There's a park in the center called the Common. It sounds a lot like Deming Park. They have a river called the Charles and there's also a train that can take you to Cambridge. That's where Harvard is. That's enough for a song.*

TOM: *What am I doing?*

RICK: *Lead, some harp.*

TOM: *How long you plan to stay there?*

RICK: *As long as it takes.*

TOM: *As long as it takes for what?*

RICK: *Fame and fortune.*

(TOM laughs.)

RICK: *What's so funny?*

TOM: *There's no money in folk music.*

RICK: *Oh really? Did you ever hear of Bob Dylan? I'm sure he has some lovely left-wing sentiments with a very right-wing bank account. Why? Why you going?*

TOM: *Learn my craft. I'm sure there's a lot I can learn from musicians on the east.*

RICK: *That's great. We can put that on your stone. "Here lies Tom McMillan. He learned his craft."*

TOM: *Yeah? What will they say on yours?*

RICK: *Mine? "Here lies Rick Ellis, a poor farm boy from Terre Haute, Indiana, who achieved fame and fortune more than he ever imagined."*

TOM: *Well, good luck with that. I'm gonna take a nap. Wake me up when you make your first million.*

(RICK continues strumming his guitar and writing in his notepad.)

SCENE 2 — GRENDEL'S COFFEE HOUSE

(There are a number of tables and chairs. There is a slightly elevated stage. PATRONS sit with drinks and some snacks. On one side sits WENDY ROSENBERG, mid-twenties, with her guitar case leaning against her table. She is heavy-set with long hair. She wears jeans and a plain top. On the other side sit RICK and TOM, also with guitar cases. On stage is a singer/guitarist, VINCE BEASLEY, singing the end of his song. A master of ceremonies (MC) waits in the wings.)

VINCE

*I love you, I love you,
I love you, I love you,
I love you!*

(Small audience applause. MC goes on stage as VINCE leaves.)

MC: *Thank you. That was Vince Beasley with his song "I Love You". Thank you, Vince. Once again, this is our Wednesday open mic night. Try getting here around 7:30, give us your name, and you can perform your song. The winner will be given time to perform the song during our Saturday night show case. By the way, I hope you can come out this Saturday. We have a young man all the way from North Carolina I'm sure you're going to enjoy, Jimmy Taylor.*

AUDIENCE: *James Taylor.*

MC: *You sure?*

AUDIENCE: *Yes.*

MC: *Okay, James Taylor will be here this Saturday, show starts at 8 PM. (reads paper) Time to bring up our next performer. Miss Wendy Rosenberg. Wendy, you here?*

(WENDY opens her guitar case and takes out her guitar.)

WENDY: *Here I am.*

(She steps onto the stage, sits down on a chair near a microphone stand, and tunes her guitar.)

WENDY: *Hi, everyone.*

AUDIENCE: *We love you, Wendy.*

WENDY: *Thanks. My fan club. Here's a song I wrote a few days ago while traveling around the Cape. Hope you like it. It's called "Collage". Here goes.*

(She plays guitar and sings.)

TRACK 2. "COLLAGE"

WENDY

*Birds fly and touch down
Summer never lets you down
Seasons turning grey
See the old men drift away
Winds blow, morning's bright
Sailing ships fall out of sight
Out of sight
Dreamers gone to sleep
All the words are theirs to keep
Seasons turning grey
See the old men drift away
Painted trees on a hill
In the endless climb we fall
We fall
Birds fly and touch down
Summer never lets you down
Summer never lets you down*

WENDY: *Thank you.*

(The AUDIENCE applauds. WENDY leaves stage, returns to her seat, and puts the guitar back in the case. TOM and RICK take out their guitars as MC speaks.)

MC: *Thank you. Our next and last performers this evening are two guys who come all the way from Indiana. They just arrived about a week ago. Is that right?*

TOM: *That's right.*

MC: *Sorry, what's your name again?*

TOM: *Tom McMillan.*

MC: *And you are?*

RICK: *Rick Ellis.*

MC: *So here's Tom and Rick.*

(TOM and RICK go on stage, sit down, and check the tuning of their guitars.)

RICK: *Good evening. As Ron said we just arrived about a week ago from Indiana. Ever hear of Indiana?*

(A few audience members applaud.)

RICK: *Thanks. Must be basketball fans. Here's a song we wrote about your beautiful city. It's called "Boston."*

TRACK 3. "BOSTON"

RICK

*When I got to Boston
I was all alone
But I knew I was home
And everybody was my friend.*

RICK & TOM

*Took a walk long the Common
Passed the peanut man
And all the children of the land
And for the first time
I was free*

(As they play, WENDY takes a small paper from her pants pocket, writes her address and phone number, and puts it back into her pocket.)

RICK

*Sometimes I sit along the Charles
Smilin', not carin' where I go
Highways stretching toward tomorrow
People not knowin' where they go*

RICK & TOM

*Took a train to Cambridge
Got off at Harvard Square
Saw all the people there
And for the first time
I was free
I was free*

(Audience applauds.)

RICK: *Thank you.*

MC: *That was Rick and Tom. Now if you'll just wait a few minutes the judges will decide tonight's winner.*

(WENDY approaches TOM and RICK who are putting their guitars back in their cases.)

WENDY: *Great song.*

TOM: *Thank you.*

WENDY: *You guys write it?*

TOM: *Rick did.*

WENDY: *Just get here?*

RICK: *Last week.*

WENDY: *Where you staying?*

RICK: *With a friend... for now.*

WENDY: *How do you like Boston?*

RICK: *Great city but too cold. You from the area?*

WENDY: *Born and raised. I could show you around if you like.*

RICK: *Thanks.*

WENDY: *Look, just wondering, would you'd be interested in a third?*

TOM: *What do you mean?*

WENDY: *You know, I join up with you guys. I'm a decent guitar player and I can write.*

TOM: *Sorry. It's just Rick and me.*

RICK: *Do you write?*

WENDY: *Yes. I wrote that song, "Collage." I'm always writing. It's my passion.*

(RICK looks at WENDY.)

RICK: *Wait a second.*

(RICK takes TOM aside.)

RICK: *What do you think?*

TOM: *About what?*

RICK: *Letting her join.*

TOM: *Forget it.*

RICK: *Look, she's from the area. We don't know a single thing about Boston.*

TOM: *So we'll learn.*

RICK: *She's got a good voice.*

TOM: *No way. We tried it, remember? Never works.*

RICK: *I know.*

TOM: *So forget it.*

RICK: *I just have a feeling about her.*

TOM: *What are you talking about? We've been together since we were kids. We don't need another person.*

RICK: *Come on. If it doesn't work we can always bail.*

(TOM touches RICK's head.)

TOM: *You're always spinning up there.*

RICK: *Okay?*

TOM: *(looks at WENDY) Alright.*

RICK: *(to WENDY) We'll give it a shot.*

WENDY: *Great!*

RICK: *You live around here?*

(WENDY sings to melody from “Boston”.)

WENDY

I live near the Common.

WENDY: *Love that song. (She takes the paper from her jeans pocket.) Here’s my address and phone number. When would you like to meet?*

RICK: *How’s tomorrow?*

WENDY: *Tomorrow’s fine.*

RICK: *Around one?*

WENDY: *One’s good.*

TOM: *(to RICK) You go ahead. There’s an apartment I want to check out.*

RICK: *(to WENDY) Just be me then.*

WENDY: *GREAT! I MEAN NO PROBLEM.*

RICK: *Good. See ya tomorrow.*

MC: *Here we go. And tonight’s winner is... Vince Beasley with his song “I Love You.”
Congratulations, Vince!*

(TOM, RICK, and WENDY look at each other in stunned disbelief.)

SCENE 3 — WENDY’S APARTMENT

(On one side is a small kitchen unit consisting of a small table and chairs, refrigerator, sink, cupboards, and cutting area. Adjacent is the living room consisting of a sofa, end tables and lamps, coffee table, and cushioned chair. There is a telephone on one of the end tables. There are also bookshelves and a coat rack. Flower pots are scattered in both the kitchen and living room. WENDY sits on the sofa talking on the phone.)

WENDY: *Mom, how could he be Jewish? He's from Indiana. There are no Jews in Indiana. (pause) No, I don't know his last name. I probably heard it but I can't remember. I just know his first name's Rick. (pause) Yes, he's coming alone. (pause) No, I'm not afraid. He seems very nice. Mom, I told you. He's from Indiana. There are no bad people in Indiana. (There's a knock on the door.) I think he's here. I'll call you later. (pause) Okay, I'll see if he's Jewish. Bye. (She hangs up phone.) I'm coming!*

(WENDY straightens her clothes at the door. She is nervous. She opens the door. RICK is there.)

WENDY: *Hi! Come in.*

RICK: *Thank you.*

WENDY: *Let me take your coat.*

(RICK takes off his coat and hands it to WENDY.)

RICK: *Nice place.*

WENDY: *Thanks. It's small but comfortable. Please sit down.*

(RICK sits on one side of the sofa while WENDY puts his coat on the coat rack.)

RICK: *You live alone?*

WENDY: *Just me and the plants.*

RICK: *No pets?*

WENDY: *No, the landlord won't let me. Guess you had pets in Indiana.*

RICK: *I grew up on a farm.*

WENDY: *A farm? The closest I've come to a farm is shopping at the fruit counter. Would you like something to drink? Water? Soda? I even have some wine if you like.*

RICK: *Water's fine. Little too early to drink.*

WENDY: *Coming right up. (She takes a pitcher of water from the refrigerator and a cup from the cupboard and pours the water into it. She hands the glass to RICK.) Here you are.*

RICK: *Thanks.*

(WENDY sits on the other end of the sofa.)

WENDY: *I'm sorry, could you tell me your last name again?*

RICK: *Ellis.*

WENDY: *That's right. I forgot.*

RICK: *Your last name's Rosenberg?*

WENDY: *Yes.*

RICK: *That's a Jewish name.*

WENDY: *Yes. Guess you don't meet many Jews in Indiana.*

RICK: *You're the first.*

WENDY: *Really? Well, don't worry. We don't bite. We like to eat as you can see, but we don't bite.*

RICK: *You look fine.*

WENDY: *I'm working on it.*

RICK: *Working on what?*

WENDY: *You Midwest types really are kind. So, how long are you and Tom together?*

RICK: *Since we were kids.*

WENDY: *You play a lot?*

RICK: *Not much. State fairs mostly. Not a big folk scene in Indiana.*

WENDY: *Well, you've come to the right place — lot of amazing people here.*

RICK: *I know.*

WENDY: *So, what do you think? Could you use another person?*

RICK: *That's why I'm here.*

WENDY: *How do you want to do this? I was thinking I can play some of my stuff, you can play some of yours and see where that takes us. What do you think?*

RICK: *Here's my idea. Why don't we write something together?*

WENDY: *We can do that. Which do you prefer: music or lyrics? I can do either.*

RICK: *Here's how Tom and I do it. First, we work separately. Then get back together, play our songs, pick one, then try to improve it.*

WENDY: *How's that gonna work? My place is so small.*

RICK: *You can stay here. I'll go in the bedroom.*

WENDY: *No, you stay here. My room's such a mess.*

RICK: *Fine. Say about an hour?*

(Wendy takes her guitar.)

WENDY: *Okay. Some food in the fridge if you get hungry.*

RICK: *Thanks.*

(Lights fade out then in. WENDY and RICK assume the same place on the sofa.)

WENDY: *What do you got?*

RICK: *You go first.*

WENDY: *Don't laugh.*

(WENDY puts a paper on the coffee table, plays guitar and sings to the tune of "Do You Remember?")

WENDY

*Do you remember
When we used to play on Saturday?
We were laughing and screaming loud
Like a crowd
We thought those days would never end.*

(There's a long pause.)

RICK: *I like it. How old are we in that song?*

WENDY: *Just kids.*

RICK: *It's good.*

WENDY: *What do you have?*

RICK: *Not much... some picking, chord progressions.*

WENDY: *Let me hear.*

RICK: *Well, I did this... (He plays some chord progressions.) And this... (He plays more chord progressions.) Then some picking...*

(RICK does some picking, then picks the opening notes to "Just You and Me" before doing some other picking.)

WENDY: *Play that again.*

RICK: *What?*

WENDY: *What you just played.*

(RICK does the picking just before the opening to “Just You and Me”.)

RICK: *This?*

WENDY: *No, the one just before that.*

(RICK picks the opening of “Just You and Me”.)

WENDY: *That’s it. Play it again.*

(RICK plays it again.)

WENDY: *What fret’s that?*

RICK: *Seven.*

WENDY: *Let me try.*

(WENDY plays it a few times then adds words.)

WENDY

Picture a day when...

Picture a day when...

WENDY: *Come on, help me.*

RICK

We go from the city.

(WENDY and RICK stop and look at each other.)

SCENE 4 — GRENDL’S COFFEE HOUSE

(At Grendel’s the following open mic night. WENDY, RICK, and TOM sit at a table, guitars out, waiting to be introduced. Sitting alone is JEFF KAYE, a local disc jock. MC is on stage.)

MC: *You guys were here last week, right?*

WENDY: *Yes.*

MC: *You get together?*

RICK: *That’s right.*

MC: *Okay, so here’s... (reads paper) Wendy, Rick, and Tom with their song... (to all three)
What’s the name of your song?*

RICK: *“Just You and Me.”*

MC: *Here’s Wendy, Rick, and Tom with “Just You and Me.”*

(WENDY, RICK, and TOM ascend the stage.)

RICK: *Ready?*

WENDY & TOM: *Yeah.*

TRACK 4. “JUST YOU AND ME”

WENDY

*Picture a day when we go from the city
Carryin’ umbrellas in case it rains
Just you and me.*

RICK

*I’ll be a rabbit, you be a gopher
Gamblin’ together in the field*

WENDY & RICK

It might be fun

WENDY

Under a tree I’ll sing you a love song

RICK

*Look in your eyes
And ask where the food’s gone*

WENDY & RICK

*Notice a rabbit laughin’ far away
Hey, hey*

RICK

*Then when the sun sets
We’ll speak very softly
Holding each other in the rain
Just you and me
Just you and me*

WENDY

*Go to the car to find the umbrella
Find a young fella take our car*

WENDY & RICK

Way down the road

WENDY

Walk a few miles to find us a pay phone

RICK

*Search everywhere
Find that the dime's gone*

WENDY & RICK

Borrow a dime, call, and nobody's there

RICK

*Hitchin' a ride on the New Jersey Turnpike
Notice a car that looks like mine*

WENDY & RICK

Race down the road

WENDY

*Oh, isn't it fun to leave the hot city?
Havin' the best time of your life*

WENDY & RICK

*Just you and me
Just you and me
Just you and me.*

(Audience applauds.)

WENDY: *Thank you.*

(WENDY, RICK, and TOM descend stage, return to their seats and put their guitars back in their cases.)

MC: *That's Wendy, Rick, and Tom with their song, "Just You and Me." We're gonna take a small break before we bring up our next performer.*

(JEFF KAYE approaches them.)

KAYE: *Great song.*

RICK: *Thanks.*

KAYE: *You write it?*

RICK: *Me and Wendy.*

KAYE: *Let me introduce myself. My name's Jeff Kaye. I run a Sunday night radio show on WBZ called Hootenanny. Ever hear of it?*

WENDY: *I have. I'm from here. Rick and Tom are from Indiana.*

KAYE: *Let me explain. The show covers the folk music scene in the Boston area and I'd love to have you perform that song this Sunday if you have time. The show's from 6 to 9 PM. I can have you on around 7 if you're interested. I'm sure the audience would love to hear it.*

RICK: *(to WENDY and TOM) Guys?*

WENDY: *Sure, let's do it.*

RICK: *Tom?*

TOM: *Sounds good.*

KAYE: *Great! (He takes a card from his pocket.) Here's my card. Call if you have any questions. See you Sunday.*

SCENE 5 — RADIO STATION WBZ (BOSTON)

(JEFF KAYE, WENDY, RICK, and TOM sit behind a long table holding their guitars. There are microphones in front of each.)

KAYE: *And welcome back. This is Jeff Kaye broadcasting from station WBZ in beautiful downtown Boston and you are listening to Hootenanny our weekly folk program where we present some of the many talented people who make up the vibrant folk music scene in the New England area. And with that I have next to me three people I just happened to meet this past week at Grendel's Coffee House. They played a song I'm sure you'll enjoy, but first I'd like each to introduce themselves and tell us where you're from. Wendy, would you like to start?*

WENDY: *Hi, everyone. My name's Wendy Rosenberg and I was born and raised in Boston, Brookline actually.*

JEFF: *Rick?*

RICK: *I'm Rick Ellis from Terre Haute, Indiana.*

JEFF: *Tom?*

TOM: *My name's Tom McMillan and I'm also from Terre Haute, Indiana.*

JEFF: *That's quite a combination. How'd you meet?*

RICK: *We met at Grendel's a few weeks ago.*

WENDY: *I just asked if I could join and, well, here we are.*

JEFF: *Do you guys have a name yet?*

WENDY: *Rick told me people in Indiana are called Hoosiers and since I'm Jewish we thought of calling ourselves the Jewsiers, but we finally settled on Indiana.*

JEFF: *Have you ever been to Indiana?*

WENDY: *No, but I'd love to go.*

TOM: *We'll take you.*

WENDY: *Thanks, Tom.*

JEFF: *Okay, so here's Indiana playing their song "Just You and Me".*

(ED SULLIVAN appears as WENDY, RICK, and TOM leave the table and stand behind SULLIVAN holding their guitars.)

SULLIVAN: *And now on our stage are three fine young people here to perform the song that's sweeping the nation. Let's hear it for Indiana and "Just You and Me"!*

(Recording of "Just You and Me" is played as set changes.)

SCENE 6 — JULIAN GOODMAN'S OFFICE AT NBC

(JULIAN GOODMAN, president of NBC sits at the head of a long table. On both sides sit three assistants: LESLIE STILES, FRED STAFFORD, and MARK WRIGHT.)

GOODMAN: *Anyone see the ratings this week?*

STAFFORD: *I think we all did, sir.*

GOODMAN: *Did you happen to see how we did Tuesday night 7:30 to 8:30?*

WRIGHT: *I assume you're referring to "The Debbie Reynolds Show".*

GOODMAN: *That's right—"The Debbie Reynolds Show". Did anyone happen to watch "The Debbie Reynolds Show" this past Tuesday?*

(STAFFORD raises his hand.)

GOODMAN: *Oh, good. At least one person was watching it while almost the entire country was watching "The Mod Squad" on ABC and I'd like to know how we're going to fix it. (pause) Anyone?*

WRIGHT:*How about a western?*

GOODMAN: *We already have "The Virginian" Wednesday night. We don't need another western.*

STAFFORD: *We can break up the hour and have two comedies.*

GOODMAN: *Great idea. Let's compete against "The Beverly Hillbillies" and "Green Acres" on CBS.*

(LESLIE raises her hand.)

GOODMAN: *Leslie?*

LESLIE: *Well, since "The Mod Squad" is about three hippies, I think what we need is our own hippie — the NBC hippie.*

GOODMAN: *Go on.*

LESLIE: *A hippie but a nice hippie, not too radical since we still appeal to an older demographic. Did you ever hear of a group called Indiana?*

GOODMAN: *Of course. I still can't get that "Just You and Me" song out of my head.*

WRIGHT:*What, The Indiana Show? Don't even think about it. There's that one guy, what's his name? Tom something or other. Almost every day he's getting arrested at some anti-war demonstration. No one would sponsor a show with him on it.*

LESLIE: *I'm not talking about the group. I'm talking about the other guy, Rick Ellis. I just read an interview where he said he's just playing a hippie and may not even be against the Vietnam War.*

GOODMAN: *Not a bad idea. Think you can do it? Pry him from the group?*

LESLIE: *I think with the right approach... (she lowers her blouse to reveal the top of her breasts) and maybe with some additional incentive, I can do it. (She covers her breasts.) Give him his own weekly variety show, a kind of younger, hipper Dean Martin. That way we get the kids and still keep our demographic.*

GOODMAN: *It's worth a shot. Where they playing next?*

LESLIE: *Some arts festival in upstate New York, a place called Woodstock.*

SCENE 7

(August, 1969, the Woodstock festival. The Master of Ceremonies (MC) stands on stage.)

MC: *Woodstock, baby! Do you know that we are now the second largest city in the state of New York? Yeah! Hey, people are saying the acid is poison. It's not poison, man. It's just bad acid. Well, here they are. The group you've all been waiting for. Wendy, Rick, and Tom: Indiana!*

(WENDY, RICK, and TOM ascend the stage in full hippie regalia: long hair, beads, tie-dye shirts and jeans, bandanas, etc. They set up, tuning instruments. A drummer checks his drums.)

RICK: *How's everyone doin'? Hey, we have a question. How many of you just graduated? It could be anything — high school, college, even kindergarten. Let's hear it. (pause) Well, here's a song for all you graduates and remember this: no matter where you go in life, no matter how high or how low, take care of your brother.*

WENDY: *And sisters.*

RICK: *Yeah, and sisters too. One, two...*

TRACK 5. "GRADUATION DAY"

WENDY & RICK

*We sat together into the night
Waiting for the morning
Of graduation day
And offered prayers to lead us forth
Along the road and light the way
From graduation day*

WENDY

*And who would win?
And who would lose?
And who would*

WENDY & RICK

*Choose to take the road that led beyond
To where no one before
Had ever gone*

RICK

*And in my dreams
I garnered fame and was able to*

WENDY & RICK

*Lead the world to something new
And so I thought on the eve
Of graduation day*

*And when the ceremony was over
And we bid our last goodbyes
Some moved on or stayed behind
And never tried to leave
The graduation day.*

RICK: *Thank you. Our next song features Wendy and it's called "Lost Without You".*

TRACK 6. "LOST WITHOUT YOU"

WENDY

*I was lost without you.
At a loss without you.*

WENDY & RICK

*Summer came and now it's gone
Through the streets I walk alone
Now the sun's refused to shine*

WENDY

*I hear you walkin'
I hear you talkin'
I hear you found another girl*

WENDY & RICK

I lost my smile without you

(As they sing, LESLIE enters and watches from the side of stage. She wears tight jeans and a provocative, low-cut top.)

WENDY & RICK (CONT'D)

I lost my style without you

WENDY

*You used to say that you were mine
From today and for all time
Now I hear you walk around*

WENDY & RICK

*You're always sayin'
I'm only playin'
And I never treated you kind*

WENDY

*I lost my mind without you
Out of time without you

Suddenly the world's turn grey
I can't believe you'd walk away
But if someday you should return*

WENDY & RICK

*I will be waitin', anticipatin'
Your love
I was lost without you*

RICK: *Thank you and good night!*

(WENDY, RICK, and TOM wave goodbye and descend stage. LESLIE approaches RICK while TOM and WENDY put their guitars back in the cases.)

LESLIE: *Rick, got a minute?*

RICK: *Sure.*

LESLIE: *My name's Leslie Stiles. I'm an assistant to Julian Goodman, president of NBC television. If you have time Mr. Goodman would like to meet with you about a very exciting project. Look, I know you're busy but here's my card. Why not give us a call when you get back and we can set something up?*

(LESLIE hands RICK her card while TOM watches.)

LESLIE: *My number's on the back. Call me.*

(LESLIE exits. TOM approaches RICK.)

TOM: *Who was that?*

RICK: *She works for NBC.*

TOM: *What she want?*

RICK: *She wants to set up a meeting with some guy named Goodman.*

TOM: *The three of us?*

RICK: *Just me.*

TOM: *Why you?*

RICK: *She didn't say.*

TOM: *Did you ask?*

RICK: *I forgot.*

TOM: *Forgot?*

RICK: *I forgot. I'll mention it next time.*

TOM: *(sarcastically) Sure.*

RICK: *I will.*

(TOM laughs.)

RICK: *What's so funny?*

TOM: *Congratulations!*

RICK: *For what?*

TOM: *The betrayal.*

RICK: *What are you talking about?*

TOM: *The betrayal. You've been biting at the bit to betray us, and now your time has come. I didn't think it would take this long but congratulations.*

RICK: *You're crazy.*

TOM: *Am I? From the minute we took Wendy I knew what you were thinking. The problem is it worked. That's what I hate about you. Everything you do fucking works.*

RICK: *You're wrong. I didn't say a word about betrayal.*

TOM: *You don't have to. It's who you are. How 'bout those state fairs? Think I didn't know about your side deals? I wanted to play so I said nothing.*

RICK: *It was hardly worth it. Just a few dollars.*

TOM: *Yeah, but this one's big. I just wanna say one thing. You be nice to Wendy. I know your shit but she doesn't.*

RICK: *(pause) I will.*

SCENE 8 — NBC PRESIDENT JULIAN GOODMAN'S OFFICE IN NEW YORK.

(GOODMAN and his three assistants stand and chat. On the table are water bottles and some snacks. A telephone intercom rings.)

GOODMAN: *Yes? (pause) Send him in. (to ASSISTANTS) He's here.*

(RICK opens the door and enters.)

GOODMAN: *Mr. Ellis, thank you so much for coming. My name's Julian Goodman, president of NBC television.*

RICK: *Nice to meet you.*

(They shake hands.)

GOODMAN: *I believe you already met one of my assistants, Leslie Stiles.*

RICK: *Yes, we met at Woodstock.*

GOODMAN: *And these are my other assistants, Fred Stafford and Mark Wright.*

RICK: *Nice to meet you.*

(They shake hands.)

GOODMAN: *Woodstock. Wow! That was some event — nearly half a million kids. Tied up traffic for miles, thank you. Leslie, did you happen to read that some high schools and colleges are planning to replace "Pomp and Circumstance" next year with "Graduation Day"?*

LESLIE: *No, I didn't see that.*

GOODMAN: *It's true. Indiana replacing Edward Elgar, can you believe it? Say, why don't we go and sit down?*

(ALL move to the table and sit.)

GOODMAN: *Rick, would you like anything besides water?*

RICK: *I'm fine.*

GOODMAN: *You don't mind if I call you Rick, do you?*

RICK: *That's okay.*

GOODMAN: *Rick, before we discuss why we asked you to come, I'd like to ask you a few questions if you don't mind.*

RICK: *Go ahead.*

GOODMAN: *First, do you know what will happen three months from now?*

RICK: *(pause) Christmas?*

(GOODMAN and his ASSISTANTS laugh.)

GOODMAN: *You're right, Christmas. But something else.*

RICK: *I don't know.*

GOODMAN: *It will mark the beginning of a new decade, the 1970s. Now let me you another question. How long do you think hippie culture will last?*

RICK: *I have no idea.*

GOODMAN: *Well, we do. In fact, we have people who study these things and they tell us the Counterculture will last no more than two or three more years. In other words, the 1970s are going to be a far different decade than the 1960s and we here at NBC would very much like you to be a part of it.*

RICK: *Mr. Goodman, I was never good at grammar, but I know that there are two forms of you. There's the singular you and the plural you. Now which form are you referring to?*

GOODMAN: *To be honest, the singular. And you, Rick, are the singular we've been searching for.*

RICK: *That's fine. Fuck em'. They were deadwood anyway.*

SCENE 9 — WENDY'S APARTMENT

(WENDY is busy tidying up both the kitchen and living room in anticipation of Rick's return. Her guitar is leaning on sofa with some papers on the coffee table. She opens a bag of chips, empties it into a bowl and places it on the coffee table. There's a knock on the door.)

WENDY: *Come in, it's open.*

(TOM enters.)

WENDY: *Rick just called from the airport. He'll be here soon.*

TOM: *Did he say anything?*

WENDY: *No. He said he'll tell us when he gets here. Oh, Tom. I'm so excited. What if it's a weekly variety show? You know: singing, dancing, maybe some comedy? Not to boast but I think I'd be a very good comedienne. I mean look at me. I'm already a sight gag.*

TOM: *Will you stop?*

WENDY: *Just kidding. I know I'm getting ahead of myself, but I'm thinking we can invite our friends. Maybe the first show we can have Roberta, I mean Joni Mitchell. Then the second week... How about Neil?*

TOM: *Uh, which Neil?*

WENDY: *Neil Young. Why? What other Neil is there?*

TOM: *Never mind.*

WENDY: *Hey, how about Dylan? Think he'd be interested?*

TOM: *I don't know. Bob's a little strange when it comes to TV.*

WENDY: *You're right. Anyway, look, I wrote a song to mark the occasion. Sit down. (She gets her guitar as both sit on the sofa. She spreads out papers on the coffee table.) It's called "Friends". Here's the words. Got your harp?*

(TOM takes a harmonica out of his pocket.)

TOM: *Always got my harp.*

WENDY: *Come in whenever you like.*

(WENDY plays guitar and sings.)

TRACK 7. "FRIENDS"

WENDY

*Oh, friends may come and friends may go
But certain friends I'll always know
Sometimes when I'm feeling low
I think about all the good friends that I have.*

WENDY & TOM

*Oh, times may come and times may go
But certain times I'll always know*

*Sometimes when I'm feeling low
I think about all the good times that I've had.*

WENDY

*Oh, love may come and love may go
But through it all I've learned to grow
Sometimes when I'm feeling low
I think about all the good times that I've had.
And I'll think about all the good friends that I have.*

(TOM leans over and kisses WENDY to help soften the blow of RICK's expected betrayal.)

WENDY: *Tom, I appreciate that. I really do. But you know I only have feelings for Rick. I hope you understand.*

TOM: *I do.*

WENDY: *But really, I appreciate it and it will be our little secret.*

TOM: *Thank you.*

(There's a knock on the door.)

WENDY: *Come in. It's open.*

(RICK enters.)

WENDY: *Welcome back. That was fast.*

RICK: *Not much traffic. Got a soda or something?*

WENDY: *Sure.*

RICK: *Thanks. I'm a little tired.*

TOM: *(skeptical) I'm sure you are.*

(WENDY puts the chips on the coffee table, opens the refrigerator, takes out a can of soda and places it on the coffee table. RICK takes off his jacket and sits down on the cushion chair.)

WENDY: *Come on, tell us. What happened?*

RICK: *Well, I met the president of NBC, Julian Goodman, and a couple of his assistants including that girl I met at Woodstock, Leslie something or other. Anyway, here's what happened. They have an idea for a weekly variety show, Tuesday night, 8 to 9.*

WENDY: *(to TOM) See, I was right!*

TOM: *Go on.*

RICK: *Well, except there's a problem.*

WENDY: *Yeah, I know. They don't want to call it The Indiana Show. That's okay. We can call it Rick and Friends or something like that. Right, Tom?*

TOM: *I don't think that's what Rick's referring to.*

RICK: *No, it's not.*

WENDY: *Then what's the problem?*

RICK: *(pause) They only want me.*

WENDY: *What do you mean?*

TOM: *He means he made a side deal. We're done, Wendy. Indiana's over. Rick's going to have his own TV show.*

WENDY: *What? What are you talking about?*

RICK: *I'm sorry. It's just something I'd like to do.*

TOM: *You didn't mention us at all, did you?*

RICK: *I did. I tried very hard.*

TOM: *But?*

(RICK stands. TOM and RICK confront each other.)

RICK: *Take a guess.*

TOM: *Say it.*

RICK: *You're too radical. The show's sponsored by General Electric. Do you have any idea how much business General Electric does with the Pentagon every year? In the billions. And they're soon going to let a left wing, anti-war, long hair hippie freak on the family hour? Are you out of your mind?*

WENDY: *What did they say about me?*

RICK: *Not much. They just have a certain vision and feel you don't fit into their concept.*

TOM: *What the fuck was that? Just tell her, asshole. Or should I?*

WENDY: *Tell me what?*

RICK: *You're too fat.*

WENDY: *What?*

RICK: *I'm sorry. They said you're too fat.*

WENDY: *What are you saying? I get fan letters every day. No one says that. They like the way I look.*

RICK: *We're not talking about live performance. This is television. It's all about presentation. Anyway, that's what they said. Look, I tried. I really did.*

TOM: *We're starting a tour next week.*

RICK: *And we'll do it. We'll bill it as our farewell tour, bring in more business. Look, I'm sorry. Come on, it's been five years. I just feel it's time we move on. Who knows? Maybe we'll get back together someday.*

TOM: *Yeah, sure. The corporate asshole returns to his roots. Happens all the time.*

WENDY: *(to herself) I'm too fat. (to TOM) Guess we don't have to play that song.*

TOM: *No. (to RICK) Let me ask you something? Did they say you had to cut your hair?*

RICK: *Yes.*

TOM: *Did you agree?*

RICK: *Yes.*

TOM: *So who you gonna be, Dean Martin?*

RICK: *I can't be Dean Martin. He's on Thursday night. I'm on Tuesday.*

SCENE 10

(Indiana's final concert.)

RICK: *Thank you. Our next song was written by Tom and features Wendy and Tom in a beautiful ballad called "Morning."*

TRACK 8. "MORNING"

TOM

*Morning, set my wheels on fire
Don't you know I gotta get higher?
Don't you feel I gotta get away?*

TOM & WENDY

*Sunshine, feel the dreams that surround you
I've been waiting long to find you*

I've been waiting for today

TOM

*And I'd like to sing a song of love
I'd like to sing a song of love
I'd like to sing a song of love for you*

TOM & WENDY

*But I'm wond'ring where I'm going to
I'm wond'ring where I'm going to
I'm wond'ring where I'm going to, to*

TOM

*Morning, set my wheels on fire
Don't you feel I gotta get higher?
Don't you feel I gotta get away?*

TOM & WENDY

*Don't you feel I gotta get away?
Don't you feel I gotta get away?*

RICK: *Thank you. As you know this is our final show as Indiana and I know I speak for both Wendy and Tom when I say how much we appreciate all the love and support you've given us these past five years. But maybe someday we'll get back together. So Wendy and I wrote this song for this very moment. It's called "We'll Meet Again."*

TRACK 9. "WE'LL MEET AGAIN"

RICK

*Do we say goodbye today
Or do we say there will come a day
When we will meet again.
Tonight let's find a star
To guide us as we go far
But say we'll meet again*

WENDY & RICK

*Oh I can't live without you
Anytime of the year
And I can't dream without you*

Oh how I wish you were here

RICK

*Wish we could run away
And never look back to say
Someday we'll meet again*

WENDY & RICK

*Who knows what tomorrow brings
Laughter or broken dreams
But say we'll meet again*

*Oh I can't live without you
Anytime of the year
And I can't dream without you
Oh how I wish you were here
Oh how I wish you were here*

RICK

Oh how I wish you were here.

RICK: *Thank you and good night.*

(ALL THREE wave goodbye and return backstage as LESLIE waits. They put their guitars back in the cases with TOM and WENDY on one side, LESLIE and RICK on the other. LESLIE looks particularly stunning.)

TOM: *(to WENDY) Are you alright?*

WENDY: *I have to tell him.*

TOM: *Let it go.*

WENDY: *I can't. Call him over.*

TOM: *Wendy, stop! Look at Leslie. Look how stunning she looks. You can't compete with that. Let it go. You're just gonna embarrass yourself.*

WENDY: *I don't care. Tell him to come over.*

TOM: *(pause) Rick, could you come here a minute?*

LESLIE: *Don't go. It's over.*

RICK: *I'll be right back.*

(RICK approaches WENDY as LESLIE packs items.)

RICK: *Wendy, don't look so sad. We finished on top. That's the best way to end.*

(WENDY looks at LESLIE.)

WENDY: *Who is she?*

RICK: *That's Leslie from the network.*

WENDY: *I mean who is she to you?*

TOM: *Oh, God.*

RICK: *She's my girlfriend. You know that.*

WENDY: *Only that?*

RICK: *I can't say right now. We only know each other a few weeks.*

TOM: *Wendy, stop!*

WENDY: *(to TOM) No!*

RICK: *Stop what?*

WENDY: *Rick, I have something to say. (pause) I love you. Do you know that? I've always loved you. From the minute I saw you at Grendel's. It's why I came over. I just wanted to meet you.*

RICK: *Wendy, I love you too just not the way you would like.*

WENDY: *I know. She's so beautiful.*

RICK: *You're beautiful too.*

WENDY: *Yeah, on the inside-story of my life. (A beat.) Now listen to me. This is your Jewish mother talking. I want you to be a good boy out there. Don't get in any trouble. I'll be watching.*

RICK: *I know you will.*

(LESLIE calls to RICK.)

LESLIE: *Rick, the car's waiting. We have to get going.*

RICK: *Be right there.*

RICK: *(to WENDY) Come here.*

(WENDY stands. They hug.)

RICK: *It's been great.*

(WENDY tries not to cry.)

WENDY: *Yeah.*

RICK: *I'll call as soon as I get there.*

WENDY: *Okay.*

(WENDY wipes away a tear. RICK returns to pack some things. TOM beckons to LESLIE. They meet center stage)

TOM: *Let me ask you something. You're always hanging around. You already signed Rick. So why you need to show up everywhere?*

LESLIE: *He's my boyfriend.*

TOM: *Try again.*

LESLIE: *I'm protecting my investment. So fuck off. (to RICK) You ready?*

RICK: *Go to the car. I'll be right there.*

LESLIE: *Okay. (She gives a fake smile to TOM.) Bye!*

(LESLIE exits. RICK approaches TOM.)

RICK: *Here's the deal and I'm only gonna say this once. I'm leaving for L.A. on Sunday. I can have a car pick you up and we can fly out together. What do you say?*

TOM: *Fat chance that happening, bro.*

RICK: *Listen to me. There's nothing here. What are you gonna do, stay with Wendy? Play coffee houses the rest of your life? Come on, be like old times.*

TOM: *Yeah, right. You'll betray me the minute we land.*

RICK: *You're being very foolish. Come on.*

TOM: *No.*

RICK: *Fine. Take care of yourself.*

TOM: *You too.*

(They hug. RICK exits. TOM remains center stage. He looks at RICK leaving, then turns to see WENDY sitting looking despondent.)

ACT II

SCENE 1

(The premiere of the “Rick Ellis” television show.)

VOICEOVER: *Live from Hollywood. It’s “The Rick Ellis Show” starring Rick Ellis with tonight’s special guest, Mr. Sammy Davis. And now the star of our show, Rick Ellis!*

(RICK enters, conservative haircut, no facial hair, wearing a black tuxedo and bow tie.)

RICK: *Yeah, it’s me!*

TRACK 10. “HERE YOU’LL STAY”

RICK

*Summer seas and summer skies
Catch the breeze and watch us fly
And in the silence of the dawn
We’ll come home
As the winds caress your hair
Let me know that you are there
And as the seasons turn to grey
Here you’ll stay, here you’ll stay
Like a child looking for its way.
I was tossed upon the waves
Till your hand reached out to save me
And as the seasons turn to grey
Here you’ll stay, here you’ll stay
Here you’ll stay, here you’ll stay
You’ll stay, stay
You’ll stay, stay*

RICK: *Thank you and welcome to the premier of “The Rick Ellis Show”. That’s me in case you didn’t know.*

(Canned laughter.)

RICK: *And to help me out is a man who needs no introduction. Here he is, Mr. Sammy Davis!*

(DAVIS enters wearing a black tuxedo and bow tie.)

DAVIS: *Thank you and may I say what an honor it is to be the first guest on your first show.*

RICK: *The honor's all mind, Mr. Davis.*

DAVIS: *Please, Sam.*

RICK: *(some trepidation) OK... Sam.*

(Canned laughter. DAVIS takes a paper out from his pants pocket.)

DAVIS: *And to mark the occasion I have here a telegram for two people you may have heard of:
Misters Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. You have heard of them, right?*

RICK: *I sure have.*

(Canned laughter.)

DAVIS: *Here's what it says: (reads) "Good luck on your new show. We wish you all the best as long
as you don't go back to that hippie thing."*

RICK: *You don't have to worry about that.*

(Canned applause.)

DAVIS: *That's good to hear. But I must say there's one song you guys did I really liked. You know,
that Jewish song.*

RICK: *Jewish song? We didn't do a Jewish song.*

DAVIS: *Sure you did. You know: "Just Jews and Me".*

RICK: *No, "Just You and Me".*

DAVIS: *Now you have nothing against my people, do you?*

(Canned laughter.)

RICK: *Not at all. Do you want to begin?*

DAVIS: *Sure.*

TRACK 11. "JUST YOU AND ME" (BIG BAND)

DAVIS

*Picture a day when we go from the city
Carryin' umbrellas in case it rains
Just you and me*

RICK

*I'll be a rabbit, you be a gopher
Gamblin' together in the field*

TOGETHER

It might be fun

DAVIS

Under a tree I'll sing you a love song

RICK

Look in your eyes and ask where the food's gone

TOGETHER

Notice a rabbit laughin' far away, hay, hay

DAVIS

Then when the sun sets we'll speak very softly

RICK

Holding each other in the rain

DAVIS

Just you and me

TOGETHER

Just you and me

RICK: *Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Sammy Davis!*

(DAVIS dances during the instrumental.)

RICK

Go to the car to find the umbrella

DAVIS

Find a young fella take our car

TOGETHER

Way down the road.

RICK

Walk a few miles to find us a pay phone

DAVIS

Search everywhere, find that the dime's gone

TOGETHER

Borrow a dime, call, and nobody's there

RICK

Hitchin' a ride on the New Jersey Turnpike

DAVIS

Notice a car that looks like Frank's

TOGETHER

*Oh, isn't it fun to leave the hot city
Having the best time of your life*

RICK

Just you and me

DAVIS

Just you and me

TOGETHER

Just you and me.

RICK: *Mister Sammy Davis! And now a word from our sponsor, General Electric.*

SCENE 2

(Five years later. WENDY is on the sofa talking on the phone.)

WENDY: *I'll have to check. Let me call you back in an hour.*

(WENDY enters the living room area and looks through some books in her bookcase. She finds the book and notices a folded paper inside it. She unfolds the paper.)

WENDY: *Oh my God. I can't believe it. I can't believe it. (She opens the guitar case and takes out the guitar.) Let's see if I remember this. (She strums a few chords finally settling on the G chord.) Right. That's it. (There's a knock on the door.) Come in.*

(TOM enters. He carries his guitar.)

WENDY: *You won't believe this. Janet called and asked me if I had a copy of "One Dimensional Man". I said I would check. I looked through my books and found it. And inside is this piece of paper. (shows paper) Well, you know how Rick and I wrote "Just You and Me"? Here the words I wrote that day. Listen.*

(WENDY sits on the sofa, puts the paper on the coffee table, plays guitar and sings to tune of "Do You Remember?")

WENDY

*Do you remember when we used to play on Saturday?
We were laughing and screaming loud, like a crowd
We thought those days would never end.*

WENDY: *What do you think?*

TOM: *I like the melody. Words could be better. You should work on it.*

WENDY: *I will.*

TOM: *So, where's this song you've been talking about?*

WENDY: *Here it is.*

(WENDY points to another paper on the coffee table. TOM sits on the sofa.)

WENDY: *It's called "Seasons." We can play it this Wednesday. Come in anytime.*

(WENDY plays guitar and sings the first two verses of "Seasons".)

TRACK 12. "SEASONS" (2 VERSES)

WENDY

*Summer holds a memory of you
Running through the fountain
Getting wet like you used to do
And I wonder how you wander now
And if you're feeling fine*

(TOM looks annoyed.)

WENDY (CONT'D)

*Summer, you're a friend of mine
Of mine.
Autumn holds a memory of you*

(TOM remains sitting with his guitar only listening, looking increasingly agitated. WENDY continues playing the guitar and singing.)

WENDY (CONT'D)

*Climbing trees for chestnuts
Down at the count of two
And I wonder how you wander now
And if you're feeling fine
Autumn, you're a friend of mine
Of mine*

WENDY: *You're not playing. Something wrong?*

TOM: *Who's this song about?*

WENDY: *It's about you.*

TOM: *About me? I don't remember running through a fountain. If I recall Rick ran through the fountain and I was telling him to get out before the cops came.*

(TOM stands.)

WENDY: *Sorry. (pause) I'm sorry. I just can't bring myself to hate him.*

TOM: *After what he did to you, to us?*

WENDY: *Look, maybe he was right. Maybe it was time for us to move on.*

TOM: *Move on? Rick is one of the biggest names in show business while for the past five years we can't get a record deal, we hardly get a club date, and ironies of ironies we host an open mic night at the same coffee house where we first got started. So I don't see lot of movement on our side. Oh, excuse me, did I say coffee house? I'm sorry. It's now a bistro.*

(WENDY points to the telephone.)

WENDY: *So give him a call and go out there. He already asked you. Tell him you're ready.*

TOM: *I'm not doing that.*

WENDY: *Are you sure? Because I'm sick of it. "Oh, look, Rick made a movie, Rick met the President, Rick's hosting an awards show." It's enough and to tell you the truth it's starting to affect me physically.*

TOM: *I'm just talking. I'm not calling Rick.*

(TOM returns to sofa. WENDY moves closer to TOM, holds his hand sympathetically.)

WENDY: *Look, I know how you feel. I know you miss the fame. It was fantastic, but I don't need millions of people telling me how great I am. I enjoy having a normal life. I'm surrounded by good friends, artists, and even some family. For me it's enough. But, hey, no one's stopping you.*

TOM: *I know. It just gets to me sometimes. It's a great song. We'll do it. I want to get there early, check the sound system.*

SCENE 3 — GRENDEL'S

(People sit eating and drinking. WENDY and TOM are on stage, sitting and holding guitars.)

WENDY: *Good evening and welcome to our weekly open mic night. I'm Wendy, this is Tom and it looks like we have a good line-up. So sit back, relax and enjoy an evening of fine music. And, as is the custom at Grendel's, we do the first song. Actually, tonight we have two. So let's get started. How many remember the 1960's? (A few audience members applaud.) Oh, come on. It wasn't that long ago. Anyway, here's a song about the 60s based on a melody I wrote a long time ago. It's called "Do You Remember?"*

TRACK 13. "DO YOU REMEMBER?"

WENDY

*Do you remember 1965 we were alive
We were young and so much braver then
We tried to send a song for all the world to sing.*

TOM

*Do you remember when the Beatles
Played at the Shea?
We were standing and screaming
Loud with the crowd*

We thought those days would never end

WENDY

*Do you remember when we used to say
There'd come a day
When Man would fight no more,
There'd be no war
Just peace throughout the land.*

TOGETHER

*Oh across the fields we'd go
Singing songs from Abbey Road
Oh across the fields of time
Trying hard to make life rhyme*

WENDY

*Do you remember when the Reverend King
Was shot that spring?
He had a dream we tried to see
Some did and some believed*

TOM

*Do you remember how we felt
That day when Bobby died?
He dreamed things that never were
And asked, "Why not?"
But we asked why that day*

TOGETHER

*Oh across the fields we'd go
Singing songs from our next show
Oh across the fields of time
Trying hard to make life rhyme
Do you remember all the times before,
Demanding more
We were young and so much braver then
We tried to send a song
For all the world to sing
A song for all the world to sing*

(Audience applauds.)

WENDY: *Thank you. Hoped you liked it.*

TOM: *And learned something too.*

WENDY: *Here's another one. We just finished it a few days ago. It's called "Seasons".*

TRACK 14. "SEASONS"

WENDY

*Summer holds a memory of you
Running through the fountain
Getting wet like you used to do*

WENDY & TOM

*And I wonder how you wander now
And if you're feeling fine
Summer, you're a friend of mine, of mine*

WENDY

*Autumn holds a memory of you
Climbing trees for chestnuts
Down at the count of two*

WENDY & RICK

*And I wonder how you wander now
And if you're feeling fine
Autumn, you're a friend of mine, of mine*

RICK

*Winter holds a memory of you
Snowmen, sleds, and sleigh bells
Losing each game that you choose*

WENDY & TOM

Winter, you're a friend of mine, of mine

WENDY

*Spring holds a memory of you
Chasing after rainbows
But catching morning's dew*

WENDY & TOM

*And I wonder how you wander now
And if you're feeling fine.
Springtime, you're a friend of mine, of mine.*

(WENDY becomes dizzy, falls off the chair, and collapses on stage. TOM comforts her.)

TOM: *Wendy! (shouts) Quick, somebody call an ambulance!*

SCENE 4 — RICK ELLIS'S OFFICE

(RICK sits behind a desk reading a paper. A young comedy writer, BARRY, waits for RICK to respond. RICK suddenly laughs.)

RICK: *Oh, this is funny.*

BARRY: *Which one, sir?*

RICK: *No, nothing on this page. What's funny is you calling yourself a comedy writer. That's funny. What did you do before we hired you--funeral director?*

(MEL, Rick's agent, enters the room.)

RICK: *Oh, here's another man stealing money, my agent.*

MEL: *Barry, could you excuse us a minute. I need to speak to Rick about something.*

BARRY: *Certainly.*

(BARRY exits.)

RICK: *What is it?*

MEL: *It just came on the news. Your old partner, Wendy Rosenberg, collapsed on stage last night.*

RICK: *Sorry to hear that. How's she doing?*

MEL: *She's in stable condition. Probably suffered a heart attack according to the news.*

RICK: *I'm not surprised. She was always heavy. Is that all?*

MEL: *Now listen. I have an idea. Just listen before you say anything. I'm sure you know you're ratings are slipping and rumor has it you might not get renewed.*

RICK: *I know.*

MEL: *So I have an idea. Why don't you fly off to see her?*

RICK: *Who?*

MEL: *Wendy. I'll arrange a film crew to go with you. You go to the hospital, stand by the bed, and show some compassion. (to himself) That would be a stretch. (aloud) We get it on film, do some massive advertising, and show it next week. I think your ratings would go through the roof.*

RICK: *You know, that's a great idea. Let's do it.*

MEL: *You can fly out tonight.*

RICK: *Where is she?*

MEL: *Mass General.*

RICK: *Get on it. Oh, and tell Barry if he doesn't make me laugh when I get back, he's fired.*

SCENE 5 — HOSPITAL ROOM

(WENDY lays down, head up in a hospital bed. TOM sits on a chair besides her. A DOCTOR speaks to her.)

DOCTOR: *That was a close call, Ms. Rosenberg. Fortunately, it was only a mild heart attack. Needless to say, you'll need to make some lifestyle changes. I'm sure you know what I mean: diet and exercise. I'll have a nurse explain in more detail. I'd like to keep you one more night for some additional tests. I'll be in later.*

(DOCTOR exits.)

TOM: *He's right—diet and exercise.*

WENDY: *I know.*

(NURSE enters.)

NURSE: *There's someone to see you, Ms. Rosenberg.*

WENDY: *Who is it?*

NURSE: *Oh, I think you'll know.*

(RICK enters with a cameraman and sound technician. They carry their equipment. RICK is dressed in an expensive suit and tie in contrast to TOM's everyday work clothes. RICK indicates where the technicians are to set up their equipment.)

RICK: *Okay, set up over there.*

(He points to the side of bed.)

TOM: *What the fuck?*

RICK: *Shut up. (to technicians) Here's what we're gonna do. I'm gonna go out and come back in. I'll stand next to the bed and speak to her. Cut after I kiss her cheek. Got it?*

SOUND TECH: *Got it.*

RICK: *You ready?*

TOM: *What the...?*

RICK: *Did you hear what I said? Shut up and move away. We don't need you in the picture.*

(TOM begrudgingly moves aside.)

CAMERA MAN: *We're ready.*

RICK: *Here goes. (He walks out the room then re-enters. He stands looking at WENDY, full of emotion.) Wendy, Wendy! (He rushes to the bed.) I came as soon as I heard. How are you? I got so worried.*

WENDY: *Please don't worry. The doctor said I just need to rest.*

(RICK holds her hand.)

RICK: *Are you sure?*

WENDY: *I'll be fine.*

RICK: *I'm so relieved to hear that. You know you are always in my thoughts.*

WENDY: *And you're in mine.*

RICK: *Let me know if there's anything I can do. I'm there anytime you need me. All you need to do is ask.*

WENDY: *Just seeing you is enough.*

RICK: *And seeing you fills my heart with so much joy.*

(RICK bends down, kisses her cheek, and looks up at the camera man.)

RICK: *Got it?*

CAMERA MAN: *Got it.*

RICK: *Good. Wait for me in the lobby. I want to talk to these guys a bit.*

SOUND TECH: *Okay.*

(TECHNICIANS take their equipment and exit the room. WENDY, TOM, and RICK look at each other for some time not knowing what to say. RICK stands some distance to the bed.)

WENDY: *Come here. (RICK approaches the bed.) How's everything?*

RICK: *Very busy — TV show, movies, recordings — it's a busy life.*

WENDY: *I was so sorry to hear about you and Leslie.*

RICK: *Yeah, we tried to make it work but just couldn't.*

WENDY: *That's too bad. She was a nice girl.*

RICK: *I know.*

WENDY: *But everything's good?*

RICK: *Don't worry about me. I just want you to get better. And I'm serious. If there's anything you need let me know.*

WENDY: *I will.*

RICK: *And lose some weight!*

WENDY: *I'm working on it.*

(RICK smiles.)

RICK: *Now where did I hear that before?*

TOM: *I'm gonna walk Rick out. I need to ask him something. I'll be right back.*

WENDY: *Okay.*

RICK: *Goodbye, dear.*

WENDY: *Goodbye.*

(TOM and RICK leave Wendy's room and speak just outside.)

RICK: *She really needs to lose weight.*

TOM: *You flew all this way for a publicity stunt?*

RICK: *Hey, don't you read? My ratings are plunging.*

TOM: *So you fly three thousand miles for ratings?*

RICK: *Welcome to show business. It's all about ratings, the hell with talent.*

TOM: *Yeah, but you made it. I mean you really made it. How the fuck did that happen?*

RICK: *It just happened.*

TOM: *No, it didn't just happen. That level of success doesn't just happen. There's more to it than that.*

RICK: *You said there's something you want to ask me.*

TOM: *Yes, and I want you to be honest. That meeting with NBC you didn't mention us at all, did you?*

RICK: *No.*

TOM: *So everything you said in the apartment came from you.*

RICK: *That's right.*

TOM: *That I was too radical.*

RICK: *Yes.*

TOM: *And Wendy was too fat.*

RICK: *Well, I had to say something.*

TOM: *So basically you threw us overboard.*

RICK: *Come on, Tom. It was five years. I wanted something new, and I didn't feel like taking you along.*

TOM: *Why?*

RICK: *For one thing I was getting tired of your hippie persona. All that (raises either fist for peace sign) "Right on, man. Far out, man. Groovy, man." It was starting to wear on me.*

TOM: *And Wendy?*

RICK: *I knew she was getting too attached so I had to break it off. But okay, I'll answer your question. How did it happen? It happened because I'm smart. We played Woodstock and there we were in front of four hundred thousand freaks. Amazing: four hundred thousand long-haired hippie freaks. We saw the same thing, right?*

TOM: *That's right.*

RICK: *But we didn't. See, you looked out and saw some kind of revolution. But I looked out and saw a bunch of kids who in a very short time would cut their hair, put on a suit, and become just another generation of American assholes. And that's who I cater to: American assholes. I mean look around. They're everywhere!*

(TOM and RICK slowly turn their heads and face the audience.)

1ST PLANT: *That's me.*

2ND PLANT: *Me too.*

RICK: *So while you sat home waiting for the revolution, I became rich. And I mean very rich.*

(TOM looks despondent.)

RICK: *Oh, come on. Don't look so glum. You were the luckiest man in the world. Wendy and I wrote all the music. All you had to do was play it. Oh yeah, we gave you one song an album which we tried to bury on the B side. Too bad there wasn't a C side. Okay, "Morning" was good but "When Darkness Fell"? That was the musical equivalent of root canal. Anyway, Wendy needs you.*

TOM: *Fuck, Wendy. I'm ready.*

(RICK laughs.)

RICK: *You're ready? Ready for what? Get my coffee? I have Hollywood starlets doing that and sometimes more if you know what I mean. No, you had your chance.*

SOUND TECH: *Mr. Ellis, we must get going.*

RICK: *(to SOUND TECH) In a minute. (to TOM) Look, maybe you can help me. I haven't had a hit song in three years and the studio's getting impatient. Do you have something I could use? (takes out card from his pocket) Here's my card. Send it here. Anyway, I gotta get going. (He starts to walk away.) It was great seeing you again and tell Wendy to lose weight! Hey, you guys ever play Grendel's?*

TOM: *No, we're way beyond that.*

SOUND TECH: *(to RICK) That's where Ms. Rosenberg collapsed.*

RICK: *I know.*

(TOM returns to Wendy's room.)

WENDY: *Wasn't that great? Rick flying all that way to see me.*

TOM: *What are you talking about? It was a publicity stunt. Didn't you see the technicians?*

WENDY: *Technicians? What technicians? I didn't see any technicians.*

TOM: *Oh, God.*

SCENE 6

(Another edition of the Rick Ellis show.)

VOICEOVER: *From Hollywood, it's "The Rick Ellis Show", with tonight's special guest, Johnny Mathis. And now the star of our show, Rick Ellis!*

(Audience applauds.)

RICK: *Thank you. Now before I bring on Johnny, here's a new song I think you'll like. It's called "Seasons."*

TRACK 15. "SEASONS (BIG BAND)"

RICK

*Summer holds a memory of you
Running through the fountain
Getting wet like you used to do
And I wonder how you wonder now
And if you're feeling fine
Summer, you're a friend of mine
Of mine*

*Autumn holds a memory of you
Climbing trees for chestnuts
Down at the count of two
And I wonder how you wander now
And if you're feeling fine
Autumn, you're a friend of mine
Of mine*

RICK: *Yeah!*

SCENE 7

(It's 2010. TOM is nearing seventy. He has grey hair and a mustache. He is in Max's Vintage Record store leafing through album covers. He comes across an Indiana record, takes it out of the stack, and walks to MAX at the cash register.)

MAX: *You're an Indiana fan too?*

TOM: *Yes.*

MAX: *They're my favorite group. "Just You and Me", "Graduation Day",*

(MAX holds an imaginary mic.)

MAX

I was lost without you.

MAX: *What a shock, Rick Ellis dying last year. Well, at least he got a big Hollywood send-off. He sure he would have liked that.*

TOM: *You're probably right.*

MAX: *How many times was he married? Do you know?*

TOM: *I think three.*

MAX: *Well, that will do it. And whatever happened to Wendy? We didn't hear much about her after the breakup.*

TOM: *She died of a heart attack.*

MAX: *When? Do you know?*

TOM: *1995.*

MAX: *So sad. She was a great talent. And then there's Tom McMillan. (He looks down at the album cover and up to TOM.) Oh, my God! You're Tom McMillan!*

TOM: *Yes.*

MAX: *I can't believe it — Tom McMillan in my store! Such an honor to meet you, sir.*

TOM: *Thank you.*

MAX: *Oh, wow! Could you stay just a few minutes? There's so much I'd love to ask.*

TOM: *Sure.*

MAX: *Where do I start? Okay, so much has been written about Ellis. Could you tell me what kind of person was he?*

TOM: *Smart. Very smart.*

MAX: *In what way?*

TOM: *I'd rather not say.*

MAX: *You two never reconciled, did you?*

TOM: *No. We spoke a few times but never reconciled.*

MAX: *Did you ever meet after the break-up?*

TOM: *Just once when Wendy had her first heart attack.*

MAX: *I know you and Wendy played together. Were you with her till the end?*

TOM: *Yes.*

MAX: *You guys played Woodstock.*

TOM: *That's right.*

MAX: *So you knew everyone.*

TOM: *Sure, we were friends.*

(MAX raises a fist.)

MAX: *Hendrix!*

TOM: *Best there ever was.*

MAX: *No, you guys were.*

TOM: *Thanks. I'm sorry but I have to get going.*

MAX: *Well, let me say again what an honor it is to meet you. Please stop in anytime.*

TOM: *I will.*

(TOM approaches the door to leave.)

MAX: *Hey, any advice for a struggling artist?*

(TOM turns and pauses.)

TOM: *Learn your craft.*

MAX: *Thanks.*

(TOM exits.)

SCENE 8

(August, 2019. Convention celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair. Banner overhead reads: "Woodstock 50th Anniversary". There are two armchairs. MODERATOR sits in one.)

MODERATOR: *Good evening and welcome to the fiftieth anniversary of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair. Thank you for being here as we recall that amazing event fifty years ago this month. And tonight we are honored to have the last surviving member of the famed folk/rock trio Indiana, Mr. Tom McMillan!*

(A plant starts the applause. TOM enters. He is seventy-nine and walks with a cane. He shakes hands with the MODERATOR, acknowledges the applause, and sits in the other armchair.)

TOM: *Thank you.*

MODERATOR: *Tom, thanks for being here this evening. As you can see, many in the audience were not even born when Woodstock took place. Now Indiana was the last act to appear on the second day. Is that correct?*

TOM: *That's right. We followed Jack Harrison.*

MODERATOR: *And you, of course, are the last surviving member.*

TOM: *Yes. Wendy passed in 1995 and Rick in 2009.*

MODERATOR: *Could you tell us what you remember most about your experience at Woodstock?*

TOM: *What I remember most?*

MODERATOR: *Yes. What picture stands out most in your mind?*

(WENDY and RICK enter with guitars and appear exactly as they did when performing at Woodstock. They smile at TOM as lights fade.)

END OF PLAY

CODA

(Following the bow, RICK, WENDY, and TOM remain on stage.)

RICK: *We would now like to perform a song you only heard mentioned in the show. It's called "When Darkness Fell" and, by the way, it's not "the musical equivalent of root canal".*

TRACK 16. "WHEN DARKNESS FELL"

TOM

*When darkness fell
We were laughing
We were laughing
And rode a star into the morning*

TOM & WENDY

And dreams were ours

TOM

*She kept saying
She kept saying*

TOM & WENDY

And each day would bring new adventures

TOM

*And when tomorrow greets me
We will have our day*

TOM & WENDY

*I have been wild again
A laughing child again
And I have smiled and then
I've laughed to end each day*

TOM

*And time went by
And we parted
And we parted*

TOM & WENDY

*And walked off to meet tomorrow
And walked off to meet tomorrow*

ALL THREE: *Thank you. Good night.*