



I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

(A musical in two Acts)

Book and Lyrics by

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Music by



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I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

CAST

- JOEY**.....42 years old, drinker, impersonates Sinatra and Jolson.
- BUHBA**.....80 years old. JOEY'S grandmother. Great sense of humor.
- BILLY**.....60 years old. Owns famous bar. Loves Joey as son.
- MARTY**.....50 years old. Acts as drunk, but is really illusionist.
- REBECCA**.....35 years old. Very beautiful actress. Has personality.
- SINATRA**.....45 years old. Look-alike of Frank Sinatra.



I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

SONGS 🎵

GRANDMA (Joey).....	1-1-3
I KNOW WHO I AM (Joey).....	1-2-10
IF YOU TELL ME (Rebecca).....	1-3-14
AND YOU LAUGHED (Joey).....	1-3-16
GRANDMA (Musical reprise).....	1-4-18
HOW DO YOU KNOW? (Joey).....	1-4-19
LIFE'S TOUGH ENOUGH (Billy).....	1-5-22
WHEN IT RAINS (Sinatra).....	1-5-27
I USED TO BE (Marty).....	2-1-32
PROBLEMS (Rebecca).....	2-2-35
ANOTHER DAY (Joey and Billy).....	2-3-41
WHEN IT RAINS (Sinatra).....	2-3-43
I DO (Rebecca and Joey).....	2-4-46
I DO (reprise).....	2-4-49
WE'LL TAKE BUHBA (Joey and Rebecca).....	2-4-50
EV'RYBODY IS A LITTLE JEWISH (All).....	2-5-52
EV'RYBODY IS A LITTLE JEWISH (Buhba).....	2-5-52
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU (Joey and Rebecca).....	2-5-55

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT I

Scene 1

1970.

Stage left is a beautiful living room.
Stage right is the kitchen of BUHBA,
JOEY'S Grandmother, who is cooking.
Wanting a drink, JOEY is uneasy.

JOEY

So?

BUHBA

So, I couldn't be more proud of you *boichic*. I never saw so many people. Looked like millions, and some were standing. So, how many were there, *Yosl*?

JOEY

The Taj Mahal holds at least 2,500 people, and you know Buhba, you're the only one that ever called me *Yosl*. How come everybody calls me Joey but you?

BUHBA

You forgot you were named after your grandfather, my *Yosl*, who I loved almost as much as you sweetheart. And they liked you so much they didn't stop whistling.

JOEY

Two standing ovations. Not many singers get two standing ovations, lady.

BUHBA

That's because they don't know that at your age you're still not married, wise guy. Shame on you and why aren't you married *Yosl*? I mean Joey. How long are you going to keep me, an old lady waiting? I'm almost, and you're almost 50, Joey.

JOEY

Close, but no *seegar*. Your *Yosl*'s 42, not 50, but who's counting sweetheart?

BUHBA

I'm counting. What's the matter, I'm not entitled to count? I'm your only grandmother. Don't I deserve to be a great grandmother before I-- You forgot how old I am already?

JOEY

I didn't forget and as far as I'm concerned, you're entitled to everything Grandma. It's just, I'm not ready, that's all.

BUHBA

You're not ready to get married, because maybe you have too many girl friends wise guy. That's why you're not ready. What do you think I don't know? I know plenty. I read in the Enquirer about that movie star you've been fooling around with. Only one? One wouldn't be so bad.

JOEY

Are you accusing me, your only grandson of fooling around again? Would I do that?

BUHBA

Boy, would you do that. You've been fooling around since you went to High School, and don't think I don't know. Grandmas know everything.

JOEY

Since you know everything Buhba, by any chance is there anymore vodka left?

BUHBA

Don't you remember? There's still a half a bottle in the liquor cabinet and isn't it too early? It's only 12 o'clock.

JOEY

Maybe it is maybe it isn't. But anyway, you don't know, but thanks to my father, I've been drinking nonstop since my '*Bar Mitzvah*,' so would you please fill'er up baby?

BUHBA

Absolutely not!

JOEY

Please, pretty please. I'm your only grandson, remember?

BUHBA

Alright, alright. Ice and orange juice?

JOEY

'Vuh den, what else, who knows you're your *Yosl* better than you?

**(Wearing roller blades BUHBA scoots to living room to get vodka.
Rising, JOEY sings ala Jolson.)**

JOEY

"Oh, you must have been a beautiful baby, you must have been a wonderful child."

(Roller blading, BUHBA brings JOEY glass of vodka.)

JOEY

(Drinks all.)

Thanks, I need that. Do you have any idea how much I love you baby?

BUHBA

No comment.

JOEY

So, now it's roller blades, huh?

BUHBA

(Takes off roller blades and rubs feet.)

I think I like them better than my Harley, but they're killing my feet, do they hurt, *oi*.

(BUHBA pinches JOEY'S cheek, kisses him. JOEY raises glass.)

BUHBA (Cont'd)

More? You forgot about your father already? And you want more? You want more? I thought you were smarter than your father, my son, may he rest in peace.

JOEY

Would you filler up baby? For me, your grandson, your only grandson.

(Scoots, refills drink, returns. JOEY drinks as SHE sings 🎵)

GRANDMA

Your father passed, didn't even say goodbye.
He always said I was his number one.
His memory, always makes me cry.
You're the spitting image of my beloved son.

This woman needs her grandson more than anything,
You're ev'rything, the whole world to me.
This grandma *qvells* ev'rytime her sweetheart sings.
I'm lucky you still come and visit me.

G-d gave me you.
And you make me feel brand new.
I see you and I smile.
Darling won't you stay awhile?

JOEY

This grandson needs his grandma just to keep him cool.
Your smile is the reason I still breathe.
Your wisdom reminds me that I'm just a fool.
You showed me love's all I'll ever need.

To you chicken soup's the only vitamin,
 A man like me needs to stay alive.
 Without a wife and children it's the biggest sin.
 Without love we only survive.

For you I live.
 The only fam'ly I got.
 To you I'd always give,
 Ev'rything, you hit the spot.

BUHBA and JOEY

(Holding hands.)

G-d gave me you. For you I live.
 You kiss me, I feel brand new. The only fam'ly I got.
 You always make me smile. To you I'd always give.
 Darling won't you stay awhile? Ev'rything, you hit the spot.

(JOEY and BUHBA embrace.)

BUHBA

So, tell me, how come you stopped seeing your psychiatrist? He wasn't helping any more?

JOEY

Since the accident, I'm more nuts than ever. The loneliness is killing me. And I know I'm not Cole Porter, Berlin, or Gershwin, but I still write songs, don't I?

BUHBA

Beautiful songs. One day, with G-ds help, one day you'll sing your own songs and everyone will like them. And are you really going to leave me again?

JOEY

(Emotional.)

I know I told you I'm thinking of going to Europe, because I have to get away.

BUHBA

Europe is so far away. Who's going to come see me, take care of me, if not you? I need you *Yosl*. Why are you running away from me?

JOEY

(Takes pill.)

Not from you Buhba, never from you. From everybody everything, but not from you.

BUHBA

No matter how much you drink, what ever you do, you can't run away, especially from yourself. No one can and what did you just take?

JOEY

Err, a sleeping pill. A little sleeping pill, that's all.

BUHBA

You took a sleeping at 12 o'clock in the afternoon?

JOEY

I've been having trouble sleeping at night, so I thought I'd take one now and when I go home, hopefully I'll fall asleep.

BUHBA

Sleeping pills in the afternoon, that's crazy, *'meschugeh.'*

JOEY

(Sings ala Jolson.)

Don't you worry about anything Buhba, I'll fall asleep sooner or later, because, "*I'm*

(Kisses Buhba and exits.)

sittin' on top of the world, I'm rollin' along, just singin' a song."

End of Scene 1

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT I

Scene 2

A week later.

A bar with a large neon sign, "BILLY'S" that's just about closing. BILLY is behind bar, picking up glasses, speaks to JOEY, who's wearing hat and raincoat ala Sinatra and when he sings sounds like Jolson and Sinatra. There is a man that appears drunk, who has his head on the bar. There is a piano. JOEY taps glass.

BILLY

You sure you want one more, Joey? You don't need it. You really don't, and I know why you've been drinking so much. Your old man did a D.W.I and committed suicide two years ago and now you want to join him don't you? I thought you hated him. Looks like you hate yourself even more, don't you? Ya know, you'll wake up tomorrow morning and it'll be the same damn thing. I promise. You'll be here and they'll be... There's no escaping reality. You are who you are; probably the best damn singer since the man, my closest friend the Voice passed. Gee, I miss that sonofabitch. I really do.

JOEY

(Sings, slurs ala Sinatra.)

"So, set 'em up Joe, I got a little story you oughta know."

BILLY

You still sound just like him you sonofabitch! So what is it Joey? With all the talent and bread you got, how come you want to end it all? And that's why you look like you've been dying for weeks, isn't it?

JOEY

Only weeks? I've probably been dying since I was a kid, only I didn't know it. Even as a grownup I always deluded myself into thinking I was happy. But even fools wake up sooner or later, and since my folks had that accident, that was some accident, I realized I was never happy. Without them here to cheer me on, I look in the mirror and don't know who I am. Who am I? I'm losing my mind Billy. Am I as you say, *'toozie bahts,'* nutso, *meshugeh?*

DRUNK

(Picks up head, slurs.)

What the hell's *'toozie bahts'* and will you please keep your *'toozie'* whatever it is, shut!

(Sings slumps on bar.)

I'm tryin' to sleep. Poor Marty's tryin' to get a, "*Toot, toot 'toozie' goodnight.*"

BILLY

Don't pay any attention to that lush. He's harmless. Anyway, want to talk about it Mr. Suicidal, Mr. *'toozie bahts'* nutso, *meshugeh*. Might as well. Who else do you talk to besides me? Your shrink, your beautiful grandmother? She told me how much you were drinking and taking downers during the day? Are you crazy? Isn't it bad enough her only son did himself in? Now you're trying to do a repeat performance in front of her. You have to be all of the above including *botso*. You know that will definitely be the end of your grandmother, don't you? And you don't know how lucky you are to still have her. I wish I still had my grandma. She's still one of the great old broads that ride a motorcycle. Unbelievable, she must be pushing 80.

JOEY

She sure is unbelievable. Tells me to be grateful for what I have, not what I want. Keeps me grounded. At least a little, anyway.

BILLY

I don't know what you're making such a big deal about? You're only going through the typical mid-life crisis that every man goes through, dummy. That's why you're so freakin' depressed, and you better stop trying to kill yourself before... Dean used to drink as much as you and look what happened to him. I hate to tell you this, but you're not the only undiscovered singer-songwriter that lost his parents, so stop being so dramatic, Mr. Dramatic. It takes time, it takes time and it's not the end of the world. Trust me. Now, I'm closing up, so, do you want to talk about it, or what? I ain't got all night. So?

JOEY

Let's see, I think the problem started, not that I knew I had one, was when my folks, may they rest in peace, first turned me on to Jolson. Did they love Jolson and now I know

(Sings ala Jolson.)

that's why I did too. "*Swanni, how I love, how I love you, my dear old Swanni.*"

DRUNK

(Picks up head puts head down.)

Swanni my ass! This *'toozie'* whatever don't shut up. Will you please shut up?

BILLY

I don't believe it, you still sound just like Jolie too, and don't pay any attention to him.

JOEY**(Joey looks at drunk.)**

When I was ten, not only did my old man blacken my face with a burnt piece of cork every night, he taught me to sing exactly like him. That's how I learned every song Jolie ever sang

(Sings.)

"Cal-i-for-nia here I come. Right back where I started from..."

BILLY

Jesus, I used to love Al Jolson. What a voice. Next to the man he was my second all-time favorite.

JOEY

Me too. As long as I kept singing, they never stopped kissing and buying me things and I couldn't be happier. They took me everywhere, *Bar Mitzvahs*, weddings, parties, holidays, Grossingers, the Borsht circuit and I sang my ass off for all of them. They and everybody around ate me up like Buhba's chopped liver. I was their star and who doesn't love being the star? Ya see, being the center of attention just suited me fine it was *poifict*..

(Snaps fingers.)

And then, just like that, Pop made me forget about Jolie and tossed him aside like he was yesterday's newspaper. Suddenly it was your best friend; Frankie this and Frankie that. To Pop, he was everything. Our whole apartment, every wall was plastered with his pictures, his albums. *"Oh, Frankie,"* my mother would swoon over and over, and my father did a little swooning himself, not that he would ever admit it. He told me, what told me, he ordered me to forget Jolson

ever existed and I had to learn to sing like Frank real fast. When my father said something, you better do it or else... I really didn't mind, because, ya see, that was the

(Laughs.)

one way I could get my father to love me for who I was, which made me happy. What a

(Sings.)

joke. *"I did it my way."* I never did it my way, because I never knew what my way was. How could I? It was always his way; my father's way, the Voice's way, the chairman of the boards way, Sinatra's way, which was really my father's way.

BILLY

Hey, don't blame your father. A lot of people, the whole world loved Frank.

DRUNK**(Laughs - puts head down.)**

Frank? Frank who? Frank Nitti? He was a crook. You like crooks? I like crooks.

JOEY**(Shakes head.)**

Ya see, since I was ten, eleven years old, thanks to my old man, Frank became my idol Too, not that I had a choice. Not G-d, not Abraham, the father of my people, just Frank. So, I learned to walk, talk and sing just like him. Frank was the only one that ever mattered to me or my old man. Without even knowing it, I became his freakin' clone, a

midget Sinatra and I thought I couldn't be happier. When I graduated High School, he bought me a hat, just like the one Frank always wore and his raincoat. At his insistence, I wore them wherever I went. My shirt would be open, I'd be *schlepping* that raincoat and

(Sings.)

I'd sing, I always sang, "*I've got you, under my skin. I've got you, deep in the heart of me.*" I'd walk down the street singing my ass off and people called me "*Jew boy Frankie.*" "*Oh, Frankie.*" Hey, I'd say, I'm not that Frank, my name's Joey Finkel. But ya know what, by the time I went to N.Y.U., for all intents and purposes, I actually thought I was Frankie. According to my dad, Joey was long forgotten, a thing of the past and I had become, none other than *his* Chairman of the Board and *I thought I was happy.*

(Sings)

"*How little we know. How much to discover.*" In college I joined a rock band and naturally I sang. So, what else is new...? Much to his delight, my father bragged I was on my way to everybody. Before long, I started writing songs, and like everything I do, I became obsessed. I must have written 25 tunes that first year. That first year, that was 25 years ago, Billy. Seems like a little water's passed under the bridge, don't it?

BILLY

(Laughs.)

Sure does and 25 tunes, huh? Ya know you don't look like Cole Porter or Sammy Davis, and how come you never told me you wrote so many songs Joey. You told me everything else, didn't you? We're friends aren't we and you should be proud you wrote all those tunes.

JOEY

You know how many songs I've written? Gotta be close to 3, 400, and I never sing them or had them recorded, because, *they* only want me to sing *HIS* songs and to tell you the truth, I don't blame them. *His* songs are *his* songs: the freakin' best.

BILLY

400 tunes, wow. Since no one's here, how's about layin' one on me? I'd sure like to hear one.

JOEY

(Sits at piano and sings)

Thanks. I never thought you'd ask...

I KNOW WHO I AM

I'm boss.

I know who I am.

Of course,

I'm not a lonely man.

Now I've got a place,

It ain't a rat race.

I finally,

Know who I have to be.

Dear Lord,
Thanks for my serenity.
Who's bored?
That just can't be, 'cause I got me.

Don't drink,
'Cause I don't have a pain.
I think,
Life is just a game.

My folks,
They have gone away.
No jokes,
It seems I'm turning gray

I don't have to hide,
There's no pain inside.
The older I get,
It's better you can bet.

Dear Lord,
Thanks for my serenity.
Who's bored?
That just can't be 'cause I got me.

Don't drink,
'Cause I don't have a pain.
I think,
Life is just a game.

DRUNK

(Lifts head and slurs.)

Hey, you '*toozie*' whatever, will you please shut up? Jesus, some guys never shut their '*toozies*.'

BILLY

(Exits.)

Don't go anywhere, and don't go '*bahtso*.' I'll be right back. I have to make a wee wee.

(JOEY rests head on bar. Lights flicker, there is smoke and SINATRA, wearing hat and carrying raincoat approaches JOEY.)

SINATRA

Hey mister. How come you always dress like that?

JOEY

(Without looking up.)
What's it to ya, Buddy?

SINATRA

I sorta like your style kid, that's all.

(JOEY looks up and is stunned.)

JOEY

Holy shit. I don't believe it. Are you...? You can't be. You're...

SINATRA

(Finger to mouth.)
Sssh, this is just between me and you, 'gabeech?' Not a word, you understand? Not a
(Laughs.)
freakin' word. Beside, no one would believe you anyway, because I'm...

JOEY

(Bewildered, looks around.)
I can't be that stoned, can I? This is impossible.

SINATRA

(Sings.)
"Nothing's impossible I have found... Just, pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again."

JOEY

Oh, my G-d, no one can sing like that except... it is you, isn't it?

SINATRA

(Ala Durante.)
"In person," as my good friend, the schnoz, Jimmy Durante used to say, "In person."

JOEY

(Blinks eyes and shakes head.)
Are you really, I mean can it really be you...? How is that possible?

SINATRA

(Sings.)
"It's impossible..." "I didn't know what time it was, 'til I met you..."

JOEY

No one can sing like that, except... But it can't be you. Let me look in your eyes mister.

(JOEY looks into SINATRA'S eyes.)

JOEY (cont'd)

Oh, my G-d, they are that blue.

SINATRA

They didn't call me old blues eyes for nothing, did they?

(JOEY shakes drunk.)

JOEY

Did you see him? Did you see him?

DRUNK

Did I see who and leave me alone, I'm sleeping.

JOEY

Him, over there, that's Sinatra, Frank Sinatra.

(Lights flicker, there is a puff of smoke and SINATRA disappears.)

DRUNK

Who, what, where?

JOEY

Sinatra, he was... Forget it. Go back to sleep.

End of Scene 2

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT I

Scene 3

One month later.

**JOEY, with REBECCA, a stunning
brunette actress enter JOEY'S
lush condo which has a magnificent
view of Manhattan.**

REBECCA

(Walks to window.)

New York, wow, what a view! It's always, always '*so spectacular.*'

JOEY

I did it all for your pleasure '*madām.*'

REBECCA

Thank you. Every time I 'm here, Central Park, the skyline just blows my mind.

JOEY

Mind if I have a drink gorgeous?

REBECCA

So, what else is new? Mind if I smoke a joint?

JOEY

So, what else is new?

REBECCA

Touché. I'd offer you some, but you don't smoke, right Joey?

JOEY

I told you I tried it once when I was in High School and became paranoid.

(Fixes drink and smiles.)

Never did it again. You have your tea and Stoli's my cup of tea.

REBECCA

(Takes out joint and light it.)

Since you're going to get loaded, mind if I join you.

JOEY

I really loved your last movie, Rebecca. Rebecca, my all-time favorite name and that red wig you wore, you reminded me of Rita Hayworth, only better looking, of course.

REBECCA

You sure know how to lay it on, don't you? How many times have you used that line, mister?

JOEY

The Rita Hayworth line? Never. Anyway, I think you're really beautiful. Probably the most beautiful woman I've ever had the pleasure of...

REBECCA

...The pleasure's been all mine, *señor*. Lets see, we balled ten times here and five times in my place and twice in that hotel. But who's counting, are you '*Bubby*'? After all this '*schtupping*', do you think it's still necessary to try and con me? I'm sleeping with you.

( **Sings.**)

Only you Joey, because I like sleeping with you, don't you understand?

IF YOU TELL ME

It's time we got to know each other.
What makes the great Joey tick?
Does anything enchant you brother?

I really don't need your *shtick*.
I want to touch your very soul.
Make you feel like you're my king.
With you I'd sure like to grow old.
For you I'd do anything.

If you tell me, I'll tell you,
Who we are, what we're all about.
Joey, I need you Joey
I'm so happy you just make me shout.
Joey, I love you Joey. Joey, I love you Joey.

You see I've never felt this way.
Can't believe I fell in love.
I've been on the road to Mandalay.
You are my blessing from above.
Want to be the mother of your child.
And love you for who you are.
Carefree, together we will run wild.
Come let's catch our lucky star.

If you tell me, I'll tell you.
Who we are, what we're all about.
Joey, I need you Joey.
I'm so happy you make me shout.
Joey, I love you Joey.

JOEY

I told you about my old man, right?

REBECCA

That he was always a drunk and lived vicariously through you, because he was a frustrated entertainer. What a drag. I'm surprised you didn't see a shrink sooner.

JOEY

My father really never gave a damn about me, never, and all the time I thought I was happy. Such delusion.

REBECCA

I'm so sorry that you always thought he loved you, but when he died, you looked in the mirror and you finally saw he never loved you, nor you him. Suddenly you hated him and I don't blame you, because you always wanted him to love you for who you were and now it's too late, so you started drinking big time. That's how you became a lush, isn't it?

JOEY

I beg your pardon.

REBECCA

Believe it or not, you have a drinking problem mister. Every time I've been with you, by the end of the night, you pass out.

JOEY

And what about you, Miss Goody-two-shoes? Smoking that dope and snorting that shit. Don't you have a problem?

REBECCA

First of all, I only get high on the weekends, you, drink every day, don't you...? Well, don't you?

JOEY

(Loud.)

What is this, pick on Joey night? Come on everybody, let's pick on Joey.

REBECCA

I don't want to pick on you. Don't you understand? I love you I love you. I'm just worried about you. Your father 's drinking killed him and I don't want anything to happen to you. Can't you see how much you mean to me?

JOEY

(Sings.)

AND YOU LAUGHED

I will never forget the day we met.
Asked for your autograph and you grinned.
Your laughter was the music on my set.
And I admit that I've lived in sin.

Love, to me it was always just a word.
It's what people said but never did.
Love to me was just a word absurd.
I never felt or knew as a kid.

Seems I've always been alone.
I have never cared before.
Loneliness when I got home.
I've never been in love I'm sure.
Rebecca please take me home.

Before my very life was so harried.
From all those people I ran away.
My Buhba wants me to get married.
It seems I need you more ev'ryday.

Seems I've always been alone.
For no one I cared before.
Loneliness when I got home.
I've never been in love I'm sure
Rebecca please take me home.

REBECCA

If you tell me, I'll tell you.
Who we are, what it's all about.
Joey, Joey I need you.
So happy you make me want to shout.
Joey, I love you Joey.

JOEY

Seems I've always been alone.
For no one I cared before.
Loneliness when I got home.
Somehow I never loved before
Rebecca please take me home.

(THEY kiss)

End of Scene 3

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT I

Scene 4

One month later.

JOEY enters BUHBA'S apartment and kisses her.

JOEY

Hi ya Buhba.

BUHBA

Hello sweetheart, and how is my little boy and I thought you were bringing...?

JOEY

...Rebecca? I know, but she had to go meet a producer and director. She's up for a big part with Dustin Hoffman.

BUHBA

Hoffman, is he Jewish?

JOEY

The last I heard he was.

BUHBA

I'm disappointed that your Rebecca didn't come.

JOEY

She'll be here grandma, don't be so disappointed. She's just as anxious to meet you as you are her.

BUHBA

Why is she so anxious to meet an old lady?

JOEY

Because I told her how much you mean to me, how much I love you.

BUHBA

Not as much as I love you.

JOEY

You wanna bet?

(We hear Underscoring of GRANDMA until JOEY sings.)

BUHBA

You and your bets, go on. So tell me, is she really that beautiful?

JOEY

She's the most beautiful woman I've ever met. Even more than Ava and Monroe.

BUHBA

The most beautiful woman you ever met. I'm impressed. So tell me, is it serious Joey? Are you finally serious and more important, is she...?

JOEY

...Yes, she's Jewish Buhba. I guess all your prayers have been answered, haven't they?

BUHBA

When you get married and have children, then, maybe all my prayers will be answered.

JOEY

Hold on there lady, who said anything about getting married? I only know her about six months.

BUHBA

How long do think I knew your grandfather before we got married?

JOEY

Let me guess. Six months.

(Underscoring end.)

BUHBA

(Sort of laughs pinches Joey's cheek.)

Close but no *seegar*, as somebody I know once said. And boy, were we in love. You should only be so in love, and we only knew each other five months, not six, so what the hell are you waiting for?

JOEY

(Sings.)

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I've traveled near and far.

Jet planes, a fancy car.

I've had more than a few.

But none of them would do.

I love to see her smile.
She cares so much for me.
And boy does she have style.
Her face, she's so pretty.

How do you know if it's really love?
Do you hear bells?
Will birdies sing?
Find wishing wells,
A diamond ring.
Is she my angel sent from above?

I like when she's around.
What a sense of humor.
She's smart, feet on the ground.
Now don't you start a rumor.

If it is meant to be.
You'll be the first to know.
That your *Yosl's* happy.
I'm no longer a shmo.

How do you know if it's really love?
Do you hear bells?
Will birdies sing?
Find wishing wells,
A diamond ring.
Is she my angel sent from above?

BUHBA

And I couldn't be happier for you.

JOEY

There's nothing to be happy about, Buhba. Not yet, I just like her that's all.

BUHBA

That's all? It's the first time you ever told me you like someone and that's all?

(The door bell rings.)

BUHBA

You thinks it's her? *Oy*, I sure hope so.

JOEY

Now remember, not a word about what I said. Do you promise?

BUHBA

(Grins and winks.)
Not a chance, I'm going to tell her everything.

(BUHBA opens door and kisses Rebecca, who enters.)

BUHBA (cont'd)

You must be...

REBECCA

...Rebecca and I'm so glad to meet you Buhba.

BUHBA

Look how she knows I'm Buhba.

JOEY

Well, I *soitenly* ain't Buhba, Buhba...

REBECCA

...And I *soitenly* ain't Buhba, Buhba.

JOEY

THAT MEANS...

REBECCA and JOEY

(Pointing.)
YOU'RE BUHBA, BUHBA!

(ALL hug and laugh.)

BUHBA

You're right, Joey. She's sure something and I think I like her.

JOEY

You only think?

REBECCA

Soitenly.

(As ALL laugh JOEY sneaks pill, which BUHBA sees.)

End of Scene 4

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT I

Scene 5

**The next week.
Very late.**

**BILLY'S BAR. BILLY is speaking to
DRUNK.**

BILLY

I don't believe it. That freakin' lunatic is trying to kill himself too.

DRUNK

Hey, you know what they say? Like father like son.

BILLY

I can't let it happen and you can't let it happen. We made a deal, remember?

DRUNK

I'm doing the best I can Billy. What else do you want me to do?

BILLY

(Emotional.)

He's like the son I always wanted, needed. I just can't let it happen.

DRUNK

I think you just said that Billy.

BILLY

(Sings.)

And his grandmother, Buhba. What's going to happen to that sweetheart?

LIFE'S TOUGH ENOUGH

I got this bar. I'm rich enough,
After all these years life still sure is tough.
Don't have a son, who calls me dad.
That's why I walk around feeling sad.

I met this little punk ten years ago.
He blew my mind. He was doing a show.
I introduced myself, call me Bill.
So glad to meet you, it sure is a thrill.

He wormed himself into my life.
In my box seats we saw the Knicks.
Like me he didn't have a wife.
And he seemed to know all the tricks.

Even though I was much older,
He soon became my closest friend.
Put his number in my folder.
Thought we'd be friends 'til the end.

I can't get a good nights sleep 'cause of him.
He taking pills and man is he drinking.
Talks about his past and does it sound grim.
The '*strunz*' is doing much too much thinking?

He wormed himself into my life.
In my box seats we saw the Knicks.
Like me he didn't have a wife.
And he seemed to know all the tricks.

Even though I was much older,
He soon became my closest friend.
Put his number in my folder.
Thought we'd be friends 'til the end.

(The door opens.)

BILLY

That's him that's him, cool it.

(The drunk rests head on bar and appears to be sleeping as JOEY enters.)

JOEY

Hey Billy, how the hell are ya doing *amigo*?

BILLY

Not bad not bad at all, but what's important is, how are you doing *amigo*?

JOEY

(Sings.)

"Love is a many splendored thing."

BILLY

Oh, so now we're in love, are we?

JOEY

I think so, I really do and would you please do your duty and filler up mister.

BILLY

(Pours and gives drink.)

According to your Buhba, she's gorgeous and what's more important, Rebecca's Jewish and your grandma said she's crazy about her.

JOEY

(Drinks.)

You know, there's something I've been wanting to ask you. Since when did you become such good friends with my grandmother? I mean, she's old enough to be your mother.

(Stumped, Billy has to come up with a plausible answer.)

BILLY

Err, uh, it's her motorcycle, yeah, it's her motorcycle. We've been like riding all over the city together. She sure can ride, Joey. You should see the wheelies she does. A regular Evil Knevel. Unbelievable.

JOEY

Unbelievable huh? Personally, I think your sudden friendship is unbelievable, and how long have you been friends, may I ask?

BILLY

Err, uh, maybe since your mother and father...

JOEY

That long huh?

BILLY

Two years sounds about right.

JOEY

(Approaches drunk – loud.)

Does two years sound right, Marty? DOES IT SOUND RIGHT?

DRUNK

(As if sleeping, lifts head.)

Right? Who's right? I'm always right you 'toozie' whatever. That's your name, isn't it 'Mr. Toozie' whatever? And what kind of name is whatever, Hungarian? Dumbest

(Rests head on bar.)

freakin' name I ever heard; whatever.

JOEY

Does he pay you rent, Billy? How come you let him stay here? What's he become a permanent fixture? And would you *puh-leeze* filler up?

BILLY

(Fills glass.)

If you promise you won't tell? He's my cousin. My uncle Angelo's only kid, and he sought of asked me to take care of him, so, I'm taking care of him, 'gapeesch?'

JOEY

(Drinks.)

Did you say kid? Your kid looks like he's older than me.

DRUNK

(Lifts head then slumps.)

Whatever, whatever 'toozie.'

BILLY

(Slaps DRUNK on back, exits.)

Listen whatever, I gotta make a wee wee. Don't go anywhere, I'll be right back.

(Light flickers, there is smoke and SINATRA flies through the air and lands in front of JOEY who is amazed.)

JOEY

Did I just see you fly? I don't believe it, you just flew here.

SINATRA

(Sings.)

"*He flies through the air with the greatest of ease.*" Don't look so surprised. Lots of people fly these days.

JOEY

Gee, I'm glad you came back. The last time I saw you... after... I thought I was drunk.

SINATRA

You're still drunk. You know I used to hoist a few, but you, you don't stop.

JOEY

(Sings.)

"*Way down among Brazilians, coffee beans there by the millions.*" I drink, because maybe I have to?

SINATRA

Not bad, not bad at all, and with a voice like that, what the hell is bugging you so much that you, as you say, *you have to*. What is it Joey, what the hell is it?

JOEY

You really thought I sounded pretty good? Really?

SINATRA

Almost as good as me, but let's get down to business, buster. Why are you drinking like a fish?

JOEY

Ya know, besides being a singer, I also write songs. That's why I'm frustrated, bananas.

SINATRA

But, what's really the problem?

JOEY

I never sing them because, all they want me to sing is your songs.

SINATRA

Can you blame them?

JOEY

(Sad.)
No.

SINATRA

Ever write a tune I could sing?

JOEY

All of them. I've written everyone for you. I prayed you would sing one of my songs.

SINATRA

I'm honored. So, why don't you lay one on me and lets see what I can do with it.

(JOEY takes out lead sheet from jacket, gives it SINATRA and goes to piano.)

JOEY

It's a torch song. Kind of like "*I Did It My Way.*"

SINATRA

(Looking at lead sheet.)

I see and not a bad lyric Joey. Shall we?

(JOEY plays intro and SINATRA sings.)

SINATRA (cont'd)
WHEN IT RAINS

I'm looking for a place to rest my tired head.
I'm looking for a girl to warm my empty bed.
I feel all alone.
Sure could use a home.

I lost my job 'cause they said I drink too much.
My heart aches 'cause there's not a girl to touch.
That's why I'm sighing.
Could be I'm dying.

Does anybody care about this guy?
When it rains, I don't really care.
Does anybody give a damn I cry?
Tormented, I'm filled with despair.

(Apologetically, JOEY interrupts.)

JOEY

I err, I think the hook should be stretched out a little, just a little.

SINATRA

Want to show me?

JOEY

(Sings.)

I guess...

Does anybody think about this guy?
When it rains, I don't really care.
Does anybody give a damn I cry?
Tormented, I'm filled with despair.

SINATRA

You're right kid and I like it, I really do. If I was you, I wouldn't listen to anyone and I'd sing it.

JOEY

You would, you really would?

SINATRA

And if the rest of them are as good, I'd sing the them all. Anyway, I gotta go, but I'll see you around.

(Lights flicker, there is smoke and SINATRA flies away.)

JOEY

(Sad rouses Drunk.)

Wait, you didn't finish, you didn't finish my song. Did you see him? Did you see him?

DRUNK

(Lifts head.)

See who, see who, whatever?

JOEY

Forget it. And whatever yourself. Whatever yourself. Go back to sleep, go back to sleep

End of ACT I

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT II

Scene 1

JOEY'S living room.

Three weeks later.

There are streamers and balloons, with a Three weeks later. banner that says, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY BUHBA." JOEY, BUHBA, REBECCA, BILLY and MARTY are present. BILLY is fixing drinks.

BILLY

(Gives.)
A glass of vino for the party girl.

BUHBA

'*Grazie*' Billy.

BILLY

(Gives.)
'*Prego, señora.*' A little Merlot for Rebecca. One screw driver for my best friend. Here you are best friend, and orange juice for Marty. And now let's drink to Buhba's birthday.

(ALL raise glass and toast.)

ALL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BUHBA! HAPPY BIRTHDAY BUHBA!

BUHBA

Thank you, thank you all for coming to my surprise birthday party, but most of all I thank my darling grandson for making it.

JOEY

Thank Rebecca grandma, it was her idea.

BUHBA

(Kisses Rebecca.)
Your idea? No wonder I like you so much and are you pretty, a regular *sheinheit*. Didn't I tell you she's pretty?

JOEY and REBECCA

“Soitenly.”

(ALL laugh.)

BILLY

Think it's time we give Evel her presents?

ALL

(Chant.)

Presents, presents!

BUHBA

Presents? You also bought me presents? What do I need presents for?

JOEY

(Gives.)

Never mind. This is for you Buhba. Wear it in good health.

BUHBA

(Opens small box.)

Oh, Joey... a little heart.

JOEY

With diamonds. Don't forget the diamonds.

BUHBA

(Kisses Joey.)

With diamonds. It's so beautiful. Thank you sweetheart, thank you.

REBECCA

(Puts it on Buhba.)

Let me put it on you, Buhba.

(BUHBA looks in mirror and smiles.)

BUHBA

NEXT!

(ALL laugh.)

REBECCA

(Gives box.)

Happy birthday Buhba.

BUHBA

(Opens box and shows scarf and knee pads.)

A beautiful scarf and what's the knee pads for?

REBECCA

It's for when you go roller blading. In case you fall. I don't want you to hurt those cute knees.

BUHBA

How sweet and how thoughtful. Thank you *'mommaleh.*' Alright. Let's get a move on damnit. NEXT!

BILLY

(Gives - laughs.)

I'm next, I'm next. This is for you sweetheart, and don't blow it.

BUHBA

(Opens box and shows handkerchiefs.)

Oh, Billy, just what I could use, handkerchiefs and don't blow it is funny.

BILLY

Embroidered handkerchiefs.

BUHBA

'Vuh den'?

MARTY

Err, could I see one of those handkerchiefs Buhba?

BUHBA

(Gives.)

Why not, it costs me something?

(MARTY takes handkerchief, waves it and a white dove miraculously appears much to everyone's amazement.)

BUHBA (cont'd)

'Oy,' did you see what I just saw? A pigeon.

MARTY

It's a white dove Buhba. I don't do homers or clinkers.

(MARTY lifts BUHBA'S arm and removes a rabbit. Stunned, ALL applaud.)

BUHBA (cont'd)

A rabbit too?

(ALL laugh.)

MARTY

'*Vu den?*' So what else is new? That's how you say it, right grandma, '*Vuh den?*' I like '*vuh den,*' Billy, don't you?

ALL

'*Vuh den?*'?

BUHBA

Be careful, you might become Jewish.

(ALL laugh.)

JOEY

Hey, I know you. You're Monty Montefusco. You were that famous magician, illusionist. I remember you. You used to make tigers appear, flying elephants. You worked Vegas, all the big clubs. You were a big deal and then you disappeared. What happened to you?

BILLY

Why don't you tell him Marty about your AA meetings, your 12 stepping? He sure could use it. We're family, ain't we? So, what are you waiting for? Joey needs some waking up. Tell him how your boozing cost you everything.

MARTY

(Sings.)

This one's for you Joey.

I USED To BE

I used to be the star of the show.
Vegas, the Copa I did it all.
I started drinking and wouldn't you know?
I tripped and I took a fall.

I lost my wife, my whole family.
The pain I had, it felt so weird.
Then I saw it was really me.
Two cars, the house, it all disappeared.

Today sobriety's the only way.
There's nothing more that I have to say.
Threw my bottle down the toilet and quit.
I used to be sick and that did the trick.

That hole in my heart no longer burns.
My wife and children have all returned.
One day at a time is what I learned.
With HIM at my side I no longer yearn.

I never thought I would be alone.
All I had was my bottle of booze.
No one called me on my telephone.
All I had and boy did I lose.

For me, sobriety's the only way.
There's nothing more that I have to say.
Threw my bottle down the toilet and quit.
I used to be sick and that did the trick.

That hole in my heart no longer burns.
My wife and children have all returned.
One day at a time is what I learned.
With HIM at my side I no longer yearn.

End of Scene 1

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT II

Scene 2

One week later.

JOEY'S condo. **REBECCA** and **JOEY** are pacing. There is silence.

REBECCA

So where were you?

JOEY

Where was I when?

REBECCA

Yesterday, when your Buhba broke her hip.

JOEY

Oh, my G-d, she broke her hip? How, where, when? Why didn't somebody call me?

REBECCA

Right in front of your building. She wanted to see how her *Yosl*, her *Yosl* was doing, so she roller bladed over, fell and broke her hip. There was an ambulance, police cars and they were putting your grandmother in the ambulance when I found her. All she was doing was asking about her *Yosl*, where's my *Yosl*? Is he okay? Where were you? And I tried calling you on your cell phone, I went up to your apartment, where were you?

JOEY

I'd rather not say.

REBECCA

You'd rather not say? You'd rather not say? Well, you'd better say. I was on my way for a fitting, and thought I'd stop over and give you a kiss. I've tried calling you non stop for 24 hours. Where the hell were you?!

JOEY

In jail.

REBECCA

In jail?! What the hell were you doing in jail?

JOEY

I had an accident again.

REBECCA

Again? Oh, I can't wait to hear about this one again.

JOEY

It was about 4:30 in the morning and I had just left Billy's when I hit a fire hydrant. I hate those hydrants. They always get in the way. The police came and...

REBECCA

AND?

JOEY

They gave me a breathalyzer and I was...

REBECCA

...DRUNK! YOU WERE DRUNK AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU?!

JOEY

It was the second time this year. That's why they locked me up.

REBECCA

(Sings.)

Oh Joey, when are you going to learn?

PROBLEMS

Don't you understand?
You have some problems.
Take it like a man,
You have to solve them.

Stop running away.
Let's stand together.
There's a better way.
Things will get better.

Let's have a ball,
And plant a family seed.
Yes love is all,
Love is all we'll ever need.

You must be afraid.
Of what, please tell me.
No more getting laid,
You're gonna lose me.

Let's have a ball,
And plant a family seed.
Yes love is all,
Love is all we'll ever need.

JOEY

Don't want to lose you.
Need you more each day.
So much we could do.
Please show me the way.

I feel alone.
Lord, will I ever be free?
I'm so afraid,
What's going to happen to me?

REBECCA

Let's have a ball.
Let's plant a family seed.
Yes love is all.
Love is all we'll ever need.

JOEY

I feel alone.
Lord, will I ever be free?
I'm so afraid,
What's going to happen to me?

REBECCA

The first thing you have to do is go to a rehab.

JOEY

A rehab? I don't need a rehab. What the hell do I need a rehab for? Because I drink a little?

REBECCA

Only a little?

JOEY

Rehabs are for junkies, crack heads, addicts. I'm not an addict, am I?

REBECCA

According to Bill W who started Alcoholics Anonymous in the thirties, drinkers, imbibers like yourself are addicts who need help. You need help Joey. Do you need help. Your father killed himself and your mother. Do you think he needed help?

JOEY

He sure did. That poor, frustrated sonofabitch drank for as long as I can remember.

REBECCA

Did he need help Joey? If he got some, do you think he would have killed your mother and committed suicide?

Oh, the police report only said he was D.W.I., but we both know that he...

JOEY

(Emotional.)

...Committed suicide... Yes I know he did it, he did it.

REBECCA

Do you want to commit suicide?

JOEY

No, I don't want to leave you Rebecca. I need you baby, I need you more than anything.

REBECCA

If you need me so much, why did you tell your Buhba that you were going to Europe?

JOEY

I felt, I still feel like I'm going nowhere. That it's all a losing proposition and maybe a change of scenery might help.

REBECCA

You can't run-away from it. No one can.

JOEY

Buhba said the same thing. What is this a conspiracy?

REBECCA

We both love you Joey, so I guess it is a conspiracy.

JOEY

Would you come with me to Paris, Rome?

REBECCA

After you go to a rehab, we'll talk about it.

JOEY

Do I have too?

REBECCA

What do you think?

End of Scene 2

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT II

Scene 3

Four months later.

BILLY'S bar. BILLY, behind bar is talking to MARTY. There is a door, stage left.

BILLY

So, looks like you did it Marty.

MARTY

Looks like I did Billy.

BILLY

21 days at a rehab and then 90 meetings in 90 days, I'm impressed.

MARTY

So am I. Ya know 31 out of 32 people don't make it. AA is not for people who need it, it's for people who want it and it sure looks like Joey wants it, don't it?

(Walking with a cane, BUHBA enters.)

BILLY

Buhba, so glad you could make it.

BUHBA

Why shouldn't I make it? They only replaced my hip, not my heart.

BILLY

How about a glass of wine to celebrate Joey's home coming, sweetheart?

BUHBA

And make it a big glass too.

(SINATRA enters singing.)

SINATRA

"If you turn me down once more, I'll join the French Foreign Legion.."

BILLY

You're late Pauly, and how the hell are you doing?

SINATRA

Everyone once and the easy ones twice.

(SINATRA slaps BILLY and MARTY five.)

BUHBA

And what about me, I don't count?

BILLY

Oh, I almost forgot. This is the woman that asked me to hire you. Pauly, say hello to my favorite Buhba, Joey's Grandmother.

BUHBA

Never mind hello. Where's my five?

SINATRA

It would be my pleasure lady.

BUHBA

(Puts out hand.)

My grandson calls me lady, to you I'm Buhba, now lay it on me bro.

(SINATRA slaps BUHBA five.)

SINATRA

Ya know, I think I like you.

BUHBA

(Takes money from purse.)

You better like me, every time you show up it costs me \$2,000. And here's your money. Don't spend it all in Bloomingdales. Give Bendels a chance too.

BILLY

You know I hate to break up this little tête-à-tête, but Joey should be here any moment.

SINATRA

What's your rush Jilly? It's only 10 O'clock.

BILLY

I told you, I told you my name is Billy, not Jilly. Billy not Jilly. What a *'strunz.* '

SINATRA

(Laughs.)

Sorry Jilly. Let's go before your grandson gets here.

MARTY

Let's hide in this closet.

BILLY

Remember you can't make a sound or you'll blow it.

BUHBA

Again with the blow it? If you didn't want me to blow it, why did you give me so many handkerchiefs? *'Meschugeh.'* Handkerchiefs are made for blowing, no?

MARTY

Shall we Buhba?

BILLY and BUHBA

'Vuh den.'

MARTY

You know Billy?

BILLY

I know, I know, you like *'vuh den.'*

MARTY

'Vuh den' Jilly.

(Laughing, THEY enter door. After a beat JOEY enters.)

JOEY

Hey, Billy. Long time no see.

BILLY

What do you mean, long time no see? Didn't I come to visit you every week? I'll give you long time no see. So, tell me. Did you get a sponsor yet?

JOEY

No, but I'm working on it, and where is everybody?

BILLY

They'll be here they'll be here. And, what do you hear from Rebecca?

JOEY

As you know she was in Frisco shooting a movie. Supposed to be back tonight.

BILLY

Miss her?

JOEY

Did I. I can't wait to see her, tell her...

(Sings.)

ANOTHER DAY

Now, that I'm sober.
Another day older.
Hopefully wiser,
I'm free.

That hole in my heart,
Is no longer a part,
Now that I've found the,
Real me.

What I'm sure of,
Joey's in love.
And it sure feels great.
Got to set the date.

I've never felt this way before.
I'll never feel this way again.
I have finally learned the score.
You see she is my best friend.

BILLY

(Sings)

Ya know I'm so thrilled.
I'm glad you had the will.
Turned it around,
Touché.

We've had some fun.
It feels like you're my son.
Glad you're in love,
Hurray.

I knew you could.
It sure feels good
I know it was hard.
But now you found G-d.

I'll be the best grandpa around.
Take your baby boy to the game.
Now you got both feet on the ground.
And Rebecca sure is some dame.

JOEY and BILLY

I am so glad that I found you.
Me and you we go together.
It's like we both got shoes brand new.
And it just don't get much better.

(JOEY and BILLY hug.)

BILLY

Don't go anywhere, I have to make a wee wee.

JOEY

Again with the wee wee? What is it with you and your wee wee?

(As Billy exits HE taps door then enters bathroom. After a beat, SINATRA flies through the air and lands at JOEY'S feet.)

SINATRA

(Sings.)

"Just in time, I found you just in time."

JOEY

After the wee wee, I was sort of expecting you. Hi Frank.

SINATRA

Hi Joey. Where's your hat, raincoat?

JOEY

Gave them to Goodwill.

SINATRA

Really?

JOEY

Really.

SINATRA

I'm impressed.

JOEY

(Sings)

"There'll be a change in the weather and a change in the sea."

SINATRA

What happened to your voice? That doesn't sound like me.

JOEY

(Sings 🎵)

"All of me. Why not take all of me?"

SINATRA

Hey, you got a nice set of tonsils kid. Not bad and maybe it's time you sang like yourself, and you know that song that you wrote? Want to finish it?

JOEY

(Goes to piano and gives lead sheet.)

I'd love to Frank, I'd love to. Here's the lead sheet.

SINATRA

Don't need it. I remember the words. Take it from the bridge and the we'll go from
(Sings 🎵)
there.

WHEN IT RAINS

Does anybody think about this guy?
When it rains, I don't really care.
Does anybody give a damn I cry?
Tormented, filled with such despair.

See lightning, stub my toe walking on the beach.
I need a girl that I can call my own peach.
Running into time.
Got to ease my mind.

Dear Lord, will I find that elusive smile.
This loneliness, I've been alone for awhile.
Let me see the stars.
Then fly me to Mars.

Does anybody think about this guy?
When it rains, I don't really care.
Does anybody give a damn I cry?
Tormented, I'm filled with despair.

JOEY

Gee, that sure sounded great. Thanks for singing my song Frank.

SINATRA

Thank you and the pleasure was all mine.

(BUHBA flies through the air and lands at JOEY'S feet.)

JOEY

(Astounded.)
Buhba, you...

BUHBA

(Sings.)
"She flies through the air, with the greatest of ease."

JOEY

(Excited.)
Buhba, I don't believe it. It's so good to see you and you're walking.

BUHBA

Not only am I walking, I'm flying. "*Nu?*" Aren't you impressed that an old lady like me can still fly?

JOEY

I can't believe you're here and you flew, you actually flew.

(MARTY steps forward.)

MARTY

Thanks to me she flew.

SINATRA

He's a regular Smiling Jack. He flew me and he used to fly elephants for me and Sammy at some of my shows ion Vegas.

BUHBA

And all this flying cost me a small fortune.

MARTY

'Vuh den.'

BUHBA

Oh, I forgot about paying you Marty. Thanks for reminding me.

MARTY

So, what are you waiting for lady? Pay up.

(BUHBA takes money from purse.)

BUHBA

And worth every penny, isn't it Joey? You're finally sober, aren't you?

JOEY

Couldn't have done it without you lady, and by the way Marty, I need a sponsor. What do you say?

MARTY

(Sort of laughs.)

How much are you willing to pay?

JOEY

(Punches Marty.)

I'll give you willing to pay. You know what your theme song should be you chiseler?

(Sings)

"Come fly with me, let's fly, let's fly away."

(Suddenly JOEY is lifted in the air.)

JOEY (cont'd)

(Flying he laughs.)

Hey, hey what the hell is happening? Marty, I'm going to kill you. You better put me down.

End of Scene 3

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT II

Scene 4

1 A.M.

In HIS living room, JOEY and
REBECCA are lazing in pajamas.

JOEY

I sure missed seeing your beautiful face, sexy.

REBECCA

And I missed you. More than you'll ever know. I always thought Frisco was the most beautiful, the most exciting city. But with you here and me there, it wasn't all that thrilling.

JOEY

It seems we're both kind of stuck on each other, don't it?

REBECCA

(♪Sings.)

And I couldn't be happier. Hey, I got an idea...

I DO

Let's walk down the aisle.
And say I do.
Boy, I love your smile,

JOEY (♪Sings.)

And I sure love you.
We should set a date.
Share the same bed.
I don't want to wait.

REBECCA

Let's not wait instead,
Let's run away tonight.
And catch a red eye flight.
We'll make huba huba.
Of course we'll take Buhba.

JOEY

I certainly agree.
Long as it's you and me.
I'll love you forever.
It can't get much better.

REBECCA

I would like a girl.
The boy's for you.
In this entire world,

JOEY

What can't I do?
I feel ten feet tall.
With you I am king.
We'll sure have a ball.

REBECCA

My ev'rything.

JOEY and REBECCA

Let's run away tonight.
And catch a red eye flight.
We'll make huba huba.
Of course we'll take Buhba.

I certainly agree.
Long as it's you and me.
I'll love you forever.
It can't get much better.

(THEY kiss.)

REBECCA

So, Mr. Sober, how was the rehab?

JOEY

I'm sober one day at-a-time.

REBECCA

One day at-a-time is fine with me.

JOEY

Me too. It's the first time I've been sober since my '*Bar Mitzvah.*'

REBECCA

Is that when you started drinking?

JOEY

I can remember it like it was yesterday. My father said, "*Today you're a man Joseph, and men drink.*" He gave me a shot of schnapps and said, "*Drink it and you'll become a man.*" I'm some man, wouldn't you say?

REBECCA

I'm not complaining, am I? You still didn't tell me what happened at the rehab.

JOEY

When I first got there, I thought I was in prison. They told me when to eat, sleep, shit, take a shower. I hated it and you for making me go there. What the hell was I doing with those junkies, crack heads, drunks, low-lives, murderers, rapists? I was with the dregs of humanity and I sure as hell didn't belong with those losers. Going to NA and AA meetings, eight hours a day, I was going bananas, because I was still in denial. They had me reading the Big Book. That's the book Bill W wrote for alcoholics like me, 'til it was coming out of my ears. "*Don't compare, identify,*" they told me. Isn't it something? I can call myself an alcoholic.

REBECCA

And I couldn't be more proud, or love you more Mr. Miracle.

JOEY

If you didn't threaten to leave me, your intervention saved your Mr. Miracle's life.

REBECCA

You saved your own life Joey. You were the one that had that hole in your heart that you tried to fill with all that booze. And not only were you uncomfortable, you were afraid. You finally realized you needed help and look what happened.

JOEY

Because of the miracle, I stopped taking those goof balls also. 91 days and still counting.

REBECCA

You stopped everything.

JOEY

Everything, except loving you. I love you Rebecca and I can never repay you for bringing me to my senses.

REBECCA

I'm sure Buhba's just as happy that you stopped drinking.

JOEY

Talking about that sweetheart. Billy threw her the most phenomenal birthday party tonight. Unbelievable... My grandmother, there's nobody like that roller blading '*meshugeneh.*' Like you, because she was so concerned about my drinking, she secretly asked Billy to find an actor that looked and sang exactly like Sinatra, and he did. Do you know why my Buhba wanted Billy to find another Sinatra?

REBECCA

I hate to tell you this honey, but it wasn't your grandmother's idea. It was just her money, but it was my idea.

JOEY

Would please tell me why?

REBECCA

You see I didn't fall in love with Frank Sinatra. I fell in love with you, but unfortunately, you didn't know who you were. You never knew who you were. How could you when you were always trying to be somebody else him. I spoke to a psychiatrist, a brilliant psychiatrist that had an idea. He said if Sinatra could only validate you, your voice, your being as being as worthy as his, there would be a good chance that you would finally identify with yourself. And...?

JOEY

And if you thought I loved you before, now, now I'm drooling and as far as your shrink is concerned, tell him I love him too. Not only am I sober for the first time since my... I'm me, for the first time in my life I'm me and I like me and what's more, I like my voice. I

( Sings.)

got a hell of a voice you know? Hell of a voice.

WE'LL TAKE BUHBA

Let's run away tonight.
And catch a red eye flight.
We'll make huba huba.
Of course we'll take Buhba.

JOEY

I will love you 'til the sun won't shine.

REBECCA

I will love you 'till the end of time.

JOEY

I will love 'til death do us part.

REBECCA

I will love you with all my heart

JOEY

I certainly agree.
Long as it's you and me.

REBECCA

I'll love you forever.
It can't get much better.

REBECCA

Together there is nothing we can't do.

JOEY

Can't get better, long as its me and you.

REBECCA

I'll spend a life time kissing you to death.

JOEY

Making love you always take away my breath.
So, not bad huh?

REBECCA

(Laughs.)

You really think your voice is that good?

JOEY

I'll give you good, I'll give you good... And then he gets this guy named Monty Montefusco. The greatest magician and illusionist there ever was. I mean he actually made Sinatra look like he was flying through the air and to top it all off, then he makes Buhba fly through the air. I flipped, I mean when I saw her flying I couldn't believe it, and then she lands right at my feet. That blew my mind and I was sober. And then, just like that, I go flying through the air. I couldn't believe it.

REBECCA

And you were sober, weren't you?

JOEY

One day at-a-time baby, one day at-a-time.

End of Scene 4

I'M NOT THAT *FRANK*

ACT II

Scene 5

Three months later.

BUHBA'S living room. BILLY, MARTY and SINATRA are putting up balloons and decorations for JOEY'S pending engagement party.

BUHBA

'Nu, ' Billy, can you believe it? My Joey's finally getting engaged.

BILLY

And I couldn't be happier. That Rebecca's sure a knock out.

BUHBA

Thank G-d she's Jewish and boy is she pretty.

BILLY

She may be pretty, but you're so cute. I can't tell you how cute you are, cutie.

MARTY

(Passing.)

'Vuh den.' I love how that word 'vuh den' sounds and of course Buhba's cute. She's the cutiest.

BUHBA

Even though you cost me a fortune, and even though you're not a cutie like me, I think like you Marty.

SINATRA

And me you don't like?

BUHBA

With such blue eyes and a 'punim' like yours, who wouldn't like you?

MARTY

And what is 'punim?'

BUHBA

Face, 'punim' means face.

MARTY

(Chants.)

'*Vuh den*' and now '*punim.*' I like it too, I really do. '*Vuh den,*' '*punim,*' '*vuh den,*' '*punim.*'

BILLY

I suppose you want to become Jewish now, right?

MARTY

'*Vuh den?*'

(ALL laugh.)

SINATRA

(Cutting motion with hand.)

You know what that means don't you? Your err, your dingle berry has to be whacked!

MARTY

(Holds self.)

At my age, really?

ALL

(Laughing.)

'*VUH DEN!*'

BUHBA

(Sings.)

EVERYBODY IS A LITTLE JEWISH.

Ev'rybody is a little Jewish.
That's what my mother used to say.
Say '*shalom*' and eat a knish.
Then eat chicken soup ev'ryday.

To me we are all sisters and brothers.
Even though our skin's not the same.
I always thought that mothers are mothers.
Laugh and it all becomes a game.

Even though we're the chosen,
I am no better than you.
When it's cold I get frozen.
When I sneeze, I say achew.

BILLY

(Sings.)

Thank you, but I believe in Jesus Christ.
On Sunday used to always pray.
I got older and so I rolled the dice.
Made some bread and did it my way.

MARTY

(Sings.)

I dig 'punim, I also like 'vuh den.'
Though I'm a diff'rent persuasion.
I'm gonna keep on laughing until then.
Tonight's the perfect occasion.

ALL

It started with Adam and Eve.
Still we need a helping hand.
Like them we all laugh and we grieve.
We must take it like a man.

It started with Adam and Eve.
Still we need a helping hand.
Like them we all laugh and we grieve.
We must take it like a man.

(ALL embrace as JOEY and REBECCA enter.)

BUHBA

(Sings.)

"Hail, hail the gang's all here..."

ALL

(Sings.)

"What the hell do we care?"

JOEY

Well, I care I care. How are you Buhba?

(JOEY and REBECCA kiss BUHBA.)

BUHBA

Look how beautiful she looks. You look beautiful Rebecca.

JOEY

Of course she looks beautiful. Do you think I would get engaged to anyone that wasn't beautiful?

BUHBA

You're really getting engaged? Why didn't somebody tell me?

(**ALL laugh.**)

JOEY

Show her the ring, show her the ring that cost me a fortune.

(**REBECCA shows BUHBA her ring.**)

BUHBA

What a beautiful ring sweetheart. Wear it in the best of health.

BILLY

(**Looks at ring.**)

Murray?

JOEY

'*Vuh den?*'

MARTY

You dig '*vuh den,*' too, huh?

JOEY

Everybody on this planet digs '*vuh den*' what else?

(**ALL laugh.**)

BUHBA

(**Sings.**)

Didn't I tell you?

BUHBA

Didn't I tell you?

(**🎵Sings.**)

Ev'rybody is a little Jewish.

That's what my mother used to say.

Say '*shalom*' and eat a knish..

Then eat chicken soup ev'ryday.

By the way, I hope you're all hungry? I made the most delicious...

REBECCA

...Don't tell me. Let me guess chicken soup.

BUHBA

Look how she knew I made chicken soup.

JOEY

Personally I could go for a little chopped liver.

BUHBA

Good, good, I made plenty chopped liver too.

BILLY

Don't forget to tell him about the stuffed cabbage.

JOEY

Oh, stuffed cabbage is my favorite.

BUHBA

You don't say...?

JOEY

With raisins?

BUHBA

Two boxes.

JOEY

I have a surprise for you Buhba.

BUHBA

What kind of surprise?

JOEY

(Sings.)

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

I couldn't have made it without you.
You have touched my very soul.
Your smile is the reason I go on.
Through your eyes I see the world.

I'm thankful 'cause I can feel the sun.
The stars, boy do they twinkle.
And when I sail across the ocean.
You won't be that far away.

I will always love you sweetheart.
We will never be apart.
I will always hear your voice,
Rejoice you are in my heart.

REBECCA

(Sings.)

First we're going to Paris and Rome.
Then we'll take a boat to Israel.
You will be gone at least seven months.
'Cause Buhba you're coming with us.

JOEY

I will always love you sweetheart.
We will never be apart.
I will always hear your voice,
Rejoice you are in my heart.

(BUHBA, REBECCA and JOEY embrace.)

SINATRA

Hey, what am I chopped liver? Don't I get a hug?

BILLY

And a, I mean, who got you such a good deal on that three carrot emerald, mister?

MARTY

And err, I only got Buhba to fly, so why should I get a hug?

REBECCA and JOEY

You all deserve a hug!

MARTY

'Vuh den?'

(Laughing, ALL hug.)

SINATRA

You know Joey I'm very impressed?

JOEY

Tell me more.

SINATRA

That song you just sang, sounded really good, and you sang it in your own voice. Not bad not bad at all. Tell you the truth, if I had a voice like yours, I'd record it.

(Beaming, ALL applaud as JOEY sings the scales, *ah ah ah, oh oh oh*, as lights fade.)

THE END