**DEAD GUY OPRY**

**ACT I AUDIO SCRIPT**

**UPDATE 9-21-21**

**ACT I**

**Scene 1**

**A1S1-1**

SFX: Fade in typing

JARED

Some folks believe that when you die, you go to Heaven

Some folks think it’s better up there

Some folks’ll say that when you’re dead, you’re dead and

There’s just no gettin’ past the fact you ain’t goin’ nowhere

I don’t believe no belief beats another

I don’t think thinkin’ ‘bout it’s gonna pay

I had my life, and if I had my ‘druthers

There’d be something more than nothing on its way

‘Cause nothin’ makes a really long day…

SFX: Typing fades out

**A1S1-2**

JARED

Well I don’t care ‘bout nothin’ minus nothin’

And the old Grim Reaper’s quite the special friend

And if I may be bold, if the story be told

I just don’t wanna know how the story ends

Charlie Brown’s gonna kick the football

Broken hearts are maybe gonna mend

But deep down in your soul, where the light ain’t gonna go

You don’t really wanna know how the story ends

You don’t really wanna know how the story ends

It’s gonna end

Well we kinda got the Cliff notes, but without the when or how

We kinda try to redefine just what the law will allow

JARED/ANGEL

We kinda got a show to do, before we take a bow

JARED

The curtain’s gonna drop but it ain’t droppin’ now

I don’t really wanna know how the story ends

JARED/ANGEL

You don’t really wanna know how the story ends.

B-U SINGERS

We just don’t wanna know how the story ends

JARED

You don’t really wanna know how the story ends

Let’s just pretend…

SFX: Typing fades in, rises, and reaches a crescendo with MUSIC, then fades

**Scene 2**

**A1S2-1**

SFX light over INTRO: TV airing NASCAR race

MACK

I like NASCAR and beer

SFX: Fridge door opening, beer top popping

The only exercise I get is gettin’ it from here…

SFX: Fridge door closing

To here.

SFX: Sitting in recliner

MACK (SPOKEN)

(Heavy sigh)

MACK

I like NASCAR

Them guys is great

Go straight take a left take a left go straight

Take a left take a left go straight

MACK/B-U SINGERS

Go straight take a left take a left go straight

Take a left take a left go straight

SFX: Racing fades

**A1S2-2**

ELENORE

I like knitting, it helps relax my mind

I ain’t kidding

Sometimes it’s the only peace I find

Just a needle and some thread

And cigarettes and magazines

And I’ll be the happiest country girl you never see

**A1S2-3**

SFX: Racing fades back in

MACK

Go straight take a left take a left go straight

Take a left take a left go straight

w/B-U SINGERS

Go straight take a left take a left go straight

Take a left take a left go straight

MACK

I like NASCAR and beer

I kinda like to lose myself in anything that ain’t right here

Elenore she cooks real good, but she ain’t no fun bein’ with

And our boy’s less like a boy

Than like a little bitch

SFX: Racing fades out

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

Shhh Mack! Willard’s in his room…he’ll hear ya!

**A1S2-4**

MACK

I can’t believe he ain’t screechin’ at one of his stupid video games

MACK (SPOKEN)

You know, like Immoral Wombats or Assassin's Cream or something like that

ELENORE

But you bought him that computer ‘cause he was drivin’ you insane

MACK (SPOKEN)

Little shit kept wantin’ to change the channel from NASCAR

MACK

I traded all that whinin’ for “BOOMS” and “KA-POWS”

MACK/ELENORE

But he sure is quiet now

**A1S2-5**

SFX: Racing fades back in

MACK

I like NASCAR, and NASCAR likes me

Go straight take a left take a left go straight

Take a left take a left go…I gotta pee

SFX: Racing fades out

**A1S2-6**

SFX: Getting out of recliner

MACK (SPOKEN)

(Sigh as he rises)

SFX: Door closing

SFX: Belt buckle, zipper

MACK (SPOKEN)

(Grunt, sigh)

SFX: Peeing

SFX: Peeing fades

SFX: Buckle, pants zipping

SFX: Toilet flushes

SFX: Door opening

SFX: Typing rises lightly

MACK (SPOKEN)

I wonder what he’s *doing in there*

MACK

I know I’ve heard that sound before

Like squirrels in the attic

But that can’t be it

SFX: Typing rises

MACK (SPOKEN)

Wait a minute…is that…? Nah…

SFX: Typing rises

MACK (SPOKEN)

I’ll be damned!

MACK w/B-U SINGERS

Goddamn it Elenore!

I think Willard’s in there goddamn typin’!

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

Shut the front door!

ELENORE

That’s not like him at all!

MACK w/B-U SINGERS

I said Goddamn it Elenore!

I think our boy’s in there goddamn TYPIN’!

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

I know, I heard you, I said

ELENORE

That’s not like him at all

MACK/ELENORE

Not like him at all…

SFX: Typing fades

**A1S2-7**

MACK

Well we ain’t real educated, ain’t had too many chances

ELENORE

Our fam’ly tree ain’t exactly overrun with branches

MACK

It was one thing when that gizmo was more like a toy

SFX: Typing rises

MACK/ELENORE

I just don’t know what’s got into our little boy

ELENORE

Maybe he’s just playin’, pretending like he’s writing

MACK

I hear what you’re saying, that has to be it

ELENORE

He’s sure doing it quickly, no way he could have learned

SFX: Typing fades

SFX: NASCAR crash, explosion

TV ANNOUNCER (Spoken)

Oh my! He went right into the wall!

SFX: NASCAR fades

MACK

Dammit, I just missed the part where the guy crashed and burned

SFX: Typing rises

ELENORE

There has to be an explanation

MACK/ELENORE

Let’s bring this mystery to an end

SFX: Typing rises

MACK (SPOKEN WHISPER)

All right…on 3…

One…Two…Three!

SFX: Door being flung open

SFX: Typing stops abruptly

SFX: Laptop slamming shut

MACK (SPOKEN)

Fuck a bird!

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

Shut the front door!

WILLARD/JARED

I can’t believe I fucking lost my fucking capo again!

MACK (SPOKEN)

What the fuck’s a capo?

**Scene 3**

**A1S3-1**

SFX: Typing fades in with lyrics

JARED

Sometimes all you’ve got are the memories

Sometimes the future’s in the past

Sometimes lookin’ back’s the only way to see

Questions that were better left unasked

SFX: Typing fades out

**A1S3-2**

SFX: Barroom chatter bgd fades in

MC (SPOKEN)

Ladies and gentlemen…Nashville Stage is proud to present Originality Records

recording artist Jared Whaley!!

SFX: Applause, cheering

JARED

Come with me to a time, things were dandy and fine

And every sin we sinned was forgiven

ANGEL (yelled from crowd)

We love you Jared!

(whoops and laughter)

JARED (cont)

Man those were the days, just relaxin’ in the rays

Lookin’ back, it sure seemed like Heaven

**A1S3-3**

SFX: Applause and cheering rise

JARED/BAND

Now that was livin’

Now that was livin’

JARED

Sowin’ wild seeds with an imaginary need

JARED/BAND

Now that was livin’

Now that was livin’

JARED

Playin’ with matches just ‘cause I like the heat

JARED/BAND

Now that was livin’

Now that was livin’

JARED (w/BAND “Oohs”)

Walkin’ on a razor just ‘cause I like to bleed

Drinkin’ mind-erasers till I turned into a dream

JARED

Some may say I missed it, but I didn’t

JARED/BAND

‘Cause I was livin’

**LEAD BREAK**

JARED (w/BAND “Oohs”)

Walkin’ on a razor just ‘cause I like to bleed

Drinkin’ mind-erasers till I turned into a dream

JARED

Some may say I missed it, but I didn’t

JARED/BAND

‘Cause I was livin’

Now that was livin’

That was livin’

Man I was livin’

BAND

Doo do do-do do do doo…

SFX: Wild applause, cheering rises then fades

**A1S3-4**

SFX: Typing fades in

JARED

Sometimes all you got are the memories

Sometimes reminiscin’ is a blast

Sometimes there’s that moment that changed everything

Questions that you wished you’d never asked

SFX: Typing fades

SFX: Bar chatter rises

JARED (SPOKEN)

Hey! What’s your name?

SFX: Bar chatter fades

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

My name’s Angel.

Jared laughs

JARED (SPOKEN)

Really?

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

What?

JARED (SPOKEN)

What?

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

WHAT?

**A1S3-5**

JARED

Angel…that’s freakin’ perfect

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

Perfect?

JARED

Well I’m guessin’ that it’s meant to be ironic

ANGEL

‘Cause I like drinkin’ and smokin’ and lovin’ all night too?

JARED

Good God in Heaven, I think you’ll do

ANGEL

I’ve got both your CDs, will you sign ‘em?

JARED

I’ll sign anything that you want me to

ANGEL

I love your music and your style, but what really makes me smile

Is your first tattoo

BYSTANDER-MALE (SPOKEN)

His first tattoo?

BYSTANDER-FEMALE (SPOKEN)

His first tattoo?

BYSTANDER-MALE (SPOKEN)

His first tattoo?

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

It’s on his first CD, see?

BYSTANDER-MALE (SPOKEN)

I’ll be damned. It says “My First Tattoo.”

BYSTANDER-MALE (SPOKEN)

In fancy letterin’ like that.

BYSTANDER-FEMALE (SPOKEN)

Oh that’s just priceless.

JARED

My first tattoo

B-U SINGERS/BYSTANDERS

His first tattoo

BYSTANDER-MALE

In fancy letterin’ like that

JARED

My first tattoo

B-U SINGERS/BYSTANDERS

His first tattoo

JARED

It’s a weird one

ANGEL

I’ve got one too

B-U SINGERS/BYSTANDERS

She’s got one too

BYSTANDER-MALE (SPOKEN)

She’s got one too?

BYSTANDER-MALE (SPOKEN)

Imagine that.

ANGEL

I’ve got one too

B-U SINGERS

She’s got one too

B-U SINGERS/BYSTANDERS

She’s got one too

BASS SINGER

She’s got one too

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

But it’s a titty-tat

BYSTANDER-FEMALE (SPOKEN)

Whaaat??

**A1S3-6**

B-U SINGERS

Titty-tat

She gotta titty-tat

BYSTANDER-MALE (SPOKEN)

It says “My First Tattoo” too!

B-U SINGERS

Titty-tat

BYSTANDER-MALE (SPOKEN)

In fancy letterin’ like that!

B-U SINGERS

She gotta titty-tat

BYSTANDER-FEMALE (SPOKEN)

That’s priceless!

JARED

Well she’s easy on the eyes, and she just showed me her breasts

B-U SINGERS

Titty-tat, she gotta titty-tat

ANGEL

Maybe later on I’ll show you the rest

B-U SINGERS

Not just her titty-tat, she gotta titty-tat

JARED/ANGEL

Well loneliness is desperate

And desperation messes with your mind

B-U SINGERS

Titty-tat, she gotta titty-tat

JARED/ANGEL

You know you can’t resist it

Fate finds its own place and time

B-U SINGERS

Titty-tat

DRUNK AT BAR

(a la Tweety Bird)

I tink I taw a titty-tat

B-U SINGERS

Titty-tat, she gotta titty-tat

She gotta titty-tat

**A1S3-7**

SFX: Barroom bgd low

SFX: Typing fades in low

JARED

Sometimes all you’ve got are the memories

I know things now I wish that I’d known then

SFX: Typing fades out

ANGEL

When you’re ready to go, I’m here waiting you know

JARED (SPOKEN)

Just gotta get my gear together

SFX: Typing quickly fades in, then stops.

JARED (SPOKEN)

God-DAMMIT!

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

Jared, honey, what is it??

JARED

I can’t believe I fuckin’ lost my fuckin’ capo again!

**Scene 4**

**A1S4**

NORVILLE (SPOKEN)

Just the usual trim today Mack?

SFX: Getting into barber chair

MACK (SPOKEN)

Yeah, whatever it is you always do Norville. Just do that.

NORVILLE (SPOKEN)

Gotcha.

SFX: Typing on laptop

MACK (SPOKEN)

Son, if you could keep that typin’ to a dull roar I’d appreciate it.

SFX: Snipping of scissors

SFX: Bgd typing fades with vox

NORVILLE

Hey Mack, your boy’s sure actin’ goofy

Like some kind of un-dead court stenographer

MACK

Fuck a bird, Norville, this shit’s gettin’ spooky

What the hell’s a court stenographer?

NORVILLE

It’s just weird that’s all

MACK/NORVILLE

It’s just weird that’s all

SFX: Typing rises slightly

NORVILLE

Hey Mack, have ya seen just what he’s writin’?

It could all be just gobbledy-gook

MACK

He’s huggin’ the damn thing when he’s not typin’

And slams the fucker shut when I try to look

NORVILLE

It’s just weird that’s all

MACK/NORVILLE

It’s just weird that’s all

NORVILLE

Maybe it’s just a phase, like zits or masturbatin’

MACK (SPOKEN)

What the hell?

MACK

He’s yellin’ shit out in a weird voice though

NORVILLE

Aw, hell, you didn’t tell me that

Definitely Satan

MACK

Norville, what the fuck’s a capo?

NORVILLE (SPOKEN)

You mean like a mafia thing?

MACK

It’s just weird that’s all

MACK/NORVILLE

It’s just weird that’s all

NORVILLE

It’s just weird that’s all

MACK/NORVILLE

It’s just weird that’s all

It’s just weird that’s all

SFX: Typing rises then stops. Laptop slams shut.

WILLARD/JARED

Almost every dime I get from that music shit’s recoupable!

MACK (SPOKEN)

See there Norville? That’s the kind of shit I’m dealin’ with.

NORVILLE (SPOKEN)

Damn buddy, that’s weird…

**Scene 5**

**A1S5-1**

JARED

Goddamn it Angel, a vacation’s just not do-able

Almost every dime I get from that music shit’s recoupable

ANGEL

But your CD’s climbin’ up the charts, you’re on the radio

JARED

But what the record label spent getting me there was just a loan

If ya don’t know much about the music biz

I’m gonna help you out, I’m gonna clue you in

It’s recoupable, recoupable

All the money they spend on your great big hit

Comes off the top, you don’t get shit

Till they recoup it all, recoupable

ANGEL

So you’re damned near rich and famous

But not so much with the rich

This ain’t what I expected

And I can sure be a bitch

JARED (SPOKEN)

Angel! We’ve been married six months and every time we fight you always

start cleaning your damn gun!

ANGEL (SPOKEN, LAUGHING)

Daddy says always keep it clean. You never know when you might

need it.

SFX: Revolver chamber spins

JARED (SPOKEN)

Well it makes me nervous.

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

Tough titty.

**A1S5-2**

JARED

If ya don’t know much about the music-biz

All the promises, all they love they give

Is recoupable, damned recoupable

ANGEL

Don’t whine so much about your heavy load

I know what you do when you’re on the road

THAT’S recoupable, recoupable

JARED

Angel, what happened? We were so meant to be

You were love’s embodiment, my reason to breathe

ANGEL

Jared, I’m sorry I just had this fantasy

I didn’t expect so many hurdles

JARED

Won’t you come with me tonight to the show at The Thirsty Turtle?

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

That’d be nice.

JARED

If ya don’t know much about the music biz

Not a dime I get from playin’ gigs

Is recoupable, so they don’t get it all

ANGEL

I won’t worry ‘bout the state we’re in

I won’t shed a tear, ‘cause I got him

Someday we’ll have it all, misery’s recoupable

JARED/ANGEL

Soon we’ll (he’ll) play arenas and the money’ll roll in

JARED

And I’ll be the man you dared to dream of

ANGEL

Jared, won’t you play that song you wrote for me back when?

JARED (SPOKEN)

Speechless?

ANGEL (SPOKEN)

That’s the one.

JARED

Anything for you, love

**A1S5-3**

JARED

I could write a song, clean as a summer breeze

Soft as a baby’s cheek, fresh as mornin’ dew

And I could write a song about your Angel smile

How you’re the girl that I just can’t believe is true

But I just write the words, the music’s you

And words don’t even have a clue

‘Bout how you make me feel

I might as well be speechless

I could write a song, maybe make ya cry

With little thoughts that I just conjure into view

I could write a song about a lover’s wish

A song might get a kiss, might write about that too

But I just write the words, the music’s you

And words don’t even have a clue

‘Bout how you make me feel

I might as well be speechless

JARED/ANGEL (w/B-U SINGERS)

There’s a part of my heart always been achin’

Empty, waitin’, I think for you

And I just die when I look into your eyes

JARED

And see what justice words could never do

But I just write the words, the music’s you

And words don’t even have a clue

‘Bout how you make me feel

I might as well be speechless

ANGEL

‘Bout how you make me feel, might as well be speechless

JARED/ANGEL/WILLARD

Might as well be speechless

Last line of SPEECHLESS segues into:

**Scene 6**

**A1S6-1**

SFX: Dining table (cutlery, etc.), stops abruptly as Willard sings last line

MACK (SPOKEN)

Well fuck a bird

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

Shut the front door

WILLARD (SPOKEN)

More taters please.

MACK

Goddammit Willard, you ain’t ever sung before

WILLARD

I don’t know what you’re talkin’ ‘bout

Please, could I have more?

ELENORE

He’s an only child, so I can’t say for sure

MACK/ELENORE

But is this something normally endured?

MACK (SPOKEN)

Norville says it might be just like zits or masturbatin’

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

What?

MACK (SPOKEN)

That’s what I said

MACK

Goddamn it Willard, you’re gettin’ weirder every day

MACK (SPOKEN)

Where’s that remote?

SFX: Turns up racing

MACK

Go straight take a left take a left go straight

Take a left take a left go straight

MACK/B-U SINGERS

Go straight take a left take a left go straight

Take a left take a left go straight

SFX: Racing fades

**A1S6-2**

WILLARD

Guess what? I’m gonna be on the radio

MACK (SPOKEN)

They got a radio freak show?

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

Mack, be nice!

WILLARD

It’s a field trip Monday morning we might get to say hello

ELENORE

Honey, that’s great, I can’t wait to hear your voice

MACK

I’d use the non-cussin’ one if you’ve got a choice

**A1S6-3**

ELENORE

I seen that DJ from the radio at the courthouse just the other day

MACK (SPOKEN)

That’s right, they got that big murder trial startin’, don’t they?

MACK

They shut down the Thirsty Turtle

I guess that singer had some sorta name

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

I think it was Jason or Jerry or somethin’

They say his wife shot him right in the head

WILLARD/JARED

Jared Whaley’s who you’re talkin’ about

And if you get me a thumb drive

I’ll get this shit out there

**A1S6-4**

MACK (SPOKEN)

What the fuck’s a thumb drive?

WILLARD/JARED (SPOKEN)

Shit. A little doo-dad looks like a thumb. Goes in a computer. So you can transfer files to another computer, since we ain’t got no damn internet…

MACK (SPOKEN)

Damn, boy. That’s some nerdy shit there.

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

Shut the front door.

WILLARD/JARED

Well I ain’t done too much talkin’

Since I got shot in the noggin

But I really got a lot to say

I gotta lotta aggravation

At this fuckin’ situation

At the cards that I’ve been dealt to play

I’m at fat kid in a Redneck House

MACK (SPOKEN)

You’re just big-boned, like me and your mama

WILLARD/JARED

Fat kid in a Redneck House

MACK (SPOKEN)

Elenore – you see what’s goin’ on here, don’t ya?

ELENORE (SPOKEN)

Shut the front door!

MACK

Well I really ain’t no genius

But you kinda got me thinkin’

Things are kinda fin’ly makin’ sense

Ya started actin’ creepy

Like a zombie on the TV

‘Bout the time that feller met his end

That country singer done possessed my boy

MACK/ELENORE

That country singer done possessed OUR BOY

**A1S6-5**

WILLARD/JARED

I guess that maybe in about a little while I’ll have forever

Til then I got more important things I gotta do

Gotta write my story down

‘Cause I’m all about the truth

Gonna use the tools I’m given

Gonna be a fat kid on the NEWS

MACK

That country singer done possessed my boy

MACK/ELENORE

That country singer done possessed our boy

WILLARD/JARED

This country singer done possessed your boy

MACK

What the fuck’s a capo?

**A1S6-6**

WILLARD/JARED

I don’t really wanna know how the story ends

You don’t really wanna know how the story ends

MACK/ELENORE

We don’t really wanna know how the story ends

WILLARD (SPOKEN)

Somebody tellin’ a story? Cool!

JARED

Let’s just pretend