

Minnesota Winds

A Razor's Edge Musical Trilogy - Part 2: Faith

by Ralph D. Wagnitz

ACT 1

1 INT. WINDGATE MENTAL HOSPITAL, OHIO - DECEMBER 1983 1

DAVE WAGNER, age 33, IS RECEIVING THE LAST OF MULTIPLE ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY (ECT) (aka electro shock therapy) sessions at the Windgate mental hospital in Ohio. DAVE has been a musician/french hornist in The Cleveland Orchestra since 1972 at the age of 22.

But the "business" of professional music has destroyed his love of music as a creative art, and DAVE HAS SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AND CLINICAL DEPRESSION. As DAVE drifts into sub-consciousness during the ECT treatment he vows that he will go to Minnesota to live on 80 acres he owns in the country and build a house, and a new life.

DAVE
(half conscious) I have to get to
Minnesota,..my land,..my 80
acres,..build a house,..

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

2 EXT. DAVE WAGNER WALKING A ROAD - MINNESOTA - AUTUMN 1984 2

The song Minnesota Winds begins.

We see DAVE WAGNER, now age 34, walking a 1/2 Mile gravel road leading to his 80 acres of land in Minnesota. MAPLE, OAK AND BIRCH TREES LINE THE ROAD AND ARE IN BEAUTIFUL COLORS OF FALL FOLIAGE. The road dead-ends into a 10 acre field where a small cabin sits that Dave has built.

DAVE WALKS OUT INTO THE FIELD, RUNNING HIS HANDS OVER THE TALL CLOVER as he sings the opening song to the play.

SONG 1: MINNESOTA WINDS (4:02)

<http://www.pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/minnesotawinds.mp3>

DAVE
[verse 1]
Sittin' thinkin' all alone,
waitin' for a chance to call,
Sent my letter yesterday,
Minnesota winds, blow across my field.

[verse 2]

*Took a long walk down the road,
Cut some wood to feed the fire,
Saw a neighbor on his own,
Minnesota winds, blow across my field.*

[guitar interlude]

[verse 3]

*Kept a promise I had made,
Made appointments did the chores,
At my supper watched the news,
Minnesota winds, blow across my field.*

[verse 3]

*Watched the sun go out of sight,
Thought about the day gone by,
Wrote this simple melody,
Minnesota winds, blow across my field.
Minnesota winds, blow across my field.
Minnesota winds,..blow across my field.*

Dave stands alone in the open field, his face to the wind as the song and wind sounds fade.

FADE OUT

3

EXT. DAVE ON ROOF OF HIS HOUSE

3

The scene opens with DAVE WAGNER on the roof of his newly built house. He is pounding in shingles with a hammer.

ARNIE TORGENSEN, age 42, comes driving up to welcome Dave and invite him to attend Arnie's church.

Arnie climbs up on the roof and helps Dave hammer on shingles as they talk about how Dave got to Minnesota, his divorce, the nervous breakdown, etc.

Arnie yells up to Dave on his roof.

ARNIE
Hello there!

DAVE
Hello back!

ARNIE
I'm Arnie Torgenson from Plains
just south of here. I heard you had
moved up here and wanted to come
welcome you.

Dave climbs down a ladder and shakes Arnie's hand.

DAVE
Great to meet you Arnie!

Dave pulls out a couple of lawn chairs for Arnie and him to
sit down and talk

DAVE (CONT'D)
So Arnie, what do you do for a
living?

ARNIE
I sell custom office furniture to
businesses, stores and the like.

DAVE
That sounds cool. Hopefully
business is good - I suppose you
travel around the state?

ARNIE
Yah sure..,lots of travel but
always home for weekends with my
family.

DAVE
And your family..? wife, kids?

ARNIE
My wife is Kate,..she is organist
at our church. I have 2 kids, Paul
is 17 and Rhonda is 16.

Dave is interested in Arnie's church.

DAVE
So your wife is an organist,..at
which church?

ARNIE

Faith Methodist Church in Plains.
It's a small congregation,..about
120 members I think right now?
Are you looking for a church to
attend?

DAVE

Yes sir!

ARNIE

We would love to have you come next
Sunday! Service is at 10:00 am.

DAVE

Great! I will plan to be there!

ARNIE

So,..Dave,..looks like you still
have some shingling to do yet!
Can I give you a hand? I've done my
share of carpentry,..

Dave welcomes Arnie's offer with enthusiasm.

DAVE

Oh my gosh,..yes!! I have an extra
hammer ready and waiting!

Dave and Arnie climb up on the roof preparing to pound
shingles. Arnie stands a moment admiring the view of Dave's
land from his roof.

ARNIE

Wow, what a beautiful view from up
here! So Dave, how did you end up
here in Minnesota?

Dave is cautious.

DAVE

Well, I actually used to be a
musician. I played in The Cleveland
Orchestra in Ohio.

ARNIE

Wow,..I Have heard of it! It is a
world-class orchestra! You must be
pretty damn good? Why did you
leave?

DAVE

Well, honestly I just burned out of the business of professional music,..just not creative! So I came here to try living a simpler life in Minnesota.

ARNIE

Why Minnesota? You know it gets pretty cold here,..

Dave interrupts Arnie,..

DAVE

I was married for 7 years. At that time my wife's brother and his family lived just East of here. We came up to visit and I fell in love with the area.

ARNIE

Oh, so you are divorced? Must have been a tough time there also?

Dave turns noticeably morose,..

DAVE

She left me when I told her I wanted to move here.

ARNIE

Well, crap Dave! Maybe we can find a nice Minnesota gal for you?

DAVE

Yeah maybe,..not looking right now though.

ARNIE

Got ya!

DAVE

Thanks,..things a lot better here now. I needed a new place, a new home,..

CHOREOGRAPHY:

DAVE AND ARNIE ON ROOF OF DAVE'S HOUSE

Dave and Arnie pound shingles as they sing the song I've Come Home.

The cowbell and wood block sounds in the song mimic hammers.

Dave and Arnie dance to the rhythm of the song - flipping hammers, nails and shingles to each other,..albeit Dave and Arnie are very careful dancing NOT to fall off the roof!

Music plays. Dave and Arnie sing.

SONG 2: I'VE COME HOME (3:31)

<http://www.pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/ivecomehome.mp3>

DAVE (CONT'D)

[verse 1]

*I've got a place, where I can go,
Know I'm gonna find, some peace of mind,
Livin' here alone.*

[verse 2]

*There was a time, when I was sad,
Now that I am here, haven't shed a tear,
Things aren't so bad!*

DAVE & ARNIE

[chorus]

*I've come home!
I've come home!*

[bass guitar solo - 8 bars]

[verse 3]

*Love wasn't mine, when I was sure,
I fell apart, with a broken heart,
There was no cure!*

[verse 4]

*I realized, where I went wrong,
Listened to the word,
I was finally heard, faith made me strong!*

DAVE & ARNIE (CONT'D)

[chorus]

*I've come home!
I've come home! (oh lord!)*

I've come home! (oh yes!)
I've come home!

[bass guitar solo - 24 bars]

DAVE & ARNIE (CONT'D)
I've come home!
I've come home! (oh lord!)
I've come home! (oh yes!)
I've come home!

[bass guitar solo tag - end]

As the song, (and scene) ends, the shingling done, Dave and Arnie laugh, shake hands and break out a couple of beers sitting on the roof, watching the sun set.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

4 INT. FAITH METHODIST CHURCH

4

It is a few weeks later as Dave enters the Faith Methodist Church in Plains, Minnesota. There are a number of greeters as Dave walks in.

Arnie is a greeter and approaches Dave to introduce him to his family.

ARNIE
 Hey Dave! You made it - great to
 see you again!

Arnie motions to his wife KATE and their two children to come meet Dave.

ARNIE (CONT'D)
 (to Kate)
 Kate,..this is Dave - the fellow I
 hammered shingles with last week.
 (to Dave)
 Dave,..this is my wife Kate.

KATE
 (condescending) Hello Dave,..very
 nice to meet you. So very nice of
 you to come to our church today.
 (MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
I'm the church organist and music
director.

Dave senses Kate's attitude of superiority towards him.
Nevertheless he is gracious to Kate.

DAVE
Very nice to meet you Kate...

Arnie introduces Dave to his two children.

ARNIE
Dave this is my son Paul,..and our
youngest,..my lovely daughter
Rhonda.

Dave shakes Paul's hand then as he moves to shake Rhonda's
hand he is taken aback by her natural beauty, albeit she is
only 16.

DAVE
Hi Paul nice to meet
you,..and,..uhh,..Rhonda,..

As 16-year old Rhonda shakes Dave's hand she is noticeably
infatuated with 30-year old Dave.

RHONDA
Hi Dave,.. you are really handsome!

Arnie quickly leads Dave away from Rhonda's come-on.

ARNIE
Come with me Dave, let me introduce
you to our pastor, Reverend
VanCotter.

Arnie leads Dave up to the lectern where Reverend Manford
Vancotter is talking with some parishioners.

ARNIE(CONT) (CONT'D)
Reverend VanCotter I'd like to
introduce you to a new person in
the area,..Dave Wagner.

REVEREND VANCOTTER
Nice to meet you Dave,..welcome to
our little church!

Reverend Vancotter and Dave shake hands and start to chat.

DAVE

Thank you reverend! Lovely church,..and so intimate out here in the country.

REVEREND VANCOTTER

Please call me Van - everyone else does! So, Dave, I think Arnie told me you are quite the musician? and, Arnie said you write your own songs?

DAVE

Yes that's right Van. Most are set to guitar and singing. But just last week I finished a new song that includes organ and a church choir!

REVEREND VANCOTTER

How cool!! So, do you have your guitar with you today? It turns out we don't have any special music for today's service! If the song is not too hard we could run it by the choir, and of course Kate as church organist, and you could perform it!

DAVE

Uhhh,..yeah I guess we could give it a try - simple chords and the choir sings mostly ooh-ahhs,..

REVEREND VANCOTTER

Let's get Kate and the folks together! We have 45 minutes before the service starts,..go for it Dave!

There is now a flurry of activity as Dave rushes out to his car to get his guitar.

Dave comes back in and starts explaining the song, You Gotta Have Faith to Kate and the 10 members of the choir. They all start humming as a way to learning Dave's song as many more church members file in the door to the church.

Finally, after a few more minutes the choir takes it's place at the front of the church. Reverend VanCotter welcomes all and announces the opening hymn: "Onward Christian Soldiers". The entire throng sings the hymn loudly. As the hymn ends Reverend VanCotter steps up to announces Dave's song.

REVEREND VANCOTTER (CONT'D)

Everyone,..we have a new resident
in the area as a visitor to our
church today. This is his first
visit but we are hoping he will
become a member! Please welcome Mr.
Dave Wagner,..[applause] As a
coincidence we did not have a
special song for today's
service,..but Dave, it turns out,
is a professional musician!
He has just completed a new song
and with some quick rehearsing with
the choir and Kate we are ready to
have Dave perform his song You
Gotta Have Faith.
Take it away Dave!!

SONG 3: YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH (4:59)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/gottahavefaith.mp3>

FAITH METHODIST CHURCH CHOIR

[intro]

*Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah , ah ah,.. Ah, ah, ah,
ah, ah, ah, ah , ah ah,.. Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah,
ah , ah ah,.. Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah , ah ah,..*

DAVE

[verse 1]

*Well, a long time ago, a man lived,
His name was Jesus, and this is what he said,
If you wanna be happy in this life, friend,
You gotta take what the lord has to give.*

[verse 2]

*He traveled from city to city,
Eleven men and a traitor by his side,
And he talked of the hope that we all need,
And his sacrifice to all of mankind,
You know he said,..you,..*

[chorus]

*Gotta have faith gotta have faith,
gotta have faith in Jesus miracles,..*

woahh,..you gotta have faith gotta have faith,
 gotta have faith in the lord!
 (yeah you) gotta have faith gotta have faith,
 gotta have faith in Jesus miracles,.. woahh,..you
 gotta have faith gotta have faith, gotta have faith
 in the lord!

[verse 3]

For giving was his nature,
 He taught us to believe,
 If someone does you wrong,
 You gotta turn the other cheek.

[verse 4]

And first and always foremost,
 Let love teach us the way,
 Remember, he is with you,
 On each, and every day,
 You know he said,..you,..

[chorus 2]

Gotta have faith gotta have faith,
 gotta have faith in Jesus miracles,..
 woahh,..you gotta have faith gotta have faith,
 gotta have faith in the lord!
 (yeah you) gotta have faith gotta have faith,
 gotta have faith in Jesus miracles,.. woahh,..you
 gotta have faith gotta have faith, gotta have faith
 in the lord! yeah,..you gotta have faith gotta have
 faith, gotta have faith in the lord!

[verse 5]

The day that man was crucified,
 The whole world cried out loud,
 But his resurrection saved us,
 And his words, continue, now,..
 You know he said,..you,..

[chorus 3 - slow]

Gotta have faith gotta have faith,..

You gotta have faith! in Jesus miracles,..
woahh,..you gotta have faith gotta have faith,
gotta have faith in the lord!
(yeah you) gotta have faith, gotta have faith,
gotta have faith in Jesus miracles,..
woahh,..you gotta have faith gotta have faith,
gotta have faith in the lord!

[a cappella]

Yeahh,..you gotta have faith,.. gotta have faith,..
You gotta have faith, in the lord!!

FAITH METHODIST CHURCH CHOIR

Faith in the lord!,..
Faith in the lord!,..
Faith in the lord!,..
Faith in the lord!,..

DAVE AND CHOIR

Yeah, you gotta have faith gotta have faith,..
Gotta have faith! in Jesus miracles,..
Yeahhh, youuuu gotta have faith gotta have faith,
Gotta have faith in the lord!
Well you gotta have faith gotta have faith,
gotta have faith in Jesus miracles,..
WOAHHH, you gotta have faith gotta have faith,
gotta have faith in the lord!
YEAHH,..you gotta have faith, gotta have faith,
Gotta have faith, in the lord!!
WOAHH,..you gotta have faith,..gotta have faith,
You gotta have faith, in the lord!!

As the song ends Reverend VanCotter and the church parishioners rush onto the stage shaking hands, giving congratulations and hugs for Dave and the choir.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

5 INT. REVEREND VANCOTTER'S OFFICE - FAITH METHODIST CHURCH 5

Reverend VanCotter's office at the Faith Methodist Church. Dave is meeting with with Reverend VanCotter about Dave's search for love.

REVEREND VANCOTTER

(to Dave)

So Dave, tell me more about yourself. Arnie has told me some things.

DAVE

Well I'm a former musician with The Cleveland Orchestra,..classical music,..

REVEREND VANCOTTER

Wow! Hey Dave,..that is one fine orchestra! I have lots of recordings of Szell and Cleveland!

DAVE

I started with Cleveland 2 years after Szell's death. My music director was Lorin Maazel.

REVEREND VANCOTTER

(smiling)

Well, still Szell's orchestra though, right?

DAVE

Absolutely!

REVEREND VANCOTTER

So tell me Dave, how can I help?

DAVE

I'm happy in my new life here in Minnesota. Building the house is keeping me busy. But I am having a faith crisis,..and I need a woman,..

REVEREND VANCOTTER

(compassionately)

Yes, I can imagine. You're divorced, right?

DAVE

Yes. It was a 7 year marriage that only lasted 5 years.

REVEREND VANCOTTER

What happened, if I may ask?

DAVE

I had a nervous breakdown, and clinical depression,..the orchestra was over-the-top stress 24-7! I wasn't prepared for it. So as I came out of the depression I realized I had to make a life-change.

REVEREND VANCOTTER

So you decided on Minnesota,..how did you 'discover' us?

(big smile)

DAVE

(thoughtful)

Ironically it was a visit to my (now) ex-wife's brother and his family who had moved here 3 years before. We spent a week with them on their farm. I was awe-struck by the simplicity of Minnesota farm living,..I thought my wife felt the same,..six months later she and I bought the 80 acres I'm living on now.

REVEREND VANCOTTER

But ultimately,..your wife didn't want the change?

DAVE

(sadness,..crying)

No sir! She left one day and disappeared! Never saw her again until the divorce.

REVEREND VANCOTTER

Wow, definitely a tough one Dave! But not unusual as I am sure you know.

DAVE

So, yeah. Once the divorce was final my ex-wife signed over the land to me. I quit the orchestra and headed straight here!

REVEREND VANCOTTER

(with enthusiasm)

So now we need to find you a Minnesota girl! Maybe find a new job..? But very important we, should I say, re-discover your faith?

DAVE

Yeah,..I thought I knew what faith was,..you know, believing in god?

REVEREND VANCOTTER

,..but,..you don't do you?

DAVE

(negatively)

What?,..believe in god?..no sir! But,..I do believe in Jesus,..and the miracles he performed,..and I believe that we can still experience Jesus miracles in our lives!

REVEREND VANCOTTER

Ah yes,..in your song? "You gotta have faith in Jesus miracles,.."

DAVE

(excited)

Exactly! I believe it is a Jesus miracle that I survived a total mental collapse,..and it is a Jesus miracle that I am sitting here in Minnesota right now talking to you!

REVEREND VANCOTTER

I can understand what you are saying Dave. So, why don't you and I start a weekly get-together. Say, an hour set aside each week so we can work together on your faith issues,..(smiling)and of course women! You need to get involved in the community,..maybe get a job,..

DAVE

Yes Van! I just applied yesterday for a job as reporter with the local county paper, The Ashland County Weekly!

REVEREND VANCOTTER

Yes Dave! That's the ticket! You will surely meet eligible ladies as you work on different stories!

DAVE

And also part of the job is covering local county board meetings.

REVEREND VANCOTTER

Hope you get the job Dave! It sounds perfect for meeting new people!

DAVE

Yah sure,..
 (giggling at his new
 Minnesota accent)
 Trouble is,..I'm pretty shy with women. All of my former girlfriends, including my wife were french horn players like me! Sure limits the choices up here!

REVEREND VANCOTTER

(with a twinkle in his eye)

You know Dave,..as men we need the proper 'tools' to connect with women,..look in her eyes,..and use your musical talents to communicate,..

Amazingly Van goes to a closet in his office and pulls out 2 guitar cases! He opens one case to reveal a Gibson SG electric guitar!

DAVE

(very surprised)

Holy cow Van...you were a rocker!?

REVEREND VANCOTTER

(a wry smile)

Yessir Dave! Had my own band,..we played mostly blues rock,..

Van goes opens the other guitar case to reveal a 1965 Fender Stratocaster electric guitar. He hands it to Dave.

REVEREND VANCOTTER (CONT'D)

Come on Dave,..let's jam!

As a driving drum beat starts Dave grabs the Fender Strat and follows Van out to the church sanctuary. They rock out to the song Windows Of The Soul trading crunch guitar solos.

The song Windows Of The Soul begins.

Reverend VanCotter and Dave sing.

SONG 4: WINDOWS OF THE SOUL (6:42)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/windowssoul2024.mp3>

DAVE

[verse 1]

*Searchin' for love,
Tryin' to describe,
All of my feelin's,..deep inside!*

REVEREND VANCOTTER

*Here's my advice,
Look in her eyes,
Let her see Dave,..true and tried.*

[chorus 1]

REVEREND VANCOTTER (CONT'D)

*Paint her a picture, my dear friend,
Share a few secrets, no one knows,
Look in your own eyes, and see,
Thru the windows,..of the soul.*

REVEREND VANCOTTER (CONT'D)

(spoken)

You see Dave,..with women you need
to sense their rhythm!

DAVE

(spoken)

Yeah baby,..rock 'n roll!

DAVE (CONT'D)

[verse 2]

*Follow the road, stay on the line,
Keep to the beat, sense the time.*

REVEREND VANCOTTER

*It's happen' now, You're gonna win,
All of your love, is sinkin' in.*

REVEREND VANCOTTER (CONT'D)
[chorus 2]

Paint her a picture,

DAVE
I see it now!

REVEREND VANCOTTER
(wry smile)
Share a few secrets, no one knows,

DAVE
(acknowledging)
*Look in my own eyes, and see,
Thru the windows,..of the soul.*

REVEREND VANCOTTER AND DAVE
(Van and Dave nod to each other)
Thru the windows,..of the soul.

GUITAR SOLOS (32 bars) - crunch chords

REVEREND VANCOTTER
(spoken)
I think you have it now Dave!

DAVE
[verse 3]
*Hang onto my dreams, I'm never too old,
Succeeding at love, I gotta be bold!*

REVEREND VANCOTTER
*When you stare in the mirror, don't be afraid!
You can never return, to yesterday!*

REVEREND VANCOTTER (CONT'D)
[chorus 3]
Paint her a picture,

DAVE
I've got it!

REVEREND VANCOTTER
(wry smile)
Share a few secrets,..no one knows!

DAVE
 (acknowledging)
*Look in my own eyes, and see,
 Thru the windows,..of the soul.*

REVEREND VANCOTTER AND DAVE
 [chorus 4 final]
Paint her a picture,

DAVE
It's clear now!

REVEREND VANCOTTER
 (wry smile)
Share a few secrets,

DAVE
 (shout)
,..no one knows!

DAVE (CONT'D)
 (acknowledging)
*Look in my own eyes, and see,
 Thru the windows,..of the soul.*

REVEREND VANCOTTER AND DAVE
 (Van and Dave nod to each
 other and shake hands)
Thru the windows,..of the soul.

GUITAR SOLOS (56 bars + 8 slowing to END) - crunch chords

Dave and Reverend VanCotter rock-out trading guitar chord crunch solos. As song ends Dave and Reverend VanCotter hug each other, laughing as they walk out of the church.

6 INT. DAVE & YOUTH GROUP GO ROLLER-SKATING - WINTER 1984 6

Two weeks later. Dave has volunteered to take the Faith Methodist Church Youth Group to a local roller-skating rink. Dave has established a close friendship with 18-yr old WARREN HOWARD, son of a dairy farmer from the church.

Two 16 year old girls from the youth group, RHONDA (Arnie's daughter) and her best friend LAURA are already competing with each other for the affections of 34 years old Dave! Dave and Warren are skating around the rink together talking.

WARREN

Hey Dave - this was a great idea to take the youth group for a roller-skating outing! This rink in Ashland is one of the nicest in the state!

DAVE

Thanks Warren! It sure helps having you along as the oldest of the group to help keep the "kids" in control, ..

Rhonda and Laura come skating up to Dave and Warren.

RHONDA

Hi Dave! Will you be my partner for the first doubles skate?

LAURA

No Dave! You have to be *my* partner for the first doubles!

Rhonda challenges Laura and pushes her back away from Dave.

RHONDA

Laura, leave Dave alone, ..he wants to skate with me!

LAURA

Oh Rhonda, ..you are so full of it! Tell her Dave, ..you want to skate with me, right?

Dave is taken aback by the two 16-year old girls fighting over him. He motions to Warren to come help!

Warren comes skating up quickly, ..

DAVE

Laura, ..why don't you skate with Warren on the first partners skate? I'll skate with Rhonda on this one then you and I can skate together later, okay?

Laura is obviously hurt but goes off with Warren to skate. Now Dave and Rhonda hold hands and skate together.

RHONDA

Oh gosh, Dave, ..you are such a good skater.

Rhonda is blushing as she looks into Dave's eyes and shows her affection.

DAVE

Thanks Rhonda,..you skate really well also!

Rhonda and Dave skate together not saying much. Rhonda keeps looking at Dave,..holding his hand tighter as they skate.

Laura leaves off with Warren then joins the other girls from the youth group as they skate together.

The "Youth Group Girls" start a chant as they skate right behind Rhonda and Dave. Then all break into the song Rhonda.

SONG 5: RHONDA (3:21)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/rhonda.mp3>

YOUTH GROUP GIRLS

Rho-onda,..Rho-onda,.."

RHONDA

[verse 1]

*Blood pumpin' thru my heart Dave,
I want you in my life,
I saw your face, in all my dreams last night.
Three-o'clock in the mornin',
I feel so much in love,
It's in the hands, of our faithful spirt above!*

YOUTH GROUP GIRLS

[chorus]

*Rho-onda,..Rho-onda,..Rho-onda,..
You wanna be Dave's girl!*

RHONDA

[verse 2]

*You know our love is confusin',
But who can say that it's wrong,
Two people together,..can make somethin' simple so strong.
Ain't no use in denyin', All the feelin's we share,
We've fallen in love and now we're a matching pair!*

YOUTH GROUP GIRLS

[chorus]

*Rho-o-onda, ..Rho-o-onda, ..Rho-o-onda, .. You wanna
be Dave's girl!*

[French horn solo]

RHONDA

[verse 3]

*Now I'm getting' a notion, tell me if you agree,
We can share our thoughts, but only you and me.
Oh, it isn't much longer,
...then we can sing to the world,
The special love between Dave and his special girl!*

YOUTH GROUP GIRLS

[chorus 2x]

*Rho-o-onda, ..Rho-o-onda, ..Rho-o-onda, ..
You wanna be Dave's girl!*

Rhonda leaves Dave and joins the girls as they all sing the final chorus.

RHONDA & YOUTH GROUP GIRLS

[chorus 2x]

*Rho-o-onda, ..Rho-o-onda, ..Rho-o-onda, ..
You wanna be Dave's girl!*

RHONDA

I wanna be Dave's girl!

The girls all continue to skate as a group as Rhonda and Laura continue pushing each other around.

FADE OUT:

CUT TO:

7 INT. DAVE BACK AT HIS HOUSE WITH WARREN

7

Dave and Warren drive back to Dave's house. They are sharing a couple of beers and talking about Rhonda and Laura, ..

DAVE

*I mean shit, Warren, ..Rhonda and
Laura were almost ready to
physically fight over me?*

WARREN

Yeah,..you have them wrapped around
your fingers! Too bad they're only
16!

DAVE

Rhonda is only 16? Oh my gosh,..she
seems older maybe 18,..I was hoping
she was 18,..

WARREN

Nope, she's only 16,..hold on
Dave,..you're thinking way too much
about her aren't you?

DAVE

Yeah,..I am,..

WARREN

There is no way you could have
anything with Rhonda! She is
underage!

Dave starts walking in circles. He is confused with his
feelings for Rhonda.

DAVE

You know Warren, it's like I'm
livin' in some kind of time
machine. When I had 16 year old
girlfriends back in high school.
You know they were that young!

WARREN

Yeah, Dave, that's what I'm tryin'
to tell you,..you think too much!
This ain't high school for you
anymore. You're 34 and she's
16,..it ain't gonna work!

The song Time Machine begins.

SONG 6: TIME MACHINE (5:10)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/timemachine.mp3>

DAVE

[verse 1]

*Tonite was such a strange re-al-ity!,
Those 2 girls were fighting over me,
Both of them just turning age 16,..
A crazy dream!*

WARREN

You can say that again!

WARREN (CONT'D)

[verse 2]

They're both growing up in such a rush!

DAVE

gotta slow then down!

WARREN

An older guy like you just makes them blush,

DAVE

So what do I do?

WARREN

Let it go, can't do no harm it's just a crush!

DAVE AND WARREN

[chorus]

Livin' in a time machine,

Tryin' to remember the history,

Recallin' the love at age 16,

Livin' in a time,...machine!

[solo horn & strings]

DAVE

[verse 3]

Rhonda says she wants to be my girl,

WARREN

I don't think that'll work,..

DAVE

How do I respond and not hurt her?,

WARREN

She'll be just fine,..

DAVE

*It might be true she has hold of my heart,
but that's absurd!*

WARREN

Yeah boy, yeah boy,...

WARREN (CONT'D)

[verse 4]

You think too much she's not the one right now!

DAVE

...obviously..

WARREN

There's other girls your age that can be found,

DAVE

...legally,...

WARREN

Common sense should guide your heart to safer ground!

DAVE AND WARREN

[chorus]

*Livin' in a time machine,
Tryin' to remember the history,
Recallin' the love at age 16,
Livin' in a time,...machine!*

[solo horn]

DAVE AND WARREN (CONT'D)

[chorus - final]

*Livin' in a time machine,
Tryin' to remember the history,
Recallin' the love at age 16,*

*Livin' in a time machine!
Livin' in a time machine!
Livin' in a time.....machine!*

[solo horn & strings to the end]

As the song ends Dave and Warren sit outside talking, laughing, and drinking some beers thru the night.

FADE OUT:

8

INT. ARNIE'S HOUSE - RHONDA'S BASEMENT BEDROOM

8

Rhonda is in her basement bedroom talking to her stuffed bunny she has named "Dave". Rhonda is talking to her bunny about the real DAVE and how much she has fallen in love with him. Rhonda does not realize that her dad Arnie has come part-way down the stairs and is listening to her.

RHONDA

Well bunny Dave, (hugging the bunny),...I have fallen in love with Dave!

DAVE THE BUNNY (VOICED BY RHONDA)

Oh yes, Rhonda! I can see you are in love!

RHONDA

But I am still only 16,...and Dave is quite a bit older than me,...a 34-year old man,...is he too old for me!

Arnie now clears his throat and comes the rest of the way down stairs to Rhonda's bedroom.

ARNIE

Sorry to eavesdrop,...heard your conversation with Dave the bunny,...honey, the human Dave is too old for you,...I mean he is 14 years older than you,...and you, my darling daughter are not of a "legal" age to have a relationship with a 34 year old man,...

RHONDA

Dad, you have always commented how I have an "old soul",...only 16 physically but inside I feel like a woman! I relate better to older people than kids and boys my own age,...

ARNIE sits down next to Rhonda and hugs her.

ARNIE

Yes honey I have said that about you. You are very mature for only 16, intelligent and so beautiful,..but you are still legally only 16 years old,..and if an older man like Dave had a relationship with you he could go to jail! It's called statutory rape because you are considered a minor still at 16,..

RHONDA

I guess I understand,..I have heard of statutory rape.

ARNIE

So, yes honey,..you will just have to wait a couple more years,..then see if you and Dave,..

RHONDA

(interrupting Arnie)

But Dad,..Mom would never approve of Dave! She is so jealous of him as a musician! She is always dumping on him about something,..

ARNIE

Yeah I know,..she can be really petty sometimes. So, it might be more years to wait for Dave until you are in your 20's and an adult and on your own.

RHONDA

So,..how many more years is that?

ARNIE

I suppose maybe 4, 5,..why don't we arbitrarily say 6 years from now,..?

Arnie and Rhonda sing Six years From Now.

SONG 7: SIX YEARS FROM NOW (3:12)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/sixyears.mp3>

ARNIE (CONT'D)

*You're feelin' somethin'
Deep in your heart,*

*I can't say it's really wrong,
 But maybe it ain't smart?
 It might be true, that time really flies,
 And love will stick around,..?
 But, Rhonda will you still love him?
 Six years from now?*

RHONDA

*Lots of rules to follow,
 But he's oh, so sweet!,
 (Dave The Bunny: Yeah
 he's so ve-ry sweet!)*
*I try so hard to avoid his smile,
 But I can't resist he knocks me off my feet!
 Can't set the hands of time ahead,
 So I'll be patient just for now,
 Daddy will I still love him?*

RHONDA & ARNIE

Six years from now!..hoo!

[string pizzacato with celeste]

ARNIE

*("My darling daughter!")
 He'll be forty years by then!*

RHONDA

*But I'll still want to love him!,
 (Dave The Bunny: And you
 can count on that!)*

RHONDA (CONT'D)

*You can call me crazy,
 My choice of love not a mystery!
 (Dave The Bunny: No
 mystery!)*
*He's gonna be six times more special,
 In the year Nine-teen-nine-ty (1990)!*

ARNIE

*Maybe you could just hold hands,..?
 But I doubt that it would be allowed?
 Rhonda, will you still love him?
 Six years from now?*

RHONDA

Daddy yes I know I'll still love him!

ARNIE

Six years?

RHONDA & ARNIE

Six year-ear-ears!

Fro-o-o-om, ..now!!

RHONDA

(hugging Arnie)

I love you Daddy!

ARNIE

(hugging Rhonda back)

I love you too honey, ..

Arnie and Rhonda hug each other, crying and laughing together as the song ends.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

9

INT. FAITH METHODIST CHURCH

9

Faith Methodist Church service is in session. Rhonda has written a love note to Dave. As Reverend VanCotter starts the sermon, Rhonda passes her note to Dave who is sitting three rows ahead - but as the note is passing, Rhonda's mother, Kate, intercepts it. Kate reads it and immediately gets up and grabs Rhonda and drags her out of the church sanctuary into the narthex.

RHONDA

Mom, ..you're hurting me, ..

KATE

You're damn right I'm hurting you!
Are you crazy? Writing a love note
to a man almost twice your age?

RHONDA

But I love him Mom! I know I
do, ..and I'm sure he loves me too!

KATE

Has he said that to you? Did he say
he loves you?

RHONDA

Well,..no,..I can just tell he
does.

Arnie now comes out of the sanctuary.

ARNIE

Kate, what is going on?

KATE

Arnie, your daughter wrote this
love note and was passing it up to
Dave!

ARNIE

(Arnie reads the note then
looks at Rhonda)
Honey,..we talked about this the
other night,..

KATE

(furious with Arnie)
You talked about this with
her?..and never told me about it?
Arnie, you are such a spineless
father! Must I be the only parent
who practices any serious
discipline?

Kate slaps Arnie in the face. Then she slaps Rhonda as well.

KATE (CONT'D)

So,..this is going to stop right
now! I'm going to Reverend Van and
tell him to throw Dave out of our
church! Then I'm going to take Dave
aside and tell him to keep away
from my daughter!

Kate grabs Rhonda's arm and drags her outside. Arnie follows
and pleads with Kate.

ARNIE

Now listen Kate,..you let me talk
to Dave. I am sure he did not have
any idea Rhonda would write such a
note! The best thing for you to do
is take Rhonda home.

(MORE)

ARNIE (CONT'D)
 I'll bring the other kids home
 after church then I will drive up
 to Dave's house and talk to him.

KATE
 (hesitant)
 Alright,.. but you tell that
 bastard Dave to stay away from
 Rhonda, or I'll have him arrested!

Kate drags Rhonda to their car and drives away. Arnie paces around the parking lot as he sings the song Spiteful Wife.

SONG 8: SPITEFUL WIFE (5:47)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/spitefulwife.mp3>

[Horn solo begins the song]

ARNIE
 [verse 1]
*Kate is so damn hard, I want to scream out loud,
 Each passing year, our marriage, seems to fade.
 Tryin' hard to pray,
 Wishing she would say,..she loves me?*

[verse 2]
*Gotta talk to Dave, tell him the awful truth,
 My "dear" wife is vengeful, full of hate!
 Kate is simply mean,
 Sick with jealousy!*

[chorus]
*She's such,..a spite-ful wife!
 She hurts me,
 She's such,..a spite-ful wife!*

[horn solo]

[verse 3]
*In just 2 more years, my youngest Rhonda leaves,
 She graduates and runs away from here.
 Will she realize?
 How I sacrificed,..to save her.*

[verse 4]

*Then for Kate and me, divorce will surely come,
Without the kids I just cannot endure,
I'll be on my own, Kate will be alone,*

[chorus]

*She's such, ...a spite-ful wife!
Kate hurts me,
She's such, ...a spite-ful wife!
Disturbs me!
She's such, ...a spite-ful wife!
She cuts me,
She's such, ...a spite-ful wife!*

[horn solo ends the song]

Arnie gets in his car and drives away to see Dave.

10

EXT. ARNIE VISITS DAVE AT HIS HOUSE

10

Arnie drives up to Dave's house. Dave comes outside to welcome Arnie into his house. Arnie is visibly upset about the love note Rhonda tried to pass to Dave in church.

DAVE

Hey Arnie! Wow, didn't I just see
you in church?
Come on in,...

Dave is sensing Arnie is very serious about something as he does not want to come into the house.

DAVE (CONT'D)

What is it Arnie? What's wrong?

Arnie produces Rhonda's note and shows it to Dave. Dave reads the note.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Wow! I guess I knew Rhonda was
enamored with me.

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

I had overheard her talking to her friends at the roller-skating party,..but I had no idea she would write something like this to me,..

ARNIE

Yeah, it's pretty graphic for my sweet 16-year old daughter.

Dave gives a "what do we do now?" look to his friend Arnie.

DAVE

I'm not sure what to do..?

ARNIE

I'll talk to her of course. But there is a bigger problem. Kate is furious - she is the one who intercepted the note. She thinks you might have had relations with Rhonda,..

DAVE

Oh my gosh no! No way! I care for Rhonda very much but she is absolutely, way too young!

ARNIE

(Understandingly but direct and concerned)

Yeah,..Rhonda and I had a long talk about you last week. I was sure she had accepted the fact that right now she is too young for you. I did tell her maybe in a few years when she is 22,..maybe you too could re-connect. But for now,..with this incident,..Dave, I have to ask you to not have any more contact with Rhonda.

DAVE

Yes Arnie!,..you're right,..of course!..but the youth group,..the other kids will want to know why.

ARNIE

Dave, I am so sorry! Maybe if I had been more forceful with Rhonda. But I think you will have to give up the youth group, and ultimately,..our church,..otherwise my wife may cause bigger problems for you.

Dave is very distraught and he begins to cry.

DAVE
Yeah, it's time for me to think
about moving on.

Arnie goes to his car,..turns back to shake Dave's hand.

ARNIE
Thanks, Dave,..thanks for all your
music and involvement in the church
with the kids.

Arnie starts to tear, then gets in his car and drives away up the road. Dave walks back toward his house,..then he stops, standing for the longest time in the drive,..

DAVE
(to himself)
What the hell happened? A 16-yr
old girl gets a crush on me and
writes a love letter to me,..now
What do I do? Thanks to her crazy
mom I am an outcast from the
church,..and I just lost my best
friend!!

INT. DAVE SINGS "HIDIN' FROM THE SUN"

Dave finally goes inside and starts going thru the house closing all the curtains making the house very dark and gloomy. He walks over to his piano and begins the song Hidin' From The Sun.

SONG 9: HIDIN' FROM THE SUN' (5:25)
<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/hidinsun.mp3>

DAVE (CONT'D)
[verse 1]
What is life?
,...huh? I gotta know,
I sneak around,..wondering why,
Just when life,..seems so good,
It slips away!

[verse 2]
This ain't right,
Losing my best friend,
Probably,..never see him again?

*My world,..continues dark as night,
I'm hidin',..hidin' from the sun,..
Hidin' from the sun.*

[Solo strings and piano dirge]

*[interlude]
I just don't understand,
Why I can't walk in the light?*

*[verse 3]
Somehow,..
I'll keep on tryin',
'Til my head,..stops spinnin' round,
I'm closin' all the curtains,
On this life that seemed so bright!
I'm hidin',..hidin' from the sun,..
Hidin' from the sun.*

Song ends as Dave collapses onto his piano and cries.

FADE TO BLACK:

11 INT./EXT. DAVE LEAVES MINNESOTA - SPRING 1985 11

Dave boxes his belongings inside his house. He has decided to rent out his house and property and travel to the Pacific Northwest to find forestry work.

DAVE
(mumbling to himself as
he packs)
Ever since I was in my teens I have
wanted to work in forestry,..and, I
have always wanted to travel to the
Pacific Northwest! Guess I need to
pray for some Jesus miracles,..it's
a long way there,..praying the van
will make it,..and that I will be
able to get a forestry job
with,..duh,..zero experience!

Now Dave walks outside and starts to pack his van with boxes of clothes and belongings. He has a small trailer attached to the van that he also starts loading boxes into.

He pauses for a moment to look out over his beautiful field and his house,..his home.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 God I love this place!
 (He starts to sob, then
 shouts)
 I want to stay! But there's no
 goddamn women here,..only
 girls,..it won't work! I gotta get
 outta here!

Dave continues with packing as he sings Long Way Home

SONG 10: LONG WAY HOME (4:42)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/longway2024.mp3>

DAVE (CONT'D)
[verse 1]
Does this seem the same, as 3 long years ago?
Packing boxes 'til dawn,
Is it adventure, or pursuit of a goal?
Can't really tell, 'til you're gone.

[verse 2]
So many people, that have been, so very dear,
All the children, so loving,
The want of a woman, she is just not here!
Time to move on, now I'm leaving!

[chorus]
It's a long, way home my friend,
It's a lo-o-ong, it's a long way home!

[strings & guitar solo]

[verse 3]
Plotting the distance, on maps, so many miles!
The lonely hours continue,
Try to block out, all the anxious smiles,
And the fears, deep within you!

[chorus]

*It's a long, way home my friend,
It's a lo-o-ong, it's a long way home!
It's a long, way home my friend,
It's a lo-o-ong, it's a long way home!*

[strings & guitar]

TRANSITION

As the song is ending the horn
calls out snippets of all the
songs/story that has just
transpired.

Dave climbs up into his van and drives onto his road as he
leaves Minnesota.

ACT 2

12 EXT. DAVE CAMPING AT COPPER LAKE, WA - SPRING 1985 12

The scene opens with Dave Wagner at the campground at Copper Lake, Washington, about 25 miles north of Roslyn, Washington.

It is late March

Dave is camping in his 1967 Dodge van. Dave is finishing up cooking some hot dogs over a campfire. It is dead quiet except for the sound of loons out on the lake and their mournful calls.

DAVE

Wow! Now, this is why I came to
the Pacific Northwest! Look at Mt.
Ranier,..still snow on the peak!

Dave starts to walk around the lake shore.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(whispering to himself)
Wonder if there are any bears
around here?

As Dave walks around the lake shore he moves into some heavy brush. All of a sudden there is a loud, throaty grunt!

GRIZZLY BEAR

(with a deep grunt)
Rummphhhhhh!

Dave stops motionless,...

Dave realizes he has been in a thicket of huckleberry bushes, favorite snacks for grizzly bears! Dave jingles his keys and some light aluminum he has on his belt. He slowly starts backing out as he sings the song Mr. Grizzly.

SONG 11: MR. GRIZZLY (3:58)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/mrgrizzly.mp3>

DAVE

[verse 1]

*I'm just a man who hates to hate,
and a man who loves to love.
You might say a hopeful compromiser,..
fits me like a glove?*

*Now gossip ain't my style, and I try not to offend,
But some bears try so hard,..
to see the worst and not be friends!*

[chorus]

*Mr. Grizzly, I'm askin',..somethin' simple and it's
free,..would you,..please not,..eat me?*

[Mr. Grizzly bear grunt sounds]

DAVE (CONT'D)

[verse 2]

*Those berries you just ate,..don't they taste good?
Don't want my bones all broken,..*

like I know you could!

*I hope you think it's right, to listen patiently,
Remember all I'm askin', is please do not eat me!*

[chorus]

*Mr. Grizzly, I'm askin',..somethin' simple and it's
free,..would you,..please not,..eat me?*

[Grizzly bear grunt sounds]

DAVE (CONT'D)

[verse 3]

*I know you get uptight, and sense some fear.
These stressful moments, when humans get too near!
But I'm not hunting you,..*

and I'd like to back away real slow!

Enjoy those huck-le-berries,..

for me it's time to go!

[chorus]

*Mr. Grizzly, I'm just askin',..somethin' simple and
it's free,..would you, please not, eat me?*

*[Grizzly bear grunts and falls asleep as Dave
whispers,..]*

DAVE (CONT'D)

Mr. Grizzly, please go, to sleep...

DAVE (CONT'D)

(whispering)

That's it,...take a nap Mr. Grizzly!
I'm going away,... once I'm back on
the trail I'm gonna run the hell
outa here!

GRIZZLY BEAR

(another grunt)

Rummphhhhhh!

13 INT. DAVE AT CAPITAL FORESTRY COMPANY

13

The scene opens with Dave Wagner walking into the front office of the Capital Forestry company in Roslyn, Washington. Dave is trying to get a job in forestry.

Seated at the reception desk is a lovely blond woman in her 30's. She is secretary KERRI DETNER.

KERRI

Can I help you?

DAVE

Hi. My name is Dave Wagner. I would like to apply for work as a forester.

KERRI

(very nice smile)

Ummmm,...Dave,...okay. Here is an application for you to fill out. You can sit over there.

(Kerri motions to some chairs)

DAVE

Thanks,...Kerri?...your nameplate says? Nice to meet you!

(Kerri again motions to the chairs)

Dave sits down and begins to fill out the job application.

JOHN MASTERS, a man in his 40's walks out of one of the offices. He talks to Kerri.

JOHN

Hi Kerri,..have we received any applications for the forestry tech job yet?

KERRI

(grinning)

You won't believe this John! That fellow over there just came in and is filling out an application!

JOHN

(almost laughing)

You're kidding!

John walks over to Dave still working on the application.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(smiling to Dave)

Hi there. My name is John Masters. I am the Silviculturist here at Capital! I hear you're looking for a job?

DAVE

(standing to shake hands with John)

Yes sir! My name is Dave Wagner.

JOHN

Let's sit and talk.

(John motions to Dave to sit back down)

What kind of forestry experience do you have?

DAVE

(smiling uncomfortably)

None,..but I have a lot of experience living in remote places. The past 3 years I lived on 80 acres in northern Minnesota,..the first year without power or plumbing,..and I built my own house,..

JOHN

Wow! Let's go to my office and talk some more.

(John motions to Kerri)

Kerri would you put together a new employee packet?

(winking)

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)
I think Dave is the guy we have
been looking for,...

JOHN (CONT'D)
(In John's office)
Dave, what I need is someone to
manage some 100 research
installations. My research is in
genetic tree improvement and
fertilization.

DAVE
(surprised)
Wow,..100 installations?

JOHN
Yes actually I think the exact
number is 112. What we do is take
genetically improved seedlings from
our tree nursery and plant them in
harvested areas. We measure twice
per year to monitor growth
potential.

DAVE
(excited)
This sounds like really cool work!

JOHN
These research areas are in very
remote areas - often a challenge to
get to! You would supervise the
layout of each installation, the
tree plantings and the
measurements.

DAVE
(convincingly)
John, I can do it!

John sits back in his office chair in thought.

JOHN
(smiling)
You know Dave - I agree with you!
You're hired as of right now!

DAVE
(determined)
John, I won't let you down! Let's
get to work.

John goes to the door and calls Kerri into his office. Kerri
comes right in.

JOHN
 (to Kerri)
 Kerri I just hired Dave,..get him
 started on the paperwork.

KERRI
 (a big smile to Dave)
 Congratulations Dave! Let's get
 you to work asap!

FADE OUT

14 EXT. DAVE IN THE FIELD WITH TREE PLANTERS

14

Dave is now forestry field supervisor for Capital Forestry Company's research group. Dave is standing on a 30 degree sloped (steep!) hill, supervising 2 TREE PLANTERS. There is a light fog and mist.

TREE PLANTER 1
 (stopping planting and
 looking out at the mist)
 Wow, what a great morning! Look at
 that cool fog!

DAVE
 Yeah man,..I Can't believe we're
 getting paid to do this!

TREE PLANTER 2
 (jokingly)
 We're getting paid?

TREE PLANTER 1
 You better believe it!

They continue planting tree seedlings.

All of a sudden Tree Planter 2 stands upright quickly and points down the slope towards their truck parked about 200 yards down on the road below.

TREE PLANTER 2
 (excited)
 Look at that!! Do you see that
 moose trotting along the road?

Both Dave and Tree Planter 1 also stop to look down at the marvelous sighting.

TREE PLANTER 1
 Wow! It's a female,..no rack! She
 is heading right for the truck!

DAVE
 (laughing)
 You don't think she's going to ram
 it!

TREE PLANTER 2
 No way,..wait,..she just
 disappeared behind that stand of
 trees along the road,..

DAVE
 (looking at the Planters)
 I guess that's our excitement for
 this day?

All of a sudden Tree Planter 1 points down the slope.

TREE PLANTER 1
 Jesus! There she is,..she's coming
 right at us!

The moose has started moving fast up the slope from the road.
 She is heading right for Dave and the planters.

DAVE
 (calmly, almost
 whispering)
 Okay guys,..freeze! I mean it!
 Don't make any moves that she might
 think are aggressive!

The song Momma Moose begins.

SONG 12: MOMMA MOOSE (3:10)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/mommamoose.mp3>

Intro: Herb Alpert style trumpets, brass, etc

[verse 1]

DAVE (CONT'D)
Moose is coming toward us, from way down below,

*Damn it's huge and movin' fast, you sure can't call
 it slow!*

TREE PLANTER 1
*Wonder if it's girl or boy, it might mean good or
 bad?*

TREE PLANTER 2

It cannot be a boy moose, it doesn't have a rack!

ALL

[chorus]

It's a momma, momma moose and momma moose are mean!

TREE PLANTER 1

(yelling)

Gotta run!

TREE PLANTER 2

(scared)

From that momma!

DAVE

(controlled)

Bad idea!..stay cool...stand your ground!

[verse 2]

DAVE (CONT'D)

*Momma moose are dangerous, if she and humans clash!
If you take off running, she'll catch you in a
flash!*

TREE PLANTER 1

*Make just like a statue and just wait for her to
pass!*

TREE PLANTER 2

*Don't look her in the eyes os she might butt you in
the ass!*

ALL

[chorus 2]

*It's a momma, momma moose, a momma moose a movin'
moose, and it's a momma angry moose, and momma
moose are mean!*

TREE PLANTER 1

(calmer)

I won't run!

TREE PLANTER 2

I'm a statue!

DAVE

Now you're thinkin'!....stay cool...stand your ground!

[Herb Alpert style trumpets, brass, etc.]

[verse 3]

DAVE (CONT'D)
(as the moose is coming closer)

She'll be here in seconds, stay calm don't come unglued!

She'll be spittin' snot just like a log that's split in two!

TREE PLANTER 1

I'll try to be courageous, and not show her any fear!

TREE PLANTER 2

If she doesn't kill us all I'm buying lots of beer!

ALL

[chorus 3]

(less & less whisper-singing and STOP! as the moose passes by)

Hello momma, momma moose, you movin' moose and pretty moose, a momma moose, a patient moose, a scootin' moose, not angry moose, oh momma moose just move on momma moose and on your way! STOP!

The moose moves at full gallop as she clears barely 6 feet between Dave and Tree Planter 1. She looks sideways into Dave's eyes as she passes him, then disappears over the top of the ridge.

TREE PLANTER 1

(gasping)
Holy Shit!!

TREE PLANTER 2

(stunned)
Did you see that!

DAVE
 (amazed)
 She went right between us!

ALL
[chorus final]
What a momma, momma moose, amazing moose, big
momma moose, a momma moose, a shaggy moose, a damn
BIG moose, a wild moose, oh momma moose just keep
on movin' far away from here!

TREE PLANTER 1
Now she's gone!

TREE PLANTER 2
Out of sight now!

DAVE
Tell your children!

ALL
We survived!

[ending as beginning]

[Herb Alpert style trumpets, brass, etc.]

TREE PLANTER 2
 (yelling)
 Hey do you guys know where that
 Herb Alpert mariachi band came
 from..?

The guys all laugh and shout yahoos.

15 INT. KERRI GOES TO THE FIELD WITH DAVE

15

The scene opens with Dave talking with secretary Kerri IN THE OFFICE at Capital Forestry company.

Kerri asks Dave if she can go out TO THE FIELD (WOODS) with Dave and help him with tree measurements, etc.

KERRI
 Hey Dave,..I have never been out in
 the woods in the 7 years I have
 worked here!
 (MORE)

KERRI (CONT'D)

Could you use some help today with measuring, or maybe some other work?

DAVE

Hey that sounds like fun Kerri! But it is kind of rough and tumble work you know, (smiling) I mean if I fall down less than 10 times it is a good day! And, we usually are out 10 hours minimum,...

KERRI

Well Dave,...I am a country girl! I was brought up doing farm work. I think I could keep up alright!

DAVE

You got a deal Kerri! Can you be ready to head out in 45 minutes?

KERRI

I knew you'd say yes! I brought my jeans and field clothes. I'll be ready in 20 minutes!

16

EXT. DAVE AND KERRI MEASURING TREE SEEDLINGS

16

The scene opens with Dave and Kerri measuring planted 5 yr old tree seedlings. The 'installation' is on a 10 degree slope with a view of a lovely creek, and Mount Ranier in the background.

KERRI

(as she measures a seedling)

Dave,...I get 9.3 inches high,...

(she measure the diameter)

,...and 2.5 centimeters,...?

DAVE

(Dave writes down the measurements in a notebook)

Got it Kerri! You are a natural at this!

KERRI

(sitting back)

Wow, this is so much fun!

(MORE)

KERRI (CONT'D)
(looking up at a clear
blue sky)
And, what a beautiful day!

DAVE
(grinning)
You know our saying,.. "I can't
believe I'm getting paid to do
this"!

KERRI
Hey Dave,..are You ready for lunch?

DAVE
Yes indeed - I am hungry!

KERRI
Let's go down the hill to the
river, ok?

DAVE
Sounds good,..I'll race you!

Kerri jumps up and runs down to the truck with Dave close behind. She reaches in and pulls out a couple of sack lunches. Kerri and Dave walk over to the stream and sit down to eat their lunch.

KERRI
This is so nice! What a beautiful
day!

DAVE
Yeah good timing Kerri,..I was
hungry!

KERRI
Are you married Dave?

DAVE
Nope. I was married,..didn't work
out,..you are married aren't you
Kerri?

KERRI
Well,..not anymore,..he was a long-
haul truck driver,..gone usually 25
days of the month.

DAVE
I guess that was tough to keep
things together?

KERRI

Sure thing. Better now.

(now blushing)

I've got to be honest Dave,..I am attracted to you,..since that first day you walked into the office.

DAVE

Oh my gosh Kerri,..I'm not sure what to say,..

KERRI

(changing the subject quickly)

Do you run Dave? I like to do a run after lunch,..

DAVE

(relieved at the change of subject)

Yes Kerri I do run,..got my tennies in the truck. There's a great trail to run,..goes right up the slope of (Mount) Ranier!

KERRI

I brought my running gear also,..let's do it!

Dave and Kerri pack up their lunches and head for the truck. They pull their shoes and clothing out.

KERRI (CONT'D)

It'll just take me a minute to change,..I'll go over to those bushes,..

(with a sweet smile)

,..don't peak!

Kerri comes out from behind the bushes dressed in a halter top and tight short-shorts with tennis shoes.

DAVE

(gasping)

Wow!

KERRI

(smiling at Dave)

I'll lead,..you can take up the rear,..if you can keep up,..

DAVE
 (laughing)
 I'll keep up alright! Following you
 will be a pleasure,...

EXT. DAVE AND KERRI GO FOR A RUN

Kerri and Dave start a run heading towards Mt. Ranier. The song Running Beside Her begins.

Music plays.

SONG 13: RUNNING BESIDE HER (2:40)

<http://www.pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/runbesideher.mp3>

DAVE (CONT'D)
[verse 1]
Anticipation, ..as I wait for her,
Wondering if somehow, we could be one?
Some new location, ..where words couldn't speak
Loving each morning, lust in the sun!

KERRI
[verse 2]
Equally moving, ..striding for stride,
Talking so freely, of our former lives,
Rounding the corner, ..climb up the hill,
Now our hearts beating, so much in love!

DAVE
[chorus]
Running beside her!
We're both lost in time,
I can't forget her,

DAVE AND KERRI
She's running around in my mi-i-i-ind,

DAVE
[tag 1]
Holding her tightly, ..

KERRI AND DAVE
Our lips softly meet,

DAVE

Running inside her,

KERRI AND DAVE

We savor the heat!

KERRI

[verse 1 - recap]

Some new location,

KERRI AND DAVE

Where words couldn't speak,

KERRI

Loving each morning, ..

KERRI AND DAVE

Lust on the top of Mount Ranier's pe-ak!

DAVE

Holding her tightly,

KERRI AND DAVE

Our lips softly meet,

DAVE

Running inside her,

KERRI AND DAVE

We savor the heat,

We savor the heat!

KERRI

Running beside him,

DAVE

Running inside her,

KERRI

Running beside him,

KERRI AND DAVE

Running inside, ..

[guitar chords syncopation to end]

As the song, (and scene) ends, Kerri stops and turns towards Dave as they passionately kiss and embrace. They fall on the ground and make love.

FADE OUT:

17

INT. DAVE, JOHN AND KERRI GET BAD NEWS

17

The scene opens with Dave Wagner, John, and Kerri, and other Foresters and staff getting the bad news that Capital Forestry has been sold! The new company wants only to sell off all the timber, so all jobs eliminated!

The CEO addresses about 50 employees.

CEO CAPITAL FORESTRY

Ladies and Gentlemen,..I'm afraid the rumors are true. Capital Forestry has been sold,..

(loud groans and crying)

The new owners have informed me that all of you are terminated in 30 days.

(louder groans and gasps)

I know, I know,..it is a hard pill to swallow for all of us.

JOHN

There goes 20 years of research down the tubes! Goddamn.

KERRI

(to Dave and John)

I can't believe this! The almighty dollar!

(to Dave)

Oh my gosh Dave! You've only been here 8 months, and now,..

DAVE

Yeah,..I was sure enjoying working in forestry,..even though I wasn't a full-fledged forester,..

JOHN

(to Dave)

Hold on Dave! In my book you have proven yourself as a terrific field forester! Your organizational skills at managing our field sites have been the best I ever saw!

DAVE

Thanks John,..it means alot to
me,..you have been the best 'boss'
I have ever had!

John shakes Dave's hand and gives him a big hug. Then he
walks over to Kerri and hugs her also.

JOHN

(to Kerri)

Well dear Kerri,..thanks so much
for keeping me on schedule!

(leaving with tears)

I need to go to my office for some
thought-time,..

KERRI

(to John and Dave)

Wait John! Don't be sad,
especially by yourself! The three
of us need to do something fun! We
need to get away from here for a
few days!

DAVE

(excited to Kerri, then
John)

Exactly Kerri! You know, ever since
I got here we have been working our
asses off! I have wanted to see
Puget Sound,..let's just disappear
from here for the next week and the
three of us go to Puget Sound!

John shakes Dave's hand and gives him a big hug. Then he
walks over to Kerri and hugs her also.

JOHN

(cheering up)

Well that's a fantastic idea!

(to Kerri)

Kerri you have been there
alot,..you could connect us with
some great seafood and you favorite
places in the 'sound'.

KERRI

(to John and Dave)

Oh yeah guys! Let's do it! I know a
great restaurant right on the
'sound' with the best clam chowder!

DAVE

Okay,..tomorrow we head to Puget Sound!

JOHN

(worried)

But tomorrow is Wednesday,..still a work day?

KERRI

Screw that!! If they are firing us we can take our leave time now,..tomorrow 8 am we meet right here - and off to Puget Sound!

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

18 EXT. DAVE, JOHN AND KERRI VISIT PUGET SOUND - FALL 1985 18

The scene opens with Dave, John, and Kerri taking a last weekend trip together to *Puget Sound*. The scene opens with Dave, John and Kerri walking along a boardwalk, with the skyline of Seattle and Mt. Ranier in the background.

DAVE

(almost out of breath)

Wow! This is amazing. I had no idea such a lovely place existed!

JOHN

Yessir,..I've been here probably 2-3 times, but every time I come back I am in awe!

KERRI

I agree with you both! I know what you mean John,..I have been here so many times before. But here today it seems so magical,..with my two best buds!

DAVE

(in deep thought)

You know someday, I might like to live here,..(perking up)..but for right now, I have a taste for some clam chowder!

KERRI

I know just the place Dave,..John
have you ever eaten at *Puget Place*
Chowder?

JOHN

(excited)

I don't think so Kerri. Let's take
Dave there!

John and Kerri grab Dave's arm and start him down the street.
They sit down at the restaurant *Puget Place Chowder*. They
order clam chowder.

KERRI

(pointing to a menu)

Dave, here it is the on the
menu,..Hefty Clam Chowder!

DAVE

'Hefty' clam chowder? What the hell
does that mean?

JOHN

(laughing)

Probably it's so thick you have to
'heft' one hellava spoon to get it
in your mouth?

DAVE

Okay,..hefty clam chowder it is!
(motioning to a waiter)
Give me a bowl of hefty chowder!

KERRI

(giggling)

You're gonna love it Dave,..trust
me!

As Dave is served the clam chowder the song Chowder Heads
begins.

SONG 14: CHOWDER HEADS (3:55)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/chowderheads.mp3>

[accordion solo begins the song]

[verse 1]

DAVE

Sitting here on Puget Sound at this fine
restaurant,
John and Kerri my two friends, chowder excellants!

*I suppose I shouldn't worry as I spoon it from the bowl,
Holy cow! I love this chowder!*

KERRI

Told you so!!

[verse 2]

KERRI (CONT'D)

*I've been eating chowder at this place for many years,
It just keeps getting better every time I journey here!*

JOHN

So, Dave what is your best rating, for this yummy clam-puree?

DAVE

It's delicious! Nothing more that I can say!

ALL

[chorus]

*We are Puget Sound chowder heads!
We'll eat clam chowder 'til we're dead!
So strange it may seem, chowder keeps us fit and lean!
We'll eat another bowl after bed!*

[accordion solo]

[verse 3]

DAVE

We could come back here every time that we are working near?

KERRI

Oh what the heck!, why don't we move our offices to here?!

JOHN

*Won't the bosses be suspicious when we don't show
up for work?*

[STOP!]

DAVE

Who cares?

KERRI

We quit!

JOHN

We're fired!

[all 3 slowly in harmony]

ALL

Those dirty sons-of-a-bitch!

So, here we are,..

best friends for the rest of our lives.

We'll always be,..

huggers of trees,..

[spoken]

DAVE

Oh my gosh,..

KERRI

We've been drinking too much, huggers of trees..?

JOHN

*Yeah, but, shit,..if we aren't going to be
foresters,..then what the hell else is there..?*

ALL

Our profession is now lifetime chowder heads!

[chorus 2]

ALL (CONT'D)

We are Puget Sound chowder heads!

We'll eat clam chowder 'til we're dead!

So strange it may seem, chowder keeps us fit and lean!

We'll have another bowl instead of bread!

[chorus 3]

ALL (CONT'D)

We are Puget Sound chowder heads!

We will eat clam chowder 'til we're dead!

[acapella]

So strange it may seem,..

chowder keeps us fit and lean,..!

We'll eat another bowl after bed!

We are Puget Sound chowder heads!

Song ends with Dave, Kerri and John laughing and hugging each other as they continue walking on Puget Sound.

19 INT. KERRI AND DAVE GET JOHN'S BAD NEWS

19

John, Kerri, and Dave are back in John's office at Capital Forestry in Roslyn, Washington.

KERRI

(sadly)

So this is it? Our last day.

DAVE

It is not going to be easy to say
goodbye to you two!

JOHN

(very serious)

I've got something to tell you
both. I didn't want to say anything
during our trip to Puget Sound.

KERRI

(sensing it is serious)

John?..what is it?

JOHN

I've been diagnosed with brain
cancer,..it doesn't look good,..

DAVE

(very upset shouting)

No friggin' way! No!!

JOHN

Yeah, it's true Dave,..I knew something wasn't right a couple months ago. Strange headaches and even some blacking out.

KERRI

(remembering)

So that's when you were out those 2 weeks,..?

JOHN

Yeah my wife took me to Seattle for a dozen or so tests. Came back the same,..

DAVE

(rushes out of the office)

Son-of-a-fuckin' bitch,..

KERRI

(calling after Dave)

Dave!

JOHN

Let him go Kerri,..

KERRI

(crying)

Dave loves you so much John,..you trusted him with your life's research! You had faith that he was the right man for the job.

JOHN

Yeah I'll go talk to him,..

John follows Dave outside. Dave runs into the nearby woods and breaks down in tears. John comes to console him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(with a smile patting Dave on the back)

Hey Dave,..I'm the one with the fucked-up brain,..

DAVE

(crying)

Damn it John,..you believed in me and trusted me to help manage your work! Now the goddamn lands are sold off,..

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)
 we'll lose it all!..and, to top it
 off I'm losing my mentor,..and my
 best friend!

JOHN
 But Dave,..it's been all worth it
 hasn't it? You, and so many others
 have helped me,..helped us build
 new forests,..

Kerri joins John and Dave as all the foresters, tree
 planters, mill workers, and Capital Forestry employees come
 together as John sings the song Forest Builders.

EXT. JOHN MASTERS, KERRI, DAVE AND ALL SING

SONG 15: FOREST BUILDERS (5:02)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/forestbuilders.mp3>

JOHN MASTERS

[verse 1]

*Times they change, so some say,
 We became friends, but how fast the time
 has slipped away,
 And we, forest builders, the woods our common bond,
 We go on,..we go on.*

[interlude]

*Up a dusty road, down thru a muddy slough,
 Yes it's true the trees fall hard,
 But nature helps us build anew!*

[verse 2]

*Lessons we have learned,
 thru the fires, and the droughts,
 Yet, there wouldn't be a forest without us!*

JOHN, KERRI, DAVE AND ALL

[chorus]

*And the sun, shines down on the leaves of the
 trees,
 That we planted, and nourished in the rain.
 As the wind, blows softly thru the fir, and pine,
 The memories, of our forests will remain!*

[organ full ranks solo]

JOHN MASTERS

[verse 3]

*There's no reason for despair,
We've been so lucky, to have this time to share,
And we, forest builders, can hold our heads up
high,
We'll go on,..we'll go on.*

JOHN, KERRI, DAVE AND ALL

[chorus]

*And the sun, shines down on the leaves of the
trees,
That we planted, and nourished in the rain.
As the wind, blows softly thru the fir, and pine,
The memories, of our forests will remain!*

JOHN, KERRI, DAVE

[tag ending]

*And the sun, shines down on the leaves of our
trees,*

Dave and Kerri wrap arms around each other, with tears in their eyes. They walk with all the foresters, tree planters, mill workers, and other employees and slowly disappear into the woods beyond.

John is left alone to sing the final stanza.

JOHN

The trees,..the trees,..

John disappears into the woods,..and into heaven,..

FADE OUT.

20

EXT. AT JOHN'S FUNERAL - KERRI AND DAVE SAY GOODBYE

20

MOURNERS ARE COMING OUT OF A CHURCH where services have just been held for John Masters who has succumbed to brain cancer.

Dave and Kerri walk out of the church arm-in-arm. Kerri is crying. Dave has a stern look on his face. They walk over to a park and sit down on a bench to talk.

Dave and Kerri kiss, then Dave holds her hand.

DAVE
(somber)
Kerri,..I've decided to head back
to Minnesota,...

KERRI
(upset)
Oh no Dave,...

DAVE
(determined)
Kerri,..we've had a wonderful,..I
guess, affair? I've loved the time
we have spent together, especially
the trip to Puget Sound with
John,..but now, with so much
lost,..Minnesota is calling me
back. I love that place, and I
want to go back to the home I
built.

KERRI
(tears coming)
I know Dave,..I guess I knew from
the start we couldn't share
anything permanent.

DAVE
You've still got a husband,..maybe
now you'll have time to work that
all out?

KERRI
(accepting)
Yes, I do owe him that. It should
work,..somehow,..but I also know
you have to go back to Minnesota to
find that 'missing woman' in your
life.

DAVE
Yes Kerri,..I do believe she is
there,..somewhere,...

Kerri hugs Dave, holding on for a minute.

KERRI
(full tears now as she
backs away)
Go on Dave Wagner,..go re-connect
with your beloved Minnesota!

DAVE

(sadly)

Goodbye Kerri,..I'll never forget
you,..who knows,..maybe some day in
a few years I might return to
Washington,..and to Puget Sound?

KERRI

If you ever do come back Dave
Wagner,..

Dave and Kerri share a final kiss. Dave climbs into his van.
Kerri waves a last goodbye as Dave drives off.

21

EXT. DAVE RETURNS TO MINNESOTA - DECEMBER 1985

21

IT IS LATE DECEMBER and cold, as Dave drives up the road to
his Minnesota home. There is a light dusting of snow on the
ground. It is dusk as the sun is setting.

Dave is overcome with excitement at seeing his house and land
again.

Dave stops the van at his drive entrance, then jumps out of
and runs to his house as he sings and dances to the song
Minnesota. As Dave sings the song the northern lights begin
to appear in the early evening sky.

SONG 16: MINNESOTA (3:46)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/minnesotasong.mp3>

DAVE

[verse 1]

*There's a land, far away,
That I saw, one day,
Minnesota.*

[verse 2]

*Yes, I longed for in my heart,
To build my life in just one part,
of Minnesota.*

[verse 3]

*The remainder of my days,
I want to always stay,
in Minnesota.*

[verse 4]

Well I've turned my life around,
Got my feet back on the ground,
of Minnesota!

[chorus]

Minnesota, you're better than California,
'Cause the people here really care!
If you need somewhere to go,
to find yourself and grow,
Come to Minnesota!

[bass solo]

[verse 5]

Yes it seemed so right,
When I saw the nights,
of Minnesota.

[verse 6]

Just a clear, blue sky,
Opened up my listless eyes,
to Minnesota.

[verse 7]

And the Northern Lights,
Are a heaven-ly wonderous sight!
in Minnesota.

[verse 8]

You can see god's hand,
Reaching out to touch this land,
of Minnesota!

[chorus 2x]

Minnesota, you're better than California,

*'Cause the people here really care!
 If you need somewhere to go,
 to find yourself and grow,
 Come to Minnesota!*

(Dave runs even faster)

*Minnesota, ..Minnesota, ..Minnesota,
 (Dave runs up to his
 driveway, kneels on the
 ground kissing it then
 jumps up and yells out
 the final "Minnesota"!)*

Minnesota!!

FADE OUT

FADE IN

22 INT./EXT. WAKING UP AS THE MOON SETS - EARLY DECEMBER 1985 22

A FRIGID MINNESOTA MORNING. A WOOD STOVE IS CRACKLING. Dave is standing inside his house looking out a window as the moon sets in the West.

THE SUN RISES VERY LOW ON THE EASTERN HORIZON.

A HAUNTING FRENCH HORN SOLO.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Dave runs outside and breaks into a powerful dance as he sings the final song Waking Up As The Moon Sets.

SONG 17: WAKING UP AS THE MOON SETS (6:02)

<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/moonsets.mp3>

DAVE

[verse 1]

*Waking up as the moon sets,
 My day, just begins,
 Oh this land, is so quiet,
 And so cold.*

[verse 2]

*The sky is now breaking,
 And an azure blue appears,
 All the sounds, of the forest, echo home!*

[guitar solos]

[verse 3]

*Waking up as the moon sets,
Looking out at, empty trees,
Got to wonder, what the future,
might reveal?*

[verse 4]

*Still a pondering motive,
Lurks beneath,..reality,
Search out love, or abandon,
a dream!*

[tag ending]

*Search out love, or abandon,
this dream!*

The song builds to it's climax of gongs, cymbals and horn calls,..and the musical Minnesota Winds ends.

THE END

EXIT MUSIC SONG 18: IN MY MIND (5:26)
<http://pugetsoundmusical.com/minnesota/inmymind2.mp3>

DAVE

[verse 1]

*There's a place I go,
That few people know,
Go there as much as I can,
whenever I'm home,*

[verse 2]

*I park high on the hill,
So only I can see,
Memories all around,
caressing me!*

[interlude 1]

*It was here that two lovers met
and held each others' hand,
Sweet kisses and passionate embraces of love!
These stories they hurt me so,
because for me love's been so blind!
Love is just a fantasy,
In my mind,..in my mind,..*

[verse 4]

*Boat motors up to the dock,
In a gray, cloudy sky,
Ripples in water flow inward,
to the shore,*

[verse 5]

*I turn the key and the engine starts,
But I don't want to leave,
Gotta find some girl somewhere,
who will love me!*

[interlude 2]

Yeah it's true I'm a loser of sorts

*'cause I am still alone!
 Seems forever with no one to share my dreams!
 No woman wants me like this,
 the expectations are too high!
 Love must remain a fantasy,
 In my mind,..in my mind,..*

*[tag ending]
 In my mind,..
 In my mind,..
 (whisper) In my mind.*

Music continues through the credits.

Minnesota Winds

A Razor's Edge Musical Trilogy - Part 2: Faith

by Ralph D. Wagnitz

SEGUE TO

Puget Sound

A Razor's Edge Musical Trilogy - Part 3: Love

by Ralph D. Wagnitz