

DROPPING IN ON THE EARTH

The Revolving Revue

Book & Lyrics by

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ACT I

Nebula & Spacedust

By Tom Attea

Featuring the cast

Dropping in on the Earth

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring Mark Marcante and Donn Grebner

Silver Ship Shining

Music & Lyrics by Mark Marcante

Arranged by Arthur Abrams

Featuring Michael Vasquez

The Nitty-Gritty of New York City

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring

My Golden Saxophone

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring

Equal Time

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring

Your Love Gave me Peace Inside

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring

A Son of a Bolshevik

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring Mark Marcante, Donn Grebner

All You Need is a Gun

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring Donn Grebner, Judy Knock

Schwarzenegger, Stallone, and Seagal

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring Mark Marcante, Craig Meade, Michael Vasquez

The Century Will Turn

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring Sheryl

## ACT II

I Found Love Right Next to Me

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

The Logical Wizard

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Al, Bert, and Albert

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Now, He Tells Me!

Skit written by Tom Attea

Featuring Michael Vasquez, Mark Marcate, Donn Grebner

The Questions We Ask

Music & Lyrics by Mark Marcante

Arranged by Arthur Abrams

Featuring

I Kind of Like it Here

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring Mark Marcante

Insterstellar Rockefeller

Skit written by Tom Attea

Featuring Craig Meade, the cast

Mother Earth Sings the Blues

Music by Arthur Abrams/Lyrics by Tom Attea

Featuring Sheryl

Finale

AT RISE, a farmer, JIM JAKE, walks across his field with his wife, MOLLY, his son, JIMMY, and his daughter, PEGGY. HE sees the UFO and stops.

JIM

My, oh, my!

(motions OFF)

Come here quick! You see what I see?

(MOLLY, JIMMY and PEGGY ENTER)

JIM (CONT'D)

A UFO! Right there!

MOLLY

Oh, no, a UFO!

JIMMY

Well, Pa, don't just stand there, say somethin'.

JIM

Me?

PEGGY

You're Pa, ain't ya?

JIM

OK, OK.

(moves forward cautiously)

Hello, you up there.

SPACEDUST

What's up?

JIM

(backs off with fear)

Did ya hear that? "What's up?" Now, I know they're from outer space. Whatcha doin' on my property?

NEBULA

You mean, high above your property?

JIM

(fear)

OK, don't take no offense. Who are you, anyway?

SPACEDUST

Visitors from another planet.

JIM

(to FAMILY)

I knew it!

NEBULA

Actually, from another galaxy, far beyond the Milky Way, as you call this minor collection of stardust.

SPACEDUST

(to NEBULA)

Come on, Nebula. I don't like being called "minor."

NEBULA

I said "minor collection of stardust," not spacedust.

(to JIM & FAMILY)

His name is Spacedust, and he's very touchy about it.

(to SPACEDUST)

If I were you, I'd prefer the name "stardust," even a "minor collection."

SPACEDUST

Whatever you say, my sweet Nebulous.

NEBULA

"Nebula," if you please.

JIM

Excuse me, whatever handles ya go by.

SPACEDUST

Speak, earthling.

NEBULA

What is your name?  
(takes out notepad)

JIM

Jake.

NEBULA

Last name, too.

JIM

That's it. Jake. First names's Jim. Jim Jake. And this here's my wife and kids.

NEBULA

The Jim Jakes?

JIM

That's right. We're farmin' folks -- earthlings from the ground up!

NEBULA

Very commendable, providing you take excellent care of your soil.

JIM

We do.

NEBULA

Not too many nasty chemicals, I hope?

JIM

Well, not too many.

MOLLY

Ask 'em why they're here, Jim.

JIM

I'm gettin' to that, Molly. Whatcha doin' here?

NEBULA

Just dropping in, as it were.

SPACEDUST

To collect information for our leader.

JIM

Your leader?

NEBULA

As you know, everyone in a UFO has a leader. But don't ask us to take you to him.

JIM

Why not?

NEBULA

He's not in the neighborhood right now. Notice I said not "right now."

SPACEDUST

Let's tell them why we're here with a song.

NEBULA

Excellent idea.

JIM

Did ya hear that? They're gonna sing for us.

JIMMY

Wow!

NEBULA

(to JAKE & FAMILY)

Don't be frightened. We come from a very musical planet, where all the most important ideas must be expressed in a song.

PEGGY

Golleee! Singin' aliens!

(MUSIC: DROPPING IN ON THE EARTH)

SPACEDUST

(sings)

We're dropping in...

(sings)  
Just popping in ...

NEBULA

... on the earth --  
To see what's going on,  
Because we've been gone  
Since its birth.

BOTH

Since its birth?

JIM

Jeeppers!

PEGGY

Our leader wants to know  
What's happening below.  
Have you been naughty or nice  
In your little paradise?

NEBULA & SPACEDUST

We're dropping in,  
Just popping in,  
On the earth --  
To see what's going on,  
Because we've been gone  
Since its birth.

We're hoping you're so glad  
To be alive that you  
Just never, ever do  
Something we might call bad.

Now, would you say you try  
To do your very best  
And help out all the rest  
Each day until you die?

Or would you have to say  
Sometimes you're very good

Or very bad and could,  
At best, be called okay?

We're dropping in,  
Just popping in,  
On the earth --  
To see what's going on,  
Because we've been gone  
Since its birth.

Yes, we've traveled very far  
To learn who earthlings are.  
And there's much more to know  
So, good-bye -- off we go!  
Off we go!

JIMMY

Where ya headed?

SPACEDUST

(holds up map; to NEBULA)  
How about a big city next?

NEBULA

A logical second stop. But first promise me you will behave like the truly advanced member of the universe you so often forget you are.

SPACEDUST

You know I will, you cute bundle of molecules.  
(waves to JAKE & FAMILY)  
'Bye, now!

NEBULA

Good-bye!

JAKE & FAMILY

'Bye!

(NEBULA & SPACEDUST blast off)

JIM

(to kids)

And you kids say nothin' ever happens on the farm!

JIMMY

Nothin' hardly ever does, Pa. I wish I coulda gone with 'em.

PEGGY

Away from us, Jimmy?

JIMMY

Well, just for a while, Peg, to see what the world out there is made of, instead of just usin' my imagination. Why, half the time when you see me standin' here, my mind's oceans away, sorta ridin' the wind.

(sings)

I catch the wind, whenever I can.  
 Lord knows I was born an ordinary man,  
 Building castles made of clay,  
 Watching the river roll away  
 To the sea.

Silver ship, shining, come take me  
 Over the waves, so I can see  
 All the things waiting,  
 Wondering what they can be.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What can they be?  
 What's waiting out there?  
 Who really knows?  
 The stars, the sun, or the moon as it glows,  
 Hello, sunshine, my old friend.  
 It sure is nice to see you again.  
 I know you can if you try.  
 Hello, rainbow, what's your name?  
 How long you gonna play this game?  
 You and I,  
 If we try.  
 Hello, rainbow.  
 Please, hold my hand.  
 Take me off to the promised land.  
 I know you can,

Silver ship, shining,

Come take me over the waves,  
 So I can see,  
 All the things waiting,  
 Wondering what they can be.

LIGHTS fade down; come up on -- NIGHT, STREETS OF NEW YORK. Broadway background. Garbage bags to one side. Panhandler with paper cup at work. Three-Card Monte in progress.

NEBULA & SPACEDUST ENTER.

SPACEDUST

(with guide book)  
 Times Square. Look at all the lights.

NEBULA

Very impressive. But the air is a bit fragrant, isn't it?  
 (makes a note)  
 Otherwise, what do you think, I mean, on those rare occasions when you do?

(pretty girl walks by; HE goes after her)

NEBULA

(grabs him)  
 Spacedust! You promised! Now, please, keep your mind on our mission.

SPACEDUST

I was just making a study of that earthling. Not jealous, are you?

NEBULA

Me? I'm proud to say the sentiment has never intruded upon my wonderfully selective mind.

MUGGER ENTERS, with pistol and gold necklace, and runs across stage. HUSBAND AND WIFE ENTER, chasing him.

HUSBAND

Come back with that necklace!

WIFE

I promise you, it's not real! We got it at Wal-Mart!

(THEY EXIT)

<p>(comes up to them) Can you spare a dime?</p>	<p>PANHANDLER</p>
<p>A dime? What's that?</p>	<p>SPACEDUST</p>
<p>(takes out guide book) I'll look it up.</p>	<p>NEBULA</p>
<p>You don't even know what a dime is? Where are you from, another planet?</p>	<p>PANHANDLER</p>
<p>As a matter of fact --</p>	<p>SPACEDUST</p>
<p>-- Ever see this before?</p>	<p>THREE-CARD MONTE DEALER</p>
<p>Oh, a game. (goes toward DEALER)</p>	<p>SPACEDUST</p>
<p>You bet a dollar, you can win a lot.</p>	<p>THREE-CARD MONTE DEALER</p>
<p>A dollar? (looks in guide book)</p>	<p>SPACEDUST</p>
<p>We don't have a dollar.</p>	<p>NEBULA</p>
<p>What do you got?</p>	<p>THREE-CARD MONTE DEALER</p>
<p>(takes out wallet) How about a solar?</p>	<p>SPACEDUST</p>
<p>A solar?</p>	<p>THREE-CARD MONTE DEALER</p>

PANHANDLER

Forget it, man.

(puts arm around DEALER)

Remember when it was easy to make a living on the street?

(STYLISH NEW YORKERS ENTER)

NEBULA

Oh, look, Spacedust. Well-dressed people.

(to NEW YORKERS)

Excuse me. May we ask you a few questions?

NEW YORK WOMAN

Are you from out of town?

SPACEDUST

You could say that.

NEW YORK MAN

Then go right ahead. We hardly ever read about out-of-towners mugging New Yorkers.

NEBULA

First, may I confirm that this is New York City?

NEW YORK MAN

Yes, we call it The Big Pineapple.

NEBULA

But our guide book says it's called "The Big Apple."

NEW YORK MAN

That was before global warming made the weather here much more tropical.

NEBULA

(makes note)

May I ask why you live here? I mean, look around you!

NEW YORK MAN

We admit there are some problems.

NEW YORK WOMAN

But somehow we wouldn't live anywhere else.

NEBULA

Can you explain that?

NEW YORK MAN

Of course.

MUSIC: THE NITTY-GRITTY OF NEW YORK CITY.

NEW YORKERS

(sing)

Yes, it's another song  
About New York City --  
But the nitty-gritty  
Of why this is where we belong:

At night when we go out  
We walk in zigs and zags,  
Since piled up all about  
Are plastic garbage bags.  
But where else can you see  
Those bags reflect the glare  
You know could only be  
The bright lights of Times Square?  
That's the nitty-gritty  
Of New York City --  
Yeah, the nitty-gritty  
Of New York City.

In summer we can bake  
From buildings made of steel  
That pump out heat and make  
The whole town want to peel.  
Although we're too polite  
For that, at least, it's true  
That if we faint, it might  
Be on Park Avenue.  
That's the nitty-gritty  
Of New York City --  
Yeah, the nitty-gritty  
Of New York City.

Sure, the country has clean air  
 And miles of open space.  
 And it's great to go out there  
 To rest from New York's pace.

Other cities have their charms,  
 But every time we go  
 To one we hear alarms  
 Inside that let us know  
 The place we just got out of  
 Is the one we really love.

We know each night we could  
 Get mugged and bravely face  
 The danger, asking should  
 We buy ourselves some mace?  
 Yet if we have to spray  
 The stuff, it's nice to know  
 That very night, we may  
 Still see a Broadway show.  
 That's the nitty-gritty  
 Of New York City --  
 Yeah, the nitty-gritty  
 Of New York City.

LIGHTS FADE DOWN. MINIATURE SPACESHIP ENTERS.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

(quoting)

"That's the nitty-gritty --"

NEBULA (OFF)

-- Spacedust, please, it's time to move on. Now, where shall we go next?

SPACEDUST (OFF)

How about the Caribbean?

NEBULA (OFF)

Why that destination?

SPACEDUST

The book says there are a lot of beaches there.

NEBULA (OFF)

Did you want to check on their ecological condition?

SPACEDUST (OFF)

While I wanted to check you out in a bathing suit.

NEBULA (OFF)

Spacedust, if you agree to keep you mind on our mission until our report is exquisitely rendered, I will then allow myself at least one moderate indiscretion.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

Really? My pulse is racing. I'll do anything you say.

NEBULA (OFF)

Let's drop in on Washington and meet the President. He lives in that big White House.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

OK. Just land in the yard. I'm sure no one will notice.

LIGHTS COME UP. CLINTON at his desk. NEBULA and SPACEDUST ENTER.

SPACEDUST

Excuse me.

CLINTON

Who are you?

NEBULA

Visitors from another planet.

CLINTON

No problem. We get those at the White House all the time. What can I do for you?

SPACEDUST

We're trying to understand the earth better. Are you the leader of the most powerful nation in history?

CLINTON

Yes, I am. In fact, we're the first nation that probably could conquer the world, but we're not interested.

NEBULA

A very noble outlook.

SPACEDUST

But why not?

CLINTON

First, we believe in freedom. Second, we can't afford the upkeep.

NEBULA

My, how at ease you are with power! But can you explain how do you handle all the day-to-day pressure?

CLINTON

Oh, that's easy.

(takes sax out from behind desk)

I blow my sax.

NEBULA

Tell me more about that.

CLINTON

Sure. In fact, I feel a song comin' on.

(puts on sunglasses)

I play better when I wear these.

NEBULA

Of course. We ourselves know that wearing sunglasses invariably improves one's musical ability.

Frightened by the prospect, SPACEDUST excuses himself to NEBULA and EXITS.

CLINTON

Well, here goes.

(MUSIC: MY GOLDEN SAXOPHONE; sings)

I had my morning jog,

But then I had to slog

Through paperwork so high

I felt pain near this eye.

(places fingers on one eyebrow)

Oh, I work so hard each day

I must take time to play  
My golden saxophone  
And hear its lovely tone.

(plays)

At lunch I had to meet  
Republicans so sweet  
That every time I try  
I feel pain near this eye.

(places fingers on other eyebrow)

Oh, I work so hard each day  
I must take time to play  
My golden saxophone  
And hear its lovely tone.

(plays)

If talk about a tax  
To fund all my reforms  
Stirs up all kinds of storms,  
I wail on my old sax.  
And when someone attacks  
A helpless friend or foe  
And I must make a show  
Of force, I blow my sax.

(plays)

Why, just this afternoon  
I longed to play a tune  
When trade talks with allies  
Made both pains start to rise.

(puts both hands on head)

Oh, I work so hard each day  
I must take time to play  
My golden saxophone  
And hear its lovely tone.

(plays)

(loud KNOCK at door)

CLINTON

(picks up phone)

Who's that bangin' on my door?... I might've known. Let him in.

NEBULA

A visitor?

CLINTON

I'm afraid so. It's a Senator named Bob Dole.

BOB DOLE ENTERS in a huff.

DOLE

Hold it! Hold everything! I heard you sing that song, and I demand equal time!

NEBULA

Equal time?

DOLE

That's right. When he gets to address an audience, it's only fair that I get to do the same.

NEBULA

Why is that?

CLINTON

Because I'm a democrat, and he's a republican.

NEBULA

How wonderfully logical! But, Senator, do you play a musical instrument?

DOLE

Heck no! I'm a public servant, and a true public servant can't possibly have time for such a frivolous activity.

NEBULA

I see. Well, then, do you do anything that might be called amusing?

DOLE

If I remember correctly, I can skip.

NEBULA

Skip? Very good!

DOLE

Now, let's see. First...

(confuses himself)  
 Oh, what the heck! I'll just go for it.  
 (skips around the stage; returns, bows  
 to audience)

NEBULA

Excellent! But do you do anything more musical?

DOLE

Well, come to think of it, I can whistle.  
 (whistles "Happy Days are Here Again")

NEBULA

Very good, Senator. But it seems to me that if you wish to have equal time, the only logical way is to do as the President did and give us a song.

DOLE

Well, if that's the way it has to be, you can count Bob Dole.  
 (removes paper punch and sheet of paper  
 from pocket)

NEBULA

Then take it away, Senator.

MUSIC: EQUAL TIME.

DOLE

(sings)  
 I'm granted, as Senator Dole,  
 Equal time to play my role.  
 I follow Bill  
 And, with great skill,  
 Take his speech and punch a hole.  
 (punches hole in paper)

Now, you take the health-care mess.

When he talks reform, I stress  
 We shouldn't do  
 Something too new,  
 But significantly less.

Yes, I'm granted, as Senator Dole,  
 Equal time to play my role.  
 I follow Bill

And, with great skill,  
 Take his speech and punch a hole.  
     (punches hole in paper)

When he says it's time defense  
 Got along at less expense,  
 I get irate  
 And boldly state  
 Let's not loose our common sense.

And it's wonderful news to me  
 How far, far ahead I see.  
 I know in advance  
 My official stance  
 Is I totally disagree!  
 And the reason I proudly give  
 Is I'm a conservative.  
 So I take my cue  
 From the tried and true,  
 And I will as long as I live.

Yes, I'm granted, as Senator Dole,  
 Equal time to play my role.  
 I follow Bill  
 And, with great skill,  
 Take his speech and punch a hole.  
     (punches hole in paper)

And you can be confident  
 That I never will relent.  
 Because Bob Dole  
 Knows in his soul  
 He should be the president.

Oh, I'm granted, as Senator Dole,  
 Equal time to play my role.  
 I follow Bill  
 And, with great skill,  
 Take his speech and punch a hole.  
     (punches hole in paper)  
 Punch a hole, punch a hole!

My, my -- "Equal Time." And in rhyme, too.  
Thank you, Senator!

DOLE

Thank you for the opportunity.  
(to NEBULA)

Now, tell me, are you a republican or one is these tax-and-spend democrats?

BLACKOUT. MINIATURE SPACESHIP ENTERS.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

Nebula, I've had enough of politics for a while.  
(romantically)

Do you ever wonder what earthlings say when they're in love?

NEBULA (OFF)

I have compiled a list of a thousand topics I wish to include in our report, and I'm proud to tell you that romantic love is not on it.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

Oh, come on, you delicious iceberg. How can our report be complete without it?

LIGHTS come up on girl, JAN, and guy, GREG.

JAN

You know, Greg, your love changed my whole life.

GREG

Yours changed mine, too, Jan.

JAN

Really?

GREG

Un-huh.

JAN

But not the way you changed mine. I'm a different person now.  
(sings)

I was running here and there,  
Because I didn't know where  
My life was meant to be,  
Till you loved and focused me.

Your love gave me peace inside.  
It acted like my guide  
And calmed the swirl in me.  
I finally knew  
I had a destiny.  
It's my life with you,  
My life with you!

Till we met, I felt like leaves  
That whirl in fall when wind heaves

Them coldly off the stem  
And then spins and scatters them.

Your love gave me peace inside.  
It acted like my guide  
And calmed the swirl in me.  
I finally knew  
I had a destiny.  
It's my life with you,  
My life with you!

I remember all the pain  
I felt because I knew  
The life that filled my dreams  
Had to, but wouldn't, come true.  
But now I know if I  
Could take my past and undo  
One moment, then I'd miss  
The moment I met you.

A dark, stormy sea once tossed  
In me and made me feel lost.  
But now I'm calm, the way  
A lake looks at break of day.

Your love gave me peace inside.  
It acted like my guide  
And calmed the swirl in me.  
I finally knew  
I had a destiny.

It's my life with you,  
My life with you!

LIGHTS fade down. MINIATURE SPACESHIP ENTERS.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

Nebula, what if I sing you a love song?

NEBULA (OFF)

Only upon request.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

And?

NEBULA (OFF)

Notice the black hole of silence. Now, come on, Spacedust. Let's visit Russia.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

What for?

NEBULA (OFF)

It's described as the second most powerful nation on earth.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

How exciting. You cover it.

LIGHTS come up. NEBULA in RUSSIA with  
plastic trash bag and stick with point  
to pick up samples.  
IGOR ENTERS, wheeling a cart. HE wears  
a bulky coat.

NEBULA

Excuse me, sir. Is this Russia?

IGOR

Yes. What do you think of it?

NEBULA

(holds up plastic garbage bag)  
It could be cleaner.

IGOR

Well, let's hope one day. I am Igor. And your name?

NEBULA

Nebula.

IGOR

A very peculiar name. Where, may I ask, are you from?

NEBULA

Home.

IGOR

But everybody has a home.

NEBULA

I know. But we gave that name to the place I'm from to express our love of it.

IGOR

I see. Would you like to do a little shopping while you're here? I have many things for sale.

NEBULA

No, thank you.

IGOR

What? A woman who does not want to go shopping? Has such a thing ever been heard of before? I have anything you want.

NEBULA

Anything?

IGOR

You want to buy the Volga Bridge?

NEBULA

No, thank you. I --

IGOR

-- know. You want something finer, perhaps. Today only I can sell you the Kremlin.

NEBULA

What's that?

IGOR

(to audience)

I think I am going to like this woman.

(to NEBULA)

It's a very big building of traditional design, and right now I can get you an excellent price.

NEBULA

Why is that?

IGOR

It needs a little work.

NEBULA

Work?

IGOR

Yes. As a matter of fact, it's what you call a handyman's special. In fact, you could say that at the moment my entire beloved country is a handyman's special.

NEBULA

What happened? It looks like a country with many natural resources and a fine population.

IGOR

Well, we had an idea that everybody would take care of it. But that turned out to mean that there was nobody. Now, however, things are much different. I am free.

NEBULA

Free?

IGOR

Yes, for the first time in the history of Russia, everybody is free. So, as a result, nothing is free. But I have everything for sale.

NEBULA

A very curious story.

IGOR

Yes, it is my story. I will tell you.

(MUSIC: A SON OF A BOLSHIEV; sings)

It is my recent fate

To find that I am free.

I don't exist for the state;

The state exists for me.

So just think how life goes.

On me it plays such a trick.  
And everybody knows  
I'm a son of a Bolshevik.

But what's the good of free speech  
And having the right to vote  
If bread is beyond your reach  
And you can't afford a coat?

So just think how life goes.  
I want to get rich quick,  
And everybody knows  
I'm a son of a Bolshevik.

I was in the KGB.  
Now I'm in security.  
And I've got a certain access  
To more than you can guess.  
So just think how life goes.  
I'm getting very slick,  
And everybody knows  
I'm a son of a Bolshevik.

Yes, I've gone from a party gremlin  
Who gave his all for the Kremlin  
To a peddler with things for sale,  
At least, till I'm in jail.

How about a samovar  
That once belonged to the czar?  
I'll give you a deal  
That'll make it a steal  
And fill it with caviar.

Not a thing I've got is shoddy --  
From a tasty vodka toddy  
To a souvenir  
I still revere --  
It's my dear Lenin's body.

And to cause pandemonium,  
How about some plutonium?

You can terrorize  
Nations of great size  
With threats of Brimstonium.

Today this Russian bear  
Wants to be a millionaire  
And use his pile of money

To enjoy the finest honey.  
So just think how life goes.  
They'd beat me with a stick,  
And everybody knows  
I'm a son of a Bolshevik.

I've changed from a communist  
To a happy capitalist  
The fastest way I could,  
And now people say I'm no good.  
So just think how life goes.  
They'd hit me with a brick.  
And everybody knows  
I'm a son of a Bolshevik.

Oh, the Mafia I'm not.  
In fact, I'm a patriot.  
It's only my love of rubles  
That has caused all my "troobles.\_"  
So just think how life goes.  
They'd lock me away with a click.  
And everybody knows  
I'm a son of a Bolshevik.

Yes, just think how life goes.  
They'd feed me arsenic.  
And everybody knows  
I'm a son of a Bolshevik,  
A real son of a Bolshevik!  
I'm a real son of a Bolshevik!

LIGHTS fade down. MINIATURE SPACESHIP ENTERS.

SPACEDUST

Tell me, Nebula. How was Russia?

NEBULA

Very interesting. I met someone who looks a little like you. Where should we go next?

SPACEDUST

Why don't we drop in on some kids for a change?

NEBULA

Good idea. We can see how advanced "nurture" is among earthlings.

LIGHTS come up on two young boys in front of a television set. FRANKIE, the older boy, has a book. BILLY, the younger boy, has a toy pistol. We hear gunshots and explosions coming out of the tv.

FRANKIE

Hey, can you turn that thing off? I'm trying to read.

BILLY

Oh, come on. Watch it with me. Kids who read as much as you do are really weird.

FRANKIE

That's what you know.

BILLY

Ever see a kid with a book who's a hero?

(holds up gun)

Frankie, you wanna be somebody, you need a gun.

(fires it)

FRANKIE

Hey, you're sick, you know that, Billy.

BILLY

Come on? See what's on tv, go to the movie -- anybody who's anybody has a gun.

FRANKIE

Being destructive is just stupid. One of these days, I'm gonna write to the newspaper and tell

them to put right on the front page, along with all the violence, an article called "Young Heroes."  
 Every day, there'll be an article there about a kid who's doing something positive with his life.  
 After a while, I bet every kid will want to be in it.

BILLY

You're dreamin', Frankie. Let me tell you the way things really are.

(sings)

You watch the tv  
 And here's what you see.  
 You wanna have great fun?  
 All you need is a gun.

A video game  
 Tells you just the same.  
 You wanna be someone?  
 All you need is a gun.

Yeah, I'm just an average American kid,  
 Growing up with violence everywhere.  
 And the heros and bad guys I see  
 Know how to shoot you without a care.

I see in the news  
 Whose pictures they choose.  
 You wanna be someone?  
 All you need is a gun.

You watch a hot flick,  
 And here's what looks slick.  
 You wanna have great fun?  
 All you need is a gun.  
 All you need is a gun!

FRANKIE

I agree -- if you don't need a brain. I mean, to react to things. Did you ever listen to your heros carefully?

BILLY

All the time.

FRANKIE

Try again. Look, here comes three of them now.

ENTER, dancing, SCHWARZENEGGER, STALLONE, and SEAGAL.

SCHWARZENEGGER, STALLONE, and SEAGAL

(sing)

When a problem tackles you,  
 The only thing to do  
 Is find out who's to blame  
 And then quickly take aim.  
 Yes, just get physi"cal"  
 Like Schwarzenegger, Stallone, and Seagal --  
 You can sock 'em  
 And rock 'em!  
 Grab 'em  
 And stab 'em!  
 Boot 'em  
 And shoot 'em!  
 But be careful not to strain  
 Your fearless, fist-like brain.

If someone says your toes  
 Are bigger than your nose,  
 And other people say  
 It sure does look that way,  
 Then just get physi"cal"  
 Like Schwarzenegger, Stallone, and Seagal.  
 You can sock 'em  
 And rock 'em.  
 Grab 'em  
 And stab 'em,  
 Boot 'em  
 And shoot 'em.  
 But be careful not to strain  
 Your fearless, fist-like brain.

We're action heroes here and overseas  
 And every one of us agrees  
 A nice idea like fellow feeling  
 Can't blast someone through the ceiling.

And a logical discussion  
 Never beats a quick concussion.  
 We mean, we'd try it,  
 But it's so quiet.

Therefore, we stand for truth and right  
With the maximum possible dynamite.

SCHWARZENEGGER, STALLONE, & SEAGAL (CONT'D)

And if someone says that we  
Aren't the kind of heroes he  
Thinks you should imitate  
Don't bother to debate.  
No, just get physi"cal"  
Like Schwarzenegger, Stallone, and Seagal.  
You can sock him  
And rock him!  
Grab him  
And stab him!  
Boot him  
And shoot him!  
But be careful not to strain  
Your fearless, fist-like brain.

THEY EXIT, dancing and bantering each other physically.

FRANKIE

Well, Billy?

BILLY

(points gun at him)  
I'm thinking.

LIGHTS fade down. MINIATURE SPACESHIP ENTERS.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

Nebula, do you think you and I will ever get physi"cal"?

NEBULA

Oh, how weak your conscience is -- to allow yourself to go so recklessly from physical violence  
to physical inta --

SPACEDUST

-- Yes, yes, go on.

NEBULA

-- to, to --

SPACEDUST

-- Yes?

NEBULA

Oh, Spacedust, please. If you don't appreciate the transgression, you, who are a product of 151 million years of uninterrupted civilization, what hope is there that these early earthlings will, now or even in the next century?

SPACEDUST

Oh, Nebula, you drive me crazy with your unresponsiveness.

NEBULA

Thank you. What should we do next?

SPACEDUST

What if we listen to a song about lasting love?

NEBULA

How lasting?

SPACEDUST

Well, let's see. You were talking about the next century. How about love that will last far into it?

LIGHTS come up on romantic couple, ANNE and JEFF.

JEFF

You know, Anne, sometimes I think looking for something certain in life is like trying to sit down on a chair that only has three good legs. Every time you try it falls out from under you.

ANNE

Sometimes I feel that way, too, Jeff. But I do know one thing you can count on.

JEFF

What?

ANNE

My love.

JEFF

Oh, come on, Anne. Nothing lasts, and you're telling me your love will?

ANNE

Un-huh. In fact, I know two things you can count on.

JEFF

Really?

ANNE

Oh, I guarantee it.

(MUSIC: THE CENTURY WILL TURN; sings)

These days, what can you know  
With certainty?  
I've got two things I know  
And guarantee.

In just six years,  
Amid tears  
And cheers,  
The century will turn;  
And what's just as true  
Is that I'll still burn  
With love for you.

So when you think you can't rely  
On anything, remember I  
Told you two things you can count on  
Till nineteen-ninety-nine is gone.

In just six years,  
Amid tears  
And cheers,  
The century will turn;  
And what's just as true  
Is that I'll still burn  
With love for you.

I know there are still many things  
That seem unsure, but these two wings  
To fly above despair can be  
The little gift you got from me.

Soon the 20th Century  
Will slip into history --

Its wars and inventions,  
Arts and apprehensions.  
There will be speeches and songs,  
Fireworks and bells and gongs.  
And when all hoopla's done,  
You and I will still be one.

Yes, on the century's last day  
My love will go its separate way.  
Though one will end, you know for sure,  
My love, the other will endure.

ANNE (CONT'D)

In just six years,  
Amid tears  
And cheers,  
The century will turn.  
And what's just as true  
Is that I'll still burn  
With love for you.  
Yes, I'll still burn  
With love for you.

BLACKOUT

END OF ACT I

ACT II

MINIATURE SPACESHIP ENTERS.

SPACEDUST

(sings, a capella)

"Your love gave me peace inside.  
It acted like my guide  
And --"

NEBULA

Spacedust, please. You know as well as I do that falling in love forever is an ideal that is rarely, if ever, realized.

SPACEDUST

But "I finally knew I had a destiny. It's my life with  
you, my -- "

NEBULA

I have an experiment that should prove I'm correct.

SPACEDUST

Don't be too sure.

NEBULA

I am never too sure about anything. But, in this case, I am willing to be relatively confident.

SPACEDUST

What do I get if you're wrong?

NEBULA

One amazingly brief kiss.

SPACEDUST

Well, that's better than I've gotten so far. What's your plan?

NEBULA

We'll go back and look in on that lovely young girl who sang about "destiny" -- and see what it got her.

SPACEDUST

OK, I'm game.

LIGHTS come up on GREG, who is looking through a telescope, gazing out at the stars. HE stops, rubs his eyes, and peers through it some more. Then HE stops, as if to give up his search in despair. JAN ENTERS, upset.

JAN

Aren't you done yet?

GREG

Pretty soon.

JAN

(arms around him)

But I miss you, Greg. You work too hard.

GREG

I'm sorry, dear. But I love astronomy: quasars, pulsars, black holes, the origin of the universe -- it's fantastic!

JAN

What about me?

(points to sky)

Sometimes I feel that all you care about is whatever's way out there.

GREG

That's not true, Jan. Because of you, I've learned a great secret.

JAN

You have?

GREG

Yes. Remember how you once said I helped you find inner peace?

JAN

It's true, Greg, but lately --

GREG

-- Since the day you came into my life, I've learned something very similar.

JAN

You have? What?

GREG

To be at peace in a finite world.

JAN

Spoken like a true astronomer. Are you at peace, Greg?

GREG

I'm even more than that. Because of you, I've achieved the ultimate goal of the philosophers. Intelligent happiness.

JAN

Then why do I feel neglected?

GREG

Don't. I love you. In fact, you're my greatest discovery.

JAN

Really?

## GREG

Yes. And to think -- you were right next door all the time.

(sings)

I was always looking far  
 Away toward some star  
 No one's yet seen to find  
 A great, new truth my mind  
 Longed for. Then one day, my dear,  
 I found it very near.  
 I could search the sky  
 Throughout the galaxy  
 And clear to infinity,  
 But my great discovery  
 Will forever be that I  
 Found love right next to me.

Now when the starlit sky  
 Tells me with silence I  
 Might not discover there  
 The final truth, despair  
 Sets in -- till I think above  
 Isn't where I found my love.

## GREG (CONT'D)

I could search the sky  
 Throughout the galaxy  
 And clear to infinity,  
 But my great discovery  
 Will forever be that I  
 Found love right next to me.

When I feel there might be a roof  
 My mind can't see above,  
 I used to think, like a goof,  
 "What's the use of anything  
 If you can't know everything?"  
 And though the farthest light  
 I see is still finite,  
 I've grown because of love  
 And know, my dear, just to do  
 My best and to love you.

When the circle of my life  
 Draws to a close, the strife  
 And joy will fade into  
 The star-bright love that you  
 And I have shared. So don't mourn.  
 I'll be glad that I was born.  
 I could search the sky  
 Throughout the galaxy  
 And clear to infinity,  
 But my great discovery  
 Will forever be that I  
 Found love right next to me.  
 I found love right next to me!

LIGHTS fade down, as we hear a KISSING SOUND.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

Thank you, Nebula.

MINIATURE SPACESHIP ENTERS.

SPACEDUST (CONT'D, OFF)

Want to try another experiment?

NEBULA

Not at the moment.

SPACEDUST

Why not?

NEBULA

I'm waiting for my luck to change.

SPACEDUST

Whatever you say. Hey, let's see how the kids are doing.

NEBULA

The kids? Don't tell me we're parents already?

SPACEDUST

Not yet. I mean, the two kids we looked in on earlier, Frankie and Billy.

NEBULA

Oh, I'd like to talk to them.

LIGHTS come up on BILLY, who's watching violent tv or playing a violent video game.

NEBULA & SPACEDUST ENTER.

SPACEDUST

Excuse me.

BILLY

(points gun at them)  
Who are you?

NEBULA

Friends from another planet.

BILLY

From another planet!? Stay back.

NEBULA

Don't be afraid. I said we're friends.

BILLY

Are you really from another planet?

SPACEDUST

Yes. We call it Home.

HOME

"Home." I like that.

SPACEDUST

I'm Spacedust.

BILLY

"Spacedust?"

SPACEDUST

It's a very popular name on our planet.

NEBULA

Yes, as common as dust in the wind. I'm Nebula.

BILLY

I'm Billy.

SPACEDUST

Nice to meet you.

NEBULA

Yes, a pleasure.

BILLY

Nice to meet you, too. But why pick me to visit?

NEBULA

We want to talk about your heroes.

BILLY

My heroes?

NEBULA

Yes. Where's Frankie?

BILLY

Frankie? How do you know about him?

NEBULA

We know many things.

BILLY

He's went home.

NEBULA

Oh. He seems like a very nice friend.

BILLY

I guess.

NEBULA

But?

BILLY

He reads too much.

NEBULA

I want to talk to you about that.

BILLY

Sure.

NEBULA

Tell me, are all the earthlings you admire unusually physi"cal"?

BILLY

All real heros are.

NEBULA

Oh. I was hoping some are more men"tal."

SPACEDUST

Or emotio"nal."

NEBULA

Will you kindly behave yourself!

SPACEDUST

If they were more mental, she'd feel much better.

NEBULA

That's true. But I would feel even happier if they measured up to my high men"tal" standards.

(to SPACEDUST)

Tell him, please.

SPACEDUST

She's considered a logical wizard.

BILLY

A logical wizard?

SPACEDUST

Yes. Unfortunately, she thinks logic can provide all the answers you need to be happy.

BILLY

All the answers?

NEBULA

The possibility has been built into the design of this vast and wonderful universe. Ask the questions you must know the answer to, and you can discover just what you need to know. No more, no less.

BILLY

But isn't logic hard to understand?

NEBULA

That, Billy, is a contradiction in terms. Logic, if it's logical, must be easy to understand -- especially when you learn it from a logical wizard. Why, I can hop around logical arguments with all the agility of a perky, little lizard.

SPACEDUST

I agree with that.

NEBULA

Thank you.

(to BILLY)

It's the first nice thing he's said about me in ages.

BILLY

You like being called a lizard?

NEBULA

Oh, I'm flattered. You see, on our planet lizards are highly respected for their intelligence and gentleness.

BILLY

Lizards? Yuck!

NEBULA

Only the modern variety, not their fire-breathing ancestors. I can tell you all about it with a song.

SPACEDUST

Go ahead, dear. I'll wait in the ship.

(to BILLY)

Bye-bye.

MUSIC: THE LOGICAL WIZARD.

NEBULA

(sings)

Oh, I'm a logical wizard,  
 A sort of mathematic-verbal lizard,  
 Who can leap around symbols and words  
 Even better than long-legged birds.

If your thinking's as muddy as muck  
 That would scare a respectable duck,  
 The clarity I can bring  
 Will make it a crystalline spring.

Yes, I'm a logical wizard,  
 A sort of mathematic-verbal lizard,  
 Who can leap around symbols and words  
 Even better than long-legged birds.

I can explicate the knots  
 In famous, mistaken thoughts  
 With thinking that may appear dense  
 But it's only uncommon sense.

Now, listen while I take  
 A thought that's all tangles and swirls  
 And, with a few flicks of my tongue,  
 Lay it out like a string of pearls.

If an "A" is also "B"  
 The certainty  
 That every "A" is also "B"  
 Is something you can only see  
 If you know every "A"  
 All the way  
 To infinity.  
 And if just one "A"  
 Turns out not to be  
 A "B,"  
 There's not a certainty  
 But only a probability  
 That an "A" is also "B."

Therefore, when an "A"  
 Comes your way  
 You can only say

That it may  
 Be a "B."  
 But, at least, you know indubitably  
 That there's only a probability.

NEBULA (CONT'D)

Now, since you can never know an infinity  
 Of instances about any "A,"  
 You always have to be  
 Content with probability.  
 Yet the wonderful thing about all of this  
 Is, not that you should dismiss  
 The likelihood of knowing a thing,  
 But simply to see  
 What great happiness can follow from reasoning  
 As well as I do,  
 Because it teaches you  
 To have a bit of modesty  
 About the things you'd like to know  
 And also  
 About the things you absolutely know you know.

Oh, yes, I'm a logical wizard,  
 A sort of mathematic-verbal lizard,  
 Who can leap around symbols and words  
 Even better than long-legged birds.

I can give you incisive instruction  
 In the merits and faults of induction  
 And acquaint you with logical analysis  
 Till your mind is in total paralysis.

NEBULA

Well, what do you say?

BILLY

I have a question.

NEBULA

(perplexed)  
 A question? Go ahead.

BILLY

One of Frankie's best friends said that all scientific progress is based on believing in experience.

NEBULA

His friend is right. If you know that a lot of "As" are also "Bs," you can be pretty sure you're on the right track. All right?

BILLY

Can I ask one more question?

NEBULA

Of course.

BILLY

Frankie's friend also said you can't get at the biggest questions through experience. You have to use intuition.

NEBULA

Right again. But then you have to go back to experience to check out your idea.

BILLY

I know. His friend said that, too.

NEBULA

Really? My, he has an interesting friend. What's his name?

BILLY

Frankie calls him Al.

NEBULA

Al what?

BILLY

Einstein.

NEBULA

Oh. Does Frankie have any other friends like him?

BILLY

Oh, lots. Two of them are Al's friends.

NEBULA

Really? What do you think of them?

BILLY

I guess they're all right. But they don't like fighting.

NEBULA

They don't?

BILLY

No. They're for yucky things like world peace. Anyway, they're three of Frankie's best friends. He talks about them all the time.

NEBULA

And what are their names?

BILLY

Al, Bert, and Albert.

NEBULA

But, Frankie, on my planet, "Al, Bert, and Albert" would only be two friends.

BILLY

Oh, no. You see, Al, his first friend, has a friend he calls Bert.

NEBULA

Bert?

BILLY

Yes. And another friend Albert. So all three together are Al, Bert, and Albert.

NEBULA

Oh, very logical. I'm sure all three are very interesting. But do you think they're mental enough to impress me?

BILLY

If they aren't, I don't know who is. Too bad Frankie isn't here to tell you more about them.

NEBULA

Why don't we invite Frankie and them over?

BILLY

We can't. His friends aren't alive anymore.

NEBULA

Too bad. When did they live?

BILLY

A long time ago. I think the last one, Bert, died way back around 1970.

NEBULA

Billy, you seem to remember a lot about them, for someone who doesn't care about them? Maybe you should meet them in person.

BILLY

How can I do that?

NEBULA

Simple. I can locate the traces of their energy in space and time and invite them to join us.

BILLY

Oh, neat! Really?

NEBULA

Yes. We learned how to do it about 99 million years ago. There's only one requirement.

BILLY

What?

NEBULA

The technique only works if they agree to sing when they arrive.

BILLY

To sing?

NEBULA

Yes. It seems that people who refuse to sing can't be made to take wing as easily. I wonder if they'd oblige us?

BILLY

Maybe. I think Al played the violin, and Albert played the organ. I don't know about Bert.

NEBULA

Well, let's give it a try. I have Al Einstein. May I have the full names of Bert and Albert.

BILLY

Let me think. Bert's whole name is Bertrand Russell.

NEBULA

And Albert?

BILLY

Is Albert Schweitzer. Frankie says they called him the jungle doctor.

NEBULA

OK. Here we go.

(punches hand-held time device)

It's working. That means they've agreed to sing for us. They're getting closer. And here they are -- Al, Bert, and Albert -- a trio, not a duo.

ENTER EINSTEIN with a violin, RUSSELL with his pipe, and SCHWEITZER, wearing a pith helmet and carrying a fly swatter.

BILLY

Wow, amazing! Frankie should only be here!

AL, BERT, & ALBERT

(wave to BILLY)

Hi, Billy.

BILLY

Hi, guys! Nice to meet you.

AL, BERT, & ALBERT

Nice to meet you, too. Yes, indeed. A distinct please.

NEBULA

Gentlemen, you've been invited here to tell us what you think in song. But there is a condition.

AL

What condition?

NEBULA

We only want to hear your very biggest ideas.

AL

You want big, we have big.

BERT

Lots of big ideas.

NEBULA

Yes, but, unfortunately, I must limit you to only one big idea per person.

AL

Only one?

ALBERT

But we have so many!

BERT

And after we came all this way!

NEBULA

I understand. But, gentlemen, a song can only be so long.

AL

All right. We'll do our best.

BERT

How about one main idea?

ALBERT

Good. I like "main" much better than "big," because that makes room for a buildup to the main idea.

BERT

Precisely why I suggested the subtle but enormous difference.

NEBULA

All right, gentlemen. I consent.

BERT

Thank you.

NEBULA

But I must ask you to do me a favor?

AL

What is that?

NEBULA

In your song, can you try to show our young friend that thinking is much more exciting than violence?

AL

That we know we can do.

MUSIC: AL, BERT, & ALBERT

AL, BERT, & ALBERT

(sing)

We're Al, Bert, and Albert  
 To our young friend,  
 But we'd like to append  
 We're also Albert, Bertrand, and Albert.  
 Now, we don't often get to do a show  
 And sing about the big things we know --  
 But here we go!

EINSTEIN

I'm Albert Einstein,  
 Who discovered the fine line  
 Between matter and energy  
 In my theory of relativity,  
 Which has nothing whatever to do  
 With how long your relatives visit you.

(plays violin a bit)

But the idea I'd like to bring out  
 Is one many people don't know about.  
 It's a very big thought  
 I often got  
 When my mind would traverse  
 The splendors of the universe.

(plays violin a bit more)

I felt I was glimpsing the mind  
 That seems to be behind  
 It all and so --  
 What do you know?  
 There's no conflict between  
 Science and religion,  
 Not even a smidgeon,  
 When both are seen  
 As simply our longing to be  
 At one with infinity.

(plays violin some more)

AL, BERT, & ALBERT

And now that "Al" is done,  
 We'd like to ask everyone,  
 Isn't thinking much more exciting  
 Than bang-bang, shoot-'em-up fighting?

RUSSELL

I'm Bertrand Russell,  
 Who, with mental muscle,  
 Helped describe the logic of mathematics  
 And gave you the history  
 Of most philosophy --  
 From the pre-Socratics  
 To postphilosophy --  
 Explaining what I think is true  
 From a scientific point of view  
 And leaving to your own instruction  
 Only recent delights like deconstruction.  
 And I added the thought  
 So remarkably rare,  
 That everything ought  
 To work for the freedom, welfare,  
 And happiness of little you.

(puffs on pipe)

I spoke out for peace,  
 And wouldn't cease,  
 Though accused of treason  
 And considered so unnice  
 I was thrown in jail twice.  
 But, most noble of all,  
 Is I used my reason  
 My whole life through,  
 Regardless of what would befall  
 Me, in order to pursue  
 What I felt to be true.

AL, BERT, & AL

And now that "Bert" is done,  
 We'd like to ask everyone,  
 Isn't thinking much more exciting  
 Than bang-bang, shoot-'em-up fighting?

SCHWEITZER

I'm Albert Schweitzer,

And please don't mind if I  
 Don't even try  
 To find a rhyme for Schweitzer.  
     (fans himself with swatter)

And by the way,  
 I ought to say  
 I wouldn't hurt a fly.  
 I'm a kind and gentle man  
 Who only uses a swatter  
 When the weather gets hotter  
 And I need a fan.  
     (fans some more)

Now, I'll tell you a story  
 About the moment of glory  
 When I finally got  
 My biggest thought.

One day I'm sitting on a boat,  
 Making note after note,  
 As we move up an African river  
 That's now just a summertime sliver,  
 Racking my mind  
 Trying to find  
 A thought to ease the strife  
 And support the affirmation of life.  
 Then, at sunset, I see  
 A group of hippos  
 And, suddenly, on the light goes.  
 And the thought comes to me  
 Of Reverence for Life.

Though mentioned in Wordsworth  
 And similar to its sanctity,  
 I was the first one on earth  
 Ever to see  
 Its value enough to dwell  
 On it and spell  
 It out so thoroughly I would  
 Even take time to add  
 Simple thoughts like "What's good for life is good,  
 And what's bad for life is bad."  
 And wouldn't you say  
 I gave you a wonderful ethic for today?

AL, BERT, & AL

And now that "Albert" is done,  
We'd like to ask everyone,  
Isn't thinking much more exciting  
Than bang-bang, shoot-'em-up fighting?

Yes, isn't thinking much more exciting  
Than bang-bang, shoot-'em-up fighting?  
(THEY make a dancing EXIT)

NEBULA

Thank you!  
(to BILLY)  
Well, Billy, what do you say?

BILLY

Oh, great! But what do you think about them?

NEBULA

Excellent -- I mean, for creatures who are only a hundred centuries old.

BILLY

"A hundred centuries"?

NEBULA

Yes. Why, just imagine, if you take the average life expectancy of a person and put it, from the beginning of your species, at 50 years, 10,000 years only amounts to two-hundred people standing in a line.

BILLY

You're right. I never thought of 10,000 years that way.

NEBULA

Not many earthlings do. Tell me, with three such people in one century, you earthlings must be very pleased with it.

BILLY

I don't think so.

NEBULA

Is there a problem?

BILLY

Frankie says there have been too many wars.

NEBULA

How sad. But on our planet we always say, "Count your blessings."

BILLY

Hey, we say that, too.

NEBULA

Really? How remarkably advanced!

LIGHTS fade down. We discover NEBULA and  
SPACEDUST, sitting in their SPACESHIP.

SPACEDUST

(with guide book)

I think we should head west and learn about cowboys.

NEBULA

I'm willing to oblige. But first we must put pointer to screen and start our written report --

CULT MEMBER, NORMAN, runs up  
to them and prostrates himself.

NORMAN

(points to sky)

Oh, tell me, you're from out there, aren't you?

SPACEDUST

Way out there. Who are you?

NORMAN

Norman. And I have to know right away! Are you gods?

SPACEDUST

No, pal, we're almost as human as you are.

NEBULA

Except for the very important fact that our civilization is 151-million years old.

NORMAN

Really?

NEBULA

Yes, Norman. Due to our great intelligence, we have so far managed to last one million years longer than your dinosaurs.

NORMAN

But you travel about the infinite?

NEBULA

No. We have to settle for the finite.

NORMAN

Oh, don't tell me you're trapped in finitude, too.

NEBULA

Have you ever been off the earth?

NORMAN

No.

NEBULA

Then naturally your horizons are a bit limited. Finitude actually has quite an large amplitude.

NORMAN

But to be limited to the wretched finite -- it's still like living with a roof over your head. It's like being a dog who can look but only understand so much. Oh, what unbearable torment!

SPACEDUST

Hey, buddy, lighten up.

NORMAN

But how? Here I am, condemned to be the fool of the deceitful sky, all day blue and white or solemn gray, the seeming home of gods and angels, but at night a transparent nothing. And this is my time, my span, my life, and then -- how can it be? -- my nothing, my grave-stuffing nilly, nilly nothing. And is the whole earth no more than an immense, 5-billion-year-old graveyard and all its people mere straw to be gathered up as a harvest for oblivion? Help me, oh, help me!

NEBULA

How might we do that, Norman?

NORMAN

Hear the cry of my soul! Trapped, I feel trapped like a fly in glue. And I long, yes, long to take wing. So I have joined a cult!

SPACEDUST

What kind of cult?

NORMAN

Oh, it's wonderful. Our leader is radiant with the light of wisdom. There's only one difficulty.

SPACEDUST

What's that, friend?

NORMAN

(takes out gun)

He wants me to kill myself. He wants us all to kill ourselves.

SPACEDUST

Why?

NORMAN

So we can depart from this evil life -- and find eternal bliss immediately. But I can't figure out where to shoot myself so it won't hurt.

SPACEDUST

Come on, fella, lighten up. Just have a good-natured faith in life.

NORMAN

(horrified)

What? Life?

NEBULA

Consider for a moment the logic of life before death.

SPACEDUST

Besides, it's not right to kill yourself.

NORMAN

Why? Tell me why!

SPACEDUST

She can do that better than I can.

NEBULA

Perhaps, but...

NORMAN

Not a moment more! I can't suffer any longer! Good-bye life, hello bliss!

(points gun at self and shoots; ducks adroitly and misses)

Oh, I missed.

(fires again and gracefully misses)

I am so illusive!

(fires again; shoots self and falls to ground)

SPACEDUST

Poor guy.

NEBULA

Oh, my. I was going tell you why you shouldn't do that.

NORMAN

You were?

NEBULA

Yes. Our wise man number four-million-six-hundred-and-thirty-two said ...

NORMAN

Number what?

NEBULA

That's what happens when your civilization has been fortunate enough to last as long as ours. His name was Maybolius. Legend has it that he acquired his name because he began every sentence with the word "maybe. "

NORMAN

"Maybe?"

NEBULA

He was a very modest wise man. But to go on with my explanation. One day he had a dream. In it, he saw the door to death and approached it. But a voice said, "Maybe you should sit down in the room of life before you enter." He asked, "Maybe you can tell me why?" And the voice said, "Maybe the best way to merit another life is to take good care of this one first."

NORMAN

Now, he tells me!

(dies)

BLACKOUT.

MINIATURE SPACESHIP ENTERS.

SPACEDUST

I wish that fella wouldn't have done that to himself.

NEBULA

So do I. It's sad he didn't know better. But, as Maybolius also said, maybe the universe made a choice. It could have made trees with the answers to all our questions written on leaves, but instead it chose to give us minds so, in time, we could learn the answers on our own. But what agony it is to yearn but not to know.

SPACEDUST

Yes, dear.

LIGHTS come up on solitary singer, in a pensive mood.

MUSIC: THE QUESTIONS WE ASK

SINGER

What makes the tide turn?  
 What makes the fire burn,  
 The ocean waves,  
 The nights and the days?  
 What makes the rain condense into sky?  
 Why does one live,  
 And where do we go when we die?

The questions we ask  
 Are the wonders that are  
 Over the rainbow,  
 Under the stars,  
 Living and learning,  
 Loving and yearning  
 For the love, for the love, for the love of life.

The beauty the mountain brings --  
 The birds of summer,  
 And the flowers of spring  
 Are the wonders of the world.  
 In every boy and girl,  
 Many colors and creeds.  
 So sew your seeds,

Plant them in the earth,  
Conception, then birth.

The questions we ask  
Are the wonders that are  
Over the rainbow,  
Under the stars,  
Living and learning,  
Loving and yearning  
For the love, for the love, for the love of life.

LIGHTS fade down.

MINIATURE SPACECRAFT ENTERS.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

I'm glad we decided to take another flight across the ocean.

NEBULA (OFF)

Yes, and such a pretty ocean, too. But I did notice quite a lot of pollution.

SPACEDUST (OFF)

Well, as we've seen, the inhabitants of some planets learn how to keep house and some don't.

NEBULA (OFF)

How true. Oh, look at the snow-covered mountains and here comes the city of ...  
(checks map)  
Geneva.

SPACEDUST

Let's land and have a look.

LIGHTS come up on NEBULA and SPACEDUST.  
NEBULA is reading a newspaper. SPACEDUST  
is dressed in a cowboy outfit and behaving  
accordingly.

NEBULA

If you don't stop behaving like that, I'll never let you drop in on another rodeo.

SPACEDUST

The west sure was fun, though.

NEBULA

Perhaps, for you. Look, an important meeting is taking place here now.

SPACEDUST

Who's there?

NEBULA

The leaders of the seven most economically advanced nations -- which is not necessarily to be confused with other attributes we might call advanced.

SPACEDUST

(looks and reads)

The Group of Seven. Maybe we should stop by.

NEBULA

Yes, but before we go exploring, let's finally make a start on the report to our leader.

SPACEDUST

Nebula, we've only just begun to look the earth over. We still have so much to see.

NEBULA

I know. But we have taken somewhat of a random sample of the human race. Tell me, Spacedust, what do you think of the earth so far?

SPACEDUST

I don't know. I kind of like it here.

NEBULA

Spoken with true Spacedustian precision.

SPACEDUST

What's wrong, now?

NEBULA

After traveling the rather large distance we have to drop in on the earth, we can't possibly submit a mere sentiment like that.

SPACEDUST

Why not?

NEBULA

It just won't due. We have been entrusted with the august mission of helping to decide the

destiny of an entire, though admittedly rather small and out-of-the-way, planet. To inspire us to make an especially careful evaluation, we might see it as a once-luscious island in a far-off sea.

SPACEDUST

Hey, I like that -- green trees, beaches, blue sky, a golden sun, and one nice, round moon. All I need now is a pina colada.

NEBULA

Will you stop being so helplessly human-like? The earth was only as perfect as you paint it a long time ago.

SPACEDUST

That's correct. Parts of it have gone downhill.

NEBULA

A grave fact to be considered. Now, back to our report.

SPACEDUST

OK. What should we do?

NEBULA

First, we must agree on a point of view

SPACEDUST

Us agree? No problem. What else?

NEBULA

Why, then we must present it properly -- with all the relevant information, presented in most telling order, including all the right inclusions and exclusions and with the most meticulous subordination and emphasis, so that we can arrive at, not merely the approximately correct report, but the exactly correct one -- in short, we must present our point of view as a perfectly balanced, inarguable argument.

SPACEDUST

"In short?" Can we put in it somewhere that I like the girls.

NEBULA

Spacedust, how can you allow your sacred reason to be subverted by such trivial and carnal interests?

SPACEDUST

Come on, Nebula. Admit it. Don't you ever have a desire for the basics?

NEBULA

Of course. But my repressors are functioning perfectly.

SPACEDUST

(romantically)  
Perfectly?

NEBULA

Nothing can overcome their incalculable force. Not even you.

SPACEDUST

Not even me? Don't tell me you're interested enough to have to struggle a little?

NEBULA

Don't get carried away. Now, please, your point of view?

SPACEDUST

May I say it with a song?

NEBULA

Certainly. In the time-honored tradition of our planet, a song must always come before mere logic. One can only hope for a logical song.

SPACEDUST

Well, I can't make any guarantees, but I'll see what I can do.

(MUSIC: I KIND OF LIKE IT HERE; sings)

Once I was filled with fear  
But now I kind of like it here.  
I know the planet's scarred,  
Since earthlings still pollute,  
But most of them work hard  
And the girls are really cute.

Yes, I was filled with fear  
But now I kind of like it here.  
These folks have only been  
Around ten-thousand years,  
And they're no longer in  
An old pre-fab cave with spears.

So let's give them a chance,

A million years or so,  
 To settle into life,  
 And we'll see what time will show.  
 Their little sun will shine  
 Five billion years or more  
 And that's a lot of time  
 To grow up and explore.

Yes, I was filled with fear,  
 But now I kind of like it here.  
 Although we have to wait,  
 I bet someday they know  
 The universe is great  
 As universes go.  
 Yes, I was filled with fear,  
 But now I kind of like it here.  
 Yeah, I kind of like it here!

THUNDER and LIGHTENING. INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER  
 ENTERS, wrapped in a sky-blue toga.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

You what?

SPACEDUST

Oh, hi, boss.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Don't try to placate me. Did I hear you say you like it here?

SPACEDUST

Yes, sir.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I see. And, Nebula, what is your opinion?

NEBULA

Sir, I have yet to form one in the final sense, but, to throw out a random comment, I would say that things could be better.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Better? Duped! You've been duped! I commanded you to use only the highest standards of

excellence for your judgements and look what happens. Won over by the earthings -- both of you. But I cannot be fooled. Not having heard from you, I decided to make some observations of my own.

NEBULA

And, sir?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I am not happy!  
(thunder and lightening)

SPACEDUST

I hate to see you this way, boss.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Your assignment is over. I myself shall confront these mere earthlings!

SPACEDUST

Where?

NEBULA

When?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I shall decide that! Now, back to your ship!

SPACEDUST

Right away, sir.

NEBULA

I'm sorry if I have in any way allowed my judgement --

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

-- Out, out, you fools of space and time!

THEY LEAVE.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER (CONT'D)

(paces)

Now, let me see.

(looks at the newspaper)

Ah-ha! The Group of Seven! The time is now.

(thunder, lightening, smoke)

Where are my lawyer and my accountant!

A meeting of THE GROUP OF SEVEN.  
Seated in an arc of chairs are  
the leaders of America, England,  
Japan, France, Canada, Germany,  
and Italy.

Suddenly, more lightening and  
thunder.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER strides in,  
followed by his accountant and lawyer,  
both in togas that are somewhat less  
splendid than his.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Greetings!

GROUP

(shocked)

Who are you? How'd you get in? Call security!

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Don't waste your time. All the doors are locked.

(HE waves his hand and we hear loud  
locking sounds)

So we meet! You, who are the leaders of The Group of Seven --  
constituting the world's seven most "advanced" nations.

AMERICAN LEADER

That's correct. And who are you?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Interstellar Rockefeller.

FRENCH LEADER

Sacre Bleu!

ENGLISH LEADER

And who, may I ask, is that?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I'm an intergalactic philanthropist.

CANADIAN LEADER

Come again?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

An intergalactic philanthropist, from a very advanced civilization.

AMERICAN LEADER

Sure, you are.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

(raises his hand; we hear thunder and there's  
a flash of lightening)

ITALIAN LEADER

Mama mia!

AMERICAN LEADER

Okay, okay! Let's say I believe you. What, exactly, do you do?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I travel about the universe, making donations as I see fit.

AMERICAN LEADER

And who are those other fellows?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

My lawyer and my accountant.

ENGLISH LEADER

May I ask, what brings you here?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I want it back!

ENGLISH LEADER

What, sir?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

The earth!

ENGLISH LEADER

What do you mean?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Exactly what I said.

(holds hand out; lawyer puts paper  
in his hand)

Here's the eviction notice.

AMERICAN LEADER

Eviction notice?

(takes it; reads)

"The human race is hereby ordered to surrender possession of the planet known as the earth immediately." Very funny. What is this, some kind of joke?

LAWYER

Not at all. You can see everything is in order.

ENGLISH LEADER

On what grounds are we being evicted?

LAWYER

(takes out copy of document and points)

It's a long list.

(begins to read)

"Faulty maintenance of the premises, lack of --"

AMERICAN LEADER

-- And who signed it?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

The highest court of all.

ENGLISH LEADER

And, where, may I ask is that?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Galaxy K2RX7. The largest and most powerful galaxy in the universe. I might also add, the most just.

CANADIAN LEADER

Well, what do they want with the earth?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

It's not what they want. It's what I want!

CANADIAN LEADER

But how can you want the earth? No one can own the whole thing!

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

You seven have made a pretty good attempt, haven't you?

AMERICAN LEADER

Yes, but our people have worked hard for everything they have.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

But not hard enough, in my terms.

AMERICAN LEADER

Now, hold on. Where are we supposed to go?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

That's your problem!

ENGLISH LEADER

Now, see here. I don't think you're being entirely fair! There are over four billion people on the earth, and you want us to get out immediately? How can you ask such a thing?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Why not? You've had thousands of years to figure out what a great place it is, and look how you treat it! Wars, pollution everywhere, overpopulation, rampant inconsideration for your fellow man, murder, robbery, and obsession with violence and death. And most of you simply treat it as a stopover on the way to a better place, after you're dead. Now, I ask you, who wouldn't want it back!

AMERICAN LEADER

But who said you can have it back?

LAWYER

I refer you to the document.

ENGLISH LEADER

Now, see here, you walk in here and pretend to be this preposterous fellow, when in all likelihood, you're a crank from a local insane asylum.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

(waves arm again; LIGHTENING and THUNDER)

And can a crank command the thunder and lightening?

AMERICAN LEADER

(to others)

He's got a point there.

ENGLISH LEADER

May I ask how you can do that sort of thing with the elements?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Why not? I own them.

ENGLISH LEADER

Very impressive. But it's actually nothing compared with what you're asking.

CANADIAN LEADER

Without even giving us time to pack.

AMERICAN LEADER

That's right! I've convinced the public to do a lot of crazy things. But I can tell you right now, people will never go for this.

LAWYER

If you don't get out, we'll have to throw you out.

CANADIAN LEADER

But out where, sir?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I can't be responsible for that. You've had your chance on the earth. And to think -- I gave it to you! I gave you everything!

ACCOUNTANT

That's right.

(holds up other papers)

And it cost him a pretty penny, too. Seven trillion solars!

AMERICAN LEADER

Solars? You mean, like dollars?

ACCOUNTANT

Hardly. At the current intergalactic exchange rate, one solar is equal to over seven trillion dollars.

ENGLISH LEADER

But why would anyone spend that kind of money for anything?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

That's what I ask myself. But I did have noble intentions. How was I to know you'd ruin my dream?

AMERICAN LEADER

Well, tell us more about that. Maybe we can make things up.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

It's too late! You've had your chance. And, with the exception a few wise and good souls and a short list of brilliant intellectual achievements, oh, what an execrable history! Out, out, I say!

ENGLISH LEADER

Sir, if we are to pack our bags and leave the earth, I believe we deserve a complete explanation.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

You deserve nothing! Because I gave you everything. Ah, what a fool I am! But what a dreamer, too! Here it was, this small, remote chunk of pock-marked dirt in a sparsely populated section of one of the smallest galaxies. I see it. I take pity.

ACCOUNTANT

And you could get a good deal on it.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

That's right. A pal of mine owned it, the great, intergalactic real estate developer, Sam Trump.

AMERICAN LEADER

Any relation to Donald?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

His great, great, great, great, great, great, great...  
 (motions with hand that this list goes  
 on and on)  
 ... grandfather, when generosity was a family tradition.

ACCOUNTANT

A long time ago.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

A very long time ago. Anyway, I had an idea. I'd buy it and make a park --

JAPANESE LEADER

-- This is eternal secret of the universe? The earth is a park?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

What did you think it is -- a landfill? I set out to create a beautiful paradise in the midst of the dusty rubble around it, like the moon. You've been there. What a place, especially compared to this. And why? Because I spared no expense. The water, the plants, the atmosphere, the animals -- all from the best suppliers. And all the bugs -- what a time I had picking them out!

ACCOUNTANT

Don't forget the dinosaurs.

LAWYER

What a heartbreak!

ACCOUNTANT

The shipping costs are astronomical. But he wants them. Then -- I can't even say it.

LAWYER

A giant meteor hits the earth, kicks a mountain of dust into the atmosphere, blocks the sun --

ACCOUNTANT

-- And starts forest fires. There's smoke everywhere -- and no one to put out the fires.

AMERICAN LEADER

No one?

ACCOUNTANT

The dinosaurs don't have fire trucks. So the plants die off. The dinosaurs die off.  
(tearfully)  
It's a total loss. No way I'd let him replace them.

LAWYER

But he thinks big, see. So he still wants something gigantic on land.

ACCOUNTANT

I convince him to settle for a shipment of elephants.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I only made one mistake. I decided to add a species that could talk about my achievement and

laugh, laugh with joy -- the human race, in five basic colors: white, black, brown, yellow and red.

And what happens? You're the only ones who aren't smart enough to enjoy it. You can't just feel lucky to be here, live the best lives you can with thoughtfulness for others -- think, make love, eat, and die, like everything else. No!...

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER (CONT'D)

You misbehave from day one -- and the whole thing's not good enough for you!

AMERICAN LEADER

But --

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

-- Oh, figure it out, will you! The entire universe works every second to support what is clearly its highest achievement, life

-- and you decide it's not good enough for you! Well, I have had it up to here!

AMERICAN LEADER

But what are you going to do with the earth?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

That's none of your business.

ENGLISH LEADER

Excuse me, sir, I believe it is. We've lived here quite a long time and certainly deserve to know what your plans are.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

All right -- if you must know. I sold it.

ENGLISH LEADER

Sold it? Say, that's not good!

ACCOUNTANT

He got a great offer. Fifteen trillion solars! That's more than twice what he paid for it.

AMERICAN LEADER

Well, if it's only a matter of money, why can't we buy it from you instead?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

You?

ACCOUNTANT

Are you kidding? All your wealth combined doesn't even add up to one trillion solars, let alone

fifteen!

AMERICAN LEADER

But we've been living here a long time. We should get an insider price.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I've given my word.

LAWYER

(holds out paper)

It's a done deal.

CANADIAN LEADER

Well, who's the new owner? Maybe we can deal with him.

LAWYER

Too late. He's got a resort deal already approved by the Intergalactic Zoning Board.

ACCOUNTANT

And all the time shares are pre-sold. Galactic residents who want to get away to some place really remote bought out the offer in the first week!

AMERICAN LEADER

But --

LAWYER

-- sold out! You heard him. The place is already sold out. So out you go!

ENGLISH LEADER

At least, give us the chance to discuss --

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

-- I'm sorry. I gave my word. And you've had your chance.

(points majestically)

Leave! I command you, leave the earth, by the millions, by the billions! Leave, at once!

GROUP

What do you mean, at once? We can't just pick up and leave. We don't have nearly enough space shuttles. And no place to go. We'll change. We'll do better. Please, reconsider!

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Too late! Too late!

(swirls his arm)

Off the earth you go! Out of the park forever!

The WIND picks up. Lightening and thunder accompany it. THE GROUP OF SEVEN is blown toward a struggling EXIT, as THEY complain)

GROUP

Help! Help! Please, give us another chance. We're sorry! Good-bye, earth! Ahhh!

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

(to LAWYER)

Call the buyer. Tell him the earth is his!

AMERICAN LEADER

(at the last moment)

But it's all your fault!

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

(waves arms; the wind and other effects stop;  
perfect stillness prevails)

What do you mean, my fault? I'm perfect.

AMERICAN LEADER

Then why did you go off and leave us all alone?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Do you mean that you can't function properly without constant supervision?

AMERICAN LEADER

You can't expect that much from us, can you?

CANADIAN LEADER

We need help every minute.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

That can't be true. The supplier I purchased you from said you're 100% guaranteed.

AMERICAN LEADER

Well, he lied.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Now, aren't you ashamed of yourselves? I made sure you were equipped with one of the best brains in the body shop -- each one with more neurons than there are stars in the universe. And I

purchased all the available options. Sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch -- so you could be perfectly sensitive to your environment and actually enjoy living.

LAWYER

Especially with the sense of touch.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

(corrects him with a look)

And I made sure you're perfectly balanced outside -- with dual eyes, dual ears, dual arms, dual legs...

ACCOUNTANT

And ten toes. Count 'em!

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Unfortunately, I assumed that would help make you perfectly balanced on the inside, too.

ENGLISH LEADER

I'm afraid you expected too much of us.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

But look at you and look at me. Do you see any real difference? And I manage to be absolutely perfect on my own.

AMERICAN LEADER

Do you? You left us, and we didn't turn out right. So you made a mistake. And you can't be perfect until you hang around and make sure we turn out right.

ENGLISH LEADER

Absolutely correct. But when we're perfect, we'll be quite willing to admit that you are, too.

AMERICAN LEADER

And not until then.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

And what if I simply return you to the shop for a refund?

ENGLISH LEADER

That won't change things. Your mistake will still exist.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

And will it go away if I stay?

ENGLISH LEADER

At least, you can make up for it.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I'm afraid --

ENTER MOTHER EARTH, as a woman made up as the globe, in apanic.

MOTHER EARTH

Oh, please, stay, Interstellar!

AMERICAN LEADER

I wonder who that is?

MOTHER EARTH

Me? I'm Mother Earth.

AMERICAN LEADER

Mother earth?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I'm afraid so.

MOTHER EARTH

(to INTERSTELLAR)

I haven't seen you for a long time, Inty.

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

I'm sorry, earthy-poo. Have I been neglectful?

MOTHER EARTH

Very. And you once said you love me. Didn't you mean it?

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Of course, I did. How have things been since I left?

MOTHER EARTH

If you only knew. The big meteor that slammed into me and wiped out your beloved dinosaurs -- that was nothing compared to what's been going on recently.

(points to GROUP OF SEVEN)

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Really, darling?

## MOTHER EARTH

These days, I hardly recognize myself.

## INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Poor baby. Is it too late for me to make amends?

## MOTHER EARTH

No, dear -- as long as you never leave me again.

## INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

But I'm very busy. You should see my schedule book.

## MOTHER EARTH

I know, Inty. But you have to stay until I'm treated the way you said I always would be -- as a park.

(motions for...

## MUSIC: MOTHER EARTH SINGS THE BLUES; sings)

I've been mistreated  
 And outright cheated.  
 When I was just a girl  
 I was told that I would twirl  
 Through life with love and joy.  
 Back then I didn't know  
 That I'd be kicked and shoved,  
 Instead of loved,  
 Till all the hurtin' would destroy  
 Lots of my gorgeous, youthful glow.  
 But, baby, life would be a lark  
 If I was treated like a park.

I've been mistreated  
 And downright depleted.  
 My lovely biosphere  
 Could just make me shed a tear  
 It looks so changed and worn.  
 Oh, I would never brag,  
 But once this earth was dressed  
 In all the best.  
 And now the fabric's stained and torn  
 Till parts of it are like a rag.  
 But, baby, life would be a lark

If I was treated like a park.

Now, I only feel like my old self  
 In the places where I'm people-free,  
 Because most people still don't care  
 Enough to bring out the best in me.  
 And this unappreciated earth  
 Has the sun, the size, and all the curves  
 To be loved the deep and lasting way  
 That such a heavenly body deserves!

I've been mistreated  
 But I'm not defeated.  
 And what I'm thinkin' of  
 Is that, if I do find love,  
 I'll make the sweetest home.  
 Why, then at last you'll see  
 This earth kept fresh and clean  
 And blue and green,  
 With cities bright as chrome  
 And all its life in harmony.  
 Yes, baby, life would be a lark  
 If I was treated like a park.  
 Oh, yeah, life would be a lark  
 If I was treated like a park!

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

Darling, I'm sorry for all you've been through.

(to LAWYER)

Call Sam. Tell him the deal is off.

LAWYER

But --

INTERSTELLAR ROCKEFELLER

-- Being a perfectionist, I have no other choice.

(to MOTHER EARTH)

I'll make it up to you, sweet baby.

(looks at GROUP OF SEVEN)

And I'm sure they will, too. Well, won't you?

BLACKOUT.

LIGHTS fade back up on CAST.

MUSIC: THE CENTURY WILL TURN

CAST

(sings)

REPRISE: THE CENTURY WILL TURN.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END