

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

by

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based on the music written and  
performed by Billy Joel.

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FADE IN:

EXT. MANHATTAN PIANO BAR- FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

1985

BILLY, from behind, locks up the front door of his bar. He puts his hat on, turns and begins walking down the street. His breath can be seen as he breathes in and out. Music starts in the background.

BILLY

(sings)

Some folks like to get away  
Take a holiday from the  
neighborhood  
Hop a flight to Miami Beach  
Or to Hollywood  
But I'm talking a Greyhound  
On the Hudson River Line  
I'm in a New York state of mind

BILLY walks along and empty times square.

BILLY (con't)

(sings)

I've seen all the movie stars  
In their fancy cars and their  
limousines  
Been high in the Rockies under the  
evergreens  
But I know what I'm needing  
And I don't want to waste more  
time  
I'm in a New York state of mind

BILLY down an alleyway.

BILLY (con't)

(sings)

It was so easy living day by day  
Out of touch with the rhythm and  
blues  
But now I need a little give and  
take  
The New York Times, The Daily News

A MOMENT LATER

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

BILLY dances through the park, passing people. The people watching stare at him awkwardly.

BILLY (con't)

(sings)

It comes down to reality  
 And it's fine with me 'cause I've  
 let it slide  
 Don't care if it's Chinatown or on  
 Riverside  
 I don't have any reasons  
 I've left them all behind  
 I'm in a New York state of mind

It was so easy living day by day  
 Out of touch with the rhythm and  
 blues  
 But now I need a little give and  
 take  
 The New York Times, The Daily News

EXT. DOCKSIDE - NIGHT

BILLY emerges from the shadow and into a street light. He stares out at the Hudson river and the lights, singing.

BILLY (con't)

(sings)

It comes down to reality  
 And it's fine with me 'cause I've  
 let it slide  
 Don't care if it's Chinatown or on  
 Riverside  
 I don't have any reasons  
 I've left them all behind  
 I'm in a New York state of mind

I'm just taking a Greyhound on the  
 Hudson River Line  
 'Cause I'm in a New York state of  
 mind

BILLY, teary eyed stares out at a few boats passing by.

BLACK SCREEN WITH WHITE LETTERS: BILLY

EXT. DOCKS - NIGHT

BILLY blows air into his cold hands. From the right a figure emerges from the darkness. BILLY, cautious, calls to him.

BILLY  
(into darkness)  
Hello? Hello there?

PAUL emerges from the shadows and steps on to the dock. BILLY stares at him.

BILLY  
Who are you?

PAUL  
Who are you?

BILLY  
I asked you first... who are you?

PAUL  
My name is PAUL. I was told to come here tonight- I'm a little early.

BILLY  
Yea, me too. Only I knew to come... I was told by a friend.

PAUL  
That's good. You, uh, you nervous? I'm nervous.

BILLY  
Why are you nervous? You should feel relieved. You get to get outta this place.

PAUL leans up against the railing, looking out at New Jersey.

PAUL  
I used to live out there- Bergenfield. Before I moved here, and before all this mess happened, I was a somebody. Yea, man I was king of that place.

BILLY  
(interested)  
OK... well, I dunno you very well, and you don't have to answer this but... but you wanna talk about it  
(MORE)

BILLY (cont'd)  
or something?

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: PAUL

INT. STRIP CLUB- NEW JERSEY - NIGHT

PAUL counts money at the bar, the place is packed and PAUL begins to walk the room.

PAUL

(sings)

Well you went uptown riding in  
your limousine  
With your fine Park Avenue clothes  
You had the Dom Perignon in your  
hand  
And the spoon up your nose  
And when you wake up in the  
morning  
With your head on fire  
And your eyes too bloody to see  
Go on and cry in your coffee  
But don't come bitchin' to me

Because you had to be a big shot,  
didn't you  
You had to open up your mouth  
You had to be a big shot, didn't  
you  
All your friends were so knocked  
out  
You had to have the last word,  
last night  
You know what everything's about  
You had to have a white hot  
spotlight  
You had to be a big shot last  
night

PAUL gets up on stage, he dances and sings while throwing dollar bills out to the crowd.

PAUL (con't)

(sings)

They were all impressed with your  
Halston dress  
And the people that you knew at  
Elaine's  
And the story of your latest  
success  
Kept 'em so entertained  
Aw but now you just can't remember

(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)

All the things you said  
 And you're not sure you want to  
 know  
 I'll give you one hint, honey  
 You sure did put on a show

Yes, yes, you had to be a big  
 shot, didn't you  
 You had to prove it to the crowd  
 You had to be a big shot, didn't  
 you  
 All your friends were so knocked  
 out  
 You had to have the last word,  
 last night  
 You're so much fun to be around  
 You had to have the front page,  
 bold type  
 You had to be a big shot last  
 night

PAUL now stands in an empty bar, a beautiful woman stares at  
 him, he takes her- kisses her and dances with her on the  
 bar.

PAUL (con't)

(sings)

Well, it's no big sin to stick  
 your two cents in  
 If you know when to leave it alone  
 But you went over the line  
 You couldn't see it was time to go  
 home  
 No, no, no, no, no, no, you had to  
 be a big shot, didn't you  
 You had to open up your mouth  
 You had to be a big shot, didn't  
 you  
 All your friends were so knocked  
 out  
 You had to have the last word,  
 last night  
 So much fun to be around  
 You had to have a white hot spot  
 light  
 You had to be a big shot last  
 night

EXT. DOCK- RAILING - NIGHT

BILLY and PAUL talk against the railing.

PAUL

And that was it, a month later- I lost the club, the bar, the money- my girl. All gone.

BILLY

I owned a bar too. Closed it today- just tonight, just before I leave.

PAUL

I should have never come here, this city can kill ya.

BILLY

No. No it's alright. It's a great city- she just got a little mixed up is all.

An explosion is heard in the background, a slight flash of light is seen behind the buildings. BILLY and PAUL look up- when the lights stop they pan down and see a Priest standing there.

FATHER CARMINE

They blew up most of the upper east side. Burning, riots, you name it.

BILLY

I saw that this morning.

FATHER CARMINE

The explosions are them trying to restore orders up there...

PAUL

You here for the boat too?

BILLY

He's a father PAUL, he can't be...

FATHER CARMINE

(walking to them)

No, no it's ok...

FATHER CARMINE walks to them and takes off his collar, handing it to PAUL.

FATHER CARMINE

I was a man of GOD... until today.

PAUL looks in his hand at the collar. FATHER CARMINE walks past the men...then sits by the railing.

PAUL  
No offense but I never been to church before father.

FATHER CARMINE  
Please, I am not a father anymore...just do not call me that.

BILLY  
So...so your leaving here too?

FATHER CARMINE  
There isn't much I can do anymore- for anyone. See, people think because you wear that collar you don't have a past...

PAUL  
Everyone has a past...even priests.

FATHER CARMINE  
Exactly. What time is it?

BILLY looks at his watch.

BILLY  
Eight, still have some time before it gets here.

PAUL  
So what happened?

FATHER CARMINE  
You don't want to know son...

BILLY  
I think we do... nothing else to do- no judgement here.

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: FATHER CARMINE

FATHER CARMINE stands up- pictures of his "non-catholic" life show his mistakes in life.

FATHER CARMINE  
(sings)  
If it seems like I've been lost  
In let's remember  
If you think I'm feeling older  
(MORE)

FATHER CARMINE (cont'd)

And missing my younger days  
 Oh, then you should have known me  
 much better  
 'Cause my past is something that  
 never  
 Got in my way  
 Oh no

Still I would not be here now  
 If I never had the hunger  
 And I'm not ashamed to say  
 The wild boys were my friends  
 Oh  
 'Cause I never felt the desire  
 'Til their music set me on fire  
 And then I was saved, yeah  
 That's why I'm keeping the faith  
 Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
 Keeping the faith

FATHER CARMINE begins to dance and sing around the dock,  
 PAUL and BILLY watch.

FATHER CARMINE (con't)

(sings)

We wore old matador boots  
 Only Flagg Brothers had them with  
 a Cuban heel  
 Iridescent socks with the same  
 color shirt  
 And a tight pair of chinos  
 Oh  
 I put on my shark skin jacket  
 You know the kind with the velvet  
 collar  
 And ditty-bop shades  
 Oh yeah  
 I took a fresh pack of Luckies  
 And a mint called Sen-Sen  
 My old man's Trojans  
 And his Old Spice after shave  
 Oh  
 Combed my hair in a pompadour  
 Like the rest of the Romeos wore  
 A permanent wave, Yeah  
 We were keeping the faith  
 Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
 Keeping the faith  
 You can get just so much  
 From a good thing  
 You can linger too long  
 In your dreams  
 Say goodbye to the  
 (MORE)

FATHER CARMINE (cont'd)  
 Oldies but goodies  
 'Cause the good ole days weren't  
 Always good  
 And tomorrow ain't as bad as it  
 seems

FATHER CARMINE grabs BILLY'S hat and continues...

FATHER CARMINE (con't)  
 (sings)  
 Learned stickball as a formal  
 education  
 Lost a lot of fights  
 But it taught me how to lose O.K.  
 Oh, I heard about sex  
 But not enough  
 I found you could dance  
 And still look tough anyway  
 Oh yes I did  
 I found out a man ain't just being  
 macho  
 Ate an awful lot of late night  
 drive-in food Drank a lot of take  
 home pay  
 I thought I was the Duke of Earl  
 When I made it with a red-haired  
 girl  
 In the Chevrolet. Oh yeah  
 We were keeping the faith  
 Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
 Keeping the faith

You know the good ole days weren't  
 always good  
 And tomorrow ain't as bad as it  
 seems

I told you my reasons  
 For the whole revival  
 Now I'm going outside to have  
 An ice cold beer in the shade  
 Oh, I'm going to listen to my 45's  
 Ain't it wonderful to be alive  
 When the rock 'n' roll plays, yeah  
 When the memory stays, yeah  
 I'm keeping the faith  
 Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
 Keeping the faith  
 I'm keeping the faith,  
 Yes I am

As he finishes, FATHER CARMINE, sits back down fiddling with BILLY'S hat. He looks sad. PAUL walks to him, hands him the collar.

PAUL

You might need this again some day... you never know.

FATHER CARMINE looks and exchanges the hat for the collar.

BILLY

Ah, it's not so bad. Everyone has made mistakes in life...no big deal ya know?

FATHER CARMINE

Mistakes are only mistakes, when you don't mean to do them. Besides, who said anything about mistakes?

PAUL

Kind of depressing isn't it?

They three men sit in silence on the dock looking in three different directions. BILLY picks out a picture from his pocket. He smiles and giggles.

PAUL

What? What's so funny?

BILLY

You remember this?

It is a picture of the lights on Broadway.

PAUL takes it and passes it to FATHER CARMINE.

FATHER CARMINE

I used to love the theatre... my family would come in and go see a show a few times a few times a year.

BILLY

It was something special...the lights.

PAUL

I hardly remember it, seems like another life.

Music begins to play in the background. As BILLY, PAUL, and FATHER CARMINE sing- the scenes reflect the lyrics.

BILLY

(sings)

Seen the lights go out Broadway  
I saw the Empire State laid low  
And life went on beyond the  
Palisades  
They all bought Cadillacs  
And left there long ago

They held a concert out in  
Brooklyn  
To watch the island bridges blow  
They turned our power down  
And drove us underground  
But we went right on with the show

PAUL

(sings)

I've seen the lights go out on  
Broadway  
I saw the ruins at my feet  
You know we almost didn't notice  
it  
We'd seen it all the time on Forty  
second street

They burned the churches down in  
Harlem  
Like in that Spanish civil war  
The flames were everywhere  
But no one really cared  
It always burned up there before

I've seen the lights go out on  
Broadway  
I saw the mighty skyline fall  
The boats were waiting at the  
battery  
The union went on strike  
They never sailed at all

FATHER CARMINE

(sings)

They sent a carrier out from  
Norfolk  
And picked the Yankees up for free  
They said that Queens could stay  
And blew the Bronx away  
And sank Manhattan out at sea

BILLY

(sings)

You know those lights were bright  
on Broadway  
That was so many years ago  
Before we all lived here in  
Florida  
Before the Mafia took over Mexico  
There are not many who remember  
They say a handful still survive  
To tell the world about  
The way the lights went out  
And keep the memory alive

Back on the dock, BILLY stares at the picture again. PAUL looks at the Hudson and FATHER CARMINE folds his arms with a smile on his face.

ANTHONY (OS)

Was that what it was like?

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: ANTHONY

Pan out to see young ANHTONY standing there, still in his apron from work.

ANTHONY

Was it like you all said? I  
wouldn't know... I was sorta new  
here.

More explosions in the distance. Planes overhead.

PAUL

What's your name kid?

ANTHONY

ANTHONY, ANTHONY LEONE. Nice to  
meet you all.

BILLY

BILLY...that PAUL and FATHER  
CARMINE...you here for a spot on  
the boat?

ANTHONY

Yea, yea I was told to get here  
before 10. I didn't miss it did I?

FATHER CARMINE

Only nine o'clock... we're all  
waiting.

ANTHONY takes off his apron and folds it.

BILLY  
Just got off work?

ANTHONY  
Yea, it's my first job.

BILLY  
Where at?

ANTHONY  
Kind of embarassing but, uh I work  
at the Save Rite, on third ave...  
just for now.

PAUL  
For now? As of tonight your  
officially unemployed.

BILLY  
What he means is that once the  
boat comes and you get on- you  
aren't going to be coming back.

ANTHONY looks some what cautious.

FATHER CARMINE  
You OK son?

ANTHONY  
Sure...just thinking. I could have  
left here, before the election and  
all. Before the crazy stuff  
started...but I didn't listen.

BILLY  
Few people do.

PAUL  
Yea don't beat yourself up over  
it. We already established we all  
make mistakes... no worries kid.

Music starts playing.

INT. GROCERY STORE- NYC - DAY

ANTHONY begins bagging some groceries and sings as he bags,  
stocks shelves and packs meat.

ANTHONY

(sings)

Anthony works in the grocery store  
Savin' his pennies for someday  
Mama Leone left a note on the  
door,  
She said,  
"Sonny, move out to the country."  
Workin' too hard can give me  
A heart attack  
You oughta know by now  
Who needs a house out in  
Hackensack?  
Is that what you get with your  
money?

It seems such a waste of time  
If that's what it's all about  
If that's movin' up then I'm  
movin' out.

ANTHONY dances through aisles, on registers, in the back room  
with a mop.

ANTHONY (con't)

(sings)

Sergeant O'Leary is walkin' the  
beat  
At night he becomes a bartender  
He works at Mister Cacciatore's  
down  
On Sullivan Street  
Across from the medical center  
He's tradin' in his Checy for a  
Cadillac  
You oughta know by now  
And if he can't drive  
With a broken back  
At least he can polish the fenders

It seems such a waste of time  
If that's what it's all about  
If that's movin' up then I'm  
movin' out.

ANTHONY juggles fruit and races a cart through the lanes.

ANTHONY (con't)

(sings)

You should never argue with a  
crazy mind  
You oughta know by now  
You can pay Uncle Sam with  
overtime

(MORE)

ANTHONY (cont'd)  
Is that all you get for your  
money?

It seems such a waste of time  
If that's what it's all about  
If that's movin' up then I'm  
movin' out.

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

ANTHONY stands there, somewhat embarrassed. PAUL smiles at him.

FATHER CARMINE  
Ah, to be young again.

PAUL  
Second that FATHER. Second that.

PAUL takes out a flask and takes a swig, then he hands it out to ANTHONY.

PAUL  
Drink up kid, you never know if  
this damn boat will actually make  
it... might as well enjoy your  
night.

BILLY laughs and ANTHONY drinks, swallows and suffers the burn.

FATHER CARMINE  
My turn, ha! Is it whisky?

He drinks and they four of them laugh. For a moment, all is calm and safe. From the dark, a young lady emerges. She is no seen but softly talks.

VIRGINIA  
(low)  
Excuse me...excuse me.

The men are so into the alcohol and jokes they tell to each other they dont notice her there.

VIRGINIA  
Is this where we wait for the  
boat? At 10 o'clock?

BILLY notices her and sees her, the other men see her now as well.

VIRGINIA

The boat? We are supposed to come here and meet up? Ten o'clock tonight?

BILLY

Yes that's right, but I don't think we all were to meet here. It just happened.

FATHER CARMINE, walks to her slow. He looks upset.

FATHER CARMINE

What are you doing here? I thought you got out weeks ago?

VIRGINIA

I wanted to, but I wanted to see you get out first. The church, they said you had left for the last boat.

FATHER CARMINE

(angry)

You shouldnt have come, you should not be on the island. It's not safe- you were supposed to be safe.

VIRGINIA

I am safe, I just wanted to see you father.

Loud crash is heard and more lights in the sky.

PAUL

Doesn't sound very safe...

ANTHONY

He's not a priest anymore, see no collar.

VIRGINIA

I know that...

BILLY

Yea, but you called him father, so...

VIRGINIA

I know I called him that...

FATHER CARMINE  
 (to the guys)  
 She's my daughter...

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: VIRGINIA

FATHER CARMINE  
 But she should not be here...she  
 should be safe.

VIRGINIA  
 But I had to see you, I wanted to  
 tell you- I'm pregnant. I am gonna  
 have a son.

ANTHONY  
 (drinks)  
 Congrats!

FATHER CARMINE covers his mouth and walks to the railing.  
 VIRGINIA follows him to talk alone.

VIRGINIA  
 Did you hear what I said?

FATHER CARMINE  
 I did, but... I dunno VIRGINIA.

VIRGINIA  
 Arent you happy, even a little?  
 For me... for your son?

FATHER CARMINE  
 And who is the father? huh?

VIRGINIA  
 He, he left...for overseas a month  
 ago. He had too... he had no  
 choice.

Music starts to play.

VIRGINIA  
 (sings to FATHER  
 CARMINE)  
 Some love is just a lie of the  
 heart  
 The cold remains of what began  
 with a passionate start  
 And they may not want it to end  
 But it will, it's just a question  
 of when  
 I've lived long enough to have  
 learned

(MORE)

VIRGINIA (cont'd)

The closer you get to the fire the  
more you get burned  
But that won't happen to us  
Because it's always been a matter  
of trust

I know you're an emotional girl  
It took a lot for you to not lose  
your faith in this world  
I can't offer you proof  
But you're gonna face a moment of  
truth  
It's hard when you're always  
afraid  
You just recover when another  
belief is betrayed  
So break my heart if you must  
It's a matter of trust

VIRGINIA holds her belly and smiles, she walks into the  
street light and everything is blacked out but her.

VIRGINIA (con't)

(sings)

You can't go the distance  
With too much resistance  
I know you have doubts  
But for God's sake don't shut me  
out

This time you've got nothing to  
lose  
You can take it, you can leave it  
Whatever you choose  
I won't hold back anything  
And I'll walk away a fool or a  
king  
Some love is just a lie of the  
mind  
It's make believe until it's only  
a matter of time  
And some might have learned to  
adjust  
But then it never was a matter of  
trust

I'm sure you're aware love  
We've both had our share of  
Believing too long  
When the whole situation was wrong

FATHER CARMINE steps out and sings with her.

FATHER CARMINE

(w/ VIRGINIA)

Some love is just a lie of the  
soul  
A constant battle for the ultimate  
state of control  
After you've heard lie upon lie  
There can hardly be a question of  
why  
Some love is just a lie of the  
heart  
The cold remains of what began  
with a passionate start  
But that can't happen to us  
Because it's always been a matter  
of trust

They hug. A thunderous flash and boom is heard. It startles them all. VIRGINIA holds onto her dad. BILLY looks up.

BILLY

I can only imagine what is going  
on out there...only GOD knows.

ANTHONY

I wonder if i'll ever see my  
parents again ya know?

BILLY

Anything is possible, anything.  
You may one day.

BILLY looks at his watch, he turns to PAUL.

PAUL

What is it?

BILLY

It's late, a few minutes late is  
all. Nothing to get worked up  
about.

ANTHONY

Are you sure? How late?

BILLY

A few minutes...

FATHER CARMINE

I am sure it will be here, with  
the bridges being gone they have  
to be careful coming in and out ya  
know.

VIRGINIA

Let's hope they make it through.

ANTHONY

They'll make it through though,  
right? I mean...

BILLY

(arm around  
ANTHONY)

It'll be fine- it will make it  
here.

ANTHONY

Yea, I guess better late than  
never ya know?

PAUL sifts through some rubble of screen and pulls over a few garbage cans, he turns them upside down and offers them as chairs.

PAUL

Here, in case you were tired of  
standing, like me.

VIRGINIA, PAUL and ANTHONY sit. FATHER CARMINE looks into the distance.

FATHER CARMINE

Hey, you hear that? I think I hear  
sirens...

BILLY

(alarmed)  
Sirens? Where?

FATHER CARMINE

Out there... listen, shhhh.

Everyone listens, police sirens are heard. They are all alarmed.

BILLY

Shoot, they are sirens, the police  
are coming.

ANTHONY

What do we do?

BILLY

Stay calm...let me think- can we  
hide?

FATHER CARMINE

There is no where to hide, its a dock.

PAUL

There are OTHER ways of handling this...

BILLY

That's crazy, dont talk like that.

VIRGINIA

Yea, what are you some kind of criminal?

PAUL

No, lady, I am realist and I wanna get on this boat and no cop is gonna stand in my way... that's all. I'll do what it takes.

BILLY

OK, enough... look follow my lead ok? Just follow what I say.

The headlights stop just short of the dock and a police officer steps out of his car.

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: BOBBY

MARTY walks over with his flashlight and hand on his hip. He glances over the group one by one. BILLY stands up to him.

BILLY

Evening officer... something the matter?

BOBBY

That depends on what you all are doing out here past hours?

BILLY

Just sight seeing, it's still legal to come out here and get some air isn't it?

BOBBY

I suppose, large group of you to be out here though, seems... suspicious.

PAUL  
We're old friends, haven't seen  
eachother in a while...

BOBBY walks to the railing, looks down to the water, then  
back to the group.

BOBBY  
You guys woundn't be waiting for a  
boat now would you?

ANTHONY  
No, what boat?

PAUL  
There's is no boat...

BOBBY  
It's late.

BILLY  
How did you know that?

VIRGINIA gets anxious.

VIRGINIA  
BILLY!

BOBBY  
Its ok m'am. I know all about the  
boat, i know that's why your  
hear...

BOBBY takes off his trooper hat, holding it in his hands.

BOBBY  
I know this, because that's why I  
am here.

BILLY  
Really?

BOBBY  
Yes really.

PAUL  
Well that is a relief officer.

FATHER CARMINE  
AMEN to that.

BOBBY  
What are you a priest?

PAUL

Used to be.

BILLY

(confused)

Wait, wait. Why would a New York city officer want off the island? I thought the government took good care of you? Why run?

BOBBY

Well, because... I have a family. Ya know? I have a brother- his name is John. He lives back in Hollywood- that's my home town. I came here to help- ended up causing more problems... and now I want out.

ANTHONY

That sounds fair enough.

BOBBY

Living there was so much different...

BOBBY begins his song, as he sings we flash back to the West coast he sees younger days riding around with his brother. We also see BOBBY has left his lover back in California.

BOBBY

(sings)

Bobby's drivin' through the city  
tonight  
Through the lights in a hot new  
rent-a-car  
He joins the lovers in his heavy  
machine  
It's a scene down on Sunset  
Boulevard  
Say goodbye to Hollywood  
Say goodbye my baby  
Say goodbye to Hollywood  
Say goodbye my baby

Johnny's takin' care of things for  
a while  
And his style is so right for  
troubadours  
They got him sitting with his back  
to the door  
Now he won't be my fast gun  
anymore  
Say goodbye to Hollywood

(MORE)

BOBBY (cont'd)

Say goodbye my baby  
Say goodbye to Hollywood  
Say goodbye my baby

Movin' on is a chance that you  
have to take  
Any time you try to stay -  
together  
Whoa  
Say a word out of line  
And you find that the friends you  
had  
Are gone - forever  
Forever

So many faces in and out of my  
life  
Some will last  
Some will be just now and then  
Life is a series of hellos and  
goodbyes  
I'm afraid it's time for goodbye  
again  
Say goodbye to Hollywood  
Say goodbye my baby  
Say goodbye to Hollywood  
Say goodbye my baby

Movin' on is a chance that you  
have to take  
Any time you try to stay -  
together  
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Some will last  
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goodbyes  
I'm afraid it's time for goodbye  
again  
Say goodbye to Hollywood  
Say goodbye my baby  
Say goodbye to Hollywood  
Say goodbye my baby

Back at the Dock, BOBBY looks around. The group seems to be saddened a bit.

PAUL

And here I thought all cops were bad news...sorry for your troubles.

BOBBY

It's all I think about... getting out of here, righting my wrongs.

More explosions, more flashed of light. VIRGINIA clings to FATHER CARMINE as she is scared.

BOBBY

You know what those sounds are?

BILLY

Bombs? Trying to hold back the mobs?

VIRGINIA

Not quite, see they're testing explosives under and around the island...to loosen her up, before...

FATHER CARMINE

They get the call to let her float to sea.

BOBBY

That's right, should not be long now. And most poor bastards dont know what is coming to them.

PAUL

That's terrible, is there anything we can do?

FATHER CARMINE

There is no time son.

BILLY

How long?

BOBBY

Not long, the best thing we can hope for is the boat gets here sooner than later.

ANTHONY

It's already late, who knows if it  
will even show up.

Everyone hangs thier head, they are all upset and BILLY  
stares at his watch. FATHER CARMINE talks to VIRGINIA trying  
to lighten the mood.

FATHER CARMINE

Baby, what's the first thing  
you're gonna do when we get off  
the boat? Tell me...

VIRGINIA

I'm gonna find a place, a quiet  
place on a quiet street somewhere.  
Nothing too big- just big enough  
for me and the baby and you to  
visit. A warm bed, a garden, and a  
baby blue bedroom. Wouldn't that  
be nice father?

FATHER CARMINE

Your mother would have loved it.

VIRGINIA

What about you ANTHONY?

ANTHONY

Finish school. Meet a nice brown  
haired girl. Gte married, start a  
life of my own. My own American  
dream. It's gonna be great... what  
about you PAUL?

PAUL

I want to open a club, the clean  
way this time, open for business  
on a Friday night in June and  
watch the crowds come in. It's  
gonna be amazing, the best club  
you've ever seen, hardest one to  
get into- but all of you go to the  
front of the line, I mean it.

They all smile and laugh.

PAUL

How about you BILL?

BILLY

Oh I dunno. Find a little pub, get  
a gig playing the piano on  
Saturdays. There's something about  
(MORE)

BILLY (cont'd)  
 it, seeing the faces when you  
 play...you can tell your touching  
 them in one way or another. The  
 faces, yea, that's what I'll do-  
 make them feel good in this  
 terrible time... how about you?

BOBBY  
 Easy. Back to the West coast, find  
 my girl- kiss her for an hour  
 straight and take her for a ride  
 with the top down. Like heaven.

They all smile again. BILLY looks at FATHER CARMINE and his  
 big smile as the mood is now light.

BILLY  
 You, you never told us what you  
 would do...

FATHER CARMINE  
 (low)  
 Find a church... pray.

PAUL  
 OK, so now your back in the  
 church?

FATHER CARMINE  
 Pray for the souls of the  
 thousands that have no way out...

BILLY  
 You're a good man...

From off screen a lady's voice is heard, the group all turn  
 from thier conversation. A man and woman stand there in the  
 headlights. They are holding hands.

BRENDA  
 Hello. I'm sorry...

EDDIE  
 We're here for the boat, did we  
 miss it?

BILLY  
 No, it's on it's way...you are in  
 time.

BRENDA  
 Oh thank god.

PAUL  
Join the club folks...

BLACK SCREEN WHITE LETTERS: BRENDA AND EDDIE

BRENDA and EDDIE walk to the group.

BILLY  
I guess since we're all on the same path I should introduce. I am BILL, that's PAUL there, FATHER CARMINE, his daughter VIRGINIA, ANTHONY and...

BOBBY  
BOB. Nice to meet you guys.

EDDIE  
Same here... how long you all been waiting?

PAUL  
Just about all night- give or take.

BRENDA  
You do still think the boat is coming don't you?

BILLY  
Positive. It will be here...

VIRGINIA  
So are you guys together?

EDDIE  
Together?

VIRGINIA  
Yea, like a couple?

BRENDA  
(smiles)  
Oh, I see. I guess it would look that way.

EDDIE  
Yea, no we're not... together. Just here right now together.

PAUL  
Sounds complicated.

ANTHONY

I'll say. Very complicated.

FATHER CARMINE

Now guys, let them be. I am sure  
you have reasons.

EDDIE

It's OK, see we used to be, ya  
know together together but things  
got...I dunno.

BILLY

(jokes)  
Complicated?

EDDIE

Exactly.

BRENDA

And we promised we would help each  
other if we ever needed it, and  
with all this terrible stuff going  
on we needed eachother's help.

EDDIE

I heard about the boat and she was  
the only person I could think to  
call.

PAUL

(jokes)  
Sweet, how cute!

BILLY

Now, now I think it is.

PAUL

You would Piano man!

VIRGINIA

I think so too. Tell us, what  
happened?

EDDIE

It's a long story...we'd need a  
lot of time.

ANTHONY

So how come you to never hooked  
up?

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

EDDIE sits across from BRENDA by the window at an Italian Restaurant. The table riddled with glasses and wine bottles. They sing.

EDDIE

(sings)

A bottle of white, a bottle of red  
Perhaps a bottle of rose instead  
We'll get a table near the street  
In our old familiar place  
You and I--face to face

A bottle of red, a bottle of white  
It all depends on your appetite  
I'll meet you any time you want  
In our Italian Restaurant.

They jump up and dance through the tables or people eating.

BRENDA

(sings)

Things are okay with me these days  
Got a good job, got a good office  
Got a new wife, got a new life  
And the family's fine  
We lost touch long ago  
You lost weight  
I did not know  
You could ever look so good after  
So much time.

EDDIE

(and BRENDA)

I remember those days hanging out  
At the village green  
Engineer boots, leather jackets  
And tight blue jeans  
Drop a dime in the box play the  
Song about New Orleans  
Cold beer, hot lights  
My sweet romantic teenage nights

As they sing, they act out the lyrics as they relive moments of their lives together.

BRENDA

(sings)

Brenda and Eddie were the popular  
steadies  
And the king and the queen of the  
prom  
Riding around with the car top

(MORE)

BRENDA (cont'd)  
 down and the radio on  
 Nobody looked any finer  
 Or was more of a hit at the  
 Parkway Diner  
 We never knew we could want more  
 than that out of life  
 Surely Brenda and Eddie would  
 always know how to survive.

EDDIE  
 (sings)  
 Brenda and Eddie were still going  
 steady in the summer of '75  
 When they decided the marriage  
 would be at the end of July  
 Everyone said they were crazy  
 "Brenda you know you're much too  
 lazy  
 Eddie could never afford to live  
 that kind of life."  
 But there we were wavin' Brenda  
 and Eddie goodbye.

They got an apartment with deep  
 pile carpet  
 And a couple of paintings from  
 Sears  
 A big waterbed that they bought  
 with the bread  
 They had saved for a couple of  
 years  
 They started to fight when the  
 money got tight  
 And they just didn't count on the  
 tears.

BRENDA  
 (and EDDIE)  
 They lived for a while in a very  
 nice style  
 But it's always the same in the  
 end  
 They got a divorce as a matter of  
 course  
 And they parted the closest of  
 friends  
 Then the king and the queen went  
 back to the green  
 But you can never go back there  
 again.

BRENDA

(sings)

Brenda and Eddie had had it  
 already  
 By the summer of '75  
 From the high to the low  
 To the end of the show  
 For the rest of their lives  
 They couldn't go back to the  
 greasers  
 The best they could do was pick up  
 the pieces  
 We always knew they would both  
 find a way to get by  
 That's all I heard about Brenda  
 and Eddie  
 Can't tell you more than I told  
 you already  
 And here we are wavin' Brenda and  
 Eddie goodbye.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

BRENDA and EDDIE sit int he table by the window- in love,  
 gazing at one another.

BRENDA

(and EDDIE)

A bottle of red, and bottle of  
 white  
 Whatever kind of mood you're in  
 tonight  
 I'll meet you anytime you want  
 In our Italian Restaurant.

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

BRENDA and EDDIE finish telling their story. The others  
 listen closely. PAUL lightens the moment.

PAUL

That's the thing about living in  
 the moment, it always will pass.

VIRGINIA

I think it's romantic...

BILLY

I am glad you could be there for  
 each other... gives us all  
 something to look forward to.

A loud horn is heard. They all turn to the dock end, a boat is coming.

FATHER CARMINE

There it is!

BILLY

Here we go, I knew it would come.

PAUL

About damn time!

They begin to all make thier way down to the end of the dock. The boat docks and a man with a beard talks to the crowd from the captain's deck.

CAPTAIN JACK

I'm CAPTAIN JACK, and I am here to take you down river. I don't know who you are, and I don't wanna know who you are- I have 7 spots open and only 7. So come on up and move fast!

BILLY

Wait! Seven spots? We have eight people here.

CAPTAIN JACK

Too bad son, my crew members come first and I have a sick cook. He needs to lay down and takes up a spot. One of you will have to stay- I'm sorry.

ANTHONY

But who's gonna stay behind?

BOBBY

This is nuts... I'm not staying.

PAUL

Me either, I am goin.

CAPTAIN JACK

5 minutes I leave with seven of you.

CAPTAIN JACK heads in. BILLY turns to the crowd.

BILLY

OK, ok lets see. We don't have much time to decide.

PAUL

No this is wrong... it can't be this way.

BILLY

Fact is it's unfair but its reality. So...VIRGINIA you have to go, your dad too. ANTHONY and BRENDA and EDDIE go. PAUL, you too and BOBBY as well.

ANTHONY

And you? Your going to stay?

BILLY

What can I do? I would rather seven of us live long lives than die here on this dock... it's the only way.

Silence. Then FATHER CARMINE steps up.

FATHER CARMINE

No, there is another way. I am staying.

VIRGINIA

(mad)

WHAT? No way.

BILLY

No, no way, you're getting on that boat.

FATHER CARMINE

Son, I have lived a long life- you have many years left to make a difference.

FATHER CARMINE turns to his daughter.

FATHER CARMINE

Go with them, be safe, have my grand baby and love him like you never loved before. I will see you again...

VIRGINIA

(crying)

Daddy, please...

FATHER CARMINE

(hugs her)

I love you VIRGINIA, always.

FATHER CARMINE looks to all the crowd and then to BILLY.

FATHER CARMINE

Look after my girl. I will pray  
for all of you- it was a blessing  
to have met you all.

BILLY nods and one by one they begin to get on board the ship. BILLY gets VIRGINIA on and she blows a kiss to her father. BILLY gets on and unties the rope. Flashes are seen in the sky and the boat engine starts up. FATHER CARMINE stands on the dock looking at the boat pull away. The others all sad, stare at him as BILLY hold VIRGINIA close. Before long, sirens are heard and FATHER CARMINE cannot see the boat in the distance.

FATHER CARMINE

(sings)

Goodnight, my angel  
Time to close your eyes  
And save these questions for  
another day  
I think I know what you've been  
asking me  
I think you know what I've been  
trying to say  
I promised I would never leave you  
And you should always know  
Wherever you may go  
No matter where you are  
I never will be far away

Goodnight, my angel  
Now it's time to sleep  
And still so many things I want to  
say  
Remember all the songs you sang  
for me  
When we went sailing on an emerald  
bay  
And like a boat out on the ocean  
I'm rocking you to sleep  
The water's dark  
And deep inside this ancient heart  
You'll always be a part of me

Goodnight, my angel  
Now it's time to dream  
And dream how wonderful your life  
will be

(MORE)

FATHER CARMINE (cont'd)

Someday your child may cry  
 And if you sing this lullabye  
 Then in your heart  
 There will always be a part of me

Someday we'll all be gone  
 But lullabyes go on and on...  
 They never die  
 That's how you  
 And I  
 Will be

When done FATHER CARMINE finds his collar on the dock ground and picks it up. Puts it back on and smiles up at the sky. He then turns, and walks into the darkness. Bombs are heard in the distance. The light on the dock, goes out.

TEN YEARS LATER

EXT. BUS STATION- PENNSYLVANIA - DAY

An older BILLY steps out of the bus station with his hat in hand. He looks around and begins to walk down the road.

EXT. CARNIVAL- GROUNDS - NIGHT

BILLY arrives at the Carnival and sees many people playing games and riding rides. He smiles as he makes his way past them and to a tent marked PRIVATE, he takes a breath and enters the tent.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

As BILLY walks in he sees everyone and they let out a collective "HEY!!!" BILLY tears up and walks to them. VIRGINIA is first to meet him with a small child in hand. BILLY kisses her cheek and bends down to the boy.

BILLY

(to boy)

Hey there fella? How are you?

VIRGINIA

(older)

It's good to see you again BILL.  
 Meet my son, William Carmine.

BILLY  
(tears)  
Oh VIRGINIA...

They hug. Next, PAUL comes over and shakes BILLY'S hand.

PAUL  
(older)  
Look who it is!

BILLY  
PAUL, how are you?

BILLY sees a ring on PAUL'S finger.

BILLY  
Well I see!

PAUL  
(smiles)  
Who knew huh?

An older ANTHONY comes up to BILLY, and hugs him.

ANTHONY  
Been so long my friend! You look  
great.

BILLY  
Ha, and you still look to young-  
just like that night on the dock.  
Haven't ages a bit!

BILLY sees BRENDA and EDDIE there as well. He walks to them.  
They smile.

BILLY  
And you too?

EDDIE  
What? Still friends...

BRENDA  
Best of friends...good to see you  
BILL.

BILLY  
(jokes)  
You too will never learn ha!

ANTHONY  
Where is BOBBY?

BILLY

I uh, heard last year- he died.  
Cancer of the lungs. He didn't  
know...but he did make it back  
west. God Bless him.

PAUL passes out drinks.

PAUL

Lets toast... to BOBBY, to FATHER  
CARMINE, to CAPTAIN JACK, and to  
each other. We will always have  
eachother.

They all clang glasses and drink. Music starts in the back  
ground. They exit the tent and begin to sing as they ride,  
play games, and enjoy each other for that one night.

EXT. CARNIVAL - NIGHT

"BILLY lives in New Jersey. He opened his Piano Bar in  
Newark and named it CARMINE'S. He now no longer plays piano  
but still loves the faces of his customers"

BILLY

(sings)

Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red  
China, Johnny Ray  
South Pacific, Walter Winchell,  
Joe DiMaggio

Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon,  
Studebaker, Television  
North Korea, South Korea, Marilyn  
Monroe

"PAUL lived in Boston for a while, but was killed by a drunk  
driver recently. He was married to a girl from Brooklyn. She  
still lives there today."

PAUL

(sings)

Rosenbergs, H Bomb, Sugar Ray,  
Panmunjom  
Brando, The King And I, and The  
Catcher In The Rye

Eisenhower, Vaccine, England's got  
a new queen  
Maciano, Liberace, Santayana  
goodbye

BILLY

(w/ ALL)

We didn't start the fire  
 It was always burning  
 Since the world's been turning  
 We didn't start the fire  
 No we didn't light it  
 But we tried to fight it

"ANTHONY graduated from Brown. He is a teacher of law in Philadelphia where he is engaged to a blonde girl named Annabelle."

ANTHONY

(sings)

Joseph Stalin, Malenkov, Nasser  
 and Prokofiev  
 Rockefeller, Campanella, Communist  
 Bloc

Roy Cohn, Juan Peron, Toscanini,  
 Dancron  
 Dien Bien Phu Falls, Rock Around  
 the Clock

"VIRGINIA lives in Washington DC with her son. He is in school and she works as a waitress at night and banker by day. She recently paid a visit to her father's grave located in Patterson NJ."

VIRGINIA

(sings)

Einstein, James Dean, Brooklyn's  
 got a winning team  
 Davy Crockett, Peter Pan, Elvis  
 Presley, Disneyland

Bardot, Budapest, Alabama,  
 Khrushchev  
 Princess Grace, Peyton Place,  
 Trouble in the Suez

BILLY

(w/ ALL)

We didn't start the fire  
 It was always burning  
 Since the world's been turning  
 We didn't start the fire  
 No we didn't light it  
 But we tried to fight it

"Brenda is married, and still keeps in contact with EDDIE from time to time. She owns a dry cleaning store in Miami."

BRENDA

(sings)

Little Rock, Pasternak, Mickey  
Mantle, Kerouac  
Sputnik, Chou En-Lai, Bridge On  
The River Kwai

Lebanon, Charles de Gaulle,  
California baseball  
Starkwether, Homicide, Children of  
Thalidomide  
Buddy Holly, Ben Hur, Space  
Monkey, Mafia  
Hula Hoops, Castro, Edsel is a  
no-go

"EDDIE never married. He is motivational speaker and travels a lot. He has no kids and anytime he is Miami he takes BRENDA out for a nice Italian dinner."

EDDIE

(sings)

U2, Syngman Rhee, payola and  
Kennedy  
Chubby Checker, Psycho, Belgians  
in the Congo

BILLY

(w/ ALL)

We didn't start the fire  
It was always burning  
Since the world's been turning  
We didn't start the fire  
No we didn't light it  
But we tried to fight it

BILLY

(sings)

Hemingway, Eichman, Stranger in a  
Strange Land  
Dylan, Berlin, Bay of Pigs  
invasion

Lawrence of Arabia, British  
Beatlemania  
Ole Miss, John Glenn, Liston beats  
Patterson

VIRGINIA

(sings)

Pope Paul, Malcolm X, British  
Politician sex  
J.F.K. blown away, what else do I  
(MORE)

VIRGINIA (cont'd)

have to say

BILLY

(w/ ALL)

We didn't start the fire  
It was always burning  
Since the world's been turning  
We didn't start the fire  
No we didn't light it  
But we tried to fight it

PAUL

(sings)

Birth control, Ho Chi Minh,  
Richard Nixon back again  
Moonshot, Woodstock, Watergate,  
punk rock

ANTHONY

(sings)

Begin, Reagan, Palestine, Terror  
on the airline  
Ayatollah's in Iran, Russians in  
Afghanistan

BRENDA

(sings)

Wheel of Fortune, Sally Ride,  
heavy metal, suicide  
Foreign debts, homeless Vets,  
AIDS, Crack, Bernie Goetz

EDDIE

(sings)

Hypodermics on the shores, China's  
under martial law  
Rock and Roller cola wars, I can't  
take it anymore

BILLY

(w/ ALL)

We didn't start the fire  
It was always burning  
Since the world's been turning  
We didn't start the fire  
No we didn't light it  
But we tried to fight it

Fire works end the night with the groups dancing under the  
night sky. FADE

FADE OUT.