

JUST THE TEN OF US

"Working The Tables"

written by

James Larry Sanders Jr.

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CAST

GRAHAM LUBBOCK.....BILL KIRCHENBAUER
ELIZABETH LUBBOCK.....DEBORAH HARMON
MARIE LUBBOCK.....HEATHER LANGENKAMP
CINDY LUBBOCK.....JAMIE LUNER
WENDY LUBBOCK.....BROOKE THEISS
CONNIE LUBBOCK.....JO ANN WILLETTE
J.R. LUBBOCK.....MATT SHAKMAN
SHERRY LUBBOCK.....HEIDI ZEIGLER

GUEST CAST

DANNY.....JOHNNY DARK
PEABO BRYSON.....HIMSELF
WAITRESS.....DEE DEE RESCHER
SANTOS.....RUBEN RABASA
ITALIAN GUY.....RICHARD ROMERO

COLD OPEN

EXT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - NIGHT

THE SIGN OUTSIDE READS: "THE LUBBOCK BABES. 133RD SMASH WEEK!"

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - DINING ROOM

THE LUBBOCK BABES TAKE A BOW TO YET ANOTHER GRATEFUL AUDIENCE.

MARIE

Thank you! Thank you very much. We'd love to stay, but it's getting late, and Wendy here doesn't want to miss Crimetime After Primetime.

WENDY

Speak for yourself, Marie. What she really means to say is: we've got a real showstopper to close out the night.

DANNY WALKS IN UNEXPECTEDLY.

DANNY
(interrupting)

Oh, you got that right. Because we've got a very special guest joining The Lubbock Babes, tonight.

CONNIE

Oh no! Sherry followed us here again?!
Dad is going to kill us.

DANNY

Oh, after missing this performance,
the only thing your Dad is going to
kill is himself!

CINDY

Daddy, no!!! There's so much to live
for!!!

EVERYONE GIVE CINDY A WEIRD LOOK.

DANNY

I don't mean that literally, of
course. But he's going to wish he was
here. Ladies and gentlemen, please
welcome to the stage Grammy-nominated
recording artist, and a close,
personal friend of mine: Mister Peabo
Bryson!

PEABO WALKS ON STAGE TO THE SURPRISE OF THE LUBBOCK BABES.
CONNIE WHISPERS TO HER SISTERS.

CONNIE

Nobody told us we had a guest star!

PEABO

Thank you, Danny. You know, when this
man right here told me that he had
four of the hottest vocal talents in
years working in his pizza joint, I
thought he was just pulling my leg.
After all, this is a man who says he
used to date Ann-Margret.

(MORE)

PEABO (CONT'D)

But after hearing these ladies sing
for the past hour I have to
say...they're alright. In all
seriousness, though; would one of you
Lubbock Babes like to come on over and
sing something with me?

CINDY RAISES HER HAND.

CINDY

Ooh! Me! Me!

WENDY HOLDS HER BACK.

WENDY

Back off, Cindy. You've already sung
with one famous soul singer this
season.

WHILE CINDY AND WENDY STRUGGLE, PEABO POINTS AT CONNIE.

PEABO

Hey, what about you?

CONNIE IS STARTLED.

CONNIE

What? Me? No, I couldn't. I
have...something backstage...that I
have to...do...now.

CONNIE HIDES BEHIND THE CURTAINS, THEN PULLS CINDY AND WENDY
BACKSTAGE, TOO.

PEABO

I guess it's just you and me, uh...

MARIE
(nervous)

Marie.

PEABO

Yeah. Come on and sing with me.

MARIE

But what will we sing?

PEABO

Whatever you want.

MARIE

There's only one song left on the
program.

PEABO

Perfect, Danny just showed it to me.

MARIE

Do you mind singing the first verse?

PEABO

No problem.

Over and over.

I used to wonder why.

Love never wandered into my life.

MARIE

Looking around me.

I saw it everywhere.

Everyone one else had someone to care.

PEABO

I saw my sad reflection in their eyes.

MARIE

*I was afraid that love had passed me
by.*

MARIE/PEABO

*And I looked up and you were there
We looked so deep.*

MARIE

My heart was fast asleep.

MARIE/PEABO

*But I reached out and you were there
To warm my nights.*

PEABO

I think the dream just might.

MARIE/PEABO

*Be about to come true
Baby, the dream is you.*

A SAX SOLO STARTS PLAYING.

MARIE/PEABO (CONT'D)

*Oh, you were there
To warm my nights.*

MARIE

I think the dream just might.

MARIE/PEABO

*Be about to come true
Baby, the dream is you.*

FADE OUT.

ACT I

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - BACKSTAGE

MARIE LEAVES THE STAGE TO A SMATTERING OF APPLAUSE, AND MOVES HER WAY BACKSTAGE.

MARIE IS GREETED BY HER SISTERS, FOLDING THEIR ARMS IN DISAPPROVAL.

CINDY

Well, so much for sticking together.

MARIE

What are you talking about? You and Wendy were fighting, Connie chickened out.

CONNIE

Hey, I didn't chicken out.

MARIE

Really? I could see the Colonel fixing to fry up your thighs.

WENDY

You still could have left the stage in solidarity, Marie.

MARIE

What?! I couldn't leave Danny's guest out there by himself. As you always say Wendy, the show must go on.

WENDY

Not without me!

MARIE PAUSES FOR HALF A SECOND.

MARIE

I did great out there didn't I?

THE MOOD TURNS HAPPY AGAIN AS THE GIRLS CELEBRATE MARIE'S PERFORMANCE.

CONNIE

Like a Grammy-nominee!

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - DINING ROOM

THE GIRLS START HEADING OUT, PASSING DANNY AS HE COUNTS HIS PROFITS FOR THE EVENING.

WENDY

We're rollin'!

DANNY

Out of sight, ladies! Groovy performance, as usual.

AS THE LUBBOCK BABES LEAVE, PEABO APPROACHES DANNY.

PEABO

Hey, Danny, can I talk to you for a minute?

DANNY

Sure! What can I do for ya?

PEABO

Well, I was led to believe that I would've...geez, I didn't want to make a big deal about this, but I thought I would've been paid by now.

DANNY

Oh, come on, Peabo. You can't stop by to help out your ol' friend Danny?

PEABO

Uh, Danny, not to be rude; but we're not really "old friends".

DANNY

We're not?

PEABO

No, we met one time on a flight to Tulsa.

DANNY

Oh, I remember that. Thanks for letting me use your barf bag, by the way.

PEABO

No problem. But I came all the way out here to Eureka, I really need that money.

DANNY

Oh, don't worry. I'm good for it.

PEABO

Right now, Danny.

DANNY

Uh...heh heh, you're not going to beat me up or anything, are you?

PEABO

What? No. I'm a man of peace. But it's not me you need to be worried about, but my manager.

DANNY

Your manager?

PEABO

Yeah, Ari Melman.

DANNY GULPS.

DANNY

Melman...the Mangler?

PEABO

We'll be in touch, Danny.

PEABO LEAVES.

DANNY

Oh, Danny. You've really got yourself in a pickle, now. This money's barely enough to pay my employees. How am I gonna pay Peabo?

DANNY THINKS FOR A MINUTE.

FLIP TO:

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - DINING ROOM - DAY

DANNY IS ON STAGE TALKING TO HIS EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ASSEMBLED IN FRONT OF HIM, RAMBLING AMONGST THEMSELVES.

DANNY

Alright, alright; keep cool, babies.

WAITRESS

What do you mean keep cool? You dragged us all here on our day off and you expect us to be pleasant?

DANNY

Hey, don't worry about a thing, 'cause
Danny's got some good news.

SANTOS, A MUSTACHIOED LINE COOK, INTERJECTS TOWARDS WAITRESS.

SANTOS

Good news? Danny never has good news!
I don't like where this is going.

DANNY

Have some faith, Santos. Now there is
some bad news I need to get to first.

SANTOS

I knew it! I knew it was bad!

DANNY

Hey, our guest last night cost me a
pretty penny. So we're a little low on
the ol' dinero, and we had to make
some budget cuts.

WAITRESS

You're not replacing the beer with
automotive fluid again, are you?

DANNY

Hey, Danny's Pizzeria has an
unwavering commitment to quality.

SANTOS

Quality? Ha! Santos is still using
imitation cheese from Nineteen-Eighty-
Three!

DANNY

How else can I say we use aged cheese?

WAITRESS

And the last time we bought new uniforms, the Newhart show was still on.

DANNY

The one where he's an innkeeper?

WAITRESS

No, the one where he was a shrink.

THE EMPLOYEES START RABBLING AGAIN.

DANNY

Hey. Hey. You haven't even let me get to the good news. Now, while I get our budget squared away, I've decided to give you all the month off!

WAITRESS

With pay?

DANNY

Well, with money being as tight as it is...

THE EMPLOYEES LEAVE IN DISGUST, BUT NOT BEFORE SANTOS LEAVES WITH A PARTING WORD.

SANTOS

Nobody stiffs Santos! Nobody! I see you in Hell! Or a month, whichever comes first.

DANNY, NOW ALONE, LOOKS AT HIS EMPTY RESTAURANT.

DANNY

Now what I do I do? I've cut payroll,
but who's going to run the restaurant?
And who would be dumb enough to work
for free?

AFTER A BIT OF THINKING, DANNY HAS AN IDEA.

FLIP TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

CINDY ANSWERS THE PHONE.

CINDY

Hello? Oh, hi Danny! What's up?

CINDY LISTENS AS WENDY COMES DOWN THE STAIRS.

CINDY (CONT'D)

You want us to come in tonight? Gee, I
don't know.

WENDY

Who are you talking to?

CINDY COVERS THE TOP END OF THE RECEIVER.

CINDY

I'm talking to Danny.

WENDY

What does he want?

CINDY

He wants us to come in tonight.

WENDY

He does?!

WENDY GRABS THE PHONE FROM CINDY.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Hiyee! I know what you're calling about, and we would love to come in tonight. Heck, we'll come in every night if you want us to. We'll be there to greet our public at seven. Bye-ee!

WENDY HANGS UP.

WENDY (CONT'D)

The deal is done.

CINDY

Oh, good! What deal?

WENDY

Well, with Danny calling us to come in tonight, I can only assume it's because he wants us to perform. After all, we're the whole reason anybody goes to his ratty ol' pizzeria in the first place.

CONNIE RUNS IN FROM THE KITCHEN, SHE PLOTS HERSELF ON THE COUCH AS MARIE RUNS IN AFTER HER.

CONNIE

Back off, Marie! I want to watch Oprah.

MARIE

But PBS is doing a documentary on Pope Pius.

CONNIE

Which one?

MARIE

Does it matter?!

WENDY

Hey, would you two cut it out?! We got to get ready to perform at Danny's.

MARIE

Wendy! It's a school night!

WENDY

Yeah, and now we can spend our school nights making mon-ay.

CONNIE

Why would Danny want us to perform on a Monday?

WENDY SHRUGS.

WENDY

How should I know? We got a gig, that's all that matters.

ELIZABETH WALKS IN THROUGH THE KITCHEN.

ELIZABETH

Hey girls, can you help me with the groceries?

CINDY

Okay, Mom!

MARIE

Wait a minute! Aren't any of you going to tell her about Danny?

WENDY
(slyly whispering)

Quiet, Marie.

ELIZABETH

What's this about Danny?

MARIE

Wendy was planning on...

WENDY JUMPS IN FRONT OF MARIE AND COVERS HER MOUTH.

WENDY

Going to study hall. Gotta hit those books, buckle down, apply myself.

ELIZABETH

Wendy, I don't believe that any more than I believed your dad when he said he was going to the gym.

CONNIE

Was that the time you caught him at Denny's with a stack of pancakes that was taller than me?

ELIZABETH

No, I'm talking about the time I caught your father at Marie Callender's wrist deep in his fourth custard pie.

MARIE PEELS WENDY HAND OFF OF HER MOUTH.

MARIE

Mom! Wendy told Danny that we were going to perform tonight!

ELIZABETH

Oh, really?

WENDY

Mom, don't you see?! We're bonafide recording artists, now. We've got to start spreading our wings a little bit.

ELIZABETH

When does he want you there?

WENDY

Seven o'clock.

ELIZABETH

Do any of you have any homework?

CONNIE

Not tonight.

ELIZABETH

Well, I don't see the harm in one extra performance. We could sure use the money.

CINDY

Really, Mom?!

ELIZABETH

Just make sure you're all back by nine, okay?

WENDY

Will do, Mom!

ELIZABETH

And will the rest of you hold Wendy to
that promise?

MARIE SIGHS.

MARIE

I suppose I must play the role of
mother superior, once again.

WENDY

Thanks. I'm going to go find my
leopard print tights.

WENDY RUNS UPSTAIRS, MARIE FOLLOWS CLOSELY.

MARIE

Oh, no you're not, Wendy! I'm not
having my sister going on stage
dressed like a slutty cheetah!

FADE TO:

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

THE GIRLS ARRIVE AT DANNY'S IN THEIR LUBBOCK BABES BEST.

WENDY

We're here!

DANNY

Hey, ladies! You're a little
overdressed don't you think?

WENDY

What do you mean? We always dress this way when we're here.

DANNY

Well, I suppose you can just wear one of these aprons over your outfit, I guess. Don't want to mess those up for Friday, you know.

CINDY

It's not Friday, Danny, it's Monday.

DANNY

Oh, I know. I remembered to flip my calendar today.

MARIE

Aren't we going to sing, tonight?

DANNY

For this crowd?! They wouldn't know good music if it bit 'em on the keister.

CONNIE

Then why are we here?

DANNY

To work, of course!

DANNY THROWS AN APRON TO EACH OF THE GIRLS.

MARIE

Work?!

CONNIE

Here?!

CINDY
(on the verge of tears)

But I just did my nails.

WENDY

Oh God, I'm getting out of here!

WENDY RUNS TOWARDS THE DOOR, ONLY TO FIND IT LOCKED.

DANNY

I'll think you will find, Miss
Lubbock, that escape is impossible.

CINDY

But if you locked the door, how are
your customers supposed to get in?

DANNY THINKS FOR A SECOND, THEN GOES TO THE DOOR AND UNLOCKS
IT.

DANNY

It all worked out so well in my head.
But don't leave, or you can forget
about singing this weekend.

WENDY GETS LEERING LOOKS FROM HER SISTERS.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - KITCHEN - NIGHT

CONNIE, MARIE, AND WENDY ARE PUTTING THEIR APRONS ON.

CONNIE

Nice going, Wendy.

WENDY

What did I do? Danny said to come over tonight. I thought he wanted us to perform.

CONNIE

On a Monday?!

WENDY

Okay, maybe in hindsight, I was a little hasty.

CONNIE

Hasty, Wendy? Dumb is more like it. You and Cindy really are twins, aren't you?

CINDY IS HEARD CRYING IN THE CORNER.

MARIE

Cindy, what's wrong?

CINDY

What's wrong?! Look at me!

MARIE

It's just an apron.

CINDY

No, it's terrible. See how it makes me
look?!

MARIE

Cindy, it's not that bad.

CINDY

Yes, it is! I look frumpy. I look
homely. I look...like you!

DANNY COMES WALKING IN.

DANNY

Hey, what's the hold up We've got
customers waiting, here!

CINDY

What are we supposed to do now?

DANNY

You and Marie go and serve the
customers, of course.

CONNIE

What are me and Wendy supposed to do?

DANNY

Well, somebody has to make the pizza.

DANNY LEAVES, LEADING CINDY AND MARIE OUT.

CONNIE

We have to make the pizza?!

WENDY

That book report on Chaucer is
sounding pretty good right now.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

DANNY LEADS MARIE TO THE FRONT.

MARIE

Danny, what are we supposed to do?

DANNY

Simple, babe! You just give people a
table, and Cindy will bring them their
food.

MARIE

Are you sure Cindy can handle
something so complicated?

DANNY LEAVES MARIE ALONE.

DANNY (O.S.)

I can't hear you!

MARIE

Okay, it's a simple job. You've seen
them do this a million times before.
Just give them their menus, lead them
to their table, and smile. How hard
can it be?

A MALE CUSTOMER WALKS IN.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Hello, welcome to Danny's. Would you like a seat?

CUSTOMER

Is your lap available?

MARIE SCOWLS, THEN FEIGNS A SMILE.

MARIE

Uh, we have several tables available. Would you like to sit near the stage?

CUSTOMER

Which table is downwind of you?

MARIE

What kind of question is that?

CUSTOMER

The kind of question I ask everyone with blue eyes like yours. Mind taking your glasses off for me, sweetie?

MARIE

Oh, I'll take something off, alright.

MARIE TRIES TO WIND UP A PUNCH, BUT DANNY PUTS A MENU IN HER HAND BEFORE SHE CAN MAKE A FIST.

DANNY

Hey, hey, hey, what's going on? Give this man a table, Marie.

MARIE

Fine.

MARIE SCOWLS AS DANNY LEAVES.

MARIE (CONT'D)
(to the customer)

If you say another word, I'm going to
turn you into pepperoni.

CUSTOMER

No need. I brought my own.

CINDY PASSES BY ANOTHER CUSTOMER ALREADY SEATED, THIS ONE
WITH A THICK ITALIAN ACCENT.

ITALIAN GUY

Scusi, miss.

CINDY

Oh, welcome to Danny's. I'm Cindy. Can
I take your order?

ITALIAN GUY

Do you have any bastardo del grappa?

CINDY STANDS IN PLACE, NOT RESPONDING.

ITALIAN GUY (CONT'D)

Miss? Miss? I asked you if you had any
bastardo del grappa?

CINDY

Uh...I think we have a shipment of
that coming in tomorrow.

ITALIAN GUY

Okay, well what about palle del nonno?

CINDY STARES INTO SPACE.

ITALIAN GUY (CONT'D)

Coglioni di mulo?!

CINDY STAYS SILENT, HER EMPTY STARE EXPRESSING HER
EXISTENTIAL CONFUSION.

ITALIAN GUY (CONT'D)

Well, you've got to at least have some capers.

CINDY

Oh, we have lots of capers. There was this one time me and Wendy got stuck in the boy's locker room by mistake and we had to climb through the window to get out. Or was it me and Robbie Countryman? I don't remember. So, where was I? Oh yeah, welcome to Danny's, I'm Cindy, can I take your order?

THE ITALIAN GUY GETS UP.

ITALIAN GUY

It's clear I'm not going to find any authentic cucina Italiana here. I'm going to Little Caesars!

THE ITALIAN GUY LEAVES.

CINDY

Oh, can I come?!

CINDY SMILES IN HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION, BUT HER EXPRESSION DIMINISHES AS SHE REALIZES THE ITALIAN STRANGER WILL NOT, IN FACT, BE INVITING HER TO LITTLE CAESARS.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - KITCHEN

MARIE WALKS IN TO HAND A CUSTOMER'S ORDER IN TO CONNIE AND WENDY.

MARIE

(angry)

Here's an order from some loathsome
swine. Don't forget to spit in it!

MARIE LEAVES. WENDY SCOFFS.

WENDY

Not unless he pays extra.

WENDY STARTS TOSSING THE PIZZA DOUGH IN THE AIR.

CONNIE

What are you doing?!

WENDY

I'm tossing the dough. I've seen 'em
do this a million times.

CONNIE

Wendy, that takes years of practice!

WENDY

Well, why not start now?

CONNIE

You keep doing that, that dough is
just going to end up on your face.

WENDY

Yeah, right. Like this is going to
turn into some kind of sitcom sight
gag.

THE DOUGH LANDS PERFECTLY FLAT ON THE PAN IN FRONT OF WENDY.
CONNIE IS STUNNED.

WENDY (CONT'D)

See? What did I tell you?

WENDY WALKS AWAY. CONNIE STARTS PUTTING THE SAUCE ON THE DOUGH WHILE SHE STEWS AT WENDY'S GOOD FORTUNE.

CONNIE

Figures. Wendy can get anything to lie flat.

FADE TO:

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - DINING ROOM

DANNY WAVES TO HIS LAST CUSTOMER.

DANNY

Okay, Warren. Maybe I'll be able to finagle an impromptu performance from the girls tomorrow. See you then!

DANNY CLOSSES THE DOOR. HE STARTS COUNTING HIS MONEY FOR THE NIGHT.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Singing servers. What an idea! This walkout might've been the best thing to happen to this place.

DANNY STOPS IN HIS TRACKS AS THE GIRLS COME UP TO HIM.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hey, there's my gravy train!

MARIE

Danny, this was all...oh, who am I kidding, this was awful.

DANNY

Hey, nobody said running a restaurant was easy...

DANNY SPOTS SOMETHING IN HIS WAD OF CASH AND PULLS IT OUT.

DANNY (CONT'D)

See! What am I supposed to do with a hundred Canadian dollars?!

WENDY

Speaking of small change; we were just wondering, you know, how much we're going to be paid for tonight.

DANNY

Well...I was thinking this could be part of your gig for the week. You can serve, and you can sing. You'll be an even hotter attraction than before.

CINDY

So how much more will we be getting for this singing and serving?

DANNY

Well...you know the economy isn't quite back to where it should be and...

CONNIE

You're not giving us anything, are you?

DANNY

Well...

THE GIRLS LEAVE.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hey, don't go, Babes!

CONNIE

Don't call us Babes. Until you release
us from this ridiculous double duty
you have us doing, we're on hiatus!

DANNY

Oh, come on! What are you going to do?
Go on strike?

EXT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - DAY

THE LUBBOCK BABES MARCH OUTSIDE DANNY'S WITH PICKETS SAYING
"DANNY UNFAIR!".

WENDY

One, two, three, four, The Lubbock
Babes deserve much more!

MARIE

Two, four, six, eight, Danny's labor
crimes are great!

CINDY

Three, six, nine, twelve, there are no
words that rhyme with twelve!

GRAHAM PULLS UP NEXT TO THE GIRLS IN THE SUBURBAN.

GRAHAM

There you are! Why aren't you stinkin'
girls in class?!

CONNIE

We're on strike!

GRAHAM

On strike?!

MARIE

Yeah! Danny's expecting us to work for free!

CINDY

And he won't let us sing unless we do!

GRAHAM

Well, who needs him?! Didn't you all have a record deal?

CONNIE

Danny took all the royalties, remember? He said he would pay us in "exposure".

GRAHAM

Oh, right. Well, can't you expose yourself after school?!

THE GIRLS LOOK AT HIM WEIRD. GRAHAM CRINGES.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

On second thought, just keep picketing. Chaucer can wait.

GRAHAM DRIVES AWAY IN SHAME.

WENDY

Oh, who are we kidding?! Danny has us over a barrel!

CONNIE

Yeah, we got to hand it to him. He knows how to play the long con.

MARIE

He promised us a piece of the pie, and
now we're all eating crow.

SUDDENLY, A LIMOUSINE DRIVES UP.

CONNIE

Oh, great. It's probably Danny here to
rub his cabbage in our face.

CINDY

Yeah, this is the worst meal ever.

THE LIMOUSINE STOPS ALONGSIDE THE GIRLS. THE CHAUFFEUR GETS
OUT AND OPENS THE REAR DOOR.

PEABO

Excuse me, ladies. What's going on
here?

MARIE

Peabo! What are you doing here?!

PEABO

I'm more interested in this little
protest you've got going on here. I
didn't know small pizzerias were such
a target for union action.

CONNIE

We're protesting Danny!

WENDY

He overworks us!

MARIE

And underpays us!

CINDY

And he made us eat crow and cabbage!

PEABO

Really? He told me you only sing on the weekends.

CONNIE

Yeah, well now he's making us work during the week. For free!

PEABO

For free?! Oh, geez. If I knew he was going to do this to you, I wouldn't have made him...

WENDY

Made him do what?

PEABO

Uh, nothing. But I think I can help you out here, is Danny in there?

MARIE

Yeah, the snakeman is probably slithering around in there somewhere.

PEABO

Okay, wait here. I'll be right back.

PEABO WALKS TOWARDS THE FRONT DOOR OF DANNY'S.

CONNIE

Am I seeing things?! The person negotiating on our behalf...is Peabo Bryson?!

WENDY

Hey, could be worse. I think Ted
Nugent is handling Dad's will.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - DINING ROOM - DAY

DANNY SITS AT A TABLE, LOOKING FORLORN.

DANNY

Oh, where did I go wrong? Was it the
watered down beer? Was it the salads
with the perfectly browned lettuce?
Was it the Soviet beef in the
meatballs? Doesn't matter now, I don't
have a dime to my name. Oh, Mom is
going to kill me.

PEABO WALKS IN.

PEABO

Danny?

DANNY GETS UP IN A PANIC.

DANNY

Oh, no. Listen Mister Bryson, you'll
get your money. I'll sell everything
in the room if I have to.

DANNY STARTS TAKING OFF HIS SHOES.

DANNY (CONT'D)

See, look. I'll give you my shoes.
They may not look like much, but David
Crosby threw up on them once.

PEABO

Danny, Danny, Danny, listen. I just want to know why your singers are picketing out there.

DANNY

Because they're a bunch of hateful, ungrateful ingrates.

PEABO

Really? Because they told me you made them work all night with no pay.

DANNY

But I was going to pay them Friday.

PEABO

Yeah. Fifty bucks for an entire week's work. How much do you think that works out to per hour?

DANNY HESITATES.

DANNY

Hey, you know math ain't my strong suit.

PEABO

Listen, it's clear to me you're in a bad spot, so why don't you just forget about paying me for now.

DANNY

Really?

PEABO

Really. As long as you rehire your old staff, and let those girls get back to singing; you can pay me back whenever you're in a better place financially.

DANNY LEAPS FROM HIS CHAIR AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY EMBRACES PEABO.

DANNY

Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you.

PEABO

Have you done this to every singer you meet?

DANNY

Just you and Conway Twitty.

FADE TO:

EXT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - NIGHT

CAPTION: A FEW DAYS LATER.

THE SIGN SAYS: "THE LUBBOCK BABES. 134TH SMASH WEEK!"

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - DINING ROOM

THE LUBBOCK BABES ARE ON STAGE, SINGING AGAIN, WITH GRAHAM, ELIZABETH, J.R., AND SHERRY SITTING AT A TABLE.

CINDY/CONNIE/MARIE/WENDY

*Come on, baby, let's get away
Let's save our troubles for another
day
Come go with me, we've got it made
Lemme take you on an escapade.*

ELIZABETH TALKS TO GRAHAM AS THE GIRLS CONTINUE SINGING.

ELIZABETH

It's so nice the girls patched things
up with Danny.

GRAHAM

I'm just glad Santos is back in the
kitchen.

GRAHAM TAKES A BIG BITE OUT OF HIS PIZZA.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Mmmmm, now that's how imitation cheese
is supposed to taste!

J.R.

Let me get this straight, Danny tried
to scam them, and they just forgive
him and pretend like everything's back
to normal?

SHERRY

That's how showbiz works, J.R.. Even I
know that.

J.R.

But why would anyone in their right
mind put up with it?

SHERRY

Well, for one, since when are any of
our sisters in their right mind? But
secondly, everyone in this business
has to pay their dues;

(MORE)

SHERRY (CONT'D)

unless your dad is famous, but that's
a whole 'nother conversation.

J.R.

So that's how show business works,
huh?

SHERRY

Hey, they're the fortunate ones. They
should be lucky someone only took
their labor and money.

J.R.

This conversation sure turned dark.

SHERRY

Hey, at least they gave us something
to say. Now shut up and applaud.

THE FAMILY APPLAUDS THE LUBBOCK BABES AS THEIR PERFORMANCE
ENDS.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II