



CANADIAN BACON

AN AMERICAN MUSICAL

LIBRETTO VOCAL BOOK



Music and Lyrics by **MAXIMILIEN HEIN** *and* **GARRETT BUSS**

Book by **GARRETT BUSS**

Based on an original concept by **DAVID RHOADS** *and* **GARRETT BUSS**

Originally produced for the **Texas State Comedy Association**
at Texas State University San Marcos, TX.

NOTICE: DO NOT DEFACE!

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NOT FOR SALE

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARK

A Reporter in his Twenties. He's naive and idealistic about becoming an "International Journalist." He can come off as too sarcastic for his own good.

JEREMIAH

The owner of the Canadian bacon shop. He's a very friendly dad-type, stereotypically Canadian (though in a different way than the Townspeople are) He looks like Ned Flanders fused with the Bounty paper towel guy.

CLAIRE

The Town Moose tamer. Is in touch with nature like a Canadian Disney princess - birds will land on her finger when she sings.

MOOSE

Claire's pet moose. Never talks, only gestures and emotes silently. Like Snoopy from Peanuts.

MAYOR

Just like The Mayor from Nightmare Before Christmas, but without that face switching thing. He has the thickest Canadian accent of anyone in the show. Sometimes it's almost indecipherable. He's excited to make his town a big deal.

CLOAKED FIGURE

A mysterious figure cast in shadow. Who is he? How does he know the story of the town?

Mr. GRANGINOFFOLIS

Editor of the Newspaper Mark works at. Basically J. Jonah Jameson from Spider-Man. Angry and Boss-like.

TOMMY

A rebellious tween. Very angsty and loud.

TOWNSPEOPLE

Stereotypical Canadians. Strangely nice and willing to constantly break out into song.

TOURISTS

A group of tourists. Some wear sunscreen/have bad farmer's tans even though they are in Canada.

CHESTER

The owner of "Chester's Maple Motel". It's infested with beavers, much to his chagrin.

SONG LIST

- (0) Overture
- (1-A) Canadian Bacon
- (1-B) Journalistic Integrity
- (1-C) Our Little Canadian Town
- (1-D) What Makes This Country Great
- (1-E) Just Look at Them Leaves/Just Look at Me
- (1-F) The Interview Song
- (1-G) I'm Sorry, Eh!
- (1-H) Act One Finale
- (2-A) Let's Get Back to The Story
- (2-B) Gotta Tell Them/A Very Big Day!
- (2-C) I'm Sorry, Eh! (Reprise)
- (2-D) What is This?
- (2-E) Our Little Canadian Town (Reprise)
- (2-F) Now That's a Story
- (2-G) Canadian Bacon (Reprise)

ACT ONE

(0) OVERTURE

SCENE 1

It's softly snowing, a sign with the words "Manjaskatoon: Population 62" which now reads "Population: ???" is placed on a snowbank. A bus (Cutout being lifted Flintstones style) enters SL, it stops, and out comes a small group of 5 tourists being led by a stereotypically Canadian tour guide.

TOUR GUIDE

Well on tha next part o' our tour, we are gonna stop by tha small town o' Manjaskatoon! This place was once tha Canadian Bacon capitol o' tha world, but then one day - exactly one year ago - tha entire town's population mysteriously disappeared, and nobody knows what coulda' happened!

TOURIST 1

(Too loud)

Wow! Did they all die?

TOURIST 2

Or we're they a part of some magic trick by the Canadian version of Mindfreak?

TOURIST 3

Was there maybe a mini-rapture that only affected this one town?

TOUR GUIDE

These are all good questions! Here in Tha Great White North anything could happen! Sadly, there were no witnesses - so the entire event is forever shrouded in mystery and intrigue!

TOURISTS

(All)

OOOOOOOooooooooOOOOOOOooooohhhhHHHHhhhhh!

A Mysterious Cloaked figure wanders out of the shadows SR, lights dim as he's covered in darkness.

CLOAKED FIGURE

I know what happened.

Everyone Gasps!

TOUR GUIDE

Who are ya?

CLOAKED FIGURE

Lets just say I know a thing or two about Manjaskatoon's disappearance.

Thunder and a lightning strike.

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)

This town's tragedy is wrapped in a deadly, dark shadow.

Lighting gets very ominous, spooky spotlight centered on Cloaked Figure.

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)

Sometimes humans can do things so horrible, so ghastly, that resorting to madness is an easier option than accepting that men and women can commit such heinous acts. You want to know this town's story?

Everyone nods - terrified.

MUSICAL CUE

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)

It's an arduous tale, filled with suspense, homicide, and worst of all.... SHOW TUNES!

Everyone Gasps!

(1-A) CANADIAN BACON

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)

GATHER ROUND, AND GET A LOAD OF THIS SPOOKY TALE.

CHORUS

SO SPOOKY, OOKY, SO TERRIBLY, SCARE-ABLY, KOOKY!

CLOAKED FIGURE

SETTLE DOWN, ALL YOU FELLAS AND MADEMOISELLES.

CHORUS

YOU GOTTA GET READY, YOU GOTTA MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE STEADY!

CLOAKED FIGURE

THIS SMALL TOWN, WAS ONCE A NICE AND HOSPITABLE PLACE.

CHORUS

PLA-A-A-A-A-A-A-ACE.

CLOAKED FIGURE

THEIR ALL GONE, THEY VANISHED - DISAPPEARED, WITH NO TRACE.

SO AUDIENCE YOU BEST BEWARE CAUSE THIS PLAY IS CHOCK FULL OF SCARES!

The chorus gets scared, screams.

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)
YES, YOU WILL SURELY SHIT IN YOUR PANTS.

CHORUS
SHIT IN YOUR PANTS, YOU'LL SHIT IN YOUR PANTS.

CLOAKED FIGURE
YOU'LL SEE SONGS, AND SOME JOKES BUT BEFORE THAT WATCH US DANCE!

A dance break.

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)
THIS STORY'S COMEDIC, BUT DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP.

CHORUS
YOU GOTTA LIMIT, GOTTA LIMIT YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

CLOAKED FIGURE
IT'S ENCYCLOPEDIA, THIS TOWN IS DEFINED BY BAD LUCK.

CHORUS
THEY MET A GRIZZLY END, A VERY SCARY HAIRY END!

CLOAKED FIGURE
MANJASKATOON IS GONE, IT'S TOAST. THE ONE THING THAT THEY LOVED THE MOST WAS THEIR -

ALL
CANADIAN BACON.

CLOAKED FIGURE
THIS SHOW'S ALL ABOUT THIS TOWN'S-

ALL
CANADIAN BACON.

CLOAKED FIGURE
YOU'LL SCREAM AND YOU'LL SHOUT FOR THE-

ALL
CANADIAN BACON.
CANADIAN BACON.
CANADIAN BA-

TOURIST 1
WAIT!

I HAVE A QUESTION THAT I'D LIKE TO ASK - PRETTY PLEASE.

MANJASKATOON, WAS IT ATTACKED BY A SWARM OF BEES?
BECAUSE THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE REASON WHY THEY'RE ALL
GONE.

A HIVE THAT RUMBLES, FULL OF BUMBLEBEES, TUMBLING ON!

CLOAKED FIGURE

NOT AT ALL, IT WASN'T BUMBLE BEES - IT'S MUCH WORSE.

CHORUS

WHAT'S WORSE THAN BUMBLE BEES? IS ANYTHING WORSE THAN
BUMBLE BEES?

CLOAKED FIGURE

OVER ALL, THE THINGS THAT LED TO THEIR TERRIBLE CURSE.

CHORUS

THEIR HIVES HANG IN THE TREES, BEWARE OF THE BUMBLE BEES!

CLOAKED FIGURE

THE REASON ALL THE TOWNFOLK, ARE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN-

CHORUS

SEE-E-E-E-E-E-E-EEN!

CLOAKED FIGURE

IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF INSECTS THAT'S JUST DUMB-

TOURIST 1

THAT WAS MEAN...

TOUR GUIDE

DID THEY ALL DROP DEAD AFTER EATING SOME BAD BAKED BEANS?
CANNED GOODS CAN TRULY BE A HAZARD IF THEY'RE NOT CLEAN.
IT'S REALLY SERIOUS, THA THREAT OF FOOD POISON-ING.
MY SISTER KATHRINE GOT LYMPHOMA FROM SPOILED SARDINES!

CLOAKED FIGURE

NO, THEIR-

ALL

CANADIAN BACON.

CLOAKED FIGURE

LED TO THEIR DEMISE.
THAT'S RIGHT-

ALL

CANADIAN BACON.

CLOAKED FIGURE

GOES STRAIGHT TO YOUR THIGHS.
CAUSE THEIR-

ALL

CANADIAN BACON.
CANADIAN BACON.
CANADIAN BA-

TOURIST 2

WAIT!
NEVER MIND...

CLOAKED FIGURE

JUST FOR YOU, WE'VE GOT A MUSICAL SONG BY THESE SCHMUCKS.

CHORUS

A TOURIST CHORUS? A CHORUS OF TOURISTS?

CLOAKED FIGURE

NOW PREPARE, TO SEE A COLOSSAL CASCADE OF CANUCKS.

CHORUS

SO MANY CANADIANS, AND NOT A LOTTA MESOPOTAMIANS!

CLOAKED FIGURE

WE REALLY PROMISE THAT WE'LL START THIS PRODUCTION SOON.

ALL

SO WE CAN SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF MANJASKATOON.
THE TRUTH IS SHOCKING, AND THE ENDING WILL MAKE YOU SWOON!

TOURIST 3

I THINK I GOT IT - THEY GOT SWALLOWED BY A BUHBOON!

Music abruptly stops.

CLOAKED FIGURE

No. Not at all. Also did you say "a buhboon?" Why'd you say it like that?

TOURIST 3

Uh, that's how your supposed to-

CLOAKED FIGURE

It's bAboon. And did you say "A baboon?" Like just one?

TOURIST 3

Yeah.

CLOAKED FIGURE

How big do you think baboons are?

TOURIST 3

... next question.

Music starts again.

CLOAKED FIGURE
WELL ANYWAYS WE'RE JUST ABOUT TO START, AND LEGALLY THIS
COUNTS AS ART!

ALL
IT'S CANADIAN BACON.

CLOAKED FIGURE
WHERE TEMPERATURES LOW-

ALL
THEY GOT CANADIAN BACON.

CLOAKED FIGURE
AND SOON YOU'LL ALL KNOW-

ALL
THIS IS CANADIAN BACON.
CANADIAN BACON.
CANADIAN BACON!

CLOAKED FIGURE
NOW LET'S GET ON WITH THE SHOW.

SCENE 2

A New York Newspaper office one year ago. Mark is sitting at his desk - bored. Lights go down for a second as Cloaked figure comes onstage again.

CLOAKED FIGURE
We take you now to New York City - in the year TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN.

Dramatic sound effect.

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)
Where a Journalist named Mark Ericson is bored at work.

Cloaked figure walks backwards off SL - laughing Manically. Mark isn't doing any work at his desk, just throwing paper balls into the nearby trash can. Once he runs out of paper balls, he pulls out a large bag that says "More Paper Balls" and unzips it. He continues throwing paper balls into the trash can - now filled and overflowing with paper balls - (most of this musical's budget is going into buying Paper Balls.) Just when the audience is getting tired of the paper balls joke, a man that looks just like J. Johna Jameson from Spider-man busts through the door angrily.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS
 EEEERIIICCSOOOOONNN!!!!

MARK
 (Relaxed)
 Hey Mr. Granginoffolis, how are you today?

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS
 Ericson!! What the heck is this?

Mr. G holds up a newspaper.

MARK
 Why, I have no idea what you could be talking abo-

Mr. G starts to read the newspaper.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS
 (Interrupting)
 "7 Squirrel outfits that are too cute for words: An article by Mark Ericson."

Mr. G glares at Mark.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS (CONT'D)
 "Number one: A squirrel dressed as an astronaut? Somebody call Houston, because I have a problem - My heart's going to explode! 10 out of 10."

MARK
 Sounds good to me.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS
 "Number two: Is this squirrel pretending to be a surgeon? Get ready for a malpractice suit because I think I may be allergic to adorableness! 10 out of 10."

MARK
 I don't see any issues.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS
 "Number three: Squirrels dressed as construction workers are hard at.... You know what, who cares anymore? You people will read anything no matter what I write, so what's the use? As long as we crank out sugar filled news stories like this, you'll keep reading. Also, God is dead."

Pause.

MARK
 I don't see the problem her-

Mr. G smacks Mark on the head with the newspaper.

MARK (CONT'D)

Alright! I shouldn't have included that last part! I didn't think anyone would notice!

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

I noticed. Your editors noticed - thank God - before we published that! Ericson, you're a psychopath if you think this is appropriate to go on the presses!

MARK

Some person dresses a squirrel up like a surgeon and I'm the psychopath?

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

Seriously Mark? You just need to be patient, everybody has to write fluff pieces when they're starting out!

MARK

I'm just getting sick of it all. I'm done with all of these stories like "This cockateil said whaaaat?" or "12 dogs that're doing people things" - It's just not why I became a journalist! Why can't you trust me with something real?

MUSICAL CUE

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

You just gotta pay your dues Ericson! You're still green around the gills!

(1-B) JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY

MARK

WHEN I THINK OF A REPORTER, I THINK OF SOMEONE WHO IS BRAVE - WHO FINDS THE TRUTH NO MATTER WHAT. BUT WHEN I LOOK AT WHAT I'M DOING - JUST TAKE A GLANCE AT THAT FRONT PAGE - YOU WON'T FIND TRUTH, YOU'LL ONLY SEE CHEAP FLUFF.

I HAVE JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY.
AND THAT MEANS, THAT I NEED SOMETHING MORE.
YES, JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY,
THERE'S A WORLD, I GOTTA EXPLORE.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

AND I UNDERSTAND - BUT YOU HAVE TO TAKE YOUR TIME - IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD - YOU FIRST HAVE TO PAY YOUR DUES.

IT TAKES COMMITMENT, LONG HOURS AND HARD WORK.
AND YOUR JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY-
SHOULDN'T MEAN THAT YOU'RE NOT A PART OF THE TEAM.
SOMETIMES JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY-
MEANS YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE UP ALL OF YOUR DREAMS.

MARK

THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE - THAT'S NOT WHY I JOINED THIS PLACE - I WORK AT A NEWSPAPER AND I DON'T WANNA WRITE ABOUT SQUIRRELS.
THESE BOGUS STORIES ARE JUST WASTING MY TIME.
I HAVE JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY.
AND I'M READY AND I'M WILLING AND I DON'T WANT TO WAIT.
THAT'S RIGHT, JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY-
IF YOU'D PLEASE GIVE ME A CHANCE I'D BE GREAT.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

MARK, CAN'T YOU SEE - YOU'RE RIGHT WHERE YOU WANNA BE - YOU JUST NEED TO DO YOUR DAMN JOB.

MARK

I JUST NEED A STORY, ONE WITH HEART - SOMETHING I CAN PICK APART -

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

(Interrupting)

YOU JUST NEED TO DO YOUR DAMN JOB!

MARK

JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

DO YOUR DAMN JOB.

MARK

I KNOW I COULD RISE TO IT.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

DO YOUR DAMN JOB.

MARK

JUST ONE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THAT I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

DO YOUR DAMN JOB, ALL RIGHT KID-

Mr. Granginoffolis walks to a filing cabinet and pulls out a manila folder.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS (CONT'D)

You want a story to follow? Here you go. There's some middle of nowhere town in Canada called Manjaskatoon. They're having the 50th anniversary of their Canadian Bacon Factory. It's a dead end story - not much there, but if you can find a way to make this into something that'll sell papers, and I really mean something good - then you can start as a foreign correspondence journalist for the paper. But that's a big IF Ericson.

MARK
THANK YOU SIR YOU WON'T REGRET THIS!

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS
JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY.
MAKE IT WORK, OR ELSE I'LL FIRE YOUR ASS AND YOUR-

BOTH
JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY.

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS
IT'S A TEST KID, AND YOU BETTER PASS.

BOTH
JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY.

MARK
HERE'S MY SHOT, IT'S A STORY THAT WILL NOT ROB MY-

BOTH
JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY.

MARK
(in unison)
NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO DO MY DAMN JOB!

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS
(in unison)
NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO DO YOUR DAMN JOB!

SCENE 3

The interior of a bus. Mark's sitting close to the driver. It's a big, dingy bus, with five passengers - all minding their own business (but still being generally gross). The Bus driver is wearing circle rim sunglasses and has a thick New York accent. Mark is reading pamphlets about Canada and is severely overdressed in a puffy jacket and ski goggles, etc. They hit a pothole and the whole bus shakes around.

MARK
(To Passenger 1)
How's it going? What are you on the bus for?

Passenger 1 looks at him with a grimace. They hit another pothole, everyone shakes a bit.

MARK (CONT'D)
I'm headed to do some journalism, so... not trying to brag or whatever but... things are going - pretty good for me-

PASSENGER 1
Hey pal, do I look like I wanna talk on a public bus?

MARK
I don't know, do yo-

PASSENGER 1
Fuck yaself.

Mark nods and keeps to himself. They hit another pothole, everyone shakes.

MARK
(to Bus driver)
Uh... have you been a bus driver for long?

BUS DRIVER
(Loudly)
What??

MARK
Have you been a bus driver for long?

BUS DRIVER
Yeah man, I've been a bus drivah for years. It wasn't my first job though. I used to be a pianist, of course I can't do that anymore. But I think it's for the best. Then I was a cab driver for awhile. You know, life's never been easy for me, I've always been poor. I was baptized in a deli-

While the Bus driver is rambling, he's facing Mark, not looking at the road at all.

MARK
Uh, sir, shouldn't you be looking at the road?

BUS DRIVER
What? Oh, nah - I'm blind.

MARK
You're blind?

BUS DRIVER
I'm blind.

PASSENGER 2
He's blind.

MARK
But - if you're blind, then we're all in a lot of danger! You need to stop the bus now!

BUS DRIVER

Just because I'm blind you think I can't be a bus driver?
Ableist!

PASSENGER 2

Stop being such an ableist.

MARK

This is definitely illegal.

BUS DRIVER

You think being blind is illegal?

PASSENGER 3

He's not defined by what he can't do. He's defined by what he
CAN do.

BUS DRIVER

Yeah! I contain multitudes, jackass.

PASSENGER 1

You're really going to tell this blind guy he doesn't deserve
this job?

PASSENGER 2

Some people have no morals.

*Everyone stands and picks up the bus cutout and starts
walking it Flintstones-style.*

MARK

No! How is everyone okay with this? If you can't see the
road, you can't navigate at all! That's the whole point of a
Bus Driver!

BUS DRIVER

Shows what you know, I'm great at my job. I can push the
pedals with my cane, and all the steering is done by my
seeing eye dog!

*A cheerful bark comes from offstage, Mark sighs -
exasperated.*

MARK

This is ridiculous, how would you even know when we've
arrived?

The bus crashes into a streetlight.

BUS DRIVER

We've arrived.

The streetlight falls over onto a passing elderly woman, she falls down - presumably dead - nobody seems to notice/care.

SCENE 4

The snowbank with the Population sign from scene one. But instead of ominous and foreboding, the set is bright and happy. The bus door opens. Mark steps out to face Manjaskatoon, and The Mayor of the town along with 5 Townspeople excitedly run up from SL to greet him. The bus exits SR and as it goes off stage, a car accident sound plays - everyone looks offstage for a beat, then looks back to each other.

MAYOR

My, My - well hello eh! Ya must be tha fancy reporter from tha states!

MARK

Yeah, that's me..

The Townspeople clap enthusiastically.

MAYOR

Well, Welcome to Canada!! It is just a stinking honor ta meet ya Mr...?

MARK

Oh, you can call me Mark.

MAYOR

Pleasure meeting ya, Mark! I'm tha mayor o' this little ol' place!

Mark looks at the giant sash around The Mayor's chest that reads "MAYOR!" He looks very proud of it.

MARK

I can see that! So tell me a little about your town, Mancha-what was it again?

MAYOR

Manjaskatoon! We're tha town that put tha "Great" in Tha Great White North! This is home ta THA famous "Pith Canadian Bacon Factory", known worldwide!! Pretty neat, eh?

The Townspeople all nod happily.

TOWNSPEOPLE

(ALL)

Sure is!!

MARK

(Caught of guard)

Uh, yeah - it sure is? Well, I'm here to report on the Fiftieth anniversary for the bacon place?

MAYOR

Ya are right on tha money, bud! This is Che-

Chester steps forward to Mark.

CHESTER

It's wonderful ta meet ya mister! I'm Chester! I run Chester's Maple Motel! Ya have a reservation with us tonight, don't ya?

MARK

Yes I do! Great to meet you.

CHESTER

You don't have any... wooden luggage, do ya?

MARK

No, I don't think so- why?

MAYOR

Chester's Motel has had something of an - infestation recently.

MARK

Infestation?

CHESTER

Beavers. And, Mister Mayor should know, it's not that big a problem! They keep eating the walls, sure. But think of it this way - they're only making your room bigger!

MARK

I like the positive attitude!

CHESTER

That's what I'm known for! Well, that and my incredible sense of smell! I was hit by a chemical truck when I was a boy, and now I can smell better than anyone! Check this oot!

Chester starts to sniff.

CHESTER (CONT'D)

(To Mark)

You've been around a seeing eye dog recently.

MARK

Wow. That's right, just on the bus. How did you know that?

Spotlight on Chester.

CHESTER

The nose. Know-

Spotlight off Chester.

MAYOR

(Interrupting)

MOVING ON-

Claire wanders onstage SL.

CLAIRE

Uh, Mister Mayor I had a quick question.

MAYOR

Oh yes! Mark, meet Claire! She's our Moose tamer!

CLAIRE

Speaking of which: Did you guys happen ta see a very calm, very tamed - moose wandering anywhere?

MARK

I haven't seen anything like that.

MAYOR

Claire. The town only has one Moose! It's your only job to make sure he behaves!

CLAIRE

I'm trying my best, okay? He's way sneakier than ya'd think!

MAYOR

If we see him, we'll let you know.

CLAIRE

Much appreciated! And I-

Claire makes eye contact with Mark.

MARK

Hey, it's nice to meet you.

CLAIRE

It's nice ta meet ya too! You're the reporter from tha states?

MARK

That's me, I'm that guy.

CLAIRE

Well... if ya see a moose, just let me know!

MARK

I will!

MAYOR

This is all well and good, but I want ta show ya around tha town a little boot, if ya don't mind!

MUSICAL CUE

(1-C) OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN

MAYOR (CONT'D)

COME SEE OUR LITTLE QUAIN'T TOWN,
OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN!
THIS STUPENDOUSLY RADIANT TOWN-
IS OUR HOME, AND I KNOW (THAT YOU'LL SEE)
THA BEAUTIFUL SIDE OF THIS TOWN,
OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN!
IMPOSSIBLE TA WEAR A FROWN HERE IN
MAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAANJASKATOON!

CHORUS

MAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAANJASKATOON!

MAYOR

CAN'T YOU SEE - THA PEOPLE O' THIS TOWN ARE FILLED WITH
MERRY AND CHEER!

CHORUS

HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH

ALL

WE'RE LUCKY - THA SUN IS ALWAYS SHINING AND THA SKY'S
ALWAYS CLEAR!

CHORUS

HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH

ALL

HOBO FREE - TOO QUAIN'T FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE, NOT A BEGGAR
ROUND HERE!

SINCERE - OUR SMALL COMMUNITY TRIES OUR BEST TA BE
PICTURESQUE THROUGH THA YEARS!

MAYOR

TO YOUR RIGHT - YOU'LL SEE OUR BAKER CHARLIE AND HIS FRESH
LOAVES OF BREAD-

CHARLIE

They're maple baguettes!

MAYOR

TO YOUR LEFT - OUR LOCAL LAUNDR-O-MAT IS OWNED BY THOSE
NEWLYWEDS-

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Congratulations you two!

MAYOR (CONT'D)

AND BACK THERE'S - A BIG TALL SNOWY MOUNTAIN WHERE THA CHILDREN BOBSLED.

ALL

A HEAD - YOU'LL SEE OUR TOWN SQUARE-

CHESTER

(interrupting)

AND MY MOTEL - WITH SOME BRAND NEW BEAVER FREE BEDS!

Now we cooked up something really special for your visit mister reporter! I spent a long time choreographing this tap dance routine, and it's just gonna knock your freakin' socks off, eh! And it goes.. a little something.. like this - one two a one two three-

A swinging tap dance song starts, Chester takes the lead as the group starts to tap dance poorly, they are all clearly confused - disorganized. Chester notices their dancing.

CHESTER (CONT'D)

GUYS!! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?? CUT THA MUSIC.

Music stops.

CHESTER (CONT'D)

SERIOUSLY? LINDA, WHAT WAS THAT? NONE OF YOU REHEARSED LIKE YOU PROMISED TO?? I SPENT WEEKS GETTING THIS READY. MY PARENTS ARE HERE.

Spotlight on Chester's parents.

CHESTER (CONT'D)

I JUST... I JUST..... AAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH.

Chester runs offstage, weeping. Mayor awkwardly coughs and continues the song.

MAYOR

WELL AS YOU CAN SEE WE'RE THA QUAINTEST PLACE IN THA GREAT WHITE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.

SO THIS IS OUR LITTLE QUAINT TOWN (EVERYBODY!)

ALL

OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN!
IT'S A WONDERFULLY RADIANT TOWN,
AND WE HOPE, THAT YOU'LL LOVE (THIS PLACE TOO)
IT'S A ONE OF A KIND-KIND OF TOWN,

OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN!
THERE'S A WHIMSICAL WARMTH ALL AROUND HERE IN
MAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAANJASKATOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOON!

SCENE 5

*The town square. The Mayor and Mark wander SL.
Jeremiah enters SR carrying a box full of bacon. The
Mayor hands Mark 3 travel pamphlets.*

MAYOR

Well that's pretty much tha whole town!

MARK

The whole town? You showed me like six things, and one of them was just a mountain.

MAYOR

I almost forgot! I'd like ta introduce ya ta tha man o' tha stinkin' hour! Meet Jeremiah Pith!!

The Mayor pats Jeremiah on the back a few times more than necessary.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

This fella's tha man behind Pith's Canadian Bacon Factory! He's tha reason this town is home ta tha best Canadian bacon around! He's everyone's favorite guy!

JEREMIAH

Oh gee Mr. Mayor, ya just might make me blush! But it's true!

Spotlight on Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I'm Jeremiah!

Spotlight off.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

(To Mark)

Ya must be tha big New York City reporter I've heard just so much about!

MARK

That's me, I'm that guy! It's great to meet you Mr. Pith! So you started this Bacon factory?

JEREMIAH

Ya know it, friend! In tha year o' tha queen Nineteen Sixty Nine, my old man decided ta make a little shop. Now I run it, and I'm happy ta say I make the best Canadian Bacon in the Great White North!

Jeremiah wraps his arm around Mark's shoulder.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

Ya see, even though we started oot small - now Manjaskatoon is known across tha North for making tha best Canadian bacon around! We sell tha regular supply internationally, but if ya want our premium secret family recipe, ya gotta try it by comin' here ta our town! We've been chugging along that a' ways for 50 years!

MAYOR

Absolutely wonderful for tourism! Nobody makes Canadian bacon like him!

MARK

I was actually wondering about that, what's the difference between Canadian bacon and normal bacon?

JEREMIAH

Normal bacon? Oh, ya mean Colonial bacon! Well for starters we don't use tha belly meat for our stock, like ya Yankees!

Townspeople all laugh.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

And we have a much longer process for preparing tha meat! Most everybody in tha town here works at tha factory, but I work on tha premium supply all on my own! Cause ya know what they say, if ya want tha best pork product in Canada, ya gotta do it solo!

MARK

Who says tha-

JEREMIAH

(Interrupting)

Well, I can answer more o' your questions later friend! First - I want ta take ya ta tha town Ice rink! There's a hopping hockey match going on in just a few minutes!

SCENE 6

A set of bleachers in front of an ice rink. Mark, Jeremiah, and assorted Townspeople are happily watching the game. Vendors are selling the Canadian bacon and everyone is excited for the hockey match.

MARK

Thanks for inviting me here Jeremiah, I've never actually seen a hockey game before.

JEREMIAH

Well I'm glad ta change that! 'round here I doubt I could get along without my hockey! And tha Manjaskatoon Maple's are tha best team around! Would ya like some Pickaroon's Ale?

MARK

Oh no thank you, I'm a vegetarian.

JEREMIAH

Why bud, it's a kinda beer! Don't worry, it's on me-

Jeremiah flags down a vendor.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

(To vendor 1)

Two Pickaroonies if ya'd be so kind, bud!

VENDOR 1

Why, Jeremiah! If ya aren't a sight for sore thighs! That'll be four looneys, fella!

The money/beer gets exchanged through the smiling Canadian crowd. Everyone passes the beer, thanks the other person, and shakes their hand.

JEREMIAH

(To Mark)

Here ya are.

MARK

Thank you very much!

VENDOR 2

(Loudly)

Any uh ya want some bacon? Get ya Manjaskatoon bacon here, eh!

A crowd rushes over to the vendor, they grab all of his bacon then go back to their seats, munching away happily.

MARK

Wow, the people really seem to like your stuff.

JEREMIAH

Well I'm always flattered, glad ta give back ta tha community!

HOCKEY WATCHER 1

Oh Jeremiah's just being too darn humble! His bacon is phenomenal!

HOCKEY WATCHER 2

It's sensational!!

HOCKEY WATCHER 3

It's amazing!!!

JEREMIAH

Folks, ya are far too kind! I just-

Jeremiah is interrupted by a Mountie blowing on a ram horn.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

Oh, well ya know what that means!

MARK

What?

MOUNTIE

It's time for tha Canadian Pledge!

A huge Canadian flag unrolls behind the bleachers.

CROWD

(In unison)

I hail ta thee oh maple leaf,
Ta view this country's majesty.
If ya should need a helping hand,
I swear I will uphold this land.
Unto moose fur and beaver's tail,
My heart shall love, my pride prevail.
And finally - oh Canada,
Our pledge is pure, our oath is....

The crowd looks around, confused.

CROWD (CONT'D)

(Pronounced "Ghaad")

...good.

JEREMIAH

(To Mark)

We haven't figured oot that rhyme scheme yet.

MOUNTIE

(Loudly)

LET'S PLAY PUCK!!

Everyone cheers. The crowd, Mark and Jeremiah all sit down.

JEREMIAH

So, I've told ya plenty about myself - tell me a little about you! How long ya been doin' this stuff? Reporting, I mean.

MARK

Well, there's not a whole lot to tell. I'm from New York,
I've been a International Journalist for -

Mark looks at his watch.

MARK (CONT'D)

Seventeen hours now!

JEREMIAH

That really is something! Congratulations!

Jeremiah turns to face the crowd behind him.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

(To crowd)

Hey everybody! Our friend from down south has been an
International Journalist for seventeen hours now!

HOCKEY WATCHER 2

Congrats!

HOCKEY WATCHER 1

That's super!

HOCKEY WATCHER 3

Moveltoy!

MARK

Thanks everyone!

Jeremiah raises his beer.

JEREMIAH

Here's ta Mark, we just know you're gonna make it big!!

CROWD

(In unison)

CHEERS!!

MARK

(To Jeremiah)

I really like your style! This whole place is so - nice.
Canada rules, America drools!

JEREMIAH

I'm inclined ta agree with ya! I love tha states, but if I do
say so myself: No place in tha world can beat oot this land
right here!

MUSICAL CUE

(1-D) WHAT MAKES THIS COUNTRY GREAT

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

WHAT MAKES THIS NATION OH SO GRAND?
WHAT MAKES THIS PLACE A WONDERLAND?

CHORUS

WHEN WE ALL THINK O' WHAT MAKES CANADA GREAT, WE HAVE THA
STRONGEST URGE TA STAND!

Chorus stands up.

CHORUS (CONT'D)

LET'S SING A SONG TA SHOW WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT,
LET'S DO A DANCE WHILE THA MOUNTIE PLAYS HIS FLUTE!

Mountie starts laying down some HOT flute tracks.

CHORUS (CONT'D)

WE'LL SHOW OUR LOVE FER CANADA,
WE'LL MAKE YA UNDERSTANDADA,
THAT IN TERMS O' FUN THERE ISN'T A SUBSTITUTE.
HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU'LL LOVE ABOUT OUR COUNTRY
LIKE FIRST OF ALL YA GOTTA LOVE ALL THESE TREES.
AND HAVE YA SEEN OUR HOCKEY TEAM?
WE'RE SURE THEY'LL MAKE YA WANNA CREAM!
PLUS THA SNOW IS GENTLY FLOATING DOWN ON THA BREEZE.

MOUNTIE

WE GOT BEAVERS, WE GOT GRIZZLY BEARS-
THESE FUZZY FRIENDS YA SHOULDN'T AGGRAVATE.
CAUSE IF THEY GET ANGRY, THEY'LL EAT YOUR FACE-
SO LETS SHOW YA WHAT MAKES THIS COUNTRY GREAT!

CHORUS

WE HAVE MORE LAKES THAN ANY PLACE IN THA WORLD.
OUR FLAG'S SO PRETTY WHEN IT'S FULLY UNFURLED!
OUR MAPLE SYRUP CAN'T BE BEAT,
OUR DONUT'S SUCH A TASTY TREAT,
AND OUR CINNAMON BEAR CLAWS ARE SO GLAZED AND TWIRLED.

JEREMIAH

WE MADE RYAN REYNOLDS, AND RYAN GOSLING-
WE ALSO MADE ALANIS MORRISETTE. (PRONOUNCED MORRISEIGHT)
SO MANY STARS ARE BORN IN THA GREAT WHITE NORTH.
NOW CAN'T YA SEE WHAT MAKES THIS COUNTRY GREAT?

ALL

OH CANADA, OUR HOME AND NATIVE LAND!
THIS STUFF IS GREAT DON'T BE MISTAKEN,
BUT OUR PRIDE REALLY LIES IN OUR TOWN'S BACON.

CHORUS

WE'RE THANKFUL THAT WE ALL HAVE JEREMIAH CAUSE WITHOUT HIM
WE'D BE FORSAKEN.
AND-

ALL

WE SANG THIS SONG TA SHOW YA HOW TA RELATE.
BUT OUR COUNTRY'S MORE THAN THE BACON ON OUR PLATES.
WE SANG ALL ABOUT CANADA.
WE HOPE YA UNDERSTANDADA.
THAT THERE'S SO MUCH STUFF THAT MAKES THIS COUNTRY GREAT!

MARK

Man, that was so cool! You guys sure seem to like this place!

JEREMIAH

Oh ya know it, bud! We Canadians are proud o' our Country and
even prouder o' this town!

*Out of nowhere, a rebellious tween shouts from the
crowd.*

TOMMY

(Yelling)

Well I don't actually think it's all that great!!

Everyone Gasps!

MOUNTIE

Now ya better watch what you're saying, Tommy!

TOMMY

I'm sick o' all this cheery-ness, Canada isn't that great,
eh! It's cold all tha time, all o' our celebrities are bogus
- except Shania Twain, and tha bacon we eat is terrible!!

Everyone Gasps!

JEREMIAH

(To Tommy)

Shania Twain is our best Celebrity?? What about Avril
Lavigne?

TOMMY

Her self titled album was mediocre at best, and Sk8er Boy is
overplayed, eh!

Everyone Gasps! Three people faint.

MOUNTIE

Well now you've crossed tha stinkin' line! Let's get ya oot
o' here, pal!

TOMMY

(Yelling)

Yeah, well I'm not sorry! Not even one boot!!

Tommy gets escorted off the hockey rink.

JEREMIAH

I gotta apologize for that boy... he should watch his manners!

MARK

Oh it's no problem, tweens will be tweens.

JEREMIAH

Right, but he just spit in tha face o' Manjaskatoon, he spit in tha face o' Avril Lavigne! If he knew what was good for him, he'd watch what he gabbed about!

MARK

Well he's gone now, so no sweat, right? I had a question about your shop.

JEREMIAH

(Still bothered)

Sure, ask away! That's why you're here!

MARK

Oh, it's not like an official question - I'll save those for the interview later. I just wanted to know, why haven't you expanded more? I'm not trying to be rude, but Manjaskatoon doesn't seem like a perfect home-base for a business as successful as yours.

JEREMIAH

But that's where you're wrong! We're sending out meat ta different parts of tha globe all tha time, why expand any more? I love this town with all o' my heart. And I love tha people here even more! If I moved tha shop somewhere else, where would they all work?

MARK

I see what you mean - I still thin-

JEREMIAH

And if we became some big corporation, that wouldn't make me any happier than I am right now. My old man started something really special here. And it's my job ta keep it going how he'd want.

MARK

That makes sense. Is your dad still around?

JEREMIAH

Sadly no, heart attack. Doctor said that his diet killed him. A "Medically inadvisable amount of Canadian bacon" is what the autopsy read. His arteries were fuller than DJ Tanner's house.

MARK

I'm sorry to hear that.

JEREMIAH

Eh, it's all under tha bridge now! Tha way I see it, he died eating what he loved. He had a good life and was one heck of a role model. I got a weak heart too, but I try ta eat some poutine now and then ta stay healthy! I can't stop eating my bacon all together though! Live by tha sword - die by tha sword, especially if the sword is glazed meat.

MARK

I can't tell if that's brave or not, but either way - you're a man of morals, Mr. Pith.

Claire enters SL crouched, tip toeing. She's carrying a large net, clearly looking for the lost moose. She wanders behind the bleachers and exits SR.

JEREMIAH

Sweet of ya ta say! If ya don't mind my askin', what is tha "angle" you're gonna take on tha story? The anniversary of my shop is important ta me, but what's so crazy about it that makes tha newspapers interested?

MARK

That's just it. Frankly, my boss sees this story as a bit of a dead end. He sent me out here so that I'd be out of his hair.

JEREMIAH

We'll just have ta prove him wrong! Ya and me are gonna show him, show everybody!

MARK

(Excited)

Yeah! You're right! I'm going to find a REAL story here somehow, no matter what! When can we have the interview?

A shatter sound effect plays. Everyone on the bleachers winces.

HOCKEY PLAYER

(Offstage)

OH CHRIST! MY TEETH! THEY'RE ALL GONE!!

MOUNTIE

WHOA! One o' our hockey players just got a boot of an injury.

HOCKEY PLAYER
WHERE DID THEY GO, I NEED THOSE.

MOUNTIE
We'll have a brief intermission as we-

HOCKEY PLAYER
MY FACE LOOKS LIKE A TRAIN WRECK!! A TRAIN WRECK THAT IS
MISSING ALL OF IT'S TEETH.

MOUNTIE
Ya know on second thought - we're gonna have ta cancel
today's match, very sorry, eh!

*The crowd groans and gets off of the bleachers. Once
everyone's off, the bleachers are carted off SL.*

JEREMIAH
Any who, I would love ta have that interview, but I'm afraid
I have some business ta attend to in a minute. How's boot ya
explore our town a little while, and around 7 ya can stop by
my house? We can pick right back up then?

MARK
All right, what's your address?

JEREMIAH
Well that'd be One One Two Two Boogie Woogie Avenue!

*Mark types this down on his phone. Jeremiah starts to
walk away, then stops and looks back at Mark.*

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)
Remember, we'll meet up at 7. And that's in Canadian time,
friend!

MARK
Okay, One one two two boogie woogie avenue, at 7 - Canadian
time. I'll see you there!

JEREMIAH
All right buddy, see ya there!

*Jeremiah walks away SL. As Jeremiah leaves, a Homeless
bum bumps into him - rudely.*

HOMELESS BUM
Watch it, will ya?

JEREMIAH
Oops, my bad! Sorry, eh?

*Jeremiah exits. Mark pulls out a pamphlet that The
Mayor gave to him in Scene 4.*

MARK

Now let's see, things to do. I could visit the Oshkanuck Ice river, I could see the 3rd tallest Beaver damn in the north, I could go to the -

HOMELESS BUM

(Interrupting)

Spare change? Could I have some spare change, bud?

MARK

Oh, um - yeah sure.

Mark pulls out his wallet, the bum is dressed as you would expect, but one striking feature is on his right hand is a huge gold ring.

MARK (CONT'D)

Here's five bucks-

HOMELESS BUM

(Loudly)

Do ya have any Loonies? American money won't help me at all.

MARK

Sorry guy... why don't you sell that big ring you're wearing?

HOMELESS BUM

It was a hair-loom, why don't ya mind you're own fucking business, eh bud? Fucking damn shit hoser ya are!

MARK

Why do you have to talk like that?

HOMELESS BUM

Why do ya have ta be such a Keener, eh? Whatever. I'm off ta pound some puss, catch ya on tha flip, dipshit.

The startlingly rude Homeless bum exits SR walking like a pimp-Bigfoot. Mark goes back to his list of activities. While he's reading, a Moose walks around in the background, it sees Mark and tackles him to the ground. Claire worriedly runs up and pulls him off Mark.

CLAIRE

I found him!! Thank you so much for catchin' him mister!!

MARK

I don't know if catch is the right word, that thing almost killed me!

CLAIRE

Oh no, he wouldn't hurt a fly, would he?

Moose sweetly nods no.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry he jumped on ya, he wasn't trying ta hurt ya or nothin', he's totally tame! He was just showing affection, eh!'

MARK

Well that's some kind of tough love.

CLAIRE

Oh it just means he likes ya, bud!

Moose punches Mark in the face.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Boy, he really likes ya!

MARK

Okay, I'm just gonna leave before your little pet kills me.

CLAIRE

No, I'm sorry! Is there anything I can do ta help ya? Maybe for your story or something? I sure owe ya one!

MARK

I think I'm fine, thanks though.

CLAIRE

Really! I know you're that fancy international journalist, I'll help any way I can, honest!

MARK

Yeah that's me, I'm that guy! I'm going to check out the town some more for my story, are there any places you suggest?

CLAIRE

I got just the idea! How's about we take a ride on my Moose and I can show ya every part o' Manjaskatoon!

MARK

It'd be nice to have someone show me around who knows the place...

Mark looks to Moose.

MARK (CONT'D)

But if that thing punches me again-

Mark and Moose make direct eye contact.

MARK (CONT'D)

I'm going to get really good at taxidermy.

Moose is threateningly doing that punch into hand gesture.

CLAIRE

I promise he'll be good!

Moose does the "I'm watching you" gesture. Provoked, Mark pulls out a switchblade. So does Moose. Claire jumps between them and they both sheath their weapons.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(Loudly)

Than it's a date! I mean, it's a deal. Hop on!

Moose begrudgingly gets on his hand and knees and they ride on him off SL.

SCENE 7

In the woods. Two trees are onstage, the backdrop is the Canadian forest. Claire and Mark enter UL riding on Moose.

MARK

I thought you said you were going to show me the town?

CLAIRE

Well I know you've seen some o' that stuff already, I really want ta show ya tha best part o' Canada...

MUSICAL CUE

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Part o' what makes me love Manjaskatoon so much!

(1-E) Just Look at them leaves/Just look at me

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

THA BIRD'S WHISTLIN' A TUNE!

A little songbird lands on Claire's finger, starts tweeting away.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

THA WIND - BLOWS THROUGH MY HAIR.
WHILE YOU'RE HERE IN MANJASKATOON-
I'LL SHOW YA THA JOY IN THA AIR.

The bird flies gracefully away, shits on Mark.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

THA SKY'S - SO BLUE AND CLEAR,
THA SNOW'S - GENTLY FALLIN',
AND WHEN I - WALK AROUND HERE,
I FEEL LIKE THA FOREST IS CALLIN'.

MARK

THAT BIRD SHIT ON MY HEAD.
THE WOODS AREN'T MY FAVORITE PLACE,
I WAS RAISED - IN THE CITY.
AND WHEN BIRDS GO POOP ON MY FACE-
IT MAKES ME THINK NATURE IS SHITTY.

CLAIRE

I KNOW THIS MAY SEEM LAME-
CAUSE YOU COME FROM THE STATES A REAL IMPORTANT
JOURNALIST.
AND IT'S TRUE - BIRD SHIT'S NOT GREAT, BUT THERE'S SO MUCH
MORE!

MARK

I NEED TO BE REAL,
I'M NOT *THAT* BIG A DEAL,
THIS IS MY FIRST BIG STORY.

CLAIRE

WHILE THAT MIGHT BE TRUE,
I'M AN AMATEUR TOO,
I JUST WISH THAT YA COULD SEE-

MARK

I DON'T UNDERSTAND - WHY YOU THINK IT'S GRAND.

CLAIRE

THE CHARM OF THA TREES,

MARK

SURE THE WOODS ARE NICE - BUT IT'S KIND OF BLAND.

CLAIRE

THA CRITTERS IN THA SPRINGTIME,

MARK

STILL IT'S PECULIAR - WHEN I LOOK AT HER,

CLAIRE

CAUSE WHEN YOUR WALKING WITH ME-

MARK

I CAN FEEL MY HEART - AND IT STARTS TO STIR.

CLAIRE

THA WORDS IN MY HEART START TA RHYME.

BOTH

I THINK WE BOTH AGREE-

CLAIRE

WAIT A SECOND NOW - HOLY FREAKIN' COW.

MARK

THESE WOODS, THEY LOOK OKAY,

CLAIRE

COULD WE FALL IN LOVE - FIND A WAY SOMEHOW.

MARK

BUT I DON'T THINK IT CAN COMPARE-

CLAIRE

EVEN IN THE DARK - I CAN FEEL A SPARK.

MARK

TO THE GIRL THAT'S LEADING THE WAY,

CLAIRE

WOULD YA LOOK AT THAT - I'M IN LOVE WITH MARK.

MARK

I'M IN LOVE WITH CLAIRE.

BOTH

NOW I KNOW, SOMETHING'S BEGUN -
THAT IS GOING TO SET MY SPIRIT FREE.
AND I KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE ONE -
WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME.

Romantic eye contact a plenty. While happy go lucky music plays, Mark Claire and Moose go on a date montage, Moose awkwardly third wheels the whole time. They go ice fishing, Mark keeps trying to pick Claire flowers but Moose eats them. Claire uses a beaver to carve a heart out of a log.

CLAIRE

Today's just been great, I've never met a guy like ya Mark...

MARK

Me neither. I'm one of a kind, and so are you!

CLAIRE

It's like a dream...

Spotlight on Claire.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Do ya, have dreams Mark?

MARK

Well, it's always been my dream to travel the world - finding stories in every nook and cranny, no matter the place. I just think that if you look hard enough, you'll always find something worth writing about - take this place for example! My boss sent me here because he thought it was a dead end, a waste of time. But I know that if I look hard enough, I'll find my first big story! This town is so unique, and I feel like it's my job - my responsibility to show every angle of every place I go.

Spotlight on Mark, inspirational music swells.

MARK (CONT'D)

If I can do that, and if people pay attention, I honestly think things will change for the better. That's my dream. To change the world. Do you have dreams, Claire?

CLAIRE

Oh. I was talking about like dream-dreams, like I was going to say I usually dream about getting chased by bees.

Spotlight goes off.

MARK

Oh. Sorry.

CLAIRE

Don't be!

They look at each other.

MARK

Claire, I've never met someone like you. It's like...

CLAIRE

Yeah?

MARK

It's like....

CLAIRE

Yeah?

MARK

It's like.. I'm-

Mark's Phone alarm goes off, interrupting him.

MARK (CONT'D)

I'm late!! I thought I had more time before the interview? I guess I lost track during that montage, it's not 7 yet is it?

CLAIRE

Well it's 7 - in Canadian time.

Mark turns off the alarm on his phone and sets it on a stump.

MARK

UGH! I forgot to set my clock back! Could you please give me a ride to Jeremiah's house?

The Moose slowly walks up to the phone, looking curious.

CLAIRE

Sure! That's on Boogie Woogie avenue, right?

The Moose fully swallows the phone.

MARK

Yeah, I put the address on my - FUCKING COCK!! Your Moose is eating my phone!

Moose burps, comedically. From offstage you can hear a sitcom-esque boing sound effect, signifying a wacky gag just happened. Mark looks confused by the noise, but Claire and Moose don't seem to hear it.

CLAIRE

Oh no! Moose, spit it out!

The Moose shrugs as though it's too late.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Geez, I'm just so sorry Mark, is there any way I can-

MARK

I had so much on that phone! Dang.

CLAIRE

(Eager)

If ya really need it that bad, I know a way of getting it out.

MARK

No, it's fine.

CLAIRE

And I don't mean in two ta three days... I mean now.

MARK

No, no. Thanks, but no. Can we head to Jeremiah's?

The two ride off SL on Moose.

SCENE 8

The front of Jeremiah's house. It's a door at SR and to the left there's a chair, couch, and TV set. Mark, Claire, and Moose enter SR and walk up to the door.

MARK

I'm pretty sure this is it.

CLAIRE

Well, I guess this is goodbye! I'd give ya my phone number but... I don't think that'd be much use now... Will I see ya at the Bacon Anniversary tomorrow morning?

MARK

Definitely, thanks for the ride!

Moose and Claire leave as the set of Jeremiah's front door scoots close to Mark. He knocks. Jeremiah walks up and opens the door.

JEREMIAH

Mark! It's real nice ta see ya pal! Come in, come in.

MARK

Sorry I'm late, a Moose ate my phone.

JEREMIAH

Eh, welcome ta Canada!

The same sitcom sound effect plays from offstage as Mark tries to see the source. Mark pulls his laptop and recorder from his bag.

MARK

Lovely place!

JEREMIAH

Ya are too sweet!

MARK

Is it all right if we start the interview now?

JEREMIAH

Oh absolootely!

MUSICAL CUE

MARK

Okay, so Jeremiah-

(1-F) The INTERVIEW SONG

MARK (CONT'D)

OKAY SO JEREMIAH-
FIRST I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME IN,
NOW LET'S START THE INTERVIEW I'M GONNA BEGIN.
QUESTION NUMBER ONE HOW DID THE COMPANY START-
AND WHY THE POPULARITY WHAT SETS YOU APART?

QUESTION NUMBER TWO BEFORE I LET YOU RESPOND-
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN WHEN YOU EXPAND THE FUTURE BEYOND?
QUESTION NUMBER THREE IS DO YOU RUN THIS ALONE?
WITHOUT A BUSINESS PARTNER DO YOU WORK ON YOUR OWN?

JEREMIAH

GOSH YA KNOW THA BUSINESS STARTED OOT WITH MY POP,
BACK IN NINETEEN SIXTY NINE HE STARTED THA SHOP.
WE GOT A SECRET RECIPE THAT'S KEPT UNDER WRAPS-
THE TOWNSFOLK REALLY LOVE IT, WE'RE THE BEST ON THE MAP!

WE'RE LOOKING TA GET BIGGER JUST ONE STEP AT A TIME.
I DON'T HAVE A BUSINESS PARTNER AND I'M DOING JUST FINE-
RUNNING THIS AINT' EASY BUT I DO WHAT I CAN,
CAUSE MAKIN' BACON'S WHAT I DO JUST LIKE MY OL' MAN.

MARK

THIS IS MY FIRST BIG INTERVIEW,
AND I THINK THAT IT'S GOING PRETTY WELL.
NOW I JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW THROUGH,
AND I KNOW THE REST OF THIS IS GONNA GO SWELL!

QUESTION NUMBER FOUR IS WHAT'S THE SIZE OF YOUR STAFF?
I'M NOT TALKING BOUT YOUR PENIS-

-
-

THAT WAS A MISTAKE I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT.

QUESTION NUMBER FIVE WHAT OTHER MEAT DO YOU MAKE,
OUT OF ALL THE FLAVORS WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TO BAKE?
DO YOU JUST STICK TO BACON DO YOU DABBLE WITH STEAK,
I'M SORRY BOUT THAT PENIS THING THAT WAS A MISTAKE.

I'M FUCKING UP THIS INTERVIEW!
WHY DID I ASK HIM BOUT HIS PENIS SIZE?
I DON'T WANT HIM TO MISCONSTRUE-
A FREUDIAN SLIP I SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

JEREMIAH

WELL MY STAFF INCLUDES MOST OF THE TOWNFOLK,
CURRENTLY WE HAVE FORTY SEVEN FULL TIME WORKERS.
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ACCIDENTALLY MISSPOKE,
I WON'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU, BUD YER DOIN' JUST FINE.

AS FOR MEAT - WE ONLY MAKE THE BACON.

OUR FOCUS STAYS UPON THE STUFF THAT MAKES THIS PLACE
UNIQUE,
AND I LIKE STEAK, BUT PLEASE DON'T BE MISTAKIN-
HERE AT PITH'S WE ONLY STICK TO CHOPPIN' UP SWINE.

THIS IS A REAL FUN INTERVIEW!
IT'S FUN TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT MY FACTORY.
HOPE THAT YA LEARN A THING OR TWO,
AND I HOPE THAT YA ENJOY CHATTING WITH ME.

MARK

QUESTION SIX DO YA HAVE ANY WACKY STORIES?
ANYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED IN THE FACTORY-
DOESN'T HAVE TO BE GREAT OR ALLEGORY,
JUST A FUNNY TALE TO MAKE THIS INTERVIEW POP.

JEREMIAH

I GOT ONE YOU'LL LOVE, IT'S SUPER FUN AND GOOFY!
I JUST HOPE THIS STORY WILL BE SATISFACTORY-
ONE TIME A GOOSE FLEW IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR- HE
ATE ALL OF OUR BREAD AND LEFT AN EGG IN THE SHOP.

BOTH

THIS IS A REAL GOOD INTERVIEW!
THIS WHOLE THING'S BEEN NOTHING BUT TONS OF FUN AND
NOW WE ARE GONNA GET INTO-
THE LAST OF THE QUESTIONS THEN WERE GONNA BE DONE.

MARK

FOR MY FINAL QUESTION, WHAT'D YOU LEARNED THROUGH THE
YEARS?
THE WHOLE TOWN REALLY LIKES YOU AND YOU'RE LOVED BY YOUR
PEERS.
WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU STARTED OUT?
THAT YOU COULD SHARE AND MAYBE HELP SOMEONE WHO'S IN
DOUBT.

JEREMIAH

WELL I THINK THE BIGGEST LESSON THAT I'VE BEEN TAUGHT,
IS TO WORK AS HARD AS YOU CAN, CAUSE SUCCESS CAN'T BE
BOUGHT.
EVEN WHEN YOUR DREAMS SEEM LIKE A FAR AWAY THOUGHT-
YA JUST NEED TO DO THE BEST YA CAN, AND YOU'LL HIT THE
JACKPOT.

MARK

THIS WAS MY FIRST BIG INTERVIEW!
AND I THINK THAT IT WENT WITHOUT A HITCH,
I REALLY GOT YOUR POINT OF VIEW-
AND WITH ANY LUCK THE BOTH OF US WILL BE RICH.

BOTH

WHAT AN AMAZING INTERVIEW!

JEREMIAH
 THAT IS ALL DUE TO OUR STRONG CHEMISTRY

MARK
 THIS IS MY VERY FIRST DEBUT

BOTH
 WITH THIS STORY WE'LL BE MAKIN' BACON HISTORY!

Mark closes his laptop.

MARK
 Okay, I think that's everything I need to know! Thank you very much!

JEREMIAH
 No problem at all bud, happy ta help!

MARK
 I'll see you at the anniversary celebration tomorrow, it's getting kinda late.

JEREMIAH
 Oh, where are ya staying?

MARK
 At Chester's Maple Motel.

JEREMIAH
 Nonsense, Chester's had a beaver infestation for the past two months, he has ta make his bed frames oot o' PVC so they don't get eaten. Honestly he isn't very good at running a motel at all -

Spotlight on Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)
 But I'll be damned if that boy can't smell.

Spotlight off Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)
 Why don't ya just stay here for the night?

MARK
 I'd hate to impo-

JEREMIAH
 Not at all! I was just going ta watch some "Canada's Funniest Home Videos" and hit the hay anyway, I'd love some company. I have a spare room down that hallway, ya can sleep there!

MARK

Well thank you very much Jeremiah, I guess I can't turn that down!

JEREMIAH

Enough of the thanks, this is just Northern hospitality! Now sit back, relax, and watch the best comedy Canada has to offer!

The TV set is pointed so Jeremiah and Mark are watching the screen, but the audience can't see it.

TV VOICE

(Offstage)

Uh oh, looks like this hockey match is going just swell, but that goalie should watch out for his.. UH OH Wang-o!!

JEREMIAH

HAHAHAH! Now that's a Wang-o that had ta hurt!

TV VOICE

Now what have we here, eh? That Mountie better watch out for his- Wang-o!! This bloke's gonna need a padded saddle!

JEREMIAH

HAHAHHAHAHA! If that aint' a Wang-o, I don't know what is!

MARK

Is Wang-o just the Canadian word for getting hit in the crotch?

JEREMIAH

Oh ya better believe it! What do they call it in America?

MARK

Healthcare.

They both look to the audience, knowingly.

JEREMIAH

Man o' man, ya sure are a hoot and a half!

TV VOICE

Now these lumber jacks are having a pretty good day.. but that big guy should watch out for that log or... UH OH Somebody yell timber cause that's a Wang-o!!

JEREMIAH

HAHAHA! Classic Wang-o!!

MARK

Is this show just a compilation of men getting hit in the balls?

JEREMIAH

Not at all, there's a wide variety of videos!

The lights dim slightly as the two guys freeze. Moose walks out SL and holds up a sign that reads "114 Wang-o's later..." the lights come back on.

TV VOICE

WANG-O!!

JEREMIAH

Actually now that ya point it oot, I guess it is just wang-o's.

MARK

Well this has been fun, but I think I'm gonna hit the hay now.

JEREMIAH

Ya sure? There's thirty three more minutes o' Canada's Funniest Home Videos ta watch!

MARK

Sorry Jeremiah, but I'm very tired.

JEREMIAH

I understand pal, G'night!

MARK

Night, I'll see you in the morning.

The set moves to the left until Mark is in the guest bedroom. He tosses his backpack on the ground as he falls into bed, immediately the lights go down and a harp noise plays.

SCENE 9

A pure white dreamscape. Mark is wearing a fancy suit. Three chorus members are taking photographs of him.

PHOTOGRAPHER 1

Mr. Ericson, Mr. Ericson! How does it feel to be the most successful and handsome Journalist in the world?

MARK

Well, I try my be-

PHOTOGRAPHER 2

(Interrupting)

Mr. Ericson, now that you've won nine Nobel Peace Prizes, Three Pulitzers, and a daytime Emmy, what ARE you going to do next?

MARK

I'm just taking life one day at a-

PHOTOGRAPHER 3

(Interrupting)

What do you say about the rumors of Time magazine naming you Man of the century?

MARK

Listen guys, I'm very flattered! But I'm just a normal guy like yo-

A little orphan boy hobbles onstage from SL. He looks like the kid from the end of Christmas Carol and he has a strong Cockney accent.

LITTLE ORPHAN BOY

cough cough Oh, Excuse me sir. I'm just a lil' orphan boy! Could I please have yer autograph? You're me favorite International Journalist!

MARK

Of course!

Mark signs a copy of a newspaper and gives it to the boy.

LITTLE ORPHAN BOY

Thank ya sir! Truly! *cough cough* ouch! Me lil' lungs are achin' so! Must be on account of I sleep in the gutter drains!

MARK

Here you go kid!

Mark hands the boy a thick stack of hundred dollar bills.

LITTLE ORPHAN BOY

Why mistah! This is more money than I've ever seen wit' me own peepers! Thank you! Thank you! I can buy me a new set o' lungs, and I won't haff ta wear these finger-less gloves any more! No sir, my glove's gonna be finger-full from now on!! Just you wait and see!

He tap dances offstage SR - with delight. Mr. Granginoffolis enters SR, holding a fancy phone

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

Mister Ericson! There's a phone call for you.

MARK

Thank you, temp.

Mr. G presents the phone to him, bows (submissively) and scurries away. Mark picks the phone off the hook.

MARK (CONT'D)

Hello? President Obama? Yes, this is Mark Ericson. What's that? You want me to play tenor sax in your Jazz ensemble? But, I don't know how to play tenor sa- You'll teach me? Well that sounds great! Who else is in the ense- Bill Clinton and Gerald Ford?? But I thought Ford was dead! You brought him back from the grave? A deal with Devil, you say? Why, I couldn't turn that down! I'd love to join! What's the name of the band? Brother Nature and the tree frogs?? And I would be Brother Nature?? Absolutely! Yes, talk to you later! Bye!

Mark hangs up the phone.

MARK (CONT'D)

I have everything I've ever wanted! How could anything get better than this? I feel like I'm on top of the world!!

Moose enters SL. Tense-evil music starts.

MARK (CONT'D)

No! What are you doing here??

Moose and Mark get in an elaborate fight. Moose grabs a glass wine bottle and breaks it on Mark's head. Mark gets a Rapier and stabs it into Moose, more stuff happens. It's very well choreographed and cool. Mark loses, and everyone starts laughing at him.

MARK (CONT'D)

Nooooo! Don't laugh at me!

Mark pisses his pants, more laughs.

MARK (CONT'D)

NOOOOOOOOOO!! I'm humiliated in front of my peers!!!!

A swarm of bees enter from SR.

MARK (CONT'D)

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO BEES!!!!

Mark is chased around stage a few times, a harp plays as the dream fades away.

SCENE 10

In the guest bedroom. Mark wakes up.

MARK

I need some water.

Mark hops out of bed, he looks around the dark room and stumbles to put on shoes, he slowly walks out of the bedroom as the set slides to the left and he explores Jeremiah's cabin at night. He notices some light coming from the cracked back door.

MARK (CONT'D)

Hmm, why's the warehouse light on? It's 2 in the morning, that's kind of weird - even in Canadian time.

Mark slowly walks out the door to investigate the light.

SCENE 11

Interior of Jeremiah's Workshop. It's a packaging warehouse, a large table in the center with saws and meat hanging on hooks all around. Boxes full of Canadian Bacon are stacked on either side. Jeremiah walks in SL dragging a "full" body bag, he loads it up on the metal table and unzips the bag. Tommy - the rebellious tween from the hockey game - is unconscious. Jeremiah pulls out a medical bag that has syringes and bone saws. He pulls out a large saw and mutters to himself.

JEREMIAH

Ya know, Manjaskatoon is a good town. Really, it is. Everybody knows everybody, ya always got a friend ta count on. It's a swell place...

Jeremiah looks at Tommy with a cool rage.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

That's why it really makes me-

Jeremiah looks over his shoulder both ways.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

Pretty darn mad when somebody talks trash about this town. And it makes me even angrier when somebody doesn't respect Canada. That just won't do. Not one boot. What ya yelled at the hockey game, ya just hit a nerve and I'm real sorry, but that's just not what we do around here.

Sigh It didn't have ta be like this ya know, I would have let it slide if ya had just insulted Canada and Avril Levigne- would have just chalked it up ta ya being a hormone filled tween, no sweat! But then ya talked about my Bacon, now I simply can't let that slide pal. No two ways about it. It just has to be this way.

Jeremiah pulls Tommy's left leg out a little and lays the saw blade on it.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

Oh I just hate this part.

He starts to saw, blood shoots out as he cuts off Tommy's leg.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I'm real sorry, eh.

MUSICAL CUE

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

No really, I'm sorry, eh!

(1-G) I'M SORRY, EH!

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I'M SORRY, EH!
I KNOW THIS IS ROUGH,
BUT LIFE CAN BE TOUGH,
WHEN YOU SAY THAT RUDE STUFF - I'M SORRY EH!
DON'T YA KNOW -
THAT YOU SHOULD LOVE YER FELLOW MAN!

Jeremiah keeps sawing away at Tommy's left leg.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I'M SORRY, EH!
I HATE TA BE MEAN,
AND YER JUST A TWEEN.
BUT WHAT YOU SAID WAS OBSCENE - I'M SORRY EH!

AND I WISH-
THAT YA COULD UNDERSTAND.
THAT WHAT I DO, I DO-
FOR THA TOWN, AND FOR THA GREATER GOOD.

He rips off the left leg and tosses it to the side.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I HATE TA CHOP UP YOU,
BUT I WILL, EVEN WHEN YA DON'T THINK I SHOULD.

He rips off the right arm and tosses it to the side.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I'M SORRY, EH!
I CHOPPED OFF YOUR LIMBS.
YER FUTURE IS GRIM.
THA LIGHTS ARE STARTING TA DIM - I'M SORRY EH!

DO YA THINK,
THIS IS GETTING OOT OF HAND?

Jeremiah grabs the arm laying on the floor and wiggles it around.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I WISH THAT THINGS COULD BE,
DIFFERE-

Tommy wakes up. Music immediately stops.

TOMMY

AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHAAAAAAAAAAAHH!!!!!!!!!!
Fucking AAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH.

JEREMIAH

AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!
Oh no, oh darn, I'm really sorry boot this, but I guess tha tranquilizer wore off, that's my bad.

TOMMY

What tha fuck happened ta my arm and leg!?!?

JEREMIAH

It's a good thing you're in shock right now, I had ta cut em' off so I could put you in tha grinder.

TOMMY

Oh my god. You're tha bacon guy. Mister Jeremiah! Oh fuck, oh man, oh fuck, I'm gonna die, eh?

JEREMIAH

Well, yeah, it does seem that way. I'm mighty sorry friend.

Jeremiah walks over to his bag and pulls out a syringe filled with an amber colored liquid.

TOMMY

Oh no, this is terrible, this is horrible, this is-

Jeremiah injects the syringe into Tommy's neck.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Not that bad... Why do I feel better?

JEREMIAH

That's probably tha morphine. You're gonna die o' blood loss soon, so might as well make yer last few moments feel good.

Tommy is overcome with a warm fuzzy feeling, he cracks a wide smile and looks to the sky.

TOMMY

Sure man, sure.

JEREMIAH

Well.. Back ta business!

Music starts again.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I'M SORRY, EH!
I DON'T LIKE TA BE CRUEL,
I TRY TO FOLLOW THA RULES,
BUT YA ACT LIKE A TOOL - I'M SORRY, I REALLY AM.

DO YA SEE JUST WHAT I MEAN?

He rips off the right leg.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

TOMMY BUDDY
I DO WHAT I CAN TA KEEP
ORDER IN THIS TOWN

TOMMY

JEREMIAH
I JUST WATCHED YOU CHOP OFF MY LEG
BUT I FEEL SAFE AND SOUND

IT'S ALL OKAY
I REALLY DON'T MIND
CAUSE I'M FEELING JUST FINE
LIKE A GRAPE ON A VINE -

The two of them do a vaudeville routine, with hats and canes. They tap/hobble over to the meat grinder.

JEREMIAH

I'M SORRY, IT'S TIME TA GO
I GOTTA TURN YA INTO MEAT

TOMMY

I THINK I FINALLY FEEL COMPLETE

BOTH

NOW ALL THA CUSTOMERS CAN EAT - YOUR
MEAT MEAT MEAT MEAT!!

Jeremiah lifts Tommy up in the air Dirt Dancing style and tosses him into the meat grinder, it rumbles.

JEREMIAH

I'M SORRY, EH!

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

Well, glad that's done - another check off my ta do list! One a these days I gotta stop working so hard! Have a day just for me -

Mark walks in SL.

MARK

Jerem-OH MY FUCKING GOD.

JEREMIAH

Oh no, Mark, oh no, you didn't- you didn't see me-

MARK

Toss that kid from the hockey game into a fucking meat grinder!!?? Yeah, I did!

JEREMIAH

Oh no. Oh geez. I - OOOOWWWWWWWW!

Jeremiah grabs for his heart and falls on the floor.

MARK

Jesus Christ!!

Mark runs up to Jeremiah, puts his finger on his neck and waits a minute.

MARK (CONT'D)

Did he have a heart attack!?!?

The meat grinder stops making the rumbling noise and "dings" like an oven. Mark looks over at the bacon that used to be named Tommy.

MARK (CONT'D)

Why did he kill that kid? I don't get it-

Mark walks over to the pile of meat on the ground. It landed in a box that reads "Pith's Famous Canadian Bacon". Suddenly flashback voices start.

JEREMIAH V.O.

I make tha best Canadian Bacon in tha Great White North!

Mark walks over inspecting another crate. He opens the box while V.O. playing.

MAYOR V.O.

TOO QUAIN'T FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE, NOT A BEGGAR ROUND HERE!

Mark looks into the box - shocked - he pulls out a finger with a huge gold ring on it.

HOMELESS BUM

Well I'm off ta pound some puss, catch you on the flip, dipshit.

The Boing sound effect plays, it also has an echo effect on it. Mark now realizes that for years, Jeremiah has been killing people, and making bacon out of them. He turns to the audience.

MARK

Oh my god.

MUSICAL CUE

(1-H) Act one finale

MARK (CONT'D)

JESUS!

WHY WOULD HE FUCKING DO THAT?

WHY WOULD JEREMIAH DO THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS?

THIS IS CRAZY!

WHY WOULD HE FUCKING DO THAT?

HE'S BEEN MAKING BACON OUT OF HUMAN BEINGS.

OH FUCK THAT MEANS THIS TOWN,

HAS BEEN TRICKED INTO SCARFING DOWN PEOPLE-

SHIT! SOMEONE HAS TO TELL THEM THEY'VE ACCIDENTALLY BEEN CANNIBALS,

BOY THEY SURE AREN'T GONNA TAKE THAT NEWS WELL.

MAN,

I GUESS I WAS WRONG!

I THOUGHT HE SEEMED SO SWEET.

THEN BAM,

HE SANG THAT WEIRD SONG-

THEN TURNED HIM INTO MEAT.

I THOUGHT, CANADIANS WERE FRIENDLY.

WELL THAT SHOWS WHAT I KNOW - THIS ONE'S OUT OF HIS MIND, AND ALSO REALLY DEADLY.

EVEN THOUGH HE SEEMED SO PLEASANT AND SO KIND-A WEIRD HE'S A CANNIBAL I MEAN HE WORE A BEIGE SWEATER VEST AND KHAKIS.

HE-
SEEMED LIKE A GUY WHO-
WAS QUIRKY AND UPBEAT,
CAREFREE.

BUT I GUESS IT'S TRUE-
THAT YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!

The music stops for a second as the chorus comes onstage. Mark picks up the recipe guide for the bacon, the last ingredient is "Man-meat." The book cover reads "IT'S A COOKBOOK!"

ALL
DAMN - THIS IS REALLY CLIMACTIC!

MARK
ONCE I SAW WHAT HE DID - MY HEART WAS FILLED WITH DREAD.

CHORUS
OH OH OH OH OH OH.

MARK
THAT GUY WAS A FANATIC,
DIDN'T THINK THAT HE - WOULD SCREAM AND THEN DROP DEAD.

CHORUS
OH OH OH OH OH OH OH.

MARK
WHAT DO I DO NOW?

CHORUS
OH NO THE ANNIVERSARY.

MARK
I SHOULD-
RUN TO WARN THE TOWN-
ABOUT THE SHIT THAT'S GONE DOWN,
THAT'S JUST MY LUCK.

ALL
WHAT THE FUCK?

CHORUS
WHAAAAAAAAT THEEEEEEEEE FUUUUUUUUUUUUUUCK!

Mark takes a second before the final note to look around at the Homeless Bum's hand, the remains of Tommy, and the dead body of Jeremiah.

MARK
FUUUUUUUUUUUUUUCK!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

The snowy banks of Manjaskatoon in the present day again. The tourists and Tour guide are standing around, looking at Cloaked Figure.

CLOAKED FIGURE

Okay, where was I?

TOUR GUIDE

Well ya were explaining Manjaskatoon's disappearance, but at a really climactic part of tha story, ya just stopped talking for about fifteen minutes.

TOURIST 1

(Loudly)

Did you have an aneurysm?

CLOAKED FIGURE

No, sorry I just forgot myself for a minu-

TOURIST 1

(Interrupting)

Cause it seemed like you had an aneurysm.

CLOAKED FIGURE

I was fine it was ju-

TOURIST 2

After the first three minutes we were gonna help you, see if you were okay, but then we decided..... not to.

CLOAKED FIGURE

What did you guys do for fifteen minutes?

TOUR GUIDE

Well, some of us went ta tha bathroom, some of us checked our phones, ya know, that kinda stuff.

CLOAKED FIGURE

Okay, back to the story. So yeah, our hero has just found out that Jeremiah kills people and turns them into the Bacon that everybody loves, so now Mark has to go and warn the town and somehow explain that they've all unwittingly been cannibals for the last fifty years. So without further ado -

MUSICAL CUE

(2-A) LET'S GET BACK TO THE STORY

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)

LET'S GET BACK-
TO THE STORY.
THINGS LOOK BLEAK-
VERY GORY.

MARK IS IN SHOCK FROM WHAT HE'S SEEN,
SAW MISTER PITH CHOP UP A TWEEN,
AND THAT MEANS-
THAT ALL THE BACON IS SOYLENT GREEN!
SO...

LET'S CONTINUE THE STORY,
WE'RE IN ACT TWO TERRITORY.

SOON YOU'LL SEE HOW THIS MUSICAL ENDS,
THIS TOWN'S FUTURE IT ALL DEPENDS-
ON OUR FRIEND MARK ERICSON.

WATCH THE STEAKS GET HIGHER,
WHEN THEIR FATE GETS DIRE!

TOUR GUIDE

BEFORE WE GO,
WE GOT A COUPLE QUESTIONS FOR YA.
DO YA KNOW,
WHY DID JEREMIAH SEEM SO FRIENDLY?
AND WHY'D HE HAVE-
A FREAKING HEART ATTACK?
IT SEEMED SO SUDDEN AND IT LEFT US ALL CONFUSED.

CLOAKED FIGURE

THAT'S ALL PART OF THE STORY,
JEREMIAH PROBABLY-
JUST HAD A WEAK HEART LIKE HIS DAD,
FROM ALL THE BACON THAT HE HAD.

TOURIST 1

THAT'S WHY HE'S BAD!
TOO MUCH CHOLESTEROL DROVE HIM MAD!

CLOAKED FIGURE

NO.
THAT IS NOT THE POINT OF THE STORY.
THIS IS NOT AN ALLEGORY.
HE JUST HAPPENED TO BE INSANE,
BACON FAT DIDN'T MAKE HIM INHUMANE-
FRY HIS BRAIN-
THAT'S JUST LAME.
NO HE WAS JUST PLAIN EVIL,
HE BUTCHERED INNOCENT PEOPLE.

TOURIST 2

WHAT ABOUT,
 THAT PART WHERE MARK TALKED TO OBAMA?
 CAUSE I DOUBT,
 THAT THE TWO OF THEM HAD MUCH IN COMMON.

CHORUS

YOU DIPSHIT!
 THAT PART WAS JUST A DREAM!

CLOAKED FIGURE

GUYS OF COURSE THAT PART DIDN'T REALLY HAPPEN,
 BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO STRAP IN-
 LET'S WATCH AS MARK GET'S TRAPPED IN A CURSE,
 NARRATIVELY.
 GET READY FOR SOME BLOOD TO SPILL,
 CAUSE THIS TALE WILL GIVE YOU THE CHILLS-
 THIS DOESN'T END NICE - THINGS WILL GET WORSE,
 COMPARATIVELY.
 WE JUST GOT STARTED!

ALL

OKAY HERE WE GO,
 WE'RE GONNA START THE SECOND ACT NOW-
 FINISH OUR SHOW,
 AND WE'RE CERTAIN THAT IT'S GONNA WOW YA.
 SO LETS
 GET BACK TO THE STORY!

TOUR GUIDE

HOW BOOT WE JUST PICKUP WHERE WE LEFT OFF?

ALL

SOUNDS GOOD.

SCENE 2

*The town square back in the past. All the cheery
 Townspeople gleefully toss streamers, balloons and
 other decoration up for the festival. The Mayor and
 Chester start hanging up a large banner.*

CHESTER

It only took me four hours, but this banner is finally ready,
 Mister Mayor!

MAYOR

Great work Chester! Now, a little ta my left.

CHESTER

All right.

MAYOR

Now pull it a tad ta tha right.

CHESTER

Like this?

MAYOR

Perfect!

The Mayor steps back to look at the newly draped banner. It reads "Happy 50th: Pith's Canadian Bacon!" He looks at the banner for a beat.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Actually, now that I see it up there, what if we changed the words a boot?

CHESTER

Uh, well what were ya thinking?

MAYOR

I don't quite know, but "Happy 50th" makes it sound like a birthday, not an anniversary.

CHESTER

I see what ya mean but-

MAYOR

Could we have it say "Pith's Canadian Bacon - 50th anniversary" or something like that, eh?

CHESTER

I suppose, but then it wouldn't be as happy sounding...

Some Townspeople walk up to the sign.

TOWNSPERSON 1

What about "Pith's Canadian Bacon: Celebrating 50 years!"

TOWNSPERSON 2

Or "Pith's Bacon: A Merry 50th Celebration".

CHESTER

Well I kinda liked the OG title, I worked hard on i-

MAYOR

Oh Chester, you have to think of the bigger picture! Jeremiah will be heart broken if he sees a banner that doesn't do his hard work justice!

CHESTER

Yeah I know, but I think... since I was tha one who mad-

MAYOR

Chester. Can you tell me what this says?

The Mayor points to his sash.

CHESTER

Well, it says Mayor.

MAYOR

Yes it does, and do you have a sash that says Mayor on it?

CHESTER

No, guess not.

MAYOR

And do ya know what that means?

CHESTER

It means i'm

BOTH

Not the Mayor-

MAYOR

That's right! It's settled, then! "Pith's Canadian Bacon - 50th anniversary!" I think that is much better!

CHESTER

Honestly, I don't know if I could make another banner in the next 30 minutes.

MAYOR

Oh that's fine, we can just cross it out.

The Mayor grabs a paint brush from a spare decorating can, he crosses out "Happy 50th" then writes on the side of the banner "- 50th Anniversary" The sign now reads "~~Happy 50th:~~ Pith's Canadian Bacon! - 50th Anniversary"

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Now isn't that more pleasant?

CHESTER

(Defeated)

Yeah... I guess so.

Claire and Moose enter SR.

TOWNSPERSON 1

When is Jeremiah getting here? The festival is about to start!

MAYOR

I don't actually know! Claire, could you be tha sweetest and go check on Jeremiah at his house?

CLAIRE

Sure Mr. Mayor! Come on Moose, let's roll.

Claire and Moose exit SL.

CHESTER

What if we made the banner-

MAYOR

The banner issue has been settled, Chester.

Chester weeps softly - to himself.

SCENE 3

Lights go down on the main stage and come up on the front SL corner. In front of a small backdrop of trees, Mark runs onstage and jogs in place - out of breath.

MARK

Gotta tell them, gotta tell them-

Lights up on the main stage.

MAYOR

Well, everything is looking ta be in place!

(2-B) GOTTA TELL THEM/A VERY BIG DAY

TOWN

IT'S A VERY BIG DAY!
THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY,
LET'S SHOUT HOORAY-
FOR THIS FANTASTIC FACTORY.

WITH A FUN DING DONG, LET'S SING THIS SONG,
WE WON'T TAKE TOO VERY LONG, NO WE'LL MAKE IT SNAPPY!

SO HERE WE GO-
LET'S START THA STINKIN' FESTIVAL!
CAUSE WE ALL KNOW-
THIS BACON IS INCREDIBLE!

WHEN JEREMIAH LAYS HIS EYES ON ALL THE DECORATIONS HE'LL
BE SO HAPPY!

MARK

I GOTTA TELL THEM,
I NEED TO WARN THEM THAT THE BACON ISN'T PORK.
I GOTTA TELL THEM,
RIGHT NOW I REALLY WISH I NEVER LEFT NEW YORK.
I GOTTA TELL THEM,
CAUSE THERE'S NO WAY THE TRUTH COULD EVER BE IGNORE-KD.

A TOWN WITH NO FEARS-
THEY'VE ALL BEEN LIED TO FOR FIFTY YEARS!

TOWN

IT'S A VERY BIG DAY!
NOW LET'S START THE FESTIVITIES,
LET'S GIVE AWAY-
A POUND OF POSITIVITY!

WE'LL SEE WHAT'S SHAKIN', EAT SOME BACON,
AND DON'T BE MISTAKIN, WE WILL-
SCARF IT DOWN.

IT'S FUN TO MUNCH-
THIS BACON THAT WE CELEBRATE!
IT'S NOT QUITE LUNCH,
AT ANY TIME THIS MEAT IS GREAT.

WHERE WOULD WE BE? LUCKY ARE WE - TO LIVE ALONG WITH HE -
OUR FAMOUS MISTER PITH!

MARK

I GOTTA TELL THEM,
I HOPE I'M THERE BEFORE THEY EAT ANOTHER SLICE.
I GOTTA TELL THEM,
HE WORE A LAYER THAT MADE THEM THINK HE WAS SO NICE.

MISTER PITH IS DEAD!
I GUESS HE ALREADY PAID THE PRICE.

TOWN

IT'S A VERY BIG DAY!
AND NOTHINGS GONNA STOP OUR FUN-

MARK

I GOTTA TELL THEM,
I NEED TO HURRY SO THAT I CAN STOP THEIR FEAST.

TOWN

FEAST TODAY,
HERE'S OUR ENTREE,
WERE GONNA GET IT STARTED RIGHT AWAY!

MARK

IT WON'T BE EASY,
I HOPE THAT I CAN MAKE THEM ALL SEE!

TOWN
SEE NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO DIG IN!

MARK
AND SOON THEY'RE GONNA BEGIN.
I HAVE TO GO TELL THEM.

ALL
THIS IS A VERY BIG DAY!!

Mark runs into Claire and Moose.

CLAIRE
Oh hey Mark! I was wondering where ya were, tha festival is gonna start in just a mi-

MARK
Claire! I need to get to town, I need to tell yo-

CLAIRE
Tell me what? Geez Mark, are you okay? You seem oot of breath, where's Jeremiah?

MARK
It's about Jeremiah, I -

CLAIRE
What happened? Mark?

MARK
(To himself)
Should I tell her?

While Mark was talking to Claire, he's slowly been backing up into the town square.

SCENE 4

The town square. Mark is taken off-guard by the Townspeople and The Mayor behind him.

MARK
Oh, oh well-

MAYOR
(Interrupting)
Where's Jeremiah? Getting ready for tha big day I suppose?

The Crowd laughs.

MARK
I, I-

MAYOR

Mark! We are so happy ta see you here, eh! Come on stage!
Come on stage!

MARK

No it's jus-

MAYOR

Well we can't tell you how excited we all are about ya
writing this article on us! Manjaskatoon will be in tha news!
It's truly something special!

MARK

Uh I think I need to sa-

MAYOR

Well before Mister Pith gets here, lets eat some Bacon, huh?

*Townspeople start excitedly grabbing bacon from
vendors.*

MARK

It's about the Baco-

MAYOR

Well of course it's about tha Bacon! Oh look!

TOWNS PERSON 5

(Loudly)

Everybody! We're going ta start tha bacon eating competition
right now!

*At a table SL, five Townspeople excitedly munch down a
bunch of the bacon.*

MAYOR

The bacon is why we're all he-

MARK

THE BACON IS-

CHESTER

WAIT ONE SECOND EVERYBODY!

Spotlight on Chester.

CHESTER (CONT'D)

We have a little something ta show you, Mister reporter! Come
on everybody, and a one, and a two, and a one-two-three-

*Chester and a group of the Townspeople get in tap line
formation, but like in scene 4, the choreography is
very sloppy.*

CHESTER (CONT'D)
 GUYS, SERIOUSLY!!?? We TALKED about this! Nobody memorized
 the choreography????? MY PARENTS ARE HERE!!

Spotlight on Chester's parents.

CHESTER (CONT'D)
 And THEIR PARENTS ARE HERE!!

Spotlight on four old people - Chester's grandparents.

CHESTER (CONT'D)
 You know what? I've had enough of all o' yous! Ol' Chester
 has been taken for granted long enough! I give, and I give,
 and I give. One day? I'm gonna TAKE.

Chester weeps and runs off SL.

TOWNS PERSON 6
 You all better be ready to play "pin tha bacon on tha moose -
 and then eat tha bacon!"

*Everyone cheers, more Townspeople obliviously scarf
 down the bacon.*

MARK
 You HAVE to listen to me.

MAYOR
 What are ya tryin' ta say?

Mountie enters SL with two barrels.

MOUNTIE
 We got more bacon here! Scarf this down while ya can!
 Nothing's better in tha world than Pith's Canadian Bacon!

Everyone - minus Mark - happily agrees.

MAYOR
 Now Mark, what were ya gonna say a minute ago?

MARK
 I was gonna say- I was gonna say-

*The theme to "Gotta tell them" start up again, Mark's
 thoughts are frantic.*

MAYOR
 LISTEN UP EVERYONE! MARK HERE'S GOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT!

*Everyone onstage stops eating their bacon and stares
 at Mark.*

MAYOR (CONT'D)

He wants to say something very impor-

MARK

IT'S PEOPLE!! The Bacon is PEOPLE!! I saw Jeremiah KILL a kid - the one who yelled at the hockey game yesterday! He also killed this homeless guy! They're in the meat... they ARE the meat! You need to hear the truth. I'm sorry, but I think you all may have been eating people for fifty years.

The audience is silent, people seem shocked.

MAYOR

Oh we know.

Harsh violin music plays. The Townspeople's cheery disposition doesn't change at all.

MARK

(Stunned)

Wha- what?

MAYOR

Well, we know about Jeremiah's Bacon, it's one o' tha things that makes this town so special!

MARK

I don't understand.

Mark starts to slowly step backwards.

MAYOR

I mean, ya gotta understand - he only uses people that are on tha undesirable side! He keeps those nasty bums oot of our town, that Tommy kid was way out of line.

An older couple step forward.

TOWNS PERSON 2

It's true, he was our son! Got ta be pretty nasty!

TOWNS PERSON 4

Now he can do some good for tha town!

MAYOR

Most importantly: His bacon gives us a claim ta fame; his meat is known across tha north, and ya can only get it by coming to tha town! Here in Manjaskatoon we're mighty lucky ta have somebody like Jeremiah ta help us rise above other tow-

MARK

Jeremiah's dead.

Everyone Gasps!

MAYOR

What do ya mean?

MARK

I walked in on him. Whenever I saw what he- what you all are, he had a heart attack. He's dead.

Everyone Gasps!

MAYOR

Oh no, that just won't do.

MARK

Claire? Is all of this- is it...

Claire doesn't make eye contact.

CLAIRE

Ya.

Mark looks around, nods his head slightly, and sprints off SR.

MAYOR

Well... guess we ought ta catch him!

Everyone onstage runs after Mark, except for Claire and Moose. She pauses for a beat, then they run offstage as well.

SCENE 5

The woods. Mark is sprinting through the wilderness as fast as he can. From behind - the town starts to sing.

(2-C) OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN (REPRISE)

TOWN

QUIT YER RUNNING,
WE DIDN'T MEAN TA SCARE YA BACK THERE-
YA MISUNDERSTOOD!

WE'RE NOT EVIL,
WE HAVE TRADITIONS LIKE ANY TOWN-
IN THA COUNTRY WOULD!

WE'RE SORRY, EH!
WE KNOW YER FREAKED OOT,
YER FRIGHTENED NO DOOBT,

NOTHING TO BE FRAID' ABOUT - WE'RE SORRY EH! NOW JUST
STOP-
TRYNA RUN AND JUST GIVE UP.

WE'RE SORRY, EH!
WE HOPE THAT YA SEE,
THAT SOON THIS'LL BE,
A REALLY FUN MEMORY - WE'RE SORRY EH! HEAR US OOT:
THIS IS ALL A BIG MIX-UP!
AND SOON WHEN WE CATCH YOU,
WE WILL SORT OOT THIS SILLY PROBLEM QUICK.
IT'S WHAT WE HAVE TA DO,
JUST QUIT RUNNING LIKE A STINKIN LUNATIC.

WE'RE SORRY, EH!
YA BETTER SLOW DOWN.
YOU'LL SOON COME AROUND.
WE'RE STILL A REAL FRIENDLY TOWN - WE'RE SORRY, EH! DON'T
YA KNOW-
THAT THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.

WE'RE SORRY, EH!
WE'RE GAINING ON YOU.
YA KNOW THAT IT'S TRUE.
SO JUST GIVE UP THIS PURSUIT - WE'RE SORRY, WE REALLY ARE-
SOON THIS WHOLE THING WILL BE FINE!

YER BEING VERY RUDE,
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YA DON'T THINK OUR WAY'S THE BEST.
YA MIGHT NOT LIKE OUR FOOD,
BUT YA REALLY COULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER GUEST.

WE'RE SORRY, EH!
NOW YER MAKIN' US MAD.
WE'RE REALLY NOT ALL THAT BAD.
BUT WE'RE GONNA HURT YOU A TAD - IT'S WHAT YA GET WHEN YA
TRY-
TO RUIN WHAT MAKES OUR TOWN SO GREAT!

MARK

Fucking Christ - Jesus fucking - Jehovah fuck.

Mark trips over a log.

MARK (CONT'D)

YAHWEH FUCK!

The Townspeople's voices are getting closer. Mark gets up and continues sprinting, but now his left leg is hurt. Mark looks around and hides behind a large stump. The Townspeople charge on SR, looking for him, they briefly stop in front of the stump.

MAYOR

I've lost track o' him!

MOUNTIE

Me too!

TOWNS PERSON 3

Where could he have run off ta?

Moose notices Mark behind the stump and looks at Claire. Claire points offstage.

CLAIRE

I think I see him up there!

The Townspeople charge off SL. Mark pops out from the stump and looks around.

MARK

(To himself)

What am I gonna do? I hav-

CLAIRE

You can-

Mark sees Claire come onstage, he freaks out and grabs a nearby branch as a weapon.

MARK

Stay back!!

CLAIRE

Please, listen to me.

MARK

Are you kidding me?? Why the fuck should I? You people, you guys are fucking cannibals!? I thought Canadians were supposed to be polite!

CLAIRE

Mark, you have ta understand, it wasn't suppo-

MARK

Don't get any closer! I have to get out of here.

CLAIRE

Mark! I can help you.

MARK

I don't want help from someone like you.

CLAIRE

Please! I can keep them distracted for long enough, if you can make it ta tha Oshkanuck river, it flows for miles, it's fast, they won't be able to catch ya.

MARK

How can you act like this? You eat people!? How can you pretend like you want to help me?

CLAIRE

I don't eat anybody! I'm vegan! I don't like that Jeremiah does what he does, but it's just part o' tha town! It's like - ya know that some little kid in a sweat shop made your clothes, but do ya do anything about it? No. Ya just accept that sometimes bad stuff happens, there's so much more ta our town than that! I promise.

MARK

Would you listen to yourself? You're a monster. Every one of you people are.

Mark runs offstage.

MUSICAL CUE

(2-D) WHAT IS THIS?

CLAIRE

WHAT IS THIS?
THIS FEELING IN MY HEART,
IS HE RIGHT AM I A MONSTER?

OH-
WHAT IS THIS?
I HAVE TA DO MY PART,
TA KEEP HIM FROM BEING SLAUGHTERED.

I JUST NEED HIM TA SEE THAT I'M NOT LIKE THA REST, I HATE
THA BACON.
THAT MEANS I KNOW,
HOW DESPICABLE THIS TOWN'S TRADITIONS SEEM TA HIM BECAUSE
I AM A VEGAN!

CAN'T HE SEE JUST CAUSE I'M COMPLICIT DOESN'T MEAN I'M
EVIL,
I'M IN LOVE WITH NATURE, AND I WOULDN'T HURT A FLY.

THE TOWN IS GONNA CATCH HIM AND THEY WILL BE LETHAL. DO I
BETRAY MY TOWN OR LET ANOTHER PERSON DIE?

WHAT IS THIS?
I ONLY WANNA HELP,
MAKE SURE THEIR PLAN IS RUINED.

UGH,
 FUCKING PISS.
 I'M GONNA GO TA HELL,
 CAUSE I KNEW THA MEAT WAS HUMAN...

WHEN I'M FEELING BROKEN DOWN, YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT MY BACK
 MOOSE MY OL' BUDDY.

BUT NOW I'M-
 AFRAID THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY OOT OF THIS, WE HAVE TO DO IT
 QUICKLY.

HE'S RIGHT, SINCE I HAVE BEEN COMPLICIT IT'S MY DUTY TO
 STOP THEM,
 YOU FIND OOT WHO YOU REALLY ARE WHEN THE GOINGS GETTING
 ROUGH.
 IT'S TOO LATE TO BE THE GOOD GUY, BUT I'LL END THE MAYHEM,
 I'VE IGNORED THIS PROBLEM FOR TOO LONG, ENOUGH'S ENOUGH.

The Townspeople enter SL.

MAYOR
 Claire, any luck finding Mark?

CLAIRE
 No sir-

Pause.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 I don't have any stinkin clue.

MAYOR
 Then it looks like we're gonna have to pull oot tha big guns.

TOWNS PERSON 4
 Ya don't mean-

MAYOR
 Yes. It's the only way.

*Lights go down and come up on the woods again. Chester
 is sitting against a tree, pouting.*

CHESTER
 Nobody appreciates ol' Chester. Nobody cares one boot.

*Chester pitifully pulls out a harmonica and plays the
 opening tunes to piano man. The Townspeople all enter
 SL.*

MAYOR
 CHESTER! It is great ta see ya!

CHESTER

Hm.

Chester scoots to the other side of the tree.

MAYOR

Oh, are ya still mad about tha tap dance thing?

CHESTER

It's not JUST tha tap dance thing! It was never JUST tha tap dance thing! I try ta do my part in this town, I really do. But I never get any stinkin credit! And it's all your fault!

MAYOR

How is it my fault that beavers are eating your motel from the inside oot? Next time just make it oot of - less tasty wood.

Some Townspeople chuckle. Chester snaps back.

CHESTER

I tried everything okay!? I covered tha walls in Beaver repellent. I let abunch o' snakes loose - that did not turn oot like I thought it would. Before tha infestation I had twenty five rooms. I was so proud. With all tha walls eaten up I just have five really long rooms now. FIVE. And ya can't help but shove my nose in it! Like tha banner thing earlier! Why couldn't ya just let me have one win? Why?

MAYOR

Chester. I didn't know ya felt this way. I'm sorry. I really am.

CHESTER

(Indignant)

I think it's too late now ta say sorry.

MAYOR

Please? We could really use your help right now, it's a boot of an emergency!

Chester sighs. He won't even make eye contact with The Mayor. The Mayor thinks to himself for a moment, then a Townsperson hands him a pair of tap shoes. He taps the routine Chester choreographed.

CHESTER

(About to cry)

Ya... ya... ya remembered.

MAYOR

How could I ever forget?

CHESTER

I wish I knew how to quit ya!

They embrace. After hugging it out, the two perform a stunning tap dance duet, speaking to one another through their feet alone.

MAYOR

Chester. We need your help. Mark, tha reporter - he found oot about the bacon.

CHESTER

He found oot that Jeremiah puts man-meat into it?

MAYOR

Exactly. We need ta catch him, and fast. We need.

Spotlight on Mayor.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Your nose.

Spotlight moves to Chester.

CHESTER

Ya want me to help track down an innocent man and ruthlessly kill him in order ta keep our town's bloody secret under wraps?

MAYOR

That's tha idea, yes.

Chester thinks about this for a moment.

CHESTER

Okay.

Spotlight off Chester. Chester starts to sniff. And sniff. And sniff some more. He leads everyone off SR.

SCENE 6

Lights come up on a beaver damn. The rushing Oshkanuck river flows behind it. Mark runs on top of the damn.

MARK

Okay, Oshka-whatever, how can I get down there?

The Townspeople come out of nowhere.

MAYOR
Well bud, I'm sorry it's come ta this.

MUSICAL CUE

(2-E) OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN (REPRISE)

MAYOR (CONT'D)
SO THIS IS OUR LITTLE QUAIN TOWN,
OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN.
THIS STUPENDOUSLY RADIANT TOWN,
IS OUR HOME, AND WE WILL (KEEP IT THAT WAY.)
YOU'VE SEEN THE DARK SIDE OF THIS TOWN,
OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN.

CHORUS
OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN.

MAYOR
IT'D BE A REAL SHAME IF YOU DROWNED HERE IN-
MAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAANJASKATOON.

CHORUS
MAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAANJASKATOON.

MAYOR
NOW YA SEE - I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YA BUT WE ARE AT THE
END OF THE LINE.

CHORUS
HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH

MAYOR
YA CAN'T FLEE- YA GAVE US QUITE A CHASE BUT NOW IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU RAN OOT OF TIME.

CHORUS
HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH

MAYOR
YOU'LL AGREE - IT'S REALLY PERFECT WEATHER AND IT LOOKS
LIKE THE WATER IS FINE.

CHORUS
HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH HA HUH

ALL
GOODBYE - IT SURE WAS REALLY NICE MEETIN' YA BUT ONCE YER
DEAD WE WILL DINE.

*The music stops. Mark grabs a nearby beaver and holds
it up as though it's a sword.*

MARK

Get back. I have a beaver.

MAYOR

Ya just gotta see - this is all about perspective! From your perspective, we kill and eat people. But from our perspective...

Mayor thinks to himself for a second.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Fuck you!

The Mayor makes a dead sprint for Mark. He grabs another beaver and lunges at Mark. They duel, sword fight sound effects play. They re-enact a shot for shot choreography of the final battle from Star Wars Episode III. The Townspeople are on the sidelines, watching intently. Finally, The Mayor gets the upper hand - Mark is about to be beaten.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Any last words, pal? No? But you ARE tha fancy shmancy reporter huh? You ARE tha one that thinks you're better than all o' us? Aren't ya?

MARK

Yeah..... That's, me. I'm that guy.

Mark dives out of the way as The Mayor plummets to his death off the side of the dam.

MAYOR

OH PISS!!

All the characters freeze after seeing The Mayor thrown off. They watch him fall. He lands with a hard thud. Everyone slowly looks at Mark.

CHESTER

It's over Mister Ericson! Ya are no match for all of us!

The music starts again.

CHESTER (CONT'D)

WE WON'T LET YA LEAVE HERE ALIVE.

The town tries to chase Mark around the damn and the surrounding area.

ALL

THERE'S NO WAY THAT YOU WILL SURVIVE,
WE'RE GONNA MAKE YOU TAKE A DIVE.
NOW YA KNOW (THAT THIS IS)-

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SNOOP AROUND,
OUR LITTLE CANADIAN TOWN.
WE HOPE YA ENJOYED COMIN' DOWN HERE TA -
MAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAANJASKATOON!!

The group corners Mark.

CHESTER

Yer cornered, why are ya making this harder than it has ta be?

Mark holds up his beaver as defense.

MARK

Chester, I've watched two Canadians die today. Don't make me kill another one.

CHESTER

No way. I'm not letting another BEAVER stand in my way. I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!!

Chester lunges at Mark, but stops short and just grabs the beaver, and starts beating the shit out of it. He chucks the Beaver off the side of the dam.

MAYOR

(Yelling)

Hey everyone!

TOWNS PERSON 5

Wow! The Mayor actually survived that fall somehow, he's on his wa-

Another loud stabbing sound.

MAYOR

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Splash sound.

CHESTER

My bad.

The Townspeople pile onto the dam, ready to kill Mark.

CLAIRE

WAIT!!!

Everyone waits.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Mark, I know ya trusted me, and I'm sorry that we're... well I'm sorry about tha whole cannibal thing. But ya really are a special guy. I mean that.

TOWNS PERSON 1

(To Townspeople)

What are we waiting for?

CLAIRE

And you're right - about what we are. I just hope ya can understand. I might be a monster, but a monster can still fall in love.

Everyone groans.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Moose, get him out of here.

Claire pulls a big log out from in front of her. The dam starts to shake, and all the Townspeople panic.

CHESTER

What are ya doin? That'll destroy the dam!!

CLAIRE

Ya.

She pulls a key part of the dam out - it's going to collapse. All of the Townspeople are on SL, Mark and Moose are on SR. Claire and Mark exchange glances. The damn breaks, all of the Townspeople fall to there death. Mark escapes on the back of Moose. Lights go down.

SCENE 7

The woods. Mark is on the back of Moose, they are riding in silence. They both sigh a few times.

MARK

This sucks.

Moose nods in agreement.

MARK (CONT'D)

I'm hunted through the woods, the only tady I've had feelings for kills herself and her town for me... I guess on the bright side, I got a story.

MUSICAL CUE

MARK (CONT'D)

Actually... YEAH! Things aren't so bad!

(2-F) Now that's a story

MARK (CONT'D)

NOW THAT'S A STORY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SURVIVED,
I MADE IT TO THE-
OTHER SIDE.

NOW THAT'S A STORY!
CAN'T BELIEVE I COULD KICK SO MUCH DAMN ASS!
I DIDN'T EVEN-
USE MY PRESS PASS.

AND WHAT A STORY,
I REALLY FOUGHT THE FIGHT AND RIGHTED WRONGS.
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GLORY-
BUT I'LL SING A SONG.

BUT NOW IT'S DONE, I USED A BEAVER AS A SWORD.
AND I WON, I'M OKAY EVEN THOUGH I'M LOST IN THE CANADIAN
WILDERNESS.

AND I DIDN'T DIE - WHEN CHASED BY A CANNIBALISTIC HORDE.
SO GOODBYE TO WRITING FLUFF PIECES ONCE I SHOW THIS TO-
MISTER GRANGINOFFOLIS.

NOW THAT'S A STORY!
MISTER G THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS A DEAD END.
I WONDER WHAT HE,
THINKS HAPPENED.

A TERRIFYING STORY!
I WENT THROUGH THICK AND THIN AND MADE IT OUT.
THIS IS WHAT JOURNALISM'S,
ALL ABOUT!

THINGS GOT DARK BACK THERE BUT-
NOW SKIES ARE CLEAR.
I'M OUT OF MANJASKATOON.
IT WOULD SUCK IF THAT TOWN - WAS MY TOMB.

BUT CLAIRE'S GONE FOR GOOD, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FEEL-
ABOUT THAT.
SHE WITHSTOOD, THE TOWNS INSANITY BUT RIGHTED HER WRONGS,
AND SAVED ME IN THE END.

I MADE, MY ESCAPE, NOW I CAN WRITE OUT MY REPORT.
I'M AMAZED AND REALLY GLAD I DIDN'T MEET MY END IN THE
GREAT WHITE NORTH.

CAN'T WAIT TILL I GET HOME,
 BACK IN THE USA.
 I'M SICK OF MAPLE SYRUP ANYWAY.

NOW THAT'S A STORY!
 NOT GONNA LIE I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD MEAT.
 WHY DOES THIS FEEL SO-
 BITTERSWEET?

CANADA GOODBYE
 YOU CAN SUCK MY ASS - I'M ALIVE!
 I'M ALIVE!
 I'M ALIVE!!
 AGAINST THE ODDS-
 I'M ALIVE!
 I'M ALIVE!
 I'M ALIVE!
 I REALLY DID MY DAMN JO-

A bus speeds out SR and runs over Mark. The blind bus driver is driving it. Moose is shocked, after running over the body once, the bus stops.

MARK (CONT'D)
 (In so much pain)
 JESUS CHRIST, YOU RAN OVER ME, I AM IN SO MUCH PAIN.

BUS DRIVER
 Did I hit somethin'? Sounds like I hit a raccoon.

MARK
 I AM NOT A RACCOON. I AM A MAN THAT YOU RAN OVER.

BUS DRIVER
 I can't hear too well anymore, Fido! Back up, would ya? I need to check if I ran over somethin'.

Happy dog bark.

MARK
 NO! DON'T BACK UP! YOU ALREADY RAN OVER ME ONC-

The bus backs over Mark again, he dies.

BUS DRIVER
 Eh, it was probably nothin'.

The bus rides off SL.

SCENE 8

The lights go down on Mark and come up on the original setting in the present day.

The snowbank, The population sign, Tourists, Tour Guide, Cloaked Figure.

TOURISTS/TOUR GUIDE

WHAT????

CLOAKED FIGURE

That's how it happened. That's the story of... Manjaskatoon.

Dramatic thunder crash.

TOURIST 1

He died???

TOUR GUIDE

The bus driver killed him?

TOURIST 3

But what about the news story?

TOURIST 2

Is it true?

CLOAKED FIGURE

Yes. All of it.

TOURIST 4

Honestly, I just assumed you were Mark.

TOURIST 1

Yeah - that made the most sense narratively.

CLOAKED FIGURE

Oh, you want to know who I am?

Everyone nods.

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)

This whole time it's been me all along! I am-

The spotlight goes on Cloaked figure as he rips off his cloak.

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)

The Moose.

Climactic reveal music. Silence.

TOURIST 5

Wait... that doesn't make any sense.

MOOSE

What do you mean?

TOUR GUIDE

He's right, that doesn't quite work. If you're tha Moose, does that mean that all animals are sentient?

TOURIST 2

Yeah, and why wouldn't you speak English in any part of the story?

TOURIST 4

And why did the second act seem so rushed?

TOUR GUIDE

These are all good questions.

MOOSE

What's that? I think I hear a musical number starting, uh oh! Guess I won't be able to answer you guys... time to sing!

MUSICAL CUE

(2-F) CANADIAN BACON (REPRISE)

CLOAKED FIGURE

NOW YOU KNOW - THE DEEP DARK SECRET OF MANJASKATOON.

CHORUS

A DEADLY SECRET, A SPOOKY OOKY FREAKY SECRET!

CLOAKED FIGURE

THERE YOU GO- NOW LET'S ALL WRAP UP WITH A CATCHY TUNE!

CHORUS

WE'RE CLOSING UP THE SHOP, WITH A SONG THAT'LL MAKE YOUR BOOTY HOP!

CLOAKED FIGURE

THIS SMALL TOWN, WAS ONCE AN EVIL AND SINISTER PLACE.

CHORUS

PLAY-AY-AY-AY-AY-AY-AY-AY-ACE

CLOAKED FIGURE

THEY ALL DIED, THEY'RE DONZO, WE'RE RID OF THAT DISGRACE. WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE LIKED OUR PLAY, AND IF IT'S OFFERED SAY NO WAY TO-

ALL

CANADIAN BACON
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T EAT ANY-

CANADIAN BACON
IT'S A DANGEROUS TREAT YEAH THE-

CANADIAN BACON,
CANADIAN BACON,
CANADIAN BACON!

TOURIST 3

I THINK MY FAVORITE PART WAS MARK GETTING CHASED BY BEES,
AFTER HE JOINED OBAMA'S JAZZ BAND BACK INSIDE THAT DREAM.
I ALSO LOVED THE SONG WHEN MARK WAS RUNNING THROUGH THE
WOODS,
IT WAS SO SCARY IT WAS VERY THRILLING AND GOOD.

CLOAKED FIGURE

I AGREE, THOSE SCENES DESERVED AND OSCAR OR TWO.

CHORUS

WE SHOULD GET ACCOLADES, LIKE GOLD ENCRUSTED ROLLER-
BLADES!

CLOAKED FIGURE

AN EMMY, A GOLDEN GLOBE OR A TONY WILL DO.

CHORUS

THIS WAS SO MUCH BETTER, THAN WICKED OR RENT OR HEATHERS!

CLOAKED FIGURE

WE HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED A LESSON - THAT SOME THINGS AREN'T
WHAT THEY SEEM.

CHORUS

SE E E E E E E EEM

CLOAKED FIGURE

YEAH IT'S TRUE CANADIANS COULD HAVE A CANNIBAL SCHEME.

TOUR GUIDE

BUT WAS THE MURDER AND THE VIOLENCE NECESSARY?
THE STORY AND THE GORY STUFF WAS ARBITRARY.
I MEAN HOW DIFFERENT WOULD THIS BE IF IT WAS RATED G?
IT JUST RELIES ON PEOPLE DYING AND GETTING AMPUTEED.

CLOAKED FIGURE

I MEAN-
AGREE TO DISAGREE.
THIS SHOW WAS THE BEST.

I THINK-
CANADIAN BACON,
LEFT YOU ALL IMPRESSED.

THIS WAS:
CANADIAN BACON,
CANADIAN BACON,
CANADIAN BACON HAS-

Mark enters SR, dressed as a ghost.

MARK

JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY.
MIGHT MAKE YOU HAVE TO FIGHT AN ANGRY MOB, BECAUSE-
JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY,
MEANS WAY MORE THAN SIMPLY DOING YOU JOB.

Claire enters SL, also dressed as a ghost.

CLAIRE

I WISH I STOOD UP TO THEM SOONER, BUT I DID WHAT I COULD.
I THOUGHT SINCE I WAS A VEGAN, EVERYTHING WOULD WORK OUT
FINE-
IF YOU STAY A CONSUMER, YA WON'T FIGHT WHEN YOU SHOULD.
YA CAN'T SIT AND WATCH WHEN HUMAN LIVES ARE ON THE LINE.

*Jeremiah, Chester, Mayor, and Mr. G come enter SL.
They're all ghosts.*

MARK

Mister Granginoffolis, why are you a ghost?

MR. GRANGINOFFOLIS

I got lymphoma from eating some spoiled sardines....

TOUR GUIDE

I TOLD YOU.

ALL

JUST FOR YOU, WE MADE A MUSICAL - WHAT DO YA THINK?
(WE MADE IT JUST FOR YOU, WE HOPE YOU LOVED IT TOO!)
LET'S REVIEW, WE SAW AN ADVENTURE WITH WACKY HIJINKS.
(THIS WAS JUST LIKE THE HOBBIT, EXCEPT WITH BETTER CGI!)

AND IT'S TRUE WE'RE-
ALMOST THROUGH.
HERE'S THE MORAL OF THE STORY,
BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU GO!
BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW,
YOU'VE GOT TO STAY SMART-
AND LEGALLY THIS COUNTS AS ART.

CANADIAN
CANADIAN
CANADIAN
CANADIAN
BAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACON!

THE END.