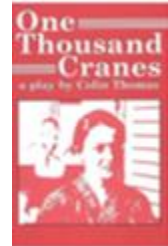


Scene 12 Aretha



(Buddy is lying on the sofa under the comforter. Music back up, Mom comes in, very excited. She's hit by a wall of noise and she turns down the tape deck. She notices Buddy lying on the couch and pulls down the comforter to reveal him)

Mom: Hey! What are you doing home?

Buddy: I was listening to that music, thank you.

Mom: Why aren't you at school? You sick or something?

(Mom puts a hand to Buddy's forehead)

You feel all right to me.

(Buddy shrugs her hand away)

Buddy: I just want to be left alone, all right?

Mom: Wait a minute! I know something that's gonna make you feel a whole lot better.

Close your eyes. This is a surprise.

Buddy: I can't even listen to music!

Mom: Come on. I'll tell you when you can open 'em.

(Buddy closes his eyes/ Mom throws off her coat and reveals an outrageous waitress uniform)

Ta da! Okay! You can open your eyes!

(Mom whips her pad and pencil out of her uniform)

Can I take your order, sir?

(Buddy is dumbfounded)

Perhaps I could tell you about today's special, sir.

Buddy: What are you doing?

(Mom drops the waitress character)

Mom: I got a job!

Buddy: As a waitress?

Mom: Yes, as a waitress. In this tremendous restaurant.

(Buddy's reaction to this is very flat)

Buddy: I thought you wanted to work in an office.

Mom: An office, a restaurant... come on! It's a start. And it's not just a crummy restaurant. I can make really good tips. I mean, check out the outfit.

Buddy: I think it's really great. If you wanna be Jane Jerson.

(Mom sits down beside Buddy)

Mom: Hey, you still want that laser tag set? Well, I think we can afford it. Not the first pay cheque, but the next one. Okay? Okay? I... feel...so...good!
Doubly good.

(Mom puts on an Aretha Franklin tape: "What you want, you know I got it..." She turns the music backup and dances off as Buddy addresses the audience)

Buddy: The world's probably going to blow up any second anyway. I mean, what's the good of having a job as a waitress when the bomb drops? She'll

probably serving spaghetti to some guy when it happens. Bcccchhhh!!!

Spaghetti all over the place.

(Buddy pulls the comforter back over his head)