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# *Armourdale*

*~ the musical*

*based on a true story*

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by Kevin Sanders

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***Based on a true story***

**CAST OF CHARACTERS:** *(ages shown are as of 1936, when the show begins)*

Luigi Tortorilla: An Italian immigrant (speaks with an Italian accent); age 47; short in stature but muscular; works at Griffin Wheel Company, a business that manufactures and repairs wheels for rail cars.

Assunta (Belinca) Tortorilla: Luigi's wife (speaks with an Italian accent); age 46; married to Luigi April 2, 1913; they have eight children:

- Norma Tortorilla: age 8.
- Johnny Tortorilla: age 15.
- Angelo Tortorilla: age 10.
- Harold Tortorilla: age 5.
- Mary Tortorilla, age 19
- Rosie Tortorilla, age 17
- Nina Tortorilla, age 13
- Della Tortorilla, age 11

Bill Sanders: age 65; a retired carpenter, now operates a grocery store from the living room of his house. Appearing to be a grouchy old man, he is actually very kind hearted.

Mary (O'Donnell) Sanders: Bill's wife, age 66; they have eight children. *All of their children are not principle characters in this show and do not need to be included in the ensemble.*

O'Donnell (OD) Sanders: Bill and Mary's seventh child, a cooper, age 27.

Tommy Sanders: OD's son, age 7

*The Tortorilla and Sanders families live across the street from each other. Tommy Sanders' mother has died, so his grandparents, Bill and Mary, are raising him while his father, "OD" works.*

Leo Sanders: Bill and Mary's fourth child; age 34; a machine operator; Leo is a big, tall, muscular man, with broad shoulders, not overweight, but muscular.

Primo & Clementina Amadeo: husband and wife, also Italian immigrants (speaks with Italian accents), neighbors of the Tortorillas.

A seller at the Farmer's Market

An unnamed neighbor boy: age 6 when he appears.

The Mayor and two city officials

# *Armourdale* ~ the musical

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Monsignor Koch: The pastor at St. Thomas Catholic Church and School; an ornery, old priest, age: late 60s.

The Assistant Parish Priest at St. Thomas Catholic Church, age: early 20s

A nun who teaches at St. Thomas Catholic School

A group of sailors, including Sailor 1 and Sailor 2

A Naval Officer

Two firemen

A Western Union Telegram delivery man

Two unnamed boys, in their early teens

Two unnamed policemen

The voice of a newsman/announcer, broadcasting on the radio

Receptionist in a hospital lobby

Frank and Greta McCain, an older married couple, in their late 60s

## **SETTING:**

A community known as “Armourdale”, a district in the lower part of the Kansas River valley (aka the “Kaw” river), in Kansas City, Kansas, close to the rail yards. The district was devastated by a flood in 1903, and again in 1951.

**Time:** Approximately 1936 to 1951.

### **Scene 1**

*The cast welcomes the audience to the show by singing “Armourdale”, a satiric celebration of their community.*

## **ACT I**

### **Armourdale**

**Chorus:** Armourdale! - It’s on the river Kaw

The home of Ma and Pa

Armourdale! - Come visit and you’ll see

That river hospitality

Cause Armourdale is home to me

Armourdale is home to me

We’re not glamorous like in Hollywood

But we are wondrous in fact we are quite good

We don’t have the charm of a gay Paree

And you may be alarmed by some of what you see

*Luigi Tortorilla and his oldest son Johnny are in their front yard sawing a log using a two-handled saw. Tommy Sanders, a neighbor boy, age 7 from across the street, is sitting on the end of the log that will be cut off. As they cut through the log, the end of the log falls to the ground and Tommy falls along with it.*

Repeat Chorus

We don't have a beach like in Trinidad  
But the river's within reach in fact it's not half bad  
We don't have the pubs you'll find in Dublin  
But there are many places to get drunk in

Repeat Chorus

There's not the open space that's in Texas  
And blandness you will notice it in excess  
If we make you shiver, then that's just that  
And don't let anybody call us river rats

Repeat Chorus

The Colorado Mountains are unknown to us  
And if you give us crap you can expect a fuss  
Fifth Avenue is something we have never seen  
Armourdale's the farthest we have ever been

Luigi: *(looking at the boy)* Stupid American!

*Luigi and Johnny head inside where they sit down to dinner with the rest of the family.*

Angelo: Why do I have to sit next to "Mexican."

Nina: (*angrily*) Stop calling me that!

Johnny: Why do you call her that anyway?

Angelo: Because she's the only one of the girls with straight hair.  
And besides, it makes her mad!

Nina: (*angrily shaking her fist at him*) So you like making me mad!  
I'll show you mad!

Assunta: Stop that! Now eat your dinner. Magña!

Della: I don't want to eat this! I don't like it.

Luigi: You eat what your mamma cooks. (*Shaking his finger at her*)  
Your Mama don't have time to cook just for you!

Della (*defiant*): No! I'm not going to eat it!

*Luigi, taking off his shoe he throws it at her, missing hitting her. Della leaves the table*

Assunta: Luigi, why do you have to make beer in the bathtub? Why don't you buy beer?

Luigi: I like *my* beer.

Assunta: Yeah, but we can't take a bath. We have to take a bath in the sink.

Luigi: I'm gonna make beer in the tub, and I don't wanna hear any more about it!

Assunta: But Luigi.....

Luigi: (*raising his index finger*) Ah! Ah!

*Assunta doesn't say any more about it.*

**Scene 2** – October, 1936

*Luigi and Rosie are at the Farmer's Market in Kansas City, Missouri.*

*The chickens he is purchasing are live chickens. Baccalà is a salt cod fish that was very cheap and kept very well, which made it an ideal food for the poor.*

*Luigi and Rosie get on the trolley to head home. The other passengers are giving them condescending looks. Luigi embarrassingly just smiles and nods his head at them.*

*Luigi and Rosie arrive home. They are in the living room. The radio is on.*

Luigi: *(to a seller at the market)* I'll take two chicken and some baccalà.

Seller *(to Rosie)*: You'll have to hold your nose all the way home with that fish!

Luigi: Aw, it smells good!

Seller: It smells strong! *(Noticing something is wrong with Rosie)* What's wrong with the girl?

Luigi: She's got rickets. She's getting treatments. She'll be OK.

Luigi: *(to Assunta)*: What did you do today?

Assunta: Missus Price come over. I gave her some meat.

Luigi: *(surprised)* 'Sunta! We don't have enough food for us!

Norma: I'll give you some of mine Mama.

Luigi: That's alright blondie *(she has blonde hair at this age)*. You don't have to.

Assunta: I know, I know. But she's a done so much for us. She showed you how to take Rosie to the hospital for her treatments. She helped us learn English.

Luigi *(teasingly)*: I learned more than you!

Assunta *(playing along)*: You just think, since you became a citizen.

Luigi: *(proudly)* Yeah! Yeah! I'm now a citizen of this country. I'm pretty proud!

*They hear a racket coming from their neighbors next door, Clementina and Primo Amadeo. Luigi goes to their house to see what is the matter and finds them fighting. Primo is beating his wife. Luigi pulls him away from her.*

*The rest of the family is now also in the living room listening to a newscast on the radio.*

Luigi: *(lifting Primo off the floor by the throat with one hand)* If you don't stop hitting her, I'm gonna kill you! *He then goes back home and enters the living room.*

Assunta *(to Luigi as he returns home)* What's the matter with them?

Luigi: Primo was hitting her again. I made him stop.

Assunta *(shaking her head and looking down)* Ah, ah ah.

Newsman: The White House announced today that President Franklin D. Roosevelt will be coming to Kansas City, Missouri, on October 13. The President's agenda will include a speech to the ROTC candidates with the National Youth Administration, and another speech at the dedication of the new Municipal Auditorium. The President will get off the train in Argentine, on the Kansas side. The route for his motorcade will take him across the 12<sup>th</sup> street bridge into Armourdale, then east on Kansas Avenue and on over into Kansas City, Missouri.

Mary: *(excitedly)* Mama! Papa! Did you hear that?!!

Rosie: *(excitedly)* It's the President! The President is coming!

Johnny: *(excitedly)* That's really something!

Mary: *(excitedly)* Can you believe it! The President will be driving down 12<sup>th</sup> street! Right here in Armourdale! That's just one block over from us!

Rosie: *(excitedly)* Right here in Armourdale! Why would anyone want to live anywhere else when you can see the President right here in Armourdale?!

*The day arrives and the Tortorilla family, the Sanders family, and all of their neighbors line up along 12<sup>th</sup> street and cheer as the President passes by, waving to the crowd.*

**Scene 3** –Nov. 17, 1936

*Norma and Harold, the two youngest of the Tortorilla children, are sitting on their father's lap, one on each lap.*

*The children climb off their father's lap and go to the bedroom. Luigi and Assunta turn off the lights and also go to bed. The two youngest children are sleeping in the same room as their parents.*

*Assunta goes into the kitchen to get a glass of water. As she is leaving the kitchen, she sees a vision of the Virgin Mary. Startled, she drops the water and runs back to the bedroom. She finds that her husband has died.*

Assunta: (*addressing the kids*) It's time for bed.

Luigi: (*wakes up and sits up in bed*) 'Sunta. Wake up. I don't feel so good.

Assunta: I'll get you some water.

Assunta: (*shaking Luigi, trying to get him to respond*) Luigi! Luigi!

Harold: Mama what is it?

Norma: Mama, what's wrong with Papa?

Assunta: (*crying*) Your Papa. He's gone.



**Scene 4**

*The living room at the Tortorilla house. Funeral guests are leaving. After the last guest has left, Assunta and the kids sing "We're Not A Family."*

**We're Not A Family**

Dear Papa don't you know we're not a family without you  
And Papa what will we do now that we have to live without you  
Wherever you are now oh please don't forget us  
We will never forget you we're not a family without you

We know that you're gone and you won't be around  
To be happy when we're happy and lift us up when we are down.  
They say you are in a better place  
But can't they see we're not a family without you

Dear family don't you know Papa won't be here to share our meals  
And we will never be the same since he no longer here remains  
Dear family don't you know that at Christmas he won't be here  
And our future's looking grim since we have to live without him

You have gone so far away  
You made us happy throughout the day  
It's just not right that you were taken suddenly this way

We'll meet again we know it's true  
And there'll be nothing anyone could do  
That would keep us a-part  
We're not a family without you

**Scene 5 - 1938**

*A ribbon cutting ceremony at the West Kansas Avenue Bridge in the Turner district of Kansas City, Kansas. Tommy, now age 10, is the first in line to cross the new bridge on his bicycle.*

Mayor (*with two other city officials, cutting the ribbon*): As mayor of Kansas City, Kansas, I hereby declare this bridge open and ready for traffic. (*to Tommy*) Are you ready to be the first person to cross this new bridge young man?

Tommy (*excitedly*) You bet, sir!

*After crossing the bridge, Tommy heads home. The scene is the living room of his grandparents, Bill and Mary Sanders. Bill*

*operates a small grocery store out of the living room. Bill, age 67, is a crotchety old man on the outside, but is very kind-hearted on the inside.*

*There are a few shoppers talking amongst themselves.*

*The shoppers look at each other with surprise, wondering how someone could be so rude to his customers.*

*The news on the radio is over. As the shoppers make their purchases, a young neighbor boy, about 6 years old, comes inside the store. He pronounces the “t” of the word “time” as a “d” and drags out the vowel “i.”*

**Scene 6 – Late 1938**

*The Tortorilla family is sitting at the kitchen table just finishing dinner, except for Mary, who is now married.*

Bill: *(sternly to the shoppers in his store)* Alright everybody, be quiet! It's time for the news. I have to hear the news!

*(He walks over to the radio and turns it up)*

Shoppers: *(still talking, but with the volume of the radio up, they start talking louder)*

Bill: *(shouting)* I thought I told you all to pipe down, goddammit! I wanna hear the news!

Boy: *(to Bill)*: What diiiiime is it?

Bill: *(looking at the clock)* It's 6:20.

Boy: *(leaves the store without buying anything)*

Assunta: *(to Johnny, as he heads towards the door)* Where are you going?

Nina: He's a man and he just finished eating. *(To all the others)* Where do you think he's going!

*They all laugh*

Johnny: So I'm going to the outhouse. Big deal!

Johnny: *(picking up some newspapers and a book of matches)* It's cold out there.

*The other kids all rush outside to see the outhouse on fire. They sing "Set the Outhouse on Fire."*

*The girls giggle.*

Assunta: *(leaving the room)* I'm tired. I'm going to bed.

Della: *(looking out of the window sees flames)* Oh my god!  
Somethings burning outside!

**Set The Outhouse On Fire**

**Chorus:** Johnny set the outhouse on fire  
Although it maybe wasn't his desire  
Still he set the outhouse on fire  
Johnny set the outhouse on fire

Go get Mama now  
She probably won't believe  
She'll want to know just how  
And then she'll be real peeved  
He was trying to keep warm  
But this is overkill  
He'll wish he wasn't born  
He didn't mean to, still

Repeat Chorus

Now what will we do  
Without a place to go  
I guess we will rebuild  
And then I'll let you know  
He wanted to keep warm  
But now he's way too hot  
The flames began to swarm  
Then out of there he got

Repeat Chorus

He got out real fast  
Then we ran all around  
He knew it wouldn't last  
It burned right to the ground  
Run run run run run  
Go get Mama quick

**Scene 7**

*The Tortorilla house. The two youngest children, Norma and Harold, now ages 12 and 9 respectively, are in the kitchen with Assunta.*

*They go down to the railyard. Assunta, though small in stature, picks up a railroad tie, puts it across her shoulders and heads home. Norma and Harold stay behind picking up some coal that has fallen off the coal cars. There is a coal train sitting there. A man is standing on top of one of the cars and seeing that they are poor, throws some coal off of the car for them to pick up. They sing "Down by the Tracks"*

We have to put it out  
Before it makes her sick

Repeat Chorus

It's too bad Papa's gone  
He'd know just what to do  
Perhaps he'd use his brawn  
His choices would be few  
But Papa isn't here  
He'd know just what to do  
He'd douse the fire with beer  
Before the flames renew

Repeat Chorus

Assunta: Norma, you and Harold come with me. We're gonna go down to the railroad tracks and get some coal and wood.

**Down By The Tracks**

**Chorus:** Well I'm sittin' in front of the fireplace  
In the early morn  
Although I'm by the fireplace  
It's not very warm

I'm gonna go Down by the Tracks  
I'm gonna go Down by the Tracks  
I'm gonna get my lump of coal  
Then I'll head back home  
Down by the Tracks

Work is hard it can break your back  
Life is rough when you live  
Down by the Tracks

Repeat Chorus

We gotta have coal to keep warm

*as they are picking up the coal.*

So all the poor folks swarm  
Down by the Tracks

Repeat Chorus

Mama's at the stove in the kitchen  
Stirrin' a pot  
Tryin' to cook on the stove  
But it's not very hot

I'm gonna go Down by the Tracks  
I'm gonna go Down by the Tracks  
We need heat so we can cook  
And so some coal we took  
From by the Tracks

*As the songs gets near the end, they head back home.*

We got no money, you see  
But all the coal is free  
Down by the Tracks

Repeat Chorus

Well I'm sittin' in front of the fireplace  
The fireplace at home  
All - though I'm by the fireplace  
It's not very warm

Repeat Chorus

It's cold in our home, you know  
So we gotta get some coal  
Down by the Tracks

The engineer knows we're poor  
And so some coal he'll throw  
Down by the Tracks

Repeat Chorus

*Norma and Harold arrive back home. They give the bag of coal to their mother, who is in the kitchen.*

Norma: *(to Harold)* Let's go over to the Sanders' store and see if we can get some candy.

Harold: *(with a big smile quickly shakes his head yes)*

*She reaches into a small purse, pulls out some change and gives it to them. They go over to the grocery store in the Sanders' living room. Bill has caught some kids stealing candy.*

*He chases after them, but they run away from him, laughing and picking up more candy as they leave the store. Looking at Norma and Harold, who are still there with astonished looks on their faces, he sings Munch Your Troubles Away.*

Assunta: (*firmly*) No! You don't steal candy! Mr. Sanders is a nice man. He's helped us a lot.

Bill: (*yelling*) Hey! You little sonsabitches! Put that candy back or pay for it!

**Munch Your Troubles Away**

When you come in to our house  
You know exactly where you are  
Brother is eating some peanuts  
Sister a candy bar

Munch munch munch munch munch your troubles away

(*sitting down, pours himself a beer and picks up some pretzels*)

The beer tastes good  
With the pretzels so thin  
We'll finish off the candy  
Then we'll eat again

Munch munch munch munch munch your troubles away

(*the kids, peeking back in the door sing*):

We'll get fat we don't care  
If there's food we'll be there

(*Bill continues the song*)

Munch munch munch munch munch your troubles away

They'll have a snack after dinner  
They'll have a snack after the snack  
They'll have ice-cream for bedtime  
The refrigerator they'll attack

*After he is finished singing this song, the boy who always comes in to ask what time it is, comes in again.*

*The boy nods his head in agreement and leaves*

### Scene 8

*A classroom at St. Thomas Catholic School. Angelo and Norma are in the class. Monsignor Koch, the pastor of the parish, enters the classroom.*

*Angelo goes to the front of the class. The priest grabs him by the ear.*

Munch munch munch munch munch your troubles away

Boy: What diiiiime is it?

Bill: (*angrily*): Why do you always come in here asking what time it is? What do you think I am, a goddamn cuckoo clock?

Boy: (*hanging his head*) My mom tells me to come over and see what dime it is. We don't have a clock. My mom says we can't afford one.

Bill: (*feeling sorry for the boy and ashamed that he shouted at him, picks up some candy, walks over to the boy and hands it to him*) Well, you tell your mom that you are welcome to come over here anytime to check on the time or anything else you want. OK?

Class: Good afternoon, Father!

Koch: Good afternoon class, (*looking at the teacher*) Sister.

Sister: Good afternoon Monsignor.

Koch: (*taking the nun aside*) What is it you wanted to see me about?

Sister: It's Angelo. He's been acting up again.

Koch: (*firmly*) Angelo! Get up here.

Koch: (*angrily*) What are we gonna do with you, huh? You just never learn, do you?

Angelo: Ow! Stop it! That hurts!

Koch: (*calmer*) Norma. Come here.

*Norma rises and goes up to them.*

Koch: Norma, I need for you to go home and get your mother. I need to talk to her about Angelo.

Norma (*reluctantly*): Not again! But I have to walk over a mile!

Koch: I know, but I need to talk to your mother.

Norma: You can talk to her after mass on Sunday.

Koch: No, I need to talk to her now.

*Norma leaves to get Assunta*

Koch: (*calmer*) Angelo, you need to stay out of trouble or you're not going to get your diploma.

Angelo: I don't care.

Koch: But without your diploma, you won't be able to go on to high school.

Angelo: I ain't goin' to high school. I ain't goin' to no more school! I hate school!

Koch: You better go to high school or Uncle Sam will get you!

*Norma arrives back at the school with Assunta*

Assunta: (*to Koch*) What'd he do? He's in trouble again?

Koch: I don't know what we're going to do with him, 'Sunta. He's always been a problem child. He's due to graduate this year, if he can stay out of trouble. I strongly recommend that you send him to the Catholic High School next year. The discipline there'll do him good.

Assunta: I can't afford to send him there. He'll go to the public school.

Koch: He can go to the Catholic High School, I'll pay for it. I'll pay to send Norma there too. These kids are Catholic. They should go to the Catholic High School.

Angelo: I ain't goin' to no High School.

Norma: I'll go, but I'll pay my own way.

Koch: I told your mother I'd pay your way.

Norma: I'll pay my own way.



*They leave the school and  
head home.*

*Angelo sings "I Think  
About You All the Time."*

Koch: How are you going to pay your own way?

Norma: I'll work.

Assunta: *(notices a flyer on the wall advertising a bingo fundraiser for the church)* What's this?

Koch: We're having a bingo fundraiser for the church.

Assunta: It's gambling! It's a sin!

Koch: But we need money for the church.

Assunta: *(scolding)* It's a sin! The church shouldn't sin!

Koch: But Assunta, the church needs painting.

Assunta: *(shaking her finger at him)* No! You don't need to paint the church. El Signor (God) don't care if the church is painted!

Assunta: Angelo, I don't know what to do with you. I pray for you every day. Do you say your prayers every day?

Angelo: No.

Assunta: *(shocked)* Agh! Angelo! You have to pray or your gonna go to hell!

Angelo: Aw mamma.

Assunta: *(firmly)* No, no, no! Don't you "oh mamma" me! You say your prayers every day!

Angelo: I may not say the prayers that we learn in school, mamma. But you know what? I find myself thinking about God and Jesus all the time.

Assunta: Eh?

Angelo: That's right mamma. Every day. I think about stuff like that all the time.

**I Think About You All the Time**

I talk to you every day  
You guide me along the way  
Your love for me is divine  
And I, I think about you all the time.

When I'm in need you always come through  
You help me know what to do  
You're always there for me on a dime  
And I, I think about you all the time

You give me friends to help me get through  
Until the day I come home to you  
You're helping me stay right in line  
And I, I think about you all the time

When I think about you, I just sigh  
Your love for me is so strong, it makes me wonder why

I know I'm not always good  
Don't do the things that I should  
But I'll say this, and it's not a line  
That I, I think about you all the time

When inspiration is what I need  
You give it to me and I succeed  
Your love for me - is so fine  
And I, I think about you all the time  
Eating breakfast or in my car  
When I'm at work or playing my guitar  
Thoughts of you come to mind  
'Cause I think about you all the time

**Scene 9 – 1939**

*Tommy and Angelo, now in their early teens, are walking home. They come across two other boys, about their age, who try to pick a fight.*

Boy 1: Hey look! It's a couple of cat-licks from St. Thomas!

Boy 2: Yeah, not only are they cat-licks, but they're *poor* cat-licks.

Boy 1: And they're dirty. Poor, dirty, cat-licks! They're such poor cat-licks that they can't afford a bar of soap!

Tommy: We were down by the tracks picking up coal.

Angelo: At least we're not stupid Protestants like you!

Boy 2 (*coming towards them*): Hey!

Angelo: (*raising his fist*) Get outta here, before I knock the hell out of ya!

*The other two boys walk away. Tommy and Angelo continue walking. They pass in front of a Pentecostal Church.*

*They stop and look in a window. The people inside are speaking in tongues. The boys are making fun of them by imitating them and laughing.*

*After about a minute of this, they continue walking home.*

*They arrive at their houses, across the street from each other.*

*Angelo goes inside. Assunta and Norma are there in the living room.*

*She leaves and goes to the Amadeo's house*

*They start getting the baby ready when her husband, Primo comes home. He goes to the ice-box and takes out some*

Boy 2: *(mumbling as he backs off)* River rats!

Angelo: Hey Tommy, look! It's the Holy Rollers!

Tommy: *(laughing)* Holy Rollers.

Angelo: The high Church of the Holy Rollers!

Angelo: See ya tomorrow, Tommy.

Tommy: Yeah, we have school tomorrow. Yuck!

Angelo: I'm going to my room.

*He leaves the living room. The phone rings.*

Assunta: *(answering the phone)* Hello? Yeah. Yeah. I'll send her over. *(Hangs up the phone)* Norma, go next door and help Clementina. She needs help with the baby. She's sick.

Norma: OK mama.

Clementina: Thank you Norma. I'm not feeling well and I need you to help give the baby a bath.

*sausage and cheese. He weighs it on a small scale.*

*They both run back to the Amadeo's house next door and find Primo still beating his wife.*

*Primo then makes an aggressive move towards Assunta and tries to hit her. She is standing in front of the fireplace and picks up a fireplace poker. Swinging it at him she keeps him away from her. Two policemen arrive, drag Primo out of the house and start beating him.*

*The two policemen take him away.*

## Scene 10

Primo: (*shouting angrily*) Ah! You ate too much of my food! (*He comes toward Clementina*) I've told you, you only eat your share!

Clementina: (*cowering, afraid*) But I was hungry.

Primo: (*yelling*) No! You eat only what I tell you! You do as I say.

*He starts beating her. Norma is afraid and runs home.*

Norma: (*entering the house, shouting, panicking*) Mama! Mama! Come quick.

Assunta: What's the matter?

Norma: It's Primo! He's beating Clementina again! I think he's gonna kill her!

Assunta: (*shouting, trying to break it up*) Primo! Primo! Stop! Leave her alone!

Policeman: I've told you before, you can't beat your wife!

Primo: She's my wife. I beat her if I want.

Policeman: No. You can't do that. Not in this country!

*The Tortorilla family living room. It is Christmas time. There is a small tree in the corner with very few decorations and no presents under the tree. Assunta and the kids are sitting in the living room, listening to the radio.*

*Assunta then sings Some Christmas.*

Assunta: You know, kids, we won't have of a Christmas again this year. We're too poor. If we didn't have a garden, and you older kids didn't work, we would have nothing to eat.

Rosie: Thank God that nice man who worked with Papa got me my job working for those rich people in Overland Park.

Johnny: And it's a good thing Mr. Zanatta got me my job at the winery.

Assunta: *(to Johnny)* Someday, you'll go back to school. Someday. Someday, things'll be better. Someday, we'll have enough to eat. Someday, we'll have enough coal to keep-a warm. Someday, we'll have a good Christmas.

### **Some Christmas**

Some Christmas, things will be alright  
I'll be all warm and cozy, by the Christmas tree's light  
Some Christmas, it's not just a dream  
There'll be a future Christmas  
When I have all that I need

I'm not sad, in fact I'm glad  
'Cause I know it will come true  
It won't be luck, I'll have some bucks  
'Cause I'm doin' all I can do

Some Christmas, things won't be so bad  
I'll look back on these hard times, and the struggle I had  
Some Christmas, it's not just a dream  
There'll be a future Christmas  
When I have all that I need

There'll be snow – the lights will glow  
Relaxing by a fire  
It won't be cold, I may be old  
I'll have the basics, but no other desires

Some Christmas, things will be alright  
I'll be all warm and cozy, by the Christmas tree's light  
Some Christmas, it's not just a dream  
There'll be a future Christmas  
When I have all that I need

*After the song, the family is still in the living room and the radio is still on. The song "Chatanooga Choo Choo" by The Glenn Miller Orchestra is playing when it is interrupted by a news bulletin.*

**Scene 11 – 1944**

*Outside the Tortorilla home. Norma and Harold are walking through the neighborhood and approaching their house when they notice the Western Union Telegraph man walking around looking for an address.*

Trying to cope, but I'm full of hope  
'Cause I'm givin' it all I got  
I'll have health, perhaps some wealth  
It won't be much, but it will be a lot.

Some Christmas, things won't be so bad  
I'll look back on these hard times, and the struggle I had  
Some Christmas, it's not just a dream  
There'll be a future Christmas, when I have all that I need.

Some Christmas, it'll be some Christmas  
Then some Christmas, it will be

Newsman: We interrupt this program to bring you an important bulletin from the United Press. Flash. Washington. President Roosevelt has announced that the Japanese have attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii from the air. I repeat. President Roosevelt has announced that the Japanese have attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii from the air. The attack was also made on all U.S. Naval and military bases on the principle island of Oahu.

Norma: (*gasping*) Uh! (*Pointing out the Western Union man to Harold*) Look!

Harold: Oh no! We all know what that means.

Norma: (*sadly*) Yeah. Somebody in our neighborhood is about to get some bad news.

Harold: (*sadly*) Yeah. Somebody has lost a loved one in the war.

Norma: I worry a lot, .... now with Johnny in the Air Force and Angelo getting drafted into the Army.

Harold: Me too. I hope they're all right.

*They go inside. Assunta, Rosie, and Rosie's husband, Ray are there.*

Rosie: Hi! Norma, Harold, you remember my husband Ray?

Norma: (*in a disgusting tone*) Yeah, we know 'im. What are you doin' here? I thought you were in the service, fighting the war.

Ray: I'm on leave.

Norma: Leave, again? Seems like you're always on leave!

Harold: How did you guys meet again?

Rosie: Harold, we've told you that before. I answered an ad in a magazine. (*Acting like she's reading the ad*) "Lonely servicemen looking for wives."

Assunta: That's no way to get a husband.

Harold: (*looking into the kitchen, sees a refrigerator*) Hey! What's that?

Ray: It's a refrigerator!

Harold: A 'frigerator? What's a 'frigerator?

Rosie: It's like an ice-box, only you don't need any ice! It's the latest thing! Ray got it for mama!

Assunta: (*to Ray, doubtful*) Where'd you get it?

Ray: I got it from a friend of mine.

Assunta: How did you buy it? You don't have any money.

Ray: (*reassuringly*) Now don't you worry about that! It's a gift! Don't worry about it.

Assunta: (*to Rosie*) He's no good.

**Scene 12** - March 1945

*The Tortorilla family living room. There is a knock at the door.*

*Nina answers the door. There is a Western Union man standing there.*

Nina (*gasping in shock*): No!

WU Man: Telegraph for a Mrs. Assunta Tortorilla.

*As they comfort each other, they begin reminiscing about Angelo.*

*Luigi now appears as a ghost off to one side of the stage, visible only to the audience he sings "Little Did She Know."*

Nina (*getting choked up, in disbelief*): I can take it.

*She takes the telegram and signs for it. As she opens it, Norma and Harold come running towards her.*

Norma: Oh no! Is it.....?

Nina: (*softly, and starting to cry*) It's from the United States Army. It says that Angelo has been killed in Germany. (*reading the telegram*) It says that the nation is grateful for his devoted and selfless service to our country.

Assunta: (*crying*) No! No! Angelo! Angelo!

Nina: Remember how he used to call me "Mexican"? That used to make me so mad!

Harold: He liked to tease.

Nina: I remember how he used to always get in trouble at school. Drove ol' Koch nuts! He was a rascal, but he had a good heart.

Norma: (*to Assunta*) Mama, remember when he had his appendix out? We went to see him in the hospital. He asked you to bring him some bread. When we got there with the bread, they weren't gonna let you take it in. They said it was against the rules. But you took it to him anyway.

Assunta: I said, My boy wants bread,..... he gets bread!

Norma: (*shaking her head*) Oh, Angelo. We'll never forget you.

**Little Did She Know**

Little did she know – that in a field far away, - her son lifelessly lies

Little did she know – that her soldier boy, - is the one who just died

While she was doing her chores – sweeping the floors  
Her son was shot through the heart – didn't act very smart

Little did she know – that while other kids play – her son has seen his last day



Little did she know – while she had dreams for him too – those dreams will never come true

They'll send his dog tags – they'll give her a flag

She feels all alone – he is not coming home

While she was living her life, struggling just to survive

The son that she bore – was not a - live any more

She's waiting for him to come back – to their home that is just a small shack

She feels overwhelmed by the grief – and wonders if there's no relief

Little does she know – that the sun still will shine – as others will live their lives

Little does she know – that her life will go on – she'll be the one who survives

He was in a trench, - saw his friend had been shot

Climbed out to get his revenge, - ignoring what he was taught

Little did she know - Little did she know - Little did she know

Nina: (*sadly, speaking slowly*) I'll start making some calls to let everyone know.

Norma: (*sadly, looking down at the floor*) I'll go across the street and let the Sanders' know. Tommy and him were always such good friends.

### Scene: 13

*The home of "OD" Sanders. OD's son Tommy is there, and so is Leo, OD's brother. They are plastering a wall.*

*They get into the car and are driving. They approach an intersection where a traffic cop is directing traffic. The cop*

## ACT II

OD: Well, ..... that does it. We're outta plaster.

Leo: I'll go get some.

OD: Take Tommy with you. Tommy, you wanna go with your Uncle Leo?

waves them on to go through the intersection. As soon as Leo starts to proceed, the policeman holds up his hand again, indicating that he wants him to stop.

Policeman (*in a gruff tone*): What do you think you're doin'?

Leo: I'm driving through the intersection.

Policeman (*angrily*): I told you to stop!

Leo (*getting angry*): No you didn't. You waved me on.

Policeman: (*shouting*) I did no such a damn thing! Don't you tell me what I did. I told you to stop!

*Leo gets out of the car. He is much bigger than the policeman*

Policeman: What are you doing?

Leo: I'm gonna kick your ass!

Policeman: (*noticing that Leo is much larger, waves him through the intersection*) Move on. Move on.

#### Scene 14

*The living room of the Tortorilla house. Assunta is there sewing. Harold and Norma are also there. There is a knock on the door.*

Harold: (*answering the door*) Ah! Come in. Come in Father.

*It is the young assistant priest from the Catholic church. It's summer and he is wearing shorts.*

Priest: Are you ready?

Harold: Yeah. (*To Assunta*) Mama, we're going to the show.

Assunta: (*surprised*) Huh? (*To the priest*) You shouldn't go to the show.

Priest: Why not?

Assunta: Your a prete (*priest*). You don't go to the show. (*Looking at his legs*) And' you shouldn't wear shorts! (*Saying firmly*) Your a prete!

Priest: (*laughing*) Aw' mis' Tortorilla. (*to Harold*) Come on, let's go.

*They leave and as they go out, Della and Nina enter. They have shorter hair.*

Assunta: (*surprised, seeing that they have cut their hair*) What did you do to your hair?

Della: We got it cut.

Nina: Yeah, do you like it?

Assunta (*emphatically*): No, no, no!

Della: Why not?

Nina: It's the latest style!

Assunta: Women should not cut their hair!

Nina: Why not?

Assunta: The Blessed Virgin had long hair. It's a sin for women to cut-a their hair. Your gonna go to hell!

Della & Nina (*laughing*) Oh, mama!

Assunta: (*dejectedly*) Aw. I should've been a nun. I wanted to be a nun. But I got married instead.

Norma: Well mama, if you wanted to be a nun, why didn't you become a nun?

Assunta: Because, your papa, ..... he said if I didn't marry him,..... he was gonna kill himself.

Norma (*laughing*): Oh mama! Papa wouldn't have killed himself!

Assunta: Yeah, yeah. That's what he said. He's gonna kill himself.

*Rosie enters carrying a baby and sits down. She is crying.*

Assunta: Eh, what's the matter with you?

Rosie (*sobbing*): It's Ray. I haven't heard from him in over a week! I've called everyone I can think of. No one knows where he is. I've looked everywhere he might be. There's no sign of him. He's just disappeared. He left me and the baby.

Della: Why didn't you tell us this before?

Rosie: I didn't want to worry anyone. Besides, I thought he would come back. He hasn't been around here, has he?

Norma: No, we haven't seen him.

*Johnny walks in. He heard some of the conversation.*

Johnny: Rose, I think I may know what happened.

Rosie: What?

Johnny: I'm afraid I've got some bad news.

Rosie: What is it?

Johnny: As you know, we were all kind of suspicious of him, especially after he got mama that refrigerator and wouldn't say where he got it. So I thought I should do some checking up on him. I hope you don't hate me, but I just felt like he was up to no good.

Rosie: What?

Johnny: Well, I found out that he wasn't really in the service.

*Everyone gasps in surprise*

Rosie: What? He wasn't in the service?

Johnny: No. He was impersonating a military serviceman.

Rosie: I can't believe it!

Johnny: He probably thought he should high-tail it outta here before somebody found out and turned him in.

**Scene 15 - 1946**

*The home of "OD" Sanders. OD is sitting in a chair, reading a newspaper. His son, Tommy walks in.*

Tommy: (*questioningly*) Dad?

OD: What is it?

Tommy: I want to join the Navy.

OD: The Navy? Why do you want to join the Navy? The war ended last year.

Tommy: I just want to join.

OD: Well, ... you can't join, you're too young.

Tommy: I know, but they said I can join if you sign, giving me your permission.

OD: Well, you don't have my permission.

Tommy: Why not?

**Scene 16**

*Two years have gone by and Tommy is still in the Navy. The sailors are standing on deck for an inspection.*

*The officer then leaves.*

*The sailors are at ease and are talking amongst themselves. Tommy is talking with two other sailors.*

OD: You're too damn young! Wait till next year and you'll be old enough to join on your own.

Tommy: I don't want to wait another year. I have something here that they gave me at the recruiting office. All you need to do is sign it.

OD: No. Forget it. Why do you want to join right now anyway?

Tommy: I need to get out of here. I need to get away. Come on dad (*handing him the document*), just sign it.

OD: (*taking the document, reluctantly*) Well, I guess if the recruiters say it's OK (*signing the document*), it must be OK.

Officer: (*walking along the line of sailors, standing at attention, looking them over. He comes to Tommy*) Sailor!

Tommy: Aye aye sir!

Officer: I thought I told you to clean your hat.

Tommy: It's clean sir!

Officer: (*takes the hat off his head, throws it on the ground, stomps on it, then puts it back on his head*) Now it's not.

Officer: Gentlemen, we have received our next assignment. Tomorrow at 0800 hours, we set sail for Panama. Dismissed!

Tommy (*picking up his hat & shaking his head*): That dumb-shit!

Tommy: (*disappointedly*) Panama. Hmph.

Sailor 1: What's wrong? I think Panama sounds great.

Tommy: Oh, it does. I'm sure it will be. But I've just always wanted to go to the West Indies. You know, someplace like Jamaica, or Aruba, anywhere in the Antilles.

Sailor 1: Well, maybe next time.

*Tommy then sings "In the Indies."*

Tommy: We've been practically everywhere in the world. Even China! But not the West Indies.

**In The Indies**

In the Indies – The West Indies

The Caribbean Isles I'll do nothing but smile

In the Indies – The West Indies

Sippin' rum on the beach with my cares out of reach

In the Indies – The West Indies

That's the place I will go when I can't take no mo'

In the Indies – The West Indies

Listening to the steel drum all I can do is to hum

We're sailing on to Panama

But that's not the place, I want to see

No I don't want that port of call

I want to see Jamaica, Bahamas, Antigua, the Antilles

In the Indies – The West Indies

Take a load off my feet get some mangos to eat

In the Indies – The West Indies

That's the best place to go to get away from the cold

Around the world we have sailed

But there's one place we haven't seen

To go there we have failed

We haven't seen Tobago, Aruba, Barbados, the Antilles

In the Indies – The West Indies

Sit around and kick back lose the stress and relax

In the Indies – The West Indies

We can swim in the ocean if we get such a notion

In the Indies - The West Indies

The Caribbean Isles I'll do nothing but smile

In the Indies – The West Indies

That's the place where I want to be

Sailor 2: When we get back from Panama, I'll have shore leave.

Tommy: So will I!

Sailor 2: I don't know what I'm going to do, though. What are you going to do, Tommy?

Tommy: (*excitedly*) I know exactly what I'm going to do. I'm going home to get married!

Sailor 1: So you and Norma are finally getting married?

Tommy: Yup! I mailed her the engagement ring a couple of months ago. Got it in Baja!

Sailor 1: (*teasingly*): Ooh! Neato! A wedding ring (*pauses*)...from Mexico!

Sailor 2: (*teasingly*) Childhood sweethearts, ooh! (*Laughing*) And you were so cheap you had to get her a ring in Mexico!

Tommy (*laughing*): All right, knock it off, you sonsabitches!

Sailor 1: I don't have a sweetheart yet. But I will someday. When I get out of the Navy, I'm going to meet someone, get a good little job, ..... yeah, ..... I got my life all planned out. Yes sir, great things are gonna happen, once I get off this rust bucket. (*Excitedly*) Maybe I'll start a band! You guys know I'm a pretty decent guitarist. Hey Tommy, maybe we could start a band together! You could sing and play the harmonica! You're a good singer and you can really blow that harp! Yup! Great things are in *my* future too!

*The sailor then sings*  
"Great Things Are Gonna Happen."

**Great Things Are Gonna Happen**

Great things are gonna happen to me in my life  
I'll meet a girl, - fall in love, - Then I'll have a wife  
No more lookin' back the future is all I can see  
Great things are gonna happen for me.

**Chorus:** Great things are gonna happen

Great things are gonna happen  
Great things are gonna happen for me.  
No more of this stress. – Only happiness  
Great things are gonna happen for me

Great things are gonna happen for me in my work  
I'll find a job, - someplace where, - the boss ain't such a jerk.  
I'll stay till I retire then from labor I'll be free  
And great things are gonna happen for me.

**Scene 17**

*The Tortorilla living room. Assunta and Norma are there. There is a knock on the door.*

Repeat Chorus

Great things are gonna happen my music will be right  
I'll find a place, - for my band to play, - Each and every night.  
Then one day when my life is over  
I'll meet the One who's my friend and brother  
Great things are gonna happen for me.

Repeat Chorus

Norma: (*opens the door and sees Tommy standing there*) Aw, Tommy! You're home! Come on in!

Assunta (*entering the room*) Ah, Tommy. What are you doin' here? I thought you were in the Navy.

Tommy: Hi Mis' Tortorilla. I'm on leave. I came home to marry Norma.

Assunta: No, no. You can't marry Norma.

Norma: (*surprised*) What mamma?

Assunta: You're not getting married.

Tommy: Why not?

Assunta: Norma is my only child left at home. If she leaves, I'll be all alone. She's not getting married.

Tommy: Aw c'mon mis' Tortorilla! I came all the way from San Diego!

Assunta: No, no. She's not getting married.

Tommy: But mis' Tortorilla! You knew that someday we would get married. We've always talked about it. We're meant to be together. It's what the good Lord wants.

Assunta: (*pauses, thinking*) Well,.....alright honey, alright. You can marry Norma, but on one condition.

Tommy: What's that?

Assunta: You have to call me Mom.



*Tommy and Norma sing a duet "A Good Song/I'm Devoted to You."*

**A Good Song/I'm Devoted To You**

Tommy: I want to write a good song  
And dedicate it to you  
And it would be a happy song  
So you won't feel blue  
I'll sing it for you any day  
The whole day through  
I want to write a good song for you.  
I want to make you happy  
And put a smile on your face  
And a twinkle in your eye  
A frown to replace  
I want to paint a classic  
To show my love will last  
You'll have a happy future and past

A good song would be fitting  
'Cause you make me feel so good  
A real-life happy ending  
Just like it should

Norma: I'm devoted to  
I'll be with you our whole lives through  
I'm devoted to you

I'll take good care of you  
I'll make you happy our whole lives through  
I'll take good care of you

I'll help you write that good song  
A new chapter in our lives  
I'll let you take me right along  
Just as your wife

Tommy: I want to write a poem  
Inspired from up above  
I want to write a sonnet  
And tell you of my love  
To do something  
fantastic  
To show you how I feel  
I want to write a good  
song, for real

Norma: I'm devoted to  
I'll be with you our whole  
lives through  
I'm devoted to you

I'll help you write that good  
song

A good song would be  
fitting  
'Cause you make me  
feel so good  
A real-life happy ending  
Just like it should

A new chapter in our lives  
I'll let you take me right along  
Just as our wife

Tommy: I want to write a good  
song  
And dedicate it to you  
And it would be a happy  
song  
So you won't feel blue  
I'll sing it for you any  
day  
The whole day through  
I want to write a good  
song for you.

Norma: I'll take good care of you  
I'll make you happy our whole  
lives through  
I'll take good care of you

I'm devoted to you.

I want to write a good  
song for you.

### Scene 18

*Two years later. Tommy  
and Norma's apartment.  
Tommy is out of the Navy.  
Norma is holding a baby.  
There is a knock on the  
door.*

Tommy: (*answering the door*) Oh, hi Mister and Mis' McCain.

Frank: Tom, how are you?

Tommy: Good, good, ..... come on in.

Greta: Norma, how are you and the baby?

Norma: Oh, we're fine. Thank you again for all the nice baby gifts.  
They sure help.

Greta: Well, thank you for helping me join the Catholic church. You  
inspired me to join!

Norma: (*embarrassed by the compliment*) Oh, ..... I don't know.

Tommy: I was just on my way down to give you an update on our  
search for a new apartment. We think we've found one.

Greta: Frank, .... isn't there something you want to tell them?

Frank: Yes, ..... um, about that. We've decided, ...uh.....er, ... I've decided, .... to make an exception to my policy of not renting to people who have kids.

Norma: You don't have to do that. We understood when we rented this place that if we ever had kids we would have to find another place.

Greta: We like having you as tenants.

Frank: Yes, and the baby hasn't been a problem. You can stay if you want.

Tommy: Well, we haven't put a deposit on the other place yet, so, thank you!

Frank: You're welcome. Oh, there's just one other thing I wanted to talk to you about, since you are going to be staying.

Tommy: What's that?

Frank: It's your alarm clock. I can hear it go off in the morning and it takes you forever to shut it off! Damnit Tom! Can't you hear that thing?

Tommy: I do have trouble hearing it. I put it under a washtub so that when it goes off in the morning it won't wake the baby.

Frank: The problem is; you can't hear it either!

Tommy: I know. I'll think of something else.

Frank: Thanks. I appreciate it. Well, that's all we wanted. *(to Greta)*  
Let's go, dear.

Greta: Goodbye.

Tommy & Norma: 'Bye.

**Scene 19** – July 13, 1951

*Tommy and Norma's second floor apartment in Armourdale. Norma is alone with their one-year old baby, folding clothes*

Announcer: That was "How High the Moon" by Les Paul & Mary Ford. And now for the weather. Heavy rains are expected again tonight and through tomorrow. This will mark the fifth straight day of heavy rain, measuring 16 inches, followed by record setting amounts of rainfall the past two months. Water is

*and putting them in a laundry basket. The radio is on.*

*There is a knock on the door. Norma opens the door. There is a fireman standing there.*

*The ensemble sings "The Flood Is Coming."*

beginning to run over the levees that protect the Armourdale and Argentine districts.

Fireman: Lady, you need to leave. We are evacuating the area. The levee is expected to break. Take only the things that you absolutely need.

Norma: Oh no! I don't drive and my husband is still at work!

Fireman: If you called him right now, how long would it take him to get home?

Norma: About 20, ..... 25 minutes.

Fireman: That should be enough time. But don't mess around. As soon as your husband gets home, get what you need and get right out.

Norma: OK. Thank you.

Norma: (*picks up the phone and calls Tommy*) May I speak to Tom Sanders please?.....

Tommy: Parts, Tom.

Norma: Tommy! You need to get home right away! The fire department is starting to evacuate everybody. They say the levee's gonna break!

Tommy: I can be on my way right now, but maybe you should leave with someone else.

Norma: They just started the evacuation. The firemen told me that if you leave right now, you should be home in plenty of time.

Tommy: OK. I'm on my way.

**The Flood Is Coming**

**Chorus:** The flood is coming the flood is coming  
Gotta get away. Before it is too late  
The flood is coming, the flood is coming  
Gotta get right out. While people run about

*Tommy arrives in  
Armourdale, but the Fire  
Department has the streets  
blocked and are not allowing  
anyone in.*

**Scene 20**

*A street in Armourdale. The  
Fire Department has the  
road blocked. Tommy arrives  
at the road block.*

It's been raining for a month. That's what the people say  
The water's really rising fast. We gotta get away

Repeat Chorus

The water's rising really fast. The levee's gonna break  
Gather only what you need. For your family's sake

Repeat Chorus

This will be the biggest flood. We've seen since nineteen-three  
I don't know where we will go. We'll have to wait and see

Repeat Chorus

Fireman: Where do you think you're going man?

You are much too late

Tommy: I've got to get my family out.

So they won't meet their fate

Repeat Chorus

Fireman: Well hurry up and be right back.

Promise and I'll let you in

Tommy: You can bet that I will be right back.

Go ahead and tell your men

Repeat Chorus

Fireman: You can't go in there. Water is running over the levee and  
we're expecting it to break any time.

Tommy: But my wife and baby are still at home.

Fireman: Why hasn't she left by now?

Tommy: She doesn't drive and she was told that I'd make it home  
in time.

*Tommy drives past the barricades and gets to his apartment. Norma is there with the baby.*

*They head for the door.*

*There are two laundry baskets sitting on the bed. He grabs one of them and goes out the door.*

## **Scene 21**

*The stage is dark. The audience hears a radio program.*

*With scenes of devastation in the background, the ensemble sings "Goodbye to Armourdale."*

Fireman: Yeah, but things got worse faster than we expected. I'll send somebody to get them. Where do you live?

Tommy: I can go. I can get them out quicker. I know exactly where to go and she is expecting me.

Fireman (*firmly*): Alright. You go, get your wife and kid, and get right out! Don't try to save anything. That levee could break any minute!

Tommy: (*to Norma*) Let's go! They said not to try to save anything.

Norma (*carrying the baby*): We won't need to. I've set everything we want to save on the bed. So has the McCain's. The water won't get as high as the second floor. Uncle Leo said we could stay with them until we are able to find a place to live.

Norma: Wait! We will need clothes. I put some clothes for us in a laundry basket on the bed.

Tommy: You go on out and get in the car. I'll grab the clothes.

Newsman: That was "Come On-a My House" sung by Rosemary Clooney. And now for the news. The flood in Kansas City is worse than expected. Approximately 15,000 people in the Armourdale and Argentine areas have been evacuated. Two-story houses in Armourdale had water all the way to their roofs. The flood has claimed the lives of 17 people in Kansas and Missouri. This is the greatest catastrophe in the history of the region.

## **Goodbye to Armourdale**

**Chorus:** Let's say goodbye to Armourdale  
We have to leave it now, let's hit the trail  
Let's shed a tear for Armourdale  
It was once our home but we had to bail

The flood has come and gone

But our lives will still go on  
We now have to leave  
But we'll get through our grief  
We'll miss the sights and sounds  
To a new home we're bound  
A change is round the bend  
Don't know the end

Repeat Chorus

We'll have our memories still  
But they won't pay the bills  
Don't know where we will live  
But something's gotta give  
Maybe we can rebuild  
The garden has been killed  
We'll stay with relatives  
That's how we'll live

Repeat Chorus

We have to find a home  
Till then we'll have to roam  
Don't care if it's a shack  
Someday we'll all be back  
We have lost everything  
We don't have much to bring  
We have our family  
As it should be

Let's say goodbye to Armourdale  
We have to leave it now let's hit the trail  
Let's say a prayer for Armourdale  
It was once our home but we had to bail

*Tommy and Norma arrive  
at Leo's house.*

Tommy: We're lucky. We just barely made it out of there.  
(*Handing Norma the basket of clothes*) Here's the clothes.

Norma: (*alarmed*) Tommy!

Tommy (*humorously*): Wha, What?

Norma: You brought the wrong damn basket of clothes! These are  
the McCain's!

Tommy (*emphatically*): Well I'm a sonofabitch!

Leo: As they say in Russia, that's tough shit-ski!

Tommy: What are we gonna do?

Norma: We should be able to get something from the Red Cross to get us by. I need diapers and a bed for the baby.

Tommy: Well, at least we know we'll have a place to live.

Norma: Yeah, it's a good thing we started building that new house in Argentine. (*to Leo*) We shouldn't have to live here for very long.

Leo (*to Tommy*): You should've moved out in the country, Tom.  
You know, .... someplace like out there in Bonner Springs, where your mom's folks live.  
Remember? You used to ride your bike out there all the time and visit them.

Tommy: Nah. We wouldn't be able to afford it. (*To Norma*) But wouldn't it have been great though? Having a few acres out there in the country?

Norma: (*looks toward the floor and nods in agreement*).

Leo: If you could, you'd all be dancing around here singing about how you're gonna move way out in the country!

*They sing "Way Out in the Country" and the ensemble joins in towards the end of the song.*

**Way Out in the Country**

**Chorus 1:** I'm gonna move way out in the country  
I'm gonna go where nobody can find me  
I'm gonna move way out in the country  
Country livin's just all right by me

Repeat Chorus

Well I'm just a city slicker who keeps on getting' sicker  
Of city smells and city ways of livin'  
So I'm movin' out of town plant my feet on solid ground  
Where folks are a little more kind and a lot more givin'

**Chorus 2:** I'm gonna move way out in the country



*Immediately following this song, the ensemble ends with the "Armourdale Finale."*

I'm gonna go where the air is fresh and clean  
I'm gonna move way out in the country  
Country livin's just all right by me

I'm getting' away from filth and grime safe from city crime  
Just sittin' in a field of new mowed hay  
The city's just one big sewer where manners are quite a bit fewer  
In the country every day's a sunny day

Repeat Chorus 1

A little shack on a dirt road the fields are all plowed and sewed  
There's nowhere else on earth I'd rather be  
I'm tired of workin' all day shuckin' corn and bailin' hay  
But that will be home sweet home to me.

Repeat Chorus 1 twice, with a half-step modulation the second time

**Armourdale Finale – Ensemble**

Armourdale is home to me  
Armourdale is home, Armourdale is home  
Armourdale is home to  
(~ritard)

*Tommy & Norma hold on the word: "Me"*

*While the ensemble sings: "Ar – mour – dale!"*

**THE END**

*As the actors are leaving the stage, and returning to take their bows, the song "Set the Outhouse on Fire" is reprised as an instrumental.*