

**THE DREAM CATCHER**

by Denny Hamann

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*The musical begins with the opening overture. The Dream Catcher (a handsome, well built Indian wearing a loin cloth and a magnificent white feather headdress and long train) walks through the center of the audience, pausing to play his Indian flute. The principal actors (seated in the audience) rise, one at a time, as if hearing the call of the “Pied Piper” and take their positions on the stage, preparing to take a role they have played in life. The Dream Catcher stands stage right or in the background, as if he is the master choreographer overseeing the roles the actors are playing.*

**Dream Catcher:**

Man sleeps. . . Man dreams. No matter what his culture, creed or time. No race has ever been indifferent to the magic and mystery of dreams . . . their joys, their terror, their wonders.

I am known as the Dream Catcher. . . I have a dream to share with you. The dream of a young boy, who lives in a world where dreams are not always believed in.

It all begins with a boy named Gilly. Gilly lives with his mother Jo. She owns and runs the Silver Spur, a country-western bar, just off campus of Georgia Medical College, in Augusta, Georgia.

It is the first weekend in the fall semester. Soon, the medical students will expose the new group of freshmen to their favorite watering hole, the Silver Spur.

Gilly is asleep in his bedroom of their apartment which is just above the bar.

*The set is a country Western bar, stage center. Gilly is sleeping in his bedroom (stage right, front) Sets may be very simple, (i.e. “Our Town style) using effective lighting. Hank is the first to bring his role to life as he enters stage left and the musical begins.*

**The Dream Catcher**

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**Act 1 Scene 1**

**Hank:**

Do you know a fellow named Brett? The college assigned him to me for orientation. Kinda' like a big brother.

**Bartender:**

You mean, Doc? That's' what we call him Sure, everybody knows Doc. Should be coming in anytime now. (*Begins setting up bar*)

**Bartender sings:**

**Welcome:**

*Welcome to the finest bar in town.  
If you're lucky, maybe Jo' will buy a round.  
She's a lady, who will charm you with her smile.  
You will meet her, and you'll stay for quite a while.  
Oh, she'll tease you. Yes, she really likes her men.  
She will please you. And then you'll be back again.  
Freshmen are the meal she'll have this year.  
Mixed with studies, Texas two step and cold beer.*

**Hank sings:**

*I'm a freshman in the college.  
A doctor is who I want to be.  
I'm here to meet with my big brother.  
His name is Brett. Which one is he.  
I am a freshman in the college.  
A medical big brother just for me.  
The cold cadavers are my one big fear.  
What I need right now is one tall, cold, cold beer.*

*Bar set darkens/dims or actors freeze . .*

*Stage front reveals Gilly, sleeping in his bed, Stage right. Tossing, disturbed by the noise. The dream catcher moves to the head of Gilly's bed. Gilly, aware of the presence in his room looks backward and sees the Dream Catcher over his head. The Dream Catcher drops a feather into Gilly's lap. Gilly suddenly sits up.*

**Gilly:**

Wow! (*Amazed, and in awe*) Who are you:

**Dream Catcher:**

I'm known as "The Dream Catcher"

**Gilly:**

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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Dream Catcher? What kind of name is that?

**Dream Catcher:**

I am named for what I do . . .I come to help people have good dreams.

**Gilly:**

How come I don't ever have good dreams?

**Dream Catcher:**

You do, Gilly. Everyone does . . .

**Gilly:**

I only remember the bad ones. The ones with monsters, chasing me. Wanting to eat me.

**Dream Catcher:**

I know. That is why I am here.

**Dream Catcher:**

sings, "**The Dream Catcher**"

*I am the dream catcher. I hold your dreams in my hand.  
I am the dream catcher. Your dreams are but my command.  
Each night you close your eyes and dream. I stand beside your  
bed.*

*The bad dreams cannot bother you. I catch them in my web.*

*For dreams, are your reason to be.*

*To fly on your dreams and be free.*

*I am here as the spirit, that appears in the night.*

*Catching wishes you dream of. Saving them for the light.*

*Your dreams are a thought from a -far.*

*Some where, something's guiding a star.*

*Tiny light that you follow ,when you've no place to go.*

*Dreams are stars in the darkness, And your heart knows it's so.*

*I am the dream catcher. I hold your dreams in my hand.*

*I am the dream catcher. Your dreams are but my command.*

*Each night you close your eyes and dream. I stand beside your  
bed.*

*The bad dreams cannot bother you. I catch them in my web.*

That's all. Just ask for a dream. Here. (*Gives Gilly a Dream Catcher.*)

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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**Gilly:**

What's this?

**Dream Catcher:**

It is A Dream Catcher. It is given with love to someone very special. I made this one just for you. (hands it to Gilly)

**Gilly:**

What's it supposed to do?

**Dream Catcher:**

It is like a protective, good luck charm of the Lakota people, a great American Indian tribe created it.

**Gilly:**

Tell me more about it.

**Dream Catcher:**

Well, the tribe's teacher of wisdom appeared before the chief in the form of a spider. As he wove a perfect web, he explained, if you believe in the Great Spirit, the web will catch your good dreams and the bad dreams will slip through the middle. Hang it above your bed. And while you sleep, it catches your dreams. That way, if I'm not here to keep the bad dreams away, my Dream Catcher will trap those nightmares . . . here, in the web. And the nightmares melt in the morning sun . . . And the good dreams . . . they're here . . . just waiting for you.

**Gilly:**

That's a cool story. I gotta' show this to my mom. (*shouts*) Mom, come quick . . . you're not going to believe this! Mom!

**Jo:**

(*offstage and angry*) What're you hollering about? What kinda' bull shit are you playing now?

**Gilly:**

Look! An Indian. With feathers and everything! He's called the Dream Catcher.

**Jo:**

(*enters stage left*) What Indian? Where?

**Gilly:**

There! (*Points to the Dream Catcher.*) He's standing right in front of you. Can't you see him?

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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**Jo:**

I've just about had it with you and your crap filled dreaming.

**Gilly:**

But he's right there . . I swear! Look. He made this dream catcher for me.

**Jo:**

If you know what's good for you, you'll stop this make believe shit and start pulling your weight around here. I'm getting very tired of your childish crap! (takes dream catcher from Gilly) Give me that! Where did you steal this?

**Gilly:**

I didn't steal it mama. He gave it to me.

**Jo:** You're pushing your luck kid. I'll ask you one more time. Where the hell did you get this thing?

**Gilly:**

It's a dream catcher. And, that Indian there gave it to me.

**Jo:** That's it! (*Jo puts her foot thru the Dream Catcher and destroys it by stepping on it, and pulling upward. Throws it aside.*)

**Gilly:**

No! Please mama. Please.

**Jo:** Your grounded kiddo! If you know what's good for you, you'll keep a wide berth between you and me! You hear me? Huh?

**Gilly:**

Yes, mama. You've been drinking, haven't you mama?

**Jo:** Course I've been drinking. Who wouldn't drink with a useless kid who won't grow up. Living in a dream world. (exits)

**Gilly:**

How come she couldn't see you? .

**Dream Catcher:**

One has to believe in dreams to be able to see me. . . Your mother lost her dreams a long time ago.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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**Gilly:**

What makes people do that?

**Dream Catcher:**

Many things . . . being hurt. Disappointed. No matter what happens in your young life, Gilly, you must never give up on your dreams. No matter how big or small they be . . .

**Gilly:** If I tell you my dream, will you help make it come true?

**Dream Catcher:**

Only you can make your dream come true. . . What is it you want?

**Gilly:**

To know who my father is. See, my mother had me and she never married the man that made me. She never talks about him. I don't know if he ran out on us . . . or what . . .

**Dream Catcher:**

You rest, now, Gilly.

**Gilly:**

You won't go . . . will you?

**Dream Catcher:**

No. I'll stay with you till you fall asleep. . . close your eyes . . .

*(Lights fade on Gilly)*

*as lights rise stage right and center, revealing a country western bar filled with students and residents from the Augusta, Georgia Medical College gathering for their first rendezvous as the fall semester begins.)*

*College students begin appearing on stage. Greeting each other. Getting drinks and begin singing Welcome. All join in the chorus with the bartender and Hank his duet..*

**Bartender:**

*(calls to Brett)* Hey Brett!! This guy's been waiting for you.  
*(Points to Hank)* It seems you're gonna' be a big brother to this freshman here. *(Brett approaches Hank, shakes hands and begins a conversation.)*

Act 1 Scene 1

Jo, honey. (*calls to Jo off stage*) Your new class is here. Come on down.

**Jo:**

Hey, gang! Welcome to my place! It's your place too. . . and . . .  
Tonight's party time. Summer's over and a new batch of fresh men  
are just starting Augusta's Medical School. First drink's on the  
house, boys. Choose your passion. Work hard at school learning  
to be a doctor, and when you're ready for a study break,  
remember, this is your place to let your hair hang down. A place  
to dance. A place to have fun. A place to party! (*crowd cheers*)  
Whoeee!!

*sings "Honkey Tonk Woman"*

(choreograph to country western dance)

*I'm just a honkey tonk woman from Au-gusta Georgia.*

*You outta' see me strut and do my stuff.*

*Yes, I'm a honkey tonk woman from Au-gusta Georgia.*

*The guys I dance with just can't get enough.*

*And when I dance on the floor, the cowboys holler for more.*

*I do the two step like nobody else can do.*

*My cowgirl boots are scooting, cowboys tooting, high falootin',  
pistol's shooting.*

*Tease 'em and they holler for more.*

(spoken between choruses)

*Well, Howdy boys, my name's Joe, and I own this place, The Silver  
Spur.*

*For those of you who've been here before and **know** me, and you  
know what I mean.*

*Well boys, it's sure been nice getting to know ya'. For those **fresh  
men** who are here,*

*if you don't know me already, I guarantee you . . . you will before  
the semester's over.*

*So put on your cowboy boots and get ready for some Texas two  
stepping.*

***Let's party!!***

Repeat song for several choruses. Great opportunity for cast  
ensemble choreography

*chorus sings "Honkey Tonk Woman"*

(choreograph to country western dance)

*Yes she's a honkey tonk woman from Au-gusta Georgia.*

*You outta' see her strut and do her stuff.*

*Yes, she's a honkey tonk woman from Au-gusta Georgia.*

*The guys she twirls (sleeps) with just can't get enough.*

**The Dream Catcher**

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**Act 1 Scene 1**

*And when she steps on the floor, the cowboys holler for more.  
She does the two step like nobody else can do.  
Her cowgirl boots are scooting, cowboys tooting, high falootin',  
pistol's shooting.  
Tease 'em and they holler for more.*

**Hank:**

Who's she?

**Brett:**

There, my young man, is our famous . . . or should I say, infamous Jo.

**Bartender:**

A little advice kid. Watch out for her. She likes fresh-men like you. . virgin males. Oh yeah! She'll take your heart. . . and a whole lot more. Ask Doc here. Ask him. He's still carrying the torch for her.

**Jo:**

*(approaches Brett seductively)* Hi Brett. Who's your friend? He's cute.

**Brett:**

Jo, this is Hank.

**Jo:**

*(snuggles into Hank)* Hey good looking. Welcome to Jo's. You're new here, aren't you? . . Hank. I like that name.

**Hank:**

*(uncomfortable)* Yes ma'am. Just started.

**Brett:**

I'm the kid's mentor.

**Jo:**

*(delighted)* Take it from me. You're in good hands.

**Brett:**

Be kind to him, Jo. Not every one is a fresh . . . man.

**Jo:**

*(coquettish to Brett)* You were. . . once . . . Remember?



**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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**Brett:**

*(brushing her off)* That . . . was a long time ago.

**Jo:**

Eight years ago, honey. And look at you now. Senior resident in Neurology. You learn a lot from the old doc here.

**Brett:**

She took advantage of me. I came here from a small town. .Not much experience with women. Especially one . . . like Jo . . . and . . . She stole my heart . . . *(chuckles)* and my virginity. Oh Jo, you were quite the teacher . . . and, I was quite young.

**Jo:**

And you were my prize student. *(romantic)* You still carry my torch, don't you Brett?

**Brett:**

Bright and High. Jo, . . . I fell in love with you.

**Jo:**

Honey, that's what they all say. One good lay, and my man's in love.

**Brett:**

Hold it Jo. You're going to give this young man the wrong impression.

**Jo:**

Just another john. Another trick coming through my revolving door. I keep the notches on my bedpost. Love 'em and leave 'em. That's my motto! Right doc?

**Brett:**

Well, I've still got a souvenir, Jo. Something to always remember you by. *(Loosens belt and starts to drop his pants.)*

**Jo:**

What is this? A medical exam, Brett? Do you want me to play doctor?

**Brett:**

No. Remember these? My reward? *(displays his shorts , revealing boxer shorts with hearts and arrows)*

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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**Jo:**

Brett. My God, you still have those shorts?

**Brett:**

'Course. You gave 'em to me. When you stole my heart.

**Jo:**

I didn't steal it, baby. You gave it to me. You're such a sweetie.  
*(touches his cheek seductively)* So innocent.

**Brett:**

*(Jumps on the bar)*

*Sings "These Are The Shorts That Bind Me"*  
*(chorus)*

*These are the shorts that bind me. Reminding me of you*  
*These are the shorts that bind me. The way you used to do.*  
*These are the shorts that bind me, with hearts and arrows too.*  
*They grab me, move me squeeze me, please me,*  
*Like you used to do.*

**verse**

1. *She bought 'em from a salesman who had lectured her one day.*  
*About the shorts and games that men can play.*  
*Perfection and erection is the magic they can do.*  
*Hearts and arrows mark the spot where love comes proudly*  
*through!*

*(Repeat chorus:)*

2. *You loved to have me wear 'em and parade around the room.*  
*The front of me was bursting out with pride.*  
*And to the bed you'd lead me, you had lovin' in your eyes.*  
*Hearts and arrows mark the spot where you were satisfied!*

*(Repeat chorus:)*

3. *I'm walkin' down the street and feeling pickin' in my seat.*  
*There's something that's a grabbin' at my loin.*  
*Then suddenly I think of you and things we used to do.*  
*Hearts and arrows mark the spot a' stirring in my groin!*

*(Repeat chorus:)*

4. *You once were satisfied with boxer shorts and bursting pride.*  
*The tightness of those shorts began to grow.*

**Act 1 Scene 1**

*Then suddenly those shorts no longer held your lovin' eyes.  
Hearts and arrows lost the spot and now it's time to go!  
(Repeat chorus:)*

5. *So now you've gone away, but these old shorts are gonna' stay.  
Remembering the games we used to play.  
They've even got a hole to play thru, with or without you.  
Hearts and arrows mark the spot my hand is guided through!  
(Repeat chorus and end. Chorus's may be omitted as needed to shorten song)  
(crowd hoots and hollers as the song progresses. Can be choreographed)*

**Jo:**

I remember those shorts, honey. I only give 'em to those boys I love.

**Jo:**

(Sings her version)

*Sings "These Are The Shorts That Bind Me"  
(sings slowly and seductively to Brett)*

*These are the shorts my men wear (that bind men). A gift you get from Jo  
These are the shorts my men wear (that bind men). Before I let them go.  
These are the shorts my men wear (that bind men). I whisper in their ear.  
Oh grab me, move me squeeze me, please me,  
Honey, do it here  
(Do it now, right here).*

**Verse**

1. *I bought 'em cause I loved to see you wear 'em as a prize.  
A stud that made my heart feel all a-glow.  
The treasure that they held within was magic to my eyes.  
Oh, my God . . I thought inside . .  
as you began to Grow.  
(chorus)*
2. *The men I love are numbers on my bedpost late at night.  
A toy, a plaything, something that is right.  
I bring 'em home to fill my need . . a man that I can use.  
Ev'ry night, they stand in line . . a diff'rent man to choose.*

**(Men may sing chorus in response to lyrics)**

*These are the shorts that bind me. Reminding me of Jo  
These are the shorts that bind me. Oh how she made things grow.*

**Act 1 Scene 1**

*These are the shorts that bind me, with hearts and arrows too.  
They grab me, move me squeeze me, please me,  
Like she used to do.*

3. *I wonder if another wears those boxer shorts of mine.*

*The men inside my life just come and go.*

*But one thing that I look for in those boxer shorts you wear.*

*There's a piece hid deep inside that this girl wants to know.*

*(Repeat Jo's chorus.)*

4. *I like those shorts on men, it's true. It cannot be denied.*

*In passion there are times I may have lied*

*Does any other lover wear those boxer shorts with pride.*

*(slow . .retard.)*

*Drop your draw'rs men, . . show your stuff*

*Now Jo is satisfied.*

*(men drop their tear away pants to reveal the hearts and arrows shorts they got from Jo)*

*(repeat for male singers and full cast country western/seductive choreography. Bartender shows his shorts last. Everyone knows Jo.)*

**Male chorus:**

*(choreograph dance scene with men and Jo as they sing)*

*These are the shorts that bind me. Reminding me of Jo.*

*These are the shorts that bind me. Oh how she made things grow.*

*These are the shorts that bind me, with hearts and arrows too.*

*They grab me, move me squeeze me, please me,*

*grab me, move me squeeze me, please me,*

*grab me, move me squeeze me, please me,*

*Like you used to do.*

*Oh Yea!!! (shouts)*

*(men hoist Jo onto the bar . . cast salutes (gestures) to audience at finale.)*

**Jo:**

*(seductively to Brett) We sure did have fun with those shorts, baby. (waving finger at Brett) You were good. Really good.*

*(touches his nose with her finger). But, . . that was then, (turns to Hank) and this is now. Interested in trying on some shorts . . fresh man?*

**Brett:**

*Watch it, Jo. I'm his big brother.*

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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**Jo:**

I'm sure you can teach him a few things that I'd like.

**Brett:**

And I'm going to teach him some things that I didn't know when I was your fresh man.

**Jo:**

*(cooly to Brett)* I'll bet you will, baby. *(to Hank)* So will I.  
*(turns to crowd)* There's a lot of fresh - men I've got to take care of. *(shouts)* Hey! Who wants to get loose and party with me?  
*(crowd cheers).* *(looks at Brett and smiles)* Fresh - Men. My favorite.

*(shouts to crowd)* Well then, grab your glass and get a drink. Let's party.

**Jo:**

Sings: "**Chug-A-Lug With Me**"

*(Her aria loving booze, drugs & men as Brett and the medical students join in chorus. However, this song may be omitted for the sake of time)*

*Why . . . Don't . . . You . . . Chug-a-lug-a,  
Chug-a-lug-a bottle with me.*

*It's party time tonight.*

*Come on and Chug-a-lug-a,  
Chug-a-lug-a bottle with me.*

*It's party time tonight.*

*Why don't you Chug-a-lug-a,  
Chug-a-lug-a bottle with me.*

*Smoke a joint or do a line or shoot and I.V.*

*Hey! Come along and have some fun and party with me.*

*It's party time tonight.*

*(Jo and students become more drunk as the song progresses to higher keys)*

*(Brenda enters bar)*

**Jo:**

Well, if it isn't nurse Ratchet.

**Brenda:**

Hi Jo. How're ya' doing?

**Jo:**

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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Just great. What's your poison?

**Brenda:**

My usual. Seltzer water . . . straight up.

**Jo:**

(laughs) You sure you can handle it? (pours Brenda her drink)

(Gilly enters the bar area, stage left)

**Jo:**

*(slurred speech)* Why aren't you upstairs in bed?

**Gilly:**

The noise woke me up, Mom.

**Jo:**

*(drunk & affectionate with Hank)*. Not now, baby. Can't you see mommy's busy. With a . . . friend? Go play in a corner, or something.

**Gilly:**

But Momma . .

**Jo:**

I told you, I'm busy. Get scarce.

**Brenda:**

Come on Gilly, honey. I'll take you upstairs.

**Gilly**

I'm afraid!!

**Brenda:**

Afraid of what?

**Gilly:**

The Monsters. They're under my bed.

**Brenda:**

*(affectionately)* O.K., honey. *(Leads Gilly to a chair on the side)*  
Then we'll sit over here by me. No monsters are gonna' dare tackle this old nurse. I keep all those monsters away.

Jo! *(sternly)* Gilly's such a sweetheart. If he were mine, I would never treat him the way you do. for a while. I wish I had a boy like you.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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*(As Gilly sits, he holds the broken dream catcher on in his lap.)*

**Jo:**

I told you to get rid of that thing..

**Brenda:**

Jo. Stop that. He's just a boy. *(looks at Gilly)* Maybe . . . some day. I'm just an old nurse. I got enough problems being a mom to these medical students. They gotta' lot to learn. But then, so does your mom. You know, she loves you. She just doesn't always show it. .

**Student 1:**

*(pulls pipe from behind the bar.)* Hey . . . Lookey here . . . Guess what I found behind the bar. Jo's pipe. Anybody got some pot? . . . Let's toke up and get high.

**Jo:**

*(Angrily)* Gimme' that pipe. *(grabs pipe)* Don't you dare touch that . . . You hear me? That was my Daddy's. It's the only thing I've got . . . of his. And . . . That whore from the bar. She made him drink. She made him run off and leave us.. I was only 6. No wonder Momma drank. He left us all alone. Don't you dare touch that pipe. That was my Daddy's pipe. He loved me. You hear? He loved me. . . he loved me. I know he loved his little girl. Just . . . leave it alone. *(puts the pipe back)*

*(Brenda comes over to help Jo.)*

*(Grabs Brenda)* C'mon, Brenda. This is a happy bar. Teach 'em the Texas Two Step. Everybody, Brenda's gonna' show us the Texas two step.

**Brenda:**

Aw,. . . I don't know, Jo.

**Jo:**

*(Turns to crowd)* Come on, everybody. Brenda's gonna' teach y'all how to do it. Ev'rybody, get a partner. We're gonna have some fun tonight. Georgia style.

*(Crowd whoops and hollers. Hank starts to move away from Jo's seduction. Brett Grabs Hank.)*

**Brett:**

**Act 1 Scene 1**

C'mon Little Brother. Don't be bashful. This is the best part of being at Jo's.

**Jo:**

Whoa! Hold on there, stud. (*slaps Hank on the rear and grabs him from Brett*) You're not getting away that easy. You're my partner. Just you and me. We're gonna dance and party all night long.

**Hank:**

I don't know how to dance.

**Jo:**

Oh, go on. A good looking stud like you. Don't know how to dance? Here let me show you. (*Calls to one of the Medical Students*) Brenda. You got the floor. Let's teach these freshmen how to dance.

**Brenda:**

(*reluctantly*) O.K. Everybody got a partner. Now, just let your body feel the music. (*Music in background.*) Swing with it. It's real easy. If you can count to three, you can do it. Charley, put some quarters in that old jukebox and get things going here.

sings: **Ev'rybody Texas Two Step**

*Come on do the Texas two step.*

*Ev'ry body sing along.*

*You can do the Texas two step*

*There is no right or wrong.*

*When you do the Texas two step,  
you count just one, two three.*

*Ev'ry body Texas two step.*

*And do this dance with me.*

(Brenda grabs Hank to teach him the dance. He is clumsy at first, but gets better as he learns). . (speak in rhythm to the music)

*Count one two three and one.*

*One two three and one.*

*It's One two three and one.*

*And, One two three and one.*

*That's it! You got it.*

*Now Everybody.*

**Brenda sings:**

*Ev'ry body Texas two step.*

*Come on now and sing along.*

*You can do the Texas two step*



**Act 1 Scene 1**

*There is no right or wrong.  
When you do the Texas two step,  
you count just one, two three.  
Ev'ry body Texas two step.  
And do this dance with me.*

**(Change key for cast choreography)**

*(song starts out slow, increasing in tempo. Opportunity for good cast choreography, changing partners. Brett, without a partner, discovers Gilly is at the bar watching. Brett and Hank, now drunk, find themselves as dance partners at the end of the song. They pause momentarily, laughing, but suddenly there is tension as Brett is shocked and realizes he is now holding a man. . Hank is pleased with the encounter. Jo grabs Hank and pulls him out of Brett's arms.)*

**Jo:**

*(Seductively)* Oh, baby! Can you dance! *(Looks at watch. Gasps)* Oh! Can you believe the time? *(turns to crowd)* Hey gang, it's two o'clock in the morning. Bar's closed. *(crowd moans & groans)* C'Mon, everybody. Out! Out! Out!

*(To Hank)* Not you, big boy. I got a pair of shorts that will fit you . . . just fine . . . you know what I mean, baby. *(winks & flirts with Hank. Crowd begins to disappear)* G'Night. Y'all come back, ya' hear?

*(Noticing Gilly sitting on the bar)* What're you still doing here. Go on. Get to bed. You know what time it is? *(Begins dragging Gilly toward his bedroom. Gilly balks and Jo gets angry.)* Get the hell outta' here. You're ruining my night.

**Gilly:**

Please, mom. I'm scared. I want to sleep with you.

**Jo:**

No, dammit! Tonight, my bed is for . . . *(seductively to Hank)* men like this. . . not boys.

**Brett:**

Jo! The kid's scared. Can't you just be a mom . . . for once.

**Jo:**

Dammit, Brett. You didn't seem to mind when I had you.

**Brett:**

**Act 1 Scene 1**

There was no Gilly, then. And that was a long time ago. How many guys do you have to go through before you find what you're looking for?

**Jo:**

Nobody can tell me what I can or can't do. You seemed to enjoy that time . . . remember (*seductively to Brett*) But tonight . . . I've got my sights set on this stud. (*caresses Hank*)

**Hank:**

(*uncomfortable. Looks at watch*) Oh my gosh. Look at that. I had no idea it was this late. I've gotta' get home. Studies and things.

**Jo:**

(*seductively*) Oh, honey, don't go. The party's just starting . . . and, you're the main attraction.

**Hank:**

Thanks . . . really. But, you . . . you wouldn't understand, and . . . sorry. . . But, I gotta' go.

**Brett:**

Come on, young doctor. Let's call it a night.  
(*exits stage right with Brett*)

**Jo:**

(*angrily to Gilly*) Dammit! See what you did? Driving love outta' your mom's life. You're worthless. Why the hell did I have someone like you. God! Get away from me. I never want to see you again. (*pours another drink*)  
(*rejected and dejected, Gilly moves to the end of the bar, stage right. Single spot rises on him. Jo moves to the opposite end of bar, dimly lit. Other actors remain frozen in place*)

**Gilly:**

*sings, "Does Anybody Want Me?"*

*Does anybody want me?*

*Does anybody care?*

*Can anybody hear me?*

*Is anybody there?*

*There must be someone out there.*

*A better place to be.*

*A life of dreams I could share,*

*A dream that's meant for me.*

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 1**

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*(Single spot rises on Jo . .dim spot on Gilly. Use lighting effectively here)*

**Jo:**

sings, "**Does Anybody Want Me?**"

*How can I be so lonely?  
I have most any man.  
Why am I left so empty?  
This isn't in my plan.  
Someone nice to hold me.  
And, wrap me in their arms.  
Does anybody want me?  
Want me for my charms.*

**The Dream Catcher:**

sings, "**I'll Always Love You**

*I'll always love you.  
I'll always care.  
I'm always near you.  
I'm always there.  
When you sleep I'll hold you.  
And wrap you in my arms.  
I am the mighty warrior.  
To protect you from all harms.*

*trio with Gilly, Jo, and the Dream Catcher.  
(sings duet with Gilly in response to his lyrics.)*

*Does anybody want me?  
Does anybody care?  
Can anybody hear me?  
Is anybody there?  
Someone nice to hold me.  
And, wrap me in their arms.  
Does anybody want me?  
Want me for my charms.*

*(each sings the same words. Each is looking for someone to love them. The two voices echo in a touching duet, bouncing from one side of the bar to the other. Each is looking for love and someone*

**The Dream Catcher**

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**Act 1 Scene 1**

*to want them. Duet closes with both subjects illuminated with a pin point spot which gradually fades out. Curtain.)*

**End of Act 1, Scene 1**

**Act 1 Scene 2**

**Act 1 Scene 2**

(The next day. Curtain opens revealing the bar. Gilly is sweeping the floor, stage left. Brett enters, stage right)

**Brett:**

Hi Gilly!

**Gilly:**

Oh, hi Brett.

**Brett:**

What' cha doing?

**Gilly:**

Cleaning the place.

**Brett:**

Where's your mom?

**Gilly:**

She's . . . a . . .(points stage right) sleeping.

**Brett:**

Sleeping? Its afternoon. And you! Why aren't you in school?

**Gilly:**

(Sighs) Mom needs me. She passed out. She's been sick and I can't get her to wake up.

**Brett:**

What? (moves to stage right and calls off stage). Jo! Are you all right?

**JO:**

(voice off stage. groggy)

Yeah, I'm all right. Leave me the fuck alone.

**Brett:**

(walks to Gilly. Rests his hand on Gilly's shoulders)

How'd she ever get a kid like you in the midst of all this crap?

**Gilly:**

Aww. Mom's not so bad. When she's not drunk . . . or on drugs. We have a lot of fun. Really! I love my mom. You know that.

**Brett:**

**Act 1 Scene 2**

I love her too

**Gilly:**

You've known mom a long time.

**Brett:**

Yeah. We go way back. Crazy, isn't it?. What do you want to do when you when you grow up?

**Gilly:**

I don't know. I don't think about that. Mom says I'll never grow up.

**Brett:**

Well, the way you're going now, I think you're going to take over this bar.

**Gilly:**

Oh no, Brett. I have bigger plans. Mom says I dream too much.

**Brett:**

*(Gives Gilly a package)*

**Gilly:**

What's this for?

**Brett:**

Open it. It's a present. You know, little guy, we've got more in common than you realize. Dreams. Your mom.

**Gilly:**

*(excitedly tears open present)*. Wow! It's a dream catcher. Where did you get it?

**Brett:**

Uh Huh. I made it . . . just for you. Dream Catcher's are made with love. That's what makes them so special. That's what makes them work. Love. That makes a lot of things work. *(messes Gilly's hair)* I saw yours was broken. How'd you know about dream catchers? *(Dream Catcher appears to oversee)*

**Gilly:**

They're this special thing you hang above your bed. It catches all

**Act 1 Scene 2**

your dreams in the web. The nightmares melt in the morning sun .  
. and the good dreams . . well, they're there . . waiting just for me.  
And you know what? I met him.

**Brett:**

What are you talking about?

**Gilly:**

The dream catcher. He was in my room. He gave me one.

**Brett:**

Wow. I met him too.

**Gilly:**

You saw him?

**Brett:**

Sure did. I think I was about your age. He came to me one night,  
just like he came to you.

**Gilly:**

A big Indian?

**Brett:**

Yep. With a real Eagle headdress?

**Gilly:**

This is so cool! Were you scared?

**Brett:**

Yea. A little. But as a kid, I was more frightened of the darkness.  
. and being alone. He told me not to be afraid. That he was always  
there. . to watch over me. I would never be alone. He gave me a  
dream catcher. . just like the one I gave to you. He told me about  
living my dreams. You see, everyone around me told me I couldn't  
be who I wanted to be. A doctor. I wanted to be a doctor so bad.  
My dad said I didn't have the brains. That I was a stupid kid going  
nowhere. And mom. . well, she liked her drinks more than she  
liked her dreams. Kinda' like your mom.

But, he told me not to listen to them. He told me to "Be still and  
hear the quiet voice within". That quiet voice said I could be a  
doctor. That I could live my dreams and fly with him where eagles  
soar. But first, you must believe in them.

(touches Gilly's heart) Here.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Gilly:**

You're lucky. I wish I could have a dream.

**Brett:**

But you do, Gilly. All of us have a dream. Dreams are gifts. It's our job to search out and live our dream.

*(sings)*

**You Gotta' Have A Dream**

*You gotta' have a dream to hold on to.  
Yes, a dream that's all about you.  
Dreams come true, for me. And yes for you.  
You gotta have a dream that makes your heart sing,  
like a bird that greets the morning.  
Dreams are songs your heart gives light to  
when you gaze upon a star.*

*Some folks spend a lifetime  
never living out their dreams .  
Quiet lives of desperation.  
Life isn't what it seems.  
Make your dream your heart song.  
Feel it deep inside of you.  
Hear that quiet voice within sing.  
To thine own self be true.*

*(sing in harmony with Dream Catcher)*  
*You gotta' have a dream that you believe in.  
Yes a dream's the place to begin.  
Dreams come true for me.  
And yes, for you.  
You gotta' have a dream that you hold on to.  
Yes the dream is all about you.  
So sing from your heart son.  
You gotta' have a dream. .*

**Gilly:**

I guess I do have one dream. But, I don't think it'll ever come true.

**Brett:**

What's that, Gilly?



**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

25

**Gilly:**

Find my dad.

**Brett:**

Where is he?

**Gilly:**

I don't know. I don't even know who he is.

**Brett:**

Does your mom talk about him?

**Gilly:**

Naw! She's had so many boy friends. She doesn't even know.

**Brett:**

I'm sorry, Gilly.

**Gilly:**

I don't know. If you never had one . .

**Brett:**

Do you ever . . think about him?

**Gilly:**

Oh . sure. All the time.. But then, I guess this is the one dream  
that won't come true for me.

**Brett:**

How do you know. He could come through that door any time.

**Gilly:**

But, you know what? I don't even know what he looks like. I'll  
bet ya' he's strong. Handsome. Yeah, he's handsome. And . .  
smart, too. Some day . . he is gonna' walk through that door. And  
say, "Hi' son". And I'm gonna' have my Dad . . and my Mom . .  
and we'll be a real family.

**Gilly:**

*sings* **All Of My Life**

*All of my life, I've waited for someone.  
Someone to call my Dad.*

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**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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*All of my life, I've wondered who he'd be.  
Friend that I never had.  
Someone who'd teach me, things that a Dad should.  
Someone to call me son.  
I'm gonna find him! I'm gonna love him!  
I'm gonna be his lost son!*

*All of my life, my dream is to find him.  
Find him and call him dad.  
All of my life, I've wanted a fam'ly.  
Fam'ly I never had.*

*Each day I wake up,  
I dream about him.  
Wond'ring if he'll like me.  
Some day he'll stand here!  
Right here beside me!  
Oh, what a day that will be!*

*All of my life, I've waited for someone.  
Someone to call my Dad.  
All of my life, I've wondered who he'd be.  
Friend that I never had.  
Each day I wake up.  
I look around me.  
Wond'ring if he's the one.  
Some day he'll stand here!  
Right here beside me!  
My dad will call me . . his son!*

*(Holds up Dream Catcher . . then clutches it to his chest)  
Stage Lights dim slowly out with tiny spot on Gilly. Then out.*

*(lights rise slowly/dimly revealing Jo' in her bedroom, holding the  
pipe)*

**Jo:**

Why did you have to leave me Daddy? I was your good little girl.  
I must've done something wrong. What was it Daddy? Why  
couldn't you stay and love me. What did I do wrong?

*(Jo lights the pipe and sings softly, sadly as she proceeds to get*

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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*stoned)*

**Jo:**  
*sings All Of My Life*

*All of my life, I've waited for someone.  
Someone to call my Dad  
(takes a toke.)*

*All of my life, I've wondered who he'd be.  
Friend that I never had.  
(takes a toke.)*

*Someone who'd teach me, things that a Dad should  
Someone to hold my hand.  
(takes a toke.)*

*I know he's out there. Somewhere there's someone.  
Someone who'll understand*

*(lights dim as she curls up in bed, crying, cuddling a teddy bear)  
(Dream Catcher appears Stage left . .looks at Jo)*

**End Scene two**

**Act one, Scene Three**

**HANK:**  
(shaking head) Geeze . . Were mid-terms hard for you?

**BRETT:**  
(chuckles) You bet. I had a hard time and so I had to study really

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**Act 1 Scene 2**

hard. Like you, I wanted to be a doctor more than anything else in the world.

**HANK:**

Anatomy. That was a killer. Thanks for spending time with me and my cadaver "George". (shudders) Uhrr!! You really helped me a lot. Life's been pretty lonely here. You're the best friend I've got..

**BRETT:**

Oh, come on man. You've got everything in the world going for you. Get out more. Mix with the guys.

**HANK:**

Well, I'm not a party animal. . I never was.

**BRETT:**

That was some party last night. And Jo. My God. She sure does carry on. Did you see how wasted she was. And Gilly. I feel so sorry for that kid. Wish there was something I could do for him.

**HANK:**

I want to talk to you about Jo.

**BRETT:**

You shoulda' seen Jo when she was younger. She was beautiful. I mean, there wasn't a guy on campus who didn't drool over her.

**HANK:**

But, . . . Something happens when I'm around her. .

**BRETT:**

You and everybody else.

**HANK:**

No. You don't understand. I don't like the way she comes onto me. I feel uncomfortable.

**BRETT:**

What do you mean? She comes on to everybody. That's Jo.

**HANK:**

You don't understand.

**BRETT:**

O.K. What don't I understand? What's the problem.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**HANK:**

The problem's with her.

**BRETT:**

You lost me.

**HANK:**

It's really hard for me to say

**BRETT:**

Say it . . Say what is it you want to say, Dammit.

**HANK:**

*(grabs Brett by the shoulders to face him)* . I'm . . . gay. . .

**BRETT:**

*(slowly pulls Hanks hands off and moves away)* Oh! My God.  
You . . You don't look gay.

**HANK:**

What does gay look like? Not many of us do *(make quote marks in the air)* "look gay". . . *(paces stage)* Oh . . and there's something else . .*(takes a deep breath)* something else I want you to know. . . about me.

**BRETT:**

Oh, shit man!! What could follow that?

**HANK:**

*(Takes a deep breath. quietly and slowly.)* This is really hard.  
Yeah. I'm . . . H.I.V. . . positive.

**BRETT:**

You? . . . have AIDS?

**HANK:**

No, . . not the disease, just the virus. I'm H.I.V. positive. There is a difference.

**BRETT:**

Oh fuck!!.

**HANK:**

You're the only one who knows. Not my parents, not my friends, .

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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. .not anyone.

**BRETT:**

Why are you telling me this?

**HANK:**

Because you're my friend. You're my, you know, (makes quotes in the air)"big brother". And you're a Doctor. I don't know who else to turn to.

**BRETT:**

I don't think they had this in mind when they made me your big brother. I'm only supposed to show you the ropes, not get tangled up in them. God!! I don't know how to handle this. I mean, you're the first person I know who's . . . who's got this. (takes two steps back from Hank) thing.

**HANK:**

(moves forward) Please! Please don't walk away like that. I'm not a leper. I'm afraid. I don't want people to know, . . because of reactions . . just like this. Tell someone I'm gay and they want to beat the hell out of me. Tell 'em I've got the virus and they . . they want to run away.

**BRETT:**

I'm sorry, Hank. I really am. But, this . . this is more than I can handle. I'm really uncomfortable around gays. And, you tell me you've got that AIDS virus too? (shaking his head) Uh, uh. Oh no, man. You better find another "big brother".

**HANK:**

Please, Brett. You're more than a big brother. You're my friend. I need a doctor.

**BRETT:**

Don't you have a doctor?

**HANK:**

Are you kidding? Here? In Georgia? This is the last place in the world you want to be gay, let alone have the AIDS virus. I'm here because I've always wanted to be a doctor. That's been my dream. I've wanted that since I was a little kid. I just found out that I was H.I.V..

Do you know how I feel inside. I'm scared shitless. I'm a young man. My whole future is ahead of me. I don't want to die.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**BRETT:**

(shaking his head) Uh, Uh. I can't be your doctor. I'm in neurology. I don't treat AIDS patients. I don't know anything about it. I don't *want* to know anything about it.

**HANK:**

Brett! Please. Don't pull away from me. I need you . . . help me .  
Please.

**BRETT:**

I'm sorry, man. You're asking too much of me. You gotta' find somebody else. Not me.

**HANK:**

Please Brett. I need you. You're my friend.

**BRETT:**

(Turns his back on Hank) Get away from me! (angrily) Oh!!  
(ugh!)

**HANK:**

*(sings) Damned You Anyhow*  
*Damned you, anyhow. You're a doctor.*  
*Damned you anyhow, don't you care?*  
*Damned you, anyhow, I'm your patient.*  
*Damned you anyhow. It's not fair.*

*Damned you, anyhow. Be my doctor.*  
*Damned you anyhow, don't you care?*  
*Damned you, anyhow. I'm a patient.*  
*I reach out to you. You're not there.*

*What a-bout that oath, Sir.*  
*Taken by all doctors.*  
*Stay by me, don't run a-way.*  
*I am really scared now.*  
*What am I to do? How?*  
*Life just isn't what it seems.*  
*Do you know what I see?*  
*Blackness all around me.*  
*Nightmares have become my dreams*

*Damned you anyhow. You're a doctor.*  
*Damned you anyhow don't you care?*

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### Act 1 Scene 2

*Damned you anyhow I'm your patient.  
Damned you anyhow. It's not fair.*

*Damned you anyhow. Be my doctor.  
Damned you any how don't you care?  
Damned you anyhow I'm your patient.  
I reach out to you. You're not there.*

*Do you know what I see?  
Blackness all around me.  
I'm too young, too young to die.  
Do not leave me.  
Do not say Good-bye.*

**Brett:** *(sings)*

### I Am Not Your Doctor

*I'm a Doctor! That always was my Dream.  
No one ever told me - there would be a day where  
I would run away and scream!*

*I'm a Doctor. Yes, I took an oath.  
No one ever told me - there would be some patients  
I would run away and loath.*

*He has AIDS. What of it.  
He is not my brother.  
I am not his keeper. Oh, no!  
Terror strikes inside me.  
Haunts me in the darkness.  
Turn my back on him. I go.*

*I'm a Doctor! Yes, I took an oath.  
No one ever told me - there would be some patients.  
I would turn away and loath!*

*I'm a Doctor. That always was my dream.  
No one ever told me - there would be a day where  
I would run away and scream!*

*I am not your brother. And, I am not your keeper.  
And, I am not your Doctor. Not I.  
Damn' you anyhow! Damn' you anyhow!  
Close the door and say Good-bye*

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**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

33

**BRETT and HANK**

*(sing their arias as a duet, glaring at each other)*

**HANK:**

God damned you!! And you call yourself a doctor.

*(Hank exits stage left. Brett exits stage right. lights out)*

**End of Scene 3**

**Act One Scene 4**

*(Curtain rises with Gilly sweeping the bar floor & cleaning up. Brett enters the bar, Stage right grabs Gilly from behind swinging him around.)*

**BRETT:**

Hi, kid. What 'cha doing?

**GILLY:**

Brett! Just cleaning up.

**BRETT:**

You're not in school again today.

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**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**GILLY:**

Mom . . she's sick again.

**BRETT:**

Sick or not . . You gotta' be in school.

**GILLY:**

I know. But who's going to take care of mom? Somebody's got to.

**BRETT:**

Gilly, I'm going to come by here each morning and take you to school. To catch your dreams, you gotta' be in school. You need an education. How's the Dream Catcher I made working? Catching all the monsters?

**GILLY:**

(stammers) Uhm . . .

**BRETT:**

(looks around the room) Where is it?

**GILLY:**

(goes behind the bar and produces the dream catcher) Here.

**BRETT:**

What's it doing back there? It's supposed to be hanging above your bed.

**GILLY:**

Oh . . Mom . . .she doesn't like things like that hanging above my bed. She busted up my last one.

**BRETT:**

She did what?

**JO:**

*(Jo staggers into the room, stage right)* I thought I heard somebody talking with Gilly. *(sits at bar stool)* Oh God! I feel shitty. Gilly! Get mamma' a drink, will ya' honey?

**GILLY:**

Sure mom. What would you like?

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**JO:**

Let's see, what time is it? (looks at watch) Oh God, it's three o'clock. Vodka will do.

*Gilly pours Jo a drink and brings it to her.*

**BRETT:**

*(takes drink from her hand)* Don't you think it's kind of early for that?

**JO:**

Who the hell do you think you are?

**GILLY:**

Mom!

**JO:**

You keep out of this. (sneering) Precious Gilly. Everybody's concerned about Gilly. Well, who's concerned about me?

**BRETT:**

Jo! I happen to . . . (quietly) I still love you. I don't want to see you like this. Especially in front of the kid.

**JO:**

Oh, he knows. Listen here, Brett! This is my fuckin' life and I do whatever the hell I want. So, don't come into my place and tell me what to do. What're you doin' here, anyhow?

**BRETT:**

I came to check on Gilly. How come he's not in school.

**JO:**

I need him here. He's got chores to do.

**BRETT:**

Jo! You're drunk.

**JO:**

Am I? Drunk?

**GILLY:**

Mom. Brett brought me this. *(displays the dream catcher)*

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**JO:**

*(Staggers over to Gilly)* What the hell is this? *(Picks up the dream catcher)*

**GILLY:**

It's a dream catcher, mom.

**JO:**

I thought I told you to keep this crap outta' here.

**BRETT:**

I made it for him, Jo. That boy needs a dream.

**JO:**

Let me tell you something, Brett! When you grow up, there are no dreams.

**GILLY:**

What happened Mom? What happened to your dreams?

**JO:**

Mine . . . Hah! they died along time ago. *(picks up her glass from the bar and drinks)* Dreams look better thru the bottom of a glass anyhow. *(To Gilly)* Don't they honey.

**BRETT:**

*(Angrily)* My God! What kind of mother are you.

**JO:**

Who the hell wants to be a mother. I never asked to have my life ruined. I never asked for this . . . kid.

**BRETT:**

He's a great kid. Don't you know what a fine boy you've got here. If I had a kid like that, I'd sure take better care of him. He deserves more outta' life than this.

**JO:**

You like him? You like Gilly. Hell, take him. He's yours.

**BRETT:**

No, Jo! People just don't give kids away like that. There's responsibility in being a parent. You just don't be a parent and then give your kid away.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**JO:**

You wanna' be responsible? Take him. He's yours. I don't want him. I'm tired of him.

**BRETT:**

I'm almost tempted to take you up on that, Jo. But I can't just take him.

**JO:**

Oh yes you can. Take him. He's yours!

**BRETT:**

How can you say that.

**JO:**

Because it's true. He's yours.

**BRETT:**

What?

**JO:**

He's yours. He's your kid! (slowly) You're his father!

**BRETT:**

What?

**JO:**

You heard me. I think you need a drink.

**BRETT:**

That can't be.

**JO:**

Oh, but it is. That night you won your shorts.. (*Mimics trumpets*)  
"Ta Ta". Nine months later. Here he is. He's your kid, Brett.

**BRETT:**

Are you sure?

**JO:**

Oh, I'm sure. Cute, young doctor Brett. My dream ticket outta' this fuckin' hell hole. After you, I made sure nobody got inside me. Not until I was sure I was pregnant and you were the Dad.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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Selective breeding I call it. I wanted a doctor in the family. (*takes another drink*)

**BRETT:**

Why didn't you tell me sooner?

**JO:**

For one thing, to get you off my fucking back. And you? A starving medical student? Living in a tiny room. What kinda' life is that for me? I want to party, not settle down. Besides . . . you're so . . . so boring. Nothing exciting happens in your life . . . you know, same old, . . . same old shit. No. I'll wait till you're successful. Rich. You know . . . Big shot doctor. Then, there's some real money in it for me.

**BRETT:**

You drunken bitch. Doesn't it mean anything that I loved you. Doesn't that count?

**JO:**

Love? Who believes in love? Love is like your . . . your dream catcher here. See these holes? (pokes fingers through the holes of the dream catcher.) See how it slips right through. Just an empty space. That's for suckers. (*Takes another drink*) Now this is something to love.

**BRETT:**

You're pathetic.

**JO:**

Go on. Take him then. I mean it. He's yours. Go ahead, take him. He's a good worker.  
Oh! Da-a-a-d (slurs). . . There's something else you should know. . . about your son.

**BRETT:**

What's that?

**JO:**

He's H.I.V..

**BRETT:**

What?

**JO:**

Your kid. He's got the AIDS virus.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

39

**BRETT:**

Oh my God! No!! How? How did he get it?

**JO:**

From mommy.

**BRETT:**

From you? I don't understand.

**JO:**

Listen to the bright doctor. Can't you figure that out? Doc? I passed it on to him. While he was here. (Points to abdomen)  
Inside.

**BRETT:**

That means you . . have AIDS?

**JO:**

(shaking her head) Go to the head of the class Doc. But no. Just the virus. I have just the God damned fucking virus.

**BRETT:**

How'd you get it?

**JO:**

Who the hell knows. Some trick. Some dirty needle. Some john.

**BRETT:**

You had it when we were . . . ?

**JO:**

Probably. Yeah . . I guess so.

**BRETT:**

And you didn't tell me?

**JO:**

That's not my job?

**BRETT:**

Like hell that's not your job. What kind of responsible woman are you?

**JO:**

I'm not. Look at me! Look at that kid. Look at my life. Do I look responsible? That's not my job. That's not my responsibility. It's

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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yours, God damned it.

**BRETT:**

Mine?

**JO:**

Yeah! You shoulda' used a rubber.

**BRETT:**

You let me fuck you (make love to you) without using a rubber.

**JO:**

It seems to me, you were there too, buddy. You had a choice. You coulda' used a rubber.

**BRETT:**

I was in love . . . with you.

**JO:**

Love? You're just another notch on my bedpost. Someone warm to hold me for a night. Someone to have around . . . to say they love me.

**BRETT:**

You put me at risk.

**JO:**

Baby, you put yourself at risk. I don't lay in bed at the moment of passion and tell my John to put on a rubber.

**BRETT:**

Was that all I was? Just another John?

**JO:**

What do you think.

**BRETT:**

You said you loved me.

**JO:**

Did I? (laughs) I say what I feel at the time. I must've felt . . . something for you. Love? The only thing I love are my drugs . . . and my booze.

**BRETT:**



**Act 1 Scene 2**

Damned you all to hell. You might have infected me. . . and all your other . . tricks.

**JO:**

Baby, that's not my problem. My only problem is where do I get my next fix? My next high? My next lay.

**BRETT:**

You're sick. My God, how could I have fallen for someone like you?

**JO:**

You're not the first, baby. But . . . . What're you gonna' do with him? (Points to Gilly)  
*(overheard conversation. Is hurt and disappointed)*

**GILLY:**

Well, I almost had it, didn't ?

**JO:**

What, Gilly, honey. What did you almost have?

**GILLY:**

You know. . . A Dad.

**BRETT:**

*(Taken Back).* Gilly . . you don't understand.

**GILLY:**

Oh! But I do. Nobody wants me. Nobody wants a kid like me . . .  
Do they Mom!

**JO:**

I dunno'. Ask your dad, honey.

**BRETT:**

*(falls to his knees . .looks upwards)* What am I supposed to do. Here's this kid. I've always liked him . .and . . I'm his father. But this. I never expected any of this. Please. Someone. Help me.  
What should I do? *(Dream Catcher appears)*

**DREAM CATCHER:**

What do you want to do Brett?

**BRETT:**

**Act 1 Scene 2**

You!!

**DREAMCATCHER:**

I hold all of your dreams.

**BRETT:**

This isn't a dream. This is a nightmare.

**DREAMCATCHER:**

No Brett. Gilly is not a nightmare. He's a boy . . . your son. . who needs a dad. This is responsibility. These are choices you made.

**BRETT:**

What am I supposed to do?

**DREAMCATCHER:**

The answer lies within. Listen to your heart. Go deep inside yourself. Discover your highest good. Bring it forth and share it with the world.

**BRETT:**

(Looks at Gilly. Looks at the Dream Catcher) Is this part of my dream?

**DREAMCATCHER:**

Your dream is far greater than you realize.

**BRETT:**

I didn't know dreams were like this

**DREAMCATCHER:**

Each of us has a purpose for being here. It is not by accident. Our life journey is to discover that purpose. Most people never discover that purpose.

**BRETT:**

Can I really do this?

**DREAMCATCHER:**

If not you . . . then who? If not now . . . then when?

**BRETT:**

This is the hardest decision I've ever had to make.

**DREAMCATCHER:**

**Act 1 Scene 2**

Life is about choices, Brett. We *are* responsible for our actions.  
And you have a son . . . a son who needs a Dad.

**BRETT:**

*(Looks at Gilly and sings his soliloquy)*  
*(sings) I Have A Son!*

*I am a father, and there is my son.  
Now I'm a dad. But, do I want to be one.  
A son is a responsibility. A load for me to bear.  
A son will demand a lot from me. But do I want to be there?*

*I am a father. And, there stands my son.  
He needs a dad, but, do I want to be one?  
Someone to throw a ball for him, the friend he's never had.  
Someone that he looks up to now.  
Someone that he calls Dad.*

*A son! I have a son!  
He is my boy. He is the one.  
A son! I have a son!  
A boy that I fathered.  
But, what if I choose to run ?*

*My God! This is not what I planned.  
I have my whole life to live, something that was so grand.  
And now, something higher it calls me.  
My role, as a father, my destiny.*

*A voice deep inside, to thine own self be true.  
My son, has a father. And God! How I love you.*

*A son! I have a son.  
He is my life, Gilly. He is my one true son.  
A son, I have a son.  
I am his Father, and I will never run.  
A son! I have a son.  
Family we are one.  
Yes, I have a son!*

**BRETT:**

*(looks at Gilly) Tell me again, Gilly . . . about the most important  
dream you've ever had.*

*Brett and Gilly look at each other and begin singing their songs.  
(Gilly -stage left, sings All of My Life.)*

**Act 1 Scene 2**

**All Of My Life**

*All of my life, I've waited for someone.  
Someone to call my Dad.  
All of my life, I've wondered who he'd be.  
Friend that I never had.  
Someone who'd teach me, things that a Dad should  
Someone to hold my hand.  
I know he's out there. Somewhere there's someone.  
Someone who'll understand*

*I think about him. Most ev'ry moment.  
Won'dring who he could be.  
Watching that door and hoping he'll come here  
Hoping he'll look for me.*

*All of my life, I've waited for someone.  
Someone to call my Dad.  
All of my life, I've wondered who he'd be.  
Friend that I never had.  
Someone who'd teach me, things that a Dad should  
Someone to hold my hand.  
I know he's out there. Somewhere there's someone.  
Someone who'll understand*

*(Brett-stage right, sings My Son)*

**My Son**

*I am a father, and there is my son.  
Now I'm a dad. But, do I want to be one.  
A son is responsibility. A load for me to bear.  
A son will demand a lot from me. But do I want to be there?*

*I am a father. And, there stands my son.  
He's just a boy who needs a dad to have fun.  
(alt) He needs a dad, but, do I want to be one?  
Someone to throw a ball for him, the friend he's never had  
Someone that he looks up to. Someone that he calls Dad.*

**Act 1 Scene 2**

*A son! I have a son!*

*(Each sings their lyrics and melody as a duet, timidly at first and slowly approaching each other. Their songs building in intensity as they approach each other.)*

*Song ends with both hugging, stage center. Gilly now has his Dad, and Brett has his son*

*(Flute music plays as Dream Catcher appears, stage left and waves his dream catcher)*

*(Curtain)*

**End of Act 1**

**Act Two, Scene 1**

**Dream Catcher:**

Filled with anticipation, and the excitement of their first Christmas together, Brett and Gilly have gone to the local mall for Gilly's first visit with Santa Claus. The stage is filled with people and the glow of Christmas is in the air. As in a Verdi opera, Jo is hides behind a pillar to watch her son with his Dad.

**VOICE:**

Hello, boys and girls. Mom's and Dad's. Welcome to The Mall. Santa Claus has just landed on the roof. and he's on his way down the chimney. *(Chuckles)* You know, with candy and toys, for good little girls and boys.

**GILLY:**

*(Pulling Brett)* Hurry Dad. Santa's coming. I don't want to miss him.

**BRETT:**

*(chuckling)* O.K. You're pretty excited about this.

**GILLY:**

Dad. I've never met Santa before.

**BRETT:**

You're kidding. Never?

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**GILLY:**

Naw! Mom . . . Well, you know. She just wasn't there to take me.  
*(Turns and looks at the crowd before him)* I don't know, Dad.  
There's so many people here. I don't think I'll see him.

**BRETT:**

Come here, son. When I was your age, I remember going to see Santa with my dad. I was short, kinda' like you, and . . . couldn't see over the people. I started to cry and said Santa won't see me down here. My dad, oh, how I loved that guy. He whisked me up on his shoulders. And, . . . suddenly I was above everyone. And, I could see. I had the best seat in the house. *(Nostalgically)* He used to do that a lot. Well, I'm your Dad now. And, . . . you're gonna' see Santa. *(Brett lifts Gilly onto his shoulders)* There. How's the view.

**GILLY:**

Wow! It's great, Dad. I'm so tall.

Sings "**When Santa Claus Comes To Town**".

*When Santa Claus comes by me he'll see, the tallest boy in the crowd.*

*I'm riding so high that I could fly. Upon my dad, so proud.*

*I've never seen Santa in my life. I hope that he sees me.*

*Riding upon my dad so tall. As happy as can be.*

*(Crowd becomes excited, shouting "Santa's coming." Santa enters stage right, partially obscured by the crowd.)*

**GILLY:**

*(excited)* I see him. I can see Santa. *(Waves)* Hi Santa.

**SANTA:**

Ho, Ho, Ho. Hello boys and girls. I'm so glad to see you here at the mall. Stand back. Give Santa room. I've got a big bag of toys and want to visit with all of you. *(Notices Gilly and waves)* Hello little boy.

**GILLY:**

Hi Santa.

**JO:**

*(Hiding from Brett and Gilly's view)*

Will you look at that. He really loves that kid. I wish somebody loved me like that.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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sings "**Child Of Mine**"

*Child of mine. Oh gift from God. Ride upon your Dad.  
Offspring of your Father's love. Best I've ever had.  
Ride upon your Dad, so tall. Touch the trees so high.  
Branches brush your childhood brow. Through the fields we fly.*

*Child of mine. Love me too. As we travel on  
Dry your tears. Laugh with me. See the sun.  
Study hard. Know my ways. Be a man.  
Mommy's goin' away my child. Understand?  
Loved your Dad and always will. Proud to love him so.  
Maybe when you're old like me, you'll see how things go.*

*Ride upon your Dad, so tall. Touch the trees so high.  
Branches brush your childhood brow. Through the fields we fly.  
Child of mine. Oh gift from God. Ride upon your Dad.  
Offspring of your Father's love. Best I've ever had.*

*(Flute music. Dream Catcher appears behind Jo)*

**DREAM CATCHER:**

Jo. (Jo is startled. Looks around) I hold all your dreams . . here . .  
in my hand. Come with me. There's a family . . waiting for a  
Mom.

**JO:**

With Brett? Get real. He's boring. Life . . Well, life with him  
would be dull. God! What are you? A bad dream? Or . . a bad  
drug?

**DREAM CATCHER:**

Jo. What happened to your dreams?

**JO:**

Oh I know you. . You're that . . that imaginary playmate of Gilly's.  
God . . I must be drunk. Now I'm seeing you too.

**DREAM CATCHER:**

No. I'm not imaginary. I've always been here. And yes, you have  
had a bit too much to drink.

**JO:**

I am hallucinating!

**DREAM CATCHER:**

Jo, Gilly needs a mom. He needs you. You can get well. Come

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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back.

**JO:**

I am well! And Gilly's got his Dad. His dream. And I've got what I need . .right here. (*flirts with her John*) I can take care of myself.

**DREAM CATCHER:**

Jo . . There's someone here I want you to meet.

(*Jo's father appears, smoking his pipe*)

**JO:**

(*shocked . .surprised*) Daddy . .

**DAD:**

Hello Jo . .

**JO:**

Oh my God! What are you . . What are you doing . . . here . .

**Dad:**

To warn you.

**JO:**

About what?

**DAD:**

Be careful. The path you're walking is the same path I took. I know what lies at the end. You don't want your life to end the way mine did.

**JO:**

Oh Christ . .I'm really fucked (screwed) up . . I'm seeing my dead Father.

**DAD:**

Stop what you're doing, Jo. You're hurting everyone around you. Just like I did. Don't hurt your son . . like I hurt you.

**JO:** Fuck you Dad. Fuck You! Fuck You! FUCK YOU!!

(*screams the words. Or damned you*)

(*several in the mall are aghast and pull their children away*)

**CROWD 1:**



**Act 1 Scene 2**

Look out . . .that woman's crazy . . .Get away from her.

**CROWD 2:**

She's Drunk!

**DREAM CATCHER:**

Jo. I believe you have some problems with . . . your perception.  
You would choose this man . . . this life . . . over the dreams I hold  
for you?

**JO:**

Get away from me. (drunken and slurred) You figment of my  
immagination. All of you. Fuck You! There's nothing wrong  
with me.

**DREAM CATCHER:**

I'll go . . .if that's what you wish. But, I'll see you again. I'm  
always here . . .for you. Just ask . . . whenever you need me. And  
remember, I hold all your dreams . . . here. (*extends his cupped  
hands*)

(*Dream Catcher & Dad fade.*)

**JO:**

(*Erotic and drunken to her companion*) Did you see that? God!  
I've had too much to drink. Now you're the dream I really want.  
Come on baby, let's party. (*exits stage left*)

**SANTA:**

(*Gets settled in his chair and motions for Gilly to come over*) You  
there, on your dad's shoulders. Come over to Santa.

**GILLY:**

(*Climbing off Brett's shoulders*) Santa saw me. He wants to talk  
to me.

**BRETT:**

O.K. We don't want to keep Santa waiting.

**SANTA:**

Come on, son. Come over here and sit on Santa's lap  
(*Gilly approaches timidly and sits on Santa's lap*)

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**SANTA:**

What's your name?

**GILLY:**

Gilly, sir.

**SANTA:**

Well Gilly, tell Santa what you would like for Christmas.

**GILLY:**

A big tall drum major hat and a baton. I want to lead the marching band on the field during half-time for the Green Bay Packers. *(or any football team)*

**SANTA:**

Ho, Ho, Ho. I can just see you doing that. We'll see what Santa can find at Christmas. Anything else I can do for you, Gilly?

**GILLY:**

Make me well.

**SANTA:**

*(Concerned)* Oh, you don't feel well. You look fine. What's wrong?

**GILLY:**

I have AIDS.

**SANTA:**

*(Surprised)* AIDS? Ho, Ho, Ho. No, Gilly. You're kidding Santa. Little boys don't have AIDS.

**GILLY:**

Yes. I do, Santa.

**SANTA:**

You're not kidding, are you Gilly

**GILLY:**

No Sir. I'm not.

**SANTA:**

*(Uneasy, removes Gilly from his lap. Becoming frightened and*

**Act 1 Scene 2**

*angry.*) You shouldn't be here, you know. You shouldn't be out with other people . . in the mall.

**BRETT:**

*(Steps forward from the crowd).* Is there a problem Santa? I'm his father, . . and I'm a doctor.

**SANTA:**

You, . . . above all people. You otta' know he shouldn't be here. I shouldn't have held him . . next to me. What if I . . .

**BRETT:**

Santa, you don't get AIDS from holding a little boy.

**SANTA:**

I don't believe you. I touched him God, this is awful. I don't want to make a scene. But, I've gotto' wash myself. Get that kid out of here.

**BRETT:**

I don't have to take my son anywhere.

**GILLY:**

*(Starts to cry).* Dad. Santa doesn't want me. No one wants me, Dad. *(sobs)* No one wants me.

**Person #1:**

What's wrong with that little boy?

**Person #2:**

I heard him say he's got AIDS.

**Mom #1:**

*(loudly)* AIDS? Oh, my God! Gilly has AIDS? *(Grabs her child's hand, pulling him/her away)* Don't you play with him anymore.

**BRETT:**

*(angrily)* Please listen. You don't get AIDS by playing with kids.

**Mom #1:**

Don't you tell me what to do. *(to the crowd)* Get away from him. He's got AIDS.

**Act 1 Scene 2**

*Place for a bizarre song for crowd/chorus on AIDS, fear, contagion, etc.*

*(Lights fade on crowd and focus on Gilly and Brett, Stage front center. Brett is kneeling, cradling Gilly in his arms.)*

**GILLY:**

*(crying)* No one wants me. I don't feel good, Dad. Take me home. I'm think I'm gonna' be sick.

Brett sings a song yet to be composed.

*(Light's dim and fade out.)*

**End of Act 2 Scene 1.**

**Act 2, Scene 2**

**Dream Catcher:**

A bad dream comes to life, Brett confronts a number of characters representing those who have failed to help him in his search for help and support in caring for Gilly. Repeatedly Brett is turned away by those who might have helped him, including a doctor who represents the medical field, a clergymen who bans Gilly from Sunday school, Brett's family who reject him for taking on a son with AIDS, and a beaurocratic social worker who rejects Brett's plea for assistance when forms have not been filled out completely each person turns their backs on Brett as he asks for their

**HELP ME!!**

**BRETT:**

*Is there any one who can help me? Is there any one who will care?  
Is there any one who can hear me? I've tried ev'rything even prayer.  
Help me care for my son who has AIDS. Such a burden for me to bear.  
Help me! Somebody please I'm begging. God! Please help me.  
And show you care.*

*What about that brother. Someone who will nurture.  
Someone who will guide my way.  
What about the love that's written in the bible.  
Help me! Please don't run away.*

*I am really scared. What am I to do?  
He has yet to live his dreams. Do you know what I see?  
Blackness all around me. Nightmares have become my dreams.*

**DOCTOR:**

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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*I'm a doctor that always was my dream.  
No one ever told me there would be a day where I would run away and  
scream!*

*I'm a doctor. yes I took an oath.  
No one ever told me there would be some patients I would run away and  
loath!*

*He has aids what of it. He is not my brother.  
I am not his keeper. Oh no!  
Terror strikes inside me. Haunts me in the darkness.  
Turn my back on him. I go.  
I'm a doctor. Yes I took an oath.  
No one ever told me there would be some patients I would turn away and  
loath!*

**FAMILY:**

*We love you from Saint Louis. Your fam'ly sends it's love.  
Don't bring this disease to us. It's nothing that we're part of.  
You know you father'd Gilly. And he is not our boy.  
I know this may sound silly. He's yours and he's not our joy.  
We love you from Saint Louis. Your fam'ly sends it's love.  
Don't bring this disease to us. It's nothing that we're part of.  
We know you are a doctor. But what a life you live.  
The bed you made now lie in. We've nothing more to give.  
Nothing more to give. Nothing more to give.  
We have our own lives that we surely must live.  
We love you from Saint Louis. Your fam'ly sends it's love.  
Don't bring this disease to us. It's nothing that we're part of.  
You know you father'd Gilly. And he is not our boy.  
I know this may sound silly he's yours and he's not our joy.*

**CHURCH:**

*I'm the holy father. I listen to your prayer.  
You have got a problem that I do not want to share.  
You're his father. You created this.  
God condemns you and you'll find no holy bliss.  
Not married to his mother. A fornicator you.  
It says so in the bible that you shall not screw.  
The sins upon the father live within your son.  
I don't know any place where you can ever run.  
Your damned forever cur-sed. Get a-way from me.  
I'm ho-li-er than you shall ever be. God speaks to me. I read the bible  
evry' day.  
And now it's time for me to pray.*

**SOCIAL SECURITY:**

*Welcome to social security. Welcome to the help window.  
Welcome to social security. I am here, to help you so.  
These are the forms you need to fill out.  
These are the forms. And be complete.  
Fill out these forms in ink. Be careful.  
You'll find a joy. It's quite a feat.  
Welcome to your social security. In two minutes I'll take my break.  
Hurry sir. And fill out the papers and don't you ever make a mistake.  
If you do, then trouble will follow you.  
And you'll never get your claim.  
Read directions easy to follow thru.  
If you fail, then you'll be to blame.  
Read directions. Fill out each form now in triplicate.  
And dot your i's and be sure and cross all your t's like this.  
If you fail this. Your application will be discarded.  
And you'll have to fill out your papers, start over.  
Oh! What a mess you've made in filling out these forms. And you've made  
me miss my break.  
These are wrong, sir. Come back tomorrow these are discarded.  
You will have to fill out these forms again.*

The frustrated, broken Brett, approaches the last character, who sits in a chair with his back to Brett.

**BRETT:**

I was told to come to the local AIDS task force for help. You're the last person left. My last hope. You see, my son, Gilly, has AIDS. Can you help me? Please.

(Character, mid stage center turns his swivel chair to face Brett. It is Hank)

**HANK:**

(Speaking as he turns) Sure, I can help you. Hello Brett

**BRETT:**

(shocked) Hank! What're you doing here?

**HANK:**

I work here. . . As a volunteer

**BRETT:**

But, you're . . .

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**HANK:**

Yes, I'm gay. And, I have the AIDS virus.

**BRETT:**

I never thought I'd be asking you . . . to help me.

**HANK:**

Y' know, no one gave a damned about us. We could die, and no one cared. No one gave a fuckin' God damned that we had Aids and we were dying. Some even said, good. Die, Faggot! One less queer. Y' know . . . We learned to take care of ourselves. Cause no one else would. We organized.

All over this country. We smashed into that brick wall of hatred and ignorance. Bleeding and dying. We made cracks. We learned how the system works. And we learned how to make it work for us.

**BRETT:**

Kind of ironic. Me standing here . . . After turning my back on you.

**HANK:**

Yeah. Still hate me?

**BRETT:**

I never hated you. Matter of fact, I liked you. But, I couldn't handle you being gay.

**HANK:**

Can you handle it now?

**BRETT:**

Funny. It doesn't matter anymore. My son is sick with AIDS. Everyone's turned their back on me too. There's nowhere else to go. I've got no one else to turn to.

**HANK:**

I know. And that's why we're here. You can turn to me.

I heard about Gilly and Santa. Damned. People are so cruel. You've come to the right place. Yes Brett . . . I can help you.

**HANK:**

*(sings)* **His Name Is Gilly**

*We share a journey. Your son and I.*

By Denny Hamann 9/2004

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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*We have a dream that will not die.  
His name is Gilly. A fine young lad.  
He has a dream. He has his Dad*

*His name is Gilly. But who would know  
The spark of his dream, makes others glow*

*Born with Aids. A child of love  
A dream . . a star, shines from above.  
Live your dreams that you might be  
A light, a dreamer such as he . .*

*His name is Gilly. A fine young man.  
Who lives and loves. He has a plan  
His name is Gilly. A find young lad  
His dream I'll help carry  
(Lucky guy)  
He has his Dad.*

**END ACT 2 SCENE 2**



**ACT 2 SCENE 3**

Brett is helping Gilly into his pajamas and getting ready for bed.  
Stage is empty except for Gilly's bed, stage left.

**Gilly:**

Dad . . do you ever have nightmares?

**Brett:**

Yeah . . I used to have them a lot when I was a kid like you. I guess I had them because I didn't know what the world was really like. Lots of things scared me then.

**Gilly:**

Do you still get scared?

**Brett:**

(nodding) Yep. I still get scared. Even though I'm a doctor . . have lots of diploma's hanging on my wall and patients come to me thinking I've got the answers to life. If they only knew. Parts of life really scare me. Big time.

**Gilly:**

I'm afraid when I go to sleep, Dad. The monsters. They come out to get me.

**Brett:**

The monsters . . They're not real, son.

**Gilly:**

Oh, but they are, Dad. They're real.

**Brett:**

(points to the dream catcher above Gilly's bed.) See that, Gilly.

**Act 1 Scene 2**

That Dream Catcher will protect you. I'll leave the door open and the night light on. I'm in the next room. The monsters have to get by me first . .and I'm a big strong guy. No monsters for you tonight son. You're safe here, son. This is your home. You're safe. Time to say our prayers.

**Gilly:**

*(sings)* **Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep**

*Now I lay me down to sleep.  
I pray the lord my soul to keep.  
And, if I die be-fore I wake.  
Is this the way you pray?  
Oh, now I lay me down to sleep.  
Afraid at night, the monsters creep.  
And, I'm a-afraid to close my eyes,  
if you should go a-way.*

*In the dark they hide beneath my bed.  
Hide from them, I cover up my head.  
What if I should die be-fore I wake?  
Dad, I'm so afraid.*

*Now I lay me down to sleep.  
I pray the lord my soul to keep.  
And, if I die be-fore I wake.  
Is this the way to pray?  
Oh, now I lay me down to sleep.  
Afraid at night, the monsters creep.  
And, I'm afraid to close my eyes,  
if you should go a-way*

**Brett:**

*(sings)* **Hush, Son. Don't you Cry**

*Hush, son. Don't you cry.  
I am here beside you. You'll not die.  
With me here to keep you safe son,  
you've no need to fear.  
Close your eyes and go to sleep.  
I am strong, no monsters dare to creep.*

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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*With me here to keep you safe son,  
you've no need to fear.*

*When at night you close your eyes and sleep.  
There's a thousand angels at your feet.  
No-things going to come between the love  
that I have for you.*

**Brett and Gilly**  
*(sing their arias in a duet)*

**Brett:**

(tucks in the covers.) There . . all tucked in for the night. G'Night son. (kisses Gilly on the forehead) Sweet Dreams.

**Gilly:**

Night Dad.

**Brett:** (exits, pausing at the door) Remember, I'm right next door.

**Gilly:**

Oh. Dad.

**Brett:**

Yeah?

**Gilly:**

What's it like to die?

**Brett:**

What?

**Gilly:**

You know . .In my prayers, I say . .If I die before I wake . . What's it like . . to die?

**Brett:**

Gilly . .I really don't know. Why do you ask that kind of question. Why don't you ask me where babies come from.

**Gilly:**

Dad . . I already know that one. With my mother . . please.

**Brett:**

(Laughs) You got me on that one, kid.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Gilly:**

You're a Doctor. You're around people . .when . .when they die.

**Brett:**

From what I know . . From those people who died . .and then . .  
came back. It's a wonderful experience.

**Gilly:**

You mean like when their heart stops . .and they use those paddles  
to shock it . . like on T.V.

**Brett:**

Yeah. They see this bright light. And move toward it. They say  
they're very happy. Some are so happy, they don't want to come  
back.

**Gilly:**

Kinda like when I see the Dream Catcher. He's like a bright light.

**Brett:**

Yeah . .I guess that's right.

**Gilly:**

Kewl.

**Brett:**

What?

**Gilly:**

Kewl . . I really like the Dream Catcher. And if he's there. I'm  
not afraid. It's the monsters I'm afraid of.

**Brett:**

You don't have to worry about the monsters. I'm here. And I'm  
bigger than any monster. I'll be right next door. I'll leave the light  
on . .and the door open.

*(tucks Gilly in bed again. Kisses his forehead)* Night Gilly.

**Gilly:**

Night Dad.

**Brett:**

*(exits, pausing at the door)* And remember, I'm right next door.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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(lights fade slowly as music from Now I Lay Me Down To sleep play softly in the background as Gilly sings the words, slowly falling asleep)

(The bedroom door suddenly slams shut and the night light goes out leaving the stage black. Gilly screams as eerie lighting illuminates the stage as the four monsters (Horsemen of the Apocalypse) begin to appear, creeping from under Gillys' bed, etc. for Gilly to have his worst nightmare Monsters are grabbing Gilly trying to pull him from his bed. He escapes and hides under the covers, only to have them pull back the covers at the end drag him screaming from his bed as they laugh grotesquely.

*At the same time, stage left, Jo is seducing her latest John. Their shadows reflected on a sheet, reveal their sexual activities. She is about to experience her worst nightmare while the monsters attack Gilly.)*

(Alternate Option: The Dream Catcher may give the following speech if you eliminate the monster sequence)

**Dream Catcher:**

The door slams shut, the lights go out...Gilly is left alone in the darkness as his worst nightmares come to life. The monsters that once lived in dreams now creep from under his bed to torment him. At the same time, Jo gives up the fight with her own demons as she prepares a final lethal dose of heroin (or uses a gun to end her life).

**Horseman1:**

Scream all you want Gilly.

**Horseman2:**

No one can hear you boy.

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**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Horseman3:**

No one's going to help you.

**Horseman4:**

No one wants you.

**Horseman1:**

You're doomed.

**Horseman3:**

You're gonna' die, boy.

**Horsemen:**

*(unison)* Gilly! We're going to kill you.

Monsters sing "Horsemen of Apocalypse"

**Horsemen Of The Apocalypse**

*We are the horsemen of apocalypse today.*

*We come to spread the death and gloom.*

*We are the monsters and we live beneath your bed.*

*We ride to drag you to your doom.*

*You don't belong in Sunday school,*

*You don't belong in church.*

*No, you don't belong in any place at all.*

*You are punished for the sins  
your mother brought upon you.*

*No, you haven't any life to live at all.*

*We are the horsemen of apocalypse today.*

*We come to tear your limbs apart.*

*Not even Santa likes a boy with AIDS like you.*

*No Gilly, Nobody wants you*

**Dream Catcher:**

(suddenly appears stage left) Stop!! Leave Gilly alone. He's my friend. He belongs to me.

**Horseman2:**

We've got him now.

**Horseman4:**

You just try and get him back.

*(Gilly is caught in a tug of war between the Dream Catcher and*

**Act 1 Scene 2**

*the 4 horsemen pulling on his arms with Gilly screaming “Let me go”)*

**Dream Catcher:**

He’s got the one thing that will destroy all of you.

**Horseman3:**

What’s he got that’s so powerful

**Dream Catcher:**

A dream. He’s got a dream. And it’s a good one. A dream for his future . .with his Dad. There’s no room for your nightmares. I hold his dream here . . See the power and the beauty in the dreams . . of a young boy. (Dream Catcher holds his hand upward and throws a flare/flash of light at the Horsemen) You have no power over him. He holds the power . . . of his dreams.

*(Horsemen release their grasp of Gilly and shrink in fear)*

**Dream Catcher:**

Be gone!! *(Horsemen exit as Gilly collapses in the arms of the Dream Catcher who lovingly carries him to his bed, tucking him in)* No Monster will ever harm you, Gilly. *(Kisses Gilly on his forehead.)* Never forget the power in your dreams. And I am always here.

*(stands by the head of Gilly’s bed.)*

**Brett:**

*(opens the door)* Funny . . wind must’ve blown the door shut. And I thought I turned the night light on. *(turns on night light. Kneels by Gilly’s bed. Dream Catcher stands at the head of the bed.)*

**Gilly:**

Dad

**Brett:**

Oh . . Sorry, Gilly. I didn’t mean to wake you.

**Gilly:**

That’s o.k. Dad. I had a nightmare and woke up. The monsters were chasing me. They wanted to kill me. But the Dream Catcher came . . and he held this bright light in his hand . . and told the monsters it was my dream . . and you know what, Dad? The monsters were afraid . .afraid of my dream . . and they ran away.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Brett:**

Son, dreams have more power than you'll ever realize. The light of your dreams will lead you through the darkest night. Hold on to those dreams, son. Believe in their power.

*(sings reprise)* **You Gotta' Have A Dream**

*You gotta' have a dream to hold on to.  
Yes, a dream that's all about you.  
Dreams come true, for me. And yes for you.  
You gotta have a dream that makes your heart sing,  
like a bird that greets the morning.  
Dreams are songs your heart gives light to  
when you gaze upon a star.*

*Some folks spend a lifetime  
never living out their dreams .  
Quiet lives of desperation.  
Life isn't what it seems.  
Make your dream your heart song.  
Feel it deep inside of you.  
Hear that quiet voice within sing.  
To thine own self be true.*

*You gotta' have a dream that you believe in.  
Yes a dream's the place to begin.  
Dreams come true for me.  
And yes, for you.  
You gotta' have a dream that you hold on to.  
Yes the dream is all about you.  
So sing from your heart son.  
You gotta' have a dream. .*

*(Brett Tucks Gilly in and kneels by the side of his bed)*

**Gilly:**

Dad . . Don't go. I'm afraid.

**Brett:**

I'm not going anywhere. I'll be right here. By your side  
*(Kneels at the foot of Gilly's bed)*  
*(Play first 2 measures of "The Dream Catcher" followed by Indian  
Flute music)*  
*(Dream Catcher waves "fairy dust" over father and son)*

*(lights fade out on the trio)*

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**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**End of Scene 3**  
**Act Two Scene 4 (Gun)**

Much of this scene takes place behind a white sheet where the shadows of Jo and her new John are visible to the audience. An opening in the sheet simulates a mirror. Shadows of a couple on the bed having intercourse and climax. Director's choice on dialogue with a gun (very graphic language) or syringe (much tamer. See Alternate Act 2 Scene 4 which follows).

**Jo:**

(moans in passion)

**John:**

Oh God, I'm gonna' cum.

**Jo:**

Love me! Cum in me baby.

*(John collapses on Jo. Suddenly, a violent fight erupts with the John beating Jo and swearing. Jo is struggling and screaming.)*

**JOHN:**

Bitch! (slaps Jo)

**JO:**

(fighting back) Stop! What the hell are you doing?

**JOHN:**

You fucking whore. Gutter tramp. You deserve this . . (slaps her again) Bitch!

**JO:**

We just made love . . What's wrong with you? Why are you beating me?

**JOHN:**

Love? I fucked you, that's all. You don't make love to a whore. Whores are scum. You deserve to have the shit beat outta' ya'.  
(continues beating)

*(Jo wrestles herself free and grabs a gun)*

Act 1 Scene 2

**JO:**

Get the fuck outta' my house or I'll kill you. So help me God . .I'll kill you, you bastard. Get out!!

**JOHN:**

Think you're powerful with a gun? Let me tell you this. You're nothing but a drunken whore. A slut. You deserve what you get. You bitch.

*Jo fires the gun and misses. (John hastily grabs his pants and exits stage right. Jo rises and attempts to fix herself up, putting on a robe and moving to the opening in the sheet. Looks into the simulated mirror . . audience sees her face and upper body . . badly bruised and beaten)*

**JO:**

Oh . . (*agonizing at what she sees*) Look at me. My God! What have I become? Mirror Mirror on the wall, who do I see? I see nothing . . at all. I'm not even human. A fuck. A drunk. A whore. What happened to that little girl. Playing house with dolls.

Having dreams of who she wanted to be . when she . . when I grew up. When I became a woman. So long ago. What happened . . to those dreams?

Did she ever dream . . some day she would look like this? Be less than human? I'm so strung out on booze and drugs. A John beat the shit outta' me . . almost killed me. What have I become? Am I the kind of woman my mother wanted me to be? (*sobs*) Oh God.

Oh God.

**Sings: The Dark Night Of the Soul.**

*This is the dark night-of the soul!  
There is a blackness an empty hole.  
I've fallen to the blackest pit!  
A less than human, worthless piece of shit!  
Yes in the blackness I've lost my soul!  
No longer human. No longer whole.  
How very deep and how black the hole.  
This is the dark and lonely night of the soul.*

*Wake me now and tell me quickly that I'm dreaming.  
This is a nightmare. This fear I'm feeling.  
What a wasted life I've lived. It's time to kill my soul.  
My life surrenders to the hole*

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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*This is the dark night-of the soul!  
There is a blackness an empty hole.  
I've fallen to the blackest pit!  
A less than human, worthless piece of shit!  
Yes in the blackness, I've lost my soul!  
No longer human. No longer whole.  
How very deep and how black the hole.  
This is the dark and lonely night of the soul.*

**JO:**

*(falls to her knees, sobbing)* Help me. Please! Help me.  
*(looks at the gun she's holding)* I guess this is how it ends . . . a  
whore, sucking on a gun barrel. Giving a blow job to a gun. *(puts  
barrel in her mouth, sliding it in and out)* The ultimate ecstasy . .  
the end. *(laughs/sobs hysterically)*

*(sings softly)* Does anybody want me? Does anybody care . .  
*(laughs again)* No. *(puts the gun in her mouth)*

*(Dream Catcher Appears. Stage left)*

**Dream Catcher:**

I do . . . .

**Jo:**

Oh my God. You. What is this? A dream? Am I dead?

**Dream Catcher:**

Jo . . What do you want.

**Jo:**

*(sobbing as she speaks.)* I don't know anymore. Life is so . . so  
 *fucking* confusing. I just . . I want . . I want to be . . Oh, I don't  
know . . Well! I want to be whole. Complete . . I want to be . . .  
a human being . . again. I've lost me . . and I don't know how to  
get me back.

**Dream Catcher:**

I know a way . . a journey that we . . you and I . . can take together.  
Your dreams lie there . . along the path. This, I can promise you.  
They're still there. I hold your dreams . . all of them . . here . . in  
my hand. *(Holds up dream catcher)* But . . only you can decide  
when you're ready to begin . . and walk the path with me.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

68

**Jo:**

Anything's gotta' be better than this. I don't want to die. I don't want to be like this anymore.

DC sings "The Dream Catcher" (or another song)

**Dream Catcher:**

Are you ready?

**Jo:**

I think so . .

**Dream Catcher:**

Come . . take my hand. Let's go for a walk. The journey has begun.

(Jo takes the Dream Catcher's Hand. Exit stage right. Play music of the Dream Catcher)

**End Scene 4**

**Alternate Act Two Scene 4 (Syringe)**

*(Directors choice to use the gun or syringe scene 4)*

**JO:**

Oh . . *(waking up agonizing at what she sees in the mirror)* Look at me. My God! What have I become? Mirror Mirror on the wall, who do I see? I see nothing . . at all. I'm not even human. A fuck. A drunk. A whore. What happened to that little girl. Playing house with dolls. Having dreams of who she wanted to be . when she . . when I grew up. When I became a woman. So long ago. What happened . . . to those dreams? Did she ever dream . . some day she would look like this? Be less than human? I'm so strung out on booze and drugs. . . I almost died. What have I become? Am I the kind of woman my mother wanted me to be? *(sobs)* Oh God. Oh God.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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*Sings: The Dark Night Of the Soul.*

*This is the dark night-of the soul!  
There is a blackness an empty hole.  
I've fallen to the blackest pit!  
A less than human, worthless piece of shit!  
Yes in the blackness I've lost my soul!  
No longer human. No longer whole.  
How very deep and how black the hole.  
This is the dark and lonely night of the soul.*

*Wake me now and tell me quickly that I'm dreaming.  
This is a nightmare. This fear I'm feeling.  
What a wasted life I've lived. It's time to kill my soul.  
My life surrenders to the hole*

*This is the dark night-of the soul!  
There is a blackness an empty hole.  
I've fallen to the blackest pit!  
A less than human, worthless piece of shit!  
Yes in the blackness, I've lost my soul!  
No longer human. No longer whole.  
How very deep and how black the hole.  
This is the dark and lonely night of the soul.*

**JO:**

*(falls to her knees, sobbing)* Help me. Please! Help me.  
*(looks at the syringe she's holding)* I guess this is how it ends . . . a  
whore, looking for dreams . . . in death. The ultimate ecstasy . . . the  
end. *(laughs/sobs hysterically as she puts a tourniquet on her arm.*  
*)*

*(sings softly)* Does anybody want me? Does anybody care . . .  
*(laughs again)* No. *(puts the syringe to her arm.)*

*(Dream Catcher Appears. Stage left)*

**Dream Catcher:**

I do . . . .

**Jo:**

Oh my God. You. What is this? A dream? Am I dead?

**Dream Catcher:**

Jo . . . What do you want.

**Act 1 Scene 2**

**Jo:**

(sobbing as she speaks.) I don't know anymore. Life is so . . . so *fucking* confusing. I just . . . I want . . . I want to be . . . Oh, I don't know . . . Well! I want to be whole. Complete . . . I want to be . . . a human being . . . again. I've lost me . . . and I don't know how to get me back.

**Dream Catcher:**

I know a way . . . a journey that we . . . you and I . . . can take together. Your dreams lie there . . . along the path. This, I can promise you. They're still there. I hold your dreams . . . all of them . . . here . . . in my hand. (Holds up dream catcher) But . . . only you can decide when you're ready to begin . . . and walk the path with me.

**Jo:**

Anything's gotta' be better than this. I don't want to die. I don't want to be like this anymore.

**Dream Catcher:**

sings, "**The Dream Catcher**"

*I am the dream catcher. I hold your dreams in my hand.  
I am the dream catcher. Your dreams are but my command.  
Each night you close your eyes and dream. I stand beside your  
bed.  
The bad dreams cannot bother you. I catch them in my web.*

**Dream Catcher:**

Are you ready?

**Jo:**

I think so . . .

**Dream Catcher:**

Come on. Take my hand. Let's go for a walk. The journey has begun.

(Jo takes the Dream Catcher's Hand. Exit stage right. Play music of the Dream Catcher)

**End Alternate Act 2 Scene 4 (syringe)**

**Act 2 Scene 5**

Act 1 Scene 2

**Dream Catcher:**

Christmas can be a time of joy or a time of sadness. This Christmas Eve, Gilly is living his dream, spending the holiday with his Dad. Tonight Gilly is surrounded by those who love him, and share his dream of a family. Gilly's memories of Santa clash with the love he shares with his new found family. The progression of Gilly's illness brings a particular pang of both joy and sadness to those around him as they attempt to raise his wounded spirits. Fighting dehydration and unable to eat, Gilly now requires intravenous treatments. The scene opens with Gilly lying in bed amidst a tangle of IV and intra clavicular tubing.

*(It is Christmas Eve. Gilly is in bed, stage left, with I.V.'s, etc.. Brett is sitting on the bed reading to Gilly. Brenda is stage right preparing food, etc..)*

**Gilly:**

Dad! My stomach hurts. Can I have my drugs?

**Brenda:**

*(looks at watch)* You're supposed to get morphine every two hours, Gilly. Still have 10 minutes to go.

**Gilly:**

Please Dad! *(crying)* It hurts.

**Brett:**

*(lovingly)* O.K. Gilly. We'll cheat a bit. But just this once.  
*(Brett walks to stage right by Brenda and retrieves a "tool chest" containing syringes, vials, pills, etc. calls to Gilly)*  
We don't want to make you into an addict. *(fills syringe from vial)*

**Gilly:**

yeah, sure, Dad Like I'm going to be an addict.

**Brett:**

*(Breaks down and starts to cry)* I don't know how much more of this I can take.

**Brenda:**

*(comforts and hugs Brett)* There, there honey. This job is too big for any one person to handle. That's why we're here. For both you and Gilly. No one should do this alone.

**Brett:**

To sit here and watch him . . hurt like that. It tears me apart inside. I can't let him see me like this.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Brenda:**

Honey . . . Just be you. Times like this . . . that's the best way to be.  
That damned parasite Cryptosporidium. It's eating his liver.  
Gotta' hurt like hell. That poor kid.

**Brett:**

It does . . . his liver enzymes are way off the scale. Can you  
imagine? Catch something that's destroying you . . . by drinking . .  
water . . . A simple thing like turning on the tap and drinking the  
city water. Who'd have thought. God . . . why didn't I think of that  
. . . Why didn't I use bottled water . . .

**Brenda:**

Doc . . . Let me tell you about one of the most dangerous medical  
instruments you can use . . . It's called the "retrospectroscope".  
*(mimics putting a telescope to her eye)* You push it in . . . stick it  
really deep, so it hurts. . . and then you look backwards . . . at all  
the things you shoulda' done and coulda' done. And then you use  
it to beat yourself up for not knowing. I hate to tell you this Doc.  
But, you flunked the bar exam on using that instrument. You don't  
have the training nor qualifications to use that instrument. Ever. I  
don't ever want to see you pick up that . . . that retrospectroscope.

Honey . . . you're doin' the best job you know how to do. We all  
are.

**Brett:**

But it's not good enough.

**Brenda:**

Honey . . . with this disease . . . there ain't nothing good enough.  
We're all hanging on the best we know how . . . and you can see the  
marks our fingernails scraped on cliff. We're with you, Brett . . . all  
the way. Now that little boy needs his Dad. *(kisses Brett)* Holler  
if you need me.

**Brett:**

*(returns to Gilly with his "toolbox")* You're a brave kid, Gilly.  
*(injects into i.v. line)*  
And you know what? I'm glad you're my son.

**Gilly:**

And I'm glad you're my dad. Not many kids with AIDS have a dad  
who's a doctor.  
*(hugs Brett)*



**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Brett:**

Thanks. I needed that. Let me tell you son, I don't feel much like a doctor with this disease.

*(Doorbell rings)*

Hey! Hey! We've got company, Gilly.

*(Brenda answers door. Friends and other medical students enter carrying gifts)*

**Brenda:**

Well Lookee' here. Merry Christmas everybody! Look who's come to see us Gilly. *(walk to Gilly, arms full of presents. Greeting and kissing his forehead).* Merry Christmas, Gilly.

**Gilly:**

*(hugs Brenda)* Merry Christmas. Wow! Are these all for me?

**Brenda:**

You bet, honey. All for you. And you know what? This is going to be the best Christmas ever. You know why? You got a family. Everyone here . . . We are your family.

*(sings)* **Family**

*(ensemble number with choreography)*

*Fa-mi-ly. We are a fa-mi-ly.*

*No one can take that right away from us,*

*We are a fa-mi-ly.*

*You and me, make up a fa-mi-ly.*

*It's not just who we love, but that we love,  
makes us a fa-mi-ly.*

*You can-not di-vide us.*

*Our love is here to guide us,  
to pla-ces that we dream of.*

*A fam-ly just like yours.*

*Love binds us to-ge-ther. We're mar-ching on for e-ver.*

*We're straight and gay and hear me say, A fam-ly just like yours.*

*Reprise: (Hank sings)*

*1. No more clo-sets not for me. Oh, watch out world I'm bus-ting  
free! (repeat We're Family)*

*(Gilly sings)*

*2. Hear my drum I'm mar-ching to it. Watch out world I'm bus-ting  
thru it! (ending)*

*Fa-mi-ly. We are a fa-mi-ly.*

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**Act 1 Scene 2**

*No one can take that right away from us,  
We are a fa-mi-ly.  
You and me, make up a fa-mi-ly.  
It's not just who we love, but that we love,  
makes us a fa-mi-ly.  
(shout) We're Family!!*

**Brenda:**

We're all here, Gilly. Just for you. And you know what? Santa hasn't arrived yet.

**Gilly:**

*(dejected)* There is no Santa.

**Brenda:**

Don't be so sure, honey. I saw him flying through the sky with his sleigh and reindeer earlier tonight.

**Gilly:**

I don't believe those stories. They're for kids.

**Brenda:**

We'll see. *(kisses Gilly)* Merry Christmas, honey. *(then Brett)* Merry Christmas Brett. *(other cast members mingle & hug "schmooze")*

**Med Student:**

*(to Brett)* How's he doing? *(nods toward Gilly)*

**Brett:**

Depends on the day. Some days he's good. And then . . . He's been real down since visiting Santa.

**Brenda:**

That son of a bitch'n Santa. What's this world comin' too? What kinda' man would do that kinda' thing . . . to a kid? You look like you could use some Christmas cheer . . . Doc. Here . . . have some Christmas punch. *(gives Brett a cup)*

*(Sleigh bells, followed by a knock at the door.)* Listen! Hear that, Gilly? *(Brenda answers)*  
Oh, my God! It's Santa!

**Hank:**

*(Disguised as Santa, but easily recognized as Hank)* Ho! Ho! Ho!

**Act 1 Scene 2**

Merry Christmas Everyone. Merry Christmas! (*Pulls bag of presents.*) Let's see. Who are all these presents for? (*Looks at tags*) Gilly! Gilly! Gilly! My Gosh! They're all for Gilly! There you are. (*walks to Gilly*)

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas, Gilly.

**Gilly:**

(*angrily shouts*) Get outta' here. You're not real!

**Hank:**

Oh . . . but I am real, Gilly

**Gilly:**

(*Pulls Santa's beard off*) See! You're not Santa. You're Hank. There is no Santa Claus.

**Hank:**

You're wrong, Gilly. The man you saw in the mall is no Santa. He was a cruel, angry man playing a role he wasn't fit for. There's lots of make believe Santa's in this world, just like there's lots of make believe people. But, there is a Santa. And I believe in him.

Many years ago, a little girl named Virginia wrote a letter to the editor of a large newspaper. I want to read you her letter. (*Read "Yes Virginia there is a Santa Claus", or write a song for this*)

(*sings*) **Gilly There Is A Santa Claus**

(*working on the music*)

(*Gives Gilly a large present. Opens present sullenly*)

**Brenda:**

Wow! A drum major hat. Just what you wanted. And lookee' here. A director's baton.

**Gilly:**

Yeah (*sullenly*)

**Brenda:**

C'mon, Gilly. Put it on.

**Gilly:**

Aw. .

**Brenda:**

**Act 1 Scene 2**

C'mon Honey. Let me see how it looks on you. You got a parade to lead.

*(She puts hat on Gilly . . . a little crooked.)* Now . . . don't you look great!!

**Brett:**

Ooohhh . . . I almost forgot. The heparin flush. Need to do that to keep the line clear.

**Brenda:**

Doc. Relax. It's Christmas. Take a break, will ya'. Let me take over. . . You just sit back and enjoy . . .

*(fills another syringe from "toolbox")* Everyone else has a Christmas cocktail but you, Gilly. This is special. I made it just for you. Filled with love and lotsa' warm Christmas goodies. *(injects into line)* Gonna' get you in the Christmas spirit. There.

Now, I make a game outta' this with my kids at the hospital. Let me show you how it goes. After I give 'em the heparin, I say, "Hep Hep". And do you know what they say back?

**Gilly:**

*(sullen)* No.

**Brenda:**

They say "Hooray". Come on, let's you and me try it. Ready? Hep Hep . . .

*(Gilly remains silent)* Come on, honey . . . Hep Hep .

**Gilly:**

*(quietly)* Hooray.

**Brenda:**

That's it . . . only we gotta do it a little louder next time. . . *(to the cast)* Come on Gang. Let's give Gilly a little help. Hep Hep

**Cast:**

Hooray.

**Brenda:**

Louder Hep Hep

**Cast:**

*(louder)* Hooray

**Brenda:**

**Act 1 Scene 2**

Can't hear ya! Louder . . Hep Hep

**Cast:**

*(very loud)* Hooray!! *(Gilly Laughs)*

**Brenda:**

That's what I like to see. And you know what? I teach my kids a little song. Let's see if I can teach it to you Gilly. It goes like this.

*(sings solo-no accompaniment)*

**Hep Hep Hooray**

*Hep Hep Hooray! It's time to start another day.  
Hep Hep Hooray! There's dreams to catch and things to say.  
Yes shout, Hep Hep Hooray! Don't let this moment slip away.  
A dream's there waiting just for you . . before this day is thru*

**Brett:**

C'Mon Gilly. You've got the hat and the baton. You lead the parade.

**Gilly:**

Awe . . I don't know.

**Brenda:**

We're all with you, honey. We're your band and we're ready for you to lead the parade. Aren't we gang?

**Cast:**

*(cheers)*

**Gilly:**

Well . . .O.K. *(climbs from bed, straightens his hat, raises his baton. Can do "music man" transformation occurs with band orchestration)*

**GILLY**

*(sings)* **Hep Hep Hooray**

*Hep Hep Hooray! It's time to start another day.  
Hep Hep Hooray! There's dreams to catch and things to say.  
Yes shout, Hep Hep Hooray! Don't let this moment slip away.  
A dream's there waiting just for you . . before this day is thru*

*(Cast joins Gilly in song and parades around the room with Gilly)*

**Act 1 Scene 2**

*leading the parade, pulling his I.V. stand. Repeat song several times. Start out simply at first . . . increase orchestration with each key change upward. Great opportunity for choreography, etc.)*

*(Dream Catcher appears Stage Right with Indian Flute theme . . . throws dream dust.)*

*(lights out)*

**End of Act 2 Scene 5**

**Act 2 Scene 6**

**Dream Catcher:**

Several months have passed since Christmas. Gilly's had some unexpected complications and we now find him in the hospital. That's Gilly's heartbeat you hear. He is surrounded by those who love him dearly.

(Brenda, Brett and others are by Gilly's bed. Brett, sitting and resting his head on the bed. Some sleeping on the floor or chairs

**Act 1 Scene 2**

as if this is a “death watch”. Hank enters stage left. Brett rises and approaches him from Gilly’s bed)

**Brett:**

Hank. Thanks for coming. I’m so glad you’re here.

**Hank:**

I got here just as fast as I could. How’s Gilly?

**Brett:**

Not good. It looks like this last new drug cocktail did something to his heart. The rhythm is all screwed up. They’re trying to stabilize him . . . but . . . (shakes his head)

**Hank:**

Damned. You’d think we doctors should know what the hell we’re doing. I know they call it practice . . . I never realized the truth in that word until I got way along in Medical school. (puts his hand on Brett’s shoulder) How are you doing, my friend.

**Brett:**

I’m o.k..

**Hank:**

You know I’m here to help in any way you need me.

**Brett:**

(looks at Hank’s hand). You know, there was one time I was afraid you’d touch me . . . and now . . . (wraps his arms around Hank and sobs)

**Hank:**

Let it go man. Let it all out.

**Brett:**

(sobbing). I’m sorry. I’m so sorry. . . . I am so sorry for the way I treated you Hank. Ignorance is a terrible thing. Please forgive me.

**Hank:**

(hugging and comforting Brett) That’s all in the past. I’ve learned not to live in the past. This disease has taught me that today is all we have . . . and love . . . that’s the only gift that counts. Forgiveness is easy . . . when old feelings are replaced with love. I love you, Brett. These aren’t the words just from a gay man, but as one friend to another. Love one another. Something I believe in.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Brett:**

(sobs loudly). You were there for me. And, what you've done for Gilly . . . I can't thank you enough. (Looks at Hank) I feel so helpless. I don't know what to do.

**Hank:**

You need to be strong. (looks at Gilly) There's a young boy in that bed who needs all the love and support we can give him. I think he's awake now. He needs his dad.

**Brett:**

How' ya' doing, son. Anything I can get for you?

**Gilly:**

My hat? Where's my hat?

**Brett:**

(Looks around) Here it is. (Puts Drum Major Hat on Gilly)  
Looks like we got a parade in the making.

**Gilly:**

(chuckles) Kinda'. Thanks Dad.

*Jo enters, Stage left)*

**GILLY:**

(surprised) Mom!

**JO:**

Hi, baby. I'm so happy to see you.

**GILLY:**

You're back.

**JO:**

I've got so much to tell you, honey. So much to make up for. How are you?

**GILLY:**

I'm so glad you're here

**JO:**

Me too, baby. Me too.

**GILLY:**

How are you, mom?



**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**JO:**

Honey, Mommy's been sick . . . really sick . . . for a long, long time. But, I'm finally getting my act together. I've been such a fool. I really hit bottom this Christmas. I overdosed on drugs. I got the shit beat outta' me by some John. I lay in the hospital for weeks. My liver shut down. They thought I was gonna' die. But, you know what? Your dream catcher came to me.

**GILLY:**

You really saw him?

**JO:**

Uh Huh. In my hospital room. Every day, he came to see me. He told me, I could have my dreams. That I have a son . . . who wants me. . . who needs me. And I've got a man in my life who loves me. I had to let go of my fear . . . and reach out . . . and let love in.

I've treated you all so bad . . . and yet, you still love me. I never understood what love was all about. And I had it . . . right here . . . and I didn't know it. I almost threw it away.

**GILLY:**

(Hugs Jo) Oh Mom.

**JO:**

In the hospital, I learned a lot. One lesson I learned is . . . I need to make amends to those I have harmed. And I've harmed you most of all.

Gilly, honey . . . I've hurt you more than anyone. You don't deserve it. You were such a good kid, and I kept hurting you. I am so sorry I wasn't the kind of mom you needed. And I pray that it's not too late. I just wasn't there, and I'm so sorry. I'm making amends . . . to you. I want to be the kind of mom you deserve. I want to be the best mom I know how to be. I want to be your mom. Can you forgive me?

**GILLY:**

Oh, Mom.. Having you here is what I want most.

**JO:**

I love you, honey. And you Brett. You kept loving me . . . and I

**Act 1 Scene 2**

treated you so bad. I don't know that you can ever forgive me, or even love me again. But I want to try . . . again. But, this time, you're not just a notch on the bedpost. You're the man I've always looked for. Both of you are the men I need in my life.

*(To Gilly)* So many things I need to do. So many things I need to say to you. I'm afraid. But, I'm here . . . Now. . . with you

This is the dream I've always wanted. You Gilly, your dad. And me. A family.

*Dream catcher enters stage right. All on stage see him.*

**Gilly:**

It's the Dream Catcher.

**DREAM CATCHER:**

Gilly. It's time. Time for you to come with me. Your dream has come true.

**Gilly:**

I'm scared.

**Dream Catcher:**

There is no need to be frightened. Let go, I'll carry you.

**Gilly:**

Dad? Mom? The Dream Catcher. He's here. He wants me to go with him.

**Brett:**

I see him too, son.

**Jo:**

Oh my God! So do I..

**Dream Catcher::**

Come with me Gilly. I have the best dream ever . . . I've kept it, just for you.

*(Throughout the musical, the Dream Catcher has not physically touched anyone in the cast. He has extended his hands and come close. This time the Dream Catcher extends his hand to Gilly, now touching him. Gilly rises from his bed, climbs on the shoulders of the Dream Catcher and exits, walking through the center of the audience. Hat falls off as he climbs. Audio sounds of his heartbeat EKG become erratic. )*

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Jo:**

Please don't take him. There's so much to make up for. I've got to tell you how much I love you. I've got to say it so many times .  
. I never said it enough before . .Don't go

**Brett:**

(Picks up Gilly's drum major hat.) Wait! Gilly! (chases after Gilly, stage right) Your Hat! You forgot your hat! (Cast encircles Gilly's bed with their back to the audience blocking the view where Gilly had been.)

**Jo:**

*( sings softly )*  
*"Child of mine, oh gift from God*  
*Ride upon your Dad.*  
*Offspring of your father's love.*  
*Best I've ever had.*

**Brenda:**

We're losing him. Gilly! *(EGK heartbeat more erratic)*

**Gilly:**

(Looking back) Mom! Dad! you outta' see this. You won't believe what I can see from up here. Wow! Is this Cool. Don't worry. This is where I'm supposed to be. With the Dream Catcher. . . Wow! This is the best dream ever.

**Brenda:**

Dam it Gilly . . Don't go! Come back! . . *(flatline)*

**Hank:**

Oh My God!! He's coding! Crash Cart!! I need a crash Cart here!  
STAT!!

**Brett:**

(Brett returns from off stage, hat in hand). (quietly) He's gone.  
Gilly's gone. (cries. comforted by Jo)

**Brenda:**

*(other members of the cast hovering around the bed, obstructing the rescue efforts of Brenda as the EKG flatline continues)*  
Charging!! Clear!! *(sound of Defibrillator)*

**Brenda:**

Charging!! Clear!! Come on Gilly . .Dam it. Come back!!

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Gilly:**

*(In the center of the Theater on the shoulders of The Dream Catcher, looking back at the action on stage)* Wow! What are they doing?

**Dream Catcher:**

They want you to come back, Gilly.

**Gilly:**

Can I?

**Dream Catcher:**

Of Course. It's your dream that I hold.

**Jo:**

*(calling out. Pleading).* Please Gilly. If you can hear me. I've said and done some rotten things . . . to lots of people. But mostly to you. Part of me getting better was to find a reason to live. You know what that reason is, Gilly. You! My reason to live is you. Please don't leave me.

**Gilly:**

Mom's calling to me. If I go back, will I see you again?

**Dream Catcher:** Oh yes, Gilly. You can be sure we'll meet me again. *(Gilly leaves the Dream Catcher's shoulders)* And each night when you sleep . . . I'll be there. I'll always be there for you. Now get a move on, young man. See, your Mom and Dad. They're waiting for you.

**Brenda:** Charging!! Clear! *(EKG begins a heart beat)*

**Gilly:**

*(running back to the stage)* Mom! Dad! Wait! I'm coming!.

**Brenda:**

YES!! WE'VE GOT HIM!! HE'S COMING BACK!!

**Jo:**

Oh! Oh my GOD!! *(begins to cry)* Oh! Oh, Thank you! Thank you! *(hugs Brett as Gilly climbs back in bed)*

**Dream Catcher:**

*(returns down the center of the Theater as he sings)*

Dream Catcher, Brett & Jo sing

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**Act 1 Scene 2**

**When It Gets Dark Enough**

**Dream Catcher:**

*When it gets dark enough. You can see the stars.  
A light to guide your way. Venus and mars.  
When it gets dark enough. You can see a light.  
To guide you on your path. Your darkest night.*

**Jo:**

*There's a star in heaven. A tiny little light.  
In the unknown darkness. His dream is shining bright.*

**Brett & Jo duet**

*Say the words I love you. To those that you hold dear.  
There will come a day when there's nobody to hear.  
When it gets dark enough. You can see the stars.  
A light to guide your way. Venus and mars.  
When you climb high enough. You can see the sun.  
A light to guide your path your dream's be-gun.*

**Dream Catcher:**

*(standing before Brett & Jo) It is through the eyes of a child that  
you shall truly see and understand everything that life has to offer.  
Life is a gift. Today . . is a gift. That's why we call today . . the  
present. And your gift, is Gilly.*

**Jo:**

Thank you for giving me one more chance. One more chance at  
love.

**Dream Catcher:**

Brett! This is for you. (gives Brett a dream catcher)

**Brett:** What's this?

**Dream Catcher:**

A dream catcher. Your own dream catcher. This will catch the  
finest dream you'll ever know.

**Brett:** What dream?

**Dream Catcher:**

The cure. You now hold the dream in your hands.

**Brett:**

Me? But . . I'm only one.

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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**Dream Catcher:**

But, you are one. Every dream begins with one.

*(He touches Jo)*

And you are one

*(touches Hank and Brenda.)* And you are one.

*(Looks to audience, extending his arms)* And each of you is one.  
Every dream starts with one . . . Put enough one's together and you  
can change the world. You hold, each of you, all the power and all  
the dreams of the world, in your hand . . . and in your heart. That  
which you hold in your hand and in your heart, will come true.  
Believe in that.

Before I leave you, I ask two questions for you to answer.  
If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

Come! Live your dream . . . now.

**DREAM CATCHER**

sings, "**The Dream's In Your Hands**"

*Your son walks with me. His dreams now are free.  
He is one with the dreams in the night. A star shining bright.  
His dreams will come true. I promise to you.  
All the love that you feel for your son. Says you are the one.  
A dream starts with one. Your dream has be-gun.  
That dream oh so grand. Is in your hand.*

*For dreams make the man. Who knows that he can.  
Be the one who makes his dreams come true. I hold them for you.  
The dreams of a boy. That brought so much joy.  
Do not end when he fades from your sight. A star in the night.  
If not you than who? To thine self be true.  
Of this I am sure. You hold the cure*

**Jo:**

sings "**All Of My Life**"

*All of my life I've waited for some-one. Some-one who would love  
me.  
All of my life my dream was beside me. I was too blind to see.  
I never thought to-day was the moment. I let it slip away.  
Words like I love you. Need to be spoken.  
If not today, then what day?*

**Gilly:**

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**Act 1 Scene 2**

*sings "All Of My Life"*

*All of my life I've waited for some-one. Some-one to call my dad.  
All of my life I've wondered who he'd be. Fam'-ly I ne-ver had.  
I never thought to-day was the moment. I let it slip away.  
Words like I love you. Need to be spoken.  
If not today, then what day?*

**Dream Catcher:**

*sings reprise "The Dream Catcher"*

*I am the dream catcher. I hold your dreams in my hand.  
I am the dream catcher. Your dreams are but my command.  
Each night you close your eyes and dream. I stand beside your  
bed.  
The bad dreams cannot bother you. I catch them in my web.*

**Brett & Jo**

*sing duet "You Gotta Have A Dream"*

*You gotta' have a dream to hold on to.  
Yes, a dream that's all about you.  
Dreams come true, for me. And yes for you.  
You gotta have a dream that makes your heart sing,  
like a bird that greets the morning.  
Dreams are songs your heart gives light to  
when you gaze upon a star.*

**Brenda:**

*Some folks spend a lifetime  
never living out their dreams .  
Quiet lives of desperation.  
Life isn't what it seems.*

**Hank:**

*Make your dream your heart song.  
Feel it deep inside of you.  
Hear that quiet voice within sing.  
To thine own self be true.*

**Ensemble:**

*You gotta' have a dream that you believe in.  
Yes a dream's the place to begin.  
Dreams come true for me.  
And yes, for you.  
You gotta' have a dream that you hold on to.*

**The Dream Catcher**  
**Act 1 Scene 2**

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*Yes the dream is all about you.  
So sing from your heart son.  
You gotta' have a dream. .*

*(Modulation and key changes, lead into You've Gotta' Have a  
Dream)*

*(for grand finale' with cast and crew. Big sound)*

***(Curtain. End of Dream Catcher)***

*For Curtain Calls, play Hep, Hep Hooray, ending with Gilly  
returning, riding on the shoulders of the Dream Catcher, with the  
cast singing the final chorus.*