SCENE 13

LORRAINE'S APARTMENT--MANHATTAN (LORRAINE is packing)

FRANKIE

(To AUDIENCE)

She disappears--two days, no calls, God knows where she is, who she's with--you know what it's like out there with the kids, and the drugs--and her mother...you think it's about the kid? It's all about winning--who's right, who's wrong, who screwed up. I mean, this woman...people turn into something--

LORRAINE

Frankie--

FRANKIE

What?

LORRAINE

I can't do this.

FRANKIE

What do you mean?

LORRAINE

I have a small apartment. There's not enough room for your whole family.

FRANKIE

(Re her packing)

Can you stop that for a minute?

LORRAINE

Frankie, what's the point? I gotta be out of town for the next week, then I come back and you're on the road, I don't see you for six more weeks--

FRANKIE

I'm working! It's not a vacation!

LORRAINE

-- and it goes on and on and nothing changes --

FRANKIE

I need these dates! I got a million dollar hole that I gotta get out of!

LORRAINE

That you dug for yourself--

FRANKIE

He was screwing things up! We had to get him out!

LORRAINE

So, is he out? Don't you get it? You're still working for him! You're sleeping alone in a two-bit motel in Toledo so he can play golf in Vegas. Was that your plan? Because that's one hell of a stupid plan--

FRANKIE

Don't talk about things you don't know about!

LORRAINE

He used you, he ridiculed you, he did everything he could to destroy the group, and you take his debts!

FRANKIE

He couldn't help himself!!

LORRAINE

Oh, my God. Saint Francis, is that it? Kind to animals?

(Then)

You know, I thought if you could get out of the neighborhood, maybe we'd have a shot. But you're never gonna get out, are you?

FRANKIE

What if we got married?

LORRAINE

You and Tommy? I don't think that's legal in Nevada.

FRANKIE

You don't give an inch, do you?

LORRAINE

(Turns to him pointedly)

I'm never gonna be first in line. I'll always be standing behind Tommy, and Bobby, and Nicky, and Charlie and--

(Intercom buzzer sounds)

LORRAINE (CONT.)

I'm sorry, sweetheart. That's my ride. I gotta go.

FRANKIE

Go tomorrow.

LORRAINE

And then what? We have a drink and go around one more time? I gotta get off the merry-go-round, Frankie. It's no fun anymore.

END

(Then)

Stay tonight if you like.

FRANKIE

(She exits)

JOE, CHARLIE & OTHERS

AΗ

BYE-BYE, BABY ABY, GOOD-BYE

BYE, BABY

BABY, BYE-BYE

AΗ

BYE-BYE DON'T MAKE E CRY

BYE, BABY

BABY BYE-BYE

AΗ

(VOICES continue under, as lights up on)

FRANKIE

(To audience;

That was the last time I saw her. Couple of phone calls and then-it was like the whole thing never happened.

BABY, -BYE

AΗ

(Then)

So I focus on the work. I'm running all over the map like a cockroach. Then Bobby shows up with two new songs, a pair of real winners, and I think, "OK, I'm back!"

BYE, BABY BABY, BYE BYE

(Drum crash, and spotlight hits FRANKIE)

SCENE 5

HOTEL BAR

Start

(Lights up on FRANKIE and LORRAINE, an attractive, bemused reporter...she has her pad and pencil out, but during the following, she puts down her pencil and just watches him)

LORRAINE

You were how old?

FRANKIE

Fourteen, fifteen...you gotta understand, we didn't have playgrounds or what do you call these--after-school programs... what we had was hanging out on the corner, and B and E's, and picking up numbers and driving guys to card games...

LORRAINE

B and E's?

FRANKIE

Breaking and Entering.

(Then, warming to a memory)

My poor mother, she really wanted me outta that neighborhood. Of course she's still right there in the projects, but can I get her out? No way. She doesn't wanna leave her friends. I tell Her--Ma, take 'em with you. I'll move 'em all--she still says no. I send her cash, it goes in the drawer. The washing machine breaks down, she won't spend the money to fix it. So she goes to the laundromat, tells everybody she's Frankie Valli's mother. So now people think I'm the kinda son who makes his mother go to the laundromat!

LORRAINE

(Laughing)

Can't win for trying, huh?

(They look at each other--happy, smitten)

FRANKIE

So...what else do you wanna know?

LORRAINE

(Really asking "Are you married?")

Kids?

FRANKIE

Three girls. They're with their mother now.

(LORRAINE reacts)

My little one, Francine, she wants to be a singer, God help me. Eight years old, voice like an angel. She gets up on the coffee table and sings "I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Daddy." First song I ever knew the words to.

(They share a look...NICK has been watching this...lights fade on FRANKIE and LORRAINE)

NICK

(To AUDIENCE)

Sometimes it just clicks with people...and after the nightmare with Mary, I mean--this was a nice girl, smart, great-looking. They were grazy about each other--we were all happy for Frankie. He was related, singing great...and then she interviewed Tommy.

(Light up on LORRAINE and TOMMY...she is in professional mode, pen and pad out)

TOMMY

So what'd he say about me

RRAINE

Not much. More about him and Box by. How the group never really took off until Bobby--

TOMMY

(Cuts her off)

Did he tell you I hired Bobby?

LORRAINE

He said it was more like a group decision.

TOMMY

Oh, he said that, huh?

(A new track)

TOMMY

(Riding over)

You think it's easy running a group? Dealing with the club owners, the managers, the record companies, everybody trying to fuck you five ways from Sunday? You don't care how it gets done, only that Tommy's taking care of it! Well, I took care of it! ME!!

(FRANKIE stands in his face)

FRANKIE

(Ominously)

Sit down.

(He does...FRANKIE turns to TOMMY and it all spills out)

Tommy, you don't give a shit about the group. You never have. It's always been whatever it is you got going, and then there's the group.

TOMMY

You don't know what the fuck you're--

FRANKIE

(Riding over)

You never wanna rehearse, you drive Nicky to drink, you put Bob through the wringer, forget about trying to mess with my head which you've done from day one...and the shame of it is, you're not a bad musician if you'd give it a little time. But no, you're too busy shooting your mouth off or buying apartments to keep your girlfriends in--but no more. All that bullshit is over.

TOMMY

This is how you talk to your friends, Frankie?

FRANKIE

Friends, right. Not one Christmas present, not one Christmas card, not one time we have a meal and you pick up the check, not one time you ask me how my kids are doing, how I'm doing--

(Then)

God help me, Tommy, part of me would really like to see you hurt.

End







[Applause segue to #14]

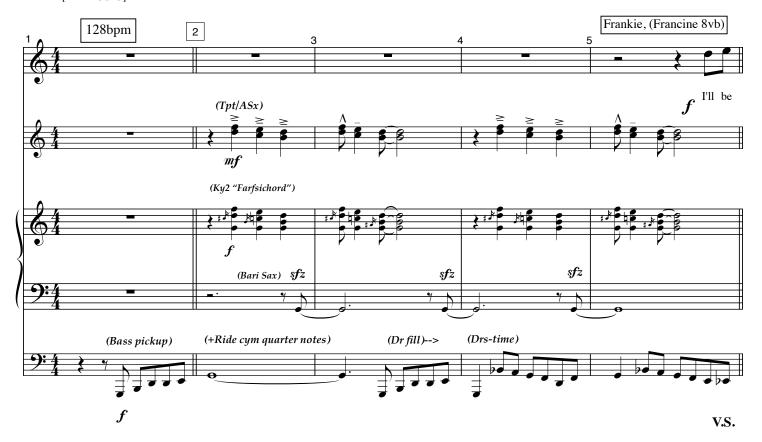
Grand **Vibes** Grand

Workin' My Way Back To You

Orchestration: Steve Orich

WARN: end of #27

CUE: Frankie bows, then puts hand up [1-2-MUSIC]





Cond./Ky.3

6









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