

JAZZCAT

Written by

Ken Kahn

Music & Lyrics

By

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WGA Reg
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COLD OPEN - INT. DUSK - COOL'S FLAT

COOL, young, lithe and hip, the ultimate JAZZCAT is in silhouette stretching at his window. Night falls and a streetlamp flickers on.

MUSIC IN

SONG: COOL'S LULLABY

COOL (VO)
(singing)
THE DAYLIGHT IS JIVE,
I CATNAP TILL FIVE
THEN STRETCH AND YAWN

EXT. NIGHT - CENTRAL PARK

I TAKE OFF AT DARK
AND STROLL THROUGH THE PARK

He strolls along a lantern-lit path.

COOL
I'M OUT TILL DAWN
TAKING MY CATWALK

NEW YORK STREETS

ON COOL

COOL (CONT'D)
UNDER THE MOON, I AM THE PRINCE OF
THE CITY THE CATS ALL WATCH ME PASS
BY

He passes brownstone apartments, shutters open on windows above and eyes glow as cats follow him.

COOL (CONT'D)
THEY KNOW MY TUNE, I AM THE
ULTIMATE KITTY
JUST SINGING COOL'S LULLABY,
I'M SINGING COOL'S LULLABY

AERIAL - CONTINUOUS

Trucking as he walks along the boulevard with the city lights beyond him.

COOL

IN THE LAND OF YOUR DREAMS
I FOLLOW MOONBEAMS UNTIL DAYBREAK
I'M QUICK AS YOU PLEASE AND
SOFT AS A BREEZE
I'M WIDE AWAKE
TAKING MY CATWALK

THE BOULEVARD SHINES LIKE A STAR,
IT'S A PITY
YOU CAN'T SEE WITH A CAT'S EYE

EST. NIGHTCLUB - "THE JAZZCAT" ON THE MARQUEE

He ducks into an alley and enters through the stage door.

INT. JAZZ CLUB

He appears onstage.

COOL

THE DARKEST NIGHT LOOKS LIKE
DAYLIGHT TO A KITTY,
JUST SINGING COOL'S LULLABY
I'M SINGING COOL'S LULLABY

(VAMP OUT)

The packed club goes wild. Applause and cheers. He's a rising star.

MUSIC OUT

FADE OUT

TITLE CREDIT: JAZZCAT

SEQ. 1.2 (COOL, OWLONIOUS, KITTEN, MO / COOL, KITTEN)

FADE IN:

EXT. DAY EST. BIRDLAND JAZZ CLUB

PAN UP STAIRS BESIDE CLUB / INT. OWLONIOUS FLAT

Cool peers out the window as his mentor, the old owl OWLONIOUS, shakes his head.

COOL
Is she at work yet?

OWLONIOUS
Pay attention! Larry Canary is out to get you, man.

COOL
Do you think she likes me, O?

Owlonious walks to the door and opens it.

OWLONIOUS
Come back when you're ready to listen to me.

STAIRS BESIDE BIRDLAND

On Cool as he heads down the stairs and peeks in the window to catch a glimpse of KITTEN, Birdland's hostess. She is standing at the same window to catch a glimpse of him. Cool is embarrassed and he does a few back flips.

COOL
Hey Kitten, just doing my morning workout.

KITTEN
(giggles shyly)

INT. DAY - BIRDLAND - LATER

Birdland's owner MO MAGPIE sits with Owlonious at their stage-side table.

OWLONIOUS
What a kick, Mo. They're too shy to admit how they feel.

Do you remember being in love?

MO
(laughing)
I can barely remember my name, man.

SAME DAY - NEW YORK MONTAGE -

OPEN ON COOL

He dances down a sidewalk.

MUSIC IN

SONG: HONEYDEW

COOL (VO)
 (singing)
 SHE DOESN'T KNOW BUT SHE'S MY WORLD
 MY HEART BELONGS TO JUST ONE GIRL
 SWEET AS CAN BE, MY HONEYDEW

SPLIT SCREEN

Kitten also dancing down a sidewalk.

KITTEN (VO)
 (singing)
 HE DOESN'T KNOW BUT HE'S MY GUY
 MY DREAMBOAT, I JUST PURR AND SIGH
 WHY CAN'T I HAVE MY HONEYDEW?

AERIAL SHOT - CONTINUOUS

Cool and Kitten dancing down their separate sidewalks.

INTERCUT VIEWS OF TIMES SQUARE

COOL AND KITTEN (VO)
 (singing duet)
 I LOVE YOU MORE THAN TIMES SQUARE
 A CHOCOLATE ECLAIR
 MORE THAN THE BANK LOVES MONEY
 MORE THAN THE VIEW
 FROM PARK AVENUE
 THAT'S HOW I LOVE YOU,

HONEYDEW
 (Chorus)
 I NEVER MET ANYONE
 ANYONE SWEET AS YOU
 WISH I COULD TELL EVERYONE
 YOU ARE MY HONEYDEW
 ANGLE ON COOL

COOL
 (singing)
 MY KITTEN HOBNOBS AT BIRDLAND
 ONE LOOK AT HER, FORGET THE BAND
 SWEET AS CAN BE, MY HONEYDEW
 ANGLE ON KITTEN

KITTEN
 (singing)
 HE SAYS HELLO, WE SHARE A SMILE
 I LOVE HIS COOL AND EASY STYLE

KITTEN (CONT'D)
(singing)
WHEN WILL HE BE MY HONEYDEW?

RESUME SPLIT SCREEN AERIAL SHOT - CONTINUOUS

Each dancing down their sidewalks.

INTERCUT VIEWS OF BROADWAY

COOL AND KITTEN
(singing duet)
MORE THAN NEW SHOES
FROM FIFTH AVENUE
THAT'S HOW I LOVE YOU,

HONEYDEW ON EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

COOL AND KITTEN (CONT'D)
(singing duet)
WHENEVER YOU PASS MY WAY
MY HEART STARTS TO ELEVATE
I JUST WANT TO SHOUT 'HURRAY'
ON TOP OF THE EMPIRE STATE
ON STATUE OF LIBERTY
I YEARN FOR YOUR COMPANY
MY SECRET FLAME BURNS SO BRIGHT
THE STATUE OF LIBERTY
LOOKS LIKE A CANDLE LIGHT

RESUME SPLIT SCREEN

Each dancing down their sidewalks.

COOL AND KITTEN (CONT') (CONT'D)
(singing duet)

(VAMP OUT)

MUSIC OUT

END SEQUENCE

FADE TO:

INT. DAY - PRESS CONFERENCE

Reporters are gathered, cameras flash on DeeJay SAMMY CAT and LARRY CANARY, the arrogant and smug King of Jazz.

SAMMY

This is WJAZ radio, America.
 Tonight the King of Jazz
 Contest will honor the late great
 DeeJay Tommy B. Bop.
 His son Cool takes on Larry Canary
 and Larry has a word.

LARRY

Cats are supposed to be musicians,
 not singers. I'm warning
 every songbird. Don't let Cool take
 my crown. That cat will
 have us for lunch!

INT. OWLONIOUS FLAT

Cool and Owlonious are sitting by the radio and Owlonious
 switches it off.

COOL

(mystified)

Why is he lying O? I don't want to
 hurt the songbirds.

OWLONIOUS

You're a great singer so he lies
 about you. Tommy taught you to be
 your best. That's all that matters.

TIME DISSOLVE

TO:

SEQUENCE 3: (DAY WITH DAD)

EXT. DAY - EST. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM

INT. - BIG CLEOPATRA PAINTING

Tommy is down on one knee, showing it to little Cool.

TOMMY (VO)

First impressions count, son, like
 Cleopatra rolling out of that rug.
 She knew how to shine.

EXT. DAY - EST. WJAZ RADIO BUILDING

INT. TOMMY'S DEEJAY BOOTH

Tommy at the mike, Cool in awe of his albums on the shelves.

COOL (VO)
And at work he said you've got to
show what you know.

END SEQUENCE

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OWLONIOUS FLAT

OWLONIOUS
Right, just be ready. Larry will
stop at nothing to win.

COOL
Got it, O. I've written a new song
just for tonight.

INT. TWILIGHT - EST. LARRY'S PENTHOUSE - LATER

ANGLE ON LARRY AND ROADIE

Larry lounges in his easy chair admiring the city lights
beyond his window. The phone rings and his thug, the giant
chicken ROADIE, answers.

ROADIE
(he nods, passes the
receiver to Larry)
It's a lady for you. Her name is
SALLY GUMBO.

LARRY
Hi Sally. Hold on a minute

He puts a wingtip over the receiver.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Roadie, go get me the evening
papers.

Roadie leaves and Larry smiles.

WIDEN SCREEN TO INCLUDE SALLY

A lady lark, she is a master of the dark arts.

LARRY (CONT'D)
 (his sinister smooth
 voice)
 Thanks for your telegram, Sally,
 and I appreciate your help.

SALLY
 Sure, I heard you on the radio and
 we've got to stop Cool.

LARRY
 Right, I'll call you later when
 it's time to put your curse on him.
 Thanks.

He hangs up the phone.

ANGLE ON LARRY

LARRY (CONT'D)
 (evil smile)
 I'll kill that cat tonight. He'll
 never recover!

EXT. NIGHT - EST. WJAZ RADIO BUILDING

CUT TO INT.
 PRACTICE ROOM

Cool sits down at the piano to rehearse.

SPLIT SCREEN TO INCLUDE

EXT. - PRACTICE ROOM

Larry is perched by an open window sitting atop Roadie's
 shoulders, ready to listen and scribble Cool's song on a
 score sheet.

ANGLE ON COOL

MUSIC IN

SONG: THIS IS MY SONG

COOL
 (singing)
 WHEN YOU'RE IN A JAM, CUT THE DRAMA
 (MORE)

COOL (CONT'D)
 FIGURE IT OUT
 AND TAKE A CHANCE
 SOME JOKER INVENTED PAJAMAS

COOL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 CAUSE HE COULDN'T SLEEP
 WITHOUT HIS PANTS
 SO GOES THE STORY
 IF YOU WANT THE GLORY
 YOU NEED A POSITIVE STANCE
 THIS IS MY SONG, THIS IS MY MOMENT
 I'M NOT AFRAID
 TO TAKE A CHANCE
 NEW ANGLE ON COOL

He is joyous, soaring as he sings.

COOL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 THIS IS MY SONG
 THIS IS WHERE I BELONG
 IT KEEPS ME STRONG
 THIS IS MY SONG
 ROLLED OUT OF A RUG
 CLEOPATRA
 SHE THREW A HUG ON ANTONY
 HE BROUGHT A TIARA
 TO THE SAHARA
 SAID CLEO COME RULE
 THE WORLD WITH ME'
 SO GOES THE STORY
 IF YOU WANT THE GLORY
 YOU NEED A POSITIVE STANCE
 THIS IS MY SONG, THIS IS MY MOMENT
 I'M NOT AFRAID
 TO TAKE A CHANCE

NEW ANGLE ON COOL

He is joyous, soaring as he sings.

COOL (CONT'D)
 THIS IS MY SONG
 THIS IS WHERE I BELONG
 IT KEEPS ME STRONG
 THIS IS MY SONG
 THIS IS MY SONG
 I'LL SING IT ALL NIGHT LONG
 IT KEEPS ME STRONG
 THIS IS MY SONG

(VAMP OUT)

RESUME SPLIT SCREEN

As Cool vamps out, Larry jumps down and runs off with the lead sheet.

MUSIC OUT

INT.- SINGING BOOTH

Larry gives his lead sheet to a pianist cat and positions himself in front of the mike.

SAMMY

What have you got for us, Champ?

LARRY

Something new, Sammy. I think you'll like it.

FULL SHOT WIDENS TO INCLUDE

EXT. SINGING BOOTH

MUSIC IN

LARRY

(CONT'D)

When you're in a jam, cut the drama,

Cool is stunned to hear his own arrangement. He's jumping up and down and screaming but we can't hear him.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(singing Cool's song)

FIGURE IT OUT AND TAKE A CHANCE
SOME JOKER INVENTED PAJAMAS
CAUSE HE COULDN'T SLEEP
WITHOUT HIS PANTS

Cool is pressed against the window, frantic and desperate.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(singing)

SO GOES THE STORY
IF YOU WANT THE GLORY
YOU NEED A POSITIVE STANCE
THIS IS MY SONG, THIS IS MY MOMENT
I'M NOT AFRAID
TO TAKE A CHANCE
THIS IS MY SONG
THIS IS WHERE I BELONG
IT KEEPS ME STRONG

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)
 THIS IS MY SONG
 THIS IS MY SONG
 I'LL SING IT ALL NIGHT LONG
 IT KEEPS ME STRONG
 THIS IS MY SONG

MUSIC OUT

SAMMY
 That was great! Okay, let's hear
 from our sponsors. A short break,
 then it's Cool's turn.

OUTSIDE SINGING BOOTH

ANGLE ON COOL AND LARRY

Cool confronting him.

COOL
 (furious)
 How could you do that?

LARRY
 (sneers)
 Easy. No one knows but you and me.

COOL
 (intense)
 Oh yeah? Well, that's not the only
 song I know. I'll show you!

INT. PRACTICE ROOM

Cool slams the door, sees the open window above and climbs up
 to close it. He sits down at the piano to rehearse.

PHONE BOOTH IN A DARK HALLWAY

Larry looks around to make sure he's alone.

LARRY
 (in a low voice)
 Okay, Sally, it's time to put your
 secret curse on Cool.

SPLIT SCREEN
 On Sally as she lifts her wings.

SALLY
 Help the songbirds
 Mumbo jumbo
 Stop that cat
 (MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

With a curse from Gumbo
 May this magic
 Clip his wing
 Stop that cat
 Don't let him sing

PRACTICE ROOM

As Cool practices singing, his voice suddenly breaks.

COOL

(horrible squawking sound)

He is panicked and mystified. The door opens and Larry enters.

LARRY

(nonchalant)

Cat got your tongue? C'mon, can't
 you talk?

Cool is bewildered. He doesn't know what to say.

COOL

Y-yes but I can't.

LARRY

Sing? Don't worry, I'll tell them
 you've got laryngitis.

COOL

(protesting)

B-but...

LARRY

(cuts him off)

But nothing, Cool. You're done,
 dead, kaput. Like I said,
 I'll tell Sammy that you've got
 laryngitis. We don't want him to
 think you chickened out, do we?

COOL

(outraged)

You know I'm no chicken, Larry!

LARRY

(dismissing him)

Sure, but if you say one word,
 that's what everyone will
 think. After all, if you can talk,
 why can't you sing?

A red light flashes on the wall.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Two minutes to airtime, Cool. Don't worry, I'll handle it. That's why they call me Mister Nice'.

He bows with a flourish and leaves.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Cool has no choice but to rush out and take an elevator down to the street.

EXT. NIGHT - CAB

He jumps in a cab with his collar pulled up to hide his identity.

INT. - NIGHT - CAB

COOL

Take me to Birdland on 44th Street.

The cabbie's radio is tuned to WJAZ and Cool hears -

LARRY (VO)

Cool's got laryngitis. He can barely talk, let alone sing.

SAMMY (VO)

What a shame. Well, that makes you tonight's winner.

LARRY (VO)

No, that's not fair. Cool didn't get a chance to sing.

SAMMY (VO)

Wow! When it comes to being Mister Nice it's no contest!

COOL

(yells)

Turn that off!

INT. OWLONIOUS FLAT

Cool enters and he sees Kitten and Mo by the radio. She rushes to him.

KITTEN
Are you okay?

COOL
(embarrassed and
defensive)
Yeah, I just had an off night,
that's all.

Owlonius quickly ushers Kitten and Mo out.

OWLONIOUS
(turning to Cool)
What happened, son? It's not
laryngitis or you wouldn't be able
to talk.

Cool sits down at O's piano and tries to sing but he can only
squawk miserably.

OWLONIOUS (CONT'D)
(stunned)
What!

COOL
He stole my song, O.

Owlonious sits down next to him and puts a wing on his
shoulder.

OWLONIOUS
Yeah, I figured that you wrote it
when I heard him sing it.
His stuff isn't that good. What a
rat! He didn't just steal your
song. He stole your voice.

TIME FADE TO:

SEQUENCE 4: (WHAT HAPPENED TO COOL'S VOICE?)

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

DOCTOR shows Cool and Owlonious an x-ray.

DOCTOR
His vocal chords are fine. I can't
figure it out.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE

PSYCHIATRIST counsels Cool and Owlonious.

PSYCHIATRIST

It must be trauma. When someone
hurts us we clam up.

OWLONIOUS

(looks over at Cool and
shakes his head)
Not this cat, doc.

Cool stands up.

COOL

I'm a fighter, Doc. Nobody shuts me
up. Let's go, O.

EXT. AERIAL - CLIFF BY THE SEA

Cool stands on a cliff by the sea. He tries to sing but only
squawks. He looks to the sky.

COOL

Dad, can you hear me?

AERIAL - EXT. NIGHT - CENTRAL PARK

A garden surrounded by a circular path. Cool catwalks,
circling under a lantern.

INT. DAY - COOL'S FLAT

ANGLE ON COOL (at the piano)

MUSIC IN

PIANO (MUSIC OVER)
(melody to chorus of THIS
IS MY SONG)

MUSIC OUT

He stops, drops his head into his paws, then looks up.

COOL

Dad, are you there?

END SEQUENCE

FADE TO:

INT. DAY - BIRDLAND

On Mo and Cool at Mo's table.

MO

I'm just an old magpie but you're a star, Cool, listen, I need a Master of Ceremonies. What do you say?

COOL

I was a star, Mo. Now I'm nobody.
(painful silence)
Don't get me wrong. I appreciate it but I'm no announcer.
I've got my Dad's records but I'm not a deejay like he was.

MO

(nods)
Nobody was, Cool. He was one of a kind.

COOL

I lost my gift, man, and I don't know what to do. I really need to be a part of the music.

He rises to go as Kitten comes over.

KITTEN

We miss you around here.

COOL

(he can barely face her)
Same here, kiddo.

He turns and leaves. Kitten pauses, then walks to the entrance and looks out at the rain, straining to see him. Owlonious emerges from backstage and he sits down at Mo's table.

OWLONIOUS

We'll find a way. He's like his Dad. He loves to help others.

INT. - BIRDLAND STAGE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Kitten closes up the club, then paces back and forth on the stage. She loves Cool for who he is, even if he never sings again.

SPLIT SCREEN

EXT. - NEW YORK STREET AND INT. - BIRDLAND STAGE

Cool takes a lonely catwalk out in the rain as Kitten stands alone on the stage.

MUSIC IN

SONG: NOT YET, BUT SOON

KITTEN

(singing)

THE NIGHT IS DARK AND LONELY
 AND THE SKY IS FULL OF RAIN
 I WISH I COULD HOLD YOU
 AND TAKE AWAY YOUR PAIN
 I KNOW IT'S LONELY
 IT'S A NIGHT WITH NO MOON
 HANG ON TIGHT
 TILL YOU FIND THE MORNING LIGHT
 NOT YET BUT SOON

Kitten pours out her heart, wishing she could be with him. He walks in the rain with his umbrella cocked at a lazy angle. He no longer even cares if he gets wet.

I WISH THAT I COULD HELP YOU
 I CAN'T GIVE YOU BACK YOUR SONG
 BUT I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
 AND THAT'S WHERE I BELONG
 I'M HERE BESIDE YOU
 ON A NIGHT WITH NO MOON
 HANG ON TIGHT
 TILL YOU FIND THE MORNING LIGHT
 NOT YET BUT SOON
 (TAG) NOT YET BUT SOON NOT YET BUT
 SOON

MUSIC OUT

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DAY - COOL'S FLAT

Cool answers a knock on his door and blinks in the sunlight. He looks rumpled and tired. THE FEATHERS, a songbird quartet, are standing on his stoop - LUELLA the eagle, PETE the robin, DAISY the loon and JIMMY the jay. They are wide-eyed.

LUELLA

Are you Cool? The actual Jazzcat?

COOL
Not anymore. I lost my voice.

PETE
Yeah, we heard you don't sing anymore. We caught one of your shows uptown, man. You were amazing.

COOL
(awkward)
Thanks.

LUELLA
We're the Feathers, Cool. We love to sing but only canaries get to be stars.

COOL
Tell me about it. I'm a cat. At least you guys are birds.

LUELLA
Yeah, but we're just back-up singers. No one will give us a shot. The owl who lives over Birdland said to tell you that Tommy sent us.

COOL
(perks up)
Tommy?

LUELLA
Yeah, he said that Tommy liked to help people make music. We want to be the first group without a canary to go to the Songbird Festival and enter the singing contest. We need a Manager. Cool pauses, looks up at the sky, and breaks into a slow grin.

COOL
Come in. We'll talk about it.

FADE IN

INT. DAY- OWLONIOUS'S FLAT

Cool puts a paw on his friend's shoulder.

COOL

Thanks, O. I'm taking them to the
Songbird Festival in Chicago.
I can't sing but they can.

OWLONIOUS

Great. Like your Dad said - don't
let defeat, defeat you.

INT. DAY - BIRDLAND - MO'S TABLE - LATER

On Owlionious, Mo and Kitten.

OWLONIOUS

The Festival always has a guest
star and this year it's
Larry Canary.

MO

Whoa! Collision time, Jack!

OWLONIOUS

Cool says he doesn't care.

MO

Right, and I'm Frank Sinatra.

OWLONIOUS

Larry has no idea that Cool will
even be there. I'd like to keep it
that way. Can Cool rehearse with
the Feathers here at the club on
the down low?

MO

(nods)

Sure. The less Larry knows, the
better.

KITTEN

So Cool will be here at the club?
Oh, I forgot I was going to buy a
new outfit.

She rushes out the door and Owlionious turns to Mo.

OWLONIOUS

(smiling)

Looks like our boy's back in
action.

SEQUENCE 5: (LEAD-UP TO CHICAGO)

EXT. DAY - BIRDLAND

Mo walks Cool outside, motions to a new Jeep and hands him the keys.

COOL
(stunned)
W-What?

MO
Army surplus. Now that the war is over I got it for nothing.

COOL
Mo, really, I can't.

Mo holds up a wing to silence him.

MO
It's okay, Cool. No crowded train to Chicago for you guys.
(he turns to the street and yells)
Taxi!

He jumps into a cab and vanishes. Cool gets behind the wheel and fires up the engine as the Feathers arrive to rehearse.

JIMMY
Look out! Nice wheels, Cool.

COOL
(he turns the engine off)
Exactly. The lead sheets are ready inside, guys. Let's hit it.

INT. NIGHT - LUELLA'S FLAT

Luella cuddles her un-hatched baby eagle, EGGZACTLY, who stands on his tiny bird feet, the only part of him not covered by his shell. She pats him gently on top of his shell.

LUELLA
We're on our way, Baby.

EGGZACTLY
(the only word he knows)
Eggzactly.

INT. NIGHT - JIMMY AND PETE'S FLAT

Jimmy is a nice guy but he's short and he wants to look taller to impress the girls. He puts on a fedora and preens in the full-length mirror.

JIMMY

What do you think, Pete? Do I look taller?

Pete is calm and steady, Cool's right-hand bird. He looks over at Jimmy.

PETE

Yeah, Jim, looks good.
(he pauses)
Hey, do you think Daisy knows how good she is?

JIMMY

No, you should let her know. Ask her out, man.

PETE

(blushing)
Nah, you think I should?

EXT. TWILIGHT - NEW YORK STREET

Luella and Daisy each have a flat in the same neighborhood and they're walking home after rehearsal.

DAISY

I'm kind of scared, Lu. Do you really think we can win?

LUELLE

Sure, if we put on a good show. I'll prove it. Follow me.

CAMERA TRUCKING

Luella leads Daisy into a dark little alley that ends on a hillside with a wide open view of the New York skyline and, below them, the sprawling Bronx Zoo.

EXT. LATE TWILIGHT - EST. BRONX ZOO

The crowds leave and the Zoo gate closes.

PAN BACK

WIDE ANGLE - LUELLA AND DAISY IN FOREGROUND

VIEW OF ZOO BEYOND THEM

MUSIC IN

SONG: DANCING AT MIDNIGHT

LUELLA (VO)
 (singing)
 THEY HAVE A SECRET LIFE
 AT THE ZOO
 IT'S ALL A SHOW
 IT'S A JOB THEY DO
 ON BEARS
 THEY GET IN CAGES
 AND STAY ALL DAY
 ON GIRAFFES
 EAT LUNCH
 AND EARN THEIR PAY

EXT. NIGHTFALL - AERIAL SHOT - CONTINUOUS

Lanterns flicker on as the zoo comes to life.

LUELLA (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 (singing)
 BUT AFTER DARK
 WHEN THE FOLKS GO HOME

ON TWO MONKEYS THEY OPEN THEIR CAGES, RUN OUT

LUELLA (VO, CONT'D)
 (singing)
 THEY POP THEIR CAGES AND START TO
 ROAM...

The monkeys climb up a tree.

LUELLA (VO, CONT'D)
 (singing)
 THEY RUN AROUND
 FIND A TREE TO CLIMB
 THEY DON'T DO OVERTIME

AERIAL SHOT - CONTINUOUS

LUELLA AND DAISY (VO, CONT'D)
 (singing duet)
 DANCING AT MIDNIGHT
 OUT UNDER THE MOONLIGHT
 EVERYONE GOES
 OUT TO PLAY
 HAVING A PARTY
 THEY DANCE TILL
 THE BREAK OF DAY

CLOSER ON

Elephant ladies and polar bear babies dance together.

LUELLA AND DAISY (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 ELEPHANT LADIES
 AND POLAR BEAR BABIES
 SEE HOW THEY SWING
 AND SASHAY
 HAVING A PARTY
 THEY DANCE TILL
 THE BREAK OF DAY

FULL SHOT

RESUME AERIAL - CONTINUOUS

LUELLA (VO, CONT'D)
 (singing)
 SO WHEN YOU TAKE A TRIP
 TO THE ZOO
 AND EVERYBODY JUST
 YAWNS AT YOU
 IT'S NOT BECAUSE
 THEY ARE IMPOLITE
 THEY WERE JUST
 OUT ALL NIGHT

LUELLA AND DAISY
 (singing duet)
 DANCING AT MIDNIGHT
 OUT UNDER THE MOONLIGHT
 EVERYONE GOES
 OUT TO PLAY
 HAVING A PARTY
 THEY DANCE TILL
 THE BREAK OF DAY

CLOSER ON

Elephant ladies and polar bear babies dancing together.

LUELLA AND DAISY (CONT'D)
 (singing duet)
 ELEPHANT LADIES
 AND POLAR BEAR BABIES
 SEE HOW THEY SWING
 AND SASHAY
 HAVING A PARTY
 THEY DANCE TILL
 THE BREAK OF DAY

MUSIC OUT

FADE TO:

NIGHT - INT. OWLONIOUS FLAT

Cool is on the couch peering out the window.

OWLONIOUS
 You're going to Chicago. Talk to
 her tonight.

Cool turns, sits a moment with his head down, then looks at Owlonious.

COOL
 I can't. She's the same kitten but
 I'm not the same cat.

OWLONIOUS
 Wrong. She loves you, son.

COOL
 You think so? I'm scared. Losing my
 voice changed things.

OWLONIOUS
 Yeah, but now you're fighting back.
 Just be careful, son.

COOL
 Larry?

OWLONIOUS
 Yes, he doesn't know that you'll be
 there. He could go nuts. In his
 twisted mind you're a threat to
 him. Be ready.

COOL
 Got it, O. I will be.

END SEQUENCE

TIME FADE TO:

EXT. DAY - EST. CHICAGO HOTEL

INT. - LOBBY

Cool and the Feathers are checking in. A bellhop loads all of their bags onto a luggage cart as Luella checks Eggzactly into the hotel incubator.

DAISY
(squealing)
He's so cute!

COOL
(joking)
Don't set it on high or he'll be a
hard-boiled egg.

EGGZACTLY
Eggzactly.

Everyone laughs, Luella pats him on top of his shell and they all take the elevator up.

INT. COOL'S ROOM

They break from rehearsal.

JIMMY
Why can't we practice with the
other groups?

COOL
A small room is best, better
acoustics.

JIMMY
Really? Better than the rehearsal
studios?

COOL
(pauses, then -)
It would be a shame if someone
stole the song we're doing.

PETE
You're kidding.

COOL
 No, this is a competition, guys.
 Better safe than sorry.

INT. OPENING NIGHT - CHICAGO ATHLETIC CLUB AUDITORIUM

CLOSE ON AUDIENCE

Cool and The Feathers are in their seats.

DAISY
 (terrified)
 Do we have to sing for all these
 people tomorrow?

LUELLA
 Don't worry, girl. We can do it.

BACKSTAGE

Larry's backup singers, THE THREE CHICKS, are angry and their
 feathers fly.

SHERRY CANARY
 You promised us a solo but you
 threw out our lead sheets.

LARRY
 (sneers)
 What's it to you?

MARY CANARY
 You always do this, Larry. You
 break your promises.

CHERRY CANARY
 All that rehearsal for nothing.
 You're a liar, Larry, a liar!

LARRY
 (to Roadie)
 Sweep up their feathers! It's one
 minute to curtain time.
 (to the Chicks)
 How are you getting back to New
 York, girls? I'll be on the Express
 Train but you won't have a dime for
 the bus. Shut up and sing or you're
 done!

CHERRY
 (to the other Chicks)
 He wouldn't, would he?

SHERRY AND MARY
(scared)
Absolutely.

Roadie rushes offstage with a bag of feathers as the curtain starts to rise.

ANNOUNCER (VO)
(booming)
It's the Yellow Fellow!

The Chicks rush to stand on the riser behind Larry as he glances back at them.

LARRY
(sneers at the Chicks)
I'm the star, girls. Don't forget
it.

The curtain rises.

FULL SHOT

The audience applauds and cheers.

ANGLE ON THE STAGE

MUSIC IN

SONG: ONE COOL CANARY

THE THREE CHICKS
(singing)
LARRY'S THE KING
ONE COOL CANARY
HE FLEW IN ON A WING
HE'S THE ONE.
ANGLE ON LARRY

LARRY
(singing)
IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT
LET'S GET READY
FOLLOW THE LIGHTS
WAY UPTOWN

REVERSE ANGLE ON LARRY

From behind him, his POV, as audience goes wild.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(singing)
EVERYBODY KNOWS
MY NAME IS LARRY
(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)
 I'M THE CANARY
 THE BIRD WITH THE WORD
 LISTEN TO ME SING
 ONE COOL CANARY (Chicks harmonize)
 I FLEW IN ON A WING
 TO SING SOME JAZZ (Chicks
 harmonize)
 EVERYBODY KNOWS
 I'M ONE COOL CANARY (Chicks
 harmonize)
 HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD
 THE BIRD WITH THE WORD?

ANGLE ON LARRY

He falls to one knee, singing with fake modesty.

LARRY (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 I DONT MEAN TO BRAG
 I JUST GOT LUCKY
 I'M MISTER NICE
 FULL OF HEART
 EVERYBODY KNOWS
 I LIVE IN A PENTHOUSE
 I'M JUST A FELLOW
 WHO'S YELLOW AND COOL
 LISTEN TO ME SING
 ONE COOL CANARY (Chicks harmonize)
 I FLEW IN ON A WING
 KING OF JAZZ (Chicks harmonize)
 EVERYBODY KNOWS
 I'M ONE COOL CANARY (Chicks
 harmonize)
 HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD?
 I'M ONE COOL CANARY
 I'M SO COOL
 JUST ONE COOL CANARYÉ
 GUY

(Chicks harmonize out)

MUSIC OUT

FADE OUT:

FADE IN

INT. - COOL'S ROOM - NEXT MORNING

There's a loud bang on the door. Cool opens it and Luella and Jimmy rush in.

LUELLA

Daisy's gone, Cool! We can't find her anywhere!

COOL

What do you mean? What happened?

LUELLA

She got scared last night and when I woke up she was gone.

JIMMY

We're singing today! What do we do?

The phone rings and Cool answers.

COOL

Hello...yeah, Pete, what? Great! We'll be right down.

He turns to Luella and Jimmy.

COOL (CONT'D)

He found her! Follow me.

CUT TO INT. INCUBATOR ROOM BEHIND FRONT DESK

They enter and Pete points to Eggzactly's incubator. Daisy huddles against the little egg.

COOL (CONT'D)

Hey, kid. Are you okay?

DAISY

(her voice trembling)

No, I'm scared. I don't want to sing. I'm no good.

COOL

Who told you that?

DAISY

Everyone since I was little.

COOL

Were they singers?

DAISY

No, they ran a funeral parlor.

COOL

So they weren't singers or great entertainers?

DAISY
 (can't avoid a little
 smile)
 Not hardly.

COOL
 So how did they know you were no
 good?

DAISY
 I guess, I guess...

COOL
 I was a singer, Daisy. I lost my
 voice but you haven't. I need you
 to sing for me.

Cool turns to Pete.

COOL (CONT'D)
 Pete, is Daisy no good?

PETE
 Are you kidding?
 (to Daisy)
 You've got the best voice in the
 group. We need you.

DAISY
 (she blushes in
 embarrassment)
 Really?

EGGZACTLY
 Eggzactly.

Her stage fright turns to giggles and she stands up.

DAISY
 Okay, I'm ready.

Cool tips his beret to Eggzactly.

COOL
 Nice timing, kid.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. NEXT AFTERNOON - EST. ATHLETIC CLUB ROOFTOP VENUE

FULL SHOT ON AUDIENCE, STAGE, VIEW OF CHICAGO IN BG

ANNOUNCER
Ladies and gentlemen, The Feathers!

They take the stage.

MUSIC IN

SONG: HELLO CHICAGO

LUELLA
(singing)
EVERYTHING'S SWELL
(Feathers join in unison)
HELLO CHICAGO
A ROOFTOP HOTEL
THE LAKE BELOW

DOWN SHOT ON L TRAIN CIRCLING THE LOOP

LUELLA (CONT'D)
(singing)
JUMP ON THE L,
(Feathers join in unison)
EVERYTHING'S SWELL, CHICAGO

EXPAND TO PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE CITY

LUELLA (CONT'D)
(singing)
ONE CUP OF JOE
(Feathers join in unison)
HELLO CHICAGO
THE SKYLINE IS BRIGHT
C'MON, LET'S GO
LET'S DO IT RIGHT
(Feathers join in unison)
ALL DAY AND NIGHT, CHICAGO

ZOOM IN - EXT. BLUE NOTE JAZZ CLUB

Duke Ellington on the marquee.

LUELLA AND THE FEATHERS
(singing)
AT THE BLUE NOTE SPOT
THE DUKE IS HOT
PLAYING HIS PIANO

ANGLE ON STAGE

LUELLA AND THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 IF IT'S JAZZ OR BLUES
 SPREAD THE NEWS
 YOU GOTTA SEE CHICAGO

REVERSE ANGLE ON FEATHERS

From behind them, their POV, the audience loves it.

LUELLA
 (singing)
 EVERYTHING'S JAKE
 HELLO CHICAGO (Feathers
 join in unison)
 WIND OFF THE LAKE
 THOSE EVENING FOGS
 CARAMEL CAKE
 RED HOT HOT DOGS, CHICAGO (Feathers
 join in unison)

FULL SHOT ON FEATHERS AND AUDIENCE

The crowd is on their feet, clapping and cheering.

LUELLA AND THE FEATHERS
 (singing)
 AT THE CLUB ELITE
 OR ON THE STREET
 HEAR THAT BEAT, CHICAGO
 HEAR THE MUSIC PLAY
 NIGHT AND DAY
 YOU GOTTA SEE CHICAGO
 (TAG) YOU GOTTA SEE CHICAGO
 YOU GOTTA SEE CHICAGO

MUSIC OUT

The audience goes crazy, a standing ovation, and the Feathers look like a shoo-in to win. Pete motions to Cool backstage to come out and join them, and Cool walks onstage.

PETE
 Ladies and gentlemen, our Manager
 Cool B. Bop.

CLOSE ON

Larry. He does a huge take at the sight of Cool. The hated cat is back!

EXT. FESTIVAL JUDGE'S TENT

Larry rushes in through the back entrance to the tent and spots the JUDGE, a star-struck groupie. He pulls her aside.

LARRY

Don't give that prize to the Feathers. They're not even canaries! You don't want me as your enemy, do you?

JUDGE

(terrified)

N-no, Sir. Don't worry, I won't. I promise!

LARRY

(suddenly oozing Mister nice guy' charm)

Thank you, dear.

He hands her a large 'Yellow Fellow' publicity photo, autographs it and leaves.

FADE TO:

FADE IN

EXT. FESTIVAL STAGE - LATER

All the groups and their Managers are gathered as the Judge steps forward on stage.

JUDGE

The best new group is the Canary Crew.

FULL SHOT

The audience boos loudly, throwing programs at the Judge's box.

AUDIENCE (VO)

(shouts)

Boo! This is rigged! What about The Feathers?

The Judge grabs her big photo of Larry for protection. It's signed Love Ya, Kid - Larry' and Cool instantly knows what Larry has done.

COOL

(turns to The Feathers)

Hang in, guys, this isn't over!

CUT TO FRONT DESK

COOL (CONT'D)
 (to Clerk)
 What room is Larry Canary in?

CLERK
 (distracted)
 Room 909.

Cool turns and runs toward the elevator.

CLERK (CONT'D)
 (alarmed, yelling after
 him)
 Sir, you can't just go up there!
 It's a private floor!

INT. ELEVATOR

Cool is alone with a waiter who wears a chef's cap and uniform, his hand on a room service cart with a bucket of champagne on the top tray.

COOL
 Sorry, buddy. It's an emergency.

He knocks out the waiter with one punch, hits the elevator stop' button at the ninth floor and puts on his uniform and cap.

INT. LARRY'S SUITE

There is a brisk knock on the door.

LARRY
 Who's there?

COOL'S VOICE (VO)
 Room service. A gift of champagne
 from the Management.

LARRY
 (smiles)
 How nice.

He motions to Roadie to open the door and Cool storms in, head down. He rolls the cart to Larry and pull's off his chef's hat to reveal himself.

COOL
(cold fury)
What's up with you, Larry? Why
couldn't you give those kids a
chance? They're no threat to you.

ROADIE
You want me to bounce him, Boss?

LARRY
No, that's okay.
(to Cool, mockingly)
Got a problem, Mister Loser?

COOL
Leave them alone, Larry. Everything
isn't about you.

LARRY
It isn't? You just want to get back
at me! Tell them to quit or I'll
crush them like I crushed you!

COOL
You don't own me, Larry. You never
did and you never will.
I have something that you'll never
have.

LARRY
(sneering)
Really? What's that?

COOL
Friends.

CAMERA FOLLOWS ON COOL as he pushes the service cart out of
the room and goes to the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR

He takes off the Chef's uniform, slips a twenty in the
envelope on the tray and scribbles 'for the guy with the
black eye'. He sends the elevator down one floor and exits.

INT. - COOL'S ROOM

He has gathered the Feathers together.

COOL

It's time to come clean, guys. You won that prize but Larry Canary stole it from you.

THE FEATHERS

(collectively)

What!!

COOL

He hates me and now he hates you because I'm your Manager.

LUELLA

What are you talking about, Cool?

COOL

I lost my voice at the King of Jazz radio contest.

PETE

Yeah, we were all listening that night. You got laryngitis.

COOL

That's what Larry said but it wasn't true. The song he sang? He stole it from me. He's a snake.

JIMMY

Wait a minute! Is that why we had to rehearse in private?

COOL

Exactly. He's out to get you as long as you're with me. I need to find you a new Manager.

LUELLA

Excuse me, but isn't that up to us?

Cool is touched but he's also protective. He wants to keep going with them but he's painfully aware that they just lost the prize because Larry hates him.

COOL

Sure, it's up to you. That's what I'm trying to say. I just told him to leave you alone and he said he'll crush you if you don't quit. You guys could get hurt.

LUELLA

Hurt? We wouldn't even be here
without you! We would follow you
anywhere.

Cool wants to keep going but he knows all too well that Larry
is vicious and vindictive.

COOL

Follow me where? Off a cliff? The
guy is crazy and you want to stay
with me?

THE FEATHERS

(collectively)

Yes!!

COOL

(he pauses, lets it sink
in)

Last chance. guys. Are you sure?

LUELLA

Do birds fly?

COOL

(smiling)

Okay, we'll fight on but what's our
next move?

LUELLA

(breaks into a slow grin)

Let's hit the road!

COOL

(pauses, then nods)

That's actually a good idea, Lu,
but we need publicity to make it
work. I saw reporters at the show
today. I wonder...

PETE

Maybe we'll get lucky.

EXT. NIGHT - EST. EXPRESS TRAIN

INT. - DELUXE DINER CAR

Larry and Roadie are having dinner. A Porter is passing out
the Chicago Tribune evening edition and he gives one to
Larry.

CLOSE ON

HEADLINE STORY: "SONGBIRD FESTIVAL RIOT"

The Songbird Festival audience howled in protest today with shouts of 'What About the Feathers?' when the Canary Crew was named best new group. The Feathers out of New York are the only group without a canary to ever appear at the Festival and they drew a standing ovation. Our reporters tried to talk to the Judge but she had already left town.

LARRY

(smiling, to Roadie with a
low voice)

Sweet. I don't ever have to worry
about those losers again.

INT. NIGHT - BIRDLAND

MO'S TABLE

The last set is over and Mo and Owlonious huddle. Mo has wired tour money to Cool and a plane ticket for Lu to put Eggzactly on a DC3 to New York. Auntie Kitten will take care of him while mama is on the road.

MO

That Tribune story was amazing.
Talk about publicity!

OWLONIOUS

(grinning)

Larry thinks he killed them but he
just launched their tour!

FADE TO:

AERIAL - EXT. MORNING - HIGHWAY

Cool's Jeep pulls up at a sign that says St. Louis', then takes off like a bullet.

CLOSE ON

ROAD MAP

Arrow moves across the map from the Chicago' circle to the St. Louis' circle.

EXT. AFTERNOON - ST. LOUIS STREETS

People point at the sky and laugh as The Feathers fly in close formation with a banner.

CLOSE ON

BANNER SAYS:

WHO NEEDS A CANARY? CATCH US TONIGHT AT THE CHASE PARK PLAZA!

INT. - CHASE PARK PLAZA HOTEL - LATER THAT NIGHT

ANGLE ON GRAND BALLROOM

A huge standing room only crowd.

MUSIC IN

SONG: THE HARMONY HIGHWAY

PIANO INTRO (MUSIC OVER)

Cool drives the Jeep onstage. He is wearing a chauffeurs cap and uniform and the Feathers are standing on their seats waving to the crowd.

THE FEATHERS

(singing)

TIME TO DRIVE
THE HARMONY HIGHWAY
GIMME FIVE
AND TRAVEL ALONG
LEAVE ALL YOUR TROUBLES FAR BEHIND
CAUSE ALL YOU NEED
IS A SONG

FULL SHOT

The audience cheers, blown away by their dramatic entrance.

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)

(singing)

WHEN YOU DRIVE
THE HARMONY HIGHWAY
IT'S NO JIVE
SWEET MELODIES PLAY
TO ILLUSTRATE
THAT INTERSTATE
IS HUMMING ALL NIGHT
AND ALL DAY

ANGLE ON FEATHERS

Cool turns the Jeep to face the audience and parks center stage.

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 IF THE SKY IS GRAY
 AND THE TRAFFIC'S TIGHT
 SIMPLY SING HURRAY'
 IT'LL MOVE
 YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY
 AND BY TONIGHT
 YOU'RE GONNA ARRIVE
 IN THE GROOVE

Pete and Jimmy exit the Jeep, then turn and bow gallantly to Luella and Daisy.

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 CHECK IT OUT
 THE HARMONY HIGHWAY
 IT'S THE ROUTE
 FOR LOSING YOUR BLUES
 SO SYNCOPATE
 DON'T HESITATE
 JUST GET ON THAT HIGHWAY
 AND CRUISE

Luella and Daisy take their arms and exit the Jeep onto the stage.

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 IF YOU FEEL ALONE
 AND YOU MISS YOUR FRIENDS
 IT'S A SWINGING ZONE
 COME ALONG
 WHERE THE BARITONE
 AND TENOR BLENDS
 AND EVERYONE'S
 SINGING A SONG

FULL SHOT

The crowd is enthralled as the Feathers prance, singing joyously, then stop center stage.

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 TIME TO DRIVE
 THE HARMONY HIGHWAY
 GIMME FIVE
 AND TRAVEL ALONG
 (MORE)

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 LEAVE ALL YOUR TROUBLES
 FAR BEHIND
 CAUSE ALL YOU NEED
 IS A SONG

Jimmy and Pete help Luella and Daisy back into the Jeep.

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 HARMONY HIGHWAY
 ALL YOU NEED IS A SONG
 WE'RE GONNA TRAVEL ALONG
 YEAH, SING A SONG
 ALL YOU NEED IS A SONG

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (singing)

(VAMP OUT)

Cool turns the Jeep and slowly exits stage right as the music comes to an end.

MUSIC OUT

Pandemonium as the crowd goes nuts. The Feathers run back on stage, take their bows.

FADE TO:

INT. DAY - BIRDLAND

On Larry at lunch with Roadie. He slams the St. Louis Post Dispatch down on the table.

CLOSE ON

HEADLINE: "MORNING EDITION EXTRA - FEATHERS ROCK THE PLAZA!"

ANGLE ON LARRY

LARRY
 (to Roadie)
 What happened? They're on tour?
 This has got to stop!
 (he lowers his voice)
 Here's the plan...

Kitten hovers nearby and she watches as Larry instructs Roadie.

CAMERA FOLLOWS

As she leaves and runs upstairs.

INT. OWLONIOUS FLAT

Owlonius opens the door and Kitten rushes in.

KITTEN

Larry is up to no good. You've got
to warn Cool!

OWLONIOUS

(seizing the moment)
You love that cat, don't you?

KITTEN

(confessing)
I sure do.

OWLONIOUS

(smiling)
Then you should warn him. He's
madly in love with you!

Kitten is thrilled and throws her arms around Owlionius.

EXT. DAY - EST. SMALL TOWN

ON THE HIGHWAY TO NEW ORLEANS

INT. DAY - ROADSIDE DINER

Cool and The Feathers are having lunch and the waiter comes
to their table.

WAITER

Western Union said to look for a
cat with some birds - must
be you. There's a telegram for you -
the office is up the street.

Cool leaves to get his telegram.

EXT. - DAY - NEAR DINER

In a parked car Roadie slouches down under a big hat. He gets
out, walks to the Jeep and tries to jimmy open the door to
steal it. A cop passes and slows down to check him out.

ROADIE
 (laughing nervously)
 I can't find my keys, officer.

He reaches in his pocket and pulls out the keys to the car he's been driving.

ROADIE (CONT'D)
 Hey, there they are!

He pretends to slip the keys in the jeep's door as the cop moves on, then he quickly gets back in his own car and drives off.

INT. - WESTERN UNION OFFICE

Cool reading his telegram

CLOSE ON TELEGRAM:

"ROADIE ON YOUR TAIL. STOP. BE CAREFUL!

STOP. I LOVE YOU! STOP. KITTEN. STOP."

COOL
 (thrilled, to Clerk)
 I need send to message fast!

The Clerk hands him a message pad and Cool writes.

CLOSE ON MESSAGE PAD:

"WOW! STOP. I LOVE YOU, TOO! STOP.

I'LL BE EXTRA CAREFUL. STOP. CAN'T

WAIT TO SEE YOU! STOP."

INT. EVENING - LARRY'S PENTHOUSE

LARRY
 (screaming into the phone)
 This is insane! What happened?

OPEN SPLIT SCREEN TO INCLUDE

EXT. EVENING - ROADSIDE PAY PHONE

Roadie is trembling in a payphone booth.

ROADIE

It was bad luck, Boss. There was
this cop...

LARRY

(cuts him off)

Can't you even steal a car? You're
an idiot!

ROADIE

The cop was watching me, Boss. I
had to split, see...

LARRY

(cuts him off again)

Shut up, Roadie. Listen to me,
we'll stop them cold. Don't screw
it up, genius. Here's the plan....

FADE TO:

MUSIC OVER (HARMONY HIGHWAY)

CLOSE ON ROAD MAP

Arrow moves down Highway 61 along the Mississippi River to
the New Orleans' circle.

FADE TO:

FADE IN

EXT. DAY - ROOSEVELT HOTEL - FRENCH QUARTER, NEW ORLEANS

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL BAR

Jimmy sits at the bar with SUZIE, a jaybird lady posing as an
adoring groupie.

JIMMY

My roommate is working with our
Manager and I have some time to
kill before rehearsal. Want to come
up to my room?

SUZIE

(flirting)

I'd love to.

JIMMY
Great. Let's go.

SUZIE
I need to freshen up first. Do you
have a spare key?

Jimmy hands her a key.

JIMMY
Room 700, sweetheart. It's right on
the key.

SUZIE
I can't wait! See you in five?

JIMMY
I'll be waiting.

Jimmy can't believe his luck. He rushes out to the elevator as Suzie walks to a booth in a dark corner of the bar. She sits down across from Roadie.

SUZIE
(dangling the room key)
My money?

Roadie slips her a cool fifty. She gives him the key.

INT. JIMMY AND PETE'S ROOM

Jimmy hears the key turning and walks to the door, expecting to see Suzie. Roadie pushes his way inside and Jimmy is no match for the giant chicken. Roadie ties him to a chair, wraps an ice-filled towel around his neck, and gags him. Jimmy gulps in fear. He is terrified because the ice will kill his voice. He won't be able to talk, let alone sing.

FADE TO:

FADE IN

INT. COOL'S ROOM - LATER

The Feathers are gathered to rehearse but Jimmy's not there.

COOL
He's always on time. What's going
on?

Pete hangs up the phone.

PETE

I don't know. There's no answer. I better go check.

CUT TO:

INT. JIMMY AND PETE'S ROOM

Pete finds Jimmy and rushes to the phone.

PETE (CONT'D)

Get up here, guys! Now!

SERIES OF SHOTS

Pete unties Jimmy, unwraps the iced towel from his neck and sits him down on the bed.

Jimmy is trembling, motions to his throat and throws up his wings in desperation.

PETE (CONT'D)

It's okay, Jim! You'll be okay!
We'll figure it out!

There's a knock on the door, Pete opens it and they all rush in but the damage is done. Luella fills a hot water bottle, wraps it in a towel and holds it up to Jimmy's throat.

LUELLA

(shakes her head)
I'm afraid he's got...

COOL

Larrygitis. I know it well. We're booked for the top spot in town tonight. There must be some way to help Jimmy. Let me ask around.

CUT TO:

INT. - FRONT DESK

Cool asks for the Manager, an elegant older gentleman.

MANAGER

Can I help you, Sir?

COOL

I hope so. We're playing Preservation Hall tonight and one of my singers was just attacked. They iced his throat and he can't sing.

MANAGER

(looks Cool in the eye,
scribbles on a paper)
I hate that kind of thing. There's
a place just up the street.
Here's the address. The gal who
runs it can cure anyone who gets
sick before a gig. Good luck.

EXT. DAY - FRENCH QUARTER

Cool and Pete hustle Jimmy out of the hotel and down the
street.

EXT. - EST. GUMBO'S MAGIC AND PAWN SHOP

PAN DOWN TO SIGN IN THE WINDOW

It reads: Cures, Curses, Used Saxophones and Riverboat Steam
Whistles.

INT. - SALLY GUMBO'S SHOP

SERIES OF SHOTS

Sally has never seen Cool and he introduces himself not by
name, but as the Manager of the Feathers. She doesn't realize
that he is the very cat she had put a curse on at Larry's
request. She looks over Jimmy.

SALLY

Did the guy who iced your throat
tie you to a chair?

Jimmy nods and Sally clucks.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Oldest trick in the book.

She sits Jimmy down in a chair.

SALLY (CONT'D)

(motioning to Cool)
Hand me that length of rope.

Cool gives her the rope and she ties Jimmy to the chair.

SALLY (CONT'D)

(to Cool and Pete)
Help me turn that steam whistle and
aim it at your friend.

They do as she asks and she pulls a chain hanging from the whistle.

SOUND OVER

There is a sudden blast of sound. Cool and Pete jump and Jimmy rocks in his chair as a cloud of steam envelopes him.

SALLY (CONT'D)
 (looking at her watch)
 When I give you the high sign,
 untie him and pull him out of the
 steam cloud or he'll be as cooked
 as a vegetable.

She motions that it's time and they untie him and pull him out of the steam cloud.

SALLY (CONT'D)
 (smiling, to Jimmy)
 Sing for me.

JIMMY
 (sings a little riff to
 his own amazement)
 Cool pulls out his wallet.

COOL
 We owe you big time, lady!

SALLY
 (refusing)
 No, it was easy. Besides, I have a
 soft spot for songbirds. My Dad
 used to sing.

COOL
 Really?

He hands her a ticket to the show.

COOL (CONT'D)
 Come see the Feathers tonight!

SALLY
 (delighted)
 Thanks, I will! I love good music.

LATER

INT. NIGHT - PRESERVATION HALL

FULL SHOT ON THE STAGE

The curtain rises and the Feathers fly into view and hover above the stage!

MUSIC IN:

SONG: CLOSE TO THE SKY

THE FEATHERS
(singing)
FLYING CLOSE TO THE SKY
DOWN TO THE TROPICS
MY, OH MY
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL RIDE
WE CAN FLOAT LIKE A FEATHER
MY BABY AND ME
HIGH ABOVE THE WEATHER
FIRST CLASS
AS FREE AS CAN BE

They drop onto the stage and prance across it.

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
(singing)
FLYING CLOSE TO THE SKY
NO NEED TO WORRY
TAKE IT SLOW
WE DON'T HAVE TO HURRY
WE CAN FLOAT LIKE A FEATHER
MY BABY AND ME
HIGH ABOVE THE WEATHER
FIRST CLASS AS FREE AS CAN BE

Then take off again, soaring above the stage in mid-air.

THE FEATHERS(SCATTING TO BRIDGE) (CONT'D)
(singing)
JUMP ON A JET STREAM
JUST SPREAD OUT YOUR WINGS
FLY HIGH
WE'LL CATCH A MOONBEAM
AND CHANGE OUR ROUTINE
WE'RE GONNA FLY THIS COOP
FLY HIGH
AND THROW AWAY THE KEY
FLYING CLOSE TO THE SKY
FIRST CLASS
AS FREE AS CAN BE
ON AUDIENCE

The up tempo scat has them bopping with delight as the Feathers drop to the stage again.

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 FLYING CLOSE TO THE SKY
 FOLLOW THE SUNSET
 MY, OH MY
 WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT
 WE'LL FLOAT JUST LIKE A FEATHER
 MY BABY AND ME
 HIGH ABOVE THE WEATHER
 FIRST CLASS
 AS FREE AS CAN BE

ON FEATHERS

Again, they take off and soar in mid-air.

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (scatting to bridge)
 JUMP ON A JET STREAM
 JUST SPREAD OUT YOUR WINGS
 FLY HIGH
 WE'LL CATCH A MOONBEAM
 AND CHANGE OUR ROUTINE
 WE'RE GONNA FLY THIS COOP
 FLY HIGH
 AND THROW AWAY THE KEY
 FLYING CLOSE TO THE SKY
 FIRST CLASS
 AS FREE AS CAN BE

THE FEATHERS (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 FLYING CLOSE TO THE SKY
 DREAMING AT MIDNIGHT
 ROCK-A-BYE
 ON A PILLOW OF CLOUDS
 FLOATING JUST LIKE A FEATHER
 MY BABY AND ME
 HIGH ABOVE THE WEATHER
 FIRST CLASS
 AS FREE AS CAN BE
 (TAG) - scatting out to bridge

MUSIC OUT

FULL SHOT

As the Feathers drop to the stage, the audience erupts with applause, another standing ovation. They take several bows and Luella steps to the front of the stage.

LUELLA

Here in the city where jazz was
born I'd like to introduce you to
our Manager, Cool B. Bop.

She motions for Cool to come onstage and as he appears, the
audience applauds.

CLOSE ON SALLY

She is stunned. This is the very cat that she had put a curse
on.

ANGLE ON LUELLA

LUELLA (CONT'D)

No one listened to us but Cool did.
We owe it all to him!

ON SALLY

Larry lied to her! Cool was helping
songbirds, not hurting them. She
flushes with shame and leaves
quickly.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. NIGHT - NEW ORLEANS CEMETARY - LATER

ANGLE ON SALLY

She is bent before a tombstone.

CLOSE ON TOMBSTONE:

GIL GUMBO "The songbird of The French Quarter"

PULL BACK:

Sally lifts her wings toward the night sky.

SALLY

Forgive me, Dad. I made a mistake.
That canary tricked me but I'll fix
it. I promise you, I'll fix it.

EXT. MORNING - ROOSEVELT HOTEL NEWSTAND

The Vendor holds up the New Orleans Times-Picayune and barks
loudly.

VENDOR
Morning edition, folks!

CLOSE ON

HEADLINE: "FEATHERS SIZZLE!"

PULL BACK

CUT TO:

INT. DAY - LARRY'S PENTHOUSE

Larry slams down the New Orleans newspaper and commands Roadie.

LARRY
On the floor!

Roadie lies down and Larry jumps on top of him, pacing back and forth.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Why haven't I fired you yet?

ROADIE
I don't know what happened, Boss.

LARRY
You never know what happened!
You're an idiot!

ROADIE
I used lots of ice.

LARRY
(cuts him off)
Shut up! I'm thinking.

Larry stops pacing.

LARRY (CONT'D)
The egg! That's it! That little egg
in the hotel incubator.

ROADIE
Oh, yeah, he was cute.

LARRY
(evil grin)
You said their lead singer Luella
was with him. Must be her baby.

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

They should all be back today.
Around midnight should be just
right. Here's the plan...

EXT. NIGHT - EST. KITTEN'S FLAT

INT. NIGHT - KITTEN'S FLAT

Luella sits on Kitten's couch. Eggzactly is on her lap and she pats his shell gently.

LUELLA

Thank you for taking care of my
little guy.

KITTEN

No problem, Lu. I can't wait to see
my big guy.

LUELLA

Yeah, he told me the whole story.
Talk about romance, girl!

KITTEN

(laughs)
It's like a dream. I thought it
would never happen.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT - BIRDLAND

Kitten sits in Cool's lap at Mo's table. They cuddle and purr, finally together. Owlonious and Mo beam with delight.

OWLONIOUS

You did it, son. The Feathers got
rave reviews.

COOL

We all did it together, O. It was
them, you, all of us.

MO

I want them up on that stage but
we'll have to keep it on the down
low for now. The less Larry knows,
the better.

Cool whispers to Kitten and she gets up.

KITTEN
Um, excuse us but we need...

COOL
(tips his beret)
A little face time.

EXT. RAINY NIGHT

ANGLE ON COOL AND KITTEN

They stroll arm and arm under a shared umbrella.

COOL
(confides)
Sometimes I watch them and I wish I
could sing again.

She puts her head on his shoulder.

KITTEN
You never know.

MUSIC IN

KITTEN (CONT'D)
(singing reprise from NOT
YET BUT SOON')
I WISH THAT I COULD HELP YOU
I CAN'T GIVE YOU BACK YOUR SONG
BUT I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
AND THAT'S WHERE I BELONG

REVERSE ANGLE

They walk off into the night.

KITTEN (CONT'D)
(singing)
I'M HERE BESIDE YOU
ON A NIGHT WITH NO MOON
HANG ON TIGHT TILL YOU FIND THE
MORNING LIGHT
NOT YET BUT SOON
(TAG) NOT YET BUT SOON
NOT YET BUT SOON

MUSIC OUT

EXT. LUELLA'S FLAT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Roadie opens Luella's back window.

INT. LUELLA'S FLAT

He tiptoes to where Eggzactly sleeps, tucks him under his coat and is gone in a flash.

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION

Eggzactly wakes up under Roadie's guard, tied to a chair. He squirms, tries to get loose.

ROADIE

(he is tormented and
cries)

I'll send you home as soon as I
can. Okay? My baby brother died in
an omelette. I couldn't even sleep
last night.

EGGZACTLY

(he is touched and speaks
a new word)

Okay.

INT. LUELLA'S FLAT - THE NEXT MORNING

Luella enters her baby's room and sees the open window. He's gone! Kidnapped! She runs to the phone.

LUELLA

(on phone)

Cool, Eggzactly's been kidnapped!
Help me! Help!

SHORTLY LATER

Luella walks around her living room in circles, frantic and inconsolable.

LUELLA (CONT'D)

My baby! My baby!

Daisy comforts her.

DAISY

I called the Eagle Patrol, Lu.
They're on it!

SEQUENCE 6: (THE GREAT EGG HUNT)

CAMERA TRACKING - HUNDREDS OF BIRDS FLY IN FORMATION

DOWN SHOT

The city is dappled with the shadows of wings.

DAISY (VO)
Every bird in the city is searching
for him.

BACK TO:

INT. LUELLA'S FLAT

Cool, Jim and Pete huddle over the kitchen table as Kitten
cradles the phone to her ear.

KITTEN
(on phone)
Yes, every cat you know, whiskers
up! Go find him!

SERIES OF SHOTS

Teams of cats inspect hotels, searching every floor. They
scour dark warehouses and check bathrooms and trash cans all
over Central Park.

GANGPLANK OF CRUISE SHIP

Cats scurry past passengers to board a cruise ship, search
the deck and Captain's bridge.

CUT TO:

INT. LUELLA'S FLAT

Cool hangs up the phone.

COOL
My Dad was tight with the cops. I
just spoke to the Chief.

Moments later a patrol car races by outside.

SOUND OVER:

SIREN BLARING

COOL (CONT'D)
Great! The cops are already on it.

INTERCUT BIRDS IN SKY

CATS EVERYWHERE

POLICE CARS ON THE PROWL

FADE TO:

LATER

Hours have passed but the great egg hunt has yielded nothing.

END OF SEQUENCE

EXT. LATE AFTERNOON - LUELLA'S FLAT

Cool and Kitten sit on the front stoop.

COOL
I tried to warn them in Chicago. I
feel like it's my fault.

Kitten puts her paw on his shoulder.

KITTEN
It's not you, baby. We all know who
did this.

COOL
(he nods, turns to her)
You're right. Why am I just sitting
here?

CAMERA FOLLOWS

On Cool as he goes inside, picks up the phone and dials.

COOL (CONT'D)
(on phone)
It's Cool, Chief. Listen, can you
send two guys to Larry Canary's
place? Great, thanks. I'll meet
them in the lobby.

INT. LARRY'S PENTHOUSE

Larry is holding a Press Conference with Reporters. The
cameras flash as The Yellow Fellow holds up his wings to make
an announcement

LARRY
 (preening)
 I've invited you up to tell you
 that I'm doing a show at Birdland,
 the hottest club in New York.

There is a LOUD KNOCK on the door.

OFFICER ONE (VO)
 Police! Open up!

The room falls silent as Larry walks to the door and opens it.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Cool enters with two cops and one of them, OFFICER TWO goes off to search the premises. The other faces the Reporters.

OFFICER ONE (CONT'D)
 Okay, we have a valid search
 warrant. Nobody leaves until
 we're finished.

REPORTER
 (calls out)
 What's this about, Officer?

OFFICER ONE
 A suspected kidnapping.

The reporters gasp and one calls out to the others.

REPORTER
 What a story!

LARRY
 (keeps his cool)
 I have no idea what you're talking
 about, Officer.

COOL
 (to Larry)
 Where are you hiding Eggzactly?

LARRY
 Egg-who? What are you talking
 about?

COOL
 Luella's little baby egg. He's
 about to hatch.

LARRY

Luella who?

(to Reporters)

It's nothing, guys. This cat makes
up all kinds of stories.

Officer Two returns and looks at his fellow cop.

OFFICER TWO

It's clean, Joe. No sign of him.

OFFICER ONE

(to Reporters)

Okay, gentlemen, we're done. No
sign of a crime here.

Cool leaves with the cops and as the door closes, he hears -

LARRY (VO)

You can't believe a word that crazy
cat says. The last egg
I saw disappeared at breakfast!

Cool hears the reporters laugh as the elevator door closes.

EXT. DAY - LARRY'S BUILDING

COOL

(to cops as they get in
their car)

Thanks, Guys.

EXT. DAY -

CAMERA TRACKING

ON COOL

He sets out on a troubled catwalk. He can't stand the idea of
Luella losing Eggzactly and he stops at a payphone and calls
Owlonious.

COOL

(on phone)

We can't find the little guy. This
is killing me, man.

SPLIT SCREEN

Owlonious on the phone.

OWLONIOUS
Sooner or later you guys will get a
break. Hang in there.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY - THE KIDNAPPER'S LAIR

Just a few blocks away Roadie takes a nap when nature comes to the rescue.

ANGLE ON EGGZACTLY AS HE HATCHES!

He is stunned, slips from his shell and the rope tying him, then jumps down to the floor.

He ruffles his feathers and wobbles out to the fire escape.

ON ROADIE

He wakes up, sees Eggzactly on the edge of the fire escape and rushes toward him.

ROADIE
(yells)
Be careful!

FULL SHOT

Eggzactly falls off the edge. Roadie is horrified and turns away.

ROADIE (CONT'D)
NO!

EXT. - DAY - HIGH-RISE BUILDING

Luckily, Eggzactly has fallen from the top floor of a high-rise building.

CAMERA FOLLOWS

As he falls, he flaps wildly and, within seconds, his eagle instincts take over.

UP ANGLE

Eggzactly is flying!

CLOSER SHOT

As he circles in midair, giddy with joy.

EXT. DAY - NEW YORK STREET

ON COOL

Around the corner Cool leans on a streetlamp.

COOL
(quietly)
Give me a sign, Dad.

Eggzactly drops from the sky and lands at his feet.

EGGZACTLY
Nice timing, kid.

FADE TO:

FADE IN

INT. SUNSET - LUELLA'S FLAT

Cool and Kitten sit on the couch. They laugh as everyone celebrates a great reunion. Luella clutches Eggzactly and holds him aloft. The doorbell rings.

ANGLE ON ROADIE

He is sad and pensive.

REVERSE ANGLE ON ROADIE, LUELLA, EGGZACTLY

The door opens and from Roadie's POV we see Luella clutching Eggzactly.

EGGZACTLY
Hi, Big Chicken!

FULL SHOT ON ALL

Roadie is stunned, his gloom turns to joy.

ROADIE
You're alive!!!

EGGZACTLY
Eggzactly!

ON ROADIE

He passes out, falling with a thud.

CAMERA FOLLOWS

On Cool, Kitten and Pete as they drag Roadie into the house.

FULL SHOT

They lift him and lay him out on the couch. Daisy flutters a fan over his face and, as he comes to, Jimmy points at him.

JIMMY
(hysterical)
It's him! It's the guy who iced me.

Roadie now sits up.

ROADIE
(nods)
Yeah, I'm sorry, fella. The boss made me do it.

LUELLA
(to Roadie)
Did you kidnap my baby? Did Larry make you do that too?

Roadie can barely face her.

ROADIE
I'm so sorry. When he fell off the fire escape I thought I accidentally killed him. I had to know what happened.

COOL
So you came here.

ROADIE
(nods)
It was the only way to find out.

EGGZACTLY
(to Luella)
He was nice to me, Mama.

ROADIE
Just call the cops. Arrest me. I can't do this stuff anymore.

COOL
How long have you worked for Larry?

ROADIE
Too long. I'm a giant chicken, a freak. It's hard to find work.

COOL

Larry's the freak, Roadie, not you.
You're not going to jail.

ROADIE

I'm not?

COOL

No. This was his fault.

ROADIE

I don't want to work for him but I
can't find another job.

COOL

We'll see about that.

Cool picks up the phone and dials.

COOL (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Hey, O, can you get Mo upstairs for
a meeting?

(pause)

Good, I'll see you soon.

He gathers Kitten and the Feathers at the kitchen table

COOL (CONT'D)

Listen, guys, Larry doesn't know
that Eggzactly is okay.
We finally have the edge on him.
Let's keep it a secret.
Any ideas?

KITTEN

Yes, if we want to keep it secret,
Lu and Eggzactly should spend the
night with me.

LUELLA

Good, that's smart, but who stays
here so it looks normal?
Daisy?

DAISY

Sure, but do I have to stay alone?
If something happens...

PETE

Jimmy and I can stay with you.

JIMMY

(to Pete, seizes the
moment for him)

No, I should stay at our place so
it looks normal. Can you stay here
with Daisy?

PETE

(blushes)

Uh...

DAISY

(shyly, to Pete)

I'd like that.

LU

(grins)

Well, I guess that covers it.

COOL

(to Roadie)

Come with me, big guy.

INT. NIGHT - OWLONIOUS FLAT

Owlonious and Mo do a big take when Cool arrives with Roadie.

COOL

It's okay, guys. We have a new
friend. Roadie, what did you just
tell me?

ROADIE

I hate Larry. He does bad things
and he's mean to me.

COOL

(to Owlonious and Mo)

When Eggzactly almost died, that
was it for Roadie. He's got
a thing for baby birds. He needs a
job, Mo. Would a giant chicken
be a good choice for a doorman at
Birdland?

MO

(grins)

Sure, Frank was drunk. I fired him.
Do you drink, Roadie?

ROADIE

No, Sir, I'm a chicken. I just
drink water.

MO

Great. You're hired. By the way, my name is Mo, not sir.

OWLONIOUS

So what's our next move, son?

COOL

Larry's in the dark and we need to keep him in the dark.

(to Roadie)

That will be your job, big guy, and you have to be ready.

You may need a place to stay.

MO

Right, the club is open late if you need to come here. I've got an extra room.

ROADIE

What if it's super late?

OWLONIOUS

(laughs)

Don't worry, I'm an owl, man. I'll be up.

COOL

Beautiful. Here's the plan...

INT. NIGHT - LARRY'S PENTHOUSE

Larry and the Three Chicks rehearse for his big show at Birdland.

LARRY

Okay, once more...

Roadie enters, walks toward Larry and whispers in his ear.

THE THREE CHICKS

(singing ONE COOL CANARY'
intro, no
instrumental, vocal track
only)

LARRY'S THE ONE

ONE COOL CANARY

LARRY

Hold it, girls!

(to Roadie)

What did you say?

ROADIE
He fell off the fire escape before
I could grab him.

LARRY
(gleeful)
That's great! You finally brought
me some good news!

ROADIE
(shakes his head)
Wow! A baby bird fell off a fire
escape and you're happy.

THE THREE CHICKS
(in unison)
WHAT!

Larry waves at them dismissively.

LARRY
Shut up, girls! It's none of your
business!

Roadie hasn't told Larry the whole truth (not that he
deserves it) and Larry assumes that Eggzactly is dead and the
Feathers are finished for good. He struts in front of his
window, looks out at the city lights and lifts his wings in
triumph.

LARRY (CONT'D)
They'll never sing again! I'm the
King of Jazz, the King!

ROADIE
A baby bird just fell off a fire
escape. What's wrong with
you, Larry?

LARRY
(scoffs)
It was an accident. Get over it!

ROADIE
I quit!

He walks out. Larry is surprised, does a momentary take, then
calls after him.

LARRY
(yells)
Good riddance, loser!

FADE TO:

EXT. NIGHT - LUELLA'S FLAT

Pete and Daisy sit on the stoop under the stars.

DAISY
(shyly)
I want to thank you, Pete.

PETE
(just as shyly)
For what?

DAISY
When I was too scared to sing in
Chicago, you said that I had the
best voice in the group.

PETE
You do.

DAISY
No one ever believed in me but when
I heard you say it
I believed it.

PETE
Really?

DAISY
You're the nicest guy I ever met.

PETE
(overwhelmed)
Daisy, I...

DAISY
Me too, Pete...

She lays her head on his shoulder.

DAISY (CONT'D)
Me too.

INT. NIGHT - COOL'S FLAT

Cool answers a knock on his door and Sally Gumbo stands there.

COOL
Can I help you?

SALLY
It's me, Cool, Sally Gumbo from New Orleans.

COOL
Sure, the little shop! Come in.

INT. - COOL'S FLAT

Sally is on the couch, awkward and hesitant. Cool is in his easy chair.

COOL
Can I get you something? A coffee or a tea?

SALLY
I'm fine, Cool.
(she pauses, looks at him and tears up)
No, I'm not fine at all.

COOL
(concerned)
Are you okay? What's wrong?

SALLY
I made a mistake and I came here to fix it. It's a long story.

COOL
What do you mean?

SALLY
I'll explain. Take my hand.

She reaches out and he takes her hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY - FRENCH QUARTER

Cool stands with Sally on an unfamiliar street. He blinks, confused but fascinated.

COOL
What's going on? Where are we?

SALLY
In the past, in New Orleans. I want you to meet someone.

COOL

Who?

SALLY

My father. He was a great singer
but he was a lark and only
canaries sang in the clubs. We were
poor but he gave me and my sister
so much love.

She points down the street.

SALLY (CONT'D)

That's him.

ON GIL GUMBO

He strolls through the French quarter with his two little
girls and stops at a street stall to buy a book and a potted
plant.

MUSIC IN

SONG: TILL YOU TRY

GIL GUMBO (FLASHBACK, VO)

(singing)

IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU
WANT TO DO
TRY TO DO IT NOW

He gives the plant to one daughter and the book to the other.

GIL GUMBO (CONT'D)

(singing)

CAUSE YOU CAN PLANT A SEED
LEARN TO READ
I WILL SHOW YOU HOW

He motions to the sky above.

ANGLE ON BIRDS

GIL GUMBO (CONT'D, VO) (CONT'D)

(singing)

YOU WON'T KNOW
TILL YOU TRY
THAT'S HOW THE BIRDS
LEARN TO FLY
FIRST THEY TRY
THEN THEY REACH THE SKY
YOU WON'T KNOW
TILL YOU TRY
THAT'S THE WAY

(MORE)

GIL GUMBO (CONT'D, VO) (CONT'D)
 TO REACH THE SKY
 DO IT NOW
 YOU WON'T KNOW
 TILL YOU TRY

ON GIL AND HIS DAUGHTERS

He sits down on a bench and his little ones cuddle up to him as he sings.

GIL GUMBO (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 THAT'S REALLY ALL THAT YOU
 HAVE TO DO
 TRY TO DO IT NOW
 NO TIME TO HESITATE
 OR SIT AND WAIT
 I WILL SHOW YOU HOW

CAMERA FOLLOWS

FULL SHOT

They resume their stroll and he motions to the sky and the birds flying.

GIL GUMBO (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 YOU WON'T KNOW
 TILL YOU TRY
 THAT'S HOW THE BIRDS
 LEARN TO FLY
 FIRST THEY TRY
 THEN THEY REACH THE SKY
 YOU WON'T KNOW
 TILL YOU TRY
 THAT'S THE WAY
 TO REACH THE SKY
 DO IT NOW, YOU WON'T KNOW
 TILL YOU TRY
 (TAG) YOU WON'T KNOW TILL YOU TRY

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT - COOL'S FLAT

He is back in his easy chair and she sits on the couch and smiles at him.

COOL
 (transfixed)
 What just happened?

SALLY

Magic. It's good but it can also be bad.

COOL

(curious)

What do you mean?

SALLY

I tried to help all the songbirds in my Dad's memory but when I saw you with the Feathers I knew I made a big mistake. I promised my Dad that I would fix it.

COOL

Fix what? What did you do?

SALLY

I put a curse on you, Cool. I heard Larry Canary on the radio. He said that you want to hurt all the songbirds and I believed him. I put a curse on you so you couldn't sing.

COOL

What? You put a curse on me?

SALLY

Yes. He called me from the King of Jazz Radio Contest and asked me to put a curse on you. That's why you can't sing.

COOL

It was Larry?

SALLY

Yes, I wish I could transfer the curse to him but it doesn't work on birds. I'm sorry, I'm so sorry...

She cries and Cool goes to her and takes her in his arms.

ANGLE ON COOL AND SALLY

COOL

(soothing)

It's okay, it's okay. Thank you for coming here, for telling me. We'll figure it out.

She quiets down. Cool sits next to her and shakes his head in disbelief.

COOL (CONT'D)

Larry hurt me but it made me stronger. I owe that to you.

SALLY

No, I owe you. I need to lift the curse so you can sing. I should never have believed Larry.

COOL

You're not alone, Sally. He's a good liar.

SALLY

And a rotten guy.

COOL

This is incredible! Have you told anyone about it

SALLY

Just you, Cool.

COOL

So Larry doesn't know that I know? He doesn't know that you're here and you can fix it?

SALLY

No.

COOL

Beautiful. Let's keep him in the dark.

SALLY

That's exactly what he deserves but if you sing again what about everybody else?

COOL

What do you mean?

SALLY

You could talk about the curse and no one would believe you but I feel ashamed. Will you tell anyone?

COOL

Only my sweetheart and two friends, an owl and a magpie.

COOL (CONT'D)
My other friends will just be
thrilled that I can sing again.

SALLY
(her eyes grow wide)
Did you say an owl?

COOL
Yes, he was my Dad's best friend.
He's always looked after
me. Why do you ask?

SALLY
Because only an owl has the power
to forgive my mistake.
That would be amazing. It can't
happen now but.

COOL
Why not? Why not now?

SALLY
Because your friend needs two
witnesses who you both trust to
convene an owl court and render his
judgement.

COOL
Can it happen here?

SALLY
Yes, it should happen here, but
won't it take time to arrange?

COOL
(smiles)
Not in a city full of taxis.

He reaches for the phone.

INT. - COOL'S FLAT - A HALF HOUR LATER

Owlonious, Mo and Kitten sit on the couch. They are
mesmerized and listen intently.

COOL
That's the story. I promised Sally
that no one else will know.

KITTEN
What about the Feathers? How will
they know you can sing?

COOL

I'll sing for them, that's how.
I've got an idea for a song.

MO

What if someone asks why you can
suddenly sing again?

OWLONIOUS

(to Cool, smiles)

If they ask, just tell them it was
Tommy. He came to you in a dream
and when you woke up you could
sing.

COOL

Good idea, O. I wish my Dad was
here.

SALLY

He is, Cool. Your dad and my dad
visit us when we dream.

(to Owlionious)

You're a very wise owl, indeed.

OWLONIOUS

Thank you.

He stands and motions to all.

OWLONIUS

(CONT'D)

The Court of the Owl is now
convened. Please rise.

Everyone stands.

SALLY

(to Cool)

Are you ready to sing again?

COOL

I'm ready.

SALLY

Close your eyes.

He closes his eyes and grips the arm of his chair to hold
steady.

SALLY (CONT'D)

(raises her wings)

When the darkness came
You couldn't sing

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

But you didn't let it
clip your wing.
You helped the songbirds
You were strong
Take this magic
Sing your song

She puts a wing on his shoulder

SALLY (CONT'D)

Now open your eyes and sing for me.

He opens his eyes, opens his mouth and...

VOICE IN

COOL

(singing)

THIS IS MY SONG
THIS IS WHERE I BELONG
IT KEEPS ME STRONG
THIS IS MY SONG

VOICE OUT

He bursts into tears as Kitten rushes into his arms. They hold onto each other and cry. He turns to Sally.

COOL (CONT'D)

How can I thank you?

OWLONIOUS

That's my job, son. Do both witnesses, Mo and Kitten, affirm that the curse has been lifted? If so, say 'Aye'!

MO AND KITTEN

(in unison)

Aye!

OWLONIOUS

(places his wings on
Sally's shoulders)
Sally Gumbo, your mistake is forgiven.

SALLY

(smiles)

My deepest thanks.

She goes to the door, opens it and turns to Cool.

SALLY (CONT'D)
I'll say hi to my father for you.

She walks out and vanishes into the night as the door closes softly behind her.

INT. NEXT DAY - LARRY'S PENTHOUSE

Roadie's duffel bag is slung over his shoulder as Larry calls to him from his easy chair.

LARRY
(sneers)
It's good that you're getting your stuff. Now my place will smell better.

ROADIE
(to Larry)
Later.

LARRY
(cold)
Oh, one more thing. You're an idiot that knows too much and that's not good. If you say anything, you'll go to jail.

ROADIE
Excuse me?

LARRY
What if that baby bird was pushed by Roadie the giant chicken? That's murder, Dumbo. I'm warning you. Look at Cool. And that singer from the Feathers? She's done. Don't mess with the King. Understand?

Roadie walks to the door.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(angry)
No one walks away from me. You'll beg me to come back.

ROADIE
(shakes his head as he walks out the door)
Goodbye, Larry.

CUT TO INT. DAY - COOL'S FLAT

The Feathers are on the couch. Pete and Daisy snuggle, clearly in love. Eggzactly sits on Auntie Kitten's lap in Cool's easy chair, Owlonious and Mo sit in nearby chairs and Cool is at his piano.

LUELLA
 (looks at a lead sheet)
 Looks great but it says I'll sing
 harmony. Who sings lead?

COOL
 Me. I'll sing it.

LUELLA
 (stunned)
 You?

COOL
 (big smile)
 Yeah, me. It just happened, guys. I
 can sing again!

FULL SHOT

A beat. The Feathers look at each other, then jump to their feet.

LUELLA
 You can sing? Hallelujah!!

PETE
 Wow! You can sing?

DAISY
 Oh, my!

JIMMY
 Pinch me, Jack! I can't believe it!

COOL
 (laughs)
 Ready, Lu?

She rushes to stand by the piano.

ANGLE ON COOL AND LUELLA

MUSIC IN

SONG: YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MEAN TO BE SEEN

COOL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 TIP YOUR BERET
 (MORE)

COOL (CONT'D)

AND HEAR WHAT I SAY
 CAUSE I HAVE A SCOOP FOR YOU
 SOME GUYS DON'T CARE
 ABOUT PLAYING FAIR
 A STIFF CAN DO
 A RIFF ON YOU
 IT'S HURTFUL AND STRANGE
 BUT IF YOU ARRANGE
 TO STOP SEEING RED,
 YOU'RE AHEAD
 IF THERE'S A SCENE
 WITH SOMEBODY MEAN
 STAND UP AND SING,
 ÔI'M SO GLAD I'M NOT YOU
 AND I DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN YOUR
 HEAD

COOL AND LUELLA

(singing duet)

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MEAN
 TO BE SEEN
 DON'T GET LOST GETTING EVEN
 LET HIM KNOW
 THEN LET GO
 AND GO FAR
 THAT'S HOW TO BE A STAR

COOL

(singing)

I REALIZED
 TO MY SAD SURPRISE
 HE NEVER RIGHT
 FROM WRONG
 I SANG A TUNE
 HE BURST MY BALLOON
 HE HEARD ME
 AND STOLE MY SONG
 SURPRISES ATTACK
 YOU WANT TO GET BACK
 BUT I'M GONNA TELL YOU STRAIGHT
 DON'T EVER DOUBT
 WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT
 STAND UP AND SING
 I'M SO GLAD I'M NOT YOU
 IF YOU CAN'T SHAKE YOUR HATE
 IT'S YOUR FATE.

COOL AND LUELLA

(singing)

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MEAN
 TO BE SEEN
 DON'T GET LOST GETTING EVEN
 LET HIM KNOW
 THEN LET GO

(MORE)

COOL AND LUELLA (CONT'D)

AND GO FAR
 YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT
 LEAVE THE STIFF TO HIS SPITE
 IN THE NIGHT
 HE WILL KNOW YOU'RE A STAR
 YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MEAN
 TO BE SEEN
 DON'T GET LOST GETTING EVEN
 LET HIM KNOW
 THEN LET GO
 AND GO FAR
 THAT'S HOW TO BE A STAR

(VAMP OUT)

MUSIC OUT

FULL SHOT

JIMMY

Holy smoke, you guys sound great
 together.

COOL

Funny you say that. Mo has an offer
 to make.

MO

(to the Feathers)

I want you guys to sing at
 Birdland. I think Cool and The
 Feathers would make a great act.
 What do you think?

LUELLA

You mean we sing with the Jazzcat?
 Sign me up!!

The Feathers are thrilled.

MO

It's delicious. Larry has no idea
 that Cool can sing again.

LUELLA

(beams to Cool)

You deserve this. You brought my
 baby back home to me.

EGGZACTLY

Eggzactly!

FADE TO:

INT. NIGHT - OWLONIOUS FLAT - LATER

The old owl pulls a lead sheet from his piano bench and gives it to Cool.

OWLONIOUS

Your Dad wrote this. He was too shy to share it but you could kill it.

COOL

(reads the title with reverence)

"They Call It Jazz"

(pauses)

How can I ever thank you, O? I owe you everything.

OWLONIOUS

Just sing, son. It's music to my ears.

CUT TO:

EXT. BIRDLAND - SATURDAY NIGHT

ON THE BILLBOARD: LARRY CANARY- ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Roadie is in his doorman's uniform, wears a big grin, as Larry's limousine pulls up. He opens the door with a flourish.

ROADIE

(to Larry as he steps to the curb)

Welcome to Birdland, Sir.

LARRY

(surprised but quick to attack)

Look at you, a giant chicken in a uniform! Must be a joke.

ROADIE

(to the Chicks as they step to the curb)

Welcome to Birdland, Ladies.

THE THREE CHICKS

(various responses)

Hi, Roadie, good to see you, nice outfit, looks sharp.

INT. NIGHT - BIRDLAND

The club is packed with fans and reporters.

ON MO'S TABLE

Larry sits and preens as photographers take shots of him. He turns his head one way and then the other.

LARRY

Choose your profile. I know it's hard to pick the right shot for the King of Jazz but I'm Mister Nice. No rush.

He leans over to Mo.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(low voice)

I see you just hired that giant chicken. Keep an eye on him. I heard that he iced a singer's throat, maybe even worse.

MO

Really?

LARRY

Yes. We've got to protect each other. Know what I mean?

MO

Absolutely.

The lights go down and a spotlight floods the darkened stage. Larry leans over to Mo again.

LARRY

What's this? That's not part of my act.

Mo can barely contain himself.

MO

You'll see.

Mo stands up at his stage side table and turns to the audience. He bangs a fork on his glass and the club hushes down.

MO (CONT'D)

(announces)

Folks, I've asked Larry Canary to join me before he sings.

(MORE)

MO (CONT'D)

He loves great music so here's a
surprise to open our show.

He motions toward the stage.

ANGLE ON EGGZACTLY

The little egg appears in the spotlight dressed in a tuxedo.
He spreads out his tiny wings.

EGGZACTLY

And now...

(he motions with a
flourish)

Let's give a big New York welcome
to Cool and The Feathers!

CLOSE ON LARRY

His eyes pop out of his head as he watches in speechless
amazement.

PULL BACK

FULL SHOT

The crowd goes wild and Reporter's cameras flash like
fireworks as they take the stage. It's unbelievable! The
Jazzcat is back and he's teamed up with the Feathers, the
mystery group with no Canary. They just got back from a tour
and every jazz fan in the city has heard about them.

ANGLE ON STAGE

MUSIC IN

SONG: THEY CALL IT JAZZ

COOL

(singing)

ONCE LONG AGO
IN THE VILLAGE OF MUSIC
THE LITTLE NOTES HAD
JUST ONE WAY TO PLAY

Cool whips out a Conductor's baton.

COOL (CONT'D)

(singing)

FOLLOW THE RULES,
THE BATON, THE CONDUCTOR
FOLLOW AND NEVER STRAY

Eggzactly runs on stage and circles back and forth adorably with his wings out.

COOL (CONT'D)

(sings)

ONE LITTLE NOTE
NEVER FOLLOWED THE MUSIC
CHANGING KEYS, BENDING
AND JUMPING AROUND
THAT LITTLE NOTE
TURNED A PART OF THE MUSIC
INTO A WHOLE NEW SOUND

Eggzactly grabs the baton from Cool and runs offstage.

COOL AND THE FEATHERS

(singing in unison)

THEY CALL IT JAZZ, JAZZ, JAZZ
IT COMES FROM INSIDE
AND CALLS OUT TO YOU
THEY CALL IT JAZZ, JAZZ, JAZZ
IT ALL DEPENDS
ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW

COOL (CONT'D)

(singing)

INTO THE NIGHT
IN THE VILLAGE OF MUSIC
THE LITTLE NOTES SING
IN TUNE WITH THE BREEZE
THEY LAUGH AND DANCE AROUND
THE SLEEPING CONDUCTOR
SNORING BENEATH THE TREES

COOL AND THE FEATHERS

(singing in unison)

THEY CALL IT JAZZ, JAZZ, JAZZ
IT COMES FROM INSIDE
AND CALLS OUT TO YOU
THEY CALL IT JAZZ, JAZZ, JAZZ
IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT OF
VIEW

Eggzactly runs back onstage, circles adorably with his wings raised.

COOL

(singing)

ALWAYS STAY CLOSE
TO THE MUSIC INSIDE YOU
STUDY AND PRACTICE
TILL YOU UNDERSTAND
MASTER THE MASTERS

(MORE)

COOL (CONT'D)
 BUT PLAY YOUR OWN MUSIC
 SOMEDAY YOU'LL JOIN THE BAND

He runs offstage.

COOL AND THE FEATHERS
 (singing in unison)
 THEY CALL IT JAZZ, JAZZ, JAZZ
 IT COMES FROM INSIDE
 AND CALLS OUT TO YOU
 THEY CALL IT JAZZ, JAZZ, JAZZ
 IT ALL DEPENDS
 ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW
 THEY CALL IT JAZZ, JAZZ, JAZZ
 IT COMES FROM INSIDE
 AND CALLS OUT TO YOU
 THEY CALL IT JAZZ, JAZZ, JAZZ
 IT ALL DEPENDS
 ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW

(VAMP OUT)

The crowd jumps to their feet cheering wildly. The Jazzcat is back and he and the Feathers are the Kings of Jazz. The reporters and photographers race from Birdland to file their bombshell story and most of the audience races out with them to go home and call their friends. They've just seen a miracle and there's no reason to stay at the club just to hear old what's-his-name.

EXT. BIRDLAND - NEXT DAY

Cool cuddles with Kitten on the staircase. They hear yelling and open the window.

WIDEN SHOT TO INCLUDE MO'S TABLE

LARRY
 (yells to Mo)
 A Sunday matinee starring The Three Chicks?! You've never done a Sunday matinee!

MO
 Why not, Larry? They're good and they deserve a shot. We all have to adapt. Know what I mean?

LARRY
 (angry)
 Cool and The Feathers were an impossible act to follow.

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

Now I just lost the Chicks! What
can I do?

COOL

(calls out to Larry from
the open window)

Hey, Larry, I have an idea.

Larry does a huge take, horrified that Cool has overheard
him. Cool has regained his confidence, voice and career.
Helpful as always, he tips his beret.

COOL (CONT'D)

Maybe you can open for them next
Sunday.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END