

LOCKSTOCK

Well, hello there. And welcome - to Urinetown!

(Pause)

Not the place, of course. The musical. Urinetown "the place" is...well, it's a place you'll hear people referring to a lot throughout the show.

#2 Urinetown

(PENELOPE PENNYWISE and BOBBY STRONG enter. THEY carry with them a small table upon which rests a ledger.)

PENNY

You hear the news? They carted Old So-and-So off to Urinetown the other day.

BOBBY

Is that so? What he do?

PENNY

Oh, such-and-such, I hear.

BOBBY

Well, what do you know. Old So-and-So.

(BOBBY and PENNY set up their workstation, placing the table beside the entrance to the amenity as THE POOR begin to rise.)

LOCKSTOCK

It's kind of a mythical place, you understand. A bad place. A place you won't see until Act Two. And then...? Well, let's just say it's filled with symbolism and things like that.

(THE POOR sing the "Urinetown" theme on an "ooh" ever so softly as THEY prepare for another day. LITTLE SALLY enters, counting her pennies.)

But Urinetown "the musical," well, here we are. Welcome. It takes place in a town like any town...that you might find in a musical. This here's the first setting for the show. As

LOCKSTOCK (CONT'D)

the sign says it's a "public amenity," meaning public toilet. These people have been waiting for hours to get in; it's the only amenity they can afford to get into.

(LITTLE SALLY approaches LOCKSTOCK.)

LITTLE SALLY

Say, Officer Lockstock, is this where you tell the audience about the water shortage?

LOCKSTOCK

What's that, Little Sally?

LITTLE SALLY

You know, the water shortage. The hard times. The drought. A shortage so awful that private toilets eventually became unthinkable. A premise so absurd that-

LOCKSTOCK

Whoa there, Little Sally. Not all at once. They'll hear more about the water shortage in the next scene.

LITTLE SALLY

Oh. I guess you don't want to overload them with too much exposition, huh?

LOCKSTOCK

Everything in its time, Little Sally. You're too young to understand it now, but nothing can kill a show like too much exposition.

LITTLE SALLY

How about bad subject matter?

LOCKSTOCK

Well-

LITTLE SALLY

Or a bad title, even? That could kill a show pretty good.

LOCKSTOCK

Well, Little Sally, suffice it to say that in Urinetown(the musical) everyone has to use public bathrooms in order to take care of their private business. That's the central conceit of the showww!

Later on you'll learn that these public bathrooms are controlled by a private company. They keep admission high, generally, so if you're down on your luck you have to come to a place like this - one of the poorest, filthiest urinals in town.

LITTLE SALLY

And you can't just go in the bushes either -there's laws against it.

LOCKSTOCK

That's right, Little Sally. Harsh laws, too. That's why Little Sally here's counting her pennies. Isn't that so, Little Sally?

LITTLE SALLY

I'm very close, Officer. Only a few pennies away.

LOCKSTOCK

Aren't we all, Little Sally. Aren't we all.

(LITTLE SALLY keeps counting.)

HOPE

Excuse me, sir, but can you tell me the way to the private company that controls these public bathrooms?

BOBBY

You mean Urine Good Company?

HOPE

That's the one.

LOCKSTOCK

(To the audience)

You'll meet the guy who runs Urine Good Company later. That there's his daughter.

FIPP

Where's my dough?!

CLADWELL

Isn't that what we're all asking ourselves, Senator? Where's my dough? From the cop walking his beat to the little baby asleep in his mother's arms, we're all asking the same question: Where's my dough? And by dough, of course, I mean money.

FIPP

I made my speech! Where's my dough?!

CLADWELL

Oh, there'll be plenty of dough for everyone, Senator, once the new fee hikes breeze through the Legislature.

FIPP

I was hoping to wait for the vote during my latest fact-finding mission – to Rio! Wouldn't want to be around once the new fee hikes breeze through.

CLADWELL

You think I've gone too far this time, don't you, Fipp?
(HOPE enters.)

FIPP

It's a powder keg out there, Cladwell. This time I think it's gonna blow!

HOPE

Daddy?

CLADWELL, FIPP & MCQUEEN

Whaa-?!

CLADWELL

Hope darling, I thought you'd never get here!
(THEY embrace.)

HOPE

Sorry I'm late, Daddy. I left just as soon as my exams were finished.

CLADWELL

How's everything, dear?

HOPE

Fine, Daddy. Just fine. It feels great to be done with school. Finally.

CLADWELL

You see there, Mister McQueen! Beautiful, big-hearted, and now with a head filled with the best stuff money can buy.

MCQUEEN

Well, if the stuff in her head is nearly as big as the stuff in her heart, I'm sure she'll be running this company in no time.

(MCQUEEN laughs. CLADWELL doesn't.)

CLADWELL

That'll be all, Mister McQueen.

MCQUEEN

Yes, of course.

(MCQUEEN exits. FIPP approaches HOPE.)

FIPP

Well I'll be. Hope Cladwell, and all grown up, too.

HOPE

Hello, Senator.

FIPP

Come to join your father's little operation?

HOPE

It's just a fax/copy position, of course. First day.

FIPP

A fax/copy girl, huh?

(Taking her hand)

Well, your father mentioned he was bringing on a new fax/copy girl. He neglected, however, to mention how beautiful she'd be. You'd be. You're so beautiful. Even as a little girl I always thought-

CLADWELL

That's enough, Fipp.

FIPP

Yes, of course.

CLADWELL

Well, we won't keep you Senator; it's a big day. I'm sure you'll have your hands full on the floor of the Legislature, what with the fee-hike vote and all.

FIPP

Oh, they'll be full, Cladwell. And by this time tomorrow I fully expect them to be full of cash.

CLADWELL

Oh, they'll be full of cash, Senator. We'll all be full of cash, provided the vote comes through.

FIPP

Oh, the vote will come through, Cladwell. It'll come through just as long as you come through with the cash.

CLADWELL

No worries there, Senator. Once the vote comes through, there'll be nothing else to come through but the cash.

FIPP

And no need to worry about the vote-

CLADWELL

Fipp! I think we understand each other.

You were rather brave with them. **HOPE**

I don't care for policemen. Not those two, anyway. **BOBBY**

Policemen protect the peace. **HOPE**

Do they? **BOBBY**

Usually. **HOPE**
(Pause.)

Didn't I see you down by the amenity this morning? **BOBBY**

That was me. I was rushing off to work, first day. **HOPE**

Find your way all right? **BOBBY**

The gleaming tower on the hill? Couldn't miss it. **HOPE**

Beautiful. **BOBBY**

It's rather shiny, that's true enough. **HOPE**
(Pause.)

Did you mean what you said to those policemen? About everyone having a heart? **BOBBY**

Well, sure I did. **HOPE**

Because...well, because mine feels awful cold just now. **BOBBY**

Cold? **HOPE**

Or empty. One of the two. **BOBBY**

Not because of me, I hope? **HOPE**

Oh no. Because of something I did. **BOBBY**

(The GHOST OF OLD MAN STRONG and TINY TOM appear in the distance.)

OLD MAN STRONG

Bobby! Bobby, reason with the woman! I'm a little short this morning!

TINY TOM

No shorter than yesterday. Unless I've grown.
(THEY disappear.)

BOBBY

Or, rather, something I didn't do.

HOPE

If it feels cold, then it must still be there, don't you think?

BOBBY

Unless there's a vacuum where it used to be.

HOPE

A vacuum? In your chest? It sounds so implausible.

BOBBY

I did something wrong this morning is all I'm trying to say. I can't seem to get it out of my head.

HOPE

The vacuum?

BOBBY

My action. I let someone down that I love dearly. I feel real bad about it.

HOPE

Well, maybe that's nature's way of telling you that now's the time to lift someone up?

BOBBY

Really?

HOPE

Sure. Do you think you'd be feeling as bad as you do if you didn't have a heart?
(Musical vamp begins for "Follow Your Heart.")

ACT I Scene 4

(The poorest, filthiest urinal in town. BOBBY enters as MCQUEEN concludes an announcement he is delivering to THE POOR.)

MCQUEEN

And so with this piece of paper the UGC awards Amenity Number Nine the first of our new and entirely legal fee hikes, which we hope you all will honor and enjoy.

THE POOR

Enjoy?!/Legal?!/Etc.

MCQUEEN

Of course, no one knows better than the good people at Urine Good Company how difficult times are, but research into finding the long-term solutions we need is expensive. So, for the time being, our decision is firm and we look forward to going to Rio with our new profits.

(Pause.)

I mean, we look forward to finding lasting solutions...and things like that. Good luck, Ms. Pennywise, see you in...well, you know where.

(MCQUEEN exits.)

TINY TOM

You can't do this to us, Ms. Pennywise! It'll be off to Urinetown for the lot of us sooner or later if you do!

PENNY

And it'll be off to Urinetown for me if I don't. Now get in line and have your money ready - the new fee-hike money that is!

BOBBY

Ms. Pennywise!

PENNY

Bobby Strong! Where the hell have you been?!

BOBBY

Sorry I'm late, Ms. Pennywise. I was up all night thinking, is all.

PENNY

Up all night thinking, is it?! You work here now, Bobby, you don't need to go in the bushes anymore.

I wasn't -

BOBBY

PENNY
Like father, like son, that's what I say. Now let's get to work.

BOBBY
But it was about my father that I was thinking, Ms. Pennywise. About what happened to him yesterday. About what's happening to all of us.

PENNY
He broke the law yesterday, Bobby, and that's the end of it.

BOBBY
But what if the law is wrong?
(Pause.)

PENNY
What did you say?

BOBBY
I said, what if the law is wrong, Ms. Pennywise?! What if all this is wrong?!

PENNY
Wrong?! You've got a sweet-lookin' head, Bobby, a sweet-lookin' head!
(Begin vamp for "Look at the Sky.")

#8 Look At The Sky

PENNY
But you keep it up there in the clouds day after day after day, and it's gotta come down from there. You hear me?! Get that head out of the clouds, Bobby Strong! You get it out of the clouds!

TINY TOM

Let's bring our message of hate to the entire world!

HOT BLADES HARRY

Easy, friend, a message like ours works best under extremely unbalanced circumstances.

LITTLE BECKY TWO-SHOES

Such as we have right here?

HOT BLADES HARRY

Exactly. Now, get the rope.

TINY TOM

That's right, the rope.

(BOBBY and JOSEPHINE enter the secret hideout unseen.)

LITTLE BECKY TWO-SHOES

String her up. That's the answer. String up the strumpet daughter of the criminal urinal chain owner Cladwell!

SOUPY SUE

Kill her!

ROBBY THE STOCKFISH

Hang her!

LITTLE BECKY TWO-SHOES

Kill her!

BOBBY

Enough!

THE POOR

Whaa-?!

LITTLE SALLY

Bobby Strong.

BOBBY

No one's going to be killing anyone around here.

HOT BLADES HARRY

Why not?

JOSEPHINE

Because she's our security blanket, that's why!

SOUPY SUE

But we're so afraid, Bobby. Killing her might make us feel powerful for a moment.

BOBBY

Friends, I know you're afraid. But this has got to be about more than just revenge and the vicarious thrill of stringing someone up who can't defend herself.

LITTLE BECKY TWO-SHOES

But why? We want to hang her as revenge for her father's crimes.

LITTLE SALLY

I think he's just in love with her, that's what I think.

BOBBY

Maybe I am.

ALL

Whaa-?

BOBBY

And maybe I made a promise up there. A promise that from this day forward, no man would be denied his essential humanity due to the condition of his pocketbook. That no man in need would be ignored by another with the means to help him. Here and now, from this day forward, because of you, and you, and you, we will look into the faces of our fellow men and see not only a brother, but a sister as well.

HOT BLADES HARRY

What is that supposed to mean?

SOUPY SUE

When did he say that?

TINY TOM

I don't remember him saying that.

LITTLE BECKY TWO-SHOES

All I remember him saying was "Run! Run for your lives! Run!"

BOBBY

Well, that was in the heat of battle. And in the heat - the actual hotness of battle - the cry of freedom sounds something like