

SCENE 1

After the overture (**Mongoose #1**), the curtains open. In black out, we hear the faint sound of clocks ticking. We hear the breathing of a young woman, sleeping-- good, deep breaths. A door creaks open and a dim light reveals the silhouette of a woman sleeping in a bed, and a man creeping in the door. The ticking of the clocks and the breathing grow louder. The man tiptoes up to the woman and pulls out a blindfold. He gently raises her head and begins to tie the blindfold around her. He lets go and she finally starts awake.

ONA

(in an amplified whispery-gasp)

Jurgis!!

He lights a candle, revealing his face.

JURGIS

Shhhhh.

ONA

(Sighs.)

You're the one that's not supposed to see me!

JURGIS

I want you to only listen. Just listen.

ONA

Jurgis--

JURGIS

5,4,3,2,1--

He is silenced by a beautiful symphony of chiming-- what sounds like hundreds of alarm clocks, all orchestrated to chime together in harmony. As ONA begins to laugh softly, the lights fade up.

ONA

Jurgis...you made them...for me. You made a symphony!

Jurgis throws his arms around her and kisses her. The symphony fades down.

JURGIS
Happy Wedding Day.

They kiss, long and tender, but then
Ona pulls away.

ONA
But you're not supposed to see me!

JURGIS
I thought I just wasn't supposed to see you in the dress.

ONA
No!! That was up until today. Now you're not supposed to
see me at all!

JURGIS
But you can't see me seeing you. Does that mean anything?

ONA
No! That's silly!

JURGIS
Oh, *that's* silly.

All of a sudden ANTANAS, a wise and
tired mother, whose eyes still sparkle,
bursts into the room.

ANTANAS
Jurgis! I thought I heard some display of alarm clock
nonsense!

JURGIS
Mom, I made a symphony!

ANTANAS
You should get out of here. You're not supposed to see her.

JURGIS
I don't understand you women and your superstitions.

ANTANAS
(Calling out.)
Stanislovas!

STANISLOVAS, a young 13-year-old, runs
into the room.

STANISLOVAS
What, Mom?

ANTANAS
Get your brother out of here.

STANISLOVAS

I don't want to.

ANTANAS

He is not supposed to see Ona yet today.

STANISLOVAS

I thought he just couldn't see her in her dress.

JURGIS

No! That was up until today. Today I'm not supposed to see her at all.

STANISLOVAS

OK. Then why are you in here?

Stanislovas walks away. Jurgis sighs and follows him out the door.

ANTANAS

You know, I believe in tradition. I don't believe in superstitions.

ONA

I believe in believing in them.

Antanas grabs Ona's hand and spins away her nightgown into her wedding dress. Guests enter, transforming the bedroom to a Wedding reception. Guests sing **Ceremony** (NEW) as they gather around and admire Ona, who is not used to this much attention, though it is much deserved. As the song continues, they form an aisle for Ona to walk down and she meets Jurgis at the end of it. They stand as if at the altar, as the singing continues.

MALE GUESTS

I ALWAYS KNEW THEY'D BE TOGETHER.

FEMALE GUESTS

I ALWAYS HOPED HE'D HAVE THE NERVE.

MALE GUESTS

SHE WAS A QUIET BEAUTY.

FEMALE GUESTS

AND HE WAS READY TO BE HERS.

ALL

WHEN THEY MET THEY FELT A SPARK
AND ON THIS DAY THE FLAME BURNS FOREVER.

MALE GUESTS

I WILL PROTECT YOU ALWAYS.

FEMALE GUESTS

I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR GUIDE.

MALE GUESTS

I'LL NEVER LET ANYONE HARM YOU.

FEMALE GUESTS

AND I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE.

They kiss in silence and, as soon as
they are done, the reception begins.
Gateway (#12).

GUESTS

FILL THE ROOM WITH MUSIC
EVERYBODY DANCE
TAKE THE TIME TO CELEBRATE
NEWLYWED ROMANCE.

FEMALE GUESTS

HE'LL TELL HER HE LOVES HER.

MALE GUESTS

SHE'LL TELL HIM WHAT TO DO.
FINALLY JURGIS GETS SOME.
WE'RE GONNA GET SOME, TOO.

GUESTS

JUST AS I TOOK A BITE OF LIFE
TROUBLE BROKE MY TEETH.
BANKERS TOOK MY DOLLARS.

STANISLOVAS

NOW I CAN'T AFFORD STUFF.

GUESTS

FLEAS CHEWED UNDER MY COLLAR.

STANISLOVAS

AND I REALLY CAN'T STAND IT.

ALL

EVERY ONE HAS LOST A LOVED ONE

STANISLOVAS

AND IT SUCKS THAT THEY ARE NEVER COMING

ALL

BACK AGAIN, SO LET'S DRINK TO THEM!
SANCTIFY THE BANQUET!
DRINK THE HOLY BEER!

(MORE)

ALL (CONT'D)

BLESS THE SACRED BOOGIE-DOWN,
HOLD YOUR LADY NEAR
IF YOU'RE FEELING NERVOUS;
NO NEED TO BE ALONE!
SATISFY THE WALLFLOWERS-
GIVE A DOG A BONE!

Gradually the wedding guests grow drunk and tired and filter out, finally leaving Jurgis and Ona alone. Back in their bedroom, they collapse, exhausted. Jurgis slides over to her.

JURGIS

Alone at last.

ONA

At last...

Jurgis pulls her in with a kiss. She kisses for a moment, but then pulls away.

JURGIS

What's wrong?

ONA

We shouldn't have...we didn't need to have the Reynolds there. Or the Monroes. They drank too much and they aren't that close to our families.

JURGIS

Ona, it was such a lovely night, please...

ONA

I'm sorry it's just, whisky is expensive, and, they could have had wine. We only have to pay for what was opened and I noticed there was one bottle--

JURGIS

Ona! Shhhhh.

He pulls her in and caresses her head.

ONA

I'm so sorry. To be this way...it's our wedding day.

JURGIS

I will find a way to make you never have to be this way again.

ONA

Are you thinking of....giving up...the business.

JURGIS

No! I won't need to! Didn't you see all those new clocks I built? They're irreplaceable. When I take them out to the street they're going to fly out of my hands. Just wait and see. Then you will never have to worry. There will be food on the table. All four food groups for every meal-- 3 meals a day. And at least two snacks. And always dessert before bed. We'll have a house built with a bay window in the bedroom. We'll even buy satin sheets. No, silk!

ONA

(joining in)

Silk sheets! And, we'll be able to have days...with just me and you...and the sheets....engulfing us...all around. And we'll go to the symphony. No! We'll have the symphony over to our bedroom, so we can have the silk sheets and the symphony all at once!

JURGIS

You won't have to mend your own clothes ever again. Your clothes will be so high-quality that they will never tear, and if they do, we will hire a seamstress. Or better yet, buy something new!

ONA

And we won't have to be here...in this city. We can be somewhere else. Where there's umbrellas in the drinks, but still snow in the winter, but never, ever any cold rain. And we'll have all sorts of interesting neighbors from all over the whole world. And none of them will drink whisky. Just fancy umbrella drinks.

JURGIS

And you can decorate the nursery however you want. With whatever you want.

ONA

And the silk sheets...and you...all around.

JURGIS

I will find a way.

ONA

We will find a way.

Ona wraps herself in sheets and begins to sing **Love is a Palace** (#2).

ONA (CONT'D)

LOVE IS A PALACE
BUILT ON THE DEEDS WE'VE DONE
AND EVERY DAY OUR FORTUNE RISES WITH THE SUN

ONA (CONT'D)

THE GREATEST OF EASE
IS ONLY AN OCEAN AWAY
WE BEGAN THE VOYAGE TODAY
WE'LL TAKE EVERYTHING WE'VE KNOWN
AND BURY IT IN THE SOIL
FREEDOM MEANS PROSPERITY
LOVE IS A PALACE BOUGHT CHEAPER THAN FREE

Ona leans in, and Jurgis kisses her passionately.

CHORUS

SLIDE!
SLIDE.

JURGIS

Beautiful.

ONA

What?

JURGIS

You. Your voice.

ONA

Jurgis--

JURGIS

I will find a way.
(He places his hand on her stomach.)

For the three of us.

SCENE 2

Jurgis begins to set up his clocks on the street. A CABBIE sits frustrated in a cab. A SANDWICH BOARD PERSON wearing a sign that says "Large Pizza- \$5" stands on the corner. Throughout the scene, various people walk past Jurgis, and the Sandwich Board Person, distracted by their digital watches, cell phone clocks, and razzle-dazzle street jugglers, etc.

CABBIE

What the fuck! I was here first! We're in a line! A line that *I* started because *I* knew there was a big show at the Aragon.

SANDWICH BOARD PERSON

I've got cheap pizza. Cheaper than their pizza. Doesn't matter if our pizza's crappy because it's cheap.

JURGIS

I would like to sell my clocks.
 Would you like to buy a clock?
 This one is an antique. My father made it when he was still alive. He had amazing, unique talent.
 Would you like to buy my clock?
 This one is a rare beauty. It's kind of like a coo-coo clock, and kind of like a music box. Each hour a little ballerina dances in a circle, a different path each time. It will help you to take a moment each hour to pause--

CABBIE

I know he's got the beaded seat cover and the little pine tree air freshener hanging off his mirror. Yeah, that spells legit for you. I know it. But you know what? You can drive a cab without a seat cover or an air freshener.

SANDWICH BOARD PERSON

Doesn't matter if our pizza's crappy because I can tap dance in this sign.

He does so.

CABBIE

You can be a regular fucking guy with a fucking driver's license and a good sense of direction trying to make his way and you can drive a fucking cab.

SANDWICH BOARD PERSON

(Stops dancing, out of breath.)

I'm definitely trying hardest. Does that mean anything?

JURGIS

Would you like to buy my clock?
 This one looks like a watch, but you don't have to wear it.
 Please buy my clock!
 This one is my favorite. A standard beauty. No bells and whistles. It just tells the time. It just does what it has to do--

All the characters on the street stop suddenly and sing:

CHORUS

REALITY TALKIN'
 YOU'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE BROKE
 THOSE CLOCKS WON'T TELL THE TIME
 DID YOU THINK THIS WAS A JOKE?

The people return to whatever they were doing. Night falls and Jurgis is left alone on the street, all clocks still there. Just as he is about to pack up, a man with incredible confidence and charm approaches him-- BOSS GUY.

BOSS GUY

How much?

JURGIS

Excuse me?

BOSS GUY

(Holding up a clock)

How much for this one?

JURGIS

Oh! That's--\$100. It has a beautiful chime! Let me--

BOSS GUY

I'll take it!

JURGIS

But you haven't even--

BOSS GUY

It's a beautiful clock! I want it.

He gives Jurgis \$100. Ona walks onto the scene, unbeknownst to them.

BOSS GUY (CONT'D)

Clocks like this are rare--

ONA

Around here.

BOSS GUY

Exactly.

JURGIS

Ona, what are you--

ONA

Jurgis, please come home. I made dinner!

JURGIS

If you'll excuse us, sir, we're on our honeymoon, so--

BOSS GUY

Honeymoon! Here!

JURGIS

Well, it's an at-home honeymoon.

BOSS GUY

With you working on the street!

ONA

We do what we can, sir.

BOSS GUY

I am very moved by you! Look at this! Two beautiful, hard working, young, modest people. That is also rare around here!

ONA

It certainly is.

BOSS GUY

What a sight, oh, what a sight! Hard work, beautiful products, but you are left with nothing but misery!! My, my! Ha, ha!

JURGIS

Is this funny to you, sir?

BOSS GUY

Heavens, no!! Oh, please don't get me wrong, though I see how you could. But, no, I do not laugh at your pain, but at its innecessity!

JURGIS

I'm not following--

BOSS GUY

Allow me to introduce myself.

(he, in a choreographed fashion, pulls out a business card for both Jurgis and Ona. He also gives them a copy of a newspaper from his city)

I am the Executive President of New Resident Cultivation for a New Community. A Community that focuses on growth, progress, and collaborative team-building! A community that allows individual growth and team growth to assimilate into one another with favorable exponential rates. A community based not only on the pursuit of, but also the fulfillment of, the American Dream!

JURGIS

All that in one place!

BOSS GUY

Yes! Yes! Yes!

JURGIS

Amazing.

BOSS GUY

Amazing! Yes! But even more important than all of that is this!

(He points proudly at himself.)

ONA

You?

BOSS GUY

The way I am! My happiness!

(He does a little skip-jump.)

JURGIS

You are a funny man!

BOSS GUY

Funny because I'm different. I know true, complete joy. Here, that is far out of your reach.

ONA

How is the weather?

JURGIS

Ona?! What a funny question. You can see rain clouds as well as I.

ONA

No, *there*.

BOSS GUY

Rain as well. But never any *cold* rain, my dear.

He grabs her hand and begins to sing
Imagine This (#3).

BOSS GUY (CONT'D)

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE GOING TO WORK. BUT WORK ISN'T WORK.

JURGIS

WHAT IS WORK?

BOSS GUY

WORK IS LOVE.

ONA

WORK IS LOVE?

BOSS GUY

WORK IS LOVE.

BOSS GUY (CONT'D)

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE COMING HOME AT THE END OF YOUR DAY.
IMAGINE GOING TO SLEEP KNOWING YOU HAD BROUGHT JOY.

JURGIS

I HAD BROUGHT JOY.

BOSS GUY

YOU HAD BROUGHT JOY. AND HAPPINESS. TO PEOPLE. TO THE
WORLD.

ONA

TO THE WORLD?

BOSS GUY

TO THE WORLD.

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE BEING AT WORK WITH PEOPLE WHO SHARE
YOUR PASSION. WORKING *WITH* THEM AND NOT AGAINST THEM.

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE THAT COMMUNITY IS ENOUGH. IMAGINE ALL
YOU HAVE TO DO IS WANT TO BE A PART OF IT AND THEN-- YOU ARE.
IMAGINE..

JURGIS

IMAGINE.

ONA

IMAGINE?

BOSS GUY

Now stop.

JURGIS

Stop.

ONA

Stop?

BOSS GUY

Stop imagining. Just go.
This place is real. There's no better place. That's a
promise.

(He gives Jurgis another \$20.)

You need this in order to survive.

Boss Guy chuckles joyfully and exits,
whistling, with a skip in his step.

JURGIS

What a pleasant man!

ONA

Jurgis. Oh, Jurgis, don't you wish we really could?

JURGIS
What?

ONA
Stop imagining.

JURGIS
We can, Ona. I don't imagine. I plan for the future.

ONA
But that is now!

JURGIS
No, the future is always in the future. There will always be a future.

ONA
Let's make it brighter. Bright and shining!

JURGIS
In this place.

ONA
Do you think we could?

JURGIS
Growth and progress. Bright and shining. That's how we're building our life Ona! You are my wife. If you say you want it, consider it done!

ONA
Really? We can just....do?

JURGIS
There's nothing keeping us here!

ONA
What about--

JURGIS
My family will come with us!

They grasp hands. Ona kisses Jurgis.
They run off stage.

SCENE 3

Lights come up on Antanas scrubbing dishes in her home. She talks to herself.

ANTANAS
Genius puppies? They want me to write about...genius puppies!!

(MORE)

ANTANAS (CONT'D)

Fluffy can tell the difference between Tic-Tacs and Altoids by scent. Doober can wipe his own nose with tissue. Spikey Joe can do a somersault while barking "Happy Birthday". So this is what it's come to. I want to tell the world about the world. How to live in it. How to save it. How to embrace it. Not puppies. Genius puppies!!

She drops a glass on the ground. It shatters. She begins to sweep it up as Stanislovas enters slamming the door.

STANISLOVAS

It sucks, mom!

ANTANAS

It does not *suck*. It is unfortunate.

STANISLOVAS

I get all Fs. AND I'm a dork! It's supposed to be one or the other.

ANTANAS

You're not stupid and you're not dorky. Now pull yourself together. There are bigger problems.

STANISLOVAS

But they put gum in my hair!

ANTANAS

I have to tell you something.

STANISLOVAS

They said my binder is "last year".

ANTANAS

Listen--

STANISLOVAS

And I got an F. Teacher said I didn't even spell my name, right. But my name is Stanislovas for Gosh Darn Sake! Tom has an unfair advantage!

ANTANAS

Complaining will get you no where. You have to act on your problems.

STANISLOVAS

But I'm not strong enough to beat them up!

ANTANAS

You know that's not what I mean.

STANISLOVAS

What kind of action?

ANTANAS

Listen. Today I had a problem with what I was asked to do at my job. My morals were challenged. So I decided I no longer wanted to work there.

STANISLOVAS

You quit your job!

ANTANAS

Yes.

STANISLOVAS

Great! Now I'll be stupid, dorky, and poor.

ANTANAS

Stanislovas!

STANISLOVAS

Wait-- does this mean I can quit school?

ANTANAS

Stanislovas, that's enough!

Jurgis and Ona rush into the house,
giddily.

JURGIS

Oh, mom, we have something to tell you! Look!

Jurgis hands Antanas the newspaper her
got from Boss Guy. She pages through
it as Ona **reprises Imagine This** (NEW).
Singing and talking overlap.

ONA

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE GOING TO WORK. BUT WORK ISN'T WORK.

ANTANAS

Largest factory in the country. Who wants to work at a large
factory? Who wants to be lost amongst a crowd?

ONA

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE COMING HOME AT THE END OF YOUR DAY.
IMAGINE GOING TO SLEEP KNOWING YOU HAD BROUGHT JOY.

ANTANAS

More middle management opportunities than anywhere else in
the world. Who wants to be in the middle? Isn't that the
worst place to be?

ONA

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE BEING AT WORK WITH PEOPLE WHO SHARE
YOUR PASSION.

ANTANAS

A factory that plays music for the community. Who wants to hear music chosen by a factory? I have my own CDs!

She then sees the ad for a "Truth Seeker".

ONA

IMAGINE THIS.

ANTANAS

A truth seeker?

ONA

IMAGINE THIS.

ANTANAS

A Truth Seeker!

ONA

IMAGINE THIS.

ANTANAS

Progressional Press is seeking a "Truth Seeker".

ONA

IMAGINE THIS.

ANTANAS

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE BEING A JOURNALIST FOR THE TRUTH

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE TEACHING THE WORLD ABOUT THE WORLD ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND ALL THE THINGS THEY LIVE FOR

IMAGINE THIS. IMAGINE WEARING THE BADGE OF A TRUTH SEEKER TO SAVE THE WORLD AND EMBRACE IT!

JURGIS

Mom, we need this in order to survive. Will you please come with us?

Love Is a Palace, Part 2 (#2, cont.)

ANTANAS

THIS CAUTION'S AN ANVIL THAT I SHAPE MY FATE UPON
THE PALACE HAS SPOKEN
SPIRIT
BROKEN.

IF ITS A MATTER OF SINK OR SWIM
I SHOULD DEFINITELY LEARN HOW TO SWIM.

STANISLOVAS

What about me? Do you need me?

JURGIS
 (rolling his eyes)
 Well, we can't very well leave you behind, can we?

The music builds.

ONA, ANTANAS, STANISLOVAS
 I WILL NEVER RETURN!
 AND I'M NOT SAYING GOODBYE!
 INVITED BY STRUCTURES THAT TELL ME TO SLIDE!

SCENE 4

In blackout:

STANISLOVAS
 Are we there yet?

Lights go up on Jurgis, Ona, Antanas,
 and Stanislovas in a new land. They
 look around, confused.

JURGIS
 Yes! Here we are!

ONA
 We are!

ANTANAS
 Here.

They stand in silent confusion for
 another moment. There is a clap of
 thunder and in silence they all open up
 their umbrellas.

ONA
 Well, it's not *cold*.

JURGIS
 No! Not cold at all!

They hold hands. Finally, music is
 heard in the distance.

JURGIS (CONT'D)
 Do you hear that? That must be the giant factory!

ONA
 The factory that plays music!

JURGIS
 Let's go see.