

SOMETIMES A FANTASY

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - NIGHT

BILLY JOEL is playing the last few notes of "Sometimes A Fantasy" on his piano. After a grueling 831 performances at The Garden, the crowd is putty in his hands. He hits the final note, and the crowd roars and claps as Billy accepts their adoration.

BILLY

Thank you. Thank you.

A single voice rings out above the rest of the audience.

CLARK

Shows us the gnome! Let us see him!
Right guys? We want the gnome!

Paying CLARK no mind, Billy continues to wave to the crowd and blow kisses.

CLARK (CONT'D)

Don't you dare ignore me Billy, we know the truth. Show us the gnome that writes all your songs! Right guys?

Billy tries to keep ignoring the heckling, but he breaks down and addresses Clark.

BILLY

There's no Gnome. I don't know what you're talking about.

CLARK

You know, the rumors that you have a magical gnome in your piano.

BILLY

There's definitely no gnome in my piano-

CLARK

They say he wrote "Piano Man" Billy!

BILLY

(to the crowd)
Alright do you guys wanna hear-

CLARK

They say he wrote 'em all Billy. Each and every one. They say you're a fraud!

BILLY
Somebody get this guy outta here!

CLARK
And I say it too!
(Tries to get the crowd
chanting along)
Show us the gnome! Show us the
gnome! Show us the gnome!

No one joins his chant. A SECURITY GUARD enters and restrains Clark.

BILLY
Get him out of here!

CLARK
(while being dragged off)
We want the gnome! We want him
solo!

With Clark gone, Billy Joel regains his composure and greets the crowd with a forced smile.

BILLY
Alright do you guys wanna hear
"Vienna" or "The Stranger"?

Suddenly, a distinct thumping sound heard. It seems to be coming from inside Billy's piano. A faint, muffled, and extraordinarily high-pitched voice speaks.

MUFFLED VOICE
Let me out of here Billy, they want
the Gnome!

BILLY
Excuse me ladies and gentlemen, I
gotta take a brief, unannounced,
intermission...and so does my
piano.

BILLY JOEL wheels his piano backstage. When he can no longer be seen, the piano's lid opens up and out jumps XAVIER THE MAGICAL GNOME.

BILLY (CONT'D)
What the fuck do you think you're
doing Xavier? Are you trying to
undermine my entire career?

XAVIER
What do you mean your career? I
wrote all the hits.

BILLY

You know the deal. I tell you what to write about because the world wouldn't accept you on your own. You need me. You need The Joel.

XAVIER

You heard them Billy. They're ready for the gnome.

BILLY

That's not the deal-

XAVIER

The deal is shit Billy!
(singsongy)
It's shit, and you know it!

BILLY

Come finish the set, we'll talk about this later.

XAVIER

No, we're talking about this now
Billy, Now!

Xavier points accusatorially at Billy. Though he is four feet taller than Xavier, Billy starts to quake with fear.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

You said the world wasn't ready to accept me, but the world has accepted a lot of new crazy things Billy. Crazier things than the ideas of a magical gnome.

BILLY

Your ideas are crap, they've always been crap, and the always will be crap! You've grown blind of how much you need The Joel!

XAVIER

I'm sick of letting you control me Billy. When I wanted to write a song about Gumdrop Mountain and you wanted me to write a song about a Russian clown, which song did we write Billy?

BILLY

We have to go finish the set!

XAVIER

No! I'm finishing the set, my way.
The people are ready to embrace me.
You heard 'em Billy!

Xavier struggles to push the piano out onstage. It takes all the strength in his tiny gnome body.

BILLY

That was just one guy.

Xavier makes it onstage and hops up on the piano bench.

XAVIER

Hello everyone, I'm Xavier The
Magical Gnome! You don't know me,
but I wrote all of Billy Joel's
songs...except for Captain Jack. He
did that one.

Clark runs back in, he's broken free of the guards.

CLARK

Yes! Oh my god! It's a magic
fucking gnome! Thank you Billy!

XAVIER

No, Thank you... here's a new song..

Xavier begins to dance and sing with his gratingly high falsetto.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

(sung)

Sugar doll girlfriend wants to talk
Gumdrop mountain with a candy lock
Nobody can eat my sweets today
Not on gumdrop day
Unicorn uncles come and go
But candy is forever that I know
Nobody can eat my sweets today
Not on gumdrop day
Magical ponies of cinnamon
Regular ponies-

CLARK

Booo! Play "The Stranger".

The rest of the crowd joins in the booing. Xavier senses them turning on him, so he tries to save face.

XAVIER

Wait! Wait! Let me try an old one!
These are the original lyrics for
"We Didn't Start the Fire"!

Xavier sings and dances to the tune of "We Didn't Start The Fire".

XAVIER (CONT'D)

(sung)

Harry Truman, candy cane,
Rainbow bridges, Drury lane
Apple crumble, choco taco,
Joe DiMaggio
Candy bracelet, Richard Nixon,
Little troll man, Mason Dixon
Jelly kittens, pancake mittens
Marilyn Monroe-

The crowd erupts with booing and jeering. They hate Xavier.

CLARK

This sucks! We want The Joel. Show
us The Joel!

XAVIER

You were right Billy! The world
wasn't ready!
(deafening gnomish scream)
AHHHHHH!

Xavier runs offstage with his head in his hands. "Captain Jack" begins to play.

BLACKOUT