

The Ballad of Bobby McStone
by
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EXT. STORKCO BABY FACTORY ON A CLOUD - DAY

Fade in to fog as the camera rises out of the clouds to reveal a classic farm front porch with a huge factory rising behind it. The farm and factory sit on a foundation of clouds. This is the StorkCo Baby Factory.

The music of OVERTURE starts.

Sitting on the porch is the FACTORY MANAGER, an old man with gray hair and a beard. He is in an armless rocking chair and holds a guitar which he is strumming.

FACTORY MANAGER

(sings)

Gather round people, whoever you
are
And I'll tell you how one boy
became a star

Next to the porch is the Storkco loading dock type launch pad. We see various storks taking off with their bundles of joy. It is a bustling situation, and one baby package is inadvertently placed near the Factory Manager's feet. We see that the tag reads "Bobby MCSTONE. Deliver to BENAMIN AND LINDA MCSTONE, 840 Led Zep Lane, Rockingham, CA 90066.

FACTORY MANAGER (CONT'D)

And when you get sad and you feel
all alone
Remember the ballad of Bobby
McStone

Factory Manager strums the last chords as he looks down and locks eyes with the cute baby boy in the package. They share a look for a beat. He then looks up and gets the attention of a stork supervisor, FRED.

FACTORY MANAGER (CONT'D)

Pssst.

Factory Manager nods to the baby package. Fred looks embarrassed, picks up the baby package and hands it to the next DELIVERY STORK in line.

The OVERTURE ends and THE BALLAD OF Bobby MCSTONE kicks in as the Stork takes flight. Factory Manager is singing this one, and we cut back and forth between him and the DELIVERY STORK as he flies down through the clouds and over an idealized town, Rockingham.

EXT. CLOUDS AND SKY OVER THE TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM - DAY

FACTORY MANAGER

(Sings)

Bobby McStone, welcome to your life
It won't be easy, struggle and
strife
Heartache and pain is the only way
through
Bobby McStone, good luck to you

Credits appear as the Stork flies into the town. The appear on a blimp, on a banner pulled by a plane, on billboards, on posters on the street, as signs in the store fronts, etc...

FACTORY MANAGER (CONT'D)

Bobby McStone, you're born with a
chance
To sing people happy, and play
people dance
But you'll need more than talent,
to get by in this world
You're gonna need the love, of a
very special girl

We see Polly, another baby in a pink sling, delivered by a stork to a house a few blocks from the McStone's.

FACTORY MANAGER (CONT'D)

When people say you're just a
dreamer,
You gotta tell 'em that they're
right
And though they try to put you
down,
Don't ever give up the fight

EXT. TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM - DAY

The DELIVERY STORK flies down to see the street names. He passes Penny Lane, Shakin' Street, E Street, then finally finds Led Zep Lane and turns down it.

FACTORY MANAGER

(sings)

Bobby McStone, beleive the songs
you write
If you try to fake it, it won't
come out right
Don't try to hide your feelings,
cause you think you're being cool
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FACTORY MANAGER (CONT'D)

Your lies will be transparent, and
people will just see through you

EXT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

The DELIVERY STORK lands in front of 840 Led Zep Lane. It is a typical suburban house with a white picket fence surrounding a yard with a lawn.

FACTORY MANAGER

Bobby you can use your guitar
To say what you want to say
With a little bit of practice
There's nothing you can't play

The DELIVERY STORK enters the gate and walks up to the door. He looks down at Bobby and smiles with a sigh. He sets his package down gently, reaches up and rings the doorbell, and then turns and flies away. The door opens and LINDA MCSTONE, followed by BEN MCSTONE happily pick up their new baby. They stand on the porch oogling over him as the camera flies away, following the perspective of the stork, who's looking back over his shoulder.

FACTORY MANAGER (CONT'D)

Bobby McStone, forget what others
say
You'll always have your music, no
one can take it away
You are very special, let us have
no doubt
This is your ballad, and it's what
you're all about

Fade back into fog.

TITLE CARD: SIX YEARS LATER

The fog clears and we can see the McStone residence, this time with various balls, bikes, and other toys around the yard.

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

The first minor chords of SO STRANGE begin and introduce a note of dread. Various toys (cars, GI Joes, Legos, balls) are scattered around the living room. BOBBY MCSTONE sits at the upright piano, picking out notes. Outside the window we can see it's a sunny day and other kids are running around, riding bikes, playing ball. Ben and Linda sit at the kitchen table observing him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

(sings)

He won't play with cars or GI Joes
He'd rather plunk around on the old
piano
He doesn't like the toys we buy him
We got him some legos, but he won't
even try 'em

The doorbell rings. Ben answers it and calls to Bobby. It's his friend SONNY holding a game boy. He gestures to Bobby to come and play, but Bobby shakes his head and points to the piano. Sonny shrugs and leaves.

BEN (CONT'D)

All the other kids think he's
insane
Cause he don't want to play with
video games
Well I wonder what we did
To raise such a weird kid
Bobby is so strange, he's oh so
strange
He has my name but he's not the
same
Bobby is so strange, he's oh so
strange

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Ben and Linda are looking in on Bobby, saying good night. Bobby pretends to sleep, but when he thinks that his parents are gone, he pulls out a walkman radio and puts the headphones on. Ben looks in and sees this, shakes his head.

BEN

I'm worried about the boy
Something isn't right
When he finally goes to bed
He keeps the oldies station, on all
night

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

Ben walks into the front room. Many records are scattered all across the floor. An ancient receiver is on and some large headphones are connected to it.

BEN

We can't leave him by himself
If we do, every record's off the
shelf

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

Life is hard, and kids can be cruel
 A kid that into music, just won't
 be cool
 Bobby is so strange, he's oh so
 strange
 He's sure got brains, but he sure
 is strange
 Bobby is so strange, he's oh so
 strange

Ben picks up the headphones and puts them to his ear. He winces because the music is so loud.

BEN (CONT'D)

Well he listens to his headphones
 With the volume way too high
 And when I tell him to turn it down
 He just asks me why

Ben continues his rant, getting frustrated. Linda looks on sadly, concerned. She looks into Bobby's room and sees him playing his cheap small nylon string acoustic guitar with his back to them.

BEN (CONT'D)

Bobby is so strange, he's oh so
 strange
 He's sure got brains, but he sure
 is strange
 Bobby is so strange, he's oh so
 strange

SO STRANGE ends. Ben throws up his hands and sits down. Linda begins cleaning up the records. There is a beat of silence and tension as Linda looks at Ben.

Then the song CUSTODY begins. Close on Bobby's hands as he plays the intro to CUSTODY. Over his shoulder out the bedroom door we can see his mom looking at him lovingly as she cleans up the records. Linda sings:

LINDA

Just because our boy's not like,
 every other kid
 Doesn't mean it must be, something
 that we did
 Listen to him playing, It's a
 beautiful sound
 And he'll just resent us, if we
 keep him down

Linda is singing this to Ben, who sits grumpily on the couch. As she sings she's picking up toys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDA

A child is a magic thing, he should
bring us together
But this is a storm, I don't know
if we can weather
Bobby's filled with something, many
folks won't see
He'll need a lot of loving, so it's
up to you and me

Ben scowls and picks up the remote, angrily clicking the TV on.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Instead of showing him what you
know
You scowl and watch a T V show
If this keeps up we're gonna leave
And I'll get custody

Linda turns off the TV and steps in front of it.

LINDA (CONT'D)

The funny thing to me is, you were
a musician too
If anyone would understand, I'd
think it would be you
Open up your heart, Ben, and you'll
see that nothing's wrong
And it'll all work out, if we just
help him along

Ben gets up and they stalk around the room as Linda continues singing the chorus.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I hope this doesn't mean the end
I don't think it has to Ben
Just open up your heart
So we don't fall apart

As Linda sings this to Ben, we see Bobby looking out his door, not noticed by his parents. He is shocked and saddened by what he sees.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Try to think about your son, and
not about yourself
He's very special, and he's gonna
need our help
Consider this a warning, if you
stay on your present course

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LINDA(CONT'D)

I'm gonna take Bobby, and file for
divorce
I hope this doesn't mean the end
I don't think it has to Ben
Just open up your heart
So we don't fall apart

Bobby closes his door and his parents look up, realizing that he has heard their fight. They look at each other guiltily.

INT. BOBBY'S ROOM - DAY

Bobby's room has pictures of his favorite rock and rollers up on the walls. Classics like Eddie Cochran, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Elvis, the Boss. There is a desk with a lamp and a small casio keyboard. There is a bed and a nightstand with a boombox on it. A Walkman also sits by the bed. Various copies of guitar player and guitar world magazine are scattered around.

Bobby looks sad. He gets out some paper and a pencil and puts them on his desk. He picks up his guitar sits down at the desk and begins playing the chords to LOVE SONG FOR MY PARENTS.

Bobby sings, plays, and writes lyrics down.

BOBBY

(sings)

I'm gonna write a love song for my
parents
I'll sing it to them when they
fight
And maybe if they listen to me
Everything will be all right
I can't stand it when they're
fighting
Especially when it's about me
But if I write them their own love
song
That might save our family

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby is now standing in front of his parents who sit on the couch. He is wearing his guitar and singing his love song which he wrote for them.

BOBBY

I hate it when they fight about me
I'm a strange one it is true

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

But there's no reason for them to
argue
Cause there's nothing they can do

Bobby's parents fight back tears, hold each other's hands.

I wish my parents wouldn't fight so
I feel guilty and it makes me sad
I wish they'd get on like they used
to
And stop treating each other bad

As the guitar solo plays, Ben and Linda get up and hug Bobby. They are crying. They bring him into the kitchen and get out some ice cream. They all eat ice cream and smile. Then they take Bobby into his bedroom and tuck him in.

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Ben and Linda are sitting over the empty ice cream bowls talking, arguing quietly. Bobby peers out of the crack in his door. Bobby returns to his bed and puts on his walkman headphones.

In his bed, Bobby sings:

BOBBY

Sometimes I listen to my headphones
With the volume way up high
Cause when I can hear them fighting
It always makes me cry

FADE OUT

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

It's the next day. The MCSTONE family sits around the table eating breakfast as the music to IT'S UP TO YOU NOW Bobby BEGINS. They finish breakfast, and Linda clears the dishes. Ben sings:

BEN

(sings)

Your mom and I've been talking,
about you and your rocking
Your song has made me see, just how
selfish I can be
Instead of worrying what to do, I
should figure out what's best for
you
We can compromise and set up some
rules

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ben paces, coming to terms with what he's saying as he says it.

BEN (CONT'D)

If you promise to stick with it and
study hard
and you get a B average on your
report card
The we'll let you keep playing your
guitar
And maybe build a studio out in the
backyard

Ben opens the back door onto a large backyard with a two car garage/workshop. Ben and Linda both sing:

BEN AND LINDA

It's up to you, now Bobby, if you
want to rock and roll
You know the rules, now Bobby, it's
time for you to take control
Getting B's ain't easy, you're
gonna have to work hard
But if you do then you'll get your
reward

Ben gives Linda a look, Linda smiles widely. Ben puts his arm around Bobby and leads him over to to the hall closet. As he sings he digs a tweed Fender guitar case from the back and pulls it out.

BEN

I wanna give your something, so you
know I mean it
It's my old Stratocaster, you've
never seen it
It's probably worth lots of money,
but I'd never sell
I want you to play it, and play it
well
It's in the hall closet all covered
with dust
The neck's probably warped and the
strings turned to rust
But when you flip the latch, and
you open the case
I want to be there to see your face

Bobby opens the guitar case and his eyes widen as he sees a classic fiesta red Fender Stratocaster with a rosewood neck and a vintage yellowed pickguard. He can't believe his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He turns and gives his dad a big hug. Ben gestures at him to pick it up. Ben and Linda sing:

BEN AND LINDA

It's up to you, now Bobby, if you
want to rock and roll
You know the rules, now Bobby, it's
up to you to take control

Bobby picks up the guitar and a pick from the case. He looks it over and begins to strum a couple chords along with the song.

BEN AND LINDA (CONT'D)

Getting B's ain't easy, you're
gonna have to work hard
But if you do then you'll get your
reward

The song ends. Bobby has been tentatively picking out notes and chords on the guitar. Ben gestures for Bobby to let him have it. Ben puts the strap over his shoulder and adjusts a little, remembering the feeling. He takes the pick from Bobby and plays a few soft notes, then he spreads his legs and assumes a rock stance. With a flourish he strikes a D power chord.

BOBBY

Hey dad, is it true that you used
to be in a rock and roll band?

Ben smiles, begins playing the opening power chords to YOUR DADDY USED TO BE A ROCKER.

BEN

(sings)

It's true my son, I've been in your
shoes
Your old man used to play the blues

INT. 70'S ROCK CLUB - NIGHT

Flashback to see Ben as a 70's era rocker, playing the same fiesta red Strat. He's playing in a bar peopled with colorful characters with lots of hair. His band consists of a hippie chick singer / tambourine player, droopy eyed tall bassist with long hair and moustache, drummer with a big afro hairdo, a keyboard player with glasses, and a lead guitar player with sandy long hair and a Flying V guitar. Ben sings with the band:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Country, pop, and a little bit o'
soul
Back then folks just called it rock
and roll
I used to play the rhythm guitar
But I never dreamed of being a star
With my Stratocaster and a Fender
twin
I was having fun, not playing to
win

Cut away to the Fender twin amp with a beer on top,
vibrating. The players smile at each other. They all sing
the chorus:

BEN AND BAND

Your daddy used to be a rocker
Your daddy used to be a rocker
Your daddy used to be a rocker

BEN

Ya, your daddy used to rock and
roll

INT. MCTSONE RESIDENCE - DAY

Cut back to Ben in the house playing the Strat and singing
while Linda and Bobby dance aruond.

BEN

But he don't rock and roll no mo'

INT. 70'S ROCK CLUB - NIGHT

Back to the club as the band breaks it down for the bridge.

BEN

You've heard of Eddie Money
Camera shows the lead guitar
player. It's Eddie Money!
He's a famous man
Did you know your own dad
Played in his high school band
We were called the Hoods and we
were pretty good
We even played some gigs down in
Hollywood

Cut away to "The Hoods" on the bass drum. Then we see Linda
in the audience, her younger more flashy self. Ben sees her
and they make eye contact.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

I met your mom at one of our first
shows
Soon I loved her more than rock and
roll

Another gig, Linda is in the audience and she's pregnant.

BEN (CONT'D)

I finally gave it up when you came
along
I took on more work and forgot my
songs

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

We're back in the house as Ben continues to sing.

BEN

I've got some friends who have
stayed with it
But you know I don't ever miss it

INT. 70'S ROCK CLUB - NIGHT

Back to the club as the whole band sings:

BEN AND BAND

Your daddy used to be a rocker
Your daddy used to be a rocker

They break it down and now the band and the audience are all singing and clapping. Ben is pantomiming clapping over his head. The Hippie chick plays her tambo.

BEN AND BAND (CONT'D)

Your daddy used to be a rocker
Your daddy used to be a rocker
Your daddy used to be a rocker

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

Cut back to the MCSTONE house. When the guitar solo comes in, Ben drops to his knees in a classic pose. Bobby and Linda laugh and dance around. Ben finishes the solo and sings:

BEN

Ya, your daddy used to rock and
roll
But he don't rock and roll no mo'

EXT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

A shot from outside through the window. We see the family hugging. Ben gives Bobby the guitar and he straps it on and starts dancing around, mimicking his dad. The camera flies away and fades into fog.

EXT. STORKCO BABY FACTORY - DAY

The camera comes up on the StorkCo factory, and we see the Factory Manager sitting on the porch again. He is surrounded by storks relaxing at the end of a day's work, sipping lemonade. He sings the OVERTURE 2 as the storks sing harmony:

FACTORY MANAGER AND STORKS

Now that his parents are happy
again
Bobby still has his work cut out
for him
If he doesn't study, and keep up
his grades
He knows the price that will have
to be paid
(The Stratocaster will go unplayed)

Down again through the fog as the song ends.

TITLE CARD: 7 YEARS LATER.

EXT. ANGUS YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Camera comes down to the Angus Young High School, and we see Bobby walking to class. He's walking with his buddies SONNY CALIFORNIA, a blonde surfer dude type, and PERCY SLEDGEHAMMER, a tall and stocky quiet type. The sounds of an active high school fill the air.

The music for SHOOTING FOR B'S starts as he walks into school.

INT. ANGUS YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

They walk through the doors and then down the hall. Bobby sings as he goes down the hall:

BOBBY

I'm going to school and I'm
shooting for B's
Cause my dad is putting on the
squeeze

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bobby enters class and sits down. He pulls out his notebook and begins doodling, drawing a guitar, drawing an amp.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 Shooting for B's in a public school
 Toeing the line and Bending the
 rules
 Shooting for B's to appease my dad
 Cause I can't play if I'm doing bad

The teacher comes in and begins the lecture. Bobby turns the page and starts to pay attention.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 I'm going to school and I'm
 studying hard
 Shooting for a studio in the back
 yard

INT. BOBBY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby studies. He glances at the red strat sitting on it's stand, then steels himself and focuses on the task at hand.

BOBBY
 I'll take time out from practicing
 scales
 Cause I won't get to play guitar if
 I fail
 I'll study hard but when my
 homework's done
 I'll take out my guitar and have
 myself some fun

Bobby closes his book and picks up his guitar and starts noodling.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 I'm gonna have some fun

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The lunch bell rings. Kids stream out. Bobby walks the other way. We see that Bobby has a pick in his hand and is rapidly picking on his belt, practicing his technique.

BOBBY
 When lunchtime comes around
 And everybody hits the playground
 While my friends are playing soccer

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bobby pulls his guitar from his locker.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I get my guitar from my locker

Bobby sits on the grass by the woodshop, his lunch spread out before him, and his guitar in his hands.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
And sit by the woodshop strummin'
Singing softly and taking the sun
in

Sonny and Percy come up and sit down with him to hang out.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I'm in the shade as long as I get
good grades

Bobby plays the solo. As he does he gets up and runs around as Sonny and Percy laugh.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

As Bobby sings the next lines, he's looking over at POLLY, obviously infatuated. She does not notice him. He's got his notebook open and we see a list of classes, grades, and grade points. He's calculating his GPA.

BOBBY
If I get an A in English class
Then I can get a C in math
I just hope that in chemistry
I don't flounder and end up with a
D
I can't get a D

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

School lets out and kids stream out. With his guitar in a gig-bag back pack, Bobby walks out, looking after Polly who walks ahead and meets up with her giggling friends. Bobby is distracted by Percy and Sonny, and they head off together towards Bobby's house. THEY all sing the refrain at the end of the song.

BOBBY, SONNY, PERCY
So I'm shooting for B's
Shooting for B's, yeah
Shooting for B's, yeah
Shooting for B's, yeah

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The song ends as the boys walk into Bobby's house.

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

LINDA

Welcome home boys! Hey, I made you
some cookies for your jam.

BOBBY

(embarrassed)

Mom!

SONNY

Thank you Mrs. McStone!

Percy and Sonny grab cookies as Bobby leads them out the back door, across the yard to the studio.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

This is the garage which Bobby and his father have converted into a rehearsal studio. It's lined with soundproofing foam. There is a drumset, several amps, a PA and microphones, guitar cases and various cables. Several rock and roll posters line the walls. There are no windows.

Bobby opens the door and lets Percy and Sonny in. They look around in wonder and with approval. Percy goes over to the drumset, while Sonny picks up the bass.

SONNY

I like what you've done with the
place!

Bobby picks up the red Strat and turns his amp on. They all noodle for a second, then Bobby breaks into the opening F#m chords of WE'RE A BAND. After the first refrain, Percy and Sonny kick it in and begin playing along. The Bobby sings.

BOBBY

(sings into microphone)

Percy Sledgehammer ain't dumb
Just because he plays the drums
He's really quite sophisticated

They are set up so they are looking at each other, not all in one direction like on stage. Bobby looks at Percy as he sings the above lines. He's getting more and more into it.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

And though he's quiet when he's at
school

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

He's sure loud when he's on his
stool
I really like the way he plays it

Bobby's feeling it now. He looks at Sonny as he sings:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Sonny California plays
Mean old lines upon his bass
He knows where to find the pocket
Set it up, he knocks it down
But he knows he is a clown

Sonny sticks his tounge out at Bobby

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Give him a chance and he can rock
it
Hey man, we're a band
It looks like we really can
Play hey, it sounds OK
Especially for our first day

They exchange looks of joy, smiles.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Playing rock and roll's the best
Way that I've found to express
All the things that I am feeling
When we jam on some old tune
And I go crazy as a loon

Bobby executes a high kick

BOBBY (CONT'D)

The things I play can be revealing
Golly gee, how hard can it be
We're gonna change rock's history
You'll see, it'll be easy
Just tune up and follow me

Bobby steps around the mic and moves closer to the others as he solos. He puts one foot up on the bass drum and strikes a pose. Sonny and Percy are laughing, playing hard.

EXT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

As Bobby plays the solo, the camera goes outside to the front of the house. Ben is parking in the driveway. He gets out of his car, hears the music, wonders what it could be, then smiles realizing what's going on. Linda stands in the doorway beaming and they share a moment.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Bobby steps back to the mic to sing:

BOBBY

We're lucky there's no draft to
dodge
We'll spend all summer in the
garage
Making music and having good times
All we need are a couple of chords
And we won't ever get bored
Trying to figure out what would
rhyme, it's a good time, to blow
your mind, where do I sign, hey man

The boys laugh. Their laughter fades into the laughter and banter of a class full of students as we

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CLASS - DAY

We are in the music room before class has started. It's arranged in rows going up the back like an orchestra with the teacher where the conductor would be. The kids hold various instruments. Bobby holds a school owned acoustic guitar. Percy has a drum pad and sticks and Sonny holds a guitar. Polly sits at a keyboard with her back to Bobby.

MRS. BELL enters and the class becomes silent. She is a feared figure, stern in her conservative clothes and half-glasses. She has that ageless look of the classic angry school teacher: she could be 30, she could be 50.

As she glares at the class, the chords to MRS. BELL start.

Mrs. Bell is at the chalkboard. She uses a special tool which holds 6 pieces of chalk to draw a staff. Then she begins placing musical notes on it. Bobby begins to sing without playing his guitar:

BOBBY

Mrs. Bell's a music teacher at my
school
She's stern and harsh, and she has
lots of rules
I like music so I try to do my best
But she seems to hate me more than
all the rest

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bobby strums the Am chord which goes with "rest" above and Mrs. Bell turns and gives him an evil look.

Bobby walks up to the front of the class and sits on a stool with his guitar facing the class while Mrs. Bell stands over on the side. He strums and sings:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

For my final presentation I
composed a tune
And when my turn came up I began to
croon
It was an idle love song about
lying in the grass
In which I'd used some things I
learned in class

Bobby finishes his song and looks up. Mrs. Bell is scowling at him.

When my song was over and I looked
around
Mrs. Bell was scowling as she
stared me down
I got up and walked to my seat with
a bowed head

He gets up and walks back to his seat. Mrs. Bell follows him.

BOBBY

But Mrs. Bell had followed me and
this is what she said:

Mrs. Bell is over Bobby and begins her rant. As she does so, the lighting slowly changes to make her look more and more sinister and angry.

MRS. BELL

Bobby McStone
Your song is so bad
You're the worst student
That I've ever had
That song was so awful
I could hardly take it
Put away that guitar
Before I come and break it
What were you thinking?
What was your goal?
I can tell you've been listening
To that rock and roll

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MRS. BELL (CONT'D)

Bobby McStone
 There is no excuse
 For music like that
 There ain't no use
 You thought you had talent
 You thought I would hail you
 But you were so bad
 That I'm gonna fail you
 You can't write songs
 You'll never know how
 You might as well
 Stop trying now

Mrs. Bell is fuming now. She is lit from bellow and the scene is all reds and blacks.

MRS. BELL (CONT'D)

Sell your guitar
 Buy a calculator
 Maybe if you're lucky
 You can use that later
 You have no talent
 Why even try?
 Oh, look at the boy
 He's starting to cry

Bobby can't hold it in any longer. He begins to cry and runs out of the room. Polly gives him a sympathetic look but he doesn't notice. Sonny and Percy look at each other, worried and sad.

As the solo plays out, Bobby runs out of school.

EXT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

Bobby, still crying, walks into his house, and out through the yard to the studio.

INT. REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY

He takes the red Strat and looks at it, then packs it back into the tweed case. He takes the case back inside the house and puts it back into the closet as the song ends.

FADE OUT.

EXT- HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

It's graduation day. The Camera moves in slowly as the last of the graduates are being given their diplomas. Ben and Linda McStone sit in the audience. Mrs. Bell sits on the stage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We come upon Bobby as the principal finishes.

PRINCIPAL

Ladies and gentlemen, lets have a
big hand for our graduates.

The crowd cheers and the graduates throw their caps into the air. Bobby doesn't throw his. He's glum. Ben and Linda come over and hug him, say congratulations. Percy and Sonny are there, and Polly too looking radiant.

As everyone is congratulating each other and posing for pictures, Bobby sneaks away. He walks through school, past the woodshop, to the music room.

INT. MUSIC ROOM -DAY

He walks into the empty music room and picks up an acoustic guitar. He sits down on a stool and plays the opening chords of GRADUATION DAY.

BOBBY

(sings)

Well I just graduated from school
And I was wondering what I should
do
Maybe I'll try my hand
At playing covers, in a cover band
Mrs. Bell has set me straight
Now I know I'll never be first rate
But It's hard, so much harder to go
wrong
When you're playing other people's
songs
Oh, Graduation Day

EXT. STREETS OF ROCKINGHAM - DAY

Bobby sets down the guitar and walks out. He's walking home alone as he sings:

BOBBY

All of my friends are going away
If they're smart, they're gonna go
to stay

Bobby walks past houses where graduation parties are being held. He sees signs saying "Good luck at State!" He walks through downtown, but things are pretty dead. It's the golden hour now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Cause there's nothing going on in
my hometown
But I'm nothing, so I'm gonna stick
around
Oh, Graduation Day

Bobby stops in front of an electronics store with a camera facing outside which shows him on a bunch of tv screens. He looks at this as he sings:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Now I'm feeling older
Heavy burden on my shoulders
Each summer feeling colder now
Bobby again walks down the street.
Graduation day
Graduation day
Graduation day
Graduation day

Fade out as Bobby walks dejectedly down the street.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

We're in a typical small town sports/rock and roll bar. Neon beer signs, pinball, pool, darts. Various semi-biker looking guys, sports fans, guys escaping their wives for the night, a few barfly type women. Waitresses in cut-off jeans and tank tops. A whiteboard sign reads: "Tonight: The Reiterators play your favorites. No Cover. \$2 Draft beer before 10pm"

After a few beats of ambiance the opening chords to BAR BAND start. The camera makes it's way to the stage and we see Bobby up there playing a sunburst Les Paul, fronting a band of older guys. The bass player has a mullet hair cut and glasses, and a sport coat with the sleeves pushed up. The drummer has long hair, a beard, dark glasses, and a tall glass of brown alcohol easily at hand which he sips during the parts of the song where there's no drums. The keyboard player has a flat top and wears a one piece neon green jumpsuit like he's in a new wave band.

Bobby steps up to the mic and sings:

BOBBY

I would write songs if I could
But the songs I write are no good
I have nothing new to say

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The audience is not paying attention. At the pool table the balls break right on a cymbal hit in the song.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I used to think that I was hot
But Mrs. Bell showed me I'm not
Playing covers is the only way

The KEYBOARD PLAYER sings backup on the choruses with his finger in one ear.

BOBBY AND KEYS

Bar Band
Bar Band
Bar Band
Bar Band

When they break it down for this next verse, the drummer takes a big swig of his drink. The bass player reaches for a drag of his cigarette, which sits in an ashtray on his amp.

BOBBY

When I'm home I play real fast
But on stage I hold it back
I don't want to stand out in any
way

At the bar a DRUNK GUY with a trucker hat yells:

DRUNK GUY

You guys know any Rush tunes?

Bobby ignores him.

BOBBY

The drunks are shouting from the
bar
No one wonders who we are
The songs they shout out are what
we play

BOBBY AND KEYS

Bar Band, now I'm playing in a
Bar Band, I'll make it pay in a
Bar Band, looks like I'll stay in a
Bar Band

A group at a booth erupts in a huge round of laughter having nothing to do with what's going on on stage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BOBBY
 If we play the hits
 We get bigger tips

We see a pitcher at the base of the stage with a note taped inside of it saying "tips for the band. Thanx"

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 That's the music biz

As Bobby steps back for the solo, the camera pulls back to show that no one is paying attention.

BOBBY AND KEYS
 Bar Band, I got it made in a
 Bar Band, I'm getting paid in a
 Bar Band, I might get laid in a
 Bar Band

As the song ends, the camera continues to pull out the door of the bar and into the street, showing the bar from the outside with it's neon signs lit.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE THE BAR - DAY

A matching shot of the bar during the day. Pan across the street to a bus stop. A bus pulls up and Bobby gets off with his gig bag and carrying a small amplifier. He's lost in thought and begins to cross the street when an OLD LADY at the bus stop cries out the first words to WATCH OUT FOR THAT BUS.

OLD LADY
 (sings)
 Watch out for that bus
 Watch out for that bus

Bobby steps back and watches the bus go by, then crosses the street. On his way he starts singing:

BOBBY
 Well I was walking down the street
 just minding my own

Bobby turns around and see's Mrs. Bell. She approaches him and begins haranguing him on the sidewalk.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 When I heard Mrs. Bell cry out

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. BELL
 hey there Bobby McStone,
 I see by your case that you're
 still playing the guitar
 Playing other people's music for
 the drunkards at the bar

Mrs. Bell gestures to the bar.

MRS. BELL (CONT'D)
 I hope you know that you're wasting
 your life
 Why don't you get a real job, and
 find yourself a wife
 Instead of wasting time making that
 unholy racket,

Mrs. Bell points to the holes in Bobby's tattered jacket.

MRS. BELL (CONT'D)
 Get yourself some money, patch the
 holes up in your jacket.

Bobby mumbles and turns away.

BOBBY
 I mumbled some excuse about someone
 I had to meet

Mrs. Bell shakes her head and sighs, then turns to cross the street.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 And with a sigh she turned away and
 stepped into the street

She turns to see a bus coming at her and we see her panic stricken face in slow motion.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 I guess she wasn't looking or she
 couldn't see too well
 For just then a bus was driving by
 and it hit Mrs. Bell

Cut away to Bobby as he looks shocked. He yells the chorus:

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 Watch out for that bus! Watch out
 for that bus!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

In slow motion Bobby puts down his guitar and amp and starts towards where Mrs. Bell is laying.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

As I turned away I heard a scream
and then a thud
And when I looked I saw the bus,
it's front covered with blood
And yards away Mrs. Bell lay
crumpled up on the ground
I rushed over to her side and heard
a gurgling sound

Bobby is over Mrs. Bell as other bystanders crowd around. One is on his cell phone calling the paramedics.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

And as she lay dying she looked up
into my eyes
And the last words that she ever
said were "I apologize."

Mrs. Bell looks up at Bobby and mouths the words "I apologize" even though Bobby sings them on the soundtrack.

Mrs. Bell dies and Bobby slowly gets up and walks back to his guitar and amp.

DISSOLVE TO:

It's a little bit later and the paramedics and police are there. Bobby has just finished talking to the police. He picks up his guitar and amp and begins walking away, oblivious to the witnesses and gawkers surrounding the scene.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

And later as I walked away from
that grizzly scene
My mind was twisting turning and I
felt like it was a dream

Bobby'S walking away. The whole scene is brighter now. Bobby focuses on individual leaves. The spell Mrs. Bell has cast on him has finally lifted, and he's slowly coming to that realization. He walks right by the bar where his cover band is supposed to be playing that night.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I wondered just what she had meant,
those last words that she said
But most of all I couldn't believe
that Mrs. Bell was dead

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BOBBY (CONT'D)

And as I thought about my head was
filled with song
She said that she was sorry, that
means that she was wrong

In his haze Bobby almost steps in front of another bus. He notices in time and steps back and sings:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Watch out for that bus! Watch out
for that bus!
It will hit you, you will die
But first you'll apologize,
Oh, watch out for that bus

Bobby begins walking faster now, away from downtown and towards houses.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

It means that I can write and sing,
no matter what they say
The only one to please is me, and I
like how I play
And if people don't like it, well
we'll all be dead some day
And then there won't be anything
left that they can say

A mailman walks by and Bobby breaks out of his spell a little bit to sing to him:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Watch out for me now! The bus has
shown me how!
You are dead and I am free
Now my life belongs to me,
Oh, watch our for that bus

Bobby comes to his house and enters as the song ends.

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

Bobby walks in and sets his amp and gig bag down as the opening chords of I WANT TO ROCK begin. He goes to the hall closet and reverently ulls out the tweed case, opens it up and gets out the fiesta red Stratocaster. He looks at it lovingly, then heads out the back door to the studio.

INT. REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY

Bobby turns on the lights. It's dusty and there are many cobwebs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He sweeps a few cobwebs away, then dusts off his Fender Twin amp and turns it on. He plugs in the Strat and steps up to the mic and begins to sing:

BOBBY

The fog has lifted from my brain
and now I clearly see
My future lies in front of me
My fear had blinded me before, I
was too scared to live
But all the sudden I am free

Bobby stops playing for a second and pulls out his cell phone. He dials.

I/E. SONNY CALIFORNIA'S CAR - DAY

Sonny answers the phone, surprised that Bobby's calling. His face lights up and he nods. He hangs up and dials Percy.

Bobby puts his cell phone away and continues to play and sing:

INT. REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY

BOBBY

For so long I've been a slave, too
shy to stake my claim
Too timid to try and make my name
But now she's dead and in my head I
am feeling free
And doors are opening for me

INT. PERCY SLEDGEHAMMER'S HOUSE - DAY

Percy answers the phone. He smiles and hangs up. He picks up his drum sticks and heads out the door.

INT. REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY

Bobby sings into the microphone:

BOBBY

Playing covers is OK, it keeps my
chops in shape
But I have something more to say
Up till now I've been confused,
something in my mind was blocked
But now I just want to rock

Percy and Sonny enter and go to their instruments. They all begin singing the chorus:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY, SONNY, AND PERCY

I want to rock
I want to rock
I want to rock
I want to rock

They're rocking now, smiling and laughing as Bobby sings the next verse:

BOBBY

I've got ideas I've stashed away
and never realized
But I can't remember why
My future stretches out before me I
can see it clear
Now I know what I want to hear

BOBBY, SONNY, AND PERCY

I want to rock
I want to rock
I want to rock
I want to rock

BOBBY

I feel ashamed, I was insane, I let
her keep me down
But now she is not around

As Bobby takes a long solo, we cut back and forth between them rocking and this scene:

Linda walks in the door with a bag of groceries. She hears the sounds coming out of the studio and smiles. She picks up the phone and dials Ben at work.

INT. Ben's OFFICE - DAY

Ben picks up the phone. Linda holds the phone up so that he can hear the music. Ben is confused at first, then smiles and leans back in his chair and puts his feet up.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

The band rocks out on the final chorus:

BOBBY, SONNY, AND PERCY

I want to rock
I want to rock
I want to rock
I want to rock

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As this songs fades out, the camera moves out the door ascends up above the studio into the clouds.

EXT. STORKCO BABY FACTORY - NIGHT

The waltz chords of OVERTURE 3 begin.

We see the Factory Manager on the porch, but now he's standing and wearing a custom black nudie type suit. He has a whole country band of Storks wearing matching white nudie type suits: bass, drums, pedal steel, fiddle, and telecaster. There are stage lights, and other storks are country dancing in front of the porch.

Factory Manager sings:

FACTORY MANAGER

(sings)

Bobby wants to rock, and play his
own tunes
Cause now he knows he has nothing
to lose
Now that the bus, has shown him how
Bobby just wants to play guitar now

Close in on the Stork's wing holding the slide as he slides up to the last note of the song. After it rings out for a few seconds he begins slowly moving it back down the neck, the notes getting lower and lower. The low growl fades into the noise of a night in the city.

The camera pulls out and heads back down through the clouds.

EXT. ROXY a GO GO CLUB - NIGHT

Camera comes down on the Roxy a Go Go club and we see on the marquee the headliners are The Stony Express, with opening bands The Wonderfals and Earl.

INT. ROXY a GO GO CLUB - NIGHT

The doorman opens the velvet rope for the camera and we go through the entrance into the show room, through the packed crowd and up front to the band as the opening drum roll of PLAY GUITAR NOW begins.

Bobby, Sonny, and Percy are on stage and Percy'S bass drum reads "The Stony Express." Bobby is a new man, confident and wearing a flashy suit, strutting around the stage playing the fiesta red Stratocaster. Bobby steps up to the mic and sings:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

My name is Bobby McStone
I didn't come here all alone
I brought my band, the Stony
Express

Bobby gestures to his band

BOBBY (CONT'D)

When it comes to rockin', we're the
best

The whole band sings the lines "It's rock and roll, yeah" and
"Play guitar now."

BOBBY, SONNY, AND PERCY

It's rock and roll yeah
And you need some
We're the Stony Express
And we're here to have some fun
Play guitar now
And bash them drums
When Sonny pulls the bass
It's gonna make the little girls
suck his thumb

Shot of a girl in the audience absentmindedly sucking her
thumb. When Bobby sings this line she becomes aware of it
and stops, embarrassed.

BOBBY

We're working hard, doing the
chores
Cause rock and roll is it's own
reward
We'll rock our hearts out, and it
won't be long
Till everybody's gonna sing this
song - sing it with me

The whole audience sings along on this chorus:

BOBBY AND AUDIENCE

It's rock and roll yeah, And you
need some
We're the Stony Express
And we're here to have some fun
Play guitar now,

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BOBBY

Play it every day
Then maybe you can learn to play
this way,
Play guitar! Play that guitar now!
Please play your Stratocaster
guitar

During the breakdown for the solo Bobby strikes several rock and roll poses. In the middle of the solo he sees Polly in the audience smiling at him. He is dumbstruck by her beauty and attention and at that point he drops to his knees for the finger tapping part. When the solo ends he turns the volume down on his guitar and slings it behind his back as the bass and drums continue on with the groove. Still looking at Polly, Bobby grabs the mic and makes this speech:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Thanks a lot ladies and gentlemen,
we are the Stony Express. I'd like
to take this opportunity to
introduce the band. On bass, give
it up for Mr. Sonny CALIFORNIA!

The audience cheers as Sonny plays a small little solo.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

On drums, the loud, the proud,
Percy SLEDGEHAMMER!

The audience cheers as Percy plays some amazing fills, then falls back into the groove. BOBBY stares out over the audience as though lost in revelation.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Now, in this song I talk about the
chores of rock and roll. I'm
talking about hauling the gear
around, changing the strings,
booking the shows, sleeping in the
van, and all the practicing that
goes into making moments like this
come out right. And let me tell
you, it's not about the money, it's
not about being cool or having
people like you, it's all about
moments like this when we're all
feeling it together. Now, when I'm
feeling it like I do right now, I
let my guitar say what I say!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Bobby whips his guitar around and goes into another solo. The crowd goes crazy, screaming and throbbing to the beat. Bobby puts his guitar behind his head. Finally he stops and steps up to the mic and sings:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

And if I die before long
And no one sings these stony songs
That's OK, and that's alright
Because we rocked them here tonight
- let's rock tonight yeah!

The band and audience all sing along:

BOBBY AND AUDIENCE

It's rock and roll yeah
And you need some
We're the Stony Express
And we're here to have some fun
Play guitar now
And bash them drums
When Sonny pulls the bass
It's gonna make the little girls
suck his thumb

The song ends and the audience goes wild. The band bows and heads off stage.

EXT. ROXY - NIGHT

We hear the muffled cheering from inside the club, as the camera pans up to the stars.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ROXY IN FRONT OF THE VAN AFTER THE SHOW - NIGHT

As the applause fades the camera comes back down from the stars. It's later now and the camera pans down to reveal Bobby and Polly standing by the van, hands in hands, staring into each others eyes. Various roadies shuffle around them, but no one's in any hurry. The chords to LOVE IS begin. Bobby looks into her eyes and sings:

BOBBY

Cupid shot me with his bow,
Then I saw you and now I know,
That love is all we have to do,
And all our wishes can come true,
it's true,

The both sing:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY AND POLLY

Love is,
Love is, yeah,
Love is, me and you.

Bobby and Polly kiss. Fade out.

INT. REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY

Fade into the band in the studio fiddling with their instruments. Polly walks in.

POLLY

Hey guys. Hi Bobby.

BOBBY

Hi Polly, thanks for coming. We just worked up this new song I wrote for you, and I wanted you to hear it.

Polly looks embarrassed, sits down.

Bobby counts it off and they go into the intro to BRAND NEW LOVE SONG. Bobby sings:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

My love for you is something new
It's never been described before
All those old songs just get it
wrong
My love is so much more

The band's feeling it, they're grooving. Polly is smiling.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I'm gonna write a brand new love
song
One that I can really use
A song that I can sing to my baby
When she's kicking off her shoes

Bobby, Percy, and Sonny all sing the chorus in harmony:

BOBBY, SONNY, AND PERCY

And it's a brand new,
Brand new love

BOBBY

A love that's loose and easy
A heart that's light and free
A couple verses and a chorus

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

To say what you mean to me
 Our love should be in pictures
 It should be up on the silver
 screen
 Then I could show everybody
 Exactly what I mean

INT. RECORDING STUDIO - DAY

The songs continues but now we're in a recording studio where the band is recording this new song. It's a low end studio, funky but functional, not very big. Bobby, Percy, and Sonny all wear headphones and sing around one mic:

BOBBY, SONNY, AND PERCY

And it's a brand new,
 Brand new love

Bobby steps up and sings alone:

BOBBY

The history of art is vast,

The whole band sings:

BOBBY, SONNY, AND PERCY

if you look through it

BOBBY

But baby you've given me

BOBBY, SONNY, AND PERCY

something brand new to add to it

INT. RECORDING STUDIO - DAY

Now they're listening to playback. The whole band is there, plus the record producer/engineer/studio owner. As they listen they're nodding approval.

BOBBY

A brand new love is special
 It's something to celebrate
 I've been wanting to have a party
 Since we went on our first date

As the song plays out, there's a montage of them mixing, mastering, making bulk CD-R's, printing out covers. The CD covers say "The Stony Express - Play Guitar Now and other favorites." There's 5 songs on it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I've found a love that's novel
I had to write about it right away
Cause whenever I think about you
I have so much to say

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

We're at another Stony Express show, the band is playing this song onstage.

We see the CD-R's at the merchandise table at their show, along with a some t-shirts for sale. Polly mans the booth as the Stony Express are on stage singing the last chorus to this song.

BOBBY, SONNY, AND PERCY

About a brand new,
Brand new love

As the songs ends, the audience cheers and Bobby goes back to the mic.

BOBBY

Thanks a lot! We have some CD's
and t-shirts for sale in the back!
See you next time!

INT. CLUB, NEXT TO THE STAGE - NIGHT

The band steps offstage and a few people come up to shake hands, say stuff like "great set" and "awesome guys." The band smiles with the pride of a job well done. The begin rolling up some cables as through the crowd comes KENNY, the a and r man. Kenny is a little older, with greased back semi-long hair. He snuffles a lot.

The music to SIGN SIGN SIGN starts as Kenny comes up to Bobby and sings:

KENNY

Hey buddy, you're really good
Are you signed? I think you should
be

Kenny whips out his business card and hands it to Bobby, then ushers him and the band into a booth.

KENNY (CONT'D)

My name's Kenny, and I'm from ABS
And I'm already a fan I must
confess

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNY (CONT'D)

I like your playing and I like your
 hooks
 We can work on your singing and
 looks

Now the band is at a booth in the bar with Kenny. There are
 beers in front of the band, and a hard alcohol drink in front
 of Kenny.

KENNY (CONT'D)

We know you have talent, and that's
 why we are courting you
 So if you sign with us we'll be
 supporting you

From nowhere, Kenny produces a contract and puts it on the
 table in front of them.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Sign, sign, sign, the dotted line
 The ABS label's gonna treat you
 fine
 So come with us, we'll wine and
 dine
 And all you gotta do is just sign,
 sign, sign

Kenny gets up and begins pacing around as he sells his ideas
 to the band.

KENNY (CONT'D)

It's our standard contract, you
 won't do better
 There's no use reading every letter
 You're gonna wanna stick with me
 Cause I'm good friends with Kenny G
 (or whoever is hip then, but won't
 be for long.)
 Sign, sign, sign, the dotted line
 The ABS label's gonna treat you
 fine

Kenny writes down a figure on a napkin and slides it to the
 band. Their eyes widen.

KENNY (CONT'D)

A big advance ought to ease your
 mind
 And all you gotta do is just sign,
 sign, sign

Kenny raises a finger in pause as he warns:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KENNY (CONT'D)

Please realize we're in a recession
 So you're gonna have to make a few
 concessions
 We're a lean machine and our ship
 is tight
 So sign with us and it'll be
 alright

During the solo Kenny sits back down and takes out a cigar. He offers them around but the band refuses. He lights up, then waves to some girls. A few groupie types come over and squeeze into the booth with the band. Percy and Sonny look happy but Bobby looks uncomfortable. Kenny snaps at the waitress who brings over a tray of beer and shots. He raises a toast and they drink them down, except for Bobby who just sips his a little.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Sign, sign, sign, the dotted line
 All you gotta do is just sign,
 sign, sign.

Kenny pushes the contract in front of Bobby and hands him a pen as the song ends.

BOBBY

Well thanks, this is very
 flattering, but we're gonna need to
 think about this and maybe have a
 lawyer take a look at it.

Percy and Sonny look a little surprised.

SONNY

We are? Oh yeah. We are.

The Band nods in agreement.

Kenny's face clouds into anger. The groupies slip out of the booth as the music to NO ALTERNATIVE begins.

KENNY

Let me give you a little lesson in
 how the music business works.

Kenny sings angrily, almost under his breath:

KENNY (CONT'D)

(sings)
 If you want to rock and roll
 You gotta give up some control
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KENNY (CONT'D)

There is no alternative to me
 If you want your band to last
 Then you better kiss my ass
 There is no alternative to me
 There is no alternative to me

Kenny motions one of the groupies over. He puts his arm around her.

KENNY (CONT'D)

If you want to get the chicks
 Then you gotta be a dick

Kenny spills a beer on to the groupie, she runs away.

KENNY (CONT'D)

There is no alternative to me

Kenny gets up and starts stalking around.

KENNY (CONT'D)

If you want to be the top of the
 pops
 Then you better forget your chops
 There is no alternative to me
 There is no alternative to me

Kenny picks up the contract.

KENNY (CONT'D)

First you sign the dotted line
 Then your ideas are mine
 There is no alternative to me

Kenny stiffens.

KENNY (CONT'D)

But if you have a heart
 Then you won't fit the part
 There is no alternative to me
 There is no alternative to me

As the song is ending, Bobby, Percy, and Sonny look at each other and then bolt from the booth out of the club. Kenny fumes, red faced, then looks down and sees the contract torn up on the table.

FADE OUT.

INT. REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY

The band walks in. They're looking disheartened. Bobby picks up his guitar.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

It's too bad that Kenny turned out to be such a slimeball. But we don't have to deal with people like that if we don't want to.

SONNY

You heard what he said. That's the biz.

BOBBY

I don't know. I've been thinking about this a lot. Check this out:

Bobby begins playing the opening chords to DO IT MYSELF

Bobby sings:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

The record company man
Just doesn't understand
If he did, he would have been nice

The band picks up on what he's saying and kicks it in, playing along with Bobby.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I love rock and roll
But I won't sell my soul
I'll sell my songs but I'm gonna
get full price
I'm gonna do it, do it, do it, do
it, do it myself

INT. RECORDING STUDIO - DAY

Now the band is playing this song in the same recording studio we saw them in earlier.

BOBBY

I don't need a corporation
To help me rock the nation
I'll sell my records through the
mail

CUT TO:

Polly sits in front of a computer working on the Stonyexpress.com website.

BACK TO:

INT. RECORCIND STUDIO - DAY

The band continues recording the song.

BOBBY

I'm gonna make a bet
 On the power of the internet
 And I'll have fun even if I fail
 Back to the studio as the whole
 band sings:
 I'm gonna do it, do it, do it, do
 it, do it myself

INT. MCSTONE RESIDENCE - DAY

Fed Ex delivers a bunch of boxes. The band rips them open to reveal their shrink wrapped full length CD. It is titled "Special Delivery" and contains 12 songs. They are happy.

INT. RECORCIND STUDIO - DAY

Bobby sings into the microphone

BOBBY

It's not about how much money you
 spend
 It's the songs that matter in the
 end
 If the music flows just like it
 should
 Then the people will buy it because
 it's good

CUT TO:

Montage: Shots of the band and Polly stuffing envelopes.
 Shots of them taking CD's into stores.

Shots of them taking a couple CD's to the post office.

Then an armful of CD's to the post office.

As Bobby continues singing, cut between his performance and the montage.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

They offered me a deal
 They said it was for real
 You can rock and roll and you'll
 get paid
 But when it all came down
 They were playing me for a clown

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

And that's not the way I want to
play

MONTAGE: Shots of them taking many boxes full of CD's to the
post office.

Shots of them on the phone, smiling.

Going by the record store and seeing a poster of their record
in the window.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

So I'm gonna do it, do it, do it,
do it, do it myself

The song ends as we

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. RRTV NEWS STUDIO

Open on the RRTV news theme, we're watching TV as a Kurt
Loder type ANCHOR comes on. The Stony Express' album is
super imposed above his shoulder.

ANCHOR

Indie phenomenon The Stony Express'
popularity continues to grow
despite their not having a major
label connection. As demand grew,
the Express signed a distribution
deal two months ago which got their
record into stores accross the
country. Now, spurred by college
radio play, internet downloads, and
word of mouth, they have become one
of the most talked about bands in
the country. New soundscan numbers
show that their album, Play Guitar
Now, is the fourth biggest selling
album in the country. The band
has just launched their first
national tour. Let's just hope
that they make a video soon.

The RRTV News theme comes back as the chords to #4 WITH A
BULLET start.

INT. MID SIZED ARENA - NIGHT

It's the big Stony Express homecoming show. Everything is
bigger now, but the boys are still the same. They're rocking
out on stage smiling. Bobby plays his fiesta red strat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

On the side of the stage are Ben, Linda, Polly, and two of the groupies from the earlier scene. Out front the kids go crazy. Bobby steps up to the mic and sings:

BOBBY

(sings)

Well it's heading, up to the top
 Picking up momentum, I don't think
 it's gonna stop
 All the DJ's, really seem to like
 it a lot
 And they're saying, it's making the
 phone lines hot
 The first time I heard my song
 Playing on the radio
 My heart jumped into my throat
 I cried and I'll tell you so, now
 it's

Everyone sings the #4 with a bullet line:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

#4 with a bullet, and rising up the
 charts
 #4 with a bullet, just like I
 wanted right from the start
 #4 with a bullet, looks like it's
 going to #3
 #4 with a bullet, it kinda feels
 like it's a dream
 No time to wonder what it means

In between verses Bobby looks over to his parents and gives them a big smile. During the verses we cut away to to shots of kids with Stony Express t-shirts dancing.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Now the kids, are coming to see the
 show
 And there's more of 'em, in every
 town we go
 Well I did my chores and I learned
 to play the blues
 Bobby snaps off some Chuck Berry
 licks after the blues line.
 Now they got me quoted on MTV news
 And when I see my CD
 Up on the record store shelves
 I'll know that it's the real me
 Cause I did it just for myself, and
 now it's

Everybody sings:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 #4 with a bullet, and rising up the
 charts
 #4 with a bullet, just like I
 wanted right from the start
 #4 with a bullet, looks like it's
 going to # dos
 #4 with a bullet, I'm gonna make
 the most
 This is no time, to coast
 Play Guitar Now's charting in Chico
 Man that is really cool
 I got some fan mail from Puerto
 Rico
 And basically it said we rule

Bobby breaks into the solo and the crowd goes wild.

CUT TO

Some big bouncers refusing to let Kenny get backstage.

CUT TO:

Bobby stops playing as they break it down. Bobby grabs the mic emotionally and sings:

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 Now tonight, when we play that song
 We'll do a version, that's 20
 minutes long
 Where I thank the people for making
 us number four
 Then we'll rock, like we never have
 rocked before

The kick it in. Bobby gestures to everyone on the side of the stage to come onstage. They do so and start dancing.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 And when I see my CD
 Up on the top of the charts
 It's gonna make me happy
 Cause it came straight from my
 heart, and now it's

Everyone on stage crowds around the microphones and sings. The groupies are with their new boyfriends.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BOBBY AND GROUP

#4 with a bullet, and rising up the
charts
#4 with a bullet, just like I
wanted right from the start
#4 with a bullet, looks like it's
going to #1
#4 with a bullet, I'll get my
moment in the sun,
So let's all have some fun

The crowd cheers and we

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. RECORCIND STUDIO - DAY

As the cheering fades out the camera fades in to a large recording console. It pans accross the many dials and meters and comes to a set of stop, pause, play and record controls. A finger reaches in and presses play. The camera pans up to a speaker as the studio version of PLAY GUITAR NOW begins. Credits roll in white over this mostly black speaker.

As the song is ending we

CUT TO:

EXT. STORKCO FACTORY PORCH - DAY

Pull back from a boom box as the last notes of the song play to see the Factory Manager and a bunch of storks listening to it. The Factory Manager smiles and one of the storks holds the CD case in his hands.

STORK

Play it again! Play it again!

FADE TO BLACK.