

*LifeTales*  
Musical Biography  
Series



Script, Music and Lyrics by  
MICHAEL TENNANT

© Copyright MMIV by Michael Tennant/ Wayne R. Scott-LifeHouse Productions, Inc.

All rights reserved.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

(In Order of Appearance)

<b>Jackie Robinson</b>	Courageous young man
<b>Branch Rickey</b>	Owner of the Dodgers
<b>Clay Hopper</b>	Manager of the Dodgers
<b>Dixie</b>	Ball Player
<b>Spider</b>	Ball Player
<b>Eddie</b>	Ball Player
<b>Pee Wee Reese</b>	Ball Player
<b>Pastor Downs</b>	Jackie's faithful pastor and friend

**Bus Driver, Policeman, Waitress, Mail Boy**

*LifeHance*

T.H.E.A.T.E.R

# “JACKIE ROBINSON”

By Michael Tennant

## SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

### ACT I

#### Overture

1. “Now is the Time/Many Different People”.....Names of characters that sing
  2. “Time To Fly”.....Jackie, Rickey
  3. “The Team Protests”.....Ball Players, Hopper, Rickey
  4. “Will I walk Through this Door Alone?”.....Jackie
  5. “How Can I Overcome?”.....Jackie
  6. “God Sends Heroes”.....Pastor, Jackie, Pee Wee, Spider, Chorus  
“How Can I Overcome?” (Reprise).....Jackie
- Finale: “Will I Walk Through this Door Alone?” (Reprise).....Jackie  
“God Sends Heroes” (Reprise).....Cast Ensemble  
“Many Different People” (Reprise).....Cast Ensemble  
“God Sends Heroes” (Reprise).....Cast Ensemble

# "Jackie Robinson"

© Copyright Roman MMIV by Michael Tennant/W. R. Scott - LifeHouse Productions, Inc.  
All rights reserved.

## Overture

### PROLOGUE: THE BALL FIELD

*(We hear the voices of two announcers in the darkness)*

- Announcer 1** Look at this, look at this! I don't know about you, but I can feel the tension mounting in the stadium.
- Announcer 2** It's the top of the ninth inning. Dodgers are down by one. Pee Wee Reese is on third, and Spider Jorgensen is up to bat. Strike one!
- Announcer 1** I can see the sweat dripping from Clay Hopper, the Dodger's manager from up here. How long has it been since the Dodgers beat the Giants?
- Announcer 2** I can't remember them ever beating the Giants. Strike two!
- Announcer 1** The pressure is on for the Dodgers. Not only are they playing their rivals, but the Dodger's owner, Branch Rickey, is in the stadium today.
- Announcer 2** You can hear a pin drop right now. If Spider Jorgensen strikes out one more time, the game is over the Giants win.
- Announcer 1** I wouldn't want to be in his shoes right now.
- Announcer 2** There's the pitch! *(Overture begins)*
- Announcer 1** Strike three! Giants win five to four.
- Announcer 2** Look at that! The Dodgers are already running to the locker room.
- Announcer 1** I imagine they're trying to get out of the stadium before Clay Hopper catches up with them. I'm sure he'll have a few not so kind words for them.
- Announcer 2** Well, it looks like they'll get a good head start. Mr. Hopper decided to let the umpires know exactly what he thinks of their calls today.
- Announcer 1** Boy, does he ever look sore.  
*(Overture music trails off)*

### SCENE 1: BRANCH RICKEY'S OFFICE/SURREAL STREET VIGNETTE

*(Lights up on Branch Rickey and Clay Hopper as they are in the middle of what will soon be a heated discussion)*

- Hopper** No, Mr. Rickey! No, no, no! That is out of the question!
- Rickey** Perhaps, Mr. Hopper, if I were questioning the matter at hand, your comment might be of some importance to me. However, my mind is made up.
- Hopper** You can't do this to me, Mr. Rickey!
- Rickey** Stop talking as though it's such a horrible thing. In my mind, it's a very noble experiment.
- Hopper** It's an experiment that could ruin us both, Mr. Rickey, and I don't want to have any part of it. Mark my words! If you put a black man on a white baseball team, both of our careers will be in jeopardy!
- Rickey** I'm not the fool you think I am, Clay. I plan to exercise the greatest amount of caution to be sure my plan is successful.
- Hopper** Mr. Rickey, I know this isn't what you want to hear, but nobody wants this plan to succeed except for you! Do you think the boys on the team will be willing to play alongside a black man?
- Rickey** They will if they want a paycheck.
- Hopper** The fans are going to "Boo" him right off the field! No sir, Mr. Rickey, I'm putting my foot down! I won't allow a black man on my team.

**Rickey** It's not your team, Clay...it's mine. You're an excellent manager and I'd hate to lose you, but if you are unwilling to work with me, you can no longer work for me.

**Hopper** Now, you don't mean that, Mr. Rickey.

**Rickey** I'm afraid I do, Clay.

**Hopper** But, Mr. Rickey...you're not thinking about how this will affect me, or how it will affect my family. I'm going to have to move them to a new state for their own safety!

**Rickey** You won't have to move them.

**Hopper** I live in Mississippi! Mississippi! Folks in Mississippi ain't exactly known for their brotherly love towards the blacks! What are folks back home going to say when they hear I let a colored guy on the team?

**Rickey** Tell them you had no say in the matter.

**Hopper** They're liable to burn my house down!

**Rickey** I pay you a good salary. You can afford to build another house.

**Hopper** I know what you're trying to do here, Mr. Rickey, and it ain't gonna work! Folks will never take to having a black man on a white team! That's what the brown teams You're spitting into the wind on this! The crowds will eat this man alive.

are for!

**Rickey** I know they will.

**Hopper** You know they will?!!!

**Rickey** Yes.

**Hopper** For heaven's sake, Rickey, crowds won't be showing up in the stadiums to watch a ball game. They'll be looking for a fight!

**Rickey** Well, they won't get one. The man I select will be a gentleman. He will not stoop to their level, and there will be no fighting.

**Hopper** And where do you think you will find a black gentleman who can play baseball as well as any of the white men waiting to be drafted?

*(Music begins)*

**Rickey** I have already started my search, Mr. Hopper, and it's only a matter of time until I find him. He's out there somewhere...

**SONG: "NOW IS THE TIME"/"MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE"**

**Rickey** Now is the time I can make a difference  
 Now is the moment I've been waiting for  
 I know all the trouble will come upon me  
 The moment I open that door

But it's something that I've got to do  
 There must be equality  
 And if no one else will come to my side  
 Then it must start and end with me

There's an image of a man that still haunts me  
 From a time so long ago  
 An image of a man that still haunts me  
 I see his face wherever I go  
 I see his face in this

**Chorus** World of many people, many faces, many looks  
 A world of many stories told inside of many books  
 A world where no two people are exactly the same  
 But it's a world where some might be afraid to ask your name

*(Dialogue spoken over underscore)*

**Bus Driver** That's him, officer! He got in this bus while I was driving, sat down in the seat reserved for white folks and refused to move!

**Jackie** I wasn't causing problems for anyone!

**Bus Driver** You don't need to cause problems. You're black! You are a problem.

**Policeman** Come with me.  
**Jackie** Awww, come on, man!  
**Policeman** Quiet!

*(Song resumes)*

**Chorus** Keep him away, keep him away, keep him away from me  
Keep him away, keep him away, I do not want to see

Any different people, any faces, any looks  
They're not safe to be around, they're all criminals and crooks  
We don't want to be around anyone who's not the same  
We don't want them here, send them back to where they came

*(Dialogue spoken over underscore)*

**Waitress** Officer! Over here!  
**Policeman** What I can do for you, Maam?  
**Waitress** Arrest this man! He was sitting down in the section of the diner reserved for white people! And then...he got up and used the restroom reserved for white people only!  
**Jackie** It's the only restroom around!  
**Waitress** There's a restroom that black people are allowed to use two blocks down and three blocks over.  
**Policeman** All right, come with me.  
**Jackie** Awww, not again!

*(Song resumes)*

**Chorus** There is nothing to be gained  
We could be hurt, we could be maimed  
If we socialize with someone who is not the same as us  
Keep him away!

**Bus Driver** Get off my bus!  
**Chorus** *(Sung)* Keep him away!  
**Waitress** Don't use our restroom!  
**Chorus** *(Sung)* Keep him away!  
**Policeman** I'm taking you to jail!  
**Chorus** *(Sung)* Keep him away, Keep him away, Keep him away from me!  
**Rickey** There'll be a day, there'll be a day!  
**Jackie** I'll have my day, you'll see!  
*(Music continues as underscore, then fades)*

## SCENE 2: BRANCH RICKEY'S OFFICE

**Jackie** I was told I could come in, Mr. Rickey?  
**Rickey** Please, come in, Jackie. Please come in. I've been looking forward to meeting you.  
**Jackie** Well, it's a real pleasure, Mr. Rickey. I want you to know, even if this doesn't work out, I consider it a great honor to be considered to play for the Brown Dodgers.  
**Rickey** Jackie, you got a girl?  
**Jackie** A girl? Well, yes, sir. I've been seeing a girl named Rachel.  
**Rickey** Is it serious?  
**Jackie** It is, yes, Mr. Rickey.  
**Rickey** That's good. There are times when a man needs a woman at his side. Now, Jackie, I'm going to be honest with you. You're not a candidate for the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers. I've sent for you because I'm interested in you as a candidate for the Brooklyn National League Club. I think you can play in the major leagues. How do you feel about it?  
**Jackie** The major leagues?  
**Rickey** You think you can play for Montreal?  
**Jackie** Yes.

**Rickey** I know you're a good ball player. What I don't know is whether or not you've got the guts.

**Jackie** *(Suddenly offended)* Whether or not I've got the guts? I knew this was too good to be true. What do you want from me, Mr. Rickey?

**Rickey** Jackie, you're not just another athlete being hired by a ball club. We're playing for big stakes. I've investigated you thoroughly. I understand you've been known to be a "racial agitator" at U.C.L.A. Now Jackie, we can't fight our way through this. We've got no army. There's virtually nobody on our side. No owners, no umpires, very few newspapermen. I'm afraid that many fans will be hostile. We'll be in a tough position. We can only win if we can convince the world that I'm doing this because you're a great ballplayer and a fine gentleman. I need more from you than your ability to play. I wish it only meant hits, runs and errors.

**Jackie** But, it's the box score that really counts – that and that alone, isn't it?

**Rickey** It's all that ought to count, but it isn't. Maybe one of these days it will be all that counts. That is one of the reasons I've got you here, Robinson. If you're a good enough man, we can make a start in the right direction. But let me tell you, it's going to take an awful lot of courage. Have you got the guts to play the game no matter what happens?

**Jackie** Mr. Rickey, are you looking for a Negro who's afraid to fight back?

**Rickey** Robinson, I'm looking for a ball player with guts enough not to fight back. They'll taunt you and goad you. They'll do anything to make you react. They'll talk about your race, your parents, and your girl, and they'll use all kinds of horrible language to do it. Suppose you're at shortstop, Jackie. Another player comes down from first, stealing, flying in with spikes high, and cuts your leg. You'll feel the blood running down your leg, and the white player laughs in your face. Could you turn the other cheek? Could you walk away? You think about that long and hard, and then you let me know.  
*(Starts to exit)*

**Jackie** I'll do it, Mr. Rickey.

**Rickey** I said "long and hard," Jackie.

**Jackie** Mr. Rickey, I've been thinking about it my whole life. I have to do it.

**Rickey** You're sure you can handle it?

**Jackie** I won't let you down.

**Rickey** All right then. You'll be getting a contract. \$600 a month, with a \$3,500 bonus. You'll be playing for the Montreal Royals. Is that satisfactory?

**Jackie** Yes sir, Mr. Rickey.

**Rickey** Jackie, word must not get out about this just yet. You may tell your immediate family, if you think they can keep it a secret. You may also tell your girl, but no one else can know. *(Rickey pats Jackie on the shoulder and exits. Underscore music begins)*

**Jackie** Rachel...I did it! I did it. Rachel, I'm training for the major leagues now! Mr. Rickey told me everything I'd have to go through, but...it's the same stuff I've been going through my whole life. I guess, I'll just be getting a whole lot more of it now. I have to do it, though, Rachel! I have to.

### **SONG: "TIME TO FLY"**

**Jackie** I'm doing this for you, I'm doing this for me  
**Rickey** It's the chance of a lifetime, I hope he can see  
**Jackie** I have a shot to turn the world around  
**Rickey** I hope the pressure doesn't drive him into the ground

**Jackie/Rickey** This is a chance that I must take  
 Dangerous task I must see through  
**Jackie** To show the world I am the best  
**Rickey** To put a memory to rest  
**Jackie/Rickey** It's time to leave the nest and try to fly

**Rickey** There's not a move I could have made that was bolder  
**Jackie** There's so much that is riding on my shoulders  
**Rickey** If the world will get to know him that will be a start



**Jackie** Can I make them see I am a man who has a heart?

**Jackie/Rickey** Can we make the hatred fade?  
Can we tear down the walls that society has made?  
Can we change the tune of the music being played?  
It's time to leave the nest and try to fly

**Jackie** It's time to fly

*(Music ends)*

### SCENE 3: LOCKER ROOM

*(After practice, the players are in the locker room getting their things together)*

**Pee Wee** don't know about you, guys, but I'm sore from that practice game.  
**Mail Boy** Mail's here, everyone. Here you go, Pee Wee. *(Hands Pee Wee a bag of mail)*  
**Pee Wee** Thanks, pal.  
**Mail Boy** You sure got a lot of fan mail today. The letters smell pretty strongly of perfume, too. I guess the ladies still like you, even if you have been striking out a lot lately.  
**Pee Wee** Hey, I don't strike out all the time. You're just never around when I hit the grand slams.  
**Mail Boy** You're funny, Pee Wee.  
**Pee Wee** What? No, I'm serious!  
*(Mail boy continues to pass out letters as Hopper enters)*

**Hopper** Boys, gather 'round. I've got some notes for you before you head home for the day. First of all, Pee Wee, rest up that arm of yours. We're gonna need it for Thursday night's game.  
**Pee Wee** You got it, Mr. Hopper.  
**Hopper** Dixie, I'm changing you around in the lineup. You'll be switching with Carl.  
**Dixie** What?  
**Hopper** Just temporarily. Your game has been a little off lately, and we can't afford to have any mistakes on Thursday night.  
**Dixie** There won't be any mistakes, I guarantee you.  
**Hopper** That's right, because Carl will be taking your place. Oh, and for some good news, attendance has been up these last few games. You've been making some great plays, and Mr. Rickey has decided to reward you by giving you all a bonus and by putting a black man on the team with you. That's all for today. You can go.  
**Pee Wee** *(Chuckles)* Uh, hold on a second, Mr. Hopper...  
**Dixie** Did you say a black man was joining the team?  
**Hopper** Yes, gentleman, I did. His name is Jackie Robinson, and he'll be joining us at practice tomorrow morning.  
**Pee Wee** Are you serious?  
**Hopper** I am, yes. He's currently playing for the brown teams, but...  
**Dixie** Well he can stay on the brown teams for all I care.  
**Hopper** Dixie, to be honest I don't like it any better than you do, but...  
**Dixie** Mr. Hopper, there ain't no way I'm playing on the same team as a black man. I don't even like them in the stadium!

### **SONG: "THE TEAM PROTESTS"**

**Pee Wee** This must be a joke  
**Dixie** This time you've gone too far!  
**Hopper** These orders are from Rickey!  
**Dixie** I don't care whose they are!  
**All Players** The lines have been drawn and they dare not be crossed  
Our patience is all but lost!



**Hopper** The dealing's been done and when the deal was dealt  
**Players** Rickey did not seem to care how you felt  
This is a shot below the belt  
We're so hot that we could melt

**Dixie** Mr. Hopper, this is a crime  
If he joins this team you can bet I'll resign  
The team's reputation is on the line  
**Spider** That's my feeling as well  
**Eddie** And mine.

*(Mr. Rickey enters. The team glares at him)*

**Hopper** I've just talked with the boys, and told them the news  
**Players** Don't mind their faces, they're all just confused  
This black man is gonna get bruised  
**Rickey** He won't play, no way, we refuse!  
It's not your decision, it's not your concern  
If you pay attention I'm sure you will learn  
He can play ball like the rest of you can  
He is a remarkable man

**Hopper** I'm letting you all know well in advance  
**Players** You're all expected to give him a chance  
Open your hearts and get to know him  
Find out what's under his skin  
In Mississippi they call this a sin  
We're feeling kind of grim

**Mail Boy** *(Spoken)* Hey everyone, Jackie Robinson's here!  
**Rickey** Please show him in.  
*(Music ends)*

**Rickey** Boys, I do know how you feel, but I'm asking you to work with him and try to get to know him.

**Dixie** I hope you don't expect us to like him.

**Rickey** Just get to know him.

**Mail Boy** This way, Mr. Robinson.

**Rickey** Jackie, come on in.

**Jackie** Hello, everyone.

*(The players and Mr. Hopper are silent. They just stare)*

**Rickey** Well, Jackie, let me introduce you to the team. This is...

**Dixie** Mr. Hopper, are you done with us?

**Hopper** I suppose I am, yes.

**Dixie** Good.

*(Dixie walks out of the locker room and the rest of the players follow. Then Hopper, not knowing what to do leaves as well)*

**Jackie** It's starting already, isn't it Mr. Rickey?

**Rickey** *(Nods)* I had hoped the team would have been a little more understanding.

**Jackie** Me too.

**Rickey** You won't let this discourage you though, will you Jackie?

**Jackie** I suppose I'd better not. We've got a long way to go, and if I get discouraged that easily, I'll never make it.

**Rickey** Good man. Now, I've got to go. I'm late for a meeting. Feel free to pick out whatever locker is open.

**Jackie** All right, Mr. Rickey. Take care.

**Rickey** You too, Jackie.

*(Mr. Rickey exits. Jackie looks around and starts to empty out his bag as Pee Wee enters)*

**Jackie** What's up, man?  
**Pee Wee** Forgot my shoes.  
**Jackie** My name's Jackie.  
**Pee Wee** Yeah, I heard.  
**Jackie** You got a name? *(No response)* It's okay if you don't. I was just wondering.  
**Pee Wee** Pee Wee Reese. *(Pee Wee shakes his hands, but does so out of obligation. \*Note – Pee Wee does not dislike Jackie, he is just unsure of what to think at this point)*  
**Jackie** Nice to meet you, Pee Wee.  
**Pee Wee** The pleasure is all mine. *(Said with a tone indicating no pleasure whatsoever)*  
**Jackie** I don't doubt that. Looks like you can barely hold that smile in.  
**Pee Wee** Sorry. It's been a long day.  
**Jackie** Yeah. I know how it is. Hey, Pee Wee, I'm real excited to play alongside of you and the other fellas. I promise I'll give you all my best.  
**Pee Wee** Yeah...well, I'll see you tomorrow at practice, okay?  
**Jackie** I'm looking forward to it.  
*(Pee Wee exits)*  
**Jackie** Rachel...I'm glad you weren't here to see that. You should have seen the looks I got when I walked into the stadium. There was a reporter there who asked me how it felt to be the man who ruined baseball. One man, standing near the stadium entrance threw a sandwich he was eating at me. He got mustard all over the sweater you knitted me for my birthday. I hope we can get it out. The team already hates me, Rachel. Mr. Rickey was right. There's no one on my side who can help me.

**SONG: "WILL I WALK THROUGH THIS DOOR ALONE?"**

**Jackie** I'm trying to steal their hearts, all the while they're breaking mine  
 I guess I can't win, since I have black skin  
 The verdict's in, it looks like I'm out.  
  
 Will I walk through this door alone?  
 Will the day come to light when a man dark as night  
 Won't be an awkward sight to the white  
 All the things that I do and the dreams I pursue  
 Tell me "who will these things matter to?"  
*(Music continues as underscore, then fades)*

**SCENE 4: THE BALL FIELD**

*(Dixie enters and sees Spider Jorgensen, Eddie Stanky and Pee Wee Reese looking out into the outfield)*

**Dixie** What are you fellas looking at?  
**Pee Wee** We're watching Robinson out there catching fly balls.  
**Spider** He's an animal!  
**Eddie** He doesn't miss any balls that come his way.  
**Spider** Or anybody else's.  
**Dixie** Yeah, but how does he bat? Is he any good?  
**Pee Wee** Here's your chance to find out. Looks like the outfield's coming in to hit a few.  
**Dixie** Let me pitch him a ball or two. *(Dixie exits, Hopper enters)*  
**Hopper** Good morning, boys.  
**Spider** Good morning, Mr. Hopper.  
**Eddie** Are you going to play Robinson tomorrow night?  
**Hopper** We're planning on it.  
**Pee Wee** Are you serious? He just got here. He's not even part of the team yet.  
**Eddie** Yeah...maybe he should at least finish out spring training.  
**Hopper** Mr. Rickey wants to play him now before the season begins. He's hired some extra security for tomorrow. We're anticipating some real trouble.

**Pee Wee** I guess tomorrow night's game will make history. The first time a black plays on a white ball team...even if it is just a training game.

**Hopper** I hope Rickey knows what he's doing. Do you have any idea of how many complaints we've gotten so far? What does he think is going to happen when we go and play down south?

**Spider** Hey, Robinson's up to bat.  
**Eddie** Moment of truth.  
**Pee Wee** Boy, Dixie is really winding up that pitch.  
*(The three men's head shift as though they are watching the ball being pitched. A look of shock appears on their faces)*

**Spider** Sheesh!  
**Hopper** Dixie! Get over here! Now! *(Dixie enters)*  
**Dixie** Yes, Mr. Hopper.  
**Hopper** What are you trying to do out there? Take Robinson's head off with that ball?  
**Dixie** What are you talking about? That was a great pitch!  
**Hopper** You'd better be glad Robinson had the good sense to jump out of the way....  
**Dixie** If he had any good sense he wouldn't be here!  
**Hopper** Don't you raise your voice to me!  
**Pee Wee** Hey, let's go over here and cool off, huh Dixie?  
**Dixie** This is ridiculous! The whole team's being flushed down the toilet!  
**Pee Wee** Come on!  
*(Spider, Eddie, Pee Wee and Dixie exit)*

**Hopper** Robinson! Come on in!  
*(Jackie enters)*

**Jackie** Yes, Mr. Hopper.  
**Mr. Hopper** How's it going out there?  
**Jackie** Real well. The team's giving me a real workout.  
**Hopper** The plan is to work hard today, but finish early so you can get a good night's rest before tomorrow's game. We'll have a light practice tomorrow, have lunch together, and then warm up before the game.

**Jackie** Well, that sounds great, Mr. Hopper.  
**Hopper** I suppose Mr. Rickey can tell you what you can expect from the crowds tomorrow night.  
**Jackie** Yes, sir.  
**Hopper** We probably won't play you all that much. Mr. Rickey wants you to test the waters tomorrow night. I plan to play you around the third or fourth inning, maybe leave you in for an inning or two and see how you do...and how the crowd responds.  
*(Blackout. We hear the voices of the announcer and sound of crowd in darkness)*

**Announcer 1** Ouch! Things are not looking up for the Dodgers. With three men on base, Pee Wee Reese has just struck out, ending the eighth inning.

**Announcer 2** The Pirates have really been dominating this game. The Dodgers don't have much longer to get their act together before the season starts.

**Announcer 1** You know, the only great play of the game was made by Jackie Robinson in the fourth inning, and then, Clay Hopper took him out.

**Announcer 2** It was just as well. The fans just didn't want to see Robinson out there on that ball field. Even with the added security, the crowd was getting out of control.

**Announcer 1** The crowd may have been unruly, but that didn't seem to bother Jackie Robinson. He was terrific out there.

**Announcer 2** Unfortunately for the Dodgers, it doesn't look like Robinson's great performance will ultimately make any difference. They're just too far behind.

#### SCENE 5: LOCKER ROOM

**Pee Wee** That was the worst game I think we've ever played!  
**Dixie** Hurry up, Pee Wee.  
**Jackie** Where are you rushin' off to?  
**Pee Wee** The dugout. You'd better come too.  
**Jackie** The dugout?

**Pee Wee** It's tradition, Jackie. After a really bad game, we run straight to the locker room, before Hopper can catch us. When he's done screaming at the umpires, he heads up to the locker room to scream at us, but we sneak back down and hide in the dug out until its safe, and then we take the back door out of the ball park. The other fellas are probably already there.

**Dixie** Pee Wee, hurry!  
**Pee Wee** I'm coming!  
*(We hear yelling offstage, as Clay Hopper storms in. No one looks him in the eye)*

**Dixie** Great!  
**Hopper** What kind of a game was that? Dixie, how much money did the Pirates pay you to throw the game?

**Dixie** Mr. Hopper, I...  
**Hopper** How much?! I hope it was more than we pay you, because any moment, Mr. Rickey will be down here and he may very well suggest you go and play for them instead. Pee Wee! Next time you're up to bat, and the bases are loaded, and you have a chance to win the game for us, you might try to actually hit the ball!

**Pee Wee** Come on, Mr. Hopper, we almost beat them. This is the closest we've ever come.  
**Hopper** That's fantastic, Pee Wee, it really is. I hope this day goes down in history as the day we almost beat the Pirates. What a banner day it is for the Brooklyn Dodgers! Just think, years from now, we can all sit our grandchildren on our laps and tell them what it feels like to be a loser! Robinson!

**Jackie** Yes, Mr. Hopper.  
**Hopper** *(Slowly, painfully)* That was a very good play you made in the fourth inning.  
**Dixie** What?  
**Hopper** If the rest of you played like Robinson did today, we might have won.  
**Dixie** Hey, I made some good plays! Robinson isn't the only one who caught a ball out there today!

**Hopper** If those are what you call "good plays," we're in more trouble than I thought. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a few cheerful words for the rest of your teammates. They've snuck back down to the dugout, I'd imagine.

**Pee Wee** Boy, Jackie, you got off easy.  
**Dixie** Yeah, well, that's no surprise. Hopper wouldn't dare yell at Mr. Rickey's little pet.  
**Pee Wee** Come on! Hopper's always on Robinson's case. Ain't that right, Jackie?  
**Jackie** Look, you got something to say to me, cracker?  
**Dixie** Maybe I do!  
**Pee Wee** Come on...  
**Jackie** Then say it!  
**Pee Wee** Gentlemen...  
**Dixie** Back off, Pee Wee!  
**Jackie** Say it!  
**Dixie** Just because Mr. Rickey wants you on this team doesn't mean the rest of us do!  
**Pee Wee** Hey!  
**Dixie** You ought to do us all a favor and go join one of the brown teams. That's where you belong.  
*(Mail boy enters)*

**Mail Boy** Fan mail's here guys! I thought you'd all be hiding in the dumpster with the rest of the team.

**Pee Wee** I wish we were.  
**Mail Boy** Pee Wee, you must have gotten a thousand letters today.  
*(Mail Boy hands Pee Wee a bag full of mail)*

**Pee Wee** Thanks, pal.  
**Mail Boy** Here you go, Dixie. *(Mail boy hands Dixie a bag of mail)*  
**Dixie** Thanks.  
**Mail Boy** Sorry, Mr. Robinson. You only got one.  
**Jackie** Thank you, son.  
*(Mail Boy exits. Jackie opens the letter, reads it, throws it to the ground and storms out. Pee Wee picks up the letter and reads it)*

**Dixie** What does it say?

**Pee Wee** “Jackie Robinson, we’re looking forward to meeting you when the Dodgers travel to the south. We’ll light the stadium with burning crosses and use your own baseball bat to pound you into the ground. Signed, the Travelers.” Wow.

**Dixie** That is if I don’t pound him into the ground first.

**Pee Wee** Will you leave him alone?

**Dixie** What are you always sticking up for him for? I swear you love the colored folks as much as Mr. Rickey.

**Pee Wee** Look, he’s our team mate for crying out loud.

**Dixie** Mr. Rickey forced us to play with him. Fine, he’s on the team. That doesn’t mean I have to like him, or even be nice to him.

**Pee Wee** What in heaven’s name did he do to you?

**Dixie** What do you mean, “what did he do?” He’s black.

**Pee Wee** Boy, nothing gets by you does it?

**Dixie** Look here, Pee Wee, if you’re gonna...  
*(We hear Mr. Rickey and Mr. Hopper coming. Mr. Rickey is yelling)*  
*(Offstage)* You call that coaching? I’ve never seen such a horrible game!

**Mr. Rickey** Come on... *(Pee Wee and Dixie run offstage just as Mr. Rickey and Mr. Clay enter)*

**Pee Wee** Tell me if you plan to win at least one game for me this season!

**Mr. Rickey** Of course we will, Mr. Rickey!

**Mr. Hopper** Tell me the date! I’d like to bring my mother. I’ll have to break it to her gently though.

**Mr. Rickey** The thought of us actually winning a game might give her heart failure.

**Mr. Hopper** We came pretty close today. Dixie made some good plays.

**Mr. Rickey** If those are what you call “good plays” we’re in more trouble than I thought. But Robinson...that play Robinson made in the fourth inning was super human.

**Mr. Hopper** You really think a colored guy is human?  
*(Mr. Rickey’s jaw drops, and Mr. Hopper exits angrily)*  
*(Music continues as underscore, then fades)*

## SCENE 6: THE DINER

*(Clay Hopper and Jackie enter a diner and are greeted by a waitress)*

**Waitress** Good evening, Mr. Hopper.

**Hopper** Good evening.

**Waitress** The rest of the Dodgers have already been seated. We pushed some tables together in the back for you all. That was my idea. I figured the other customers would be less likely to hound you for autographs there.

**Hopper** Well, remember, the pretty girls are allowed.  
*(Clay Hopper exits. Jackie starts to follow but is stopped by the waitress)*

**Waitress** Oh, sir...

**Jackie** Yes?

**Waitress** Sir, I’m afraid we can’t allow you in the diner.

**Jackie** But, I’m with the Dodgers.

**Waitress** I’m sorry sir. We have a strict policy. No colored folks allowed.

**Jackie** But, ma’am...

**Waitress** Look, I can get you a hamburger, but you’ll have to eat it in the parking lot.

**Jackie** Ma’am, it’s raining. Please let me eat with the team. I promise I won’t make a scene.

**Waitress** I’ve already told you I can’t allow you inside, sir.

**Jackie** The thing is, ma’am, I have a cold, and I’m not feeling very well. If I could just get a bowl of soup I would...

**Waitress** I’m afraid I can’t serve you any of the soup, sir. We only have enough left to serve two or three more people, and some of our white customers might want some.

**Jackie** Ma’am, please...I’m begging here...

**Waitress** You’re putting me in a very uncomfortable situation. You’ll have to go outside right now, or I’ll have to call the authorities.

**Jackie** Yes, ma’am.

**Waitress** Good. I’m glad we understand each other. You’ve taken up too much of my time. I should be in waiting on your friends.

**Jackie** Mr. Hopper doesn’t want you back there.



**Waitress**

How would you know?

**Jackie**

He said only pretty girls are allowed.

*(The waitress gasps as Jackie exits the diner)*

**Jackie**

Rachael... I know if I were home with you right now, we'd be sittin' by the fireplace, listening to music. I wouldn't have to worry about having an empty stomach, because you always take time to fix me something good to eat. I wonder if any of the team even notices I'm not eating with them. Sometimes it hurts so bad, Rachael. I know you're not here with me, but it helps to talk to you all the same, because I think sometimes, even when we're far away, you know what I'm feeling.

### **SONG: "HOW CAN I OVERCOME?"**

**Jackie**

How can I overcome a people whose hearts are so numb  
Am I as bad as they make me out to be?  
The very thought of me seems to be  
Something they don't want to see

These people don't know me, never met me before  
Still I am chided, for they have decided  
I bring trouble when I walk through their door

And does it mean God loves me any less?  
Am I a man He's chosen not to bless?  
I know my Father isn't prejudiced,  
I know He'll help me

Will I have my day?  
I continue to pray as I play ball  
Dear God, hear my call  
I'm giving You my all  
Please help me stand tall  
Please help me stand tall  
*(Music ends)*

*(Pastor enters)*

**Pastor**

Jackie... Jackie Robinson?

**Jackie**

Pastor?

**Pastor**

It's me all right! Boy Jackie, you're a hard man to track down!

**Jackie**

Yeah, well, I have to be. Most people looking for me want to use my head as a hood ornament. What are you doing so far from Texas, Pastor?

**Pastor**

I came to check up on you and Rachael. I like to drop in now and then on all the couples I marry and see how things are coming along.

**Jackie**

You came all the way from Texas to check up on me?

**Pastor**

Yep... and to see if you can get me some tickets for Saturday's game.

**Jackie**

You got it.

**Pastor**

I thought I'd surprise you at the stadium, but the mascot, that big chicken or whatever he is said practice got called early because of the rain. He told me I could probably find the team over here though.

**Jackie**

Yeah... the team comes here a lot, but this is my first and last visit.

**Pastor**

Hey, Jackie, what are you doing standing all by yourself out here in the rain? Say, you're not looking so good, Jackie. You feeling all right?

**Jackie**

I, uh...

**Pastor**

Jackie, your eyes are all red. You been cryin'?

**Jackie**

I'm a little under the weather, Pastor, but mostly my spirit's down.

**Pastor**

Well, let's go inside and you can tell me all about it.

**Jackie**

Pastor, I hate to break this to you, but you can't go in there.

**Pastor**

Why?

**Jackie**

Because you're black.

**Pastor** Is that why you're out here? All right, well, you can tell me right here then. A little rain never hurt nobody. So...playin' baseball with these crackers getting to you?

**Jackie** It's just hard, you know. I mean, I'm not looking for a walk in the park, but...I gotta tell you, I'm wondering if I'm making a difference to anybody. When I signed on, Mr. Rickey made it sound like I would be the champion for a great cause, but I feel like I'm ruining baseball for everybody. The fans don't like me; even my team mates don't like me. When I strike out, or miss catching a fly ball, my team mates are sore...I just keep telling myself, I'll try harder, I'll do better, but when I hit a home run, it doesn't seem to make them any happier. I get mail and death threats. There's been a few games cancelled because the cities won't allow a black ball player to come play in their stadiums. Mr. Rickey makes up stories...tells me we can't play because of a power outage, stuff like that, but the boys on the team make sure I know what really happened. Pastor, I put myself through all this, and for what? I can't even go inside of a second rate diner and get a bowl of soup.

**Pastor** Well, I know one person whose life you touched, and who's real proud of you.

**Jackie** Who?

**Pastor** Me...and I know Rachel is real proud of you too, Jackie.

**Jackie** But, you and Rachel would be proud of me no matter what I did.

**Pastor** That's right, Jackie. You just hang in there. Be strong. Remember that old song I taught you back in Sunday school when you were growing up?

**Jackie** The one about staying away from whiskey and wild women?

**Pastor** No, man...the one about the heroes.

**Jackie** The heroes?

**Pastor** Yeah...the heroes God sends our way.

**Jackie** *(Slowly remembering)* Yeah...yeah, how did that go?

**SONG: "GOD SENDS HEROES"**

**Pastor** We all have our troubles, we all shed our tears  
We all have our times when we are forced to face our fears  
In those darkest moments, we can't see the light of day  
God sends us heroes to light the way

**Jackie/Pastor** Heroes, heroes, standing firm when times are bleak  
Heroes, heroes, giving strength to those who are weak  
Now there comes a time you know, when the hero has to go  
But when they're gone their bravery inspires us to carry on

*(Pee Wee, Spider and Dixie enter and notice Jackie and the Pastor Downs singing)*

**Pee Wee** Hey....I know that song!

**Jackie** Oh hey fellas...I was just...

**Spider** Hey, that was my favorite song in Sunday school!

**Jackie** You know it too?

**Spider** Yep, that one and the one about whiskey and wild women.

**Pee Wee** Did you do the verse about David yet?

**Pastor** No...go ahead.

*(Song resumes)*

**Pee Wee** Now David was a shepherd boy, played his harp and brought some joy  
To his sheep, that he watched like a hawk (like a hawk)  
Neither a lion nor a bear could give David a scare  
He killed them both when they attacked his flock (attacked his flock)

Out on the battlefield, without a sword and shield  
David fought the giant all the people feared (people feared)  
But the little boy was calm, with some pebbles in his palm



Went out to meet the giant, who had a sword and spear  
(sword and spear)

The giant let out a roar, as the pebble soared through the air  
And hit the giant in the head (in the head)  
All the shocked people looked, as the earth shook  
And the giant they all feared hit the ground (hit the ground)

**All**  
Now we sing “David, you’re our hero, we thank God for you  
You gave us hope when hope was gone, we didn’t know what to do  
The giant who was nine feet tall would have come and killed us all  
Because you stood strong, we told that giant so long  
Now we can sing a happy song because of you”

Heroes, heroes giving strength to those who are weak  
Now there comes a time you know, when the hero has to go  
But when they’re gone their bravery inspires us to carry on

**Spider**  
Now Daniel was a fellow who would put God first in all he’d do  
He’d talk to the Lord three times a day (three time a day)  
He was a rose between some thorns, evil men met him with scorn  
They made a law saying that he couldn’t pray (couldn’t pray)

The decree was proclaimed but Daniel prayed to God the same  
He knelt down and spoke to the Lord on high (Lord on high)  
And as he broke the law, those wicked men saw  
With a triumphant cry they told him he must die (he must die)

Did Daniel panic when he was inside the lion’s den?  
No way! – He kept his eyes on the King of kings (King of kings)  
The lion’s mouths were shut, Daniel wasn’t scratched or cut  
He came out alive and now we can sing

**All**  
Daniel, you’re our hero, we thank God for you  
You placed your faith upon the Rock and God has seen you through  
The men who wanted you dead were eaten by the lions instead  
Because you stood strong we told those wicked men ‘so long’  
Now we can sing a happy song because of you

Heroes, heroes standing firm when times are bleak  
Heroes, heroes, giving strength to those who are weak  
Now there comes a time you know, when the hero has to go  
But when they’re gone their bravery inspires us to carry on  
To carry on!  
(*Music ends*)

**Hopper** (Mr. Hopper comes outside, looking stunned for a second or two)  
**Pee Wee** What in heaven’s name are you boys doing?  
**Hopper** Oh...hi, Mr. Hopper.  
**Spider** The bus is leaving to head back to the stadium. If you want a ride, you’d better get on.  
**Jackie** We’re coming, Mr. Hopper.  
**Hopper** Mr. Hopper, this is my friend, Pastor Downs.  
**Pastor** Pastor.  
**Jackie** Good day, Mr. Hopper.  
**Pastor** If it’s all the same, I’d like to ride home with him.  
**Jackie** Oh, Jackie...  
**Pastor** No, really, I see the team all the time, I’d like to ride back with you, Pastor.  
**Jackie** But Jackie...