

Melody Me

An Original Screenplay By
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Original Music and Lyrics By
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And
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FADE IN

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - DAY

A typical math class sits in agonizing boredom. Music plays under the dialogue.

TEACHER

Now a triangle with angles 30 degrees, 60 degrees, and 90 degrees has corresponding sides of x , $x\sqrt{3}$, and $2x$. On the other hand, a triangle with angles 45 degrees, 45 degrees, and 90 degrees, has corresponding sides of...

The teacher's voice fades out as a bored student gazes at the clock. There is 5 minutes left in class. Music up.

STUDENT 1

Tickety tock, the hand of the clock going round and round.

STUDENT 2

Oh how I wish that circular dish would emit the sound.

STUDENT 1 & 2

*The sound that gives us the freedom, which only time can tell.
Waiting around for the sound of the bell.*

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

A class of students is bent over the desks, trying to finish a test. A student looks down in frustration, tapping his pencil across his paper.

STUDENT 3

I swear, this history test, it will be the end of me.

STUDENT 4

What do I care for Voltaire, was he born in '53?

STUDENT 3 & 4
How much longer until I can get outta this hell?

STUDENT 5:
Not til ya hear the sound of the bell.

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

The math class is still bored.

CLASS 1
*But I've been waiting and hating logarithmic equating inside my head all day.
It's the very last place I'd want to be.
Because I can't understand it from history to band it's all Greek to my Pompeii
Oh I just can't wait until we're free.*

The class erupts in dance.

TEACHER
Ahem.

The class sits back down in defeat. Music goes under.

TEACHER
Thank you. Now for homework...

Music comes up.

STUDENT 2
Look at him his stupid grin is mocking us.

TEACHER
(spoken in rhythm)
Read chapter 17, tomorrow we'll discuss

STUDENT 1
*This could have been my personal detention cell.
In fact it is, 'til the sound of the bell.*

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

The history class is still bent over their tests.

STUDENT 4

*Whoever thought up history should bite the
dust.*

STUDENT 3

When I think of what could be I simply must

STUDENT 5

*Dream of afternoon and wish that he could
tell.*

Me I'll soon hear the sound of the bell.

CLASS 2

*But I am listening to glistening
descriptions of christenings of
Emperors of old.*

*Why does Walpole High think that I care?
After the bell rings I pick up all my things
and those kings are simply growing mold
But for now I have to say a little prayer:*

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

The math class starts to dance.

CLASS 1

*"Dear God I'm trying to buy into all of this
sighing how I should work hard and
excel*

*But I'm going crazy my vision is hazy
And I can't take anymore!*

We're all waitin' for the sound of the-

The music is cut off as the bell rings. After a pause the whole class runs out the door as the music begins again.

CLASS 1

Bell!

The music ends and the door slowly swings shut.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

There is a crowd of people milling in the hallway. There is a tall, cocky teen at his locker. This JACK LYONS. After a few moments a genial looking teen sidles up to JACK. This is BRETT.

BRETT

Hey man, what's up?

JACK

Ugh, I think this was the longest day of my life. That history test almost killed me.

BRETT

As long as you're alive again by 5:00. We've got auditions today.

JACK

Come on, Brett, you know I'm ready; I always am. As usual, I've got the lead in the bag.

A girl walks up to Jack and Brett. She is kinda cute with a bubbly personality. She has a crush on Jack. This is ASHLEY.

ASHLEY

(awkwardly)

Hi guys, how ya doin? ... You, uh, you ready for the audition?

BRETT

Not really...I guess I should probably start looking through some songs.

Brett laughs a little.

JACK

(wryly)

Another way you should be more like me: think ahead. I picked mine out a few days ago.

ASHLEY

Oh I'm sure you'll do fine!
You're a great actor; you were
fantastic as Danny Zuko last
year.

JACK

That's old news. This year I'm
gonna set a school record for
best performance.

ASHLEY

You're bound to get the lead.

The 2nd bell rings.

ASHLEY

Alright, I gotta go, Sarah's
driving me home. See ya
tonight!

BRETT

Bye Ashley!

Ashley walks around the corner and disappears. Brett and
Jack watch her leave. Then Brett turns to Jack

BRETT

You really got a song picked
out? I've known you since third
grade and you've never done
anything ahead of time! What's
up with that?

JACK

Pfft...not a chance. I'll
choose one once I get home, but
I'm not about to let a girl
know that. You know how they
all talk to each other—soon the
entire female population of
Walpole High would be calling
me a procrastinator or
something like that.

BRETT

Oh no, not "procrastinator!"

Come on, every girl in the whole school knows that anyways! What's the big deal? Who're trying to make yourself look good for?

JACK
Trish Mullen.

BRETT
Trish Mullen?! Holy cow, man, she's untouchable! Are you crazy?!

JACK
No one's out of reach for Jack Lyons. When I ask her out, she'll be mine in a heartbeat.

Jack shuts his locker and starts to walk toward the exit. Brett follows him.

BRETT
Uh-huh...then tell me, Mr. Irresistible, how come you're still single?

JACK
Cuz I haven't had the chance to ask her out, stupid.

BRETT
And just what are you planning to say when this chance shows up?

EXT. EXIT FROM SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

JACK
That's easy! If my good looks aren't enough, my overpowering, eloquent charm will be.

BRETT
Eloquent charm? I'm yet to see any of that.

JACK

Maybe you should watch
me work a bit more. For
example: I walk up to Trish.

Jack walks towards a nearby tree and begins addressing it.

JACK

(suave)

Hey beautiful, there's
something I think that you
need to know. My heart's been
telling me you're the one for
a long time, because—

Music plays as Jack starts to sing.

JACK

*I loved you once upon a dream
I saw your face among the stars
I held your hand in mine
And we sailed among the clouds
Until it was dawn.*

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

ASHLEY

*I loved you once upon a dream
You held me close when the world was
sleeping
You took my hand, and said
That you would be with me forever
But then it was dawn.*

The screen cross-fades and we see Jack and Ashley both
singing at once.

JACK

*I loved you once
upon a dream
I saw your face
among the stars
I held your hand in mine
And we sailed among the clouds
Until it was dawn.*

ASHLEY

*I'll wait for you
within my dreams
I swear this by
the stars that shine upon us
I'll never break this vow
Then maybe love will find us*

The screen fades back to only Ashley at her locker.

ASHLEY

Before it is dawn.

Ashley closes her locker and walks off.

EXT. SCHOOL FRONT

Brett and Jack are walking past the entrance.

JACK

So when you see her headin'
this way, you'd better watch
and learn.

A girl is walking towards Jack. She is hot and she knows it. This is TRISH. Jack doesn't notice her but Brett does. Brett smiles.

BRETT

Oh, I am. Make your move.

JACK

I can't until I have someone
to make it on.

BRETT

Exactly. Make your move!

Brett shoves Jack towards Trish. Jack trips and quickly tries to gain some semblance of composure. Trish looks surprised as Jack stumbles towards her.

JACK

Oh, uh, hey Trish.

TRISH

Heyyyyyyyyyyy...

Trish pauses as she searches her mind for Jack's name.

TRISH

...Jack! How are you?

JACK

Fine...just fine...you?

TRISH

I'm great. SO happy it's Friday.

JACK

Yeah, me too.

There is an awkward pause as they both stare at each other.

JACK

I like your, uh, socks.

The screen cuts to Trish's feet. She is wearing flip-flops. The screen returns to Jack and Trish.

TRISH

Um, thanks.

JACK

Well, I'll see ya later.

TRISH

Uh-huh. See ya.

Trish walks off laughing to herself. Jack and Brett watch her leave. Then Brett turns to Jack.

BRETT

What the heck was that? Her socks?! "Watch and learn, boys.." Well, after that lesson I'm just a chick magnet.

JACK

SHUT UP! It's just cuz I'm tired! They gave me a test on a Friday, what do you expect? Last period too!

BRETT

Yeah, yeah. Blame it on the school.

JACK

Gimme a chance! I'll be ready at the auditions tonight.

BRETT

You're in over your head. We're talking about *Trish Mullen!*

JACK

We're talking about *Trish Mullen* and *Jack Lyons*—Makes perfect sense to me.

BRETT

You're obsessed, man.

Brett begins singing.

BRETT

*You think you gotta get the girl
Gotta get the girl
She's all that you can see
Your thoughts become a whirl
Just think of what you'll be
And watch it all unfurl
You've gotta get the girl*

*All you need is to take the lead
And to walk that beat like cop
Cuz once you've got her, from there it's all
sure
And you'll find yourself at the top*

*So you gotta get the girl
Gotta get the girl
She's all that you can see
Your thoughts become a whirl
Just think of what you'll be
And watch it all unfurl
You've gotta get the girl*

JACK

*She'll be there, in the Lyon's lair
And then you won't dare to laugh
Cuz I'll be a star drivin' her new car
As they ask for my autograph*

Brett joins Jack and they sing simultaneously.

JACK

*I'm gonna get the girl
Go take her for a whirl
So watch out world
I'm gonna get the girl.*

BRETT

*Gotta get the girl,
gotta get the girl
Gotta get the girl,
gotta get the girl
Gotta get the girl,
gotta get the girl.*

The music stops. Ashley is heard from off-screen.

ASHLEY

So that's it.

The camera pans to Ashley, and follows her as she storms up to Jack.

ASHLEY

You don't care at all, do you?
—not about Trish, not about
love, not about anyone. You
come out here like you own the
school, thinking this girl is
just a link in the chain to
make you even cooler? She's
just some prize? You with your
"Lyon's lair," you make me
sick. You think you can use
her to get what you want?

Ashley turns to Brett.

ASHLEY

And you! You're egging him on,
making him think he's just as
great as his arrogant little

head believes! Well listen to this: Trish is not going to go out with you Jack!

JACK

Uh huh. And why is that? What could possibly make Trish refuse me?

Jack pauses for a moment as a thought dawns upon him. Then he smirks.

JACK

Oh I get it. Someone's jealous that good ol' Jack doesn't like her.

Jack turns to Ashley and sarcastically comforts her.

JACK

Now I know this must be hard for you, but if you think you can win me over by lying to me and throwing a temper tantrum, think again.

ASHLEY

Who do you think you ARE?!?!?!?

JACK

You're lookin' at me, you answer.

An awkward silence ensues as the trio stares at each other.

ASHLEY

(quietly)

You're certainly not the Jack Lyons I thought I knew. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a ride waiting.

Ashley storms off towards the parking lot. Jack watches her go in brooding silence.

BRETT

Ouch. That's harsh.

JACK

What's her problem? Can't I like someone? She's gotta learn to control her temper.

BRETT

Yeah well, you weren't exactly prince charming to her either.

JACK

Yeah whatever. Come on, let's get outta here. I gotta get home before that big audition. Wouldn't want to be less than spectacular in front of everyone, would I? See you tonight.

BRETT

Catch ya later.

Jack and Brett go separate ways in the parking lot. A male voice is heard from off-screen. This is THAT KID.

THAT KID

Having a bit of girl trouble?

Jack turns to see That Kid. He is leaning against the brick wall out front.

JACK

(absently)

Yeah...I mean, of course I'm not! Jack Lyons doesn't have girl trouble! Who're you, anyways?

THAT KID

Come on, you know me! I'm That Kid!

JACK

Uh-huh, real funny. Seriously, what's your name?

THAT KID

That *is* my name.

JACK

Oh...well—

A student comes up behind Jack. This is TODD.

TODD

Hi Jack.

JACK

Whoa! Who are you?

TODD

Robert James Stoddard-Fitzgerald
the first, esquire.

THAT KID

That's Todd. He's with me.

JACK

How'd you get "Todd" from all
of that?

THAT KID

(like it's obvious)
Stoddard-Fitzgerald!

JACK

How about just Bob?

THAT KID

That's not the point. You
need some help, don't you? Come
on.

JACK

Where?

THAT KID

To meet the Pops,
of course!

JACK

The who?

THAT KID
The Pop Crew!

They go over to the stop sign across from the school, where a group of students, dressed in black, awaits. They have what appears to be cigarettes sticking out of their mouths.

THAT KID
(to the crew)
You all know Jack, of course.

THAT KID (cont.)
(to Jack)
Jack, this is...[starts naming kids. They wave.]
And this is Steve.

That Kid indicates a kid staring at Jack. STEVE takes a lollipop out of his mouth to greet Jack. Steve talks in an estranged, dreamy, and goggly voice.

STEVE
Hi Jack.

JACK
Lollipops?! You guys come over here to eat lollipops?

THAT KID
Of course! It's against the rules to have them in school!

JACK
Yeah, well it's also against the rules to cut classes.

THAT KID
Classes are obviously not as important as lollipops. Man, you have a lot to learn!

JACK
Come on, you guys are barely ever in class! What could you teach me?

THAT KID

There's a lot.

STUDENT 1

One being how to get a girl.

Todd is once again standing right behind Jack, and startles him.

TODD

A category in which you seem to be lacking.

STUDENT 3

Oh! I know! I can teach you how to play the harmonica!

STUDENT 3 whips out a harmonica and starts playing the piano man theme.

JACK

Ok, so not only are you guys lollipop addicts, but you can also play the harmonica? What else have I been missing!

THAT KID

A lot. You should hang with us sometime. We see everything, you know.

JACK

Yeah, right.

STEVE

I see London, I see France. I see a man wearing funny pants.

JACK

WHAT?

THAT KID

He's talking about Miller. Up there.

That Kid points to Mr. Miller. The camera shoots to view Miller through one of the windows.

JACK
Where did that come from?

THAT KID
Who knows? Even we don't question Steve.

TODD
(aside)
He's kinda crazy.

JACK
You're all kinda crazy. I mean, you're supposed to be rebellious, I-hate-the-worlders, and it seems you do everything but ballroom dance.

MALE STUDENT
I'm going to be a dance major.

JACK
Ok, so you do everything!
Where do you guys come from, anyways?

THAT KID
Wherever. We just kinda...chill around.

JACK
Chill around?

THAT KID
Yup. So of course we know all about your trouble. Which brings us back to point--

JACK
Hold on a sec, there's no way that you know all about that!

THAT KID

Of course we do! We're the
Pop crew, what do you
expect?

JACK
So you're stalking me?

Todd is behind Jack again, and unnoticed after not being in
a few shots.

TODD
(not sarcastically)
Who has time for that?

JACK
So then why—

THAT KID
We just know.

Music up.

THAT KID
*We're dee Pop Crew
It's what we do
We look all around and know
all about you
No one really notices us here
outside
But if you'll just take a
moment
We'll explain our side
You see dee Pop Crew sees what dee
people do
And we watch and we wait for
someone like you
Who don't know where to go who
don't know who to choose
No matter where we go there is
no way to lose
Cuz we don't flow with dee river
But we don't go against
We just sit on dee side
We sit on dee fence
Where we see the whole school
We look all around*

We know what's up and we know
what's down
We see what's right
We see what's wrong
But you just go along tryin'
to belong
We know what you need and
we'll show you the way
But first you gotta listen to
what we say
Cuz we're dee Pop Crew
So you want to get the girl
Here's what you do
First you got to stop thinking
about you
You forget about that other
girl for a while
It's time that you went for a
different style
So listen to us and stop trying
to hide
We're just trying to help.
Man we're on your side!
Talk to the girl who's loved
you all along
See you listen to the Pop Crew
you can't go wrong
Cuz we don't flow with dee river
But we don't go against
We just sit on dee side
We sit on dee fence
Where we see the whole school
We look all around
We know what's up and we know
what's down
We see what's right
We see what's wrong
But you just go along tryin'
to belong
We know what you need and
we'll show you the way
But first you gotta listen to
what we say
Cuz we're dee Pop Crew
Look man dis is what you got to
do

*You go to this girl and you say
"I'm sorry!"
And you make it up and be happy!
Forget the other one she don't
care about you anyways.
Listen: See we don't flow with dee river
But we don't go against
We just sit on dee side
We sit on dee fence
Where we see the whole school
We look all around
We know what's up and we know
what's down
We see what's right
We see what's wrong
But you just go along tryin'
to belong
We know what you need and
we'll show you the way
But first you gotta listen to
what we say
Cuz we're dee Pop Crew
Pop Crew*

The entire crew does something rather absurd to get off of camera, and the music ends. Jack sits stunned for a few moments, and we see that he is alone. The Pop Crew has disappeared.

JACK
WHAT?!?!?!?!?

The sound echoes, and then the screen fades/blacks out.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

There are people scattered throughout the house seats. Brett is seated right in front of Ashley. There is a girl up on stage singing very enthusiastically and very badly. The girl finishes her song and bows.

DIRECTOR
Thank you Courtney. That was...unique...

Jack enters and sits down next to Brett. Jack doesn't notice Ashley, but she cannot help but overhear their conversation.

JACK

Looks like Trish won't have much competition for the lead—a little added bonus to be playing off each other at rehearsals too, eh?

BRETT

Like there aren't 25 other girls auditioning.

JACK

You forget. Allow me to quote: "We're talking about *Trish Mullen!*" Come on, no other girl comes close! Why else would I be asking her out?

BRETT

Because you think she looks good on your social résumé?

JACK

That too.

ASHLEY

You still see her as a trophy, don't you?

JACK

Look who butted in again. To answer your question, she takes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in my book. No other girl could put up a fight, especially not one who throws temper tantrums.

Ashley glares at Jack as Brett starts to get up and pull Jack away.

BRETT

Come on, Jack.

Brett takes Jack aside and out of earshot of Ashley.

BRETT

What are you thinking? That
was way out of line!

JACK

If she can't take the truth,
that's her problem. Now shut
up, it's Trish's song.

Music starts as a glazed look comes over Jack's face. Trish
smiles at the audience and begins to sing.

TRISH

*Love is a simple melody,
A song I always wished would
come my way.
Love is a simple melody
My sweetheart will soon sing
to me I pray.
And how I dream of when that
melody.
Will come and sweep me off my
feet someday.
And so I wait upon a melody
Until that melody takes me away.*

Jack is still dumbstruck by Trish. Ashley, seeing Jack,
just can't take it anymore.

ASHLEY

Couldn't put up a fight, huh?
Jerk. I'll show him a fight.

Ashley jumps on stage. As Trish stands there in surprise
Ashley starts to sing.

ASHLEY

*Melody me, get some harmony,
That's what love's supposed to be.
But when you fall in love, comin' from above
There's a lot that you can't see.
Simple as that, it's a matter of fact,*

*That you're blinded too easily.
And you, in the end, realize you've been
 singin' off key;
Honey, melody me.
Two sing as one, 'till the whole song is
 done,
But I'm done with that for now.
'Cause my Fred Astaire left me in the air
Dry and hangin'. Anyhow,
I can tell you now so listen to me,
Love ain't no simple melody.
I'll sing alone:
My own harmony.*

Trish, now over the initial shock, starts to sing over Ashley, who only sings louder.

TRISH

*Love is a simple melody,
A song I always wished would
 come my way.
Love is a simple melody
My sweetheart will soon sing
 to me I pray.
And how I dream of when that
 melody.
Will come and sweep me off my
 feet someday.
And so I wait upon a melody
Until that melody takes me away.*

ASHLEY

*Melody me, get some harmony,
That's what love's supposed to be.
But when you fall in love, comin' from above
There's a lot that you can't see.
Simple as that, it's a matter of fact,
That you're blinded too easily.
And you, in the end, realize you've been
 singin' off key;
Honey, melody me.
Two sing as one, 'till the whole song is
 done,
But I'm done with that for now.
'Cause my Fred Astaire left me in the air
Dry and hangin'. Anyhow,
I can tell you now so listen to me,*

*Love ain't no simple melody.
I'll sing alone:
My own harmony.*

The music ends as the two girls are panting and glaring at each other.

DIRECTOR

Uh, thank you girls. That was...
a lovely duet...

The two girls nod to the director and walk off the stage.
Brett turns to Jack.

BRETT

You're up man. You sure you
can impress her?

JACK

More than impress her; I can
win her, no sweat. Watch and
learn for real this time.

Jack gets up on stage. Music starts and Jack begins to sing.

JACK

*There was once a guy who said
There ain't no rhythm in your head
And so we listen to, instead
The things we're dreamin' of*

*And if we listen to those dreams
All of a sudden it all seems
To be stuck somewhere in between
The floor and our feet above*

*Cuz when I look at that face,
it doesn't matter the place
My heart's filled with romance
And my head starts to bob
as my heart starts to throb
And my feet they start to dance*

*So when you hear that catchy beat
It means I got happy feet
Cuz with you I am complete*

Completely in love.

Jack starts tap dancing as the music continues. Then he sings again.

JACK

*So when you hear that catchy beat
It means I got happy feet
Cuz with you I am complete
Completely in love.*

Jack ends with his eyes on Trish. The sparse audience applauds enthusiastically. Ashley storms out of the auditorium.

DIRECTOR

Alright, that's everyone. Cast list'll be posted in a few days.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Jack is grinning ear to ear as people crowd around to congratulate him. Brett comes up to Jack excitedly.

BRETT

Jack! Dude that was awesome!

JACK

Told ya I had it.

BRETT

Yeah, but—you really made it!
Congrats, man! Here comes
Trish! We gotta run, right
guys?

Brett nudges Jack and gets the crowd to follow him. Jack is left alone as Trish starts walking towards Jack. Jack leans on his locker and tries to look suave. Trish walks right past him to her boyfriend.

TRISH

Nicci poo!

Trish embraces her boyfriend, and then the two of them walk off together. Jack is left as his locker completely

stunned. After a few moments Ashley comes around the corner.

ASHLEY
(quietly)
Not quite how you expected?

JACK
She's got a *boyfriend*?!

ASHLEY
I told you she wouldn't go out with you.

JACK
So much for "couple of the year."

ASHLEY
Maybe you'd have more of a chance if you weren't such a pompous, egotistical, arrogant shmuck.

JACK
A what?

ASHLEY
Never mind. Just try being a bit less of a jerk once in a while. Anyways, that audition deserves a celebration. How does ice cream sound?

JACK
Sounds delicious. I'll drive. Just gimme a sec to get my sweatshirt from my locker. I'll meet you by the car.

Jack heads back down the English hallway, retrieves his sweatshirt, and goes out through the middle stairwell. That Kid's voice is heard from offscreen as Jack leaves through the emergency exit.

THAT KID

Congratulations.

Camera goes to That Kid, hanging around by the door with the Pop crew once again sucking on lollipops.

JACK

Huh?

THAT KID

On getting the girl!

JACK

But you weren't at the audition.

THAT KID

What's your point?

JACK

So you can't have...nevermind.
I've gotta run.

Jack begins to walk towards his car.

THAT KID

We'll see ya around Jack.

Jack turns back towards That Kid.

JACK

I'm sure you will.

Jack exits towards his car. The frame freezes on the back of his car driving out, and Student 3 walks across playing Jack's audition song on his harmonica. As the screen fades to credits, the rest of the instrumentals come up.