# **AUDITION MONOLOGUES**

#### REN

Sir, you are already alone! We both are. You and me. We've both lost somebody. And even though people say they understand, they don't really. I bet you stop a hundred times a day and wonder "Why?" I do. I wonder why'd my Dad leave? Was it something I did? Something I didn't do? Could I have made him stay? Maybe I could bring him back? But I can't. But I don't have to tell you. You know what that's like. So I guess I came to town frustrated and angry, and it felt really good to kick up a fuss. And I know it got people upset, and I'm sorry for that. But I'm just trying to move on. Cuz I'm so tired of looking back. And I can't stand still.

### **REV. MOORE**

I'm standing before you this morning with a very troubled heart. You see, my friends, as you minister, I should be helping you to find the joy in your lives; last night I realized that I haven't been doing that. After all, we all remember that terrible night five years ago when the lives of four young people ended on the Potawney Bridge. Everyone in this community lost someone that night – a child, a neighbour, a friend. I – Vi and I – we lost out son. Ariel lost her brother. Now, someone I got into my head that my loss was the greatest. That my pain was the deepest. And then, last night, someone much younger than that made me realize how tightly I had been holding onto that memory. A memory that has weighed me down as surely as a great stone. And in that moment, I did something I haven't done for a very long time: I laid down my burden. It was a terrifying moment. And it was exhilarating. This morning I offer you the same opportunity.

## **WILLARD**

If Chuck sees you flirting with Ariel, you are a dead man. That uniform makes you look like a jerk, and it's easier to pick you out.

(Ren: You are always picking a fight, aren't you?)

Mamma says it's my nature. But look Ariel, I know she's been kissed a lot. And she's on to you like a hog on slop. Ariel likes trouble. And you have definitely proved to everybody in this town that you are T-R-U-B-L. (Ren: What's up with you and Rusty?)

Me and Rusty? Beats me. I think she's good-looking and all. But I never know what the hell she's talking about. She talks faster than any girl I ever met.

## **CHUCK**

Ariel, what the heck's going on? We had a date a half an hour ago. I don't like you making a fool out of me. Shut up Rusty. When I say "meet me at eight," what am I – talking to myself? Don't tell me to calm down! Don't – ever – tell me what to do. I know what your friends think of me. And that's crap. I'm the best party in this town, baby, and those three dogs oughta be tied up under the porch. Let's go. Get in the truck.

### ARIEL

Ahh-h-h-h-h-h-h-h-h-h-h-l I'm answering the train. I'm saying, "I can't wait for the day when I get onboard and leave Bomont!" Try it.

(Ren: Where do you wanna go?)

College for starters. I've applied to some places my daddy doesn't even know about. I wanna speak five language and see the world. He wants me to teach English Lit in Baylor County. They don't even speak English in Baylor County.

(Ren: I can't picture you as a teacher)

Thank you. Neither can I. I'll leave that to my daddy.

(Ren: He's a preacher not a teacher)

When you're good at it, it's the same thing. And he used to be real good. He used to be so open, so inspiring. I've seen him give people hope when hope was gone. I've watched him change lives.

# **AUDITION MONOLOGUES CONTINUED**

VI

No. The accident changed everything. Ever since Bobby's death, you make impossible demands on Ariel. (Rev. Moore: I have not confused Ariel's behaviour with my son's death)

He was my son too! Shaw, it's been twenty-one years I've been a minister's wife, and after all that time, I still feel that you're a wonderful preacher. You can lift a congregation up so high, that have to look down to see heaven. It's the one-on-one where you need a little work.

(Shaw: I thought at least you believed in me.)

I never stopped.

## **RUSTY**

Arrgh! So it's not just me, Willard's acting weird? I know we've been weird since kindergarten, but tonight is different. This is the first time we've ever left Bomont together. That makes it like a first date. Maybe we don't travel well! Oh, I should've seen the signs. The whole way up here I had to do all the talking. All he said was, "Uh-huh, mmhmmm, uh-huh, mmhmmm." You know what that means, doncha? My baby's in a panic!

## **ETHEL**

Ren. Up 'til now, I've been real proud about keeping my opinion to myself. But, honey, if I don't say something I'm gonna bust.

(Ren: What's there to say? I lost.)

Sweetie, you never had a prayer. Ren, when you got to the part about leaping and laughing and weeping and dancing – which I loved, don't get me wrong – I was watching the faces of the Town Council. I promised you: Shaw Moore had those votes locked up before he walked in here tonight.

(Ren: That pisses me off)

Good! Now listen: Reverend Moore said he would reconsider only if someone convinced him there was no danger in your "raucous party plans." Make him reconsider. Until you do, you'll never make peace with that man. Or this town.

#### **ENSEMBLE ROLE**

There were these four kids we all grew up with. And they were driving back from a big dance over in Baylor County. Now, maybe it was the rain that night, maybe they were being a little wild but somehow they lost control of the car. It skidded across the bridge, crashed through the railing, and fell thirty-five feet into the Potawney River. Nobody survived. And when the sheriff's office published the autopsy report it claimed there was alcohol and marijuana in their blood. Well! Everybody in town went nuts. And that's when Reverent Moore got so righteous. He started blaming anything and everything - liquor, drugs, rock and roll and dancing.

## **ADULT ROLE**

"And so it was unanimously passed that the price of a dog licence will go from three-dollars and fifty cents to four dollars and twenty five cents. A licenced pet it a happy pet." That takes care of old business. Now let's consider new business. Before we begin, I want to remind all of our young people who have joined us this evening that this meeting is convened to consider official town business. Disturbances will not be tolerated. The floor is now open.