

74 FOOTLOOSE

Rusty & Ariel

WILLARD. (to RUSTY) What does he mean by that? (calls after COWBOY BOB) Hey! Hey! You got something to say?

(REN and ARIEL notice the commotion and rush over.)

RUSTY. Willard. Hey, Willard! I know who I came with. Okay?

WILLARD. Oh. Well. Okay.

RUSTY. Now, c'mon. Let's dance.

WILLARD. Uh-h-h... I think I'm gonna get me a beer.

RUSTY. Oh, gawd!

WILLARD. Ren, you want a beer?

ARIEL. Hold on! Who's gonna drive?

RUSTY. I'll drive.

REN. Sounds good. Then I'll have a beer.

WILLARD. Okay. That's two beers.

RUSTY. I wanna dance! I wanna dance!

WILLARD. I've only got two hands! Ren, could you help me out here?

REN. (aside to ARIEL) Could you excuse me a minute?

(REN crosses away with WILLARD.)

RUSTY. Arrgh!

Start

ARIEL. Let me guess. Willard's acting weird.

RUSTY. So it's not just me?

ARIEL. Rusty, you and Willard have been weird since kindergarten.

RUSTY. But tonight is different. This is the first time we've ever left Bomont together. (gasps at a sudden realization) Maybe we don't travel well!

ARIEL. Rusty, it's just a car ride!

RUSTY. (*frenetic*) But that makes it like a first date, doncha see? 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, mmm-hmmm, uh-huh, mmm-hmmm." You know what that means, doncha? My baby's in a panic!

ARIEL. Now, don't make yourself crazy. Come on. I'll dance with you.

end

(*They join the two-steppin' CROWD.*)

(*Lights up on REN and WILLARD downstage.*)

REN. You okay? You seem jumpy.

WILLARD. That's why I'm having a beer. Mama says I can have one beer or one cigarette, but if I have both I should never come home again.

REN. Willard, c'mon. What's up? You finally go out on a date with Rusty...

WILLARD. Hold on, hold on! Is this a date? You asked me to go for a ride. You told Ariel to invite Rusty. It's more like I'm on a date with you.

REN. And you look so handsome tonight.

WILLARD. Well, thank you. But you stuck me in the back seat with a crazy woman who won't stop moving and talking!

REN. She's excited to be with you.

WILLARD. Oh, well. Sure. That. But the problem is...

REN. Yes?

WILLARD. Between you and me?

REN. Uh-huh?

WILLARD. (*with difficulty*) I can't do it.

REN. Oh. "It"?