

38 FOOTLOOSE

Shaw & Vi

SHAW. I do indeed.

ARIEL. And then I would clap. And you would bow. Remember?

SHAW. Well, you seem to have outgrown that.

VI. Shaw!

ARIEL. What just happened? Did I say something wrong?

VI. Your father's had a difficult day.

SHAW. Vi, I can speak for myself.

VI. (to ARIEL) Honey, why don't you set the table.

ARIEL. I'm not really hungry.

(She exits. VI looks to SHAW.)

Start

VI. Shaw, if you're angry with Ariel, please tell her why.

SHAW. I'm not angry. I'm concerned.

VI. Then get to the point. You two speak and nothing gets said.

SHAW. Have you seen her with this Chuck Cranston? The last time I walked in on the two of them...

VI. You told me.

SHAW. The boy has a record of arrests, Vi.

VI. And the more you object, the more intrigued she's going to be.

SHAW. So I should hold my peace?

VI. I do. And I pray that her infatuation with Chuck Cranston lasts no longer than mine with Elliot Criswell.

SHAW. Elliot Criswell was not an overheated delinquent.

VI. (playful) Oh, he most certainly was!

SHAW. This is not funny.

VI. I'm trying to lighten the mood.

SHAW. Well, I can't. I'm frightened about where Ariel is,
what she's doing...

VI. You can't expect her to sit home with us.

SHAW. Let's stop this conversation right here.

VI. Conversation?

SHAW. Vi...

VI. I seem to have walked in on one of your sermons.

SHAW. Please! Let's not say anything we might regret. } end

(He exits, leaving VI alone.)

[MUSIC NO. 5: "LEARNING TO BE SILENT"]

VI.

SWALLOWING MY WORDS
STARING AT THE FLOOR
COUNTING LITTLE CRACKS IN THE TILE
STRUGGLING TO SMILE WITHOUT CHOKING
LEARNING TO BE SILENT

(ETHEL enters in her own space and sings.)

ETHEL.

WATCHING HOW THE DUST
DANCES OUT THE DOOR
NOTICING MY HANDS START TO SHAKE
CONTEMPLATING TAKING UP SMOKING
LEARNING TO BE SILENT

VI & ETHEL.

ALWAYS HEARING

ETHEL.

"HUSH, ETHEL!"

VI.

"PLEASE, VI!"