

6 FOOTLOOSE

Shaw

Scene 1B
The Town of Bomont, In Church

CHOIR. (*offstage*)

AH AH

ON ANY SUNDAY HERE WE'LL BE
RAISING OUR VOICES IN HARMONY
ONE DAY ONCE OUR TRIALS HAVE CEASED
WE WILL BE RELEASED

SHAW. (*heartfelt, conversational*)

ON ANY SUNDAY, LORD, I PRAY:
TELL ME EXACTLY THE WORDS TO SAY
GIVE ME STRENGTH AND MAYBE THEN
I CAN REACH MY FELLOW MEN
SO WE ALL MAY RISE AGAIN
THANK YOU, LORD. AMEN.

(*Church pews and the choir loft appear.*)

CHOIR.

AH-AH-AH...

(*PARISHIONERS and fill the pews. As REN and
ETHEL enter, SHAW greets them.*)

SHAW. Welcome to Bomont!

(*mounts the pulpit*) Good morning!

Start

PARISHIONERS. Good morning, Reverend!

SHAW. I took the long way to church this morning, down
past the old creek. I heard birds chirping and our own
choir warming up in the distance. I was reminded of a
line from our great poet, Walt Whitman, who wrote, "I
hear America singing." And I thought, "Aren't we the
song that we sing? Don't we lift our voices to tell the
world who we are? And what we believe?" So I ask you
this morning - what song are you singing?

- cut tops. 7

REN. *(turns to audience)*

WE'VE ONLY BEEN HERE TWO DAYS AND ALREADY
CHICAGO SEEMS A MILLION MILES AWAY
BUT WE WERE BARELY HANGING ON THERE
'SPECIALLY WITH MY FATHER GONE
THERE'S NOT TOO MANY PLACES WE COULD STAY
BUT MAYBE MOM CAN FIND A JOB THAT'S STEADY
AND MAYBE I CAN STAND IT FOR A YEAR
AND MAYBE THINGS WON'T BE SO BAD
AND MAYBE I WON'T MISS MY DAD

REN.

AND MAYBE WE COULD
START A NEW LIFE HERE

PARISHIONERS.

OOH AH

STARTS A NEW LIFE HERE!

CHOIR.

OOH...

(CHOIR continues to sing "OOH.")

*
back
in

SHAW. But if Walt Whitman were alive today, what song would he hear America singing? When I turn on television, all I hear is the music of easy sexuality and relaxed morals. I hear rock and roll and the endless chant of pornography. And I ask myself, "Why does our Lord allow this?" We know God has the power to turn all those records and books and videos into one big fiery cinder like...

(He claps his hands before a sleeping BOY.)

...that!

(The BOY startles awake.)

But He doesn't. And why? Because God is testing us. He's watching to see whether we'll choose his path. And that is why every day, we must ask ourselves: "Have I done the right thing?"

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