

22 FOOTLOOSE

Willard & Ren

Scene 4
A High School Hallway

(STUDENTS hurry on their ways to class.
ARIEL enters with RUSTY.)

REN. Hey! Ariel? Right?

ARIEL. Yeah. So?

REN. I'm Ren. Ren McCormack? We met after church? Is this a small world or what? I'm your new classmate.

ARIEL. (after a beat, mimics him) "Howdy!"

RUSTY. Oh, girl, leave that poor boy alone!

(They leave. REN, abashed, turns and bumps into WILLARD HEWITT, a hayseed in a hat.)

Start

WILLARD. Hey, mister! You bumped me!

REN. Sorry.

WILLARD. Don't you ever look where you're goin'?

REN. I said I was sorry.

WILLARD. Hey! You're that new guy from Chicago, ain'tcha?

REN. Perhaps.

WILLARD. Smart-ass, huh? Listen, fella, around here you push somebody... they push back. Next thing you know, you got... (gets confused; forges ahead) ...two people pushing. Get it?

REN. Got it. Lemme ask you something. They sell men's clothes where you got that hat?

WILLARD. (suspiciously) What is that, some kind of stupid joke?

REN. No. That's a really good joke.

WILLARD. That's it, man. I'm gonna kill you!

(He raises his dukes to REN.)

REN. *(throws himself at WILLARD's fists)* Oh, please! Kill me!

WILLARD. *(pulls back, startled)* Huh?

REN. Kill me! KILL ME! That's the most exciting thing I've heard since I hit town! *(extends a hand)* Ren McCormack. And you are...?

WILLARD. *(warily shakes REN's hand)* Willard. Willard Hewitt.

REN. Willard, what do you do around here for a good time?

(WILLARD hesitates, then makes a lewd gesture.)

[MUSIC NO. 3: "I CAN'T STAND STILL"]

Yeah. Besides that. You have any clubs?

WILLARD. Nope.

REN. What about movies?

WILLARD. Nope.

REN. What about malls?

WILLARD. Nope.

REN. What about...

WILLARD. Nope. Nope. And nope.

(Pause.)

We do have the Bowl-A-Rama down by the interstate. *Jene*

REN. Bowl-A-Rama?! Wow. I really admire you. I could never do what you guys do around here.