

REN/RUSTY – ACT 1 SCENE 4

REN

Dancing is against the law?

RUSTY

Has been for five and a half years. Ever since the accident.

REN

What accident?

RUSTY

(Surprised he doesn't know.)

The Potawney Bridge Accident!

(REN shrugs.)

You've never heard of the Potawney Bridge Accident?

REN

If I had, would I be doing this?

(He shrugs again, more exaggerated this time.)

RUSTY

Well! 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.

REN

Whoa. Did anybody survive?

(RUSTY shakes her head "no.")

Oh, god.

RUSTY

Yeah. 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 Reverend Moore got so righteous. He started blaming anything and everything—liquor, drugs, rock and roll...

REN

And dancing?

RUSTY

You got it. He convinced the Town Council that it was all a sin and...

(Snaps her fingers.)

...just like that, they passed this law.

REN

Wait. Reverend Moore has that kind of power?

RUSTY

Reverend Moore? He is the power.

REN

Man. How can you stand to live like this?

RUSTY

Practice. Years of practice. It's not like Chicago. It must be so cool to live in a city where you can walk down the street and get mugged by people you don't even know.

REN

Yeah, I miss that. I thought living in a small town was going to be perfect, like one big happy family.

RUSTY

Let me tell you about that family.