

SCENE 6**BELLA'S DRESSING ROOM**

BELLA is in a robe, eating a piece of pie. There's a knock on the door.

SHERIFF

Hey, Bella, are you decent?

BELLA

Heavens, no.

So come on in.

SHERIFF and SUSANNA enter.

Hey, Sheriff.

SHERIFF

Liked your show.

BELLA

Why, thanks. I didn't break no laws, did I?

SHERIFF

If not, it weren't because you didn't try.

They laugh.

SUSANNA

Sheriff?

SHERIFF

This here's Sister Mary Jo.

BELLA

A friend of yours?

SHERIFF

Uh, not exactly, no.

She has a business offer to propose

BELLA

Really? Have a seat.

SUSANNA

Thank you. Miss Rose...

BELLA

Bella, please. Don't often get a visit

From a sheriff and a nun. What is it?

A business offer of some sort, you said...

SUSANNA

Well...

BELLA

No point bein' bashful. Go ahead.

SUSANNA

We want to hire you to... perform in bed.

BELLA

With both of you?

SUSANNA

What? No! No! God forbid.

I meant with someone else.

BELLA

You did?

SUSANNA

I did.

BELLA

Let me get this straight: I'm gettin' paid
To sleep with someone else?

SUSANNA

And I'm afraid,

As part of this unpleasant situation,
We must include one further stipulation:
You'll have to... well... to dress up like a nun.

BELLA

The novice or the reverend mother one?

SUSANNA

I'm sorry?

BELLA

Makes a difference in the price.
The reverend mother always takes near twice
The effort as the novice does.
But there are men who favor that because...

SUSANNA

Never mind! So you've done this before?

BELLA

Got the costumes hangin' up next door.

SUSANNA

The world's a wicked place.

BELLA

Well, if it's not,
I'm in the wrong profession.

She and SHERIFF laugh again.

SUSANNA

Novice!

BELLA

What?

SUSANNA

A novice nun. That's what you have to be.
In fact, you have to make believe you're me.

BELLA

You want me pretendin' that I'm you?

SUSANNA

Yes, and that's not all you have to do.
You must sleep with the governor.

BELLA

Again?

SUSANNA

You've slept with him already?

BELLA

Now and then,
Afore he got appointed head of state.
What's this all about?

SUSANNA

The reprobate
Will spare my brother's life, if I agree
To share his bed and yield my chastity.

BELLA

Your brother isn't Johnny Blood?

SUSANNA

He is.

BELLA

Well, who'd a' dreamed that some sister a' his
Would be a sister.

SUSANNA

Now about your fee,
I don't have much.

BELLA

Oh Lord, I'll do it free.

SUSANNA

What?

BELLA

I'd do anything for Johnny. See,
It's kinda my fault that he's set to hang.

SUSANNA

You?

BELLA

When he shot Big Swede, the whole shebang
Took place 'cause they were fightin' for my hand.
And then I'm fond a' Johnny, understand.
I always hoped that someday he and I...
Well, let's just say I don't want him to die.

SUSANNA

There's just one caution: if you're being me,
You must conduct yourself appropriately.

BELLA

I didn't realize there were rules in place
For how a nun acts when she's...

SUSANNA

In this case,
There are. If you're performing as my stand-in,
You can't behave with crudeness or abandon.
No "reverend mother." Are we clear so far?

BELLA

She just abolished half my repertoire.

SUSANNA
(to Sheriff)

I told you this idea was a mistake.

Starts to leave.

BELLA

I'm teasin'. I'll behave.

SUSANNA hesitates.

For Johnny's sake.

SUSANNA

All right. I'll have to trust you. Now let's talk
About more obvious problems. Like your walk.

BELLA

My walk? What's wrong with that?

SUSANNA

Each time your stride,
Your hips sway blatantly from side to side.

BELLA

And that's bad.

SUSANNA

If you're imitating me,

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

Your walk must manifest propriety.

BELLA

Propriety?

SHERIFF

(through a mock cough)

Big word.

SUSANNA

Let me explain

My chain of thought in language less arcane.

SONG #8: THE WAY THAT YOU FEEL

THE WAY THAT YOU FEEL ON THE INSIDE
AFFECTS THE WAY YOU APPEAR.
IF YOU WANT TO LOOK RIGHT ON THE OUTSIDE,
YOU HAVE TO FEEL RIGHT IN HERE.

BELLA

I HAVE TO FEEL RIGHT IN HERE.

SUSANNA

WHEN YOU WALK,
THINK OF ANGELS.
THINK OF HEAVEN.
THINK ABOUT A PLACE OF JOY AND LIGHT.

BELLA

JOY AND LIGHT.
HOW'S THIS? IS THIS BETTER?

Music as she walks.

SUSANNA

NO, NOT QUITE.

SHERIFF

Mind if I try?

(singing)

WHEN YOU WALK,
THINK OF CACTUS.
THINK OF CORSETS.
THINK OF STANDIN' UP IN A CANOE.

BELLA

A CANOE.
HOW'S THIS? IS THIS BETTER?

Music as she now walks properly.

SUSANNA

THAT WILL DO.

TRANSITION SCENE

Lights up on SHERIFF in street outside governor's office. Hums a little of "Stop There." Checks his pocket watch.

SHERIFF

I HELPED HER BROTHER,
AND NOW SHE'S GRATEFUL.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SHE COULD EVER CARE.
AND YET SHE SEEMED LESS COLD,
MORE THAN A BIT LESS COLD,
I WONDER IF SHE'D EVER...

SUSANNA enters in high dudgeon.

SUSANNA

Well, I hope you're satisfied!

SHERIFF

(to himself)

Nope! Stop there.

SUSANNA

You and your "take a side" and "long, hard ride."
Of all the brainless, ill-considered plans.

SHERIFF

What's that?

SUSANNA

Involving me with courtesans,
Endangering our lives. Did you once pause
And contemplate the harm this scheme might cause?
Of course not. No, you launched your grand design
And "reckoned" everything would turn out fine.
Poor Johnny, with his hopes now raised so high.

SHERIFF

I get the sense that somethin' went awry?

SUSANNA

Awry? Oh no. Why everything is splendid.
Your little plan worked just as you intended.
In fact, the governor was so delighted
With our night of love, he's now decided
The only way my brother will go free,
Is if I marry him immediately.

SHERIFF

Marry him?

SUSANNA

Or Johnny will be hanged
Today as scheduled.

SHERIFF

Well, I'll be danged.
Never saw that comin'.

SUSANNA

Oh, I knew
It was foolish, listening to you.
I never should have vacated the mission,
Put myself in this depraved position,
Acquiesced so meekly to your plot.

SHERIFF

Yeah, I guess you're right.

SUSANNA

Of course I'm... what?

SHERIFF

Too bad it didn't work. Now you go pack
While I scare up a friend to drive you back.

SUSANNA

Drive me back? Whatever do you mean?

SHERIFF

Think we oughta spare your eyes the scene
Of Johnny hangin'.

SUSANNA

Do you mean that's it?
One minor hitch and you're prepared to quit?

SHERIFF

Didn't you just tell me I was wrong?

SUSANNA

You were, but now that I'm involved headlong,
You need to think of some way to atone.

SHERIFF

No, we should just leave bad enough alone.
After all the sufferin' I cost,
We oughta lick our wounds, admit we lost.
It's clear involvin' you was a mistake.

SUSANNA

Fine. If that's the tack you want to take,
Go ahead. I'll handle this alone.
I'll come up with a new plan of my own.

SHERIFF

Well now, if you're sure that's how you feel,
And I'm not forcin' you against your will,
I do have one thought we might give a go.

SUSANNA

Do I shoot the governor?

SHERIFF

Heck, no.

SUSANNA

Too bad. That was my plan.

SHERIFF

You don't say?

SUSANNA

Sneak up behind and blow his brains away.
If you think it would help, I'm still quite willing.

SHERIFF

Ain't there somethin' in the bible 'bout not killin'?

SUSANNA

Is there? I must have missed that in my study.

SHERIFF

Never mind. My plan's a bit less bloody.
First, I need you to send a telegram.

SUSANNA

Me?

SHERIFF

You said you're keen to help?

SUSANNA

I am.

But who would I write to? What would I say?

SHERIFF

Stop fussin'. I'll explain along the way.

They exit as lights fade.

SCENE 3

Lights come up on GOVERNOR in his office in a fine mood.

GOVERNOR

WHAT A DAY! WHAT A DAY! WHAT A DAY!
OUR MARRIED LIFE IS NOW TWO HOURS AWAY.

Starts dancing around desk as he stamps papers.

DA-DEE, DA-DEE, DA-DEE.

Stamp!

DA-DEE, DA-DEE, DA-DEE.

Stamp!

SHERIFF enters.

DA-DEE, DA-DEE, DA...

GOVERNOR sees SHERIFF and stops abruptly.

SHERIFF

Mind if I come in?

GOVERNOR

In fact I do,
I'm very busy, Sheriff, unlike you.
Right now, I have a wedding to prepare for,
And little time to make arrangements. Therefore...

SHERIFF

Just take a moment. Need your signature.

GOVERNOR

What's this?

SHERIFF

A simple contract to ensure
You don't go off and break your word once more.

GOVERNOR

How dare you?

SHERIFF

Just says what you said before.
If Sister Mary Jo agrees to be
Your lawful wife, then Johnny Blood goes free.

GOVERNOR

I won't sign this.

SHERIFF

Well now, that's up to you,
But there won't be a weddin' till you do.
We're not about to let you fool us twice.

GOVERNOR

Fine. Then Johnny Blood will pay the price
By hanging.

SHERIFF

Maybe. Or he might escape.

GOVERNOR

Escape?

SHERIFF

That jail of mine's in awful shape.
Cement around the bars is chipped and cracked.
Don't know how long it's gonna stay intact.
And then the locks stick when I turn the key.
Part of your marchin' orders from D.C.
Was to build better prisons, I recall.
Guess you haven't had a chance is all.

GOVERNOR

Give me that.

Signs contract.

The hours are ticking down
Till you're no longer sheriff of this town,
And I won't have to hear your gibberish.

SHERIFF

You can replace me any time you wish.
Course the townsfolk might be askin' why.

GOVERNOR

Sheriff, you remind me of a fly.
A common, ordinary, pesky fly,
Buzzing round my office all the time,
Spouting your insipid views on crime.
To try my patience more would be unwise.

SHERIFF

(taking contract)

It's funny 'bout the character of flies:
It seems whenever somethin' starts to smell,
They can't resist pursuin' it pell-mell.
See you at the weddin' ceremony.

He exits. "Someday They Will Thank Me" music starts up.

GOVERNOR

You impertinent, sanctimonious phony.
Do you think you can speak to me that way?
Once I'm married, we'll have more to say.

(singing)

SOMEDAY THEY WILL THANK ME.

SCENE 7**CHURCH**

PRIEST enters, now very drunk. Takes a swig from a bottle or flask. Sings a cappella and very sadly.

PRIEST

WHO LED MY SOUL BACK FROM THE DEAD,
LIKE DANTE’S BEATRICE? [PRONOUNCED: BAY-A-TREE-CHEE]
AND NOW I FIND HE’S OUT OF HIS HEAD.
IS FRIEDRICH WILHELM NIETZSCHE.

Takes another swig as GOVERNOR enters.

GOVERNOR

Easy, Father. That’s enough libation.
Perhaps you should curtail your celebration
Till after all the wedding vows conclude.

PRIEST

Just getting in the proper, festive mood.

GOVERNOR

Shall I give the signal to begin?

PRIEST

Begin what? Oh yes, send the victim in.
Let the good ship honeymoon set sail.

Takes another swig, puts away flask, picks up Book of Common Prayer. Meanwhile GOVERNOR signals offstage. Music— a wedding march version of “It’s a Beautiful Day” starts up. SHERIFF enters with SUSANNA.

SUSANNA

Wait a moment!

Music stops.

I forgot my veil.

She exits. A veiled BRIDE enters, takes the SHERIFF’s arm. Music starts up again. They march up to GOVERNOR and PRIEST. Music stops. Priest opens book.

PRIEST

“Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. In sure and certain hope of the resurrection...”

SHERIFF clears his throat.

What?

SHERIFF points at book. PRIEST smiles sheepishly at governor, mouths “Sorry,” flips back a few pages.

“Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today under the eyes of God...” Hah! “To join these two in holy wedlock...”

PRIEST (CONT'D)

Holy wedlock? Holy like Swiss cheese!

SHERIFF

Excuse us. Could we speak a moment, please?

Pulls PRIEST aside.

You've been drinkin'.

PRIEST

Sheriff, how astute.

And who's to blame for this, my latest toot?

You are!

SHERIFF

Whatcha mean?

PRIEST

You lied to me

About this letter.

Thrusts it at SHERIFF.

It's a forgery.

The actual Friedrich Nietzsche, it appears,

Is in a loony bin, has been for years.

SHERIFF

Really?

PRIEST

And completely off his tree.

The governor, you see's, from Germany.

SHERIFF

All right, I wrote this letter. To help you.

PRIEST

Some help, Sheriff. Now what do I do?

SHERIFF

Look, maybe there's no God, who knows for sure?

But we should play our cards as if there were.

How's that famous line from Shakespeare go,

That Hamlet warrants to Horatio?

PRIEST

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

SHERIFF

A clever man that Shakespeare, mighty clever.

PRIEST

(stirred)

All right. Back to the funeral.

SHERIFF

Wedding.

PRIEST

Whatever.

Opens book and mumbles through previous part quickly trying to find his place.

Dearlybelovedwearegatheredheretoday... blah, blah, blah, blah...

Finds place.

Ahh! If anyone here has an objection...

JOHNNY enters holding a gun, possibly wearing a sombrero.

JOHNNY

Hold it right there. I object, you betcha.

BELLA

Johnny!

JOHNNY

You can't wed her. I won't letcha.

GOVERNOR

Why not?

JOHNNY

Because I'm crazy for her, mister.

GOVERNOR

You're saying you're in love with your own sister?

JOHNNY

That ain't my sister.

GOVERNOR

What's that?

Lifts up veil.

BELLA

(embarrassed)

Why, hello!

SHERIFF

Hell, Johnny. You should be in Mexico.

JOHNNY

I tried to, Sheriff. Couldn't stay away.

GOVERNOR

You tricked me.

SHERIFF

That I did, afraid to say.

DESPERATE MEASURES

Piano/Conductor

+Emaj Harmonica

That's Just How It Is

(Sheriff)

02

Music by David Friedman
Lyrics by Peter Kellogg
Orch. by David Hancock Turner

SHERIFF: Yeah, you could Or you could wait a few days. In which case,
Johnny can seek guidance face to face.

SUSANNA: We're done here. (play harmonica)

Grounded Two $\text{♩} = \sim 75$

[To 5] **5**

1 **SHERIFF:** 2 6 7

SHERIFF: I don't think you understand
The chance that you're rejecting out of hand.
The more I live ___ the more I see ___ Hu - man kind ___ ain't

HARMONICA - play
(Draw 2)

Guitar
C#m G#m A(add9)

8 9 10 11 12

kind. Jus - tice ne - ver was ___ too just ___ And it sure ___ ain't ___ blind. And

Har.

E *Play Piano*
G#m C#m D B sus B

13 14 15 16 17

8 God for-got to tell ___ us why some get to live ___ while oth-ers die. _____

Har. *Draw 2*

C#m G#m A C#m C#m

18 19 20 21

8 That's just how it is.

Har.

+Violin

C#m B A A A

+BASS

22

23 24 25

8 One man plays ___ the part of king ___ an - o - ther man ___ scrapes by.

Har.

violin plays

C#m G#m A E

DESPERATE MEASURES

Piano/Conductor

08

The Way That You Feel

(Susanna, Bella, Sheriff)

Music by David Friedman
Lyrics by Peter Kellogg
Orch. by David Hancock Turner

SUSANNA Let me explain My chain
of thought in language less arcane.

Colla voce **SUSANNA:**

1 2 3 4 5

The way that you feel on the in - side af -

6 7 8 9

fects the way you ap - pear If you

10

11 12 13

want to look right on the out - side You

BELLA:

14 15 16 17 18 19

have to feel right in here I have to feel right in

20

21 22 23 SUSANNA:
here. When you
+ Gtr. Bs Violin

24 25 26 27
walk think of an - gels Think of hea - ven ____

28 29 30 BELLA: 31
Think a - bout a place of joy and light Joy and light How's

32 33 34 35 SUSANNA:
this? Is it bet - ter? No not

36

37 38 39

quite

SHERIFF:

Sher: "Mind if I try?"

When you

Violin

Ab Bbm Ab/C

40

41 42 43

walk think of cac - tus Think of cor - sets

Db Db/Ab Db Db/Ab

44 45 46 47

BELLA:

Think of stan - din' up in a can - oe A ca - noe? How's

Db Db/Ab Ebm7 Ab7

48 49 50 51 52 53

SUSANNA: BELLA:

this? Is this bet - ter? That will do I get it now! The

Ebm7 Ab7 Db Db Ebm Db/F

57 58 59 60 ALL:

8
rant till I'm blue a-bout what I will do But the truth is I real-ly don't know

C F/C C F/C Am G/B C

61 A cappella

62 63 64

think you know what's com-ing and then you re-al-ize in

BAND TACET

65 66 67 68 69 rit.

ways you nev-er fa-thomed Life

Am7

p +Bass, Vln

65 66

in - sane? This might be

Violin

Dsus7 Dsus Eb7sus7

67 68 69 70

aw - ful If it weren't fun - ny It's clear as Sun - day she could nev - er care I

Ab Db/Ab Fm Eb/G Ab

71 72 73 rit.

ought to turn and go But when I try to go My heart keeps say - in'

Fm Cm Db Ab/C

rit.

74 a tempo

Musical score for measures 74-77. The vocal line features the lyrics: "No! Stop there! Stop there! Stop". The piano accompaniment includes chords: $D\flat_2$, $D\flat_2$, $E\flat_{sus}$, and $E\flat$. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 78-81. The vocal line features the lyrics: "there!". The piano accompaniment includes chords: $A\flat$, $D\flat/A\flat$, Fm , $E\flat/G$, and $A\flat$. The tempo is marked **rit.** (ritardando). The bass line continues the accompaniment.

APPLAUSE SEGUE