SUSANNA (CONT'D)

HAVE YOU NEVER FELT THE STRENGTH OF TEMPTATION BATTLING WITH ANGELS FOR YOUR SOUL?

THOSE WITHOUT SIN
MAY CAST A STONE.
BUT FLESH AND BLOOD
WILL KNOW THEIR OWN.
YOUR FAULTS MUST PLEAD HIS PART.
SO PLEASE, BEFORE YOU START.
LOOK IN YOUR HEART. LOOK IN YOUR HEART.
WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART?

GOVERNOR

Sheriff, would you leave us two alone?

SHERIFF

Hmm...? Sure.

He exits.

GOVERNOR

Sister Mary Jo, I'll own
The strong emotion coursing through your plea
Has had a most profound effect on me.
Therefore, I will grant you your petition
To free your brother under one condition.

SUSANNA

Name it.

GOVERNOR

As I said, I've made a vow
To render order to this land somehow;
To end this spree of violence and killing.
But just suppose this one time I were willing
To break my promise for your brother's sake,
Is there one vow of yours that you would break?

SUSANNA

I don't know what you mean.

GOVERNOR

I think you do.

To gain your brother's pardon, I want you To... undertake whatever I may say.

SUSANNA

Act as your servant, you mean?

GOVERNOR

In a way.

You must serve my passion for one night.

SUSANNA

You want me to cook for you?

GOVERNOR

Not quite.

This appetite of mine craves more than food. Perhaps your words may explicate my mood.

Takes her hand.

(singing)

HAVE YOU NEVER FELT THE STIR OF EMOTION
THREATENING YOUR SELF-CONTROL?
HAVE YOU NEVER FELT THE STRENGTH OF TEMPTATION
BATTLING WITH ANGELS FOR YOUR SOUL.

SUSANNA

I'm still not...

GOVERNOR

(exasperated)

How much clearer can I be?

Your brother's freedom for your chastity.

Music stops.

SUSANNA

My what?

GOVERNOR

Your chastity.

SUSANNA

You can't be serious?

GOVERNOR

Oh but I am.

SUSANNA

You're patently delirious.

You can't get away with this.

GOVERNOR

How so?

SUSANNA

You're governor for heaven's sake.

GOVERNOR

I know.

Precisely why in my analysis, I can and I will get away with this.

SUSANNA

I'll tell them all, the whole town what you said.

GOVERNOR

If you think that will help you, go ahead.
I'll deny your claim emphatically.
In fact, I'll say you propositioned me,
And when I turned you down, you grew irate.
You're just a woman in a desperate strait,
Who'd hazard any action or excuse
To save your brother from the hangman's noose.

SUSANNA

Oh horrid, monstrous, evil wickedness. Was ever sin more sinister than this? I'd rather be stripped naked in the heat, Lashed to a cactus, left for buzzard meat, Than yield my body to your loathsome sighs.

GOVERNOR

If that's your wish, then fine. Your brother dies.

SUSANNA

People like you, governor, are why I turned my back upon this world. Goodbye.

Exits. Music starts up.

GOVERNOR

Why Governor, whatever have you done? That you who claim to be the champion Of law and order could prove so unjust. But righteousness is overmatched by lust.

(singing)

THOSE WITHOUT SIN
MAY CAST A STONE.
BUT FLESH AND BLOOD
WILL KNOW THEIR OWN.
BEFORE YOU RUSH TO BLAME,
WOULD YOU NOT ACT THE SAME?
LOOK IN YOUR HEART.

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.







