

SCENE 4

Lights up on cell. JOHNNY is looking out window; Priest is still sleeping. SHERIFF opens door to room and ushers SUSANNA in.

SHERIFF

(quietly)

Take all the time you need. I'll be nearby.

He exits.

SUSANNA

Johnny, is that you?

JOHNNY

What's that?

(turning around)

Oh my!

Now he's even throwin' nuns in jail.

Watcha'do? Steal cookies from the church bake sale?

Or did ya eat once without sayin' Grace?

SUSANNA

Oh, Johnny. Don't you recognize my face?

JOHNNY

Should I? You don't look like anyone...

I... Wait...! Susanna? Sister!

Hugs her through bars.

You're a nun?

SUSANNA

I will be soon. A few days from this date,

I finish my two-year novitiate,

And take my vows as Sister Mary Jo.

JOHNNY

Our mother's name?

SUSANNA

The same.

JOHNNY

Well, wadya know?

Look, Sis, I guess you know what you're about.

Still, never thought of you as bein' devout.

SUSANNA

When Father passed on, I was stung by grief,

And for a time, I struggled with belief.

But ever since I found my true vocation,

God has been my rock and consolation.

JOHNNY

(to sleeping priest)

Did you hear that? Her rock and consolation.

PRIEST snores.

SUSANNA

Is that a priest?

JOHNNY

Don't pay him never mind.

He's a hopeless drunk. How did you find

Out where I was and watcha' doin' here?

I thought you's mad at me.

SUSANNA

Let me be clear:

I'm furious with you. But when I heard

That you might be... I came to have a word

With the governor and ask for clemency.

JOHNNY

You're speakin' to the governor? For me?

SUSANNA

We have already spoken.

JOHNNY

Glory be!

Tell me, is he gonna set me free?

SUSANNA

Not exactly.

JOHNNY

What? Did he refuse?

SUSANNA

My brother, I'm afraid I have bad news.

JOHNNY

He turned you down.

SUSANNA

No, it was worse than that.

JOHNNY

What could be worse than bein' turned down flat?

SUSANNA

He told me he would grant you clemency...

Only if I... well, if I agree...

I don't know how to tell you what he said.

JOHNNY

Try.

SUSANNA

He will free you if I... share his bed.

JOHNNY

What?

SUSANNA

If I give my body for one night,
Surrender to his lustful appetite,
Then and only then will you be freed.

JOHNNY

But that's

(excited for a moment)

...that's awful, terrible.

SUSANNA

Indeed.

JOHNNY

Disgustin'. Loathsome. For one night, you stated?

SUSANNA

One horrid night.

JOHNNY

And then I'm liberated?

SUSANNA

You would be, yes, but at what dreadful cost?
My sacred chastity forever lost.

JOHNNY

Well, you won't do it, Sis.

SUSANNA

Of course I won't.

JOHNNY

Don't want that on my conscience.

SUSANNA

No, you don't.

JOHNNY

If you believe that chastity's essential,
Then even though you're holdin' the potential
To save my life, no reason why you should.

SUSANNA

My thought exactly.

JOHNNY

Still, Sis, if I could,
It's not a thing most women care about.

SUSANNA

(loudly)

What's that!!?

PRIEST

(waking up)

Oh, my head!

JOHNNY

Just pointin' out.

There are some women out there, quite a few
Less attached to chastity than you.

SUSANNA

Are you suggesting I should give my virtue
To save your neck?

PRIEST

Please!?

JOHNNY

Would it really hurt you?

As much as stranglin' by a noose would, say?

PRIEST

Could you speak a little softer, pray?

SUSANNA

You call yourself my brother, yet you would
Accept my ruin for your fleeting good.
Coward!

PRIEST

Please, my head throbs when you holler.

JOHNNY

I ask this priest, this man a' God, this scholar
As has a theological degree.
Padre, tell us, please, does chastity
Have any special meaning, any worth
Up in heaven or down here on earth.

PRIEST

None at all. This cult of chastity
Is pietistic nonsense.

JOHNNY

There. You see.

PRIEST

There is no...

Puts hand over PRIEST's mouth.

JOHNNY

Thank you, father. That will do.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Well?

SUSANNA

You said he's a hopeless drunk?

JOHNNY

That's true.

But also an informed and holy priest.

PRIEST mumbles "Thank you."

And then you must agree with this at least:

Chastity is some abstract ideal.

Whereas death is very, very real.

I understand your feelings, Sis, I do.

But try to see this from my point of view:

SONG #5: IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE

SEE THAT HERD OF BIRDS,
RIDING THROUGH THE BLUE.
CAN'T YOU HEAR THEIR WORDS
CALLING OUT TO YOU?
LIFE IS SHORT, THEY SING.
STILL WE RUSH AND STRIVE,
FOR WE KNOW ONE THING:
IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE.

CACTUS ON THE PLAIN
WRASSLE WITH THE DUST.
PANTING FOR THE RAIN
JUST BECAUSE THEY MUST.
STILL SOMEHOW THEY GROW,
STILL SOMEHOW THEY THRIVE.
COULD IT BE THEY KNOW,
IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE?

I'M NOT SAYING LIFE IS ALL SUNSHINE AND ROSES.
SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO LIVE.
BUT YOU MUST ADMIT IT'S A BIT MORE APPEALING
THAN THE ALTERNATIVE.

HEAR THE COYOTES BAY
IN THE DESERT NIGHT.
SHADOWING THEIR PREY.
LUSTING FOR A FIGHT.
BRAWLING TOOTH AND CLAW.

SCENE 2

Lights up on jail cell. BELLA bursts in.

BELLA

Johnny!

JOHNNY

Bella! Oh, I knew you'd show.

BELLA

Johnny, darlin' man. I've missed you so.
Kiss me hard. Now how's my favorite fella?

JOHNNY

I got some mighty good news for you, Bella.
They may not hang me after all.

BELLA

I know.

JOHNNY

There was a plan last night to fool the... whoa!
Whatcha mean, you know? The sheriff tell ya?

BELLA

Yes, he told me every detail.

JOHNNY

Well ya

Must allow it's one inspired solution.
A' course it all depends on execution.
So which girl did he sweet-talk to agree
To be the... oh no! Not you? Not you?

BELLA

(proud as can be)
Me!

JOHNNY

How could you?

BELLA

Why whatever do you mean?

JOHNNY

I love you with every fiber of my bein'
And you go sleepin' with another guy.

BELLA

It's 'cause I love you that I did.

JOHNNY

Nice try.

But that's not love. It's cheatin' and betrayal!

BELLA

Johnny, that's dumb, even for a male.
You don't know the first thing about love.
Love's unselfish. Love is thinkin' of
The other person's welfare most of all.

JOHNNY

Your welfare's doin' fine as I recall.
How many men did you sleep with last year?

BELLA

That's my job. I thought we had this clear:
I'm savin' for the future, and to buy
A farm to share with some deservin' guy,
When I end my professional career.

JOHNNY

Yeah, well you know who I slept with last year,
The list of women, total and complete:
Just one. Just you.

BELLA

Really? That's so sweet.

JOHNNY

You don't love me half like I love you.

BELLA

That ain't fair. And what's more, that ain't true.

SONG #13: JUST FOR YOU

I SLEPT WITH ANOTHER GUY,
JUST FOR YOU.

JOHNNY

SHOT A MAN AND WATCHED HIM DIE,
JUST FOR YOU.

BELLA

DRESSED MYSELF UP LIKE A NUN.

JOHNNY

SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD LOTS OF FUN.
BUT I'M IN JAIL FOR WHAT I DONE

BOTH

JUST FOR YOU.
YOU SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME,
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE.
YOUR LOVE DON'T COME NEAR WHAT I DO
JUST FOR YOU.

43

not say - ing life is all sun - shine and ro - ses

Some - times it's hard to live

But

51

you must ad - mit it's a bit more ap - peal - ing

than the al - ter - na - tive

8va

61

8

Hear the coy - otes bay _____ In the des - ert night _____

62 63 64

G C/G G D/F#

8

sha - dow - ing their prey _____ lust - ing for a fight _____

65 66 67 68

Em Bm C

8

Braw - ling tooth and claw _____ That's how they sur - vive _____

69 70 71

Em Bm C

8

_____ They know but one

72 73 74

Em/C# Em/C# G/D

75 *law* _____ 76 77 78 *It's good to be _____ a*

G/D G/D G/D C/D *cut off violin and bass fermata with vox*

81

82 83 *rit.* 84 *live* _____ *It's good to be _____ a -*

G C/G D/G C/G C/D

85 86 87 88 89 *live* _____

G C/G C G/B Am7

DESPERATE MEASURES

Piano/Conductor

Just For You - Reprise

(Johnny, Bella)

13A

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

1 **PRIEST:** One more time!

2 **JOHNNY:** I get out of bed each morn Just For You

3 **BELLA:** Wan-na know why I was born?

4

5 Just For You

6 **JOHNNY:** I'd give up my bach-'lor-hood

7 **BELLA:** I would set-tle down for good

8 **JOHNNY:** No you would - n't!

BELLA: Sure I would

9 **BOTH:** Just For You

The score includes piano accompaniment with chords such as E, B, D, A/C#, and E7.

10

11 12 13

You think I don't love you But if you on-ly knew No-thin' you've done hi-ther-to Can com-pare with what I do ___'Cause

A E/G# B7 E A E/G# A E/G#

16

14 15 17

ev-ry-thing I e-ver do ___ is Just For I would ne-ver kill a-gain I would give up oth-er men

JOHNNY: BELLA:

A E/G# E B7 A E/G# A E/G#

18 19 20 21

I would love you till I die ___ Six more hou-rs? What a guy. Wan-na know the rea-son ___ why?

JOHNNY: BELLA: BOTH:

A *mp* E/G# A E/G# A E/B

22 23 24 25

Just For You

B7 E A/E E B7 E

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