

BETTY

Now, gimme a push, honey.

REN

Yes, ma'am.

BETTY

Thank you.

*(He does and BETTY glides offstage, leaving REN and ARIEL alone.)*

ARIEL

You are either very brave or very stupid.

REN

Which do you think?

ARIEL

I haven't made up my mind. Wanna see something?

REN

Don't you have a curfew?

ARIEL

My daddy invented it. Come on!

*(ARIEL pulls REN around on his skates as the scene shifts to:)*

**Music 6A: FIELDS OF BOMONT (SCENE CHANGE)**

**SCENE 7: The Great Plains of Bomont**

**START**

*(The night sky is empty except for a crescent moon. In the distance we hear a train whistle; ARIEL wails, joining her voice with the whistle as it travels and fades across the horizon.)*

ARIEL

Aah-h-h-h-h-h-h-h...!

REN

What are you doing?

ARIEL

I'm answering the train. I'm saying, "I can't wait for the day when I get onboard and leave Bomont!" Try it.

REN

No, thanks. I just ate. You are really something.

ARIEL

Thank you.

REN

I mean the whole package. Minister's kid, biker's girlfriend.

ARIEL

Guilty.

REN

Just a church goin' gal with some bad-ass red cowboy boots.

ARIEL

My daddy hates me wearing these boots.

REN

And you love that, don't you? Getting up in his face?

ARIEL

Just so he'll notice when I'm gone.

REN

Where're you gonna go?

ARIEL

College, for starters. I've applied to some places my daddy doesn't even know about. I wanna speak five languages and see the world. He wants me to teach English Lit in Baylor County.

(Beat)

They don't even speak English in Baylor County.

REN

I can't picture you as a teacher.

ARIEL

Thank you. Neither can I. I'll leave that to my daddy.

REN

He's a preacher, not a teacher.

ARIEL

When you're good at it, it's the same thing. My daddy used to be real good.

REN

What changed?

ARIEL

His mind. He closed it.

REN

I noticed.

ARIEL

He used to be so open, so inspiring. I've seen him give people hope when hope was gone. I've watched him change lives.

REN

If you love him so much, why do you wanna tick him off?

ARIEL

I didn't say I love him.

REN

Boy, do I know what you mean! My dad... If he were here right now, know what I'd say?

ARIEL

What?

*(In imitation of ARIEL'S earlier wail, REN throws his head back and screams.)*

REN

Ah-h-h-h-h-h-h...! "How can you be so stupid to leave Mom and me? I... hate... you!"

ARIEL

Feel better?

REN

I'm not sure.

*(Beat)*

ARIEL

Do you wanna kiss me?

REN

*(Taken aback.)*

Someday.

ARIEL

"Someday." What do you mean, "Someday?"

REN

*(Flustered)*

I've got a feeling you've been kissed a lot. I'm afraid I'd suffer by comparison.

ARIEL

You don't think much of me, do you?

REN

Oh, I think of you more than I expected.

*(Beat)*

C'mon. I'll walk you home.

END