

SCENE 2

A BOY'S BEDROOM

#2 BE THE HERO

(WILL trades places with YOUNG WILL, who sits on his bed. WILL exits. EDWARD enters with a traveling case.)

EDWARD

Evening, son.

YOUNG WILL

Where were you? You missed my game.

EDWARD

How do you know I wasn't hiding in the stands? Maybe I didn't want to spook you, keep you from hittin' that home run.

YOUNG WILL

We were playing soccer.

EDWARD

That's barely a sport. Now, what story's it gonna be tonight?

YOUNG WILL

I already marked it. Here.

(He hands EDWARD a book--it's "The Iliad")

EDWARD

You don't want this. These are prefabricated. Predigested. Let me tell you a real story -

YOUNG WILL

(wary)

You mean another story about you.

EDWARD

A story about life!

YOUNG WILL

Dad -- can you even read?

EDWARD

I can read just fine! Look...

EDWARD (CON'T)

(Clearing throat; making a real effort)

Chapter nine: "Thus kept the Trojans watch, but the ay-KEE-uns were holden of wondrous Panic..."

(checking book cover)

The hell is this book?

YOUNG WILL

It's about the Trojan War.

EDWARD

Okay. Ancient Rome and all that.

YOUNG WILL

They're actually Greek.

EDWARD

That's my point! We live in Alabama, Will. We got stories under every leaf and every stone.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU
YOU COULD CHANGE THE WORLD WITH JUST ONE THOUGHT
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU
YOU COULD BE A KING
ANYTHING YOU DESIRED, BOY
ANYTHING ON A PLATE
ALL WITHIN YOUR POWER TO CREATE

I KNOW SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS
THERE'S A STORY MEANT FOR ME
WHERE I ALWAYS KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO SAY
I KNOW SOMEWHERE SOME SURPRISING ENDING
WAITS FOR ME TO TELL IT MY OWN WAY

BE THE HERO OF YOUR STORY IF YOU CAN
BE THE CHAMPION IN THE FIGHT
NOT JUST THE MAN
DON'T DEPEND ON OTHER PEOPLE
TO PUT PAPER NEXT TO PEN
BE THE HERO OF YOUR STORY, BOY, AND THEN
YOU CAN RISE TO BE THE HERO ONCE AGAIN

Now, best part of an adventure is the people you meet.

(Reveal THE WITCH--EDWARD greets her.)

SCENE 4

NEAR THE BANKS OF A RIVER

(Sunlight and trees. EDWARD is skipping more stones.)

WILL

Dad, seriously, you need to get dressed. The wedding's in forty-five minutes.

EDWARD

(re: skipping stones)

See that? I almost got seven. Seven's good luck.

(looks over)

You'll need luck, what with that baby coming.

WILL

(trying to play it cool)

What are you talking about?

EDWARD

(watching WILL, a smile)

Josephine's pregnant.

WILL

How do you..?

EDWARD

(re: WILL's face)

'Cuz you just told me, just now. See, back when I worked at the circus, I developed a knack for reading expressions -- useful with lions. Plus she didn't drink at the rehearsal dinner.

WILL

Okay, Dad, nobody knows she's pregnant. You can't tell Mom.

EDWARD

Why not?

WILL

Because it's super-early. Statistically, there's a good chance it could not happen so...

EDWARD

Statistically.

WILL

Yes.

EDWARD

You -- an Alabama boy -- meet an American girl all the way over in Baghdad. What are the odds of that, statistically?

WILL

We're both reporters so it's not that remarkable.

EDWARD

Lord, Will. I would hate to see the rainbows in your world. Bet they're all-shades of gray.

WILL

It's just, the baby, I don't want to jinx it.

(EDWARD tosses another stone. We hear it skip across the water.)

EDWARD

(re: stone)

Relax, Will. That's seven. Everything's gonna be fine.

WILL

Promise me you won't say anything. And what we talked about earlier: no stories. No toasts.

EDWARD

C'mon. When have I ever embarrassed you?

(off WILL's reaction)

Fine. I'm not good around orchestras. But I really thought I could play that violin. It doesn't look that hard.

(SANDRA enters wearing a beautiful dress)

SANDRA

Honey, get dressed.

EDWARD

Will was holding me up! Look at you. Give me a kiss.

SANDRA

I just did my face. Go put on clothes.

(EDWARD screams, clutching his neck. Moving downstage, he takes his hands away, surprised to find there's no noose. SANDRA wakes, panicked to see EDWARD in this state.)

SANDRA

Edward? Honey?

EDWARD

He attacked me. Come after me like I'm a villain.

SANDRA

You're okay! Let's calm down. Tell me what happened.

EDWARD

I just did!

(beat)

I did, didn't I? It's all got kinda blurry.

(He crumples to the floor. SANDRA joins him.)

SANDRA

It's okay honey. It was just a nightmare. You're right here with me.

(They both listen to the rain)

[SFX: THUNDER]

#17 I DON'T NEED A ROOF

EDWARD

The roof should hold up. The shingles still got at least ten years in 'em. You'll be fine.

(off her reaction)

Ah, honey. What'd I say?

SANDRA

IN YOUR FACE
I SEE A LIFETIME
IN THIS PLACE