

Audition Sides - Ren, Shaw

REN

(genuinely surprised)
You think he told the town council how to vote?

ETHEL

You can still sound shocked. I love that about you.

REN

But he's a man of God!

ETHEL

He's a man. And you were railroaded.
(a beat, then emphatic)
But! Reverend Moore said he would reconsider if someone could convince him there was no danger in your "raucous party plans." Make him reconsider.

REN

But—

ETHEL

Until you do, you'll never make peace with that man. Or this town. Now, go!

TRACK 26: TRANSITION TO MOORE HOME

ETHEL turns and pushes him, then exits. REN crosses towards the Moore Home.

SCENE 12: THE MOORE HOME

REN approaches the Moore Home; SHAW – cinching a robe, clasping a prayer book – crosses and opens the front door.

BEGIN

REN

Reverend.

SHAW

Mr. McCormack. It's late.

REN

(cheery)
Really? I'm wide awake.

SHAW gives him a withering look.

I have a question: before tonight's meeting, did you tell the Council how to vote?

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SHAW

(caught by surprise)
We... discussed the issue, of course.

REN

But, did you tell them how to vote?

SHAW

Ren, this is more than a question of a dance...

REN

(forcefully)
Did you?

SHAW's silence is his answer.

Reverend Moore, I understand what this town has been through...

SHAW

If you did, you wouldn't have provoked your classmates to re-open the wounds we have healed.

REN

Those wounds are not healed. If they were, you wouldn't be fixing the vote on the town council—

SHAW

(talking over him)
I thought it was time to put an end to this nonsense.

REN

Nonsense?! All I say is who's up for a little dancing and the only thing people here can think about is the Potawney Bridge and four kids—

SHAW

Mr. McCormack!

REN

And I know your son was one of them. And I'm sorry for your loss, I truly am, but honoring their memory by shutting out the world isn't working.

SHAW

How can you presume to know what I've been through? You don't have a clue!

(with anger, loudly)

Good night, Mr. McCormack. I would like to be alone!

REN

(even louder and more emphatic than SHAW)
Sir, you already are!

END