

REV. SHAW

If Walt Whitman were alive today, what song would he hear America singing? All I hear is rock and roll music preaching a gospel of relaxed morals. And I ask myself, "Why does our Lord allow this?" ... Because He is testing us. And that is why, every day, we must ask ourselves: "Have I done the right thing?"

REN

That's it! We're gonna throw a dance! We're gonna throw an awesome party that's gonna knock Bomont right off it's tractor. I'll take on anybody! I'll fight city hall! How long do you have to live in the shadow of the Potawny Bridge accident? There's gotta be a way out of this.

WILLARD

You know, my mama says when a girl looks at you like I seen Ariel lookin', she is on to you like a hog on slop. But if Chuck sees you flirting with Ariel, you are a dead man.

ARIEL

Daddy, lately all you do is look for the worst in people and then, of course, you find it. Today's sermon is: the world is evil, and Ariel has to be locked away in a tower. Daddy, you make me feel like a prisoner. And I hate it! I just hate it!

ETHEL

Ren, I don't want to move any more than you do. I, too, wish your father hadn't left and we both wish I could be one of those strong single mothers who suddenly becomes self-sufficient! But I'm not. *[pause]* Please feel free to disagree.

VI

The accident changed everything. Ever since Bobby's death, you make impossible demands on Ariel. Shaw, when you give a sermon you can lift a congregation up so high, they have to look down to see heaven. It's the one-on-one where you need a little work.

RUSTY

Great sermon, Reverend! And oh! What you said about Walt Whitman and rock 'n' roll and "listen to the music in your soul," and all that, I mean, I was, like, "Who knew?"