

SCENE 12

(1923. ZEBULON. MAYOR'S HOUSE.)

(The MAYOR enters, confronts JIMMY RAY.)

MAYOR

I hope you don't love her.

JIMMY RAY

What is it, Daddy?

MAYOR

Jimmy Ray, are you the father of Alice Murphy's child?

(Oh. He's taken aback.)

JIMMY RAY

It's conceivable.

MAYOR

Jimmy Ray, sometimes you are too eloquent.

JIMMY RAY

She's going to have a baby?

MAYOR

It appears she is.

JIMMY RAY

I should go see her.

MAYOR

And what?

JIMMY RAY

Tell her I love her.

MAYOR

But you don't mean that. Now, it might feel like you do. But you're young, Jimmy Ray.

JIMMY RAY

I know those feelings, those misleading ones. I've felt them before. But Alice. I see her and it's different. She has special qualities that....

MAYOR

Special qualities. Those "special qualities" exist in your imagination. And the last thing we need is you dragging around a callow bride and child everywhere we do business. You let me take care of this.

JIMMY RAY

Daddy, I'll handle this myself. It's my right and my responsibility.

#11 I CAN'T WAIT PT. I

(JIMMY RAY exits.)

[TRANSITION TO:]