

SCENE 1

(1924. ZEBULON. MAYOR'S LIVING ROOM.)

(The MAYOR is in the living room. He is not well, and has a slight yellow cast. He drinks a scotch. JIMMY RAY enters, carrying a suitcase.)

START



JIMMY RAY

(firm)

You shouldn't be drinking.

MAYOR

Something's got to calm my agitation.

JIMMY RAY

You should be lying down.

(JIMMY RAY prepares medicine for him.)

Here's your medicine.

(He offers him medicine.)

MAYOR

There's no doubt about it. I'm turning yellow as a sunflower. That's poison in my liver, they tell me. That's a swift thing.

JIMMY RAY

Maybe not.

MAYOR

(sees his suitcase)

Suitcase? Where're you headed?

JIMMY RAY

Chapel Hill.

MAYOR

Overnight?

JIMMY RAY

Maybe more. Maybe a week or more.

MAYOR

Who's going to take care of me?

JIMMY RAY

I've arranged it.

MAYOR

You take care of me! The son takes care of the father the same way the father took care of the son!

JIMMY RAY

I'll be back.

MAYOR

What's in Chapel Hill? Business, I hope.

JIMMY RAY

What do you think?

MAYOR

That girl that almost ruined you? You stay away from her. Trouble once is trouble always.

JIMMY RAY

She and I are bonded, and we have a child out there somewhere.

(then)

Together maybe we can find him and lay claim.

MAYOR

(mocking)

Find him.

(JIMMY RAY starts to go.)

JIMMY RAY

Why not? You'd be surprised what can be accomp...

MAYOR

You will never find that child.

JIMMY RAY

What do you mean?

MAYOR

You're still holding that suitcase, Jimmy Ray.

*(JIMMY RAY puts down the suitcase.
Checks his watch.)*

That's better.

(then)

I took care of my son that night. I made everything right for you, so you could go into the world without encumbrance.

JIMMY RAY

That adoption should have been my decision.

MAYOR

There was no adoption.

JIMMY RAY

What are you talking about?

MAYOR

I cleansed you as sure as I was dipping you in baptismal waters.

JIMMY RAY

Is this the liquor talking?

MAYOR

Nobody knew the mayor on that train; I got on in Ryan County. I was just a businessman passing through. But not with papers in a briefcase...Something better. Something better to relocate.

JIMMY RAY

What? What'd you have?

MAYOR

Had me a baby in a suitcase.

JIMMY RAY

What do you mean? What did you do?

MAYOR

I walked toward the far end of the train where there was just me and the creature and the clatter of the tracks. I stepped out between the cars...

JIMMY RAY

No.

#16 HEARTBREAKER

MAYOR

...and as we passed over the river I flung it high into the air. ← **END**

JIMMY RAY

I'VE HEARD OF EVIL IN THE WORLD
BUT YOU AND I ARE FLESH AND BLOOD
HE WAS JUST A BABY
HE WAS MY SON

MAYOR

I did it for you.

(JIMMY RAY points for the MAYOR to leave. The Mayor slowly exits.)

JIMMY RAY

THERE GOES OUR CHANCE FOR HAPPINESS
AND ALL OUR HOPES AND DREAMS
I'LL NEVER GET TO SEE HIS FACE
OR KNOW THE BOY HE'D BE
I CAN NEVER GO SEE HER AGAIN
NEVER LOOK INTO HER EYES AGAIN
I CAN NEVER TELL HER WHY

HOW COULD SHE EVER LOVE ME NOW?
OOH, HEARTACHE!
HOW COULD SHE EVER LOVE ME NOW?
HEARTBREAKER!
HEARTBREAKER!

LOOK AT WHAT YOU DONE TO ME
YOU DESTROYED ME
I CAN NEVER GO SEE HER AGAIN
I COULD NEVER HURT HER WITH ALL THIS