

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 DAYBREAK

Morning. A rooster crows and the music starts. Lights up on the facade of a house. CLEMENTINE and CLARA BELLE appear.

CLEMENTINE
THE SUN SHINES FIRST AT DAY BREAK
AS OLE ROOSTER LETS ME KNOW.
THE GOLDEN RAYS WILL MAKE THE BACKFIELD GROW.

CLARA BELLE
THE MORNIN' LIGHT GIVES COMFORT
AND IT MAKES ME FEEL RIGHT FINE.
SO WHEN I'M DOWN,
I KNOW THE SUN WILL SHINE.

PHILLY BOB and TERRENCE enter on the opposite side.

PHILLY BOB
WHEN CLOUDS BEGIN TO GATHER
IT CAN BRING A CERTAIN CHILL.
COVER UP TO KEEP FROM FALLING ILL.

TERRENCE
JUST WHEN YOUR DAY SEEMS SUNNY
AND YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE,
IN A FLASH,
THE RAIN CAN START TO POUR.

ALL
I WANT LOVE, SWEET LOVE,
TO ALWAYS SHINE ON ME.
I WANT LOVE, ONE LOVE,
THAT WON'T TURN COLD AND GREY.
IF I HAD THE POWER,
I WOULD BLOW THOSE CLOUDS AWAY

CLEMENTINE
BUT THE SUN WILL RISE

CLARA BELLE
AND THE RAIN WILL FALL

ALL
AND THE HARVEST OF MY HEART
WILL GROW STRONGER FROM IT ALL.

ANNA LEE appears in the window and stares into the distance.

CLEMENTINE AND CLARA
READ TO ME MY FORECAST.
WILL THE TEMPERATURE BE WARM?

CLEMENTINE, CLARA, ANNA LEE
OR SHOULD I BE PREPARED TO FACE A STORM?

PHILLY BOB AND TERRENCE
IF I CONTROLLED THE THERMOSTAT
WHEREVER LADIES DWELL,
I'D CRANK IT UP
AND MAKE IT HOT AS HELL.

ALL
I WANT LOVE, SWEET LOVE
TO ALWAYS SHINE ON ME.
I WANT LOVE, ONE LOVE
THAT WON'T TURN COLD AND GREY.

CLEMENTINE AND CLARA
THE WEATHER OF MY LIFE
WON'T HAVE CLEAR SKIES EVERYDAY,

TERRENCE
BUT YOU WILL SWEETLY SAIL

PHILLY BOB
TO THE RIVER'S END,

TOGETHER
IF YOU LISTEN TO YOUR HEART
AND DON'T TRY TO MAKE IT BEND.

ANNA LEE
IF I WAS BORN WITH WINGS,
I WOULD FLY AWAY,
AND I'D SOAR ABOVE THE CLOUDS
IN THE SUNSHINE EVERY DAY.

ALL
BUT LOVE SHINES
ONLY WHEN IT WANTS TO SHINE.
LIKE I CAN'T PREDICT THE RAIN,
I CAN'T BE THE ONE TO SAY
WHEN LOVE WILL BE MINE.

LUCIA appears in the window with
ANNA LEE.

LUCIA
Senora, special delivery!

ANNA LEE
What is it?

LUCIA
(handing ANNA LEE a letter)
A letter for you.

ANNA LEE
Oh?

LUCIA
Sent by a gentleman.

ANNA LEE
(taking the letter)
Who?

LUCIA
I dunno, but his messenger is waiting for me
downstairs. I'll be back.

LUCIA withdraws from the window as
GEORGE enters from around the
house.

GEORGE
Come on, boys. Why you keep hangin' around here?

PHILLY BOB
Got any work for us today, George?

GEORGE
No.

ANNA LEE
George, why won't you put 'em to work? It'll
lighten your load.

TERRENCE
Yeah, we'll come work for you.

GEORGE
Oh no you won't. If I ever need a pair of
roughnecks, you'll be the first to know. Now move
on.

PHILLY BOB
Okay. We're leaving.

PHILLY BOB and TERRENCE exit

CLEMENTINE
'Morning, George.

GEORGE
Why the long faces?

CLARA BELLE
Got chores to do.

GEORGE

'Course you do. Summertime ain't all about havin' fun.

CLEMENTINE

Don't worry. We ain't havin' any.

CLARA BELLE

Mamma needs some eggs.

GEORGE

Go on and help yourself.

CLARA BELLE

And a ham hock.

GEORGE

Well, I ain't got that, but I'll set aside a little of whatever's goin' to market and bring it over later.

CLARA BELLE

Okay.

CLEMENTINE

Thanks, George.

CLEMENTINE and CLARA BELLE exit
around the back of the house.

ANNA LEE

George, when are we gonna take a vacation?

GEORGE

What for?

ANNA LEE

You could ease up a little bit. We could see some places and things we never seen before.

GEORGE

Too much to do around here.

ANNA LEE

Well, if you would hire some help, we might be able to get away once in while.

GEORGE

I couldn't teach the likes of those boys how to tie their laces. I certainly can't trust 'em with our livestock.

ANNA LEE

So the answer is "never"?

GEORGE

Can we talk about this some other time?

ANNA LEE

Sure. Whenever, George. Get back to work. I got some reading to do.

ANNA LEE clutches the letter and withdraws from the window.

GEORGE

Fine. Another foul mood she's in. I'm telling you, it's every time I turn around these days.

GEORGE (cont'd)

I GOT FORTY SEVEN ACRES
THAT I OWN FREE AND CLEAR,
THREE DOZEN CATTLE
AND A COUPLE OF STEER,
SIXTY EIGHT CHICKEN
THAT I KEEP IN A COOP,
AND THE SHEEP STICK TOGETHER IN A GROUP.

I GOT TWENTY SEVEN PIGS
THAT JUST SIT AND GET FAT.
WHEN IT'S TIME TO PULL,
I GOT A MULE FOR THAT.
THERE'S NOTHING ON THIS RANCH
THAT'LL GIVE ME ANY DOUBT,
'CEPT FOR ONE THING I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT.

I GOT ONE WIFE
AND SHE WON'T TOE THE LINE.
ONE WHINEY WOMAN
NOT HAPPY BEING MINE.
WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE ABOUT A GOOD OLD BOY?
WITH EVERYTHING I GIVE HER
SHE SHOULD JUMP FOR JOY.

I may be a rich cowboy, but I ain't a happy cowboy. I don't get it. Why don't she love me?

GEORGE (cont'd)

SO I'M OLD AS HER FATHER
AND A PAIN IN THE BUTT.
I DRINK A LITTLE BEER,
SO I GOT A LITTLE GUT.
MY BACK IS OUTTA WHACK
FROM WORKING ON THE LAND,
BUT THERE'S ONE THING SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

I GOT ONE WIFE
WITH A PLACE IN MY HEART.
ONE SINGLE WOMAN
THAT I WANTED FROM THE START.

ONE WIFE IS ALL I EVER PLAN TO BEHOLD.
BUT THE FIRE IN MY HEART
IS TURNING COLD.

I'VE EARNED SIX MIL
FROM FIVE WELLS,
BUT FORTUNE HAS ITS COST.
THREE YEARS,
BEEN TOO MUCH TIME;
WONDER HOW MUCH OF LIFE I LOST.

NINETY NINE FELLAS WANNA BE IN MY BOOTS,
BUT ANY TWO EYES CAN SEE,
I GOT ONE WIFE,
ONE YOUNG AND PRETTY GIRL,
WHO'S OUT TO MAKE A ZERO OUT OF ME.

RUBEN enters from the house

GEORGE (cont'd)

(aside)

Now what the devil is this clown doing sneakin'
out of my house?

RUBEN

(aside)

Uh oh! This could be no good.

GEORGE

(aside)

Don't he know who I am?

RUBEN

(aside)

I better set him straight.

GEORGE

(to Ruben)

Hey there! Buenos dias, stranger!

RUBEN

(shushing GEORGE)

Callate!

GEORGE

What is it?

RUBEN

Not so loud! You want the whole town to know.

GEORGE

To know what?

RUBEN

I tell you, friend, I just delivered a special
message to the lady of that house.

GEORGE

A special message?

RUBEN

A love note, from a gentleman. Y'know what I mean?

GEORGE

I sure do.

RUBEN

And he told to be sure that no one sees me. So please, please! Don't tell nobody you saw me.

GEORGE

Who am I gonna tell?

RUBEN

Just don't tell her husband.

GEORGE

Don't tell her husband?

RUBEN

They say that since he struck oil and married this pretty young lady, he's turned a bit loco in the head. You follow what I'm sayin'?

GEORGE

That's enough to drive any man crazy.

RUBEN

So it's better that this is done behind his back.

GEORGE

So who is the wise guy who put you up to this?

RUBEN

Some guy from outta town. Clay Dios mio! I can never remember names. Clay... then, y'know, somethin' fancy at the end.

GEORGE

Clayton?

RUBEN

That's it! Clayton! You know him?

GEORGE

Never heard of him. And the lady was willing to receive the message from this guy?

RUBEN

I think so. Thanks to this .. this Diosa who works there. Ah mamacita, una nina tan Hermosa. Named Lucia de Jesus Conseco. And I am afraid it's true; I have fallen in love.

GEORGE

Oh give me a break!

RUBEN

That Lucia. She's like nothin' else you ever laid your eyes on. She's like a tropical flower in the middle of the desert. I tell you, what I am feeling right now, I have never felt anything like it before.

GEORGE

So take two aspirin and eat a light dinner. You'll feel better in the morning.

RUBEN

Oh I hope not. I hope this feeling lasts forever.

GEORGE

You can be doggone sure it won't. Now, back to the lady of that there house.

RUBEN

Well, it's really very simple, senor. We don't want the husband to know. He is one jealous crazy man. You got it?

GEORGE

He won't hear it from me, that's for sure.

RUBEN

Good! Now, I got to get back to work.

GEORGE

Make hay while the sun shines.

RUBEN

Thanks. You too!

RUBEN exits.

GEORGE

I knew it! I knew it! I knew it! My wife can't part her lips without lyin'. She thinks she's so smart. She takes me for such a stupid idiot. Her parents, though; now they got the power to fix things here. Anna Lee turns into a little 9 year old limp noodle around them. "Can't make Mommy mad" and "can't let Daddy down." And they rely too much on my money not to help me out here. That's right. They're not gonna like what they hear. Not one bit.

GEORGE exits into the house.

ANNA LEE and LUCIA enter from around the house.

ANNA LEE

(with the letter in hand)

I can't get over this. Who would write such a thing?

LUCIA

I am very suspicious, senora. Read it to me again.

ANNA LEE

"To the most beautiful woman in the world. I absolutely must see you before I leave town tomorrow. Your prince will send a carriage."

LUCIA

And no signature.

ANNA LEE

Nothing.

LUCIA

This letter, it is so mysterious.

ANNA LEE

Who is this guy?

LUCIA

I would be very careful, senora.

ANNA LEE

You think he might be dangerous?

LUCIA

Or just a pathetic loser.

ANNA LEE

A loser?

LUCIA

Anyone who would do something so desperate is not worth your time.

ANNA LEE

"Your prince will send a carriage." I wonder what he looks like.

LUCIA

He may be hiding for good reason, senora.

ANNA LEE

What. You think he's ugly?

LUCIA

I'm just saying. A prince belongs in a fairy tale; not in Texas.

ANNA LEE

He is certainly trying awfully hard. Oh Lucia, I bet you're right, as you always are. I can picture him right now, my little lover boy.

ANNA LEE (cont'd)

HE'S GOT TWENTY SEVEN FRECKLES
AND A SUN BURNT NOSE.
HIS TEETH ARE BIG AND CROOKED
AND HIS BUTT CRACK SHOWS.
HE LIVES WITH HIS MOTHER
AND HE DON'T OWN A CAR
AND HE'S ALWAYS IN THE CORNER AT THE BAR.

LUCIA

HE'S GOT TWO LITTLE HORNIES
THAT YOU JUST CAN'T MISS.
HIS BACK HAS A BUMP
AND HE WALKS LIKE THIS.
HIS EYES ARE VERY SQUINTY
AND HE SPEAKS REAL SLOW.
AND THE HAIR IN HIS EAR
HAS GOTTA GO.

ANNA LEE

I think it's kind of sweet. The poor fella must be lonely.

LUCIA

And you must admit, he has the good taste.

ANNA LEE

I'm actually rather flattered.

LUCIA

I have not seen you blush in a long while, senora.

ANNA LEE

I must say, it feels rather nice to be a little flush in the face.

ANNA LEE (cont'd)

IT'S LIKE THE SUN
CAME OUT TO SHINE ON ME.

LUCIA

IN YOUR EYES,
I SEE YOU DANCE AND PLAY.

ANNA LEE

IT'S BEEN SO MANY MOONS --
TWO DIARIES' WORTH, I'D SAY --
SINCE SOMEONE MADE A GESTURE
WITH DESIGNS TO MAKE MY DAY.