

CORA

NO, HIS BOOTS!
AND HE FLED!

KATE

(Laughing.) IN A TREE?

YOUNG ALLIE

THERE WERE THREE!

ALL

DIDYA DIDYA HEAR, DIDYA HEAR?
DIDYA DIDYA?

YOUNG ALLIE
WHAT A TRAMP!

DIDYA DIDYA HEAR, DIDYA HEAR?

BESS
SOILED DOVE!

DIDYA DIDYA HEAR, DIDYA HEAR?
DIDYA DIDYA?

CORA
FALLEN FRAIL

DIDYA DIDYA HEAR-----

KATE
SUCH IS LOVE!

YOUNG JOSIE'S DRESSING ROOM. Hattie tiptoes in.

HATTIE

`Scuse me--?

YOUNG JOSIE

Hattie?

HATTIE

I hope I ain't botherin' you, Miz Marcus. I just wanted to say I'm awful sorry for what my Mama and Aunt Allie and Aunt Mattie been sayin' about you. Honest, I am.

YOUNG JOSIE

It's not just them, Hattie. They've turned the whole town against me.

HATTIE

Well, I don't think you're bad at all.

YOUNG JOSIE

No?

HATTIE

Why, if my fella treated me the way that Mr. Behan done to you...

YOUNG JOSIE

Hattie... do you have a beau?

HATTIE

Don't tell my Mama. If she found out who I was goin' round with, she'd kill me, and so would Aunt Allie and Aunt Mattie. So don't you tell nobody!

YOUNG JOSIE

You can trust me, Hattie. Who is he?

HATTIE

Promise you won't tell.

YOUNG JOSIE

Swear to die.

HATTIE

Tom McLaury.

YOUNG JOSIE

He--he's one of those cattle rustlers... the Clanton gang!
(HATTIE nods.) Be careful, Hattie. Don't get mixed up with snakes...

HATTIE

He ain't no snake, Miz Marcus. He's real nice! And polite. If I could only make Mama see.

YOUNG JOSIE

I tried to make my Mama see what I saw in John Behan. Too bad I never saw what she saw.

HATTIE

But Tom ain't like the rest o' them. He's so good, his friends call him the white sheep of the family! But there ain't nothin' he can do to make folks believe that.

YOUNG JOSIE

No matter what you say or what you do, people just see what they want to see.

HATTIE

Well, don't you care what nobody says about you, Miz Marcus.
(Beat.) I--I best be gettin' back to the kitchen. I'm sure they're lookin' for me. And Miz Pauline is lookin' for you.

(Exit Hattie. Young Josie looks at herself in the mirror.)