

ALLIE

What was John Behan doin' there?

JOSIE

One of Papa's business partners brought him to a society ball... But I'll have you know, John was a perfect gentleman that night.

ALLIE

He was always better at night.

JOSIE

...but Mama couldn't see things my way. I can still hear her voice... she wanted me to be **(Slipping into Sophie's voice:)** a perfect Jewish wife and mother.

[JOSIE'S MEMORY: From the past, YOUNG JOSIE appears, without her dress, tearing at her corset, gasping for air. Josie becomes her own mother, SOPHIE, a stern German-Jewish woman. Sophie has a slight German accent and fierce demeanor.]

JOSIE (as SOPHIE)

(Sternly.) Josephine Sarah Marcus.

YOUNG JOSIE

(Turning and seeing Sophie.) Mama!

JOSIE (as SOPHIE)

Put back on your clothes! A thousand times I have told you to close those drapes.

(Sophie closes the drapes.)

That David Belasco next door can see you parading around half naked.

YOUNG JOSIE

He likes it, Mama. He's a *producer*.

JOSIE (as SOPHIE)

Your father and I are mortified. You made a cheap spectacle of yourself, throwing yourself at that... that coarse, common outlaw.

YOUNG JOSIE

Mama, John Behan's a sheriff. A *lawman*.

JOSIE (AS SOPHIE)

Those... those boots! That hat!

YOUNG JOSIE

That **gun!**

JOSIE (AS SOPHIE)

(Aghast.) Josephine!

YOUNG JOSIE

Mama--John told me the mountains around Tombstone are the color of amethyst, and every day they dig mounds of silver right out of the ground-- It sounds like that place I keep dreaming about. Please, you have to let me go there! If I stay here I'll suffocate! **(Taking a book from a table and opening it to a bookmarked page:)** Listen, Mama... Nietzsche says: "You must have chaos within you to give birth to a dancing star."

JOSIE (AS SOPHIE)

Such ideas! Listen to **me**, Josephine. Proper young Jewish ladies like your sisters do not...

YOUNG JOSIE

Do not what? Dance with a gentleman? Kiss him if I wanted to? What's so wrong with that?

JOSIE (as SOPHIE)

(Horrorified at the thought.) If you don't know... **(Stiffening her spine.)** If you do not know how to behave in public, you are staying in this house until you learn. No parties. No theatre. **(Taking the book.)** No more of this rubbish! You will study your French. You will practice your piano. And you will work on the linens for your sister's trousseau.

YOUNG JOSIE

For God's sake, Mama--

JOSIE (as SOPHIE)

You are not leaving this house until your sister's wedding.

(Pause, in which Young Josie is silent. Icily:) Good. I am glad we had this talk. **(Josie-as-Sophie steps out of the scene. As herself, to Allie:)**

I tried to be a dutiful daughter. I did love my Mama.

YOUNG JOSIE

CAN I SIT AROUND THE HOUSE
AND DO EMBROIDERY
DAY IN, DAY OUT
UNTIL I'M EIGHTY-THREE?
IS THIS THE LIFE I WANT OR WHERE I WANT TO BE?
NO, I'M NOTHING LIKE THE GIRLS AT HOME.
COULD I SPEND HOURS
WELCOMING MY FRIENDS TO TEA,