

Footloose Side #2. SHAW-VI-ARIEL

Scene 2: The Moore Home

SHAW

Where is she?

VI

She told me she was going to Wendy Jo's. (As SHAW reaches for the phone.) Don't bother calling. She's not there.

SHAW

Did you know this?

VI

No. I did not.

SHAW

So, how does it feel, Vi? Now that she's lying to you?

VI

I'm not saying anything until I hear an explanation from her.

SHAW

It was frightening enough when she was running around with Chuck Cranston. Now, she is out in the middle of the night, with that punk who's campaigning to challenge me and the entire Town Council. How long can you keep defending her?

VI

I'm not defending her. We're not on opposite sides here, are we? Or are we? (ARIEL rushes in.)

SHAW

Where were you?

ARIEL

Oh, Rusty and Wendy Jo and me, we were...

SHAW

Don't even bother.

VI

We know you weren't at Wendy Jo's.

ARIEL

I can't believe you're checking up on me.

VI

Sweetie, how do we know you're not sick? Or hurt?

SHAW

I am concerned for your well-being.

ARIEL

Then how come when I'm at home, you're never interested in what I'm thinking or how I feel? But the minute I walk out that door – wham! Suddenly, you're the concerned parent!

VI

Shaw, she doesn't mean that.

SHAW

Stop taking her side! She has to start answering for herself.

ARIEL

I don't know what good that would do. You don't listen to me any more than you listen to her!
(SHAW lunges, raising his hand to slap ARIEL.)

VI

Shaw!

(SHAW catches himself and stops. It is an awful moment. There is stunned silence. Finally, ARIEL turns and runs out. SHAW is shaken.)

SHAW

I've never hit anyone.

VI

I know.

SHAW

We're losing her, She has become willful and obstinate.

VI

(Kindly.) Like her father.

SHAW

I am her spiritual guardian.

VI

You used to be her friend.

SHAW

I don't understand what's happening. I don't know what to do anymore.

VI

Yes, you do.