

Scene 4: A High School Hallway

*(STUDENTS hurry on their ways to class.
ARIEL enters with RUSTY.)*

REN. *(crosses to them)* Hey! Ariel? Right?

ARIEL. Yeah. So?

REN. I'm Ren. Ren McCormack? We met after church?
Is this a small world or what? I'm your new classmate.

ARIEL. *(after a beat, mimics him)* "Howdy!"

RUSTY. Oh, girl, leave that poor boy alone!

*(They leave. REN, abashed, turns and bumps
into WILLARD HEWITT, a hayseed in a hat.)*

WILLARD. Hey, mister! You bumped me!

REN. Sorry.

WILLARD. Don't you ever look where you're goin'?

REN. I said I was sorry.

WILLARD. Hey! You're that new guy from Chicago, ain'tcha?

REN. Perhaps.

WILLARD. [REDACTED] Listen, fella, around here
you push somebody... they push back. Next thing you
know, you got...

(gets confused; forges ahead) ...two people pushing. Get
it?

REN. Got it. Lemme ask you something. They sell men's
clothes where you got that hat?

WILLARD. *(suspicious)* What is that, some kind of stupid
joke?

REN. No. That's a really good joke.

WILLARD. That's it, man. I'm gonna kill you!

(He raises his dukes to REN.)

REN. *(throws himself at WILLARD's fists)* Oh, please! Kill me!

WILLARD. *(pulls back, startled)* Huh?

REN. Kill me! KILL ME! That's the most exciting thing I've heard since I hit town!

(extends a hand) Ren McCormack. And you are...?

WILLARD. *(warily shakes REN's hand)* Willard. Willard Hewitt.

REN. Willard, what do you do around here for a good time?

[MUSIC NO. 3: "I CAN'T STAND STILL"]

You have any clubs?

WILLARD. Nope.

REN. What about movies?

WILLARD. Nope.

REN. What about malls?

WILLARD. Nope.

REN. What about...

WILLARD. Nope. Nope. And nope.

(pause)

We do have the Bowl-A-Rama down by the interstate.

REN. A Bowl-A-Rama?! Wow. I really admire you. I could never do what you guys do around here.

WILLARD. Yeah? What do we do?