ACT ONE - SCENE ONE

JEMMA, 17, is seated at the piano under a dim spotlight. A small GOLD-WRAPPED GIFT BOX is on top of the piano.

She sings:

I REMEMBER
WHEN I WAS THREE
I WATCHED YOU LAUGHIN’
AS WE PLAYED DOWN BY THE CREEK
AND YOU WERE SHININ’
AS YOU BOUNCED ME ON YOUR KNEE
AND I WAS CRYIN’
CAUSE AT DUSK YOU HAD TO LEAVE

NOW IT’S BEEN EIGHT YEARS AND MOMMA, I FEEL OLD
AND THE WINTERS DOWN IN TEXAS,
DON’T YOU KNOW THEY’RE GETTING COLD
AS I WATCH YOUR MEM’RY FADE
AND WATCH MY BIRTHDAYS COME AND GO
I KEEP THE LITTLE BOX THAT’S WRAPPED IN GOLD
I KEEP THE LITTLE BOX THAT’S WRAPPED IN GOLD

(Musical Underscore Continues)

JEMMA
(holding up the gift)
I got this box from my Momma, Eva.
(to audience)
Her and my father had that kind of “in love”
that you can’t make up. It was crazy “in love”.
You know the kind when you can’t even see
straight when the other person is around? The
kind when you start laughing for no reason just
because they’re near you.

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS FIVE
I HEARD YOU SAYING
YOU HAD NEVER FELT ALIVE
QUITE LIKE THAT EVENIN’
WHEN YOU TOOK A SUNSET DIVE
AND YOU WERE LAUGHIN’
AS YOU HUGGED EACH OTHER DRY

LIGHTS FADE DOWN on Jemma
slightly. Music still underscores.

A SCRIM on the wall shows a slow
rolling river, just outside
Austin.
WE HEAR the sound of the river rolling and from offstage, laughter.

WILL (40) and EVA (mid-30s) each holding a large rubber inner tube, run across the stage and off. Will is in a bathing suit and no shirt, and Eva has on cut-off jeans and a t-shirt.

EVA (OFF STAGE)
Ahhhh, the water’s cold!

WILL (OFF STAGE)
Stop splashing me!!!

EVA
Stop being a baby and git in here!

Jemma continues singing:

SO I SMOOTH THE TAPE AND MAKE A TINY FOLD
CAUSE IT’S ALL I HAVE OF YOU
AND ALL THE STORIES THAT YOU TOLD
AND I’M SCARED TO KNOW THE SECRETS I AM CERTAIN IT WILL HOLD
MY MOMMA’S LITTLE PACKAGE WRAPPED IN GOLD

Will and Eva run back on stage, their bodies dripping with water and their hair wet from the river.

The two of them are in that beautiful bubble of being madly in love with one another.

WILL
Eva.

EVA (playfully)
Will.

Do you?

WILL
Do I?

Know?
EVA

How?

WILL

Much?

EVA

You?

WILL

Love?

EVA

Me?

She shakes her head playfully.

WILL

Do you?

EVA

Not. At. All.

She giggles, motions that she’s splashing him in the face.

JEMMA:
SO I TIGHTEN UP THE RIBBON AND I STORE IT ON THE SHELF
YOU WERE NEVER SCARED OF NOTHIN’, MOMMA,
I’M SCARED OF MYSELF
AND I’M SAYIN’, ‘MAYBE NEXT YEAR,
MAYBE NEXT YEAR I’LL BE BOLD’
AND I’LL OPEN UP THE BOX THAT’S WRAPPED IN GOLD
MY MOMMA’S FINAL GIFT THAT’S WRAPPED IN GOLD

As the song ends, Eva pulls Will close and kisses him. They are lost in their own world...until...

EVA

Will.

WILL

What?

EVA
I don’t recognize any of this. I’ve never seen that tree before.
(looking around)
Where are we?
(pulling her boots on)
We must have floated five miles past where we were supposed to have got out.
WILL
(putting his shirt on)
I’m guessing more like ten.

EVA
You’re brother’s gonna kill us if we’re late to
the gig one more time.

WILL
It’s your fault.

EVA
How is it my fault?

WILL
(as he kisses her)
You know why.

EVA
(he grabs her hand)
Don’t worry, I’ll get us there on time.

They run offstage.

We HEAR the sound of their van
starting and screeching down the road. Followed by:

THE SOUND OF A POLICE SIREN and
the lights RED & BLUE on stage.
This cacophony begins the OVERTURE

The final chords of the Overture
blend into a beautiful piano solo
followed by a mediocre bass guitar
accompaniment.

______________________________________________________________

ACT ONE - SCENE TWO

LIGHTS come up FULL. The stage is
set to be Will and Jemma’s modest
Austin living room where they are
recording a demo onto a second
hand recording device.

Will plays along on his bass.
Jemma, at the piano, sings:

RIVER, RIVER RISIN’
AND THE MOON IS BRIGHT AND NEW
ORION, HE’LL KEEP MY SECRET
MY BABY I AM COMIN’ HOME TO YOU