

**Audition Scene - Shelby's Pregnancy Announced.**

**Characters:** Ouiser, Clairee, Truvy, Shelby, M'Lynn, Annelle

**SHELBY:** I have to run some errands but before I go ... Miss Ouiser. I have met an old friend of yours. OUISER. Oh? SHELBY. Owen Jenkins.

**OUISER:** Oh.

**CLAIREE:** Owen? Now there's a blast from the past.

**SHELBY:** Do you remember him? He remembers you.

**OUISER:** Of course I remember him. He had the longest nose hair in the free world.

**SHELBY:** He doesn't now. He hardly has any hair anywhere.

**CLAIREE:** Owen's been gone from Chinquapin since God was a boy. I'd forgotten he'd ever existed.

**SHELBY:** Well now Owen lives in Monroe and goes to First Presbyterian. He sings in the choir. One night at choir practice we were doing an especially beautiful Mozart thing and I was moved to tears. He offered me his handkerchief and we got to talking. When he found out where I was from he asked me if I knew you. I said not only did I know you, but you were a neighbor and your dog has almost killed my father on numerous occasions. He's had a very interesting life. He lived in Ohio somewhere. His wife just died recently and he moved back down here.

**OUISER:** Does this story have a point?

**SHELBY:** No, not really. He just remembers you fondly, I think.

**OUISER:** Can't imagine why. He wasn't a bad fellow. But I managed to run him off and marry the first of two total deadbeats.

**TRUVY:** Unrequited love. My favorite.

**SHELBY:** Maybe sometime I could arrange for us all to get together.

**OUISER:** Maybe not.

**SHELBY:** Why not?

**OUISER:** Shelby. I managed in just a few decades to marry the two most worthless men in the universe and proceed to have the three most ungrateful children ever conceived. The only reason people are nice to me is because I have more money than God. I am not about to open a new can of worms.

**CLAIREE:** Do I detect a negativity in your tone?

**M'LYNN:** If this is really the way you feel, Ouiser, it isn't healthy. Maybe you should think about coming down and talking to someone at the Guidance Center. We're there to help.

**OUISER:** I'm not crazy. I've just been in a very bad mood for forty years.

- SHELBY:** Well, Annelle? What do you want me to do with these old clothes? I need to get them out of the back seat.
- ANNELLE:** Just bring 'em in.
- SHELBY:** O.K. Then I'll go finish my Christmas shopping, Mama.
- TRUVY:** I could shoot you. I haven't even started.
- CLAIREE:** Please. I haven't even washed the dishes from Thanksgiving.
- ANNELLE:** What did you get your mama?
- SHELBY:** I told her this morning what part of it was.
- TRUVY:** Well, let's hear it, missy.
- M'LYNN:** I think it's a secret.
- OUISER:** Obviously there's no such thing in this room.
- M'LYNN:** It's up to you, honey.
- SHELBY:** I'm going to have a baby. (Whoops and joy all around. Except for M'Lynn.)
- TRUVY:** Congratulations! No wonder you haven't said much this morning, M'Lynn. (Taunts.) Grandma! Aren't you excited? Smile! It increases your face value!
- SHELBY:** June 21.
- TRUVY:** And those doctors said you couldn't have children. What do they know? I guess you showed them.
- M'LYNN:** The doctor said Shelby shouldn't have children. There's a big difference. I guess you showed us all, SHELBY.
- SHELBY:** I've got to get the clothes. Miss Ouiser? Are you bringing your shrimp meat pies to our open house tonight?
- OUISER:** Don't I always? They'll be there.
- SHELBY:** Good. So will Owen Jenkins. I opened the worms for you. (Shelby exits.)