

Ren and Ariel 2

H-4-82

(REN follows her up a girder under the train bridge and tracks, high above the river. It is covered with graffiti. They brace themselves as a train rumbles overhead; lights strobe across their faces. This time, they both scream with abandon.)

REN & ARIEL

Aah-h-h-h-h-h-h-h-h--...!

(When the train sound fades, REN realizes how high they are and pulls back from the edge.)

START

REN

Whoa!

(Peering down.)

It's a free-fall into the river from up here! Are you out of your mind?

ARIEL

You noticed!

REN

What're we, like, forty feet above the water?

ARIEL

But look around: up here I can pretend I'm halfway to heaven... I listen to the river...

(Indicating the girders.)

...and look what happens!

REN

(Inspecting the girders.)

Whoa! This place is covered with graffiti.

ARIEL

It's not graffiti! It's poetry. I call this place, "My Diary."

REN

You climb all the way up here and write poems?

ARIEL

Uh-huh. They're all dedicated to Bobby.

REN

Bobby? Who's Bobby?

ARIEL

My brother.

REN

You never told me you have a brother.

ARIEL

Had a brother. Bobby was one of the four kids who went off the Potawney Bridge.

II-4-83

Oh, god. I'm sorry.

REN

Yep. One of the...

ARIEL

(*A la SHAW.*)

"...four young people who held the promise of Bomont's brightest future."

Why didn't I know this?

REN

We never talk about it. And once Daddy decided the town needed saving, he never mentioned Bobby again.

ARIEL

You must miss him real bad.

REN

I try not to think about it.

ARIEL

That never works. I'll bet you think about it all the time.

REN

How did you know that?

ARIEL

I study you.

REN

Oh, yeah? What do you see?

ARIEL

Somebody who's smart.

REN

Thank you.

ARIEL

Maybe a little bit angry.

REN

Maybe a lot.

ARIEL

And somebody who's sad.

REN

(*Beat.*)

END I always wondered where that came from.

ARIEL