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**Scene 4: A High School Hallway****MUSIC 3: I CAN'T STAND STILL**

*(A row of lockers runs the width of the stage. STUDENTS cross on their ways to class. REN crosses to ARIEL who enters with RUSTY.)*

Hey! Ariel? Right?

REN

Yeah. So?

ARIEL

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

REN

*(A beat.)*

*(Mimicking him.)*  
"Howdy!"

ARIEL

Girl, leave that poor boy alone!

RUSTY

*(They leave, joining WENDY JO and URLEEN on their way. REN, in embarrassment, turns and bumps into WILLARD HEWITT, a hayseed in a hat.)*

START

Hey, mister! You bumped me!

WILLARD

Sorry.

REN

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

WILLARD

I said I was sorry.

REN

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

WILLARD

Perhaps.

REN

Smart-ass, huh? Listen, fella, around here you push somebody... they push back. Next thing you know, you got...

WILLARD

*(Gets confused; forges ahead.)*

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...two people pushing. Get it?

REN

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

*(Pause.)*

WILLARD

*(Suspiciously.)*

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, who throws himself at WILLARD's fists.)*

REN

Oh, please! Kill me!

WILLARD

*(Pulls away, startled.)*

Huh?

REN

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

*(Sticks out his hand.)*

Ren McCormack. And you are...?

WILLARD

*(Wary.)*

Willard. Willard Hewitt.

REN

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

*(WILLARD hesitates, then makes a lewd gesture.)*

Yeah. Besides that. You have any clubs?

WILLARD

Nope.

REN

What about movies?

WILLARD

Nope.

REN

What about malls?

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Nope. WILLARD

What about... REN

Nope. Nope. And nope. WILLARD  
*(Pause.)*

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

Wow. I really admire you. I could never do what you guys do around here. REN

Yeah? What do we do? WILLARD

*(Explodes.)* REN  
Nothing!  
*(Sings.)*

I NEVER WALK WHEN I CAN RUN  
I DON'T BELIEVE I EVER COULD  
PEOPLE TRY TO SLOW ME DOWN  
SAYIN,' "BOY, YOU REALLY SHOULD  
KICK BACK AND CHILL"  
BUT, I CAN'T STAND STILL!

I can see that. WILLARD

*(WILLARD tries to get away; REN won't let him leave.)*

REN  
I CALLED THE DOCTOR, HE SAID, "SON,  
I CANNOT OFFER YOU A PILL."  
SO I NEVER FOUND RELIEF  
AND NOW I'VE GOT TO MOVE UNTIL  
I'VE HAD MY FILL  
I CAN'T STAND STILL!

Around here we walk. WILLARD

REN  
BACK WHERE I COME FROM  
LIFE'S NEVER HUMDRUM  
I WISH I COULD TAKE YOU THERE  
OH, WE HAD THE WORLD AT OUR FEET  
LIFE WAS SWEET  
AIN'T NO DOUBT