

ROY BROWN/OTHERS - SIDE

Please read either Chuck or Otis

SCENE 10

(1943 SHAKE RAG, TUPELO, MS)

#18 BABY, WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO

(Two black men on their porch, that Elvis grew up across the street from, CHUCK is playing guitar and OTIS on harmonica. KID ELVIS is trying to play along as best he can.)

CHUCK

YA GOT ME
RUNNIN'
YA GOT ME
HIDIN'
GOT ME

OTIS

RUNNIN'
HIDIN'

CHUCK & OTIS

RUN, HIDE, HIDE, RUN
ANYWAY YOU WANNA LET IT ROLL

ELVIS

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH

CHUCK

There ya go.

(ELVIS enters and watches from the side)

CHUCK & OTIS & KID ELVIS

YOU GOT ME DOIN' WHAT YOU WANT ME
A-BABY WHY YOU WANNA LET GO

START

CHUCK

Now you playin' the blues.

KID ELVIS

Why is it called the blues when it makes me feel good when I play it?

(CHUCK and OTIS laugh)

CHUCK

Well, why do you think?

KID ELVIS

Well...because the blues are...well..being poor, but feelin' like you're the richest person in the world.

OTIS

Ooooo. He's sharp- he's sharp.

(KID ELVIS stops. CHUCK and OTIS stop.)

CHUCK

You got that right. What else?

KID ELVIS

Uhh...I don't know.

OTIS

The blues makes ya feel strong. Tough. The world is tough. But bein' even tougher...that's the special part.

CHUCK

And singin' and playin' the blues is the only thing that make a black man feel rich.

(Otis and Chuck laugh)

ELVIS

I don't get it. Ain't poor folk just poor folk?

CHUCK

Should be. But that ain't the way most folks see things.

OTIS

They see color first...everything else second.

OTIS

Kid, your folks are dirt poor. That's a class. Means even poor folk are richer than you. Ain't you ever noticed that you the only white family in the whole Shake Rag?

KID ELVIS

Yeah, I know it. Just don't think about it none.

CHUCK

Yup. And that's a comfort that we ain't got.

KID ELVIS

Well, maybe it won't always be like that. Maybe, one day, it won't matter.

(slight laugh from CHUCK and OTIS)

CHUCK

Yes, sir. But the blues is even more than that, kid. This music, well, it's about the only thing in the world that can make a shit sandwich seem appetizin'. It can pick you up, make you feel like got control of all them things that's out of your control. Ain't no governor or even president got anywhere near the power that this music has. Yes sir. If you play it right, and you feel it...this here music can change the world.

END

#18A BABY, WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO (TAG)

CHUCK, OTIS AND KID ELVIS

(ELVIS meanwhile, quietly sings along to himself. The scene transitions--)

GOIN' UP, GOIN' DOWN
GOIN' UP, DOWN, DOWN, UP
ANY WAY YOU WANT
LET IT ROLL
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH

YOU GOT ME DOIN' WHAT YOU WANT ME
A-BABY WHY YOU WANNA LET GO