

(Melchior flings the switch aside and throws Wendla to the ground, so violently that she begins sobbing.)

Suddenly, he realizes what he's done. He stumbles, sobbing, into the woods. Otto and Georg are revealed, soulful members of the band.)

OTTO (Gently):

O, you're gonna be wounded.

O, I'm gonna be your wound . . .

OTTO AND GEORG:

O, I'm gonna bruise you.

O, you're gonna be my bruise . . .

SCENE 9

The Stiefel sitting room. Moritz approaches his father, Herr Stiefel.

MORITZ: Father . . . ?

HERR STIEFEL: Moritz.

(Moritz remains silent.)

Yes . . . ?

MORITZ: Well, I, uh, was wondering—hypothetically speaking—what would happen if . . .

HERR STIEFEL: "If . . ."?

MORITZ: If, one day, I, uh, failed. Not that—

HERR STIEFEL: You're telling me you've failed?

MORITZ: No—no! I only meant—

HERR STIEFEL: You've failed, haven't you? I can see it on your face.

MORITZ: Father, no!

(Herr Stiefel strikes Moritz.)

Father—!

(Herr Stiefel strikes Moritz again. And again. He turns away in disgust.)

HERR STIEFEL: Well, it's finally come to this. I can't say I'm surprised.

(A beat.)

Failed.

(A beat.)

So, now, what are your mother and I supposed to do?

(No response.)

You tell me, Son. What?

(No response.)

How can she show her face at the Missionary Society?

(No response.)

What do I tell them at the Bank?

(No response.)

How do we go to Church?

(No response.)

What do we say?

(No response.)

My son. Failed.

(A beat.)