

102 ROCK OF AGES

Justice/Mother + Sherrie

Scene Twenty-One

(Interior JUSTICE's office. Day.)

(JUSTICE is going through papers, when SHERRIE enters.)

SHERRIE

Mama, can I talk to you?

JUSTICE CHARLIER

Sure baby, what is it? Destiny steal your body lotion again?

SHERRIE

I think I need to go.

JUSTICE CHARLIER

This about that boy?

SHERRIE

This, all of it, it's just not the person I came out here to be. I used to be happy. I used to make people happy. Twice I lost the only person who ever looked at me like I was a star... Or at least could be.

JUSTICE CHARLIER

I ever tell you 'bout Maxine Diamond, sugar?

SHERRIE

Who?

JUSTICE CHARLIER

Before all this I came out here just like you. Soul singer, the new disco diva! *Maxine Diamond*. And I was good. Even sang backup on a couple big records. But I tell ya, the sweetest memory I got is still with Edgar Calhoun, April fourteenth, nineteen seventy-five.

SHERRIE

Edgar?

JUSTICE CHARLIER

High school sweetheart. April fourteen I had a man tell me he loved me... Really love me. A dozen years go by and I ain't never felt anything like that since.

ROCK OF AGES 103

SHERRIE

Then why did you leave him?

JUSTICE CHARLIER

I don't know. I suppose back then being adored by one person didn't seem to be enough.

[MUSIC NO. 18 "EVERY ROSE HAS ITS THORN"]

I didn't know I was chasing something that wasn't real. My heart was with Edgar, but my head...

WE BOTH LIE SILENT AND STILL
IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT
ALTHOUGH WE BOTH LIE CLOSE TOGETHER
WE FEEL MILES APART INSIDE

SHERRIE

WAS IT SOMETHIN' I SAID OR SOMETHIN' I DID?
DID MY WORDS NOT COME OUT RIGHT?
THOUGH I TRIED NOT TO HURT YOU
THOUGH I TRIED...

JUSTICE CHARLIER

GIRL, I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY SAY
EV'RY ROSE HAS ITS THORN
JUST LIKE EV'RY NIGHT HAS ITS DAWN
JUST LIKE EV'RY COWBOY SINGS A SAD, SAD SONG

SHERRIE & JUSTICE CHARLIER

EV'RY ROSE HAS ITS THORN

(Meanwhile, DREW is still wearing his epaulets when the phone rings. An answering machine picks up.)

JA'KEITH

(Through machine.) Joshy J? Where the hell are you?! Did you forget about Tiger Beat? TIGER BEAT?!? You get your ass down here in ten minutes or I promise your name'll be dirt in this town!! Do you hear me? D-R-T, DIRT!!!

DREW

I LISTEN TO HER FAVORITE SONG
PLAYIN' ON THE RADIO
HEAR THE DJ SAY LOVE'S A GAME OF EASY COME AND EASY GO

(Elsewhere on stage, FRANZ is sitting with the PROTESTERS outside The Bourbon. Everyone