

Act One Scene 5

Action continues without a blackout

Lights up on EMILY in Seattle 1969

Early County, GA 1969

Young Emily START

(EMILY is on the phone)

YOUNG EMILY

Hello? Oh hi, Kari.

Yeah, Craig's gone - left last Friday — seems like forever. It was outta sight having him home on leave. I miss him. It's hard to concentrate on school work — can you believe it? **Me**, not studying?

What do you mean did he ask me to marry him? Why would he do that?

(Stalling)

Norm asked Marilyn to marry him? Huh. Guys get lonely going off on their own, I guess. The military's tough.

(YOUNG EMILY decides to come clean)

Well, he **did** ask me — but I didn't take him seriously. I have school and...plans. I'm hoping to do some of my college overseas. Besides — I've never really wanted to get married — I told him that. He didn't let on if I hurt his feelings.....course he's Mr Stoic.

No, I **can't** just go and live with him — if he isn't married, he can't live away from the barracks. The only way I could be with him all the time is to get married.

(YOUNG EMILY is hit with a great idea. She speaks to herself)

Be with Craig...all the time.

(Back to the phone)

Now that I'm thinking about it, Kari, I didn't really give the idea of getting married a chance. I guess since he left I really haven't stopped thinking about it. I just didn't want to consider... well, I...One thing he said while he was home is really bumming me out.

Well,...he said that he hopes he comes home after the war. He hopes he gets a chance to be married before he dies.

Oh, you're right. He isn't going to die, he'll keep his head down, and I'll get to be with him before he leaves for Vietnam. I've never wanted to be with anyone so much in my life!

Yeah, my mom and dad will freak — I know there are states where you can get married at 18 without needing permission from your parents.

EMILY(CONT)

You're right, — I'll have to drop out of school. I'm sure that's been done before!

I think I'll get packed — I'm going to go to Alabama and marry Craig!

Yeah...guess I'm eloping. Thanks for the chat, Kari!

Young Emily Craig

(YOUNG EMILY hangs up and begins packing a suitcase.

She smiles and puts on a small wedding veil and steps to meet CRAIG

CRAIG joins her on stage and takes her hand.

They are both laughing and smiling while they review the wedding.)

START

CRAIG

Now **that** was a unique wedding! Funny that the minister wanted us to walk down the aisle in that big empty church — **by ourselves**, **both** of us. It was all I could do to not crack up when the floorboards started squeaking. So **loud** — **echoing** in that old building — what a gas!

YOUNG EMILY

Nice of the secretary and librarian to be our witnesses. Did you notice they were crying?

Happy for us!

CRAIG

When it comes to tears, a wedding's a wedding I guess, — even when you don't know the "happy couple".

YOUNG EMILY

(Getting serious)

Speaking of crying, my dad was crying this morning when I called him. I thought he'd be glad I wanted to share the day with him, but — he came unglued. He said he always thought he'd be "walkin' me down the aisle". I don't get why it matters to him. It's **my** life — he likes you, so why does he care if he's here or not? I've never heard my dad cry before — bummer. What do you think your mom will say when she finds out?

CRAIG

I hope she **doesn't** find out. She'd be really ticked-off! Start yelling about only being 19, no career, not enough time to be sure you're the right girl. Someday she might get it — but if she doesn't, she doesn't. I didn't want to be away from you anymore.

YOUNG EMILY

My mom freaked out. Marriage isn't a choice **she** would make again — but she could see she wasn't going to stop me.

(YOUNG EMILY gazes at CRAIG and kisses him.)

There's no way she can understand how much I love you. *(Beat)* We got married in Early — County — Georgia. I just like the sound of that. Great that we could get married just across the border from where you're stationed — no parental permission needed.

(YOUNG EMILY wipes one hand with the other - done deal)

CRAIG

Especially since we weren't going to **get** their permission. I hope you aren't bummed. Not exactly the wedding every girl dreams of.

YOUNG EMILY

It was perfect! Besides, I never had a picture of my wedding, remember? I was never going to get married.

CRAIG

I know you never pictured yourself 19 years old living in an old mobile home in the middle of a cotton field.

YOUNG EMILY

It will be an adventure. *(Beat)* It's exactly what I want.

*(They kiss and their lights fade.
Lights up on EMILY who has entered downstage)*

EMILY

We knew the next stop was Vietnam, but we didn't talk about it much. Craig finished his training and those five perfect months were over — he was going to war. I kept thinking something was going to happen and he wouldn't have to go — but I couldn't keep him. I felt like someone was ripping me in half when he walked away to board the plane — it was agony. I went back to Seattle, and back to school. It was tough being away from him.

(CRAIG and YOUNG EMILY exit)

END

BLACKOUT