

Act I, Scene 3

Late afternoon. A bridge in the countryside. WENDLA, MARTHA, THEA, and ANNA walk home, talking excitedly.

THEA

(Mid-conversation)

...And the bodice in lace, with a satin bow in back...

ANNA

Ooh! And Wendla — what will you wear to Greta Brandenburg's wedding?

WENDLA

Mama said we cannot go.

THEA

To Greta's wedding?!

MARTHA

Because she's marrying that forest inspector?

WENDLA

Mama felt it was a little improper.

ANNA

But, they're decking the entire sanctuary in orchids and chrysanthemums!...

WENDLA

Mama said no.

(ANNA and THEA exchange a look)

ANNA

I certainly hope your mama approves the man I marry.

THEA

And the man I marry!

WENDLA

(Teasing)

Well, we all know who Thea longs to marry!

MARTHA

Melchior Gabor!

THEA

("Gimme a break")

And who doesn't?

ANNA

(Still playful)

He is rather handsome...

WENDLA

So wonderful.

MARTHA

(Her secret crush)

But not so wonderful as that sad soulful sleepyhead, Moritz Stiefel...

ANNA & THEA

Moritz Stiefel!?

THEA

How can you even compare them? Melchi Gabor, he's such a radical. You know what the whisper is?

(All the GIRLS lean in, eager to hear)

THEA

He doesn't believe in anything. Not in God.

(The GIRLS gasp in wonder)

THEA

Not in Heaven.

(Another gasp)

THEA

Not in a single thing in this world.

(The GIRLS utter a final, collective sigh)

ANNA

They say he's the best, in everything. Latin, Greek, Trigonometry...

THEA

The best part is: he doesn't care a whit about any of it...

(Music begins – an innocent uptempo feel. The GIRLS turn out – glistening in girl-group light:)

#5 – My Junk

WENDLA

IN THE MIDST OF THIS NOTHING, THIS MISS OF A LIFE,
STILL, THERE'S THIS ONE THING – JUST TO SEE YOU GO BY.