

Scene Four

PIERRE, twenty-one, 1893. He is  
ecstatic.

PIERRE

I thought nothing would ever happen in a stagnant backwater like  
this. But it did, it actually did. That one day. That magical day.  
I'm standing behind the counter. This incredible young woman walks  
in. The most wonderful, beautiful - I mean, she's a miracle. A  
living, breathing - listen, I'll tell you what happened.

No.4: Heavenly Marie

SHE STEPPED FROM A CLOUD  
AND INTO THE SHOP  
TO SEE HER WALK IN MADE MY HEART NEARLY STOP  
I KNEW SHE'D COME DOWN  
FROM HEAVEN ABOVE  
AND I HAD JUST FALLEN IN LOVE

I STRUGGLED TO BREATHE  
IT SEEMED TO MY EYES  
THE BRIGHTEST OF STARS HAD DESERTED THE SKIES  
I FELT THE WORLD SPIN  
AS SHE TURNED HER HEAD  
AND GAZING AT ME SHE SAID

A BUNCH OF RIPE BANANAS  
FOUR LARGE ONIONS, PLEASE  
SOME GARLIC AND A CAULIFLOWER  
AND HALF A POUND OF PEAS

I ALWAYS WILL REMEMBER  
ALL SHE ASKED OF ME  
THE MORNING WHEN I MET MY  
HEAVENLY MARIE  
THE NEXT DAY SHE BOUGHT CABBAGES  
PEARS AND TANGERINES

CARROTS AND TOMATOES  
AND A BAG OF RUNNER BEANS

AND THEN SHE KEPT RETURNING  
EV'RY DAY TO SEE  
WHAT ELSE MIGHT TAKE HER FANCY  
HEAVENLY MARIE

LIZZIE  
TURNS OUT SHE DIDN'T NEED THE SHOPPING  
SHE DOESN'T EVEN COOK  
SHE NOTICED HIM AND THOUGHT SHE'D TAKE A CLOSER LOOK  
HE SAID, WELL, I CAN MAKE YOU DINNER IF YOU PREFER  
SHE LOVED HIS COOKING LIKE HE LOVED HER.

PIERRE  
MY MARIE  
SPENDS EV'RY DAY WITH ME  
LIFE IS SUDDENLY GREAT

WONDERF'LLY  
WHEN I WENT ON ONE KNEE  
SHE SAID, JUST NAME THE DATE

SHE SAID, 'PARIS WAITS FOR YOU, PIERRE  
YOU'LL BECOME A FAMOUS ARTIST THERE' ONCE I  
AM, HERE'S WHAT I'LL PAINT FOR HER -

CHESTNUTS SHINY LIKE HER EYES  
GRAPES WITH TINY PIPS  
ARTICHOKES TO WIN A PRIZE  
RED CHERRIES LIKE HER LIPS.

A BASKET FULL OF APPLES.  
SWEET AS THEY CAN BE  
AND ARMFULS OF COURGETTES FOR  
HEAVENLY MARIE

HER VOICE IS MUSIC WHEN SHE SPEAKS  
HER BEAUTY IS DIVINE.

PEACHES ROSY LIKE HER CHEEKS  
PLUMS AS RICH AS WINE

THE LIST IS NEVER-ENDING  
LIKE OUR LOVE WILL BE

I NEVER WILL FORGET I  
FOUND WITH NO REGRET MY  
APPLE-CART UPSET BY  
MY DEAR BRIDE-TO-BE  
THE MORNING WHEN I MET MY  
HEAVENLY MARIE

LIZZIE is still in 1946.

LIZZIE

And that's how your grandparents fell in love.

Scene Five

LIZZIE (contd.)

You know, last time I did this - went over all this - I was pretty much the same age you are now. Had to give a talk at school about myself. It was a class assignment, they made everyone do it, but I was still terrified. Didn't sleep a wink the whole week. You'd think I'd been through much worse, but it sure didn't feel like it. There I was, in front of all these faces. I'm this shy, skinny girl -

LIZZIE, thirteen in 1917, reads  
from a hand-written script.

Good morning. Most of you here know, I came to the United States from France five years ago. There was plenty in the papers about all that, I guess. Specially about the rich people. We weren't with them. My Papa must have spent nearly every centime he had to pay for a tiny cabin way down a whole lot of stairs. When we hit the