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WILL + EDWARD

ACT I
SCENE 1

RIVER BANK

(Lights rise on a river)

#1 PROLOGUE

(Reveal EDWARD at the river's edge. He's dressed in a suit, tie loosened. He skips a stone across the water. WILL enters stage right. He's dressed in a jacket and tie.)

WILL

Dad? Mom's looking for you.

EDWARD

I don't know why we need rehearsal dinners. These people have been eating dinner their whole lives. They don't need practice.

WILL

(a smile)

Is this where you taught me to fish?

EDWARD

You caught a catfish this big.

(He measures three feet with his hands)

WILL

It was about half that size, but thank you. And thank you for cleaning it.

(beat)

Dad, about tomorrow...

EDWARD

You're nervous.

WILL

I'm not.

EDWARD

You are. You got that twitch. I recognize it.

WILL

Dad...

EDWARD

When you were a kid, you'd never jump in the pool. I'd have to sneak up and push ya.

WILL

Yeah, that was fun for me. Actually, I wanted to talk about you...

EDWARD

My favorite subject!

WILL

So, Josephine and I would appreciate it if you didn't tell any of your stories at the wedding.

EDWARD

My stories.

WILL

And jokes. No stories, no jokes. No anecdotes.

EDWARD

Oh. Okay, Will. Gotcha. Understood.

WILL

Thanks.

EDWARD

You used to like my stories, though -- especially the one about the witch.

WILL

I was six.

EDWARD

You were never six. You were born a tiny middle-aged man.
(EDWARD has a pain in his side)

WILL

You okay?

EDWARD

I'm fine. You're the one in trouble here. You ready to get married?

I am.

WILL

EDWARD
(tossing WILL a stone)
Then here's to what's next.

WILL
To what's next.

(EDWARD exits. WILL holds a moment, thinking
back.)

[MUSIC SEGUES]