

[JOHNNY CASH] Male, 20 – 30. Actor/singer/guitar player to portray Johnny cash at the dawn of his epic career; must be familiar with his music and able to play guitar; tall; should sound and look somewhat like Johnny without being an “impersonator”; prepare a Johnny Cash song (or song in that style from that era) and accompany yourself on the guitar; in the production, Johnny Cash sings “Folsom Prison Blues,” “Sixteen Tons,” “I Walk The Line,” and “Riders In The Sky.”

[START]

CARL

John.

JOHNNY

Yeah.

CARL

You ain't told Mistuh Phillips you're quittin' Sun, have you?

JOHNNY

Well, it jus' never seemed like the right time.

CARL

Well, he's fixin' to force the issue. He's gonna hand you the contract renewal in front of Elvis and ever'one.

JOHNNY

(frustrated)

Oh man, I shoul'da known somethin' like that was comin'.

CARL

Then why'd the hell you show up here?

JOHNNY

Mr. Phillips called and said Elvis was stopping by. Told me to get my butt over here.

Continue...

CARL

And you stepped right in it.

DYANNE

(crossing down to them)

I'm sorry, fellas. I didn't realize you were in the middle of something...

CARL

It's okay. Jus' a little business.

JOHNNY

Aw hell, stick around. Smoke 'em if you got 'em, darlin'.

DYANNE

It is so much fun in there. Is it always like this?

(JOHNNY and CARL look at each other...DYANNE looks at them...pregnant pause)

CARL

It used to be.

JOHNNY

(looks at CARL)

Look, if you really wanna know, there's a little a-tomic bomb fixin' to explode. Mistuh Phillips wants me to sign a contract extension, and what he don't know is I've awready signed an agreement to go with Columbia Records in Nashville the day my contract's up here.

DYANNE

I see. You know, it's so strange that you want nothing more than to leave Sun and Elvis wants nothing more than to come back.

CARL

Yeah, but he AIN'T comin' back. There's just so far you can go on Sun Records. It's a two-person operation f'r God's sakes.

JOHNNY

And let's just say that Sun don't pay at the top end. And their distribution!

(shakes his head)

Man, if they really wanna stop the spread of Communism, they oughta let Sun distribute it.

Continue...

CARL

And a blind man can see Mistuh Phillips is 'bout to throw
ever'thing behind that crazy new kid.

DYANNE

He'll be a star or die trying.

CARL

Maybe, but where does that leave us?

JOHNNY

I don't wanna take nuthin' away from Mistuh Phillips. He saw
somethin' in me couldn't no one else have seen. Hell, wouldn't no
one else have given me the time a'day. But...you can take this for
what it's worth. I made a covenant with God...if he made me a star
I would praise him the onliest way I know how--with a gospel
record. Mr. Phillips won't record it. Says the kids won't buy it.
Well, Columbia thinks they will. So...it's just time to be movin'
on.

[END SIDE 1]

[START SIDE 2]

JERRY LEE

It's Temptation...

(Double drum-beat)

Fornication...

(Double drum-beat)

JERRY LEE (CONT'D)

...and Damnation in that order.

...and I do b'lieve you know what I'm talkin' 'bout.

JOHNNY

Jerry Lee, sit down. You need to be a bit more respectful to
Elvis's young lady--hell, everyone in this room. It's good to
believe in yourself, but there are people out there who can make
you or break you. You got a world of talent, boy, but you need to
listen and learn. In this business, you cross someone and they'll
be waitin' to do you in.

(turns to CARL and BAND...begins to strum)

Carl, I been foolin' with this old train song...I kicked it off in
F...

Continue...

JERRY LEE

(turning away from JOHNNY)

You done it in F because it's too effin slow. Don't no one wanna hear them durned ol' TRAIN songs these days.

(drops voice)

Johnny Cash? Ain't you never heard of an' aero-plane?

JOHNNY

You got somethin' to say to me, boy?

CARL

(smiling at JOHNNY)

The boy's startin' to grow on you, ain't he, John?

JOHNNY

Yeah, like a tick on a dawg.

PHILLIPS

John, man, play that "Walk the Line" song.

JOHNNY

You like that one, do you, Mr. Phillips?

PHILLIPS

(pointing to gold record)

Got me a million reasons for likin' it, John.

[END SIDE 2]