

Guinea Pig

By

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ACT I

Scene 1

In a living room there is a couch, a lounge chair, and a coffee table with a notepad, classic novels, candles, a matchbook, and a box of cigarettes on it. A tall and skinny lamp sits next to the couch, on. An antique hunting rifle hangs on the wall. A phonograph sits somewhere in the room, probably towards the back. Fin, a young boy, is wearing jeans and a t-shirt lying on the couch, asleep. His caretaker, Alex, enters. He wears a nice suit, dress shoes, and carries a chic suitcase. He watches Fin, and then picks up a wool blanket from behind the couch and throws it over him. As he exits, he turns the lamp off. He exits, and we hear a sink turn on offstage. Fin slowly wakes up and stands, rolling the blanket off. He looks into the kitchen and then walks to a window and stares blankly out of it. The sink turns off and Alex enters.

ALEX

Were you dreaming? [*FIN nods without turning*] What about?

FIN

[*Considers it*] Not too sure.

ALEX

Understandable. You're still waking up. I'll give you a moment.

FIN

[*He tries to think on it and gives up*] It's hard to do while you're staring at me.

ALEX

I apologize. I'll continue the dishes and you tell me when-

FIN

No. You don't have to leave.

ALEX

Alright then. What is it you need me to do?

FIN

I don't know.

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ALEX

You want me to stay and wait?

FIN

No.

ALEX

You want me to leave you alone?

FIN

No.

ALEX

We can brainstorm together.

FIN

No, Alex.

ALEX

I don't know how to help you. What do you need from me?

FIN

[He finally turns] You were washing dishes?

ALEX

Yes, I was.

FIN

How's that?

ALEX

[Laughs] They're dishes.

FIN

[After a pathetic silence] Do you like doing them?

ALEX

It doesn't matter if I like doing them.

FIN

But you either do or you don't like them. I'm interested in your thoughts.

ALEX

[Turns on the lamp] Well, it's a mundane task, but worth it to see the clean empty sink and all those dishes stacked in such a nice tower.

FIN

It's about the end result, not the process for you.

ALEX

We're talking about dishes, not my philosophy on life. You must've had *some* dream.

FIN

Did *you* dream last night?

ALEX

Yes.

FIN

[Seeking personal validation] What was it?

ALEX

[Sighs] I was in a field, and all around me were these very vibrant pumpkins. A much more intense orange than what you'd find out here. I stopped at one that looked particularly smooth and plump and I wanted to see if I could lift it, but when I tried bending down and reaching out, I couldn't move. I struggled and wiggled for a short while, but to no avail, so seeing as there was nothing for me to do I woke up.

FIN

[Expecting more] That's all?

ALEX

[Playfully] We can't all have dreams like you, Fin.

FIN

Stop idolizing me.

ALEX

No no, it isn't idolization, it's admiration. You don't meet kids like you every day, let alone get to take care of one. I simply count my blessings.

FIN

Do you ever wonder where we go when we die?

ALEX

[Laughs] You ask me not to idolize you but when you go and ask questions like that it makes it rather difficult.

FIN

Answer the question.

ALEX

It's in my best interest not to think about it. When I do I get this ominous feeling that looms over me.

FIN

Why?

ALEX

The unknown, I suppose.

FIN

Doesn't it excite you that one day you'll know the answer?

ALEX

What if I don't like the answer I find?

FIN

What if you do?

Beat.

ALEX

Is this about your dream?

FIN

That's an unknown, too. Why aren't you scared of that?

ALEX

Because it can't hurt me.

FIN

But you might not like it.

ALEX

What if I do?

FIN

So death is a scary unknown, but my dreams and are an exciting one? What makes one unknown exciting rather than scary?

ALEX

[He sits back in his chair and tries to find the answer Fin needs to hear] Trust. I trust you with all of my being, Fin. It's my duty to raise you and help you grow into the best man you can be.

FIN

It wasn't your decision. I was assigned.

ALEX

Nonetheless, whether you're from a womb or from a testube...I still love you...even if I'm not your father.

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FIN

Even if I'm an assignment?

ALEX

Yes. Even then. Tell me your dream.

FIN

You'll think it's too abstract again.

ALEX

So be it. Art throughout history has taught us that it's rarely about what the artist intended, but what your unique perspective adds to it.

FIN

[After a moment] I was in a car. A nice sports car...in the desert. I was driving down this long stretch of highway. I was going fast. I mean there was nothing to compare it to, but I was going...fast. I was driving like that for a very long time. Then there was a man on the side of the road. You. I saw you, very helpless and ignorant walking beside the road in the same direction I was headed, but much much slower. I stopped my car and opened my door to you. You seemed to be skulking behind...nothing, hoping I'd feel some sort of mixture of embarrassment and pity and look past you. I asked you where you were headed and without looking at me you pointed towards this monstrous mountain in the distance. It had this glistening white snowy peak, the base was covered in green...probably trees... It's not like I had a specific destination so I decided to take you there. I invited you in, telling you I could help you. You were scared at first, but when you got in there was this intense thing in the car with us. I don't know what it was.

ALEX

What did it feel like?

FIN

Happiness, warmth, I don't know.

ALEX

[Holding back excitement] And then what?

FIN

We drove for a while. My chest was getting tight, the air in the car became heavy, and when I tried to roll the windows down you protested against it. I insisted I would suffocate, and you told me you would if I rolled the windows down. So I held my breath and continued driving. Then this deep black darkness appeared over the horizon. It was so empty but incredibly magnetic.

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FIN (cont'd)

As we drove closer I realized it was a line of women, or at least they looked like the ones you've shown me. I saw that the car was on a direct path to hit them, but I also saw the mountain seemed to be just behind them. I just wanted to reach the mountain, but then we hit them. I didn't drive through them either, just hit them, and we exploded. I felt the fire consume my body. I looked to my right and saw yours turn to ash. My body didn't burn, it was just in the flames...forever.

ALEX

[With an excitement resembling a vicariously proud boxer's father] Yes! Yes! Yes! You did it, Fin!

FIN

What?

ALEX

I can't believe it! I had given up! I thought it was completely hopeless and that we were just rotting here, but all this time you were working and we finally achieved it!

FIN

This is my dream?

ALEX

Yes!

FIN

It wasn't a very happy-

ALEX

Love! That's what you dreamt of. That's what filled the car. That's what you were driving towards. That's why you hit the women.

FIN

Love?

ALEX

Yes!

FIN

Is that what my goal was?

ALEX

Yes. Every discussion, dream, seemingly pointless story was all leading towards that. I guess we can consider ourselves lucky that you stumbled upon it on your own. God knows you surpassed my level of wisdom long ago.

(CONTINUED)

Beat.

FIN

[Concerned] What happens now?

ALEX

Pardon?

FIN

I achieved the goal, whatever that means. So now what happens to us?

ALEX

Well I'm not too sure, but we'll find out soon I suppose.

FIN

Is life going to change?

ALEX

You've just done something unprecedented. You discovered the feeling of love inside you, without anyone telling you too. I'd imagine some changes are on their way.

FIN

How did you discover it?

ALEX

See, that's why this is so big. I didn't *discover* it. No one did. We were all taught it. Before the educational reform, schools taught it as one of the four basic emotions. Happy, sad, hatred, and love. Each the opposite of another. Then we realized that love and hate are not, in fact, opposites. The opposite of love is indifference or nothing. This means love is simply put...everything. We realized if someone were to truly discover this feeling that is "everything" it could open up new doors to the human mind.

FIN

[Overwhelmed] So I'm just part of some big experiment.

ALEX

I think experiment sounds too harsh. Investigation, maybe? Do you want a drink?

FIN

I'm not allowed to.

ALEX

[Gets up and goes into the kitchen] Test subjects are not allowed to drink. People who feel love, now those

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ALEX (cont'd)
are people who deserve have a glass of scotch. *[Returns with a scotch bottle and two glasses. He gives a glass to Fin]*

FIN
Are you trying to get me drunk?

ALEX
Of course not. I simply want you to enjoy yourself. Celebrate.

He clinks Fin's glass. Fin glances at Alex and politely raises his glass. He takes a sip and is repulsed.

FIN
How do you drink this? It feels like fire.

ALEX
Sometimes you need a little fire inside you to distract you from the one all around.

FIN
Is that what love is supposed to feel like? A fire?

ALEX
Well, I don't know what *real* love is supposed to be. That's for you to figure out.

FIN
And what if I can't?

ALEX
Considering-

There is a knock at the door. Both men turn and look. Alex gets up and walks towards the door.

FIN
Are you expecting anybody?

ALEX
No. *[Looks at Fin, with hidden fear]* It's fine, just stay here and keep calm. *[Goes for the door]* Probably one of those loiterers.

The door opens and Elizabeth, a young woman who breathes power drenched in seduction, enters the room. She moves very slowly and deliberately.

ALEX

[Politely] Come on in.

ELIZABETH

Hi. *[Turns to Alex.]* Alex, is it?

She holds out her hand. Alex shakes it.

ALEX

[Suspicious] Yes.

She walks behind Fin and brushes his shoulders with her hand.

ELIZABETH

And you're Fin.

FIN

[Looking at Alex, who stands motionless] Yes ma'am.

She sits in the lounge chair. She is completely relaxed, like she's lived in this house for her whole life.

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth.

ALEX

May I ask why you're here?

ELIZABETH

Fin did discover love, and you're his caretaker?

ALEX

That's correct.

ELIZABETH

Well, that's why I'm here.

ALEX

You're from the company?

ELIZABETH

Yes.

ALEX

So may I ask what you'd like from us?

FIN

This is part one of the experiment. Fin, you've just discovered love. Alex, you're a man who knows artificial love. Fight over me.

Beat.

FIN

What if I don't want you?

ELIZABETH

What?

FIN

Fighting is assuming both of us want you an equal amount. Alex, do you want her?

ALEX

[Youthfully] May I say yes?

ELIZABETH

You may.

ALEX

Yes.

FIN

Well, if he wants you and I don't, can't he just have you?

ALEX

Is this allowed? Not fighting?

ELIZABETH

I suppose. I don't think it was the intended outcome, but if that's what you want. You can change your mind whenever you want, Fin. *[She waits for a response from him, but he says nothing.]*

ALEX

Fantastic. This solves a lot of problems, doesn't it? Having a woman around the house will definitely help the overall mood in this place. Do you cook and clean?

ELIZABETH

Do you?

ALEX

Well yes, but I'm wondering if you're a normal woman or a company woman.

ELIZABETH

Do you go the gym?

ALEX

Pardon?

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH

I'm curious if you're a normal man or not.

ALEX

I don't personally go the gym.

ELIZABETH

Have you been married before?

ALEX

[Hesitantly] No. A few casual romantic engagements, but nothing too heavy.

ELIZABETH

And were they normal women?

ALEX

Now don't take that comment so heavily, I didn't intend any disrespect with it.

ELIZABETH

[Laughs, Fin chuckles] I know you didn't. If you did, you wouldn't have said it. Or do you enjoy hurting other people?

ALEX

That's psychotic behavior.

FIN

Not necessarily.

ALEX

Excuse him, he doesn't-

ELIZABETH

Stop. What do you mean?

FIN

Many animals exhibit violent behaviors that actually are signs of affection and love rather than hatred.

ALEX

But we're not animals.

ELIZABETH

You sure about that?

ALEX

What are you suggesting?

ELIZABETH

May I have a glass of scotch as well?

ALEX

I'll have to wash you a glass. Pardon me.

Alex walks into the kitchen.

ELIZABETH

Animals? You study a lot?

FIN

I like books.

ELIZABETH

What's your favorite animal?

FIN

Hawk.

ELIZABETH

Mine too. Look at that, we seem to have a lot in common.

FIN

One commonality doesn't suggest we're alike.

ELIZABETH

I think you'll soon see we're practically twins.

FIN

How long are you staying?

ELIZABETH

As long as I need to. Don't be afraid, seeing as how my entrance just played out it shouldn't take all that long.

FIN

We don't have any spare bedrooms for you to stay in.

ELIZABETH

I'll sleep with Alex, we're in love after all. Would you hand me your glass?

FIN

Why?

ELIZABETH

Pass me the glass.

FIN

Why?

ELIZABETH

You shouldn't refuse a request from a lady.

FIN

I don't know you.

ELIZABETH

You will. Very well. Hand me your glass.

FIN

You can come and get it.

ELIZABETH

[Rises] No, I won't.

They stand, unmoving. Tigers, thinking they're hawks.

ELIZABETH

I just like the pattern on it and want to take a closer look.

FIN

Then you could come over here and look at it.

ELIZABETH

Do you want to take a closer look at me?

FIN

That's not what I said.

ELIZABETH

I know it isn't *[begins walking over to Fin]* Every hawk has their skills, but what I've come to find is each has a specialty. I've learned mine is the keen ability to realize which confrontation determines the battle and which determines the war.

Elizabeth picks up Fin's glass inspects it, looks at Fin, pulls him in, kisses him passionately. She pushes him away and walks backwards to her chair.

ELIZABETH

[Empathetically] Alex is going to die. *[She laughs]*

She sits back in her chair and drinks the scotch from Fin's glass. Alex walks back into the room holding another glass wearing an apron and sees Elizabeth.

ALEX

No no no. That glass is Fin's. It's probably riddled with germs.

ELIZABETH

I think the scientists call them cooties.

ALEX

[He takes the glass] Ha. Glad you've got a sense of humor. *[Starts to pour her glass]*

ELIZABETH

I can pour my own glass actually.

ALEX

It's called manners.

ELIZABETH

It's called I'm capable of pouring my own glass. *[She takes the glass from Alex and pours a glass]*

ALEX

Fin, do you want me to pour you another glass? *(Pause)*
Fin?

FIN

What?

ALEX

[Laughs] I didn't think you could be drunk from one glass, Fin. Come on, man up; we have a lady in the house now.

ELIZABETH

Give it to him. I want to see the pig really drunk.

ALEX

Won't the company be coming for him?

ELIZABETH

Oh no. The only thing that him discovering love really entails is me showing up. Supposedly, there's to be a bit of an argument and in the end one of you kills the other due to love, but this one was easier, wasn't it? No conflict here.

ALEX

So now we live here forever?

ELIZABETH

We can move if we want. But yes, we will be left alone from now on.

ALEX

That's a good enough reason to celebrate as any.

Alex extends a glass of scotch to Fin.

FIN

I don't want any.

ALEX

Celebrate with us, Fin.

FIN

[Sternly] I'd rather not.

Alex pulls the glass away.

FIN

I'd rather spend my night in my room alone. Is that alright?

ALEX

Sure.

ELIZABETH

Goodnight, Fin.

Fin exits towards the kitchen. Alex sits on the couch.

ALEX

Wondering what's bothering him.

ELIZABETH

He's just discovered love, what can you expect? *[Sits on the couch]* Sit with me, would you?

Alex sits next to Elizabeth. She wraps herself around him, and he awkwardly cradles her.

ALEX

So, Elizabeth, shall we get to know each other?

ELIZABETH

If you'd like.

ALEX

We don't have to if you don't want.

ELIZABETH

No, let's. Let's ask each other meaningless questions like in high school. That what you're looking for?

ALEX

Now there's no need-

ELIZABETH

I'll start. Have you ever seen something die?

ALEX

[Mockingly] Have I ever-?

ELIZABETH

-watched something...or someone...die? Yes.

ALEX

Only once.

ELIZABETH

Tell me the story.

ALEX

It's not all that romantic.

ELIZABETH

I'm not your *typical* romantic.

ALEX

Alright then. I was a young boy, maybe in my freshman year of high school. I was up at my dad's house for a weekend of vacation, and we-

ELIZABETH

Your parents had divorced?

ALEX

Separated, actually.

ELIZABETH

[Chuckles] Sure. Continue.

ALEX

So my father decided to take me out hunting. It was deer season and he was going to show me the whole process: shooting, skinning, and cooking the deer, the rounds. So we head out real early in the morning, dressed in all this camouflage. Get to our hideout at sunrise and set up. We switch lookout shifts, and it wasn't until around noon that we spotted a deer. But this deer was truly magnificent. I've never thought an animal was beautiful, but he was a beautiful creature. Big, must've been 2 or 3 hundred pounds. So my father hands me the rifle and tells me to take the shot. I look down the sights and it looks at me. It saw me, and it knew why I was there looking at it. It didn't look it away, it wanted me to do it, we were like that for what felt like an eternity. I was about to lower the gun, but my father shouts at me to shoot and I fire. I hit it right in the side, I guess it tried to run when it heard my father yell. I walked up to it and looked at it in the eyes, it's breath heavy, legs kicking, heart pounding. It looked at me with betrayal. I didn't

(MORE)

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ALEX (cont'd)
betray it, I didn't mean to shoot it. I didn't even
kill it.

ELIZABETH
You didn't kill it?

ALEX
[Broken from any emotional connection] No, my father
slit its throat to kill it. He'd asked me to, but I
refused.

ELIZABETH
Couldn't go through with it?

ALEX
I could've, but I was shaken up from the gunfire.

ELIZABETH
[Looks behind her] So that's what the rifle is?

ALEX
Yup. My father gave it to me after that day and I've
kept it ever since.

ELIZABETH
You ever take Fin out hunting with it?

ALEX
Fin? I could never. He wouldn't be able to handle it.

ELIZABETH
I think he could manage.

ALEX
Why do you say that?

ELIZABETH
My first impression was strong. I don't usually have
strong first impressions. He's strong.

ALEX
[Deflecting] So you belong to the company?

ELIZABETH
I don't belong to anybody but you now.

ALEX
Well someone sent you over.

ELIZABETH
What does it matter now? You have me all to yourself.

She puts her hand on his crotch.

ELIZABETH

And you're clearly excited about it. That or you're a narcissist who gets off by telling stories of his almost murder. Why beat around the bush? Embrace your animal and own me like the woman I am.

After a moment she kisses him. Lights go down.

Scene 2

Alex is standing, zipping his pants up. He picks his shirt off the floor and buttons it. Elizabeth comes on brushing her hair, fully clothed.

ELIZABETH

Pass me the bottle.

Alex passes her the bottle with a smile of generosity plastered across his face. Elizabeth drinks from the bottle, not for any other reason other than absolute boredom. Alex sits next to her, expelling a naïve love from his pores.

ELIZABETH

Is the boy still in his room?

ALEX

Possibly.

Alex kisses Elizabeth's neck over and over. She is unfazed; she has no reason to pretend to enjoy it anymore.

ELIZABETH

[Lovingly] Fin!

Fin comes onstage and politely stops after seeing the two of them. Neither recognize that Fin has entered the room.

FIN

[Longingly] Alex? Did you call for me?

ALEX

[Stops kissing her and looks at Fin, genuinely puzzled] What? Why would I call you? [Doesn't wait for an answer from Fin, and continues to kiss Elizabeth's neck]

FIN

Right. *[Starts to leave]*

ELIZABETH

Well hold on a minute. *[Fin stops where he is with his back turned.]* Where are you going?

FIN

You two seem to be having a good time. I don't want to burden you.

ELIZABETH

Alex. *[She pulls his head out of her neck]*

ALEX

Yes?

ELIZABETH

Let him join.

ALEX

[Considers it] Fin?

FIN

I'm quite alright, thank you for the offer.

ALEX

[He rises and walks over to Fin] Elizabeth has done nothing but good for us. She's transformed this household into a place of life and happiness, can't you see that?

FIN

Because I was filling it with death before?

ALEX

That's not what I meant, Fin.

ELIZABETH

Yes, it is, Alex. *[As the conversation continues between Alex and Fin, Elizabeth picks up a newspaper and reads it. The headline tells the murder of her last living family member, her mother. She forces a chuckle to prove she is unfazed by this. She puts the newspaper down and drinks her scotch.]*

ALEX

Fin, I want you to be happy.

FIN

You've done nothing but ignore me since she's gotten here.

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ALEX

[Understands] I see. You're frustrated. Fin, that offer wasn't an empty one. You are fully allowed to stride over to that couch, lie with that woman, and have raging intercourse with her.

FIN

I'd rather not.

ALEX

Would you like to watch?

FIN

No thank you.

ALEX

I insist.

FIN

I'll be up in my room.

ALEX

Fin! It's about time you learn these things.

Alex straightens up and turns towards Elizabeth. Alex shuts his eyes. Elizabeth looks at Fin, and then Alex. She chokes him. After a little Fin runs over and pulls them apart.

FIN

Get off of him!

ALEX

Fin! *[He pushes Fin to the ground. To Elizabeth]* Are you alright? *[She nods]* Stand up. *[He does]* What was that all about?

FIN

She was trying to kill you.

ALEX

[Slightly embarrassed] Sometimes love can look like that.

FIN

Love can look like murder?

ALEX

Well there's no real murderous intention behind the action.

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FIN

So what about it gets you going? *[Alex doesn't have the answer]* You don't know?

ELIZABETH

Our mind can't distinguish a real threat from a playful one. There's a reason children like to play war on the playground. It's because they like the idea of something, without having to face any of the consequences. When I choke Alex, he may smile and get excited, but after a long enough time his body will fight for his life to get me off. He's drawn to the uncertainty of whether the threat is real or not. He likes putting his life in my hands. He's not a fan of being in the driver seat, so he hands it over to me and shuts his eyes, a gamble. I control the fate of another human being. Many people enjoy the sexual act of choking, and most of them will try and argue it isn't for those reasons...but it is. People are so alike. *[sips scotch]* It's disgusting sometimes, watching all of you copy those around you like sheep...Sidetracking. Recklessness and a break from the responsibilities he has to deal with everyday. That's why.

FIN

[Defensive] This isn't what I dreamt of. This is animalistic, not love.

ALEX

Animals can love too, Fin.

FIN

No one has felt what I felt. This? This is toxic. *[He exits. Alex wanders the room until he finds his way over to the lamp. He strokes it]*

ELIZABETH

[Disappointed] Has he gotten to you?

ALEX

No, I don't think it was because of him.

ELIZABETH

You're definitely off at the moment.

ALEX

Yes, I know. That's why I'm puzzled. Because I haven't felt this since I was a child.

ELIZABETH

But everything Fin was saying was purely emotional. If you understand love, then you understand love.

ALEX

No, I know. So then why do I feel so weak suddenly?

ELIZABETH

Do you want to have sex?

ALEX

[turning to her] Could you tell me a story?

ELIZABETH

Why?

ALEX

I've never heard you just speak uninterrupted before.

ELIZABETH

We're usually a little preoccupied tending to your other desires.

ALEX

Well now my "other desires" as you call it have subsided. *[Thinks]* Have you ever seen something die?

ELIZABETH

Yes.

ALEX

Tell me that?

ELIZABETH

[Delightfully] Sure.

Alex sits in the chair and rubs his head, suddenly exhausted.

ELIZABETH

I was once with a man named Herald. We had been engaged for a few months. We were having sex one night and I choked him. I choked him and I didn't stop. Once the sexual appeal of the act wore off, he began to try and fight me off. I became curious... I knew it went attraction and then fighting, but then what? So- I was on top of him which helped- I choked him, and he surprisingly couldn't get me off. He was weak. He couldn't overpower me...or maybe he didn't want to, who knows?

ALEX

[Slightly frightened] Did you kill him?

ELIZABETH

[After a pause] No. Because after a short while, he stopped hitting me, and just thrust over and over with

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ELIZABETH (cont'd)

more fight and power than any of the attempts to try and get me off of him. That's what I discovered came after the fight, a last ditch attempt to...Please me? Make me feel like I need him? He had power over me for a brief moment I'll tell you that much.

ALEX

So you didn't watch him die?

ELIZABETH

Oh, I did. He hung himself a few weeks later.

ALEX

Did you know it was coming?

ELIZABETH

I helped.

ALEX

You what?

ELIZABETH

[Powerful] He didn't know how to tie the knot.

ALEX

You're terrifying.

ELIZABETH

But you still love me.

ALEX

Yes.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry. The deep emptiness will pass in a little while. I've seen this before, and it comes and goes in waves.

ALEX

[With dreadful acceptance] Could we have sex now?

ELIZABETH

[Lively] Yes we can. *[She downs the last of the scotch and starts to leave, but sees how Alex is and stops.]* Hey, Alex. *[She goes over to him and caresses his face from behind, powerful.]* Whether or not you like it, you're only powerful with me. I don't want this sad and pathetic excuse for a chihuahua. Show me the lion. Show me the roar. Don't disappoint me. I'll be waiting for you.

She exits. Alex sits, stabbed by himself, but Elizabeth spit on the wound. He transforms himself from the chihuahua to the lion. He exits.

Scene 3

Fin is asleep on the couch. Elizabeth sits in the lounge chair and watches him. Fin peaks his eyes open and rapidly sits up.

FIN

What are you doing?

ELIZABETH

It's not a crime to observe.

FIN

I'm sleeping.

ELIZABETH

You're still very interesting.

FIN

I can't imagine it's all that exciting to watch someone sleep.

ELIZABETH

Your dreams are very revealing.

FIN

They are?

ELIZABETH

[Disappointed] Are you one of those people who don't remember their dreams?

FIN

No, I do.

ELIZABETH

Then you understand why I like watching them.

FIN

How do you see my dreams?

ELIZABETH

Love does crazy things to a person. You know that.

FIN

That doesn't explain how you know how I dream. You're talking about supernatural abilities.

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ELIZABETH

Oh, stop that, Fin. I'm still a human, don't overcomplicate things. I simply watch you close enough to be able to see the movies your mind plays for you, and you have quite the complex projector up there.

FIN

[Nervous] Is Alex at work still?

ELIZABETH

He should be home soon.

FIN

Why bother with him? If you love me why do you spend all your time with Alex?

ELIZABETH

You are a smart kid.

FIN

It's mean to him. He doesn't feel genuine love towards you, so why do you pretend that he does?

ELIZABETH

There are different kinds of love, Fin.

FIN

Regardless, mine is the most pure, since I discovered it on my own, right?

ELIZABETH

Well, that may be; however, there are still different versions of love. Like the kind he feels for me, the kind I feel for you-

FIN

That's just not love, though.

ELIZABETH

Oh, but it is. Alex has grown attached to me because of my body. That's what he fell in love with. That was the core. See, it's like a match. *[She retrieves a match from the book and holds it up]* Two objects that have no real relationship with each other, but there's something pushing at least one to the other. *[She pushes the match against the strike strip.]* Ok so now they're touching, so what? Well now all it takes is a little force. Once I do this, the love will burn unbelievably intense. It'll make sense, too, why it burns so bright. The intensity that both objects have, it's logical that the flame would be so big. Then it'll die, very very rapidly. That will also make sense in the moment. They only really beautifully interacted

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH (cont'd)

with each other for a small period of time, the flame will obviously die into something that small. They both make sense, in the moment, so which is the truth? *[She strikes the match and narrates as it goes through its cycle]* Interaction, love, passionate love! Then dull feelings, and it sits this way for a while, the flame never to climb back up to that size ever again, unless you turn the match upside down and watch it burn itself out. Leaving you to feel the need to *[She blows out the match]*.

FIN

So how are your feelings for me different than that?

ELIZABETH

It comes from a different place. His love sparked immediately.

FIN

Yours didn't?

ELIZABETH

No, Fin. Stepping into this house wasn't the first time I'd known you. The company is everywhere.

FIN

So why do you love me?

ELIZABETH

The way you act, what you like to do, the way you move, dream, speak, sleep, eat, cry, laugh. It's beautiful and I love it all.

FIN

You're speaking about surface things.

ELIZABETH

No, surface love is Alex's love. He loves me for what's on the outside.

FIN

Outside isn't surface, it's exterior. It's shallow. Your soul has a surface and deeper level, like an iceberg. You've seen the tip so you're imagining it's just going to be more of that underneath the water. There's a reason certain things are on the surface and certain things are underneath.

ELIZABETH

Try me.

FIN

I dream of death a lot.

ELIZABETH

I know that. It's also one of your biggest fears.

FIN

Surface. I dream of other's deaths a lot. Never because of me, not saying I dream of killing people, but I suppose death is something that my subconscious latched onto and can't get enough of.

ELIZABETH

So you're not afraid to die?

FIN

What's there to lose?

ELIZABETH

Love.

FIN

I don't know what love you feel for me, but the love I have isn't stopping when I stop. Are you afraid of dying?

ELIZABETH

Only if it's an unexpected and sudden death.

FIN

What exactly do you have to lose?

ELIZABETH

Love. Unfortunately for me, I don't think I'm at your understanding of love yet. So losing that would hurt.

FIN

What about others in your life? Wouldn't you lose them?

ELIZABETH

Not a concern.

FIN

This house and Alex are my life. I have no one else to lose. You, on the other hand, should have other people.

ELIZABETH

I don't like other people.

FIN

Why not?

ELIZABETH

They're boring, predictable, so afraid of the world around them.

FIN

So you're desperately lonely.

ELIZABETH

I don't rely on the people around me to feel validated.

FIN

You do or you wouldn't be doing what you're doing with Alex.

ELIZABETH

Alex is nothing more than a plastic toy I play with every once and a while, but once he gets dented or dirty I'll throw him away.

FIN

You wouldn't.

ELIZABETH

I already told you.

FIN

You must have been raised in one destructive home to be this selfish.

ELIZABETH

There's no need to touch on my home life.

FIN

Why? You can come in here and put a microscope up to everyone's lives, pretend you own us, but if the glass gets turned around you hide like a cockroach.

ELIZABETH

I said don't touch on it.

FIN

What was it? Sibling take all the attention? Parents divorce? Abusive father?

ELIZABETH

You say one more word about it and I will put your head through the wall.

FIN

[Rises] Abusive father then.

ELIZABETH

I thought you were raised to have manners.

FIN

I was raised to know when someone hurts others because they had no one to love. [*She slaps him*] And you definitely know how to give a slap. Maybe you're a witch. It would explain your vampiric love of sucking the joy out of every environment you enter.

ELIZABETH

You don't normally get like this.

FIN

Not unless I need to defend myself.

ELIZABETH

It's more fight than Alex has got. For a man of his size he's really got no arm for slapping.

FIN

He hits you?

ELIZABETH

We tried that, but he got tuckered out. Got me angry, so I hit him, which was a terrible decision. He loved it, and his body sure can take hits, so now I hit him. The lion turned into a measly little pussycat.

FIN

I'm no lion.

ELIZABETH

No...you're a tiger. We don't pride yourself on our mane. We sit and hide, and are clever. The tiger loves to fight with no real intention of killing.

FIN

So I must be quite a breath of fresh air.

ELIZABETH

You have no idea how relieving you were to discover.

FIN

[*Very hesitantly*] Do you...want to have sex with me?

ELIZABETH

Of course I do.

FIN

No no. I mean would you like to have sex with me?

ELIZABETH

[Considering it a joke] But you don't love me.

FIN

I could pretend if you want.

ELIZABETH

You're doing this for Alex, aren't you? No no no no, come on Fin! Don't be like that! Do not dull your claws to protect a shivering little pussycat.

FIN

They're not getting dull. They just receded until someone as moronic as you comes around and threatens him.

ELIZABETH

And you're going to kill me with your big strong body? You're still a child.

FIN

I'm able to take one of your hits pretty easily. All you can do is bat at me with your furry paws. There are no claws inside of you, if you had them you'd have killed your prey already.

ELIZABETH

Not unless I like to watch them cower in a corner drenched in fear.

FIN

Be careful about that.

ELIZABETH

Why? Because you'll show me that great protective strength you have?

FIN

Yes.

ELIZABETH

Don't you think it'd be rather crushing to the pussycat considering he thinks himself to be a lion? You'd save him, but he'd never be able to live with his pride that humiliated. I lost my fiancée because of that. The moment you show the weaker animal who the alpha is, they realize their existence is only to serve, and that sends them spiraling into madness.

FIN

[Walks very close to her. Long pause. He slaps her.] Try not to spiral into madness too soon. I want to see your collapse.

ELIZABETH

You have no idea what you've done.

FIN

You're a wining pile of jelly, melting under the slightest heat of a fight. Call me alpha.

ELIZABETH

I still have something over you.

FIN

What's that?

Alex enters, drops his suitcase and coat and crosses the stage.

ALEX

[Without looking at her] Elizabeth. I'll be upstairs naked. Please hurry. It's been a long day.

He exits.

ELIZABETH

Call me what you want, because no matter how hard I hit him, your dear little pussycat will run back to me, not you.

FIN

Have fun torturing yourself. While you're picturing me as you screw that pile of crying meat, remember that it will never be more than a fantasy, because an alpha deserves a worthy opponent.

ELIZABETH

How much do you love Alex?

FIN

Don't start with that.

ELIZABETH

No no no. I'm not trying to tear at that nerve. Not yet. I was just wondering how much.

FIN

More than you'd believe.

ELIZABETH

[Thrilled] We are going to have quite the night then. Rest up, Fin. Alpha needs to be alert to protect his pussycat.

FIN

What are you going to do?

ELIZABETH

Nothing you can't stop. *[She begins to exit]*

FIN

You're lying.

ELIZABETH

[Stops with a fire. Turns] No. You can call me many things...MANY things, and they're all true. What I am not, nor have I ever been is a liar. I tell the truth, ugly as it is, always. As much as you think otherwise, I'm a tiger. And tigers love a good sparring partner and a good brawl. So rest up, sharpen your claws, and be alert, because I'm coming at you with everything I've got. *[She exits]*

She exits. He stands his ground for a moment until collapsing into the hawk that he is. He rapidly thinks for a few moments, hears sounds of sex, slapping, and moaning, and lies down on the couch. He peeks once over the couch, then lies down, resting.

Curtain.

Scene 4

Fin hasn't moved. Alex comes on drying his hair after a shower. He's holding a record and shoots a smile at Fin filled with memories. He puts it on the phonogram and lets it play. Fin slowly wakes up, looks up, sees Alex, and sits up to watch him. Alex dances a little and Fin stands. They dance, anywhere from poorly to incredibly depending on the actors, as long as they can make it work in regards to their relationship. The record begins to skip, so Alex goes and tries to fix it. Fin collapses onto the couch from the dance, and Alex comes over holding the record.

ALEX

Think she's reached her expiration date.

FIN

You sure? Lemme take a look. *[Alex hands Fin the record, he examines it, and rubs it with his shirt. He hands it back to Alex]* There.

ALEX

It's not a CD. Records are much more complex pieces of technology.

FIN

Just put it on the phonogram.

Alex walks over to the player and puts it on. The music plays, somehow sounding even clearer than before. The two share a moment of "I told you so", whatever it may be. Alex holds his hand out, inviting Fin to dance.

FIN

I'm good.

ALEX

But it was just getting exciting.

FIN

I'm tired. I haven't danced like that in a while.

ALEX

It has been a while, hasn't it? I've been more of a coach to you than a friend.

FIN

You're just trying to do what's best for me, I know.

ALEX

Yeah, I suppose [*takes the needle off the record*] Am I too hard on you?

FIN

What? Not at all.

ALEX

What is it then? Something's changed, and I fear it's because of me.

FIN

It's Elizabeth.

ALEX

You're finally sleeping with her?

FIN

No.

ALEX

Why not? She loves you more than she loves me. It'd probably be steaming.

(CONTINUED)

FIN

I'm not fond of her.

ALEX

You hate her.

FIN

That's not what I said.

ALEX

No, but I'm not an idiot, despite what you may think.

FIN

If you love her I think you should love her.

ALEX

And if you hate her I think you should do that as well.

FIN

But I don't want to invalidate your feelings.

ALEX

[Laughs] It's fine. I only love her for sex. I can admit that. Even if she feels no love in it, I feel so much love and passion. If what stops me from loving the woman I love is the fact that she doesn't love me in return... well then it isn't real love is it?

FIN

It's not real love to begin with.

ALEX

Yes, it is. It's real, but we can say it isn't as pure as the love you're speaking of, to avoid any of your speeches.

FIN

But why settle for something that isn't all that it could be?

ALEX

There's a prideful feeling in being content with simple happiness.

FIN

I just can't wrap my head around that idea.

ALEX

Why not?

FIN

Are we simply meant to act like animals and nothing more?

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Humans are animals.

FIN

If you watch a deer in love and humans in love there's a clear difference.

ALEX

That's silly.

FIN

Our species have evolved lightyears passed any other animal, and yet some of us are still content feeling this mediocre happiness. I just...I don't understand. Love is real, Alex. Pure love is real, and it feels like it's from another dimension it's so incomprehensible. I want you to feel it.

ALEX

Fin...I truly and honestly with all of my heart don't think I'll understand love as you understand it. I'm not at the level of purity you are.

FIN

You can be.

ALEX

No, I can't.

FIN

I love you.

ALEX

But you can't-

Elizabeth enters.

ELIZABETH

I'm back!

FIN

[To Alex] Where was she?

ELIZABETH

Catching up with old friends. I invited them over. I hope that's alright.

ALEX

Yes, that's fine. Are they here now?

ELIZABETH

They will be in a few minutes.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Do I need to prepare dinner?

ELIZABETH

No no nothing like that. Some pretzels in a bowl should be fine.

ALEX

Well alright, do you need anything from us?

ELIZABETH

[Confused. To Fin] I thought you would've told him by now.

ALEX

Told him what?

She walks in between them over to Fin, stares at him, then looks back at Alex.

ELIZABETH

Oh, dear. You were just about to do it weren't you? I'll leave you two alone then.

ALEX

Do you need to tell me something, Fin?

FIN

[Testy] No.

ELIZABETH

Oh, don't get cold feet now. The night's just beginning!

ALEX

Fin, you can talk to me.

ELIZABETH

Yes! You can talk to him, Fin. You can tell him *anything!*

ALEX

Is it about Elizabeth?

FIN

[Helpless] No.

ELIZABETH

[Powerful] Come on! Tell him! You always talk about love, but now you can't find the words for it! That's what this has all lead up to. You know love better than either of us.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

You love Elizabeth?

FIN

No. *[To Elizabeth]* Please stop.

ELIZABETH

Come on you tiger. There can't be a fight if you don't throw the first punch.

FIN

This won't benefit you.

ELIZABETH

It doesn't need to. Narcissistic vampires get their enjoyment from-

FIN

You're sick!

ELIZABETH

I'm strong.

FIN

You're weak!

ELIZABETH

I'm trying to fight!

ALEX

Fin you need to talk-

ELIZABETH

Fin!!!! *[Silence]* Use your brain. This ends in two ways. Unlike the pussycat I'd imagine you'd like to grab the steering wheel on this one.

ALEX

The pussy what?

ELIZABETH

You'll show your weakness to me, sure, but at least we'll be evenly matched. You know mine is you and I know yours is-

FIN

STOP!! *[The room is silenced. Alex sees the tiger briefly]* I didn't think you'd take it this far. This is too much. I can't do this.

ALEX

Is this about me?

(CONTINUED)

FIN

[Quickly] Yes, Alex. Of course it's about you. I don't know how to explain this to you. You'll get so mad. I know you'll get mad. And she's just using it to-

ALEX

[Calming] Fin. Talk to me.

FIN

[Slowly and then much quicker as it progresses] It's all so massive. This love thing. I don't understand it. It's like discovering infinity. You can see the endlessness, but you know you'll never fully get it. I don't know. *(Big pause.)* It's so massive, Alex. I see you, hear you, feel you, taste you, smell you in everything. I hear you in the wind and see you in the moon and you're in the images of forests and oceans and giant mountains in my head. You're in every tear that falls from my eyes, but you're also the hand wiping them away. You're in the sound the couch makes when you sit on it hard. I smell you when I sleep on the couch. That's why I sleep on the couch so much, because I can smell you on it. You're the dogs that howl down the block. You're the trucks honking miles away. You're the helicopters and planes that only seem to fly over our house late at night. You're the train rushing by, and you're in the way it shakes the house somehow. How something that far away can still have an effect on this meaningless little house. You're the way sound echoes, molecules scatter, gravity pushes and pulls, planets orbit, hearts beat. You're the air traveling in my nose and into my lungs, rushing to my heart to circulate through my whole body. You're me. You're in my hands and my neck and the very pit of my soul. You're the city lights I can see from the roof, and I know you tell me not to go up on the roof, but I do, because the world is so massive and all of it is you, so I get to experience so much of you and it's bigger than infinity. I don't know how it can be bigger than infinity but it's so much infinitely bigger than infinity. How is this all so massive.

ALEX

[pitifully] Fin...

ELIZABETH

Fin!!

Fin rushes over and kisses Alex. Alex pushes Fin off of him, hard. He falls to the ground. Elizabeth is highly entertained, but maintains herself well. All of Fin's lines are stuttered and mumbled. The words specifically aren't what

(CONTINUED)

matter. The feeling of absolute devastation of his world crumbling around him is all that needs to be conveyed. Alex is so enraged, it should seem like a drastic change in emotion for him. He's so overwhelmed with anger, he doesn't see Fin for Fin anymore. He sees him as just an idea.

ALEX

What are you doing?

FIN

What?

ALEX

You're a bloach?

FIN

What? I don't-

ALEX

You're a bloach! That's why you gave me Elizabeth.

FIN

No. You were all- you can't make me love her.

ALEX

Why not? Look at her!

He walks over to Elizabeth grabs her face and kisses her.

ALEX

It's that easy.

He kisses her again.

ALEX

Come here.

FIN

I don't want to.

ALEX

Come here, Fin!

Fin stands and walks to Elizabeth. He looks down.

ALEX

Look at her.

He slowly does.

ALEX

Kiss him.

Elizabeth touches his face, softly. She leans in and kisses him, filled with love. He does not move.

ALEX

Now say you love her.

FIN

I don't-

ALEX

Say it.

FIN

No.

ALEX

Say it!

FIN

Stop!

ALEX

Say it!

FIN

Please.

ALEX

Say it!

FIN

No!!

There is a knock at the door. Fin and Alex turn to the door. Elizabeth jumps from her spot and walks to the door.

ELIZABETH

[Enthusiastic] Our guests are here!

She stops and turns around to the men.

ELIZABETH

Straighten yourselves up, will you?

She goes and opens the door. BENNETT and ALLY come into the house with linked arms. They are dressed very casually, like what an alien would think a tourist dresses like. They act in the same creepily cardboard way as well. Elizabeth enters behind them, and hurries back to her seat.

BENNETT

Good day.

ALLY

Evening.

Ally and Bennett just stand and watch Fin. Alex goes over to greet them.

ALEX

Hello. You're friends of Elizabeth?

BENNETT

Good friends.

ALLY

Great friends.

ELIZABETH

Since we were kids.

ALEX

How did you meet her?

BENNETT

Summer camp.

ALLY

For arts and crafts.

BENNETT

We had a lovely time there.

ALLY

We spend a lot of time together.

ALEX

Why don't I grab us some food so we can all sit down and chat?

ALLY

Quickly.

BENNETT

We would like to converse a little bit with all of us here, may we sit?

ALEX

Please.

Alex goes and gets a bowl of pretzels from the kitchen. Bennett sits in a lounge chair, Ally stands behind him, Alex and Elizabeth sit together on the couch, and Fin sits in the other lounge chair. Bennett grabs a handful of pretzels.

BENNETT

I love pretzels. They're my favorite after all!

ALEX

I like them as well [*He takes a few*] What are you both doing in town?

BENNETT

We live here.

ALLY

What are you insinuating?

ALEX

[Defusing] Nothing. I simply assumed because-

ALLY

Don't assume.

ALEX

My apologies.

BENNETT

Accepted.

ALEX

[After a long pause] How long have-

ALLY

I'm sorry I can't get over this!

BENNETT

Ally, darling.

ALLY

No, stop! You think we don't live here? Are we not the perfect mix of inviting and also friendly?

ALEX

You were very welcoming when you came in.

ALLY

So then why would you make such an accusation that we are not from here!

(CONTINUED)

BENNETT

I must apologize for my-

ALLY

Do not speak for me! If I feel remorseful about something I've said I will apologize myself. *[Sternly]* Don't make assumptions, Alex.

ALEX

I sincerely apologize.

BENNETT

[Diverging attention] So Fin, how have things been for you?

FIN

Easy.

BENNETT

Anything interesting happen lately?

FIN

I wish.

ELIZABETH

Oh come now, Fin. You have plenty of interesting dreams to share with them.

ALLY

Yes, tell us some of those dreams we hear so much about.

FIN

And how have you heard about those?

ALLY

Elizabeth told us about them. She's so kind like that.

FIN

Like a werewolf.

ALLY

I beg your-

FIN

You'd like to hear about my dreams?

BENNETT

Please, Fin.

FIN

A really interesting one?

(CONTINUED)

ALLY

[Suspicious] Yes.

FIN

[Standing and examining the them] I dreamt of two people who were...married? Well pushed together by a force stronger than themselves. Neither of them happy in the most general sense, but they try and pretend it. It's so beaten up and worn out, you'd have to be blind and deaf to think there was any true positivity in it. And they didn't love each other, they didn't even like each other. But they went through the routines necessary to try to prove that they did. They made love so often, they almost fooled themselves. Well, the man almost did, the woman was much smarter and confident than to be persuaded by a series of empty thrusts and grunts. When they did- make love- they each pictured someone different. The man pictured...his mother. And she...pictured...a childhood boyfriend...no not boyfriend, just a friend. She was always too dominant for any "normal boy" to like her.

ALLY

That's enough!

BENNETT

My God.

FIN

You wanted to hear about my dreams.

ALLY

You've never had that dream.

FIN

Maybe I just did.

ALEX

Fin, what's gotten into you?

FIN

Knowledge. Knowledge and power. So why don't you shiver in your corner and let me protect you?

ALLY

What was that?

FIN

What was what?

ALLY

You're going to protect Alex? Isn't he to protect you?

(CONTINUED)

FIN

Yes, and he does, but there are some instances-

BENNETT

[To Alex] Are you still able to maintain a level of strength required to protect Fin?

FIN

Of course he is.

ELIZABETH

He asked Alex. *[To Alex]* Are you able to?

ALEX

[Unconfidently] Yes.

ELIZABETH

That didn't sound too sure to me.

ALLY

Is there something we don't know?

ELIZABETH

I have sex with Alex. I spit in his face, I slap him, I humiliate him, I make him weak, I control him, I make him cry, I hold him, I make him beg, and *I* make him... feel safe.

BENNETT

[Bursts out into laughter] You sad excuse for a man! You let this woman humiliate you?

ELIZABETH

He asks for me to do it.

BENNETT

[Laughs even harder] I have never met a man more unsuited for a job of protection.

ALEX

Fin?

FIN

What, Alex?

ALEX

Please help me.

ELIZABETH

He's asking for your protection. Don't abandon your little cat.

(CONTINUED)

FIN

I-I don't know-

ALLY

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!!! [*Everyone immediately silences except for Bennett, who's laughter slowly settles. To Alex*] We would like it if you would leave so we may speak to Fin and Elizabeth alone.

ALEX

I'll wait in the kitchen then.

ALLY

Leave the house, Alex. [*Alex exits.*] Now maybe I'm missing some crucial detail as to why Elizabeth is having sex with Alex. Is this something you sponsored, Fin?

FIN

No, ma'am.

ALLY

And Elizabeth, it never occurred to you to inform us of this earlier? It may have made our visit a little less chaotic.

ELIZABETH

Sue me. I need a little chaos in my life. Plus, now I get to see-

ALLY

Elizabeth, leave. [*They glare at each other, after which Elizabeth gets up and exits.*]

BENNETT

Fin, are you alright? I know you must be going through a lot right now.

FIN

I'm alright.

BENNETT

So you're not in love with Elizabeth?

FIN

No, I'm not.

BENNETT

But how is that? She's gorgeous.

FIN

I know, but I just don't love her.

(CONTINUED)

ALLY

[Testy] Why not, Fin?

FIN

It just wasn't time for me to love someone.

ALLY

You did discover love.

FIN

Yes, but-

ALLY

And it overwhelmed the life out of you.

FIN

Yes, but-

ALLY

So don't you sit in that chair and lie to me like I'm an ignorant son of a bitch! *[removes herself from the situation]*

BENNETT

Fin. *[Fin breaks his paranoid watch of Ally]* There's something you aren't telling us.

FIN

I haven't lied.

BENNETT

I know that. You're smarter than to do that...well your little dream stunt may not have been the wisest decision, but I will admit it was impressive. You know who we are, so why are you pretending you have the power here? You're special, but we control this room currently.

FIN

I don't know what you want me to say.

ALLY

[Irritated] Fin.

BENNETT

Ally, dear.

ALLY

Shut up. Fin. You have love filling your entire being.

FIN

Yes-

(CONTINUED)

ALLY

[Seething] No, everyone just shut up. Ever since your dream, love has been filling you more and more and more. After only a few days it would have filled you completely. Even someone who's stranded in the desert will force themselves to love the sand, a rock, a cactus, the sun, isolation, but they will find something to release their love out. That's just how it works. So when you sit there and try to tell me you don't love anything, it makes me think you are trying to hide something from me. Now what kind of love would you try and hide? *[In however brief or long of a moment the actress needs, Ally completely gets the situation.]* Alex!! *[Alex after a 6 second pause enters]*

ALEX

Yes?

ALLY

[staring at Fin] Sit down in that chair. *[Alex does.]* Elizabeth. *[Elizabeth enters wiping her mouth.]*

ELIZABETH

Hm? *[Ally stands up from the couch.]*

ALLY

Sit on the couch. *[Elizabeth does. Ally walks to the back of the room and removes the gun from the wall.]*

BENNETT

Ally-

ALLY

I swear to God, Bennett, I will skin you like the dirty little pig you are if you don't shut. Up. Come here. *[Bennett walks over to her]* Now, Fin stand in front of that chair. *[Fin doesn't move]* Fin! You're all goddamn bacterias. *[Ally walks over and pulls Fin up from the couch. She puts him in front of the opposite chair and places the gun in his hands.]*

FIN

What-

ALLY

Now shoot one of them.

FIN

What?

ALLY

You don't know how a gun works? You aim it at someone and pull the trigger. Brilliantly easy design. *[Fin*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALLY (cont'd)
doesn't raise the gun. Irritated] This isn't supposed to be hard, Fin. I'm not expecting you to shoot someone you love.

ALEX
Fin?

FIN
[Slowly raises the gun at Alex.] Don't say anything.

ELIZABETH
[Disappointed] Fin. Selflessness does not a tiger make.

FIN
Shut up. You said you knew love. You said you knew me before this, and you did, but you knew me on the surface. You didn't know my dreams about death, you didn't know what I think about when I'm alone, you don't know what I'm afraid of, you don't know what I want. You knew the surface me. My hobbies, my external personality, you knew all of that. You described his love as a match, I guess yours would be a bonfire, but fire burns out. Once you burn through your supply of wood, what's left? It's supposed to be a dam, not a fire. You think of love being destructive and spreading and wild. It's not. It's safety. The longer it takes to build, the stronger it is.

ELIZABETH
Mine *is* built up.

FIN
No! It's not. You don't get this. None of you get this! You never can! I can't! Leave!

ALEX
Fin.

ELIZABETH
Fin!

ALLY
Fin!!

Fin points the gun at Elizabeth and shoots. There are no bullets in the gun. Elizabeth's mouth opens in astonishment.

ALLY
Hmph.

Ally pulls out a hand gun and shoots Alex. He slides to the floor, dead. Fin drops the gun. He wants to scream, but he can't. As Ally said, he needs somewhere for his love to go, but without an outlet he is just a dam holding in love, unable to make the slightest movement or it'll burst.

ALLY

Bennett. Bring the body out. *[She exits]*

Bennett watches Fin and looks up at Elizabeth who is glaring at him, waiting to see his decision. Bennett walks over to Fin and hugs him, like his real father. He drags Alex offstage. Elizabeth looks back to Fin, her power relaxed. The fighting went too far and no longer is playful. She walks over and puts the needle on the record that is still on the phonograph. The music starts to play and she stands, unable to look at Fin. She turns around and they lock eyes for a moment. Tigers bathing in blood.

Curtain falls.