

**Stuff**

**By Jim Reyland**

ACT ONE

PLACE:

A 1920's Vaudeville Theater in Nashville, Tennessee.

SCENE:

Stuff fills the darkened stage. Boxes, antique cases and furniture. There is a stand-up mirror, a baseball bat and a large classical statue of a naked woman. Michael enters in darkness holding a pin light, tripping over his stuff.

MICHAEL

This takes me back. "Clean up your stuff Mike, hard work makes a good person, builds character!" Right Pop, is this what Mother Theresa's garage looked like?

(MICHAEL dials cell phone)

Gary, Michael Price, I'm in the theater now, the door was open. Mules? I don't see any mules I can't see shit. I've been stumbling around looking for the light switch for half an hour. I've got a million-dollar renovation starting tomorrow and you promised this stuff would be out of here today! Thanks but I don't want to keep it, I want it gone! When will it be gone Gary?

(MICHAEL bumps into a crate)

Son of a, damn! Hang on!

(MILTON and BOBBY enter with work clothes, a shovel, pushing a trash cart.)

MILTON

They got some hot in here Bobby.

BOBBY

Hotter than hell's hinges. Fire up the flashlight Genius!

MILTON

Can't find it, it's too dark.

BOBBY

Son of bitch Gary, sending us single file into the shit again.

(BOBBY helps find the light)

Here! I ain't got time for this shit!

MICHAEL

Hold it, I hear something!

BOBBY

Didn't like that ass hole then, don't like him now.

MICHAEL

I think your fan club's here!

MILTON

Mrs. Maryfield I hope we get some rain today.

BOBBY

When I get drafted by the Columbia Mules baseball team, I'm gonna find me a fan with nothing to do but cool me off.

MILTON

You're always talking about trying out for that damn team and every year you're another year too damn old.

BOBBY

Rod Carew played when he was forty and he's in the hall of fame.

MILTON

He started when he was eighteen, you ain't started yet.

BOBBY

But I'm ready, and I got the look!

(BOBBY poses with the bat and

MILTON points the flashlight)

You know I got the look!

(The full stage lights come up, MILTON double takes looking at MICHAEL then behind him at the massive piles of junk)

MILTON

Bobby? Oh Bobby! I wouldn't turn around if I was you!

(BOBBY is caught out front,  
frozen in mid pose when the  
stage lights come up)

BOBBY

Milton, you got something back there you don't want me to see, don't tell me not to look when you know I got the look!

(Bobby turns with drama)

Ah! Shit! This ain't nothing! I seen worse piles of junk on "The Price Is Right!"

MILTON

That Bob Barker is a sloppy bastard! We did one a lot worse in, in . . .?

BOBBY

Atlanta.

MILTON

Atlanta, 97' one hand in our pockets.

(MILTON puts his hand deep  
into his own pocket)

BOBBY

Milton, I do believe that you like that too much.

MICHAEL

(Stepping in from the shadows)

Anybody ever tell you to save that for back at the house?

BOBBY

(BOBBY turns to MICHAEL)

Before the Army had that don't ask don't tell thing, Milton was going around telling everybody.

MICHAEL

That's none of my business. You boys are over an hour late.

BOBBY

We're sorry about that Mr! Gary dropped us on the other side of the bridge; we walked a mile pushing this cart. We was pushing it hungry too cause that sister at the soup kitchen didn't give us no breakfast cause she said we

smelled. Milton was dragging that shovel and he was tired and I was tired and it's hot and, who the hell are you, the late police?

(MILTON & BOBBY share a laugh)

MICHAEL

Comedians! Well I don't care if you're Amos and Andy in a sundress, you don't show up on time and you don't get paid. What do you think about that funny boy?

MILTON

(Confused)

We could work now; you could pay us for that.

(MILTON turns to BOBBY)

Bobby?

BOBBY

It's all right.

MICHAEL

It's already ten o'clock. What time you got son?

BOBBY

Same as you sir.

MICHAEL

I don't think there's a chance in hell you two slackers can finish this job on time. What do you think?

BOBBY

We appreciate your candor Mr.. Come on Milton let's go.

(MILTON and BOBBY turn to  
exit)

MICHAEL

What now?

BOBBY

We ain't just gonna stand here, you talking to us like shit wearing a shirt.

MILTON

Like shit with pants on.

BOBBY

I ain't real smart but I know you don't make no deadline without us. So you better lighten up and bring us a large box fan and some kind words or we're not only gonna leave but we're gonna kick your ass before we go.

MILTON

I'm sorry Bobby!

BOBBY

I ain't talking to you Milton! In the army we was always too fast or too slow, too black or too homo. Well this ain't the army and you don't look like no sergeant to me.

MICHAEL

(Diplomatically)

My name is Price, Michael Price. My company just bought this theater. It doesn't look like much now but starting tomorrow, this baby gets a second chance. You guys understand that? It could have been a parking lot. Now we'll have movies, an arcade, the whole bit. Kids like new stuff in old packages.

(MICHAEL gives BOBBY a card)

Age is the only thing kids today don't have. "Price Media." Tell you what, you guys get this stuff out by the end of the day, anything on this stage is yours to keep.

MILTON

(BOBBY and MILTON look around)

Somebody around here with a bad-collecting disorder. My cousin Janie Lynn got a whole pile of stuff real quick one time and after that her life sucked.

BOBBY

I love good fiction don't you?

MILTON

It started with some of those plastic "Appliqués," the round ones with sunflowers; she got em from the Walgreen's.

BOBBY

(BOBBY looks through stuff)

Look here, I ain't got one of these. I could sure use this!

MICHAEL

I don't know your cousin or your uncle or anyone else you may have married. I don't care about sunflowers or WalMart.

MILTON

Walgreen's!

MICHAEL

OK! Are you going to clean this place out or not? Will you do that? Can you do that Soldier?

MILTON

Yes sir! But the fact is Janie Lynn was gluing "appliqués" to the seats of some wooden chairs she got from the WalMart. Gluing and applying, gluing and applying, gluing and, then she got tired and sat down. I know what you're thinking.

BOBBY

She weren't moving till Elvis himself come back to get her.

MILTON

Don't ask me how but some of that glue also spilled on the floor. Now that chair was stuck to her butt and to the floor. The good news was she was pointed at the TV and it was on.

MICHAEL

What's the purpose of this?

BOBBY

Once Milton gets going it's best to leave him go.

MILTON

She was butt stuck to a chair, stuck to the floor when all of a sudden a big ball-busting storm began blowing in from the north. It was the kind of scary bastard where if you weren't already stuck to a chair you might want to be stuck under a table with your knees knocking and your head in a wash bucket. Bobby! A storm so fierce a grown man would want to call out for his Momma, "Momma!" Even if his momma was dead!

BOBBY

Milton don't go there.

MILTON

And because of that storm, instead of getting 147 channels on the cable, she only got one and it was that 24-hour shopping channel. It was all chiffon robes and socket wrenches till Clark got home.

BOBBY

Who the hell is Clark?

MILTON

Her husband.

BOBBY

You got to tell me when you go introducing new characters.

MILTON

It's my episode Bobby!

BOBBY

I can't keep up with you; you're making me look bad.

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL gets upset)

Am I missing something here? I hired you two to do a job! This isn't story time it's wasting time. My valuable time!

MILTON

It's my . . . it's my story . . .

(MILTON blanks out)

BOBBY

Milton! Wake up Milton! He does this sometimes his brain turns off.

MICHAEL

What happened to him?

BOBBY

He fell, in the service of our country.

MICHAEL

Was that the official position of the United States Army; he fell?

BOBBY

That's it. We were running the course, you couldn't see up, down or sideways from the fog. Milton, he comes down on the other side of the wall with just his head catching him.

MICHAEL

So you take care of him now huh?

BOBBY

Something like that. But not forever, I got a baseball career needs worrying about.

(BOBBY swings the bat)

You notice anything funny about Milton?

MICHAEL

He likes to hear himself talk.

BOBBY

No, the way he is other than that?

MICHAEL

You mean the gay thing?

BOBBY

Some people won't tell you but they would rather he not be that way. They don't understand it, makes em' uncomfortable. And some people, if they was having a bad day, they might try and hurt that thing. You follow me?

(BOBBY swings the bat)

Ever see what one of these bats can do?

MICHAEL

Are you gonna help him or should I call the circus?

BOBBY

(BOBBY speaks to MILTON'S ear)

She was butt stuck to a chair, stuck to the floor with only the shopping channel when she got a fancy letter saying congratulations, here's your shiny . . .

MILTON

(MILTON wakes up)

. . . congratulations, here's your shiny new gold card with no credit limit and 12 months to pay.

MICHAEL

That's amazing.

BOBBY

What did she do then Milton?

MICHAEL

I can't wait.

MILTON

For a while everything was all right cause they were having a show on Star Trek shit and Janie Lynn hated that damn show. But then came the "Nick-Knacks," and before Janie Lynn knew it she was covered up with them damn little clay children from every nation! She just sat there and bought and bought some more, she was hooked!

BOBBY

They have a twelve-step program for that now.

MILTON

Lucky they didn't have them twelve steps on the shopping channel cause she would have bought every one of them and the house that goes with em. The UPS man made so many trips to her house her youngest called him Daddy. And he was, according to some members of the neighborhood watch. When her house got full, Clark just upped and moved to Foley to live with his secretary. It took Janie Lynn three years to pay back her credit card and Clark never did come back. It just goes to show you that having a lot of stuff don't always make you happy! It's a true story!

BOBBY

And I belong to the Belle Meade Country Club!

MICHAEL

Hey! Don't make jokes about the club!

BOBBY

Milton, come here I wanna show you something.

(MILTON and BOBBY cross)

Are you OK?

MILTON

Sure Bobby why?

BOBBY

You know how you are.

MILTON

You don't have to worry about me.

(To MICHAEL)

He don't have to worry about me.

BOBBY

I ain't got to worry about you? Did you say that I ain't got to worry about you?

MILTON

Huh huh.

BOBBY

Well then tell me who the hell I got to worry about?

MILTON

You ain't got to get mad neither. You're always getting mad.

BOBBY

I'm sorry. I'm sorry!

MILTON

In the service it didn't matter, some fellahs never had patience for me. Like I caused them a bad mood or something.

BOBBY

What are we gonna do Milton?

MILTON

Making it their business to sour your life.

MICHAEL

Soldiers aren't always politically correct.

MILTON

Were you in the service?

MICHAEL

Fort Campbell, Public Relations.

BOBBY

What's the deal? You gonna let us keep this stuff or not?

MICHAEL

Get it out by tonight and it's yours.

BOBBY

We're gonna take a meeting.

(Paper/rock/scissors meeting)

MICHAEL

What's it gonna be?

BOBBY

(BOBBY spots a car bumper)

Well damn, what do we got here? I ain't got one of these. This here is pure chrome, born on a sixty-two Bellaire. My Daddy had one just like it, smelled like cinnamon sugar on the inside, cherry red, smooth as vanilla icing.

(To MICHAEL)

We'll also want some Twinkies. Milton he likes Ding Dongs.

MICHAEL

Done!

BOBBY

You can smell us and tell us and send us to the store, cause we'll just spank ya and thank ya and carry out some more.

MILTON

Don't start that rhyming shit.

MICHAEL

He's a poet and don't know it?

MILTON

He knows it, he's just does it to piss me off!

BOBBY

Roses are red, violets are violet, Andy's from Mayberry,  
not from Mt. Pilot.

MILTON

I'm warning you Springstein!

BOBBY

I'll stop the rhymes; just kiss my ass one more time.

MILTON

Come here Shakespeare!

(MILTON chases BOBBY)

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL picks up a Polaroid)

I want a before and after picture for the trades. I have  
this friend who owns an ad agency, he took a picture of his  
kid next to the same tree every day of her life, then he  
put the pictures together in a film with his kid and the  
tree growing up all over again.

(MILTON and BOBBY pose)

You ain't no kind of poet Bobby?

BOBBY

I got a pocket full posies and a ring around my ass.

MICHAEL

Say cheese.

BOBBY

The girls call me long fellow!

MICHAEL

He used it for a muffler commercial.

MILTON

In Alabama, we don't have time for that.

MICHAEL

I don't have time for Alabama.

MILTON

Tuscaloosa and Fairhope, highway ninety-eight between Foley and Mobile are the only places in Alabama worth going. I moved there with my sister from South Carolina when I was ten.

MICHAEL

Your father get transferred?

MILTON

No, he got killed, he and my momma by a train. All these years later I think about how stupid that is, less you want to. My Aunt and Uncle lived in Fairhope, some other folks too.

BOBBY

Where you from Mr. Price?

MICHAEL

Nashville.

BOBBY

Don't tell me let me guess.

(BOBBY holds up a wallet and  
reads from the license)

621 Chestnut Lane, Nashville Tennessee 37205. You had at least one bad hair day and when you die, you want to take your organs with ya?

MICHAEL

Hey that's my wallet! Where did you get that?

BOBBY

Then this must be your jacket! Well, this must be your wife?

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL grabs his wallet)

That's my mother give me that!

BOBBY

If I wanted it, I'd just take it!

MILTON

(MILTON uncovers the statue)

Well Mrs. Maryfield, now that's a woman there! A genuine replica of Ophelia Payne; that's Bobby's girlfriend. She might look good in your den Mr. Price?

BOBBY

Wives are like melons they're nice for a while but bring home a naked lady, you're gonna smell that stink for miles.

MICHAEL

Be careful with that, I'll put her in the lobby.

BOBBY

Grab an arm Milton. If you get your hand off her titty and grab her ass we might get somewhere.

MICHAEL

Come on push harder! I thought you guys were "mules?"

MILTON

(MILTON and BOBBY stop)

A mule is a crossbreed lazy.

BOBBY

Mean stinky, ass greasy.

MILTON

Butt ugly, four legged smelly bag a shit!

BOBBY

Should we take that as a compliment?

MICHAEL

Gary called you mules; I thought it was your thing?

BOBBY

Get your ear outta your butt and quit listening to an ass hole!

(They all stop pushing and sit  
down to rest out of breath)

That bitch is just like Ophelia, cold and heavy too.

(BOBBY spots a dress rack)

Ophelia asked me to buy her a new outfit for her high school reunion, says she's going to lose twenty pounds by then. "Good luck baby, pass the fried chicken." I took her to one of them uptown shopping stores and she saw this dress she wanted so I said go-ahead baby try it on. Ophelia, she is big in parts but you know what that too skinny, tight-ass, lily lipped, sissy fellah sales clerk walking two feet from the ground said to my girl?

MILTON

No telling.

BOBBY

I think we can get your size, if we sew two together.

(MICHAEL & MILTON laugh)

I picked up a wire hanger and I cracked his majesty across his melon head! From now on that queer will be sharpening pencils for a living. I got a temper, just like my Daddy! I grew in Memphis, where everybody's pissed. Birthplace of the blues, home of the Memphis Red Socks, one of America's first all black baseball teams and Elvis Presley.

MILTON

Fairhope Alabama was a quiet town till a big city writer called it the top place in America people outta move and they did. Brought along their poverty and their street gangs.

BOBBY

When we got progress in Memphis, we put our urban blight and street gangs on a bus and sent them right to Fairhope Alabama.

MILTON

You son of a bitch!

MICHAEL

There you go.

(MICHAEL shows the picture)

BOBBY

Look at you genius.

MILTON

There you are.

BOBBY

Right next to you. Ugly as a bull dog backing up!

MILTON

Least I know what's wrong with me.

BOBBY

But you ain't sure are ya?

MICHAEL

It's eleven o'clock. What time you got Bobby?

BOBBY

Same as you.

MICHAEL

The day's getting away from us, can you catch up with it?

BOBBY

That's all I know for sure.

(BOBBY finds an antique box)

I wonder what I got here?

(BOBBY opens the box)

No, don't have one. Genius come here! Quick! I ain't got one of these!

MILTON

What the hell is that?

BOBBY

I thought you might tell me.

MILTON

You saw it first.

BOBBY

Now I'm showing it to you.

MILTON

I see it!

BOBBY  
Is that what I think it is?

MILTON  
Mr. Price?

BOBBY  
Can we have this box?

MICHAEL  
What's in there?

MILTON & BOBBY  
We're rich, we're rich . . .

MICHAEL  
Let me see that!

BOBBY  
(BOBBY points at MILTON)  
You're the rich one.

MILTON  
Don't stare at me cause I got money.

MICHAEL  
(MICHAEL looks inside the box)  
Wait a minute you're not rich.

BOBBY  
That's a box full of money ain't it?

MICHAEL  
Maybe.

BOBBY  
I see, he ain't gonna let us have this box of money Milton.

MILTON  
Figures.

MICHAEL  
No, you can have it.

MILTON & BOBBY

We're rich we're rich!

MICHAEL

Wait, you're not rich!

BOBBY

Would you make up your mind?

MICHAEL

It's not what you think it is. It's not real these are Confederate bills!

MILTON

Who's Confederate Bill?

BOBBY

I don't care who he is, he left it, it's mine now.

MICHAEL

Here, look at this.

(MICHAEL shows the bills)

The state of Tennessee, one hundred dollars. There's a mule and a guy who looks like Hank Williams. It's worthless, the Civil War's been over for a hundred and fifty years.

BOBBY

It sure looked good to me.

MILTON

I just knew I was rich.

BOBBY

Guess we better save em though.

MILTON

That's right, them Confederates might make a comeback.

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL hands a bill to MILTON)

If they do, they better bring their laundry.

MILTON

"Confederate Dry Cleaning 1869 Nashboro St. We'll go to war on your stains. Ten percent off."

BOBBY

It's a coupon dressed up like a hundred dollars.

MICHAEL

So much for standing in the footprints of history.

BOBBY

So much for getting rich.

MILTON

Easy come easy go.

BOBBY

If I can help ya let me know.

MICHAEL

Yeah, grab the end of this crate and help me move it outside.

BOBBY

Son of a bitch doesn't know when I'm just rhyming does he?

MILTON

(MILTON looks at the coupon)

I think I recognize this mule on here. I've seen pictures of my great, great Granddaddy standing by a mule like this one, with the Confederates, in the Civil War.

MICHAEL

Your great grandfather was gray?

MILTON

Who wants to know?

MICHAEL

Mine too; he commanded gunboats in Charleston Harbor. He was a decorated war hero. He died for everything good and bad about the south.

MILTON

My great granddaddy owned land on the Alabama coast.

MICHAEL

Pretty as a tintype post card.

MILTON

My aunt said it looked just like Gone with the Wind. There were rivers and trees, a big white house and . . .

BOBBY

And slaves.

MILTON

He was gray as a man could get. Isn't that right Mr. Price?

BOBBY

Too much gray and you got black!

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL unfolds a rebel flag)

Such a beautiful place, such an ugly time. A hundred and fifty years later, people around here still talk about the pre Civil War South like it was something pure.

BOBBY

Pure oppression.

MICHAEL

Still fling it's symbol over the capitol of South Carolina, statues of Nathan Bedford Forest and from the back of pick up trucks from Kentucky to Mississippi.

MILTON

(Interrupting)

Granddaddy was a man of his time.

BOBBY

(To MILTON)

The man has something to say.

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL folds the flag)

The south is my home. I'm sorry for it's lose of humanity and its lack of memory.

MILTON

He didn't know no better?

BOBBY

Didn't want to know? My family lived as slaves.

MILTON

Under his roof!

BOBBY

Covered by an angry sky!

MILTON

He believed it was right to own one!

BOBBY

But it weren't right to be one!

MILTON

Get away from me man!

BOBBY

You're afraid to admit you did some shit you ain't proud of.

MILTON

You're crazy!

BOBBY

You're afraid to say you're sorry.

MILTON

I didn't do nothing!

BOBBY

Come on let me hear you say you're sorry!

MILTON

What?

BOBBY

Tell the black family living in a burned out tenement you're sorry. Apologize to all their ancestors and their children for putting them on blocks and selling them in the square.

MILTON

That doesn't happen since the war.

BOBBY

Oh it was good for Bobby they had that Civil War! Otherwise, all these years later I might just be a poor black man living in a trailer, with no education, never knowing nothing but lifting this, hauling that. If it weren't for that war I might not have a future. I might have to spend my life doing dirty, nasty, filthy back breaking hard degrading work, work nobody else wants to do.

MILTON

Riding a garbage truck, working in a factory!

BOBBY

Naw man, McDonalds! The only difference between them and me slaves is that they're dead and I'm just dying, taking the long way home.

MICHAEL

You can get by the past, look at the big picture.

BOBBY

Why should I, I ain't in it.

MILTON

Oh please! They have poor white people too! Stinking Milltown South Carolina, the houses looked the same, the people too, tired, worn down by the mill life. Grandfather, father and son, all making sheets for the Klan!

BOBBY

Say man!

MILTON

Just checking to see if you were paying attention.

BOBBY

I'm paying attention but I ain't buying any more of your bullshit. I told you don't say shit like that to me. Ass hole!

(BOBBY exits)

MILTON

Mrs. Maryfield lend me a penny cause I ain't got no sense.

(MICHAEL smiles)

What?

MICHAEL

My wife and I argue like that. Back and forth till one of us just reaches out and sticks a hot poker up the other ones ass. You're not born knowing how to do that. Thing is you never remember learning it.

MILTON

My uncle sold used cars on Magnolia Street in Fairhope. One time my aunt Claire took the train to visit her sister Ruth in Mobile and no sooner had that train turned the corner to a memory than my uncle had him a white lightning brain storm. He goes and borrows Wade Simpson's monster crane and hoisted my Aunt's red 1963 Rambler up to the top of a fifty-foot pole! But first he took water paint and spelled out 333-CARS in big white letters on both doors. He said it was so people, once they got over the shock of seeing a red rambler up on top of a fifty-foot pole, might call my Uncle and see about buying a used car. Well after a week my Aunt was coming home and my uncle went to hoist that rambler back down. Uh oh, Mr. Simpson's crane got stuck in the up position! Mr. Simpson went on to explaining that there were times when he couldn't get it up, but never the other way around. He called Atlanta to get the part, but it was six weeks on back order. Well by then my Aunt Claire came home from her sisters and figured "Something was up" when my uncle picked her up in a city bus. And since her rambler had spent a month fifty feet up in the Alabama summertime, by the time they got it down the sun had faded the paint everywhere except where those numbers were. She washed off the white paint and there it was, 333-CARS. My uncle said, "It seemed like a good idea at the time."

MICHAEL

What the hell was that?

(Milton smiles)

Friends and relatives can be strange animals.

MILTON

You mean like a polecat with a face from a razorback hog?

MICHAEL

It's a figure of speech.

(MILTON stares)

Like when you use a literal image to exaggerate something.  
Take Bobby, he's your friend right?

MILTON

Take him where?

MICHAEL

You can hardly see his million dollar smile, from the chip  
on his shoulder. Under the image, lies a potential psycho.

MILTON

All Bobby wants to do is play baseball.

MICHAEL

Picture in the post office kinda psycho.

MILTON

(MILTON gets upset)

You keep talking about Bobby that way and they'll find your  
damn picture on a milk carton! I've been losing people all  
my life; he's the only family I got now. Most people carry  
their shit on the inside, Bobby takes it right out and  
shows it to you. That way you know where you stand.

MICHAEL

Are you sure about that?

MILTON

In the military, strength is power. The strong they will  
push you down and the powerful, they make sure you stay  
there. In the service of our country a man needs his  
friends too. If you can't count on your friends, then what  
you gonna do?

MICHAEL

Like Bobby?

(MILTON bends over to pick up  
a heavy box and grabs his  
back)

What are you doing?

MILTON

Aren't we supposed to be moving this shit? Bobby ain't gonna get to keep nothing.

MICHAEL

Don't pick up things leaning over like that, no wonder your backs screwed up. Bend at your knees, then lift the weight with your legs, like this. It's simple but if you don't know it, it could mess you up. It's common sense.

MILTON

I wish I had that, I ain't got that.

MICHAEL

Like closing your eyes before you sneeze. That way your eyeballs don't pop out of your head. Don't open beer bottles with your teeth or stand behind a mule. Sorry. Chew your food one hundred times before you swallow and no matter what, never run with the scissors. And if you're gluing something to the seat of a wooden chair, wait till it dries before you sit down. There's a lot of common sense.

MILTON

You got time to tell me all of it right now?

MICHAEL

Milton listen to me. You also want to be careful about what you tell folks about yourself, you know what I'm talking about? You never know what they got in their hearts. Be careful how you talk and who you hang out with cause people will make hard judgments. It not right but it's done. And when someone goes to shake your hand, well you shake it real hard. OK? Don't be afraid to give it a good grip. You never know when a person is looking to see if you're strong, so it's best to be strong all the time, you know?

MILTON

Stay strong.

MICHAEL

And watch out for yourself, cause it could be there's nobody else watching.

MILTON

That's common sense then huh? Thanks.

MICHAEL

If you can't count on your friends, what are you gonna do?

MILTON

Bobby's my friend, we go back a long way, we got issues.

MICHAEL

That's definitely none of my business.

MILTON

You see I'm from Alabama, a proud resident of Crimson Country! A student of Bear Bryant his descendants and the mighty "Roll Tide" experience. What do you think of that?

(MILTON lifts his shirt to  
show a large "BAMA" tattoo)

MICHAEL

Is that real? You're issue is College football?

MILTON

Alabama college football, the greatest program in the history of athletics.

MICHAEL

What about Notre Dame? Win one for the Gipper?

MILTON

I'm talking about "Professional" college football! I know I'm one state north at the moment, but you can bet your pigskin Mrs. Maryfield, the sky over my house is an Alabama sky.

MICHAEL

And Bobby has a problem with that?

MILTON

What do you think? Bobby's from Tennessee where football is more important than real life.

MICHAEL

And a whole lot more orange too.

MILTON

From the tip of his toes all the way up to his rocky top.

MICHAEL

You can't wear orange with anything else, except more orange.

MILTON

Damn pumpkin heads.

MICHAEL

After a while that can be very frightening.

MILTON

Three hundred and sixty four days a year we are the best of friends but on the third Saturday in October, colors collide! Orange and Crimson will never go together and even friends can't get past that.

MICHAEL

Maybe someday you'll work things out . . .

MILTON

Mr. Price, don't talk about things you don't understand!

MICHAEL

How did you get to be such a big Alabama fan?

MILTON

After my folks died, my sister and I moved down south to Fairhope. There I was not even thinking about it, I found out that I liked Alabama football and that I was a homosexual all at the same time. Just like that, sixteen years old.

MICHAEL

How do you find that out?

MILTON

My uncle told me.

MICHAEL

Your uncle told you, you were gay?

MILTON

He said if I liked Alabama football, I should like Alabama cheerleaders in their tight white cotton sweaters, I didn't. I was the only admitted homosexual in Fairhope. Folks just mostly stayed away from me. When I was eighteen I went to Mobile and joined the army. I was doing good till I hurt my head.

(MILTON chants)

I don't know but I've been told, men like us are getting old . . . Sound off . . . three four . . . Sound off . .

BOBBY

(BOBBY enters)

Milton was damn smart till he got hurt, that's why we called him genius.

MICHAEL

Where have you been, it's twelve thirty. What time you got?

(BOBBY has no watch)

The day's getting shorter, you ready for that?

BOBBY

Yes sir, been thinking about it all day. This morning when I saw Sergeant Gary, he said it was lucky I was still so strong; cause there wasn't nothing waiting for me outside the army other than a hard days work.

MICHAEL

Sergeant Gary is the same Gary in charge of this job?

BOBBY

That's him, son of a bitch!

MILTON

Sound off; bring it on down, three four . . .

MICHAEL

What are you doing here?

BOBBY

We were recruited. When we got out of the service we traveled around doing odd jobs. I practice my baseball Milton worked on remembering things.

MILTON

Slaking off will get you killed, in a great big muddy field.

BOBBY

I can throw a baseball two hundred feet?

MILTON

In the Army we all know, different ain't a way to go . . .

BOBBY

Milton, he ain't much better. We just got back this way and we were looking for a "pick up," on Broadway near the arena. That's where you get with some men, maybe a hard looking women and another man is yelling from a tailgate, "I got work, you wanna work let's go!" This morning that man was Sergeant Gary.

MILTON

(MILTON becomes agitated)

Sound off, one two three four . . .

BOBBY

I couldn't believe it. We hadn't seen that bastard since we got out, five years and there he was, on Broadway!

MILTON

Left, left, left, right, left . . .

BOBBY

You know it's funny but in a small way I was glad to see him.

MILTON

My mules eat dirt and piss mud and thank me! My mules will do what I tell them or I'll be forced to tell the truth!

(MICHAEL dials his cell phone)

You ain't smart enough to move your mouths and your muscles at the same time! Why don't you go out and play with the other girls? You ain't right you ain't natural!

MICHAEL

Gary please! I'll hold.

(Into the phone)

"Sergeant Gary!" Michael Price, you neglected to tell me how far back you went with your pals over here. Oh I'm doing great! I'm spending good money to sweat my ass off with black Judas and the rain man! How you doing? If I had wanted this kind of pain I would have stayed in the army. Listen, I'm doing what I can but the bottom line on this thing is that nobody gets paid, including you, unless the job gets done, and right now that's not looking too good. Why don't you come down here and rally your troops? What are they saying about you? I'm not sure yet.

(MICHAEL hands BOBBY the phone)

He wants to talk to you.

BOBBY

Yes sir. No Sir. I don't read Playboy magazine sir; I don't know which one of us has more issues. I'll find out though. I'll do that sir, Milton too. Thank you sir.

(BOBBY hands the phone to MILTON who refuses it. MICHAEL hangs it up.)

MICHAEL

I'm going out. When I get back, if this theatre isn't on it's way to being empty, better go ahead and call the S.P.C.A, cause I'm gonna shoot two mules!

(MICHAEL exits)

BOBBY

Could you bring us back something to drink? A nice cold Big Orange would be good.

MILTON

Big red!

BOBBY

Don't worry about us; we'll be here working hard! Moving Stuff.

(BOBBY walks inside a large wardrobe and gets locked in)  
 Well I wonder what they got here? Ain't got one of. .  
 Milton I got a problem. Can you hear me?  
 (Knocking frantically)  
 Milton! Get me out of here!

MILTON  
 Bobby, is that you?

BOBBY  
 You know it's me! Get me out of here!  
 (The wardrobe rocks)  
 Get me the hell out I'm a claustrophobiatic.

MILTON  
 My dad was a Rotary, never helped him one damn bit.

BOBBY  
 (Knocking frantically)  
 I'm not kidding Milton; there ain't no air in here! I can't see my ass. This is no time to be messing with me . . . Oh shit!

MILTON  
 Bobby?  
 (Smoke pours out from the bottom of the wardrobe)  
 Bobby I'm smelling smoke!

BOBBY  
 I lit some paper on fire so I could see in here, now I can't see from the smoke.

MILTON  
 OK, I'll see you in a minute then.  
 (BOBBY breaks down the door.  
 MILTON runs to help)  
 Stop drop and roll. Stop drop and roll.

BOBBY  
 Get away from me.

MILTON  
 I'm sorry.

BOBBY

Bobby's not here right now, at the sound of the tone leave a message.

(BOBBY lights a smoke. MILTON lights up, picks up the end of a string he finds in a pile of junk and starts to pull it)

MILTON

How long you been smoking Bobby?

BOBBY

(BOBBY softens)

I was twelve, got started young.

MILTON

Twelve, that ain't nothing! I was three!

BOBBY

Three?

MILTON

So help me Mrs. Maryfield I ain't lying!

BOBBY

That's too damn young!

MILTON

Tell my uncle Dinky. My mother's half brother on her fathers side. Dinky would stand me up on a table, light up what he called a "Tobacco tootsie roll," and I'd puff on that Lucky showing off for a room full of his stupid friends. Dancing around, smoke coming out of my ears. They called me "The Incredible Smoking Baby."

BOBBY

Damn.

MILTON

I was famous in four counties.

BOBBY

Milton?

MILTON

By the time I was eight I had a pack a day habit and could blow a smoke ring across the room. I could spit too!

BOBBY

Where were your parents?

MILTON

Laughing at the back of the room.

BOBBY

What do you suppose they were teaching a little boy?

MILTON

We're all alone in the world?

BOBBY

Are you sure?

MILTON

I was kind of small but I think that's right.

(MILTON is pulling the string  
and BOBBY takes it from him)

BOBBY

Stand aside fish boy, could be Moby Dick on the line.

MILTON

You set your mind to something Bobby and it gets done.

BOBBY

Is that a half a mind or a whole mind?

MILTON

With some people its have half a mind, but you got such a big head, I bet you're bringing the whole damn thing. If you listen to your mind you can hear it! Sometimes there are some pictures too.

BOBBY

You got a little voice up there Milton? A little documentary?

MILTON

I ain't the only one who's got a little voice! Am I?

BOBBY

What else does your mind say?

MILTON

Catch up with a cheeseburger cause your ass is hungry.

BOBBY

Your mind said that? I thought that was your stomach talking?

MILTON

Who do you think tells your stomach? It ain't your liver! It's your mind! It talks to you; all you got to do is listen.

BOBBY

(BOBBY puts a hand on MILTON)

It's awful quiet.

MILTON

You can't hear it, only me!

BOBBY

How come?

MILTON

Cause it's my mind! You ever heard the expression "They got a mind of their own?" A mind is a terrible thing to waste?"

BOBBY

What's your mind saying right now?

MILTON

What do you care?

BOBBY

My mind is blank and I'm lonely.

(BOBBY finds a snag)

Oh shit, the bastard is fighting back!

MILTON

Give em hell Bobby!

BOBBY

I ain't got it Milton; it's bigger than me! Bring my knife; son of a bitch is starting to piss me off.

MILTON

If you cut her loose, you won't ever get to the end, could be something good there and I bet you ain't got one.

BOBBY

Oh shit!

(BOBBY breaks the string  
sending him to the floor)

MILTON

Are you all right Bobby?

BOBBY

No! Stay away from me. Every time you help me it hurts.

MILTON

Look at what you got!

(MILTON pulls a wad of tangled  
string attached to a bad red  
wig from the pile of junk)

I know you ain't got one of these.

(MILTON puts the wig on and  
poses)

This remind you of anything?

BOBBY

(BOBBY gets up off the floor)

It reminds me of a gay man with a red wig.

MILTON

Naw, that ain't it. Come on think about it.

BOBBY

(MILTON poses)

I'm trying not to!

MILTON

The "Amazing Maureen!"

BOBBY

Shit!

MILTON

Saturday night go to town, get a good meal, get a good feel!

BOBBY

Damn Milton, of all the shit you forgot you remembered that freak?

MILTON

Hang at that carnival with the Amazing Maureen. Come on now you remember.

BOBBY

The bitch would take your money.

MILTON

(MILTON puts wig on statue)

Read your mind. Guess your weight.

BOBBY

The hard way.

MILTON

You had a crush on her too.

BOBBY

Could be? She had an ass that belonged in a museum.

MILTON

Fire red hair and green eyes. A ship tattoo starboard side.

BOBBY

Four color! The first time I saw her I said that is fine, as wine and I need a drink.

MILTON

See what I'm telling you, your mind told you that.

BOBBY

My mind told my Dick, my Dick told me! What else do you remember about the Amazing Maureen?

MILTON  
That's all.

BOBBY  
You sure?

MILTON  
I think so.

BOBBY  
That's good.

MILTON  
(MILTON pauses)  
Except that night you came back to the base and told us  
that the Amazing Maureen was really the Amazing Mike!

BOBBY  
That was unfortunate.  
(BOBBY takes a long pause)  
How long did the two of you date?

MILTON  
A little while.

BOBBY  
We sure have gotten into to some stuff.

MILTON  
(MILTON opens a box of books)  
I wish I remembered more of it.

BOBBY  
Milton sometimes I think you remember as much as you care  
to.

MILTON  
Concentrations gone, lot of things gone.  
(MILTON reads)

"The amazing Dr. Zip Rogers, world famous psychologist has  
helped over one million Americans overcome their fear of  
inadequate adequacies, insufficient sufficiencies and  
unsuitable suitabilities."

BOBBY

My ass!

MILTON

It's just like you and me, right here in black and white.

BOBBY

Let me see that.

(BOBBY reads)

"Pull the sun right up over your covers and make a new day out of an old tomorrow." Milton, you know how these millionaire doctors got rich in the first place? Us! Buying their books and tapes and seminars, the whole insecure bunch of us. Daddy started the fire with this shit. He couldn't abide folks who needed help. I suppose that's why when he needed some; he just went ahead and died.

(BOBBY reads)

"Even though life gets complicated, don't simplify your dreams." Dr. Zip says, "Meet the dawn with unlimited potential and the promise of never ending opportunities."

(MILTON waves the universal  
jack-off hand signal and  
tosses the book in his stuff)

On Oprah, they was had some of these doctors hypnotizing everybody in the audience back to their childhood.

MILTON

What did they find out?

BOBBY

Mostly that their parents screwed em up. Then on the next show, they brought in some lawyers and sued the parents for malpractice. We should try that with you Milton?

MILTON

My parents already paid for their sins.

BOBBY

If they hypnotized me, I'd tell some good and some bad and some funny and some sad. I'm having me a fat time, fat as those pigs on my uncles' farm.

MILTON

What kind of farm was it?

BOBBY

Pigs and cows and chickens and shit. Lots of shit. I think it was a shit farm. I was stepping in it everywhere I went, everything I did, there wasn't no making him happy.

MILTON

Least you had your family together, some caring to take up there with you.

BOBBY

We had some caring and we had some whoopins. I don't need no hypnotizing doctor to remember that.

MILTON

A whoopin can feel pretty good if somebody cares enough to show you one.

BOBBY

"Daddy, I'm sorry, it won't happen again. I didn't mean to mess up the barn. I'll clean it right now, don't hit me sir."

MILTON

Your Daddy was hard on you?

BOBBY

We had to go live off my uncle when the Bakery was gone. Did you know that my dad invented the triple-decker donut? I just wanted to be his little man. Look at me I'm your son; I'm your boy! He couldn't see nothing but his pride and his pain.

"Daddy I didn't mean to break your medicine bottle, I'll clean it up right away. Momma will get you another one! Please don't hit me daddy."

MILTON

Trying to mold you into a man.

BOBBY

Mold me into something.

MILTON

When we got to Alabama, me and my sister we had all the stuff we wanted, but we'd give it all for a whoopin or a hug. Things are nice but you can't get em into your heart.

BOBBY

We were so poor we barely had trash. I always said someday I'm gonna know what it feels like to have stuff.

MILTON

How's it feel?

BOBBY

(BOBBY shows MILTON some stuff)

It feels like, if you've never seen such a wonderful frame, made from handsome wood, fine detail, you might hold it up to the light and say, "I'll fix this frame up for that picture of my Momma."

MILTON

If you're lucky enough to have a picture of your Momma, it don't need a frame.

PIZZA MAN

(Off stage)

Pizza man! Anybody here?

BOBBY

What do you want? Can't you see we're having a damn epiphany in here? We didn't order no..

MILTON

Wait a minute Bobby I'm hungry.

BOBBY

. . . Cold pizza, we ordered a hot pizza, come here before it freezes up!

(BOBBY picks up Civil War coupons and exits to wings)

Here you go! And a little extra for your Momma and your sister and your brother and one, two, three for you from me!

MILTON

Hurry up Bobby I'm hungry.

BOBBY

I'm coming genius.

(BOBBY enters with a pizza  
box)

Somebody is stupid!

MILTON

I could have that job! When you deliver pizza all you got to do is work lunch and dinner and you get Thanksgiving off.

BOBBY

You wanna be delivering pizzas a forty-year-old man?

MILTON

My cousin Jimmy delivered pizza till he was sixty-one. It killed his momma.

BOBBY

She die of disappointment?

MILTON

No, high cholesterol!

BOBBY

Give me some of that.

MILTON

I'll take some. That's good.

BOBBY

Good and free. Milton, you ever wonder if our parents left us with more than just their names to carry around with us?

MILTON

You mean like if your momma was a worrier?

BOBBY

You might be a worrier too?

MILTON

Or if your dad had a quick temper? Could be?

BOBBY

Could be what?

MILTON

Could be I don't remember.

BOBBY

You remember what you care to.

MILTON

Shopping with my daddy at the department store.

BOBBY

Sometimes you get stuff you don't need shopping with your daddy.

MILTON

It was Christmas time, Red and green decorations everywhere. That store had three levels with a fountain all the way to the top.

BOBBY

One of those stores with everything and nothing. Momma said stores like that had everything and nothing.

MILTON

As soon as we got inside past the drunken Santa Clause, daddy bent down to me and said, "son, I'll be right back."

BOBBY

He left you all alone? Were you afraid?

MILTON

Yes. When they came in and woke me up it was nighttime. There wasn't a place on earth any darker than those barracks at night. You know what I'm talking about? We must have been out with the Amazing Maureen. I came back to the base by myself I was drunk. The wind started blowing, you could feel that storm coming in your bones. They busted the door, "Hey guys, what are you doing here? I was gonna to hit the sack."

BOBBY

Sometimes people don't know why they do what they do.

MILTON

There was two of em, maybe three. I could see the outline of their faces when the lightning flashed through the window.

BOBBY

It's dark in there; you can't see what you're looking at.

MILTON

"Have you guys been drinking? I think I've had enough." They started laughing and pushing me down. They were yelling and mad at something. "Why are you doing this to me? What did I do? What did I do?"

BOBBY

(BOBBY grabs MILTON)

Milton! The department store? Your daddy?

MILTON

(MILTON calms)

Then a tall man in a serious looking suit came up and ask my name. "My name is Milton, Milton Stack, I'm eight years old." He said come with him. I said, "Where's my Daddy?" He said, "Your daddy is busy son," he was taking me to see my momma. We walked through the store and down a long hallway. The kind when you say your name it comes back to you Milton, Milton! At the end was a large gray metal door with a sign that spelled "S.E.C.U.R.I.T.Y." We went inside and there was my momma, she was sitting on a wooden chair under a clock.

BOBBY

What time was it?

MILTON

Three thirty, she looked sad. She was crying big tears, big mad tears. When she saw me she got up fast but she took my hand real slow and said softly, "come on son we're going home." She looked down at me with those big brown eyes, tears flowing on her cheeks; I had never seen my momma cry before.

BOBBY

Well if there was ever a time to cry it was now.

MILTON

(MILTON changes his tone)

I never hurt anyone, never said nothing. They were screaming, swearing, calling names. Slapping me in the face, the thunder was raging! "No! I don't know why I'm like this, why don't you tell me!" They kicked me in the stomach, put duck tape over my mouth. They said I didn't belong in a mans Army . . .

BOBBY

It gets rolling on that hill and you can't stop it!

MILTON

They put my head in the toilet. They spit on me hit me . .  
.

BOBBY

(BOBBY shakes MILTON)

Leave it behind!

MILTON

(MILTON looks BOBBY in the  
eye)

No! No!

(MILTON calms)

My momma wiped my eyes with her white cotton dress and she pulled me outta that room through that metal door into the hall, we left daddy behind and went home.

BOBBY

What happened to your daddy?

MILTON

My uncle told me the same day he told me he thought I was a queer. He said it didn't surprise him one bit when he heard about it.

BOBBY

Heard about what?

MILTON

My father exposing himself to a stranger in the casual dept.

BOBBY

Your daddy gave some woman a free look?

MILTON

No he gave some man a free look! You know Bobby; since I fell I ain't remembered some things?

BOBBY

It's better for some stuff to be left gone?

MILTON

Some stuff better left unsaid.

BOBBY

Better lost until you're dead.

(Lights)

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

PLACE:

The same theater space. It's afternoon.

SETTING:

Stuff fills half the stage. The classical statue remains. Bobby and Milton are sitting with pizza boxes scattered across the stage.

MILTON

I can't work when I'm thirsty.

BOBBY

Where did you put my towel?

MILTON

Over yonder.

BOBBY

Where is that?

MILTON

Over yonder. You're here, so your towel is over yonder.

BOBBY

Huh huh.

MILTON

When you're someplace then everywhere you ain't is over yonder.

BOBBY

If I'm here and you're there, which one of us is over yonder?

MILTON

That's easy!

BOBBY

Well!

MILTON

I'm over yonder here and you're over yonder there. Get it?

BOBBY

No! Now where the hell is my towel?

MILTON

It's on that box.

BOBBY

Thank you.

MILTON

Over yonder.

BOBBY

(BOBBY stands and delivers)

Listen to this. "I swear I never heard him, I looked up and there he stood, a large man with many pizzas, so I ate them and they were good!" I still got it. I'm gonna write my own book one day.

MILTON

Better read one first, so you'll know what they look like.

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL enters)

I had to walk four blocks to find an orange soda. You guys get something to eat?

MILTON

Pizza.

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL drops the snacks)

I'm sorry I missed that. Here are your Twinkies and Ding Dongs. Gary been by to check on you? I went over to see if I could find him, they said he might be heading this way. Maybe he'll show up and get you back on track.

MILTON

(MILTON exits)

I can't work when I'm thirsty.

BOBBY

I ain't seen him.

MICHAEL

You see that's what I'm talking about. We can't get anything done because too much is unresolved around here. My stage still has stuff on it. Milton's a fruit or a vegetable, I don't know. You're sixty seconds from killing the closest person to you which could be me and don't think I haven't thought about that. And it all has something to do with Gary.

BOBBY

We've known Gary for a long time and he ain't a day different today from the first time we laid eyes on him. He's still got a devil in his heart and a hole in his soul.

MICHAEL

Somebody should whip his ass with his own arm!

BOBBY

That would be good!

MICHAEL

Then maybe you and Marty over there could take your codependent assess and go somewhere else.

BOBBY

I ain't running away.

MICHAEL

It's not running away, it's protecting yourself. I think something happened; I think it was bad.

BOBBY

If you'd think a little less and move this stuff a little more, maybe we'd get done today! I'm done running from the hate and the bigots! If someone wants to pull that crap on me from now on their gonna have to pull it to my face, while they're kissing my black ass.

MICHAEL

Hey Jack, you can't save the world from a giant ass hole all by yourself.

BOBBY

Shut up butt head.

MICHAEL

How old are you ten?

BOBBY

(BOBBY gets in MICHAEL'S face)

I'm old enough to kick your ass.

MICHAEL

What was that?

BOBBY

I said, I think I'm gonna kick your ass.

MICHAEL

I knew it! Why would you want to do that?

BOBBY

No particular reason.

MICHAEL

Your just gonna kick my ass for no reason?

BOBBY

Maybe I don't like how you look.

MICHAEL

(Trying to get away)

What's wrong with how I look?

BOBBY

Or maybe I don't care for what you said.

MICHAEL

You called me a butt head.

BOBBY

Maybe I don't give a damn for what you are.

MICHAEL

So now you're the bigot?

BOBBY

Maybe my sun ain't shining, so I'm gonna mess you up.

MICHAEL

Go ahead if you think it'll help you out.

BOBBY

What did you think of that?

(BOBBY backs down)

Did you feel it?

MICHAEL

Feel what?

BOBBY

Did you feel the fear? The threat?

MICHAEL

Yeah.

BOBBY

That's how it was with Sergeant Gary. If he didn't like you for your nature or your color, you couldn't hide from the fear; you couldn't run from the threat.

(MICHAEL'S Cell phone rings)

Coming or going, walking or crawling he'd put one on you and there was nothing you could do about it except take it or fight. I ain't gonna take it no more.

MICHAEL

You think you were the only grunt who ever got jacked by his drill sergeant? Anything else you want to tell me?

(MICHAEL answers this phone)

Hello. Hi babe. I was just talking with Bobby, one of the guys on the crew. What time is Maggie's show? You know I can't do that! Don't start, I've got way too much to do here, the demo is tomorrow. She'll have another line in some other school play; they have em all the time. Daddies are busy, she's knows that. Take pictures and catch it on the camcorder for me. Gotta go, we're way behind. Bye.

BOBBY

Sorry about your little girl's show.

MICHAEL

Yeah, well you know I really wanted to go but. . . .

BOBBY

I used to stand out in left field and watch down the road to see if my father would show up for my game. The coach would yell, "Get in the game Bobby Warren." I'd be looking for my dad. This one time I saw him, walking up the road with a busy walk, he stayed ten minutes and went back to work.

MICHAEL

If this is supposed to make me feel guilty, save it.

(BOBBY pulls an envelope from  
his pocket and looks at it)

What's that?

BOBBY

A certified letter inviting Bobby Warren to tryout for the Columbia Mules baseball team. Signed by the manager of the year, Jose Perez. He said I got the look of a ball player.

MICHAEL

Then what are you doing here?

BOBBY

I'll get there, and when I do I know my father would like to come and see me play cause it's professional and I'll have a color baseball card but he can't.

MICHAEL

Why not?

BOBBY

He's dead.

MICHAEL

She's only ten.

BOBBY

He's never coming back.

MICHAEL

She'll have plenty more shows.

BOBBY

Could be?

MICHAEL

You're one big contradiction you know that?

BOBBY

What's the one line so important to your little girl?

MICHAEL

How should I know?

BOBBY

If you knew it, when you got home tonight you could call it back to her, she might not feel so bad.

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL dials his phone)

Hi it's me. I need to know the line that Maggie says in her play today? I don't know, because you're her mother? Don't put her on! This is your Daddy. Daddy! I want to come to your play but you know how busy I am. I don't always say that. Maggie! Don't cry. All right, I'll move something. You'll be the one in the tomato suit. Daddy loves tomatoes. Bye.

BOBBY

We're getting everything resolved today. It's two thirty, what time you got?

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL gathers his things)

My wife and I have saved everything that kid has ever done. We have a whole room full of every picture and drawing, more clay and paper mach'e than you can imagine. Enough to fill a wing of the Smithsonian and she's only ten years old. On the corner of my desk, I have a small wooden dog with three legs. I carved it when I was in High School. It's the only thing my parents saved from my childhood but you know what, no matter what, they were never too busy for us. They didn't save but they showed up. All a workaholic father can manage to give his kid today is plenty of storage.

(MICHAEL exits)

BOBBY

(BOBBY calls after MICHAEL)

Milton and me we'll finish up. We're almost there.

(MILTON enters picking up a box of ping-pong balls, launching them at BOBBY. BOBBY returns with tennis balls. Other exchanges follow featuring sports related equipment. BOBBY picks up a bow and arrow MILTON takes cover)

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Chicken shit. Come back here Friar Tuck.  
(BOBBY follows MILTON around  
the boxes and MILTON comes  
around the other side with a  
javelin, ending face to face)

MILTON

I'll spear your ass.

BOBBY

Well then I have no choice but to set the plague on your  
butt and watch your ass shrivel up and blow away.

MILTON

OK then, how about I put your ass in a trash compactor and  
push your ass side to side till there ain't nothing left of  
your ass but a square ass.

BOBBY

My ass?

MILTON

Your ass.

BOBBY

Bullshit! I got a steamroller at my trailer, which will  
flatten your ass out, roll you up and smoke your ass. It  
would take along time but I'd do it.

MILTON

Oh no you won't, cause I'll get me some electric lines and  
plug your butt in and fry your ass up and serve you to the  
cannibal family of Albuginea. Everybody gonna get seconds.

BOBBY

I ain't never told you about that pack of Pitt-bulls at my  
house and I'm gonna sick em on your ass until there ain't  
nothing left of you but a fart.

MILTON

Oh yeah!

BOBBY

You bet your ass.

MILTON

My ass?

BOBBY

Your ass!

MILTON

(MILTON and BOBBY wrestle)

I think we're alone.

BOBBY

You better not try anything funny.

MILTON

If you were my type you'd already be mine.

BOBBY

Don't you fool around with me like that!

MILTON

Screw you!

BOBBY

Screw me? Screw you! Cause if you can't find the crack in your ass then you better drill a hole cause I ain't gonna listen to no more of that crap coming out of your mouth!

(MILTON holds his back)

What's wrong now?

MILTON

It's my damn back talking.

BOBBY

You got to suck it up and go genius.

MILTON

If I ain't got my back I ain't got nothing. It ain't easy getting old like me.

BOBBY

We're all getting old. We all got problems.

MILTON

It's everybody else causing my problems.

BOBBY

What are you talking about?

MILTON

When you're different, people treat you different.

BOBBY

Are you talking bout the gay thing? Are you? It ain't any easier being black and you don't catch me crying.

MILTON

I ain't been there in the middle of the night when you're alone and it's dark and your heart is pounding and your mind is flying so I can't say. Besides, I don't see color.

BOBBY

Shit! Everybody sees color. Prejudice has been around so long it comes out in all of us in little ways.

MILTON

Us? It's everybody else, not us.

BOBBY

We got it too.

MILTON

Hell, I ain't got it!

BOBBY

It's like a bad itch in the middle of your back, you know it's there but you can't see it; it's hard to reach and it's annoying as hell.

MILTON

I got it in me and I got it on me?

BOBBY

I see prejudice in the kindest faces.

MILTON

Who's talking shit now?

BOBBY

Like polite prejudice, being uptight around somebody who's different. All the time smiling, thinking, wondering, why ain't they like us? What should I do? What should I say?

MILTON

There's a lot more of that against gay people than blacks.

BOBBY

What planet are you from man?

MILTON

Everybody knows gay people are more oppressed than blacks.

BOBBY

Who said that?

MILTON

Truman Capote!

BOBBY

The great civil rights leader?

MILTON

That's the one.

BOBBY

Then why are blacks cleaning up boardrooms but they ain't sitting round the table? Everybody else in there is gay!

MILTON

That's cause nobody knows which ones we are.

BOBBY

Unless you come out and tell em.

MILTON

Otherwise they just guess.

BOBBY

When was the last time a gay person had to use separate bathrooms and drinking fountains, sit at the back of the bus?

MILTON

It's coming.

BOBBY

How many gay people living with drugs in public housing.

MILTON

Gays got their own neighborhoods too.

BOBBY

OK Milton, you're walking down the street and a group of young black kids are coming down the sidewalk the other way, what do you do?

MILTON

I cross the street before I get to em.

BOBBY

Polite prejudice! You don't know those kids.

MILTON

I'd do the same if they were Asian kids, or Mexican or from Chicago. In my world, I'm careful.

BOBBY

Milton? What class of people coming the other way wouldn't threaten you?

MILTON

A ballet class.

BOBBY

So it's different that scares you?

MILTON

It's where I've been that scares me. It's where I'm going that scares me. It's my daddy and my uncle that scares me. It's you that scares me; you scare the hell out of me Bobby!

BOBBY

Congratulations Milton, everybody you're so damn scared of, you're just like em.

MILTON

I ain't feeling too good.

BOBBY

You think I don't know you? Hell I am you genius! I'm your hurt and your fear. I'm your "everything lost" and your "never had a chance." Why do you think we ended up here together? Of all the people in all the armies, why do you think it's me holding you up?

MILTON

It's been on my mind.

BOBBY

It's a trick Milton. The truth is I'm leaning on you, and we ain't going nowhere unless we get there together.

MILTON

Like two people that can't, equal one that can?

BOBBY

We're walking in the light brother.

MILTON

Walking in the light.

BOBBY

Can I get an amen?

MILTON

Amen!

BOBBY

We can only be like us. That's just gonna have to be good enough for everybody. I know your heart's in the right place, even if your hormones ain't.

(BOBBY picks up a heavy box)

I'm so damn righteous I'm tired. You got the back to help me with this big one?

MILTON

Come on lets go.

BOBBY

Damn that's heavy.

(MILTON drops his end first  
followed by BOBBY whose end  
land on his foot)

What you drop it for?

MILTON

Damn. Mrs. Maryfield I cut myself!

BOBBY

Are you all right?

MILTON

This old hand's been cut so many times it forgets to bleed.  
There it goes.

(BOBBY pulls away)

What's wrong Bobby?

BOBBY

I was just thinking about that blood sickness going around?  
It's damn near killing everyone who is, well who is in your  
category.

MILTON

I'm not HIV Bobby.

BOBBY

I knew that.

MILTON

But you thought I might be, because of the gay thing?

BOBBY

You can't blame me for thinking.

MILTON

I see prejudice in the kindest faces.

BOBBY

We need to get you some gloves.

MILTON

My gloves wore out.

(MILTON shows a toothless  
grin)

I wore out my toothbrush to.

BOBBY

You don't get my toothbrush, that ain't hygienic.

(BOBBY finds an antique radio,  
plugs it in and starts  
turning knobs till it comes  
on)

Check it out, I bet we can tune in Heaven on this bad boy.

(The radio plays "The Hour of  
Decision" with Billy Graham  
on every channel BOBBY tunes  
to and then stops working)

MILTON

I'd like to hear that. Be careful. It's a Kennedy model 220 TRF commercial receiver. Ran on batteries, two stage, regenerative. Book value is maybe three hundred dollars. They've got one in the broadcasting museum in St.Louis.

BOBBY

Maybe it's a PHILCO. Grandma had a PHILCO for listening to her serial show.

MILTON

That's impossible; PHILCO didn't start making radio receivers till 1927. The Kennedy was manufactured in 1922.

BOBBY

You sure about that?

MILTON

I'm sure the history books say the first radio broadcast was over KDKA in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, 1922. But the actual first broadcast was probably engineered much earlier by inventor, Lee de Forest, January 14th 1910. Even though there weren't any radio receivers to pick it up. It

featured a live musical presentation from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. The performance of *Pagliacci* was of special historical significance because it featured Enrico Caruso in the starring role.

BOBBY

Where the hell did that come from?

MILTON

What?

BOBBY

Do it again.

MILTON

Do what?

BOBBY

What you just did. All that talk about the radio. How'd you do that? How do you know all that stuff?

MILTON

I don't know what you're talking about. It must be two hundred years old. See, it don't even work any more.

BOBBY

I'll take it; the damn thing is worth three hundred dollars.

MILTON

No kidding? Well if it'll tune in heaven, I say we buy it!

(MILTON taps the radio and

Billy Graham begins speaking)

I don't believe that's Heaven Bobby. If it were Heaven that man would be talking about stuff we need to know about now, only they don't tell us about it till we get up there.

BOBBY

Like what?

MILTON

My cousin used to talk about it all the time. He had a whole bunch of fine examples, like there's really animal hearing.

BOBBY

Animal hearing? Hearing what?

MILTON

Every damn thing we say and understanding every word of it.

BOBBY

Milton, who they gonna tell?

MILTON

My dog "Buddy," supposed to be a four-legged hairball, I get to Heaven and find out he's just like an Einstein!

BOBBY

Shit!

MILTON

What if we get to Heaven and Saint Peter tells us during the orientation, that God had made us to fly like the birds; only we ate too many damn potatoes and screwed the whole thing up.

BOBBY

Damn!

MILTON

Or that aerobics . . . was invented by the devil.

BOBBY

Shit I believe that!

MILTON

Or Carol Channing . . . is really a nice looking man. Or how about every time you use a cuss word your Dick gets shorter.

BOBBY

(BOBBY grabs his crotch)

Son of a bitch!

MILTON

Not a lot, just a little so you can't tell for a while. It could be, we don't know.

BOBBY

I don't want to know.

MILTON

Oh yes you do.

BOBBY

No I don't!

MILTON

What if you're standing at the pearly gates and it comes over the heavenly loud speaker that you lost one day of your life for every orgasm you had while you was alive!

BOBBY

Damn!

MILTON

Now that's something I'd a liked to know about! What if we was supposed to live to a hundred, only there was that one little piece of information somebody forgot to tell us?

BOBBY

Hey! Women don't like sex and they live longer than men do!

MILTON

Now you're with me.

BOBBY

I hear ya. It's something to think about genius.

MILTON

But what are you gonna do about it?

BOBBY

Well,

(BOBBY stops, then laughs)

I'm just gonna have to die a young man!

MILTON

With a short Dick!

BOBBY

You're just gonna have to take my word for it.

MILTON

You better go to church and get the word, so you can get to Heaven and find out if I was right.

BOBBY

Down at the "We all fall down" Mystic Temple, we believe in what they call Reincarnation. I'll get there eventually.

MILTON

Rein-what?

BOBBY

Reincarnation. It's like recycling.

MILTON

Do I have to stand out on the curb?

BOBBY

Naw! After your body is dead your spirit lives on and comes back to earth as somebody else other than what you was when you were here before. Say if you die right now, you being a good man you might come back in a hundred years as the Mayor of an intergalactic space colony.

MILTON

Do I get to wear a fancy uniform?

BOBBY

You the Mayor! You could have been on earth for lots of past lives, each time you move up.

MILTON

If that's true, I ain't doing too good Bobby.

BOBBY

It ain't got nothing to do with your looks or how much money you got. It's what you're like inside. Do ya have a good heart? Help people, old ladies, like that.

MILTON

I try.

BOBBY

The harder you try the closer you get.

MILTON

To what?

BOBBY

To that place.

MILTON

How will I know that place when I get there?

BOBBY

You'll know it all right. It looks like a big white house at the end of a long road. Inside it's cool as a breeze and toasty warm all at the same time. And there's plenty to eat and your Momma's there smiling and singing in the kitchen.

MILTON

(MILTON sings)

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee . . .

BOBBY

It's a place where your daddy's says "good job son" and plays catch with you after supper. And in the summertime, the sun just hangs in the sky and waits for you till you get tired of running. It's where you go to bed happy every night and wake up knowing there ain't nothing you can't do. It's the place where no matter who you are or what you got, we all gonna be standing in the same warm light. That's the place we trying to get to.

MILTON

There ain't no such place.

BOBBY

Got to be Milton. I'm counting on it.

MILTON

Well when I get Reincarnation that's the place I wanna go.

BOBBY

I expect they got plenty of room and plenty of forgiveness.

MILTON

(Thunder rumbles with rain)

There's a storm coming.

BOBBY

It's just a little rain Milton.

(BOBBY grabs a box)

Well I wonder what we got here?

(BOBBY tosses it in the trash)

MILTON

What did you do that for Bobby?

BOBBY

I already got one of them.

MILTON

I could sure use a smoke you got a cigarette?

BOBBY

Do I look like Phillip Morris? I ain't had one since lunch.

(BOBBY sees a cigarette butt  
on the floor and bends to get  
it)

Wait a minute now. It's our lucky day Milton; I spy a stray  
"butt!" Come to papa big boy, come here butt!

MILTON

Bobby likes a big butt!

BOBBY

In my neighborhood they kill you for saying shit like that.  
I was talking about the cigarette butt I found it under  
this box over here.

MILTON

My hearing ain't as good as it used to be.

BOBBY

What you say that for man?

MILTON

(MILTON takes the butt)

This is a mighty fine butt. This ain't no ordinary butt.  
This butt look funny to you? What do you think about this  
butt?

BOBBY

I ain't talking to you. You give me the Hee-bee-gee-bees.

MILTON

My cousin Feeble had a butt like this. Rolled at the ends, fat in the middle, smelled like burnt shit on its best day.

BOBBY

Let me see that!

MILTON

Walked around with a fist full of Slim Jim's and a smile.

BOBBY

What kind of a nickname is Feeble?

MILTON

That's wasn't his nickname, his momma named him "Feeble" on the day he was born because he was so small and sick looking. His nickname was "Rhino" cause he turned out to be six foot four, 350 pounds, with a darn near perfect point at the end of his nose.

BOBBY

Let me see that. Hey, let's light it up!

MILTON

I ain't never blown a reefer Bobby.

BOBBY

Don't make that face.

MILTON

(More thunder rumbles)

What if I O.D.? Or suck bong water up my nose?

BOBBY

The first time you smoke this shit you can't tell nothing. You don't hallucinate Jerry Garcia till the third time.

(MILTON & BOBBY light up)

See, no effect at all. You know what the world needs is love.

This world would be a better place if we could just love each other. Love love love, that's what we need.

MILTON

(MILTON sings)

I hear ya. That's cool. "If you're going to San Francisco, be sure to wear flowers in your hair."

BOBBY

(BOBBY sings)

"Up up and away in my beautiful balloon."

MILTON

I'm hungry Bobby, any pizza left?

BOBBY

We ate it all, you ate most of it. When the neighborhood bully would kick my ass, I'd come home and my Grandmother would say, "Bobby Warren what in the world?" I'd say "Grandma don't worry cause once I get me some rest I'm gonna go back down there and collect me some butt." She said "When somebody does you wrong you ain't right to wrong em back. When someone hurts you, do what love would do." You understand that?

MILTON

What would love do? Mrs. Maryfield, she knew love. She was special that way.

BOBBY

You mean there was a real Mrs. Maryfield? How special was she?

MILTON

Have you ever seen that movie "The Graduate?" It was kind of like that.

BOBBY

Milton I thought you was a gay man?

MILTON

It's true. But Mrs. Maryfield was a widow lady that lived across the alley from my Aunt and Uncles home in Fairhope. She came to the fence one day and introduced herself. We would stand there and talk for hours about books and movies.

BOBBY

Did she see "The Summer of 42'?"

MILTON

It turns out she had. At first all I could see was her face and her ankles where the dog had chewed away the bottom of the fence. She sure had pretty ankles.

BOBBY

How did it happen? The love! Come on Milton!

MILTON

Well! Let's just say that on one steamy night in the summer of 67', there was more than one moon shinning over Mobile.

BOBBY

Mobile? I thought you said she lived in Fairhope?

MILTON

Did you want to know where she lived or where we had sex?

BOBBY

I already know where she lived.

MILTON

(MILTON rapid-fire delivery)

Well for your information we did it on white leather seats, by the light of a Stuckey's billboard, back seat of a red 58' Pontiac, after I enlisted in the US Army, Mobile Alabama, July 3rd, 1967 from 8:25 to 8:39 PM central and it rained! It rained!

BOBBY

(The thunder builds)

That's too fast, I didn't get all that!

MILTON

That's all right, I missed it the first time too! Oh Mrs. Maryfield you sure took real good care of me.

BOBBY

Sounds like she took you on as her personal project.

MILTON

And I liked to never got off. Changed my life forever,  
after that I think I knew.

BOBBY

What?

MILTON

Not to get involved with no more widow ladies. I mean what  
the hell was I doing, I'm a gay man!

(Thunder and wind grow loud)

Bobby, that storm ain't coming any more it's here!

BOBBY

(BOBBY checks the perimeter)

Just relax Milton I'll get the door. Be cool.

MILTON

Don't leave Bobby!

(MILTON runs for cover. When  
BOBBY returns, MILTON is  
standing at attention holding  
the baseball bat like a  
rifle)

Private Warren!

BOBBY

You ain't called me that in a while Milton.

MILTON

Suck it up soldier or I'll send you on a one-way trip to  
the end of the line.

BOBBY

Milton?

MILTON

Since when do you call a superior by his first name  
Private?

BOBBY

Sergeant Stack is that you?

MILTON

Check that fly boy.

BOBBY

You haven't been around in a while Sergeant Stack?

MILTON

I've been busy Private. Important work to be done regarding removal of private property from the public premises.

BOBBY

You left without telling us where you were going!

MILTON

No time son, duty calls.

BOBBY

Did it have anything to do with your accident?

MILTON

Accident?

BOBBY

You hurt your head sergeant.

MILTON

I don't remember any accident boy. Now stand up straight and don't give me any lip or I'll call your Momma. You want me to call your Momma boy?

BOBBY

My Momma's dead.

MILTON

Just as well, I don't believe I have her number. What's your name again son?

BOBBY

Warren, Private Bobby Warren. We served together in supply at Fort Knox. Do you remember me?

MILTON

Warren? I do remember you. Good man Warren, how's your Momma? I heard she wasn't feeling well?

BOBBY

Still dead Sergeant.

MILTON

Sorry to hear that son.

BOBBY

Sergeant there's something I've been wanting to tell you.

MILTON

I don't want to hear about no naked women right now son,  
I'm tired.

BOBBY

This is important.

MILTON

At ease soldier.

BOBBY

I want to tell you the truth.

MILTON

I loved the army son!

BOBBY

I did too but you got hurt.

MILTON

The army said I fell down Private.  
(Wind sounds increase)

BOBBY

You didn't fall Sergeant Stack.

MILTON

Were you there son?

BOBBY

Yes sir I was.

MILTON

Did you hurt me Private Warren?  
(A loud thunder clap sounds  
and MILTON scrambles for  
cover)

In coming! Take cover private, the enemy is approaching;  
they must not find us unprepared.

BOBBY

Sergeant Stack, you can't be out here. They're coming! You got to hide so they don't see you. I can't fight em by myself. Cover your face with your hands protect yourself. It's all right to run away! Let's run away Milton!

(The storm builds and MILTON is hiding. BOBBY steps out front holding the baseball bat as he snaps to attention. Two men in uniform appear in spotlight in front of him)

Private first class Robert Warren, it's a fine night for a walk isn't it Sergeant?

SERGEANT GARY

It's fucking raining! How stupid are you private?

BOBBY

Sergeant Gary.

SERGEANT GARY

Where's your faggot friend?

BOBBY

Sergeant Stack is not in the barracks now.

SERGEANT GARY

You're not even a very good liar private. I happen to know he is. My sources also tell me he's been seen in town with a known transvestite by the name of Maureen, sometimes called amazing, bringing dishonor to himself and to his uniform! I told the brass not to promote that faggot. They should have listened to me!

BOBBY

(BOBBY tries to hold them back)

He don't mean nothing. He ain't bothering nobody, he's just like you and me.

SERGEANT GARY

No fucking way he's like me! But he could be like you? Are you his private prick private? I think you're a couple,

a couple of faggots! Maybe you need a lesson in respect. I'm sending a message private, you get my message boy? Weakness is contagious! You and your friend, you're what's wrong with this army!

BOBBY

No! No sir. I'm not like that. That's not me.

SERGEANT GARY

Get out of my way! I'm tired of you fags stinking up my post. I will find you all, and I will fuck you up!

(Calmly)

So private, if you're not like him, then you must be like us!

(GARY takes the bat from BOBBY'S shoulder and puts it in his hands. The two men turn BOBBY around between them and push him forward)

MILTON

(MILTON walks out)

Hey fellahs, what are you doing here so late? I was just gonna hit the sack.

(MILTON sees BOBBY)

Hey Bobby, what you doing?

(BOBBY swings the bat, missing MILTON, breaking the statue. BOBBY, overcome with emotion, falls to his knees. A violent beating of MILTON by the two uniform men follows)

SERGEANT GARY

My mules eat dirt and piss mud and thank me! Why don't you go out and play with the other girls? You ain't right you ain't natural! You don't belong in this man's army!

(BOBBY angrily pushes the men away, taking the bat from Gary and turning it on the two men)

BOBBY

That's enough! Get away from him! I said get away!

(The two men exit laughing.  
BOBBY drops the bat and finds  
MILTON crumpled on the floor)

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Milton? It's not true! Ask anybody, they'll tell you Bobby Warren ain't that way. Something like that gets around. . they were gonna. . . I couldn't stop em. No, I didn't stop em. Gary told the brass you fell. He told em nothing but lies. I gave you up to save myself it's on me.

(MILTON stands up and looks at  
the bat)

MILTON

It's on you? I always thought it was my fault. All this time knowing I ain't like I was, not smart, not remembering, not feeling nothing but hate mixed with love, you taking care of me, I thought it was something I did. I'm sorry for you, for your burden. I know how it feels when they put you on the outside, make you feel small cause you're different. I'm just like you! Hell, I am you Bobby! Gays, they get beat up with baseball bats, blacks, they get dragged behind pickup trucks until they're dead! It's all the same hate!

BOBBY

We ain't going nowhere unless we get there together!

(MILTON throws the bat,  
turning his back to BOBBY)

MILTON

You and me Bobby, we're an army of one!

(The storm fades, lights up  
slowly. MILTON turns around)

Who broke Mr. Price's naked lady! I ain't paying for that!

BOBBY

It was an accident. I didn't mean for it to happen.

MILTON

If it was an accident, if you didn't mean it, then all you got to do is tell a person, give em a chance to forgive you.

BOBBY

That's how it works huh?

MILTON

You did what you could?

BOBBY

I hope so.

MILTON

If you had another chance, it would be different.

BOBBY

Everybody needs a second chance.

MILTON

Don't carry guilt, say what you gotta say and go on.

BOBBY

I'm sorry.

MILTON

(MILTON nods his head and  
listens for the rain)

I think it stopped raining.

BOBBY

Now I can go outside and I won't get wet?

MILTON

You'll never know unless you try.

BOBBY

We'll try it in a minute Milton; we're almost done here.

MILTON

I don't want to go.

BOBBY

What are you talking about? You want me to go outside by myself? What am I gonna do when I get there?

MILTON

Make some real money for once in your life.

BOBBY

I can do that in here. Look at all this stuff I got.

MILTON

Get married, have a house full of kids.

BOBBY

Don't have a house.

MILTON

Find ya a best friend.

BOBBY

Got one.

MILTON

Answer that letter you got in your back pocket.

BOBBY

You been reading my mail?

MILTON

Be the left fielder for the Columbia Mules.

BOBBY

Milton you ain't got no money, no job, no family. Hell you ain't got nothing but me. So how I'm gonna leave you here?

MILTON

You can't stay here forever.

BOBBY

None of us gonna be here forever, we're going to that place.

MILTON

I'm talking about here and now and this place! Your life ain't worth nothing unless you live it for you. You can't live for me anymore.

BOBBY

That wasn't what I was doing anyway.

MILTON

Besides I got some plans of my own, just me.

BOBBY

Since when?

MILTON

Since today. Mr. Price told me he wants me to stay on here and with him. He needs help with his new theater complex. He's gonna have lots of folks coming up from Alabama and he needs me to know how to talk to em.

BOBBY

Is he gonna pay you money?

MILTON

Some to start and then we'll see, you know, incentives.

BOBBY

Is this a for sure?

(MILTON shakes his head yes)

That's great Milton. You're gonna get vested in a 401K and get three percent matching funds.

MILTON

If I get a company car I better learn how to drive.

BOBBY

Well that's it then.

(BOBBY grabs his bat; he turns  
and pats MILTON'S back)

Remember what I told you? Big Orange!

MILTON

Roll Tide!

BOBBY

I'm gonna come back and check up on you. Cause if you can't count on your friends?

MILTON

What you gonna do?

(BOBBY exits)

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL off stage)

You guys wait there.

(MICHAEL enters)

I've just been to a great little production of "Stone Soup." It's amazing what they can do in the forth grade.

(MICHAEL notices the statue)

MILTON

I'm sorry bout your statue.

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL looks around)

Don't worry about it. Wow, look at this place!

MILTON

Most people don't realize how beautiful empty can be.

MICHAEL

Bobby! It could have been a parking lot, but starting tomorrow this old place get's a second chance. Where's Bobby?

(MICHAEL looks at his watch)

It's five o'clock. What time you got Milton?

MILTON

Time to go home.

MICHAEL

My family's waiting in the car.

(MICHAEL turns away then back)

You ever get back this way, you be sure and look me up.

(MICHAEL exits. Milton pauses.

Bobby Warren stands in the doorway.)

Lights.

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