

START

(Scene for one Male and one Female.)

(TOM and KATE sit in silence, a couple of feet apart, thinking their own thoughts. THEY remain silent for several moments.)

KATE: You ever think about things?

TOM: Course I do. Who do you think I am?

KATE: I mean big things.

TOM: Like what?

KATE: Like why are we here?

TOM: *(Shrugs.)* Nothing better to do.

KATE: No, I mean why are we all here? For what?

TOM: *(Thinks a moment.)* I think it's like Mr. Kerwin says in science. Survival.
We're here to eat and fight and win and . . . *(TOM looks KATE directly in the eye.)*
. . . you know.

KATE: *(Looking away.)* He was talking about animals.

TOM: We're all animals.

KATE: I don't believe that.

TOM: Then why do *you* think we're here?

KATE: I think it's more like to . . . to help each other survive.

(TOM snorts derisively.)

TOM: You don't know anything.

KATE: I know as much as you do. Anyhow, nothing else makes sense.

TOM: Why not?

KATE: OK, then why are there so many of us? If we're only here to eat and win, then in the end there should just be one person left. And that's the winner.

TOM: Maybe there will be.

KATE: And you think that's winning?

TOM: Well, it's not losing.

KATE: What about . . . (*KATE hesitates.*)

TOM: What?

KATE: What about loneliness?

TOM: What about it?

KATE: It's like being hungry. The last person in the world would maybe have all the food there is, but he'd be lonely.

TOM: Maybe.

KATE: So he'd be hungry.

TOM: I don't know.

KATE: Don't you ever feel lonely?

TOM: (*Slightly angrily.*) I'm a winner.

KATE: But don't you?

(KATE puts her hand on TOM's.)

TOM: (*More angrily.*) I'll never be hungry.

(TOM and KATE look each other directly in the eye for a moment.)

KATE: Yeah. I can see that.

(KATE takes her hand off of TOM's.)

TOM: (*Looking away.*) Good.

(There is an awkward moment of silence.)

KATE & TOM: (*Simultaneously.*) Listen, I . . . (*BOTH stop, waiting for the other to finish speaking.*)

KATE: You first.

TOM: No, you first.

KATE: I should go now.

TOM: Yeah. You should go.

KATE: OK.

(KATE stands up. KATE pauses, looking at TOM, who looks at the floor. KATE turns to go.)

TOM: *(Hesitantly.)* If you want . . . I mean . . . I don't care, but if you want, I could walk with you for a little. If you want.

(KATE looks at Tom, thinking.)

KATE: OK. Maybe for a little.

(TOM stands up.)

TOM: OK. *(Indicating a direction.)* That way?

KATE: Yeah. Let's start that way.

(TOM and KATE exit.)

- END SCENE -