

HARRY That's not why I wanted out, Lori. The city just... it eats me up. Makes me feel like I'm not livin'. That I'm just gettin' through one day so I can wake up the next day and do it all over again. That's not what a life should be all about. It's like you said. You only get one. And out here, well, I feel like I belong out here. Like I shoulda been here from the start. It's like I got born in the wrong place and had to find my way home. And besides, this is a much better place to raise a child.

LORI And that was the one thing I agreed with you on, but it's not working out that way, is it?

HARRY What do you mean?

LORI Drew's not happy here either.

HARRY Of course he is.

LORI Harry, he hasn't got any friends. He spends his whole day alone on these two hundred acres. He's lost out here.

HARRY Well, if he played a sport, you know, joined a team, he'd make plenty of friends.

LORI I'll bet he'd have friends back home.

HARRY This is his home. This is our home.

LORI Harry, I got a job offer this morning from Don Carter.

HARRY Who?

LORI Don Carter. He was the vice principal at my last job and he's the principal of a new school now and he wants me to come back and teach.

HARRY So, tell him thanks but no thanks.

LORI I want to accept it, Harry. I want us to go back.

HARRY No, it's out of the question.

LORI Why?

HARRY Because it is.

LORI But you just said my happiness counts. Isn't that what you just said?

HARRY I've gotta find that horse.

LORI No. We have to talk about this.

HARRY He's probably halfway to town by now.

LORI Harry, I'm gonna take that job. I am. And I'm taking Drew with me. I want you to come too. I do, Harry. But that'll be your choice.

HARRY hesitates, then exits.

LORI Harry?... Damn you!

Music: Cut #8 "Islands in a Black Sky." End Act One, Scene 3.

4
↓
START

GINY
DREW

ACT ONE • SCENE 4

Time: The next morning.

Place: The same.

LORI has not left the stage. She is now GIN. She moves to the stove and pours herself a coffee. DREW enters from the bedroom.

DREW Hello.

GIN Oh. Hi. You're Drew, right?

DREW Right.

GIN Hi. I'm Virginia. Gin. I own the place next over.

DREW Uh-huh.

They shake hands.

GIN Hi. Your father still asleep is he?

DREW No. He said he had a fence to fix or something.

GIN Oh, he's finally gettin' around to that, is he? Good. Anyway, I usually just come and go as I please here so I let myself in. I hope you don't mind.

DREW No.

GIN I made some coffee. Can I pour you a cup?

DREW No, that's okay. I'll get it.

DREW pours himself a coffee.

GIN So, how was your trip?

DREW Thirty-two hours.

GIN Yeah. I've never been a train fan myself. Too slow. I took a train to Vancouver once. Slow? When I wanted to stretch my legs I'd just step off and walk along side the thing. Of course, they say you can enjoy the scenery better if you travel by train. I guess they've never taken the train through Saskatchewan. Scenery. After the first twenty grain elevators the ol' nipples begin to soften. I'm sorry. Was that inappropriate? It was, wasn't it? Sometimes my mouth gets to movin' and I don't know what's gonna come out. I mean I've just met you and whoop! Out come the nipples. Well, I don't mean they came out. I just meant... Am I talkin' too much? I'm talkin' too much. I should just shut up. But, you see, when you live by yourself you jump at any chance to talk to someone. Doesn't matter who it is or what you're talkin' about. You just talk. I talk Harry's ear off when I'm over here. Yeah. Well, he's a good fella to talk to. He's an interesting man. Got a lot of life under his belt. Well, I don't mean that what's under his belt has got a lot of life. I don't mean that. I mean he's experienced. That's all I mean. That's it. Uh-huh. Hooo.

DREW Are you going to be here every morning? Because you're very entertaining.

GIN Is that right? Well, if I feel like draggin' my ass over here first thing in the morning for the sake of your amusement—if that notion hits me—then maybe I will. How's the coffee?

DREW Fine.

GIN Harry likes it strong so that's the way I usually make it when I'm over here.

DREW Well, it's strong all right.

GIN Good. So, you spent nine years here, did ya?

DREW Yep.

GIN Do you miss the place?

DREW Not really.

GIN So, you like it back east, huh?

DREW Yeah, it's as good a place as any.

GIN Uh-huh. So, how long do you plan on stayin'?

DREW That seems to be quite the concern.

GIN What does?

DREW How long I'm stayin'. Harry asked me that same question at the train station last night. And then he asked me again when we got back here. And now you're asking.

GIN I'm just makin' small talk, Drew. I don't give a rat's ass how long you stay. So lighten the hell up. I'm just tryin' to prime the conversation pump here, all right?

DREW Got it.

GIN So, you call him Harry?

DREW What?

4 END ↑