

② JASON / PHOEBE

JASON. ~~That—was—the—most—embarrassing experience of my life!!!~~ (He lets out an anguished yell and, overcome by the embarrassment of it all proceeds to go into a jerky, strange, maniacal, hopping series of movements or dance around the room, all the time muttering.) ~~God—that was embarrassing! Totally—embarrassing! Standing there naked like an idiot—embarrassing! Completely and utterly—~~ (He stops as he sees that PHOEBE, clutching her purse has opened the door and is staring at him; an odd expression on her face.)

BELOW



PHOEBE. I'm sorry. I thought I heard you yelling as if you were in pain.

JASON. (*Extremely calm and polite again.*) No, I'm all right, thank you.

PHOEBE. Oh. Well, excuse me again. (*She exits.*)

JASON. (*Looks heavenward for a moment before letting out a low, heartfelt expletive.*) Oh—shit!! (*He pulls himself together, puts on trousers, and crosses to doors and opens them to admit PHOEBE.*)

PHOEBE. Look, perhaps I should come back at the Easter break.

JASON. (*Drily.*) Why? We're having so much fun.

PHOEBE. Well, they seem to be preparing for some sort of function out there.

JASON. I'm sorry, Miss Craddock, I'm afraid you've caught me at an awkward time.

PHOEBE. Yes, there's a hippopotamus in the room isn't there? It's an expression. There's something present that neither of us wants to acknowledge. But we both know it's there, don't we?

JASON. We do?

PHOEBE. I've been thinking about what you were doing when I came back in here just now.

JASON. Miss Craddock, I really don't think it's necessary to—

PHOEBE. No, I believe we should bring it out in the open. You were dancing around the room in a bizarre fashion and uttering odd, guttural sounds. Well, I want you to know that I don't think any the worse of you for that.

JASON. Thank you.

PHOEBE. Sometimes when I'm alone in the classroom I hook my feet over a rafter, hang upside down and sing "Night And Day." I mean we all do peculiar things when we're alone.

JASON. (*Despite himself, he is touched by her kindness and starts to become intrigued by her.*) You're very kind.