

Eden
by
Kate Burgauer

Based on *The Diaries of Adam and Eve* by Mark Twain.

Kate Burgauer
Kateburgauer@gmail.com
305-926-9533

ACT 1 - THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The stage is simply set. A Tree is in the up, right corner. Hanging from the tree are colorful fruits that are in the shapes of books. Along the back of the stage are six poles with large drawings on them. Scattered around the stage are several, smaller poles. These sit empty. Upstage right is a bright blue twisty slide. At the bottom of the slide is a kiddie pool with animals on it.

All of the stage setting is hidden in the darkness.

Throughout the play, if an item is created the sounds will creep into the world of silence.

The Janitor, a man in his 30s walks out pushing a broom. A spotlight follows him. As he finishes sweeping, he sits down from exertion. He sighs and speaks to the audience.

JANITOR

It's that time again, folks. Alright, clean slate. You ready? I am going to need everyone to sit back, relax, and think hard about this. It's only every few billion years that any creating goes on around here.

A bright, warm light begins to glow in the center of the stage.

JANITOR

Okay, we got some divine intervention going on. The bossman looks like he's all ready to do some creating. We have you guys - the audience. And we have a stage. I think we're ready. Can we get the lights out please? Let's do this right.

Lights go out on the whole stage except for a spot on the Janitor and the glowing light.

JANITOR

Here goes nothing. The beginning is my favorite part.

A flash of light.

JANITOR

And now some daylight.

A spot light appears over the first large poll that now has a picture of a sun. As each thing is created, lights go up on the next poll.

JANITOR

(dramatically)

I feel like we need to do some redecorating. Let's replace this expanse with some water. And over there we should have some land. Perfect. Hmm, let's see. How about we split up the moon and the sun? I like it! This water looks a little empty now. What do you guys think? Let's get some fish in these seas! And some animals on the land while we're at it. We're still missing something...oh yeah! Fruits and vegetables all over the land for the animals to eat.

As he speaks, the items are revealed on the poles.

JANITOR

But is that good enough? Oh no...Aren't we missing something? Even with all of this stuff, it just feels so empty. We've got animals, fish, trees....What do we need? Oh, one of you? One for the books.

The glowing light in the center of the stage grows larger.

The light changes colors and revolves quickly. As the colors become psychedelic and intense, laughter begins. The deep, hearty laughter rises with the colors. Suddenly the stage goes black and silent.

Lights up.

Adam, wearing small swim trunks that feature his name sits alone, scratching his head.

JANITOR

Oh boy, this should be good. But, now that he's here, we can't take him back.

The glowing light slowly goes out.

JANITOR

Hey, where ya going? So typical, leave me here to do all the work. But, hey, I still got you guys. Let's see what we've created.

Adam wanders around from pole to pole.
He stares at them with no
comprehension. He gives up and
continues to roam.

JANITOR

Look at the poor kid. Are we just going to leave him like
that? Just look at him.

Adam walks to the edge of the stage,
nearly falls over it, and catches
himself. His eyes grow wide with fear
as he sits down and contemplates his
surroundings.

JANITOR

We should at least give him something to play with. Too
easy? Okay, how about something to think about? Some
knowledge. No? Not even a little, tiny bit? Phew, you guys
draw a hard line. Kind of like the guy upstairs. How about
this? We'll give him just enough intelligence to start him
off. Some language and ideas. And the rest is up to him.
He has to name everything else. Let's see how he does...

Adam stands and turns in circles,
dancing around with happiness.
Suddenly he spots the Tree of Knowledge
and heads straight for it.

JANITOR

Oh boy. I think we're forgetting something.

Just as Adam is about to grab one of
the books, the Janitor smacks his hand
away like a condescending parent.

JANITOR

No!

Adam walks away pouting and holding his
hand.

JANITOR

Day One after Creation.

Adam snuffles and looks around.

ADAM

So, this is it? I like it. Nice and quiet.

Silence. Adam sits.

Day Two.

JANITOR

But what is it?

ADAM

Adam taps his head.

Day Three.

JANITOR

It looks like...well.

ADAM

I don't know what it looks like.

Adam scratches his nose.

Day Four.

JANITOR

Maybe it's some kind of ga...

ADAM

Day Five.

JANITOR

gar...

ADAM

Day Six.

JANITOR

gard...garden. Yes, a garden. Wait, what did I just say?

ADAM

Day Seven.

JANITOR

Some kind of ga...gard...garden. But a garden of what?

ADAM

Okay, okay. So he's a little slow on the uptake.

JANITOR

Looks like we have some things here and some things there.

ADAM

Adam goes over to decipher the pictures on the large poles in the back.

ADAM

Daylight. Hmm...okay. Water! Water!

Adam turns in the direction of a new noise of water coming from the blue slide.

ADAM

Water! Water! Water!

JANITOR

Hey, the kid's catching on.

Adam bounds over.

JANITOR

Where is he going?

Adam climbs up to the top of the slide.

JANITOR

Oh, the Big Guy is going to be mad. I was supposed to show him that after he had mastered language.

Adam sits and kicks his legs against the slide.

JANITOR

(to Adam)

Now, just come on down from there.

Adam pushes off and slides down.

ADAM

Water! Woo-eeee!

Adam lands safely in the kiddie pool and splashes.

ADAM

Water!

JANITOR

Alright, kid. We get the picture.

He keeps splashing.

JANITOR

He's a regular fish.

Adam gets out of the kiddie pool and shakes to dry off. He goes over to the signs again.

ADAM

This one is land. Um...land?

Adam looks around and around. He gives up and sits down.

ADAM

Well, land will have to wait.

Adam reclines and whistles.

JANITOR

Days eight through ten.

Adam continues reclining and whistling.

JANITOR

He's just happy as a clam. Will you look at this guy? Taking it easy already when there is so much work to do.

Adam jumps up as if stung by an idea.

ADAM

Why I am sitting around when there is so much work to do? There are lots of things everywhere. But what should I call them? I have so many ideas. But I have nothing to...what is it? Nothing to...

An oversized note pad and marker drop from where the glowing light is.

JANITOR

And then there were office supplies...

ADAM

Wow, everything in here is blank. And what is this? This makes marks on that? Let me try this out.

He draws a huge tree, like the one at the back right, on the tablet.

ADAM

Garden. Well there ya go.

The picture is a child's first attempt at art.

ADAM

Garden seems a little short. Garden of what?

Adam sits down to think.

JANITOR

Day Eleven.

ADAM

I feel something strange. Something down here in this thing. I need something. I need to...what should I call it? I need to...ea..ea..ea..eat. I need to eat.

JANITOR

Adam seems to be very bright and resourceful so far...

The Janitor hands Adam a banana.

ADAM

Well, this is really great. Food and me and all kinds of new stuff. Maybe I should call it the Garden of Eating! Genius.

Adam writes another sign with more scribbles.

JANITOR

Bright may have been an overstatement. But he means well...

ADAM

The Garden of Eating. Garden of Eating...and what is this nice sound?

He munches for awhile, letting the silence sit.

JANITOR

Day Twelve.

ADAM

I like this sound. What is this thing all around me? I think I should call it...call it my sound. This sound is my sound.

Silence.

ADAM

You know, I think I've really made some progress today. Named the Garden. Tomorrow I think I'll get to all of the animals. Seems like a big job and I want to be my best. I'll just lay down on this...um, this thing for now.

JANITOR

I kind of like him. Simple, entertains himself. He's not too complex, and he sort of just wanders around. This could get really boring after awhile. I just feel like now he's missing something. Like a animal friend. What? Another one?

The Janitor looks at Adam, curled up and sleeping alone. He smiles at him.

JANITOR

But won't that just be the same thing again. Another one of him, but new. Oh, you guys want something different? An upgrade. I can see there is room for improvement. Let's try to create an even better one.

The glowing light moves over Adam and gets brighter. The colors start swirling again.

After a moment, they disappear and Adam wakes.

JANITOR

And, now, Ladies and Gentlemen....The End of Days and the Beginning of Real Life.

ADAM

I just had the weirdest dream. I was all alone and then this creature...

Eve wanders in from offstage. She wears a swimsuit set with her name on it too. She carries a huge stack of pink sticky notes and chews on a pink pen with marabou feathers on the end.

ADAM

It was really strange too, I saw this creature who looked sort of like me, but with these odd bumps and more hair.

He gets up and starts to wander around with his note pad.

ADAM

I think I will begin naming again.

Eve walks over to the poles.

EVE

Daylight. Water. Land. Fish. Animals. Fruits. Hmm. Sounds pretty good.

As she looks at the images, she writes the words on her pink notes and sticks them on. From now on, every time Eve names something, she writes a note and attaches it.

EVE

Nice waterfall. Very soothing sounds. And flowers. Oh, little yellow ones!

The Janitor hands Eve a flower and she puts it in her hair.

EVE

Fresh air. Fresh, fresh air. And warm, soft breezes against my skin. There's so many good smells. The earth, the sky, the animals. And listen. Listen to all of that quiet and serenity. It's like I can breathe in all the silence and make it part of me. It's like a quiet moment that goes on forever and forever. This is life!

Eve looks over and sees Adam.

EVE

And look, I am not alone. I have some generous soul to share this peaceful place with. It's not quite the same as me, but it does have hair and eyes and teeth and skin. And it has a mouth and hands and strong legs. It looks very serious, but my charms will win it over. What a perfect day! A new place to live, everything I could ask for, and now another of my kind. A fellow traveler on this journey...a companion...

Eve's talking disturbs Adam's hard work.

EVE

Hey, there!

Adam screams and tries to hide.

ADAM

Go away from here...you...you.

EVE

What? Why?

ADAM

This is my Garden of Eating. I will defend it to the end.

EVE

Silly, you don't have any things to throw.

ADAM

What?

JANITOR

She has a point.

The janitor balls up a piece of paper, and rolls it across the stage to Eve.

Eve picks up the ball and throws it at Adam. It glances off his shoulder. Adam doubles over in pain.

EVE

See, you have no rocks.

ADAM

Ouch. What is happening to me?

JANITOR

That was not exactly what I was thinking.

Adam scurries away from Eve again and tries to hide behind the pole with the image of the moon.

ADAM

What are you?

EVE

I am not a thing. I am Eve.

ADAM

Who told you?

EVE

I told me.

ADAM

You didn't answer me. What are you?

EVE

I'm new here. I think it's my first day.

Eve looks at his swim trunks.

EVE

How cute.

ADAM

What?

EVE

Your name is written there. Just like mine.

ADAM

Written?

EVE

Yeah. That says Adam. I like that. Adam.

Eve writes his name on a note and approaches him.

ADAM

How'd you do that?

EVE

Do what?

ADAM

Well, this is here and you told me what it is.

EVE

Yeah, I read it. I can read.

Eve tries to put the pink note on him.

ADAM

Stop! Get it away.

EVE

Geesh, I just made you a name tag.

ADAM

I do not want it.

EVE

Fine.

ADAM

Fine.

Eve looks at him for a moment, and then backs away to start naming things again.

ADAM

Where did that thing come from? I was the last thing here. Everything else was made before me. But could it be? No...

She picks up Adam's signs that he made.

EVE

Look at these cute scribbles.

ADAM

Scribbles? For your information that is the name of this place. I created it. I made it. It is mine. It is Garden.

EVE

Way to encourage creativity.

Eve drops the sign and starts to poke around in Adam's area.

EVE

Another rock. A stick. Oh and look at this, a fuzzy caterpillar. A butterfly. A fruit fly. A lizard! What great ideas.

Adam grabs his note pad and pen.

ADAM

What are you doing?

EVE

Naming things. A leaf. An ant. A mouse. And what's this?

Eve jumps back all of a sudden.

EVE

A spider! Ew! Adam, get it away!

ADAM

What? What's a spider?

EVE

That big, hairy, ugly, eight-legged thing. It's coming this way. Run!

They retreat together in a scared huddle. Eve finally relaxes as the spider crawls away from them.

EVE

Phew. That was so close. Now what was I doing? Oh yeah. Naming things.

Eve goes back to wandering and naming.

ADAM

What to call this strange creature?

EVE

Grass. Ladybug. Dragonfly! That's the best one yet. Hey, Adam. Hey, Adam. Hey you.

Adam has no idea that she is using his name. The Janitor rolls Eve another rock.

EVE

(to the Janitor)

Thank you.

Eve chucks the rock at Adam and hits his leg.

ADAM

Hey!

EVE

Can I borrow some of that paper? I want to write these things down.

ADAM

Well, this is not good. You need to go back to where you belong.

EVE

But, I just want some paper.

ADAM

I don't give things to wandering creatures. I don't know where you come in from, but you need to go back.

EVE

But, I don't know where I belong.

Adam just looks at her.

EVE

I kind of like it here. Not too civilized, but, here does seem nice though. Maybe I want to belong here.

ADAM

Oh no. No, no. Here is here and here in not for you. Here is for me and for this nice sound. Listen...

Eve listens.

EVE

I don't hear...

ADAM

Shh...

EVE

There's some dinosaurs rustling around...

ADAM

Shh...shh...

EVE

Is it the bees buzzing around those flowers over there?

ADAM

SHHHHHH!

Eve shuts up, but can't take the
silence for long.

EVE

Well, now I get it.

ADAM

Glad you understand.

ADAM

I will call this creature...

EVE

So, I think that we could clear out some of this brush here.
Maybe get some palm branches. Make some rattan chairs.
Maybe even weave a mat to sit on. We just have to get this
place a little more orderly. Maybe make a nice little area
for us to...

ADAM

What? We? Us? What are you talking about?

EVE

We - me and you.

ADAM

Nope.

EVE

I can't be here too?

ADAM

No.

EVE

I have no place to stay.

Eve's frown turn into tears.

EVE

You don't want me to stay? Fine...fine...

ADAM

What is happening to the creature? She seems to
be...leaking? It is like the water rushing.

EVE

I can hear you.

ADAM

The creature is scaring me.

EVE

I don't know what to do. It's all so awful. This has never happened to me before.

ADAM

Make it stop.

EVE

I can't. I feel so...what is the word? I feel so...lost. The world is against me. Everything is terrible...

ADAM

Just stop leaking.

EVE

I don't know how.

ADAM

Well I need to figure out where you are from. Tell me everything you remember.

EVE

Um, there are some thorns over there. Cut my foot a bit. That's all I remember.

ADAM

Thorns? You named those things thorns?

EVE

Yes, they look like thorns.

ADAM

Look? How do they *look* like anything?

EVE

They just do.

ADAM

Strange.

EVE

So what should we have to eat?

ADAM

Nothing. You are not touching a single thing in the Garden of Eating. This is my place.

EVE

Did you make it?

ADAM

No, but neither did you.

EVE

I've named a lot of it.

ADAM

Well, I don't care.

EVE

(crying)

It's all so terrible.

ADAM

Wait, stop leaking. I don't like when you leak. Just stop leaking.

EVE

I'm not sure how to. I don't want to have to leave.

ADAM

If you stay, will you stop leaking?

ADAM

Alright. You can stay. But only for a little while.

EVE

You sure?

ADAM

Yeah, why not? There's some fruit over there if you're hungry.

Eve snuffles and goes to grab something to eat for both of them.

ADAM

Wait! Anything but that one.

EVE

This one?

She points at the Tree of Knowledge.

ADAM

Just don't touch any of them.

EVE

Is it poisonous? Is something bad for us?

ADAM

I don't know. I was just told to not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge.

EVE

Who told you?

ADAM

The man in charge.

JANITOR

Hmm, maybe he was listening.

EVE

Oh, you worry too much.

Eve heads for the fruit. Adam grabs her and pushes her in the kiddie pool.

EVE

I can't swim!

Eve sputters and coughs as she climbs out of the water.

EVE

What did you do that for?

ADAM

Do not touch that fruit.

EVE

I wasn't going to.

ADAM

If you're going to stay here, we need to get few things straight. This is my Garden of Eating. I make the...what's the word?

EVE

Rules?

ADAM

Yes! I make the rules.

EVE

My mind is so at ease.

ADAM

Good.

EVE

Fine.

ADAM

Fine.

EVE

Wonderful.

ADAM

(struggling with the word)

Woo...nder...ful. Fine!

Adam and Eve stomp away from each other.

ADAM

Something is completely not right today. I don't even feel like doing any naming with this new creature here. Eve. What is that word and what does it mean? It will not be silent or listen to anything I say. It will not even listen to the rules of the Creator. I can see only trouble from this creature. How am I supposed to live in this place now that it is so loud and crowded?

As Adam looks over at Eve, she catches his eye and smiles. He growls at her. Eve sticks out her tongue.

JANITOR

Seems like they're getting along just great, folks. I think from here on out we can just leave them be. Sure, they're a little rough around the edges, but they're on their way. Well, I know they don't get along, but that was never part of the idea. By updating Adam, we made a whole new person. Not a carbon copy, but a new original. Of course, they don't realize this yet. Alright, alright. We'll give them some more time...But, I've got other stuff to so, so....

As Eve speaks, Adam picks up a rock and tries to figure out how to use it. Several times he smashes a toe or a finger by mistake.

EVE

This seemed like such a nice place at first. But I did not know that *he* would be here. Why does he want to be alone so much? Isn't he bored in this place? It is beautiful and full of wonder, but so little has been named. Maybe he needs someone to help him? Yes, I can show him how not to be a brute and a bully. I can change his backwards manners. And I will be so nice to him that he will never be angry again.

ADAM

Ouch!

Eve turns to see Adam sucking his thumb because he smashed it with the rock.

EVE

Oh Adam.

ADAM

What?

EVE

If you are trying to make a hole it would be much easier with...

The Janitor hands Eve a stick.

EVE

It would be much easier with this stick.

ADAM

I don't need...whatever.

EVE

A stick. It will make digging that hole easier. Do you want it or not?

Adam gets up and sits on the edge of the stage with his tablet of paper. Eve joins him.

ADAM

You should go to the other side of the Garden.

EVE

No, I want to be here by you.

ADAM

You can stay only if you don't make any sounds and promise not to leak.

Eve nods and squeezes her lips together to signal that she will be silent.

ADAM

Hmm, what to name today? I feel like there is just so much in the world...

Adam scribbles down a few things.

ADAM

No, no.

EVE

I think I'll just help him out a little. The stress from all this naming just brings him down so much.

Eve sneaks around and places notes all over the Garden. Adam wracks his brain while the pink notes begin to take over in the background.

ADAM
What should I name today?

EVE
You want some help?

ADAM
No.

EVE
You sure?

ADAM
I'm doing just fine.

Adam draws some scribbles on his paper, gets angry and throws the pad to the other side of the stage. Eve picks up the pad and writes "Niagra Falls" with her red pen. She walks over to the blue slide and places the paper on a pole.

JANITOR
I sort of like that name. Niagra Falls. Not bad.

EVE
What are you so sour-faced about?

ADAM
Nothing.

EVE
If you're worried that you'll never get all of the naming done, don't give it a second thought.

ADAM
But it is such an important job.

EVE
I know, that is why I finished it for you.

ADAM
What?

EVE
I named the Garden for you.

ADAM
For me?

EVE

Yes, you looked like you needed help. Look, I even named the waterfall. Niagra Falls!

ADAM

I do not need your help. And, I do not like your names.

Adam tears down the pink notes.

EVE

Don't be angry, I was just making your job easier.

ADAM

I can name. I named the Garden. I can do everything that I must do.

ADAM

You can not come here and make this place yours. It is mine.

EVE

I just wanted to share it. I wanted you and I to be here together. We can each have part of it.

Adam runs at her and growls like an animal.

ADAM

I do not want to share.

EVE

But then I will have to go away.

ADAM

I want you to go AWAY!

Eve starts to cry. She lets her tears run. Adam stomps away and sits on the opposite end of the stage. Eve waits to see if he will look at her. He does not. She runs off. Once she is gone, Adam looks at where she exited. He pounds his fists on the stage and runs off the opposite side. The stage is empty for a few moments.

JANITOR

I guess disagreements are bound to happen. But for every fight, a peace can be made. You guys don't seem so convinced. But they can't give up on each other yet. They are the only two human beings in the world. See...look, here, she comes back.

Eve enters, cautiously. Nothing. She grabs her pile of notes, and sits down to cry. Quietly, a BRONTOSAURUS, lumbers on stage with a bag of chips. He wears a child's Halloween costume for a dinosaur. Immediately, he sees Eve and approaches her. He sniffs at her.

EVE

Don't eat me!

The brontosaurus just munches chips.

EVE

Oh, maybe you won't eat me. You look pretty harmless.

EVE

Hello, you. I will call you brontosaurus.

At the sound of his name, the brontosaurus perks up and lumbers over to Eve. As he looks into her eyes, his knees go weak. Eve puts the pink note on him as he smiles at her.

EVE

Brontosaurus. Your name is very majestic. Like a king.

The brontosaurus sniffs at Eve.

EVE

Mr. Brontosaurus, this has been a very bad day. But, I do not want to bore you with my troubles.

BRONTOSAURUS

Why not? I have time to listen.

EVE

No, no. You don't want to bother yourself with my problems. It has just all been so horrible.

BRONTOSAURUS

Tell me what's wrong.

EVE

I was all alone and lost. Everything was so new and wonderful. The flowers and birds and bees. Beauty everywhere. I was so happy, but then I met him. Then I met Adam.

BRONTOSAURUS

Typical.

EVE

He was the same as me, and yet so different. He could speak, and at first I enjoyed him. He was different than all of the animals. He was tall and strong. I knew that we had so much in common without even having to talk about it. And, he was good to me at first. We were afraid of a spider together. But then...

BRONTOSAURUS

Oh, honey...

EVE

Then he was so mean to me. I tried to help him name the Garden, but he got angry. All I wanted to do was make all the work easier. I wanted to share the job...

Eve begins to cry.

EVE

I just wanted to share....

BRONTOSAURUS

Come here. Cry it all out.

They hold each other and cry.

EVE

You are such a great friend...

BRONTOSAURUS

We should be friends forever!

JANITOR

And a new alliance is formed...

EVE

This is so exciting. Can you read?

BRONTOSAURUS

I do not know.

Eve quickly writes a word on her note pad. She shows it to the Brontosaurus.

BRONTOSAURUS

I do not know.

EVE

Well, that's fine. At least you can talk. And you can listen! Yes, you are such a great listener.

Brontosaurus hugs her close to him.

EVE

My name is Eve.

BRONTOSAURUS

Eve.

EVE

And we are going to spend all of our time together from now on.

She jumps up and takes Brontosaurus' hand.

EVE

This is the Garden of Eden. You see, there used to be signs with names everywhere, but Adam took them down when he told me to go away. I worked so hard on all of those names.

BRONTOSAURUS

We can always start over. Name things again.

EVE

Yes, yes. WE can. You're the best.

BRONTOSAURUS

Best friend?

EVE

Of course. You are my best friend. And we will be friends forever. We can do everything together. Everything that friends do. It is all so new and exciting. What shall we do first?

BRONTOSAURUS

We should climb trees!

EVE

That is the perfect idea. We can climb up and reach all kinds of fruit. We can go up and see the top of the world.

BRONTOSAURUS

Eve, I think I am too heavy to climb these trees.

EVE

Oh, nonsense.

BRONTOSAURUS

All those vegetables foods go straight to my thighs.

EVE

How about this? I will climb on your back and then I can climb up on the tree. I will tell you everything that I see when I am up there.

Brontosaurus nods and Eve climbs on his shoulders. Just then, Adam enters with a huge arm load of sticks. He drops the wood and begins to construct a shelter right where Eve had suggested earlier.

EVE

It's glorious up here.

BRONTOSAURUS

Tell me what you see.

EVE

I see birds. Bright blue and orange ones. And I see so many flowers. Red and yellow and pink and colors I have never even dreamed of.

BRONTOSAURUS

And what does the sky look like?

EVE

Perfect. There are big puffy clouds too. One of the clouds sort of looks like you.

Brontosaurus starts to laugh so hard that he has to put Eve down.

ADAM

Who's there?

EVE

(to Brontosaurus)

That's Adam.

BRONTOSAURUS

Oh, I see. Hi. I'm Brontosaurus.

ADAM

Where did you come from?

BRONTOSAURUS

Eve brought me here.

EVE

I just wanted to show him Garden. Don't worry, I am not staying.

BRONTOSAURUS

But, I want to stay, Eve.

ADAM

I could use some help building a shelter.

EVE

For who?

ADAM

For me.

BRONTOSAURUS

Oh, I love building things. I can help you get big sticks.

ADAM

Look, I don't need any help.

BRONTOSAURUS

It's no trouble. Just tell me where to put this.

Adam points and Brontosaurus puts the stick on the side of the shelter.

BRONTOSAURUS

You know, that Eve is really great. She's got so much energy. And she's such a free spirit. Hey, how well do you know her?

ADAM

I just met her.

BRONTOSAURUS

Hmm, me too. You know this shelter is nice and big. Looks like there would be plenty of room for two of you in there. Well, anyways, what do you think of Eve?

ADAM

She makes too much noise.

BRONTOSAURUS

Yeah, isn't it wonderful? She always has something to say.

ADAM

You're telling me.

EVE

Brontosaurus, I am going to go look at some more animals.

BRONTOSAURUS

Oh, okay. I think I am going to stay and help Adam finish this up. I'll catch up.

EVE

Toodles.

Eve blows Brontosaurus a kiss as she exits.

Adam watches Brontosaurus catch the kiss and hold it close to his heart.

BRONTOSAURUS

Adam, I have a question for ya.

ADAM

What?

BRONTOSAURUS

Do you think Eve, um...Well, do you think she likes me?

Adam drops a pile of sticks.

JANITOR

And then Adam created something new. Jealousy.

ADAM

No. She doesn't like you and neither do I.

BRONTOSAURUS

Why don't you like me?

ADAM

Because you're ugly. And you smell.

BRONTOSAURUS

You really are as mean as she said. And, you are never happy.

He starts to run away.

BRONTOSAURUS

No one will ever like you if you keep being so angry. You have a cold heart.

ADAM

Heart? What is a heart?

BRONTOSAURUS

They way you're going, you'll never know.

Brontosaurus exits. Adam looks around at the empty garden.

ADAM

So what if they are gone? I like being the only one here. I like my world quiet. I like my new shelter. It is extra big so I can spread out. More room for me.

JANITOR

Do you really like it so quiet? Personally, I'm getting a little bored.

ADAM

It's perfect now. And it is not silent. I have the noise of the waterfall.

JANITOR

Do you really like the Garden so empty? Seems a little dull to me.

ADAM

Yes. And it is not entirely bare. There are trees.

Adam goes into his shelter and lays down.

JANITOR

Do you really like your shelter so large?

ADAM

Yes. This is perfect. And it is not so large. I will find things to fill it up.

JANITOR

After all this time, you have not found those things yet. You do not even know what to call them.

Adam rolls over and pretends to sleep.

JANITOR

Of course, you may have it your way. Arguing with just-created beings is not in my job description. Don't expect me to keep giving you advice.

The stage lights dim to simulate sunset. Eve and the Brontosaurus enter and sit on the edge of the stage. They watch the sunset while Adam rolls around restlessly. The world gets quiet as night falls. Adam wakes up, as if from a nightmare, he grabs a stick from the shelter and begins to look for Eve. Eve and Brontosaurus have now fallen asleep in each other's arms. Adam wanders for awhile before he finds them.

ADAM

Eve...

He goes up to her and touches her face.

EVE

Adam...Adam, where have you been? What are you doing?

Adam knocks her over the head and begins to drag her back to their shelter. Just then, Brontosaurus wakes up.

BRONTOSAURUS

What have you done to Eve?

ADAM

Eve does not want to see you any more!

Brontosaurus runs away. Adam drags Eve into their shelter. He is about to fall asleep next to her, but he changes his mind and sits down outside the shelter by the door. He grabs his pad of paper and draws a picture of Eve. Even though it is a rough sketch, she looks beautiful.

JANITOR

She will really like that. But, you might find that she will need more.

ADAM

Good. I can always make her something else...

JANITOR

Good luck, kid....

The stage goes black and quickly lights up again as if it is sunrise. Birds chirp. Adam has fallen asleep sitting up. Eve wakes up.

EVE

What an awful dream I just had. Some brute knocked me over the head and...Was it true? Adam!

ADAM

Good morning.

He gets up and comes over to her with his drawing pad.

EVE

No, it is not a good morning.

ADAM

Why?

EVE

You stole me and brought me back here.

ADAM

But I thought you wanted to come back to the Garden.

EVE

I wanted to be here before you yelled at me, before you took down all my names, and before you scared away my only friend.

ADAM

Friend?

EVE

Yes, Adam. Brontosaurus was my friend. He cared about me.

ADAM

Why?

EVE

He listened to me. He made me laugh.

ADAM

I brought you back to the Garden. I listened to you. You wanted to be back here.

EVE

That was before you made me leak.

ADAM

I didn't want you to leak.

EVE

You are such a...a goober. Just a dumb goober. You can't just hit someone over the head and steal them back.

ADAM

You make no sense. You wanted to live here, so I brought you back.

EVE

By force.

ADAM

Yeah...those sticks work for all kinds of things.

EVE

But, what if I didn't want to come back here?

ADAM

Why does that matter? You want to be here.

EVE

So you say.

ADAM
You don't want to be here?

EVE
Maybe.

ADAM
What does that mean?

EVE
Sometimes yes, sometimes no.

ADAM
My head hurts.

EVE
Mine too. You clubbed me over the head. You never even gave me a chance to tell you if I still wanted to be in the Garden with you.

ADAM
Okay. Here's your chance. Do you still want to be on the Garden of Eating with me?

EVE
No. Unless you convince me.

ADAM
Convince?

EVE
Make it worth my time. Make it worth this bump on my head. Make it worth putting up with you.

ADAM
Ha! You're the one who just showed up here.

EVE
That's not a good start.

ADAM
I am just telling you what really happened.

EVE
That's not what I need to hear.

ADAM
Then what do you need?

EVE
Tell me how you feel about me.

Um, well...

ADAM

Yes?

EVE

The noises that you make can be bearable sometimes.

ADAM

And...

EVE

And your smell does not seem to be as bad as mine.

ADAM

You're moving in the right direction.

EVE

When you leak, I feel like I must smother to make you stop.

ADAM

Adam!

EVE

The smothering would only be for a second.

ADAM

Forget it.

EVE

Eve starts to walk away.

ADAM

You can not leave.

EVE

You can't make me stay.

ADAM

But...but, what about everything that you named?

EVE

Why do you care? You got rid of all the work that I did.

ADAM

Your names are safe by the Tree of Knowledge.

EVE

So you didn't throw them away?

ADAM

No. I just didn't like so many of them in my Garden.

EVE

If you don't like them here, why didn't you say so.

ADAM

You gave me no time to. You made everything yours the moment you arrived.

EVE

I tried to make everything ours. Do you understand that?

ADAM

That is why I brought you back. Can I show you something?

Adam opens his pad of paper and shows Eve the picture he drew of her. Eve softens when she sees it. He points to it.

ADAM

Eve. You belong in the Garden.

EVE

You made my feet look fat.

ADAM

Your feet are that size.

Eve comes over to him and touches his arm.

EVE

Adam, for once, you are right.

Eve takes the picture and holds it in front of her.

EVE

Eve. I like it.

ADAM

Good.

EVE

Can I stay here for awhile?

ADAM

Yes. We will live here.

EVE

Maybe you are not as mean as I thought.

JANITOR

Alright, some progress is being made. Looks like they've got everything squared away here. Break time. No? You think I should stick around? Alright, but if I fall asleep, somebody wake me up.

Eve runs back and grabs her pile of notes.

EVE

I'll just put these all back up so we know what everything is.

ADAM

Very good. While you do that, I must go on a hunting trip.

EVE

Hunting?

ADAM

I must go because we will need food.

EVE

Great thinking. I am getting hungry. How long will you be gone?

ADAM

I don't know. It is my first time hunting. Many sunrises. I may not be back for a very long time.

EVE

But, I just got here.

ADAM

Now there are two mouths to feed.

JANITOR

Looks like he's learned the first rule about relationships. Avoiding always works. Except when it doesn't.

EVE

Oh Adam. It's so sweet of you to want to go out and hunt for us. You really are thinking of everything.

ADAM

I do not want to starve.

EVE

Well, me neither.

Adam starts to walk away.

EVE

But wait! We won't starve. There are plenty of fruits here.
And what do you plan on hunting any ways?

ADAM

I do not know. Animals, I guess.

EVE

And what will you hunt with?

ADAM

My hands.

EVE

Good luck with that.

He looks off stage, and then back at
Eve.

EVE

Not going hunting today?

ADAM

Maybe later.

EVE

Good. Now, Adam. Here's the thing. I really like this
Garden. It's beautiful and tropical and just like paradise
and all of that. But, does it really feel...what's the word?
Homey. Does it feel homey?

ADAM

Homey?

EVE

Yes. Does it feel like a place you want to live? Of course
the waterfall sound is very soothing, and it is quiet in the
morning. But....but, I feel like we are still just guests
here.

ADAM

Guests?

EVE

People visiting. Just coming to lay our heads down for a
night or two. I think that a place never feels like home
until you put in those personal touches. Those little things
that are unique.

ADAM

You have named everything already.

EVE

Well, that's just the beginning.

ADAM

So what else do you want to do?

EVE

Um...I was thinking we could put in a fountain.

ADAM

A what!

EVE

A smaller version of the waterfall. See, all we have to do is redirect some of the water from Niagra Falls there. It'd be a great fountain. Something really, really nice. I think it will make this place look classy. Spruce it up a little. After the fountain, we can get some nice stones for the ground. Maybe make a little patio here. We could put in a grape arbor too. Oh, and we should really start working on some chairs. Something made out of wood and leaves...

ADAM

You are not touching my waterfall.

EVE

Oh, I would not mess it up or anything. Just take some of the water from there and put it into our new fountain.

ADAM

No.

EVE

You didn't even think about it.

ADAM

Because I do not want it.

EVE

Adam, it will be a wonderful addition.

ADAM

I can not do math so don't tease me. And the waterfall is off limits to you.

EVE

And to think, I fell for you being nice to me.

ADAM

It does not matter. No matter what I say you will only believe your own crazy thoughts.

EVE

Hey, I'm not crazy. And you really are just mean deep down.

Adam storms off.

EVE

Going on your hunting trip now without a weapon?

ADAM

No, I am going to go over the Falls.

EVE

Fine. Go over the Falls? How silly. What does he mean by going over the falls?

Adam climbs the ladder to the slide.

EVE

I just have to let him get this out of his system. He has been living here all on his own for days. I have to ease into his life. He'll see how great I can make this Garden. If he has to go off and sulk, fine! Let him run off and be a dumb meany.

ADAM

Must be boring down there.

EVE

No, actually it is quite nice. Very QUIET!

ADAM

Not if you're down there. Haha. Too bad you can't see the great view from up here. I am higher than you have ever been.

EVE

Ha! I have already seen everything up there that is worth seeing.

ADAM

I hope the second time's even better than the first.

EVE

Adam, get down from there right now!

ADAM

You can't tell me what to do.

EVE

But, Adam. I...I can not go in the water if you need me to. I can not help you. Just come down from there and stop being silly. It is too dangerous.

ADAM

I do not care about danger.

EVE

Adam! If I have to jump in after you...

Adam slide down.

ADAM

Geronimo!

Adam lands in the kiddie pool.

EVE

Adam, are you alright?

ADAM

Water.

Eve shakes him. He coughs and wheezes. He grabs his head and starts to whimper.

EVE

Did you hit your head?

Adam nods like a child.

EVE

Alright, now, I need you to get up and come to the shelter.

Eve tries to get him to get up. Adam pulls away from her.

EVE

It's okay, Adam. We are just going over to the shelter.

Slowly, she coaxes him into the shelter. The stage goes dark for sunset. Eve begins to hum a lullaby. Four sunrises and sunsets pass. Adam shivers and screams in his sleep. Eve stays by his side, humming. When it is day again, she goes to the pond to bring him a hand full of water.

ADAM

Water!

Eve rushes back to him and helps him drink from her hand. He gulps down the water and goes back to shaking on the ground.

EVE

You're going to be fine Adam. You're going to be just fine.

Eve hums for awhile again. She goes out of the shelter to gather fruit.

EVE

The fruit trees are changing. There is not as much to eat as before. But yet, the Tree of Knowledge is full.

JANITOR

Good job. Kid's gone and got himself hurt. And, Eve's eyeing that fruit. These two need a baby sitter. That is not in my job description.

Eve returns to the shelter.

ADAM

My head hurts.

EVE

I know. Same old, same old. Some time soon, I must eat. I must bring something for Adam as well. We will not make it long if we starve.

JANITOR

Of great. Now she's going to leave him all alone too. Jeese, looks like I have to play nursemaid now too.

EVE

Well, I guess I could go. For just the afternoon. I could go and find some more food.

As Eve walks offstage, the sun sets and the lights go out. When the lights come back up, the back of the stage is dark, as Eve walks downstage in the light.

EVE

The trees here look very nice. But no fruits at all. Maybe I should just go back to the Garden. I've been walking for such a long time, but I have found nothing. It seems that there is nothing I could possibly want outside of the Garden. Maybe this place is not so beautiful after all. And Adam...oh, Adam. He is such a brute and such an unhappy man. But, he is Adam. And with him I live.

JANITOR

At least Eve's a little interesting because she keeps changing her mind.

EVE

He can not always mean all the hurtful things he says. He just does not know how his words make me want to leak. Adam will be so angry if I spend all this time away from him and return with nothing. But, what is there to find outside the Garden?

JANITOR

Aw, come on. Pluck up now, Eve. Your beauty is your happiness.

Offstage, the WOLF growls long and low.

EVE

What was that? Who's there? Oh, no one is there. Adam is far away and sick.

The Wolf growls again. The sound is closer now, in the darkness of the back of the stage.

JANITOR

You can't even stay out of trouble for a moment, can you?

The Janitor hands Eve a stick

JANITOR

Try to stand up for yourself, would ya?

EVE

I have a stick! A big, mighty stick. You do not want to come near me or I will...I will...I'll whack ya!

The wolf slinks out of the darkness. He is dressed in a suit made of hair. He wears dark sunglasses and smokes a cigarette.

EVE

Get away you mongral! I have a stick and I am not afraid to use it.

WOLF

Oh, I'm so scared.

EVE

Oh, why did I ever leave the Garden? Adam is probably suffering right now while I am here trying to fight off a beast with a twig!

WOLF

How tasty, she talks to herself.

EVE

I am warning you. I'm crazy! You don't know what I will do with this.

Just as Eve is flailing her arm wildly, she lets go of the branch. It flies across stage. Immediately, the wolf gives chase. He runs over, picks it up, and comes back towards Eve.

WOLF

A real game of fetch?

EVE

Get away!

WOLF

It's not very nice to start something that you aren't going to finish.

EVE

What did I start?

WOLF

You toss the stick, I run and get it. Then we repeat.

EVE

Oh, alright. Here ya go...

She picks up the stick and tosses it to him again. He bounds off to grab it.

EVE

This animal...

WOLF

I prefer Mr. Wolf.

EVE

This wolf just needs a friend too. A companion on a lonely day like mine.

WOLF

If you really think about it, you and I are no different.

Eve tosses the stick again.

EVE

Such a silly little game, but it brings him so much joy.

When he brings the stick back to her for the third time, she picks it up.

Suddenly, a sound offstage distracts the wolf, and he runs away to find out what it is.

EVE

You never know what to expect in this place. If you keep your eyes closed you can only hear the sounds, but not see life.

Eve starts to dig in the dirt with the stick.

EVE

Oh, what is this? A little bug. Let me try to find you.

She digs deeper.

EVE

Don't run away so quickly. You are the cutest little buggy bug. Maybe I can even eat you! Come back Mr. Bug. Bring all of your friends with you.

JANITOR

Oh, great. I can't keep this one out of trouble at all. But, if she has figured it out, I must let her have it.

As she digs deeper and faster, the Janitor comes over and uses a lighter to light the end of the stick.

EVE

We are going to have bugs to eat today!

The stick suddenly bursts into flames. Eve drops it.

JANITOR

And then woman discovered fire. Dinner was never the same again.

Eve picks up the flaming end of the stick.

EVE

Youch! That does not feel good.

She picks up the stick from the cool end.

EVE

Fire! This is all Adam and I need.

Eve holds the fire away as she walks towards the dark part of the stage.

As she walks around, lights begin to come up. As Eve works her way back to the shelter, Adam wakes up and comes out. He sees Eve coming towards him with the flaming stick.

ADAM

Where have you been?

EVE

I went out to gather us food. I wanted to surprise you when you woke up.

ADAM

Where is the food?

EVE

I did not find any, but I have *this*.

ADAM

It's a stick.

EVE

No, Adam. It is so much more.

Adam puts his hand out to touch it.
Eve pushes it away.

EVE

Wait, be careful. Do not touch that end. It will hurt you.

ADAM

Why do you have it then? Do you want to hurt me?

EVE

No, Adam. I brought this to you as a gift.

ADAM

A gift?

EVE

Yes. It is fire.

ADAM

Do we need it?

EVE

Fire will change everything for us.

Adam takes the stick from Eve and watches it flame for moment. He is not convinced.

ADAM

This is useless.

Adam tosses the stick of fire away and it lands on the shelter.

JANITOR

Consequences, schmonsequences.

EVE

Adam! No!

The Janitor kicks over the shelter and lights one of the sticks. It bursts into flames.

EVE

Our shelter. Adam, save it!

ADAM

I don't know what to do. You are the one who brought this horrible fire to us.

EVE

Maybe we should...should...maybe we should blow on it.

Adam and Eve try to blow really hard on it. The flames go higher.

ADAM

Great idea. All that work...

EVE

Adam, I am so sorry. I feel like leaking.

ADAM

Oh no, don't start leaking now too.

EVE

You know I can't stop it.

ADAM

Eve! Come here. Grab some water.

EVE

That will never work.

ADAM

Just come help me.

EVE

It's all so awful.

ADAM

Eve. Stop leaking. Everything will be fine. Come over here and help me with this water.

JANITOR

This is ridiculous. What do you guys think? I think that I should just let them burn the whole place down.

A spotlight shines directly in the Janitor's eyes.

JANITOR

Hey. What? Help them save it? But wouldn't I be influencing their world too much...shouldn't they know better by now? Fine. Fine. I don't get paid enough for this stupid job.

The spotlight goes out. The Janitor pulls out a bucket and hands it to Adam.

ADAM

Eve, help me.

They dip the bucket and pour it on the fire. It goes out.

EVE

We did it!

ADAM

Yes we did.

JANITOR

Not without my help.

Adam goes over to pick through the remnants of his shelter.

EVE

It was really a great shelter.

ADAM

Thanks.

EVE

We can always build a new one.

ADAM

That will take so long. Meanwhile, I am stuck here with you and no roof over my head and no food.

JANITOR

And then Adam created his second thing - resentment. Welcome to my world. Every day your boss will tell you what do and you won't even get credit for it. And he'll make threats. Sure, see what happens if you fire me. I dare you...

ADAM

When I was alone, I did not go searching for fire. You brought that back here to destroy our world.

EVE

I...want to say sorry.

ADAM

Then say it.

EVE

Sorry.

Eve grabs a stick from the destroyed shelter. She tosses it off stage.

ADAM

What are you doing?

EVE

Giving you your real present.

The wolf comes strolling in.

WOLF

You threw this?

EVE

Adam did.

WOLF

Here's your stick.

EVE

Adam, this is Wolf.

WOLF

Hem...

EVE

Mr. Wolf. I thought you might need someone to talk to. Like Brontosaurus for me.

Adam just looks at him.

WOLF

Cool, man. Don't acknowledge my existence.

EVE

You don't like him?

WOLF

Hey, whatever. It's not like I wanted to go run around in the forest with a fellow dude.

ADAM

What do you do in the forest?

WOLF

Guy stuff. Hunting, fishing, chasing a little tail. If you know what I mean?

ADAM

And you want me to come with?

WOLF

Sure. Or you can stay here and let your lady drive you nuts.

EVE

Why don't you boys go and play, I mean do guy stuff, for awhile?

Before she can finish, Adam has tossed the stick to the wolf and races him offstage to grab it.

EVE

Now, to clean this place up...

JANITOR

Finally. It's about time they did some work on their own lives.

As she works upstage, the lights dim. Adam and the wolf run in down stage.

WOLF

I think that dinosaur dude is pissed.

ADAM

Yeah, we barely escaped.

WOLF

But, the adrenaline is so choice.

They exchange a high-five.

WOLF

What's next on our mayhem list?

ADAM
I don't know. I think I need a rest.

WOLF
Loser.

Eve finishes picking up the last pieces
of the shelter.

ADAM
What's a loser?

WOLF
You.

ADAM
I thought I was Adam.

WOLF
Wow, you've got a lot of catching up to do. Have you even
gone outside of the Garden before?

ADAM
Yeah...I have.

WOLF
Right.

ADAM
I've been exploring. There are endless paths that lead to
places I could never even think of. But, I bet you've seen
some of the wildest things out there.

WOLF
You better believe it.

Wolf sits on the edge of the stage.

WOLF
I need a drink.

ADAM
We've got water back in the Garden.

WOLF
Forget that. It's much nicer here.

ADAM
This is what I need. Just quiet.

WOLF
Cigarette?

ADAM
Is there fire in those things?

WOLF
Of course.

ADAM
I'll pass.

WOLF
Whatever man.

ADAM
So, what do you think of Eve?

WOLF
She's got her moments.

ADAM
She's...she's a wonder of a creature.

WOLF
If you say so.

ADAM
You know, when I first saw her, I was sure that she was some kind of animal. Her hair is so long, and her skin is so different from mine. And she makes such awful noises.

WOLF
Don't they all?

ADAM
And she leaks. Did I tell you about that? It's so awful to watch.

WOLF
Yeah man...

ADAM
But, she can be so much more. She does understand how to name things. And she knows how to find food. And she can make good noises too...

WOLF
You sound whipped.

ADAM
I wonder what she is doing now...

EVE
Where are those boys? Still playing. I hope they come back soon. I am so bored.

JANITOR

Hey, don't look at me. Not my problem.

A large, pink piece of paper flutters down. Eve picks it up.

EVE

This looks like one of my names...but, I didn't write this. Employment terminated? What's that mean?

JANITOR

What do you have there?

EVE

I think this is for you.

The Janitor snatches the paper away and reads.

JANITOR

Dereliction of duty? Disobedience? Disciplinary actions?

EVE

I think it says you're fired.

JANITOR

Look, you little hussy. You wouldn't even be able to read with out me.

EVE

It's not my fault that you didn't do your job.

JANITOR

Fine. If you want me fired, I am out of here. I hated this place anyway.

The Janitor crumples up the paper.

JANITOR

(to Eve)

Didn't you need help with something?

EVE

I am hungry. And I can not find any food.

JANITOR

Let me help you.

The Janitor leads her to the Tree of Knowledge.

ADAM

Eve's probably putting some more of those names up everywhere.

WOLF

You mean chickifying your pad?

ADAM

Adding little touches.

JANITOR

You know that you want to eat from this tree.

EVE

But...

JANITOR

Do you want to starve and have nothing for him when he returns?

EVE

No. But, Adam told me not to touch it.

JANITOR

Has he ever been right about anything?

EVE

No.

JANITOR

Then go ahead.

EVE

Have you eaten from the Tree of Knowledge?

JANITOR

Yes. I wrote every book that you see hanging there.

EVE

Books?

JANITOR

Yes, Eve. You can now read anything anyone has ever written.

Eve reaches up.

ADAM

And you know what I don't understand about Eve? She is so sure of everything that she is. Even when I know she is not...what is the word? Even when she is not correct. She can talk and talk as if the words came from the air. Eve can create any word...anything.

WOLF

You sound a little obsessed. That can't be healthy man.

ADAM

Eve...

Eve grabs down a book.

EVE

Shall I open it?

JANITOR

You can not read it through the cover.

Eve hesitates. She comes down stage to look at Adam and the wolf.

JANITOR

When he returns to you, you may share everything you learn.

EVE

This knowledge could help Adam and I. It could bring us even closer together.

JANITOR

There is no doubt. Eating from the Tree of Knowledge will change your lives forever.

Spotlight on Eve as she opens the book.

EVE

(reading)

Life. God. Family. Home. Hate. War. Death...

Eve tosses the book away in fear. Suddenly, the sounds of animals fighting shakes the Garden. Bright, intense lights illuminate the Garden.

JANITOR

Now, I can be the last one out.

The Janitor crosses back to his perch and grabs his broom. Suddenly, the wolf hollows.

ADAM

What's going on?

The wolf turns on him and bites his arm. Adam falls back. The wolf scampers off as Eve runs to Adam.

EVE
Adam! Adam, hold me.

They look down at their bodies, now,
and their lack of clothing becomes
clear.

EVE
We are naked.

JANITOR
That is just the beginning.

The Janitor begins to sweep up the
Garden. He picks up the book and hands
it to Adam.

ADAM
Eve, what have you done?

EVE
I only opened this book.

ADAM
These words...words of knowledge. Oh, Eve.

Adam throws the book away too.

ADAM
Why? Eve, you have changed the entire world.

JANITOR
But you have released me from His service. We can all be
free now.

As the Janitor moves closer and closer
with his broom, Adam and Eve cling to
each other.

EVE
I just wanted to take from the Tree of Knowledge and share it
with you. I did not know...

ADAM
I did not know either.

EVE
What is going to happen to us?

ADAM
Now we must leave.

EVE

I'm afraid.

ADAM

Me too. But we must go together.

Adam holds Eve's hand as the Janitor starts to sweep them off.

JANITOR

For now you are dust and to dust you shall return.

The Janitor slowly pushes them offstage with his broom.

Curtain.

ACT TWO - PARADISE GARDENS SUBDIVISION

The stage is set simply again, but the Garden has been replaced by a suburbanite living room. The room has a large couch, two TV trays, a La-Z-Boy, and an empty child's play pen. Where the Janitor stood before, there is now a extremely over sized big-screen TV. It is large enough for a person to stand in and it features a small door in the back. It is placed so the audience can see it, but it can also be viewed from the couch.

Everything in the room has oversized brand-name labels on it. Where the poles used to be, there are now pop culture icons in the form of pictures or sculptures. The waterfall has been replaced with a refrigerator that vends ice-cubes and water. In place of the Tree of Knowledge, stands an immense shelf with books, CDs, magazines, records, and DVDs.

The Janitor, now dressed as a TV ANCHORMAN, strolls in. He adjusts his tie, checks his breath, and steps into the television.

TV ANCHORMAN

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen. Last week on our program, we examined the benefits of 2 in 1 products that save time and money. Tonight, on Real Life in the Suburbs, we will see into the lives of a young couple. With a new half-a-million dollar mansion and a bright future ahead of them, Adam and Eve Edenson have everything. Or do they? Let's look closer. Let's go inside their home and see how they really live.

Eve walks on stage. She is wearing a simple black dress with her name hidden in the designer logo. She walks out into her living room and sits as if she has done it dozens of times before.

TV ANCHORMAN

The Edenson's living room was designed by Yahwehist Industrial Furniture. It has a simple, yet elegant feel. Maybe if we listen closely, Eve will give us some interior decorating tid-bits.

Eve gets up, takes a magazine down from the shelf and begins to page through it.

TV ANCHORMAN

And now, the man of the house...

Adam walks in wearing a grey suit that also features his name in a logo. He carries a briefcase.

EVE

How was your day?

Adam sits down in the La-Z-Boy.

ADAM

Fine. And yours?

EVE

Fine.

ADAM

Good.

EVE

Yep. What would you like for dinner?

ADAM

Chicken pot pie.

EVE

We're out of chicken.

ADAM

Beef pot pie?

EVE

Out of beef too.

ADAM

Didn't have time to get to the store today?

EVE

No. I got caught up reading some very interesting magazine articles.

ADAM

Really? What were they about?

EVE

Sex.

ADAM

Oh, good. So no chicken pot pie?

EVE

Not tonight. We have plenty of frozen dinners.

ADAM

Even better. You won't have to cook at all.

EVE

What's that supposed to mean?

ADAM

Nothing. I was just saying that frozen dinners don't have to be cooked.

EVE

Some night you should try to make dinner. That should go well.

ADAM

Better not. Frozen dinners are fine.

Eve goes back to her magazine.

ADAM

Nothing like a brand new, name-brand, recliner. Nothing like it.

EVE

Hmm...

ADAM

Nothing like it, huh Eve?

EVE

No, Adam. There's nothing like it.

Adam opens his briefcase, pulls out a newspaper and begins to read.

TV ANCHORMAN

It must be Friday folks. New Ladies Home Journals are on the shelves, and the Wall Street Journal has the full-color Weekend Edition.

The sit for a few more moments just flipping pages.

TV ANCHORMAN

Modern psychologists claim that relationships in our fast-paced world are strained by too many societal pressures.

But, look at this blissful couple. They have no problem at all sharing a quiet afternoon.

EVE

You really should read this great article about allergy medications.

ADAM

Yeah, sounds great.

EVE

And there's another one in here about high cholesterol.

ADAM

Yes. Fascinating.

Eve goes back to reading, but she angrily turns the pages.

ADAM

Hey, Eve. Our Philip Morris went through the roof today. Maybe you can go on that Hawaiian cruise you were talking about.

Adam flips another page.

ADAM

That actress you love is up for another Oscar again.

Beat.

EVE

You're not even listening to me. I hate these stupid, empty magazine.

ADAM

You want to switch?

EVE

No. I don't want to switch.

Adam shrugs and goes back to reading.

ADAM

Oh, those silly politicians and their wars.

TV ANCHORMAN

As you can see, the reading time is punctuated with discussion of world affairs and the entertainment industry. The Edensons really stay up on their current events.

EVE

I don't care about politicians, or actresses, or the damn stock exchange. I just don't care.

Eve... ADAM

What? EVE

Eve... ADAM

I'm fine. Really. EVE

ADAM
Eve, I know what today is too. I haven't forgotten. I saw it marked on your calendar this morning.

EVE
Then how can you just go about your day like everything is normal?

ADAM
It has been so long, Eve.

EVE
Adam, it has only been three years since we left the Garden.

ADAM
Left?

EVE
Since we were expelled.

TV ANCHORMAN
For any good relationship to thrive, honesty is essential. Some critics of the suburban lifestyle claim that too much goes on behind closed doors. Tonight, we want to show you that even right here in Paradise Gardens Subdivision, real people have real conversations.

ADAM
Eve, listen. I don't blame you.

EVE
That's not true. All of this....All of this is my fault.

ADAM
Well, I really enjoy what you have done with the place.

EVE
It's a commercial for Ikea and Pottery Barn.

ADAM
Yeah, but we got almost everything on sale.

EVE

When did you start caring about money?

ADAM

When I started to have to work a nine to five job to survive.

EVE

Oh, like I don't work too?

ADAM

Eve, you work at a bookstore part-time.

EVE

I have a really strong repeat customer fan base.

ADAM

I know you do. I know it's the anniversary of leaving the Garden. I understand if you're having a bad day.

EVE

Adam, I can't find my note pad and pen.

ADAM

What note pad? Oh, Eve, we don't have to name anything anymore. It's all done for us.

EVE

Nothing *sounds* like the names that all these things have. Adam, you know I am not sleeping at night.

ADAM

You get like this every year at this time. I usually have at least one week of sleepless nights ever year because of you.

EVE

I can still hear the waterfall at night.

ADAM

That's the neighbor's sprinkler system.

EVE

And the dinosaurs playing in the forest.

ADAM

Probably the stray dogs. I should call animal control.

EVE

And the sunrises and flowers. Where have they gone?

Eve starts to gently cry.

ADAM

Eve, don't leak. You know how to stop it now. Just calm down.

EVE

Sometimes I just have to leak.

Adam gets up, finds a pen in his briefcase and rips off a piece of his newspaper.

ADAM

Look, here. You can name anything you want. Give me a new name. Call me whatever you want. Moron! I like that one.

EVE

I'll never get my pink notes back, Adam. I just have to understand that.

ADAM

What if we bought something new?

EVE

Adam...

TV ANCHORMAN

Despite some market reports, the true nature of suburban life does not lie in consumerism. On the contrary, eighty-five percent of households that were surveyed attributed their happiness to down-home family gatherings. They don't need video games or movies for entertainment. They have their children and parents to spend their leisure time with.

EVE

Please, Adam. You don't need to buy me more things. We have enough objects to fill this house already. We are missing something else. Let's not talk about this anymore. Let's just keep reading.

ADAM

Alright.

EVE

So about sex...

ADAM

Yes?

EVE

This article says that most couples...

ADAM

One second...I need to finish checking our stocks.

EVE

Sure.

ADAM

What?

EVE

Any time I want to talk to you about something important, you're too busy.

ADAM

Okay. Tell me about sex...

EVE

Well, it seems like something fun to do.

ADAM

Great. Our Exxon is off the charts.

EVE

Wonderful dear. Way to stimulate conversation.

ADAM

Stocks are very interesting to me.

EVE

Yes, but I'd rather do something more fun.

ADAM

Why don't you redecorate the house? I know that will keep you busy for a while. Get rid of that play pen while you're at it.

EVE

Throw it out?

ADAM

I've never liked that thing.

EVE

Why?

ADAM

It just takes up so much space and I have no idea what it's for. Let's just toss the thing out.

EVE

I want to keep it. Today would be an awful day to throw it away.

ADAM

If you want to keep it, we will. Eve, it makes me so happy.....

EVE

How can you be happy today?

ADAM

It makes me so happy to be near you. Just to be in the same room.

EVE

When did you start having nice thoughts?

ADAM

I just couldn't wait to see you. To come home to you.

EVE

Really?

ADAM

And to see you every morning.

Adam leans in towards Eve. They awkwardly hold on the edge of kissing.

EVE

I like seeing you too.

ADAM

Yeah?

EVE

To see your feet in your socks....And the dirty collars of your shirts...

They still hold, uncertain what to do next.

ADAM

The three years have gone by so fast...and only because of you.

Adam gets inches from her mouth.

EVE

But the time has been slow, like an eternity together...

Suddenly Adam pulls back, leaving Eve's mouth open and her eyes closed.

ADAM

Um...now what?

Eve grabs him and kisses him hard. They kiss and kiss.

They just keep kissing like they can not get enough of it.

ADAM

Oh, Eve...

TV ANCHORMAN

This program is not intended for viewers under the age of 18. Parents, educate your children about the pitfalls of drugs, alcohol and pre-marital sex.

EVE

Oh, Adam...You are so strong....

ADAM

You're so soft....

Adam grabs Eve's chest the same way she is touching his. She's lets out a shriek.

ADAM

I'm sorry. I...um...well...I just...oh...I'm sorry Eve. I don't know what I was thinking.

EVE

Don't stop.

ADAM

But, you sounded unhappy. Was I hurting you?

EVE

I'll let you know if you are.

ADAM

Wait, maybe we should just talk about this. I could tell that you were really getting into that magazine article. You should tell me more.

EVE

Eve doesn't want to read now.

ADAM

No? What does Eve want? I can heat up one of those TV dinners.

EVE

No, Eve is hungry for something else.

ADAM

We've got pickles...

EVE

Now that's more like it.

Eve tears open Adams shirt.

ADAM

We don't have any replacement buttons for that.

EVE

I don't care.

ADAM

Eve, I have no idea what I am doing.

EVE

Me neither.

They pounce on each other. The TV plays Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get it On." We hear moaning as the stage goes black.

Lights up, the music screeches to a stop. Adam and Eve are sitting on the floor opposite each other. They are clutching blankets to cover their nakedness.

TV ANCHORMAN

A healthy sex life is the number one remedy for many relationship problems. If a couple can express themselves sexually, the emotional intimacy and stability follows naturally. Of course, Viagra has been the highest selling pharmaceutical for the last five years for a reason.

EVE

Well, so that was...sort of fun.

ADAM

Only sort of fun?

EVE

Yeah, it was okay.

ADAM

Just okay?

EVE

It wasn't what all the books and magazines talked about, but I don't really have anyone else to compare you to.

ADAM

Was it that...bad?

EVE

Oh no. It was just not that great.

ADAM

Where are you going?

EVE

I think I'll do some cleaning. Maybe straighten up in here.

ADAM

Come back....

EVE

Please, there really is so much housework to be done.

ADAM

Adam wants to try again. Adam wants Eve to see his pickle again.

EVE

No thanks. Too much to do.

ADAM

Give Adam another chance.

EVE

Eve wants to forget the whole thing and do something else...

ADAM

Eve will be back for more...

Adam lets Eve walk away a little. He stretches, flexes his muscles, and sighs.

ADAM

If Eve was to come back for more, Adam would make it worth her while.

She creeps back towards him.

ADAM

Eve may say Adam is as dumb as a rock, but all that means is that there is room for improvement. Lots and lots of improvement.

EVE

Well...

ADAM

Done cleaning already?

EVE

Eve wants Adam to clean her house...

The lights dim again and the Marvin Gaye music is back. As the lights go black, they moan and groan louder than before. This time the song plays a little longer before the lights come up. Adam and Eve are under the same blanket this time.

EVE

So that was not same....

ADAM

No. That was better.

EVE

Much better.

ADAM

I think I'm getting the hang of this.

EVE

There's really so much work that needs to get done around here.

ADAM

Eve, all the work the that needs to get done is right here.

Adam stands up and lets his part of the blanket drop. He is wearing his little Adam swim trunks from Act I. He starts to dance around like a Chip n' Dale model.

EVE

Adam...really.

Adam points to the TV.

ADAM

Hit it!

"Let's Get it On" begins again. Adam dances seductively to the music.

EVE

Stop acting like such a child. Adam, seriously, there are so many things I should be doing.

Eve tries not to look at him, but his body is just too inviting.

ADAM

(singing along)

I've been really trying now baby Trying to hold back this feeling for so long. And if you feel like I feel...Come on...

EVE

This is embarrassing.

ADAM

We're all sensitive people With so much to give - understand each other. As long as we got to be here, let's live...

Adam keeps dancing.

EVE

You're crazy.

ADAM

Don't you know how sweet and wonderful life can be, yeah. I'm just asking you, baby to get it on with me...

In a swift movement, Adam tears off his swim trunks. He faces Eve, with his naked butt to the audience.

EVE

Oh Adam...where was that before?

Adam takes the blanket, wraps them up together, and lays on top of Eve on the couch. As the music ends, Eve's moans become a new kind of music. As the lights dim again, Eve giggles and screams with pleasure.

EVE

Sex is fun....

ADAM

I'm just warming you up.

EVE

Oh Adam! Adam!

When the lights come up, Eve is sitting on the couch, while Adam finishes getting redressed. Eve's hair is entirely a mess and she is still panting.

ADAM

Eve, I need to go on a hunting trip.

EVE
Hunting trip? But what will you hunt with?

ADAM
My Blackberry and Rolex.

EVE
Sounds great to me.

ADAM
I will have to go away.

EVE
Sure, Adam. That's fine.

ADAM
I may be gone for many days.

EVE
Do what you've got to do.

ADAM
You're not angry that I am leaving?

EVE
How could I be angry right now? I can't even feel my legs...

ADAM
I'll call you.

EVE
I'll clean the house...

Adam kisses her on the forehead, grabs his briefcase, and exits with a smile.

EVE
Adam!

ADAM
Yes?

EVE
Don't worry about me. I'll be fine here alone.

ADAM
Wasn't going to give it a second thought.

Adam hurries off. Eve stands up from the couch, touches her body sensually, and exits on the opposite side of the stage behind the TV.

TV ANCHORMAN

Female animals experience a phenomenon called nesting. Essentially, the mother-to-be prepares her area for her newborn. Commonly, the male of the species is an essential part of the gathering and nest building process. But, here in Paradise Gardens, nesting is a bit different.

Eve enters wearing her black dress. The sound of an answering machine beeping is heard.

ADAM (O.S.)

It's Adam. Seattle today. Foggy here, but pretty quiet.

The machine beeps again. Eve hums and walks offstage. The answering machine beeps again.

ADAM (O.S.)

Adam again. San Fran today. Foggy again and quiet. Occasional ship's horn.

Beep. Eve walks on carrying a stuffed animal. She is a few months pregnant. She puts the stuffed animal in the play pen and walks off humming more. The answering machine beeps again.

ADAM (O.S.)

Los Angeles. Smoggy and not quiet at all.

Beep. Eve comes back out even more pregnant. This time she drops a huge arm-load of stuffed animals in the play pen. She continues humming her lullaby. The answering machine beeps.

ADAM (O.S.)

Colorado Springs today. Clear and cool. Nearly silent. How you doing?

EVE

Never been better.

Beep. Eve exits. The answering machine picks up again.

ADAM (O.S.)

Eve. Hey. It's Adam. Kansas City. Too much traffic. Hope everything is good with you.

Beep.

ADAM (O.S.)

New Orleans! You should see Bourbon Street. You'd really like it here. It's so loud. Can't wait to tell you more about it.

Eve comes out again. She is almost due. She goes to the play pen and carefully straightens the animals. She sings a wordless lullaby now. The answering machine beeps again.

ADAM (O.S.)

Hey. Thinking about you. One more stop in Chicago. The windy city can't possibly be good for my ears. I bet you can't guess where I will be tomorrow.

During the message, Eve starts to feel funny and she holds her huge stomach.

ADAM (O.S.)

Can't guess? Well, I'm going to Niagara Falls. But, can't go down it this time...The water's going to be deafening. I miss you, Eve.

Beep.

EVE

Water?

Eve rushes offstage as fast as she can waddle.

TV ANCHORMAN

The first child for any couple is a learning experience. Without the publishing industry, most new parents would be completely in the dark. But, with her employee discount, Eve had no trouble reading every baby book from cover to cover.

Adam sneaks in to the living room with a bouquet of flowers.

ADAM

Eve...Evey...

Eve walks in the living room. She is back to her normal size now. Adam sees her and rushes over and hugs her.

ADAM

I feel like it has been months since I have seen you.

EVE

Well, it's good to have you back.

ADAM
I brought you a gift.

Adam shows her the flowers.

EVE
Thanks.

She turns to leave again.

ADAM
One second. I need to talk to you.

EVE
Oh, well go ahead. Talk away.

ADAM
Eve, listen to me.

EVE
I'm listening...

ADAM
I'm having this feeling...

EVE
Are you sick?

ADAM
No. Well, yes. But not really.

EVE
You might be coming down with something. We should call the doctor.

ADAM
No, I already have it.

EVE
Well, don't spread your germs all around and give it to me.

ADAM
Well, I can't give it to you. I think you already have it.

EVE
Oh, Adam. Have you killed us both?

ADAM
I am not sick like I am dying. I am sick like I am in love.

EVE
Oh, that's all?

ADAM

Eve, I love you. I am in love with you.

EVE

Like in the magazines and books and movies?

ADAM

No, Eve. Like you and I. Like our lives up until this moment.

EVE

You're going to make me leak.

ADAM

I even love you when you leak.

They share a tender kiss. The moment is spoiled by a piercing baby scream from offstage.

ADAM

Eve, go and hide. I will protect you from this beast.

EVE

It is not a beast.

ADAM

We are in danger woman. Get to safety.

EVE

Adam, do you even know what that noise is?

ADAM

I do not have to know what abomination makes such a horrible wail. I just know that I must protect you.

Eve walks offstage.

ADAM

Why must you always go straight into the lion's den?

Eve comes back on with CAIN in tow. Cain wears a disposable diaper. Even though he is an oversized baby, he crawls and giggles like a normal child.

ADAM

You've brought it in the house?

EVE

Adam, it is harmless.

ADAM

How do you know? How long has this thing been living here?

EVE

Several months now. Remember you were off hunting for more than a year.

ADAM

If you wanted a dog, I would have gotten you a dog.

EVE

I am not interested in dogs.

ADAM

Where did you find this thing?

EVE

Um...well. It's hard to explain.

ADAM

Did you steal it?

EVE

Oh no. I found it in the woods.

ADAM

There are woods in suburbia?

EVE

He was playing in a briar patch over by the new development.

ADAM

You just can't go around rescuing every stray that you see. We just don't have the room for every animal you pick up on a whim.

EVE

This house has more than enough room for you and I. And he hasn't been a nuisance yet.

ADAM

Well, we can feed it for a few days, but then you have to let it go back to its home.

EVE

We can't just toss Cain back out on the street!

ADAM

Cain? Oh, Eve, you've already named it. You always get attached to things so quickly.

EVE

Yes. And it is not an it. It is a him.

Cain giggles and plops down on the floor next to Adam. Cain looks up at Adam with big, happy eyes.

ADAM

He's got skin like ours, but he is so much fatter and rounder. And he has no hair. You think he is some kind of a fish? Or maybe some new species that has never been discovered before.

EVE

Perhaps. Maybe he is a scientific oddity.

ADAM

Imagine if I discovered a whole new evolutionary line. Think of it...

Cain tugs on Adam's pant leg and claps his hands in excitement.

ADAM

Yes, Cain. We will figure out what you are. Eve brought you home, but Adam is going to help you find your kind.

EVE

Adam, you don't have to...

ADAM

Who could have thought that you and I would be on the cutting edge of genetic science?

EVE

Not me, that's for sure.

TV ANCHORMAN

Most rural couples report that their first child is mysterious, but not necessarily challenging. Commonly, new parents depend on their own parents guidance and advice. In the absence of parents, many couples depend upon members of the community to give them child-rearing lessons. In the absence of a community, suburbanites have to figure it out on their own.

EVE

I have some food in the oven. You think you'd mind watching Cain for a few minutes?

ADAM

No, not at all. He's fascinating.

Eve exits. Adam sits down on the couch to observe Cain.

As Adam watches, he opens his briefcase and takes out a legal pad. He takes notes like a scientist.

ADAM

Some motor skills.

Cain attempts to crawl up the side of the play pen.

ADAM

Very curious animal.

Cain gives up on climbing and rolls over on his back. He giggles as he waves his arms and legs in the air.

ADAM

Systematic swimming motions. Perhaps he is a fish. But, every hypothesis needs to be tested.

Adam fills up a bowl with water from the refrigerator.

ADAM

Here fishy, fishy.

Cain puts his hands in the bowl and plays with the water. He giggles with joy.

ADAM

Demonstrates a propensity for swimming. Perhaps he can breath under water as well?

Adam coaxes Cain closer to the water. Just as he is about to dunk his head in the bowl of water, Cain starts to cry as Eve enters.

EVE

What's going on?

Cain crawls over to Eve.

ADAM

I was just running an experiment to see if this new species was a fish.

EVE

Well, what ever he is, you've upset him.

ADAM

The New species is prone to hysterical outbursts. Could be some sort of monkey.

EVE

(to Cain)

Hush, hush.

ADAM

Eve, he doesn't speak our language.

EVE

I've got to go back into the kitchen. You think that you can play nice?

Adam and Cain nod. Eve kisses Cain on the forehead before she exits.

ADAM

Responds to human affection. Hmm.

Unsteadily, Cain tries to stand up from his crawling position. He sticks his butt high in the air.

ADAM

Feeble attempts to walk erect. Perhaps this new species has developed some kind of new locomotion.

As if proving him wrong, Cain stands upright and toddles around a little. He walks into the La-Z-Boy and falls down. He shakes it off and tries again.

ADAM

Effort characteristic of a higher life form. Perhaps my earlier conclusion of primate was correct.

Adam puts down his legal pad and helps Cain crawl up onto the couch. He flips him over so he is hanging upside down.

ADAM

Seems adept at hanging upside down.

Cain grips the couch with toes as he starts to slip.

ADAM

Prehensile toes. A sure sign of chimpanzee lineage.

Cain losses his grip and crashes to the floor. He starts crying again.

ADAM

The strange species even leaks! It is some sort of hybrid.

Eve rushes in and puts Cain in play pen. Cain quickly curls up and falls asleep.

EVE

Are you trying to kill him?

ADAM

Some sacrifices must be made for science.

EVE

I will not let you hurt him for a silly experiment.

ADAM

Why are you attached to thing? You said yourself that you just found him.

EVE

He needs a home and place to live. And he is so cute.

ADAM

All he does is drool.

EVE

But he does it with a smile.

ADAM

When he's not leaking.

EVE

Why do you dislike him so much?

ADAM

I just want to study him and you keep taking him away. He could be the missing link!

EVE

He needs his sleep.

Adam picks up his note pad and writes.

ADAM

The creature seems to be diurnal with a heightened need for sleep throughout the day. But, interestingly, he has a certain affinity that draws me to his sausage link legs and pudgy cheeks.

EVE

Can the science start again tomorrow?

ADAM

Do you need me to fix something around the house?

EVE

No.

ADAM

Is there a jar you need me to open?

EVE

Not exactly.

Eve kisses Adam passionately.

TV ANCHORMAN

Many women experience an intense need to bear another child immediately after their first. This is the best explanation for the American average of 2.5 children per household.

The TV anchorman gets out the stereo again.

ADAM

Eve, are you okay?

EVE

I just miss that pickle I used to have.

Adam looks down at his pants and then meets Eve's seductive stare. The TV Anchorman gets ready to press play.

TV ANCHORMAN

(to Eve)

Music?

ADAM

No. We won't need it this time.

Adam leads Eve, skipping, offstage. The lights dim for night time. After a moment, Eve comes back out, wrapped in a sheet to check on Cain.

EVE

My little baby boy...You look just like your father.

After a moment of reflection, she goes back offstage. The lights dip to black.

TV ANCHORMAN

Fatherhood. A rite of passage to some. A time of trial. A journey of joy and learning. For better or worse, no one can be entirely prepared for the responsibility of raising a child in a world that is becoming more and more hostile. Some fathers choose to take their children away from the pressures of the world and raise them in a rural setting. Others seek an urban lifestyle in which daily events can be the tools for learning. And, in some cases, fathers decide to leave themselves out of the process entirely.

Lights up. Cain is now a toddler. He sits on the couch, and lets his legs dangle. Every now and then he bounces up and down when he gets excited. Eve walks in. She is pregnant again.

EVE

Now, Cain. You just sit here and learn from the television. Mommy's busy with other things today, okay?

The answering machine beeps.

ADAM (O.S.)

New York for a few days. Bustling and loud. Then Boston.

Beep.

CAIN

Daddy.

EVE

That's right. That's your daddy. He likes to hunt a lot.

CAIN

Hunt?

EVE

That's when men go out and kill things. In the old days they would go out alone with only a spear. They would hike for days and days until they found a large enough animal to feed the entire family. Once they had slaughtered it, they would drag home the bleeding carcass.

CAIN

Yucky.

EVE

Oh, don't be sad Cain. Your daddy wears a suit and carries a briefcase now when he hunts.

CAIN

Hungry.

EVE

Ready for some Spaghetti-Os?

CAIN

Pa-sketti!

ADAM (O.S.)

Boston these days. Too much Irish music. I was thinking. Maybe that creature is some kind of bear. Perhaps he's a marsupial. Let me know what you think.

Beep. Cain stands up and walks around a few steps. He is steadier on his feet now. The answering machine beeps again.

ADAM (O.S.)

One night in Chicago and then home. Too much blues music. Cain could be from Madagascar. That's where all the extinct species go when they're not actually extinct.

Beep. Eve enters with a TV dinner. She puts it on a TV tray.

EVE

Now eat, your dinner and watch some more televsion.

CAIN

What's with your stomach, mom?

EVE

I have one in the oven.

CAIN

Is it cookies?

EVE

No, it's a little brother.

CAIN

Oh, how boring.

EVE

Have some dinner and watch your program.

Once she is satisfied that he is occupied, Eve exits.

TV ANCHORMAN

The following program is suitable for children under the age of 3. None of the views expressed by the stuffed dinosaur characters are those of the production company or sponsoring network. Enjoy the show!

Cheesy cartoon music starts. The TV Anchorman starts to dance along.

CAIN

Mom!

EVE (O.S.)

One second.

Cain plays with his food.

CAIN

Mom! This program is so boring.

The anchorman sighs and gives up his dance.

TV ANCHORMAN

Thanks, kid. You're a real sport.

CAIN

Mom! The television is talking to me.

EVE (O.S.)

I know. It talks to everyone. You should listen to it.

CAIN

But he's lame.

TV ANCHORMAN

Thanks.

CAIN

MOM!

Eve enters in a huff. ABEL, a new baby boy, holds her hand as he crawls beside her. Cain sees Abel and jumps up.

CAIN

What is that?

EVE

Cain, listen...this is your little brother Abel.

CAIN

But, I don't want a little brother.

EVE

You don't have a choice sweetheart.

Adam enters.

ADAM
You found another one?

CAIN
Who are you?

ADAM
What? It can talk now?

CAIN
Duh.

ADAM
How fascinating? The new species has learned to mimic our vocalizations.

CAIN
Mom, who is this guy?

EVE
Cain, be polite...

ADAM
It's learned quite a lot of our language while I was away.

CAIN
My name is Cain.

ADAM
I am so happy that you gotten another specimen of this species that we can perform tests on. I feel a breakthrough will happen any day now.

Abel lets go of Eve's hand and crawls over to Adam. He looks at him with huge eyes. Abel starts to giggle and drool.

ADAM
Funny. That's just how the other specimen acted when it was smaller.

CAIN
I'm not a specimen! I'm your so...

EVE
How was your trip, Adam?

ADAM
Fine. You never ask about my trips.

CAIN
That's because no one cares.

EVE

Now Cain. He's happy you're home too.

Abel tugs on Adam's pant leg.

CAIN

Why won't you tell him?

EVE

Cain...

Cain kicks over his TV tray.

CAIN

I hate you both. You've ruined my life.

Cain gets up and storms out of the room.

ADAM

How did we anger the creature?

EVE

I need to tell you something.

ADAM

Tell me.

EVE

You promise you won't be mad?

ADAM

Eve, what have you done now?

EVE

Well, you see...sex has certain consequences.

ADAM

What? I thought you read all about it.

EVE

I did, and you see, sometimes sex causes things to happen.

ADAM

You should have done more research.

EVE

Adam, Cain is your son.

Adam drops his briefcase.

ADAM

You found my son in the woods?

EVE
No, I made that up.

ADAM
You lied?

EVE
No, I just didn't tell the truth.

ADAM
So, where did you find him?

EVE
I gave birth to him.

Adam slumps onto the couch.

ADAM
When did that happen?

EVE
While you were away hunting.

ADAM
But how was he...? You knew sex made babies?

EVE
Yes.

ADAM
It didn't occur to you that I would want to know my son?

Abel starts to giggle. Adam looks at him.

ADAM
Is this one mine too?

EVE
Of course.

ADAM
I have two sons that I have never known?

EVE
I know it's a lot to take in. Take your time.

ADAM
Take my time? I have been gone for months with no idea. So they are my offspring.

EVE

There is plenty of time to get to know them. I want you to name him. What does he look like to you?

ADAM

I don't know. But, I'm sure you'll tell me.

EVE

No. I want you to come up with it on your own.

ADAM

Why? You've never let me do anything for myself my whole life.

EVE

That's not true. You go off and do things alone all the time.

ADAM

I leave because I have to. It is just so loud here with you. If I didn't leave, you would have sucked away everything that I am by now. From the moment I met you, all you have done is changed my world. You named everything in the Garden, picked out all the furniture for the house, and had our children without telling me.

EVE

I let you buy that awful La-Z-Boy.

ADAM

But, I never would have needed it if you hadn't been so selfish and gotten us kicked out of paradise.

EVE

You've been lying to me too.

ADAM

How do you figure?

EVE

You can't stand me.

ADAM

That's not what I said.

EVE

You've hated me all this time and kept it to yourself.

ADAM

Eve...

EVE

I know when I must leave.

Eve kisses Abel on the forehead and begins to leave.

ADAM

You can't leave me...I don't know what to do...

EVE

Neither did I, but I did it alone.

Eve walks out. Adam looks down at Abel. Suddenly he pinches his nose at an awful smell.

ADAM

What...

Adam tries to follow the smell. It leads to Abel.

ADAM

Do you not know where the bathroom is?

Abel giggles and claps his hands. Adam keeps his nose pinched as he tries to avoid being near Abel.

ADAM

She'll be back at any moment. Really, she'll see how absolutely silly this all is. She'll come right back and she'll get rid of this awful smell.

TV ANCHORMAN

Today in the United States, being raised by a single parent is not uncommon. About three in ten children live in a single parent home. The most common type of single parent home is one with only a mother. However, single father homes are the fastest growing type of family situation. The amount of single fathers has grown by 60% in the last ten years alone.

ADAM

Cain!

Cain walks out on stage.

CAIN

Woah, little man finished off those diapers.

ADAM

Diapers?

CAIN

Yeah, of course he's not potty trained yet.

ADAM

Can you take him to the bathroom? Or show me where to get a new one of those things?

CAIN

No way man. I am not my little brother's daiper keeper.

ADAM

So what do you do around here?

CAIN

Mostly eat, watch TV, and complain.

ADAM

At least the creature has learned honesty.

CAIN

Can you stop calling me a creature?

ADAM

What should I call you?

CAIN

My name.

ADAM

Fine. Cain, remove this thing from the room so Adam can have some time to think.

CAIN

You're not the boss of me.

ADAM

I am too your boss. Now, get this awful smell away from me and do it quietly.

CAIN

La, la, la, not listening, not listening.

ADAM

I know you can hear me.

CAIN

Can't hear you. My ears are broken. La-la-la.

ABEL

La-la-la.

ADAM

Fine, if you won't listen to me...I'll go get Eve. You'll listen to her.

CAIN

I have no idea what you are saying. La-la-la-la.

ABEL

La-la-la.

ADAM

What do you want? Just stop yelling.

CAIN

La-la-la.

ABEL

La-la-la.

ADAM

I've got lots of food.

CAIN

Nice try. La-la-la.

ADAM

I can go out and buy you all kinds of video games. The new Z-Cube 4000 was just released.

CAIN

I won't fall for that. La-la-la.

Eve enters downstage near the television. Abel starts to cry.

ADAM

Why are you leaking? I have not dropped you on your head like your brother.

CAIN

You dropped me on my head when I was a baby?

ADAM

It was purely for the good of science.

CAIN

You're a quack. No wonder Mom never told us about you.

ADAM

She never told you that you had a father?

CAIN

Of course she did. She reminded me every day and said that you would be home soon. But she never told me that you were a totally cuckoo weirdo.

ADAM
Did she tell you where we are from?

CAIN
Yeah. Wisconsin. Duh.

ADAM
Close enough.

Abel lets loose another awful smell.

ADAM
How do we make him stop leaking and smelling so awful?

CAIN
Once again, not my job.

Cain goes over to sit on the couch. He watches TV. Adam takes Abel's hand and tries to lead him to the refrigerator.

ADAM
Alright, you. We're gonna take you over here, rinse you off and clean out that...What's it called?

CAIN
Diaper.

ADAM
We're gonna rinse that sucker out. I think we should start with some ice to neutralize the worst of the noxious fumes.

Cain gets bored with the TV and starts to bang on his TV tray.

ADAM
Cain! Not now.

Cain continues banging. Eve gets up from sitting and comes into the living room. She sees Adam about to dump a handful of ice into Abel's diaper and Cain drumming up a storm.

CAIN
Mom?

ADAM
Eve?

ABEL
Ma-ma-la-la?

EVE

Cain, stop banging on that and driving your father crazy.
Your TV privileges are suspended for a month.

CAIN

I always get in trouble. No fair.

EVE

Adam, drop the ice. He just needs a diaper change.

ADAM

I am doing just fine here. I have everything under control.

EVE

Adam, why do we keep pretending?

ADAM

I have no idea what you are talking about.

EVE

Yes you do. We both know why we are here.

ADAM

We're here because this was the first open lot we could find
in this subdivision.

EVE

It is so much more than that.

ADAM

Well, we're here because we had to leave the Garden.

EVE

But before that?

Abel grabs onto Eve's leg. Cain turns
to watch his mother and father talk.

ADAM

Before that...before that I was supposed to name the birds,
animals, and fish. I was supposed to define the world. But
then you were created.

EVE

But then I was created.

ADAM

And everything was turned upside down.

EVE

I came to live in the Garden and share it with you.

ADAM

But you made it something different than it was. You made it new. You made it yours..

EVE

I just wanted everything to remind you of me, but you hated that.

ADAM

I hated it so much. Before I even knew what hate was, I knew I felt it.

EVE

I never, ever wanted to do anything to make you hate me, Adam. I am so sorry.

ADAM

But I could not forget you. I could not let you leave me alone again.

EVE

Adam, I can not leave you. I was created to be with you. You are a man and I am a woman. You are masculine and you are mine. I am feminine and I am yours. Any moment away from you draws me back. The only way I survived so long while you have been travelling was to always have a part of you with me.

ADAM

What part did you have?

EVE

I was able to be brave while we were apart because of these boys.

CAIN

This is better than TV.

EVE

I want you to name our second son.

Adam bends down and catches a huge whiff of the smell again.

ADAM

You, my smelly little son, have given us the ability to see ourselves for what we are. From now we will be able to create our own world. And starting right now you shall be called...

CAIN

No, fair. Dad is naming him?

ADAM
 Hmm...geor....no....

CAIN
 This is so stupid.

EVE
 (to Cain)
 Hush. Your father needs his quiet to think.

ADAM
 Geor...nel...ste...jos.....

EVE
 Take your time.

ADAM
 Chr...is...dan...ky....

EVE
 Keep trying. Do you need something to write on?

Eve grabs his legal pad and gives him a pen.

ADAM
 Thanks.

EVE
 You can do this.

ADAM
 Any ideas?

EVE
 Not a single one. Just keep trying until you are able...

ADAM
 Abel! His name is Abel!

Abel looks up with a smile.

EVE
 It is the perfect name.

ABEL
 Da-da.

ADAM
 That's right. I am your da-da.

CAIN
 You're my dad too.

ADAM

So this is a human baby?

EVE

Does da-da want to get rid of that smell?

ADAM

(nervously)

Sure. But can you show me how?

EVE

Of course.

ADAM

Cain, can you come with us?

CAIN

But, my favorite program is about to come on.

ADAM

You can watch television later.

CAIN

But...

ADAM

No, buts. Come with us.

CAIN

Why?

ADAM

Because now that I am home, I want to get to know you. I have to catch up on all the things I missed.

Cain thinks for a moment.

CAIN

Well, if you are going to put it that way...Let's go toss around a ball!

He goes charging offstage. Adam, Abel, and Eve, follow.

TV ANCHORMAN

Baseball and street hockey are suburbanite past times. Even though some children out grow it quickly, there is always a new generation of neighborhood kids to hit the streets. In their teenage years, suburban kids have the potential to get into more trouble than their rural counterparts.

Cain and Abel, now teenagers, walk onstage. Abel wears a shirt with his name on it. Cain's shirt is blank.

CAIN

Our parents are so lame.

ABEL

Eh, they're not so bad.

CAIN

You're such a Momma's boy.

ABEL

Stop being an asshole. You're supposed to be baby sitting me so stop being a jerk.

CAIN

Spoiled brat.

ABEL

I don't want to fight with you.

CAIN

Pussy.

ABEL

You're not supposed to use bad words like that.

CAIN

You just said asshole.

ABEL

Yeah, but if I tell on you, you'll be in so much trouble. They'll ground you for a week.

CAIN

You bastard.

ABEL

If I'm a bastard so are you.

Cain raises his hand to hit Abel.

CAIN

I can't wait to beat the shit out of you at football practice.

ABEL

Oh, I'm so scared. Good luck trying to catch me.

Adam and Eve come in.

EVE

You boys have a good day?

CAIN

Yeah, just great.

ADAM

Hey, Cain. You want to take the car for a spin tonight?

Adam tosses him the keys.

CAIN

Yeah, can I really?

ADAM

Of course. But you have to take Abel with you.

ABEL

I have to go to the mall to get some stuff.

CAIN

The mall's for babies.

EVE

If your brother wants to go, you have to take him.

ADAM

Or no car.

CAIN

I hate this. Same crap, different day.

EVE

Cain, language.

CAIN

It's not fair. You give me the keys, but it's so I can drag him around.

ADAM

Sometimes we have to do things for other people.

CAIN

That's stupid.

ADAM

Then give the keys back.

CAIN

Fine, let's go moron.

EVE

Cain, be nice.

See ya later.

ABEL

Cain walks out slowly behind Abel.
Adam and Eve sit on the couch.

ADAM

They grow up.

EVE

Yes they do. And soon Cain will be going to college.

ADAM

Crazy.

EVE

And Abel will be driving.

ADAM

Scary.

EVE

And then they will both graduate from colleges.

ADAM

And start their own families.

EVE

They will get their own houses.

ADAM

In different suburbs.

EVE

They will move away from us.

ADAM

They will have their own lives.

EVE

And their own children.

ADAM

They will sit and watch them grow too.

EVE

And you and I will be alone in this house again.

ADAM

We will have this place all to ourselves.

EVE

It will be so...

Quiet.

ADAM AND EVE

They let the silence sit. Cain comes back on stage with Abel's shirt. It is covered in blood.

Cain?

ADAM

Cain rips the shirt in half.

What have you done?

ADAM

Nothing. I dropped Abel off at the mall. When I came back, I found his shirt.

CAIN

Where did you go?

EVE

Some place else.

CAIN

What happened to Abel?

EVE

I don't care.

CAIN

Adam grabs Cain by the shirt.

You let him get hurt?

ADAM

So what?

CAIN

Out. Out of this house.

ADAM

Adam, wait...

EVE

You are not welcome here. You are a murderer.

ADAM

I did not lay a finger on him.

CAIN

And you did not care enough to try to save him.

ADAM

CAIN

He was not my problem.

ADAM

Get out of here. I don't want to see you ever again.

EVE

We can't just throw him out. He's our child.

ADAM

He may be your son, but no son of mine would let his only brother die.

CAIN

So you admit it? You never wanted me to be your son. You always liked Abel better.

ADAM

Cain, I could only give you as much love as you were willing to take.

Cain drops the bloody shirt.

EVE

Why Cain? Why did you let him die?

CAIN

Jealousy. Jealousy and resentment. They give me my power.

EVE

Adam, he must leave.

ADAM

If I never hear his name again, I will be happy.

CAIN

I won't miss you. I won't miss any of this.

Cain exits.

EVE

I have to leak.

ADAM

Me too.

EVE

This is all my fault. I never told you about him before it was too late. He never knew you.

ADAM

This is my fault for not loving him enough. I could have tried harder to get help him grow up.

EVE

If we hadn't left the Garden, none of this would ever have happened.

ADAM

If you had never taken from the Tree of Knowledge...

EVE

If you had never been jealous for the first time...

ADAM AND EVE

If we had never been created.

TV ANCHORMAN

That's all for Real Life in Suburbs tonight. Catch us next week when we take a closer look at washers and dryers. How do you get the best suds and heat for your buck? We'll answer all of your questions. I'd like to thank our sponsors - Samuel Clemens Electronics. Don't rough it...go to Clemens.

Adam and Eve exit. The stage is empty, the TV Anchorman comes out of the television. He takes off his anchorman outfit and underneath is his Janitor's costume. He stretches and shakes off his stiffness.

JANITOR

Phew. Glad that's done with. So, that about wraps all that up. Stories not quite over, but you guys got the idea.

He begins to move around the stage to roll the set pieces off. The TV is the first to go.

JANITOR

Of course, Adam and Eve mourned. They did not have any more children. But, they did not let the loneliness destroy them.

He rolls off the bookshelf.

JANITOR

They stayed in this house, quiet as it was.

The refrigerator goes off.

JANITOR

They did not change in the way that makes couples sad. But, they continued to second guess and underestimate each other. Adam still sought silence and Eve still sought companionship. But, in the end, they just kept finding each other despite all their differences.

The La-Z-Boy goes off.

JANITOR

The years started to take their toll a little more on Eve than Adam. Maybe it was raising the boys alone, maybe it was the housework, maybe it was just living so much all the time.

The Janitor gathers up the TV trays and various props that are left. He signals for the lights at the back of the stage to go off. The couch and play pen remain in a small pool of light.

JANITOR

Eve passed away in the morning with Adam by her side.

Adam, now very old enters. He is startled by the empty room, but he accepts it. He shuffles over to the couch. Before he can sit, the Janitor starts to roll it off.

JANITOR

On his last day, Adam was just as he was on his first.

Adam goes to the play pen and picks up a few of the stuffed animals.

JANITOR

(to Adam)

You still miss the Garden?

ADAM

No.

The Janitor rolls off the play pen and returns with his broom.

ADAM

I know now that I have never missed it. Wherever she was, there was Eden.

The Janitor starts to sweep Adam off. He goes willingly.

Curtain.