



Oh, Those Eyes!

by David Christopher

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The play takes place in 1956, in Lake Forest College,
Lake Forest, Illinois, New York City and in between.

CHARACTERS:

David: (20s, brunette, gay, but unaware and ignorant of that lifestyle)

Charlie: (20s, a college student, drama major like David)

Gary: (20s, a college student, David's roommate)

Roz: (20s, a college student, needy, wants to date David)

Kurt: (30-40, a businessman)

Buster: (20s, a surly greaser-type)

Dwight: (20-30s, a waiter in a gay bar)

Joey: (20s, slender, nice looking, gay guy)

Oliver: (50-60s, flamboyant man, "an old queen")

Eric: (20s, a handsome, blond, blue eyed, beauty)

Edward: (20s, a college actor)

Actors needed: 6 Male, 1 Female

Multiple character actors:

Actor 1: Charlie & Dwight

Actor 2: Gary & Buster

Actor 3: Joey, Eric & Edward

Scene Breakdown

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3	Opening Night of "Dark of the Moon"	Backstage	8
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11	3 days later	Julius' Bar	27
12	Sunday morning	Oliver's apartment	30
13	20 minutes later	Kurt's car	36
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15	A little later	College Cafeteria	45
16	Opening Night of "The Mousetrap"	Men's dressing room	48

Scene One

(It is October in David's college dorm room. Gary, his roommate, sits at desk, Charlie, a fraternity brother, enters)

Charlie: Gary, have you seen David? I heard there's some problem over at the theater with *Dark of the Moon*. Since he's the assistant director, he must know what it is.

Gary: No, I haven't seen him all day. He got up before I was awake.

Charlie: Roz told me that Professor Connors called him out of art class.

Gary: I hope he's not in trouble. He was late for rehearsal last night because he was helping me with my set design for *The Mousetrap*. I'll feel rotten if he got in trouble because of me.

Charlie: Well, we'll find out soon enough. Here he comes.

(David comes rushing into the room, he is in a bit of a panic)

David: Breaking news: Jim Phillips got kicked out of the play. Some trouble with the Chicago police.

Gary: My God! Is he in jail?

David: No, but he got picked up for driving while intoxicated. He has to go to court next week. His parents have been called. But the Dean told him he couldn't be in the play.

Charlie: That's horrible. What part was he playing?

David: That's just it. He got cast because he's a terrific guitarist, and the role of Uncle Smelicue has to play folk songs throughout the play.

Gary: Yeah, I heard him at one of the folk concerts, and he was great.

David: And he was pretty good in the part, too.

Charlie: So, what are they gonna do to replace him.

David: You're not going to believe this. Connors told me I had two weeks to learn to play the guitar. He wants me to play the role of Uncle Smelicue!

Gary: Have you ever played the guitar?

David: Never! I've never even picked one up. And the guy plays all through the show. I'm going to make a fool of myself.

Charlie: Well, I can't help you, I've never played one either.

Gary: God knows, I haven't.

David: I just don't know what I'm gonna do. But Connors was adamant about it. He said that I already knew all the lines and blocking, so I'd just have to learn guitar, "Toot Sweet!"

Charlie: Would Jim be able to teach you?

David: No, he's been sent home. Do you know anyone at school that plays the guitar?

Gary: Nah.

Charlie: Why don't you try the music department, maybe there's someone over there that can teach you.

David: Good idea, Charlie, thanks.

Charlie: You should, at least, be pleased that you're in the play, now, and not the just the assistant director.

David: I guess, but I'm afraid I'll screw up the guitar stuff, and ruin it. I better get over to the Music Department. Jeeze, I'm really not ready for this. (*exits*)

Charlie: I'm glad he'll be acting in this one, now. I was surprised that Connors didn't give him the role of The Witch Boy.

Gary: He told David that he needed behind-the-scenes experience, not just acting.

Charlie: Yeah, Connors is big on that. He won't approve of anyone for Alpha Psi Omega that hasn't done their share of backstage work.

Gary: (*laughs*) And David hates that kind of stuff. He's never touched a paint brush on a set, as far as I know. So maybe being assistant director will be good for him.

(Fade Out)

Scene Two

*(On Campus, David walking toward the Music Building,
Roz rushes up to him.)*

Roz: Hey, David, where are you headed?

David: Off to the Music Building.

Roz: Mind if I come along?

David: Sure, Roz.

Roz: What are you doing over there. I thought you were a theater major.

David: I'm looking for someone to teach me how to play the guitar.

Roz: Does that mean that you are taking the role that Jimmy had? I heard that he has been suspended.

David: I don't think he's suspended. He just can't do the play. And yes, I'm taking that role. "More's the pity".

Roz: Oh, I think you'll be wonderful in that role.

David: But for it, I need to play the damn guitar, and I haven't a clue how.

Roz: Oh, I play a little. I've been in the folk singing club and I picked up a few chords. I bet I could teach you.

David: Wow, that's great, Roz. Do you have a guitar?

Roz: It's not a very good one, but you could certainly learn on it. Maybe they'll get you a better one for the show. I'd really love to give you lessons.

David: I only have two weeks to get down all those songs that Uncle Smelicue is supposed to play, and sing.

Roz: Oh, I know most of them, and they're easy. Folk songs only use a few chords. I could teach them to you in a snap.

David: The longest one is "Barbara Allen", it's got, like, 12 verses.

Roz: Yeah, but they all use the same 3 chords, over and over. Once you have those, you just repeat them. It's like C-D7-G, with maybe an F thrown in.

David: OK, if you think I could learn them. Let's get started soon, because I'm very nervous about this.

Roz: But listen, I'm starving, 'cause I didn't have time for lunch. Could we sit here a minute so I can grab a little nosh that I brought with me?

David: I guess. But I do want to get my hands on a guitar.

Roz: Oh sure, but just let me feed my face first. We've got hard work to do.

David: O.K.

Roz: *(they sit on a bench; she takes out a sandwich from her purse)*
This is so great that we're working together again. I don't have much to do in the play, but it's gonna be much more fun if you're in it. I thought Connors was mean making you be the assistant director, but now you'll be able to do some acting, and I, for one, am "deeeelighted".

David: You won't be if I screw up the guitar playing.

Roz: But I don't think that Jimmy was very good in the role, except for the folk singin', you'll be much better. I laughed so hard when you were Uncle Sid, in *Ah, Wilderness*. You're really a wonderful actor. Is that what you want to be when you graduate?

David: Yes, that's certainly my goal.

Roz: Well, you'll be a big star, I'm sure. I don't know if that's what I want to do. I'll probably just be a housewife, like Harriet Nelson. You know of *Ozzie and Harriet*? I just need to find me an Ozzie *(she giggles and nudges him)*. Do you think you'll go to New York, or stay here in Chicago?

David: Chicago is just a cow-town. The theater here is rotten, except for the touring companies that come in from New York. I'm going to move there as soon as I graduate.

Roz: That will be Chicago's loss. *(she's finished eating and puts the bag in her purse)* Well, what are you waiting for? Let's get going, we have some serious pickin' and strummin' to do, to get you ready for the show. *(they get up and start to walk.)* You are gonna be a regular Burl Ives when I'm done with you. Where do you think the best place to have our lesson is? Do you want to come up to my room? *(she giggles)* No, probably not, the matron of our dorm would have a cow! But we can use the parlor, if you wouldn't be too embarrassed with the other girls walking around..... *(they exit)*

(Fade Out)

Scene Three

(Backstage after opening night of "Dark of the Moon".

David is holding a guitar; Roz comes up to him.)

Roz: There you are, David. You were great tonight. How do you feel about tonight's show?

David: God, I'm just glad I got through it. I've never been so nervous in my life.

Roz: I would have never known it, you looked cool as a cucumber. And you didn't make one mistake on the guitar.

David: I'm surprised, my hands were shaking the whole time. I can't believe they found the right places on the strings.

Roz: It never sounded wrong at all. Trust me. I was listening very carefully.

David: Well, I'm just glad it's over. I hope I'll feel more relaxed tomorrow night.

(Charlie and Gary enter, they come up to David)

Charlie: Wow, David. I can't believe how well you played the guitar. How did you ever learn it so fast?

Gary: Oh, he's been playing that damn thing in the room until all hours of the night. But I got to admit, buddy, it really paid off. You sounded very professional.

David: I wouldn't say that, but at least I didn't make a fool of myself. Thanks to Roz, here. She's the one who taught me. *(he puts his arm around her)*

Roz: Oh, come on, David, you did all the work.

Charlie: And you had to sing too. That must be rough doing both at the same time.

David: It was, but at least I made it through opening night. What did you guys think of the rest of the play?

Gary: It's a weird play, but I enjoyed it.

Charlie: Yeah, that revival scene was far out. And I thought Susie was beautiful as Barbara Allen.

Gary: She was freakin' great, I couldn't keep my eyes off her. Gorgeous.

Roz: Yes, she did alright. But it was Mike, as Witch Boy, who was gorgeous! When he took off his shirt, when he became a witch – Woah!

Gary: Didn't you date Susie in high school?

David: No, we hung out my senior year, but we didn't really date. We went to several plays in Chicago together.

Roz: Well, you're not dating her now, are you?

David: No, Roz, I told you, we're just friends.

Gary: Maybe I'll try to get to know her better, then.

Charlie: Gary, give it up. She's way out of your league.

Gary: Aw, shut up. You never know what I'm capable of.

David: Are you guys coming to the cast party?

Gary: I'll definitely come. I want to get to know Susie a little better.

Charlie: (*sarcastically*) Good luck with that.

Gary: Just watch me.

Charlie: I want Connors to remember me, when I try out for the next play. He hasn't seen me at auditions for a while.

David: Do you want to be in, *The Mousetrap*, that's what's next?

Charlie: Sure, if there's a part for me.

Roz: I want to do the proprietor of the hotel. It's the best female role. I can jolly-well work on my bloody, British accent (*she says in a bad British accent*).

Gary: I don't know that play, I'll have to read it.

David: Well, I gotta get changed, you guys, we'll see you over there. (*the boys exit*)

Roz: Bye, boys, thanks for coming back to see us. David, we can go over together, if you want.

David: Sure, Roz, just let me get out of this stinkin' Smelicue costume.

(*Fade Out*)

Scene Four

(Roz and David enter the lounge of the women's dorm)

Roz: Thanks for walking me back to the dorm, sweetie. Do you want to sit in the lounge a while? All the girls seem to be tucked away in beddy-bye, so we'll have the place to ourselves.

David: Uh, sure, for a bit. I've got an English Lit paper due this week, so I should do some work on it tonight. *(they sit)*

Roz: I really loved that movie, Davey, it was so romantic. The story of Anastasia is fascinating.

David: I could tell you liked it better than the last movie I took you to.

Roz: Oh, that awful "Iggybar" Bergman thing! *(in a bad Swedish accent)*
Yaw, vood you like oon game off chaass, Meester? Yuck, if I wanna play chess with anyone, it wouldn't be by some creepy, dead guy.

David: *(laughing)* Roz, you have the worst Swedish accent I've ever heard.

Roz: *(smiling and snuggling into him)* *Yaw, but you lawf me anyway, right?*

David: And he wasn't dead, he was Death. *The Seventh Seal* is a piece of art, but I understand why you didn't enjoy it.

Roz: And I don't get why foreign movies have to be in black and white. We invented Technicolor, so why can't they use it too?

David: Well, I think it added to the mood of the film.

Roz: Yeah, black! *(she does a Dracula imitation)*. *Blaaaah, I vant to play chaaaas mit yoooo!*

(she reaches over and bites his neck) (They laugh)

But tonight, *Anastasia*, IN COLOR, that was just wonderful. I thought Yul Brenner was so sexy, I couldn't understand why she didn't just fall into his arms at the very beginning. Like I did for you during our guitar lessons.

David: *(putting his arm around her)* You're the best, Roz. *(putting his arm back)*

Roz: *(confused by this)* You can keep your arm there, ya know, I won't break.

David: I know, I just got a cramp in my shoulder. So, what's the favorite movie we've seen together. I think mine was *Baby Doll*; what great acting from everyone in that film.

Roz: But it was in black and white, too. And I couldn't stand that actress who played Baby Doll, such a simpering simp. *(she sucks her thumb and gets a simpy face)* Who sleeps in a crib, for cripes sake? *(David laughs)* My favorite was *The Court Jester*. I know you liked Danny Kaye in that one.

David: I sure did! I'm a big fan. I've seen all his movies since I was a kid.

Roz: "The pellet with the poison's in the vessel with the pestle,
D *(joins her)* The chalice with the palace has the brew that is true." *(they laugh together)*

Roz: Oh, sweetie, you and Danny Kaye are soul brothers. I think you'll be a big star like he is. *(she nuzzles closer to him).*

David: That's nice to hear, Roz, thanks, but I have a long way to go.

Roz: You're as sexy as Yul is. Gimme a kiss, big boy. *(he leans in and awkwardly kisses her)* You know, honey, you can go farther than just a kiss with me.
(she takes his hand and puts it on her breast. He gently pulls it away.)

David: Oh, Roz, it doesn't feel right, somehow.

Roz: But we're a couple now. I'd even go all the way, if you wanted to.

David: Oh, I don't think we're ready for that – we're too young.

Roz: Oh honey, we're in college now. And it's 1956; you should hear the stuff the girls in this dorm are up to. Joan told me in secret that she's worried that Oscar made her pregnant.

David: See, that's what I mean, that shouldn't be a problem for college kids. And they aren't even going steady, are they?

Roz: Joan wants to, but Oscar is too much of a playboy. *(snuggling up to him, she takes on a deep Southern accent)* But, Ah jist know, youah the marryin'-kind. So, whah cain't we fool around, jist a li'l bitty bit? *(she puts his hand on her crotch)*

David: I respect you too much, Roz. I wouldn't want to take advantage of you that way. *(embarrassed, he removes his hand)*

Roz: *(baby voice)* Pwetty pweeze.....

David: I'm sorry, Roz, I just wasn't brought up that way.

Roz: Oh, okay Davey, I understand, but just know that you can, if you want to.

David: Sure, thanks. Well, I think I should be going back to the dorm and get to work on that paper. It's been a great evening, Roz. I'll see you tomorrow. *(he leans in and gives her a quick kiss and exits)*

(Fade Out)

Scene Five

(It's March, in David's college dorm room. Gary is at the desk studying. Charlie is lying on the bed reading a magazine, David enters)

Charlie: Hey, David, how did your audition for *The Mousetrap* go? I left early.

David: Gosh, I don't know. I auditioned for Miles, the proprietor's husband, and Major Metcalf, but Old Connors asked me to read for Christopher Wren.

Charlie: He only had me read for Detective Sergeant Trotter, so if I get anything, it will be that.

Gary: And David, I know you wanted to be the proprietor, because Roz should be cast as his wife, and you two have been goin' at it hot and heavy since *Dark of the Moon*.

David: Yeah, that would be fun, but I'm pretty sure Connors is going to cast me as that Wren character.

Charlie: What's he supposed to be?

David: *(he looks at the character list)* It says: "Wren is a hyperactive young man who acts in a very peculiar manner, very flamboyant." I don't think I'd know how to do that.

Gary: I didn't even want to try out for this one. A stupid Agatha Christie mystery.

Charlie: I think it's a good play, it got great reviews when it opened in London, and it's been running for 4 years.

David: Connors saw it in London and said it was the most difficult ticket to get.

Gary: I'm waiting for *Tea and Sympathy* next year. I want to play the coach.

Charlie: They'll let us know soon, since rehearsals begin right after Spring Break.

David: So, guys, what are you planning to do on Spring Break?

Gary: Oh, I donno, just hang around here, I guess.

Charlie: I thought I might go into Chicago for a couple days and stay with my aunt. Maybe see a play or two.

Gary: That sounds pretty neat. Maybe I'll come in with you. I wouldn't mind seeing *Pajama Game* at the Lyric. What about you, David, wanna come?

David: I sure would like to see some shows, but I got a better idea. Why don't we go to New York City and see some real Broadway shows?

Charlie: Woah! That's wild. Have you ever been to New York?

David: Only once, when I was in Junior High. I went with my parents. I thought the city was amazing.

Charlie: You really think we could go to New York for our Spring Break?

David: Why not. You both have cars, so we could take turns driving one of them and be there in under a day.

Gary: But where would we stay?

David: There's always the YMCA, it's cheap and I know there's one on 34th Street. It was down the street from the hotel my parents and I stayed in.

Charlie: That sure sounds like fun. I'd love to see a real Broadway play, not just a touring company. I'll talk to my parents and see if they will give me the money for it. Without that, there is no way I could go for a whole week.

David: We have a couple weeks to prepare, but I think it would definitely be a blast.

(Fade Out)

Scene Six

(On Campus, Ros is waiting for David, who finally shows up.)

Roz: There you are, David, how's my honey-bunny today?

David: Oh, hi Roz, have you been waiting long?

Roz: Just 10 minutes or so. Did you get cast in *The Mousetrap*?

David: I don't know what I got yet; I haven't checked.

Roz: I got Mollie Ralston, the proprietor. So, I hope you got Giles, and we can play husband and wife. Wouldn't that be fun, honey.

David: Sure, but I think he's gonna give me that creepy character, Christopher Wren. I'm not thrilled about it.

Roz: I saw that he had you read for Wren, but who knows. So, let's go to the theater now and find out. I just know how much fun we'd have as the Ralstons.

David: But first, I have some exciting news. Guess where I'm going on Spring Break?

Roz: I was hoping that you'd come up to our house in Wisconsin. It's right on the lake and the whole family will be there. I want you to meet them. My mother's a far-out cook. And there's plenty of room in the lake house.

David: I'm sorry Roz, but I just worked out with Gary and Charlie that we're going to New York for the week and see lots of Broadway shows. One of them will drive his car, and we'll be there a whole week.

Roz: Oh, that's cool, I guess, but I already told mother that you might come. She'll be disappointed.

David: That's too bad, Roz, but I never told you that I would come visit your family. (*she makes a pouty, disappointed face.*) But just look at the list of plays that are playing on Broadway right now. I went to the library and got a current edition of the New York Times. (*he pulls out the Times*) *South Pacific* is still playing, *Auntie Mame* with Rosalind Russell, and there's a new musical opening called *My Fair Lady* with Rex Harrison. It's in previews now, but it opens the week of Spring Break.

Roz: (*she looks at the list with not much interest*) Cool. So, let's go see if you're going to be my *Mousetrap* husband!

David: OK. (*they exit*)

(*Fade Out*)

Scene Seven

(In David's college dorm, one week later.
David is at the desk studying. Gary enters)

Gary: Knock it off with the studying, David, let's go to the PUB for some cold ones.

David: I'm not studying, Gary, I'm writing down all the shows that are playing in New York that we'll want to try to see. Look at this list. *Happy Hunting* with Ethel Merman, *Li'l Abner*, *Bells are Ring*.....

Gary: Yeah, yeah, but we're not gonna see any of those shows.

David: Sure, we will. I'm sure most of them have tickets available. And Leonard Bernstein has a new musical out, called *Candide*, that should be far-out.

Gary: Yeah, but I mean we aren't really going to New York.

David: What do you mean? We're going to be there a whole week; we can see lots of shows.

Gary: So, you were really serious about this? I thought it was just a pipe dream. You know, like in *Ice Man Cometh*.

David: No. Not a pipe dream, a real dream. A plan! I thought we talked about this.

Gary: I'd rather just go into Chicago for a couple days. I have other things to work on over Spring Break.

David: But, but, I've made plans already. I found a place for us to stay, the 34th St. YMCA.

(*Charlie Enters*)

Charlie: Hey David, you never told me, which part did Connors give you?

David: Charlie! You're not going to believe it. Gary has copped out on our trip to New York. And look at all the shows that are playing now, and.....

Charlie: Um. Gosh. Didn't I tell you?

David: What?

Charlie: Well, I can't go either. My folks wouldn't give me the money, and they want me to go home, since I didn't go at Christmas.

David: Are you kidding. I've made all the arrangements and I can't believe you are both crapping out on this. We were going in one of your cars. How am I supposed to get there, now?

Gary: Cool it, David, I didn't think you were really planning to go through with it.

Charlie: Yeah, I'm very sorry, David. Maybe next year. Anyway, you should be working on *Mousetrap*. What part did you get?

David: Oh, that Christopher creep. I'm not even in the mood to look at it.

Charlie: You'll have fun with him. I know you.

David: All I can think about now is how the hell am I going to get to New York! I don't intend to give up on this trip, I've made too many plans. I'm not giving up.

Gary: (*embarrassed pause*) Ya know, sometimes there are ads in the personal columns in the paper about sharing rides places. Maybe you can find someone to drive you.

Charlie: My brother did that. He hitched a ride down to New Orleans last year for Mardi Gras. He had a ball and the guys he went with were cool cats.

Gary: Here's a copy of the Trib, maybe you can find something in there.

David: Well, lemme look at it. But I'm really bugged at you guys. (*David grabs the newspaper searching until he finds something, the others are feeling guilty about the trip, but try to cover*).

Charlie: (*to Gary*) How'd you do on the new set design assignment? I'm having a rough time with that.

Gary: I ripped up my design three times before I got something I thought might work. But that scene really has no clear purpose.

Charlie: Lemme see what you came up with, I haven't gotten anything on paper, yet.

Gary: Well, I got something, but I don't think it's very good. (*he searches through his papers*)

David: Hey, look at this. (*he reads from the paper*) "Driving to New York from Chicago in mid-March. Would like an extra driver to share driving and expenses. If interested, call Kurt Peterson, HA4-4039".

Gary: That's just the kinda thing I was talking about.

David: Gosh, I'm gonna give him a call. It can't hurt, and this guy may be my ticket to New York. *(he rushes out of the room to the phone in the hall)*

Hello? Is this Kurt Peterson. *(listens)* Well, I read your ad in the Tribune and I'd be very interested in riding with you to New York. *(listens)* Oh, well, can you at least meet me, I'm a good driver and I'm very keen on this trip, so I'd really appreciate the chance to talk with you about it. *(listens)* Oh, thank you, thank you. Where should I go and when? *(listens and takes down information)* Thank you again, I'll be there right on time. *(hangs up and runs back into his room)*

Gary: So, how'd it go, did you reach him?

David: Yes, but he said that he may already have a rider. But I'm going up to his office tomorrow to talk with him, and I'll beg, plead and grovel, if I must.

Charlie: I hope this works out for you; I do feel bad that we let you down.

David: You're the ones that will be sorry when you hear all the shows I'm going to see.

(Fade Out)

Scene Eight

(Kurt's office in the Hancock building in Chicago.

Kurt sits at his desk. David enters)

Kurt: Hello, there, you must be David. Come on in. I'm Kurt, Kurt Peterson.

David: Boy, this is a far-out building. I've never been up in one of these skyscrapers before. The elevator ride made my stomach fall to my knees. And what a great view from this window! *(realizing that he's rambling)*
Oh, sorry, I got carried away. Thank you so much for seeing me.

Kurt: Not at all. You sounded anxious over the phone.

David: Well, you said in your ad that you were driving to New York and needed someone to share the driving and expenses. I'm your man!

Kurt: Yes, I got that on the phone. But as I told you, the trouble is that I already have someone. A guy came up yesterday and he's willing to share the trip with me.

David: Oh, but please, couldn't you have two of us in your car. I'll travel light and I'm a good driver. I've been dreaming of this trip all year.

Kurt: If you've been planning this all year, why don't you have transportation.

David: Well, I wanted to go during my Spring Break, and these two friends of mine from college said they would like to go, too. They each have a car, so one of them was going to drive. But then, after I made all the plans, they both copped out on me and now I have no ride. So, if I could possibly come with you, that would solve my problem.

Kurt: You could always fly. There are flights into Idlewild every day.

David: That's very expensive, and I'm saving as much as I can to get tickets to Broadway shows. If I came with you, we'd split expenses three ways.

Kurt: You say you have a driver's license. (*David nods*) Well, the thing is, my car is a convertible, so it hasn't much trunk space since the top folds down in that space.

David: Oh, I won't be taking much with me at all, I can put it on my lap, if necessary.

Kurt: (*amused*) That probably won't be necessary. Why is it you want to go to New York so much?

David: I'm a theater major at Lake Forest College and I've never even seen a play on Broadway. So, I plan to see as much theater as I can.

Kurt: Oh, you like theater, huh? (*chuckling, getting a sense of David*) I kinda figured you as a "drama" guy. Are you an actor or what? You are good looking enough.

David: Oh, I don't know about that, but I love to act. I've been doing it since I was little. My first part was in first grade. I was the errant mushroom in The Nutcracker Suite. I jumped around doing everything different from the other mushrooms. I got laughs, and I was hooked.

Kurt: Well, I suppose I could fit you in. (*Kurt finds David quite charming*)

David: Oh, thank you, thank you. You won't regret it, I promise. When do you plan to go?

Kurt: I'll be leaving on Saturday morning.

David: *(almost shouting with excitement)* Far OUT! That's when my Spring Break begins. Oh, thank you so much.

(Fade Out)

Scene Nine

(The day of departure, in and around a car. Kurt and David are waiting for the other passenger. They just finished putting David's things in the trunk.)

Kurt: That's good, your stuff fits just fine in the trunk. I hope Buster's things are as compact as yours.

David: His name is Buster?

Kurt: *(chuckles)* Yes, I don't know much about him, but he was as anxious to get this ride as you were.

David: When was he supposed to get here?

Kurt: Actually, 20 minutes ago, he was supposed to be here before you were. I hope he isn't tied up somewhere, I want to get this trip started.

David: Wow, this is a beautiful car! I love the color, what do you call it? Lime Green?

Kurt: I guess that's as good a description as any.

David: Do you think we can have the top down for some of the trip?

Kurt: Maybe, if it gets warm enough. It depends on how much stuff is in the trunk. And it's a bit windy on the guy in the back seat if we're going fast on a highway. *(he looks at his watch)* Where the heck is this guy?

David: Is that him?

Kurt: Ah, yes. Good, we can get going.

(Buster saunters on. He is a "cool cat" in his 20s, dressed in "beat" clothing, jeans and tee-shirt, with a large duffel bag.)

Buster: Hey, cool rag-top, man. The color is crazy.

Kurt: Hi, Buster. This is David, he's sharing the ride and expenses with us.

Buster: Cool. Where can I put this?

Kurt: Well, it won't fit in the trunk, so it will have to go in the back seat.

Buster: Don't be bugged, man. I need all this stuff for the freakin' wedding.

Kurt: It's OK. So, you and your bag can go in the back seat together, for now. But let's get started. *(they get in the car, Kurt pulling the driver's seat up for Buster to get in the back. David gets in the front beside Kurt.)*

Kurt: All Right! Let's be on our way.

Buster: Yeah, let's burn some rubber!

(Kurt begins driving the car and continues for the rest of the scene.)

David: Wow, I can't believe I'm actually on my way to New York. How long do you think it will take, Kurt?

Kurt: I should take about 20 hours, if we don't stop much. Just to pee and grab a bite to eat, now and then.

Buster: Christ, that's a hell of long time to be stuck in a car.

David: Aren't you excited about getting to New York, Buster.

Buster: Are you kiddin'? I hate that place. I'm not even goin' to Manhattan, I've got to go back to freakin' Queens.

David: What for?

Buster: My stupid sister is getting married and my folks told me I had to be there.

David: Well, it's my first trip to "The Big Apple" and I couldn't be more excited. *(Buster gives a disgusted grunt)*

Kurt: I never heard that expression, where did you hear?

David: I was doing research on New York City and I read that in the 1920s and 30s sports writers called it "The Big Apple". I thought that was a cool name.

Kurt: Hmm. That's interesting.

Buster: A Rotten Apple, if you ask me.

David: Kurt, have you been there often?

Kurt: Oh, several times. I always have a good time when I'm there.

David: Have you seen a lot of Broadway plays?

Kurt: Some, not many. I did see *South Pacific* awhile back.

David: Wow, I love that musical. I saw a production of it at the Music Tent, with Bill Hayes as Lt. Cable. He was great.

Kurt: So, you are planning on seeing lots of theater while you're there.

David: I sure am! As much as I can fit in. What are you planning to do there?

Kurt: Oh, *(pause)* I'll be meeting some friends.

David: What about you, Buster, have you been to any Broadway shows?

Buster: Are you kiddin? That's not my bag. I do dig the flicks, though. The shoot-em-ups and horror stuff.

Kurt: David here is in the drama department of his college. Lake Forest isn't it?

David: Yes. I'm a Sophomore.

Buster: So, you're gonna be an actor, huh? You gonna be in the movies?

David: Well actually, I'm more interested in the stage.

Buster: Huh! Then you'll never get me payin' good bread to see you.

Kurt: *(trying to cover over the insult)* Well, I'd sure pay money to see you. Do you plan to try to act on Broadway?

David: That's my dream. I've wanted to be an actor since I was a little kid. I used to put on plays in my back yard with the neighborhood children. One time I staged a sword fighting play, and I wanted to make money with it, so I put up posters all over town advertising tickets for 10 cents. But nobody came, because I put as the address, "At David's House".

Buster: Boy, that was dumb!

David: Yeah, I guess I shouldn't try to be a producer, huh?

Kurt: Were your parents proud of your plays?

David: Oh sure. They sat through every one of them. But my mother told me recently that it was hard for her to keep a straight face during some of them. Especially, when I did a production the basement of *Alice in Wonderland*. There was a three-record set of Ginger Rodgers playing Alice, and I got all the kids to play the different roles, mouthing the words on the album. I had the little sister of one of my friends playing Alice, but she got stage fright

and wouldn't do it. So, I played Alice. Mother said it was hilarious.

Kurt: Now, that I would love to have seen.

Buster: Sounds fruity to me.

David: *(the insult goes over his head)* I also love movies, Buster. When I was in Junior High we moved to Massachusetts and I didn't have many friends. So, my parents gave me a movie projector and I set up a theater in our basement. It wasn't a sound projector, so I rented short movies with title frames, like Laurel and Hardy and W.C. Fields. I ran them, hoping to get audiences from the school. Nobody ever came, but I loved seeing these movies at home.

Buster: That's cool for a junior high kid. I probably would'a come.

David: And I go to lots of movies now. I'm particularly fond of foreign films. Ingmar Bergman is far out. Did you ever see *The Seventh Seal*?

Buster: Are you kiddin'? A flick where I hafta read the words. No way!

David: I like Hollywood movies too. Especially musicals. Did you see *The King and I*? I really flipped for that. Yul Brynner did the part on Broadway, too.

Buster: Nah.

David: What about *High Society*? That was a musical based on *The Philadelphia Story*.

Buster: Way to queer for me. I liked *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.

David: I didn't see that one, but I saw *Friendly Persuasion*, Tony Perkins was terrific.

Kurt: I saw that one, too. That Perkins kid is quite something.

David: I took my girlfriend to that, she loved it, too. But she thought Gary Cooper was best.

Buster: *(surprised)* You have a girlfriend?

David: Yeah, Roz. We've acted in plays together. We've been going out for about six months.

Buster: Oh yeah? You get to 3rd base yet?

David: What do you mean?

Buster: You know, more than just feelin' her titties.

David: (*embarrassed*) We don't really have that kind of relationship.

Buster: That sounds freakin' lame, kid.

Kurt: I imagine they spend their time talking about plays and such. Right? That can be very satisfying for drama kids, I'm sure. Do you have a girl, Buster?

Buster: Not just one – I got three of them goin' now. It's quite a juggling act. But it gets me laid three times as much.

David: Well, what Roz and I do primarily is laugh. She's a very funny girl. In the first play we did together, we sat across from each other, because she was playing my wife; we were Mr. and Mrs. 8. We were supposed to be mirroring each other's movements, and sometimes she would do the silliest things, that I had to do also. I had such a hard time not cracking up during the production.

Buster: What kinda play would you be doin' stuff like that for?

David: It's called *The Adding Machine* by Elmer Rice. It's considered a landmark in American Expressionism. One of the first American plays that explored non-realistic, abstract theater. The leading characters are Mr. and Mrs. Zero.

Kurt: That's interesting. I never heard of it. That's sort of what college theater is meant to do, right? Produce classic plays for the students to experience.

Buster: Sounds freakin' boring to me.

David: Oh, it wasn't boring. The audiences loved it. It's quite funny, actually.

Buster: Eh, give me Godzilla any time.

Kurt: So, David, what roles do you want to do in college?

David: They're planning to do *Tea and Sympathy* next year. I saw it in Chicago with Deborah Kerr, and it's such a beautiful play. I'll audition for Tom Lee, but it's a very big, important role, so I may not get it.

Kurt: What's it about?

David: It's about this kid in a boarding school who likes theater and poetry and stuff, and his classmates tease him. He lives in house with the football coach and his wife. The coach mocks him out, but the wife, Laura, encourages him. When he gets tormented by his father and the coach, Laura takes pity on him and sort of seduces him.

Buster: Far Out. At least there's some sex in it. So, he's not a pansy, then, huh?

David: *(he doesn't know the term.)* Uh, I don't know. But she has the famous line when she comes into his bedroom, "When you speak of this, and you will, be kind." It's very moving. Deborah Kerr was so beautiful. She did the role on Broadway, too.

Kurt: That's a good story, it sounds a little like when I was in boarding school, only no teacher's wife took pity on me.

Buster: So, you were a freak in school, too, huh?

Kurt: Not a freak, exactly, but let's say I was different from the rest of the kids.

Buster: Ha! I get it.

Kurt: Guys, I'm going to pull over to that gas station and top up the tank. One of you could take over driving for a while, if you want.

Buster: Yeah, let me at this chariot. Maybe, we'll put the rag-top down, too.

Kurt: OK, but Buster, I expect you to drive respectfully, no hot-rodding, please.

Buster: Yeah, yeah.

David: I'll get in back; I don't mind some wind.

Kurt: And if you want to pee, do it fast.

(He pulls over to the side of the road, and they begin to change seats.)

(Fade Out)

Scene Ten

(18 hours later, they arrive in NYC. David is in the backseat sleeping,

Kurt is driving.)

Kurt: *(tired)* We made it. Wake up, David, we're in Manhattan.

David: *(excited)* Oh shoot! I missed it! How did we get in?

Buster: *(bored)* The Lincoln Tunnel, of course.

Kurt: So where can I drop you off, Buster?

Buster: I need to get an 8th Ave. IND to Elmhurst. That's where my stupid family lives. Times Square would be good.

David: Times Square!!! Gosh, I'm really here. (*he looks out the window, as they drive through the traffic*)

Kurt: I'll let you off on 40th and 7th, since I'm heading downtown.

David: Will we get to see Times Square?

Kurt: Not quite, but you can look up Broadway before we turn. I'm sure you'll be seeing quite a lot of it this week.

David: I sure will. Yippee!

(Kurt pulls over the car, and Buster gets out)

Buster: Gimme my bag, "actor". (*David does*) So long suckers. Don't get yourself killed in the big. bad city. (*exits*)

David: Bye, Buster. I hope the wedding is not too bad..... (*no response from Buster*)

Kurt: Never mind. Just let him go. He has his own problems. Now, where should I take you, young man.

David: Oh, well, I guess the YMCA on 34th Street. They said that I should be able to get a room there. I called before we left.

Kurt: Oh, the Sloane House. That's a kind of wild place, David, I hope you're ready for it.

David: It's a YMCA, how bad can it be?

Kurt: (*chuckles*) Well, I stayed there several years ago. And let's say I had some rather wild experiences while I was there. The rooms are tiny, with the bare minimum. Like just a bed and a chest of drawers.

David: Well, I only want to sleep there, so that's OK with me.

Kurt: But you never know who you're going to meet in that lobby, especially late at night. Anything from bums to bible pushers to prostitutes of – um – every type.

David: Oh. I guess it won't be like the YMCA in Highland Park, but I'm sure it's safe. Isn't it?

Kurt: I suggest that you just go to the desk clerk when you get back at night, grab your key, and go straight to your room. Just don't start conversations with anyone hanging around the lobby at night.

David: Gee, any other advice?

Kurt: Just follow the rules, which they adhere to strictly. Like you can't bring anyone up to your room with you. That's a hard rule. Although, guys do sneak up friends sometimes.

David: Well, I don't know anyone in New York, so I don't think I'll have that problem.

Kurt: Who knows, you may meet someone. *(smiles to himself)*

David: *(not catching Kurt's drift)* I hope they'll have a room for me at this hour?

Kurt: You shouldn't have any trouble getting a room there on a Sunday morning. And here we are. The Sloane House.

David: *(he looks up at the big grey building, while they go to the trunk and get his bag)* Well, here goes. I can't thank you enough, Kurt, it's been a real fun trip and I'd never have gotten here if it weren't for you. *(starts to leave)*

Kurt: Hold on a minute, kid. How are you planning to get back to Chicago?

David: Well, I plan to save enough money to take a train back.

Kurt: Well, look, here's the phone number where I'm staying in New York. Give me a call when you're ready to leave and we can drive back together. *Sans* Buster! What do you say?

David: That would be just terrific. But when do you want to go back?

Kurt: In about a week. That's how long you were planning to stay, right? When do you need to be back?

David: At least by Tuesday, next week.

Kurt: So why don't we say you'll call me next Sunday, and we'll take it from there. Deal?

David: That's great, Kurt. Thank you again for everything.

Kurt: Well now, you just have fun and don't get into any trouble, OK? Don't forget your stuff in the trunk. See you next Sunday.

(David gets out of the car)
(Fade Out)

Scene Eleven

(3 days later in Julius's bar in Greenwich Village.)

*(David enters tentatively, looks around at the vintage bar, with sawdust on the floor.
The customers are all male. He approaches the waiter)*

David: Excuse me, but do you serve lunch here?

Dwight: Sure, young fellow, we got the best burgers in town.

David: *(he looks around decides to stay)* Well then, I'll have a beer now and maybe a burger later, thank you.

Dwight: Anything you want, kiddo. You're not from around here, is my guess.

David: Uh, no. I go to college in the mid-west.

Dwight: Uh-huh, welcome to Julius's. What brought you in here, kid?

David: When I told a guy at the Sloane House that I wanted to explore "Greenwitch" Village, he told me I might like this place. It seems very old. Is it?

Dwight: They say it's been around since 1867, *(smiles)* but that was a little before my time. As you can tell from the pictures on the wall, it was popular with the horse racing and boxing crowd, but today we get a bit different clientele.

David: The sawdust on the floor is a nice touch, it gives it an old-fashioned look.

Dwight: Yeah, and easier to clean up the spilled beer at the end of the night. So, I'll get your beer, kid, have fun. *(moves away to get the beer)*

(David looks around and settles into one of the chairs.

Joey is standing nearby and is watching David as he sits down.)

Joey: *(sidling over to David)* Hi, anyone sitting here?

David: Uh, no.

Joey: All Right! I'll just settle down here then. *(sits on the chair near to David)*

David: Sure.

Joey: *(they sit with slightly uncomfortable silence for David)* I bet you're from out of town, right?

David: Yeah, I guess it shows, huh? The waiter said the same thing to me.

Joey: Well, you don't exactly look like a New Yorker, more like a corn-fed youth. From the mid-west, I'll bet.

David: Well, yes, right, from Illinois.

*(Waiter brings the beer and smiles at Joey, knowingly.
Joey scoots his chair closer to David)*

Joey: So, what brings you to our fair city?

David: I'm on Spring break and I'm here to see some Broadway theater.

Joey: Oh yeah? Sounds cool. Where you staying?

David: At the Sloane House YMCA.

Joey: Yeah, I heard that place swings.

David: Oh, not really. Pretty conservative, I think. Lots of religious types and some old bums. I sure didn't get to know anyone there.

Joey: You may be surprised. What's your name?

David: David.

Joey: I'm Joey. *(he moves his chair closer and holds out his hand. They shake, Joey holding his hand longer than usual)*

David: *(a little embarrassed by the hand holding, pulls away)* This is a cool place, isn't it? They don't have any bars like it in Chicago.

Joey: Oh, I'm sure there are, you just haven't found them yet.

David: But the waiter said that this place has been here since sometime in the 19th century. That's far out.

Joey: Oh yeah, I didn't know that. *(a pause)* So, did you see any good theater yet?

David: *(relieved to talk about something he's familiar with)* Oh yeah! The first play I saw was with Julie Harris, *The Lark*, about Joan of Arc. It was thrilling, especially since she was in it. I saw her in the movies *Member of the Wedding* and *East of Eden*. She made a beautiful Joan.

Joey: Oh yeah? Well, I'll have to see it. My friend, Kyle, gets lots of tickets to plays. I'll tell him about it.

David: Do you go to Broadway a lot, since you live here?

Joey: Not as much as I'd like to. I work as a waiter in a popular restaurant down here, so I don't get many nights off.

David: Oh, where is the restaurant, I'll have to come by and eat there.

Joey: It might be a little too expensive for a college student. Are you on a tight budget?

David: Yes, I had to scrape up the money to come. I'd never been to New York on my own, before.

Joey: *(he slides his chair right next to David's)* Well, maybe I could show you around. I've got an apartment over on Bank Street.

David: Gee, that would be excellent. I want to see some of the famous sights, like the Statue of Liberty. When I don't have theater tickets, that is. I'm seeing a matinee today, and another show tonight.

Joey: Do you have tickets for more shows?

David: Oh sure, I'm planning on seeing 8 shows in the 7 days I'm here, by seeing a matinee today and on Saturday.

Joey: Far Out! That's a lot of theater. Do you think you'll have time for anything else? What about after the theater tonight?

David: Well, I have to get right to bed, because I'm getting up at 5:00 AM, to try to get standing room for a new musical, *My Fair Lady*.

Joey: That's dedication. So, you like musicals?

David: Yesterday I saw a great one, *The Most Happy Fella*. Some of the best singing I've ever heard. And guess what? There's a song in it with your name as the title. "Joey, Joey, Joey".

Joey: Oh yeah? That's cool. What's this guy, Joey, like? Does he look like me?

David: A little, I guess. He was tall with dark hair; yours is more blond.

Joey: *(puts his hand on David's knee)* So, do you like blonds better than brunettes?

David: *(David is shocked)* What do you mean?

Joey: Don't get excited, *(his hand moves up David's leg)* I'm just interested in your taste in guys.

David: *(he jumps up)* I'm sorry, I gotta go. *(he runs towards the door in a panic)*

Dwight: Hey, where you off to in such a hurry? You owe me for the beer.

David: (*Flustered*) Sorry, I forgot. Here. (*fumbling for his wallet*) How much?

Dwight: 75 cents. Is anything wrong, kid?

David: No, no, I just have matinee tickets today and I must get uptown. Here's a buck.

Dwight: OK, but it's not even noon. Sure you don't want that hamburger?

David: No, thanks, I really must go. (*he leaves the stage.*)

(Joey and the Waiter exchange glances, Joey shrugs)

(Fade Out)

Scene Twelve

(Oliver's apartment, the following Sunday Morning.

David goes to the door, with his suitcase, and knocks. Oliver opens the door)

Oliver: (*he has a slight Southern accent, that comes and goes*) Hello, hello! Who have we here?

David: Uh, is this where Kurt Peterson is living? I am looking for him.

Oliver: Well, come on in, you sweet, young thing. I was awaiting your arrival. Kurt is in the other room, but he'll be out in a minute. Welcome to my humble dwelling. I'm Oliver, by the way (*offering a limp hand*).

(David steps into the apartment, and is awed by the décor)

David: What an amazing apartment you have. Do you actually live here?

Oliver: Oh, lordy, I've lived here for almost 25 years. Do you really like it?

David: I – I... love it. It's very theatrical, and I've never seen anything like it before.

Oliver: I just put in this carpet. What do you think?

David: Um, well it's very soft and the color is amazing. I didn't know you could get purple carpet.

Oliver: I am delighted you like it. It's my absolute favorite color. Would you like to take off your shoes and wiggle your toes in it?

David: I don't think so, thank you. We're probably going to be going soon.

Oliver: Not too soon, I hope, I want to get to know you a bit more.

David: Oh, well, I'd like to look around the apartment, it's so beautiful.

Oliver: Oh, Goodie! So come on, what else strikes your fancy?

David: Well, it looks like a museum with all those paintings and sculptures. Is that Michelangelo's "David"?

Oliver: Not the original, obviously, but a good miniature, don't you think? Kurt told me that you are a David, too. What a lovely coincidence.

David: (*slightly embarrassed*) Uh, yes, it is. And your apartment is amazing. We certainly don't have anything like it in Illinois.

Oliver: (*amused*) Well, make yourself at home, dear boy. So how do you know our Kurtie?

David: Oh, I'm supposed to drive back to Chicago with him. We came here together. I was just hitching a ride, 'cause I'm on my Spring Break.

Oliver: Spring Break! What a delightful thing to be on. So, what have you been doing in our big city, on your "Spring Break"?

David: Uh, mostly I've been going to lots of theater. I've seen some great productions. I've seen 8 plays in 7 days.

Oliver: Oh, I adore the theater, especially musicals. What have you seen?

David: I saw a wonderful production of *The Most Happy Fella*, but my favorite was *My Fair Lady*.

Oliver: Oh My God, you lucky, lucky boy. I don't have tickets until next month. And I hear it's faaaaabulous! How did you get tickets?

David: I stood in line at 5:00 o'clock in the morning for standing room. But it was worth it. There's this actress named Julie Andrews, who has the most gorgeous voice.

Oliver: I KNOW, I saw her in *The Boy Friend* last season. Just adorable. Were you able to see *Kiss Me Kate!*? Alfred Drake is magnificent.

David: No, darn it, I couldn't get tickets for that one.

(*Kurt enters, from the bedroom*)

Kurt: Oh, David, I see you found the place. Has Oliver been entertaining you?

David: Oh yeah. He's been great.

(Eric enters from the bedroom. He just stands at the door, posing in a pair of shorts and a turquoise shirt, with his hand on his hip and a smirk that says, "I'm aware how good looking I am, so enjoy". David is struck dumb by how beautiful he is.)

Kurt: Yes, Oliver is a "prince" among men. *(Oliver does a tiny curtsy)*
Oh, this is Eric. *(to Eric)* That's the fellow I told you about, who's going back with me to Chicago.

(Eric looks at Kurt, with a sad expression – not wanting him to leave. he indicates that they should go back into the bedroom)

You two continue your chatting, Eric and I still have some.... packing to do in the bedroom. We won't be long. *(they leave the room)*

David: Uh, O.K. *(as he watches Eric go)*

Oliver: Kurtie and I have known each other for eons, he's always welcome to stay whenever he is in New York. He's not a theater lover like you, though. So, what else did you see?

David: I couldn't see any other musicals, but I did see Julie Harris in *The Lark*.

Oliver: She's divine, but I couldn't take watching her burn at the stake.

David: Yeah, that was pretty harrowing. *(awkward pause)*

Oliver: So, what sticks in your mind about your theatrical adventures?

David: I don't know. Um, the "Get Me to the Church on Time" number was lots of fun. But the song that I keep singing is "Joey!" from *Most Happy Fella*. It keeps running through my head.

Oliver: That's a gorgeous song.

David: And a funny thing happened after I saw the play. I went to a bar downtown the next day, and I met a guy named Joey.

Oliver: Oooooo. What bar did you go to?

David: I think it was called "Julius's". It was cool because it was very old, with sawdust on the floor.

Oliver: *(smirking to himself)* Oh, I know Julius's. Anything else happen to you there?

David: Uh...No. I went back a few times, but Joey wasn't there again.

Oliver: How did you get around the city?

David: Oh, I walked a lot. But I got pretty good with the IRT subway, too. It's how I got down to "Greenwich" village.

Oliver: *(stifles a laugh)* Well, "Greenwich" village is not easy to get to. Where else did you go.

David: I walked up to Central Park a couple times. It's huge. There are parts that are like a deep forest, you can't even see the buildings. With big rocks and paths winding around. I couldn't believe I was still in the city.

Oliver: Oh, you did get around. That part of the park is called the "Rambles". All sorts of things go on in there. Who did you meet in the Rambles?

David: No one, I just wandered around.

Oliver: Too bad.

(Kurt enters with his arm around Eric's shoulder. Eric holds his suitcase)

Kurt: Well, that's about it. I guess we should get started on the road.

Oliver: Oh, Kurtie, I'm going to miss you. *(they hug)* Why don't you stay for a quick bite of lunch before you two hit that long and dusty road? I've got some goodies all prepared in the kitchen.

Kurt: What do you think, David, do we have time?

David: Sure, I guess, that would be nice.

Oliver: Oh, goodie. I'll bring it out here. Just hold your "whatever", and I'll be just a sec. *(he exits)*

Kurt: Take the bags down to the car, Eric. *(Eric grabs Kurt's suitcase)* Take David's too, please. Then come back for a bite to eat.

(not too happy, Eric leaves with both suitcases, and Kurt takes David aside)

Listen, David, I hope this is alright with you, and you don't mind that we are all gay.

David: *(he has no idea what that means)* Oh, no! Of course not. I'm in a great mood too. Excuse me, but where's the bathroom?

Kurt: Right off to the left. *(David exits, Kurt watches him go, amused.)*
(Oliver enters with 4 glasses of lemonade)

Oliver: Kurtie, help me set up around the table. *(they do)*

Kurt: You're not going to believe what just happened. I told David that we were gay, and he said, 'That's OK, I'm in a great mood too.'

Oliver: Ha! That dear boy has a lot to learn. He's as gay as a carnival. Do you see the way he ogles cute little Eric? He's practically drooling.

Kurt: Well, if he is, I don't think it's dawned on him why.

Oliver: Oh please, if that boy had his way, he'd drag L'il Eric into the into the bedroom, in a heartbeat.

Kurt: No, I don't think so. He seems completely innocent, if confused by it all.

Oliver: Here the little lady comes, the closet door is beginning to open a crack, I think.

Kurt: Just don't say anything, Oliver, please. I don't want to embarrass him; we have a long journey ahead of us.

(David enters right, Eric enters left. David stops in his tracks and stares)

Oliver: Sit down around the coffee table, boys, I'll get the rest of the vittles.

(Eric sits next to Kurt, while David sits opposite. There is an awkward silence)

David: Um, so Eric, do you live in Manhattan?

Eric: Nah. *(snubbing David)* Kurt, I put the suitcases in the back seat. Is that OK?

Kurt: Sure, there'll only be two of us in the car. *(pause)* If we want to leave the top down, we'll put them in the trunk.

David: *(pause)* It will be nice not having Buster in the car, huh?

Kurt: Yes, he was a bit crude. *(pause)* Eric is a tennis player. Aren't you, Eric?

Eric: Uh-huh. I hope we can play some more, Kurt. Sometime.

David: I play a little, Eric. Maybe we can play together next time I'm in New York.

(Eric just glares at David, jealous that he will be spending time with Kurt)

Oliver: (*after more awkward silence, Oliver enters, with tiny sandwiches, cut in triangles.*) Here's some sumptuous repast, just to keep you boys from getting hungry in your travels.

David: Thank you so much, sir, I'm a bit hungry now, this is great.

Oliver: SIR! I haven't been called that in a very long time. You just eat up, cupcake, I can see that you are 'hungry', by the look in your eyes when you.....

Kurt: Oliver, what is in this sandwich? It's delicious.

Oliver: Oh, that's a hometown secret, (*his Southern accent appears*) I couldn't possibly reveal the ingredients, or my sainted mother would leap from the grave and slap me silly. Do you like it, David?

David: Oh yes, it's like something my mother makes.

Oliver: Where is she from, sugar, maybe our mothers grew up together.

David: Illinois.

Oliver: Not nearly Southern enough. What about you, Eric, where are your folks from?

Eric: Queens.

Oliver: How appropriate.

Kurt: Finish up, David, we should be going.

Oliver: David was telling me of his visit to Julius's. He even met some fella there.

Eric: That's a cool bar. I've met guys there, once in a while.

David: Did you know a guy named Joey?

Eric: No. What's he look like.

Oliver: Yes, dear boy, what did this fellow look like? I'm all ears.

Kurt: David, I think we should be going, we've a long trip ahead of us.

David: Oh, OK. (*starts to get up*) Thank you, Oliver, for the sandwiches and lemonade.

Oliver: What a little gentleman. Too bad you couldn't stay longer.

David: Goodbye, Eric, it was nice to meet you.

Oliver: *(aside to Kurt)* It certainly was. *(he packs up some of the tiny sandwiches and puts them in Kurt's pocket.)* Bye-bye, Kurtie, y'all come back again, now, ya heah, real soon.

Eric: Yeah, Kurt, come back as soon as you can.

Kurt: I'll sure try. It's been a great week.

(As they walk out, David looks back at Eric, Eric waves forlornly to Kurt, Oliver winks at Kurt with a thumbs-up)

(Fade Out)

Scene Thirteen

(Kurt and David are in the car. Long silence as they drive. David lost in thought)

Kurt: *(trying to be cheerful)* Well, we're in New Jersey. So much for "The Big Apple".

David: *(distracted and depressed)* Yeah.

Kurt: *(pause)* You had a good week, though, didn't you?

David: Oh, sure. It was great. I just hate for it to end. *(he goes back into a slump)*

Kurt: *(longer pause)* So, you liked Eric, huh?

David: *(taken aback, for Kurt reading his thoughts)* Uh, yeah, he seemed very nice.

Kurt: Oh, I think that you thought more than "nice". You couldn't seem to take your eyes off him.

David: Well, um, he was an interesting guy.

Kurt: He was more than interesting. He was very handsome, right?

David: Well, yes, I guess.

Kurt: *(probing)* Anything in particular that struck you?

David: Oh, *(slight pause)* those eyes. I've never seen eyes that color blue before.

Kurt: And what did that make you feel?

David: I guess it sort of took my breath away. I don't understand why it would have, though.

Kurt: It's because you're gay, too.

David: What does that mean, "gay"? I thought it meant happy.

Kurt: It does, but it has another meaning, as well.

David: When you said you were "gay", I thought maybe you were taking drugs to get happy.

Kurt: *(smiles)* No, in this case, it's a positive term that means homosexual.

David: *(not actually knowing this word)* Homosexual?

Kurt: That's right, it means that person is attracted to people of their own sex, instead of the opposite sex. It means a man is attracted to a man rather than a woman.

David: Oh. Is that what people mean when they say "queer"?

Kurt: Yes, but that's not a positive way of saying it. That can be used as an insult. The term "gay" is used by gay people as a sort of code.

David: *(pause)* And you think that I'm... "gay"?

Kurt: You seemed to have that reaction when you saw Eric. Have you ever felt that way about any other guy?

David: Well, I guess I have, sorta. *(thinks)* In high school gym class, I thought the other guys were good looking, especially in the shower, but I just figured that was what all teenagers thought.

Kurt: Mmm-hmmm. Has anyone specific ever gotten you excited? Like a classmate or a teacher? That often happens to kids in high school.

David: Uh, well, there was a boy name Robbie in my high school that I always wanted to sit next to in class or on the bus. I thought he was very nice, but he never really liked me. *(pause)* Excuse me, but I have to think about this for a moment, this is a new way of thinking that I'm not completely comfortable with it right now.

Kurt: Sure, but if you have any questions, ask away. *(slight pause)* In case you are hungry, Oliver slipped some of his little sandwiches in my pocket. Want one?

David: Um, yeah, that would be good, I didn't get to eat many.

*(Kurt gives him a few and they ride in silence.
David munches sandwiches, pondering what Kurt has said.)*

David: My head is reeling, because so many times in my life I'd felt strange, but never knew what caused it. Now, it's beginning to make sense.

Kurt: It's a lot to adjust to, just take your time.

David: Something happened in "Greenwich" Village that might be related to this. I went into that bar, Julius's, and this guy, came to sit next to me, and he put his hand on my leg.

Kurt: How did you react?

David: I completely flipped out. I jumped up and ran out the door. I don't know why I did such a stupid thing.

Kurt: You were surprised and didn't know how to handle it. That's natural under the circumstances.

David: But later, I went back to see if I could meet him again.

Kurt: I understand, that's good. Julius's is a gay bar. That guy was clearly trying to meet you, and by putting his hand on your leg, he wanted to tell you that he was gay, too.

David: And I acted like a jerk, running out like that.

Kurt: Well, you didn't understand, then. You probably wouldn't run out on him again. Do you realize that there are hundreds of gay bars and restaurants all over New York? Many of them are in Greenwich (*pronounced correctly*) Village, where lots of gay people live.

David: Lots? You mean that there are many people like Joey?

Kurt: Joey?

David: That was his name in the -- gay bar. So, the other men in the bar were gay, too?

Kurt: Probably. There are multitudes of men, and women, who are gay. It's a huge underground community that is everywhere in the world. Don't think for a minute that you are alone in this. I've known I was gay since I was 14 years old. I had an affair with a classmate of mine. Unfortunately, he wasn't gay, just experimenting, but I knew that I was. I never had any interest in girls.

David: But what did you do about it? Did you have other..... “boyfriends”?

Kurt: Not until I was older, but then I discovered a gay bar in Chicago (there are lots of gay bars in Chicago) and I met a guy I fell in love with. We were together for 4 years.

David: Gosh. You mean you lived together, and all.

Kurt: Yep, we had a very good life together, until it ended. But that’s how any relationship can go.

David: How did you meet Eric?

Kurt: I went to the gay beach in Riis Park, and he was strutting around in his skimpy bathing suit, and I was instantly attracted to him. We spent the entire week together, living at Oliver’s place. It was quite an exciting, but exhausting, week.

David: Do you think I could meet someone in Chicago?

Kurt: Of course. You could even meet someone who is gay at your college, although it’s harder in a place like that to figure out who is gay and who isn’t. The thing you must realize is that there is a huge gay population. But they tend to keep hidden nowadays, because it’s illegal in many states. That’s what makes it an underground community. It’s like a huge private club, where you will always be welcome, all over the world.

David: Are there any more sandwiches, I’m suddenly starving?

Kurt: We’ll stop for a bite in an hour or two, but here’s what I have left. (*Kurt hands him remainder of the sandwiches*)

David: Gosh, how long has this “gay thing” been going on?

Kurt: All through history there have been gay people. Many artistic people, too. Like Tennessee Williams, Michelangelo, Walt Whitman and Noel Coward. You’re in the drama department, right? Well, that’s a good place to find other gay kids. You just must sort them out.

David: How will I know them?

Kurt: That can be tricky. The “straight” guys (that’s what we call people who aren’t gay) will not be interested in you, sexually. The gay guys might be, and you just must somehow send signals out. Like Joey did to you, but maybe subtler.

David: Wow, this gives me so much to think about. *(pause while he thinks and eats some more of the sandwiches)* But how did I get this way? If I don't like it, can I be cured?

Kurt: It's not something that you really can change. It's how you were born. Now, there are lots of people who think it's a disease, but believe me, it isn't. Nothing caused you to be gay. You just are. And you must accept that and then learn to live with it.

David: Gosh, that's not going to be easy.

Kurt: Just don't be hard on yourself, son. There is absolutely nothing wrong with being gay. That may not be the opinion of many people, but you should learn to accept yourself and love yourself, and don't let the opinion of others change how you feel about yourself.

David: Uh, O.K. I'll try. Thank you for explaining all this to me. I'll do my best to deal with it now.

Kurt: We've got a long trip ahead, so anything else you want to ask – fire away.

David: You've been the most important teacher I've had in a long time.

Kurt: *(smiles)* I'm happy I could help. I wish I'd had someone to talk to me when I was your age.

David: I really appreciate it. I think I'll just close my eyes for a while. Oh, but one more question. Would you say that Oliver was “flamboyant”?

Kurt: Ha! Yes, you could certainly say that.

David: Well, I think that might solve a problem for me. Thank you. Are you sure you don't need me to drive right now?

Kurt: Nope, you just take a rest. I've dumped a lot on you. I'll wake you when I need a rest.

(David closes his eyes and leans back.)

(Fade Out)

Scene Fourteen

(The dorm room three weeks later. Gary is on the bed.
David comes in with a script of "The Mousetrap")

Gary: How was the first *Mouse* rehearsal?

David: It was great. I think the cast is perfect. Roz is just right as Mollie Ralston, and there's a new guy, named Edward, who's playing her husband. I think he'll be quite good. I've never seen him around the theater before.

Gary: I think I know who you mean. He's in my English lit class. He heard that I am in the drama department, so he mentioned that he was going to try out.

David: Roz kind of hurt his feelings, because she said to me, right in front of him, how she wished I was playing her husband.

Gary: Well, she's got the hots for you. You should consider yourself lucky.

David: (*more to himself*) I'm not so sure.

Gary: And Connors stuck you with the other guy, right, the one you didn't want?

David: Yep, I'm playing Christopher Wren. But I think I have a way to play him now. I met a guy in New York who I would call "flamboyant".

Gary: Oh yeah, how are you gonna play this guy, then?

David: Sort of like this: (*he imitates Oliver*) "Hello there, dear boy, why don't you come in and make yourself at home. Don't you simply adore what I've done with the place. Isn't it faaaaabulous"?

Gary: What is he, a queer!?! That's disgusting.

David: Well, the proper word is "gay". And it's not disgusting, it's just the way he was made.

Gary: Those fairies make me sick. There's a couple at my gym back home, and I avoid them like the plague.

David: Do they try to be friendly with you?

Gary: They damn well better not; I'd deck those pansies if they tried anything with me.

David: Well, Gary, I've got to tell you something, that may come as a shock. And I hope it's not going to be a problem for you.

Gary: What do you mean? What kind of problem?

David: *(pause)* You see I'm one of them. I am gay.

Gary: No freakin' way!

David: Yes, I am.

Gary: You're my roommate. We've been friends for two years.

David: True, but the fact remains that I've finally figured out that I'm attracted to guys more than to girls.

Gary: Woah! Does that mean that you're attracted to ME?

David: Not really. I'm not lusting after all guys, just the ones that attract me. And you're straight, so it wouldn't be right if I was attracted to you.

Gary: Whaddya mean, "straight"?

David: It means that you are not gay. But I hope that we can still be friends and roommates, the same as we were.

Gary: But you've got a girlfriend and you don't swish around like those guys at the gym.

David: Well, no, I don't "swish around", but that doesn't mean that I'm not gay. But there is a problem with Roz, that's for sure. I'm going to have to tell her that we're just "friends". And she's not going to like it. You know that I wondered why I wasn't interested in making out with her. I just love how funny she is. And she's such a good actress. Anyway, now I know why.

Gary: Boy, this is some news. I'm not sure how I'm going to handle it.

David: Gary, I'd really hate it if I lost your friendship over this.

Gary: Well, I donno. It's a sickness, right? Maybe you can get yourself cured.

David: I don't think that's how it works.

Gary: But what if you tried? You could go to some psychiatrist and see what they can do.

David: Well, the problem is, I don't really want to change. I am who I am, and I think I want to stay that way.

(Gary just shakes his head and lays down on the bed. Charlie enters.)

Charlie: Hey David. How was your rehearsal as the Wren character? Is it going to be as rough as you thought?

David: No, I think I know how to play it now.

Gary: Wait'll you see what how he's gonna play it. Like a freakin' fairy.

Charlie: What?

David: I met a guy in New York that gave me a way to play "flamboyant", because he was gay.

Charlie: That means "homosexual" doesn't it. I heard that from some friends of my father.

David: Yes, that's the more positive name for it.

Charlie: That's a really good idea of how to play him. I hope Connors is ready for it.

Gary: I hope the school is ready for it. And our little David's got some bad news, too. Are you gonna tell him David?

David: Well, I wasn't planning on an all school announcement, Gary, today at least. But Charlie should know.

Charlie: Know what?

David: That I'm gay too.

Charlie: Oh, that is news. But hell, I don't think that particularly bad news. You really think so, David.

David: Yep, it's something that has been nagging at me for years, but I finally figured it out. It was news to me, too, that I learned on my way home from New York.

Charlie: How'd you find it out?

David: The guy who I drove out with saw me react to a guy he had been lovers with that week.

Gary: Lovers! UGH.

David: So, he figured it out and clued me in on our drive home.

Gary: So, he was a pansy too? (*David nods*) Did he try to get in your pants, on your way home?

David: Absolutely not! He just explained the whole thing to me. I can't believe how ignorant I was.

Gary: I heard these guys will seduce little boys any chance they get.

Charlie: That's just stupid, Gary. These friends of my father are very nice guys. They've been together for years, like an old married couple. I've even been over to their house, several times.

David: That's terrific that your father introduced them to you. And that they have a long-standing relationship. Kurt, that's the guy who I traveled with, told me that there are lots of happy couples like that all over the world.

Charlie: So, what are you gonna tell Roz? She's crazy for you, you know.

David: Oooo, I don't look forward to that conversation. I hope we can work it out and still be friends.

Charlie: *(an aside to David about Gary)* How's he taking it?

David: *(quietly)* Not good, so far.

Gary: I heard that, jerks. Just leave me out of this. OK?

David: I think I'd better get the "Roz talk" taken care of. She wants to meet with me at the "caf" in about 10 minutes. Wish me luck.

Charlie: I don't envy you that conversation. Let us know, huh?

Gary: You might want to wear some armor.

David: "Once more, dear friends, unto the breach". *(exits)*

Charlie: I hope you can get over your shock about this, Gary. I know that you are David's friend. He deserves to be who he is.

Gary: Yeah, yeah, just get outta here. I got work to do.

(Charlie leaves, Gary throws something, then turns face down on the bed.)

(Fade Out)

Scene Fifteen

(The Cafeteria. Roz is sitting at a table waiting for David. He runs in)

David: *(panting)* Whew. Sorry I'm late, I went back to the dorm after rehearsal. I had a difficult conversation with Gary.

Roz: That's OK, sweetie, I just wish you were playing Miles. I have to act with that new guy, Edward, as my husband – I wanted to play that with you – hint-hint. *(giggles)*

David: Yeah, that would have been fun. But I'm kinda excited about the Wren character, because I found out how to play him.

Roz: He just seems creepy to me. When I did an audition against him, with Allan playing him, I just knew he was the murderer. Even though he isn't, of course, but that's how weird Allan played him. You will be much different, I'm sure. How will you play him?

David: Well, I'm going to play him as "gay".

Roz: Whaddya mean? Bubbly and happy all the time. That seems totally wrong. He didn't seem happy to me in the script.

David: No, he didn't seem happy, but he did seem "gay", in another sense of the word. It also means --homosexual.

Roz: Oh, you mean "fruity". Hmm, I never thought of that. I guess it might work, but you'd have a hard time doing that. What do you know about fairies? What will you do, like, wiggle your hips and talk with a "lithp"? *(she walks around doing that)* "Hello there, "thweety" why don't you come up and "thee" me "thometime"? *(David smiles painfully)* That seems even creepier. And what made you think of that anyway? Do you even know any fruits?

David: Uh, well, I met some gay people on my trip to New York. I'd never even been aware of that kind of life, until then. And actually, they seemed very nice.

Roz: Yikes! I knew I shouldn't have let you go on that trip by yourself. How'd you get involved with those guys? I wouldn't have let you do that, if I were with you. That could be dangerous, especially to a handsome guy like you. Ha! Did you have to fight 'em off with a stick? I can just see you: "Get away from me, you fruit, I'll call the cops!" I would have protected you, baby. *(she puts her arm around him)*

David: (*embarrassed, moving away*) It wasn't like that at all. I think you're just being mean. I told you, these were very nice men.

Roz: (*she is shocked by his attitude*) What do you mean, "nice men", how well did you get to "know" them?

David: Nothing like you are implying, Roz. I mostly got to know Kurt, the man who I drove with, to and from New York. He and I talked quite a lot, but nothing else. Anyway, the man I intend to model the Wren character after, I only talked with for a while, in his apartment, where I went to meet Kurt again, to get my ride back home.

Roz: (*becoming kind of hysterical*) IN HIS APARTMENT! What are we talking about, here?

David: Stop getting so hysterical, Roz, I went there because that is where Kurt was staying. (*trying to calm her down*) You would have loved the apartment, Roz, it was beautifully decorated, with art everywhere – just like a Hollywood set. And the man who lived there was a real theater nut, and we talked about the plays I saw. He is the one who I will use to create the Wren character.

Roz: Well, just so you stayed out of trouble, honey, I trust you. Let's go get an ice-cream soda at the drug store. I'm hungry. (*she starts to pull him out*)

David: (*pulls her back in the chair*) Just a minute, Roz, there's something more I want to tell you about.

Roz: Okay, spill.

David: (*sigh*) Well, there was another guy I met that day. I didn't talk to him much, but when I saw him, I got this funny feeling in my stomach. He had these amazing blue eyes and very blond hair, and.....

Roz: And WHAT?

David: And nothing really, it was just a strange feeling. But when I got in the car with Kurt, he noticed that I was reacting strongly to the guy, and he called me on it.

Roz: What are talking about, David, I don't like where this is going.

David: Well, Kurt made me realize that the feeling I had for the blond guy, was attraction – that I found him attractive.

Roz: Attractive?

David: Yes. You see, I'm attracted to guys, and I always have been, really. I just didn't know what it meant.

Roz: WHAT? Are you trying to tell me that you're a FRUIT? That's ridiculous, we've been going out for months. You're attracted to girls, to ME. You can't fake that; I know that you like – maybe love – me. I can feel it. You are NOT attracted to guys!

David: Sorry, Roz, but I am. Kurt showed me that that's the way I've been feeling since I was a kid. I just didn't know that it was different than other guys. I was born gay.

Roz: NO, no, no, no. I can't believe you're saying this. That guy was lying to you. He was trying to turn you into a fairy. He just wanted to have his way with you. He's a pervert. You are NOT. You like me.

David: Of course, I like you, Roz. We have a great time together; we laugh and carry on and have lots of fun. I'm very fond of you. But I'm afraid I like you as a friend, not a girlfriend. I'm sorry.

Roz: You mean you always felt that way about me? You don't find me attractive? Well, you sure faked it pretty well.

David: No, I just wasn't aware of my feelings. I just went along with what seemed right. But you have to understand, I don't like you any less. I just don't like you in the way you want.

Roz: So, you're saying that you're a fruit. A freakin' FRUIT. Well, I'm not hanging around with a fruit, that's for sure. So, you can call our friendship over. OVER! I've never been so insulted in my life. *(she storms off)*

David: *(to himself)* Well, that went well.

(Fade Out)

Scene Sixteen

*(Back stage, men's dressing room, after Opening Night of "The Mousetrap"
Charlie and David come in together, changing out of their costumes.)*

Charlie: What a great opening night! The audience seemed to really like it.

David: Yeah, that was far out, how they even stood up at the end. Whew, I wasn't sure how the college kids would like Agatha Christie, but they really got into the mystery of it.

Charlie: And you, my friend, got the biggest hand. They loved your Christopher Wren. And I have to say, he was hilarious.

David: Once I started playing him like Oliver, that guy I met in New York, the character just came naturally.

Charlie: Yes, I think this "gay" thing fits you like a glove.

David: Oh, but I don't want to be like that in real life. It was just a character I was playing. I don't have to flounce around like that to be gay.

Charlie: Sure, sure, I'm just saying that you did that guy really well, and it spiced up the play, too.

David: Well thanks. I appreciate your support. I haven't told anyone else about being gay. Except Roz, of course. And that was a disaster.

Charlie: I wish Gary would come around. He hasn't been very nice to you lately.

David: He told me that his religion preaches that I'm "going to hell" and he hates that. He still wants to be friends, underneath, but he's been brainwashed by his parents and his church. He's still pleading with me to go to a psychiatrist.

Charlie: Well, don't let it worry you. I think he'll get over it, in time.

(Roz and Edward enter, giggling, real buddy-buddy. Roz ignores David)

Roz: Oh, Eddy, you were so good tonight. We really clicked as husband and wife, I thought.

Edward: Yes, it was fun. You're a good actress, Roz.

Roz: You are too, Eddy. Well, not an "actress" but an actor. *(loudly)* Which is more than I can say about someone else in the cast. *(back to Edward)* Don't

you think David over-did that “fairy” thing? I guess he can’t help it. And he was trying to steal every scene.

Edward: You must admit the audience loved it. And I thought it was very funny.

Roz: Nothin’s funny about prancing around like a fairy on stage. It’s just showboating.

Edward: But don’t you think that that is how the playwright wrote the character. I thought David played it perfectly.

Roz: Well, if he gets Tom Lee in *Tea and Sympathy*, next year (which he probably won’t after this performance!) he better not play him like a fruit. Tom Lee is just a sensitive guy, but he’s not a queer.

Edward: Well, I wouldn’t know about that, I haven’t read the play yet. But why are you so down on David, I thought you guys were going out together.

Roz: Ha! (*pulling him aside*) I broke it off after he told me that he was queer. I don’t hang around with that kind of guy.

Edward: Oh, that’s news. But I don’t think you should judge him so harshly. If he really is gay, he can’t help it.

Roz: “GAY!” That’s what he called it. There’s nothing “gay” about it. He’s a pervert.

Edward: (*getting fed up with her tirade*) Roz, I really want to get changed now. You go back to the girl’s dressing room and get out of your costume. I’ll see you at the party.

Roz: Okay, sweetie, I’m looking forward to playing husband and wife with you again. (*she leans up and gives him a peck on the cheek. He is obviously not amused.*)

*(David and Charlie have over-heard the whole conversation,
Edward changes while they talk.)*

Charlie: Man, she really is down on you. I don’t think there’s a chance in hell of winning her back.

David: I can’t say I’m regretting it. She can be very clingy. And she turned into a real bitch after I told her.

Charlie: I see that. Whew, I think you're well out of that relationship. I'm going out and find Gary and see what he thought of the play. Maybe after he saw how good you were in the role, he'll change his attitude.

David: I wouldn't count on it, I'm sure he found my performance offensive. Let me know, before I go back to the room to confront him.

Charlie: Will do. (*leaves, David and Edward continue changing.*)

Edward: (*moving closer to David*) Hey, David, I really thought you were terrific tonight. I've been watching you rehearse, and I'm very impressed with how you work.

David: That's nice to hear, thank you. You were good tonight too.

Edward: Thanks. (*pause*) I suppose you heard what Roz was saying a minute ago, huh?

David: Yes, she's not very happy with me right now.

Edward: It seemed more than that. But I want to say that I think you're very brave telling her about yourself, like that. It can't have been easy.

David: No, it wasn't. But I felt that it was unfair to keep dating her, now that I really understand myself.

Edward: Yeah, I see your point. But it's still very brave. I wish I..... (*he stops, afraid to go on*)

David: This is the first play you've been in here, isn't it?

Edward: Yes, I did a little acting in my hometown, and I thought it would be fun to do it here, too. But I'm not in the drama department. I'm in the biology department. I was surprised that I got such a big part.

David: I saw your audition, and I thought you were excellent. Connors was right to cast you. That's the role I originally wanted, but I think that he cast us both perfectly.

Edward: Well, you certainly. The audience loved you. I had a hard time keeping a straight face in that scene where you were on the couch.

David: Yeah, maybe I over-did it a bit in that scene, but it just felt right.

Edward: It was very courageous of you to play him so way out. How did you ever come up with that?

David: I met a guy in New York that I based my character on. He was over the top in real life.

Edward: (*Edward comes over to David and kisses him on the lips*) I've been wanting to do that from the first day I saw you in rehearsal.

David: (*stunned, but pleased*) Woah! That was unexpected. But not unwelcome, I must say.

Edward: (*they smile at each other*) When Roz told me what you told her, I almost jumped out of my skin. It was the best news I'd heard in a long time. I didn't know how to say it, so I just jumped in and kissed you.

David: I'm very pleased that you did. So, you're saying that you are gay too?

Edward: Yes, and I've been watching you with more than theatrical interest all through the rehearsals. But I didn't know how you'd feel if I told you.

David: I must say that I had no idea. Have you told anyone at school?

Edward: No. I've been too scared. That's why I thought you were so brave. I don't know if I want the whole school to know, but I wanted you to know.

David: Wow. My friend Kurt told me that I might meet someone in school, but I didn't really believe him. I'm very happy you told me. We'll keep it a secret, if you want.

Edward: Well, I'm just hoping that we get to know each other more, to hell with the rest of the school.

David: Do you want to go out for a drink tonight? I mean after the cast party. Somewhere that the rest of the cast isn't going.

Edward: I suppose we need to go to the cast party. But after. That would be fabulous. Just you and me.

David: Just you and me. Sounds perfect.

(*Edward takes David's hand, as they walk out, they exit hand in hand*)

David: Perfect.

(*Fade Out*)

END OF PLAY