

GERRY. God you're a pain in the ass.

TEDDY. I may be a pain in the ass, I'm sure I am, but you know what? You've been seen.

GERRY. What?

TEDDY. You heard me. You've been seen. That thing in you came out. And Irene saw it. Twice.

(A beat. They consider each other.)

GERRY. I said up front I don't want him here, I do not want your BROTHER in my HOUSE but she's all, he's having some kind of breakdown, I'm going, so what? Get him out of here. She's all, he's got no place to go. You're like a rescue dog to her. She used to bring home rescue dogs, weirdest looking mangy flea-bitten curs. She's got a problem, you understand? She doesn't understand the rules of life. And now you're here. You're here, in my basement, this is a situation, I have been very clear about the rules of this situation. I gave her a few days. She told me that crazy story, what you said, so I called your work, they said you hadn't been there for a year. They said they'd really like to know where you are because apparently there were some things you took, when you left that job, that don't fully belong to you. So now as it turns out you're both crazy and a criminal. I told her, I'm calling the cops if you don't get him out of there. And she says he's my little brother. Which, as I think I just mentioned, that means nothing to me. You're like nobody to me. So I said to her, we don't know anything about this guy, I can't have him in my house with criminal behavior following him. I can't be implicated. And she says he's my family, we have history, these are, I don't even know what she thinks any of it but let me tell you something, nothing is what the reality is. I don't know how many different ways to say nothing. There are so many people out there and no one cares. There's only five or six people on planet Earth anyone cares about, everyone else is like Chinese. There are billions of them and they all look alike. You get me? People are like noise now. And you're part of

that. You could disappear and no one would ever lose oxygen over it. You know what happened to those rescue dogs? They disappeared. There was no rescue for them, and nobody cared. People don't care about anybody.

TEDDY. That's rather dark.

GERRY. I think I'm being pretty clear.

TEDDY. Except you're lying again.

(GERRY takes a step forward on that one.)

(TEDDY backs up.)

Okay. Okay. Except this is my point, I do have a point here.

GERRY. You don't have a point. Because you don't exist. And when you don't exist, anything can happen.

(The sounds of someone upstairs. The two men don't move.)

IRENE. *(Offstage.)* Teddy! Teddy! I bought a coat!

(More sounds, IRENE coming to the basement, entering.)

It's not exactly like that coat I had in college, but it is green! It's not the same color green, but I love it, I think it's really...

(She carries a shopping bag. She stops on the landing when she sees GERRY.)

GERRY. What, uh, what are you doing here?

GERRY. Teddy and I were just having a talk. He has to take off.

IRENE. He does?

GERRY. Yeah. He was just telling me, he's got some things he has to go do.

IRENE. Oh.

GERRY. Yeah. So he's packing up his stuff here. He's got to take off in what'd you say, a few minutes, I think. Isn't that what you said?

(A beat.)