

(Then he goes to the shelf on the wall, takes down a box of dry cereal. He looks around, finds a bowl, dumps what's in there out into the large garbage pail that is stashed somewhere, and pours cereal into it. He finds a spoon somewhere and starts to eat while looking at the computer. He realizes that his toothbrush is still in his mouth and takes it out.)

(He continues to eat the cereal. Stares at the computer screen, fascinated.)

(IRENE comes down the stairs. She is determined at first, but by the time she reaches the bottom step is faltering. It's not that her will is faltering, it's that she's fed up.)

Start

IRENE. What are you doing?

TEDDY. I was looking at this computer, this computer's pretty good.

IRENE. Teddy.

TEDDY. It kind of looks like a piece of junk but it's humming, it's got good interweb.

IRENE. Well, first of all, that thing doesn't work.

TEDDY. No, I needed to scrape some stuff off the, but -

IRENE. No it doesn't, it doesn't work.

TEDDY. It's old, no question. It's not ideal, no question.

IRENE. Okay. Please don't.

TEDDY. Don't?

IRENE. Don't.

TEDDY. Don't what, I'm being very positive and accepting.

IRENE. There's nothing to accept.

TEDDY. I accept the computer. Which is wounded and limited yes but -

IRENE. It's not wounded! It's -

TEDDY. It's broken.

IRENE. Yes. It is broken.

TEDDY. But only a little.

(He sits, looks at her.)

IRENE. Okay look.

TEDDY. *(Popping up.)* You want some coffee?

IRENE. No, I had coffee.

TEDDY. I have some cereal. You want some of that?

IRENE. No, I don't - Would you put some clothes on?

TEDDY. Why?

IRENE. Because you're naked, you can't just be naked.

TEDDY. I'm not naked.

IRENE. You're my brother.

TEDDY. I know.

IRENE. Well am I supposed to just look at you naked all the time?

TEDDY. This is my apartment.

IRENE. This isn't your apartment. This is my basement.

TEDDY. Yeah, but -

IRENE. I never said -

TEDDY. It's like where I live so -

IRENE. You don't live here.

TEDDY. Well yeah.

IRENE. You can't say you live here.

TEDDY. Okay but -

IRENE. Don't ever say that.

TEDDY. All right yeah okay.

IRENE. If Gerry ever hears you say that?

TEDDY. Well except -

IRENE. No except. This is what -

TEDDY. This is where I kind of live.

IRENE. No it isn't!

TEDDY. In between, I mean. I mean, between. Come on. It's not like I've never lived here.

IRENE. The point being you don't live here.

TEDDY. I sometimes live here.

IRENE. I'm not kidding do not say that.

TEDDY. Whether or not I say it doesn't make it true or untrue. Because sometimes it is true.

IRENE. It is not true.

TEDDY. Sometimes it's true.

IRENE. Okay let's put it this way.

TEDDY. It doesn't matter how you put it.

IRENE. It does matter how you put it and I am putting it like this. Do you know when you are leaving?

TEDDY. (*Startled.*) Oh. You want me to...oh.

IRENE. (*Embarrassed now.*) It's just, this isn't a good time.

TEDDY. A good time for what.

IRENE. Just in general. It's not a good time and and and -

TEDDY. Because I have a lot of things I need to straighten out. Not a lot of things. A few things, though.

IRENE. Can you be more specific?

TEDDY. Not really.

IRENE. Because Gerry is going to want to know.

TEDDY. Did he say that? Did he ask you?

IRENE. Not yet.

TEDDY. Good good good. Not yet. That's good.

(He drinks his coffee. Looks at it.)

IRENE. Teddy.

TEDDY. Just some stuff is coming together? I just have to wait a few days, while people make their final decisions, but it's moving in the right direction. Like it is so inching forward, I'll grant you that. But it's totally going in the right direction.

IRENE. Is this like a job thing?

TEDDY. It's a little more complicated...no it's a job thing, it's definitely a job thing.

IRENE. What kind of job thing?

TEDDY. Like a startup thing?

End **IRENE.** What does that mean?

TEDDY. I don't, you know, I'm still waking up. Like I'm not even dressed yet. I'm totally happy to talk to you about

this but it's a lot to, there's like a huge story to it, not a huge story, but a, it's, there's just lots of pieces to it. I've been working on it for a long time, I thought it was not gonna happen, and maybe I stayed with it too long, I believed in the project, and I wanted to make sure I did everything I could to get it off the ground, and these people I've been working with, they were good, but it's still unclear to me how committed they were, it was like that, and I was majorly disappointed in some behavior, and I had to negotiate that and just take stock. So that's what I've been dealing with and I needed a few days to get away from it, get totally away, and clear my head, which is why, because honestly, where I was going? Inside myself? Was totally a wrong direction. The shit my brain was doing? The way it was attacking me? It's not, honestly it was bad. But I'm already feeling a hundred percent clearer and, you know. Feeling like, just, and of course so what happens? I get an email, it's all back on. They figured a few things out and they want to move ahead.

IRENE. Who is this?

TEDDY. These people I've been working with. They're good, they're okay, I mean they're not crooks. They're good.

IRENE. So what's the project?

TEDDY. You know I actually don't want to talk about it. I don't want to describe it, I don't want to be specific about it because if you say it, it could get into the atmosphere and then someone else might like feel it there. I hope that doesn't sound too crazy. Like you say things, you know how people have the same idea at the same time, it's because it's floating out there. And if you SAY your idea, it lands in the universe and someone else can pick it up.

IRENE. Okay.

TEDDY. I'm not making that up. You can say that's superstitious if you want but it's also true.

IRENE. I can't tell Gerry that. If I tell him that? He's going to get upset.