

ASHLEY. I know what the script says.

RICHARD. Let's be professional about this.

ASHLEY. You...jerk.

RICHARD. Maybe we could choose another scene. How long do we have 'til class, an hour?

ASHLEY. Will you stop it?

RICHARD. Now, Ashley, don't get upset. Professionalism, remember?

ASHLEY. Scene.

RICHARD. Scene?

ASHLEY. Scene.

THE LESS THAN HUMAN CLUB

by Timothy Mason

Characters

DAVIS DANIELS, a high school junior.

KIRSTEN SABO, a high school junior.

Scene

It's 1968. There's racial strife around the nation, and a rapidly escalating war in Southeast Asia, but at Nathan Hale High School the urgent questions involve who's in love with whom. 17-year-old Davis is trying to work his way through his own sexual ambiguities by inviting his innocent classmate, Kirsten, to the Sno Daze dance. This date means one thing to Davis and, heart-wrenchingly, quite another to Kirsten.

(KIRSTEN sits on a staircase in the school. From down the hall we hear music over the gymnasium PA system, maybe something on the order of a Chuck Berry number, e.g. "Rock & Roll Music" or "School Days" or perhaps the Stones' "Under the Boardwalk," and then something like the Beatles' "She's Leaving Home." DAVIS approaches with hot cider in Dixie cups.)

KIRSTEN. Oh, thanks!

DAVIS. Look out, they're hot.

KIRSTEN. Steaming. It's my dad's recipe multiplied by a couple hundred. Heavy on the cinnamon.

DAVIS. It smells great.

KIRSTEN. Thank you. I made the fruit salad, too. You're a wonderful dancer.

DAVIS. Thanks, I'm not that...

KIRSTEN. I mean, you never go to dances, where did you learn to dance like that?

DAVIS. I don't know.

KIRSTEN. You're just amazing.

DAVIS. You tired or anything?

(Beat.)

KIRSTEN. My dad helps me with so much, he's such a great guy, I mean, he's a little quiet, he's a mailman.

DAVIS. Uh-huh.

KIRSTEN. They tend to be quiet, letter carriers, they think a lot, I don't think people generally realize that.

(Beat.)

DAVIS. And walk, they walk a lot.

KIRSTEN. Oh, yes. Walk and think, think and walk.

DAVIS. Really. Is there, you know, wax or something floating in your cider?

KIRSTEN. Oh, no, I just knew it! I knew Dixie cups were a mistake!

DAVIS. I mean, it's not a lot or anything.

KIRSTEN. Miss Borders said she didn't think it would be a problem and I said, "Oh yes it will, you just wait."

DAVIS. It's only a little wax.

KIRSTEN. That woman just doesn't listen. Sorry, I shouldn't criticize.

DAVIS. Why not?

KIRSTEN. Well. It's like Thumper's dad was always saying to him, "If you can't say somethin' nice, don't say nothin' at all."

DAVIS. Thumper's dad?

KIRSTEN. In *Bambi*. The movie?

DAVIS. Oh, yeah.

KIRSTEN. It was my favorite movie when I was a kid. Remember it?

DAVIS. Yeah, I think so.

KIRSTEN. If you want to go, Davis, I'll understand.

DAVIS. What?

KIRSTEN. I know you're thinking this was a mistake.

DAVIS. No! Honest. No.

KIRSTEN. You're a kind person, you always have been. But I'll understand.

DAVIS. Hey, I don't know what you're talking about, really. I'm having a great time.

KIRSTEN. You're really so sweet. But you sure as hell don't have a crush on me.

(Beat.)

DAVIS. I don't think I ever heard you use a four-letter word before.

KIRSTEN. I'm never going to win a Nobel Prize or anything, but I'm not a damn fool.

DAVIS. Wow.

KIRSTEN. Girls. I don't know, they're different. They get crushes.

DAVIS. Boys do too.

(Beat.)

KIRSTEN. And I'm not kidding, I think the two of you would be so perfect.

DAVIS. Who?

KIRSTEN. You and Amanda.

DAVIS. Oh, god!

KIRSTEN. Let's go.

DAVIS. No! Kirsten. Please. Let's go back in there and dance some more. Or we could stay here if you like. Talk to me.

(Pause.)

KIRSTEN. My dad was so nervous tonight, you'd think he was the one going on a. To a dance. And a little proud, too, I think, you know? But mostly just nervous. He felt better when he met you, I could tell. Did he give you the old third degree while I was upstairs?

DAVIS. No. He didn't say much really.

KIRSTEN. Oh.

DAVIS. I mean, we talked. He gave me a Coke. Mostly he read the paper.

KIRSTEN. I think my dad's a lot more like Thumper's dad than Bambi's dad. Of course Bambi's dad was a great big stag and the King of the Forest and my dad's a lot more like an old rabbit. Bambi's mom died around the same time mine did, I mean, that's about when I saw that movie, right round the time my mom died, and we both missed our moms terribly. I think of all the things I should have said to her but didn't. I guess that's why you mourn. Then you go on. Like Bambi did. This is the first time I ever went out with a boy. I think my dad was afraid I was going to get all twitterpated tonight and that's why he was so nervous.

DAVIS. Twitterpated?

KIRSTEN. You'll have to see the movie. At Luther League at church they pair you off for parties or hayrides but that's different. A boy tried to kiss me once on a hayride but I didn't like him so I didn't let him. There was one boy at church I sort of liked but he moved.

(Beat.)

DAVIS. Should I kiss you?

KIRSTEN. I don't know.

(DAVIS kisses KIRSTEN.)

KIRSTEN. It's not Amanda? I won't ask. When I talk to myself I sound interesting but when I say things out loud I don't.

DAVIS. I'm interested.

KIRSTEN. And that's a real problem because what you say out loud is important, it's like a bridge, and if you don't have it you're all alone. So whatever you've got to say, Davis, whoever you've got to say it to, you better say it. I would like to go to the girls' room now.

(She starts off and turns back.)

Let me take these, they're undrinkable.

(KIRSTEN takes DAVIS's Dixie cup and her own and leaves. Maybe DAVIS puts his head in his arms.)

AT THE BOTTOM OF LAKE MISSOULA

by Ed Monk

Characters

PAM

JIM

Scene

Pam and Jim have been made lab partners in a biology class at college. Pam has been distracted and aloof because six months earlier her entire family was killed by a tornado. Jim has just found out about the tragedy and visits Pam in her dorm room.

(PAM is sitting on bed; her head in her hands, there is a knock at the door made by a drumstick on the stage floor. It repeats the knock on the door at the dorm.)

PAM. Come in.

(Enter JIM carrying the binder she dropped.)

JIM. Hey.

PAM. *(PAM looks at him for a beat and then turns away.)* Please leave me alone.

JIM. I just wanted to um...I mean...I...

PAM. What?

JIM. I don't know what to say to you. I tried to think of something to say, but nothing...I mean, nothing really bad has ever even happened to me. I can't even begin to imagine what you...I mean you read about things like that or it's on the news but you never....I don't know what to tell you. I just...you just seem so sad and I...want to help.

PAM. You can't.

(Pause. JIM sets the binder on the bed and begins to exit but stops. He turns back, looks at her for a second, makes a decision and begins to speak quickly.)

JIM. We had this dog once, his name was Patches, and he was the dumbest dog in the universe. So one time we had some mice in the house, behind the drywall in the living room, and Patches could hear them. So he would run all along the wall chasing them and then after he got really worked up, he would run full force and smash his head into the wall and then he would stagger all around and fall down.