

**Characters**

ELIOT, 17.

HONOR, 17.

**Scene**

Honor is the star rower of Masterson Academy crew. Honor is also in love with Ashley Paulson who attends the girls school across the river. Forbidden by his domineering father to see Ashley, Honor has made Ashley a piece of sculpture. He needs Eliot to take it across the river for him. Eliot has been afraid of the water since his father drowned, but must now learn to swim in order to pass gym class and gain favor in the eyes of his secret crush.

**Author Note**

“—” is an interruption.

“...” is a short pause.

“/” is the point at which the next line of dialogue should begin, creating an overlap in speech.

*(ELIOT and HONOR sit in a row boat on a river on the grounds of Masterson Academy Boys School. ELIOT has a blanket over his shoulders.)*

**HONOR.** You look like a grandma.

**ELIOT.** It's cold.

**HONOR.** You sound like a grandma.

**ELIOT.** Well, I'm sorry, but sitting on a river at five in the morning in late October is a very cold thing to do—regardless of one's age. I think I just saw an ice floe.

**HONOR.** Chill out.

**ELIOT.** Oh I am chilling—and if I die of hypothermia—

**HONOR.** What: you'll kill me?

**ELIOT.** Obviously not, I'll be dead.

**HONOR.** Fine, you can haunt me. Now stop complaining and take your sweater off. Or should I say my sweater.

**ELIOT.** Couldn't we do this in the pool?

**HONOR.** Do you have a master key to the gymnasium?

**ELIOT.** I think I heard someone.

**HONOR.** No one is here.

**ELIOT.** If we wait until the river freezes over, I could just skate across it and give it to her then.

**HONOR.** That won't happen for weeks, maybe even months.

**ELIOT.** Absence makes the heart / grow—

**HONOR.** Anyway, I thought you were Bambi?

**ELIOT.** I just think—

**HONOR.** Eliot, you made a promise!

**ELIOT.** All right!

**HONOR.** What are you so afraid of?

**ELIOT.** I'm not afraid.

**HONOR.** Why are you so afraid of admitting you're afraid?

**ELIOT.** I am not afraid!

**HONOR.** How come you never learned to swim?

**ELIOT.** No reason. I was just—

**HONOR.** Afraid?

**ELIOT.** Look, I know the faculty at Masterson thinks otherwise, but a good teacher does not harass his students.

**HONOR.** Alright. But the first thing you have to do in order to swim is get in the water... Now.

**ELIOT.** Don't you first want to teach me what to do once I get in there?

**HONOR.** I will once you're in there.

**ELIOT.** Won't it be a little late by then?

**HONOR.** Come on Eliot—

**ELIOT.** Although, I suppose if I do start to drown, you can just dive in and save me like you did with that “little girl” last week.

**HONOR.** I had to say something, my uniform was soaked.

**ELIOT.** And I suppose desertion was out of the question.

**HONOR.** My father would have killed me.

**ELIOT.** Instead I'm the laughing stock of the school.

**HONOR.** You already were anyway.

**ELIOT.** At least I'm not a liar.

**HONOR.** You trying to make me feel guilty? You won't.

**ELIOT.** Could you have at least come up with something better than "she fell from a tire swing"?

**HONOR.** You should have had an older brother. That's what's wrong with you. I had four: they taught me how to swim. And—everything else you don't learn in school.

**ELIOT.** Well, I didn't, okay? Lucky me: I just get you.

**HONOR.** If you freak out, don't panic; take a deep breath and hold it. If your lungs are full, you won't be able to sink, it's like having two floats right there inside you.

*(Pause.)*

Eliot, just trust me, I'm here, nothing bad's going to happen—

**ELIOT.** ...You do the same, you know?

**HONOR.** What?

**ELIOT.** Talk different when you're around me.

**HONOR.** No I don't.

**ELIOT.** Yeah you do. When no one else is around, you're / more thoughtful.

**HONOR.** You should be careful I don't throw you in the river.

**ELIOT.** I thought that was the point.

**HONOR.** Shut up... What?

**ELIOT.** Nothing. I'm "shut up."

**HONOR.** Do you like being strange?

**ELIOT.** I don't mind it. I don't find many of our classmates that interesting.

**HONOR.** Whatever.

**ELIOT.** What "whatever"?

**HONOR.** You'd be right there in the thick of it if someone let you in.

**ELIOT.** Maybe. But no one has, so why sit around whining I'm not.

**HONOR.** Because you know you want to.

**ELIOT.** Obviously those friendships aren't as great as you make people think they are.

**HONOR.** What's that supposed to mean.

**ELIOT.** Who's taking your sculpture across the river?

*(Pause.)*

I'd like to think *my* close friends wouldn't laugh at my feelings.

**HONOR.** You won't be taking anything anywhere unless you take off that sweater and jump in.

**ELIOT.** Crud; who's that?

**HONOR.** No one. Everyone's asleep.

**ELIOT.** I heard something.

**HONOR.** You probably just farted.

**ELIOT.** No I didn't!

**HONOR.** I fart when I'm nervous.

**ELIOT.** I'm not—when are you nervous?

**HONOR.** I get nervous.

**ELIOT.** No you don't.

**HONOR.** Sometimes. / Sometimes I do.

**ELIOT.** When? I don't believe you.

**HONOR.** I do. Sometimes. The first time I met Ashley Paulson I farted.

**ELIOT.** Charming.

**HONOR.** She didn't hear. I controlled it. It was like stomach growling. I farted on the inside.

**ELIOT.** The things you do for the ones you love.

**HONOR.** I do love her.

**ELIOT.** How do you know that?

**HONOR.** The only person I've ever made sculpture for before was my Mom.

**ELIOT.** ...Do you miss her so much you don't think you're a whole person?

**HONOR.** Yeah, I guess. Have you ever been in love with anyone?

**ELIOT.** Maybe.

**HONOR.** Who?

**ELIOT.** What if I drown?

**HONOR.** Is that what you're afraid of?

**ELIOT.** It's my greatest fear in the world.

**HONOR.** So why are you here?

**ELIOT.** Oh, I don't know, it's sorta like I'm under some magic spell. Or maybe the influence of some powerful drug.

**HONOR.** You do drugs?

**ELIOT.** What? No. It was a metaphor.

**HONOR.** For what?

**ELIOT.** Never mind.

He's not the brightest bulb in the marquis, but...god his eyes are gorgeous.

**HONOR.** Do you hate me?

**ELIOT.** Why?

**HONOR.** 'Cause I asked you to swim.

**ELIOT.** No. But I do hate you.

**HONOR.** Why?

**ELIOT.** 'Cause you're the first person who's made me want to.

**HONOR.** ...So?

**ELIOT.** So.

*(ELIOT takes off the sweater. He looks over the side of the boat.)*

So-so.

**HONOR.** What was that?

**ELIOT.** Crap. It's the grounds crew—I told you.

**HONOR.** We can stash the boat under the Blackberry bushes. No one ever goes near them.

**ELIOT.** The Blackberries?

**HONOR.** They grow so well 'cause they're over the septic tanks.

**ELIOT.** Ewh... So. Tomorrow?

**HONOR.** You still want to?

**ELIOT.** I made a promise, didn't I?

**HONOR.** We'll start an hour earlier.

## 13 WAYS TO SCREW UP YOUR COLLEGE INTERVIEW

by Ian McWethy

### Characters

INTERVIEWER

BEN

### Scene

An Interviewer must find one extra student to attend the university at which he works for or he will be fired. So far, his day has not been going well; all the potential students he's interviewed have been insane, awkward, and beyond dumb. It is at this point the Interviewer meets Ben, who seems to be a dream candidate...

*(The INTERVIEWER and BEN are in mid laugh.)*

**BEN.** And the entire audience is COMPLETELY drenched!

**INTERVIEWER.** Oh man! Wow!

**BEN.** Needless to say that was the LAST time I ever went to Sea World.

*(The laughter peters out.)*

**INTERVIEWER.** Well I've gotta tell you Ben, everything looks great. Solid SATs, GPA high above our school's average, and your essay was...well to be honest, quite moving.

**BEN.** Well, this is such a great university, I'd be honored to attend.

*(They stand up and shake hands.)*

**INTERVIEWER.** Hey, we'd be lucky to have you. Are you applying to any other schools?

**BEN.** Nope. Just here.

**INTERVIEWER.** Oh, okay, great. Great.

*(Beat.)*

**BEN.** So...

**INTERVIEWER.** Uh...yes?

**BEN.** I'm in then?