

PROLOGUE: This can be done either as a narration over speakers with a darkened stage or it can be actually staged. The prologue is prose-like, dense, and quite different from the rest of the play. It is important to create space around it, so that it floats independently.

Addie sits outside in the night. She talks to her river.

Addie I remembered my dream about the geese. It must have happened a long time ago. When there was water to touch. And geese to see. (Pause) They come out of nowhere. One, two, three of them, speeding down at such an angle, I can't help but think they're crazy. Dropping out of the dusk like rocks, they just keep coming, more and more, plummeting downwards. All I hear is the sigh of the water absorbing an impact, a vague complaint of the air resisting the beat of a wing. Then it stops sudden. Quiet. A landing. I start to get up. But as I do I'm pushed right back down by the sound of low voices. They cut through the night. I'm concentrating now, I will those geese to move on, fly up, but they don't understand me. They can't hear me. Sound erupts. It comes from the other side of the lake, but soon the air's so full you can't distinguish its origin. Ten, twenty of them get it before they even leave the water. The rest just fall down. They just fall down. When the sky holds nothing but on-coming darkness, everything stops. Quiet. The voices recede back into the woods. I'm left alone with a lake of floating corpses. (Pause) Being left with it- doesn't that mean I'm not one of them? I understand your submergence, your not wanting to absorb the blood. Your not wanting to be the magnet that attracts such innocence.

ACT 1, SCENE 1. Addie's. She sits eating beans noisily out of a can, paying no attention to Weed, who sits across the table from her.

Weed A woman's not supposed to be on her own, Addie. It's unnatural. And a man knows about nature because in a man's life, he's both a hunter and a farmer so he's close to things. He starts out hunting. He gets out there to get what there is to get. He rises to the challenge of the chase, Addie. And it's exciting, you know, the chase. But there comes a time when a man wants to make something grow. He wants to settle down, you know, and nurture something. It's in his nature, Addie, it's as natural as the rising of the moon. When this time comes, he's gotta pay attention to it, he's gotta make his choice. And the ones who haven't been killed in the chase, well they're there for the farming. They're there for the farming, Addie. Do you know what I'm trying to say to you?

(Addie finishes her beans, puts can on table)

Addie I ate all your beans, Weed.

Weed Exactly. You see that you ate my beans.

Addie I do.

Weed That's what I've been talking about.

Addie Your beans.

Weed You eating my beans.

Addie That's what you've been talking about?

Weed You're a smart woman.

Addie And you're a stimulating conversationalist, Weed.

Weed A man of action has to be.

Addie A man of action should be somewhere where something happens.

Weed A man of action makes it happen. That's what I've been talking about.

Addie Me eating your beans.

Weed That's right. And me choosing you.

Addie For what?

Weed For farming.

Addie You want to farm me?

Weed I want to help you grow. I want to feed you. You're hungry, Addie.

Addie No more than anybody else around here.

Weed There's nobody else around here.

Addie Suits me.

Weed It's unnatural for a woman to be on her own. It goes against principles.

Addie I don't know any principles.

Weed Two-by-two. That's a principle.

Addie What kind of principle is that?

Weed It's the Noah's Ark principle.

Addie I don't know it.

Weed Do you know who Noah was?

Addie I know I've got a lot of things to do around here today.

Weed Do you know what an ark is?

Addie I've got a lot of responsibilities.

Weed Noah was an old man.

Addie I'm responsible for a lot of things.

Weed The ark was his boat. He built his boat. Noah was a man of action.

Addie He built a boat?

Weed He built an ark.

Addie A boat is used to travel on water.

Weed You're a smart woman, Addie.

Addie So this two-by-two principle is a water principle.

Weed There's water involved.

Addie Then you should tell me about it.

Weed It's something you should know.

Addie If you tell me about it, I'll give you a glass of water.

Weed I love a woman who makes deals.

(Addie pours two small glasses of water from a pitcher. For the first time she listens attentively to Weed)

Weed There is nothing like making a deal to get the blood stirring...

Addie Tell me about the boat.

Weed ... your temperature rising.

Addie I want to know...

Weed Noah built the boat. He called it an ark. Noah was a scientist and he paid attention to signs. He knew something was going to happen, he predicted. Although it cannot be proven, my guess is that he used seismological equipment. My guess is that it had something to do with shifting tectonic plates. He knew the rain was coming. He started building the boat. Everyone thought he was crazy. When he was done, he collected one male and one female of all the animals of the world, and led them onto his boat, two by two. While everybody else drowned, his boat was saved. Everybody on his boat was

saved. Not only was Noah a good scientist. He was a man of action. He paid attention to signs. He created the principle two-by-two.

Addie How long did it rain?

Weed 40 days and 40 nights.

Addie That's a lot of rain.

Weed A lot of hard, passionate, wet...

Addie That's a flood.

Weed ...driving, forceful, pulsing....

Addie A flood is when water overflows onto land that is normally dry.

Weed Steamy rain.

(Weed abruptly tries to kiss Addie; she spits in his face)

Weed I don't think you quite understand the two-by-two principle.

Addie I don't need a demonstration.

Weed You're not as smart as I thought.

Addie Now I'm thirsty.

Weed I don't think you understand about farming.

Addie I wasted my spit on you.

Weed I'm a farmer.

Addie *(Picks up shovel from corner of room)* I've got things to do.

Weed I'm telling you I'm a farmer.

Addie It's time for you to find your way back home.

Weed I feel like this is my home.

Addie It's not.

Weed I want this to be my home.

Addie Too bad.

Weed What I'm saying is, I want you to be my wife.

Addie Don't be stupid.

Weed You're the one who's stupid.

Addie Get out.

Weed You don't understand principles.

END SCENE.

ACT 1, SCENE 2. Addie sits, eating beans out of a can. Her shovel rests against her chair, close at hand. Weed sits across from Addie, with a slightly soiled piece of paper in front of him.

Addie Just because I'm eating your beans doesn't mean you're farming me.

Weed I'm not a farmer.

Addie That was quick.

Weed I'm a friend.

Addie Sure you are.

Weed That's why I brought you the beans.

Addie Not to farm me.

Weed I'm concerned about you being out here all alone. It's not natural.

Addie You want to befriend me.

Weed A woman needs company if she's going to be alone.

Addie You're a philosopher, Weed.

Weed A man of action has to be.

Addie Seems like a man of action has to be a lot of things.

Weed It's true. And not every man is up for it.

Addie Good thing.

Weed It's a lot of responsibility.

Addie I've got responsibilities.

Weed I feel responsible. That's why I'm going to make you a proposition.

Addie You already did that.

Weed This is a different kind of proposition.

Addie I doubt it.

Weed I'm going to give you some money.

Addie What for?

Weed To help you.

Addie What for?

Weed To get you back on track, Addie. (Pause) I'm going to set you up.

Addie For what?

Weed A better life.

Addie My life's fine.

Weed Exactly. You think that your life is fine.

Addie You're not going to set me up with my legs in the air.

Weed When a woman's been on her own too long the brain starts going soft.

Addie There's no way I'm sticking my legs up in the air for you, Weed.

Weed She starts seeing things, talking to things, that aren't there. She starts believing things that aren't true.

Addie Who's she?

Weed She is a woman who's been alone too long.

Addie For not being one, you know a lot about a woman who's been alone too long.

Weed I do. That's why I want to give you some money.

Addie I don't want any money.

Weed Yes you do.

Addie No I don't.

Weed That proves my point.

Addie What point?

Weed A woman's brain must be soft if she doesn't want money.

Addie What am I going to do with money?

Weed You're going to let me set you up.

Addie I told you I don't want to be set up.

Weed All you have to do is sign this piece of paper and you can have a new life.

Addie What's that piece of paper?

Weed Freedom is what this paper is.

Addie I don't believe that.

Weed You'll be free.

Addie I don't believe that either.

Weed To move.

Addie I can move just fine already.

Weed Closer to other people.

Addie I'm not going anywhere.

Weed Where there are doctors.

Addie You can stop right there, Weed.

Weed You need a doctor.

Addie You're the one who better start moving.

Weed What did I find when I came out here?

Addie Nothing. There's nothing out here, there's nothing to find. That's why you should go back where you came from.

Weed I found a starving woman, that's what I found.

Addie Don't be stupid.

Weed A woman who needs a doctor.

Addie I've been here a lot longer than you.

Weed How much land do you have here, Addie?

Addie What?

Weed You've got a lot of land here.

Addie It's mine.

Weed Of course it is.

Addie What's that piece of paper?

Weed But have you asked yourself what good this land is doing you?

Addie No.