

**Andrew Petzold-Eley**  
from *The Asylum Play*

**THEO**- Adolescent (18), schizophrenic.

**COCO**- Never looks anyone in the eye. 40-45 years old. A clutter of jewelry, has the tattoos of an adolescent. Cognitively limited.

**MR. LUIS**- Manager of the local grocery store.

**VALENTINE**- A bartender or line cook

**A WOMAN**

**SCENE 8**

(Lights up.)

(THEO is sitting against a brick wall near a pay telephone and storefront, COCO standing above him. Coco's crazy bracelets and earrings dangle and jangle. She has a cellphone in her left hand, can't stand still for a moment.)

THEO

I like your earnings. If you move they dance. I like it.

COCO

You're sweet. I like it too.

(she swishes her head and they dance)

THEO

(ha ha ha) Wow.

COCO

(ha ha ha)

I like it now that we're married. That was funny when you did that when you told him when you told Shep you said "We're in love so you can't hurt us!" when you said that it made me feel good inside I like it. He can't call the cops you know why he can't call the cops you know we're adults because we're adults that's why he can't call them on us.

THEO

Yep. Adults. "We're in love so you can't hurt us!"

(mimicks a punch)

Bam!

COCO

Do you think he called wait did you really hit him after he said that?

THEO

Where are we gonna stay together?

COCO

Remember Ovaldo.

THEO

Ovaldo's old. He's like forty.

COCO

Shut up Theo that's rude. Never say that to a lady or anybody that they're old.

THEO

They kicked him out. He's homeless. He's a bum.

COCO

No they didn't. They moved him to a different home close to his work close to where he does his recycling job. I talked to Ovaldo yesterday on my cellphone I called *Ovaldo* and I told *him* that maybe I might see him around so I might go stay with Ovaldo I'll call Ovaldo and ask.

THEO

Where am I gonna stay?

COCO

I don't know where he lives.

(beat)

He doesn't have enough room for three people he told me. He might not have enough. You wait here wait here Teddy.

(She looks down upon him.)

COCO

(bashful)

I love you Theo.

THEO

(smiling)

Really?

(Exit Coco.)

(Theo rubs his face with his hands while smiling.)

THEO

Oh my God. (ha ha ha) Can't believe. Can't believe it. (ha ha ha) "Due to limited amounts of resources and commodities, not all these needs can be met." (ha ha)

(A WOMAN walks by him.)

THEO

Do you believe it I'm married?! (ha ha ha) I'm so happy. I am the world.

(shouts)

I am the world! I am *Principles of Economics- Fourth Edition*! I am the bank manager!

(MR. LUIS passes by him.)

THEO

Mr. Luis! Mr. Luis! It's Theo, your worker at the grocery store! Don't you remember me from like six and a half months ago?

(Theo grasps onto Mr. Luis)

THEO

I am married. I am the world. I am a bank manager! Are you only a grocery store manager? (ha ha ha) I'm kidding.

(Mr. Luis pushes his hand to arm's length, palm facing out defensively.)

THEO

Come on. Man. Why are you being rude? Man, come on.

MR. LUIS

I'm not.

THEO

Sorry sorry sorry okay. I'm happy to see you again. Do you still work at the grocery store?

MR. LUIS

(hesitant)

You know I'm not supposed to tell you that.

THEO

Can I ask you a question.

MR. LUIS

No, I am legally. It's illegal for you to

THEO

Just one question please that's all please. Just one question.

MR. LUIS

No I

THEO

Did you. My question is. Did you when I was working at the grocery store did one time while I was working at the grocery store did the lady talk to you and say that I was a bad worker and I did bad work and I should be fired?

MR. LUIS

We can't talk about it. I'm not risking

THEO

Come on. Please. I need to be sure. Did she tell it to you.

MR. LUIS

Why? Why do you want to know? Asking again in different words won't change anything. You already know the truth, Theo. You can't hunt people down, asking them to undo the past. It's the same now as it was then, Theo. Life is the same. Nothing changed.

THEO

(beat)

But. My question is

(beat)

You didn't answer my question.

(beat)

But did she say it. Did you

(Mr. Luis begins to walk away. THEO grasps for him.)

THEO

Okay okay okay. Sorry. Please. Mr. Luis?

(puts his hand to his temple)

Will you call them with me? I have to tell somebody. Now I remember. Please.

(Exit Mr. Luis.)

THEO

No. I have to tell somebody. My medication. Please.

(Red light waxes and wanes through yellow lamplight.)

THEO

I have to call them. Please! PLEASE! My medication!

(Theo shout-grunts, throwing his head in his hands.)

(He paces the perimeter of his invisible box as before.)

(His body is rigid, intense.)

THEO

You took my money! You stole it and gave all my money to them! No. NO!

(begins sobbing, weeping)

No no no.

(Theo thrusts his torso, using his shoulder as a battering ram, into the brick wall repeatedly. He does this about four times before sliding down against the wall. Theo digs his face, grinding it into brick and mortar abrasively.)

(VALENTINE in a blue apron appears from within the storefront and lights a cigarette.)

VALENTINE

Teddy, man. How you doin.

(Theo moans)

VALENTINE

No van, Teddy? Where's all your van buddies? You lose em?

(beat)

Like where's hey where's that dude. The one with the coin collection who talks like a robot. Man I love that dude. The one who talks like a robot.

(Valentine waits long enough to be considered polite, then texts on his phone.)

THEO

Now I'm homeless like Ovaldo.

VALENTINE

What's that?

THEO

Now I'm homeless. Mr. Luis told them I was a bad worker and he told them to take my money and he gave it to them. My money he gave it to them. At my

THEO (con't)

group home. Now they have it. And I asked them. And he said "I don't owe *you* no money, you slave." Just like that he said. "Slave, you... I owe you no money." Like that he said it.

VALENTINE

Who said, your boss?

THEO

And they laughed. All of them. And Shep. Because Mr. Luis told them. But *I* will tell *them* when *I* am the bank manager.

(turns to Valentine, his left cheek is a bloody gritty mess dripping and soaking into his shirt.)

VALENTINE

What are you kidding me.

(takes a big drag off cigarette)

I don't know what to tell you.

THEO

I am sad. I can distract myself.

VALENTINE

No, no. Don't distract yourself. Distracting yourself's not going to do anything. Tell me about it, buddy. Tell me *all about* it.

THEO

(crying)

Now they're going to rape me so I'm homeless like Ovaldo. They kicked him out of the home because I think

(suddenly hyper-focused)

I think he got caught eating or stealing food or something and he used to fight with everybody like all the time so they kicked him out and he got a bunch of uh a bunch of...

(gestures with hands)

He used to fight with everybody almost all the time like maybe eighty-three percent of the time, lots of times, so I think that's why they raped him so he would leave. And he did so that's what they're going to do to me. I don't. I don't want them to rape me. They raped me. They raped me and kicked me out after Mr. Luis told them. And gave them my money.

(Theo returns to moaning and grinding his face against the wall...)