

ELOISE — SIDE TWO

MARTIN
Let me ask you something, Eloise.

ELOISE
Yes sir?

MARTIN
You like working at this theater?

ELOISE
Yes sir.

MARTIN
No, no. I mean do you *really* like it?

ELOISE
Yes. Yes I do, sir.

MARTIN
How long have you been working here?

ELOISE
Three years, sir.

MARTIN
Three years. Wow. Long time. You don't ever get tired of it?

ELOISE
No, sir.

MARTIN
I sure as hell would.

Beat.

ELOISE
Yes, sir. Of course.

MARTIN

But you like it. So.

ELOISE

I do, sir.

Beat.

MARTIN

It hot in here to you?

ELOISE

A bit stuffy, yes sir.

MARTIN

Don't lie to me.

ELOISE

I wouldn't, sir. I'm not.

MARTIN

Eloise.

ELOISE

Sir?

MARTIN

Address me as Martin just once, would you? For me?

ELOISE

Of course, Martin. Whatever you please.

Beat.

MARTIN

So. Three years you've been here. What else?

ELOISE

I'm not sure I understand, sir.

MARTIN

I mean. What else. Do you do? When you leave here, what do you do?

ELOISE

In what regard, sir?

MARTIN

Come on. You're young. Can't be older than me. Pretty. This is New York City, for God's sake!

ELOISE

It certainly is, sir.

MARTIN

Don't get smart.

ELOISE

Sir?

MARTIN's flustered; he drops his face paint. ELOISE picks it up and hands it to him, instinctively. Beat.

MARTIN

Can I interest you in a drink?

ELOISE

No thank you, sir.

Beat.

ELOISE

I don't think I should drink on the job, is all. But I do appreciate the offer.

MARTIN

Willie said the same thing. Said it makes him distracted.

MARTIN retrieves the gin and pours himself a drink.

MARTIN

Well, you can watch me.

Beat.

MARTIN

You really ought to see him dance. I'm serious.

ELOISE

I hope to, sir.

MARTIN

One doesn't fully understand the confines of human ability, Eloise, until witnessing something like that. It really is a.... Was this your dream?

ELOISE

Sir?

MARTIN

Cleaning a theater. Is it what you dreamed of as a child?

Beat.

MARTIN

That's a "no," then.

ELOISE

Was a long time ago, sir.

MARTIN

You ever hear of the Fugitive Slave Act, Eloise?

Beat.

ELOISE

I don't believe I have, sir.

MARTIN

Ah. Well. Nothing all that important, as far as I understand.

ELOISE

I'm sure it's not, sir.

MARTIN

Eloise?

ELOISE

Sir?

MARTIN

There is more to life than “yes sir” and “no sir.” I can promise you that.

Beat.

ELOISE

I'm sorry, sir.