MORRIS AND ESTHER SIDE #1

MORRIS: A man of 90 years, loving spouse of ESTHER for 67 of them; hypochondriacal and very tender-hearted. Can be played by a much younger actor, who has a strong sense of time, love, of suffering and of the quiet density of long experience.

ESTHER: A woman of 88 years, spouse of MORRIS; a canny, determined, cantankerous yet affectionate partner to her husband; denies all suffering, to the relief of her husband, who suffers constantly; saves coupons, knows where everything is; is in very poor health. Also can be played by a much younger actor.

Note: both of these characters will have intimacy choreography in the production

ESTHER: Morris, I want a hotdog.

MORRIS: I know.

ESTHER: I still want a hotdog.

MORRIS: I thought you said you’d try to forget.

ESTHER: No, I want one. I still want one.

MORRIS: I know.

ESTHER: Can someone get me a hotdog.

MORRIS: They have so much salt. The daily allowance is 2,000 milllygrams.

ESTHER: Who cares?

MORRIS: Esther, you are not careful enough.

ESTHER: I want a hotdog.

MORRIS: You want that hotdog more than you want me. Stay with me!

ESTHER: Don’t be silly, Morrich!

MORRIS: This hurts me!

ESTHER: *(staring across the room at a picture of herself and Morris at their wedding)* Morris, look at that picture. Was that a handsome couple?

MORRIS: You were a good-looking babe, Esther!

ESTHER: She cuts my hair so terrible. And I have so little hair to cut. All my hair, I lost.

MORRIS: *(with almost unbearable tenderness)* I wish I could give you my hair.

ESTHER: Morris, tell me a story.

MORRIS: You know all my stories, dear, you already know them.

ESTHER: Tell me again.