

## Bluebird Aspirations

### Scene 1

(Lights up to reveal two friends in a college dorm room. LISA lies on a bed next to a nightstand with a glass of water and a phone on it. DAVE lies on the floor. LISA is making feeble attempts to study while DAVE has completely given up.)

DAVE

So you'd rather his head was shaped like a pyramid, right?

LISA

I don't know—

DAVE

You don't know!

LISA

Well, I mean—

DAVE

So you're telling me that you would rather wake up every day for the rest of your life next to a man with the head of a cow rather than one who's head was shaped like a pyramid?

LISA

Well, would he have horns?

DAVE

Would he have horns?

LISA

I mean, if he had the cow head. Actually, wouldn't it be a bull's head?

DAVE

Would you *want* him to have horns?

LISA

Well, I mean since he is a *guy* with a cow's head I guess it would make sense if— I DON'T KNOW! The whole thing's crazy, I mean, where did you come up with this?

DAVE

I didn't, somebody asked me.

LISA

Somebody asked you?

DAVE

Uh-huh.

LISA  
So what did *you* say?

DAVE  
Well the pyramid head of course!

LISA  
Of course!?

DAVE  
Oh come on! If you had to choose between being married to someone with a pyramid shaped head or someone with a cow's head you would actually consider the cow's head?

LISA  
Well they're both pretty weird.

DAVE  
But it's a cow!

LISA  
But it's a pyramid!

DAVE  
Yeah, but— Well at least he'd be human.

LISA  
I guess so.

(Pause)

DAVE  
So what if one eye were ten times normal size?

LISA  
Oh God.

DAVE  
Or what if he had antlers!

LISA  
You mean the cow?

DAVE  
No not the cow, cows don't have antlers.

LISA  
Well people don't have pyramid heads!

(Pause)

DAVE  
Some might.

LISA  
Oh, come on.

DAVE  
(Slowly)

I'm sure some people have one giant eye.

LISA  
You're insane.

(Pause)

DAVE  
So, you'd really marry the perfect guy even if he had the head of a cow.

LISA  
Maybe, I mean if I loved him and everything I would hope it wouldn't matter what he looked like.

DAVE  
Wow, that's pretty cool.

LISA  
You wouldn't marry the perfect girl just because she had a cow's head?

DAVE  
Well, it would be one thing if I was like, already dating her and one day she just suddenly had a cow's head. Because then maybe I'd already be so in love with her mind or something that I could overlook it. Although, "overlook" is probably the wrong word, more like... learn to live with it.

LISA  
I'm sure it would be pretty hard on her too.

DAVE  
Oh, I'm sure it would be.

(Pause)

Especially if we lived in an apartment.

LISA

What?

DAVE

Well, I mean, if we lived in an apartment with nice landscaping and stuff, I don't think the neighbors would probably be too happy if my wife was like, always outside eating the lawn.

LISA

That's terrible.

DAVE

Oh c'mon, who am I gonna offend? The United... Federation of... Grazing Animals or something. I'll wake up tomorrow and there'll be a bunch of wildebeests picketing outside.

LISA

Okay.

DAVE

Of course you know who would be worse to offend than the grazers would be the Association for People with One Giant Eye. I mean it's one thing to have a group of irate wildebeests on your lawn, but it's a whole other ball game when there's a bunch of pissed off, hundred foot tall Cyclopes lookin' in your window.

LISA

Maybe the Cyclopes would eat the wildebeests.

DAVE

Better them than me.

(Pause)

So, what about the guy with the pyramid head?

LISA

They'd probably eat him too.

DAVE

No, not that. I mean, would you marry the perfect guy if he had a pyramid head?

LISA

Oh, I guess so. I don't know, I really think personality is just way more important to me than looks.

DAVE

Yeah, but we're talkin' about some pretty extremely strange looks here.

LISA

I know, I mean, I guess it sounds cheesy, but, what I really want is someone who's like a great friend, but at the same time a lot more. Like somebody who you could go to Paris with but at the same time who you could just... sit around the house... wearing sweat pants with, you know what I mean?

DAVE

Yeah, I think so. And, I don't really think that sounds cheesy.

LISA

No?

DAVE

No.

LISA

Oh.

(Pause)

DAVE

So, what if you had to choose between the guy with antlers or the guy with the giant eye—

LISA

The antlers guy.

DAVE

Just like that?

LISA

Yeah, there's just something about the eye.

(Fade out)

## Scene 2

(Lights up to reveal LISA sitting on the bed.)

LISA

Someday my prince will come. Maybe. Do I really want some dashing guy to sweep me off my feet? Do I want a prince? Do I want Prince? No, no I really don't think I want Prince. I can't picture Prince, or the symbol thing formerly known as Prince sweeping me off my feet, or the appendages... formerly known as my feet or, whatever. Aaargh. I want to be loved, and I want to laugh, but, at the same time— I wanna tango. I mean not just tango. I mean I don't really know how to tango. But, something like that. I want to go to mountains and tropical islands and see the stars and the oceans and the bright yellow fish and the beautiful birds. And I want it all to consume me and I want him to be consumed with it but at the same time with me and actually even more with me. Maybe someday—

(The phone rings)

Whoa...

(With an obviously deliberate attempt to be breathtakingly sensual)

Hello!

(Returning to her normal voice)

Oh hi. ... No, no, nothing right now actually. ... Sure, okay. (She laughs)  
Okay, all right... Bye.

(She hangs up the phone and begins to straighten up a bit)

(Quick fade out)

### Scene 3

(As lights fade up DAVE is sitting on the side of the bed facing the audience. LISA enters.)

DAVE

I don't understand.

LISA

You don't understand what?

DAVE

I wish we weren't so different.

LISA

You think we're different?

DAVE

Well, not us... Well, yeah us. I mean, we must be right?

LISA

Why?

DAVE

Because. Because you're one of them. And I'm one of us.

LISA

So, because of that we have to be completely different?

DAVE

Well, not completely different, I mean we both... wear shoes.

LISA

Wear shoes?

DAVE

Yeah, and we eat..., and drink..., and... jump.

LISA

Jump?

DAVE

Maybe not as often as the other things, but sometimes.

LISA

I really don't think we're that different.

DAVE

You don't?

LISA

No.

DAVE  
(Sighs)

What do you want?

LISA

What do I want?

DAVE

You know. What do you *want* .

Oh. LISA

So? DAVE

What do you mean? LISA

I mean it's not easy— DAVE

What? LISA

Being green. DAVE

What? LISA

It's a joke. DAVE

Oh. LISA

I don't know. DAVE

I don't either. LISA

(Pause)

I know. DAVE

What do you mean you know? LISA

DAVE  
I mean, *I* know *you* don't. I mean I know you don't understand. I understand that you don't understand. I mean you must not understand! You must not know!

LISA  
I must not know what!?

DAVE  
(As though coming to a realization)

You must not know WHY!

LISA  
WHY what?

DAVE  
Why it is that you want what you want—

LISA  
What—

DAVE  
Why it is that you want what you want. Wow—

LISA  
WAIT!

(Pause)

Do you want to know what I want?

DAVE  
Not just what you want. What do all you guys want?

LISA  
All of us *guys* ?

DAVE  
You know what I mean.

LISA  
Well, we don't all want the same thing.

DAVE  
Yeah, that makes sense. So... What do *you* want?

LISA  
What do *I* want?  
(Pause)

DAVE  
Yeah.  
(Pause)

I'm not sure. LISA

Oh. I guess— DAVE

You guess? LISA

I guess. DAVE

(Fade out as LISA exits and CANARY GUY enters. They are both still visible as they pass each other and exchange a quick glance.)

#### Scene 4

(Lights up to reveal DAVE pacing around the room as CANARY GUY sits on the bed. CANARY GUY wears fairly normal clothes except for a bright yellow dinner jacket. He is almost a caricature of a real person in that he actually believes he knows it all and is not afraid to show it. His mannerisms are extremely exaggerated and the tonality of his voice is not that of a normal human being, but rather more like an egotistical cartoon character who means well, but isn't extremely sensitive. NOTE: It may be necessary to state somewhere in the program for the show that canaries were once used to detect the presence of odorless toxic gases in mines to protect the lives of miners. Due to their small size the canaries would be affected by the gases long before the miners. Therefore, if the canary in a given mine fell asleep or died, the miners would know to leave.)

I know. CANARY GUY

I'd just like to understand them, you know? DAVE

I know. CANARY GUY

Because I really think if I did then I could— Wait, do you mean you actually *know* ? DAVE

I know. CANARY GUY

DAVE

*You* know?

CANARY GUY

Oh, I know.

DAVE  
(Flabbergasted)

You really know.

CANARY GUY  
Believe me you buddy, I know.

How do you know?

DAVE

CANARY GUY  
(As though he never stopped talking)

I mean if there's one person on this great big green globe who knows then YOU sir are talkin' at him...

Okay, okay—

DAVE

CANARY GUY  
Because in this day and age my friend there are two kinds of people...

Well—

DAVE

CANARY GUY  
Those who know and those who do not know so you gotta know, ya know?

Well yeah, I—

DAVE

CANARY GUY  
OF COURSE you do! Because if you don't then you can bet all the puppies in the world that someone else will.

(DAVE opens his mouth to speak but is cut off)

CANARY GUY

The way it works is this, if you don't know and somebody else does know, then Mr. Somebody is gonna be there while you're just floatin' around in the warm coastal waters like a big fat manatee. It's just like this story somebody told me once. There's this elephant and this fish— What is that smell? Anyways, so there's this elephant and this fish. And this fish is in the river and the elephant is on the shore. I mean of course the elephant's on the shore, (Turning accusatorily to DAVE) where the hell else is it gonna be? In a tree? No, of course an elephant's not gonna be in a tree, what are you, crazy?

(DAVE, not understanding why he is being scolded, tries to speak, but is cut off)

CANARY GUY

Anyways, so this elephant and this fish— What the hell is that smell?

(DAVE clearly doesn't smell anything, shakes his head apologetically and is about to speak but is cut off)

CANARY GUY

Are you listening to the story?

(DAVE is completely confused and unable to speak)

CANARY GUY

(Speaking slowly, slightly frustrated) So there's this elephant and this fish. (Sighs) And the fish is in the river and the elephant is on the shore— NOT in a tree. And one day the fish asks the elephant to explain to him just exactly how it all works.

(DAVE becomes very excited about the explanation he believes he is about to hear.)

CANARY GUY

So the elephant leans down to the water. And because he doesn't want all the other animals to hear his secret, (Whispering to DAVE) he whispers to the fish; in the name of all that is holy (Building in volume) what is that God-awful stench!? It smells like a urine soaked dung beetle killed a wet dog which decayed in a stable built on a dump next to a—

(CANARY GUY opens his eyes wide in an exaggerated "I'm dying" sort of face and collapses face down onto the floor, dead. DAVE stares at him as though waiting to hear the rest of the story. He looks around in confusion and then lays down on the bed. As lights fade out, both actors remain where they are.)

## Scene 5

(Lights up to reveal DAVE and LISA sitting on the bed while CANARY GUY remains exactly how he was. LISA and DAVE appear to be basically oblivious to the body.)

DAVE

So, have you ever been in love?

LISA

I think I might have been once?

DAVE

What was it like?

LISA

It was pretty amazing.

DAVE

Really?

LISA

But at the same time pretty horrible.

DAVE

Oh.

LISA

The thing was, I know he never really felt the way I did, and it was really difficult.

DAVE

(A little too slowly)

Yeah, that would be hard.

LISA

The thing is we were friends for a long time before I realized I felt that way about him. And it was really strange because when we were just friends I loved being around him so much. And then when I started falling for him I became all nervous around him, you know?

DAVE

Yeah, I know... Well, I— I mean I don't know. But, I can imagine, yeah, uh-huh.

LISA

And as my feelings got more and more intense it got really hard to be around him. My hands would start sweating, and I'd feel really hot, or sometimes I'd have chills. And my mouth would get all dry, which was really annoying because it made me have to drink all the time...

(DAVE sneakily wipes his hands on his pants)

And then I'd end up going to the bathroom like every fifteen minutes. Which probably seemed kind of weird to him, you know?

(DAVE inconspicuously crosses his legs)

The strangest thing is that I really don't think he ever knew how I felt. I don't know. Maybe I should have just told him.

(During a short pause DAVE appears to be summoning up his courage and is about to speak)

But then again I didn't want to ruin our friendship, you know?

(DAVE shuts his mouth and looks nervous again)

I hadn't thought about that in a long time. What made you ask me that?

DAVE

(Tries to speak but is unable to, takes a drink of water)

I— I don't know.

LISA

Are you all right?

DAVE

Yeah. No.

LISA

What is it?

(Pause)

DAVE

It's okay.

LISA

You sure?

DAVE

Um, yeah, uh-huh.

LISA

Well, all right, what was I just talking about?

DAVE

I have to go to the bathroom. (Exits)

(LISA watches him go and then takes a sip of the water)

(Quick fade out)

### Scene 6

(Lights fade in with DAVE staring at the phone, CANARY GUY remains dead on the floor. DAVE paces around watching the phone, suddenly points to it, then sighs disappointedly.)

DAVE

Five, four, three, two, one...

(He freezes, quickly turns and points to the phone, gives an exasperated sigh and sits on the bed. Just as he puts his head in his hands the phone rings, he picks it up after the second ring.)

DAVE

Hello? Hi. Good, how are you.... Uh-huh. Uh-huh.... What? Well, I mean, he can't... I mean he can't really talk, um, I mean, uh, I don't know quite how to say this, but uh—

CANARY GUY

(Lifts his head up)

Who is it?

(CANARY GUY quickly jumps to his feet)

DAVE

(Stunned)

It's um...I thought, that— Well, you were, um—

CANARY GUY

(Snatching the phone)

Hello.

(DAVE looks around the room and at the spot where CANARY GUY was)

Huh? Oh, you don't have to tell me... Oh, I hear ya. Hey! Heeeyyy!

DAVE

I thought you were—

(CANARY GUY cuts DAVE off by placing his hand around DAVE's head like he's palming a basketball. DAVE, of course, is now more confused than ever. He continues to sit on the bed while CANARY GUY stands holding the phone in one hand and leaning on DAVE's head with the other.)

CANARY GUY

He did. He didn't? He did! Oh that is rich, rich! Okay. Okay. All righty... Heeeeyyy! (Hangs up, then addresses DAVE) So what's up?

DAVE

(As though out of habit)

Interest rates.

CANARY GUY

Interest rates!?! Oooooooh! You! (Shaking his head) You are crazy.

(DAVE begins to attempt to remove CANARY GUY's hand while CANARY GUY is talking. DAVE increases the intensity of his attempts the longer CANARY GUY goes on.)

Anyways, that was— What am I telling you for? You're the one who answered the phone. Seems she was wondering if I might like to, well, goodness. Anyways, I told her perhaps, but I don't know. Choices, choices, choices, it can be so difficult sometimes. (Noticing DAVE's attempts to remove his hand) Just what are you getting at there you fellah? (Thinking about something else) Oh me, what's a boy to do, I tell ya.

(DAVE gives up and looks dejected)

Well, I guess everybody's got their problems. (Releasing DAVE) You know it reminds me of the story of the elephant and the fish.

(DAVE becomes very excited)

CANARY GUY

But you've heard that one haven't you?

DAVE

Well, actually I didn't really get to since you—

CANARY GUY

Whoa, easy there tiger!

DAVE

No it's just that I really would like to hear—

CANARY GUY

All right, all right, I hear you. Listen to me. (Trying to be sensitive) I—  
know—what—you're—saying.

(CANARY GUY palms DAVE's head again. DAVE resists momentarily, then gives  
up with a sigh)

CANARY GUY

I don't know what you think, I mean, how does it work? Sure, whatever!  
Still, at the same time... I really have to go. (Exits)

(DAVE sits on the bed looking confused as lights fade out)

### Scene 7

(Lights fade up on DAVE and LISA sitting on the bed. LISA reads a letter written by  
DAVE, who she cannot actually hear.)

DAVE

I wish I could make you understand. You're so wonderful. I think about you  
when I'm reading or when I'm watching TV or sometimes when I'm eating I see you  
and I start thinking about you and I can't eat any more. I mean, you go around doing  
all your stuff you want to do or you have to do and you're so serious because there's  
so much to do and you go around not smiling all the time and looking so serious and  
then you get around me and you smile. You smile a lot around me and when you do  
smile it's like someone suddenly just smashed the moon apart and it crumbled into a  
million pieces and sure it was pretty before but now where it used to be there's just  
this little... glowing... And everybody thought how pretty the moon always was  
before and it *was* pretty but not because of the way the sun reflected off of it but  
because of the... small... luminous... shape that was inside of it and that nobody  
realized was there. But it was there all along and they never saw the way it shined  
like I did because they could never make you smile like I did. And they never saw  
with the eyes that I do. They'll never know.

And if they never know I don't know if you'll ever know. But I hope someday  
you will. I hope someone sees it shining inside you like I do. And that they tell you  
they see it and that you know it's there. Why don't you let me make you— I *think* I  
could make you... I *wish*... I wish I could make you happy.

(CANARY GUY enters holding a very nice bouquet of flowers, LISA folds up the  
letter and sets it on the bed between her and DAVE. She begins to follow CANARY  
GUY, who exits still holding the flowers. She stops and turns at the edge of the stage

to look back at the letter. She then looks at DAVE who rises to his feet while their eyes are locked. LISA turns away and exits. DAVE continues to stare at the spot where she exited.)

(Lights fade out, end of play)