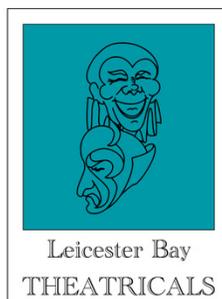
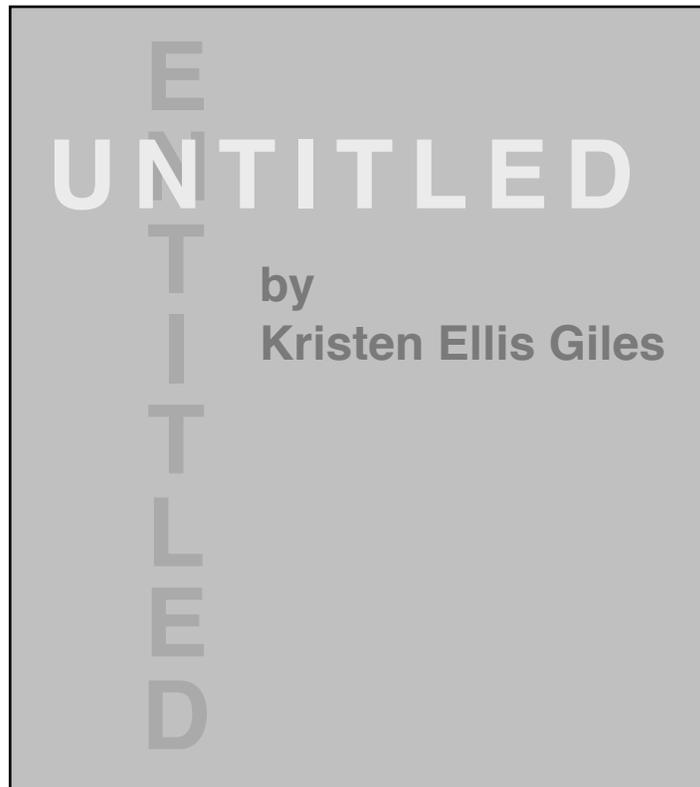


**PERUSAL SCRIPT**



**Newport, Maine**

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## E(U)NTITLED

(The stage is empty, except for two chairs occupied by ONE and TWO. TWO calmly sits and reads, while ONE fidgets restlessly)

**ONE:** Oh! I can't stand it anymore!

**TWO:** Sh! Sit down!

**ONE:** But I'm tired of sitting.

**TWO:** Sit down!

**ONE:** (Sits quiet for a moment, then standing on chair) Hello world! You don't know me yet, but I know you! Bet you're wondering who I am. Well, . . . I'm not sure yet . . . but, but, it's a me!

(In his excitement he loses his balance, crashing to the floor. Both freeze frightened, then look around to see if any damage has been caused)

**TWO:** Boy, you better watch it! You almost did it that time.

**ONE:** I didn't hurt anything.

**TWO:** But you could have.

**ONE:** (Hasn't heard, but has discovered a Karate move) Hey! Watch this!

(ONE strikes out, barely missing TWO)

**TWO:** Will you watch it! You're going to . . .

**ONE:** (Discovering hands) Look what I got!

**TWO:** They were there yesterday.

**ONE:** Wow! I wonder what else is new?

(ONE begins to check himself over. He sticks his fingers in his ears, mouth--discovers tongue, etc. TWO continues with her speech)

**TWO:** (referring to book) It says that by the third month of development that your hands, feet and facial features are pretty well developed.

(ONE strikes out with Karate move again)

Will you be careful!?

**ONE:** (Continuing) This is great!

**TWO:** If you don't watch it you're going to wreck something.

**ONE:** You big worry wart. Nothing's gonna happen. See? C'mon.

(ONE pulls TWO to her feet)

**TWO:** Are you crazy?

**ONE:** It's a blast! Try it!

(TWO stands motionless, very upset. ONE stops and begins to sing)

Every party needs a pooper that's why we invited you. Party pooper. Party pooper.

**TWO:** I am not a pooper! I just don't want to disturb anything. What if you make her mad and she--well, maybe she's trying to sleep or something!

**ONE:** (Wide-eyed) She knows we're here?

**TWO:** I'm not sure . . .

**ONE:** (Jumping up and down, waving) Hi Mom! It's me!

(Calmer)

Oh, I hope you don't mind if I call you Mom. Mother is too long for me. I'm not good at big words. Besides, I like calling you Mom.

(PAUSE)

Mom.

(Giggles)

It feels good. I don't even know if you know about us yet . . .

**TWO:** She won't know about both of us.

**ONE:** You mean she thinks there's just me?

(To Mom)

Hey, Mom! Oh, Mom! There's something I think I better tell you. Well, besides me ... well, there's her. You won't mind if she comes along, will you?

**TWO:** (Indignant) We are a biological phenomenon.

**ONE:** Really?

**TWO:** Really.

**ONE:** Hear that, Mom? You're gonna have Phanonims.

**TWO:** (correcting) Phenomenons.

**ONE:** Yeah, one of those.

(To TWO)

What's a phanonim?

**TWO:** (Exasperated) In six months they'll deliver me in a straight-jacket!

**ONE:** (To Mom) Don't worry, she gets mad like that once in a while. It really isn't bad though, honest. She's really quiet most of the time--reading. And she's really, really smart. She won't be any problem. I'll make sure. I'll look after her--

**TWO:** She can't hear you.

**ONE:** She said it would be okay.

**TWO:** She did not.

**ONE:** But only if you're nice to me.

**TWO:** She didn't say that--

**ONE:** Sh! Listen . . .

**TWO:** (Listening a moment) Oh, that. That's just her heart.

**ONE:** (Smiling) Yeah, but it's her. That's why they put us so close to the heart. So she can talk to us.

**TWO:** You don't know that.

(PAUSE)

What is she saying then?

**ONE:** She's . . .

(Listening)

She's saying how much she loves us.

**TWO:** Love?

**ONE:** Love!

**TWO:** (looking up from book) I think I read about that somewhere.

**ONE:** Why do you always go and look up everything in that book?

**TWO:** (Reading) Love: A strong affection for another out of kinship or admiration. Unselfish and benevolent concern for the good and well being of another. Is that it?

**ONE:** I don't know. You make everything so big and hard.

**TWO:** Then what is it?

**ONE:** It's close and all warm and safe inside.

(ONE puts arm around TWO tightly)

**TWO:** Humph!

**ONE:** It's a feeling.

**TWO:** Well, what's a feeling?

**ONE:** Love's a feeling.

**TWO:** Well, what's love?

**ONE:** It's me, it's you, it's her--

**TWO:** The book doesn't say that.

**ONE:** The book doesn't know everything. Boy, it's a good thing that I'm going first, or we'd really be in trouble.

**TWO:** Who said you get to go first?

**ONE:** Boys are always first.

**TWO:** Ladies before gentlemen.

**ONE:** You're not a lady. You're just a girl.

**TWO:** So?

**ONE:** So, boys are braver than girls.

**TWO:** Well, girls are smarter than boys.

**ONE:** They are not!

**TWO:** Are too! Are too!

**ONE:** Are not! Are not!

**TWO:** I'm telling--

**ONE:** (Quickly) Okay! Okay. You can go first.

**TWO:** I don't want to go first. I want to go second.

**ONE:** (exasperated sigh) Girls!

**TWO:** What did you say?

**ONE:** Nothing.

(PAUSE)

Do I look different?

**TWO:** What?

**ONE:** Do I look different?

**TWO:** No.

**ONE:** Taller maybe?

**TWO:** No.

**ONE:** You're sure?

**TWO:** (Getting back to book) Positive.

**ONE:** (As they both resume beginning positions) This is going to take forever to get out of here.

(PAUSE)

Isn't there any way we can speed this up?

**TWO:** (Looking at the book) It says that good growth is engendered by proper nourishment, exercise and rest.

(ONE rolls his eyes. Then tries to sit still. Suddenly, he begins to stretch his arms, legs, etc., while pulling faces and grunting in efforts to "grow." TWO, annoyed, looks out from her book)

**ONE:** (Sweetly) I'm growing.

**TWO:** Nonsensical verbal expressions of glottal explosions does not facilitate growth.

**ONE:** How can you sit there and read? How can you just sit there? Aren't you afraid that you're missing out on something? Something that's happening right now?

**TWO:** (Referring to book) Did you realize that every two and a half minutes there is someone being mugged in the state of New York alone?

**ONE:** Think of all the wonderful tastes--

**TWO:** Not to mention an 80% increase in the past ten years of all violent crimes--

**ONE:** Wonderful sights--

**TWO:** Murder, theft, abortion--

**ONE:** Wonderful smells--

**TWO:** Air pollution, traffic-jams --

**ONE:** (continuing) Butterflies and flowers and ice cream sundaes with lots and lots of hot fudge. And sandboxes and swingsets--

**TWO:** Our nation is facing a 10% annual inflation rate, with a 5% unemployment rate, with a possibility of a World War Three around the corner, and you're thinking about a swingset?

**ONE:** Isn't it exciting?! So much going on!

(PAUSE)

And we're stuck here.

**TWO:** Thank heavens.

**ONE:** Well, I'm tired of waiting around.

(Starts to exit)

**TWO:** (Stopping him) You can't do that!

**ONE:** (giggling in delight) I know. I'm just teasing.

(TWO goes back to book. ONE starts with his karate moves again. He ends in a climax with a scream, and a powerful punch near TWO. Quietly:)

I'm hungry.

**TWO:** (Unaffected) You're always hungry.

**ONE:** They never give you enough to eat around here.

**TWO:** I think your stomach developed before your brain.

**ONE:** And the same old thing all the time. You know what I'm going to do first when I'm out of here?

**TWO:** Buy a membership to a Diner's Club.

**ONE:** Buy a big, fat, juicy steak. And a huge baked potato, with butter dripping over the sides, and sour cream on top. Then for dessert I'm going to have the biggest, hugest strawberry shortcake, with millions and millions of strawberries, smothered in whipping cream!

**TWO:** (Looking in book) Cholesterol. 45% of all that is cholesterol. It'll clog up all your arteries, and you'll die before age 32.

**ONE:** Killed by a strawberry. What a way to go.

**TWO:** I'm serious. Hundreds of people die each year because of it.

**ONE:** Do you have to be so positive all the time? Can't you think of one awful thing to say?

**TWO:** Every year 100,000 people commit suicide so they can leave there. I don't see how you can be so excited to go someplace where so many people are so unhappy.

**ONE:** (Thoughtfully) Maybe it's because they don't know what it's like not to be there.

**TWO:** You don't even know if we're gonna be there.

**ONE:** We're gonna be there. Someday.

**TWO:** Maybe she won't want us.

**ONE:** She wants us. Girls are weird.

**TWO:** How do you know for sure? Maybe she won't.

**ONE:** Because she loves us, that's why.

**TWO:** (Exasperated) Love.

(Goes back to book)

**ONE:** Aren't you tired of reading?

**TWO:** Aren't you tired of talking?

**ONE:** (PAUSE) You know what you need?

**TWO:** Peace and quiet.

**ONE:** (Grabbing book from her) Nope.

**TWO:** Hey! Give me my book back! It's mine!

**ONE:** Now, watch me.

(Gives a huge smile)

**TWO:** That's repulsive.

**ONE:** That's a smile. Now, c'mon. . .

**TWO:** I want my book back.

**ONE:** Nuh, uh, uh. . .

(TWO reluctantly gives a snarl rather than a smile)

Almost.

**TWO:** This is a stupid game.

**ONE:** You're the one who can't smile.

(TWO viciously pulls a face at ONE)

That's pretty good. Try this!

(ONE pulls a face and TWO copies him peevishly)

Here's a good one.

(ONE pulls another face. TWO pulls a new face. ONE goes hysterical)

You look like a pig!

(TWO continues to pull it at him again and again, still angry, as he laughs harder and harder. Finally, TWO laughs. ONE is quiet. They are both surprised)

You did it!

**TWO:** (A little embarrassed) Can I have my book back now?

(ONE lovingly gives the book back. Quickly she puts her nose back into it. ONE waits a few beats)

**ONE:** You know what? We've been together all this time and I don't even know what to call you. Neither of us have names.

**TWO:** You can't title a book 'til it's been written.

**ONE:** I got to call you something, though.

(Thinking)

Something really, really "neat."

**TWO:** I want something that carries dignity. Anyway, we're not supposed to have names.

**ONE:** How 'bout . . .

(Trying the word for the first time)

Sis-, Sis-ter. . . Sister?

(ONE continues to try out the word in various pitches, accents, volumes, etc., while TWO continues her speech)

**TWO:** Sister?

(Looks up in book)

A female who has the same parents as another or one parent in common with another or who is related to another by common ties and interests. Male counterpart referred to as "brother." Brother?

**ONE:** (Still continuing, ends on a final note) Sister.

**TWO:** It doesn't carry a whole lot of dignity.

**ONE:** (Not really hearing what she said) That's what I'll call you! Sister, meet Brother.

(ONE pulls TWO to feet again)

**TWO:** What are you doing?

**ONE:** Climb in! I'm taking you for a ride in my airplane.

**TWO:** (Suspiciously, as she gets in) Where are we going?

**ONE:** Everywhere! Hang on!

(ONE provides sound effects during this entire scene, as he flies his imaginary plane)

**TWO:** (Screaming a little) Slow down!

**ONE:** (Pouting) But it's funner faster. Hey! Look over there! It's the moon!

**TWO:** That's impossible. Airplanes can't go to the moon!

**ONE:** (Surprised) They can't?

**TWO:** No. It's too far up.

**ONE:** Oh.

(ONE puts the airplane into a nose dive. TWO starts to scream, wrapping her arms around his head, so he is unable to see)

**TWO:** (Screaming) Stop it! We're gonna crash! We're gonna crash!

**ONE:** (Struggling to see) I can't.

**TWO:** We're gonna die! Stop it! Stop it!

(ONE finally breaks free)

Look out for that tree!

(BOTH duck. TWO turns her fear to anger)

Will you watch where you're going!?!

**ONE:** (Frustrated, trying to keep plane in control) Well, where do you want me to go then?

**TWO:** Nowhere!

**ONE:** Nowhere? Okay. Over Nowhere now. Going in for a landing.

(ONE puts plane into a dive again)

**TWO:** We're gonna crash! We're gonna crash!

(ONE makes a screeching stop. TWO has eyes covered. They both rest quiet for a moment. ONE gets out)

**ONE:** Welcome to Nowhere. And thank you for flying the United Way

**TWO:** (Climbing out) This is a stupid game.

**ONE:** Well, here it is! What do you think?

**TWO:** I hate it!

**ONE:** But just look at all the flowers!

(ONE reaches to pick a flower)

**TWO:** There aren't any flowers here.

**ONE:** There isn't?

**TWO:** No.

**ONE:** Oh.

(ONE mashes the flowers with his foot, stamping them dead)

**TWO:** All there is, is lots and lots of yucky snow.

**ONE:** (Jumping on chair, as if seeing a mouse) Where?

**TWO:** It's all over.

**ONE:** (Preparing to leave again) Maybe you'd like someplace with flowers better.

**TWO:** (Seeing his nervousness) No. I like it here.

(Settle down with book)

**ONE:** But wouldn't you like someplace with lots of trees and grass and a swingset?

**TWO:** No. Here's fine.

**ONE:** If you say so.

5 more pages to the end of the script