

The Library

(or, the Disembodiment of Richard and His Re-Configuration as a Play)

by

Julius Galacki

- Dialogue Sample -

The Library

CAST

Man # 1 (Richard)

Man # 2

Woman

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On stage, MAN #2 is seated at a long table, reading a book with a magnifying glass. It is the only book in the room. On the table is a buzzer. Despite this fact and the lack of bookshelves, the room does, however, evoke a sense of library, a sense of sepia. To the side of the table is a balance beam (or a high narrow bench). Upstage, there is a stuffed raven and a small gong. MAN #1, Richard, enters in a nervous, agitated state.

Note: the italicized dialogue in this play indicates a peculiar vocal stylization, i.e, these words are spoken with a particularly slow precision and clear articulation.

MAN # 1

I came through a door, but I seem to have misplaced it.

MAN # 2

Perhaps, you want - *too much* - Richard.

MAN # 1

That doesn't seem possible.

MAN # 2

Want - a book?

MAN # 1

(Aside.) I think I have entered a library.

MAN # 2

Let's not question reality.

MAN # 1

Then, *who - are - you?*

MAN # 2

I don't think you should be asking that either.

MAN # 1

Why not?

MAN # 2

This is Neutral space.

MAN # 1

You mean I could be somewhere, but I'm not.

MAN # 2

Exactly. What's the matter - *aren't you* - satisfied?

(The WOMAN enters and stands near the raven, and holds a pose. They take a long take and look at her. Then continue as if she isn't there.)

MAN # 1

There are times when I - *QUESTION* - Times, that is, more often.

(MAN #2 has risen from his seat. MAN # 1 goes over to look at the book but doesn't touch it. He picks up the magnifying glass and looks at the blank pages.)

MAN # 1

These pages are blank.

MAN # 2

A story goes that a large condor landed on an egg that he thought was his. The condor's mate had died but he desired to continue rearing young. This is the way of some life.

MAN # 1

(Looking at his hands with the magnifying glass.) I opened my hands, and now I close THEM.

MAN # 2

This can be thought of as dinner. All sustenance and no food.

MAN # 1

(Suddenly, to the WOMAN.) Do you desire me?

WOMAN

(Still holding her pose.) I considered that yesterday, and found the thought useless.

MAN # 1

(To MAN #2.) Are you my alter ego?

(MAN #2 goes to the WOMAN..)

MAN # 2

A male condor found an egg.

(The WOMAN breaks her pose.)

WOMAN

Some things are unavoidable.

(MAN #1 carefully returns the magnifying glass to its original place on the table.)

MAN # 1

I think it's time to - *re-think* - my past thoughts.

WOMAN

I feel a need to get out of here. But something is stopping me.

MAN # 2

Could it be - *yourSELF*?