Act One
SCENE ONE
WISHING WELL THEATER LOBBY
(Music plays as ACTOR ONE and ACTOR TWO enter the Theater lobby. They hold New York Times newspapers.)

ACTOR ONE
HOLY GUACAMOLE, I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE.

ACTOR TWO
GLORY HALLELUJAH, I’M SO GLAD THAT YOU’RE HERE.

ACTOR ONE
I JUST HAD A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN MY CAREER.

ACTOR TWO
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE THING THAT YOU WANTED IS THE THING THAT YOU JUST GOT? DO YOU FEEL LIKE A WINNER OR BECAUSE OF FORCE OF HABIT, KEEP ON FEELING LIKE A “HAVE NOT?”

(BRIDGET, the cleaning lady, enters with a newspaper.)

ACTOR ONE
WHAT’S YOUR NEXT MOVE IF THE DREAM YOU’VE BEEN DREAMING HAS JUST THIS SECOND COME TRUE?

BRIDGET
MY BAD LUCK JUST CHANGED.

ACTOR ONE
MY LIFE’S REARRANGED. DO I?

ACTOR TWO
DO I?

BRIDGET
DO I?

ACTOR ONE/ACTOR TWO/BRIDGET
LOOK DIFFERENT TO YOU?

BRIDGET
WHAT’S YOUR THING?

ACTOR TWO
I’LL GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES. HERE’S A HINT: MY TALENT IS ABOUT TO TAKE OFF.

ACTOR ONE
WELL, WITH MY THING?

I’VE LEARNED A VALUABLE LESSON: PERSISTENCE DOES PAY OFF.

ACTOR TWO
I GOT A MENTION IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BRIDGET
THAT’S GREAT.
MY REVIEW IS ON PAGE EIGHT.
ACTOR ONE/ACTOR TWO
THEY SAID THE ACTOR’S ACTING WAS THE KIND OF THING
YOU Couldn’T FORGET IF YOU TRIED.
I GOT A MENTION IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.

(ALEX, the artistic director and PIA, the Concessions Lady enter. They all hold New York Times newspapers.)

ALEX
THE WISHING WELL THEATER HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED.
PIA
I CAN’T BELIEVE MY EYES, BUT--
(Pointing to the photo)
THAT’S YOU
ALEX
THAT’S ME!
PIA
IN A PICTURE OF OUR STAGE HERE IN NAMELESS, TENNESSEE.
ALEX
WE GOT A MENTION IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.
BRIDGET
PAGE EIGHT.
THEY SAID THE COSTUMES WERE GREAT,
PIA
THE SET WAS SWELL AT THE WISHING WELL THEATER.
AND THE CONCESSIONS LADY, PIA, HER COOKIES ARE DIVINE.
ALEX/PIA/BRIDGET
WE GOT A PHOTO IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.
AR MENTION IN THE NEW YORK TIMES
RAY RAY BENAY and LILLY enter. Ray Ray holds a newspaper.
RAY RAY
WHAT DO I WANT MOST OF ALL?
LILLY
MY UNDYING LOVE?
RAY RAY
NO GUESS, IT HAS TO DO WITH SUCCESS.
LILLY
TO HAVE GREAT HEALTH AND LIVE A LONG LIFE?
RAY RAY
YOU NEED TO GUESS BETTER IF YOU WANT TO BE MY WIFE.
LILLY
TO HAVE MORE MONEY?
RAY RAY
THAT’S A GIVEN. COME ON, HONEY. REALLY TRY.
LILLY
DID WE GET REVIEWED?
RAY RAY
NOT WE, I
GOT A MENTION IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.
LILLY
THAT’S GREAT.
BRIDGET
THE REVIEW IS ON PAGE EIGHT.
RAY RAY
(Reading the review)
“I SAW A SURPRISING PERFORMANCE IN A SMALL SOUTHERN TOWN.”
LILLY
I DON’T SEE IT.
RAY RAY
HON, LOOK FARTHER DOWN.
“THE ACTOR’S TALENT WAS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE.
HE WAS FULL OF STRANGE AND FANCIFUL GESTURES.”
LILLY
LOOK AT THAT, CONGRATS!
RAY RAY
“AND BOY, COULD HE STRETCH OUT A LINE.
IT’S A SPAN OF MY LIFE I CAN NEVER GET BACK,
BUT HIS ENUNCIATION WAS FINE.”
RAY RAY/ACTOR ONE/ACTOR TWO
I GOT A MENTION IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.
RAY RAY
NOT YOU.
ACTOR ONE
NOT YOU.
ACTOR TWO
NOT YOU.
ACTOR ONE
ME! THE REVIEW IS ON PAGE EIGHT.
RAY RAY
NOT YOU, YOU CAN BARELY EMOTE. WHAT A JOKE.
THEY IMPLIED MY ACTING WAS GREAT.
RAY RAY/ACTOR ONE/ACTOR TWO/LILLY
THEY SAID THE ACTOR’S ACTING WAS THE KIND OF THING
YOU COULDN’T FORGET IF YOU TRIED.
I GOT A MENTION IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.
(GILBERT enters and sings outside the Wishing Well theater. Having just returned to his hometown, Nameless, Tennessee, he carries a suitcase.)

GILBERT
MY NEW YORK TIMES ARE OVER.
FULL DISCLOSURE, THE STRUGGLE WAS TOO MUCH TO SHOULDER.
SUCCESS WITHOUT LOVE IS INCOMPLETE
I’M LOST, TO SAY THE LEAST.
I AM BACK WHERE I FIRST ACTED, OLDER.
MY NEW YORK TIMES ARE OVER.

LILLY
(to Ray Ray)
YOU GOT A MENTION IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BRIDGET
PAGE EIGHT. THEY SAID, THE COSTUMES WERE GREAT.

ALEX
THEY SAID, THE SET WAS SWELL AT THE WISHING WELL THEATER.

PIA
AND THE CONCESSIONS LADY, PIA, HER COOKIES ARE DIVINE.

RAY RAY/LILLY
THEY SAID THE ACTOR’S ACTING WAS THE KIND OF THING
YOU COULDN’T FORGET IF YOU TRIED.

GILBERT
I’LL MISS MY TIME IN APARTMENT B-1.
BUT MY NEW YORK TIMES ARE DONE.
EVERYONE
NEW YORK TIMES!