

TALENT

Tennessee and Donald are at Donald's apartment. The incomplete set standing in for what is becoming the Menagerie set.

DONALD

Did you tell her you deserve more?

TENNESSEE

Donny.

DONALD

Did you?

TENNESSEE

We were discussing the contract and she . . .

DONALD

Audrey?

TENNESSEE

Yes. Audrey. She inquired of me how we had split the work.

DONALD

And you said?

TENNESSEE

Donny.

DONALD

What did you say?

TENNESSEE

I may have said, if I remember correctly, that I had completed most of the rewrites. But I told her you were a BIG help. A big help.

DONALD

A big help.

TENNESSEE

You were.

DONALD

I was.

TENNESSEE

Yes. Yes, you were.

DONALD

But that was not our deal, was it? Frieda gets 40 percent and we split the rest fifty-fifty, isn't that what we agreed?

TENNESSEE

It is. I will let her know that she needs to change it back.

DONALD

(not really hearing the last thing said)

I mean you've got a play opening on Broadway in a few weeks and all I've got is our play and the slight possibility it might be a hit.

TENNESSEE

I think it's funny.

DONALD

You think what is funny?

TENNESSEE

You Touched Me! Donny, I think our play *You Touched Me!* is quite hilarious.

DONALD

They didn't like it in Pasadena.

TENNESSEE

Yeah, but they did in Westport and Margot's direction in Dallas was superb. Lots of laughs, Donny.

DONALD

Yeah, I guess.

Pause.

TENNESSEE

What's the matter?

DONALD

What?

TENNESSEE

You've got tension pulsing through your body, like you are about to tear in two. And I know it's not about the money.

DONALD

Oh yeah. And how do you know that?

TENNESSEE

Cause I know you. And you know me. And you know I'll give you whatever you think you deserve, so what is bothering you so much?

DONALD

I'm alright. Let's just drop it.

TENNESSEE

No, let's not. I would like to know what is going on with you. So we can make it right.

DONALD

(harshly)

Why do you care?

TENNESSEE

You're kidding, right?

DONALD

I'm sorry. I shouldn't . . . I . . .

TENNESSEE

Donny. What is it? Talk to me. What's wrong?

You. DONALD

Me? TENNESSEE

You. DONALD

Me? TENNESSEE

Yes. You, Tennessee. Tennessee Williams is driving me crazy. DONALD

Because . . . TENNESSEE

Oh, don't act like you don't know. DONALD

Well, we never discussed anything about being exclusive, Donny. Unless I don't remember, but it seems like that would be something I would remember, no matter how much scotch I've ingested. TENNESSEE

It's not that, Tenn. You and I as a couple? (laughing) No way. Ugggh. DONALD

Alright, alright. Didn't realize I was so repulsive. TENNESSEE

That's not what . . . it's . . . it's . . . DONALD

What? TENNESSEE

Your play. Your goddamn play. DONALD

Which one? TENNESSEE

Tenn. DONALD

Glass? TENNESSEE

YES! *The Glass Menagerie*. That play. Your play. It's just so . . . It's too . . . DONALD

What? Sentimental? TENNESSEE

Too . . . DONALD

Tragic? TENNESSEE

It's so . . . DONALD

Wordy? TENNESSEE

What? No. It's just . . . too . . . too . . . GOOD. DONALD

Oh. TENNESSEE

Yeah. DONALD

You really think so? TENNESSEE

Absolutely. DONALD

And that makes you angry because . . . TENNESSEE

DONALD

Because. Because there is no way I will ever write a play as good as *The Glass Menagerie*.

TENNESSEE

Oh Donny baby, yes you will.

DONALD

No, Tenn, don't do that. Don't patronize me.

TENNESSEE

I'm not trying to . . .

DONALD

Do you have any idea how good of a writer you are?

TENNESSEE

They are just words.

DONALD

Now I know you absolutely do NOT believe that. They are not *just* words. Those words are love and pain, longing and hope, past and present. Those words are you, Tenn.

TENNESSEE

Donny . . .

DONALD

I'll never be able to write like that. Like you. It just doesn't live inside me like it lives in you. Your plays pour out of you like a waterfall . . . a waterfall that smooths out a rough stone. And I sit and stare at my typewriter and pray for an ounce of the talent you have to find my fingers somehow, and it just doesn't. It won't. I know it won't. And that's alright. It's fine. I just . . . I don't know . . . I guess . . . I just NEED you to understand how incredible you are.

Pause.

TENNESSEE

Donny. Donny, Donny, Donny, Donny, Donny, Donny. I don't know what to say.

DONALD

That's a first.

TENNESSEE
(laughing)

Yes. I guess it would be.

DONALD

Yeah.

TENNESSEE

But I'm going to talk anyway.

DONALD

I expect nothing different.

TENNESSEE

What you say is . . . it is . . . First . . . I'm . . . Well, I'm moved for one. But, please don't ever put me on a pedestal. I don't deserve it. All I do is feel life, and forever, I have felt life way too much - it's exhausting and painful - and the writing, it's my way, Tom Williams way, of figuring that out. That's what us artists do. And you are a brilliant artist in your own right. Yes, we may be different - but neither of us is better than the other.

DONALD

Horse shit.

TENNESSEE

Horse shit?

DONALD

Yes. Horse shit. You just wait. Wait until your play opens on Broadway then we'll have this conversation again and see what you think. I promise you, Tom Williams will be long lost and there will only be Tennessee, the playwright. The legend. You just watch.

TENNESSEE

Believe me, if I could separate myself from my past, I would, but that's just humanly an impossibility.

DONALD

Either way, everyone will know the name Tennessee Williams. But I doubt anyone will ever remember Donald Windham.

TENNESSEE

I will.

DONALD

Well there's one.

TENNESSEE

It's a start.