

come home, lock the door, click. Then one day I saw. "What're you doing, lockin' the door?" I say. "Don't you know you're free now? You're not in lock-up anymore, man — you're free!"

Prison took away that — spark for life, okay, 'cause in my old pictures from high school, I can see in my face — I'm smilin', you know. And now that's somethin' people round here don't see me do too much, smile. (*Sound of rain. David looks up, acknowledges the rain. Halfheartedly:*) In the name of J — (*Rain does not stop. Another half-try:*) In the name of Jesus — (*Rain does not stop. David gives up trying. Rain continues softly under the following and slowly fades.*) Prison really did somethin' to me.

And now, I do a lot of things — like I may drink, okay, and I smoke some marijuana — to cocaine, to crack cocaine. A perfect day, to me, would be, just to get plastered, you know, to forget. 'Cause now I'm tryin to find out who I am, and if I smoke a joint of reefer, it takes me to that point where I can sit down and write me some poetry or whatever, just like I useta do.

But what are you gonna do? I mean, if they're in power and you have no power, then you're through. Bein' little is like bein' up next to a large oak tree and you just a little small pine. (*Beat.*)

That's why, like I said, I really gotta get back into a spirituality thing and focus on findin' that light within ... 'cause that's all I really got, you know. (*Lights down on David; up on Kerry and Sandra.*)

START

SANDRA. Actually I am not a bleeding heart liberal at all, as a matter of fact I had a family member murdered and I was always a believer in the death penalty —

KERRY. She's a scientist —

SANDRA. But I was on the board of directors at the Dallas Peace Center and a guy from Amnesty approached me one day and told me he wanted me to help Kerry get integrated into society.

So we were supposed to meet at this conference, and this *boy* walks in, I mean, he had on some jeans and any piece of clothing that had a zipper — you know, from the seventies — it had to have a zipper or he didn't want it, he had grown his hair out and he dyed it — because, you know, he's really nineteen at heart ... he couldn't look at anyone, he looked down, his leg was shaking the whole time.

KERRY. Especially with a female, man, I was super traumatized about that. Very shy.

SANDRA. He got up and used the bathroom probably about twenty times because he was so nervous —

KERRY. Aw, man, don't tell 'em that —

SANDRA. But then I thought — and I'm ashamed to have had this thought — what did he do to get himself in that situation? That's how I looked at it ... 'cause you know, I was very conservative — (*Beat.*) and also very stupid. But he gave me the evidence, the hardcore evidence, and it dawned on me, oh my God, how could this have happened?

END

KERRY. The state of Texas executed me over a thousand times, man, and it just keeps on doin' it. I get nightmares — sometimes I forget I'm really here. And every day when I get in the shower I'm reminded of it, 'cause I cannot avoid the scars all over my body. This is the only woman I've been with since I've been free, 'cause of that, and I married her. Think I'm gonna keep her.

But I'll be honest with you: The price of being here, alive, in this room, is really extraordinary — because when I'm alone, man, especially at night — (*Beat.*) Talk about a mental trip, huh? (*Lights down on Kerry and Sandra, up on Robert and Georgia.*)

ROBERT. I been out now, three and a half years gonin' on four. And we got married, what?

GEORGIA. (*Proud.*) Two years, 'bout two years —

ROBERT. And she be wanting me to come home, you know at night, and I don't want to come home, I wanna stay out, you know, 'cause if I come home — (*Joking.*) — it makes me feel like I *still* locked up. (*Georgia responds.*) And you know, there's a lotta times when she go to the store, and she had to knock on the door to let me know she coming in.

GEORGIA. Yeah, he jumps! When I first moved in, I just be walking in, walking out, and he just jump up, 'cause he's just in that mode! I'm like, okay, he has to take a minute to calm down 'cause he's just used to that. You know, stuff like that plays with your mind.

ROBERT. Yeah, I was in there seven and a half years and it ain't ever gonna go away, far as I'm concerned. Lost my relaxation. Lotta other things too. You know, you can't really put your thoughts on what you could have lost, or what you *have* lost. I said I could have been a millionaire, or I could have been the Police Chief. I could have been one of the famous black horse trainers —

GEORGIA. And they won't even give him his license back.

ROBERT. The Trotting Association, they wouldn't even give me my racing license back.

GEORGIA. Can you believe that?

ROBERT. I went to the County, I passed my test with flying colors. They asked me have I ever been convicted of a crime. I put