

Lights rise on a well. Two young women stand next to it. One holding a porcelain horse, the other holding brass knuckles.

EVETTE

And then I bashed her face with my brass knuckles! Rarr!

MARY

That's really scary.

EVETTE

I know I'm really scary, I'm a scary girl.

MARY

So what else do you do?

EVETTE

Besides beating chicks with my brass?

MARY

Yeah.

EVETTE

I help the university breed endangered shrimp.

MARY

As like a job?

EVETTE

They pay me. They pay me well. It's all business Mary. Wanna see?

Evette lifts a jar full of tiny tiny shrimp.

EVETTE (CONT'D)

I have to watch them this afternoon. They're fumigating the lab. It's very important that these shrimp survive. If they die our world will be over run by venomous bees. Don't ask me why.

MARY

Like what Einstein said about bees. About how if they die we all go extinct.

EVETTE

Yeah except with these shrimp if they die the bees destroy us. Bees are very powerful creatures Mary. I'm allergic to them.

CONTINUED:

MARY

Do you ever wonder why animals have to go extinct?

EVETTE

They don't pay me to wonder.

MARY

I really think it's noble what you're doing with these animals. Shrimp I mean. Are shrimp animals?

EVETTE

What else would they be?

MARY

I don't know. Fish. So are you going to drop those brass knuckles into this well?

EVETTE

That's why I'm here.

MARY

Can I hold them?

EVETTE

Sure.

MARY

They're cold. You haven't been wearing them very long.

EVETTE

I put them on when I saw you coming. Have you ever been violent?

MARY

I kicked my little brother in the face once when we were visiting the grand canyon. My mom freaked cause she thought he'd fall in. Even though we were like 10 yards away. From the ridge... Or whatever.

EVETTE

What are you dropping in?

MARY

This porcelain horse. It was holding me back. Her name is Evie. Like from that show, "Out of This World." Do you remember that show? Where her dad's an alien?

EVETTE

Oh yeah. "Alf."

MARY

No. "Out of this World."

(singing)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARY (CONT'D)

"Would you like to swing on a star? Carry moon beams home in a jar?"

(end singing)

I never paid attention to the words of that song. I'd love to carry moon beams home in a jar. I'm 25. I'm living by myself for the first time. I don't think I should have little kid stuff any more.

EVETTE

Carrying old shit around from your past?

A young man enters with a dry cleaning bag.

FRANK

Is this the well where you throw stuff in?

EVETTE

Yeah.

FRANK

You girls are pretty. Look like a couple 'a those runway models.

MARY

Which ones?

FRANK

You know. All of 'em.

EVETTE

What are you throwing in?

FRANK

My old Elvis costume. Wanna see?

EVETTE

That's a nice Elvis costume.

FRANK

Thanks. My ex-wife made it. Took her two months. You two mind if I smoke?

MARY

I have cystic fibrosis.

FRANK

What's that?

EVETTE

Don't ask that, it's a disease.

FRANK

I have lupus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARY

My mom used to have that.

FRANK

How'd she cure it then? You know you can't cure it.

MARY

She didn't cure it, she died.

FRANK

Sorry to hear that.

MARY

It's okay, she's in heaven.

FRANK

Do you think they have lupus in heaven?

EVETTE

Jerk-

MARY

I hope not.

Evette puts her brass knuckles back on.

MARY (CONT'D)

Evette, don't!

FRANK

I got a mind to call the cops on my cell phone! I got it right- I have it somewhere- It's in my glove box- you're lucky it's in my glove box! Shit I have a nose bleed.

MARY

Can I wear your Elvis costume?

EVETTE

Don't humor this guy.

MARY

No I want to try it on. Let me try on the jacket.

FRANK

Well I'm about to throw it in the well anyway.

She puts on the jacket.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Evette Collins! You're one of those chicks from the Bang Bang Room!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

EVETTE

That's so over, I'm so over doing that, you're such a sleaze.

FRANK

You're real pretty without all that crazy make-up.

Mary dances around singing the moon
beams song as The King.

FRANK (CONT'D)

What's she throwing into the well?

EVETTE

A vestige from her youth.

FRANK

A vestige? Wow that's serious. She a virgin?

EVETTE

I don't know. Probably.

FRANK

I haven't had sex in two years. I'm not telling you that to sleep with you, I'm just trying to be honest. I read a book about life improving, said "be honest, be yourself" and I figure, no better self than your own.

EVETTE

You talk like you're from the seventies or something.

FRANK

Been on my own since I was 13. You believe I'm only 20?
Feel my skin, hangs like an eighty year old.

EVETTE

I'm not feeling your skin.

MARY

What's your name Elvis man?

FRANK

Frank.

MARY

You look like my old riding coach. He was in college.

FRANK

See I don't look too old.

MARY

His skin was kind of yellow like your's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

FRANK

Smoker.

MARY

Evette will you plug your ears?

EVETTE

No.

MARY

Fine. Just try not to listen. Frank. My name is Mary Wheeler. I would like to ask you on a date.

EVETTE

He's a pervert!

MARY

We're the same age! Practically. Frank, I like your Elvis costume, and your openness about your past. I feel like I can trust you. Evette, hold my horse. Frank, will you take me out on a date?

FRANK

Well there's nothing I would like more.

MARY

I would like it to be during the day. I'd like to visit some place that you are familiar with and I am not. I'd like for there to be a lot of walking during the date. I would like for you to hold my hand half way through the date. Evette, you can see I'm starting to take control of my life. I would like for you to kiss me on the cheek when the date is almost over. This will assure me that at the end of the date we will kiss on the mouth. I plan on using tongue when we kiss. After dating casually for two weeks I am going to tell you that I'd like to have a conversation about the status of our relationship. In that conversation you will tell me that you only wished I'd brought it up sooner because you'd been so anxious the past couple of days. "Is she seeing someone else? Is this for real? Am I in love with her?" Then you will say "I think we should try *this* out. Whatever *this* is." "I know! What is *this*?" I'll say, laughing. "But, I think I like. *This*." That is when we'll make love for the first time. See you thought that we'd been having sex before this conversation. We haven't been. We've both wanted to but we've had too much goddamned respect for each other. You see Frank, that is the foundation of our relationship. Respect. I'm prepared to learn to respect you Frank.

FRANK

I'm prepared to learn to respect you too Margaret.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

MARY

Mary. Mary Wheeler.

Mary takes the horse from Evette's hands and throws it into the well.

EVETTE

You just made all that up! It doesn't work that way, it's harder.

MARY

Not everything is about violence and friction Evette. It's about sharing your true feelings. Where are your true feelings? Did you leave them with your endangered shrimp in the sea?

FRANK

Molly's right Evette. You need to share your feelings in order to be happy.

EVETTE

You just decided to be happy just then, I saw it happen, you just decided, it doesn't work that way.

FRANK

What's she throwing away?

MARY

Brass knuckles. Isn't that scary?

FRANK

I hate violence.

EVETTE

I never used them okay? I never even used them. I bought them from a catalogue. But I'd been thinking about using them for a long time, and it scared me so I thought I should get rid of them. Throw them into this well to rust and decay. Each little knuckle breaking off like kit kats into the water. And I thought I could think of the good decision I made throwing those knuckles into the well. I'd be able to think about that for the rest of my life. Knowing that they'd be there getting eaten up by whatever it is that makes metal decay.

FRANK

It's part of the carbon cycle.

EVETTE

No it's not!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

MARY

Evette thinks she's a scientist. Hey Frank, now that I'm wearing this Elvis costume, it's kind of like I'm Cher wearing an Elvis costume. Remember when Cher wore that Elvis costume?

FRANK

No I don't, but I think you're just swell.

EVETTE

You're thinking of Celine Dion, Celine Dion dressed up as Elvis once.

MARY

Have you thrown your weapon away yet Evette? It's scaring me, Frank and I absolutely hate violence!

A woman enters holding a Virgin Mary statue and crying.

WOMAN

Farewell!

She throws the Virgin Mary into the well and exits, still crying.

MARY

Evette, maybe you're not ready to throw something into this well.

EVETTE

I am so ready! I probably knew about this well before you did! You're all posers. You're well posers! I thought of doing this like a year ago!

MARY

Well then throw those brass knuckles into that well if you're so ready!

She does.

EVETTE

There. There it is.

FRANK

Do you feel better? You should feel better.

EVETTE

How would you know, you didn't even throw anything into the well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

FRANK

The things I threw into the well turned out to be invisible things.

EVETTE

I don't feel any different.

MARY

I'm sorry Evette.

EVETTE

It's okay.

MARY

Maybe you could think of something else to throw into the well. What's holding you back Evette?

EVETTE

Have you ever seen a picture of yourself and thought... I don't know... I had a better chance then? A better chance at whatever it is that I want.

MARY

Evette I think you want what I want too.

EVETTE

What? Frank?

MARY

No Evette, not Frank. I'm sorry Frank. You want what everyone else wants. A little slice a that pie. A little piece a that sky!

EVETTE

Well how do I get that?

MARY

You just gotta put yourself before the shrimp sometimes.

EVETTE

The shrimp?

FRANK

The shrimp Evette.

EVETTE

But they're only a few thousand left off the coast of Miami! Global Warming is killing the plankton they eat! Mary! Frank! They're going extinct! This is it baby, this is the last of these shrimp around! What do I have to gain by throwing away these poor shrimp!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

MARY

You get the satisfaction of knowing that you matter in this crazy world. It's dog eat dog Evette and if you put your violence and your shrimp before everything else, well you'll get eaten right up by global warming just like those plankton. Come on! Play a little God. Feel some a that power you've been dying for. Isn't that why you bought those brass knuckles? To feel like you had some power?

EVETTE

Well yes. But they're going to go extinct.

MARY

Evette: Who. Cares. ?

EVETTE

Wow.

FRANK

Throw those shrimp into that well.

Evette closes her eyes. She throws the jar of shrimp into the well.

MARY

How do you feel Evette?

EVETTE

I feel... I feel great!

MARY

You know why they say the dinosaurs went extinct don't you?

FRANK

Why?

MARY

Cause they were holding us back. And now we're all free. Evette, Frank is going to give me a ride home. I hope you don't mind if we leave you as you sit at the well and think about what you've done.

EVETTE

No, I don't mind. I feel great. I feel just great.

Bees begin to swarm. They engulf Evette. She sits, not resisting the stings. They destroy her.

The End.