

WILL bows down to CHLOE for a moment, and the room goes silent for a very uncomfortable amount of time. CHLOE begins pacing, often getting very close to WILL. He remains motionless in fear.

CHLOE

Witnessing your feast provoked a hunger within me.

JOSH

You can have what remains of the carcass, mada—

CHLOE

Oh, I must exclaim again, must I? I only ingest what's fresh!

JOSH gulps and goes as motionless as WILL. The room goes uncomfortably silent again while CHLOE paces.

CHLOE

But what fresh fare have I to eat?

WILL and JOSH do not answer.

CHLOE

HMM?

WILL and JOSH remain silent and motionless.

Very well.

CHLOE begins to exit. The next series of dialogue should overlap.

WILL

Wait!

JOSH

Don't leave, doll! What must I do for you to stay?

WILL

I know (*pause*). I'll go!

JOSH

(*Happily*) Yes, he'll go!

WILL

I will go find you a big beetle!

JOSH
I will go find one bigger.

WILL
I will go find the biggest!

We hear chaotic noises of WILL and JOSH bickering about beetles but cannot make out what they are saying as they speak over each other.. CHLOE interrupts this argument.

CHLOE
A little beetle won't satisfy my hunger.

The mantises pause in contemplation.

WILL
(Eagerly) I'll get you a rat!

JOSH
And I, a snake!

WILL
And I, a snake that has eaten a rat!

Once again, we hear the chaotic sounds of WILL and JOSH bickering but cannot make out what they are saying.

CHLOE
Those portions are too large. I need something... more my own size.

Silence. WILL's eyes enlarge in fear.

JOSH
A large grasshopper?

CHLOE
Perhaps a specimen more *your* own size.

JOSH
Doll—

CHLOE
I'll leave the settlement for the pair of you to discuss and act upon. I will return soon.

CHLOE then positions the remainings of the carcass on her back and exits. WILL and JOSH stand silently staring at each other for an extended period. JOSH then slowly

approaches WILL with his hands/arms positioned to brawl how a praying mantis would. JOSH shakes. WILL closes his eyes and shrinks his body to prepare for the for the blow of JOSH's hit, but then opens his eyes and straightens up.

WILL

Wait...

JOSH relaxes. WILL walks back to the leaf, where he prayed earlier. He looks to the sky for a moment, then at the leaf, and finally looks to where Chloe exited. WILL then looks forward, smiling menacingly.

I am enough.

WILL charges at JOSH with his praying arms forward. He slices at JOSH but JOSH dodges it. In doing so, JOSH falls to the ground. WILL creeps closer to JOSH but JOSH keeps sliding away. WILL eventually reaches him and stands over him with an evil look on his face.

JOSH

You won't kill me. You won't kill a fly.

WILL prepares to strike JOSH with his spikes.

JOSH

You can't kill me!

WILL strikes down but JOSH interrupts his action so he stops mid swipe.

Will, wait!

WILL chuckles.

WILL

Why should I wait?

JOSH

Because, because... God is here!

WILL

So what if He is?

JOSH

He'll watch you puncture my heart like Chloe did that bird's.

WILL

It's what Chloe wants. She'll be back soon.

JOSH

He's watching you right now, Will—honoring Chloe above Him!! He sees you!

WILL

It is She who can see!

CHLOE reenters simultaneously with the last line. She no longer has the carcass. She watches the rest of the ordeal from where she entered. WILL and JOSH are unaware of her presence.

(Fiery) This morning I ate a leaf. A teeny, tiny speck of greenery, a plant worshipping weakling, I was. Chloe saw more within me. She brought me to life! Her eyes are not green but she recognized me. *She* sees what I am capable of. *She* sees that I'm a real *mantis*. I am enough!

JOSH

This is not you, Will!

WILL

Can you prove it?

JOSH

I, I—

There are flashing red lights. The audience can see instances of WILL thrashing JOSH with his praying mantis arms. JOSH tries to fight back but WILL's beating is too strong. JOSH shrieks in pain. The lights come back up. CHLOE smiles menacingly, and WILL stands over JOSH out of breath. CHLOE saunters over to WILL. They both stare at JOSH's limp body.

WILL

Bon appétit.

CHLOE

I shall save it for later.

WILL

Did you feed while you were away?

CHLOE

No.