

SCENE ONE

(Inside. It is oppressively hot and muggy. ROBERT SUCH--impossibly old, withered--sits. He fans himself, mops his brow, swats at bugs.)

ROBERT

The headline read,
in addition to "Oh the humanity"

...

Um...

...

However.

Not all were killed.

In spite of the
fire and brimstone

a few survivors miraculously floated down to earth
from heaven

unscathed.

Though these lucky few are sure to find
that life

after the fall

shall leave them wanting in ways
irreconcilable.

How?, then.

There are tigers here, I'm sure: predators.

This is a very old place; dangerous; the outskirts; the
edge.

And who would have imagined that I would end up here.

(A knock. Pause. ROBERT does not move. Another knock. ROBERT is frozen. GROVER GLOVER enters; he is similarly old and wears a poorly-fitting Gatsby-type suit; he carries many heavy suitcases and bags.)

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Mr. Glover.

GROVER

Grover, Robert.

ROBERT

You found me.

GROVER

I did, obviously.

ROBERT
How?

GROVER
This is our place. I heard about the explosion, and I decided to find you.

ROBERT
Why?

GROVER
"Why?"?

ROBERT
(Rising.)
I have to go.

GROVER
Don't! Dear Lord, stay.

ROBERT
What year is it?

GROVER
You don't know?

ROBERT
One...loses track...

GROVER
Good Lord. 1937.

ROBERT
How long have I been here?, sitting here?

GROVER
Since the /

ROBERT
Don't.

(Beat.)

GROVER
Four months, give or take.

(ROBERT sits.)

ROBERT
You look ridiculous.

GROVER
It's the fashion.

ROBERT
Not with us.

GROVER
I can try, can't I?

ROBERT
To what.

GROVER
To change. To improve.

ROBERT
I suppose so, if you fancy.

GROVER
I do. How is your wife?

ROBERT
Dead.

(GROVER drops his bags.)

GROVER
Dead? Yes... Well.

ROBERT
Yes. As a doornail.

GROVER
Didn't Dickens say that?

ROBERT
"Dead as a doornail"?

GROVER
Yes.

ROBERT
I'm not sure. I believe so.

GROVER
Not up on your Dickens.

ROBERT
Yes, well enough.

GROVER
And of course Dickens is dead.

ROBERT
Of course.

GROVER

As a doornail.

ROBERT

Yes Dickens is dead as a doornail.

(Beat. They laugh
uproariously.)

ROBERT (CONT'D)

(A reality.)

Yes but Henny is dead. She died, rather.

GROVER

In the explosion.

ROBERT

Yes.

GROVER

But you are not.

ROBERT

No.

GROVER

Robert, but you are not.

(Beat.)

GROVER (CONT'D)

May I step closer?

ROBERT

Yes.