

AN ACCIDENT

by

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The play takes place in JACK and BRENDA's inner-city apartment.

Cast

JACK, a healthy-looking man of thirty-five.

BRENDA, his wife, a slim graceful woman of thirty.

ARTHUR, a boyish-looking man of thirty.

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**NOTE: Brenda annoys Jack by her humming, she constantly hums the first few bars of
'Nothing Broken Nothing Strong'**

This is not mentioned in the dialogue until later.

Lights go on the apartment. It is a small but well-furnished apartment perhaps all in beige, perhaps all in green or grey. It is not particularly cheerful.

JACK is reading the newspaper when the lights go up. He is also making notes at the table at which he is sitting. At first it is not immediately apparent he is in a wheelchair, until he suddenly tires of what he is doing and spins round for a wheelie before he goes back to working.

BRENDA buzzes.

JACK reaches for buzzer on wall.

JACK

Just a minute... no need to buzz in my ear.

(He goes back to his newspaper. BRENDA enters in street clothes, or coat and skirt over her ballet practice clothes. She is carrying brown bag of shopping.)

BRENDA

I'm not late am I? I ran into Carol and she wanted to tell me about their party, who got drunk and who flirted with who...or is it whom?

(She exits stage left to kitchen, to unpack bag)

JACK

More like what! At Carol's parties the genders are up for grabs.

BRENDA (From kitchen)

What?

JACK

Never mind...

BRENDA (From Kitchen) Had a good day?

JACK

Terrific!

(BRENDA enters to look at him and take her coat off.)

BRENDA

Gina didn't show up for her class again to-day, that's three in a row and she says she wants to audition for the New York City ballet next month. I'm exhausted.

JACK

It's that studio. You should get out of that studio, airless place. Makes you look pale. Grey. You don't 'glow'.

BRENDA

**That's because I don't sweat. "Horses sweat, men perspire, and ladies glow."
(He does not laugh) But I don't sweat, so I don't glow...**

**(She has taken his newspaper off the table, and has
taken a cloth out of a drawer to set the table for
dinner.)**

**JACK
You need a vacation in the sun.**

**BRENDA
And sea and Mexico. (SHE snaps her fingers ole style) Why don't we go?**

**JACK
Just like that?**

**BRENDA
Time to spend some of that insurance cash. I think so anyways.**

**JACK
What's for dinner?**

**BRENDA
I can't believe it. You're hungry.**

**JACK
I'm not, I was asking for you.**

**BRENDA
Does that mean I can reply for you...?**

**JACK
Did you water the plants, lately?**

**BRENDA (From kitchen)
I'm not going to let them die of thirst.**

**JACK
Not if you noticed they were dying.**

**BRENDA
Not if I noticed they were down to their last petal.. Difficult to know with cactus
whether they need water or not.**

**JACK
That's why I bought cactii.**

**BRENDA (Entering with knives and forks and plates.)
You think of everything.**

**JACK
I try to. Stop bopping around.**

BRENDA

Sorry...

JACK

Come and sit down...

BRENDA

Coming...

(She sits down. Pause.) What's it like being home?

JACK

Terrible!

BRENDA

That's not so bad. "Terrible" you could have said worse.

JACK

It's so quiet here after Dana House.

BRENDA

Put the radio on, some music.

JACK

You know I hate music.

BRENDA

You can't hate music.

JACK

I do.

BRENDA

Oh! I got the info on the car to-day.

JACK

What car? (He pretends to be shocked) You want me to drive a car again?

BRENDA

The Specially Designed Car.

JACK

Oh, the Specially Designed...like the Ferrari...the Dino, or the Daytona? Where do you want me to drive it? LeMans? The Grand Prix?

BRENDA

To and from work.

JACK

I'm not going to work.

BRENDA

But you will...won't you?

JACK
I don't need to.

BRENDA
You want to stay home and do what?.

JACK
Be here for you, when you get back.

BRENDA
Oh thanks.

JACK
I don't want to be running round after those morons at work.
I couldn't keep a track of the stealing that went on before...now they'd really
make a monkey out of me.

BRENDA
No they wouldn't.

JACK
You don't know them like I do.

BRENDA
What will you do at home?

JACK
I told, you. Want a drink?

BRENDA
Sure...

(He goes to liquor cabinet and pours a whisky.)

JACK
I know why it's so quiet here. No visitors. At Dana House they got you off the
toilet to tell you someone you didn't want to talk to was going to bore you for the
next hour.

BRENDA
People went out of their way to be nice to you.

JACK
Made them even more boring.

BRENDA
They're not going to stop just because you're home. The MacCleans have invited
us to dinner.

JACK

God, what have we done to deserve that?

BRENDA

Been nice to them, and now they' re being nice back.

JACK

We'll have to put a stop to that.

(Hands her drink)

BRENDA

Anything in the papers?

JACK

The usual garbage.

BRENDA

What are you staring at?

JACK

I'm not staring. I'm looking at you.

BRENDA

Oh, that's a change.

JACK

It is, yes...

BRENDA

Sorry, don't mean to be negative. Trying to be funny.

JACK

You' ve put on some weight..

BRENDA

I know, I can't seem to keep it off. My thighs have got so fat, they rub against each other when I do entrechats.

(She demonstrates)

BRENDA (Continued)

It's okay here, but when I land in the studio there's a thud, and the window shakes. I can't seem to stop eating chocolate, chocolate whirls are why I never made it big. And now they're going to make me big.

JACK

You need a young lover to take your mind off food.

BRENDA

I'll put it on the top of my shopping list.

JACK

I've been thinking about you and your problems.

BRENDA

I haven't got any problems, except in your mind.

JACK

I'm still in my right mind.

BRENDA

Of course you are, but you're not in mine.

JACK

Ah, but I like thinking about you because you've been great, and everything but I'm worried as you know...

BRENDA

It'll pass.

JACK

I don't want you waiting. I don't want to be waited for.

BRENDA

Sorry.

JACK

That's okay. I'm thinking about your teaching.

BRENDA

I haven't.

JACK

I know, you've wasted your time, the whole year visiting me. Gave up that extra class,

BRENDA

That was no hardship.

JACK

Because of me!

BRENDA

We've got Joy to do the choreography for Fun Times At Ridgemont High.

JACK

That's good.

BRENDA

She's great, does a much better job than I would.

JACK

I wish you wouldn't say things like that.

BREND

It's true. But I have to be positive..

JACK

If you want any sort of success. I've had to learn how to be positive.

BRENDA

You've done a terrific job.

JACK

You have to be positive about yourself.

BRENDA

Yes, of course. About myself. But I can be positive about going away on vacation can't I? When you had your accident I was so mad we both of us worked so hard. We could have enjoyed so much more, and I want to make up for it. If you don't want to work, why don't I give up my job and we'll travel together?

JACK

Travel?

BRENDA

Blow the insurance money and enjoy it. And then we'll work when we get back. Both of us.

JACK

We waited until it was real easy for us to travel, didn't we?

BRENDA

I've done research. Trains and buses are a headache, but cars and planes are fine...

JACK

Where do you want to go?

BRENDA

Mexico, see how the Mexicans live. China, see how the Chinese live... (She falters because she is not getting any response) I don't know.

JACK

We've had our honeymoon. We've done that.

BRENDA

Okay, it was just a suggestion.

(She exits stage left. We hear dishes being stacked)

JACK

We've got to find you someone who still has an appetite for life.

BRENDA (not hearing him properly)

What's wrong with your appetite?

JACK

Lost it. Lost my appetite.

BRENDA

I've got take-out, but I'm going to start to cook.

You'll soon get your appetite back.

(Enters and sets plates on table.)

JACK

No I won't.

BRENDA

I'll get a cook book.

JACK

No, I don't mean for food. For you!

(She drops a plate)

JACK

You're a nervous wreck.

BRENDA

Right.

JACK

And I'm not exactly comfortable saying this.

BRENDA

No, go right ahead. The truth, that's good isn't it?

JACK

Sometimes I think I shouldn't have come home. Of course I want to be home.

BRENDA

Not wanting me, then? Is that what's making you uncomfortable?

JACK

What about you?

BRENDA

Don't worry about me. I'm used to it.

JACK

Used to it. Don't you think it's a tad humiliating.

BRENDA

No, what? Humiliation isn't a big deal with me.

JACK

That's the problem. I mean, it is with me.

BRENDA

But don't be.

JACK

Okay. I'm not. Because there is a solution to our problem. All you have to do is get yourself a lover.

BRENDA

Who did you have in mind?

JACK

Don't say you haven't thought about it. Everyone thinks about it.

Especially when they see someone racey.. You do still see? You do see a sexy someone...

BRENDA

Sometimes, yes.

JACK

And think?

BRENDA

When there's no alternative.

JACK

So the only think keeping you backis cowardice.

BRENDA

I'm a coward, as well as someone who is half blind and can't think?

JACK

Don't forget humiliated.

BRENDA

I thought that was you.

JACK

Oh yes, but I don't want to be. A lover for you. That's the only solution.

BRENDA
Temporarily you mean?

JACK
Who can tell. One day at a time, isn't that what they say?

BRENDA
Kinda hard to live any other way.

JACK
So that's the solution to your problem.

BRENDA
Or your problem.

JACK
I don't have a problem. We do.

BRENDA
That's true.

JACK
Together, we have a problem, and together we have to think of a solution.

BRENDA
And what's the solution?

JACK
I told you. Is there anyone you like...or that you think about -or could think about liking? Anyone? Apart from our friends?

BRENDA
Why apart from them?

JACK
I've already considered and rejected them.

BRENDA (Sarcastically)
Who did you have in mind?

JACK
No one...

BRENDA
Come on, who?

JACK
No one. Or I would have made the suggestion. But I think that's better left up to you. If that's okay with you.

BRENDA (Not sure whether he's serious or not)
Fine. Thank you.

JACK
That's your choice entirely.

(They sip their drinks as lights fade.)

END OF SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO

Lights go up on apartment. JACK is reading newspaper.

Bell rings, he pushes buzzer.

BRENDA enters, still high from performing.

BRENDA
Hi ...

JACK
You're late.

BRENDA
Did you have a good game?

JACK
Did you go out for a drink?

BRENDA
No, I came right home. But by the time I got my make-up off and helped clear up the hall it was late.

JACK

You had to clear up the hall?

BRENDA

We all helped.

JACK

After a class, you have to pick up people's garbage?

BRENDA

No one thought to get a cleaning service. (Pause) Anyway we couldn't afford one.

JACK

But you paid for the hall.

BRENDA

Not much. It's no big deal... So who won the big ballgame?

JACK

We did! Ninety to eighty-four. I got most of the baskets.

BRENDA

WAY TO GO, WAY TO GO! .DANA HOUSE ARE ULTIMO..

JACK

But I bet on the other team. They usually win. Those Vets usually come at us with machine guns, but not to-night. We were on top tonight. I lost ten bucks.

BRENDA

So what's ten bucks?

JACK

Wanna drink?

BRENDA

Sure...

JACK

We put in for a pool last week, remember? Well to-night the Board told us they'd no plans for a pool.

BRENDA

No money I expect.

JACK

No plans they said. I want to get on that Board and shake them up.

BRENDA

Why don't you?

JACK

I'm out of Dana House now, aren't I? That's the trouble. When you're there all you can think of is getting out, but they need someone on the Board who really knows what it's like. No plans! Someone needs to put a bomb...

BRENDA

Why go down there if it makes you angry?

JACK

Why are you afraid of me getting angry?

BRENDA

I'm not.

JACK

Oh why not? Here you are... (Hands her drink) So, how was the Spirit of Spring tonight?

BRENDA

I think the audience will like it.

JACK

The ten or twelve who show up.

BRENDA

Twenty-five last year.

JACK

Oh, that makes all the difference. Twenty-FIVE... That makes it a worthwhile cause...

BRENDA

It's not a cause. It's something we sell. There aren't many customers, that's all.

JACK

Because you don't give discounts.

BRENDA (Picks up paper)

Because we can't get the critics.

JACK

You might as well be dead for all the attention you and that ballet company of yours gets.

BRENDA

I know, but don't get on at me. Stardom isn't my style.

JACK

Then you're in the wrong business. Show business, which is what dancing is for God's sake, is supposed to be out there. Get out there, get in the fast lane, for God's sake!

BRENDA

The fast lane? That's your style. Oh sorry, I didn't mean to...forget it.

JACK

Don't you feel wasted teaching all year, and then putting up a show that's usually...

BRENDA

Pathetic.

JACK

Positive, be positive.

BRENDA

I'm trying!

JACK

And I'm not helping.

BRENDA

Don't be hard on yourself. But you're not, no.

JACK

My fault.

BRENDA

None of your friends from Dana House have come round?

JACK

Nope... I told them not to.

BRENDA

They know you don't mean it.

JACK

I do.

BRENDA

Aren't we going to see that comedian soon, the one you like?

JACK

When is that?

BRENDA

Nineteenth, no, twentieth if I've got it right.

JACK

That's two weeks! Do you know how far away that is, two weeks?

BRENDA

Two weeks?

JACK

No, you don't. You can't understand that, can you? Want another drink?

BRENDA

How many is that?

JACK

Who's counting?

BRENDA

I am.

JACK

What are you worried about? I can't have another car accident.

BRENDA

What about that car you were going to get?

JACK

Oh, the Specially Designed Car... if I get a car I might be able to have another accident.

BRENDA

Not if you don't exceed the speed limit.

JACK

Then I won't be able to drink, will I?

BRENDA

No, you won't. What's the matter? Don't go back to Dana House if it makes you feel like this.

JACK

I'm thinking about it.

BRENDA

Don't attack me.

JACK

I'm trying to be NICE to you.

BRENDA

Dancing is a funny thing to be involved in. I've only just realized this.. Do you know with each passing year your body changes shape faster than you can change it.

JACK

Did you get yourself a lover?

BRENDA

Not exactly.

JACK
What then?

BRENDA
But there is someone I like down at the YWCA.

JACK
Sex?

BRENDA
No, we have something rather special in common...

JACK
What sex are you talking about at the Y.W.C.A.?

BRENDA
Oh male. A man.

JACK
Well, what's he like? Aren't you going to tell me the details?

BRENDA
No... I can't.

JACK
You're not going to make 'having a lover' exciting.

BRENDA
(Thinking about having a lover.

JACK
Of course.)

BRENDA
I don't think it'll work out, me getting involved with someone else.

JACK
Why not?

BRENDA
I don't know. I can't think... I'm not clever enough to think of two people at once.

JACK
Is that what you've been doing?

BRENDA
Yes, and it's too difficult..

JACK

That's what you have to do if you want excitement, adventure... life...

BRENDA
I'm not sure I do.

JACK
You'd rather have boredom, misery, and sadness?

BRENDA
Maybe. You know what I can't understand, you.

JACK
I'd be happier, I'd be relieved to know you were going to parties, the beach, skiing...

(Pause)
BRENDA
Skiing?

JACK
Why not? That's something you could do together.

BRENDA
Umm, there's something you should know...

JACK
No you're right, keep it to yourself. I don't want to know.

BRENDA
You don't?

JACK
No. Better for me to know nothing.

BRENDA
Okay, but I'm still not happy about this.

JACK
I am. But stop humming that song, if you're going to sing it sing it.

BRENDA
What song? Have I been humming?

JACK
Sing it, 'NOTHING BROKEN, NOTHING STRONG, NOTHING BROKEN, NOTHING STRONG'.

END OF SCENE TWO

SCENE THREE

JACK is packing his desk papers into briefcase, his desk is cleared. BRENDA crosses stage with two boxes..

JACK

So what are you going to do here?

BRENDA

Redecorate!

JACK

Orange?

BRENDA

Yellow. Or orange.

JACK

With purple cushions?

BRENDA

Red!

JACK

Horrible. What does he like, your boyfriend? I hope he's going to marry you.

BRENDA

I hope you're not going to worry about me when we're divorced.

JACK

No, I'm letting you go...

BRENDA

Find someone else to worry about...

JACK

That's why I'm going into politics...

BRENDA

You know I wish you every success!

JACK

Of course you do. We had some good times together in the beginning.
We had some eight good years.

BRENDA

I'll never forget.

JACK

I don't need much down at Dana House not to agitate for us geeks.

BRENDA

Do you think you should call yourself that?

JACK

I consider it a term of endearment.

BRENDA

Whatever.

JACK

I'm going to put Dana House on the map, and I mean the MAP!
Whether they like it or not. They won't know what hit 'em.

BRENDA

Fine, I'm going next door to borrow a suitcase.

(BRENDA exits.. Buzzer sounds.)

JACK

Brenda, someone at the door. BRENDA!

(HE buzzes ARTHUR in. ARTHUR wheels in awkwardly
through door.)

JACK

Hello...come in! Can you manage? New to the game, are you? Never mind,
we'll work on you. I'm designing a work-out program for the basketball team,
putting it on video so you can do it in your own home. You do want to join the
team?

ARTHUR

No, that's not why I've come.

JACK

You've got to be on the team. We need reserves, even if you're no good.

ARTHUR (continued)

You wrote you wanted to see me.

JACK

Oh you're on the Board then. We've never met. I'm going to set their tails on fire down there because as you know, some of them don't of course, it's no good agitating for trifles. We've got to be represented at every level, local, state, federal...

ARTHUR

I'm Arthur Drayton...

JACK

Glad to meet you. (They shake)

ARTHUR

Brenda's friend.

JACK

ARTHUR? ARTHUR? BRENDA'S ARTHUR? Her lover?

ARTHUR

Her friend, yes. Brenda didn't want me to come round but you wrote...

JACK

Wait a minute, I wrote to you...

ARTHUR

You said you wanted to meet me before you left, and I agreed...

JACK

You're the one, the forest ranger?

ARTHUR

What?

JACK

The champion skier. That's what she said. Never knew how to joke, one of the few things I have against her. But this is pretty funny, you've got to admit. YOU? Hilarious...

ARTHUR

But I'm not a joke She's not here?

JACK

Brenda's idea of a joke?

ARTHUR

We started to talk after you had your accident and I offered to come and see you. But she didn't think you'd like that.

JACK

She was right. So how long has this been going on?

ARTHUR

Nothing happened until you started to have problems.

JACK

Oh is that right?

ARTHUR

What are you implying?

JACK

Nothing, because I don't know what I'm saying. I don't know what's been going on. I know nothing.

ARTHUR

I told you.

JACK

Yes, it's very interesting.

(Pause)

ARTHUR

It's very simple really.

JACK

No, it isn't. Nothing is my friend, nothing is so complicated that a closer look at it doesn't make it even MORE complicated.

ARTHUR

It is. After you had your accident, I used to ask after you. Ask how you were doing.

JACK

You just happened to be there?

ARTHUR

That's it.

JACK

The right place at the right time?

ARTHUR

There was nothing underhand about it.

JACK

A pure and simple coincidence?

ARTHUR

That's right, yes.

JACK

Like an accident? She's done this on purpose.

ARTHUR

It wasn't like that.

(Goes to liquor cabinet)

JACK

Yes, that's why she's chosen you.

ARTHUR

She didn't want to choose me. You forced her.

JACK

Me?

ARTHUR

Didn't you, that's what she said.

JACK

Not very flattering come to think of it. Forcing a woman to do what? Love? No, but of course you don't think that at the time, not hot in pursuit. No..

ARTHUR

I don't mean forced, I mean forced her to see the possibility.

JACK

Oh yes. I chased her into the ladies room, that's where she hid from me back in...we were on the beach. She looks great in a bikini, or did then, and she wouldn't talk to me so I tracked her down and proposed to her in the Ladies.

ARTHUR

I love her.

JACK

That's what you said?

ARTHUR

Yes.

JACK

Like in the movies?

ARTHUR

Anything wrong with that?

JACK

You love nd want to take care of her?

ARTHUR

She can take care of herself.

JACK

Looks like she'll have to.

ARTHUR

So can I.

JACK

I've never seen you down at Dana House.

ARTHUR

No, I don't like sports much.

JACK

What's wrong with sports?

ARTHUR

I think it's sublimation mostly.

JACK

What for? Not for sex...

ARTHUR

Maybe. Sex or aggression.

JACK

That's what it's SUPPOSED to be sublimation for.

ARTHUR

Oh, that's good for some people then.

(BRENDA enters)

BRENDA

Oh, what are you doing here?

ARTHUR

You haven't told him.

BRENDA

I tried. I tried Jack...

JACK

I'm glad you didn't. It was a wonderful surprise. We're going to have a celebration to see you on your way. To see me on my way, only now I've changed my mind. I'm not going. No, no. No need for me to go now. I'm going to stay and fight it out with Arthur here. We're going to dual, aren't we? Brenda, you'll like that. Appeal to your gothic instincts. Yes, or how about a wheelchair race? But I think a dual!

(JACK wheels backwards as if to make a run for
ARTHUR)

BRENDA
For God's sake...

ARTHUR
You've had your little joke...

(ARTHUR wheels backwards.)

BRENDA
You've finally flipped.

JACK
Or we've got swords. Get me those Samurai swords from the bedroom wall.

BRENDA
The swords are packed.

JACK
No, they're not.

BRENDA
They are. You wanted them.

JACK
If you won't get me the swords we'll have to fight it out, karate, judo, name your martial art...

(ARTHUR stops and turns.)

ARTHUR
What's the matter? You haven't got over your rage and pain yet, or something?

JACK
Oh Doctor Doc! Don't you see red when they talk about the phases and stages we're all going through?

ARTHUR
It's a matter of time.

JACK
I don't want time. I don't need it.

(ARTHUR moves away. JACK grabs his chair handle.)

ARTHUR

What are you doing? Take your hands off. (JACK grabs ARTHUR'S chair.)

Take your HANDS OFF.

BRENDA

This is ridiculous.

JACK

I'm enjoying it.

ARTHUR

Tell him to take his hands off.

BRENDA

He won't do what I say. (To JACK: Take your hands off. (She tries to pull away. JACK spins away from her, and comes towards ARTHUR again.)

ARTHUR

What do you want? Fight it out? Is that what you want to do? Fight because you have lost your number one player.

JACK

I haven't, he's here with me. If I don't choose to use him, that's my business.

ARTHUR

Use or abuse, use or loose it. What's wrong with you? Why don't you suddenly want sex ?

JACK

Do I have to explain my motifs to you? No.

ARTHUR

Yes, you do. I thought you were fighting for our rights. You can't fight for our rights if you can't fight for the number one right, because you've lost all desire for it.

JACK

If I have, I'm a better man for it. That's how I feel. I have different loves now, not chained to some silly taking me wherever he wants, when he wants. No, I want some control now. I'm old enough.

ARTHUR

That's your problem then.

JACK

It is.

(JACK rams him, more for fun this time)

BRENDA (Not realizing they're playing now)
Oh my god, I don't believe this is happening. You can't Jack. I won't let you.
(They charge each other with their wheel chairs. Then they withdraw and charge again. BRENDA gets between them, and falls back onto sofa after being hit.)

ARTHUR
You've hurt BRENDA...

BRENDA
I'm all right.

(He comes up behind ARTHUR and grabs his neck from behind. ARTHUR hits out as he frees himself. Then wheels away.)

ARTHUR (Losing his cool)
You want me to kill you? IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

BRENDA
No he wants to kill me, that's what he wants.

ARTHUR
He's mad...

JACK
Only to get back at her, because she tried to kill me. She crippled me but I'm not dead yet. She tried but I'm still alive.

BRENDA
What are you talking about?

ARTHUR
What do you mean? You weren't driving the car? Were you driving?

BRENDA
No.

JACK
She didn't have to be behind the wheel, we were married. That was enough.

BRENDA
Then it's about time we got unmarried.

JACK
That's what I said, that's what I want.

ARTHUR
She wasn't driving the car.

BRENDA
I wasn't even in the car. I was home. I was watching television.

JACK

Can you get us a drink? Sorry Brenda, sorry Arthur. Flipped my lid. You know how it is. Time to call it quits, yes Jack, time to call it quits.

ARTHUR

I think you've made the right decision to move down there.

JACK

So glad you approve.

ARTHUR

I mean, they need someone like you down there.

JACK

You bet. I'm going to get a pool put in. Then you can come down there and swim.

ARTHUR

Yes, I'd like that.

JACK

At least I'm fighting for a cause. I've got a cause. Have you? Got a cause?

ARTHUR

No, I don't need one.

JACK

Of course not. Why should you?

.

(BRENDA enters, gives JACK water)

JACK (Continued)

Maybe after you get married, you'll find one.

BRENDA

I tried to tell him, but I couldn't.

ARTHUR

I understand why...

BRENDA

I'm glad you came.

ARTHUR

I'm sorry I lost my temper.

JACK

My fault. My fault entirely.

BRENDA

I hope we can still be friends.

JACK(energetically)

Why not? After time spent together? Weaving together the fabric, dare I say tapestry of our lives? But then it's time to weave another. All change. You wake up one morning, the sun's shining and you want to be on the road. You can't wait to be under that sky, singing: nothing to do with being romantic. The opposite. You see clearly. An accident does that, makes you skid to a halt and some part of you, some better part says, yes, that's the way you're supposed to be. Other people see a wreckage but you are taking off and looking down on what you've been by mistake, only now there's no mistake. Crash, you're in flames but you're through to another mission. Free of eating breakfast lunch and dinner on Sundays for want of companionship. Sex for the same reason. Some of us want more than that now. You see, I'm not giving up. I'm going on. An accident makes things clear! I guess you'll find out. Sometime. A ways down the road. Nothing broken, nothing strong, (HE sings with manic glee) "The sea cries constantly, water reminding me, nothing broken, nothing strong."

**(ARTHUR tenderly takes BRENDA's hand, they bravely face the challenge in JACK's speech. Lights fade)
END OF PLAY**