

"Devour"

by

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Devour

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CHARACTERS

A man	A man with a hunger.
A stage-hand	A facilitator.

SETTING

Near an egg.

TIME

Now.

SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1      Near an egg.                      Now

"Ask not what you can do for your country. Ask what's  
for lunch."

-- Orson Welles

ACT I

SCENE 1

(LIGHTS UP. On one side of the STAGE is a man. On the other, an egg, on a pedestal. The man stares at the egg, intently.)

(After a moment, the man looks to the audience, winks. Puffs up his chest and begins heading toward the egg. At the halfway point, the man is overcome with doubt and puts his hands in his pockets. His head is stooped. He kicks at the ground.)

(Suddenly, a stage-hand enters at the opposite end from the egg. The stage-hand sets another pedestal atop which is set a hotdog. The stage-hand finishes setting up, taps the man on the shoulder, and exits the stage, egg-side.)

(The man looks over, noticing not the stage-hand, but the new pedestal and what is upon it. He takes a few steps toward the hot dog and stops. Considers the egg a moment, then back to the hot dog.)

(The choice is too much and the man falls to his knees, pulling his hair. He looks back and forth between the pedestals as though watching a tennis match. Finally, resolutely, he walks to the egg.)

(Coyly, cautiously, as if afraid it will roll away, the man lifts the egg off the pedestal. He holds it tenderly in his hands, cradling it. Eventually it becomes too much and he cavorts around the stage, dancing with the egg. Suddenly he finds himself adjacent to the hotdog.)

(He consider the dog on the pedestal, the egg in his hand. He looks over his shoulder, into the wing the stage-hand had entered from and snatches the hot dog off the plate. The carousing with the food continues.)

(He comes back to the egg's pedestal and suddenly, without warning, smashes the egg on its pedestal. The shock of his own action astounds him and he begins grieving over the egg, trying to put its fragments back together. In his lamentation he destroys the hot dog upon the pedestal as well.)

(The man contemplates the mess a moment before finding his way to the center of the stage, a weeping tragedy of a man. In his sobs he fails to notice the stage-hand enter with a pizza box and place it in front of him. He mourns the egg and hot dog until the stage-hand exits.)

(His weeping ceases, in the natural pattern of grief, but he looks to the pedestal and the food fragments, wistfully, in remembrance. He turns back and notices the pizza box for the first time.)

(The man looks to either side and behind himself, looking for some explanation. Finding none he gingerly opens the box. In wide-eyed surprise and wonder he delves his hands in and pulls out a slice.)

(Cradling the slice gently, he gracefully takes a bite of the slice. A look of appreciation and contentment washes over his face. He looks adoringly at the slice of pizza then takes another bite. The LIGHTS FADE. The man continues eating his slice in this fashion until BLACKOUT.)

(END.)