

Excerpts from *Home: A Playmaking Piece*, a TYA show intended for middle school and high school audiences. Devised through improvisations with the ensemble.

Moment 7. The Ribbit, part 1

JACK and KEVIN run onstage from downstage right.]

JACK:

Kevin, I think it might be over here in the swamp.

KEVIN:

No, I swear by it, I thought I saw it jump over here.

JACK:

I think they like mud.

KEVIN:

Do you think it's...*in* the mud.

LINDA:

Guys!!! Guys I got the Ribbit. I got the Ribbit. It's in my hands, it's in my hands, in my hands, in my hands. It's so slimy you wouldn't understand. Sh. Sh. You're going to scare it. Ok.

[LINDA opens up her hands for an instant and closes them. JACK and KEVIN scream and take off. JACK hyperventilates.]

KEVIN:

They're here. They're real. Nana wasn't lying.

LINDA:

I know, I know, I know. They're super green and slimy--

JACK:

Can I hold it?

LINDA:

What?

JACK:

Can I hold it?

LINDA:

You want to hold it? You're not prepared.

JACK:

I think I am.

LINDA:

You are?

JACK:

I am. I am. I can hold it.

LINDA:

Here. Quick transfer.

[LINDA gives JACK the Ribbit.]

JACK:

It's so--Wow! It's so slimy. Take it away from me.

[JACK gives it to KEVIN.]

KEVIN:

[Screams.] It's even slimier than Nana said it would be.

[LINDA takes back the Ribbit.]

JACK:

LINDA, do you remember the story about the princess that that that *kissed* the Ribbit? And became a princess! [Gasps.]

LINDA:

Should I kiss the Ribbit?

JACK:

You need to kiss it. *You* need to kiss it.

LINDA:

Okay. Okay, okay, okay, okay, okay.

KEVIN:

Linda's gonna be a princess.

LINDA:

I'm gonna kiss it! Okay, okay, okay.

JACK:

One, two...

[LINDA opens her hands and kisses the Ribbit. She screams. They all scream.]

JACK:

Do you feel any different?

LINDA:

No. I feel slimy and gross. [Beat.] Was that my first kiss? [KEVIN gasps. JACK laughs.]

KEVIN:

Linda kissed the Ribbit!

[KEVIN and JACK laugh.]

LINDA:

Hey...Guys. You told me to. [Beat.] We should show Nana. Let's show Nana the Ribbit.

JACK:

Oh let's show Nana. She'll be--she's been dying to see one.

LINDA:

Yeah yeah yeah!

[JACK runs upstage right, LINDA in a downstage right. KEVIN follows behind LINDA and JACK joins them all, exiting downstage right.]

Moment 26. The Ribbit, part 2

[LINDA and JACK enter and sit. KEVIN comes from upstage left with a cardboard box.]

KEVIN:

Ok. Last box.

LINDA:

[Head in her hands.] You're gonna murder me.

JACK:
[Murmuring.] I can't do it anymore.

KEVIN:
On top...her old apron. [JESSE takes out an apron.]

JACK:
Whoa.

LINDA:
There's like stains on it.

JACK:
It's mac and cheese. She made it for us literally every day.

LINDA:
What are you gonna do, lick it now?

KEVIN:
Guys, let's just put it in the maybe pile and keep going.

LINDA:
Okay. Sounds great.

[KEVIN takes out the book, "Goodnight Moon."]

KEVIN:
[Laughing.] "Goodnight Moon."

JACK:
I told myself I wasn't gonna cryyy.

LINDA:
You're crying over "Goodnight Moon?" There's literally so many--we can get a copy of it at the library.

JACK:
Linda--

LINDA:

[Something has changed.] KEVIN. What. Just throw it out. It's junk. I don't need to see it anymore. I really don't.

JACK:

She read that to us every night.

LINDA:

Okay, and I don't want to see it anymore.

JACK:

It's *our* copy.

LINDA:

It's not ours, it's hers. I don't want to hear the story anymore.

[KEVIN gives JACK the book. He holds it.]

KEVIN:

Last box. We can get through it.

JACK:

You've been like this all day.

LINDA:

[Brushing him off, mocking him] Oh...! Wooo.

[KEVIN takes out a jar of dirt with a piece of tape, labeled "Earth" in red.]

LINDA:

[Cont'd] A jar of dirt.

KEVIN:

Ok, but--

LINDA:

Why should we--

KEVIN:

But, on the top [he shows LINDA then KEVIN the tape.]

JACK:

Earth? Do you think it's from Earth?

LINDA:

What? It's a jar of dirt. You can get dirt everywhere, KEVIN.

JACK:

We never got to go. She clearly cared enough to jar up this earth so we could have it later.

LINDA:

I don't want a jar of dirt. I don't want to look at any of this stuff. She's gone. That's the end of it.

JACK:

We're preserving her memory.

LINDA:

I don't want to remember this--

JACK:

She was our Nana!

[All three are silent.]

JACK:

Fine. Throw it out. Throw it literally all out. You win. [Exits downstage left.]

LINDA:

I have a headache. Do what you want with it. Just, do what you...[Exits upstage right.]

[KEVIN takes out a photo of the three of them--KEVIN, JACK, and LINDA.]

KEVIN:

[Reading the caption.] Kids with ribbit. [He turns to call after them. They've gone. He looks down at it, smiles, picks up the earth, and exits upstage left.]