A CAT, A TSUNAMI, A DISEASE By Molly Burke

CHARACTER LIST:

GERALD: Has Benjamin button disease. Naturally grows younger during the play.

STEVE: Talking cat.

LISA: Talking cat.

NELSON: Voodoo vampire guy, Australian.

<u>Time</u>

Late Spring, '70s

Place

Hawaii

(Late '70s. Hawaii. A mist engulfs the stage, then fades off, revealing Steve, 6 year old cat center stage under a spotlight.)

STEVE

(Drinks out of a glass of scotch.) I'll never forget the day I saw her. She was the bee's knees, the coolest cat in the alley. But just like the ocean, she was too vast for me to comprehend.

(Black out. Lights go up on an alleyway. STEVE is licking a piece of pizza.)

LISA

(Smoking a cigarette.) You gonna finish that piece of pizza all by yourself?

STEVE

(Drunk) Maybe I will, what's it to you?

LISA

It isn't much to me. I just needed a reason to talk to you so as to begin the relationship that will develop throughout this story.

STEVE

Huh. (Passes out.)

(Black out. Lights go up on a busy city street. Cars are crossing from both sides.)

GERALD

Ohhhh man! How am I going to cross this road? Excuse me miss, will you help me cross the road?

GIRL

Yeah, but the crosswalk is this way.

GERALD

I don't want to go all the way over there. I need to get across the street to that barber's shop (pointing). It's like crossing an ocean.

GIRL

Well, old man, you're going to have to use the crosswalk like everyone else. You ain't that special. (She spits on him and exits.)

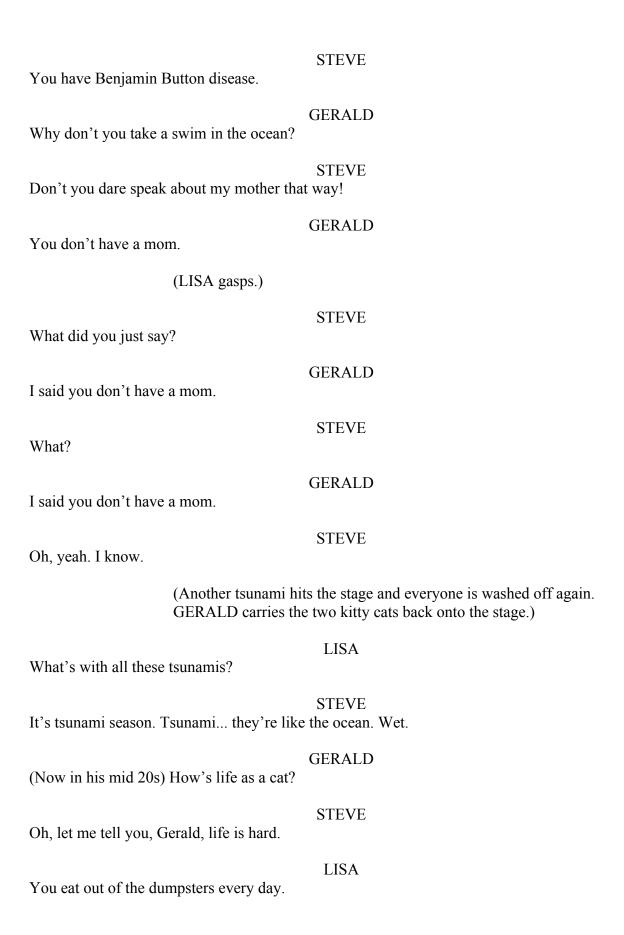
GERALD

(Ten years younger.) Ahh, man. (He jumps on the moving cars to get to the other side of the street. He walks into STEVE.)

STEVE Hey, watch it, old man!
GERALD A talking cat!
(A tsunami hits the stage and washes everyone off and into the audience. GERALD and STEVE crawl back on stage. It takes STEVE a couple of tries to hop back on stage, but he fails and GERALD, now ten years younger helps him back up.)
STEVE Fuck this, I'm going to find a sunny spot to lie in.
GERALD (Now in his 30s) How are you, cat?
STEVE Been better. You know how it is. But, that's life. It's like the ocean.
GERALD Which ocean?
STEVE Eh
GERALD Probably Atlantic?
STEVE Yeah, probably. Life's like the Atlantic ocean. What's the point.
GERALD Makes sense.
LISA Hey, there, Gerald!
You know this guy, Lisa?
LISA Of course, it's Gerald!
GERALD

Hey, Lisa!

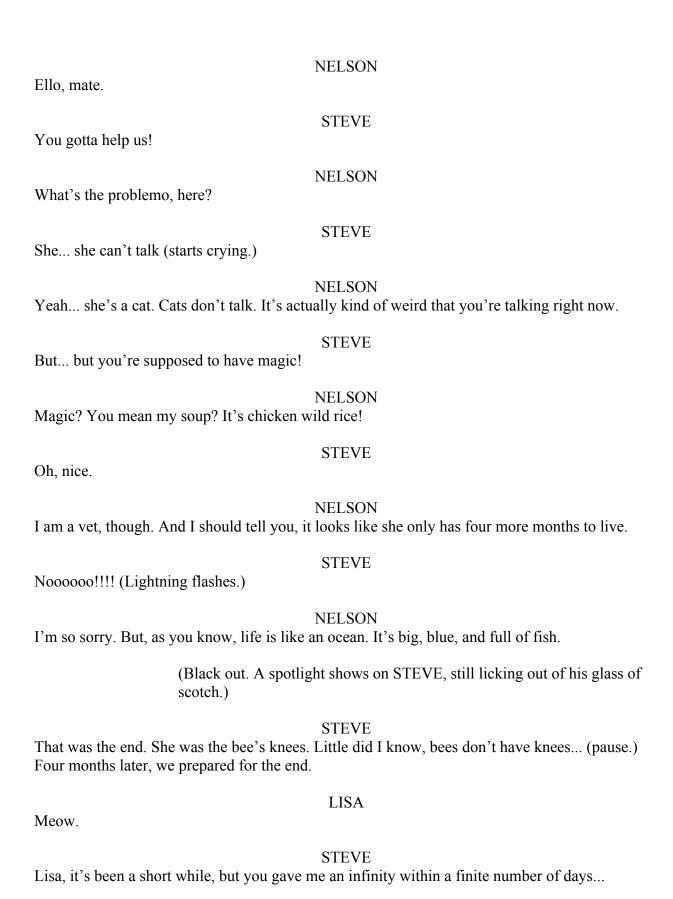




STEVE You sleep for fourteen hours a day.
LISA It's a hard knock life for us.
(They perform the song and dance from It's a Hard Knock Life.)
STEVE Does that answer your question?
GERALD Yeah, that covered it.
STEVE Gerald, what are you doing with your life?
GERALD With my Atlantic ocean? Well when I grow up, I want to be a movie star.
That's a pretty lofty dream.
GERALD Says who?!
STEVE Says me. You should be a dentist or something. Get a solid income, before you –
GERALD I don't want to be a dentist!
You're giving up your dream!
GERALD No, cat. I'm giving up <i>your</i> dream.
STEVE What are you going to star in? Gerber's commercials?
GERALD Maybe! Watch me! I'm youthful. People love youth.

STEVE
Sure, sure.
GERALD Now 10 years old) Watch me live my dream!!! (Moonwalks into the ocean.)
LISA We shall never see him again.
STEVE That's for sure –
LISA We shall never see that man again. Gerald, the brave but naïve man. May he walk this Earth and bursue his dreams. May we never see him again. Let us celebrate his willpower. Doth Gerald go into this Earth alone? Thou thinkest not. Gerald shall wallow in the fountain of youth that you and I so envy. For life is like the ocean.
STEVE Lisa?
LISA Meow.
STEVE Lisa?!!! Lisa!!!
LISA Meow?
STEVE Lisa, can you not talk?!
(LISA starts purring.)
STEVE Nooooo!!!!!! We have to take you to the Aloha Spirit!
LISA Meow.
STEVE Follow me, Lisa!

(They run over to a grass hut where a man dressed as a vampire is cooking something in his cauldron.)



	ISA
Meow.	
(Checks his watch) any minute now, you'll be	TEVE gone.
Meow.	JISA
Hm it should be any moment now.	ΓΕ V Ε
(Purs.)	LISA
Okay, something's off.	ΓΕ V Ε
(They walk over to the g	rass hut.)
She's not dead yet.	ΓEVE
NE I said four months, right?	LSON
It's been four months!	ΓEVE
NE Well, gol darn, not human months, mate. Four	LSON cat months, that's about five human years.
Oh.	ΓEVE
Meow.	ISA
ST Huh. Well, I was kind of looking forward to be	TEVE ing on my own.
NE I understand, mate. I can always take her.	LSON

STEVE Would you? Really?
NELSON Of course, mate.
STEVE Does that sound good, Lisa?
LISA Meow.
STEVE All right, Nelson, let's do –
(Another tsunami hits. Everyone is washed off the stage and gets back on.)
NELSON I hate those things!
STEVE Anyways, here's Lisa. She'll need to be fed twice a day.
NELSON Twice a day. Alright, mate. Got it.
STEVE Great, thanks!
(Black out. A spotlight shows on STEVE, who is eating some Fancy Feast, reading Cat Fancy in an armchair.)
STEVE Well, that's the story. (He rolls over for a belly rub.)