

6. ZILCH

JD

NOTHING, NOTHING, NOTHING.
NOTHING? NOTHING? NOTHING?
NOTHING, NOTHING, NOTHING.
ZILCH, NOTHING.

(Holding the snow globe up to their eye.)

RETURN, RETURN, RETURN.
TO WHERE? TO WHERE? TO WHERE?
SOMETHING, SOMETHING, SOMETHING.
ZILCH, SOME THINGS

ARE FAMILIAR.
OUR NOMY'S/MOTHER'S/FATHER'S A LIAR.
SINGULAR—

(Placing the snow globe on the rug.)

UNDERNEATH...

(Orbiting the snow globe.)

I AM ZILCH.

WHO'S FAMILIAR
BEING AN OUTLIER.
IT IS I.

WHOSE FAMILY IS
SOMETHING OLD, OUTDATED.
EXCEPT ME.

(Kicking up the rug over the snow globe.)

UNDERNEATH...

*(Discovering the hidden BB Taser underneath.
They warily kneel to pick up the BB Taser.)*

THERE IS ZILCH?

(The TIDALs remain absent.)

TIDALs

(Terrified.)

Fall...

JD

Matters beyond assimilation? Why are you here?

(Reading the inscriptions on the BB Taser.)

I FOUND A
BB... BB TASER?

(JD ignites the BB Taser.)

[Static ripples through the soundscape.]

Forces beyond imagination? Where does it go from there?

I FEEL THE
BBT... BIG BANG THEORY.

Light. Illuminating...

[End of "Zilch."]

(SINGULARITY remains absent.)

SINGULARITY

Zilch. Shocking...

*(JD stows away the BB Taser in their clothes.
They swiftly unroll the rug back to its
initial position, with the snow globe on it.)*

(SINGULARITY enters.)

SINGULARITY

(Sarcastically.)

To see you wide awake.

JD

Why are you always looming over us?

SINGULARITY

You can't get some light out there. So, I brought it all here.

JD

May you shed some light?

SINGULARITY

What do you want me to shed light on...? *Who...?*

JD

Yourself...

SINGULARITY

Stop making light...

JD

Making light of...?

SINGULARITY

My eternity.



JD

What was eternity like before me and my sibling's eternities?

SINGULARITY

(Irritably.)

Oh, the luminosity...

JD

Where did you get it? All that light. For me as a Galaxy, you've provided that light. That also means, you inherited them...? Like my siblings and I are doing, you returned familiar affection...

SINGULARITY

Speak physics, SPT0615-JD.

JD

Where is your fixed center?

(SINGULARITY directs towards the home.)

Your guardian?

(SINGULARITY holds themselves together. They hum.)

SINGULARITY

Most certainly not in my supermassive black hole... Relax, I didn't eat them. They all swallowed me whole.

JD

All? You had parents? Multiple, Singularity?

SINGULARITY

Their love is as strong as mine, when added together. For each of them, fractional. For you and your five siblings, I have nothing but wholesome.

JD

You were nothing, just like me.

SINGULARITY

Every morn, you hear your siblings name what they see out there: nothing. At this point, what does *nothing* even mean?

JD

It means family to me.

SINGULARITY

I was family to you?

JD

Just like your parents were family.

SINGULARITY

You sure are an anomaly. My anomaly.

(Pulling out a monocular. They hand the monocular to JD. They point outside.)

After an eternity of waking up to *nothings*, that is what you conclude nothing is?

JD

I wake up to my sibling Galaxies calling themselves nothing. What other conclusions can be made? Did you have siblings?



SINGULARITY

Siblings? *Check my name.* Stop making light. Of my *nothings*.

JD

Nothing gets past you... Not even light.

7. LUMINOUS

SINGULARITY

YOU HONESTLY SHOULD LIGHTEN UP.
DO IT FOR YOUR SINCERITY.
FORGIVE ME, SINCERELY.
SINGLENESSE ILLUMINATES...

*(Noticing the snow globe on the rug. They
go to pick up the snow globe.)*

*(JD blocks SINGULARITY's path, so they do not
discover that the Big Bang Taser was found.)*

WHY DON'T YOU ENLIGHTEN US?
SHED SOME LIGHT TO YOUR FAMILY.
FORGET ME, SINGULARITY.
LET CENTERS SET US STRAIGHT...

(The rest of the GALAXIES enter.)

(SINGULARITY aligns each GALAXY.)

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY.
LUMINOUS,
MY PARENTS NO LONGER LOOM.
THEY CAN'T HOLD ANY CANDLE.
AND WOULD READILY CAST AWAY YOU AND US.

SINGULARITY (cont.)

LUMINOUS,
TENDERNESS FOREVER LOOMS.
I HOLD YOUR FEATS TO THE FIRE.
LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT COMES FOR YOU AND US.

(Lovingly pinching MILKY WAY. They try to align JD.)

WHAT IS ILLUMINATING ARE...

(Addressing each GALAXY except JD.)

Us. And us. And us. And us. And us. At the center of us all is heavy. What looms in us is light. Take it in. Our black holes.

[End of "Luminous."]

(GRAVITY and the TIDALS enter and gather around.)

(SINGULARITY focuses on JD.)

And you... At the center of yours, is supermassive.

(JD looks out to the edge of the Universe. They longingly see ABELL in the audience.)

JD

My heart cannot choose who to take in. However, my heart can choose who to take out.

SINGULARITY

Well taken. There's nothing to take out, but family.

(JD does not take it lightly.)

8. BIG BANG

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A
BIG...

(JD draws out the Big Bang Taser. They shoot SINGULARITY in the face.)

(SINGULARITY gets electrocuted. They melodically shriek before they increasingly inaudibly jerk in place.)

MISTAKEEEEEEE!

[The light fluctuates within the home. Appliances may short circuit and spark.]

TIDALs

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

(JD regretfully drops the Big Bang Taser.)

(GRAVITY kicks away the Big Bang Taser.)

(SINGULARITY grows physically vegetative.)

SINGULARITY

ELLIPSES...

(Elliptically squinting.)

BIG BANG...

(Abruptly slamming their face onto the table into unconsciousness.)

TIDALS

(Howling.)

Fall!

(Repeating.)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG. BANG!

[The snow globe explodes.]

[The light suddenly fills the stage. The side curtains open to reveal what's upstage.]

[It's the beginning of the Universe as we know it.]

(JD gently walks to the edge of the home to look out, shifting from grief to wonder.)

(GRAVITY appears to pick up a sphere by SINGULARITY's feet.)

(The GALAXIES at the table look upon SINGULARITY.)

(MILKY WAY expresses utmost sorrow.)

TRIANGULUM

S P T ZER- SIX... WHY...

CARTWHEEL

IT HAD TO BE YOU?



WHIRLPOOL

WHY WOULD YOU RISK THIS UNI—

(MILKY WAY weeps on SINGULARITY.)

MILKY WAY

NOMY/MAMA/PAPA SING!

ANDROMEDA

OUR UNIVERSE HAS END...

(The Galaxies at the table suddenly face JD.)

GALAXIES not JD

DEAD, YOU ARE.
BIGGEST FLAW.
BIGGER FEARS.
BIG BRAINED FOOL.
BIT THE HAND THAT FEEDS.
HEART THAT FELT.

JD

MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT TO YOU ALL, FAMILY.
BUT MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT FOR ME AND GRAVITY.

*(GRAVITY grabs a knapsack full of balls,
embodying stars. They grab JD and run out.)*

*(TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, WHIRLPOOL, and
CARTWHEEL step away from SINGULARITY to
watch as the Universe unravels.)*

*(MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themself around
the lifeless SINGULARITY.)*

(JD and GRAVITY run in place. They stop in their tracks when they notice their lack of progress.)

JD

The edge of the universe? Where is the edge?

GRAVITY

Force!

JD

It's further away?

(Taking a step.)

[The light expands further out. The home moves far back in between the back curtains.]

It's *getting* further away.

(GRAVITY claws at the ground.)

The fabric of spacetime is fabric, after all. And we're rolling it out, like our rug.

(Leveling with GRAVITY.)

We're going to go off on a tangent... For all eternity.

(The TIDALs briefly step out of the home.)

(JD points towards the TIDALs in the home.)

For the rest of spacetime.

(GRAVITY motions for the TIDALs to join.)

(The TIDALs are unwilling.)

GRAVITY

Zenith...

(Deciding to move on. They address JD.)

Force!

(JD stands, grateful to have a travel buddy.)

JD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

(Leaving with GRAVITY on a journey.)

GALAXIES not JD

DID REAL DAMAGE...

A BANG-UP JOB!

YOU ARE MAKING

A BIG MISTAKE!

(The TIDALs disappear into the home.)

(TRIANGULUM grieves at the sight of the cosmic mess that JD left in their wake.)

TRIANGULUM

ALL OUR HEARTS HAVE GONE

OUT WITH THE

BIG BANG...

[End of "Big Bang."]