

onionplay

*Lights. "Move" by Miles Davis. POPCORN puts on his sunglasses and plays air saxophone. BEANSTALK searches around the space for some seconds while POPCORN plays jazz hero. The two are on their porch, across the street from the home of KENTUCKY, GEORGE, and DAKOTA. Those three are on their own porch. BEANSTALK finds his phone and answers it. Music stops.*

BEANSTALK

Hello?

*KENTUCKY is on the other end. Though they're on the phone, they can obviously see each other. They nod, point, and gesture and these make sense. KENTUCKY's phone is a mimed hand-phone.*

KENTUCKY

HELLO BEANSTALK.

BEANSTALK

What do you want, Kentucky?

KENTUCKY

What are you doing tonight?

BEANSTALK

Me and Popcorn are going to stay right here at home and

KENTUCKY

Do *stupid* stuff, I bet.

BEANSTALK  
(to POPCORN)

What are we doing tonight?

POPCORN

Something cool.

BEANSTALK

Like what?

KENTUCKY

Beanstalk!

POPCORN

I don't know. A séance. Is that cool?

No. BEANSTALK

What are you doing tonight? KENTUCKY

BEANSTALK  
We're going to have a séance and listen to drone music and summon the ghost of Egilbert of Rothenburg.

*Beat.*

Really? KENTUCKY

Yeah. BEANSTALK

*Really?* KENTUCKY

Yeah. BEANSTALK

Can I come? KENTUCKY

What? BEANSTALK

Can I come? KENTUCKY

BEANSTALK  
I thought you and George and Dakota were having a big party at your house.

POPCORN  
Party?

KENTUCKY  
Can you come meet us so we don't have to talk on the phone?

BEANSTALK

Yeah. Fine.

*KENTUCKY goes into the street with GEORGE and DAKOTA.  
BEANSTALK and POPCORN go out to meet them.*

Hi. BEANSTALK

Hi. KENTUCKY

Hi. GEORGE

Hi. POPCORN

Hi. DAKOTA

Hi. KENTUCKY

Hi. POPCORN

*Hi.*

What are you doing? DAKOTA

Us? BEANSTALK

Yeah. DAKOTA

We're getting ready for the séance. BEANSTALK

You're having a séance? GEORGE

POPCORN

No, we're having an echo.

GEORGE

What?

POPCORN

An echo.

GEORGE

An echo?

POPCORN

What?

GEORGE

What?

DAKOTA

What do you do at a séance?

BEANSTALK

You don't *know*?

DAKOTA

No.

BEANSTALK

Then you definitely can't come.

POPCORN

We don't want any newbies. It's too dangerous, and if you screw up we'll all be at risk.

GEORGE

Fine. That sounds gay, right?

DAKOTA

Yeah.

GEORGE

I'm going back inside.

DAKOTA

Me too. (*To BEANSTALK and POPCORN*) You can't come.

Come to what? POPCORN

Should I tell him? DAKOTA

No. GEORGE

We're having a party. DAKOTA

Yeah. It's going to be awesome. GEORGE

Hey! KENTUCKY

I'm sorry. We're not supposed to tell you. GEORGE

Tell us what? POPCORN

That we're having a party, dumbass. Ha ha! GEORGE

*GEORGE and DAKOTA high-five.*

You weren't going to invite us? BEANSTALK

I'm sorry, guys. KENTUCKY

Do you want to come? GEORGE

Kind of. POPCORN

Too bad! DAKOTA

*DAKOTA and GEORGE high-five. They exit. KENTUCKY lingers, then follows. POPCORN and BEANSTALK remain in the street. POPCORN sighs. They sit.*

Popcorn. BEANSTALK

What. POPCORN

BEANSTALK  
You really wanted to go to that party, huh?

No. POPCORN

Oh. BEANSTALK

Yes. POPCORN

*Bro hugs and comforting.*

BEANSTALK  
Why did Kentucky tell you about this party if they weren't going to invite you?

POPCORN  
George and Dakota boss Kentucky around all the time. They just didn't want me to come, I guess.

BEANSTALK  
That's shitty.

I know. POPCORN

BEANSTALK  
Are you in love with her?

NO. POPCORN

Oh. BEANSTALK

Kind of. POPCORN

What does that feel like? BEANSTALK

POPCORN  
It's like—have you ever felt like you're on the verge of some consummate and transcendent truth?

No. BEANSTALK

POPCORN  
It's like I'm ready for something to radically change, and every time we wave to each other, and every time she says my name, it's just—it's all on the cusp of some sublime event that will enlighten me.

That sounds shitty. BEANSTALK

It's so shitty. POPCORN

*Beat.*

Oh. BEANSTALK

POPCORN  
(handing him a scrap of paper)  
Here, I wrote this poem about her.

BEANSTALK  
(reading)  
The onion is both a fruit and a vegetable,  
but it's illegal for vegetarians to eat

POPCORN  
(taking it back)  
It's not done yet. But I know she's going to like it.



*GEORGE and DAKOTA enter.*

DAKOTA

Hey Popcorn.

BEANSTALK

What do you want?

GEORGE

Are you really having a séance?

POPCORN

No.

BEANSTALK

Yes!

POPCORN

There's no séance. Me and Beanstalk are going to go put on a Judas Priest album and pretend to be rock stars and drink juice boxes. Like we do every Saturday night. So fuck you.

GEORGE

Kentucky said you were going to summon the ghost of Egilbert of Rothenburg.

BEANSTALK

There's no such person.

GEORGE

Really?

BEANSTALK

Does that sound like a real name to you?

DAKOTA

Why would you make that up?

BEANSTALK

Because Popcorn is in love with Kentucky.

GEORGE

Which Judas Priest album?

POPCORN

Beanstalk!

BEANSTALK

I don't tell lies.

POPCORN

That's not true!

GEORGE

Do you want to come to our party instead?

BEANSTALK

Yeah!

DAKOTA

Shut up, we're talking to Popcorn. Popcorn.

POPCORN

What?

DAKOTA

Do you want to come to our party?

POPCORN

Yeah. I do.

GEORGE

Too bad!

*GEORGE raises his hand to high-five DAKOTA. DAKOTA does not return it. GEORGE keeps his hand up through the next exchange.*

DAKOTA

George!

GEORGE

Yeah!

BEANSTALK

That wasn't nice, man.

GEORGE

Whatever, Beansprout.

BEANSTALK

It's Bean-*stalk*, asshole.

GEORGE

Stupid name!

DAKOTA

George!

BEANSTALK

George is a stupid name.

DAKOTA

Stop fighting.

BEANSTALK

Popcorn, are you going to try to make us stop fighting?

POPCORN

No.

*KENTUCKY enters. POPCORN doesn't see her at first. Everyone looks from POPCORN to KENTUCKY, then back to POPCORN. Then back to KENTUCKY. GEORGE finally puts his hand down. With looks and gestures, KENTUCKY and POPCORN get the others to leave.*

KENTUCKY

Popcorn?

POPCORN

I lied.

KENTUCKY

You did? There's no séance?

POPCORN

Right.

KENTUCKY

I lied too.

POPCORN

There's no party?

KENTUCKY

George and Dakota are mean. They think I'm in love with you.

POPCORN

Oh. That's dumb.

KENTUCKY

What's dumb?

POPCORN

Being in love is dumb.

KENTUCKY

I know.

POPCORN

You think so too?

KENTUCKY

Yeah.

POPCORN

Why?

KENTUCKY

It makes me feel like I have to sneeze.

POPCORN

You feel like that?

KENTUCKY

No. I mean kind of.

POPCORN

Oh.

KENTUCKY

Do you know what I mean?

POPCORN

Yeah. Love makes me feel like an onion.

I hate it. But I'm used to it now.	KENTUCKY
Kentucky.	POPCORN
What?	KENTUCKY
Will you be my girlfriend?	POPCORN
Yeah.	KENTUCKY
Okay.	POPCORN
Popcorn.	KENTUCKY
What?	POPCORN
Will you be my boyfriend?	KENTUCKY
Yeah.	POPCORN
Okay. Popcorn.	KENTUCKY
What?	POPCORN
I love you.	KENTUCKY
I have to go.	POPCORN
	KENTUCKY

Why?

POPCORN

I told Beanstalk I would listen to Judas Priest and drink juice boxes with him.

*BEANSTALK is visible on the porch, waving at POPCORN.*

KENTUCKY

Okay. That's what they're doing at my house, too.

POPCORN

Oh.

KENTUCKY

You should come.

*Beat. KENTUCKY starts to leave. POPCORN hesitates.*

POPCORN

What about Beanstalk?

KENTUCKY

Him too.

POPCORN

Okay.

*POPCORN and KENTUCKY go off toward her house.  
BEANSTALK watches, then crosses the street after them. The  
Beatles' "Penny Lane" plays.  
Blackout.*