

COX So what are you going to do?  
CHRIS Sorry?  
MILLS Are you leaving today?  
CHRIS Leaving? Er, not today. I want to think about it first.  
MILLS Of course.  
HARRIS When are you going, then?  
CHRIS Well, not now. Later, perhaps. I can stay here a bit longer. There's lots of time. *(Laughing)* Canada can wait, can't it?  
WRIGHT Yes, it can. It certainly can!  
DEAN You're one of us really, aren't you, one of the group?  
CHRIS Yes, I am, I think.  
COX *(Laughing)* But, you know, you say—  
CHRIS Yes? Say what?  
COX Well, you say some funny things sometimes!  
CHRIS Like what?  
COX Well, *Canada!*  
*Cox, Mills, Harris, Dean and Wright all laugh.*  
CHRIS *(Looking at them)* What's so funny about that?  
MILLS *(Laughing quietly)* It doesn't matter.  
HARRIS Forget it.  
COX Look at the time – I must go!  
MILLS Me too. I have a lot to do.  
HARRIS And me.

WRIGHT Let's all go.  
DEAN Yes, let's leave Chris with his dreams—  
COX About *Canada!*  
*They all laugh at Chris.*  
COX See you later, Chris.  
ALL Bye-bye.  
COX *(To Chris)* Bye-bye, traveller!  
*Chris's friends laugh, and then go out. Chris stands and watches them go. He doesn't look happy. He opens his bag and takes out a large map. He opens the map on the floor and looks at it carefully.*  
CHRIS Thailand . . . Malaysia . . . Indonesia . . . Australia . . . *(He looks up, smiling.)* Mmm, Australia!



*'Mmm, Australia!'*

## INTRODUCTION

A man goes into a grocery store and buys a lot of salt. At first the other people in the store can't understand why. Then they hear his story, and they all want to buy salt too.

## CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Shopkeeper, a person who owns a small grocery store

Groot }  
Nello } four people in the grocery store  
Durg }  
Spratly }

Manra, a truck driver

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

Scene 1: In a small grocery store.

Scene 2: In a street, some hours later.

You will need ten bags of salt, and a small cart on wheels. You will need the noise of a truck stopping suddenly, but we do not see the truck.

# Salt

## SCENE 1

### No more salt

*In a small grocery store, Groot is asking the shopkeeper for something. The others are waiting behind him.*

GROOT I'd like ten bags of salt, please.

SHOPKEEPER Ten? Of course. That's ten dollars, please.

GROOT Here you are.

SHOPKEEPER Can I help you with all that?

GROOT No, thanks. I have this cart.

SHOPKEEPER Ten bags. That's a lot of salt.

GROOT Yes. Salt is very important, you know.

SHOPKEEPER It is. But why do you need *ten* bags?

GROOT Soon there isn't going to be enough salt in the world. I saw it on television.

SHOPKEEPER Not enough salt? Really?

GROOT It's true. So I'm buying some now. Goodbye!  
*He goes out with his cart.*

NELLO Did you hear that?

DURG Yeah, there isn't enough salt in the world.

SPRATLY Not enough salt? That isn't true.

NELLO But he saw it on television. Soon there isn't going to be any in the stores.



*'Did you hear that?'*

SPRATLY Really? That's bad – I need salt.  
 DURG Me too. I can't live without it!  
 NELLO *(To the shopkeeper)* Give me some salt, please,  
 ten bags – no, make that twenty bags.  
 SPRATLY And me. I'd like thirty bags.  
 DURG Me first! I've got a big family. We need salt.  
 SHOPKEEPER Be quiet, all of you! You must wait.  
 NELLO But we want our salt.  
 DURG And we want it now.  
 SHOPKEEPER But that man bought my last ten bags.  
 SPRATLY Then it's true! He was right – there isn't enough  
 salt in the world. What are we going to do?

SHOPKEEPER That's *your* problem. It's six o'clock – time to  
 close the store. I'm going home.  
 NELLO But what about our salt?  
 SHOPKEEPER Look, there's a lot of salt in the world  
 – enough for everybody. Goodbye!  
*They all go out.*

SCENE 2

**We want salt!**

*Spratly finds Groot standing in a street with his cart.*

SPRATLY Excuse me, I want to buy some salt.  
 GROOT Sorry? What did you say?  
 SPRATLY I know about the problem.  
 GROOT What problem? What are you talking about?  
 SPRATLY Soon there isn't going to be enough salt.  
 GROOT Oh, you heard about that?  
 SPRATLY Yes, and I want some salt.  
 GROOT Then go to a grocery store and buy some.  
 SPRATLY I can't find any. Every time I ask, the shopkeeper  
 says, 'Sorry, no more salt.'  
 GROOT Oh dear!  
 SPRATLY But *you* have some. You bought ten large bags – I  
 saw you.  
 GROOT I'm sorry, but I'm not selling my salt.