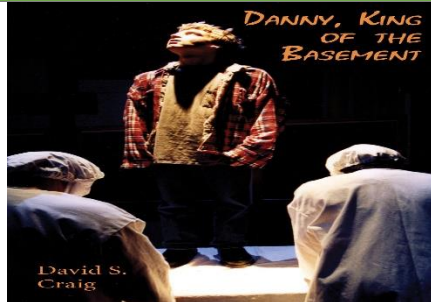


DANNY, KING OF THE BASEMENT

ROSEDALE
ACADEMY



DANNY: Funny, eh?

PENELOPE: Yeah. See ya.

PENELOPE exits. Again DANNY is cold, but now he is having trouble concealing it.

LOUISE enters. She sees DANNY before he sees her.

LOUISE: Danny! Have you been waiting outside all this time?

DANNY: Where were you?

LOUISE: At the store.

DANNY: You were supposed to come straight back.

LOUISE: Well, excuse me, something happened.

DANNY: *(accusing)* Cigarettes?

LOUISE: No.

DANNY: Breathe.

LOUISE: *(She does.)* See. I said I quit and I meant it.

DANNY: What took you so long?

LOUISE: I'll tell you if you lay off a second. Cripes, you sound like a case worker.

DANNY: Where were you?

LOUISE: C'mon in and I'll tell you about it.

DANNY: No. Tell me now. Tell me here.

LOUISE: Okay, okay, I'll tell you. Holy Hannah, you're freezing.

(She wraps her coat around him.)

DANNY: I've been waiting.

LOUISE: Well... something amazing happened.

DANNY: "Well" what?

LOUISE: "Well," – I was walking home from the Super Save, see, when I pass this sandwich shop with a sign in the window that says, "Waitress Wanted." Now am I a waitress anymore?

DANNY: No.

LOUISE: Right. I'm a...

DANNY: Government -trained web page designer.

LOUISE: Right, But then I think, "Louise, beggars can't be choosers."

DANNY: We're not beggars, Mom.

LOUISE: Right, We're millionaires with no money. But just the same, in spite of being millionaires, I go in and meet the owner– Joe's his name–Old Joe's his disguise–and I let him know he's speaking with–

DANNY: Somebody to be reckoned with.

LOUISE: And I do a little—

DANNY: Razzle-dazzle.

LOUISE: And he gives me the job! Well can we have a little excitement?

DANNY: Are you telling the truth?

LOUISE: Truth, Danny. True blue. And you know what it means? It means I can pay the rent. And If I can pay the rent we can stay. Stay for a long time.

DANNY: Like for three months?

LOUISE: Way longer than that.

DANNY: Yeah but you forgot one thing. The landlady thinks she rented the apartment to a single women.

LOUISE: How do you know that?

DANNY: 'Cause the landlady's daughter told me.

LOUISE: You make friends fast.

DANNY: Did you think you could hide me?

LOUISE: Do you know how hard it is for people like us to get an apartment?

DANNY: Well now she's going to kick us out.

LOUISE: No she won't, Danny, believe me. She's got problems.

DANNY: What problems?

LOUISE: Adult Problems.

DANNY: What problems?

LOUISE: She needs money.

DANNY: She's not broke. She's rich.

LOUISE: I know. But believe it or not, rich people can think they're broke. Danny believe me, this is our lucky break. A place of our own. A job I can walk to. Our moving days are over.

DANNY: I like moving.

LOUISE: Wait 'til you see this place. It's like a cozy little cave.

DANNY: Is there cable?

LOUISE: No.

DANNY: DVD?

LOUISE: No.

DANNY: TV? Mom?

LOUISE: You know what? Who needs it.

DANNY: No TV?!

LOUISE: It wasn't a priority.

DANNY: What am I gonna do without TV?!?!

LOUISE: *(firmly)* Homework.

DANNY: *(He gasps.)* Control, it's Delco...

LOUISE: Home-cooked meals...

DANNY: I got no air.

LOUISE: And for me, home at night.

DANNY: Beam me outta here. Got. No. Air.

LOUISE: Danny. Stand up and stop fooling around. You're getting my coat all dirty. Danny! Get up!

He does so sullenly.

Why are you being so difficult?

DANNY: Why are you being so mean?

LOUISE: I'm trying to be your mother.

DANNY: I thought we were friends.

LOUISE: Yeah? Well. The friend thing isn't working so good right now. From now on, I'm just going to be your mother.

DANNY: I don't want a mother.

LOUISE: Tough. You got one. Now inside. It's dinner, bath and bed for you, mister. Dinner, bath and bed.

They exit. The moon comes out.

A raccoon eats the garbage and grows huge. The moon sets.