

LAUREN

WEEK TWO

I

*Lauren is standing center stage, facing the audience. Everyone else sits downstage, facing Lauren.*

LAUREN. Hi.

My name is Schultz.

I'm a carpenter.

And I don't just ... I mean, I do regular carpenter things but I also make these amazing chairs that are like ... this one chair has, like ... like the headrest is the sun and the whole thing is gold?

*(Lauren looks nervously at Schultz.)*

It's kind of hard to explain.

There's this other chair that looks like a cloud.

Um ... I'm forty-eight years old.

I grew up in Maryland and my mom died when I was really little. She was an elementary school teacher. I always wanted to be a baseball player.

Um ...

I'm really nice to everyone.

*(Pause.)*

I met my wife Becky right out of college and we ...

*(Schultz is saying something we can't hear.)*

Yeah. I know. I was gonna —

We just separated. Divorced.

I'm in a lot of pain about it.

But, um, to look on the bright side, I have more time now to work on my chairs and maybe find a way for them to um, spread out to um, more people.

*(Pause.)*

I am an artist.

I am a really good artist.

*(Blackout.)*

II

*Schultz, James, Theresa, and Lauren are playing a particularly confusing and chaotic version of Explosion Tag while Marty sits on her yoga ball. Explosion Tag is basically regular tag, except you're supposed to "explode" when tagged. When you're tagged you also become It, and as It you're supposed to be exploding constantly. When the lights come up Lauren is It. Everyone is awkwardly darting around the room. Lauren is exploding vocally, not physically (she keeps saying "povccchrrrrpovpow"), and half-heartedly scurrying after people. Everyone has a different way of eluding her, although it is not very difficult. This can last up to a minute. Finally Lauren tags Theresa on the elbow. It is unclear whether or not Theresa purposely let this happen.*

LAUREN. You're It.

*(Theresa explodes balletically for a while, then tags Schultz, who is thrilled to be touched by her. Schultz makes a melodic falling bomb sound ["NEEEEEEEeerrrrrr"] while sinking to his knees. There is a long pause while he remains there, still. Everyone stops and watches. Finally Schultz explodes: silently, beautifully, atomically. His arms are thrust out, his eyes are wide open, his mouth is gaping open in a silent scream.)*

MARTY. ... Gorgeous.

*(Schultz falls backwards onto the floor and lies on his back. There is a long silence while everyone remains standing, watching him.)*

MARTY. You're It now, Schultz.

SCHULTZ. *(Sitting up.)*

Oh. Sorry.

*(Schultz reaches out, quick as a snake, and grabs James' ankle.)*