CHARACTERS
Kath — twenties
Danny — twenties

TIME & PLACE
The present. Two a.m.
A tent in a wilderness area.

GO LOOK

DARKNESS. FOREST NOISES. KATH switches on a flashlight.

KATH. What was that?
DANNY. Hunh?
KATH. I heard something.
DANNY. What did it sound ...
KATH. Shh.
DANNY. OK.
KATH. It's stopped.
DANNY. Good.
KATH. Go look.
DANNY. What?
KATH. Go look outside. Around the tent.
DANNY. What for?
KATH. It might be something.
DANNY. Kath ...
KATH. Please.
DANNY. I'm not dressed.
KATH. Who's going to see you?
DANNY. Whatever made the noise.
KATH. It won't care if you have clothes on.
DANNY. It? What kind of it?
KATH. I don't know.
DANNY. You mean like a bear?
KATH. No. Not necessarily.
DANNY. You want me to go look for something that's not necessarily a bear. In the middle of the night. In the middle of nowhere.

KATH ...

DANNY. Why don't you go?
KATH. I am the man.
DANNY. Right. Forget.
KATH. I was kidding.
DANNY. No fun, no joke.

KATH. You are gross.
DANNY. Thank you.
KATH. I was only kidding anyway about you being the man.
DANNY. Why don’t you go?
KATH. Me?
DANNY. I think you’re really dangerous.
KATH. You are disgusting. Just forget it.

(Beat.)

DANNY. There aren’t any bears around here.
KATH. I’m sleeping.
DANNY. There isn’t a bear within a hundred miles. Spakes, maybe.
KATH. Get off of me.
DANNY. There might be one in your sleeping bag.
KATH. Quit.
DANNY. But no bears.

(Beat.)

KATH. I never said it was a bear.
DANNY. So, what? Wild animals?
KATH. No.
DANNY. Murderers? Monsters? Your mother?
KATH. Shut up.
DANNY. Come on, Kath. What did you think?
KATH. What I always think in the woods.
DANNY. Which is?
KATH. That it will come for me.
DANNY. Ooooh. What?
KATH. I don’t know.
DANNY. What does it look like?
  DANNY. That's the end?
  KATH. I never let myself think further than that.
  DANNY. What would happen?
  KATH. If he got me?
  DANNY If he got you.
  KATH. I would be destroyed.
  DANNY. You mean killed.
  KATH. More than that. Everything. Gone.
  DANNY. Why is he after you?
  KATH. I attract him.
  DANNY. In what way?
  KATH. I don't know.
  DANNY. Maybe he knows you won't face him.
  KATH. What?
  DANNY. You'll consent to be destroyed.
  KATH. That's awful.
  DANNY. But true.
  KATH. No. I don't think so. You never know until the moment.
  DANNY. Some people do.
  KATH. They say they do.
  DANNY. But not you. The innocent victim. The noble victim.
  KATH. That's a terrible thing to say.
  DANNY. A worse one to be.
  KATH. Why are you being so nasty?
  DANNY. Because I hate this. An angry Man erupts out of the night. He's going to destroy the Woman. It's straight out of a cheap horror movie. I can't stand all this self-righteous ... 
  KATH. Danny ... 
  DANNY. Poor, helpless you. Big, bad men. I'm sick of taking the blame.
  KATH. Shut up a second. I heard it again.

(THEY listen. Silence.)

  KATH. Turn off the flashlight. (HE does so.)
  DANNY. That won't matter.
KATH. I don’t know.
DANNY. If you did, you’d know it.
KATH. Everybody has bad thoughts, Danny.
DANNY. It’s not the thoughts. That’s not it. It’s what’s underneath. The exhilaration. The savage, howling joy of hurting. Or killing. The release. That’s what makes me wonder what I am.

(Beat.)

KATH. I don’t know what to say.
DANNY. Well, you’re a saint.
KATH. No. It scares me.
DANNY. It must be the testosterone talking. Since I’m the man.
KATH. I’m going to sleep.

(Pause.)

KATH. Danny?
DANNY. What?
KATH. Last weekend at Mother’s. It was a nice day. She told me to push her out on the back patio.
DANNY. So?
KATH. She said something. I don’t remember what. Not very nasty, not for her. Something about my shoes. It was nothing, really. But for an instant I felt like letting go. Just letting go and watching gravity work. I imagined the chair rolling down the slope, over the edge, and bouncing down the back steps. All the way to the garage. And when the police and ambulance would come, I’d be crying and sobbing and explaining. But inside I’d be dancing.
DANNY. But you didn’t do it.
KATH. No.
DANNY. Too bad. We haven’t been dancing for a long time.

(Beat.)

KATH. When you have those thoughts—do you have them toward me, too?
DANNY. Yes. Sometimes. I’m sorry, Kath.
KATH. But you don’t do anything.
DANNY. No. Not so far.
KATH. So far, so good.

(Beat. There is a DISTINCT SOUND in the woods.)

KATH. What’s that?
DANNY. I don’t know. (HE moves to exit.)
KATH. Wait. (SHE rises.) Let’s go.

(THEY exit together. Curtain.)

THE END