**LEADING PLAYER**

LEADING PLAYER

All right…you'll see what it's like without us…Take down the tent…You heard me. Everything out…move

it. Pull down the canvas. Strike the rig. Pack up the ring curb.

*(The set begins to move out)*

Colored lights out. Take ‘em out. Pinks and reds out…Well, that's not too flattering is it, Pippin?

*(The lighting becomes harsh. PIPPIN does not answer)*

Costumes…get their costumes…

*(The PLAYERS strip CATHERINE, PIPPIN, and THEO, leaving them in underclothes)*

Make up…let's go…get it off…and the wigs…

*(PLAYERS remove make up and wigs from PIPPIN, CATHERINE and THEO)*

Look around, Pippin. How do things look to you now?

A mole, Pippin. Look at the mole on her face. You're going to spend the rest of

your life with a woman with a mole?

And the kid… Do you know how much he’s gonna cost you?

This is the way you want to live? Is this what you want?

No costumes…no makeup…

No colored lights…

And no magic!

*(Suddenly remembering the audience, turns with a big smile)*

Ladies and Gentlemen, we apologize for our inability to bring you the Finale that

we promised. It seems our extraordinary young man has elected to

compromise his aspirations. But I know there are many of you out

there…extraordinary people…exceptional people…who would gladly trade your

ordinary lives for the opportunity to do one perfect act: our Grand Finale. And

we'll always be there for you… anytime you want us. Why, we're right inside

your heads! And we promise you …Sets! Costumes! Lights! Magic!

LEADING PLAYER

All right. It's over. The show’s over. Everybody out. Let's go! Out. Everybody out ... out! Come on, out!

Out! Get outta here! *(The PLAYERS go)*

Take out the rest of the lights. *(Lights go out.)*

Orchestra, pack up your instruments, let’s go. *(All stop playing, except the pianist)*

Take your damn hands off the keyboard! *(Piano stops. It is silent. Then to PIPPIN)*

You try singing without music, sweetheart! *(The LEADING PLAYER goes. The* *stage is dark except for the*

*work light.* *PIPPIN, CATHERINE, and THEO are* *alone on stage)*