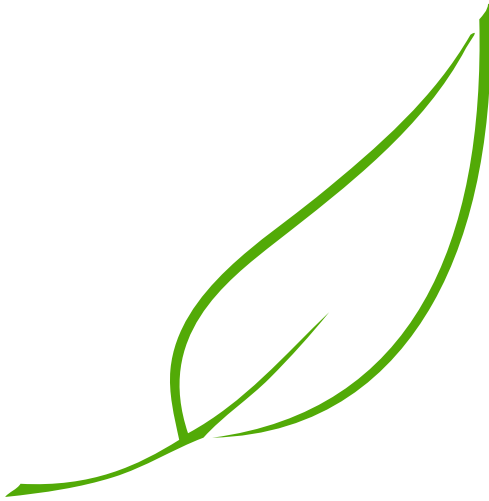


LIFE

by Ken Bradbury



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MARK: This is a play about life!

LUKE: About life!

MARK: Love!

LUKE: Love!

MARK: Living!

LUKE: Living!

MARK: Sorrow, heartbreak, rejection, elevation, anxiety, euphoria, fear, circumnavigation, arthritis and finally ... peace!

LUKE: Peace!

MARK: Scene one!

LUKE: We begin!

MARK: We begin!

LUKE: Life! Is ... what? Think about it! Think about it! The essence ...

MARK: The gist ...

LUKE: The kernel, the crux, the lifeblood ...

BOTH: The quintessence!

LUKE: Oooo ...nice word.

MARK: Quintessence!

LUKE: Yes!

MARK: Quintessence!

LUKE: Enough.

MARK: What? ... What do we find when we strip away ...

LUKE: Strip away!

MARK: ... all else? When all the artifice, the pretense, the tricks, the deceit, the lies are pulled away and we are left with the very ...

LUKE: Let me say it!

MARK: Say it!

LUKE: Quintessence!

MARK: Ahhh

LUKE: (*a long pause, then*) Well? What? What's left?

MARK: (*a pause, then*) Scene two!

LUKE: Scene two!

MARK: Not the showy bits ... the dreary, the routine, the humdrum ...

LUKE: Morning.

MARK: Morning.

LUKE: How are you?

MARK: Lovely, thanks.

LUKE: Don't mention it.

MARK: The wife?

LUKE: Fine.

MARK: Ordinary!

LUKE: (*with pain*) Ahhhh ...

MARK: Commonplace!

LUKE: Ohhhhh

MARK: The weariness of dreariness!

LUKE: The pain of mundane!

MARK: But life! Life itself! Life boiled down to the basic ... how do I say it?

LUKE: Pudding.

MARK: The basic pudding! Yes! Yes! That life! That life!

LUKE: What is it?

MARK: (*a pause, then*) Scene three!

LUKE: Scene three!

MARK: In the beginning!

LUKE: I like that.

MARK: In the beginning.

LUKE: ... still.

MARK: There was ...

LUKE: Yes?

MARK: Life!

LUKE: Life!

MARK: And that life was ...

LUKE: What? What?

MARK: This! This is the tough part ... the nut, the gem, the genesis, the nub ...

LUKE: The crux!

MARK: Splendid! Crux! Crux! Crux!

LUKE: And the crux was ...

MARK: The crux was ...

LUKE: Scene four!

MARK: (*a very long pause*) I'm not playing.

LUKE: You're what?

MARK: I'm not playing if we're just going to go 'round in circles. I don't like not getting anywhere. Circular.

LUKE: Circular?

MARK: Useless ... sterile.

LUKE: Sterile?

MARK: Impotent. Fruitless.

LUKE: But we must search.

MARK: For what?

LUKE: The meaning of life.



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