



Ariadne in Elkins

a short play by Albert Fried-Cassorla

SETTINGS:

Scene 1: the table seating area of the Creekside co-op. At stage right is the entrance to the Co-op, real or imagined. On Stage Left is a special area in a split set, where MOM sits and chats with ARIADNE, presumably at home.

Scene 2: alongside the creek at High School Park

CHARACTERS:

ARIADNE - a single woman 29 years old, and emergency room nurse.
A young woman who is also an emergency room nurse

ELVIN - A recent boyfriend of Ariadne's, a man in his early 30's; an obnoxious hi-tech entrepreneur.

ZACHARY - a man in his early 30's , A mystical young man, who is a dealer in grains.

DEMETER / MOM - a woman in her mid 40's to early 50's, a goddess of grains and harvest. She doubles as MOM, the mother of ARIADNE, also a woman in her mid 40's to early 50's

Scene 1

AT RISE: Ariadne is sitting by herself at a table and is speaking on her phone to her mother.

MOM

Hello darling.

ARIADNE

Hi Mom! You know, this man will be meeting me here soon.

MOM

So tell me more about this fellow..... Is he attentive? I think you said he was great on that last date - where was it?

ARIADNE

At Garces in the Kimmel Center.

MOM

Yes, now I remember. I do worry about these busy-busy guys in their mid-thirties.

ARIADNE

Mom, he looks me straight in the eyes -- and tells me how lovely they are!

MOM

How sweet.

ARIADNE

Then he tells me I am his world.... But gotta go -- he'll be here any second.

MOM

Okay, but tell me -- is he gorgeous?

ARIADNE

Well, of course he's gorgeous, mom. What other kind of man would I date?...

MOM

Tell me now -- did he pull out his cell while you were at that Garces place?

ARIADNE

Only a few times.

MOM

See? A few? How many? Two? Three?

ARIADNE

I don't want to get into a tiresome and weird discussion with you now, Mom!
I HAVE to go!! I see him in the entrance-way... But I will say this -- he's so full of ideas and enthusiasm. And you know how I love that....

MOM

Now don't get swept away, doll!

ARIADNE

You know that's not my style -- not even by Elvin....

MOM

I don't trust this guy, and I don't think you know yourself!

ARIADNE

Puh-LEEZ!!! You should know your daughter by now. I am Ariadne, your Sensible Young lady.... Well, that's exactly why I am meeting him here at the co-op. No glamour to dazzle me, just croutons and crunch cereals ... Okay -- Elvin is here now. Bye, mom.

[ARIADNE hangs up, as does MOM, who shows disappointment as she stares at her phone. Fade to black on MOM's area of the stage. Exit MOM, unseen, at Stage Left. Enter ELVIIN Stage Right. He approaches with flowers in hand.]

ELVIN

Hey, Ariadne! How are you?

[ARIADNE arises to hug him, They give each other a brief kiss.]

I'm good -- oh bit crazy actually, on account of my mom. But it's so good to see you again, Elvin! Here, have a seat, I reserved a spot for you with this humongous bag. And how are you?

ELVIN

Great.

ARIADNE

Busy as usual, huh?

ELVIN *(throws his hands up, but still smiling)*

Whoa. Don't ask. Those pushy-pushy-pushy venture capitalists!

(He laughs, then he rubs his scalp. Suddenly, he remembers something.)

Oh!

[He whips a little book out of his lapel pocket]

I have a gift for you-hoo!!

ARIADNE

That's so thoughtful of you. A book?

ELVIN

Not just any book -- MY book.

ARIADNE

Really?

ELVIN

Indeed. It's by me, myself and I. All three of us collaborated! Ha! Ha! Ha!

ARIADNE

Ha! You're funny.

ELVIN

Thanks.... but I'd rather you thought I was wise.

ARIADNE (*playfully, and cagily as she peruses the book*)

Well, maybe... I will....in time...

ELVIN

So it's kind of adopted from *The Book of Tao* by Lao-Tse, the foundational text of Taosim. Have you heard of it?

ARIADNE

In fact, I HAVE! Ya know, Elvin, I've often found that the peacefulness of Taoism is so... so restorative.

ELVIN

Exactly, it's all about the inner deep meaning of life -- of the river of reality, the eternal now.

ARIADNE

Very poetic, already -- I mean, just your description alone!

ELVIN

But my title brings it up to date...

ARIADNE

Yes... *The Way of Tech.*

ELVIN

Yes. I believe that tech is to us today what the Tao was to the Chinese of 6th century BC .

ARIADNE

No doubt.

ELVIN

I'm not talking about the surface of things -- what counts is the deep and transformative level.

ARIADNE

Yes....That's the only place that's ever mattered!

ELVIN

I mean, updating a classic to the 21st century isn't easy.

ARIADNE

I bet it was hard on you.

ELVIN

It was! For example, the Book of Tao says: "All things are subject to Change; that which is born must die, and that which dies must assume another form." So how do you make that intelligible?

So I tell you how. I've updated that. Look here on page 6.

ARIADNE (*reading aloud*)

All software must expire. It is the way of all apps. That which is sold today will need an upgrade... tomorrow.... That's so profound!

ELVIN

Ariadne, you catch on fast.... I mean, the iphone is to us today what the i-Ching was to the ancients.

ARIADNE

Or the Bible even. Or Homer!

ELVIN

Exactly! I couldn't have said it better myself. I might even include your words in the intro to my second edition. But what I've given you here, my dear, is a *First Edition*.

ARIADNE

Oooh! A collector's item!"

ELVIN

It soon will be. You can bet your charger on that. Just hold onto your copy and watch it appreciate. Here, let me add to its value. I'll inscribe it right now...

[ELVIN retrieves the book it and writes in it with determination.]

To Ariadne, my Athena of tech exploration. May the power of your LEDs will light the way for our entire race....With appreciation and the sound of one hand clapping, your loving beau, Elvin.

ARIADNE

How sweet!

ELVIN

And here's a ticket to the book signing.

[ELVIN hands ARIADNE a ticket. She examines it at first with pleasure, then dismay.]

ARIADNE

OH, but it's during the day on a weekday. That sucks -- I'll be working.

ELVIN

So take a vacation day!

ARIADNE

But I've used mine up with that trip to Cancun with my girlfriends in September and--

ELVIN

Not a problem! Just sprinkle some of your charm -- some of your magical fairy dust,

[ELVIN scatters some sparkle dust.]

This will be THE tech event of the year -- and you'll be at the epicenter - right here on my arm!

ARIADNE

We'll see...But this gift is very thoughtful of you.

ELVIN

No *problemo*. Plus, it give us LOTS to talk about on our dates.

ARIADNE

I suppose so....

ELVIN

Oh, we'll take it slow. Maybe we'll read aloud one chapter of the book per evening..... or even a half-chapter. Its very pithy, you know. From the smithy of my mind.

ARIADNE

Pithy. Your smithy.

ELVIN

Clever! I like that about you.

ARIADNE

I try... So how many start-ups did you start today?

ELVIN

Too darned many! Man, my head's exploding thinking about all the follow-ups I'll need to do with each one.

ARIADNE

Hey, don't sweat it! --- I suppose you'll get to them all. You're so unbelievably well organized...

Elvin

I suppose.

ARIADNE

Well, if you want to know, **I've** had a horrible day.

ELVIN

Oh! Sorry for not asking.... Why? What happened?

ARIADNE

Well, I--

ELVIN

Wait - don't tell me. I just have to grab this Chinese apple I saw on the way in. I have a thing for them. DO you mind? I'll be right back.

[ELVIN goes away and gets a pomegranate.]

You were saying?

[ELVIN cuts up a pomegranate and begins to eat it, messily]

ARIADNE

Before I start, look over there unnoticed, subtly, you know.

ELVIN

What - that weird woman in the corner? *(offers some pomegranate to ARIADNE)*
Want some? Here, delicious!

ARIADNE

No. Don't let that woman notice you're looking at her.

ELVIN

Not even a few seeds? Here, take these six. You'll love 'em.

ARIADNE

No, I said..... See those gestures? And that strange clothing, that shawl or whatever? And what's she burning? Is that even *allowed* in here?

ELVIN

Ah -- don't worry about her. She's probably just some homeless broad who got involved in a cult. Like the Rosicrucians or something. Pay her no mind. Tell me the story.

ARIADNE

Well, this is kind of terrible. If I tell you, do you promise not to think badly of Rivington Hospital? It's the best hospital system in the area!

ELVIN

Hey, I promise I won't. I know how proud you are of the place and all your fabulous co-workers. Everybody sounds so dedicated, and into it. I can just imagine. Sponge! Hemostat! Ha!! And everybody's falling all over themselves just to get the whatever and hand it to the surgeon. Am I right?

ARIADNE

Kind of.

ELVIN

So what happened, already?!

ARIADNE

Maybe you want to finish the pomegranate first and get your lunch and eat it?

ELVIN

Not a bad idea. You right that I'm on a tight timeline. I might just have to grab something and run. But out with it!

ARIADNE

Well, my friend Clarisse dropped a kidney.

ELVIN

What? A freakin' kidney? You sure you don't mean a hemostat?

[ARIADNE nods sadly]

How is that even possible in a modern emergency room like Rivington's?

ARIADNE

Well, there's plain clumsiness and there's also extreme – no supreme –clumsiness. So I spent 10 minutes washing off the kidney, and an hour and half comforting Clarisse.

ELVIN

This is unbelievable... *(suddenly struck by a happy thought)* On the other hand, the litigation opportunities are gonna be fantastic! Does the patient have a personal injury lawyer?

ARIADNE *(aggravated)*

I don't know!!!

[ELVIN pulls out his cell phone and uses the recorder function.]

ELVIN

That's OK - it's not the only angle -- excuse me...

(into a recorder)

Samantha, take a note. New market - new product -- Surgical organ-dropping insurance - a great rider add-on to Equitable's Property and Casualty lines. Ask Brad to draft a business plan today, schedule the investors' conference call on Wednesday and uh, the IPO for Friday.

(TO ARIADNE)

Sorry about that -- gotta seize the moment in tech biz, ya know. So you were telling me?

(ARIADNE suddenly stands)

ARIADNE

Do you want to see how it went down?

ELVIN

Sure! This is SO exciting! Oh, I can *smell* the liability!

ARIADNE

So, there I am, approaching the operating table, and I remove the kidney from the plastic cooler, and I -- I gingerly hand it to Clarisse. So she barely holds it. Just then an anesthetist accidentally swirls around and knocks a nurse's hand, sending a hemostat flying a cross the room. It hits her in the forehead. She's totally startled, jerks and sends the kidney high up in the air. And then it falls right onto the filthy floor. Just -- like -- this!!

[ARIADNE tosses the store-bought kidney into the air and it lands with a splat at ELVIN's feet. ELVIN lurches back, shocked.]

ELVIN

Oh my God!... I don't think I'll ever get another kidney transplant! No -- wait, I never had a first one. But I'll never ALLOW a first one! You cured me of THAT!! HO-LEE! What a contamination scene! -- Did ya throw away the kidney?

ARIADNE

Of course not! We just used a little antiseptic cleaner and plopped it right into the patient.

*[ELVIN is totally shocked, not realizing
ARIADNE is playing him.]*

No seriously, the whole operation was rescheduled and the kidney had to be clinically cleaned....

*[Suddenly, ARIADNE stands up and registers total
disappointment with how the evening is going so far.
She holds her face in her hands.]*

So listen -- I think it's my fault that this get-together hasn't been as romantic so far -- I mean, as our dinner downtown. Are you disappointed?

ELVIN

Not at all! I mean romance has many flavors, right? When I first saw you on okcupid -- and you look just as pretty there as you do now -- I said to my friend Brad -- "This girl's a total charmer. She could be the ONE, I mean the ONE!!" And so far, you are. Can we hold hands?

[ARIADNE sits again and they hold hands.]

ARIADNE

That's funny. When I showed your profile to my bff Lisa, I said that you were just such a divine hunk! And you looked just as handsome as you do now -- except for that pomegranate juice.

ELVIN *(wiping his mouth)*

That's so shweet!

ARIADNE

And Lisa also said: "But your worlds are so different. Will you be able to connect? I was sure -- then not sure -- after our first get-together....and--"

ELVIN

Hey, trust your first instincts! They're always best. Don't listen to that b- You're my Florence Nightingale. I don't even have another Florence Nightingale in my stable, I mean in my contacts list. I mean among my friends.

[ELVIN gets a text. He is alarmed.]

Will you excuse me? Don't hate me but I have to take this. I need to go to the back of the store, where it's quiet, over there.

ARIADNE

You do?!!! Why? That's horrible!! This is our second date, Elvin!

ELVIN

Ya see, this is my attorney and we're in some delicate negotiations.

ARIADNE

About WHAT?? What in the world can be so darned important?

ELVIN

I have to talk with him... privately, Now this is totally confidential... we're trying to buy a whale blubber processing plant in Kamchatka, Russia. You won't tell a soul? Promise?

ARIADNE (*waving him away*)

Don't worry -- I won't blab about your blubber. Here-- take this ball of twine.

ELVIN

What?

ARIADNE

Go. Take it and unroll it as you go. In case you get lost.

ELVIN

Lost? In this small store?

ARIADNE

Go! Go buy some fat to chew on.

*[ARIADNE takes a seat facing away from ELVIN and cries.
Exit ELVIN. ZACHARY, who has been over-hearing this
exchange, approaches,]*

ZACHARY

Excuse me, ma'm, I know this is out of place on my part but -- may I join you?

ARIADNE

What? Why?

ZACHARY

You look like a nice person, and so I...

[ARIADNE looks down, distressed. ZACHARY takes this as a no and starts to walk away. Only after a few hesitant ARIADNE turns back towards ZACHARY.]

ARIADNE

No, you can stay. SIT!

[awkward moment.]

ZACHARY

Listen, I couldn't help but overhear your conversation with that rude man.

ARIADNE

You were *listening*?

ZACHARY

Ummm.... It's a small seating area.

ARIADNE

I don't even *know* you, and already I hate the fact that you're an eavesdropper.

ZACHARY

I suppose so, but I'm a good intentioned one. My name is Zachary. And what's yours?

ARIADNE

Maybe I'll tell you later.

ZACHARY

Okay. I'll call you "cuz." OK, cuz?

ARIADNE

Whatever. So who are you? **What** are you?

ZACHARY

Me? I'm a dealer in grains.... But about that man. That man was *so rude* to you!!
Do you actually *like* him?

ARIADNE

Whether I like him or not is my business. So what do you mean by a dealer in grains?

ZACHARY

I supply the co-op with all its millet and cous-cous. Say, cuz, you like cous-cous?

ARIADNE

It's what I choose. Actually, I love whole grains -- all kinds.

ZACHARY

How serendipitous!

ARIADNE

What? Serengeti?

ZACHARY

No, serendipitous - that means finding unexpected good fortune. I'm about to teach you the secrets of grains, if you want to learn. Do you?

ARIADNE

What the heck -- Hey, I've had a crazy day -- pomegranates, livers, whale blubber.

ZACHARY

I'll show you a granular way that you have never experienced. Okay?

ARIADNE

I like the way you talk, Zachary! But tell me -- what do you mean that that man was rude? Seems I'm a terrible judge of character. I can hardly be worse. I'm having a hard time deciding what to think.

ZACHARY

I mean, he SAID some of the right words. But he clearly has his mind on other things... maybe other people, other concerns.... And yet...

ARIADNE

Yes?

ZACHARY

And yet you are clearly such a unique person. A woman like you shouldn't be involved with someone who doesn't... appreciate the specialness you.

ARIADNE (*starts to cry*)

Really? How can you say that, just sitting there, watching.

ZACHARY

What can I say. You are what you are. Your inner beauty can be seen even at a distance.

ARIADNE

I want to hear more, but not this second. Excuse me, that woman behind you. She is doing weird things and making weird expressions. If she related to you?

ZACHARY

Yes. I should have said something... Do you mind if I invite her to join us?

ARIADNE

Invite *who*?

ZACHARY

That lady is... my personal goddess, Demeter.

ARIADNE

Oh. So you have a personal goddess? What a trip you are! Okay, sure. The girls on the ward're never going to believe this. NEVER!

[DEMETER comes over and sits cross-legged. ZACHARY lights incense for her. ELVIN return, agitated. .]

ELVIN

Hi, Ariadne. Sorry about that. But I wrapped up the blubber market! (*ELVIN notices ZACH*) Hello.

ZACH

Hello.

ARIADNE

Elvin, I'm afraid you've also wrapped up our relationship.

ELVIN

I brought back your string... and you were right -- I did get lost... in the farina and oatmeal section.... it was very confusing. Ariadne, don't say negative things! Please!! I need you in my life.

ZACH

Hey man, the lady says she doesn't need you.

ELVIN

What? Who is this guy? I walk away for a couple of minutes and you're already with another dude?

ARIADNE

This person (*she gestures to ZACHARY*) is a very nice man. We just met... Elvin, I advise you to go back on OKcupid and search for a business-obsessed woman with lame values.... I'm sure you'll find a match.

ELVIN

Clown, what are you doing with my girl?

*[DEMETER whispers something to ZACHARY.
ZACHARY arises and extends his hand to ELVIN, who is aghast.]*

ZACHARY

I'm not a clown at all.... Hello, my name is Zachary and I am a dealer in grains. Would you like to try some semolina?

*[ZACHARY tries to hand ELVIN a bowl of semolina.
ELVIN shoves ZACHARY, raining it all over him
and cascading onto the floor. DEMETER arises and
waves her hands magically and chants, also using
finger cymbals. ELVIN approaches ZACHARY
again but is repelled by a force-field]*

ELVIN

Holy jujubes! What WAS that?

ZACHARY

Oh, that's just the work of my protective goddess, Demeter. Meet Demeter.

[DEMETER stands majestically and outstretches her arms towards ELVIN. Then she waves as if casting a spell. This alarms ELVIN who backs up in terror.]

DEMETER

The Forces of Earth COMMAND thou, mere mortal, to retreat. Retreat!!! Now!!! Or be committed eternally to Hades. *Hades*, where you will freeze and die forever!!!

ELVIN

Ariadne, get your clown to make this witch disappear. Or I'm out of here, and we'll be through!

ARIADNE (*cooly*)

I'm afraid disappearing her is not within my mortal powers.

ELVIN

You -- you were going to be my queen. You just can't comprehend -- imagine -- what it takes to become Elvin!

ARIADNE

Dear, Zachary says she is the Goddess... I defer to her -- and so should you.

ELVIN

To that -- that *witch*?

[ELVIN picks up several bags of grain and begins to throw them at the other characters']

Here's your frickin' millet! (*throws*) ...and your barley (*throws*)... and spelt -- which is misspelt - your queer quinoa...and your -uh!!

[DEMETER rises and casts a dramatic spell on ELVIN. ELVIN gasps, writhes and disappears by vanishing under a tarp or another means.]

ARIADNE

Where did he go?

DEMETER

To Hades, of course.

ZACHARY

Don't worry - he's not dead.

ARIADNE

She had no right to disappear Elvin!! WHO is SHE? And who are YOU, really?

ZACHARY

As I said, I am a dealer in grains. And possibly your future husband.

ARIADNE *(shocked)*

What!?!?

ZACHARY *(to DEMETER)*

Shall we reassure the young lady?

(DEMETER rises.)

DEMETER *(rising)*

Let us go.

[Exit ARIADNE, DEMETER and ZACHARY]

Scene 2

[Setting: High School Park, beside a river. We hear a gurgling stream. ELVIN is under a tarp, which s indicates he is underground. There is a hole or break un the

tarp, through which he will speak and eventually emerge. ENTER ZACHARY, DEMETER and ARIADNE from stage left.]

ARIADNE

I don't know why I'm accompanying you here. You could be members of a dangerous cult, You might be murderers.

ZACHARY

We *are* a cult of sorts, but I assure you, a very benign one. Demeter will explain it to you... and then we can begin to know each other better.

[ARIADNE is alarmed]

Spiritually.

ZACHARY

Why not sit here awhile?

(All sit)

It's so peaceful.

ARIADNE

Yes... The Friends of High School Park've done a wonderful job of making this place lovely.

ZACHARY

I've written a poem for you.

ARIADNE

What? In the 10 minutes since we left the co-op?

ZACHARY

No, silly. I wrote it about you while sitting watching. May I read it to you?

ARIADNE

Sure. Why not?

ZACHARY

The loveliest smile upon her face,

*she walks and works with alarming grace
Ariadne, not sadly,
brings succor to the human race*

*I watch as she moves along,
sure -- with an occasional worry
but more often a song...*

*then conquers with action
or righting a wrong,
however madly.*

It's all Ariadne, not sadly.

(A beat, while Ariadne registers her appreciation.)

ARIADNE

Thank you.... That was quite lovely.

ZACHARY

I've brought something. Some Merlot. Might you have some? And you too, Demeter?

(All assent; Zachary pours. All lift glasses.)

ZACHARY

To us, to Nature, to Grain.

DEMETER

And to Dionysus.

ARIADNE

And to my missing ex-boyfriend. Who I hope is not suffering somewhere.

DEMETER

I will attend to his fate now... *(arising and speaking upwards to heaven)* Almighty Zeus!! We praise you and we beseech you. Your recent captive, Elvin, is simply young and ignorant. Please enable him to speak.

(ELVIN's disembodied voice.)

ELVIN

Where the freak am I?

ZACHARY

You are in Hades. Now have a good attitude and you might be released.

ELVIN'S VOICE

Released to where?

ZACHARY

To blessed Elkins Park! Now how's that attitude?

ELVIN

I'll have whatever attitude she wants. Let me go! It's cold as Hades down there!

DEMETER

What would you expect? Have you consorted with my daughter, Persephone?

ELVIN

Lady, the only thing I see down here is a huge evil-looking scary dude and an ice dragon. So no! Then I haven't! Now let me go!

DEMETER

Will thou honor thy Earth Goddess and all the grains I bestow upon humanity?

ELVIN

Yes. Yes! Whatever!

[DEMETER is not satisfied, shakes her head.]

ZACHARY

Talk grains like you mean it!

ELVIN

Okay!... Semolina is sweet! Millet is mahvelous!! Wheat is wonderful!

ARIADNE

Come on, convince the lady.

ELVIN

I'm keen on Quinoa! Barley is... bodacious.

DEMETER

Have you eaten of the pomegranate? Be truthful. If you lie, I warn you of dire consequences.

ELVIN

I did, but nobody else would touch the delicious stuff.

DEMETER (*arms upraised, wailing*)

Zeus, oh magnificent one! I beg you to release this poor deluded soul, that he may achieve true earthly consciousness!

[Enter the physical ELVIN, stumbling and apparently cold., shivering and clutching himself. He brushes himself off.]

ELVIN

That was SO scary! And so freakin' cold. My cell didn't even work down there.

ARIADNE

I'm sorry you were frightened. But you must go before something else happens.

ELVIN (*checks his cell*)

Yo!! I missed by attorney's call.... But this witch - this--

DEMETER

I am NOT a witch! I am a goddess! Bow down! Bow down NOW!!

ZACHARY

You better do what the lady says.

ELVIN

Your highness! Your skin is so lovely! Would you consider sponsoring a line of baked goods? Demeter's Bagels and Biyalis. It could be huge and give Zabar's fits!

ZACHARY

Please - let me intercede. Why don't we dispense with this rascalion now before he causes self-injury.

DEMETER

Yes - begone! Or return to Hades!

ELVIN

Noooooo! Anything.... *(runs off)*

(Pause while they contemplate the stream and natural beauty.)

ARIADNE

So, you fancy yourself my husband to be?

ZACHARY

I do... though we barely begun to know each other.

ARIADNE

There might be time for that....

(ZACHARY opens a jar of cold cereal.)

ZACHARY

Allow me to give you a taste of my special cream of wheat.

DEMETER

My dears, first allow me to add a pinch of passion....

(DEMETER adds a pinch of powder or liquid to the jar. ZACHARY then scoops up a small spoonful and beckons for ARIADNE to open her mouth. She does and swallows some,)

ARIADNE

Hmm! I feel something -- something mystical happening!

(ZACHARY and ARIADNE hold hands. DEMETER extends her hand and gives ARIADNE a cloth bag with a little drawstring.)

DEMETER

Here.

(DEMETER holds up a lovely large shawl and extends it to them, inviting them to come under, as in a hupah.)

Zeus, sanctify this couple, and protect them from your brother, Hades.

Take this cloth, and walk near the stream with it, planting as you move along....
Now go, sow and grow.... I take my leave... Do not dare to follow.

[EXIT DEMETER.]

ARIADNE

Wow! How do you know that lady?

ZACHARY

She came to me once, sleeping in a vision ... and she has visited me regularly ever since. Shall we?

[They walk alongside the stream. ARIADNE drops seeds here and there with one hand, while holding ZACHARY's hand with the other.]

ARIADNE

Go, sow and grow, I'm up with that.... Are you?

[ZACHARY smiles and nods. They walk together. SFX: Bird and stream sounds increase. When they come to the end of the on-stage stream, they turn around and continue walking and sowing alongside its bank. EXIT ZACHARY and ARIADNE Stage left. After a beat, ELVIN re-enters from Stage Right. He is chomping on whale blubber and yelling at someone on the cell phone. He comes to center stage, keeps yelling the following dialogue, then walks off again to Stage Right, complaining as he leaves and we fade to black.]

ELVIN

So this is what it tastes like? Horrible! Whale blubber is salty and fatty? Why didn't you tell me? How are we gonna market that? To the Inuit? Are you an idiot? The stuff is repulsive! disgusting! Disgusting! do you hear me?!? What in Hades am I gonna DO!!!

(SFX: stream and bird sounds reach a crescendo as we fade to black.)

THE END