

SCENE ONE

THERE IS GENERAL DARKNESS, EXCEPT FOR THE PROJECTION OF A BATTERY SHED SCENE ON THE BACK WALL OF THE STAGE.

GABRIELLE ENTERS THE DIMNESS TOGETHER WITH FARMER BROWN.

FARMER BROWN

Choose whichever one you like! They're all headed for the pot tomorrow!

GABRIELLE

She walks into the dimness, looking up and down the imaginary rows of battery hens with an air of amazement.

There're so many...

FARMER BROWN

Business-like manner.

Well, hurry up and choose one. They've still got a few good eggs left in them.

GABRIELLE

I don't know which one to choose... Because the ones that I don't choose will be left behind and they'll never know my garden.

FARMER BROWN

It's no use being all sentimental now. Make a choice and let's get on with it.

GABRIELLE

Points to one of the hens.

I'll take her. She's got such beautiful eyes. Just like jewels.

THE FARMER REACHES INTO THE CAGE AND DRAGS OUT A 'HEN' BY HER WINGS.

THEY BEGIN TO WALK OUT.

GABRIELLE

Anxiously.

Oh be careful. I know she doesn't like that!

FARMER BROWN

Don't say you're going to grow up to be one of those irritating bunny-huggers.

THE FARMER HANDS GABRIELLE THE CHICKEN. SHE TAKES IT CAREFULLY AND THE TWO OF THEM SIT THEMSELVES DOWN ON A BENCH OUTSIDE THE BATTERY. TREE, CATERPILLAR, BIRD, FLOWER (OPTIONAL FOR THIS SCENE)

TWO GLASSES OF ORANGE JUICE ARE ON A TABLE AND THE FARMER HANDS HER ONE, TAKING THE OTHER FOR HIMSELF.

GABRIELLE

I want her to be my friend.

FARMER BROWN

Why don't you choose a dog or a cat? They make good pets. What about a budgie?

GABRIELLE

I've got a dog and a cat. And a budgie.

FARMER BROWN

Then what more do you want?

GABRIELLE

I want this little chicken to be my friend too. (PAUSES)
Farmer Brown, why do we call dogs and cats and budgies pets? And pigs and chickens and sheep and goats and cows are not pets. What makes them different?