

AUDITION MATERIAL – THE DIVINERS

MONOLOGUE

INSTRUCTIONS: **ALL** students should prepare and **memorize** the following monologue.

Now. Just before Buddy Layman passed beyond us there was a storm to the sky like no other. And I run like the wind right after the boy died. Callin all over town for his father. I fly by the Dry-Goods and on through the Diner, lookin clean over Zion to find him. And I looked! And I seen it! And I hollered! And I knew! I says, "Ferris! Ferris! He's dead now for certain." (*A moment. Then quietly...*) Buddy Layman ... he's passed on beyond us. His only son gone and it's me who brings the word when Ferris comes to his door in the mornin. I seen him there like he's a wood stick carvin in the wood frame door and they're welded together in grievin. I says, "Ferris ... I'm sorry." And he don't move and don't speak. I says, "Your son, he's passed on beyond us." Buddy Layman's gone. And that boy ... he was somethin. Somethin else for a fact. He couldn't talk for two cents or take the time to tie his shoes, but he seemed to know things you figured nobody knew. Call it vein-findin, water-witchin, smellin, seekin or divinin, ... the boy had a touch and a feel for water.

SCENE

INSTRUCTIONS: In addition, **ALL** students should prepare the part of Buddy in the following scene. The scene does not have to be memorized.

CHARACTER NOTES FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT: Buddy is a mentally challenged young man. He can be played as either fourteen or seventeen years old, depending on the actor. Buddy's central trait is his innocence, his vulnerability. He shouldn't have too much of a speech impediment, though his speech should be hesitant when he's discovering something or confused or frightened. His gestures, his walk, and his whole physical attitude should reflect both an emotional and intellectual frustration, or more simply, sometimes a coordination problem. Clinically speaking, he isn't modeled on any specific emotional or physical disorder.

BUDDY: What's your name, Mister?

SHOWERS: C.C.

BUDDY: You think you're maybe gonna stick around awhile, C.C.?

SHOWERS: It all depends, Bud.

BUDDY: They's lots a stuff here you know?

SHOWERS: There is, huh?

BUDDY: Yeah! They's lots a good stuff. You see the woods over there don't you?

SHOWERS: Bud, I sure do.

BUDDY: Well that's where the birds live.

SHOWERS: Do they, now?

BUDDY: Yeah! Way up the trees they do. Way up the leafs.

SHOWERS: Now that's a good thing to know.

BUDDY: You see the ground right there don't you?

SHOWERS: Mr. Layman, I do.

BUDDY: Well that's where the doddle bugs are.

SHOWERS: Well, you're just chock-full a knowledge, my friend.

BUDDY: He thunk he might be.

SHOWERS: (*As if he didn't hear right.*) I beg your pardon?

BUDDY: He says he thunk he might be.

SHOWERS: (*Unsure.*) Now you're talkin about you?

BUDDY: Yeah. Can't you hear him?

SHOWERS: Yeah. Yeah, pal, I hear you.

BUDDY: You see the sky up there, pal?

SHOWERS: Bud, I'm lookin right at it.

BUDDY: You know who lives up there?

SHOWERS: Who?

BUDDY: (*Amazed.*) Jesus.

SHOWERS: Way up there?

BUDDY: Jesus Son a God does.

SHOWERS: What do you figure he does up there, Bud?

BUDDY: (*Thinks this over.*) Well ... he's maybe got him a little house.

SHOWERS: (*Interested.*) Yeah?

BUDDY: Yeah. Maybe got him a runnin toilet inside.

SHOWERS: Now that's a good thing to have.

BUDDY: He thunk it might be.

SHOWERS: Your Mama taught you the Gospel at home, huh?

BUDDY: His Mama?

SHOWERS: Yeah.

BUDDY: (*Concerned.*) You ain't seen her?

SHOWERS: No ...

BUDDY: He can't find her nowhere, C.C.

SHOWERS: (*Gentle concern.*) How long she's been gone?

BUDDY: Well he ain't sure no more. He looks in his house and his yard and the woods and he can't find her nowhere. Sometimes he hears her. Sometimes at night he hears her right there ... and her voice is right there ... like he can touch her almost, when he's sleepin ...

SHOWERS: (*Gentle.*) You mean your Mama's passed away, Bud?

BUDDY: You know where she is?