

Male Monologue #1

from *The Secret Garden* by Pamela Sterling

BEN. One of the strange things about living in the world is that it is only now and then that one is quite sure one is going to live forever and ever. One knows it sometimes when one gets up at the tender, solemn dawn time, and goes out and stands alone, and throws one's head far back and looks up and up, and watches the pale sky slowly changing and flushing and marvelous things happening, until the east almost makes one cry out and one's heart stands still at the strange unchanging majesty of the sun...Then sometimes the immense quiet of the dark blue at night with millions of stars waiting and watching makes one sure; and sometimes a sound of far-off music makes it true; and sometimes a look in someone's eyes...

Male Monologue #2

From *Metamorphoses* by Mary Zimmerman

MIDAS: Now, I'm not a greedy man, but it is an accepted fact - a proven fact - that money is a good thing. A thing to be longed for, a *necessary* thing. And my god, I have a lot of it! It wasn't always this way with me - the boats, the houses by the sea, the summer cottages and the winter palaces, the exotic furnishings, the soft clothes, the food and -

[*To his daughter.*]

Honey, can you stop that now? Be still now. Daddy's talking.

[*She stops, momentarily. MIDAS turns back to the audience.*]

Excuse me. The outrageous food and two-hundred-year-old wine. No, it wasn't always like this. I came up from poor and I worked hard all my life. Still do, mind you. My father was a minor manufacturer in [*he can't remember*]...somewhere...in...somewhere. But I was born with a head for business and it's always been as though everything I touched has turned to gold. Not literally, of course - wouldn't that be something? Turned a profit, I meant. And-

[*Again, to his daughter.*]

Sweetheart. Daddy asked you: Be still. Take it inside.

[*She retreats but shortly reenters, jumping rope.*]

You see this pool? It cost a pretty penny, I can tell you. But all it takes is hard work. Plain and simple. And those who haven't got it in them, well, what can anyone do? They just haven't got it.

[*To his daughter.*]

Be still! You're driving me nuts already!