

**SCENE 2**

*SHIRT sits in the pile of clothing, looking out towards the audience. Lights are relatively low.*

**SHIRT**

Fun fact: 17% of damaged clothing items are damaged before leaving the assembly line. The rest, the 83%, are damaged at some point after that. Most clothing items make it decades before getting damaged. Some of us aren't so lucky.

*Sound cue of truck beginning to move. It becomes clear that SHIRT is sitting in a pile in the back of a vehicle. SHIRT jolts backwards as the truck begins to move.*

We're moving. If I'm being completely honest I have no idea where we're going. You hear stories, but that's all that they are. You never think it'll be YOU, you know? All it takes is one tear, and suddenly you don't know anything about anything.

*The truck stops. A group of sanitation WORKERS enters, and picks up the clothes piles on the floor. SHIRT reads one of their uniforms.*

Millbrook Sanitation. Sanitation. That doesn't sound so bad. At least wherever we're going we'll be clean.

*After the WORKERS exit, they begin to throw garbage onto the stage from the wings. Bags of garbage, loose garbage, food waste, everything. SHIRT turns their back to the audience and watches as the garbage piles in. It's a stunning amount of trash. A sound cue to indicate that the garbage has all been released.*

**GLOVES** *(from off)*

It's time everybody! Get a move on.

*GLOVES enters the space, followed by HAT, PANTS, and eventually SHOES. They begin to pick up trash, sorting it into different piles. GLOVES and PANTS have little garbage claws, but HAT and SHOES pick up the trash with their hands. GLOVES notices SHIRT and goes directly to them.*

**GLOVES**

Why, hello there! My dear, you must be freezing. I'm sure we have an extra blanket around here. Hat, go grab me a blanket, will you?

*HAT dutifully obeys, exiting the stage to get a blanket.*

Are you okay, honey? How was your trip? Oh, lord, your sleeve!

**SHIRT**

No, it was ripped before I got here.

**GLOVES**

Still, I'm sorry to see it. I know how much a tear can hurt.

*GLOVES shows SHIRT their hands. GLOVES wears a pair of bright red gloves, missing two or three fingers on each hand. HAT re enters with a blanket.*

Here, take this, it'll warm you up. Shoes, can you find this young person something to sit on?

**SHOES**

Does it have to be me? Make Hat do it.

**GLOVES**

Do as I say, Shoes. You haven't been much help with cleaning up neither, make yourself useful.

*SHOES begrudgingly crosses the stage as if to exit, and sees an empty paint can in the rubbish. SHOES tips it upright, and slides it over in SHIRT's direction. SHIRT catches it and sits down.*

**SHIRT**

Thank you. (to GLOVES) do you mind, um. Where—I mean, what is this place?

**PANTS**

Care to take a guess?

**GLOVES**

Pants, knock it off. (to SHIRT) First off, I want you to know you're safe. You're not in danger, there's nothing to worry about. Not anymore. You've got friends here, a family. This is your brand new home.

**SHIRT**

I'm sorry, I still have no idea what you're saying. Where are we?

**PANTS**

Middlebrook solid waste facility. County transfer station and landfill.

**SHIRT**

Landfill? Wait, no, no wait. I'm sorry, I think there's been a mistake.

**GLOVES**

Pants, you're scaring the kid. Get back to sorting, will ya?

**SHIRT**

That's just not how this works. The textile lifecycle, it's, it's drawing board, factory, retail, consumer, *donation center*. Donation center! How are we supposed to get a second chance if we skip straight to the landfill?

**PANTS**

That's just not how things work in the real world, kid. No more room in the donation centers. Take a look at Shoes over there. Not a damn thing wrong, just a misprinted logo. Couldn't sell on the line, and didn't even get a chance with the discount outlets. The tossed all of the misprints last July, and Shoes ended up here, Block D.

**SHIRT**

What does the D stand for?

**SHOES**

Dirty.

**PANTS**

Dismal.

**GLOVES**

Don't want to hear it! (to *SHIRT*) The D doesn't stand for anything, dearie.

**HAT**

It's called an alpha-code. It's how Milbrook likes to separate out the different areas of the landfill. Block D is for textiles and organics.

**GLOVES**

Very good, baby.

*HAT walks over to SHIRT.*

**HAT**

Hello. I'm Hat.

**SHIRT**

No kidding.

**HAT**

Who are you?

*SHIRT looks down, as if to obviously indicate that they are a shirt, but HAT doesn't seem to get it. SHIRT gives up.*

**SHIRT**

Shirt.

**HAT**

Nice to meet you, Shirt.

*HAT extends their hand. SHIRT takes it. HAT runs off to start picking up trash again.*

**GLOVES**

(to SHIRT) It's a shame seeing them so young. Hat got here a few years ago, and for the longest time wouldn't even speak. The block took some serious adjusting. Poor thing.

**SHIRT**

Years? That can't be...wait, how...how long...

**PANTS**

Not sure what you're asking, kid.

*SHIRT collects themselves.*

**SHIRT**

The product lifecycle. Drawing board, assembly line, retail, consumer, donation center, consumer, donation center, and so on, landfill. It's the last step. And you said that little Hat over there has been here for years?

**PANTS**

Hell, all of us have. Except for Shoes.

**GLOVES**

Just because it's the last step doesn't mean it's a short one. There's plenty of time for you yet.

**SHIRT**

I guess...I just figured that this would be the end. That you get here, and you're just...done. You know?

**SHOES**

If only.

**GLOVES**

(to SHOES) That's quite enough out of you! (to PANTS) I swear that child will be my undoing.

**PANTS**

(teasingly) If only.

**GLOVES**

Hey! *(laughs)* That's not very nice.

**PANTS**

I'm sure I don't know what you mean.

**GLOVES**

Well, I think—

**SHIRT**

I'm sorry.

*GLOVES and PANTS stop playing, and look at SHIRT, who is now standing.*

I just... I usually know how things work. I pay attention, I know a lot of things. I've always known what I was supposed to do, and now... I just...

*GLOVES crosses to SHIRT.*

**GLOVES**

Oh, honey. *(she grabs SHIRT's hands)* That's alright sugar. You're going to be just fine here. And you'll learn, won't you. Shoes?

**SHOES**

Yeah?

**GLOVES**

Show Shirt here how we sort out the textiles from the organics. Go slow, and be sure to explain everything. *(to SHIRT)* It's not so hard, sugar. You'll get the hang of it in no time. *(back to the group)* Hat, I need you scavenging both piles, okay honey? Pants, you're with me.

*GLOVES exits, with PANTS trailing along. SHOES and SHIRT pick up the left behind garbage claws, and get to work sorting, while HAT sits down by one of the piles and starts picking through it by hand.*

**END OF SCENE**