

*Two people are standing, center stage, they are holding hands, but their bodies are not touching. They are facing directly straight out to the audience. They can be any gender, sex, ethnicity, but they shouldn't be the same ones. They are hereby known as Left and Right- that's the hand that's holding the other person's. A third person stands off to the side, holding a phone up to record the two. This person is known as Society. The two don't move.
After a moment.*

LEFT

Let go.

RIGHT

You let go.

LEFT

I have to pee.

RIGHT

Don't you even think about it.

LEFT

You smell bad.

RIGHT

That's you! All you people smell bad.

LEFT

It makes me sick to think that that small parts of you are rubbing off on me.

RIGHT

Hey, this wasn't my idea!

LEFT

Well it sure as hell wasn't mine.

RIGHT

Your palm is sweaty.

LEFT

That's you.

RIGHT

It's like bacon grease. You're oily like a pig.

LEFT

You have tiny cracks on your fingers that are starting to itch my skin.

RIGHT

That's what hands are supposed to feel like. You know, for people who have to work.

LEFT

You don't know my life.

RIGHT

(under their breath)

Privileged.

LEFT

Fuck you!

RIGHT

Stop eavesdropping on the things I say to myself.

LEFT

Stop calling me that!

RIGHT

Stop proving it.

LEFT

This is all you people's fault.

RIGHT

Let go!

LEFT

You let go!

Beat. They don't move, as if they can't even try to let go. Society snuffles and wipes their nose. Left and Right turn to look at Society, and then back out to the audience.

LEFT

It's a punishment for something.

RIGHT

I'm not doing anything wrong.

LEFT

Sins of the father, or something karmic.

RIGHT

God, you're stupid.

LEFT

It's not human.

RIGHT

I'm the victim here!

LEFT

Not human.

Left sees something all the way in the back of the theater, watches for a minute, then has an idea.

RIGHT

Let go.

LEFT

Listen-

RIGHT

What do you people eat? Your breath smells foul.

LEFT

We're being watched.

RIGHT

We're always being watched. You're just now realizing this? Jesus, you people and your bubble.

LEFT

Hey! Hey! Stop looking at us!

RIGHT

What are you doing?

LEFT
Invasion of privacy!

RIGHT
Freedom of speech.

LEFT
That's a terrible argument.

RIGHT
It used to be yours.

LEFT
That was about something else entirely.

RIGHT
You used to scream about it. Under the false impression that he who is the loudest is the freest.

LEFT
That's fucking sexist.

RIGHT
But the louder you are, the less honest you're being.

LEFT
That's fucking stupid.

RIGHT
Let go!

LEFT
You let go!

Left notices Society.

LEFT
You don't even have a name. You don't have a face. You're just a camera holder. A recorder of history. But like the in-between history. The margins in the history book. Not even a footnote, just blank white space.

RIGHT
Now who's being racist.

LEFT
We can't just let them record us.

Who? RIGHT

Anyone. LEFT

Freedom of the press. RIGHT

That's not what that means! LEFT

How do you know? Maybe the language needs to be more fluid than we originally thought. RIGHT

How can language be fluid? LEFT

Not literally. RIGHT

We're so caught up in being seen, we don't even care that no one's ever really looking. LEFT

What is that supposed to even mean? RIGHT

It's really not cool that you keep questioning me! Triggers are real, you know! LEFT

Yeah, I know, my dad was shot by a student he failed in an Algebra class. RIGHT

It's not okay to joke about that. LEFT

Who's joking! And will you stop recording us? This is not what our forefather's meant by freedom of speech! RIGHT

LEFT

Who cares what our forefathers said. What about what our foremothers said?

RIGHT

I just threw up in my mouth.

LEFT

I'm sure it tastes better than the nonsense you're trying to make swallow!

LEFT

Let go!

RIGHT

You let go!

LEFT

You know what's wrong with you people?

RIGHT

We don't generalize enough?

LEFT

Besides your inability to wake yourselves up like spiritually evolved people!

RIGHT

What?! Our correct use of aphorisms?

LEFT

You're all liars!

RIGHT

You don't even know what an aphorism is, do you?

LEFT

Well, actions speak louder than words, don't they!

RIGHT

Oh, words! Another thing you're afraid of. Policing language as a means of demonstrating elevated morality! You know who else had that idea...?

LEFT

When something is offensive to a marginalized group, you should call it out! That's called empathy.

RIGHT
Unless it promotes fascism!

LEFT
Empathy is not authoritarian!

RIGHT
Censorship is not empathy!

LEFT
Let go!

RIGHT
You let go!

Beat. Nothing.

LEFT
I'm hungry.

RIGHT
Me too.

Society chuckles a bit at their silliness. They both turn their head toward Society.

LEFT
Maybe they could help us.

RIGHT
How?

LEFT
I'll bet if they stop recording us, stop paying attention to us, we'd be free to walk away.

RIGHT
We have no reason to believe that.

LEFT
We have no reason not to.

RIGHT
That's a stupid argument.

LEFT

Everything happens for a reason.

RIGHT

Ugh, you people and your logic! I hate to break it to you but it doesn't matter what position mercury is in! And your stupid horoscope isn't accurate because it's real, it's accurate because you're average! You're just like everyone else! The whites in the margins of the pages of history books. That's all you are. And you want so desperately to be something more. To count. To be recognized. What for? The afterlife? That doesn't exist. Outside of this moment, which granted is not something I'm relishing in, the only thing we have is the slow, slow march of mediocrity. And then nothing. The same as nearly everyone else that has ever treaded this miserable existence you want to footnote with your own stupid, stupid ideas. Well, you're nothing. You are nothing. Same as me.

LEFT

Let go!

RIGHT

You let go!

Beat. Nothing.

LEFT

I'm not just like everyone else. That's really triggering for me.

RIGHT

Who told you you were special?

LEFT

Being an empath requires more depth than you understand.

RIGHT

Calling yourself an empath doesn't make you one. Watch! I'm a dwarf. See!

LEFT

That's offensive.

RIGHT

To who?

LEFT

I don't want to say. I'm not sure what to call them that's not offensive.

RIGHT

You're retarded.

LEFT

You can't say that!

RIGHT

Says who?

LEFT

Unless you are one!

RIGHT

One what?

LEFT

I can't say.

RIGHT

The list of things you can't say is fucking staggering. How do you keep up with this shit?

LEFT

Let go!

RIGHT

You let go!

Beat. Nothing.

LEFT

How did we get here?

RIGHT

This is on you, bub. You and your hipster, culture cancelling brethren.

LEFT

That's sexist.

RIGHT

You grabbed my hand!

LEFT

Why would I do that?

RIGHT

You were making some asinine point about freedom. Imprisoning someone as a way of freeing them. I'd point out the irony, but I don't have time to unwind the years of neglect you've put into understanding that word!

LEFT

And I said I would let go when you understood my point.

RIGHT

Well that's going to be never!

LEFT

Fine!

RIGHT

Fine!

LEFT

So, you mean we could just let go at any time?

RIGHT

I would assume. But that would mean one of us would have to admit fault for grabbing hold in the first place.

LEFT

What are you waiting for?

RIGHT

Me? You do it.

LEFT

No. Why should I?

RIGHT

Why should I?

LEFT

You want to stay like this?

RIGHT

Do you?

Let go! LEFT

You let go! RIGHT

Beat. Nothing.

I hate you. LEFT

I know. I know. RIGHT
I hate you too.

*Beat
Nothing*

*BLACKOUT
End of Play*