

Benjamin (with dad)

Dad Ben? Ben?

Benjamin *removes the mask.*

Dad What are you doing?

Benjamin You said I should put the suit on.

Dad I said you should put the suit on and come downstairs.

Benjamin I put the suit on.

Dad Then come on downstairs.

Benjamin I lost the inclination.

Dad It's a hell of a suit, isn't it?

Benjamin Yes, it is.

Dad Happy graduation.

Benjamin Thank you.

Dad So, come on down.

Benjamin I'll be down.

Dad The guests are all here.

Benjamin I'll be down soon.

Dad What is it, Ben?

Benjamin Nothing.

Dad Then why don't you come down and see your guests?

Benjamin I have some things on my mind right now.

Dad What things?

Benjamin Just some things.

Dad Ben, these are our friends down there. You owe them a little courtesy.

Benjamin I'd rather be alone right now.

Dad Hal Robinson and I have been doing business together in this town for seventeen years. He's the best friend I have.

Benjamin I don't want to see the Robinsons.

Dad The Terhunes have come all the way from ...

Benjamin I don't want to see the Terhunes. I don't want to see the Robinsons, the Terhunes, the Pearsons or anyone else.

Dad I don't know what's got into you but whatever it is I want you to snap out of it and march right on down there!

Benjamin I just need to be alone right now.

Dad Ben, you come on down now. Are you coming down, Ben?

Benjamin No I'm not.

Dad Those people down there ...

Benjamin Those people down there are grotesque!

Dad Grotesque?

Benjamin And you're grotesque.

Dad You're calling me grotesque?

Benjamin You are grotesque, and *I'm* grotesque, we're all grotesque. Not actually grotesque, you're not grotesque, but I have this feeling of grotesqueness when I even think about leaving this room, all right?

Dad Ben, you're all tied up in knots. You've just had the four most strenuous years of your life back there ...

Benjamin They were nothing.

Dad Four golden years ...

Benjamin Which add up to nothing.

Dad I'm going to have words with you later. I'm going downstairs to tell these people you are suddenly sick. And I do not wish to see your face.