

“I came unto you and you have comforted me. Dear Peter.” (Albee, *Zoo Story*, 1995, Act I, P. 30)

“Sometimes it’s necessary to go a long distance out of the way in order to come back a short distance correctly.” (Albee, *Zoo Story*, 1995, Act I, Pp. 8, 15)

Now, here is what I had wanted to happen: I had tried to love, and I had tried to kill, and both had been unsuccessful by themselves. I hoped—and I don’t really know why I expected the dog to understand anything, much less my motivations—I hoped that the dog would understand. (Albee, *Zoo Story*, 1995, Act I, P. 20)

It’s just that—it’s just that if you can’t deal with people, you have to make a start somewhere. *With animals*. Don’t you see? A person has to find a way of dealing with *something*. If not with people—if not with people—*something*. (Albee, *Zoo Story*, 1995, Act I, P. 20)

I don’t know what I was thinking about; of course you don’t understand. I don’t live in your block; I’m not married with two parakeets, or whatever your set-up is. I am a *permanent transient*, and my home is the sickening rooming-houses... on the West Side of New York City, which is the greatest city in the world. Amen. (Albee, *Zoo Story*, 1995, Act I, P. 23)

“People can’t have everything they want. You should know that; it’s a rule; people can have some of the things they want, but they can’t have everything.” (Albee, *Zoo Story*, 1995, Act I, P. 26)

“I’m on your precious bench, and you’re never going to have it for yourself again.” (Albee, *Zoo Story*, 1995, Act I, P. 27)

You have everything in the world you want; you’ve told me about your home, and your family, and *your own* little zoo. You have everything, and now you want this bench. Are these the things men fight for? Tell me, Peter, is this bench, this iron and this wood, is this your honour? Is this the thing in the world you’d fight for? Can you think of anything more absurd? (Albee, *Zoo Story*, 1995, Act I, P. 27)

What I wanted to get at is the value difference between pornographic playing-cards when you’re a kid, and pornographic playing-cards when you’re older. It’s that when you’re a kid you use the cards as a substitute for real experience, and when you’re older you use real experience as a substitute for the fantasy. (Albee, *Zoo Story*, 1995, Act I, P. 13)