

(ISIDORE turns off the television and sits quietly. He goes over to the Empathy Box and goes in it. MERCER appears.)

ISIDORE

Is it true? Mercer, is it true?

(MERCER'S voice is heard. Maybe it comes from the figure in the box. Maybe from elsewhere.)

MERCER

Yes, it's true.

ISIDORE

Are the stones just rubber?

MERCER

Yes.

ISIDORE

Is the blood ketchup?

MERCER

Yes.

ISIDORE

But it feels so real.

MERCER

You make it feel real.

ISIDORE

Buster Friendly said you were a fake.

MERCER

I am a fake. They're the honest ones. Everything they said is true.

ISIDORE

Including the whisky?

MERCER

That's why they'll have so much trouble understanding why nothing has changed.

ISIDORE

Nothing?

MERCER

You're here, aren't you? And I am here, too. I lifted you up from the tomb world just now, and I will continue to lift you, until you get tired of me. But you will have to stop searching for me, for I will never stop searching for you.

ISIDORE

I don't like the part about the whisky. It seems wrong.

MERCER

That's because you are a highly moral person. I'm not. I don't judge, not even myself.

ISIDORE

Don't ever stop searching for me, Mercer.

MERCER

I will never stop.

ISIDORE

Not ever.

MERCER

I will never stop.