

**EXCERPT FROM
GREENHOUSE LIVING**

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EXCERPT

At rise: A greenhouse containing POINSETTIA, FERN, BANANA TREE and HYACINTH. All, except for Banana Tree, are hopping around, playing a game and singing:

PLANT CHORUS

*Hop right in to our paradise
We'll welcome you once and we'll welcome you twice.
A perfect world for all perfect plants,
The only way to have a second chance
At living.*

(The game ends and they cheer and clap, then find space to lounge around, fanning themselves. They might pick up a drink or two.)

POINSETTIA

Ah...hot and perfect.

FERN

Feel that sun...

BANANA TREE

Through the glass.

POINSETTIA

Where's my spritz?

FERN

They haven't been in here yet today.

BANANA TREE

They were here a few minutes ago! They just spritzed you, Poinsettia. See—your leaves are even moist.

POINSETTIA

Are they?

(pause)

HYACINTH

I miss the little Girl Tall.

BANANA TREE

She's the one who just spritzed us.

HYACINTH

I miss her reading her book to us. About the plant princess? Maybe I'll start reading a book.

POINSETTIA

You can't read.

FERN

The girl doesn't read either.

HYACINTH

Well, she looks at the pictures then. And calls me a princess. I could look at pictures and call me a princess.

FERN

She draws in her books.

HYACINTH

Well, that's too hard then. Never mind.

FERN

She makes those round puppy faces and cat ears...

POINSETTIA

I hate Cat.

BANANA TREE

She shouldn't draw in those books.

FERN

Why not?

BANANA TREE

They're not hers.

HYACINTH

Whose are they?

BANANA TREE

The Boy Tall's.

FERN

He doesn't care about them now. He's too old.

BANANA TREE

It's still not right to take someone else's things. You should know that.

HYACINTH

Maybe she got permission.

BANANA TREE

I doubt it.

HYACINTH

She's very sweet.

BANANA TREE

She's a spoiled little brat! You know how many leaves she's pulled off of me? Every time she comes in here!

FERN

You're the one who's spoiled, Banana Tree.

BANANA TREE

And you're not? Of course—I mean, of course, we're spoiled—we live in a greenhouse, Fern! But that doesn't mean—

POINSETTIA

Oh, please don't go on with a boring lecture.

HYACINTH

You don't think we're lucky?

BANANA TREE

Well, in a sense...

HYACINTH

We don't have to deal with thunderstorms.

FERN

Or droughts.

HYACINTH

Or wondering where our next meal will come from.

POINSETTIA

Or Cat!

BANANA TREE

Yes, I know—okay—we have that. But—the most important thing—the air, the air we breathe and live in—it's all, everything is all stagnant. Don't you feel that? No breeze!

HYACINTH

I never liked the wind anyway.

FERN

(to Banana Tree)

You just feel stagnant because you're boring. Boring and old and withering. If I were that Girl Tall, I'd pick off your leaves too—just to make you more interesting.

HYACINTH

You do kinda ignore all our exciting games, Banana Tree.

BANANA TREE

You know, Fern, you'd be considered a weed if you lived outside. How boring is that?

FERN

But I'm not a weed! I was born and raised here—right in this greenhouse!

BANANA TREE

And I'm not as good as you because I was brought here, right? Well, at least they wanted me enough to take me. You were just an accident. A seed carelessly dropped by that Girl Tall.

FERN

That's not true!

BANANA TREE

You know it is!

POINSETTIA

Please stop fighting! Fern! Banana Tree!

(pause)

At least until my spritz gets here.

(pause)

Okay—some of us were born here; some of us were brought here. What difference does it make? We're all here now.

BANANA TREE

It makes a difference to Fern.

FERN

It does make a difference, because we're full. We're all filled up and when the Talls bring in more plants, it just takes up more of our breathing space. Just look at Banana Tree! With those big intruding leaves. You're choking me, you know! You're choking all of us!

BANANA TREE

Oh, please! You're hysterical!

(A new plant, a TULIP enters. It is as though he is shoved on. TULIP 3 is not a child, but not quite an adult. He is the tulip child of Tulip 1 and Tulip 2.)

POINSETTIA

Look!

FERN

You've got to be kidding me! Another one!

HYACINTH

Hello, new plant. Come on in.

POINSETTIA

He's a big one.

TULIP 3

I'm a tulip.

POINSETTIA

We can see that.

FERN

We don't want any more plants here.

HYACINTH

Especially big tulips. Sorry.

POINSETTIA

You better not have any fruit flies on you.

TULIP 3

I don't.

POINSETTIA

Looked like one was climbing up your petal.

TULIP 3

No.

BANANA TREE

Oh, come on, Poinsettia. Remember you brought in all those ants when you first arrived. No one talked to you for a week.

POINSETTIA

They didn't?

HYACINTH

I hate the bugs in here. They can't get out. They're trapped in here with us.

POINSETTIA

Unless the Talls spray them.

HYACINTH

Which is bad for us.

POINSETTIA

But worse for them.

FERN

So. What kind of soil do you have?

TULIP 3

It's what I came with.

FERN

Looks rich.

TULIP 3

It's from the ground. My dad showed me where to get the purest soil.

POINSETTIA

Ooh—fresh outside...pure...soil...I haven't had that in...when did Hyacinth come?

HYACINTH

I don't remember.

POINSETTIA

Well, since then.

FERN

Nothing tastes better than outside soil.

POINSETTIA

We never get it in here. We only get the feed kind from those bags.

TULIP 3

Well...I'm sorry you don't have it in here...

POINSETTIA

Well, thank you. But maybe I'll just try some right now.
(moves in on him)

TULIP 3

Get away!

HYACINTH

I'd like some too, please.

BANANA TREE

You call me boring—but look at yourselves. Doing this again. This bores me even watching you!

FERN

You know that's not true, and you know we won't believe you. This is the most excitement we get!

BANANA TREE

But this—come on, Fern. You know this isn't fair. Why don't you just—

FERN

He comes waltzing in here, taking up all this room and breathing in our air, and doesn't expect to give us a little of the richness he brought from the outside? In exchange for all he's taking from us? I think that's fair. I think that's more than fair.

BANANA TREE

It's wrong, Fern.

FERN

Well, you don't have to take any soil then.

BANANA TREE

It's all he has from his home.

POINSETTIA

So let's make him forget he ever came from there.

BANANA TREE

I'm not going to be a part of this.

HYACINTH

More for us then. Yum!

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