

# EXCERPTS FROM THE SCRIPT OF *TOBY: THE BOY WHO WAS RAISED BY BARNACLES*

BY FREDERICK MEYER '08

*DOCTOR HENDRICKS:* Richard, I know you well enough to know that your heart's in the right place. But this is a lost cause. This young... creature... can never be what you want him to be.

*DOCTOR ANDERSON:* Damn it, John! Have your prejudices blinded you this completely? He's a human being! Can't you see that?

*DOCTOR HENDRICKS:* I don't see a human being, Richard. All I see is an abomination.

*(TOBY attaches to a tidal rock via adhesive-coated antennae developed during his Cypris, or bivalve, larval stage.)*

*DOCTOR HENDRICKS:* He's doing it again! Don't you understand? He'll never change!

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*MRS. KEARNSEY:* Toby, you're not eating your dinner.

*MR. KEARNSEY:* Yes, eat up, Son. Your mother cooked you a nice meal, and it's getting cold.

*(TOBY extends his legs and cirri and begins to sweep for plankton.)*

*MR. KEARNSEY:* *(Quietly)* Diane, I'm beginning to think this was a mistake.

*MRS. KEARNSEY:* *(With deep resolve)* I'm not giving up on him, Harold. I'm never giving up on him.

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*BULLY #1:* Hey, freak, why don't you move back to your stupid harbor where you belong?

*BULLY #2:* Yeah, we don't want any freaks like you on our playground!

*(Other kids join in: "Yeah!" and "Go back to the ocean, freak!")*

*(TOBY, sensing a low tide, covers his shell opening with two calcareous plates to trap in seawater.)*

*(Taunting continues for a few seconds, gradually dies off.)*

*BULLY #1:* Let's go. He's not even smart enough to fight back!

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*LAURA:* I just think it was so brave how you stood up to those other kids. I mean, I've never seen anybody keep his cool like that!

*(Pause. Shyly, LAURA moves a bit closer to TOBY.)*

*LAURA:* Look, what I guess I'm trying to say is, I think it'd be really great if you would go with me to the dance on Friday.

*(TOBY extends a genital apparatus that, proportionally, is the largest in the animal kingdom.)*

*LAURA: (Deeply hurt)* Is that all you want from me? Is that all I am to you? *(Begins to cry.)* Oh, Toby, sometimes I think Rachel was right about you!

*(LAURA runs away, distraught.)*

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*MR. KEARNSEY:* That's my son! That's my son!

*LAURA: (Embracing him)* Oh, Toby, you did it! Toby, Toby, I love you!

*POLICE CHIEF HAWKINS:* Well, Toby, I had my doubts about you, but you saved the Mayor's life, and the rest of the people on that bus, too. You're a hero, son. Congratulations.

*(TOBY, operculum closed, waits for high tide.)*

*POLICE CHIEF HAWKINS: (With a smile)* Well, he always was a quiet kid, wasn't he.

*(Others laugh appreciatively.)*

*(Credits roll.)*