You were given a second chance, and you were able to connect with the men in this prison. You were able to reconnect with your family.
DAMON. I never should have listened to your ass.
CROUSE. I was only trying to help you.
DAMON. I don't need help from a liar.
CROUSE. I never lied to you.
DAMON. You said giving my Mama that letter was a good idea. That wasn't true. You told me that being a miracle may save my life. That was bullshit too.
CROUSE. I never made any promises. I had no idea what the warden was planning to do with you.
DAMON. That's a fancy way of saying you lied, Father Adrian Crouse.
CROUSE. You know what? We can debate whether I lied, whether I lead you on, whether you misled yourself. In the end, that's not the most important thing.
DAMON. I thought the most important thing was doing something with the life I have. But that doesn't matter when you tell me I'm just going to die again.
CROUSE. Damon, you were always going to die. We're all going to die. That's never going to change. What has changed is the way you're living your life.
DAMON. Cooper! I'm ready.
CROUSE. No, Damon. You can't leave just because you don't like what I'm saying.
DAMON. Stop telling me what to do. You're not helping me. Whatever time I have left I ain't wasting on you. *(Cooper enters.)*
COOPER. Let's go. *(Damon exits with Cooper.)*

Scene 8

Damon and Roach are in their cells.

DAMON. Alright. I got another one.
ROACH. Let me read my words to you first.
DAMON. No, this is a good one. And I don't think I told you it

before. Listen. Why can't Miss Piggy count to seventy?
ROACH. I don't know. Why can't Miss Piggy count to seventy?
DAMON. Because every time she gets to sixty-nine, she gets a frog in her throat. *(Damon laughs. Roach doesn't get it.)* Come on, man. sixty-nine. Frog in her throat. Get it.
ROACH. Was she hoarse or something?
DAMON. No, Kermit was ... You know. Of course you don't know. I don't know why I told you that joke.
ROACH. I told you I didn't want to hear it.
DAMON. Well, I've got more. Did I tell you the one about the farmer with two and a half wives?
ROACH. I really don't want to hear that one either.
DAMON. This one is hilarious.
ROACH. I just don't want to hear it.
DAMON. I'm just trying to lighten the mood. Get you thinking about something else.
ROACH. Well, these jokes ain't working.
DAMON. Fine. We can do something else. The night is young.
ROACH. Only thing I want to do is work on my words.
DAMON. You've been working on them night and day. I'm sure they'll be fine.
ROACH. I'd feel better about it if you'd listen to them.
DAMON. Why? What do I know about last words? I didn't have anything when it was my time.
ROACH. Well, you're always in that cell writing letters. And when I've accidentally heard you read them out loud, I like how you said things.
DAMON. If you read it to me now it's gonna bring us both down. They're your last words, Roach. Reading them feels so final. Let's wait a little longer.
ROACH. Waiting and not doing anything is going to drive me crazy.
DAMON. Who said we weren't going to do anything? I got a whole evening planned for us.
ROACH. What did you have in mind?
DAMON. Fishing.
ROACH. Fishing?
DAMON. That's what you like. That's what you said you want to be thinking about when it's your time.
ROACH. We can't go fishing in here.

DAMON. Then tell me a good place to go.
ROACH. Rosedale Lake. That's where me and Daddy would go.
DAMON. And exactly what made Rosedale Lake a better place to fish than this prison.
ROACH. Well, first of all you got water, with fish in it. You can't find that here. And Rosedale probably had the clearest water in the state.
DAMON. What else does Rosedale have?
ROACH. Trees. The lakefront was covered in trees. You'd look around and see nothing but green. The air almost smelled sweet out there. I think you'd like it.
DAMON. I do like it out here. It's nice.
ROACH. What?
DAMON. The trees, the really clear water. Yeah, I see all that. And you're right. I like it.
ROACH. Rosedale Lake?
DAMON. Yeah, that's where we're at now. It's beautiful out here. Right. You see it?
ROACH. I don't know. I'd guess.
DAMON. Thank you for bringing me out here.
ROACH. You're welcome.
DAMON. Now, I ain't never been fishing. Where do we start?
ROACH. We gotta get the bait. Help me find the night crawlers.
DAMON. The worms?
ROACH. It just rained last night so they ain't gonna be hard to find. Just bend on down and grab them.
DAMON. You know what. I'll just grab the fishing pole. I'll get all that ready while you get the worms.
ROACH. Oh, these are some good ones. Big but not too big. My daddy always said, "Good fishing starts with good bait." If there was one thing Daddy knew it was fishing.
DAMON. Alright, I got the poles and beer and everything else we need. You got enough bait.
ROACH. Yeah, this should get us through the day.
DAMON. So what's next?
ROACH. Let's find ourselves a good spot to set up, right on the lakefront. Unless you want to go out on the water. We could go grab my boat from ...
DAMON. No, we can stay on land. I don't get along with boats and deep water.

ROACH. That's how I was at first. My brothers were always more brave than I was. But Daddy was patient. Let me do things at my own pace. I finally did get out on that boat and I loved it. Daddy was so proud.
DAMON. That's good, Roach. Hey, how about this spot right here. This looks like a good place to catch fish. What you think?
ROACH. That's a great spot. You did good. We got plenty of room to stretch out. Make a fire if it gets late. And we can see the whole lake from here.
DAMON. We can even check out the girls skinny-dipping over there.
ROACH. Where?
DAMON. Right over there. You can't see those naked girls?
ROACH. They better not scare away the fish.
DAMON. You're more worried about the fish than the girls?
ROACH. Fishing the whole reason we came out here, not girls. Now get your fishing pole and ... Wait a minute. I got an idea. Let's go fly-fishing.
DAMON. Is that where you sling the line back and forth?
ROACH. It's more complicated, but yeah.
DAMON. Well, show me. *(The two men begin fishing.)*
ROACH. The most important thing to remember is that we need to look out for each other. Don't want to throw the line and catch another man in the face with the hook. So we have to have each other's back.
DAMON. Got it.
ROACH. No matter what.
DAMON. Yeah, no matter what. Now what's next?
ROACH. That's the thing I liked most about my Daddy. He always had my back. He never let me down when I needed his help. Mama could care less most of the time, but Daddy always came through. Even when I messed up or did bad things. He didn't care. He had my back.
DAMON. Well, I got your back too man. Just tell me what to do now.
ROACH. I wonder what Daddy would do if he was alive. There's probably nothing he could do but he'd try his best to get me out of this mess.
DAMON. What mess? We're fishing now.
ROACH. Ain't no fishing on death row.

DAMON. We're not on death row, remember. We're at Rosedale Lake.
ROACH. No we're on death row in Indiana State Prison and tomorrow I am going to die.
DAMON. You don't have to think like that. What if we do what we did a month ago and get everybody to yell? If we cause enough confusion, they could cancel your execution.
ROACH. It won't work.
DAMON. If I get all the fellas to help us like the last time.
ROACH. D, it won't work. You'll just postpone the whole thing, not stop it. And if it's going to happen, I'd rather get it over with. I'm gonna die and there ain't nothing either one of us can do about it. So I want you to stop arguing with me and listen to these words. I need some help and you're the only one smart enough to.
DAMON. I barely graduated from high school.
ROACH. That's more than most folks in here. And who cares what grade you made it to. The point is that you're smart. I used to wonder how a man like you got stuck in this hell. Anyway, I'm gonna read this to you now.
DAMON. Maybe you should just slide it over.
ROACH. No, my handwriting ain't no good. And I wouldn't mind practicing saying it out loud. *(Roach reads.)*
Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for joining me on the day that I am to die.
DAMON. Roach, you might not want to ... You know what, just keep reading and we'll talk about it afterwards.
ROACH. Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for joining me on the day that I am to die. I'm not real good with words, so I don't have anything clever to say. I suppose I just want to say a couple of sorries. I'm sorry. I'm sorry to my family. I ain't got much of one left, but to those of you out there, I hope I wasn't too much of an embarrassment. And I especially want to say I'm sorry to the family of those young ladies. I just wanted to talk to them. But they got scared and I just wanted them to calm down and stop screaming. But I didn't know what to do. I swear I didn't want nobody to get hurt. What I really want you to know is that I'm not a monster. A lot of people called me that and it's not true. I did some really bad things, but I'm not a bad person. There are some good friends of mine that know me well. They would tell you the same. Thank you for your time. *(Pause.)* What do you think? Too short.

DAMON. No, it was perfect.
ROACH. I could say more at the end maybe.
DAMON. No, no. You said it just right. I couldn't have done a better job myself.
ROACH. Thank you. *(Pause.)* I'm not looking forward to tomorrow. I wish it would just forget to come.
DAMON. I know how you feel.
ROACH. I ain't gonna lie to you. I hope I get saved tomorrow like you did. I'd love to see the look on everybody's face when I strut back in here.
DAMON. That would be something.
ROACH. How about you tell me that joke you had earlier. It might lighten the mood.
DAMON. I don't even remember which one I was gonna tell you.
ROACH. Something about a farmer and two and a half wives.
DAMON. But if you didn't get the 69 Miss Piggy one, then I doubt you'll get this one.
ROACH. Tell me anyway.
DAMON. Okay. There was an old farmer with two and a half wives and two and a half acres of land. Along came a businessman looking to spend two and a half million dollars. Now, the man bought all of the land from the farmer and was headed out of town until a storm hit. The farmer offers the man a room for the night. Just as the man settled down for the night, the first wife crept in his room. *(End of Scene.)*

END

Scene 8½

Damon is sleeping in his cell while roach is awake reading his words. The sound of the cellblock doors opening wakes Damon. Copper enters, cuffs Roach, and leads him out of his cell. Damon watches the two men exit. Damon lies down on his bed. Moments later Cooper enters carrying one box of letters. Damon's cell opens and Cooper carefully places the box in the cell. The cell door closes and Cooper exits. Damon begins looking through his box.