

about that basketball fella who missed a practice.
 MITCH. Ahhh —
 MORRIE. Mitch, words hurt ...
 MITCH. ... Sticks, stones, you couldn't hurt these guys with a baseball bat ... It's TV, Morrie! It's a SHOW! You didn't like Ted Koppel either, remember?
 MORRIE. I never taught Ted.
 MITCH. Morrie, no offense, but that guy I hurt so much will make this year alone more than you've earned in your lifetime, and he can't even get to practice!?
 MORRIE. Maybe it was a one-time thing.
 MITCH. Oh, come on!
 MORRIE. What if he forgot?
 MITCH. (*Snaps, angry.*) Yeah, and what if I flap my wings and —!?
 Morrie, you do not forget! I don't forget! — (*Stops.*) ... Coach ... it's a different world out there than in this room.
 MORRIE. But you're the same person wherever you go. (*Smiles.*) ... OK? Let's get to work.
 MITCH. OK. (*Starts to set up the taping.*)
 MORRIE. Did you know my sons were in this weekend?
 MITCH. Really?
 MORRIE. We cried three days straight. It was great!
 MITCH. (*Attaching the microphone.*) Sounds terrific. Gee, why'd they go?
 MORRIE. That feels good.
 MITCH. The microphone? ...
 MITCH and MORRIE. "The touching and the feeling."
 MORRIE. Are we set up? Are we ready? I have a subject.
 MITCH. Go!
 MORRIE. You know when young people visit, the question I get asked most is, "Morrie, should we have children?" Now, as you know, I never give advice —
 MITCH. (*A slight roll of the eyes.*) Uh-huh.
 MORRIE. But...?
 MITCH. But what?
 MORRIE. ... Well ... are you and Janine going to have a family?
 MITCH. What are you, my mother? I see all the plus things about kids. But I worry about feeling tied down. I mean, you give up a lot of things to be a parent.
 MORRIE. Yes, but what you get back ... There is no experience like having children. Let me tell you why my sons are so special.

Charlotte and I couldn't have kids. We tried, but ... So we decided to adopt, and we were blessed with the most beautiful baby boy in the world. Then, one day, Charlotte feels a little queasy, goes to the doctor: She's pregnant! Nine months later we've got the *other* most beautiful baby boy in the world! You have to go after life and embrace it! And when you do, sometimes life will embrace you back in ways you never imagined! Love! Love is the only rational act. Without love, we are birds with broken wings.
 MITCH. What do you say to the person who says ... he envies people who *don't* love.
 MORRIE. Who is this person?
 MITCH. He's theoretical.
 MORRIE. Does he look like you?
 MITCH. Morrie!
 MORRIE. How can a person envy someone who doesn't love?
 MITCH. Maybe the person who *doesn't* love has more freedom than the person who *does*. A person who does *not* love is free to accomplish things, free to experience the world, free of the pain when someone leaves them.
 MORRIE. Don't you sports types say, "No pain, no gain"?
 MITCH. That's for runners —
 MORRIE. We're all running! We're in the human race! (*With meaning.*) *Some people are running so fast they don't know where they're going.*
 MITCH. You can't say that about everyone.
 MORRIE. I can say that about someone in this room.
 MITCH. (*Turns away, upset.*) But if the point in loving someone is —
 MORRIE. There's no "point" in loving; loving *is* the point. Why do you think people say they fall in love? Because falling is helpless.
 MITCH. (*Angry now.*) I don't *wanna* be helpless, OK? (*Beat.*) Maybe we should drop this subject.
 MORRIE. What did I say?
 MITCH. Nothing. I just think we've talked enough about love. You need a break.
 MORRIE. (*Stares a beat, then.*) I need a ... OK. (*Mitch busies himself putting the tape recorder away, then ...*)
 MITCH. (*Turns to Morrie.*) I'm sorry, Coach ... I said it was theoretical, all right? (*Mitch exits. Lights change.*)
 MORRIE.
 "And no one exists alone;