

BONNIE from RUNNING IN PLACE by Joshua James

BONNIE

I had another dream last night.

BEA

Uh-huh.

BONNIE

It was a very strange dream.

BEA

Uh-huh.

BONNIE

Don't you want to hear it?

Very short pause.

BEA

Uh-huh.

Lights begin to change.

BONNIE

I dreamed I was in a fish-bowl. I dreamed I was a fish, which was why I was in a fish-bowl. It was very warm and bubbly, like a bath. I would sit around with the other fish, and we would all blow bubbles.

Sounds of bubbles.

It was a lot of fun, 'cause you could make the bubbles all kinds of different shapes and sizes, and we would have contests. And you could see out of the fish-bowl, you could see the living room of the house we were in, and it was fascinating, it was like having a big screen TV that covered a whole wall, and the people would come tapping on it. . . .

Sound of tapping.

. . . . and they would stare and point at us and make faces and they looked so stupid! Me and the other fish would laugh ourselves silly! Course it didn't sound like normal laughter, it sounded like somebody gargling, but it was the same thing. . . .

Chorus of gargling fish.

. . . .so we were having a good time, when all of a sudden we heard carnival music coming from behind the sunken castle. . . .

Sound of Carnival music.

. . . We all went to check it out, and there was this snail, standing in front of a scale, wearing a battered bowler hat. He had a stogie in his mouth and a pointer in one of his whadda-ya-call-it's, feelers, I guess, and he was yelling "Guess your weight Guess you weight! Winner every time, Guess your weight!". . .

Clanging of a bell.

. . . And the fish were just lining up for this shyster, and every time one of the fish got on the scale, it would go ZIP! and yank the fish up out of the water. And the other fish just kept right on going, and slowly they all began to disappear. The guppies went first, guppies are especially gullible, then the goldfish, then the eels, till finally it was just me, the catfish, that was left. I could see the others, outside in the house, being fried up in a pan. . . .

Sizzling sound.

. . . . I yelled at the snail, I said, "How could you do this to everybody?" He just sorta giggled. . . .

Gargling sound.

. . . . and said, "How can you live life without a little risk now and then?" and then he winked at me, and jumped on the scale himself, and ZIP, he was gone. I was cold and all alone, and I moved closer and closer to the scale, till finally I couldn't take it anymore and I jumped on it and ZIP! . . .

. . . .and then I woke up.

Lights return to normal.

BONNIE

So what do you think? Is my subconscious tryin' to tell me something?

Slight pause.

Nahhh.

BEA