

# **The Tutor**

a short drama by Nicholas Renaud  
Grade 12

January, 2014

### **PRODUCTION NOTES:**

This play is meant to depict the confusion and complexity of teenage existence. The set does not need to be too extravagant; the bare minimum is simply a desk with a lamp on it (hooked up to a dimmer switch) and a bed and boxer shorts on the floor, as the important thing is the story. However, as this is a teen boy's room you could add other pieces such as a dresser and closet, even though chances are the clothes would mostly be strewn on the floor!

I envisioned a lighting change each instance where time goes by. Though these changes should mostly be subtle and short to keep the story fluid.

A good piece of writing should make you think and an effective piece of art should leave you asking many questions. It's important to strive for one's best, so I am hopeful that after reading *The Tutor* you will be left thoughtful and inquisitive. Thank you for taking the time to read this play. Above all, I hope you enjoy it.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

ANDY

KRISTINA

## **SETTING**

A teen-aged boy's bedroom. There must be at least a bed and a desk, with boxers on the floor.

## **TIME**

Now.

# THE TUTOR

by Nicholas Renaud

*Lights up on ANDY, a 17-year-old boy, sitting at his desk in his bedroom. He is talking on the phone with someone - we don't know who. He seems upset, uneasy and agitated as he talks. The lamp on the desk is shining faintly (it is half-lit). The faint sound of a heart beating is heard as he talks on the phone, and fades shortly after the monologue starts. The room is dark and uninviting; little light is on, aside from the lamp. The scene is sinister.*

**ANDY:** What is the meaning of life, anyway? I bet you get that every day: “what’s the point?” “what do I do?” “who can I trust?” et cetera et cetera. But I really wanna know – why? *(beat)* Don’t roll your eyes at me - I don’t have to see you to know... Well, if you can’t answer that question, I think we’re wasting each other’s time. I might as well hang up now so you can get on with your day... Okay, okay. If you really wanna know then you’ll have to bear with me ‘cause I have to start from the beginning. *(beat)* Alright. It all started a month ago. I’m generally a positive guy. Especially at the start of the school year! I was a registered biology tutor so I could make money. And I’ve always loved biology so I got to make money without flipping burgers and pretending to be nice to people at McDonalds, even when they’re being real dicks. So it was perfect. I also liked all my teachers and, more importantly, they liked me. Grade 12 was going to be a breeze. The best part? Kristina was my first tutoring student. She was hot - you knew it by the way guys followed her around. I mean, one look from her and she had you wrapped around her finger! *(beat)*. Like I said: this was going to be my year. Kristina was amazing, at LEAST in my opinion, and now I got to spend an hour a week with her! The only thing that sucked was that she was dating Chaz, the school’s quarterback. That guy was so jacked, he probably ate steroids with his corn flakes every morning. Or at least that’s what those of us not on the football team tell ourselves... Y’know I always thought Kristina was better off with me. Besides, Chaz always had a crowd of girls hanging on his every word.

*(beat. ANDY is reflecting, then chuckles)* That first day she came over... it was... well I thought it was going to be... better... well, different... well, awesome. Maybe scary... but awesome! For the first time she’d HAVE to notice me and I was going to be with her. Just her... and me... and... biology. *(sighs)*

*Lights change as the set changes slightly - books are open on the desk, phone is put down, ANDY is preparing himself for KRISTINA's entrance. While this is happening, we again hear the heart "thud thud" over the house speakers. The change should be seamless and take only a few seconds. Almost instantaneously, we are transported to the first of ANDY's tutoring sessions with KRISTINA. Lights change again to be bright; it's daytime, in the afternoon. The lamp should now be fully-lit. Enter KRISTINA.*

**KRISTINA:** *(dryly - she is not happy to be here. She's chewing gum)* Ok I know, I'm twenty minutes late but can we like make this quick? Chaz is picking me up in an bit, so we got twenty minutes. Think you can help me in twenty minutes?

**ANDY:** Uh. Yeah, of course. *(annoyed but too hesitant to show it)* Don't worry about being late or anything... Mr. White never asks anything hard about human anatomy.

**KRISTINA:** Yeah. It's just stupid. Like, when am I ever gonna have to know about the digestive system?

**ANDY:** Wait. If you don't mind me asking... Why are you even taking biology?

**KRISTINA:** *(appalled)* For university. What? You think just because I don't look like a nerd I can't be smart? Newsflash, idiot, there's a lot more to me than just two big beautiful b- *(she sees where his eyes are looking. She slaps him accordingly.)* Blue eyes, jerk.

**ANDY:** No! No I wasn't- I was just thinking-

**KRISTINA:** Yeah. I know what you were thinking. This isn't gonna work. Like, I'll pay for today, but I'm not going to sit around and wait for you to get bigger- I mean, grow up.

**ANDY:** No, please- *(KRISTINA has gotten up and is leaving and is interrupted; ANDY thinks fast)* without biology, it would be harder to appreciate those big beautiful... blue eyes.

**KRISTINA:** *(about to slap him again)* uhuh...

**ANDY:** For example: blue eyes are rare. So, you and I, we're two of a kind - unique! We have the same mutation, see-

**KRISTINA:** So, first I find you staring and then you tell me that I'm a mutant. You sure know how to charm the ladies, don't you.

*ANDY locks eyes with her, hopelessly lost as to what to say next.*

*KRISTINA thinks for a second, then breaks the awkward silence.*

**KRISTINA:** *(beat)* Alright nerd. I'll stay. *(she spits out the gum)*. Obviously you know a thing or two. And unlike with some of the other guys Chaz won't get jealous if I'm here with you *(as she walks back, she smiles as she notices a pair of boxers on the floor)* Yep, Chaz's got nothing to worry about here...

*(ANDY gets up and throws the undergarment under his bed, extremely embarrassed. KRISTINA sits down. ANDY joins her.)*

So...? Teach me.

**ANDY:** *(still red in the face, he sheepishly sits down)* Um.. Ok! So um, the human body.... *(he's even less confident than at the beginning)* Uh... What do you wanna know...?

**KRISTINA:** *(gets a text)* ah shoot! Just got a text from Chaz. The movie's half an hour earlier! I gotta get home; he's gonna be there to pick me up in a few minutes! *(starting to freak out)*

**ANDY:** *(disappointed)* Oh. Isn't your assignment due tomorrow...?

**KRISTINA:** Listen Allen—?

**ANDY:** Andy—

**KRISTINA:** Yeah, Andy. You're right, tomorrow. And... I really don't get it, and I'm kinda behind in a few lessons. *(inching closer)* Do you think, maybe, you might be able to help me out a bit...? Just this once...?

**ANDY:** Well, whad'ya mean?

**KRISTINA:** Well... Andy... *(she pops another piece of gum in her mouth)* What if, you just did me a HUGE favour and just... did it? *(she bats her eyes, seductively)*

**ANDY:** *(not convinced)* Oh, I— I don't know Krist—

**KRISTINA:** It would me A LOT to me if you did. And I promise, I'll be on time for the next session so you can catch me up on it all so I get it!

**ANDY:** I really don't think that would help—

**KRISTINA:** Well? *(with one look, she gets what she came for.)*

**ANDY:** A— alright.

**KRISTINA:** YES! Thank you so much... Andrew. *(she kisses him on the cheek. He's speechless)*

**ANDY:** Only my mom calls me Andrew...

**KRISTINA:** I can't call you Andrew?

**ANDY:** (*wistfully*) You call me anything... (*composes himself*) so this is due tomorrow?

**KRISTINA:** Yeah, it was due last week... Mr White gave me an extension 'til tomorrow.

**ANDY:** Well. Uh... I guess I could give it to you in the morning... this once.

**KRISTINA:** Tonight.

**ANDY:** To- uh- what, tonight?

**KRISTINA:** Awesome! So if you just leave the work on my doorstep before I get back that would be great.

**ANDY:** Alright I guess...

**KRISTINA:** Great. You're sweet. (*she exits*)

**ANDY:** (*sighs; he's just been in the same room with the girl of his dreams. He goes to work on her homework*)

*Fade to black. Lights up on ANDY working, getting ready for his second session with KRISTINA. We hear the heart beat, but it's more regulated and normal. It fades. He's checking his watch. She's late, again. Enter KRISTINA.*

**KRISTINA:** Hey Andrew.

**ANDY:** (*not nearly as impressed as last time, but momentarily seduced by her "Andrew"*) Hey... (*back to reality*) We're off to a late start again, so we better get right into the assignment. And, by the look of Mr White's stares at me down the hall I think he suspects you didn't do your homework last time...

**KRISTINA:** (*laughs*) I don't wanna be here either. You think I like school? Well, sorry to break it to you but most people don't, unlike you. Most people are like me: I can't wait to leave, have fun... When it involves school, I don't show up early, and I don't leave late... I hate it. And do you know why I'm in biology? Because I want to go off to a good university. Somewhere down south, like Miami, where I can lounge around, soak up the sun, and enjoy myself while spending many MANY years studying and dating hot college guys. That's the plan. I'm not here to be your friend, and I'm not here to have fun and I'll show up when I want to. Ok? I just *need* an A. Can you do that for me... Al- Andrew?

**ANDY:** (*lacking a backbone*) Fine. (*ANDY suddenly rethinks his stance and becomes more and more passionate as the speech goes on. He's not used to speaking out like this*) But... An A takes work. Just like university. You need to know what you're doing. You need to do the work. I can't just do the work for you. I mean, I will, because, you're... you... and I like you, a lot. But it's not like it's going to help you. You need to show up on time, and if you can't then you're not even going to pass. And you know what? You can kiss that sandy beach in Florida good bye, because even if you don't like this or me, I can get you there... Like it or not, I know what you need to do to get to Miami.

**KRISTINA:** (*beat - she spits out her gum, sticks it under the desk, and backs down*) Okay. Prove it.

**ANDY:** Really?

**KRISTINA:** Yeah. I mean, like if that's true. If you can really get me to Florida.

**ANDY:** It is! I mean... yeah.

**KRISTINA:** Ok. I'm yours.

**ANDY:** You're... what? (*shocked*)

**KRISTINA:** You're right.

**ANDY:** I am? I mean... (*self-assured... a little too self-assured*) I am.

**KRISTINA:** (*not impressed*) Yeah. (*her expression changes, suddenly she locks eyes with ANDY.*)

**ANDY:** What are you looking at me like that for?

**KRISTINA:** Well, no one's ever talked to me like that before... I just realized something... That was kinda attractive.

**ANDY:** *(beat. They both look at each other a little differently.)* Well, uh. What about that bio?

**KRISTINA:** Yeah, what about it. Tell me about the human body How does this even work? I know skin, I know bones, what else is there to know?

**ANDY:** Ok well that's... Okay. Let's start at the beginning. Birth, that is.

**KRISTINA:** Huh. Alright then.

**ANDY:** Yeah! It's actually really cool. So when two people really like each other and...

**KRISTINA:** Seriously? You wanna go there?

**ANDY:** Just listen! When two people are attracted to each other, it's due to pheromones. These are kinda like perfume scents that our body releases to tell you about a suitable mate.

**KRISTINA:** *Soulmate?* My soulmate doesn't smell as bad as most guys?

**ANDY:** Kinda... *(looks at arm-pits)* Pheromones tell you if someone brings something to the table that will give your offspring an advantage.

**KRISTINA:** So... strong people smell better.

**ANDY:** Not necessarily... brains are also important. The nose knows, you know? It's a match for you. *(KRISTINA laughs at his cheesy pun)*

**KRISTINA:** Sure sure. Ok. So, your soulmate doesn't necessarily have to be Mr. Muscles.

**ANDY:** Exactly. See, bio can be interesting!

**KRISTINA:** Yeah... *(she looks down. Something crosses her mind)*

**ANDY:** Something wrong?

**KRISTINA:** *(the lock eyes again. After a beat,)* Andrew, can I talk to you about something? *(responding to ANDY's shocked facial expression)* Like, I know we've only known each other for a few days...

**ANDY:** Actually we were kinda in the same kindergarten class... and we've had a class together every year since—

**KRISTINA:** Yeah, yeah, like, whatever. See, it's Chaz and I.

**ANDY:** *(now he's interested)* What about you and Chaz..?

**KRISTINA:** Aw, you— you know what, never mind.

**ANDY:** *(it's as if she's taken candy away from a baby ANDY: he's shocked)*  
What?  
*(beat)*

**KRISTINA:** It's just... Do you think I'm... fat?

**ANDY:** *(shocked)* What? No, of course not.

**KRISTINA:** It's just that, after what you said. You said you liked me.

**ANDY:** Well, yeah. Me and half the guys at school— we all like how you smell! *(trying to cheer her up. It's not working.)*

**KRISTINA:** Well, not the guys who are supposed to...

**ANDY:** What, did Chaz call you fat?

**KRISTINA:** No, it's just... I'm sorry for talking to you like this, I know it's weird and I don't like that you're the only one I can come to with this... at all, it's just... You're smart. And like, I can't really have a deep conversation with any of my friends because well... they're not.

**ANDY:** Haha... *(unsure how to respond to that)* How 'bout I go get you a cup of water... be right back.

*(beat. There is a long and awkward pause. KRISTINA looks at her phone and starts to cry. ANDY enters, water in hand)*

**KRISTINA:** Chaz and I broke up.

**ANDY:** What?!

**KRISTINA:** Yeah. Well, he just broke up with me.

**ANDY:** *(more exasperated than before)* Over text... WHAT?!!

**KRISTINA:** He said he's too young to be tied down to one girl *(she starts crying)*

**ANDY:** Oh my god. I'm so sorry!

**KRISTINA:** *(composes herself)* no, no don't be. *(beat. She takes a sip of water)*  
Um. I'm sorry about that. Let's just focus on the Bio.

**ANDY:** If that's what you want...

**KRISTINA:** Yeah. It's what I want.

**ANDY:** Ok. Well, if we turn to page sixty-nine of the book, we can start talking about the digestive system... that'll distract you from Chaz... *(the look from KRISTINA says it all.)* Too soon. Got it.

**KRISTINA:** Yeah. Just wait. Before we go there. I just have a question about pheromones again.

**ANDY:** Shoot.

**KRISTINA:** Can you just start to notice a pheromone scent even after you've known someone for some time... Like, is that possible?

**ANDY:** (*chuckles. He's missing all the signals, thinking she's so naive*) Well, I suppose... you'd have to have been focused on other things beforehand, to be distracted. Huh... interesting question, you should ask Mr. White about that on Friday...

**KRISTINA:** Andrew.

**ANDY:** What?

**KRISTINA:** Listen.

**ANDY:** What do you mean?

**KRISTINA:** Like, say you were really distracted by your university applications to Florida or your boyfriend who was a great kisser but... well that's all there was... nothing... real.

**ANDY:** (*awkward, still naive*) We're really missing the point here...

**KRISTINA:** (*patiently*) No, Andrew. You're missing the point.

**ANDY:** Huh?

**KRISTINA:** Like, what if, you just didn't notice your perfect mate, right under your nose?

**ANDY:** No, I'm pretty sure—

**KRISTINA:** (*frustrated*) Andrew!

**ANDY:** What?

**KRISTINA:** (*trying a new tactic*) Here let me teach you for a change.

**ANDY:** I've barely even taught you at this point!

**KRISTINA:** Just hear me out.

**ANDY:** Ok...

**KRISTINA:** What if, you were my perfect mate?

**ANDY:** Ok... (*totally confused*)

**KRISTINA:** Now, it's not right, is it, you me... together. I mean, let's face it. We're not at all alike. You're smart... and I...

**ANDY:** You're smart too!

**KRISTINA:** Don't interrupt. Um.. Say you're a poodle and I'm a powerful doberman... that just wouldn't work.

**ANDY:** Uh... that doesn't even make sense...

**KRISTINA:** Doesn't it?

**ANDY:** Huh?

**KRISTINA:** Like, if pheromones were pretty strong and the doberman saw the poodle in a different light... I mean... they're both the same type of animal with instincts, right?

**ANDY:** Wait... are you saying...

**KRISTINA:** Doesn't it make sense.

**ANDY:** (*skeptical*) Really?

**KRISTINA:** Really. We have more in common than you think. I mean, like, I couldn't even hold a conversation with Chaz! Not that it mattered... all he cared about was one thing.

**ANDY:** (*awkward*) I see...

**KRISTINA:** But like, in the end it doesn't really matter if you aren't TRULY attracted to someone. Y'know?

**ANDY:** I know.

**KRISTINA:** So, I think what I'm saying is like, I smell you— like your pheromones.

**ANDY:** I smell you too...?

**KRISTINA:** No, Andrew. Like, I *like* you. A lot.

**ANDY:** Ok...

**KRISTINA:** Well, don't you like me a lot too?

**ANDY:** Yeah...

**KRISTINA:** Prove it.

**ANDY:** How?

**KRISTINA:** How do you think?

**ANDY:** Well... (*there is a long pause. They look at each other, and after a few agonizing moments, finally they both go in for a kiss. Afterwards they both look at each other, savouring the post-kiss moment.*)

**KRISTINA:** (*out of the blue, she gets up and moves towards the bed*) Let's just let these pheromones take us somewhere.

**ANDY:** How do you mean?

**KRISTINA:** *(she brings ANDY with her)*

**ANDY:** I really don't think...

**KRISTINA:** Sh...

**ANDY:** What?

**KRISTINA:** Don't think. *(they kiss again)*

*Lights out. Music such as Radiohead's "Let Down" plays to foreshadow the next scene as the set is re-set. Lights up on ANDY nervously tapping his pencil on his desk as he awaits KRISTINA. The next few lines should be awkward and tense.*

**KRISTINA:** *(not chewing gum)* Hi.

**ANDY:** Hi. You're on time.

**KRISTINA:** I'm not.

**ANDY:** *(confused)* Whatever you say; I guess our watches aren't synchronized...? I missed you at school the last couple of days. Why'd you push our session up a few days until now? Don't you have a test coming up—

**KRISTINA:** Andrew I have something I need to talk to you about.

**ANDY:** What?

**KRISTINA:** I don't think this is going to work.

**ANDY:** Yeah, I know what you mean... It's hard to learn when you're attracted to someone so strongly

**KRISTINA:** *(tears welling up in her eyes)* No it's not just...

**ANDY:** Hey! Cheer up!

**KRISTINA:** I uh... I can't.

**ANDY:** Stop being weird. Here I've got something to cheer you up.

**KRISTINA:** Yeah?

**ANDY:** Yeah! Look, I made you flashcards! *(disappointed by the lack of response)* you know, for your test! I thought we could study them a bit, then maybe go for coffee...?

**KRISTINA:** No! No no no!

**ANDY:** What? What's the matter?

**KRISTINA:** Look, when I said this wasn't going to work I didn't mean like just... *that*. I meant this. Tutoring. I— I don't want you in my life anymore.

**ANDY:** What? Why? Just because of a little mistake like that? It's what teenagers do! I know you were rebounding, I get that now, but there's no reason to just cut me out of your life! We can still be friends. We just won't—

**KRISTINA:** No. No we can't.

**ANDY:** What?

**KRISTINA:** I wasn't talking about my watch earlier.

**ANDY:** Huh?

**KRISTINA:** Andrew... (*starts to cry*)

**ANDY:** Woah woah woah! What's the matter? Did you not do well on the review?

**KRISTINA:** Just stop!

**ANDY:** What?

**KRISTINA:** You're not understanding me.

**ANDY:** No I do understand. You're afraid about being socially outcast by your peers. Listen, I get it: it's easier to go out with Chaz than with me. He's a doberman, I'm a poodle. I get it.

**KRISTINA:** No! You don't get it!

**ANDY:** Kristina, let's just go out for coffee or bowling or a movie and enjoy being friends, ok? After all you said that I was easier to hold a conversation with...

**KRISTINA:** That's not the point.

**ANDY:** Then what *is* the point.

**KRISTINA:** Ugh you don't understand!

**ANDY:** Then help me to understand!

**KRISTINA:** Andrew, I can't see you anymore. And you have to get that. I'm leaving.

**ANDY:** What is wrong with you?

**KRISTINA:** I'm LATE! Ok? L-A-T-E.

**ANDY:** I'm not upset with you for being late! I know it's important and it's frustrating that we went over this already and you promised, but it's your life... Can we please move on now?

**KRISTINA:** (*growing in frustration*) NO! Andrew, think about what I'm saying. You're smart! (*she motions to her abdominal area*)

**ANDY:** (*it hits him*) Oh...

**KRISTINA:** YES!

**ANDY:** Okay...

**KRISTINA:** No. Not okay.

**ANDY:** Well, that isn't good but I don't see—

**KRISTINA:** You don't see, of course you don't see!

**ANDY:** I just still don't understand why that affects us being friends...

**KRISTINA:** You will. I'm telling my parents when I get home. And it's not going to go well.

**ANDY:** What are you talking about?

(*there is a long beat. KRISTINA is distraught, and thoroughly upset. After much thought, ANDY decides what to say next.*)

Let's talk about this. What happened?

**KRISTINA:** (*turns vicious, her true colours showing*) listen Andrew. You know what happened. You did this to me. And you're going to regret it. You were supposed to be my stepping stone, that's it!

**ANDY:** (*hurt and utterly confused*) What...? Well, it has to be Chaz... right?

**KRISTINA:** You know what. I'm telling everyone how you took advantage of a girl in distress. To do what you did... it's like, inexcusable. You are *nothing*, but my tutor. Never have been, never will be. My ticket to Miami. Good bye.

*She leaves. ANDY is at a loss. He sits there: still, shocked. We hear the heartbeat, rapid, irregular. He goes to his bed lies down and closes his eyes. Lights out. Lights up to ANDY, sitting at his desk. It's a new day. He is doing his homework but is visibly upset. In bursts KRISTINA.*

**ANDY:** (*bitterly*) What the hell are you doing here?

**KRISTINA:** Forgot my Bio textbook yesterday. You know how upset I was.

**ANDY:** I was going to bring it to school tomorrow, but that's not going to happen after today...

**KRISTINA:** (*not interested*) Yeah yeah. Well?

**ANDY:** What?

**KRISTINA:** The book. Where. Is. My. Book.

**ANDY:** (*furious*) Your book! You ruin my life and just expect me to act as if nothing's happened? (*he takes a book out of the desk drawer*) here's your damn stupid book, but you can listen for once first.

**KRISTINA:** Just give me the book, Andrew.

**ANDY:** No! You have no idea what my day was like - because of you! First, I go to school and kids are giving me weird looks ... I'm used to being ignored ... and then I'm called down to the principal's office before my first class starts.

**KRISTINA:** (*sarcastically*) Oh I wonder why...

**ANDY:** Shut up. I get in the office and there's a cop who starts asking all sorts of strange questions. At first they were strange. "How long have you known Kristina May?" "What was your relationship with her" "Are you aware that a tutor has a responsibility to remain professional in light of their position of authority" "Andy, do you know what 'rape' is?"

**KRISTINA:** (*mockingly*) Well? Do you... ?

**ANDY:** You're a real piece of work, you know that? When I asked the cop what this was all about, it all became clear. Apparently I forced myself on you: I gave you a glass of water that was drugged and had my way with you.

**KRISTINA:** I know, I was there

**ANDY:** Wrong! It's insane and you know it! We kissed - that's it, then you broke down and cried and left! My shoulder was still wet as I watched you walk down my driveway!

**KRISTINA:** (*playfully*) Well... I'm sure that how you like to remember it. Girls like me mean nothing to you.

**ANDY:** Do you not even hear yourself?

**KRISTINA:** Andrew. You need to come to the realization that life is not fair. Sure you have your side of the story and I'm sure that helps you sleep at night! Well, maybe not. Because, the fact is, no one's gonna believe you. I mean, I was vulnerable, I'm pregnant and... (*with mock sincerity*) Well, how else could that have happened?

**ANDY:** Chaz...

**KRISTINA:** He's great - he promised to support me through it all. Andrew, the sooner you accept the truth, my truth, the better. Or, don't accept it. It's up to you. Really, it's better this way.

**ANDY:** (*confused, betrayed*) But... We were friends!

**KRISTINA:** No, Andrew. You are nothing but my tutor. Remember that. (*checks phone*) Ah, shoot, Chaz is picking me up in a few minutes. Don't wanna be late!

*She snatches the book off his desk and leaves. ANDY is at a loss. He sits there, numb. He picks up the phone. Tableau. The beating of the heart again: rapid and irregular. Lights change to how they were at the beginning, we are back to where we left off - talking on the phone, mid-conversation. Lamp is again, half-lit.*

**ANDY:** I haven't spoken to her since. I felt betrayed, humiliated and just plain depressed. I tried to cheer myself up by walking to Starbucks for a drink but, of course with my luck, I ran into Chaz. He puffed up his chest, and I covered my face. I knew he was gonna hit me for making a move on his girl. But instead, I felt a pat on my shoulder. He chuckled, "she sure is somethin' isn't she?" And continued laughing hysterically as he walked away down the street. (*beat*) My parents hate me, my friends think I'm some kind of monster and I can't get anyone to believe otherwise. No matter how hard I try. (*begins to cry*) I'm stuck. I know what to do. I'm smart. There's only one thing I can do. I know what you're going to say; don't tell me "it's not the answer". (*beat*) Y'know I'll never forget the last words she said to me.

*In the background we see KRISTINA faintly. She keeps repeating and getting louder at all times:*

**KRISTINA:** You are *nothing*, but my tutor.

You are *nothing*, but my tutor.

You are *nothing*, but my tutor.

You are *nothing*, but my tutor. (*Etc.*)

*The repetition draws to a crescendo, then starts to die down as ANDY says rather numbly and robotically:*

**ANDY:** Thank you for taking my call. It was nice talking to you. I think it's very nice of you to volunteer at a helpline; I'll let you get to your next caller. *(faintly)* Good bye now.

*He hangs up the phone. The "you are nothing but my tutor" continues, getting softer and softer. Out of the desk drawer, ANDY takes out a razor. He looks at it pensively. The heart beating slows.*

**KRISTINA:** *(almost inaudibly)* You are *nothing*, but my tutor.

*Lights out except for the lamp which is left on, half-lit, slowly fading, becoming fainter. The heartbeat slows. The heartbeat stops abruptly as the lamp turns off with a "click".*

*End of Play.*