

“FEELING STUPID” by Alexander Lee-Rekers

Having ignored relationship red flags for months, PENN finally articulates their feelings to partner LINDEN.

PENN: I've always felt like you're supposed to fall in love with somebody who's better than you. Who builds you up, makes you better. You wouldn't be the person you are without them but, hey, the best part is you don't feel small: 'cause you do the same for them as well. You make each other stronger.

I feel less than you. I feel stupid, uneducated, unrefined. I feel like I have to apologise to you for being with you. Why do you have to make me feel that way? When I know I build you up and make you better than you are alone?

I just don't understand.

Performance Notes:

- *What was the exact moment Penn had this realisation? Pick a moment in their life before this speech and let that fuel your performance. Was it sudden, was it a gradual discovery? Were they with Linden, or were they alone?*
- *For all of Penn's upset about their relationship with Linden, don't focus completely on the bad when you prepare this monologue. Don't forget to investigate the love they once shared, and the clear affection Penn has for them even now. Without love, without hurt, there are fewer stakes to this piece.*
- *Finally, don't forget to check in with Linden. How are they taking these things being said to them as you say them out loud. Do they cop to it? Ignore it? Roll their eyes or burst into tears?*