

New Jersey  
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CAST: 2

ALIESHA (f) 20-24, a dreamer

JAKE (m) 20-24, a realist

AT RISE, ALIESHA is seen with some potted plants. All is ugly and bare. Car horns from the nearby highway might be heard. ALIESHA is arranging the plants. JAKE enters.

JAKE

Again? How much money are you spending on plants?

ALIESHA

We live in the Garden State. New Jersey's supposedly the freakin' "garden state" and look! Can this area be more gray and foreboding?

JAKE

You can't plant all of New Jersey. Not on your paycheck.

ALIESHA

I'm only planting the ugly parts. Marigolds for the highway exits, petunias and violets for the city lots – I'd really like to do delphiniums but they are too expensive.

JAKE

You've already spent close to two hundred dollars/

ALIESHA

Three hundred. And I've barely made a dent.

JAKE

The cupboards are bare – you know that. We're living like Old Mother Hubbard who went to the cupboard to give her poor dog a bone. But when she was there, the cupboard was bare and so the dog had none.

ALIESHA

We don't have a dog.

JAKE

We don't have a bone.

ALIESHA  
We don't need a bone.

JAKE  
We need ... cereal!

ALIESHA  
Can you help get these plants in/

JAKE  
Milk! Coffee! Please, Aliesha – the deal was I paid the rent and you paid for food and there's no food. Or drink. No caffeine. I need my caffeine.

ALIESHA  
Are you going to help?

JAKE  
You're serious – you're going to spend your entire paycheck on plants for New Jersey?

ALIESHA  
I'm taking a stand! Wish-washy Aliesha is finally committing to something. I will make New Jersey "the Garden State" in reality. Down with meaningless license plate slogans! Up with truth and beauty!

JAKE  
How about making New Jersey "the food state?" I need food! I'm crumbling.

ALIESHA  
Jake! That's brilliant! I could make New Jersey the "Vegetable Garden State!" Then we can come to the city lots and pick our food. We'll be gatherers. And we'll feed the state!

JAKE  
Can bacon be a part of the equation? Can you grow bacon?

ALIESHA  
Kale! Healthy and ornamental kale! The garden shop's a few blocks away. Do you have any money? Kale's about \$3.99 per plant.

(ALIESHA exits and JAKE follows.)

JAKE  
Not kale! Please Alicia! Anything but kale!

END OF PLAY

