

California – Don't Pet the Seals!

CAST: 2 (any gender)

Brighton (any gender); 11-13; savvy about seals

Hollis (any gender); 11-13; a seal-novice

TIME: Today

PLACE: San Francisco – at any of the sites where seals congregate

SYNOPSIS: What the title says – you shouldn't pet the seals.

TAGS: Comedy, wildlife, friendship

(LIGHTS UP on HOLLIS peering down a slope at some seals.)

HOLLIS

Here...little seal... what's your name? Splash? Bubbles? Sparky? You're so sweet. Can I pet you?

(BRIGHTON appears.)

BRIGHTON

Stop!

HOLLIS

Don't scare him/

(HOLLIS keeps advancing.)

BRIGHTON

/Her/

HOLLIS

/Whatever/

BRIGHTON

/Don't!/

HOLLIS

/Shh!/

BRIGHTON

HALT! Or I'll throw a rock at you.

HOLLIS

That's not very neighborly.

BRIGHTON

Neighborly? Who talks like that? Get back here.

HOLLIS

And if I don't?

BRIGHTON

You'll get bit. And I'll have to call an ambulance. I hope you have health insurance.

HOLLIS

I just want to pet him ... her. Look at that face. Those soulful eyes. It's just like my stuffy that I carried around for years.

BRIGHTON

I had a Teddy Bear. It doesn't mean I'm looking to pet a real bear.

HOLLIS

Back home, we used to go see a show with Sparky the Seal at the zoo. She was very friendly.

BRIGHTON

She was bribed with lots of fish to be friendly.

HOLLIS

I just/

BRIGHTON

/Come back now!

HOLLIS

It's fine!

BRIGHTON

No!

HOLLIS

I just want to be her friend.

BRIGHTON

Friend?

HOLLIS

I don't/

BRIGHTON

/I'll/

/Have any/ HOLLIS

/I said/ BRIGHTON

/I just/ HOLLIS

/Listen to me! BRIGHTON

/Moved/ HOLLIS

/I'm your friend/ BRIGHTON

/Here. What? HOLLIS

I'm your friend. BRIGHTON

Why? HOLLIS

BRIGHTON
Because you need one. And you're going to get yourself killed by California wildlife if I don't help you. Whaddya say?

Okay. HOLLIS

Good. Now get away from the seal. BRIGHTON

(HOLLIS joins BRIGHTON.)

I'm Hollis. HOLLIS

Brighton. Nice to meet you. BRIGHTON

END OF PLAY

