

*The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine* by Leah Cherniak, Martha Ross & Robert Morgan

ERNESTINE: Ernest, you're right. I should apologize. Will you forgive me? It's just that I feel so inadequate next to you. That was terrible how I Came home in such a mousey way. It's just so hard to measure up to your dramatics. Can I do it again, sweetie? This time I promise I'll be more like Liz Taylor. Oh, Ernest, let's make a movie of it! That'll be fun. We'll put the cameras out there, and the lights over by the tissue box. Oh, you'll love this Ernest, because you'll get to say, "you hate me, don't you? Don't you?", just like you did before. It's so exciting being greeted like that! Quiet on the set!! We'll call the movie "King Tut Ernest and his 210 Commandments." QUIET ON THE SET!!! Lights, camera, action. King Tut Ernest, alone on his mountaintop, looks down on his empire and feels sad because one of his subjects disobeyed his rule about leaving the teabags in the teapot Just then, *his* most pathetic wife, Queen Ernestine, enters *his* chamber. I'm going to have to rehearse this a little bit sweetie, I'm just a stupid wife, not a great actor like you. I look up at you, feeling sick, sick with guilt, because it was me, I admit it, it was me who left the teabags in the teapot! I crawl to you no, no, no, no, no crawling is too good for me, I slither to you on my belly, like the worm that I really am-if I could get any lower. I throw myself into your arms, begging for forgiveness. What do you want me to do now, King Tut Ernest? I'll do anything, anything. What do you want me to do now?!