



Ken

From *Red*

By John Logan

Age Range: Young Adult, Adult

Style: Dramatic, Contemporary

Monologue:

“You know, not everything has to be so goddamn IMPORTANT all the time! Not every painting has to rip your guts out and expose your soul! Not everyone wants art that actually HURTS! Sometimes you just want a fucking still life or landscape or soup can or comic book! Which you might learn if you ever actually left your goddamn hermetically-sealed submarine here with all the windows closed and no natural light – BECAUSE NATURAL LIGHT ISN’T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU! But then nothing is ever good enough for you! Not even the people who buy your pictures! Museums are nothing but mausoleums, galleries are run by pimps and swindlers, and art collectors are nothing but shallow social-climbers. So who is good enough to own your art?! Anyone?! Or maybe the real question is: who’s good enough to even see your art? . . . Is it just possible no one is worthy to look at your paintings? . . . That’s it, isn’t it? . . . We have all been weighed in the balance and have been found wanting. You say you spend your life in search of real human beings, people who can look at your pictures with compassion. But in your heart you no longer believe those people exist. . . So you lose faith. . . So you lose hope. . . So black swallows red. My friend, I don’t think you’d recognize a real human being if he were standing right in front of you.”

Play Synopsis:

"Red" by John Logan is a play about the renowned abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko and his young assistant, Ken, during the late 1950s, as Rothko works on a commission for the Four Seasons restaurant. The play explores their intense relationship as they grapple with artistic integrity, commercialism, and the meaning of art, delving into Rothko's struggles with ambition, vulnerability, and the impact of his work.

Read the Play Here:

<https://www.studocu.com/en-us/document/sam-houston-state-university/acting-i/red-script-dps/98441688>