

*(As lights dim here, LEIF leaves the table and walks downstage. A pin spot comes up on him as he stands with his back to the audience, facing upstage. We hear the sound of a toilet flush. Then he “zips up” and turns to address the audience. Perhaps he mimes washing and drying his hands as he speaks.)*

START

---

LEIF. What I find works best with a big puzzle like this is not going too long with any one particular strategy. It's better to be just a little scattershot, you know? Work on the border for a while, then shift to some really bright and colorful spot that won't be too hard to bring together. After that, move over to a large, single-color area and hone in on how the shape of the pieces fit together. To me, it kind of breaks up the monotony. Otherwise, it gets to be a pretty long slog. All you can see stretched out in front of you is hours and hours of puzzle-working. And that can be a little discouraging. So, I'd say go for those little triumphs like Mattie with that girl on the piazza. I guess she's got the little-girl strategy going. Hey, whatever works for you, right?

END

---

*(LEIF returns to the rec room as lights come up here. ALTHEA and MATTIE are dabbing at the table and at individual puzzle pieces with a stray cloth.)*

What happened?

ALTHEA. We had a little accident.

MATTIE. *(Embarrassed.)* I knocked over my lemonade.

ALTHEA. There was hardly anything left in the glass, sweetie.

MATTIE. The pieces are going to be sticky.

ALTHEA. It's going to be fine. We'll wet a couple of paper towels and every time our hand falls on a sticky piece we'll just give it a little wiping while we're thinking