

# Evolution

a short play by  
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SYNOPSIS: Frid and Nella are primitive creatures, low on the food chain. Frid has the brilliant idea of evolving into a larger size, so as to become master of the Earth. But is bigger necessarily better when it comes to world domination? Nella doesn't think so.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

FRID, male mammal  
NELLA, female mammal  
OTTO, male reptile

*Note: The sexes given above for the three characters are only suggestions; in a production each can be portrayed as any gender.*

*Scene: A jungle, sometime in the early Paleocene Epoch*

*At lights up, FRID sits on a tree branch (which may simply be implied) looking ahead thoughtfully. NELLA enters. Both of them are small furry tree-dwelling creatures, but this too may be implied.*

NELLA

Frid! What are you doing?

FRID

Thinking.

NELLA

What? There's no time for thinking. We've got stuff to do.

FRID

Like what?

NELLA

Like hunting, killing and eating.

FRID

I don't feel like doing that just now.

NELLA

Don't feel like doing that? Frid, we're warm-blooded. Do you know what that means? We have to maintain a body temperature that's considerably warmer than that of our environment in order to stay alive. This means that we must eat a much larger amount of food than cold-blooded animals of a similar body size.

FRID

I know that, Nella.

NELLA

Then stop lying around, and join me in getting some food! Rumor has it that there are some tasty grubs in the big lumpy tree by the river. We should get there before everyone else does.

FRID

It's just-- Do you ever think, Is this all there is to life? Chasing down food and eating it?

NELLA

Yes. I think about that a lot, actually. I think, Thank God (whatever *that* is) there's nothing more to life than getting and eating food.

FRID

It just seems to me that there should be more.

NELLA

Oh, and sex, of course, but only in season. Can you imagine being sexually active all through the year? It would be so distracting!

FRID

But don't you have any kind of ambition?

NELLA

What do you mean?

FRID

Well, remember the dinosaurs?

NELLA

The what?

FRID

Dinosaurs. You know, those titanic creatures who used to walk the earth, keeping us in constant mortal terror, and forcing us to retreat into the trees for our own safety, leaving them undisputed masters of the earth.

NELLA

Oh, *those* dinosaurs!

FRID

Remember? There was this big explosion, and then the sky turned gray with ash, and all the dinosaurs died, just like *that*. (*Snaps his fingers.*)

NELLA

Actually, I think it took a couple of centuries.

FRID

Well, in geological terms...

NELLA

So, what's your point?

FRID

My point is that with the dinosaurs gone, there's a power vacuum. Right now, no one is master of the Earth. Well, why not us?

NELLA

Um. 'Cause we're tiny insect-eating tree dwellers?

FRID

Well, who says we have to be like that forever? We could grow big.

NELLA

We could? How?

FRID

We could evolve.

NELLA

What does that mean?

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