to settle this question for real and for once and for all — let's get someone else in here, someone who doesn't care about the results, and put the needle in his eye and see what he sees.

ISAAC.

ROBERT.
You've come up with an experiment.
Do you have faith in your experiment?
That it can be replicated?
(Catherine enters.)
CATHHERINE.

ROBERT.

ISAAC.
Here's your tonic.
CATHHERINE.

ROBERT.
(To Isaac.)
Well? What do you say?
Do we put your test to the test?
ISAAC.
... Yeah.
ROBERT.
Yes?
ISAAC.
Yeah.
ROBERT.
It's a deal.
Tomorrow.
We'll do this tomorrow.
I am going now.
I am going to take care of finding a third person for the test, yes?
ISAAC.
Okay.

ROBERT.
Cool. We'll be in touch.
(Beat, looks at Catherine, then back at Isaac.)
Good meeting both of you.
... Good night.
(Robert goes to leave.)
CATHHERINE.
Don't forget your tonic.
ROBERT.
Yes.
Goodnight.
(Robert takes the tonic and leaves.)
ACTOR.

Scene Four.
CATHHERINE.
I don't like him.
ISAAC.
He's not so bad.
CATHHERINE.
I don't trust him.
ISAAC.
I do.
CATHHERINE.
You're a terrible judge of people.
You think everyone's your enemy,
but then you think he's your friend?
You think he's trying to help you out?
ISAAC.
He is.
CATHHERINE.
He is?
ISAAC.
He is.
CATHHERINE.
So he's getting you into the Royal Society.
ISAAC.

CATHHERINE.
Is he getting you into the Royal Society?
ISAAC.
Maybe?
CATHARINE.
“Maybe”’s not “yes.”
ISAAC.
Maybe is “maybe yes.”
CATHARINE.
Maybe yes depending on what?
ISAAC.
He wants to try out one of my ideas.
If I’m right, I get in.
CATHARINE.
ISAAC.
It turns out that we have been doing similar work —
CATHARINE.
How do you know that he’s not going to take your work
and your ideas
and your notes
and claim them as his own?
ISAAC.
CATHARINE.
You sent him your papers, and he’s had those for
how many weeks now?
How do you know he hasn’t gone and copied everything
and is ready to claim it as his own?
ISAAC.
Why would he have come out here if that’s what he wanted to do?
CATHARINE.
To make you think and say exactly what you just thought and said.
ISAAC.
CATHARINE.
So you told him that there was an experiment that you did,
and he’s going to do it too,
and if he gets the same result,
you’ll be admitted into the Royal Society.
ISAAC.
Yeah.
CATHARINE.
And then what’s the plan?
ISAAC.
The plan?
CATHARINE.
I mean, you get into the Royal Society, we move to London,
right?
ISAAC.
Yeah.
CATHARINE.
And once we’re there, I’m guessing you don’t want to come back.
ISAAC.
No.
CATHARINE.
Then we have things to figure out.
ISAAC.
Yeah. That’s true. We’ll have things to figure out.
CATHARINE.
We should talk about that.
ISAAC.
There will be time to talk.
CATHARINE.
Not really. There are things we’ll need to do, things that take time.
I have a shop. I have the apothecary to worry about.
I need to figure out if I’m selling it or if I’m going to have a cousin
come in and take it over.
It’s going to be complicated.
ISAAC.
Yeah, I guess …
CATHARINE.
And then there’s the wedding.
ISAAC.
Oh … we need to think about that too?
CATHARINE.
If we’re going to London and not coming back …
ISAAC.
CATHARINE.
We probably want to get married here.
We have family here. Your mother is here.
This is our home. We should marry here.
We should probably marry before we relocate to London.
ISAAC.

CATHERINE.
And if we're marrying here, I just wonder why should we wait.
Why later and not sooner?
ISAAC.
We're waiting to see if I get into the Royal Society.
CATHERINE.
But why? Why would that matter?
If we want to marry, we marry, right?
ISAAC.
... I don't think I've even proposed yet.
CATHERINE.
You said you want me to come to London with you.
ISAAC.
Sure.
CATHERINE.
So what does that mean?
ISAAC.
It means ... I like you.
And ...
CATHERINE.
Are you saying you don't want to get married?
ISAAC.
I'm not saying that.
CATHERINE.
Then what are you saying?
ISAAC.

CATHERINE.
... I listened.
ISAAC.
You listened?
CATHERINE.
I listened.
ISAAC.
To what?

CATHERINE.
You.
And Robert.
Talking.
ISAAC.

CATHERINE.
The apothecary is across the street, how long do you think it takes to grab a bottle of tonic?
ISAAC.
... What did you hear?
CATHERINE.
A lot.
I know that you applied to Trinity College for a fellowship.
ISAAC.
What's wrong with that?
CATHERINE.
It's a fellowship.
And I know that fellows aren't allowed to marry.
ISAAC.
Fellows marry.
CATHERINE.
They're bachelors of science.
ISAAC.
And when they retire, they marry.
CATHERINE.
You're asking me to wait 20-30 years to be married to you.
I might be dead by then.
ISAAC.
Not necessarily.
CATHERINE.
And until then?
ISAAC.
We do what we do.
CATHERINE.
What do we do?
ISAAC.
This.
CATHERINE.
What is this?
ISAAC.
I see you everyday.
We talk.
I tell you what I did.
You tell me what you did.
If I'm feeling crappy, then we talk about that.
And if you're feeling crappy, then we can talk about that too.
Isn't that what marriage is?
It's that, right?
CATHERINE.
And what about kids?
ISAAC.
What about them?
CATHERINE.
What about kids?
We're not going to have kids, if we're not married, that's not gonna fly, if you're a fellow at Trinity, we're not having kids.
ISAAC.

CATHERINE.
Also, I'm just going to point this out, if you get the fellowship at Trinity, they're gonna make you swear allegiance to the church, to the church that believes everything you're against.
What would happen if they ever found those hundreds of pages of writing you have hidden away?
The corrections you've made to the Bible.
People don't like it when people correct the Bible.
You'd lose everything.
ISAAC.
But ... but if I can get into the Royal Society, make a name for myself, then I won't need the fellowship.
CATHERINE.
If.
ISAAC.
If, yes. If the experiment tomorrow goes okay. If it goes like it's supposed to go, like it goes when it goes in my head.

CATHERINE.
That's a big "if."
ISAAC.
Depends on whether or not you believe I know what I know.
CATHERINE.
Let me make sure I understand this.
You think that sticking a needle into someone's eye —
ISAAC.
Tear duct —
CATHERINE.
And bending the eye could possibly show that light is made of particles.
ISAAC.
Yeah.
CATHERINE.
And you told Robert that you did this.
ISAAC.
Uh-huh.
CATHERINE.
But you never did that experiment on yourself, did you.
ISAAC.

CATHERINE.
You didn't. I know you. You would never do that to yourself.
ISAAC.
No.
CATHERINE.
So you lied to him.
ISAAC.
He started grilling me about particles and light and I had an idea about something that could work, that proves that light is made of particles.
CATHERINE.
But you don't know that.
So when it turns out you're wrong.
ISAAC.
How do you know I'll be wrong?
CATHERINE.
How do you know you'll be right?