

SUPERIOR DONUTS by Tracy Letts / **side 5**
PROUD BLACK MAN

Side for ARTHUR and FRANCO

FRANCO. You don't believe me.

ARTHUR. Hm?

FRANCO. That I wrote the Great American Novel. You don't believe me.

ARTHUR. No, I believe you.

FRANCO. You don't sound like you believe me.

ARTHUR. Why wouldn't I believe you?

FRANCO. I don't know why you wouldn't believe me. Maybe you're a racist.

ARTHUR. I could not believe you and still not be a racist.

FRANCO. So you don't believe me.

ARTHUR. I didn't say that.

FRANCO. Are you a racist?

ARTHUR. No. I mean, I don't think so. I mean, I hope not. I mean, probably not, but ... you know.

(Franco stares at him.) I hired you didn't I?

FRANCO. Scoot over, Lincoln, make room on the penny.

ARTHUR. Hoo-boy.

FRANCO. You think I can't write the Great American Novel 'cause I'm a black man.

ARTHUR. No, of course not. *(Franco stares at him.)* Of course not.

FRANCO. Then why haven't you asked to read it?

ARTHUR. I -

FRANCO. Mm-hm.

ARTHUR. Let me read it.

FRANCO. Yeah, right.

ARTHUR. No. I want to read it.

FRANCO. No, you don't

ARTHUR. Please let me read it.

FRANCO. Hell, no.

ARTHUR. Why not?

FRANCO. You wouldn't understand it.

ARTHUR. Is it in English?

FRANCO. You wouldn't get a lot out of my book, Arthur P. I just mean, you know ... you run a donut shop.

ARTHUR. Okay.

FRANCO. Don't take it that way. I *work* in a donut shop, so that's why you don't hear me going on about writing the Great American Novel.

ARTHUR. You mean you haven't been going on about writing the Great American Novel?

FRANCO. Don't get me started.

ARTHUR. You mean you haven't started?

FRANCO. I can talk about this book *all* goddamn day.

ARTHUR. C'mon, hand it over. I won't criticize.

FRANCO. I don't care about that.

ARTHUR. Then hand it over.

FRANCO. Why you hasslin' me about my book?

ARTHUR. You brought it up.

FRANCO. And then you started hasslin' me about it.

ARTHUR. I'm asking to read it.

FRANCO. 'Cause it's be nice to a Negro week?

ARTHUR. You said I *didn't* want to read it 'cause you're black.

FRANCO. And now the only reason you want to read it is 'cause I'm black.

ARTHUR. I don't care that you're black!

FRANCO. Well you should. *Proud* black man.