

thing without envisioning the time I will cast it aside. This I think is a healthy state of mind. Almost everything I have now has already been cast out at least once, proving that I own is value-

less to someone.

Anyway, I find my desire to grab for the gaudy bauble has been largely sated. I think this is an attitude I share with the very wealthy—we both know there is plenty more where what we have came from. Between us are the rat-race millions who nightly scavenge the cable channels looking for they know not what.

I am sorry for them.

This has not quite converted me to a dualist<sup>3</sup>, but it has made some headway in that direction. I do not suppose that ideas are immortal, but certainly material things are longer lived than other material things.

Once I was the sort of person who invests objects with sentimental value.

Now I no longer have those objects, but I have the sentiments yet.

Many times in our travels I have lost everything but the clothes I was wearing and Lizbeth. The things I find in Dumpsters, the love letters and rag dolls of so many lives, remind me of this lesson. Now I hardly pick up a

<sup>2</sup>transience Quality of being temporary or short lived.  
<sup>3</sup>dualist One who believes that substances are either material or mental.

## Understanding and Reviewing the Reading

1. Background information According to Eighner, what stages do people go through before becoming "professional" Dumpster divers?
2. Detail What risks associated with Dumpster diving does the author mention?
3. Main point What lessons does Eighner reveal about his experiences?