

Vinko Möderndorfer

EXERCISES IN ANXIETY

A PLAY ABOUT CONTEMPORARY LIFE

(Translation: Erica Johnson Debeljak)

Winner of the Grum Award 2011, Slovenia

The stage is empty. Only an item here or there that defines a certain scene, a certain atmosphere. No scenographic or theatrical paraphernalia. Only the necessities: a chair, a table, a bed, a machine part, a leather couch, the lights of a bus, a pile of hay, a neon sign, the schedule from a bus station, etc.

Fragments of a world.

The transitions between scenes should be quick. There should only be short musical accents between them.

The play must be in no way flat or one-dimensional, but should rather present a series of pictures from life. The pictures should be realistic, simple, forceful, and cruel.

The dialogs are written without excessive stage directions, no descriptions of the atmosphere or the setting. The play deals above all with simple and bare psychological relationships between people who are tossed about in the ruthless world of economic and human circumstances that we all know too well.

Some roles can be played by the same actors.

The distribution of roles can vary.

POLICE OFFICER also SECURITY GUARD

GIRL

ŠEFIKA

EMIR

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

OLDER WORKER

YOUNGER WORKER

DAUGHTER

WOMAN

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

YOUNGER MAN IN A SUIT

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

MUSIC FROM CD PLAYER

Scene one

In an empty barn.

POLICE OFFICER

Will you be all right?

GIRL

Just yesterday it was full.

POLICE OFFICER

Yes.

GIRL

And warm.

POLICE OFFICER

Sanitation workers carted everything away.

GIRL

He could have born in a barn like this.

POLICE OFFICER

Who?

GIRL

Because it's always warm in a manger.

POLICE OFFICER

Oh! *Him!*

GIRL

Only the manger was smaller.

POLICE OFFICER

Yes.

GIRL

And there was a star shining in the sky. And he wasn't alone.

POLICE OFFICER

That's the way it looks. But those are only figurines...

GIRL

There were twenty cows in here.

POLICE OFFICER

They carried them out with a forklift.

GIRL

And he was alone.

POLICE OFFICER

Yes.

GIRL

But *he* was not alone. He had his mother and father with him. And three kings.

POLICE OFFICER

That's what the book says. Yes.

Silence.

GIRL

Who will pay?

POLICE OFFICER

For what?

GIRL

For the sanitation workers to take all the cows away?

POLICE OFFICER

I don't know.

Silence.

GIRL

Why didn't he sell them instead?

POLICE OFFICER

Are you going to be all right?

GIRL

He didn't want anything to remain after he was gone.

POLICE OFFICER

I haven't been working in this job very long.

GIRL

How old are you?

POLICE OFFICER

Me?

GIRL

I'm nineteen.

POLICE OFFICER

Twenty-two.

GIRL

The uniform makes you look older.

POLICE OFFICER

And it's the first time I've seen ...

GIRL

That many dead cows piled up ...

POLICE OFFICER

A dead person.

GIRL

Not me.

POLICE OFFICER

But dead in such a terrible way.

GIRL

My mother passed a month ago. It took a long time. That's why he couldn't take it anymore.

Silence.

POLICE OFFICER

Will you be all right?

GIRL

I'll become a seamstress.

POLICE OFFICER

What will you have in here now that there are no more cows?

Silence.

GIRL

I can take care of myself.

POLICE OFFICER

You don't have anyone else? Brother? Sister? Other relatives?

GIRL

I do. I have a lot of relatives. The house won't be empty.

POLICE OFFICER

Fine. Then I'll go. Be careful not to slip...

GIRL

I'll clean this up.

POLICE OFFICER

My boss did. He fell right on his butt and onto his back. It's hard to get the blood out. We have to take care of our own uniforms. He went fucking crazy. Excuse my language.

GIRL

I'll rinse it down with a hose.

POLICE OFFICER

I'm going now.

Silence.

POLICE OFFICER

Oh yeah! I have orders, the gun, the pneumatic piston rod—I think that's what it's called—the thing for slaughtering beef. I have to take it with me. When the investigation is over, I mean, when it's clear that your father did it to himself, after he finished off the cows... That's why they sent me in here, to tell you... The thing, the piston rod or whatever it is, we'll return it. It's equipment, after all. Maybe you'll need it again, if you get more cows. Are you sure you're going to be all right?

Scene two

In a factory. Behind a big hydraulic press.

The Older and Younger Workers lay metal sheets on the press. Making a characteristic sound, the press is lowered onto the sheets, transforming it into automobile parts.

Scene three

In an office.

ŠEFIKA

I have children.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

It doesn't look like it.

ŠEFIKA

School is starting.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Unbelievable, how fast summer passes!

ŠEFIKA

I have two children.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I have one. His name is Joško.

ŠEFIKA

Amir and Jasmina. Eight and seven.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Mine starts school next year.

ŠEFIKA

I love them very much.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Children are precious.

ŠEFIKA

Amir says he wants to be a pilot.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Our Joško doesn't say anything like that. No! I'm wrong. The other day he said he wanted to be a garbage man. He thinks its great that garbage men get to ride on the back of the truck.

ŠEFIKA

What do kids know?

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

That's true enough.

ŠEFIKA

They don't understand anything.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Completely innocent.

ŠEFIKA

Guilty of nothing.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You can say that again!

Silence.

ŠEFIKA

They don't know why the world is so...

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Yes.

ŠEFIKA

Even if you tried to explain to them...

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Better not.

ŠEFIKA

... that things aren't always fair.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Like in fairytales.

ŠEFIKA

They would think I was lying.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

They would rather not believe it.

ŠEFIKA

As long as they can.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Yes.

Silence.

ŠEFIKA

And then?

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Yes?

ŠEFIKA

Can I ask you something?

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Go ahead.

Silence.

ŠEFIKA

Should I come back tomorrow?

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

No.

Scene four

In a gym.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

Next exercise. The lotus position. Then slowly shift into the *greeting the sun* position. And inhale.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Inhale.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

And exhale.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Exhale.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

We stay in this position for some time. Head back. We need to feel the line between our eyes, flowing down the nape of the neck, down the spine, the outside of our extended thighs, down to our heels. We feel line an arrow being shot toward the sun.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Toward the sun.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

This exercise gives us the strength to overcome daily difficulties. With this exercise, we obtain the necessary energy we need to survive and keep fighting.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Keep fighting.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

Greeting the sun fills us with the energy of success. And inhale.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Inhale.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

And exhale.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Exhale.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

We will succeed.

GIRL IN A TRACKSUIT

I will succeed!

Scene five

In a factory. Behind the big hydraulic press.

YOUNGER WORKER

Watch out!

OLDER WORKER

I'm sorry. I was thinking.

YOUNGER WORKER

What do have to think about?

OLDER WORKER

Thirty years ...

YOUNGER WORKER

It would be stupid to have an accident now.

OLDER WORKER

You get compensation.

YOUNGER WORKER

But you say goodbye to your fingers.

OLDER WORKER

I don't need them anymore.

YOUNGER WORKER

Don't fucking kid around.

OLDER WORKER

I'm not.

YOUNGER WORKER

Especially you, who trained me.

OLDER WORKER

Yes, I remember.

YOUNGER WORKER

Five years.

OLDER WORKER

As if it were yesterday.

YOUNGER WORKER

It's been five years already.

OLDER WORKER

You had two left hands.

YOUNGER WORKER

I was terrified.

OLDER WORKER

I said to my wife: *That one's gonna lose his fingers before the years's out.*

YOUNGER WORKER

You hit my hand with a wooden board.

OLDER WORKER

I didn't think there was any other way you'd remember.

YOUNGER WORKER

And I did remember.

OLDER WORKER

If you put your hand too close, it'll get crushed under twelve thousand kilos.

YOUNGER WORKER

It wouldn't even hurt.

OLDER WORKER

You'd be left with only your wrist.

YOUNGER WORKER

That's why the board hurt even more.

OLDER WORKER

But you remembered

YOUNGER WORKER

Even now it still burns if I put my hand too close.

Silence.

OLDER WORKER

Hands for work. Thirty years of work.

YOUNGER WORKER

Watch out! You got too close again!

OLDER WORKER

I have a routine.

YOUNGER WORKER

It scares me when you get so close.

OLDER WORKER

The machine would stop.

YOUNGER WORKER

It would, yeah.

OLDER WORKER

For half an hour.

YOUNGER WORKER

Long enough to take you away.

OLDER WORKER

And to clean up.

YOUNGER WORKER

I wouldn't. I'd press two, three plates and it would be clean again.

OLDER WORKER

They get cleaned at the end of the day anyway.

YOUNGER WORKER

They wouldn't need to be cleaned.

OLDER WORKER

It would be a waste of time.

YOUNGER WORKER

Half hour stoppage, one part every eight seconds. Eight goes into sixty, seven and a half times. Round down to seven, times thirty. So because of your crushed fingers and the half hour stoppage, two hundred and twenty...we would be two hundred and twenty hoods behind.

OLDER WORKER

They'd take it out of our pay.

YOUNGER WORKER

That they would.

OLDER WORKER

It's a good thing we wouldn't have to pay for the cleaning.

YOUNGER WORKER

They'd take it right out of your flesh.

OLDER WORKER

That they would.

YOUNGER WORKER

At least you'd have your wrists.

Scene six**In a club.**

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I thought they wouldn't let us smoke in here.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

They not supposed to. They can get their license taken away.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Is it the real thing?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Havana.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

It's thick.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And hard.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

The way it has to be.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Yeah. Hard and erect!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Obviously.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

It's obvious to you. But when you're my age, it won't be so *obvious* anymore.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

What do you mean?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Hard and erect.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I understand.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You understand, my ass!

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

That's what they told us in the army. The good old armada. *I understand, comrade lieutenant.*
And he would say: *You understand, my ass!* You weren't in the army so you have no idea.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

You're probably right.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You're missing something.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

You think so?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Yeah. You know. Is it good?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Superb!

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

If you hold the smoke in your mouth, you can sense the aroma. Rum, sugar, warmth, steam, pepper, the closeness of the skin. They roll them between their thighs, you know. Young black girls roll them up their naked thighs, from their knees to their pussies. It's interesting that the best cigars are still made in a communist state.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Interesting.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Ruthless. That's what you have to be. And you learn that in the army.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I wasn't in the army.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Not in a war either.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I was in the first grade then. I hardly existed.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

The war hardly existed. But you can't say that to anyone. Everyone says it did. But it was just a long weekend of armed conflict. It was important. I mean things really started to happen for us after that so-called war.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yeah?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

All of this. This club. These cigars. These differences. That we can smoke and others can't.
That the laws protect me, but the fuck with you. You understand?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I understand.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You understand, my ass!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I understand.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Do you know why I invited you?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

You're going to tell me.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Because you have a beautiful girlfriend.

Scene seven

In a kitchen.

DAUGHTER

Can I have mother's silver service?

OLDER WORKER

Take it.

DAUGHTER

Is it complete?

OLDER WORKER

I guess so.

DAUGHTER

What about the lace tablecloths?

OLDER WORKER

Okay.

DAUGHTER

They might be worth something.

OLDER WORKER

Some of them are from your grandmother.

Silence.

DAUGHTER

Is there anything else?

OLDER WORKER

A hundred years.

DAUGHTER

If it weren't urgent, I wouldn't take anything.

OLDER WORKER

If you need it, you need it.

Silence.

DAUGHTER

Is there anything else?

OLDER WORKER

Mother's clothes.

DAUGHTER

Nobody would want those rags.

OLDER WORKER

She looked good in them.

DAUGHTER

I'm sorry.

OLDER WORKER

Never mind.

Silence.

DAUGHTER

I'll take them. Every euro comes in handy.

OLDER WORKER

You can always give them to the Red Cross.

Silence.

DAUGHTER

There really isn't anything else?

OLDER WORKER

A photo album.

DAUGHTER

I already took my pictures out.

OLDER WORKER

The rug.

DAUGHTER

I don't know.

OLDER WORKER

In the kitchen...

DAUGHTER

I looked.

Silence.

OLDER WORKER

What about her rings?

DAUGHTER

Did you take them off?

OLDER WORKER

They said I should. All metal things, dental bridges, screws put into the bones, rings...

They said that all of that doesn't burn, that it doesn't turn into ashes. So I took them.

Silence.

DAUGHTER

No.

OLDER WORKER

I'll give you both.

DAUGHTER

We'll keep the rings for a rainy day.

Silence.

DAUGHTER

What about that armoire?

OLDER WORKER

I don't know if it's worth anything.

DAUGHTER

It looks rustic.

OLDER WORKER

It was part of your mother's dowry.

DAUGHTER

I'll take a picture of it.

OLDER WORKER

She used to keep diapers folded in it.

DAUGHTER

Do you know you can take pictures with a telephone.

OLDER WORKER

And then documents.

DAUGHTER

One euro! A telephone and a camera.

OLDER WORKER

Her last medical results are still in there.

DAUGHTER

I'll go take a picture of it.

OLDER WORKER

Your mother loved it.

Scene eight

In an office.

ŠEFIKA

I came.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Two children?

ŠEFIKA

Yes.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I have the memory of a hawk.

ŠEFIKA

Amir and Jasmina. Eight and seven.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Is that the saying?

ŠEFIKA

Amir and Jasmina.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

The memory of a hawk. Or is the memory of something else? A different phrase. I have the memory of... of what?

ŠEFIKA

I don't know.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Did you forget?

ŠEFIKA

I never knew.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

It doesn't matter. All that matters is that I know who you are.

ŠEFIKA

School started last month.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Joško doesn't go yet. He was so sad. All the other kids on our street started school.

ŠEFIKA

They cried.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Because they have to go to school?

ŠEFIKA

Not because of that.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You mustn't spoil them. I don't spoil Joško. I prepare him for a difficult life.

ŠEFIKA

I hide from them when they cry. I lock myself into the bathroom until they fall asleep.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You'll teach them to hide from difficult things.

ŠEFIKA

Times are hard.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You think I don't know that? I sit in this hole from nine to eight. They knock every five minutes. I'm a nice guy. Do you know how it tires me out? You have no idea how just smiling tires you out. And then, when it's over, when there's no more knocking on the door, I have to clean up. I pick up a broom and sweep. I empty the garbage can. I air the place out, wipe

away the dust, and water the flowers once a week. That's what I've learned to do. Everyone has to clean up after himself. That's what you were paid for, Nevenka.

ŠEFIKA

Šefika.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Šefika?

ŠEFIKA

That's my name.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Two kids?

ŠEFIKA

Amir and Jasmina.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Exactly. Nevenka doesn't have any.

ŠEFIKA

No.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I'm amazed that I mixed you two up.

ŠEFIKA

We work the same shift.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Because you're completely different. She's a blond.

ŠEFIKA

You didn't fire her.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

No.

ŠEFIKA

She's younger.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I don't remember.

ŠEFIKA

She doesn't have children.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

That's right.

ŠEFIKA

She doesn't have to feed children.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

If she doesn't have any.

ŠEFIKA

Her husband has a job.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Maybe.

ŠEFIKA

She'll manage.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

She's a good worker.

ŠEFIKA

With one salary you can manage.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Yes.

ŠEFIKA

It's not fair.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

No, it's not.

Scene nine

In a factory. Behind a big hydraulic press.

The Older and Younger Workers place metal sheets into the hydraulic press. The press, making its characteristic noise, shapes the metal into automobile parts.

Scene ten

In a gym.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

The next exercise is one of the most important in tantric yoga. It is a position that purifies the interior of our bodies. First we kneel. We round our back, head back, hands falling loose next to our bodies. We should not feel any kind of anxiety.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

No anxiety.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

We breathe. Evenly. We relax the head, neck, and shoulders. We stretch out our hands and gently touch our knee with the tip of our middle finger. The circle is now complete. Bad energy flows from our bodies.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Bad energy.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

We breathe. We feel it flowing out of our bodies like water. Uncertainty.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Uncertainty.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

Fear.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Fear.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

Anxiety.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Anxiety.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

We will succeed. We will be the best.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I will succeed! I will be the best!

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

Nothing can stop us.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Nothing can stop me!

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

We breathe.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I breathe!

Scene eleven

In a club.

OLDER MAN IN A SUIT

Thirty years old.

YOUNGER MAN IN A SUIT

It really is good.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

A good cognac always goes with a good cigar.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

You have good taste.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

The fuck I have good taste.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I mean you know what's good.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I have money. And if you have money, you always know what's good. And if you have a lot of money, you have a lot of good taste. You think I know cognacs? Bullshit. I just say: *Give me the best you have.* And they say: *That's this and this.* And I say: *Too cheap.* And they say: *What about this?* And I say: *How much?* And they say: *Two thousand.* And I smack my lips and say: *That must be a cognac that is good enough for me.* And then you tell me I have good taste and that I know my cognacs. Bullshit. I know money. Is it good?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Very.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

It's good because it's expensive. Do you want another one?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I don't drink a lot.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Everything you put in yourself, on yourself, under yourself. That's life! Understand?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I do.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You understand, my ass! And you have no idea why I invited you here, why I treated you to the most expensive dinner, with the best cigars, the best cognac.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

No.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Because of the future.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

The future?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Of our company. Don't look at me like I just fucked your mother. Because I have no intention of doing that. How old is she?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Who? My mother? A little over fifty.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

How much over fifty?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

She had me when she was twenty-five. So that makes her fifty-three.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I'm not going to sleep with women my age anymore. I have to take care of the future. Now do you understand?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Am I that future?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Bravo! Sit down. Top marks!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And?

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

What then?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

You have to tell me a little bit more, sir.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Why do you call me sir? We're having a meal together, drinking our second bottle.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I just thought ...

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Don't call me sir.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

That you wanted to talk about the company.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Yes.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And I prefer to be respectful in such situations.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You're a bright kid. You weren't in the army but you're bright all the same.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Thank you, sir.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Don't be so damned polite! I know what you're really thinking. *Don't bug me, old man, just tell me what you've got for me. Something good, I hope. I'll suffer through your boring company, even though I couldn't care less about you. You gave me a job to do sales and now you have some plans for me. I'm going to use you. I'm going to be nice to you because I know I need you. Otherwise the hell with your old sagging balls. If you weren't the owner of the company and of my job, and if I didn't get my palm greased for the work I do, I'd have kicked you on your ass a long time ago.* Isn't that the way it is? Isn't that what you're thinking when you look at me with a cognac in one hand, a cigar in the other?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

No.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

What *no*?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

That's not what I'm thinking.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

What then?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I'm just wondering why you invited me here.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And you're expecting to get something out of me.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I think I do good work.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I have my eyes on you, kid.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I've already learned a lot at the company.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

That's what I like to hear.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I think I've done some good business.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Yes.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I've made a lot of money for you.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

In the last three months, sales have increased by 27.3%. In your department alone, we've earned twice, no, three times what we made in the first quarter. You've also did that thing with the taxes. After I pay expenses, value-added tax, salaries for seven people in your sector, valorization, investment, amortization, have I still made a profit? Ha! A very decent profit, a very decent profit indeed! You've capable, boy, and unselfish. Your proposal about cutting expenses was accepted with much enthusiasm by the board of directors. I could tell by the face of your boss that you were good. He was actually jealous. He wanted to say that it was the success of your department but it was your success. And what strikes me as the best of all is that you didn't flinch, you didn't show with the slightest expression that all of this *ourdepartmentourdepartmentourdepartment* that your boss kept emphasizing at the meeting was all you! Only you! But I know. You see that I know. That's why I invited you to dinner. That's why we're drinking two thousand euro cognac together.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Thank you.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And you'll get a bonus.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I don't understand.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

A reward.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I didn't ...

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

What didn't you do? Don't fuck with me. *I didn't do it for a reward, I didn't do it for a bonus, I don't care about bonuses, I just loooooove to work.* I wasn't born yeasterday kid. All good work deserves its reward. All good work. Even yours, young man!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I'll be pleased with whatever reward you give me, sir.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You'll get your reward in the form of shares in the company.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

What? Why are you looking at me like I just fucked your girlfriend? Did you think you were going to get cash? Oh no! You don't get any cash. You get shares in the company. Then you're an owner.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Fine.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

First a little shareholder and then bigger all the time.

Scene twelve

Bedroom

EMIR

Everything's cold!

ŠEFIKA

The children are sleeping.

EMIR

What do I care!

ŠEFIKA

Where were you?

EMIR

None of your business!

ŠEFIKA

You're drunk.

EMIR

And you're ugly.

ŠEFIKA

Why are you that way?

EMIR

But I'll be sober in the morning.

ŠEFIKA

They've been asking after you.

EMIR

What do I care?

ŠEFIKA

You leave in the morning and come home late at night.

EMIR

I go to work.

ŠEFIKA

Where? A bar?

EMIR

You bitch! I'm trying, can't you see that, you slut!

ŠEFIKA

The children are sleeping!

EMIR

I work all day.

ŠEFIKA

Get undressed

EMIR

And when I come home, what's waiting for me? A nagging woman, a goddamn old whore.

ŠEFIKA

You'll wake them!

EMIR

Everything's cold in the kitchen Cold potatoes!

ŠEFIKA

It's not my fault.

EMIR

Not your fault? What's your fault! Everything's your fault! Without you, I'd have a job, I'd be the boss, I'd take care of myself. You made me what I am.

ŠEFIKA

You're drunk.

EMIR

Why wouldn't I be drunk? Why? You're going to tell me I can't get drunk? What else do I have in life? Cold potatoes, a cold cut in bed, cold hands, cold feet, cold soul. What else do I have?

ŠEFIKA

Two children ...

EMIR

Two fucking children! Whenever they look at me... Whenever... Do you understand you ugly bitch. I'm nothing. I'm nothing to them. Because I can't...

ŠEFIKA

They love you.

EMIR

Well, I hate them!

ŠEFIKA

Don't say that.

EMIR

I hate them, because I see, because I feel, because I'm always to the side, because you're you, because it's cold, because the days are too short, myself in them, because I'm always thirsty, thirsty all the way down my throat, because I'm so stupid, because I don't know anything, because I can't do anything, because I never learned to steal, because I'm not lucky...

Silence.

ŠEFIKA

Lie down. Next to me.

EMIR

Whore! You're trying to trick me again. I didn't even want children.

ŠEFIKA

You cried from happiness when they were born. You invited your friends.

EMIR

Who have forgotten me.

ŠEFIKA

It's not the children's fault.

EMIR

It's your fault!

ŠEFIKA

Come. I'll warm you up.

EMIR

You feel sorry for me.

ŠEFIKA

You're my husband.

EMIR

You pity me.

ŠEFIKA

You're the father of my children.

EMIR

You're a snake!

ŠEFIKA

I'll hug you.

EMIR

I'll kill you.

Emir beats her as hard as he can. With his fists.

ŠEFIKA covers her head with her hands.

ŠEFIKA

Quiet! Quiet! You'll wake the children. You'll wake the children.

Scene thirteen

The train station.

WOMAN

It's not easy.

GIRL

I feel at home on the farm.

WOMAN

There's no guarantee.

GIRL

I'm used to working.

WOMAN

That's what I thought as well.

GIRL

I'm not ashamed.

WOMAN

You should be a little bit.

GIRL

Well, I'm not.

WOMAN

You won't make it without shame.

GIRL

I had a boyfriend.

WOMAN

The only ones who can survive without shame are those who have...

GIRL

Boys.

WOMAN

... everything. Shame means that you exist.

GIRL

We had twenty cows. And bulls.

WOMAN

I'm already tired.

GIRL

I can hardly wait.

WOMAN

You're looking forward to it too much.

GIRL

It's my first job.

WOMAN

It's my last.

GIRL

I'm not going to sew anymore.

WOMAN

I had a classical education.

GIRL

What?

WOMAN

I'm joking.

GIRL

I never joke.

WOMAN

A little joking never hurts. Joking is healthy. Do you know who never jokes?

GIRL

No.

WOMAN

Politicians.

GIRL

I don't care about that stuff. I only voted once.

WOMAN

And in church.

GIRL

I had a bad experience.

WOMAN

With a politician?

GIRL

With a priest. He had bad breath.

WOMAN

Like your clients.

GIRL

He had scales. On his hands. On his feet. On his belly.

WOMAN

It's a question of taste.

GIRL

I hope I never see him again.

WOMAN

I wouldn't be so sure.

GIRL

When do we start?

WOMAN

We already have.

Scene sixteen

In a factory. Behind the hydraulic press.

The Older and Younger workers place metal sheets into the hydraulic press. The press, making its characteristic noise, shapes the metal into automobile parts.

Scene fifteen

In a club.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And then, when you said that you could see, and we were all quiet, the head of your department looked so angry. When you said that you could see where we could still save, that's when I started to pay attention. A boy from the right mold! That's what I thought. He wants to save. For whom? For me, of course! I'm the owner. This little boy has the right attitude toward my property. And so we listened to you.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I wanted to help.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Why? I wondered.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

No reason. I saw the possibility of being more economical.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

That we husband our resources?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

That we save. I think the company can save.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Good idea. I never thought that there were so many hidden reserves.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I graduated in economics.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I didn't graduate in anything. I was in the right place. At the right time.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Your generation was lucky.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I blew away a tank with a rocket launcher.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Hero!

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Pretty drunk hero.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

All the same: it's not easy.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

They were eating. Sardines from a can.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

A tank!

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Some of them were sitting on top of tank. Eating. I fried them.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

They could have fried you.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You have to have luck and intelligence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You have to have both in life.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

What, *yes*? Don't be such a shitty yesman. I know, kid, you're not shitty. You're smart.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

What do you mean?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You know what I mean. Your recommendation that we fire all the cleaning ladies from the factories, the offices, the warehouse...

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

There were too many of them.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And the idea that everyone could clean up after themselves.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

It was my proposal.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Sixteen cleaning ladies in the factories, six in the warehouses, twelve altogether in production, halls A and B, and in the stores, the showrooms, headquarters, branches, the city and elsewhere...

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Twelve more.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Bravo!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Too many.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

It's true but there's a lot to clean. There's over three thousand square meters at headquarters alone, not to mention all the windows.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

In the old days, each person did only one thing. But now people can do many things.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Exactly.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Everyone can clean after himself. A certain amount of square meters. Why wouldn't the accountants, of which there are also too many, clean after themselves, empty the garbage, sweep under the desks.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

That's the way!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And then two times a month an outside company comes to do a general cleaning

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Clean Corp.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Something like that, yeah.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

It worked.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

They do a deep cleaning. With machines. Good. Thorough. Professional. No coffees, no lockers in the dressing room, no brooms, no buckets, no detergent.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

No social security payments. No permanent employees.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

The permanent employees just have to do a little more. Not a lot. Just a little. Clean after themselves. It's also a way of strengthening their relationship to the company. If you clean up your own workplace, you start to care more about it. It's a well-known psychological phenomenon in America.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

It's exciting.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And so we saved... I'm sorry, I drank too much. *You* saved.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Forty-two jobs.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

The only expense you have is the cleaning service.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Clean Corp.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And that expense is 17.7 times less than the salaries for all those employees with payroll tax and social security payments.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Cheers!

Scene seventeen

At a bus station.

YOUNGER WORKER

We didn't meet the norms again today.

OLDER WORKER

I'm sorry.

Silence.

YOUNGER WORKER

I have a girlfriend.

OLDER WORKER

The one who was waiting for you last time?

YOUNGER WORKER

She's a good girl.

OLDER WORKER

Yeah.

Silence.

YOUNGER WORKER

I thought I'd only work here temporarily. I was going to ... a couple years more. Maybe two or three. This job really isn't for me.

OLDER WORKER

We used to work manually. Thirty years ago.

YOUNGER WORKER

Her name's Sonja.

OLDER WORKER

Your girlfriend?

YOUNGER WORKER

She's the one for me. I think. Sonya. Not the job. It's terrible. And also...

OLDER WORKER

What?

YOUNGER WORKER

It just hit me. Suddenly. I've had girlfriends before. But no one like...

OLDER WORKER

I know. My Marta was the right one for me too. We have a daughter now.

YOUNGER WORKER

Yeah.

OLDER WORKER

The moment comes when you have to decide. This is it, you say. And it is.

YOUNGER WORKER

Yeah.

OLDER WORKER

Until death do you part.

Silence.

YOUNGER WORKER

She's pregnant.

OLDER WORKER

Congratulations!

YOUNGER WORKER

Thank you.

OLDER WORKER

That's very nice.

YOUNGER WORKER

Yeah.

OLDER WORKER

When my daughter was born, I was the happiest man on earth.

YOUNGER WORKER

I am too. I'm content.

OLDER WORKER

I'll invite you for a drink.

YOUNGER WORKER

I'll invite you.

OLDER WORKER

When we get paid.

YOUNGER WORKER

Supposedly we'll get paid for three months. Back pay.

OLDER WORKER

We will.

Silence.

YOUNGER WORKER

Is that your bus?

OLDER WORKER

I was just waiting with you. I'll walk.

YOUNGER WORKER

It's mine.

OLDER WORKER

See you tomorrow.

YOUNGER WORKER

I told the boss that I can't work with you anymore.

Silence.

YOUNGER WORKER

You're slow. We didn't meet the norms again today. Me and Sonja are going to move in together. She goes to school. She's going to be a hairdresser. Then it will be easier. And besides that, you're always sticking your hand too close to the press. It scares me. The boss said he noticed that too. Sorry, but I really can't anymore. I want to work faster. Hitting the norms is important. I can't lose this job.

OLDER WORKER

I understand.

Scene seventeen

At a train station.

WOMAN

The trick is to work as little as possible.

GIRL

They said I should go. They said I was too slow.

WOMAN

It's the worse when it goes on and on.

GIRL

They moved to China.

WOMAN

If you do it quickly, it's okay. For a short time. The money is the same.

GIRL

Or India. Or maybe only to Bosnia.

WOMAN

It's an art.

GIRL

Seamstresses are cheaper in the south.

WOMAN

Make it so they think it's really good, but it doesn't take everything out of you. You have to save your energy and squeeze the most out of them. That's the economics of it. I'll explain it to you one day.

GIRL

I only wanted to do *good work*.

WOMAN

It doesn't have to do with doing *good work*. It has to do with giving the impression of good work. Of course, in the end there has to be some effect. Can you imagine being one hundred percent into it every time. You'd wear yourself out. It wouldn't pay.

GIRL

I used to sew slipcovers for furniture. Upholstery for sofas. Two seams. One meter long and then half meter around. *Too slow*, he told me. When I hurried, it wasn't sewn properly. There were holes. Cracks.

WOMAN

Now you aren't sewing anymore.

GIRL

That's right.

WOMAN

And you won't have to go all the way.

GIRL

I won't?

WOMAN

They'll think you will, but you won't. The best is to work the clock. Ten minutes. A little handjob! *A quickie*, as we say around here! No more, no less. And if he can't manage it, fine. If not, his time's run out. If he finishes ahead of time, all the better! Your time, your gain! Time is money. And there's a different rate for everything. Once they're here, they won't say no. You're the boss. That's what you need to remember. You're no longer the one sitting behind some machine with a stinky man hovering over you. Now you're *on top*. If they come to you, you're *on top*. You're always *on top*. That's my advice. That's how you survive.

GIRL

Do you see him?

WOMAN

I know him.

GIRL

Is he coming to us?

WOMAN

He comes every week. At least twice. He's a regular.

GIRL

He's looking at me.

WOMAN

You're new.

GIRL

What should I say?

WOMAN

I'll do the talking.

Silence.

The HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL approaches.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Are you new?

WOMAN

She's new.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

She can talk for herself.

WOMAN

I'm showing her the ropes.

Silence.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I'm not a regular.

WOMAN

No.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I'm talking to her.

WOMAN

I'm also listening.

Silence.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I just dropped by. I'm just looking.

WOMAN

Yeah.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Does she charge?

WOMAN

Of course, she charges!

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

She can't talk for herself?

WOMAN

Blowjob thirty. Ten minutes. Handjob twenty. Ten minutes.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

It's the end of the month. I'll just have a handjob.

WOMAN

There in the back. Behind the trains. You know where.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I only come once in a while. I'm not a regular.

WOMAN

I'll wait for you here.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Let's go.

WOMAN

Will you be okay?

GIRL

I'll be okay.

Scene eighteen

In a gym.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

With this exercise we get rid of all of our anxiety. We stand on one leg. Sole of the foot on the floor. We feel the energy flowing from the earth through our sole and into our body. We stretch our other leg back. We grab our toe with our fingers. Our big toe. Our body is a

triangle. Taut and relaxed at the same time. Our head is back. We breathe. This is the most important exercise.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

The most important exercise.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

I recommend you do it before important meetings. It will take three minutes of your time. You don't need much room. You can go into the bathroom and do it. Then your meeting will be successful. Nobody will be able to force their will on you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Force their will.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

Anxiety falls from our bodies like a heavy garment. You will be self-confident.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I will be self-confident!

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

You will win.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I will win!

Scene nineteen

In a club.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Shall we have coffee?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I feel sick

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

An espresso with Cointreau.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Too much cognac.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Just a drop.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I'm not used to it.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

It opens your veins.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I should go home. She's waiting for me.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Your girlfriend?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

She's beautiful.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Very.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And enterprising.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I don't know.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

The owner of her own firm. Clean Corp.

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

So you know everything.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You thought I wouldn't look into it?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I never said it wasn't her company.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Nobody asked you.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

No.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

An honest man!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I just made an offer ...

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And we accepted it.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

You might not have.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Why wouldn't we if we could get rid of all those cleaning women? And save.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

It's what I recommended.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And you earned something from it.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

My girlfriend, not me.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Don't take me for a fool. You'll hurt my feelings.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

How long are you two together?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

A long time.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You haven't married.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

We're thinking about it. The time's not right.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I told you don't fuck me around with these cheap tricks. I may be older than you but I'm not an idiot. And I'm not your mother who you can wrap around your little finger. You understand?

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

We're thinking about it! We're thinking about it! Do you really take me for such a fool? To me, boy, you're the amateur. I didn't graduate from some vocational high school. But I became one of the richest men in this country. I didn't get a degree in economics. But I was in the right place with the right people. If there hadn't been that weekend war, maybe I would have been a drunk. Instead I'm a millionaire! And that's why I know very well that you're not married.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You've lived together ten years. I asked around. You were together since highschool. You have no idea, little boy, how much information you can get for money. You can get anything with money. I also know that she had a miscarriage, that you broke up, she had a crisis, both of you had new lovers, and now for two months you find yourself in each other's arms again. Isn't that the way it is?

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And I also know that she's a vegetarian, macrobiotic, I have no idea what that is but it sounds like a disease. I know that she goes fanatically to yoga. I also know that you faked a car accident, collected insurance, provided statements for each other, pretended you didn't know each other, bought your grandmother's apartment for an oddly low price and put her in an old people's home even though she was perfectly healthy and that she died of grief. And so on and so forth. I know everything, which is why I also know why you're not married. So you can each have your own company and nobody suspects you have any connection to each other.

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And now?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Now we order espresso and Cointreau.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Will you fire me?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Those cleaning ladies have been eating up all my profits. They should have been fired a long time ago. It makes sense to start paying your girlfriend instead. She's cheaper. Somebody needs to do a more thorough cleaning once in a while anyway. We can't live up to our necks in shit, can we?

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Then it's okay?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

No, it's not okay.

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I don't understand.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Kid, look. We live in a dog-eat-dog world. Right?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

There's a price for everything. There has to be. And there is. I've had enough. I'd like to get rid of the company. It's too big. Enormous. I have enough troubles. Unions. Journalists looking over my shoulder. I want to make you the head of management. You'll help me close branches, transform all that shit into big suitcases of money. And then send it to my accounts. And my wife's. My wife and I also divorced a couple of years ago when I bought everything for one euro... And only a little company will be left over, a shell. It can be yours. I'd take only a small share for old time's sake. For a little income when I'm really old. We'll turn everything else into cash. We'll fire everyone, destroy everything, sell all the land for the highest price. It'll go like hotcakes. In a couple of years, it'll be prime real estate and they can all go fuck themselves! You only live once, right? I can't take anything with me. I'm not going to leave anything to my heirs. What do you say?

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

It sounds interesting.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You'll do everything. I'll withdraw. A veteran, a winner in the war of liberation will take his well-deserved pension with clean hands! I won't have anything to do with it. New times, a new generation, new business methods! You can all fuck each other. I won't be there. I'll just get richer.

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

What about all those suitcases filled with money?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I'd give you one of them.

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I think it could work.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I knew I wan't treating you to this dinner for nothing.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

We'll have to work it out very precisely.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

We'll work it out.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Prepare a strategy.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Do it quick!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

All right.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And there's something else.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I have everything. You have nothing. But after we pull this off, you'll have a lot. Isn't that right?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And you even more.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I'm a good man.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

You are.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I'm doing you a favor. You'll get an enormous amount from me.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

This is how...

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

... you'll get rich. You'll have money. Power. Everything. You could even become a politician. A minister. Anything you want. Your life will be different. Better.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Much, much better.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And it will happen quickly.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I hope you realize how much time I'll be saving you.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I do.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And there's no cheating. At least not from a distance. We're just selling what was once theirs and is now ours. Mine!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And the employees?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Collateral damage. Let the state take care of them. I hope you don't have any moral reservations.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

No.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Now you understand?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Understand, my ass! I'm still holding the reins in my hands. I'm doing you a favor, aren't I?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

A big one.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

That's why I want something from you in return.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Anything.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Something personal. Your *personal* gift.

Tišina.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Okay.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I want to fuck your girlfriend.

Scene nineteen

In an office.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

What happened to you?

ŠEFIKA

I'm here.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Did you fall down the stairs?

ŠEFIKA

I bumped into a closet.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

That must have been a big closet.

ŠEFIKA

I'm here.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

And you must have done it more than once ... I mean ...

ŠEFIKA

Should I kneel?

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

... you must have bumped into that closet a bunch of times.

ŠEFIKA

I'll kneel.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

What?

ŠEFIKA

What do you want me to do?

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Get up! Please!

ŠEFIKA

I have no other chance.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Don't humiliate yourself like this, my dear lady.

ŠEFIKA

I'm not a lady.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

To me you you're a lady.

ŠEFIKA

Please!

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I'm going to call security...

ŠEFIKA

I'm a cleaning lady.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Get up! This is extortion!

ŠEFIKA

I have nothing else of offer.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

If you don't get up right away...

ŠEFIKA

Please!

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Hello, Jožica, send up the security guard!

ŠEFIKA

I can't take it anymore.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

No, nothing tragic... She's just kneeling in front of me...

ŠEFIKA

I can't take it anymore.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Yeah, that's the one. She just keeps coming back. And now she doesn't want to get up.

ŠEFIKA

I can't take it anymore.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Very unpleasant.

ŠEFIKA

I can't take it anymore.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

He should come right away. Yes.

ŠEFIKA

I can't take it anymore.

Scene twenty

In a kitchen.

OLDER WORKER

Why don't you ever bring the little ones?

DAUGHTER

It's cold here.

OLDER WORKER

I heat the kitchen.

DAUGHTER

I'll bring them in the summer.

OLDER WORKER

Who knows what will happen in the summer?

DAUGHTER

You've been screwed again.

OLDER WORKER

They put me in the warehouse.

DAUGHTER

Great.

OLDER WORKER

The warehouse is a dumping ground.

DAUGHTER

They can't just get rid of you.

OLDER WORKER

They can do anything today.

Silence.

DAUGHTER

I came because of the armoire. I have some people who are interested in it.

OLDER WORKER

Take it.

Silence.

DAUGHTER

Are you going to get your salary?

OLDER WORKER

Next week. Plus back pay.

DAUGHTER

But you have nothing now?

OLDER WORKER

I'll be all right.

DAUGHTER

I was thinking ...

OLDER WORKER

I have potatoes in the woodshed. Will you take some?

DAUGHTER

I will.

OLDER WORKER

Cabbages, some beans...

DAUGHTER

I was thinking...

OLDER WORKER

I'll wrap it all up in some newspaper.

DAUGHTER

About the rings.

Scene twenty-one

Train station.

WOMAN

God, he fucked me up!

GIRL

I know what's waiting for me.

WOMAN

He didn't want to stop. I told him his time was up but he stuffed another twenty euros in my mouth. I wanted to punch him, but then I didn't. Twenty euros is twenty euros.

GIRL

I'll return. I'll get off the bus and walk toward home.

Nobody's there. The house is blind. But that's where I belong.

WOMAN

And then he fucked me for ten more minutes. His cock was half soft. Which is okay with me. But kind of embarrassing for him. You have to pretend there's something, when there isn't. That kind can sometimes get aggressive. They think it's our fault.

GIRL

I know what's waiting for me. The moon over the house will be cold and pale.

The barn will be empty. The oven in the kitchen lonely since I was gone.

I'll try, like my father did, like my mother did.

I'll fix up the garden. When the garden is nice, someone will walk past and stop. Maybe it will be my boyfriend. My husband.

WOMAN

And it just didn't end! I said: *Stop! Ten minutes has already passed.* His face was all red. His cock was getting more and more limp. *How much for a blowjob?* he asked. I told him it was fifteen, but not until he comes. *Fifteen euros for ten minutes!* Those kind never come. I could work for hours and hours. My jaw could fall off.

GIRL

I know what's waiting for me. I'll have no choice. If he

asks: *Is this your garden?* I'll nod. I'll invite him

into the house. He'll become my husband. I'll have no choice.

The first one who is good to me will enter the house and enter me.

Then the barn will be full again. And my belly. I'll give birth

in the hospital, though I'd rather in the house, though I'd rather in the barn, for good luck, among the big wet snouts of the animals, curiously staring into the manger. I'll go to the hospital. One child each year. The barn will fill up. Slowly. Like the house.

WOMAN

And it kept getting smaller and smaller. Shrinking under his belly. Fucking hell! I really tried! He was wiggling his hips. Pushing into my face. And nothing. It just shriveled up more and more. Then he hit me with his fists. *Whore! It's your fault!* He yelled. I expected it would end that way. I got away from him just in time. When I was still on the floor, he kicked me. I covered my head and screamed. Screamed. Screamed like crazy. That's the only thing that helped. He got scared and ran.

GIRL

The garden will grow larger. And we'll have a vegetable field behind the house. And then another child. And then another. And then enough. Things will go well for us. He will drink to each child. With the third, he'll drink all week. And on holidays. And before holidays. And every day.

WOMAN

Look at me now! A black eye and a fat lip! He broke an incisor. And I probably have a broken rib. Fucking asshole! He's lowered my price for at least a week. I'll be lucky if I get ten euros.

GIRL

I'll live with him. I'll take care of the house, the garden, the barn. When he snores from drink, I'll get up in the early morning, when the white milky light pours into our bed. I'll remember my father, my mother. I know that. Now, what I'm doing here, I don't know. But I have no choice. It only seems to us that life is like a river and that we can always choose where to step into it. And then I'll die. Like mother. He'll live alone. Maybe he'll marry again. Maybe the children will take care of him. Maybe out of sadness and despair he'll finish off all the cows and then press the piston rod to his own forehead, and his brains will come of his eyes. Maybe it will all be repeated. I don't know. There's not a lot of choice. We never actually have a choice.

Silence.

WOMAN

A whole week I'll be underpriced. Fucking prick!

Scene twenty-two

In a gym.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

The next exercise will return us to spiritual balance. It is an exercise that banishes uncertainty and opens the love chakra. We bend our heads down. As far as we can. So we can feel the pressure behind, in the spinal cord of our necks. We bend our knees. We rest our behinds on our heels. We pull our stomachs in. As far as we can. We hold our breath and lift our hands. High. As if we were trying to touch the sky. We stretch. Between the earth where we are sitting and the sky where we want to go. We will be loved.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I will be loved.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

Everything we do will be good. No one will hate us.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

No one will hate me.

VOICE OF INSTRUCTOR ON CD

The one who thinks we have done evil to them will look at us and we will know, that it was good for them.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Good for them.

Scene twenty-three

At a bus station.

YOUNGER WORKER

What are you doing here?

OLDER WORKER

I was just here by chance.

YOUNGER WORKER

Are you here everyday by chance?

OLDER WORKER

Yes.

Silence.

YOUNGER WORKER

We're hitting the norms now.

OLDER WORKER

Good for you.

YOUNGER WORKER

I work alone behind the press.

OLDER WORKER

They fired half of us.

YOUNGER WORKER

And gave you a pension.

OLDER WORKER

No severance.

Silence.

YOUNGER WORKER

Sonja and I have a three-month-old daughter.

OLDER WORKER

My daughter doesn't come around anymore.

YOUNGER WORKER

She's sick.

OLDER WORKER

I heard.

YOUNGER WORKER

She needs special care.

OLDER WORKER

I'm sorry.

YOUNGER WORKER

I'm going to keep working on the line for another year.

OLDER WORKER

Maybe they won't fire anyone else.

YOUNGER WORKER

It's not the right work for me. I'm only here temporarily.

OLDER WORKER

That's what I thought too.

YOUNGER WORKER

Until the little girl gets better.

OLDER WORKER

Then I stayed thirty years

Silence.

YOUNGER WORKER

My bus.

OLDER WORKER

Yes.

Silence.

YOUNGER WORKER

Come around some time.

OLDER WORKER

I've thought about it.

YOUNGER WORKER

You pensioners never know what to do with your time.

OLDER WORKER

They won't let me in.

YOUNGER WORKER

Yes, they're strict now.

Silence.

OLDER WORKER

Thirty years.

YOUNGER WORKER

I'm going.

OLDER WORKER

These hands.

YOUNGER WORKER

My bus!

OLDER WORKER

These hands.

Scene twenty-four

In an office.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Oh, for god sake! What are you doing here again?

ŠEFIKA

I came to say...

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I don't care!

ŠEFIKA

I would like to tell you ...

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Hello! Hello?!

ŠEFIKA

My husband left me.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Hello?! Yes...

ŠEFIKA

Men can take so little.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

She's here again. The same one as last time. Hello?

ŠEFIKA

It's not my fault ...

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Why do you let her up?

ŠEFIKA

But today ...

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I don't care if she slipped past. Come up immediately. Immediately!

ŠEFIKA

This morning I suddenly...

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

What is it with you, woman! Do I have to tell you again that you haven't worked here for more than a year? We clean the place ourselves now and we outsource the rest.

ŠEFIKA

When I took them to school ...

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Please! Go home! I can't help you. They're also going to close down my department too. I'm only here to fire people and once I fire everyone... We're all in the same boat. Why are you bothering me?

The security guard enters.

SECURITY GUARD

Ma'am.

ŠEFIKA

I'll go on my own.

SECURITY GUARD

Now.

ŠEFIKA

I won't come again.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Thank god.

ŠEFIKA

Never again.

SECURITY GUARD

Ma'am, don't force me to take you outside.

ŠEFIKA

Just one more thing...

SECURITY GUARD

Let's go now.

ŠEFIKA

When I walked my children to school ...

SECURITY GUARD

Ma'am, I'm going to have to use...

ŠEFIKA

I don't love them anymore.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Please, Šefika!

ŠEFIKA

It's hard to love them if you can't feed them.

SECURITY GUARD

Let's go now

Scene twenty-five prizer

In a bedroom.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

How did you even come up with that?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

It was just a suggestion.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Yours? Or his?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

His.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

And you listened to him?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

How could I not?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I could hit you.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I thought you were some kind of yoga-loving vegetarian pacifist.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Aren't you my man?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes, I am.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

And a man is supposed to protect his woman from bad things.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

It has to do with our future!

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

We have our own future.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And the company Clean Corp.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Don't even talk about that.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Is that our future?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

That's what you wanted. Not me.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

It pays for all your damn yoga classes.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

It makes me sick just to think about it.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

You have to have a strong stomach for business.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

She killed both her children and herself.

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Rumors.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Because we took her job.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Union propaganda.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I feel like I knew her.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

You're just being sentimental.

Silence.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I'd like to have children.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

We will.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

People hate me. It's bad karma.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yoga doesn't help anymore?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

The anxiety remains!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

There's more and more of it.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

It's everywhere.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

It's in the air between us.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Anxiety.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Let's leave all of this.

Silence.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And go where? A desert island?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

And children.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Do you know much children cost?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Love is enough.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Don't be naive! What about education? And clothes, and food, and toys, and piano lessons, and ballet lessons if it's a girl, and language lessons. They need to learn a lot to succeed. We have to nurture their talent. Then there's birthdays, tutoring. My child will study internationally! My child will have everything that we didn't have.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

We had enough.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

My child will have more! Or he won't exist!

Silence.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I'm going to yoga.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you!

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I...

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes?

Silence.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I...

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Yes?

Silence.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I do too.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Then we *have* to think about the future. And his recommendation *is* the future.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

You're crazy.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

No you don't.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Only love can let this happen. Only a great love can transcend everything. And my love is the greatest.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

You're not normal!

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And I'll love you even more afterwards. And we'll have everything. Everything! We won't have to deal with bad things ever again. With details. With Clean Corp. Everything will fall into our laps. A successful company! Suitcases full of money! At our age! Just think!

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

But at what price?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I'll never mention it again in our lives. I swear! We'll forget about it. Turn the page. Go on holidays in the most expensive hotels. As if nothing happened. As if it never happened.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

And it never will.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Just think about it.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Would you do it for me?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

For us. I would.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I don't believe you.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Think about how many times it has already happened. Out of stupidity. For free. Without enjoyment. Because of naïve drunkenness. Out of audacity. People make mistakes. You said it yourself, your mistake with your professor at high school, he was twice as old as you. And when you went hitchhiking down to the seaside with your friends, what was his name, he was black or just dark brown, a mistake, another mistake. You said so yourself. You said that there were all terrible mistakes. And I made mistakes too. So what?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I'm still sorry about them now.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

The money will make you never feel sorry again!

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Money can't buy trust.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Money can buy everything.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

You're my biggest mistake.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

If I do it, we'll break up.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

We'll break up rich.

GIRL IN A TRACK SUIT

I can't believe it.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

We can also break up poor.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Are you threatening me?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I don't know anymore.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Think about it.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I've thought about it.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Think about it well.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I already did.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Remember, and think about it *one more time*. When we broke up. When we had a crisis. You went with that guy then. Because you felt sorry for him? He was on heroin?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Methadone. In treatment.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

He pushed his way into your life, and you let him.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

We knew each other as kids.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I forgave you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

We weren't together then.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

We weren't together for two months.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I told you about it.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

And I never mentioned it again.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Yes.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I never rubbed your nose in it, never reproached you.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Yes.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Because I love you

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Because you love me?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Think about it.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

And if I can't decide?

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

Just think about it.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I don't know.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I sign on Monday.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

That's tomorrow.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

By Tuesday everything will be ours.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I won't be able to live with it.

YOUNG MAN IN A SUIT

I love you. I love you.

Scene twenty-four

The train station.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You're here.

GIRL

I'm going.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I don't see anyone.

GIRL

I'm going home.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You're standing here.

GIRL

I'm leaving.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You're leaving with me.

WOMAN

Are you deaf! The girl said she's going home!

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Don't fuck with me, you bitch!

GIRL

I came to say goodbye.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

In the work place?

GIRL

I'm taking the bus.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You're standing here. You're for sale! And I'm buying!

GIRL

I'm finished.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Not yet you're not.

WOMAN

Get the fuck out of here!

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You don't tell me to get the fuck out of here! I'm a regular!

WOMAN

You're drunk!

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I have money. And I'm buying!

GIRL

I'm going.

WOMAN

Take care of yourself.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You gave me a handjob every week. For twenty years. Now I want to fuck you.

GIRL

I'm not working anymore.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Here! I have money!

GIRL

No thanks.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You can all go to hell!

WOMAN

I can do it if you want.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

I don't want you! I have money and I can choose. I want her!

GIRL

No.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

If you're for sale, you can't so *no!* Little cunt. Isn't my money good enough for you?

WOMAN

Leave her alone!

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

Now you're going to fire me? You're going to fire me? No you won't, you fuckingshittybitch!

He hits her.

WOMAN

Stop!

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

What? Are you going to call the police? What are you going to say?

He hits the girl.

GIRL

Leave me alone!

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

You sell yourself but you don't want to be sold! There are principles, you cheating cunt!

There are! I buy you and you cheat me! You can't fire me! You can't!

He hits her again.

WOMAN

Leave her alone! Go!

GIRL

I'm going! I'm going!

Scene twenty-seven

In the kitchen.

OLDER WORKER sits at the table. His arms are in front of him.

They are wrapped in white bandages. Arms without hands. Hands that end at the wrists.

He stares in front of him.

Scene twenty-eight**In a hotel room.**

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

It's nice that you came. Do you want a cognac?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

No.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

To relax?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

No.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You will.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

No!

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You didn't come her to say *no*!**Silence.**

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Take your clothes off.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

All of them!

Silence.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Now?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

No. Next New Year's Eve.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Of course now!

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

He explained it to you?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Yes.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Then don't act like you're doing it for the first time.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I am doing it for the first time.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

What?

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

Like this.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

With such an old man? With such an ugly man? With such a fat man?

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Don't pretend you're above it all.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I'm not pretending.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I want you to have a nice expression on your face.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

A nice face is part of the contract.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

If I wanted to, I could buy a whore.

Silence.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I'm not a whore.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You're a businesswoman.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And I want you.

Silence.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Are you going to say something?

Silence.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I want you to say something.

Silence.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

What?

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Whatever you say in this kind of situation.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I've never been in this kind of situation.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Fuck me! I'm so horny! I want your big dick inside of me!

Silence.

Silence.

GIRL IN EXERCISE CLOTHES

I won't.

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You won't? Not even for a million euros? For the company? The business? For a carefree life?

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You think you're so *moral and above it all*, and that's why you can't do it?

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Bullshit! Moral!

Silence.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

You're not so *moral* when you have to throw some poor cleaning lady out of work, but now all of a sudden you're so *moral* when you have to fuck for a million euros, for business, for a carefree life! Is that it?

Silence.

Silence.

The girl takes her exercise clothes off.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Bravo!

Silence.

The middle-aged man takes his suit off.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

I am leaving my business in the right hands. I didn't make a mistake. You are beautiful.

The girl lies in bed.

She spreads her legs.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

Don't worry. I took Viagra. One hundred milligrams.

The man gets on the bed.

He kneels above her.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And I want you to come.

The man lies between her legs.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN A SUIT

And not just once.

He fucks her.

Scene twenty-nine

In the bus.

POLICE OFFICER

Is this seat free?

GIRL

The bus is empty.

POLICE OFFICER

Yes, I know.

GIRL

Sit somewhere else. Please.

Silence.

POLICE OFFICER

Do you remember me?

GIRL

No.

POLICE OFFICER

We met two years, three months, and eleven days ago.

GIRL

I don't remember.

POLICE OFFICER

I was in uniform.

GIRL

What?

POLICE OFFICER

That's why you don't remember me.

GIRL

I don't know.

POLICE OFFICER

In your barn. When your father...

Silence.

GIRL

I remember.

POLICE OFFICER

You asked me how old I was.

GIRL

Yes.

POLICE OFFICER

May I sit down?

GIRL

Yes.

Silence.

POLICE OFFICER

Your face ...

GIRL

I bumped into a closet.

POLICE OFFICER

Yes.

Silence.

POLICE OFFICER

I was looking for you.

GIRL

For me?

POLICE OFFICER

You disappeared.

GIRL

Two years ...

POLICE OFFICER

... three months and eleven days ...

Silence.

GIRL

That much time has passed?

POLICE OFFICER

I remember.

GIRL

You have that kind of job...

POLICIST

Not because of that.

GIRL

... you have to remember certain things ...

Silence.

POLICE OFFICER

And I'm not a police officer anymore.

GIRL

You looked good in the uniform.

POLICE OFFICER

Thanks.

GIRL

You're welcome.

Silence.

POLICE OFFICER

I didn't think I'd ever see you again.

GIRL

I was in the city.

POLICE OFFICER

Me too.

GIRL

I was working.

POLICE OFFICER

As a seamstress?

GIRL

Social worker.

POLICE OFFICER

Me too.

GIRL

As a social worker?

POLICE OFFICER

As a security guard in a company.

They laugh.

Silence.

GIRL

But I didn't like it.

POLICE OFFICER

Me neither.

GIRL

So many unhappy people.

POLICE OFFICER

And you can't help them.

GIRL

Yes.

Silence.

POLICE OFFICER

And now?

GIRL

Now?

POLICE OFFICER

What will you do now?

GIRL

What about you?

Silence.

POLICE OFFICER

I'll go with you.

Silence.

GIRL

With me?

POLICE OFFICER

Wherever you're going.

Silence.

GIRL

I'm going home.

POLICE OFFICER

Okay. Then home.

Silence.

The End