

# PRISONERS

by P.R.Berton

ACT I

OTAVIO

Nothing, nothing interesting in this at all.

FERNANDA

Won't you give me any compliment?

OTAVIO

Is it acceptable? I ask you, is it acceptable?

FERNANDA

Sweetheart, won't you give attention to your dear wife? Your coconut-candy?

OTAVIO

Candy what?

FERNANDA

Oh, he finally puts that newspaper away!

(Laughing with malice.)

Coconut-candy...

OTAVIO

What dressing yourself up this way for?

FERNANDA

Let me sit on you...like this...yeah. Look at me. Do you know I love you, tasty?

OTAVIO

Guess who called up?

FERNANDA

Who?

OTAVIO

You're kneading the newspaper.

FERNANDA

Oh, no. With this semblant it must have been...

OTAVIO

Your mother.

FERNANDA

(Leaving to the kitchen.)  
What's the matter now ?

OTAVIO

Come back here. Fleeing won't help.

I-

2

FERNANDA

But the food...

OTAVIO

It's all frozen food. You have just to put it into the microwave.

FERNANDA

I'm not in the mood for talking about this subject. Again. At least not today.

OTAVIO

And I'm not in the mood for hearing about the damned car thing. Again.

FERNANDA

Otavio!

OTAVIO

If it is necessary we give back that shit!

FERNANDA

Take it easy, darling. Don't get like this. Look the paper, it's being kneaded.

OTAVIO

Let it be kneaded.

(Slight pause.)

FERNANDA

But what exactly did she tell you?

OTAVIO

What she always says: that the car was given by them, that we must take good care of it, that I shouldn't stay all the time with it and...I don't know what else.

FERNANDA

I'm going to talk to her, leave it with me.

OTAVIO

That witch.

FERNANDA

Hold on! She is still my mother ! Don't talk about her like that!

OTAVIO

Did you marry her?

I-

3

FERNANDA

Oh, my God!

OTAVIO

I think you should take your hands out of your hair, you're destroying your hairdressing.

(Slight pause.)

FERNANDA

Sweetheart, would you promise to me we won't mention this subject anymore? A small kiss...like this...an exciting ki...which scent is this? I didn't know it .

OTAVIO

Scent? No idea . Do you think I care with scents?

FERNANDA

You have never put this scent before.

(Slight pause.)

OTAVIO

Oh, now I remember. It's the one your mother gave to me. For Christmas.

FERNANDA

But you swore you would never use it.

OTAVIO

I changed my mind.

FERNANDA

Hu-hum.

OTAVIO

Stop looking at me that way 'cause I don't like it. I hate these jealousy scenes. I decided to make an armistice with mother-in-law. Just this.

FERNANDA

All right, what you say, I believe.

OTAVIO

(Reading the newspaper.)

I don't understand why they don't change the coach.

FERNANDA

Has Ivo confirmed?

I-

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OTAVIO

I can't hear you. Could you speak louder?

FERNANDA

My goodness, my sweet Rambo, you are getting deaf, hum? The kitchen is not that far. I asked you if Ivo would really come.

OTAVIO

He will.

FERNANDA

Why this semblant? Don't tell me he won't come.

OTAVIO

He will come. Take it easy. He must come.

FERNANDA

That's right. If he fails, the other one will remain alone.

OTAVIO

Ivo will not fail.

FERNANDA

Who knows?

OTAVIO

Has he ever failed?

FERNANDA

Well, you're right.

OTAVIO

(Reading the newspaper.)

Four million bucks. I know it is much more worth than that.

FERNANDA

Sometimes I think...

OTAVIO

Think about what.

FERNANDA

About Ivo.

OTAVIO

About Ivo?

FERNANDA

It's so funny to imagine a guy in a bed with another guy. A beardy kissing a beardy. Urgh! Awful! Can you imagine yourself,

I-

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FERNANDA [continued]

Otavio, caressing a hairy chest, a guy whispering on your ear things that I use to say to you, a strong hand taking your...

OTAVIO

Stop it, Fernanda! Are you crazy?

FERNANDA

I'm just thinking. Serve one for me too. On the rocks. When I see Ivo I feel sorry. Always alone. Has he never had anyone?

OTAVIO

I don't understand your sudden concern.

FERNANDA

Ah, forget it. Cheers. No! Wait! I want it with the arms crossing just like our wedding.

OTAVIO

Stop with this bullshit.

FERNANDA

Come here. Good. To our love.

(They drink.)

FERNANDA

My god! You are thirsty!

OTAVIO

What about the food?

FERNANDA

Microwave, silly.

OTAVIO

You don't need to worry because everyone will attend to your private theater. They are all lonely people desperately seeking for a partnership, with whom they could share their anguishes and pleasures. The twin-souls. The half-faces. The oranges.

FERNANDA

Cruel.

OTAVIO

No, I'm not. I'm realistic.

FERNANDA

By the way, I met the neighbour son in the elevator. That one.

I-

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OTAVIO

Which one?

FERNANDA

Come on, Otavio, it looks like you don't live in this building. The gay one.

OTAVIO

Again?

FERNANDA

But I never even mention him!

OTAVIO

I mean the subject.

FERNANDA

And you think I am going to pass over that one of the pairs we invited tonight is a couple of gays.

OTAVIO

Don't talk about Ivo like that.

FERNANDA

All right, sorry. It's the habit. The boy's behavior...poor mother.

OTAVIO

Did you remember to put the ice into the friezer. There isn't anymore in the bucket, look.

FERNANDA

Yes, I did.

OTAVIO

I'll take it then.

FERNANDA

He stood in the elevator in a very strange position. The hand stretched, like a ballerina. He didn't face. And when he started to speak...a sweet voice, a nightingale, a flower. How are you, Misses, he said. I didn't understand the Misses, after all I'm not that older than he is. He must be fifteen, ten years younger than me.

OTAVIO

Ten?

FERNANDA

Around ten, you silly.

I-

OTAVIO

What did he say?

FERNANDA

How are you, Misses.

OTAVIO

Shaking the hips like you did?

FERNANDA

Something like this. The hand stretched...oh, look at my dress!  
It is wrinkled! Probably when I sat on you. I'll change it.

OTAVIO

Tsc, tsc.

(Whispering.)

*How are you, misses?*

FERNANDA

Do you remember Zuleika? The one married to Tadeu.

OTAVIO

Always shouting. I can't understand.

FERNANDA

The poor one found out he had an affair with the secretary. Oh,  
just with the secretary! The day you will change me for another  
woman, I hope it won't be for the secretary.

OTAVIO

Did you forget I don't have a secretary?

FERNANDA

Are you going to complain about the job daddy got to you?

OTAVIO

No, I'm not.

FERNANDA

Poor Zuleika had to go back to her parents house. With three  
daughters.

OTAVIO

Change for another woman...

FERNANDA

Who is going to pay for ther therapy, the trips to the Disneyworld, the car, the english lessons, ballet and the girls school?

I-

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OTAVIO

For another woman...

FERNANDA

And this one? Won't you give me any compliment?

OTAVIO

Wo...man?

(Slight pause.)

FERNANDA

Otavio, I'm talking about my dress. You know that much whisky means headache for me. And my medicine is finishing. Someone must buy more. Would you pass by the drugstore tomorrow when you leave the office? Or you have an audience?

OTAVIO

My boss doesn't use to take me with to go to audiences. It's always your brother who goes with.

FERNANDA

You promised you wouldn't talk about it anymore...

OTAVIO

All right, all right, but I need another one.

FERNANDA

Did you hear me when I was telling you about Zuleika?

OTAVIO

You stay gossiping all the time, give me a break, Fernanda.

FERNANDA

But if you don't want to talk about us, what remains? Or you think I will be quiet like a mummy? It's very boring keep waiting for you every night.

OTAVIO

It looks like I come home very late at night.

FERNANDA

Sweetheart, I didn't mean that. Where is it. Hum?

OTAVIO

What do you want?

FERNANDA

Nothing. Just catch it. Oh, that's so good.

I-

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OTAVIO

Fernanda...

FERNANDA

What's the matter, Otavio. Why do you run away from me like this? Gee, I try to help you, to be comprehensive, but you don't collaborate.

OTAVIO

I've already told you it's stress from my work.

FERNANDA

Stress? But you always say you don't do anything in the office, how does...

OTAVIO

All again? It was you who asked me not to mention this damned office, I work as an idiot, truly speaking I'm your family's office boy, and then I get home and I have to listen...

FERNANDA

I don't want to offend you, sweetheart, I just wanna help you.

OTAVIO

Help?

FERNANDA

Yeah. My therapist said that...

OTAVIO

Your therapist? Did you tell her? What does it matter this woman?

FERNANDA

You don't need to break the house! It happens that since three months ago we haven't...

(Pause.)

FERNANDA

Sorry, baby, I swear I didn't want to let you like this, even more today. Everything must succeed. Give me a kiss. Like this. Look, I don't miss it. I can live without it. But I know it must be difficult for you. The men need it more than we do.

(The phone rings.)

FERNANDA

I read it on a magazine. Let me go.

I-  
10

OTAVIO

That's an absurd.

FERNANDA

Hello? Hi, Ivo. It's Ivo! Tell me.

OTAVIO

I hope he won't cancel.

FERNANDA

All right. We'll be waiting. But don't take a long time, if not you'll ruin the cook. It was Ivo.

OTAVIO

So what?

FERNANDA

I have a small problem to solve, I'll get there a bit late.

OTAVIO

Why imitate him with this mockery?

FERNANDA

You are quite annoyed today, hum?

OTAVIO

(Looking at the wall clock.)  
And your guests, where are they, it's already a quarter past nine.

FERNANDA

What a beautiful clock, isn't it? Lorena has a very good taste. I can't understand why she doesn't find a guy for herself. She is not pretty, ok, but she is nice, intelligent, she has a good job, an apartment, a car. New.

OTAVIO

Maybe the guys think she is an ass-hole.

FERNANDA

If it takes her a longer time to find someone, she won't have children...

OTAVIO

What, you never worried about that. Truly speaking, neither you nor anyone in your family. Even because for your family you'd better have no children, because a son of mine would be a bastard.

I-  
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FERNANDA

And Ivo will never have a child either.

OTAVIO

What do you mean with it?

FERNANDA

It's very important for a woman to have a child, it's like sex for you. Something that completes. If we don't have, it lacks something. And when you lose a child...

OTAVIO

Lorena and that friend of you will understand each other, you'll see, they will thank you for the rest of the life.

FERNANDA

Oh, Otavio, don't kiss me so strongly! Look, I'm sure you stained my lipstick.

(Pause.)

FERNANDA

Good. Play your piano. It calms you.

OTAVIO

(In a low voice.)

You can shout so much you want I can't hear anything.

(OTAVIO plays some compasses.)

FERNANDA

Oh, no! That one I hate!

OTAVIO

I can't hear anything.

FERNANDA

Tonight is a joyful evening! Joyful meetings!

OTAVIO

Can't hear anything.

(OTAVIO stops playing the piano and closes it carefully.)

OTAVIO

(Leaving the head fall down on the keyboard.)

Anything...

(CURTAIN)

II-

1

ACT II

FERNANDA

...and exactly when the rain started she left running along the beach like a crab, she was groveling on the sand! Oh, my heel must have a problem, let me see here...you both will stay the whole night sitting one facing the other without saying one word? Oh, right, I forgot that the women are the ones who like to speak. I thought fines herbes, I can never say it correctly, go better on the snack than salmon, in the reality I'm not fancy of fish.

OTAVIO

She hates fish.

FERNANDA

Oh, ok, Otavio, don't piss me. You want to show yourself to Emilio? Right for Emilio. We have already spent a good time together, haven't we? We were colleagues since the first year of primary school.

EMILIO

Since the second.

(Slight pause.)

EMILIO

My father had been transfered to Bagé.

FERNANDA

Are you sure?

OTAVIO

What a memory, hum?

FERNANDA

Emilio is great!

OTAVIO

Why don't you kiss him either?

FERNANDA

Oh, sweetheart, don't be so ridiculous! Emilio and I are great friends! Did I tell you how we met? It was quite funny. You don't have to turn red, Emilio! He doesn't like to remember.

OTAVIO

Won't you offer anything to drink for your *great* friend?

II-  
2

FERNANDA

Later. We were in the row before going to the classsroom. I left my material on the first place of the row and I left to play. When I returned he was there. On my place. Standing. A sad look. I didn't think twice. I pushed him and he fell down. And he started to cry. From there on he never released me anymore.

OTAVIO

And died of thirst because he didn't get anything to drink.

FERNANDA

Oh, what a boring guy!

OTAVIO

Go, go!

EMILIO

Look...I'm a little embarrassed...

OTAVIO

Don't worry, man. I'm pissed off with her. Take it easy.

EMILIO

She loves to tell that story to everyone.

OTAVIO

She loves to tell thousands of stories.

EMILIO

And you don't care?

(OTAVIO shakes his head negatively. The bell rings.)

FERNANDA

I go, I go!

OTAVIO

The one floor lower neighbour will complain about her shoes' noise. She has already changed them three times tonight. She is totally wet because of this dinner. I don't know why.

FERNANDA

When are you going to call someone to fix this locker, puffy?

OTAVIO

In the reality she has been very bothering lately.

(EMILIO looks at OTAVIO incredulously.)

FERNANDA

What beautiful flowers, my dear friend!

OTAVIO

This is your meal.

FERNANDA

Tsc, I won't lock it. Emilio, this is Lorena.

EMILIO

Hi.

LORENA

How do you do?

(Slight pause.)

FERNANDA

Well...Otavio, would you put these flowers, they are dahlias, aren't they?

LORENA

Chrisantemes...

FERNANDA

Oh, they look the same! Would you put in a vase, baby? It's good to make them work, my dear, ifnot they accomodate and become ambulant whales, they are interested only in beer and watching soccer matches on tv.

EMILIO

But your husband doesn't like soccer.

FERNANDA

Oh, it's a way of speaking.

(Slight pause.)

FERNANDA

Gee, what a car, hum!

LORENA

I don't understand what you see in the cars I buy. For me they are just a faster mean of transportation, just it.

FERNANDA

She has always been so humble, how disgusting! You must see her car, Emilio!

EMILIO

Hu-hum.

FERNANDA

Well, I am going to check the food, if not you will starve.

II-

4

(Slight pause.)

LORENA

Fernanda is really very funny.

EMILIO

She is really very special, indeed.

LORENA

In the reality I had trouble parking the car. This street is always full of cars. Where did you leave yours?

EMILIO

I...didn't come by car. I don't have a car.

LORENA

Oh...

(Laughs.)

Look, I'm sorry, I think we, no, I started badly. Fernanda wouldn't approve me.

EMILIO

Don't worry. I soon noticed when you arrived we are in the same situation. Noone came here to catch someone. Am I right?

LORENA

What a relief! I was a little bit nervous, I hate this kind of situation.

EMILIO

Me too. But then why did you come?

LORENA

I didn't want to frustrate Fernanda. She is very involved in finding a husband for me. She can't accept a woman in her thirties without a permanent companion, or even better, a good husband. And you?

EMILIO

Me?

LORENA

Yes. Why did you come?

EMILIO

Because of her...I mean...The same thing, not to frustrate her.

LORENA

How long do you know each other? She has never told me about you.

II-  
5

EMILIO

A long time. A long time.

LORENA

She promotes this kind of meetings too or it's your first time?

EMILIO

Never.

LORENA

I'm already graduated. I think it is a guy a month. You must see what appears. Odd things!

EMILIO

And you continue alone?

(Slight pause.)

LORENA

I...truly speaking...

EMILIO

Noone has interested you.

LORENA

That's it. A sensible guy, a good talk, intelligent, tender, something that really turns my attention, an eye, a nose, a hand, left-oriented ideas...

EMILIO

This on the first meeting?

LORENA

(Laughing.)

We dream...

FERNANDA

I can see you are having a great time. I could hear the animated conversation from the kitchen.

OTAVIO

What a behavior, darling, hearing the others' conversation!

FERNANDA

Don't suck, candy. Lorena, sit there next to Emilio, then I can sit next to my chocolate. We rarely see each other during the week. It's a scurry. And you?

(Slight pause. EMILIO and LORENA look at each other.)

II-  
6

EMILIO

We've already agreed to go to the cinema tomorrow.

FERNANDA

Great! Wonderful! You really fit together! We have to toast it!

OTAVIO

And what will you see?

(Slight pause.)

EMILIO

There is a very good film downtown. A french one.

FERNANDA

A love moovie?

LORENA

For the few I know him, he won't see a romantic film.

FERNANDA

Oh, Emilio, but the occasion asks for it! Otavio, where are you going?

OTAVIO

I'll take some fresh air.

FERNANDA

Otavio is very strange today. I hope his mood gets better, if not he is going to destroy my dinner party.

EMILIO

He seemed very strange to me indeed.

OTAVIO

Lorena, from the balcony we can see your car and forgive me for my sincerity, but it is really badly parked.

LORENA

Oh, I'm a tragedy when the subject is parking.

OTAVIO

Do you want me to go?

FERNANDA

Oh, Otavio, she wants you to park her car, that's obvious. Be a gentleman !

OTAVIO

Do you want it?

II-  
7

LORENA

Come on. No way. I can do it by myself.

OTAVIO

No, I go with to help you. What a fucking locker, you told me you hadn't locked it!

LORENA

It must really be parked very badly...

FERNANDA

But...

EMILIO

Let her go, she is worried with the car.

FERNANDA

(Embracing EMILIO.)

Oh, Emilio, Lorena will never change. Instead of staying here, knowing you better, no, she goes there to park her car! It's for this reason that she doesn't get a guy for herself. Embrace me stronger, friend. Like this.

(Silence.)

FERNANDA

You don't need to squeeze me. Tell me very sincerely, looking into my eyes: how did you like her?

EMILIO

What do you think?

FERNANDA

Hum, I know what you mean.

EMILIO

There are much better ones.

(The bell rings.)

FERNANDA

Haven't they taken the key with themselves? Let's see what's up now. I hope the door isn't locked.

IVO

Here I am.

FERNANDA

Didn't you meet Otavio downstairs?

II-

8

IVO

Should I?

FERNANDA

He was parking Lorena's car.

IVO

Is that one mine?

FERNANDA

You don't have to speak low, you silly! That's Emilio.

IVO

Ok, but is he or is he not?

FERNANDA

Emilio is my best childhood's friend.

IVO

Really!

FERNANDA

A bosom friend.

IVO

Nice to meet you, Emilio. I'm Ivo. But we don't belong to the same pair. My other half hasn't arrived yet.

FERNANDA

For God's sake, Ivo. What the hell is this?

IVO

It is a dinner party in which we are supposed to meet our future the better half. At least I understood this way.

FERNANDA

They disfigure everything.

IVO

We? The sissies?

FERNANDA

Ivo, I don't recognize you. You have always been so discrete.

IVO

I'm tired. Hide, what for? And who from? Is there that whisky I like?

FERNANDA

Oh, thank God you came back.

II-

9

LORENA

Hi, Ivo. Otavio is a driving crackerjack.

IVO

Crackerjack?

FERNANDA

Now only the sixth person is missing. Did he tell you if he'd get late, Otavio?

IVO

This *sixth person* is not going to leave me sucking my thumb, is he?

OTAVIO

He confirmed. He must be about to arrive.

IVO

I wanna it too. And on the rocks. You can look at me the way you want.

FERNANDA

It seems you both made a deal. One is worst than the other.

IVO

Your apartment is really sweet. Have you changed anything since the last time I came here?

FERNANDA

The new bed! Come with me, Ivo!

LORENA

I'm going too.

OTAVIO

I'll need a lot of whisky tonight to bear these two. Fernanda is really pissing me off!

EMILIO

And why don't you ask for a divorce?

(Slight pause.)

OTAVIO

What? What do you know about it man? Single life is an easy life, a woman here, another there, but after you get married, it's another story. Commitment, bro. Commitment! And beside it I li...I love Fernanda. And I'll never get divorced from her. What a crazy idea! It's better I stay quiet on my own. I've already talked too much for today.

EMILIO

There's someone there.

LUCIO

I entered, the door was open...

OTAVIO

They probably forgot to...there's a problem with the lock.

LUCIO

Am I too late, Otavio?

OTAVIO

Take it easy. Fernanda is sucking a little bit, but it's ok.

LUCIO

The fact is I work in a psychiatric clinic and sometimes we must stay a bit more because the fools soar.

EMILIO

By the way, I almost forgot the CD I brought to Fernanda.

OTAVIO

But today is not her birthday.

LUCIO

I understood it was a dinner to disstrand a lot of people.

EMILIO

But it is.

OTAVIO

What kind of CD is it, let me open it.

LUCIO

But, Otavio, the lad is going to give it to Fernanda and not to you.

OTAVIO

It will be mine after all. Lucia de...

LUCIO

Lucia de Lammermoor?

EMILIO

Hu-hum.

LUCIO

You are going to be my pair?

II-  
11

EMILIO

(Laughing.)

No, the other guy that's in the bedroom.

LUCIO

Hum, a good start, in the bedroom!

EMILIO

I hope she enjoys it. I played one of these days to her and she enjoyed it.

LUCIO

What a pity! Something we'd already have in common. Let's play?

OTAVIO

Stop this sissy thing, Lucio.

LUCIO

Otavio, you?

OTAVIO

Sorry, man. I'm completely fed up.

(LUCIO hums a part of the opera.)

EMILIO

It's difficult to find someone of our age who likes opera.

LUCIO

Forced to marry one, even loving the other.

OTAVIO

It must be a pain in the ass this...opera.

LUCIO

I visited your brother yesterday. Did you remind it was his death's anniversary ?

OTAVIO

You are right.

LUCIO

I put milkglasses on the grave. He loved milkglasses.

(Slight pause.)

LUCIO

I couldn't stand those Rivera pictures everywhere inside that apartment.

II-  
12

OTAVIO

Sorry, Lucio. I was kind of tough when you arrived.

LUCIO

That's ok. But where is my pretender?

IVO

Boys, you lost Lorena telling us...

OTAVIO

It's not only Lorena that likes to shout through the apartment.

IVO

So there's something in common between us.

LUCIO

Now the men are together.

IVO

Men? Aren't you going to introduce?

OTAVIO

Ivo. Lucio.

LUCIO

Oh, sorry, Emilio, you are probably not used to men kissing each other...

EMILIO

And what about Otavio?

(IVO laughs.)

FERNANDA

And the purse on the other store was twenty bucks cheaper. I bought it. When I opened the package at home...

(FERNANDA sees LUCIO, stakes and leaves the glass fall down.)

(CURTAIN)

III-  
1

ACT III

OTAVIO

There in the office I work in...what, aren't you going to say it's your father's office?

LORENA

Leave her, Otavio.

OTAVIO

I haven't understood that scream yet, anyway...

FERNANDA

It's gone.

OTAVIO

Well, returning to the subject, I'm dealing with a divorce case that looks like a bomb. The guy beat the woman, and then he tried to tread on her and not feeling satisfied kidnapped one of their daughters.

LORENA

For this and other reasons I prefer to stay alone, am I going to date a guy I don't even know where he comes from?

IVO

Lottery...

LORENA

Oh, no, I prefer then not to play. My grandma has always said: better alone than with a bad company.

IVO

The problem is the fidelity. There are people that don't bear a long time beside the same person, they want as soon as possible to jump the fence. It's amazing.

LORENA

And do you know any person like this?

IVO

When I...

LUCIO

It's all bullshit. Foolery. I wanna see the day you loose the person you love to the sickle dame.

FERNANDA

Who for?

III-  
2

EMILIO

To death.

OTAVIO

Fernanda, you look pale!

LORENA

And she is also trembling, look at her hand.

FERNANDA

Have you ever lost someone like this? Lucio.

LUCIO

Fernanda.

OTAVIO

I think he has been infected by her madness. Fernanda, do you want me to bring you a medicine?

(LUCIO mumbles the madness aria from the opera Lucia de Lammermoor.)

EMILIO

It's the madness aria.

FERNANDA

Stop, for god's sake.

LUCIO

I had a companion. And he's gone. Forever. I'll have him back never more.

OTAVIO

That's what I wanted to avoid.

FERNANDA

Why?

OTAVIO

Do you want a down dinner party?

IVO

Hey, people, let's bring it up, a good idea, Otavio. Otavio always has great ideas. Emilio, say something, your opinion is the only one that hasn't been heard so far.

FERNANDA

Leave him, Ivo.

EMILIO

I'm not interested in this kind of subject, just this.

III-  
3

IVO

Oh, a convicted single?

EMILIO

For you it must be quite difficult to keep a stable relationship, mustn't it?

IVO

Otavio, your guests let me completely embarrassed!

OTAVIO

It must be the same thing, why would it be different?

LUCIO

The people fantasize a lot about us.

IVO

You know what? It's difficult, it's very difficult, it's horribly difficult! Even more when we love that kind of man that hasn't come out and ends up leaving us because of a woman. It's terrible. Beside it there is the family's and society's prejudice. They look at you as if you have a malign sickness. Poor child, he will never get married, he will never have a decent family, children.

FERNANDA

Children...

LUCIO

Lucia hasn't had children.

OTAVIO

I think you're all planning a complot.

IVO

And there's more! Because of all this shit, I've decided to go away from this country. I'm going to Canada. There people are more open-minded, they've got work, life is worthier and everyone respects you.

OTAVIO

But...

IVO

And I don't want anymore to hear a single word about Brazil and the people that live here. It's enough for me.

(Slight pause.)

III-

4

OTAVIO

So then we can only wish you a good trip.

IVO

Ouch!

LORENA

What's wrong?

OTAVIO

I'll bring more wine. Some people are needing it.

LUCIO

Take it easy, my friend. Many people pass through it. But you are my pair today. You are not alone. Let's have some fun then.

FERNANDA

Lucio, where do you work?

LUCIO

I'm a doctor at a psychiatric hospital.

LORENA

And the...patients, do they establish love relationships?

LUCIO

Of course, if not they would die. They need to establish relationships among themselves, build laces. That's fundamental.

EMILIO

They are crazy for us. Not for themselves.

LUCIO

That's funny, from time to time the conversation returns to the subject madness, and I remember Lucia.

FERNANDA

I hate opera. The end is always tragic.

EMILIO

Oh, I've brought a CD as a gift for you, you've enjoyed the music that time we listened to it...

FERNANDA

Oh, is it that music?

EMILIO

I've run errands to find it...

LUCIO

Who of us would be Lucia ?

OTAVIO

Here is the wine.

(Slight pause.)

OTAVIO

Why are you all looking at me? I'm the most normal here.

IVO

There's our Lucia!

FERNANDA

Otavio as an opera heroine, I could never imagine that. Well, Lorena, with so much freshness together, I end up thinking these kind of things.

LUCIO

Freshness together.

IVO

I told you, these people are all dirty-minded.

LUCIO

You, Fernanda.

EMILIO

Lucia wants to marry a guy, but he is her brother's political enemy, for this reason the brother arranges a forced wedding with another guy.

IVO

So she marries a guy she doesn't love? I've already seen this story...hum, what a delicious wine!

LORENA

This is another thing that leaves me crazy: Why do people grovel behind others that don't care?

FERNANDA

Only Emilio.

EMILIO

What's up with me?

FERNANDA

So much culture, I get wondered.

III-

6

OTAVIO

Culture is not enough to get a woman.

FERNANDA

And who is talking about it?

LORENA

It may not be enough, but it scores many points.

IVO

And why not a man?

LORENA

Have you already noticed that we talk about getting married as an established rule: everyone must get married. And if the person decides to stay single? What's the problem in it?

FERNANDA

For me it was ululatingly obvious I would get married.

LUCIO

Sooner or later.

IVO

I would like to get married too.

OTAVIO

And then why don't you get married?

IVO

Do you want me to answer you?

FERNANDA

My wedding was beautiful...

OTAVIO

Where are you going?

(LUCIO mumbles the madness aria.)

FERNANDA

...that great amount of guests, my white dress, almost transparent in its whiteness...

IVO

Has she gotten married virgin?

FERNANDA

..it was a hot february day, and I haven't cried, I haven't strewed a single tear...

III-

7

(FERNANDA falls onto the sofa and cries.)

LORENA

My friend!

IVO

Hey, what kind of husband is this that doesn't console the spouse?

OTAVIO

You want to anger me tonight, don't you?

IVO

I don't have anything to loose.

LORENA

What you need is a child, that's it.

FERNANDA

Lucio...

IVO

And I hate children!

LUCIO

I've had an idea, let's play music and then we dance to animate the atmosphere.

IVO

It's necessary.

EMILIO

I think now you are the one that needs a lot of wine.

LUCIO

What kind of music do they have in this house, hum, Ivo?

IVO

They have an awful musical taste.

LUCIO

Lower, if not they'll hear you!

IVO

Finally, I've found something.

EMILIO

Drink more, you are the host anyway.

III-

8

LORENA

Stop, Emilio, he has already risen up two glasses of wine.

FERNANDA

Otavio has been impossible, he's been so rude to me lately.

OTAVIO

It's better you shut up!

IVO

It's getting hotter.

FERNANDA

He complains about the job...

LUCIO

You are not bad in this. Where did you learn to dance?

FERNANDA

...about me...

EMILIO

*Viva il vino spumeggiante.*

FERNANDA

And even fuck me, he can't anymore...

OTAVIO

You bitch!

LORENA

Hold him!

IVO

What a madness!

LORENA

Don't let him go, Emilio!

LUCIO

I have to put the Lucia CD!

OTAVIO

Leave me, man, I won't beat your *little friend*. It's all her arrogant family's fault, this band of people with the god in belly, and she is the same!

LORENA

Don't talk to her like this, you bulky! Maybe your family has its defects too. I've already beared my...I won't bear another horse!

III-

9

LORENA [continued]

I haven't got married for this reason and I'll have to see an animal beating my friend?

OTAVIO

I want you go to hell!

EMILIO

He is going to jump through the bedrooms' window.

LORENA

Emilio, follow him, for god's sake!

EMILIO

Me?

IVO

I go. Let it with me.

FERNANDA

I can't stand it!

LORENA

Fernanda, wait.

EMILIO

Now I go.

(Slight pause.)

LUCIO

What an adrenaline, hum?

LORENA

My god! And it was supposed to be a nice dinner party.

LUCIO

My partner is closed in the bedroom with the husband.

LORENA

And mine in the kitchen with the wife.

LUCIO

I think we remained. What do you think if we know each other better?

LORENA

What?

LUCIO

Would you like a glass of wine?

III-

(CURTAIN)

ACT IV

(In the living room.)

LORENA

How boring. What a boring thing!

LUCIO

I otherwise find it quite funny.

LORENA

Do you mean it seriously? To be sincere I haven't been able so far to consider you seriously. I mean, when you say something, the dosis of sarcasm is so high I actually think you are willing to see the horrified reaction of other people instead of expressing your own thought.

LUCIO

Do you get horrified with me? Hum? Do you?

LORENA

Yes. No. Funny.

LUCIO

After Tobias' death, I don't consider many things seriously anymore.

LORENA

But you should. You are dealing with people that haven't suffered what you did.

LUCIO

Are you sure you've chosen the right career?

LORENA

But at the same time you shoot to all directions, there is a ..sweetness, a softness that...

LUCIO

That what?

LORENA

...that makes me...I don't believe you go on juggling with these oranges while in the bedroom and in the kitchen God knows what's going on.

LUCIO

Or while you are telling things to be listened by someone?

LORENA

I didn't get that.

LUCIO

Lorena, I've already gone thru many things in my short life. I've learned that what cares is yourself. What stays is yourself.

LORENA

But Lucio, this kind of...

LUCIO

My experience of having been married was fantastic, but the resting taste is too bitter.

LORENA

I actually feel a little idiot talking to you about this subject, first of all because you had this living with a person which has been fundamental and rich in many aspects, and secondly, I am...inexperienced with it, I've never wanted to risk splitting anything with any guy, but I am curious...and I wanted to...know if you...ask you if you don't feel like...some day...

LUCIO

When I think of Tobias, I cry. I miss him much. I don't do it the whole day, but he lacks. We agreed in almost everything, we just argued about foolish things.

(Laughs.)

But sincerely?

(LORENA shakes her head positively.)

LUCIO

I do.

(In the kitchen.)

EMILIO

(After a long time.)

Take it easy, the world won't finish only because you and Otavio had a small wrangle.

(Slight pause.)

EMILIO

Does it occur frequently? Ok, all right, you don't need to talk. It is good to cry.

FERNANDA

I don't understand why, but he has been so strange lately, annoyed, aggressive...

EMILIO

Fernanda, I'm sorry to tell you that, but Otavio has always been  
IV-

3

EMILIO [continued]

a kind of bulky. At least the few times I ran into him.

FERNANDA

It's because you never come here. You don't see. Even my mother became the witch of the hour. And she is not so bad to him. All right, she complains from time to time, she doesn't accept I married him...

EMILIO

Really?

FERNANDA

...she says he doesn't have class, good origins, but I didn't get married to him because of this damned class!

EMILIO

And why then did you do it?

FERNANDA

Because I love him, I'm happy beside him, I like his smell, he is cute, ah, I don't know, Emilio. The only thing I know is that I can't live without him. I don't even want to consider it.

EMILIO

Fernanda, there are so many divorced people, it's not the end of the world.

FERNANDA

Emilio, you know nothing about it. You never loved someone truly.

(Slight pause.)

FERNANDA

After all...Otavio has been very stressed.

EMILIO

Stressed?

FERNANDA

He cannot fuck anymore, Emilio.

EMILIO

Well...everybody listened to it when you told us before in the living room.

FERNANDA

(Holding his shirt.)

Oh, was it that terrible?

IV-

4

EMILIO

Hum...I think it is something you should try to solve by yourselves...you two...alone...

FERNANDA

Emilio, embrace me strongly...yes.

(Slight pause.)

FERNANDA

I am very grateful for everything you have done for me.

EMILIO

But I haven't done anything so far. I will do.

FERNANDA

What? You know, I find you strange sometimes...

EMILIO

Really?

FERNANDA

It's in the eyes. The way you look. It scares me. It freezes.

(In the bedroom.)

OTAVIO

If you tell them anything...you know I'll kill you.

I VO

I adore when you show me your back. Large shoulders, thick neck...

OTAVIO

I'm not kidding, man!

IVO

What a beautiful bedroom! So this is your love nest?

OTAVIO

Take it easy, Otavio, take it easy. Look, bro, the dinner has been organized by Fernanda with the best intentions.

IVO

Oh, then you suffer in seeing me alone, abandoned?...Let's see the mattress...hum, very soft. Ours was quite harder, do you still remember it? It's been a long tome ago.

OTAVIO

Why wanting to go back to the past? What's gone is gone.

IV-

5

IVO

(Imitating FERNANDA's voice.)

Oh, Otavio, put it deeper, like this, come here sweetheart...

OTAVIO

(Jumping over IVO.)

Son of a bitch...

IVO

Go away over myself! Did you hurt the head on the wall? You thought I couldn't beat, hum? The sissy here is strong, it's good to be careful, asshole.

OTAVIO

Shut up this mouth! I won't let you tell anyone! And if you want to play with the danger, you know what I can do to you.

IVO

It happens you don't have power over me anymore, my love. Your mandate has finished. It's up. Up.

(In the living room.)

LORENA

...and in front of us. My sister and I, we left running and we hid in the most absurd places. Once they found her inside a very old wall clock. I don't know how she didn't get deaf with the beats.

LUCIO

Fucking hell.

LORENA

But it's ok. After all it's a long time ago. There were days I left my hiding-place and met my mother laying on her bed, exhausted, with the body full of wheals. She turned on me without moving any muscle of her face. It was horrible. I didn't know what to do.

LUCIO

And when you grew up?

LORENA

Then I started to face the monster. The lunch was the worst thing. Once he even threw a glass over me. But he failed the sight. The old man had a bad sight.

LUCIO

At least you laugh a little. It seems not to be so tragic anymore.

IV-  
6

LORENA

That's right.

LUCIO

Do you want some wine?

LORENA

You know it's a long time I haven't told these stories to someone?

LUCIO

I've been awarded then?

LORENA

Intriguing. This is the word I was looking for to define you.

LUCIO

Define, what for?

LORENA

No idea. To feel myself safe.

LUCIO

You, women!

LORENA

(Surprised.)

What did you say?

(In the kitchen.)

EMILIO

I'm going to repeat once more: get divorced from this guy,  
Fernanda!

FERNANDA

I can't.

EMILIO

You'll find another one soon. You are pretty, intelligent...

FERNANDA

It's not that what scares me, Emilio, it's just a years long  
dream I don't want to unmake. My life with Otavio has been  
perfect.

EMILIO

Almost perfect you mean.

IV-

7

FERNANDA

You are my friend. You must help me.

EMILIO

I'm helping you. I'm showing you which is the easiest way, with  
less suffering.

FERNANDA

And what is it?

EMILIO

Leave him.

(Slight pause.)

EMILIO

Listen to me very carefully. There are too many other guys that could make you much happier than the rude Otavio.

FERNANDA

Emilio?

(In the bedroom.)

IVO

Awful. It's awful when you see the guy you love embracing another person. And this person is a woman. Why, Otavio? Why do you make it to me?

OTAVIO

Don't torture me more than you've already done.

IVO

Look at me, give me an answer! I stay the whole day closed in that dark and umid appartment, imagining what you are doing, where you are and I look at the phone and it never rings! We were so fine together, this fucking ambition, willing more and more. Switching me for an appartment, a job as an office-boy, a new car, no, I'll never accept it.

OTAVIO

And what are you planning to do?

IVO

Didn't you hear me before?

OTAVIO

It was true?

IVO

It was. Sighing won't help.

IV-

8

OTAVIO

I thought it was over between us.

IVO

And it's not?

(In the living room.)

LORENA

You...are very...funny!

LUCIO

Your company is very inspiring.

LORENA

Fool. Oh, we laughing and finishing their wine and no sign of the couples. I've forgotten them!

LUCIO

Me too.

(They both laugh together.)

LORENA

And what about Lucia?

LUCIO

Lucia? Oh, she loved Edgar of Ravenswood. When the brother found out she was in love with his political enemy, he arranged a wedding with another guy. Lucia couldn't do anything. In the wedding day, Edgar returned and he thought Lucia has agreed with the wedding. And he broke with her and left.

LORENA

How sad.

(FERNANDA and EMILIO in the kitchen. / IVO and OTAVIO in the bedroom.)

FERNANDA

So all this time...

IVO

...it still exists something...

EMILIO

I always tried to hide from you...

OTAVIO

...even for me it's difficult to admit.

FERNANDA

Why did it take you such a long time?

IVO

But it's late now.

EMILIO

It's never late for anything when we want something so intensively.

OTAVIO

I know I fucked everything, but...

FERNANDA

I really don't know what to say.

IVO

Don't say anything. Silence is better.

EMILIO

I wanted to tell you so many things!

OTAVIO

There is a picture of you I always carry with me...

FERNANDA

I never understood when you looked at me like this...

IVO

After all the things that happened?

EMILIO

Do you remember the high school graduation picture?

OTAVIO

This picture is the most...

FERNANDA

You are leaving me confused.

IVO

Then sit closer to me.

EMILIO

This mouth...how I've dreamt with it...

OTAVIO

It's making me excited.

FERNANDA

I think I'm fainting...

IV-  
10

IVO

Why right now?

EMILIO

Because you want it too, don't you? Don't you?

OTAVIO

Yes. The skin is the same. Soft.

FERNANDA

What are you waiting for?

IVO

That it could happen again!

EMILIO

I've waited so long.

OTAVIO

I can't hold it anymore!

(In the living room.)

LUCIO

...after all he appears delirating, it's the end of the party, having killed the husband. It's the famous madness' aria. It's beautiful...

LORENA

He?

LUCIO

Did I say he?

LORENA

Yes.

LUCIO

She. He and she.

(In the kitchen / In the bedroom.)

(EMILIO kissing FERNANDA / OTAVIO kissing IVO.)

(In the living room.)

LUCIO

There is something you've not asked me yet.

LORENA

Yet? After everything we talked about? I think you know better

IV-

11

LORENA [continued]

about my life than I do!

LUCIO

Do you want to know if I've already had a girlfriend?

LORENA

Do I?

LUCIO

I had some girlfriends. And boyfriends. Women and men. But I had a girlfriend when I was very young. We fucked a lot. And we were not careful. And it happened.

LORENA

A baby.

LUCIO

A boy.

LORENA

Why did you tell me that?

LUCIO

I don't know.

(Pause.)

LORENA

Lucio?

LUCIO

What is it?

LORENA

How does it end? Do Lucia and Edgardo eventually meet? What does this smile mean?

(In the kitchen.)

FERNANDA

Fernanda!

EMILIO

What's up?

FERNANDA

I lost the control!

EMILIO

You lost what, Fernanda? All night long you've been saying your

IV-

12

EMILIO [continued]

husband is not good for it, he's a sourness, he only criticizes your family, and when a guy shows up, a guy who...look, it has not been easy for me...such a long time with that pinched in my throat...I've dreamt so much with this kiss...I'm not this ice wall I seem to be!

FERNANDA

It's not you, Emilio, it's me. I can't. I simply can't.

EMILIO

And why not?

FERNANDA

I'm not pure.

EMILIO

Oh, that's nice! Pure.

FERNANDA

I don't mean this.

EMILIO

I hope so, because I imagine that at least once in a life time you and your husband...

FERNANDA

(Putting her finger on his lips.)  
Quiet! Psst! I mean something very serious.

(Slight pause.)

FERNANDA

Perhaps the most serious thing of my entire life.

EMILIO

I didn't get it.

(Slight pause.)

FERNANDA

I have a child. I had.

EMILIO

But what does it matter, for me nothing matters, Fernanda. I'm crazy about you, can't you see that? I held it inside myself and I took heart to tell you today, because the time flows, and I couldn't bear seeing you beside that animal...that just makes you cry...

IV-  
13

FERNANDA

But I didn't keep the child.

EMILIO

You didn't?

FERNANDA

No.

EMILIO

How come?

FERNANDA

I was too young. I gave him.

EMILIO

You gave him?

FERNANDA

I knew it. I knew you would react like this. Imagine Otavio then! He will kill me!

EMILIO

And where is he now?

(Slight pause.)

EMILIO

Fernanda, give me an answer.

FERNANDA

Emilio, you are my best friend, but you'll always be just this, I can't want loving you. We'd better come back. They must be worried.

EMILIO

Just let me understand. One thing after the other. You had a child and you gave him. As a gift. Forward.

(Slight pause.)

EMILIO

And I'm being discarded the same way, that means, every human being you love, who needs you, who can make you happy, you expel, avoid, discard, not to become happy, on purpose, isn't it?

FERNANDA

Don't talk like that, I like you very much, one thing is completely different from the other...

IV-  
14

EMILIO

Then, as a last wish, if I have the right, who is the lucky fellow?

FERNANDA

What?

EMILIO

The father. The guy that...

FERNANDA

It's what I wanted to tell you if you hadn't...

EMILIO

Stop rolling me up. At least once.

FERNANDA

He is there.

EMILIO

Shit! I knew you and Otavio have had an old story and that...

FERNANDA

No. He is not the father.

EMILIO

No?

FERNANDA

No.

EMILIO

But...

(In the bedroom.)

IVO

Go away from over myself, Otavio, our time is already gone.

OTAVIO

But it was doing so fine.

IVO

I can't trust you anymore, I don't know if you are using me or if you really feel like to stay with me. I have unlearned to love you.

(Slight pause.)

OTAVIO

But then at least...

IV-  
15

IVO

Hum?...

OTAVIO

Don't tell anyone.

IVO

How can you ask me something like this?

OTAVIO

Think a little bit on me, on my marriage...

IVO

And I? What about me?

OTAVIO

I need Fernanda...

IVO

Pig!

OTAVIO

Go spitting in your house! In that ordinary indian hut. You sissy! Unsatisfied gay! You are unhappy with the money I give you? Go looking for another one to support you!

IVO

Asshole! You think you are the best, but you are at the most an office boy, a guy who hasn't decided yet where to introduce his dick!

OTAVIO

You faggy!

IVO

Right! Beat! Spank! Animal, it's only based on the strength you know how to solve things, because you have fear of me, totally scared. Look how ridiculous. Thrown on the floor and crying. What a picture!

OTAVIO

Please! I supplicate to you!

IVO

Loosen my feet! Oh, how disgusting, seeing the guy we were crazy for groveling on the floor...what a humiliation, Otavio.

OTAVIO

I make your allowance double!

IVO

Put the allowance into your wife's ass she will love it. You could have had a better taste, don't you think? I think she is unseasoned, and she makes a big effort to seem sexier. She doesn't succeed. Poor her. It fits with you.

OTAVIO

Ivo, I have something you like, only I have it, come here, my love, come with me, touch it...

IVO

Pathetic. I could never imagine you would reach this level.

OTAVIO

No, Ivo, don't go! Come back! Come back!

(CURTAIN)

ACT V

LORENA

When I look deep inside your eyes, I see a different light, an orange shine...it looks like a small sun...

LUCIO

You see all this?

LORENA

Well...

LUCIO

Did you turn red?

LORENA

Not exactly...it's that I'm not used to your kind of questions. You say such things that leave us without...Ivo? What's happened?

LUCIO

It seems they had a hard time there in the bedroom.

IVO

Where is there another bottle?

LORENA

Ask the host. What have you done to him?

IVO

What have I done to him? What has he done to me!

LORENA

OK, sorry.

FERNANDA

Where is Otavio?

LUCIO

I was here in the living room with Lorena the whole time. We don't know.

(EMILIO tries discreetly to open the front door.)

LUCIO

Is he in the bedroom, Ivo?

FERNANDA

He must understand.

V-

2

LORENA

Fernanda, someone wants to leave.

FERNANDA

Emilio!

EMILIO

I was just...

FERNANDA

Aren't you going to stay on my side? I need you.

EMILIO

Really? Now you need me.

LORENA

But what's going on here? The animations are very exalted. If even Emilio, who looked so peaceful is behaving like this...

IVO

Why don't you take care of your own life, hum?

LUCIO

Lorena is out of this roguish trick, dolly! We were fine here. And then you arrived.

FERNANDA

Oh, at least! I was becoming nervous. I thought you'd never more leave the room.

OTAVIO

Fernanda, let's finish the dinner. Do you mind leaving?

IVO

Oh, no! First let's drink a little more. It's still early.

OTAVIO

Don't piss me off.

FERNANDA

Otavio, I have a very important thing to tell you.

LORENA

Look, I'm really sorry that the dinner party was not exactly what you've planned, but I guarantee I enjoyed it a lot.

FERNANDA

I don't know how. Emilio and I were together the whole time

V-

3

FERNANDA [continued]

in the kitchen.

OTAVIO

How come?

FERNANDA

What?

IVO

He thinks that he is the only one that can be locked with others.

OTAVIO

That's enough for you.

(Goes to the door.)

Why isn't it opening?

IVO

He will throw me out. Lucio, he wants to sweep us from the earth!

LUCIO

Otavio, you'll break the door!

OTAVIO

Where is this fucking key?

(IVO laughs.)

OTAVIO

You've hidden it, haven't you?

IVO

No. But I congratulate who has done it.

EMILIO

Why don't we break into it?

FERNANDA

No, Emilio! I've already told you you must stay.

OTAVIO

Stay? What do you want to tell me, hum, Fernanda?

FERNANDA

Have you calmed down? Have you forgotten our argument?

OTAVIO

I'm not enjoying this at all.

V-

4

LORENA

It's true, it's locked indeed. Funny.

LUCIO

Nobody locked it. We stayed here together the whole time.

FERNANDA

Together?

OTAVIO

Don't change the subject, Fernanda!

FERNANDA

But I'm not chan...

OTAVIO

What have you done to my wife?

FERNANDA

Stop, Otavio! He doesn't have anything to do with what I'm going to tell you.

IVO

Only throwing the others onto the sofa, onto the floor...onto the bed...to impose respect.

EMILIO

It's not really me who has done something to Fernanda...

OTAVIO

You are all comploting against me!

EMILIO

Lucio is the most indicated person to give you an answer.

OTAVIO

Lucio?

FERNANDA

Otavio...where do you know Lucio from?

OTAVIO

He is...

LUCIO

Let me talk, Otavio. For Tobias.

EMILIO

The Rivera's pictures...

V-

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FERNANDA

Who is Tobias?

LUCIO

My partner. Whom I was married with.

FERNANDA

And what does Otavio have to do with it?

(Silence.)

IVO

Talk, Otavio.

LUCIO

I was a friend of his brother.

FERNANDA

The one that died drowned?

OTAVIO

Yes, Fernanda. Yes, Fernanda. But what does it matter?

IVO

It matters a lot.

LORENA

Lucio, you are sweating!

OTAVIO

Where is this fucking key?

FERNANDA

Forget this key. Listen to me at once.

OTAVIO

It means we are going to remain here locked until a charitable soul decides to come and open the door to us?

EMILIO

This is too clownesque. There are people that deserve themselves. I want to leave.

IVO

If you find the key...

LORENA

We'll find it soon. On the last case we call a locksmith to break into it.

V-

FERNANDA

First I want to tell you something.

OTAVIO

Ok, what's it?

FERNANDA

I...well, before I met you I had some boyfriends.

EMILIO

Fernanda!

FERNANDA

I am going to tell it!

LUCIO

Lucia.

LORENA

Lucio, forget her. Let her speak.

OTAVIO

And then?

IVO

I haven't understood either. Many people have...boyfriends before they get married.

FERNANDA

It's...

(FERNANDA runs toward LORENA and embraces her.)

LORENA

Take it easy, my friend.

(Whispers.)

Bring her something, Otavio, she is trembling.

OTAVIO

No, I want to listen this story till the end.

FERNANDA

I'm not pure anymore, Otavio...

IVO

Pure?

EMILIO

I don't want to listen to it. Open the door please.

LUCIO

Why? Was it necessary?

FERNANDA

Before I met you I had a child. A son. A boy.

LUCIO

Yeah. A boy.

LORENA

Where is he now?

LUCIO

No, Lorena, no.

EMILIO

She gave the child away. She didn't want to have the child. Ready. Now let me go. I don't have anything else to do here.

IVO

Relax, hunk. The party has just started. The very good comes now.

FERNANDA

Aren't you going to say anything?

OTAVIO

It's...a surprise. Why have you never told me anything?

LUCIO

He is fine, Fernanda.

OTAVIO

Why are you looking at me this way.

FERNANDA

I had a child, Otavio. I'm not pure anymore.

IVO

What a boring chat.

FERNANDA

Aren't you gong to say anything?

OTAVIO

What can I say?

FERNANDA

I don't believe. Otavio, I had a son with another man!

V-

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OTAVIO

And how many people have children around?...

FERNANDA

But I am not how many people, I am your wife. You can't see the gravity of it. I risked our marriage telling it to you! I prepared myself for any kind of reaction. You could have shouted with me, beated me, but staying like this, open-mouthed, indifferent, stupefied...

IVO

I think Otavio...

FERNANDA

Quiet, sissy, nobody asked you whatever you think or...

IVO

I haven't given you the intimacy to talk to me like that! And more, we are fed up with this ridiculous story of pure and impure, look at yourself and realize this guy wants to stay with you at any expense!

LORENA

It's better I try to open this door immediately. Can you help me finding the key, Emilio?

FERNANDA

Asshole!

IVO

Scoundrel!

LORENA

Otavio, don't!

LUCIO

Stop, man!

(Silence.)

IVO

Ohhh...only this way you can show you're a man, son-of-a-bitch. You know quite well what I am able of, you are playing with fire. But I think I won't have to tell my story, because she is really upset with you. Sucker.

FERNANDA

Sucker you, badly-loved sissy, dry, rancorous.

IVO

You could never imagine how much I have already been

V-

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IVO [continued]

loved...

LUCIO

You are being rude. If Ivo is gay, it matters only to him and noone else.

IVO

No! It matters to all the men I've slept with! All the men...

LORENA

I think it's better to stop. I'll call the locksmith.

IVO

No! Now it's my turn to speak. If she had her chance, I'll have mine.

FERNANDA

Even that you don't do? Aren't you going to shut your friend up? He is in our house!

OTAVIO

Ivo...

IVO

What? Are you going to shut me up?

LUCIO

Otavio, I think someone must tell you. Sooner or later you will find out and I prefer that it happens through myself.

OTAVIO

Is there more?

LUCIO

Fernanda's son's father is me.

LORENA

Lucio!

EMILIO

What for?

IVO

Then the only pure Sissy here is me?

FERNANDA

Otavio, I was too young, it was not planned, I wouldn't be able to keep...

V-

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OTAVIO

I didn't know you were...

IVO

...a man, isn't it? It's very typical of you to think something like this.

LORENA

Lucio, so you...

FERNANDA

I think our marriage...

IVO

The marriage is a farse. It's always a farse. One of the two will end up feeling sick and will jump away. And then some day when you think everything is all right, you choose your best dress and prepare a dinner to wait for your man and he doesn't come up and you sleep in front of the tv and wake up the other day willing to throw yourself through the window.

FERNANDA

And you by chance have been married to understand it?

IVO

I have.

OTAVIO

Stop it! I can't stand it anymore! Lorena, call to someone immediately to break this door down. I need fresh air.

EMILIO

And I am fed up. You don't know what you want from life. And even I have forgotten what I wanted.

LORENA

But I think you are completely wrong. There are possible marriages. Lucio was married and he was happy.

LUCIO

Lorena...

FERNANDA

You are going to talk about things you don't understand too?

LUCIO

Now you are exaggerating. If you are upset with your husband, go and solve your life with him and don't shout everywhere around you!

V-

11

FERNANDA

Lucio... I'm sorry...I'm lost...I don't know what to do, where to go...

LORENA

So animated with the dinner party, and now this way.

IVO

I only hope the door will be opened till tomorrow, if not I don't get on board to Canada. And I don't want to stay here anymore.

OTAVIO

Why don't you go to your mother's home? I bring you there.

FERNANDA

Leave me, Otavio. Leave me.

LORENA

Lucio, how long have you been with Fernanda?

LUCIO

A short time.

EMILIO

And I've known her since we were children.

IVO

The only thing that's going to allow us facing each other is the whisky, is there more?

OTAVIO

Fernanda, look at me. I love you.

LUCIO

Lorena, look at me.

LORENA

What is it?

EMILIO

When is going to be the next dinner party? I think I have lost my partner. Definitely.

FERNANDA

There is no dinner party anymore, Emilio. There isn't anything else.

IVO

It hurts to see you like this. Crying with the head buried into the hands.

V-

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OTAVIO

I've lost everything.

EMILIO

I think everybody ended up losing. If we had a name, it would be "the losers".

P.R.BERTON - PRISONERS

LORENA

I feel embarassed to say it, but I haven't lost anything.

LUCIO

At the end, Lucia kills herself.

(Long pause. Apathy. Imobility.)

LUCIO

The end is always sad.

LORENA

Not always.

FERNANDA

I think I will move to my mother. And you stay with the apartment.

IVO

And he goes on crying.

EMILIO

We spend years of our lives dreaming that something is going to happen and when you see, nothing happened. Everything still the same. It returned to the same point. Inertia.

LUCIO

Lorena, look at me. Can you still see the orange shine in the deep of my eyes?

LORENA

Let me come closer.

(Short pause.)

LORENA

Hu-hum. I see it.

LUCIO

And now I see in yours too.

(CURTAIN)

(END OF THE PLAY)