

# **Nothing Against Bipeds**

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A list of characters

**ADAM**

**EVE**

**MOTHER BEECH**

**FATHER BEECH**

**DAUGHTER BEECH**

**GRANDPA BEECH**

**SPRUCE**

**MRS WOODPECKER**

**BARK BEETLE**

**SOCIAL WORKER 1**

**SOCIAL WORKER 2**

## Scene 1

*The future. Adam enters a Slovak ancient forest holding a hand-drawn map. The forest is fragrant, bright, birds are singing. It feels magical. It has tall healthy beech trees, green moss and an old stump. Adam is carrying a large rucksack. He drops it on the ground.*

**ADAM** I found it! Eeeeeeeve!

*Enters Eve with a rucksack. Adam is making winning gestures. He roars in delight, we hear birds flying from the trees. Eve nudges him.*

**EVE** Quieter.

**ADAM** I'm better than GPS. I can't be quieter. Put it online!

**EVE** We agreed to be offline! Otherwise you won't make it?

**ADAM** I will. How about you? Can you make it a few days without shower?

**EVE** Uhm. I want to find out what was it Granny went through here.

*Eve opens her Granny's diary, reads.*

**EVE** If you need to disappear from your life, do it during Summer solstice. Spend three days and three nights amidst the century-old beeches. Whatever you gain, will be from another world. Or not.

*Eve closes the diary.*

**EVE** Do you get it? What did she gain from the other world?!

**ADAM** Nothing. Your Granny was zany. Though we'll have quite some fun!

*Eve lies in the grass, looking into tree tops. Adam takes a deep breath, enjoying it.*

**ADAM** Do you feel it?

**EVE** What?

**ADAM** How everything here enjoys rotting and living.

*Something is pressing against Eve's back. She sits up and picks up some beechnuts from the ground, looking at them in distrust.*

**EVE** Look, a beechnut.

**ADAM** So?

**EVE** Adam, let's go home ...

**ADAM** What? We agreed to stay here at least for three days. It's a challenge, Eve!

**EVE** Let's go away.

**ADAM** (*more annoyed*) We just got here. Don't you want to get a little of the other world like your Granny?!

**EVE** This forest makes me feel weird.

**ADAM** Don't be silly ... there's no one but us.

**EVE** There's wild boar. The ground is full of beechnuts.

**ADAM** (*teasing her*) Hundreds of boar. They'll stick us on their tusks and eat. Did you know the boar are greedier than the Americans?

*Text appears on the screen: Adam, social credit: 112 points. We see his score dropping because of incorrect thinking. The score stops at 92.*

**EVE** Cut the crap.

**ADAM** Me?! We keep schlepping here all day. I want a break, Eve. How about some sex on the green moss, hm?

**EVE** I can't make love with you when being stared at by the boar!

*Adam sits on the stump, pulls Eve on his knees.*

**ADAM** C'mon ... With these hands I'll strangle every boar that will stare at you. Do you want me to?

*Adam's points drop to 82.*

**EVE** ... why would you kill it right away?!

**ADAM** Okay. I'll just reproach the boar decently. Better?

*Adam embraces Eve, soothes her.*

**ADAM** Had there been any boar here, there would be no beechnuts. They would be munching on them up like crisps.

*Adam kisses Eve. They start kissing. Eve pulls away again.*

**EVE** Let's leave.

**ADAM** I'm not going anywhere. You get frightened by some stupid beechnuts?!

**EVE** Stop shouting. If there's any boar indeed, they traumatised.

**ADAM** It's you they get traumatised by! For a boar is more frightened by you than you are. If the poor thing happens to be watching you right now, it can't decide whether you're alright or some fucking hunter! No need to be so nasty about the poor beast!

**EVE** Get stuffed!

*Eve angrily kicks a root, and a branch slashes her from behind. Eve turns around in surprise. Text appears on the screen: Adam, social credit: 910 points. We see her score dropping because of incorrect thinking. The score stops at 900.*

**EVE** You slashed me?!

**ADAM** (*surprised*) I didn't move at all.

**EVE** You're such a loser!

**ADAM** (*amused*) It might've been the trees. They saw you going nuts, so they slashed you.

*Eve grabs her rucksack, and accidentally breaks a branch. Another one slashes her from behind.*

**EVE** (*to Adam*) You really are nuts?! Get out of my sight!

**ADAM** (*sarcastically*) And how am I to do it?

*Eve leaves angrily. Adam is sorry.*

**ADAM** Eve ... Eve, don't be silly. What if there really is boar here?!

*Adam is looking at Eve helplessly.*

## Scene 2

*We hear laughter but see no one. The beeches are gradually coming to life. Father Beech drops on the sofa, laughing (a moss-covered mound). Mother Beech is pouring water into glasses. Their Daughter is tidying her leaves in front of the mirror, discreetly blinking at Spruce growing amidst the beeches. Grandpa Beech, the stump, hops to the table and drinks the water eagerly. He asks for more. The beeches move and speak more slowly than humans.*

**GRANDPA** That was fun!

**FATHER** And that expression of hers: You slashed me?!

*They burst in laughter again. Mother Beech grows serious.*

**MOTHER** I didn't like it.

**DAUGHTER** Mum! You, too, were laughing. Most of all.

**FATHER** Through all the vents.

**MOTHER** I have more vents, so I laugh more loudly.

**DAUGHTER** How funny: the bipeds have their head on the top, while we think with our roots.

**MOTHER** Still, Daddy didn't have to slash the biped lady.

**FATHER** She kicked my roots and they sat on Grandpa!

**GRANDPA** Do I look like a stool?!

*Everyone looks at him in compassion; he does look like a stool.*

**FATHER, MOTHER, DAUGHTER** No. Not at all. Not the least!

**GRANDPA** (*sighs*) I tell you: Bipeds are f.....

**MOTHER** Grandpa! Don't swear in front of the child. She's got to keep growing straight!

**GRANDPA** I'm not swearing. *Bipeds are fucked* is our old saying.

**FATHER** Grandpa's merely teaching her who is the rotten in this world.

**MOTHER** To err is human – that is a saying.

**GRANDPA** My word! Bipeds are f..

**MOTHER** Enough! You're totally out of it. Today, forests are trying to adopt the bipeds and commit charity on them It's en vogue! Let's be the first Slovak ancient forest to adopt a biped!

**FATHER** Darling, a biped is the last thing we need. They are way too overrated!

**MOTHER** Perhaps. Though we are century-old beeches. We are something more! I, for instance, love everyone in our forest.

*Father and Grandpa roll their eyes. The Daughter likes her Mother's idea.*

**DAUGHTER** Daddy, why don't you adopt that little male for me! How is it called?

**FATHER** Acacia.

**MOTHER** Adam.

**DAUGHTER** Perfect name. Isn't he just bouncy!

**FATHER** She's now also gets budding with the bipeds! They spoil everything!

**DAUGHTER** Though they don't live long enough to manage.

**GRANDPA** *(To the Mother)* Pour some!

*The Mother pours them.*

**MOTHER** You shouldn't be drinking so much.

**FATHER** And what are we to do?! We're ever so thirsty. It's boiling hot, moreover the spruce invaded us!

*The Father gives side looks to Spruce.*

**GRANDPA** Spruce are a mob! A mob stuffed with bark-beetle. May they drop dead!

**MOTHER** At least we are healthy.

*Mother knocks on Father.*

**FATHER** Auch.

**MOTHER** ... touch wood.

*Grandpa is pacing up and down, grumbling.*

**GRANDPA** First, it were the spruce to move in, and now the bipeds. Ghastly!

**DAUGHTER** Do you really have to be so negative?!

**MOTHER** The mushrooms aren't very clever either. Though we do pretty good business with them.

**DAUGHTER** They introduced us to underground internet.

**FATHER** They charge some amount for it!

**GRANDPA** That's ransom! They seize one third of our sugar.

**DAUGHTER** Grandpa, we feed you, too ...

**MOTHER** Don't talk to Grandpa like this!

**GRANDPA** Exactly. Bipeds are f.....

**MOTHER** Shush, Grandpa! (*turns to her husband*) Darling ... if we adopt the bipeds, we'll make quite an impression on the other trees. Besides, it won't be for long. The bipeds are mere episodes in our lives.

*Father and Grandpa aren't sure about the idea. Mother and Daughter see things differently.*

**DAUGHTER** Please, please, Daddy!

**FATHER** I said no!

*Mother is sulking.*

**MOTHER** It's my birthday next week.

**FATHER** I know, darling. The round three hundred years.

**MOTHER** I want a biped for my birthday.

**FATHER** What's gotten into you?!



### Scene 3

*The young Miss Beech is sitting on the grass, dangling her roots, sipping on sugar drink using a straw made of hollow grass. Spruce joins her.*

**SPRUCE**

Soft moss, tender grass,  
The moon hid behind the clouds.  
Come and sit, pretty lass,  
The grass awaits the two of us!

*The daughter is amused. She is smiling.*

**DAUGHTER** Are you a sicko?

**SPRUCE** No, Spruce. Don't you know me?

**DAUGHTER** I sure do, but ... are you a poet?

**SPRUCE** No. A conifer.

**DAUGHTER** You speak like stupid.

**SPRUCE** Sorry. When it comes over me, I can't help but get it out of my system.

**DAUGHTER** Are you obsessive?

**SPRUCE** Only with you.

*Miss Beech laughs.*

**SPRUCE** Will you go to the movies with me?

**DAUGHTER** What's on?

**SPRUCE** The classics. Sunset. So, are you coming?

**DAUGHTER** My folk won't let me.

**SPRUCE** How about if I ask them?

**DAUGHTER** Try.

*Miss Beech passes him the drink. Spruce has a sip. They take turns drinking through the straw. Spruce takes her by hand. Miss Beech pulls away and runs away giggling.*

#### Scene 4

*Mother Beech is preparing meal in a pot, stirring it with a spatula: humus, old leaves, soil. She adds bugs, pours some water. Father is having a nap on the sofa. Grandpa is listening to metal music with headphones on, dancing.*

**DAUGHTER** What's for lunch?

**MOTHER** Stew. Where have you been?

**DAUGHTER** Out.

**MOTHER** Pass me some earthworms.

**DAUGHTER** This year's harvest?

*Mother nods. Daughter passes her a jar with earthworm. Mother opens it, adds them to the pot. Daughter takes one, wants to eat it. Mother slaps her hand to stop her from nibbling.*

**DAUGHTER** Mum? Is it true what you said?

**MOTHER** What did I say?

**DAUGHTER** That you love everyone in our forest.

**MOTHER** I'm not just saying empty phrases, honey.

*Daughter is content.*

**DAUGHTER** Fine. I guess I fell for Spruce.

**MOTHER** Spruce?!

**DAUGHTER** He keeps looking at me. Didn't you notice?

**MOTHER** Honey, the spruce ... you are way out of their league!

**DAUGHTER** Aha. So, you love everyone in our forest except for Spruce?!

*Father wakes up to the shouting.*

**FATHER** (to Mother) She's gone mad!

*Father takes off the headphones from Grandpa.*

**FATHER** *(to Grandpa)* Your Granddaughter fell for Spruce!

**GRANDPA** You're kidding, right?

**FATHER** *(to Daughter)* We've been trying to get rid of that Spruce for years, he doesn't fit in!

**DAUGHTER** *(surprised)* What are you doing to him?

**GRANDPA** *(viciously)* We grew beneath its roots and are taking away its water. And sugar. Give it ten years and he's finished!

**DAUGHTER** But I like him!

**FATHER** Forget about the spruce, kid. They are farmed. They live their ridiculous eighty years before they turn them into planks.

**GRANDPA** Plus bark-beetle feed on them!

**MOTHER** You've got to find yourself a young mighty beech.

*Adam's voice is approaching from distance. He is calling Eve. Grandpa grows nervous.*

**GRANDPA** Him again?!

**ADAM** Eeeeeeeve!

*Daughter waves her branches at Adam.*

**DAUGHTER** We're here. Adaaam!

**FATHER** Shall I spank you?!

**MOTHER** *(threatens Daughter with a branch)* We shall get back to that Spruce of yours later!

**FATHER** Shhhhhhh!

*Adam enters the forest and sits right on Grandpa.*

## Scene 5

*Adam is seated on the stump, looking for his mobile phone in the rucksack. Then he's searching through the forest. To no avail.*

**ADAM** (*sighs*) Where's that stupid phone?!

*Eve returns to the forest, calling after Adam.*

**EVE** Adaaaam! Where are you!

*Adam is frantically looking where to hide. He climbs into the stump. The trees are alarmed. Eve is looking around, looking for Adam.*

**EVE** ... you'd leave me here?!

*The trees are poking Adam to release Grandpa. Adam, inside the stump, moves comically behind Eve. Eve looks back, the trees and Adam stop. Eve moves forward. The stump follows her.*

**EVE** Okay, I'm such an indecisive fool. Show up! Please.

*Eve moves again, the stump follows her. Eve turns around abruptly. The stump stops. Eve screams in panic. She is trying to escape; the stump keeps hopping behind her. Eve is panicking, the stump is chasing her. Eve notices Adam's sweatshirt sticking out of the stump.*

**EVE** Adam?

*The stump stops. Eve moves towards the stump; the stump starts backing away.*

**EVE** Why are you doing this to me?!

*Eve is chasing the stump across the stage. At last she lifts the stump. Adam is squatting beneath, with hood on. She angrily tosses the stump away. Father Beech catches the stump in his branches, passes it to Mother Beech who lovingly puts it in its place. Eve and Adam are oblivious to that. Eve's score drops to 890 for incorrect behaviour.*

**EVE** I nearly had a seizure!

*Eve is hitting Adam with her tiny fists. Adam cannot help laughing. Adam's score drops to 67.*

**EVE** That wasn't funny at all!

**ADAM** It was indeed.

**EVE** Nope.

**ADAM** You wanted me to vanish. So I obliged.

**EVE** (*sighs*) I want to be home. Run hot bath and get some good sleep.

**ADAM** (*teasing*) So we go home? You're a greater coward than your Granny?!

*Adam opens the diary that Eve's Granma kept and reads to tease her.*

**ADAM** ... a woman is returning to the deep forest not because she feels like to, but because she has to. She follows her instinct and she goes. Otherwise her soul would go without her ...

*Adam looks at Eve with an air of import. Eve doesn't like to lose.*

**EVE** We're staying. At least I tidy up my thoughts. The forest is made for that.

**ADAM** Eve, you're not good at tidying up. Things or thoughts.

**EVE** Would empathy happen to ring a bell?

**ADAM** And you? You threw away the old stump. It was flying at least three metres.

*Eve looks back, but the stump is in its place by now.*

**EVE** I did not. I put it back in its place.

*Ponderingly, Adam pulls out a cigarette, looking at the stump.*

**ADAM** How did it get here? I would bet you threw it the other way!

**EVE** Smoking again?

**ADAM** I never stopped.

*Adam's score drops to 57. Eve grabs his cigarette. Woodpecker sounds in the forest.*

**EVE** So stop now!

*Eve starts running with the cigarette. Adam is chasing her. Eve is giggling, taking off her jumper, throwing it away. Adam likes it.*

**ADAM** Stop making mess here, Eve!

*Eve's score drops to 800. Adam grabs Eve; his hands are happily all over her.*

**ADAM** Where did you put the fag?

*Eve is laughing.*

**EVE** You're tickling me!

*They are kissing; it resembles a love match. They roll themselves up in the blanket. In embrace they roll through the moss; the trees are lifting their roots in front of them – they don't like it the least. Eve is laughing. From under the blanket, Adam is throwing out Eve's remaining clothes. He also throws out her lace bra. The young Beech catches it. She really likes the bra. Mrs Woodpecker flies down from the tree, gazing at the lovers. Eve stops kissing Adam.*

**EVE** Wanna tell you something ...

**ADAM** Now?

**EVE** Uhm.

**ADAM** No worries. I won't make you pregnant. You won't increase the carbon imprint.

*Adam seals her lips with a kiss. They make love.*

## Scene 6

*Mrs Woodpecker is hopping around the lovers in envy. She calls out to her husband, Mr Woodpecker who is up on the tree. We don't see him.*

**MRS WOODPECKER** Does it remind you of anything, old man?! Look how he desires her. He so wants her. Fly down here and you'll see!

*MRS WOODPECKER continues grumbling and picking on her husband.*

**MRS WOODPECKER** See how envious I am?!

**DAUGHTER** Me too!

*Eve sits up abruptly.*

**ADAM** What is it now?

**EVE** It seems someone's watching us.

**ADAM** Eve, don't be foolish!

*Adam kisses Eve again, Eve gives up. The young Beech is in awe.*

**DAUGHTER** They are full of sap and sugar.

**MRS WOODPECKER** (*angry*) Hear, old man?! Every day I ruffle my feathers for you only and you keep ignoring me! As if I were transparent. A drop of dew. (*She pauses, then to Daughter.*) Jay said that my old man is feeling blue.

**DAUGHTER** Blue?!

**MRS WOODPECKER** (*gets upset*) Even Mrs Owl thinks so. He doesn't desire me. He doesn't even build a new flat. Leaving everything to me. (*To the Woodpecker on the tree.*) But I can hardly inseminate myself! I am no snail, darling!

*Eve grows alert, pushes Adam away.*

**EVE** ... hear the voices?

**ADAM** (*flirtingly*) Now I only have you on my mind!

*Adam throws himself again on Eve, kissing her. Mother Beech speaks to Mrs Woodpecker.*

**MOTHER** Your rent is overdue, Mrs Woodpecker!

**FATHER** We are no free housing construction. And stop nibbling on our beetles. We've got larvae in the bark!

**GRANDPA** (*scornfully*) Woodpeckers are scrounges!

**DAUGHTER** Look, he's got hands all over her.

**MOTHER** (*corrects her*) He's kissing her.

**DAUGHTER** How does a woman taste like? Is she sweet?

**FATHER** (*to Daughter*) Stop staring, or I spank you!

*The young Beech covers her eyes with branches, peeking curiously in between them.*

**MRS WOODPECKER** We're no scrounges, Mrs Beech. My husband is ill. Depression. Got it before Christmas.

**MOTHER** Oh, please. And what might have caused it?

**MRS WOODPECKER** The beetles. Jay did say he wasn't to eat them. Jay, she's wise. She makes 10,000 hides and remembers them all.

**FATHER** What beetles? Why are you making excuses?!

**MRS WOODPECKER** The black shiny ones supposedly contain antidepressants. My old man keeps eating them and then he is all limp.

**MOTHER** Look, Mrs Woodpecker, you are our tenants. You've got three sunny, dry and warm flats here. And you don't look after them at all!

**GRANDPA** If they don't pay rent, they better fly out!

*The young Beech is leaning over the lovers.*

**DAUGHTER** A woman is smooth on the surface and sweet inside, right?

**MOTHER** (*to Daughter*) Shush! No internet for you for a week!

**FATHER** Grandpa's right. They better move out. We have decent tenants on the waiting list for those flats. The upper floor will cave in soon and Mrs Owl can move in.



**MRS WOODPECKER** We'll pay everything off within a month. Even if I were to eat all the larvae by myself. You've got my word.

*Daughter Beech is unable to button up the bra. Spruce approaches and helps her, whispering in her ear.*

**SPRUCE**

... the slenderness of coconut tree  
And sun-filled sight,  
Two volcanoes white,  
Filled with lava boiling wild,  
Rising to a play far from mild ...

*The daughter leans in the wind and caresses Spruce discreetly. Then she turns to her mother.*

**DAUGHTER** How do I look, Mum?

**MOTHER** Take it off right away!

*Spruce draws more closely to the Beech parents.*

**SPRUCE** Hiya. Will you let your daughter to the movies with me?

*Father and Grandpa are alarmed.*

**FATHER** Get out or you'll be sorry!

**SPRUCE** My intentions with her are serious.

**FATHER** (to Grandpa) Not only he is a fool, but also deaf?!

**GRANDPA** Punch'im!

**MOTHER** Decorum, dear!

*Father reaches after Spruce, but Spruce is faster, overtakes in him in self-defence and punches him. Father grabs his branch, but it's chipped. Spruce is in shock about how it all evolved. The daughter is angry with Spruce.*

**DAUGHTER** Why are you punching my old man, you idiot!

**SPRUCE** Sorry, Mr Beech, it was just an impulse. Excuse me.

**GRANDPA** You're dead already!

*Spruce rushes away. Eve sits up abruptly, rolls Adam off her.*

**EVE** Adam, I still hear voices!

**ADAM** Oh mine. First boar, now voices! Am I the only one in this forest who won't get a fuck today?!

**MRS WOODPECKER** (*looks at her husband, hurt*) Sure not the only one.

## Scene 7

*It is a starry night. Adam and Eve are sleeping in a tent. The trees are chatting above the tent. Toadstools are nested in the moss like lanterns. Adam is snoring in the tent.*

**FATHER** Since the bipeds came here, it's only trouble.

**GRANDPA** (*whispering to Father*) First we chase away the bipeds, then will take down Spruce.

**MOTHER** Those bipeds are harmless.

**FATHER** Yeah, like ivy. It will stifle you one day.

**DAUGHTER** Word goes round the forest that we might need the bipeds.

*Father and Grandpa laugh.*

**FATHER** We can do without them. But not vice versa.

**GRANDPA** (*exaggerates*) He climbed inside me! He hurt me!

**DAUGHTER** Grandpa, stop exaggerating! You're only one-third alive.

**FATHER** Grandpa knows best what he does and doesn't feel. That buffoon humiliated him!

**GRANDPA** Totally.

**FATHER** They mate by our branches like animals!

**DAUGHTER** They happen to be quite touching.

**GRANDPA** Who does that kid take after?!

**FATHER** They are more vulgar than we. And stink more, too.

**GRANDPA** They sweat repulsively.

**MOTHER** I still want them for a gift.

**DAUGHTER** Daddy, let's give those bipeds a chance. Just one.

**FATHER** Why so?! Just give me a single sane reason!

**DAUGHTER** Because he's into her and she's into him. Those two are like from a romantic comedy. I want to see what happens next! Daddy, pleeeeeease!

*Eve crawls out of the tent, squats behind a bush, pees. She stands up, holding pregnancy test strip, waiting anxiously. She soon looks at the strip. It shows two stripes. She is pregnant. Eve is in shock.*

**EVE** (*whispers*) Oh. Bloody hell!

*Adam is getting out of the tent, doesn't see Eve.*

**ADAM** Eve?

*Eve promptly places the pregnancy test in the pocket of her jacket. Eve's social credit rises steeply, she's got 1,000 points. Emoticons on her chest light up briefly like medals. The sign flashes: Congratulations, Eve, you're pregnant! Careful!!! Adam is not a suitable father. His social credit is low.*

**ADAM** Where are you?

**EVE** Nowhere.

*Adam spots Eve at last.*

**ADAM** What is it with you?

**EVE** Nothing.

**ADAM** Quite a mood again. Why are you so upset?!

*Eve crawls into the tent. Adam steps by Father and pees while whistling.*

**FATHER** Oh no!

*Adam buttons up his trousers and continues whistling, oblivious of them.*

**FATHER** You'll pay for this!

**GRANDPA** You'll drop dead out of fear!

**DAUGHTER** What do you want to do to them?!

*Father and Grandpa are totally dismayed.*

### **Scene 8**

*The forest becomes creepy. Fog is crawling above the ground. Full moon appears on the sky, an owl calls. Branches are cracking as if someone walked through the forest. We hear loud breathing. The branches are catching the tent, pushing it about. Leaves are rustling. Beeches whisper menacingly.*

**FATHER** This foresssssst is oursssss..!

**GRANDPA** Ourssss..!

*A torch lights up in the tent. Eve is waking Adam.*

**EVE** Adam. Adam. Adaaaam!

*In the shadow we see Eve shaking him. Adam is sleepy.*

**ADAM** What is it?

**EVE** The voices again ... do you hear it?!

**ADAM** (*reluctantly*) No. I'm sleeping.

*Eve opens the tent. She sticks her head out, listens frightened.*

**FATHER** Dashhhhhhh ... away!

**GRANDPA** ... while you're ssssstill alivvvvve!

*We hear loud breathing, leaves are rustling. Eve is panicking.*

**EVE** Is ... is anyone out there?!

**ADAM** (*wisely*) If there is someone indeed, you just sent them a signal that you're an easy prey.

**EVE** Something's going on.

**ADAM** Is not.

**EVE** Adam, please!

*Adam comes out of the tent, grumbling. Eve is watching him. We hear branches crack, loud inhale and exhale. Fog raises from the ground. A branch is creeping dangerously towards Adam. Eve notices the branch, warns Adam.*

**EVE** Adam!

*Adam turns casually.*

**ADAM** What?

**EVE** There's a branch is after you!

**ADAM** (*puzzled*) What?

*Adam inadvertently steps on the branch and breaks it. He is not at all afraid. Unpleasant monotonous thumping sounds nearby. Adam follows the sound.*

**EVE** Don't go there!

*The sound grows louder. Adam follows the sound. Eve is afraid. She carefully crawls out of the tent, with her torch on. She is holding a pocket knife. Using the torch, she is looking for Adam. Adam is all twisted on the ground as if fighting someone. Eve screams, drops her knife. Adam pretends to be threatened by his arms as in horror. He is having great fun. He stumbles, shrieks. His hand is pulling his hair, Eve is terrified.*

**ADAM** Eve ... my hand!

**EVE** What about it?!

**ADAM** Wants to kill me!

**EVE** What? You ... you ...

**ADAM** Not me, but the forest spirit!!

*Eve is screaming. Adam's hand punches him. Adam is catapulted, loses balance, drops to the ground. The trees are watching Adam's show with interest ... and in awe.*

**FATHER** He's quite good ...

**GRANDPA** Brilliant!

**FATHER** Branches up for the fool.

*Adam lies motionless. His arm lives its own life, slowly moving towards the pocket knife that Eve dropped. Adam's arm is dragging his motionless body towards the knife. Eve can't take it anymore, grabs the knife at the last moment, sits on Adam's arm: It seems she is about to cut it off.*

**EVE** Hold on, Adam! I'll help you!

*Adam promptly sobers up.*

**ADAM** (*shocked*) Are you nuts?!

*Adam moves her off him. He is angry.*

**ADAM** Blimey! I stage this adrenalin adventure to distract you, and you cut off my arm in return?!

*Eve is puzzled briefly.*

**EVE** That ... that was just ... make-believe?!

**ADAM** Oh mine! How many times have we seen that stupid film?! I was just making fun!

*Adam's score drops to 45. Eve is petrified.*

**EVE** You're such a loser.

**ADAM** Or a clown. I quoted from *The Forest Spirit!* I thought it would divert you ... and that you'll forget all about fear.

**EVE** (*explodes*) I so hate you! Dreadful man and one day you'll grow into being a dreadful father! I'm off home tomorrow!!

*Eve pushes Adam away. Adam crawls into the tent. Eve sits beneath a tree, weeping. Daughter and Mother Beech are sorry for her. They are exchanging empathic looks over her and approach her carefully. Miss Beech can no longer stand it and speaks to Eve.*

**DAUGHTER** Forget him.

**MOTHER** (*whispering*) All male are the same.

**DAUGHTER** Half-cooked

**MOTHER** Or overcooked.

**DAUGHTER** Stitched out of line.

**MOTHER** Not bashed enough.

**DAUGHTER** Or too much.

**MOTHER** And that humour of theirs! As if they grew up in the darkness. And without CO<sub>2</sub>.

*Eve is still sniffing but is much calmer. Mother Beech hands her a nice burdock leaf.*

**EVE** Thank you.

*Eve automatically takes the leaf to blow her nose. Mother Beech smiles.*

**DAUGHTER** Better?

*Eve realises that it was a tree to pass her the leaf. She screams, charges into the tent in panic. She zips it up. Lights off.*

## Scene 9

*It is just before the dawn. Mother, Father and Grandpa are asleep. So are Adam and Eve. Only the young Beech is with Spruce. They quarrel. Glow-worm fly around.*

**DAUGHTER** Don't you ever come to see me again!

*Spruce looks at her, dejected.*

**DAUGHTER** Stop looking at me! And don't touch me, even with the tiniest of roots.

**SPRUCE** Is that what you really want?

**DAUGHTER** You broke Daddy's branch!

**SPRUCE** I once met a tree-woman,  
Bewitching eyes hers were,  
Whomever she sat them on,  
Of love into sorrow grew. Helpless.

**DAUGHTER** And stop reciting poems.

**SPRUCE** Sorry. I get on my own nerves with that, but can't help it. I've got something for you.

*The young Beech struggles with curiosity.*

**DAUGHTER** What would that be?

*Spruce hands her a tiny packet wrapped in leaves. Miss Beech opens it eagerly.*

**DAUGHTER** Wow, a chewing gum!

**SPRUCE** Handmade. 100% organic resin.

*The young Beech delights in chewing the gum.*

**DAUGHTER** Yuck, it's disgusting.

**SPRUCE** Keep chewing more slowly and spit out the bitter bits.



*Miss spits with delight.*

**DAUGHTER** Yuck!

**SPRUCE** Worldwide there's no sweeter sight,

To the blossom budding lass!

**DAUGHTER** Is this, like, your poetry?

**SPRUCE** No idea.

*Miss creates a pretty bubble.*

**SPRUCE** I would do anything for you.

**DAUGHTER** Think I'm stupid??

**SPRUCE** (*romantically*) I shall summon the rain for you.

**DAUGHTER** (*with acknowledgement*) You're good at bullshitting.

**SPRUCE** Wanna bet I can do that?

*Miss doesn't believe him.*

**DAUGHTER** How so?

**SPRUCE** I'll release droplets of resin; they will soak up the steam in the clouds and fall to the earth like rain. Scented rain. Just for you.

**DAUGHTER** (*tenderly*) Grandpa says you're scum. Though you are merely a liar.

*Miss moves, Spruce follows her.*

**SPRUCE** You walk in front of me, my maiden,

Don't run, slow down.

My heart is with desire laden

To bathe in the drops of resin

In the scent of which you're clad ...

*Spruce leans to the Daughter.*

**DAUGHTER** What are you doing?

**SPRUCE** May I kiss you?

*The young Beech and Spruce exchange a kiss. Glow-worms swarm around them. While kissing, Miss Beech places her chewing gum into Spruce's mouth. Spruce makes a bubble. Bursts it. He is happy.*

**DAUGHTER** Let's go to the cinema!

**SPRUCE** What's on?

**DAUGHTER** Classics. *The Dawn*.

*Laughter.*

## Scene 10

*Magical dawn. Light gradually engulfs the forest. The air is fresh, breeze blows. Adam is wandering through the forest, looking for mushrooms. He's only got eggs in his basket. He is drinking beer from a can and grumbling.*

**ADAM** Not a single mushroom in the whole forest. That's what I call climate disaster!

**FATHER** Left. Left by your foot.

*Adam sees nothing.*

**GRANDPA** He's as blind as a bat!

*Father Beech pushes Adam, he loses balance. Trying to hold on to his beer, he drops to the ground. He is rubbing his elbow. He doesn't see the tiny mushrooms, but notices torn and part-rotten collected poems by Spruce. Father Beech reaches with his branch to turn Adam's head to face the mushrooms. Adam at last spots them and rejoices.*

**ADAM** Oh mine! I found an entire family!

*Father and Grandpa roll their eyes. Adam is picking the mushrooms and placing them in the basket. He finishes his beer, smashes the can and carelessly throws it in the forest. Father Oak promptly throws it back into Adam's back. Adam looks back, puzzled. Out of spite, he throws it back. He moves to the tent and the can hits him in the head. Adam is puzzled. His score drops to 40.*

**ADAM** Bloody hell!

*Adam is making scrambled eggs with mushrooms. It smells delicious.*

**ADAM** Eve! Breakfast's ready!

*Sleepy Eve crawls out of the tent. A cuckoo sounds in the woods.*

**EVE** Found any?

**ADAM** Aren't you angry at me anymore?

**EVE** I am. We'll have the breakfast and off we go!

**ADAM** *(takes Eve's Granny's diary and reads)* ... but that you really yearn for is from another world.

**ADAM** Eve, it's Midsummer night. We can make it!

**EVE** I don't give a damn about Granny. What have you got there?

**ADAM** Mushrooms, eggs and half-rotten collected poems by Spruce.

**EVE** Perhaps his verse decomposed and got absorbed in the soil.

*Adam bursts in laughter. He passes Eve the scrambled eggs with mushrooms.*

**EVE** Smells delish. Thanks.

*Eve plunges into her breakfast and then pauses.*

**EVE** Hold on ... what about the eggs?

*Adam pretends not to have heard the question. He delights in the meal.*

**EVE** They're not chicken eggs.

**ADAM** So?

**EVE** Adam, whose eggs are we eating?!

**ADAM** Keep calm. They'll lay more.

**EVE** Gosh!

*Adam's score drops to 30. Cuckoo sounds in the woods.*

**ADAM** The cuckoo would have killed the offspring anyway. As soon as it hatches in an alien nest, it drops all eggs to the ground. Cuckoos are gangsters.

**EVE** I'm about to be sick.

*Eve is getting nauseated.*

**ADAM** Are you alright?

**EVE** I'm not. You've stolen children from some bird parents, and I ate them! That cost you at least 10 points!

**ADAM** (*carelessly*) I couldn't care less about your social credit.

**EVE** But then you pull me under as well! They keep an eye on us everywhere, we've got chips! (*She points at the chip in her hand.*)

**ADAM** (*fed up*) Eve, all I want is to eat.

**EVE** You said you'd change, but you don't. In your jacket I found...

**ADAM** What? Grass?

**EVE** (*whispers*) A plastic bag.

*Adam's score drops to 25. He rolls his eyes.*

**ADAM** Okay. I forgot the stupid linen bag at home. Kill me!

**EVE** And last week I found a plastic coffee cup in the bin. We promised never again to buy any coffee cups.

*Adam's score drops to 20.*

**ADAM** You dig through the trash?

**EVE** There was also a steak wrap.

**ADAM** I eat meat, you dig through the bin. We're even.

**EVE** I separate waste, you idiot!

*Eve's score rises to 1,050.*

**ADAM** Last time you fell asleep on a paper book. And your night light was on. You read paper books and sleep with a light on?!

**EVE** If I fall asleep by a book, does that make you entitled to eat veal?!

**ADAM** You've become like them.

**EVE** You're irresponsible! You don't pay cheques in time, you smoke, travel without fare, have no permanent job, but always have some non-PC nonsense up your sleeve.

**ADAM** Babe, you have no mind of your own. You just listen to instructions!

**EVE** No one pushes me about.

**ADAM** (*sarcastically*) No. They merely give us advice. Drink smoothie. Don't drink smoothie. Buy an electric car. Don't buy it, because electricity is expensive. Better buy a bamboo tooth brush and move an immigrant into your home. Better have mildew at home than an immigrant! Let's save the planet. Sorry, too late! Everyone says whatever suits them, Eve!

**EVE** Stop it.

**ADAM** Since I was little, I've been expecting ecological disaster. Yet it seems even that gave up on us! Our folks fucked up the planet. We've become such losers than even the bloody disaster couldn't care less about us!

*Adam's score drops to 10.*

**EVE** Shut up, Adam! You only think of yourself. Yet those endangered are especially...

**ADAM** White heteroes. They are quite some endemite. Put me in the ZOO, Eve!

**EVE** Anarchist!

**ADAM** I subscribe to conservative values and am an anarchist?! You ecofascist!

*Eve and Adam look at each other fiercely, breathing deeply.*

**ADAM** Goodness. You're stunning when furious.

*Adam and Eve are so excited that they throw one on another. Passion between them grows high. The trees rustle in protest, looking at them in astonishment.*

**FATHER** I really don't want them here. They were to kill each other now, not to make love!

*Mother is looking at Adam and Eve as they keep embracing. Eve jumps astride on Adam.*

**MOTHER** (*tenderly*) They are like two trees. From the outside it seems that they are embracing, while they are actually wrestling.

**FATHER** They're toxic. They make my root cup ache.

*Grandpa is amused.*

**GRANDPA** No way! They're funny!

**FATHER** What?!

**GRANDPA** I vote for them to stay. At last something's going on here!

**FATHER** (*to Mother*) Grandpa is totally out of it, his vote is invalid.

**DAUGHTER** (*upset*) You want to rescind his vote only because he is two-thirds dead?!

*Grandpa the stump cheerfully hops about, leans over Adam and Eve and calls in delight.*

**GRANDPA** Fucking bipeds!!

*Eve and Adam are startled. They both can hear Grandpa clearly.*

**EVE** Did you hear that?

**ADAM** And you?

**EVE** Adam ... I'm scared. We both might be two good-for-nothings gone mad.

**ADAM** No, we're no good-for-nothings. Write down what you heard. I'll do the same.

*Adam and Eve scribble on cards. People are nuts. They exchange the cards. Quietly and in unison they read them. They get alarmed. Adam and Eve look at the trees in distrust. Mrs Woodpecker is nibbling on the boiled eggs.*

**EVE** Is she eating her own eggs?!

**MRS WOODPECKER** They're not mine. I loathe eggs. Not that I'd hate them, only that we no longer do it with my old man. He's got depression.

*Mrs Woodpecker continues nibbling with delight. Adam and Eve look at each other helplessly. Adam takes Eve by the hand.*

**ADAM** We better run!

*Adam and Eve and Eve run. That surprises the trees trying to stop them.*

**DAUGHTER** Mum, do something, else they run away.!

*Mother and daughter Beech are chasing Adam and Eve across the stage, trying to catch them with their branches.*

**MOTHER** Don't worry, we come in peace!

**DAUGHTER** Hey! Wait!

**GRANDPA** (*commands*) Bums, stop!

*Adam and Eve stop, shaking in fear. Mother and daughter are approaching them like therapists.*

**MOTHER** (*tenderly*) We want to adopt you. We want to save you!

**EVE** (*horrified*) My goodness. This is what Granny had in mind ... whatever we gained, is from another world. Adam, I don't want that!

*Adam embraces the unhappy Eve. Lights off.*

## Scene 11

*Midsummer night. The forest is magical. Stars are shining, Glow-worms swirl, Adam and Eve are captured. Adam is tied to the Father, Eve to the mother.*

**ADAM** Please, let at least Eve go.

**GRANDPA** Forget it. If we let you lose, you escape.

*Mother cradles Eve with her branches, stroking her hair.*

**MOTHER** You swear to my fibre that we will only commit good on you.

**EVE** (*perplexed*) Adam, why do we hear them?!

**FATHER** (*laughing*) We tricked Adam to pick magic mushroom and he put them into the scrambled eggs.

*Grandpa clicks fingers.*

**GRANDPA** We thus used the mushrooms to open your heads.

**DAUGHTER** Opened your horizons.

**MOTHER** We really aren't here to hurt you!

**ADAM** Okay ... at least let Eve lose and let her go.

**EVE** (*to Adam*) Stop repeating yourself. It is obvious to me you want to stay here!

**ADAM** (*annoyed*) And don't you? You don't? What's luring you home?

**EVE** We've got our life in the city. Pretty good life.

**ADAM** I hate it. I really hate how they keep scoring me nonstop!

**EVE** They're only trying to make people decent again. They only punish liars, criminals, fraudsters ...

**ADAM** Because of my pity social credit I didn't get an offer at the university.

**MOTHER** Hold on. They score you?

**ADAM** Like dogs at a show. I score points for everything I do, say,.

*Adam's social credit drops to zero. The last emoticon on his chest goes out.*

**GRANDPA** Yuck, how rotten. (*to Father*) Let him lose!



**MOTHER** Won't they run away?

*Adam and Eve promise not to run. Father unties Adam with his branches. Adam unties Eve.*

**FATHER** Mum, pour some! *(to Adam)* Reach into Grandpa!

**ADAM** Vodka? Where did you get it from?

**DAUGHTER** Last year some guy hung himself on Daddy. He left behind a half-finished bottle.

**EVE** That must've been dreadful.

**FATHER** Horrendous. He nearly broke my branch.

**FATHER, GRANDPA, ADAM** Here's to life!

**EVE** Why did you chose us of all?!

**ADAM** Because no one comes here. Only your Granny was here and now us.

**FATHER** Don't be so hasty! There were times when they used to regularly burry bipeds by us.

**ADAM** *(surprised)* Like white horses?!

**FATHER** Bipeds. Are you deaf?! We nearly lost our roots as they were swinging their spades and shovels!

**GRANDPA** Those who used to come and meditate here were even worse.

**FATHER** They kept embracing us nonstop. Pervs!

**DAUGHTER** *(using her branches, she combs through Eve's hair)* Mum, doesn't she look like a fairy? Fairy on Midsummer night.

**EVE** I am no fairy but an engineer.

**FATHER** Mum, pour some! We'll get pissed with the bipeds!

**MOTHER** *(to Father)* Decorum, darling!

**DAUGHTER** Eve, why don't you pick some St. John's Wort, achillea, wormwood, and make yourself a wreath! Or catch some glow-worm and carry it with: you'll always be happy. Today it's super timing to do anything.

**EVE** I want to know why us. What makes us different? Exceptional?!

**MOTHER** *(to Daughter)* Don't tell them.

**DAUGHTER** Mum chose you as her present. Birthday present.

**EVE** That's it?!

**ADAM** It's an honour to me.

*Adam bursts in laughter, playfully grabs the branches and the trees start swinging him. It looks as if he were flying.*

**EVE** Adam, what are you doing?!

**DAUGHTER** (*dreamily*) He's flying.

*Grandpa is having fun. He passes Adam a torch. Adam puts it in his trousers. Adam is flying, with the torch shining light from his rear. He resembles a glow-worm.*

**ADAM** (*having fun*) Oh-lala! I am a glow-worm!

**EVE** You'll fall!

**ADAM** Eve, keep me and you'll be happy forever!

*Eve laughs, the trees join her. Grandpa is lifting a glass of water.*

**GRANDPA** Here's to a long friendship!

*The trees are toasting with Adam and Eve. Lights off.*

## Scene 12

*Eve is carefully removing ivy from Mother Beech. It's hot.*

**EVE** It's going to hurt a little now.

*Eve is trying to remove the climber.*

**MOTHER** Auch! They're all the same. They enter the forest and think they're in the supermarket where everything is free.

**EVE** Like who?

**MOTHER** Beetles, birds, deer, worms, boar ... everyone!

**EVE** You exaggerate, don't you?

**MOTHER** To them we are massive shelves stocked up with sugar, salt, minerals, cadmium ... everything packaged XXXL.

**EVE** I better dig out the plague.

*Eve is digging out the plant.*

**MOTHER** Careful about my roots!

*While digging, Eve discreetly tastes the soil. Mother notices.*

**MOTHER** You tasted the soil.

**EVE** (*lying*) Nope.

**MOTHER** I saw you!

*Eve smiles.*

**EVE** Sometimes I find soil I like the taste of.

**MOTHER** (*in admiration*) You too?

**EVE** There was this tasty plaster on Granny's house. Whenever I woke up, I always felt like some. I would run out of the house still in my nightie and used my hair pin to get a generous portion of the plaster.

**MOTHER** (*curious*) So? How did it taste like?

**EVE** Like the bottom from Turkish coffee. Grainy just right. With absolutely fine sand.

**MOTHER** I love clay and humus.

**EVE** It's not like that new crap they add to plaster these days!

**MOTHER** Tell me about it!

**EVE** Once I took a bite off a new building and my tongue kept burning for a week.

**MOTHER** Poor thing.

**EVE** I got these tiny blisters on the edge of my tongue. Here, where the tongue is totally smooth.

**MOTHER** I tell you, don't eat anything that has been built since the 1990s!

*Eve is holding victoriously the plant she dug out with the roots.*

**EVE** Got it!

**MOTHER** Did my soil taste good?

**EVE** It's like Granny's. Even better.

*They laugh. Mother gets deep in thought.*

**MOTHER** Listen, don't you just happen to be pregnant?!

*Eve grows silent. Lights off.*

### **Scene 13**

*Adam and Eve are carrying wooden water buckets. It dreadfully hot.*

**ADAM** One of these days we'll get grilled alive here.

*Eve listens to curious bird singing.*

**EVE** It makes the birdies go nuts, too.

**MRS WOODPECKER** It's my old man going nuts. He found a mobile phone in the ravine and he imitates its ring tone.

**ADAM** Hey, that's my phone! Where did he hide it?

*Mrs Woodpecker spreads her wings. She has no idea. Mr Woodpecker is trying to warble like a mobile. We don't see him. Mrs Woodpecker is covering her ears with wings.*

**MRS WOODPECKER** *(to her husband)* Tomorrow I'm filing for divorce!

**ADAM** *(to Eve)* Still want to return home?

**EVE** You must be crazy!

**ADAM** Must be boiling hot in the city.

**EVE** People will manage somehow. They always do.

*The trees laugh eagerly.*

**MOTHER** Sorry.

**GRANDPA** If the bipeds come up with something, the effect on the planet is about the same as scratching one's rear.

*Adam laughs. Miss Beech is blowing bubbles.*

**MOTHER** Where do you always get new chewing gums from?

*Daughter smiles at Spruce.*

**FATHER** Nothing against the bipeds, but it's us to have survived the entire ice age, the heatwaves ...

**GRANDPA** Had the dinosaurs not become extinct, we'd still be as small as marten.

**ADAM** We keep bringing you water. You drain three bath-tubs worth a day. So at least stop nagging!

**GRANDPA** It's been long that we had three bath-tubs worth.

**FATHER** Be glad we keep sweating. Our air-conditioning still works pretty well.

**ADAM** You also sweat for your own sake.

**GRANDPA** ... should we stop?!

**DAUGHTER** Grandpa, you don't sweat. You haven't got any leaves.

*Adam smiles at Eve.*

**ADAM** If I am born again, I'll be a tree.

**EVE** Me too. I'll sleep in the Winter, blossom in Spring, give birth in the Summer. I'll be an apple tree.

**MOTHER** Apple trees are loners. Cherry tree is a better bet.

*Father looks back, waving his branch. Massive bark beetle climbed up his back.*

**FATHER** Is there anything on my back?

**MOTHER** Darling, lately you've been hypersensitive. You keep monitoring yourself too much.

**DAUGHTER** Daddy's got a bark beetle on his back!

**FATHER** Yuck, take it off!

**GRANDPA** None of this would have happened, had the little one not dated the mangy Spruce!

**MOTHER** How are you, darling?

**BARK BEETLE** (*the insect is quick, faster than the people and trees*) Howdy, howdy, oddballs! How's life? This heat wave's quite something, innit! I debouch three times a year! Three chicks to a single macho! If you think I'm hot, send me Like!

**MOTHER** (*To Father*) Kill him!

**FATHER** I can't produce poison so fast.

**BARK BEETLE** If I'm really into anyone, its spruce! Though the beeches are also en vogue now. Surprise me, oddballs!

**ADAM** He's like ... high.

**BARK BEETLE** If you liked the video, send Like and click Subscribe. Enjoy, bro!

**ADAM** I'll have you!

*Adam uses all his strength to drag Bark Beetle, but to no avail.*

**ADAM** (*to Eve*) Try the repellent!

*Eve retrieves the repellent from her rucksack, sprays it on Bark Beetle, but the spray hits Adam. Sprayed all over, Adam bursts in cough.*

**EVE** (*to Adam*) Sorry. Wipe yourself. I've got a jacket in the rucksack. There are some wipes in the pocket.

*Adam is digging through the rucksack.*

**EVE** Got'em? In the right pocket.

*In Eve's jacket Adam discovers her positive pregnancy test. He smiles in surprise.*

**ADAM** (*thrilled*) Eve... you ... you are pregnant?!

*Everyone looks at Eve.*

**GRANDPA, FATHER, BARK BEETLE** She's pregnant?!

**EVE** (*whispers*) Me?

*Adam is happy, Eve is in panic.*

#### **Scene 14**

*Adam is as excited as a little boy. He is dashing through the forest, jumping, making side flips.*

**ADAM** I'll be a padre! A padre with a huge hairy belly for his son to jump on like on trampoline!

*Adam lifts Eve and spins her.*

**ADAM** Eve... aren't you happy?! You and I plus our little skunk.

**EVE** Don't call him skunk.

**ADAM** When did you intend to tell me?

*Adam is happy, Eve cornered.*

**ADAM** Were you waiting for the right timing? Like sunset, summer rain ...

*Eve sighs.*

**EVE** I wouldn't have told you.

*Adam grows uneasy.*

**ADAM** I don't get it.

**EVE** ... because you don't want to.

**ADAM** Hold on. You want to have the baby taken away ... because you're afraid of climate disaster and the entire ecoblable?!

**EVE** No!

**ADAM** You want to raise our little one by yourself?!

**EVE** I'm thinking about it. Sorry.

**ADAM** Hell, that's not fair!

**EVE** You're not fair to me either! You couldn't care less about the scoring system, hence the consequences.

**ADAM** What are you talking about?

**EVE** My social curator contacted me and gave me a clear choice: either I stay here with you or they take away my baby. Or ... I can raise it by myself.

**ADAM** That's nasty!

**EVE** So what am I to do? How would you solve it?!

**ADAM** It's the nastiest thing you could've done to me.

**EVE** We, baby, have no chance. Not here, not now. You have no plans. You want to make a living as a clown!

**ADAM** Clown.

*Adam grows silent. He is alarmed.*

**ADAM** ... you, have already made the decision?

*Eve is silent.*

**ADAM** Why didn't you throw away that stupid test instead?!

**EVE** (*honestly*) I didn't know how to separate it. Is a peed-over strip still a paper or organic waste?

*Adam is unhappy. Lights off.*

## **Scene 15**

*Night. Stars are shining. Eve is combing her hair. Mother Beech is washing her face in dew. Daughter Beech throws herself in the grass.*

**DAUGHTER** (*to Eve*) Lay down. There's dew. You'll cool down a bit.

**EVE** (*to Mother Beech*) How come you have almost no wrinkles?!

**MOTHER** We get the first wrinkles only past the age of two hundred. Sorry.



*Eve lies down on the grass.*

**MOTHER** (*to Eve*) Is he still upset?

**EVE** He's not speaking to me at all. Though he does bring me food so that I don't starve. Fried beetles and eggs.

**MOTHER** My old man once didn't speak to me for 23 years.

**EVE** Seriously?! Why?

**MOTHER** He said I grew too wide. I took his spot in the sun, he had less sugar ...  
Men!

**EVE** I'm sorry not to have told him.

**DAUGHTER** Do you really want to raise your child with Adam?

**EVE** He got ranked in the last category.

**MOTHER** No wonder the bipeds are getting extinct, given they have such laws.

**EVE** It's normal that they keep us under control. The system also gives us protection.

**MOTHER** What's normal about it?

**EVE** I love Adam and don't want to lose the baby. So what am I to do?!

*Mother Beech is thinking.*

**MOTHER** Braid your hair.

**EVE** (*sarcastically*) Very funny.

**MOTHER** If a woman is very sad, she should braid her hair.

**DAUGHTER** Like pig tails?!

*Mother Beech nods.*

**MOTHER** She will thus catch her sorrow in her hair. As in a net. There was a woman once who told me so. You braid your sorrow in your hair and it doesn't get in your head.

**EVE** Hold on ... Granny also used to tell me something like that.

**MOTHER** (*smiling*) I might have got it from her.

*Mrs Beech is braiding Eve's hair.*

**EVE** Auch.

**MOTHER** Sorry.

*Daughter Beech joins them.*

**DAUGHTER** Would you make me a braid, too?

**MOTHER** Honey, you haven't got hair.

**DAUGHTER** But I'm sad because I can't be with Spruce.

**MOTHER** That's a different matter.

**EVE** Maybe not.

*Eve is tenderly braiding Miss Beech's branches into a braid, Mother Beech is doing the same with Eve's hair. The three are lined one after another.*

**MOTHER** Now, the sorrow won't get into your head or mouth. Otherwise you'd be saying strange things. Or the sorrow gets in your hands and you end up fixing bitter meal.

**DAUGHTER** I don't cook.

**MOTHER** When strong wind blows, loosen your braid. The wind will blow away the last of sorrow from your hair.

*Eve has her braids, twisted into snail-like buns. Even and Miss Daughter Beech are looking in the mirror.*

**DAUGHTER** How do we look like?

**MOTHER** Almost like sisters. *(to Eve)* Give him a chance.

*Eve sighs.*

**MOTHER** It's my party tomorrow! Will you come?

**EVE** How old are you actually?

**MOTHER** True lady would never ask something like that.

**DAUGHTER** Mum is about to be 300.

**EVE** *(to Mother Beech)* Do you also want a present?

**MOTHER** Don't even bother coming without one.

**EVE** What's appropriate for a 300-year old lady?

*Mother Beech thinks.*

**MOTHER** Summer rain.

*Eve, Mother and Daughter Beech burst in laughter. We soon hear the first drops of rain touching the leaves. Eve and Mrs Beech look at each other in surprise.*

**MOTHER** A miracle.

*Eve turns her face to the rain. She is happy.*

**EVE** Doesn't it smell of resin?

*The rain rustles delightfully. Eve is taking off her clothes. In her underwear, she is running in the rain with Miss Beech. They are frolicsome, yelling. Spruce and Adam are watching them. Adam offers Spruce a cigarette. They are smiling. Spruce calls to Miss Beech.*

**SPRUCE** The rain is for you!

*Miss Beech rushes to Spruce, embraces him. Spruce lets her puff on the cigarette. Their branches intertwine. Spruce whispers in her ear.*

**SPRUCE** Where have you wandered off?

Don't you know fires are aflame

From embrace to embrace

All it takes is a spark

To set you ablaze?

*Mother Beech wants to go to them, Eve stops her. Adam approaches Eve and hands her something.*

**EVE** What's that?

**ADAM** A gift.

*Eve opens the packet.*

**EVE** Chewing gum?

**ADAM** Spruce said it does the trick. Chewing gum or a poem.

**EVE** Just don't recite any poem.

*Adam and Eve are standing by Mother Beech who shelters them from the rain. The rain keeps falling silently. Everything smells nice. Eve is spitting – the resin is bitter. Then she blows big bubbles. She kisses Adam. While kissing, she places a chewing gum in his mouth. Adam blows a big bubble. It bursts.*

**ADAM** It works.

## Scene 16

*The sun is rising and setting. Father Beech approaches Spruce. Father still has the Bark Beetle in his back. The beetle is trying to get under his bark.*

**FATHER** Hey, you!

**SPRUCE** Me?

**FATHER** Do you see anyone else here?

**SPRUCE** I see a whole forest.

**FATHER** Cheeky again?

**SPRUCE** Once again, forgive me for having offended you.

**FATHER** Come at seven for a family feast.

*Bark Beetle interrupts the feast.*

**BARK BEETLE** Is there to be a party?!

**SPRUCE** No need to invite me ...

**FATHER** But I've got to! Otherwise neither my daughter or wife will speak to me.

*Spruce is delighted. Father Beech makes a face.*

**FATHER** (to Spruce) Just to make it clear: I resent you.

**BARK BEETLE** Same here, old man! If you like this video, send Like or click Subscribe!

### Scene 17

*Preparations for the birthday party are underway in the forest. It is awfully hot again. Eve is sweating while decorating trees with fairy lights and garlands.*

**EVE** Shouldn't we postpone the party?

**MATKA** We only celebrate centenaries. No heatwave can spoil them.

**EVE** Have you seen Adam?

*Mother Beech shakes her head.*

**MATKA** And have you seen Grandpa?

*Eve denies having seen him.*

**DAUGHTER** They're preparing a surprise for you.

**MATKA** Shhhhhhhh!

*Mother Beech approaches the festive table. Cut-glass chandelier is hanging from the treetops, the table is covered with a white linen cloth. The treetops are illuminated. The trees are stiff. Father still has the Bark Beetle on his back. Suddenly they move and call.*

**FATHER, DAUGHTER, SPRUCE, MRS WOODPECKER** Surprise!!

**MATKA** Oh. I didn't expect this!

**DAUGHTER** You did. You made the cake yourself.

*Father admires the cake.*

**FATHER** Yummy. Humus and cream with earthworms!

*Bark Beetle tastes the cake right away.*

**MOTHER** (*hitting Bark Beetle*) Stop nibbling on it!

**BARK BEETLE** Why? It's fab!

*They sing Hundred Years of Happy Return of the Day ...*

**FATHER** (*to Eve*) By the way, you stole this song from us. Who of the bipeds makes it to live hundred years?

**EVE** Hundred seems like eternity to me.

**MATKA** Where on earth is Grandpa?!

**MRS WOODPECKER** And no one asks after my old man anymore? Doesn't anyone miss him?

**MATKA** Why didn't your husband turn up, Mrs Woodpecker?

**MRS WOODPECKER** He flew away from me.

**DAUGHTER** With whom?!

**MRS WOODPECKER** Mrs Jay said her name is Drone. She flew above our house and my old man went crazy about her.

**EVE** Where would a drone come from to a place like this?

**MRS WOODPECKER** No idea. Yet Mrs Jay saw her. I'll pluck all the feathers from that Drone!

**MATKA** (*disappointedly*) I forgot a candle.

*Spruce willingly retrieves a resin candle from his jacket.*

**SPRUCE** Resin. It burns as well as petrol.

*Spruce sticks a candle into the cake.*

**FATHER** Do you want to set us aflame in this heat?!

**DAUGHTER** Make a wish, Mum.

*Mother Beech gets an idea. She blows off the candle.*

**MOTHER** (to Spruce) Got more candles?

*Spruce passes the candles to Mother Beech. She lights them and approaches Father. He is puzzled.*

**FATHER** Are you trying to set me aflame?!

**MOTHER** (excited) We'll asphyxiate Bark Beetle. (To Spruce) With resin!

*Mother and Spruce are dropping the resin on Bark Beetle.*

**BARK BEETLE** WTF?! Stop it! Can I at least finish my sandwich?!

*Bark Beetle drops to the ground holding the sandwich, shaking in mortal cramps.*

**FATHER** (to Mother Beech) Thank you, dear.

**MOTHER** Don't thank me.

*Father is trying to thank Spruce, but he cannot bring himself to that.*

**SPRUCE** Not at all.

*Cheerful shout sounds from the back.*

**GRANDPA, ADAM** Oh-lala! Let's welcome Circus from the Dump!

*Grandpa and Adam arrive dressed as clowns with red noses. They do side flips, pull wilted bouquets from their jackets. The flowers are spurting water. The two are wishing Mother Beech happy birthday. Cheerful music plays.*

**GRANDPA** May you be green for another hundred years, darling daughter!

**ADAM** And may you always sweat as you have done so far, Mrs Beech.

*Mrs Beech sniffs the bouquet and smiles in delight.*

**MOTHER** Lovely! They are rotting already.

*Grandpa and Adam are juggling. Grandpa juggles with pine cones, Adam with bird eggs.*

**MRS WOODPECKER** This is bird genocide!

*Everyone applauds. Eve smiles.*

**ADAM** Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed beeches and spruce, you are about to witness a singular miracle!

*Adam throws a sheet over himself and Grandpa.*

**ADAM** Behold, a new creature is born! Mantree!

*Adam's head peeks out from the sheet. He has bird nest on his head. Instead of arms he has branches growing out of Grandpa – Adam's hands are hidden in his shorts and shoes. The two together look like a forest dwarf.*

**GRANDPA** Treeman, silly!

*Everyone applauds. Adam dances with his legs, Grandpa with his branches that serve as Adam's arms. They are entertaining the guests. Treeman is blowing stunning bubbles.*

**ADAM** No more empty phrases! Long live bubbles! Deeper and deeper to the roots!  
Long live chewing gums!



*Adam imitates a clown bashing something. Grandpa is starting to enjoy it all. He is grabbing anything at hand and keeps hitting Adam on his head. Adam is caught by surprise. Grandpa doesn't stop, everyone is laughing.*

**ADAM** Auch! What are you doing?

**GRANDPA** It's a payback for you having climbed inside me!

*Grandpa grabs the humus cake with earthworm, pretending he is about to drop it.*

**ADAM** Please, not the cake!

*Grandpa tosses the whole cake into Adam's face.*

**GRANDPA** That's because you peed all over my son-in-law! Now we're even!

*Everyone laughs. Eve is helping Adam.*

**MOTHER** This is my best party ever.

*Father pours some water to himself and Mother. He pours an extra one and passes it to Spruce.*

**FATHER** Here! Drink!

**SPRUCE** To your good lady and beautiful daughter!

**FATHER** And to you. So that you stop pissing me off. Are you really able to summon the rain?

*Spruce smiles.*

**FATHER** Bottoms up!

*Father Beech and Spruce drain the water. Mother Beech places a jug of water on the table in front of them.*

**MOTHER** You'll be quite a mess again.

*Music plays. Miss Beech is dancing with Grandpa. Father Beech and Spruce are drinking. Adam the clown is pulling Eve aside. The music and talk grow silent, though everyone continues to have fun and is dancing.*

**ADAM** How did I do?

**EVE** You've got an earthworm in your hair.

**ADAM** A fine certificate for a clown.

*Eve removes the earthworm. Adam takes her hand.*

**ADAM** Eve ... Let's stay here. I'll take care of you. You and our skunkie.

**EVE** I don't want to keep eating fried beetles with mushrooms.

**ADAM** Tomorrow I'll catch you a rabbit. I even found a duvet in the dump. It will keep you warm.

*Wind picks up. Eve loosens her braids, the wind blows through her hair and dress. She is laughing.*

**ADAM** Am I funny even now?

*Eve gives him a kiss.*

**EVE** Let's dance.

*We hear music and chat again. Trees and Mrs Woodpecker are dancing under the light garlands, having fun. Adam and Eve join them. Shortly a spotlight focuses on everyone. We hear a helicopter. A voice sounds from a loudspeaker.*

**VOICE FROM LOUDSPEAKER** Social police! Hands up!

*Everyone grows still. The trees look again like trees. Adam and Eve raise their hands over their heads. They look like two lonely people in a middle of a forest.*

## Scene 18

*A beam of searchlight circles the forest. Social workers are interrogating Eve, Adam stands next to them.*

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** You didn't respond to the notice. Your deadline is over.

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** What did you decide to do?

**ADAM** *(to Eve)* Did you really ignore the notice?

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** *(to Eve)* Never mind. If you pack in ten minutes, we can drop you off in the city with the helicopter. The nature is not hygienic for you. You cannot stay here.

**EVE** I'm staying with Adam.

*Social Workers are awkwardly surprised.*

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** *(sarcastically)* Ever so romantic ...

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** *(empathetically)* You do realise the consequence, Eve, don't you?

**EVE** Uhm.

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** If you stay with Adam, you'll carry the child and will then hand it over to the state, so it receives adequate upbringing.

**EVE** I'll give Adam my 600 points.

**ADAM** Stop it! I don't want your score!

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** You're making a mistake. You never know when the score comes handy ...

**EVE** *(to Social Worker 2)* Would you kindly transfer my score to Adam's credit. I insist!

**ADAM** Eve, don't be silly. At least you are good enough for them. Think of the baby!

*Points keep increasing in Adam's credit, stopping at 700. Emoticons light up on his chest like medals. Eve's score is dropping to stop at 400. Emoticons on her chest go out off. Social Worker 1 smiles kindly at Adam, stretching hand to him, congratulating him.*

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** Congratulations! You've become a bona fide human with great potential, Adam. I think we've got an interesting job offer for you ...

**ADAM** For me?!

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** You've become quite a star this week.

**ADAM** (*puzzled*) I have what?!

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** You've got a gift to impress people. They followed everything you did here.

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** (*confidentially*) You're a viral star.

**EVE** (*to Adam*) You've been recording us all along and posting online?!

**ADAM** No!

**EVE** We agreed to be offline!

**ADAM** (*to Social Worker 1*) How did it end up online?

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** All vlogs were sent from your mobile phone.

**ADAM** The stupid Woodpecker! You must've switch on recording.

**EVE** How cheap of you to use Woodpecker for an excuse.

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** (*schmoozing*) You're not cheap at all. Quite on the contrary.

**ADAM** What about the job offer?

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** Your idea with the live trees is brilliant. Perfect timing, perfect animation and editing.

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** Everyone went for it!

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** We need people just like this. We'll make you a couch. A coach for people with low social credit!

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** Adam, you can change them. No one understands them better than you!

*Adam is curious.*

**ADAM** And would I be doing?

**EVE** (*perturbed*) Adam!!

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** Even the clown. Climate disasters call for new heroes. You are authentic. You smell of human. (*flirting*) Adam, just be yourself and you'll make some neat money. 'cause you really are hot ...

**EVE:** (*jealous*) Back off, bitch.

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** (*to Eve*) Relax, uterus.

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** (*to Adam, kindly*) To start with, you can count on a company car, a flat, permanent income and fat bonuses. You'll be in my team!

*Adam is stunned.*

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** You've got half a million followers online. Women, men, kids ... everyone wants you. (*touches him and whispers*) Including me, Adam.

*Eve punches Social Worker 1 in her nose. She is holding her bleeding nose. Adam is amazed. Eve's score is dropping – physical violence, 400 points down. Eve's social credit is 0. Emoticons on her chest all go out gradually.*

**ADAM** (*shocked*) Eve, I didn't want any of that! I was just curious.

*Social worker 2 puts on business-like smile.*

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** (*to Eve*) I'm sorry, but given your low social credit, you definitely lost entitlement to raise a child. You'll carry it and will then hand the baby over to the state. Or ... to Adam.

*Adam and Eve are shocked.*

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** Would you opt for, Adam? Will you stay with Eve or hand your child over to the state? We shall be happy to look after your child.

*Adam punches Social Worker 2 in her nose. His board lights up: Physical violence, 400 points down. Adam's score is 300.*

**SOCIAL WORKER 2** our child will be confiscated right after birth. Both father and mother physically attacked a civil servant.

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** There is no appeal against the decision. Any questions?

*Father Beech pushes Social Worker 1 to the ground; they are wrestling. Using her branches, Mother Beech is choking Social Worker 2. The officials are screaming. The scene is horror-like. Adam and Eve are shocked.*

### **Scene 19**

*Social Workers are tied up. Adam and Eve are petrified. The trees are satisfied with how well they handled the situation.*

**EVE** (*disconcerted*) Are they dead?

*Social worker 1 comes to her senses, is aggressive.*

**SOCIAL WORKER 1** (*to Father*) You nearly killed me!

*Grandpa hits Social worker 1 from behind. She faints.*

**FATHER** Don't worry about the bipeds. We'll take care of them.

**MOTHER** You have to escape. Right away.

**EVE** We can't do that.

**ADAM** We are chipped. Since birth.

*Spruce passes Adam a knife.*

**ADAM** Hell. This was to be one cool trip!

*A warning sign appears on the board: Without a personal chip a person ceases to be a person. Adam and Eve remove the chips from their hands. Mother and Daughter Beech are putting bandages on their wounds. A sign appears on the board: Error. Error. Mr Woodpecker passes Adam his mobile phone.*

**MRS WOODPECKER** My old man kept it in the old nest. (*to Adam*) Is it still recording?

*Adam nods. Mrs Woodpecker is recording herself on the mobile phone.*

**MRS WOODPECKER** Howdy! In case any snazzy woodpecker hears or sees me now, my weight is 60 g, height 23 cm...

*Grandpa takes her mobile phone and smashes it into pieces. Mrs Woodpecker gets offended.*

**MRS WOODPECKER** Am I not entitled to a bit of happiness?!

**GRANDPA** You've got to go!

**EVE** But where?!

**MOTHER** North. Stick to the beech forest.

**FATHER** We will send info via our roots, so they know about you.

**GRANDPA** We will cover your back!

**SPRUCE** Once the beech forest ends, the spruces will receive you.

**ADAM** Do you realise they already know about you?

*The trees giggle.*

**GRANDPA** Not to worry!

**MOTHER** Bipedes will never believe we have conscience.

**ADAM** Thank goodness the bipeds are nuts!

**DAUGHTER** Run before they wake!

*Adam and Eve are embracing the trees.*

**FATHER** This is the first time I don't mind a hug.

**EVE** We'll miss you.

**MOTHER** Don't exaggerate, dear. We're all around you.

*Lights go off gradually. The spotlight ends on Adam and Eve as they are leaving. Lights off. We see again peaceful forest with nothing much going on. The forest is fragrant, bright, birds are singing. Just as at the beginning of the play.*

**The End**