

# Mindfuck

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© The Theatre Institute, Bratislava 2021/Divadelný ústav, Bratislava 2021  
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## A list of characters

**RAK** 30, young idealist, naïve and a little neurotic ecologist who believes in good and in his ability to change the world.

**JAGER** 30, depressed nihilist and misanthrope, intelligent cynic, with social and all kinds of other phobias, suffering from depression. Unshaven, with long hair, dressed in black, with black lines drawn under his eyes, his black coat is printed with skeletons all over.

**MR MRKVIČKA**<sup>1</sup> 60, prima facie goodhearted gentleman, as if cut out of the 1970s, most obliging and courteous. Gradually, however, he turns out to be an ardent Communist official.

**KRISTIÁN** or **KIKI** 40, a character that is first silent, observing everything, until his true face starts gradually surfacing. He is a manipulator, hard to define, looking a bit like a film star, careful about his looks.

**LENKA** 45, insane adherent of esoterica, single. Though she allegedly studied different schools (teaching, esoterica, psychology), she is unable to find a job as she is emotionally unstable and hysterical. Even though she is trying to come across as the know-it-all, she brings chaos into everything

**NAĎA** 35, lesbian tomboy; she comes across prima facie as tough, fearless, because she was in prison. On the other hand, when her right cord is struck, she can be sensitive and tender like a child.

**BIRDY** 20, activist, covered in tattoos including face; hair dyed blue. She is a radical activist, ready to do anything for an idea, even hand on a hook, to prove she can protest against the system. She suffers from mutism: in stress she either stutters or stops talking.

**ZUZKA MARCANIKOVÁ** Lenka's corpulent neighbour.

## **REPRESENTATIVES OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES**

## **JOURNALISTS**

## **JAPANESE WITH CAMERAS**

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<sup>1</sup> Transl. note: the choice of name in Slovak may equal to the use of John Doe in Anglophone context; one might name the character Mr Doe. Later, once his full name becomes apparent - Jozef Mrkvička, it can be Joe Doe

## Scene 1

### Intro

*Office interior: furnished in a peculiar manner, without any system – an old worn desk, a chair, medicine ball, even a net hanging from the ceiling. Simply, a blend of contemporary and dated items: as if someone had no idea how to furnish a traditional office, or a modern one. There is also a projector and a screen on the wall.*

*The protagonists start arriving gradually? The quiet Birdy and the misanthrope Jager have surgical rubber gloves on their hands, and the confused Mr Mrkvička – the only one to greet both courteously. They keep looking through the space in silence. Then enters Lenka.*

**LENKA** Hello. Are you also here for the study?

**MR MRKVIČKA** Well, not sure whether it's about the study. I'm here about a job in non-profit sector. By the way, I'm Jozef Mrkvička.

*Mrkvička offers hand to Lenka, but she is instead ready to kiss him on the cheek. That puts Mr Mrkvička somewhat off-balance. He doesn't know how to deal with the situation.*

**LENKA** *(to Jager)* You too?

**JAGER** We'll see what comes out of it.

**LENKA** I'm Lenka.

*Lenka wants to kiss Jager on his cheek too, but he avoids the kiss. She sits on a swinging net that sets in motion unexpectedly. To cover the embarrassment, she bursts into a loud, pretentious laughter.*

**LENKA** Gee, how coooooool!

*Enters Naďa.*

**NAĎA** I see it's all fun here.

*Naďa sits on the chair facing the back-rest, like a man. She chews a gum in a revolting manner, and keeps making bubbles. Eventually enters Kiki. He doesn't speak to anyone and keeps staring in his iPhone all along.*

**MR MRKVIČKA** Do you think they'll offer us any refreshments? I haven't brought any snack ...  
**NAĎA** Not having earned a penny yet, and you already think of stuffing your stomach already.

*Birdy seems most scared. She has a nasty eczema on her face and hands. In a while, LENKA approaches her without any decency.*

**LENKA** Sorry my being nosey, but this eczema – is that allergy or genetic?

**BIRDY** (*stutters in embarrassment*) I ... m ... me... to mmme ... don't know ...

**LENKA** Well, you know ... should you be interested, I have an acquaintance who can make this great cannabis and herb potion for different problems.

**JAGER** (*ironically*) So, you're a doctor?

**LENKA** I'm into natural healing ...

**JAGER** Well, hope she doesn't get more of the shit on her face afterwards ... ha ha.

**NAĎA** (*yawns loudly*) Oy vey, how much longer are we to wait here?

**JAGER** Got things to do?

**NAĎA** Yeah, fuck your arse with a dildo!

**MR MRKVIČKA** Lady, please, don't be so vulgar ...

**NAĎA** (*steps to face Mr Mrkvička*) Got a problem, old man?

**MR MRKVIČKA** No. Excuse me, didn't mean to hurt you ...

*At last enters the young and vibrant boss – Rak.*

**RAK** Welcome. I see you met already. Do be seated where you wish, so that we have a relaxed atmosphere. By the way, there are some soy rolls and soy coffee, should anyone feel like.

*Rak pulls out the rolls and soy coffee wrapped in a bamboo leaf.*

**JAGER** WTF?

**RAK** As you were told during the interviews, this is an ecological NGO. In practice it means that we don't only speak of ecology, but we also try to live ecologically ...

**MR MRKVIČKA** Well, I'll put the kettle on. Anyone for coffee?

*Everyone wants some, except for Kiki.*

**RAK** Without longer a do, let me get straight into business. As you no doubt know, you're part of an experiment with a working title: OCTOLAMUS, which ...

**LENKA** (*interrupts*) Well, we've just been wondering what this is all about. It wasn't obvious during the interviews whether this is about working for an NGO or it's about an experimental questionnaire or this ... what's it called ... shut-up ...

**JAGER** Start-up.

**LENKA**, Yes, that. Right ...

**RAK** (*slightly annoyed, but controlling himself, still smiling*) As long as you don't keep interrupting me, then you'll learn ...

*Rak draws the curtain, rolls down the screen and launches a PowerPoint presentation.*

**JAGER** (*ironically*) No kiddin'! Still using PowerPoint!?

*Rak ignores the comment, shows photos on the screen and tells his story. We see photos of exotic plants and listen to his commentary.*

**RAK** For years, I worked on this botanical project, studying medicinal herbs ... Then my girlfriend broke up with me. Nothing made sense to me anymore, I was seeped in booze. I hit rock-bottom.

*Another image of Rak in a destitute state – looking like a homeless person, sleeping on a bench at a train station.*

**RAK** I didn't want to end up a wreck ... I made a fundamental decision: I left for South America and spent a year with a native tribe.

*Photo of the tribe.*

**RAK** The shaman Don Amidamaru became my spiritual mentor. It was because of him that I underwent this transformation. Don Amidamaru initiated me into the mysteries of nature and taught me to recognise not only the herbs, but also animals and their healing powers.

*Photo of Rak with some native shaman. Rak is half-naked, only wearing some kind of skirt made of large leaves.*

**RAK** And there I discovered Octolamus, a beast with extraordinary healing properties that needs special soil to live off. I've spent years working on it, exploring, analysing ...

*Image of an animal, rather blurred.*

**RAK** Based on my recent research, this soil and Octolamus can be found here, in the Old Wood in Petržalka!

*An image of the residential quarter of Petržalka and of the its part Old Wood. Lenka heehaws in amazement.*

**RAK** Nonetheless, they want to cut down this sacred space, because a German developer is to build a supermarket here.

*Rak dramatically switches off the projection, opens the curtains and lights a cigarette. Everyone is silent. Jager is again the only one to speak.*

**JAGER** You must've been good in essay writing at primary school ...

*The comment relaxes the atmosphere. Nad'a giggles and trumpets out loud pretending to be a native Indian. Mr Mrkvička passes cups of coffee.*

**RAK** Sure, got it. Wood, supermarket, animal – what a cliché, right?

**JAGER** That's what I've been thinking. "Can there be any poorer cliché?"

**RAK** Think what you want, but Octolamus does exist – here, in Petržalka!

**MR MRKVIČKA** Sorry to jump into this exciting discussion, but are any tea spoons?

**RAK** (*annoyed*) No, I haven't got any spoons or cutlery. Spoons don't matter. Why spoons? Why cutlery? Why all those futile props, ballast we use and fuck up the Earth?

**JAGER** Well, aluminium won't fuck up the planet that much ...

**RAK** When you get stuck on a deserted island, you'd have to do with a wooden stick and a rock!

**MR MRKVIČKA** Right, I did stir my coffee with a finger.

*Mr Mrkvička ostensibly stirs his coffee with his finger. People burst in laughter, get relaxed and follow his lead, stirring their coffee with a finger – or take an alternative measure.*

**RAK** See, you made it! You engaged your creativity. That's the point!

**NAĎA** How old are you, by the way?

**RAK** That doesn't matter; let's not dwell about nonsense. We've got to focus on our cause!

Octolamus needs a special type of soil in which it charges up. From there, it is carefully transferred to water environment, special substances from it and then it's returned back in the soil to charge up. For it can't survive without soil for more than a week.

Octolamus is the ultimate source of healing energy – just a tiny amount of its juices can help thousands of people to get cured and prevent civilizational diseases. And even ...

**LENKA** (*interrupts again*) I got the impression you mean it. I believe in these things. For instance, I'm just reading this book *Trees within Us*.

*Lenka pulls out the book and passes it around.*

**LENKA** It says here that everyone has a three within. For instance, my husband used to be a sycamore. I am a birch. Hence, logically, we didn't match and ...

**JAGER** (*interrupts her*) No kidding!

**LENKA** And you're a waterlily! For you're cold and your larynx chakra is weakened – I can totally sense it in you!

**JAGER** And you're weakened mentally.

**NAĎA** I bet she forgot to give herself anal douche this morning. Ha ha!

**RAK** Stop it, stop! I'm glad to see confrontation arise and it's great you express your views. But you've got to respect the views of the others, too! If we want to save the planet, we've got to start with ourselves...

**JAGER** Hipster nonsense!

**MR MRKVIČKA** I think we should let Mr Rak finish. I think you're not being courteous ... excuse me.

*Mr Mrkvička speaks with mouth full, as he is chewing a roll. He starts choking on it. He has coughing attack, he is drooling. He spits out the roll, spits on Jager. That makes the sensitive Jager sick, he can't help himself and vomits.*

**RAK** (*excited*) Thank you for the situation. This is exactly what I needed: to see the human in you. Yes, all this is human, and we won't be judgemental. No. No. No. We won't be judging anyone. For this can happen to any of us! Don't be embarrassed for your human nature. Nothing human is alien to us!

*Rak is suddenly so excited that he strips naked.*

**RAK** I, too, am ashamed of nothing ... I've got nothing to hide...

**NAĎA** Hey, pal, you've got a pretty decent tool out there. Still, I don't get your point ...

*Lenka laughs at Rak's nudity like a teenager. Yet Jager is getting up to leave.*

**JAGER** Got enough, take care ...

**RAK** (*pulls out a bottle with some liquid*) Do you want to see the proof of the healing property of Octolamus?

*That holds Jager back. He returns.*

**RAK** Anyone got a health problem? Anything!

**LENKA** Well, the lady here, excuse me, I didn't catch your name ... look, she's got this nasty rash, perhaps you might help her ...

*The naked Rak approaches Birdy, who clearly doesn't mind, and lets him put the liquid on. Rak does so and the rash on her face disappears. Birdy looks in the mirror and can't believe her eyes. Others heehaw in amazement.*

**RAK** Got it now? It's true I didn't make it up ... We need to prove to the world that Octolamus really is healing power with infinite potential ...

**JAGER** So go ahead and sell it, right?

**RAK** It may seem strange to you that I don't want any money. Money won't save us from apocalypse ... I want everyone to realise that they have to start with themselves ... all it takes is to stop cutting down one wood. All it takes is for us to start from ourselves. Major change will ensue. ... from tiny steps to saving the planet!

**LENKA** And I thought I was coming to fill some questionnaire. It turns out it's about saving the planet! Moreover, with such a cool guy!

**JAGER** It seems to me like an amateur theatre: tiny animal ... kind of touching story.

**MR MRKVIČKA** Why are you being so dismissive?

**LENKA** Right, give him a chance.

**NAĎA** I don't care, I might as well keep hunting gorillas with a harpoon. Ha ha.



*Nad'a is happy, because even Birdy burst in laughter at last: until now she didn't say a word.*

**RAK** Friends, we're up to something big. We have to start a revolution in the streets. We have to draw attention to Octolamus! All it takes for us to stop the logging of the single wood. All it takes is for us to start from ourselves ... and then major changes follow ... from tiny steps to saving the planet.

**MR MRKVIČKA** I am honoured. Yet, forgive my being curious: I would like to know how come that, out of so many, it so happened that the choice fell upon ... me.

**RAK** During one of my awakenings, the Spirit Aiwa appeared to me and uttered very clearly the following words: "Go and find the underdogs, the dormant members of your tribe. With their help you will open the eyes of the entire blinded mankind ..."

**JAGER** What if I don't want to heal the rotten mankind? I want everyone to die like a dog, because vast majority of the population consists of useless individuals anyway ...

**RAK** (*stands up to face Jager*) Come, hit my mouth, don't worry, hit me, hard. After all, I keep pissing you off with my hipster talk. Go ahead, hit me!

**JAGER** Let me be, wacko ...

**RAK** See, you won't do it, you won't hit me. Because you are a good man. Even if you don't believe in yourself. Yet, you are good!

**LENKA** I, too, believe in good. Everything happens for a reason.

**MR MRKVIČKA** Mr Rak, if I may, thinking for myself, I have to say that I have been intrigued by your research and idea. I should like to be part of your experiment.

**LENKA** Me too!

*Nad'a passes to Lenka the book on trees that has just been circulating.*

**NAĎA** I'm all for fun ... By the way, what tree am I then?

**LENKA** You are ... ehm... linden tree ...

**NAĎA** Linden tree, right? You better measure me up again, lady!

**RAK** Friends, I've got this suggestion: let's all be on first-name basis. What do you say?

**LENKA** Sure, I want to suggest it myself, I hate the dated manners.

**RAK** One more thing. Let's agree that each of you brings breakfast for the rest; one each day!

**MR MRKVIČKA** I shall be happy to serve you all breakfast tomorrow.

**RAK** Cool, thanks! Do make sure it's zero-waste, eco-friendly!

*Gradually everyone leaves. Only Rak remains and Birdy who was silent up to now. She kept responding only by sight, laughter or mimics. Now, left alone with Rak, she speaks up at last.*

**BIRDY** (*stutters*) I ... III ... Ii told you that I can't speak out loud in front of more people or when stressed...

**RAK** No worries, you all are weird here ...

**BIRDY** Mmmmany ttttthanks ffff for giving me a chchance ... I love the idea ... I want to be part of something great ...

*Rak gives her a friendly hug. Music. Lights off.*

## **Scene 2**

### **Motivation**

*In the morning the first to meet in the office are Mr Mrkvička and Birdy. Mr Mrkvička is pulling out sandwiches from a box.*

**MR MRKVIČKA** As I always say: there is nothing like good old sandwich. Ham sandwich is the best. But I also took some with cheese. You aren't a vegetarian, are you?

**BIRDY** I am.

**MR MRKVIČKA** I am sorry, but I don't seem to have caught your name, Miss.

**BIRDY** We're on the first-name basis. I'm Birdy.

**MR MRKVIČKA** Beg your pardon. Bardy or Bidy?

*Enter Jager and Nad'a.*

**JAGER** Birdy, as in tiny bird ...

**NAĎA** Well, tiny Bird started singing at last. I thought you were mute, baby ...

*Nad'a slaps Birdy on her rear, she jumps in fright.*

*Eventually enter Lenka and Kiki. Lenka is inundating Kiki with her esoteric nonsense.*

**LENKA** Well, simply speakin', this ascendent, that's for example, that someone might turn into Aries, but he has his ascendant in Aquarius. Like ... two worlds are fighting within him.

*The last to enter is Rak, in good mood.*

**RAK** Good morning! I am glad to see you all here, really glad. Honestly, I doubted some of you, I thought you'd give up ...

**NAĎA** Who?

**RAK** Doesn't matter. After all, it was my bias ... indeed, the very bias which fucks up our brain ...

*Rak is again in his positive ... hyped-up mode, hence he presents a plan.*

**RAK** Well, what I would like now is to join forces and come up with a specific plan how to draw attention to Octolamus ... with concrete points about how our protest might look like.

**JAGER** (*sipping his soy coffee with disgusted expression*) You really think that anyone would notice a protest of seven losers drinking the world's most disgusting coffee?

**RAK** I think nothing. Let's brainstorm, join forces, stop picking on each other, attacking ... Here, I drafted something ...

*Rak pulls out some greasy sheets of paper, notes outlining his vision, though unclear – gibberish.*

**RAK** I thought we'd all go out to the city centre and ...

**LENKA** (*interrupts*) Sorry, Rak, I know you mean well and I'd be happy to help you with anything, because I feel you're up to something good. But are we really going to get the thousand euros a month for this?

**RAK** (*getting annoyed but restrains himself*) Money will be sent to your account monthly throughout the project. You'll be getting thousand euros ... I certainly don't want to keep messing up with you.

**JAGER** Hope so ...

**RAK** So, my idea is this: I would like our protest to be effective. Simply, so that people come to believe that this really is an important issue ...

**LENKA** And will you show us the animal?

**RAK** The animal is charging up right now. When time's right ...

**LENKA** Don't you at least have a photo?

*Rak now really loses it, opens the window abruptly and lights a joint to calm down.*

**RAK** Tell me what you think to be your strength and weakness. What is it you want to offer for

your part? How specifically would you highlight some pressing issue?

*Everyone is silent. Birdy speaks up.*

**BIRDY** I II ... once sssprayed mmmymself ... and protested in front of a hospital when my Mum had to wait for a CT scan for three months ... it was uuunfair ... I I I am able ttto tie myself anywhere ... not afraid of heights ...

**RAK** Cool, an idea at last ... feasible. Rope-walker. Yeah. Can do. Our protest opens as a show and turns into ...

*Rak keeps taking notes on his greasy sheets of paper. Mr Mrkvička, meanwhile, serves lemonade in plastic cups. He just reaches Rak and places one in front of him.*

**RAK** Must be kiddin'! Didn't I put it clearly: be eco-friendly, fix eco-breakfast and you come up with plastic cups?! I keep repeating: start from ourselves, else we don't get anywhere!

**MR MRKVIČKA** Sorry, I ... forgot ...

*Rak is off to calm himself again and has some more joint.*

**RAK** It takes 450 years for a plastic cup to decompose. Got it? Know what it means? Even we won't be 'round that long. But we'll leave behind a pile of crap ... C'mon, folks! All it takes is to start from ourselves, only then big things will set in motion, from tiny steps to saving the planet!

**JAGER** What model is it you're smoking?

**RAK** Outdoor, for leisure ...

*Rak hands the joint to Jager; he has some. Mr Mrkvička is so upset that is on the brink of tears, constantly apologising. Lenka gets high just from the smoke, hence she giggles a little. Naďa rolls a tobacco cigarette. Birdy takes it from her. Now everything is covered in smoke. Suddenly, one hears animal noise coming from somewhere ... meowing.*

**JAGER** Man, cool stuff!

**LENKA** Did you hear the meowing?

**NAĎA** Your cat perhaps...

**LENKA** Could it be that animal? You wanted to surprise us, Rak, didn't you?

*Everyone is working out where the meowing comes from. Mr Mrkvička keeps snuffling, eventually he calms down and pulls out a packet of cigarettes from his bag.*

**MR MRKVIČKA** Sorry, that's my cat ... I know it's a bit daring, but my Daisy is seriously ill and unable to walk anymore. I wanted to ask whether you might put some of that magic potion on her ...

*Rak got high enough by now, so he pulls out the rest of the potion and damps it on the cat. It suddenly springs up and contently paces the room. Mr Mrkvička is all happy, everyone is excited again, except for Jager, who hates animals and has allergies on fur. He starts sneezing, his eyes are running.*

**RAK** See, that's an idea! We'll take a few sick animals and will give a live demonstration, showing it works!

**JAGER** Don't expect me to collect some infested cats!

**LENKA** Why cats? Let's go straight for children's oncology and put the potion on all the innocent creatures!

**RAK** Everything takes its time. We can't just plunge in it ... So far, I have only been able to get the tincture gradually and in small amounts. Octalamus needs more soil to keep charging ... So, all it takes, is for us to start from ourselves and big things will ensue ... from tiny step to saving the planet ...

**NAĎA** We heard that alright. Well then, what are we actually to do at the protest tomorrow?

**RAK** We'll just improvise! We'll start with the kitties ...

*Lights off.*

### **Scene 3**

#### **Protest/Rally**

*Lights still off. Voices and sounds from the protest can be heard, followed by reports from the press and the internet.*

**ANCHOR** A curious group of activists marched through the city yesterday ... Incredibly, they protested against cutting down the Old Wood, whilst demonstrating a magic liquid that can heal and cure!

**WOMAN 1** ... Mine! I wouldn't believe it, but I just came like this, tellin' myself why not check it out ... I brought this parakeet of mine. Been just sittin' in it cage all day, doing nothin'. They put that stuff on and it flies all over da house. I tell you, it's magic!

**WOMAN 2** First there's this rope show. I was telling myself: some conceptual artist. And then it turns out to be this carnage ... You know, I got this doggy that has been suffering from epilepsy for years, having attacks three times a day at times. All hell. I can't leave him with anyone. And now, he's been fine for three days in a row. I don't get it!

**MAN** I've been growing bonsai. Really, for ages. Recently it started kinda rottin'. So, I brought it over and they pulled it together ... What d'ya say?

*The voices gradually subside.*

#### **Scene 4**

#### **Euphoria**

*Another day, morning. Birdy prepared breakfast, having only brought chickpeas in a kind of eco-bowl. Others gradually arrive, all cheered up by having become media stars. As Rak enters, they applaud.*

**LENKA** This calls for a speech. Speech, speech!!!!

**RAK** I hate speeches. But, simply, I knew that, with joint forces, we'd kill it. Though we haven't finished yet. We will carry on, move to a higher level ... Friends, I wouldn't have done this without you. I am stronger with you. Just you being there with me meant a lot to me ...

**LENKA** So when are you going to show us the animal?

**RAK** When time's right ... Ah, chickpeas ... Now that's what I call eco-food. Could be improved, but thumbs up for progress ...

**JAGER** Listen, that potion of yours ... can one drink it?

**RAK** It's a universal medicine.

**JAGER** So you've tried it, right? Does it work?

**RAK** Sure, but it's no easy ...

**JAGER** (*whispering*) Can I have some?

**RAK** Why whisper, man? We're all one, it's just our ego that keeps us apart ...

*Rak puts on shamanic tune and gives everyone a drop into their drink. They all have a sip, only Kiki*

*pretends to do so and secretly pours the drink away. Gradually, they get relaxed.*

**JAGER** (*content to Rak*) Listen, I wanted to tell you that I kinda enjoyed the event. I first thought it'd be bullshit. But it was OK in the end. Man, I'm like ... pissed to be this positive. ...

**RAK** Sure thing, pal!

**MR MRKVIČKA** Young people, all beautiful young people. I didn't think I would fit in. Ultimately, though, we all found a way to each other. The way to go!

**BIRDY** (*to Jager*) Listen, why are you always feeling so blue? Why do you turn yourself into this blue emo. After all, you're pretty cool ...

**JAGER** (*sleazily*) I like you, too, you little activist ... Tell ya something: From day one I wanted to shag you. So when this party is over, you're coming with me and we'll have our private little party ... What'd ya say?

*Birdy slaps his face.*

**NAĎA** Let her be, mother sucker!

*Nad'a takes Birdy by her waist. Birdy accepts this lesbian play and kisses her. They start swaying together to the beat.*

**RAK** (*content*) That's the way I like it. Emotions. Let authentic emotions take over. Let's be genuine! Let's stop the pretence! All it takes is for us to start from ourselves, and big things will ensue ...

*Rak starts playing a tiny drum.*

**LENKA** Kiki, I don't know anything about you yet. What sign are you, may I ask?

**KIKI** Capricorn.

**LENKA** I knew it. I'm Virgo.

**KIKI** Really?

*They both laugh at the double-meaning.*

**LENKA** Well, when it comes to sex, I'm OK to discuss it openly. I started with sex when I was fifteen ... I always considered the relationship between man and women mysterious... the

penetration of vagina with penis is like return to a cave ...

*Everyonn is gradually getting euphoric. Lenka strips to her waist and starts swinging in the net, while contently laughing loud.*

**LENKA** Gosh, I'm so happy ... I'm really endlessly happy ... Everything makes sense ... fits together ... yippie.

*Birdy and Nad'a keep embracing and caressing each other tenderly.*

**NAĎA** You're so brave, tiny Bird. ... to hang yourself there today, on those hooks. You could've injured yourself. Didn't it hurt?

**BIRDY** ... no worries.

**NAĎA** (*gets sentimental*) You know, I've never experienced anything like you have. Always been surrounded by losers and crap ... You're so stunning. I feel as if all that crap is slipping off me ... And that whore whose faced I smashed when she pissed me off. She's been saying things she shouldn't have ... Nine years in that den. Imagine. Do you know what hell is?

**BIRDY** When I was nine, my father started going to bed with me. First, we just hugged. But then he asked for more ... Sometimes, when he was out of it, he burned cigarette buds on my skin ...

**NAĎA** I'll cut his balls off! Where does he live? I'll find him and strangle him!

**BIRDY** Forget it ... What matters is that we met ... that's fate.

*They are kissing.*

**JAGER** (*stretches on the floor*) Sometimes I wish the world went silent, no sounds, nothing ... and everyone would shut up and cut the crap ...

*Suddenly everything grows silent; utter silence. It is cut short by Lenka's burst of laughter – she is still swinging in the net in euphoria.*

**KIKI** (*to Jager*) What would you do if there were always such absolute silence?

**JAGER** I'd lie in the grass and watch the sky ... like when I was little and had no allergies, no paranoia, no phobias ... at my grandpa's in the cottage, summer-long ...

**KIKI** How was it at grandpa's cottage?

**JAGER** Grandpa let me always taste his Turkish coffee from a tin mug, those coffee bits ...



cracking between my teeth ... better than the world's best coffee ... Look, these are my hands. My hands! Cool!

*Jager suddenly puts on rubber gloves, starts going on about his hands, observing them in amazement. Kiki moves over to Mr Mrkvička who is busy wiping sweat from his face. He took off his jacket and even unbuttoned his shirt.*

**KIKI** I bet you've been through a lot ...

**MR MRKVIČKA** You know, to be honest ... Yes. I served ... a post high enough. But who didn't? I enjoyed the meetings, no shame about it. And then Janka,<sup>2</sup> our administrator Janka. ... once I played Wagner to her all night. Then she got fired. She didn't have the right political background ... Still, I believed that the Party meant well. For the Party always looked after us. But now ... Chaos, chaos, chaos reigns everywhere! You know, I never mean evil to anyone. Nonetheless, I was the youngest sibling; my father always criticised me, wanted me to become an electrician. Though I have always been the brainy kind ... When Rak reprimanded me yesterday for the plastic cups, back at home I thought that I'd kill myself ...

**KIKI** C'mon, Jožko<sup>3</sup> you mustn't be thinking like this.

*Mr Mrkvička puts his head on Kiki's shoulder and starts confessing. Kiki calms him like a little child. Mrkvička talks in tearful voice.*

**MR MRKVIČKA** I have always been target of ridicule ... It wasn't until the Party recruited me that I at last felt that there was a meaning to my life, that I was taken seriously. You know, I always did really professssssional job ... becausssssse the Party ...

*Mr Mrkvička is gradually starting to hiss like a snake; he is getting short of words.*

**LENKA** Sorry to bother you, but can I borrow Kiki for a moment?

**MR MRKVIČKA** Cccccccccccccccertainly, madam.

**LENKA** I need to confess to someone this rather sensitive matter and you look like you'd understand. To put it simply ... You know... I've got this problem with my vagina ... I tried a lot of men, but never reached an orgasm. So, I always pretended, though I did pretend like a pro!

**KIKI** Interesting.

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<sup>2</sup> Transl. note: EN equivalent is Jenny.

<sup>3</sup> Transl. note: EN equivalent is Joe.

**LENKA** Well, and then I went to a vagina therapist, Mrs Juliet who did it to me with her hand. That was the only time I ever had an orgasm ...

**JAGER** (*looking at his hands in wonder*) Oh man, these are really my hands. Amazing, the things hands can do ...

**LENKA** Once I meditated by a tree and sensed its energy. I pictured its branches getting into me like hands ... I got excited ...

**JAGER** (*approaches Lenka and Kiki*) Look, I've got hands! A miracle!  
*Lenka grabs Jager by hands.*

**LENKA** Hold my hands and close your eyes. Absorb. Absorb.

*Lenka and Jager hold hands, facing each other with eyes shut. In a while they drop their hands.*

**LENKA** Did you feel it? We let our hands drop simultaneously. We were connected. Got it: Just as Rak says – we and the universe are one.

**JAGER** (*looking at Lenka, aroused*) I never slept with a woman. Whenever it came to it, I felt disgusted.

**LENKA** If you want, I'll be your ferryman – to manhood ...

*Lenka takes Jager aside with a brave step. They are already firmly glued to each other. Mrkvička is crawling on the floor, feeling high and hissing like a snake. Romantic sexual scene – Jager and Lenka. Elsewhere on stage, tender incessant kissing and caressing – Birdy and Nad'a. Mrkvička crawling around like a snake. Kiki watches everything discreetly. Rak, in trance, plays his drum and keeps on repeating his mantra: "We all are one, let's start from ourselves..." Sudden abrupt change, the drug loses effect, everyone awakens to reality. Jager, having intercourse with Lenka, starts screaming in horror and puts on rubber gloves.*

**JAGER** Yuck, fuck, fuck, hell ... with whom ... sickening, for god's sake!...

*Jager vomits on Lenka. Lenka is screaming, because she was about to reach orgasm.*

**LENKA** What are you doing?! You can't leave woman unfinished like this!

*Birdy realises that she is clinging to Nad'a. She pulls away and starts screaming.*

**BIRDY** Yuck, you stinky lesbian ... hands all over me ... yuck, ggggget off mmme...

**NAĎA** Shut up, kid, you wanted it yourself!

*Mr Mrkvička, in his underwear, just started licking the chickpeas as if being a snake and swallowing the food. Yet he starts choking on the chickpeas. Rak merely laughs and changes the drumming beat.*

**RAK** Friends, friends. Didn't I tell you to be careful ...

**JAGER** Thanks a lot. You should've said the ride takes ten minutes ... even durman lasted longer ...  
Shit, I'll be damned, got to ring my therapist! I'm fucked ... help ... I'm fucked ...

**RAK** (*still drumming*) Calm down, take deep breath ... relax ... one, two, three, four, five, six ...

*Locomotion and chaos come to an end, everyone lies in a circle.*

**RAK** Tell me each for yourself one word that defines you.

*Rak drums over each head and everyone distils that one word.*

**LENKA** Unrestrained.

**MR MRKVIČKA** Devotion.

**NAĎA** Courage.

**BIRDY** Freedom.

**JAGER** Insight.

**KIKI** Nut.

**RAK** And when you join forces, all these characteristics together will be your joint ... for we all are one!

*Drumming continues, everyone gradually falls asleep. Rak is leaving. Kiki waits a moment, then gets up. The others are asleep. Lights off.*

## **Scene 5**

### **Conspiracy**

*Kiki, alone, holding a torch, is wandering through the building. Suddenly he comes across an aquarium covered by a sheet. He pulls it off. We see a strange little animal connected to all kinds of tubes extracting its liquid. A digital timer is counting down. Kiki observes the animal in fascination. He'd love to detach the tube to take some of the magic liquid, when Jager enters.*

**KIKI** What are you doing here?

**JAGER** Looking for a bathroom. I'm as thirsty as a camel ... Bloody hell! What's that? For God's sake, I'll be fucked ... What's that shit ... Aha! Does it bite?

*Both keep looking at the animal in fascination.*

**KIKI** Do you realise what we're looking at right now?

**JAGER** Your mother, ha ha...

**KIKI** A billion in profit.

**JAGER** You bet, ha ha.

**KIKI** Everyone with the least common sense realises that one can distil incredible profit from this liquid.

**MR MRKVIČKA** Beg your pardon. I heard some voices, and I couldn't help not to overhear ...

**JAGER** (*Mr Mrkvička gives him fright*) Oy, I'll get a seizure today, bloody hell!

**MR MRKVIČKA** Admittedly, it was quite a day. And evening ... But, gentlemen, my lips are sealed, you can trust me. The things I've heard and seen I will take to my grave!

**KIKI** Jozef, a specialist like you mustn't be missing in our team. But let's be open ... Do we want buckets of money or doing this spiel on the square for a few pennies?

**MR MRKVIČKA** Big money brings big plans to fruition ... As for me, gentlemen, though it may not seem so, I do have such plans.

*Mr Mrkvička hands them fliers.*

**MR MRKVIČKA** Our new Party. We need to buy votes so that we ...

**KIKI** That may be more information we need ...

*Enters Lenka.*

**LENKA** Gee, what a cutie! ...

**JAGER** (*gets frightened again*) Fuck!

**LENKA** Is this that little beastio?

**JAGER** Guess so.

**LENKA** I pictured it somewhat differently ...

**JAGER** Now, you've seen it all and can go home to have a nap.

**LENKA** Don't think I'm stupid. I've overheard. Everything. You want to steal his idea and make big bucks on that. Yet you seem to have missed one thing: you have no idea where the charging soil is.

**JAGER** Somewhere in Petržalka, right?

**LENKA** The soil is in on this specific spot. By the time you find it the little beastio will be dead.!

**KIKI** And what is it you need, Lenka?

**JAGER** You need to buy a few motha-fuckas to fill her wholes with their dicks ...

**LENKA** C'mon, boy!

**KIKI** Let's get constructive.

*Enter Naďa and Birdy.*

**NAĎA** The party goes on?

**LENKA** Just chatting ...

**NAĎA** And what's this? Hell, no kiddin! Oh, mine!

**BIRDY** That's it, gee! That's sssso cccool! ... Ddddo you think, ttough, that Rak would allow this?

Hhhhhe llleft us, bbbut ppperhaps we ww weren't ttto come hhhhere ...

**JAGER** Rak is out of it.

**BIRDY** Ssssorry?

**KIKI** They guy's either nuts, or he really doesn't see there's billions in this ... or he's making total fools of us.

**JAGER** B is correct ...

**KIKI** We've got to find that soil, identify the location. I bet he's got it in his notebook. Then we must go to the right places, sign contracts with a pharmaceutical company, split the money, big bucket ...

**NAĎA** How about Rak?

**MR MRKVIČKA** Well ...I might have a solution ... In this vial, I've been carrying around for years ... I've got this solution ... the coroner won't detect anything. It will seem like an ordinary cardiac arrest ...

**BIRDY** You mmmmust bbbe out of yyyyour mmmind!

**KIKI** (*covers her mouth*) Shush!

**NAĎA** Slow down, man!

**KIKI** Just a while ago she called you an appalling lesbian ... now she plays a saint ...

*Nad'a starts thinking, as if she just realised that Birdy had offended her.*

**MR MRKVIČKA** So, do we have a plan?

**KIKI** Let's meet at nine. Anyhow, Rak always arrives at ten ... we'll discuss it with clear heads ...

**BIRDY** You wwwwon't gggget away with tttthis ...

**LENKA** Gee, look, it did a little wee-wee ... It has a tiny hole that lets the water out ...

**MR MRKVIČKA** Fascinating!

**JAGER** (*gets nauseated again, but manages to control himself*) Disgusting ...

*Kiki removes a little of the liquid from Octolamus, then takes a planter with dry plant. The plant comes to life, acquires colour. Everyone watches in amazement. Kiki is repeating his mantra.*

**KIKI** Find out the location, go to the right places, sign contracts with a pharmaceutical company, split the money, whole bucket ...

*Lights off.*

## **Scene 6**

### **Doubts**

*Morning. The first to enter is Lenka. She collected some grass and wild flowers, and places them on the table. She's making soy coffee. Enters Jager, unsure how to speak with Lenka as they are alone.*

**JAGER** I always thought such coffee is only served in hell ... Yet I discovered that, when I put in an equal amount of sugar and coffee, it is bearable ...

*Lenka smiles at him ironically and hands him the coffee. Enters Birdy.*

**BIRDY** (*entering*) You wwwwere kkkkidding yesterday, wwwweren't you?

**LENKA** C'mon, little Bird, one's got to be cool about things ... It is true, though, that we should've asked Rak whether he realises the financial potential ...

**BIRDY** What if he isn't after money, but wants to help actually?

**JAGER** Well, that would be some fairy-tale, wouldn't it? Cut the drama. We only chatted. No one wants to kill anyone ...

**NAĎA** I don't feel like ending behind bars either ...

**LENKA** I guess it must've been the drug. Rak did say so. The animal awakened in us negative instincts, dark thoughts. At least you see we've still got much to work on ... By the way, help yourselves: I picked up some edible flowers, ecological.

**JAGER** I'm no cow.

**NAĎA** Moooo.

*Everyone bursts in laughter.*

**BIRDY** You all are nuts. I nearly fell for that nonsense of yours ... IIII sssso llllike you. Hhhaven't sssseen such a bunch of looneys for ages...

*Birdy gives Jager a friendly hug from behind. He is a bit uneasy but likes it. Nad'a watches them jealously. Enters Mr Mrkvička.*

**BIRDY** Jozef, you, you nnnnearly ffffooled me with that poison of yours!

**MR MRKVIČKA** It was just a joke ... Anyway, who knows whether it would still work after all those years ...

**LENKA** I like Rak's idea ... I want to stick to positive thoughts ... though it's true that he seems clueless sometimes. It will get better, though: all visionaries tend to improvise ...

**MR MRKVIČKA** At times it seems to me as well that there's no concept. Apparently, he doesn't want to disclose it ...

**JAGER** Well, it's all over the place in him. I guess it must be his nerves. But whose nerves are alright these days, ha ha...

**KIKI** Good morning.

**JAGER** (*gets frightened*) Gee, I'll be fucked! For sure.

**LENKA** It took us by storm yesterday, didn't it Kiki? We were just saying that Birdy's right: our plotting yesterday was just an instinct ... a test of our moral aptitude.

**BIRDY** Wwww ... that...

*Jager puts some sugar in his cup and wants to stir his soy coffee. Yet he has no spoon. Kiki watches and passes him plastic spoon he brought from Starbucks. Jager stirs his coffee and automatically passes on the spoon. The spoon is circulating, everyone stirs their coffee, happy how easy it is with a spoon.*

**KIKI** First you all pretend how great it would be and then you stick your head in the sand. Just because a lady who spent her childhood with daddy in bed made a show!

**BIRDY** Yyyyou ... yyyyou ... ssson of a bbbbbitch! Nad'a, ttttell him ssssomething ...

**NAĎA** (*offended*) Why would a dirty stinky lezzer have anything to say?

*Birdy breaks into full stutter, unable to make a single sentence.*

**KIKI** (*showing at a tablet*) Facts: Octolamus is capable of producing 5 litres of tincture within 180 days. 5 litres cover about 20 hospitals which would be enough to administer the tincture ... net

profit would range from 21 all the way to 40 million euros. Second thoughts, anyone? Find me a single pharmacist who wouldn't be after this! They'll be crawling at our feet!

**JAGER** How did you come up with this, you engineer?

**KIKI** Got my sources.

**NAĎA** 21 million? Old man, still got that poison of yours?

**MR MRKVIČKA** I did say I always carry it with me ...

**LENKA** Please ...

**KIKI** 21 million euros ...

**LENKA** That means each of us would make 4 million euros?!

**KIKI** To start with ...

**JAGER** And how do you intend to find that soil? By the time you find the spot, Octolamus will be belly up ...

**KIKI** Rak is bound to have it in his notebook.

**JAGER** He'll hardly lend it to you just like that.

**KIKI:** Tell me what such profit would mean to you in a single word?

**LENKA** Infinity.

**MR MRKVIČKA** Devotion.

**NAĎA** Courage.

**JAGER** Insight.

**KIKI** (*convincingly*) Friends, let's not play humanists set to rescue of an animal. No one cares about such a ridiculous demonstration and childish shaman rituals ... Rak is a plain manipulator who's got some money in his account. Now, being bored, he plays with us. With our CVs we'll be destined to be minions, losers, nutcases, neurotic sociopaths, hypochondriacs, emotionally unstable, unbalanced, unable to fill our social and disability support claim, laughing stock to everyone, scorned, reaching out and kicking empty air ...

**NAĎA** Amen.

*Mr Mrkvička puts a drop of poison into a cup with coffee.*

*That instant Rak enters the room.*

**RAK** Sorry to be late, but my alarm clock was off. Never happened to me before. Hey, what are you so surprised about? Yesterday proved to be quite a challenge, right? Ha ha. Don't worry, when I tried it for the first time, I thought the universe turned inside out ... Well, well, well ... what's on the menu today?

**LENKA** I collected some grass from the meadow, utterly ecological!



**RAK** Wooow, I didn't expect that. You keep surprising me. Man, you even made the coffee already. Cool. Thanks a lot.

*Rak eats the grass, takes the coffee and has a sip ... He suddenly notices Kiki drinking his coffee from a Starbucks cup.*

**RAK** (*upset*) Must be kidding?! Starbucks?!!

*Rak starts choking and drops dead within seconds.*

**MR MRKVIČKA** I did say the poison was failsafe, didn't I?

**JAGER** Or he was killed by Starbucks!

*Birdy is sitting in the corner, shaking, Jager is biting his nails unaware he's biting bits off his rubber gloves, Lenka is shouting: God, oh God, oh God ...*

**KIKI** What we must do now is to keep calm. Panic is no good ... We've got to act quickly: find out the location, go to the relevant places, sign the contract with a pharmaceutical company, split the money ... And you can keep chilling in the Caribbean for the rest of your lives.

*Music. Mr Mrkvička and Lenka are dragging away Rak's body. Birdy is trying to escape, but Nad'a grabs her and handcuffs her to the radiator. Jager throws up, Kiki finishes his Starbucks coffee.*

*Music. Lights off.*

## Scene 7

### New Business

*It is quiet in the office. Nad'a is fixing breakfast – looney-tea (a blend of black tea, coffee bits and cigarette buds). Birdy is handcuffed to the radiator.*

**BIRDY** IIIIII'll rrrreport you tttto tttthe ppppolice ...

**NAĎA** Shut up. He had a cardiac arrest and that's it.

*Enters Jager.*

**JAGER** (*depressed*) He's passed it ... anyhow, life's not worth much ... actually, nothing on this planet is worth it ... What's this???

**NAĎA** Looney-tea ... for better mood ...

And its super-ecological: made of leftovers ... ha ha.

*Jager lights a cigarette, pours himself some of the looney-tea, Nad'a is also smoking. Enters Lenka.*

**LENKA** Anyone got a cigarette?

**JAGER** But you don't smoke ...

**LENKA** Fuck, give me some fag!

*Jager passes her the cigarette, everyone is smoking, the room is filled with smoke.*

**BIRDY** (*trying to speak but stutters heavily*) Kkkkkikkkki.... Hhhhhhe jjjjjust uuuused uuuus ...

**LENKA** True, I found him weird from the outset. Never said a word. He seemed to me like a mere observer ... I would never come up with that. But what to do now?

**NAĎA** Not keen to land behind bars again.

**LENKA** Actually, we did nothing wrong. Mrkvička dropped the poison in the coffee, we didn't see properly ...

**BIRDY** Aaaaaacccccomppppplices ...

**LENKA** Shut up, bitch ...

**JAGER** Well, if we all are innocent, then there's nothing to worry about...

*Jager has a sip of the looney-tea and it makes him nauseated. He tries hard not to throw up.*

*Everyone runs away from Jager – just in case. Enters Mr Mrkvička.*

**MR MRKVIČKA** Let me air the room a little, it's full of smoke. Kiki is non-smoker, he resents smoke ...

**BIRDY** Ttthe mmmmurder ddddoesn't mmmind eeeeither?

**NAĎA** Listen, old man. It's all because of you. You put the poison in that coffee. Now, you face it!

**MR MRKVIČKA** I, but I ...

**LENKA** Don't you feel any remorse, Jozef, having killed that man? You were the one to put the poison in ...

**MR MRKVIČKA** (*regretfully, gradually starts crying*) I, I just don't know why I did it ... I feel guilty. I have no idea what got in me ... I never wanted this ... Oh, Lord! What have I done? What

have I done, for God's sakes?

*Enters Kiki, looks transformed: he is wearing a designer suit, hair gelled back, he looks smarter than before, he even carries a briefcase.*

**KIKI** Open the windows!

*Kiki speaks so resolutely that Lenka promptly extinguishes her cigarette. Mr Mrkvička opens the window.*

**MR MRKVIČKA** I did say it was full of smoke here, didn't I?

**KIKI** Ladies and gentlemen, we've got to set some tough rules now. No time for nonsense!

**MR MRKVIČKA** (*subserviently*) Kristián, I so agree with you!

**KIKI** (*pulls out a designer coffeemaker*) Ladies and gentlemen, let me present you with a coffeemaker that makes tailor-made cappuccino: pistachio, hazelnut, chocolate, cinnamon ... Which would you like?

**JAGER** And what else are you bringing apart from the coffeemaker?! You just roped us into a murder. Otherwise you're full of shit, saying bullshit after bullshit ... just of different kind ... How come I always let myself into such crap?!

*Jager is about to leave and Birdy is getting up to follow the suit, grabs his hand, except that she is still handcuffed to the radiator. Nad'a makes Jager sit down.*

**NAĎA** Sit down, mother sucker, else I get into you!

**KIKI** Just so you know, this is what I found in Rak's notebook!

*Kiki is projecting on the screen a recording from their recruitment interviews. The material is curiously edited. Moreover, it is complemented with inappropriate, pejorative comments; at times, silly eyes or noses are added to their faces ...*

*For instance: In the recording, Lenka is saying something, but the sound that comes out is mere clacking, instead of her mouse a diamond shape is drawn ... Mr Mrkvička is oinking ... Jager's face is deformed into that of a troll as he speaks of his phobias: "... in addition to hypochondria, agoraphobia, I also hate trolls and dwarfs, they're disgusting ..."* The entire sentence is mixed into a DJ-like music composition.

**BIRDY** (*grabs Jager by hand*) Ffffake...

**LENKA** (*offended*) That says a lot about the upbringing of that guy, Rak ... to make such fun of ...

**JAGER** (*attack*) Why did he turn me into this ghastly troll?! Yuck, turn it off, I can't look at it ... I hate trolls. I'm getting sick ... Oh Looooord!

**MR MRKVIČKA** It seems to me as if he were watching us from somewhere up high ...

**LENKA** Kiki, have you found out where in the woods the soil is?

**NAĎA** The animal has only 48 hours left ... tick tock tick tock tick tock ...

*Kiki passes Turkish coffee to Jager in a tin cup. Jager, still suffering from his attack of having seen himself as a troll, is suddenly moved.*

**KIKI** Special one for you, with bits in a tin cup!

**JAGER** (*moved*) How did you know?

*Kiki serves everyone cappuccino. They all taste and like it. Kiki places teaspoons on the table, cuts some fruit and serves all kinds of nibbles ...*

**LENKA** ... was askin' about the soil ...

**KIKI** Our job is to present and sell the product Octolamus ... The clients and buyers will manage on their own, some biologists and surveyors will sure help to find that soil ...

**JAGER** Hell, that's some coffee! What brand is it?

**KIKI** Fairtrade, Costa Rica, freshly ground ...

**LENKA** At last my cup of coffee!

**KIKI** I'm putting together a company with a defined strategy that can look after its people. A company where everyone is clear about their responsibility and position.

**MR MRKVIČKA** Indeed, the posts! That's what we need!

**KIKI** We shall divide the tasks and will give the Octolamus company a real image!

*Kiki pulls out business cards, a logo, leaflets, even key-holders and plastic cups with the Octolamus brand on.*

**KIKI** We'll set the rules!

**NAĎA** Well, mister would like to be the boss!

**KIKI** (*softens his tone*) Nad'a, didn't they happen to call your Brutal Nikita in jail? We need someone fearless! You definitely should be the guard to keep an eye on the office! Though we've

got to boost your strength and confidence ...

*Kiki pulls out sunglasses from his briefcase and puts them on Nad'a's nose. He also hands her a cool, stylish jacket that fits her perfectly. Nad'a is admiring herself in a mirror.*

**KIKI** Next, I should like to appoint Mr Mrkvička to the post of copywriter, for I believe that his sharp tongue enables him to work well with texts.

*Instead of the traditional tortoise-rim spectacles, he passes Mr Mrkvička Ray-Bans, and even hands him a shiny white denture. He shows him a mirror.*

**KIKI** Personality lays in detail ...

**MR MRKVIČKA** Thank you for your trust.

**LENKA** What about me? What am I best cut for?

**KIKI** You'll be a PR manager. You've got to impress the clients, you know.

*Kiki puts a smart wig on Lenka. She no longer looks like an esoteric geek, but like a lady. Kiki gives her earrings and moves her in front of a small mirror.*

**KIKI** You've got to be absolutely clear about who you are ... And you, Lenka, are quite clear about that. Show the world your true face, let them see how a lady looks like!

*Lenka is looking in the mirror, all pleased. Jager is standing with hands folded, still looking a little upset.*

**KIKI** Jager is IT specialist. Jager is not afraid of computers.

**JAGER** (*resigned*) Really?

**KIKI** All it takes for you to shave, get a decent haircut and put on some proper clothes ... not only your intellect shines along with your tall forehead, but also your inimitable hands ...

*Kiki takes off the rubber gloves from Jager's hands. Jager is stunned to have his hands free, to be glove-free after such a long time.*

**BIRDY** T... tt... ttt... ttt...

**KIKI** And you, Birdy, will be a real guinea pig! Octalamus has to be presented. We've got to go to

the right places, sign contracts with the pharmaceutical company, split the money, big money ...  
And we'll spend the rest of our lives chilling in the Caribbean.

*Lights off. Music.*

## Scene 8

### Finale

*When lights come on, there is an entirely different company, with O-sign everywhere. There is a classical conference table and coffeemaker, sandwiches, fruit, flowers on the table. In sum, it looks like a contemporary designer office. Everyone has their new image. Lenka, wearing in a smart suit and wig walks self-importantly with folders under her arm. Mr Mrkvička is also fashioning a new suit, and his brand-new denture. Nad'a, in a suit, is standing by the door as a guard. Jager has cut his hair; he's shaved, his hair is gelled back. He, too, has a new suit. Kiki is giving instructions.*

**KIKI** Nad'a, I rely on you: if things get out of hand, you know what to do ... Birdy mustn't say a word. Just go check on her ...

**NAĎA** Yesir!

**KIKI** Jager, is the logo ready?

**JAGER** (*seated by his notebook, working on something using a graphic design software*) Crackin' it.

**LENKA** (*laughs a little stupidly*) Kiki, would you show me how to operate the coffeemaker ... I know you showed me yesterday, but ...

**KIKI** (*suddenly strict*) First, I am no Kiki! From now on you'll be addressing me Mr Kristián. And, second: am I really to deal with such trivia as coffee??? This is no kindergarten!

**LENKA** Excuse me, Mr Kristián ...

**KIKI** Nad'a, you don't need to keep rushing out to Birdy every minute. It's droughty here and you keep slamming the door!

*Mr Mrkvička hangs up a noticeboard, attaching paper letters with pins.*

**KIKI** (*disgusted*) Jozef, what is it you're doing?!

**MR MRKVIČKA** I told myself I'd put up some quotes on the noticeboard, to keep the team motivated ...

**KIKI** God, not that! Put it away. Now!

**JAGER** (*shows the computer to Kiki*) Here's the draft of the logo.

**KIKI** For God's sake, what's that? Why does it look like a pussy? It's to be an O, as in Octolamus, like OOOOOO ... What is it with you all? Are you really that inept?! First, there was utter anarchy; I was afraid they we'd all be shitting, pissing and puking in this room into a single manger like in Middle Ages! No one kept basic hygiene! It was me to build the company from scratch, to give it a face, split the jobs ... Had it not been for me, you all would be in Job Centre right now waiting for social support. Clearly, you haven't got any of this!

**MR MRKVIČKA** No, not at all. I very much appreciate what you made of us, Mr Kristián.

**LENKA** Me too, Kiki ... ehm, I mean Mr Kristián ... I'm really trying hard. I meant to tell you that I approached some journalists ... And then some Japanese tourists are coming to the presentation of the animal. Plus, my neighbour Zuzka<sup>4</sup> Marcaníková, she's dying to see it. I hope it's okay ...

**KIKI** You're mad?! It's to be a private contract between us and the pharmaceutical company ...

*Sudden knock on the door. Gradually, representatives of pharmaceutical companies enter, followed by a crowd of journalists, a handful of Japanese tourists with cameras, and the corpulent Zuzka Marcaníková – Lenka's neighbour. There's no time for debate, they must improvise. Lenka manages.*

**LENKA** Coffee, anyone? We've got all kinds of flavours.

*A number of people nod.*

**LENKA** Which one would you like? Hazelnut, cinnamon, chocolate ...

*The visitors keep asking all at once for the flavour they want. Lenka starts making the coffee but doesn't master the coffeemaker. The machine starts spitting all over, spraying on everyone.*

**LENKA** Get a handyman! Is there any?!

*Kiki turns off the coffeemaker. After the embarrassing incident, he is trying to save the situation.*

**KIKI** Apologies, but things here get sometimes wild. Well, we ain't no ordinary company. May I now present you with our product, a liquid – or tincture, if you wish. It comes from a creature called Octolamus. It is hot news on the market. Waiting for buyers!

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<sup>4</sup> Transl. note: EN equivalent would be Susie.

**ZUZKA MARCANIKOVÁ** C'mon, show us the animal!

**KIKI** At the moment, we are only able to demonstrate the tincture on human with severe damages to her skin.

*Kiki flicks his fingers to Nad'a who brings in Birdy. Birdy stands in the centre. They roll up her T-shirt and show her back covered in scars from cigarettes. They put on some of the potion. The scars disappear. Everyone applauds in elation.*

*Rak suddenly rushes in, holding the animal that is barely breathing.*

**RAK** Quick. We need a car. We've got to be in the Old Wood promptly to get to the soil, else Octolamus dies, it will be the end ...

**BIRDY** Yyyyou .... are aaaalive? Hhhhow ... cccome?

**RAK** Octolamus saved me. It sprayed some liquid on me and I woke up just like that ... No idea what happened, but there's no time for ... quick, we need a taxi ... anyone got a car, a phone?

*Everyone gathers around Rak, looking at the animal or photographing it. Yet no one calls for the taxi. They pull the animal from his hands, are taking photos, making selfies with Octolamus, and so on. Nonetheless, the animal is in its last throes. We hear it breathe ... Eventually, Octolamus takes its last breath and dies.*

**RAK** Noooooooooooooo .... You ... dickheads ... this was your last chance of salvation!!!

*Rak breaks in tears. Birdy takes the dead animal in her hands, sits on the floor by Rak and embraces him. Everyone keeps staring, puzzled, silent. Only the Japanese tourists keep taking photos ...*

**The End**



