

Thank you for not breeding!

Dušan Vicen

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A list of characters

ACTIVIST

COMPANION (female character)

WOMAN 1

WOMAN 2

MYSTERIOUS 1

MYSTERIOUS 2

NATURAL MAN

LOCAL 1 – 3

PARTICIPANT 1 – 6

ACTOR

(STAGE) DIRECTOR

WHISTLEBLOWER

Intro
Men in Balaclavas

Sound: rapid breathing.

Two human figures are on stage with a large metal ladder built into the wall.

The two wear balaclavas.

One is holding a banner, the other starts climbing the ladder. Sound of police sirens, an arrest of the person under the ladder, handcuffing; the police are trying to remove the balaclava, the person is shouting to prevent them from doing so, begging, threatening. They remove the balaclava; terrified male face appears. The person who took off his balaclava is astonished.

CHARACTER You?

Scene 1
Video Chat

Activist is sitting in front of the camera, Companion is sitting by her, standing or walking around; large screen shows faces of two women communicating with Activist.

ACTIVIST To sum it up. There is a man being bullied by the authorities and we are looking for a way to help him.

WOMAN 1 People need to understand that this applies to everyone. I would emphasise that.

WOMAN 2 Something like – today, it's him, tomorrow – it will be you!

WOMAN 1 Or, God forbid, me.

WOMAN 2 Possibly.

WOMAN 1 The personal angle is important, so that everyone realises it can happen to them, too.

ACTIVIST Okay, we've already agreed on that. The situation has to be clearly addressed. We just have to agree on how!

COMPANION I'm sick.

ACTIVIST Hold on a minute, I've got to concentrate.

WOMAN 2 The man does deserve our support. It goes without saying.

ACTIVIST Yes, but how do we show it?

WOMAN 1 We are an emerging ecological movement, after all, so ...

WOMAN 2 Ecologically!

ACTIVIST Yes, but what exactly are we to do?!

WOMAN 2 Not sure ... we can call on the repressive authorities to save water when suppressing protests.

COMPANION Would you at least happen to have a plastic bag on you? I feel like about I'm to spurt out something.

WOMAN 1 If need be, I'd even strip and tie myself to a prison fence.

ACTIVIST (*to Companion*) Like, seriously?

WOMAN 1 Or better not?

ACTIVIST (*to Companion*) I have about two hundred waste bins here! All from natural materials! I don't throw out anything! I keep sorting and recycling everything! And you ask me whether I have a plastic bag?!

COMPANION Sorry.

WOMAN 2 Now I don't know. Hello! ... Do we hear each other?

ACTIVIST Yes, sorry.

WOMAN 2 I just wonder whether they might let power into the fence?

WOMAN 1 So I put on something insulated.

WOMAN 2 Didn't you just say that you would strip?

WOMAN 1 Indeed. Never mind. Unless it's solar power, which I wouldn't mind.

ACTIVIST (*to Companion*) Would you ask a nun for a vibrator?

WOMAN 1 Me? Is that a test?

ACTIVIST Answer!

WOMAN 1 Are we on the first-name basis? Isn't it a bit too soon? After all, we don't know each other so well yet.

ACTIVIST Sorry, I wasn't talking to you.

WOMAN 1 How about a fundraiser?

ACTIVIST (*evidently getting off-balance*) Good idea. Money always comes handy. He'll need a good lawyer.

WOMAN 1 Or a petition.

ACTIVIST AT last we're rollin'.

COMPANION After all, you don't live like a nun.

WOMAN 1 How about we climb a chimney with a banner?

WOMAN 2 Or a mining tower.

COMPANION Though, I did see a vibrator at your place. It didn't seem to be made of wood.

ACTIVIST How about a stroll? Can't you see I'm working?!

WOMAN 1 Isn't he gay?

ACTIVIST What are you suggesting?

WOMAN 1 That we would identify it as oppression of minorities.

COMPANION I can't go for a walk: I'm sick. Though, you're not listening to me. If I want you to notice me, I have to say "plastic bag".

Another voice joins out of the blue.

MYSTERIOUS 1 I wouldn't suggest that.

ACTIVIST Sorry?

MYSTERIOUS 1 The minority.

WOMAN 1 I'm getting confused. Who's talking now?

Another face pops up on the screen: it is a little odd looking, as if distorted, as if it didn't quite belong to the voice.

MYSTERIOUS 1 I'd like to join in, if you don't mind.

WOMAN 1 And you are ...

MYSTERIOUS 1 I was just surfing the web and I came across this discussion. Perhaps I might be of help.

ACTIVIST Do you know the case?

MYSTERIOUS 1 No, but I can find my way around quickly.

WOMAN 1 Indeed, navigation, I did say that!

MYSTERIOUS 1 In such cases, one has to first win public opinion.

WOMAN 1 That's what I said as well.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Pressure has to be exerted on the institutions.

WOMAN 1 Well! Didn't I say that?

WOMAN 2 You didn't say that.

WOMAN 1 No? I guess I thought it was so obvious that it didn't need to be said.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Logically, all potential weaknesses of the other side have to be identified.

WOMAN 2 Sounds good.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Then you've got to start working on them.

WOMAN 1 Fascinating. Go on.

MYSTERIOUS 1 To dent credibility ... to question integrity ...

ACTIVIST I'd say that, first of all, we must stand by the persecuted!

MYSTERIOUS 1 First of all, we have to be sure that the one we stand by is not being persecuted justly.

ACTIVIST In our case, the situation is clear. The only thing the person we want to stand by has ever committed is that he purchased a strip of woods where he wanted to open a reservation.

MYSTERIOUS 1 That's where I spot our weakness.

ACTIVIST I don't get it.

MYSTERIOUS 1 They might ask, quite legitimately, where did he get the money from.

WOMAN 1 Speaking of which, that's true.

ACTIVIST He did explain. He inherited some shares in the plant! He sold them, as he didn't want to have anything to do with it.

MYSTERIOUS 1 And he decided to launder the money in the reservation.

ACTIVIST Precisely ... well ... not to launder ...

COMPANION By the way, is your vibrator battery-operated?

ACTIVIST Gosh, still here? Can't you really hold on a little until I sort this out?

COMPANION Are they at least rechargeable?

MYSTERIOUS 1 Perhaps there shouldn't be a reservation, but a hunting ground for more affluent clientele.

WOMAN 2 Really?

ACTIVIST How can you say such thing? On what basis?

MYSTERIOUS 1 Word gets around.

ACTIVIST There is evidence, though! Documents approved by the authorities! I have plans and drawings here! He wanted to build a lookout tower and learning trails in the trees!

MYSTERIOUS 1 That's how it's done when you need permits. Something is applied for so that something totally different gets built.

WOMAN 2 Perhaps there wasn't to be a lookout tower at all. Though, I don't know ...

WOMAN 1 ... a heliport to hunt animals from a chopper.

ACTIVIST Actually, they ordinarily started digging ordinary foundations for an ordinary lookout tower and came across tin barrels with some suspicious substance!

WOMAN 1 Though, what if ... just wondering ... what if he buried them himself and now he just puts on a surprised face?

ACTIVIST Why on earth would he do that?!

WOMAN 1 No idea!

MYSTERIOUS 1 Disposal like that is no cheap affair. Someone else would have to pay for it.

WOMAN 2 So, those officials are actually protecting our money!

WOMAN 1 Because of that I nearly tied myself to the fence and wasted power!

COMPANION I can't stand it anymore!

ACTIVIST That can't be true, no way!

COMPANION It is true!

WOMAN 2 I won't believe it until I see the evidence!

Companion spurts vomit.

ACTIVIST That's sickening.

WOMAN 1 Exactly! We are mere extras in a sickening game!

ACTIVIST Would you happen to be pregnant?

COMPANION What?

ACTIVIST Are you expecting?!

WOMAN 2 Who knows whom to expect expecting!

COMPANION Something must have gone wrong with my stomach.

WOMAN 1 All the time I said to myself that something was wrong with it ...

ACTIVIST (*hands Companion a pregnancy test*) Here you go. Peel it off and pee on it.

WOMAN 1 ... I was just afraid to say it out loud.

WOMAN 2 I've heard this whole eco-agenda is just supposed to frighten people to make them buy what wouldn't sell otherwise!

ACTIVIST A while ago, you wanted to climb a mining tower with a banner! Is this all it takes for your volte face?

WOMAN 1 Just don't pretend you're the better one here.

WOMAN 2 Exactly. First and foremost, put your personal life in order!

ACTIVIST Beg your pardon?

WOMAN 1 Find a real guy instead of that vibrator of yours!

ACTIVIST Are you talking to me?

WOMAN 2 She looks like ten righteous people in one and, at the same time, all she does is to unleash sexual frustration! Take care! I'd say this is the last time we saw each other!

ACTIVIST You bet!

WOMAN 1 Hope so!

ACTIVIST Unless I get a licence to kill!

Activist is pulling herself together for a while, then Companion with the pregnancy test pulls her out of the shock.

Activist is looking at it in disbelief.

ACTIVIST Are you nuts?

COMPANION Me? You said I was to pee on it.

ACTIVIST Yes, but ... do you know what the flyers said, those I gave you to hand out? Have you read them at all? They said: Thank you for not breeding! They didn't say: Get yourself pregnant ASAP to kill your best friend! Gosh! A child! In these times! You might just as well grab a knife and stick it straight in my back! Or better yet, squeeze my throat and push out the last air that can still be breathe here! Because that's exactly what you're doing! You're going to give birth to someone who'll be keep demanding all that we've already consumed. See? Do you find that sane?

You invite a child to a cake, of which only candles remain, and even they are already nearly burned out. So the kid will probably thank you wholeheartedly. And the time will come when he or she will throw a feast for you!

No, sorry. I didn't mean it like that.

Come here. (*embracing her*) We'll think of something. (*pulls away*) While at it, did you think of me at least a little?

Of course not, else it wouldn't have turned out like this ... (*embraces her again*)

... well ... I don't blame you ... we'll work it out ... it still can be fixed ...

(*She grabs her face and looks her in the eyes.*)

You know, kids used to build sand castles. Today, they surrounded themselves with disposable nappies, along with other items that give them a sense of comfort ... and safety ... All that in order to live to the age when they will have to wage wars over water and defend, with their bodies, the last patches of land where one can still grow something ...

(*Companion tries to free herself, Activist presses her close more tightly.*)

... don't cry, it just got me, you know I only have you ... (*embraces, calming down*)

What you feel now is exactly what I'm talking about. You feel guilty because ... it hasn't even been born yet ... and you have to worry about it already ...

Scene 2
Briefing

Wife is listing instructions, Husband is silent. Suits of various colours and cuts hang on a hanger. Husband, in his underwear, pours a drink into a glass.

WIFE The first two meetings are with people who can help us with the permits. We really need them, so you have to apply your charm. At least what's left of it.

(She walks over to him, takes the drink and pours it into the flowerpot.)

Then there's the man with a question mark. He can allegedly arrange things so that the matter of the disposal we did a few years ago doesn't get splattered all over. Offer him the money only when he proves to you that the clues actually lead to us. Offer him a higher amount only when it's clear that he can actually do something about it. *(Husband takes a glass and pours himself another drink.)*

Here's a list of what to wear. You'll change in the car between the meetings one and two.

Then you have the board meetings. Here are your voting instructions.

Here are the numbers of restaurant reservations. You will pay using this card. Meetings of the commissions that matter to us are highlighted in red. We have pushed you through to other commissions so that the ones we are talking about are not conspicuous. Here's your cash. You only offer it at the meetings two and four. Be careful not to mix it up. In the case of number one, you offer a barter. In the latter it is enough to point out the material we have at our disposal. You have copies in the canvas envelope.

Husband does not answer, he empties his glass, walks past the laid-out suits, pulls out a sports outfit from the wardrobe, places it against his body to see whether it fits.

WIFE I see your limits are shifting. You used to have one before bed. Then you started at lunch. Now you can't even get up without one.

Husband is putting on his sports outfit...

Wife places a chunky envelope in front of him, pulls out a few densely inscribed papers and photographs.

WIFE You should check this out. Some barrels with suspicious substance were discovered. I don't mean to be mean, but I think they're the barrels you once tried to get certificates for. According to their records, they were disposed of legally. If you really want to go for a run, you should do a round calling on the people on the list, so it doesn't catch up with you. Because that's what we do. We create a network of permits and certificates where items that someone needs to get rid of vanish.

Then we sometimes need the network to get lost in another network that will help us dispose of what we need to get rid of.

Husband takes one of the photos and is looking at it absently.

Wife pours herself a drink. She leans over the cup, holding onto the table, waiting for a malicious response. It does not come. She takes the glass and pours some of the contents back into the bottle, throwing the rest behind her back. Behind her back, her husband continues putting on his sports outfit. Wife approaches him from behind. She embraces him. She speaks as if aroused, trying to create an erotic atmosphere with her spiel.

WIFE

You still have ten minutes. Breathe.

Deep.

Put your hand here. Now turn around.

Press against me. Tighter.

Open your mouth. Less.

Move your tongue. More.

Tell me something.

Not like that.

In the ear.

Something I like.

Wife hangs on to him. Husband leans towards her mindlessly as per her instructions. He seems to be whispering something in her ear. She pushes him angrily away and slaps his face.

Husband briefly stands motionless, then begins to put on his sports outfit again.

Wife approaches him again, snatches the outfit from him, throws it away, embraces him, kisses him. Husband is standing motionless, absently looking ahead.

She pulls away from him abruptly and spits in his face.

He bends over for the sports outfit on the floor and starts dressing again, without a word. She snatches it from him again and uses the outfit to wipe the saliva from his face.

She takes his hands and places them around her shoulders, snuggling up to him, caressing him, closing her eyes, putting her head under his T-shirt. Beneath we see her contours, forcefully and clumsily pressing against his indifferent chest.

Lights off, gradually. In a while, the lights come on again.

Wife is alone on stage, leaning against the table with drinks. Her breath is loud and deep.

She takes the bottle, pours herself a generous drink. She wants to close the bottle, hesitates, as before, then she pours some of the drink back in the bottle. Now, however, she grabs the bottle and tops up the glass.

She drinks the contents of the glass at once, takes out mouth spray from her pocket, sprays it into her mouth, walks uncertainly forward, where the sofa is. Like at a therapist, she lays down, retrieves a pocket mirror and tries to tidy herself up a little.

WIFE

When I was twenty, I decided not to have children. I underwent a surgery. My husband was there. It was actually my decision, though he agreed. They told me that, one day, we would regret it. Today, I'd say that those who told me I'd regret it, regret not having

made the same decision. That decision helped us get to where we are. We didn't have to take anything into account. Anything and anyone.

It gave us freedom. And options. It wasn't for free. Now that we are established, we need to start investing in our relationship.

Though, I have an additional idea. Actually, a dream. Keen to know? A new recreational zone project. Money-making perpetuum mobile. Waste would be dumped into huge pits to lay the foundations. Additional waste would be moulded above the ground using special nets. Technologies would be used to compress it to an incredible density. All kinds of shapes can thus be achieved. It will then be covered with a specially prepared natural mixture, covered with grass and a recreational zone would emerge. Nature trails, sleigh tracks, cycle paths, artificial lakes, health walks, fitness tourism.

I didn't say I wanted to keep the relationship at all cost. I just need a tip.

Or instructions.

I won't cost me anything.

Something like 10 things you need to do to keep a partner.

Brief silence, as if she is waiting for a response that isn't coming. She sits down.

Can I have some water?

She points to the plastic cups.

Into this?

She pours herself and drinks.

Can I put it in here? No? You probably separate waste, don't you?

Pause. She is toying with the plastic cup in her hand. After a while, she lifts it in front of her face.

Are you also keen to know what happens to it next?

Lights off.

Scene 3

Natural Man, Local Man

Natural Man sits naked under a tree, covering himself with mud, drumming, meditating, preparing herbal tea, catching rainwater, making unarticulated animal sounds, and so on.

A wooden fence is behind him. People, who watch him in disgust, stick out their heads from behind the fence.

One of them is a character called Mysterious 2, who will also appear in other scenes later.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Look at that. This is a clear example of where we ended up.

LOCAL 1 I'd love to run there and slap his face. So much work to do everywhere, and he's just drumming here.

LOCAL 2 Good thing you called us. I've been observing him for some time. He washes in a stream, shits into a pit behind the cottage, eats only what he grows. He built this hut out of mud and straw. No electricity, no TV.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Most importantly, he keeps writing complaints about you.

LOCAL 3 He turned me in for cutting down some trees without licence. Yet, he keeps burning branches he collects. I used the trees to build a shelter for two cars. Plus ten people comfortably fit by the barbecue.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Those are plain dangerous sorts. They will start dragging in here others like him, imposing their ghastly way of life on you. Land prices will drop. They'll eventually drive you out of here.

LOCAL 1 Ideally, I'd set that thatched roof of his on fire. At least, the fire would be controlled. Because, I tell you, if it catches fire by itself, we all will be sorry. Everything we have built with these hands will burn down.

LOCAL 3 The house wouldn't be much of a problem; but the outbuildings, no one will insure them without a building permit.

LOCAL 2 I'd say, this is intended. He's not here by chance. This is what they want us to do, so that we sit here on bare ground with bare arses and keep drumming. While they take our TVs and unpaid washing machines from our brick houses, put them in our used cars and rape our unmarried daughters.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Indeed. This is about your traditional way of life, the values of your ancestors.

LOCAL 1 The bum doesn't even mow the loan. It's overgrown like a jungle. Let him go where he came from!

MYSTERIOUS 2 He won't go by himself. He enjoys being able to give you aggro.

LOCAL 1 All sorts of infestation crawls from his plot, I can't keep up spraying; it's never been here before. Come, have a look at my place. The land is properly maintained, the yard is tidy, I act like a civilised man!

LOCAL 2 It has already started to stick to our children. Yesterday, my daughter was keen to know where we're disposing of our waste. I slapped her cheek and sent her to her room. Though, I don't know how long we can keep things in order here.

LOCAL 1 As I say, let's set it on fire while we can control it. We can stand behind a fence with hoses in case it spreads.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Perhaps it would be enough if he disappears and someone regular gets hold of the plot.

LOCAL 3 Who would want it? Can't you see what it looks like.

MYSTERIOUS 2 He would preserve it, fit in some equipment to make it look natural while complying with the standards. The new holder would host exclusive breaks for more affluent clients.

LOCAL 1 Are you serious?

LOCAL 3 Don't you follow independent reports? People are capable of paying for all sorts of boloney today.

MYSTERIOUS 2 They would come here to spent, say, a week. They'll try to live in harmony with nature, collect some eco-indulgences, and then go on wasting and enjoying the fruit of civilisation.

LOCAL 1 Okay, what's in it for us?

MYSTERIOUS 2 Infrastructure gets built here, stimulating job opportunities arise, and investments arrive. It doesn't take much. Just get rid of someone you don't want here anyway.

LOCAL 3 Looking at it, I guess he will relieve us of our qualms himself.

LOCAL 2 See what he's doing. Drinking water from the stream.

LOCAL 1 Is he gone mad?

LOCAL 3 He's obviously a stranger. He has no clue what we let in there.

Natural Man gets convulsions. The observers climb over the fence and come to him. They are looking at him as he's begging for help.

LOCAL 1 By the way, the infrastructure sounds good.

LOCAL 2 I like it, too.

LOCAL 3 Just to have an idea what to imagine by infrastructure.

Natural Man takes his last breath in dreadful torment.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Why don't you come to the car with me. I happen to have some preliminary drawings and plans there.

LOCAL 1 What about him?

MYSTERIOUS 2 I also happen to have some tools, we'll bury him.

LOCAL 2 He'd like that.

LOCAL 1 Indeed. He liked the soil.

LOCAL 3 Spot on. He'll be fine in there.

Scene 4
By the tree

Activist is standing helplessly tied to a tree.

Husband is jogging by in his sportswear. He stops; somewhat surprised, somewhat amused he looks at Activist.

In the background we hear the howls of chainsaws and cracking of falling trees.

HUSBAND Who did this to you?

ACTIVIST I did.

HUSBAND Is this a new game?

ACTIVIST It can still be called that. Someone played me. I had information that they were to be cutting down trees in this part of the park. I wanted to stop them.

HUSBAND You seem to be in the wrong place at the right time.

ACTIVIST I can hear. I'm not deaf.

HUSBAND May I help you?

ACTIVIST Go and get tied up instead of me wherever it is more useful.

HUSBAND So, no help needed?

ACTIVIST I deserve to suffer.

HUSBAND Because of a couple of trees?

ACTIVIST Don't even continue. I know what you're about to say.

HUSBAND Interesting. Tell me.

ACTIVIST New ones will grow instead.

HUSBAND Don't you want to be my spokeswoman?

ACTIVIST I don't want anything to do with people like you.

HUSBAND Like me? You know nothing about me.

ACTIVIST Not only am I not deaf. I'm not even blind.

HUSBAND So?

ACTIVIST So what?

HUSBAND What do you see?

ACTIVIST You just discovered outdoor jogging.

HUSBAND Are you clairvoyant?

ACTIVIST You have a price tag on your sweatpants.

HUSBAND I better get going. Before you strip me naked.

ACTIVIST You don't look like someone who worries about what others think of them.

HUSBAND And what do I look like?

ACTIVIST Like someone who could buy it here.

HUSBAND Possibly. Well, have fun here.

He's leaving. She starts sobbing. He returns.

ACTIVIST (*with tears in her eyes*) It hurts like hell.

HUSBAND Did you say anything?

ACTIVIST My hands are numb.

HUSBAND You wanted to suffer. Enjoy it.

ACTIVIST I guess I'm about to pass out.

HUSBAND Well, good that you're tied up to the tree.

ACTIVIST Plus I need a loo.

HUSBAND You're in nature, what else do you need?

ACTIVIST You to help me.

HUSBAND Interesting.

ACTIVIST My bladder is about to burst. What's so interesting about it?

HUSBAND That you want a man like me to help you.

ACTIVIST No one else is here.

HUSBAND Fairly bulletproof argument. (*He leans towards her.*) Let's see ... not looking good ... a deep cut into your flesh.

ACTIVIST The more I want to loosen it, the more it tightens.

HUSBAND (*stops untying her*) It would help to know what's in it for me.

ACTIVIST In your helping me?

HUSBAND After all, a man like me, as you said ...

ACTIVIST How about feeling good about yourself?

HUSBAND Not enough for a businessman, don't you think? Imagine a situation. While I am helping you, I miss a meeting and will have to explain to my partners why they had to wait for me. I tell them I was saving a woman in the woods who was saving trees. They ask: Hey, did you go wild in the woods with an allergy sufferer and something bit her? I reply: No. As a matter of fact, I selflessly helped an unknown young woman who tied herself to a tree so it wouldn't get cut down! They look at each other incomprehensibly and say suddenly: Did you actually keep us waiting because of a psychopath who saves trees?

During the conversation and while trying to untie her hands behind her back, he starts kissing her on the neck, then on her mouth. She is not resisting, she even seems to reciprocate.

Suddenly, she jerks and kicks him in the crotch.

The man howls painfully and slides beside her to the ground. He embraces her legs, goes from a painful grimace to a deep breath, and is all tears, while embracing her legs for dear life.

Activist, still tied to a tree, watches in astonishment. With signs of movement, she is checking that she now has not only her arms but also her legs tied.

Scene 5

Abortionmother

The young woman who was Activist's Companion in the first scene, is examining her bare belly in the mirror.

Then she is rummaging through papers, leaflets, clippings arranged around her; she keeps underlining, tearing sheets, taking notes.

Then she is switching channels on the TV; then surfing the web.

Then she is listening to something with headphones on. Then she looks at her belly again in the mirror.

COMPANION I don't know why I have to be so hapless. Lazy sperm syndrome is spreading all over the world. While, of course, my uterus has to come across the sperm that is all but idle.

Today I felt it move. I increasingly feel how it grows inside me. I have growing doubts about whether I should let it continue to grow.

Whether it might be better to stop it. While there is time.

While it can still be done with in a civilised manner.

I wanted to know as much as possible about it. Though perhaps it wasn't such a good idea. There is more information than I expected.

Something knocked on my door.

Something landed in my letter-box.

I came across something on unfamiliar sites. Something came to me like spam.

Something appealed to me in an anonymous discussion.

I have learned that bringing another person into this overpopulated world is as irresponsible and reprehensible as denying your race, homeland and nation a descendant who would protect and spread their immortality and glory.

100 million people are said to be added every year. 220,000 a day. We need to catch more fish, keep more cattle that produce more gases. That makes it more difficult to grow plants which need to be sown in greater quantities on a land to be built on, so that there is place to live.

Statistics supposedly say that many more fools need to be brought into the world than in the past in order to find someone enlightened in their midst. Some claim it is due to diet, some attribute it to lifestyle. In any case, humanity is said to be degenerating. Hence, people must produce more offspring to have someone to save them. Yet even that is not guaranteed to help. What might happen, it is said, is that there will be so many fools that even the enlightened one gets lost among them.

Or they get outvoted.

Moreover, every other child is a tiny terrorist for whom the living space has to be expanded, for whom new things must be produced. For those produced today will no longer be good enough for the offspring who will demand resources. Yet there won't be enough, because they were consumed by those who brought the progeny into this world.

On the other hand, the drop in the birth rate is supposed to be triggering an epidemic of loneliness in wealthy countries. One in four people is said to be visited less than once a month. And one out of ten never gets visited by anyone.

What's more, I found some proven tips for a happy motherhood.

And some homemade abortion recipes. Well, now I don't know what to go for.

She sighs and starts rummaging through papers, leaflets, clippings again, underlining, tearing sheets, writing notes.

Switching channels on the TV. Surfing the web.

Listening to something with headphones.

Scene 6

A story of Whistleblower

Whistleblower is on stage.

After a while, two men join him – the characters who appeared in the previous scenes as Mysterious 1 and Mysterious 2.

WHISTLEBLOWER (*speaking to the audience*) They arrived about three days after I reported the finding. There were two of them. One dressed in a curious suit. The other one in a strange uniform. The uniformed one had difficulty breathing. He kept wiping

the sweat from his forehead, saying nothing for a long time, just breathing deeply with the help of a small device. It was clear that this unfortunate introduction did not work in my favour.

MYSTERIOUS 1 What's in those barrels?

WHISTLEBLOWER I don't know.

MYSTERIOUS 1 These are your barrels, right?

WHISTLEBLOWER These are not my barrels.

MYSTERIOUS 1 But the plot is yours, isn't it?

WHISTLEBLOWER I only bought it recently.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Where did you get the money to buy it?

WHISTLEBLOWER Are you investigating me? I didn't bury those barrels here.

MYSTERIOUS 1 We're just asking.

WHISTLEBLOWER I inherited some property and ...

MYSTERIOUS 1 ... and decided to expand it with an illegal dump.

WHISTLEBLOWER It is just the opposite. I wanted to make a reservation here.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Did you really?

WHISTLEBLOWER I have licences.

MYSTERIOUS 2 What I see here doesn't quite look like a reservation.

WHISTLEBLOWER You took three days to come! People saw the excavated barrels.

They probably misunderstood it and started bringing items they need to get rid of.

MYSTERIOUS 2 So what's happening here is our fault after all.

WHISTLEBLOWER I am just saying that, if you came as soon as ...

MYSTERIOUS 1 What's in those barrels?

WHISTLEBLOWER I already told you: I don't know.

MYSTERIOUS 1 You don't know what's in your barrels?

WHISTLEBLOWER I have already told you that these are not my barrels.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Just checking whether you remember.

WHISTLEBLOWER Yes, as you can see, I am consistent in my replies.

MYSTERIOUS 2 That doesn't prove anything. Perhaps you just "consistently" memorised them.

WHISTLEBLOWER There are labels! We can find out where they come from!

MYSTERIOUS 1 (*rubs the label, pulls it off and destroys it*) Alas, this one's no good.

MYSTERIOUS 2 (*does the same with the next label*) Pity. Neither is this.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Though you needn't worry. These are not your barrels. Or are they?

WHISTLEBLOWER No.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Sure, you already told us. But the plot is yours, isn't it?

WHISTLEBLOWER I already answered that.

MYSTERIOUS 1 So the plot is yours. The barrels aren't.

WHISTLEBLOWER Yes ... and no ...

MYSTERIOUS 2 You yourself must hear that this doesn't sound too convincing.

WHISTLEBLOWER I don't know what it sounds like, but it's true.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Look at this. It seems that you started releasing something here, and when you saw it burning a hole in the ground, you decided to pretend that you dug out those barrels.

MYSTERIOUS 2 And someone else will have to take care of that mess.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Using taxpayers' money.

WHISTLEBLOWER We have not released anything. It came out when we cut one barrel while digging. (*desperately to the audience*) We ordinarily started digging the ordinary foundations for an ordinary lookout tower, and we came across tin barrels with the smelly chemicals. So we piled them up and reported it to the authorities.

The characters start talking through each other.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Who are you always talking to?

WHISTLEBLOWER (*to the audience*) Yet before the authorities got moving, someone discovered the barrels and a rumour spread that a new landfill had been created.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Hello, can you hear me?

WHISTLEBLOWER At first, only cars loaded with suitcases brought waste there; then trailers; eventually businesses sent in whole truckloads.

MYSTERIOUS 1 If you don't cooperate, we can have you brought in.

WHISTLEBLOWER I am just trying to explain the situation.

MYSTERIOUS 2 You are? To whom?

WHISTLEBLOWER It was like a computer game ...

MYSTERIOUS 1 Would you happen to have a history of mental illness?

WHISTLEBLOWER ... people uploaded the coordinates on social networks, took photos, someone even posted online transmission and time collection on the web.

MYSTERIOUS 2 That would explain your explanation.

Local 1 from the scene Natural Man, Local Man arrives. He greets the uniformed Mysterious.

LOCAL 1 My wife is unloading some stuff from the car, if you know what I mean. By law, it should be taken to a rendering plant, but an acquaintance advised me that it's cheaper here. Who should I pay to? Probably you.

He slips a bundle of banknotes into Whistleblower's pocket. He promptly removes the money and hands it to the officials.

WHISTLEBLOWER No need for you to stage the spiel. This is likely to be yours.

He hands the bundle of banknotes to Mysterious 2. Mysterious 1 photographs the situation.

MYSTERIOUS 1 At least smile when you're trying to bribe us.

WHISTLEBLOWER The money would have to be mine! But it's not and you know it well!

MYSTERIOUS 1 We have it documented. Moreover, we have an eyewitness here. Are you willing to testify that he gave us money?

LOCAL 1 He was giving you money, I saw it.

WHISTLEBLOWER Except it was his money!

MYSTERIOUS 2 Do you have an eyewitness?

WHISTLEBLOWER You saw it! You've all seen it!

MYSTERIOUS 2 We are officials.

MYSTERIOUS 1 And he cannot bear witness against himself. That would make no sense.

Whistleblower turns again and speaks urgently to the audience.

WHISTLEBLOWER Activists tried to create a live chain around the expanding landfill ...

Mysterious 1 and 2 try to silence him, the struggle is a quite comical.

MYSTERIOUS 1 That's enough.

WHISTLEBLOWER Yet, incomprehensible things began to happen increasingly. People were getting increasingly aggressive. They were determined to get rid of everything redundant at all cost.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Are you willing to submit to official intervention voluntarily?

WHISTLEBLOWER It is as if they were throwing sandbags out of an overloaded balloon. As if they were getting rid of some guilt that would disappear by taking those items away from their homes and plots.

MYSTERIOUS 1 You are entitled not to testify!

WHISTLEBLOWER Some even bumped into people who, with their own bodies, tried to prevent them from accessing the landfill. When the activists tried to get a colleague from under a car and a slit thus opened in the live chain, other cars tried to slip through right away.

MYSTERIOUS 2 You also have the right to inform your next of kin about your arrest.

WHISTLEBLOWER When they started filming them, they smeared their licence plates with mud and placed masks on their faces.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Since I don't see any NOK around, consider this right of yours immaterial!

WHISTLEBLOWER At the same time, a group armed with shopping trolleys set off towards the new landfill. They were rummaging through the place, picking up items to sell on.

The struggle escalates, a scream.

WHISTLEBLOWER Some even attacked the activists with iron bars.

They overcome him, hold him tight, handcuff him.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Add an attack on a public official!

WHISTLEBLOWER Let go of me! Let me go!

MYSTERIOUS 2 How about a deal?

Whistleblower is defending himself a little longer before he resigns.

WHISTLEBLOWER Look, I don't know who you work for, I just know that ... you probably have the means to get what you need ...

MYSTERIOUS 1 Interesting. And what do you think we want to achieve?

MYSTERIOUS 2 By our means.

WHISTLEBLOWER That I won't endure and you'd force me to confess to something I didn't do ... but ... it doesn't change the fact that those barrels have to be safely disposed of ASAP, and it should be investigated who actually buried them here ... it should be in the interest of us all, because such reckless conduct imperils me and you alike. And, whether or not you want it, also your families!

MYSTERIOUS 2 Great, on top of it all, here comes a threat.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Quite a collection you're making.

WHISTLEBLOWER What threat?

MYSTERIOUS 2 The worst!

WHISTLEBLOWER I don't understand.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Death threat.

WHISTLEBLOWER I was just trying to explain ...

MYSTERIOUS 1 Are you denying it?

WHISTLEBLOWER Of course not.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Now I don't quite know. Do you or do you not deny it?

WHISTLEBLOWER I can't deny something I never said!

Mysterious 2 pulls a small recording device from his pocket. Whistleblower's voice can be heard from the edited recording.

VOICE OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER

I KNOW JUST THAT ... I CAN'T ENDURE ... AND FORCE ME ... DISPOSE ...
YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ...

WHISTLEBLOWER (*desperately turns to the audience, begging for help*) You know I didn't do anything, you know it wasn't like that, why don't you say a word ...

Mysterious 1 covers Whistleblower's mouth, Mysterious 2 places a bag over his head. He walks around the stage in confusion and asks whether anyone is there, and so on.

Scene 7

Congress Participants

The scene takes place at a mass meeting of several groups that have convened to agree on a common approach.

Characters from previous scenes are also present among the participants. Woman 1 and 2 from the scene Video Chat with Activist and Mysterious 2 from the scenes Natural Man and Whistleblower.

Mysterious 2 is in disguise, he has a fake beard and glasses. Even though he doesn't speak until the end of the scene, he can be recognised by, once in a while, breathing using a small device.

PARTICIPANT 4 I suggest we start sinking ships with illegal electronic waste.

WOMAN 2 I suppose they can dump it into the sea without us.

PARTICIPANT 3 Sorry, which group are you with?

WOMAN 1 For Mother Earth.

PARTICIPANT 3 And what is it you actually fight for now?

WOMAN 2 What do you mean? For Mother Earth, of course!

PARTICIPANT 3 Because I remember you fighting for something totally different!

PARTICIPANT 2 Please. Let's try being constructive instead of unearthing old sins.

PARTICIPANT 1 Correct. At last, we managed to bring together a number of groups to try to plan a major joint event. So let's not get bogged down in personal disputes and keep revisiting the past!

PARTICIPANT 2 There is a proposal to film a motivational TV spot with the working title *Man in Need*.

WOMAN 2 Sorry, but I think the title is misleading. If something is in danger, it is Mother Earth. It is man that puts Earth in peril. The title manipulates the point and portrays man as a victim.

PARTICIPANT 3 Now that we are through with the philosophical intermezzo, we might as well move on to practical issues. We would like to know whether there is any fee for featuring in the spot. As a non-profit organisation we, too, are in need.

PARTICIPANT 6 You've got to do it out of conviction.

PARTICIPANT 3 We have already done more out of conviction than all of you together here. So we might eventually get something out of it!

WOMAN 1 Well, how about a little respect for those who used to be tied to the trees when you were still in non-recyclable nappies.

PARTICIPANT 4 You can't move anyone today by tying yourselves to the trees.

PARTICIPANT 1 That's why we want to make the spot.

PARTICIPANT 2 How about we at last talk about how it is to look like?

PARTICIPANT 1 We commissioned a creative agency. They handed us a detailed scenario. It is detailed across two hundred pages. Unfortunately we didn't have the means to present it. Let me thus to extract the basic idea for you. The point is this

image: As we sit here, we put the translucent plastic that you received on arrival on each other's head, and film the whole event on mobile phones, because television technology is also too much for our budget.

PARTICIPANT 6 And what is it to signify?

PARTICIPANT 3 It's obvious. People inundate the environment with waste. They thus commit mass suicide.

PARTICIPANT 4 It reminds me of those turtles on TV that float with bags over their heads.

PARTICIPANT 5 Isn't that an allusion to overcrowding?

WOMAN 1 Like, the plastic bags representing condoms that people should put on ...

PARTICIPANT 5 Mostly men, right?

WOMAN 2 Over the head? Why over the head?

PARTICIPANT 1 It's a metaphor, for God's sake!

PARTICIPANT 2 Moreover, it is gender-balanced, as condoms can also be thus used by women.

PARTICIPANT 4 With regard to overcrowding, it might be enough to encourage women to stop fornicating.

WOMAN 1 You as a man would be the first to oppose it!

PARTICIPANT 4 Male oral satisfaction would, of course, not be hindered, thus highlighting the role of the female element in the ecosystem, as it will safely release male sexual energy, which can then be invested in saving the planet.

PARTICIPANT 5 This is too much. After all, I won't be patronised here by someone who pretends to care about the fate of turtles with plastic bags over their heads, when I know that, at home, they flush condoms down the loo!

PARTICIPANT 4 And you got here by car, for which I fixed you the emission control!

PARTICIPANT 5 Here it comes! I was expecting you to come up with that! But if you say "A", why don't you say "B"?! He himself offered it. Besides, I honestly worked in the back seat to pay it off! At least everyone sees what kind of person you are!

Brief awkward silence.

PARTICIPANT 6 Wouldn't we rather put those plastic bags over our heads?

PARTICIPANT 3 We're wasting time, let's vote. We are in favour of a radical action.

PARTICIPANT 4 We support this.

PARTICIPANT 5 Then, we oppose it.

WOMAN 1 We don't know yet, we'll wait for the situation to evolve.

PARTICIPANT 6 Well then, let's vote.

PARTICIPANT 2 Okay, but group-by-group, to expedite vote count.

PARTICIPANT 3 Hold on. We've got people who used to be in one group – Children of the Earth, which then split into True Children of the Earth and Children of the Earth Plus. They will thus end up with three votes.

PARTICIPANT 1 We better move on!

WOMAN 2 By the way, why do you pretend to be the coach here?

PARTICIPANT 1 Because it was my idea for us to unite.

WOMAN 1 I know such self-appointedees. We had one in the old group, whom we helped to declare a protected area around his plot. He went on building a house with a heliport; he shoots polar bears from the chopper.

PARTICIPANT 5 Is there anyone here to suggest what we are to do?!

PARTICIPANT 4 Let's blow up a chemical plant. End of business.

PARTICIPANT 6 I thought we wanted to prevent, and not cause environmental disaster.

PARTICIPANT 3 How about blocking waste disposal lorries so that people start drowning in waste.

PARTICIPANT 6 We want to awaken them, not to piss them off.

WOMAN 1 We should show a story, something like the conversion of Paul. Take me, for instance. I used to wear fur coats; I had mink, rabbits, nutria, even polar fox. Today, I shop in second hand shops, I go to rallies, I get locked up in a cage naked.

PARTICIPANT 6 We want to attract people, not to frighten them.

PARTICIPANT 3 How about you come up with something!

PARTICIPANT 6 Me?

WOMAN 2 You! You keep questioning everything, so we'd be happy to hear your suggestions.

PARTICIPANT 6 Well, I don't know. What was it about the turtles?

PARTICIPANT 5 This is hopeless. We are helpless. We can just keep planting trees and wait for it all to collapse.

PARTICIPANT 1 Or make that video spot. Everyone has a plastic bag. Why don't you take out your phones and put plastic on your colleague's head using one hand, while filming with the other one.

PARTICIPANT 3 How do I do it with one hand?

PARTICIPANT 2 Put it on first and then film.

PARTICIPANT 4 One can't breathe in it.

PARTICIPANT 5 That's the point, isn't it?

WOMAN 2 It seems as if we were practicing some group sex technique.

PARTICIPANT 1 Quite, Some already jerked off.

WOMAN 1 Oh, I forgot: I can't put anything on my head. I went to the hairdresser this morning. That's no cheap affair.

PARTICIPANT 4 Can I have your plastic bag then?

PARTICIPANT 2 I thought they're all the same.

PARTICIPANT 4 I like yours better.

PARTICIPANT 5 What do I look like?

PARTICIPANT 6 Like a turtle with a condom over its head.

PARTICIPANT 5 Let me remind you how such a turtle feels. (*She closes the hole in his bag. He begins to choke.*)

PARTICIPANT 6 Stop it! Give me a break! I don't give a shit about your turtles! I'm only here because I'm launching my political career. My marketers advised me to make an appearance!

PARTICIPANT 5 Well then, you're perfectly qualified! You only think of yourself!

PARTICIPANT 6 Just don't pretend you're here for the trees' sake!

PARTICIPANT 5 Of course not! overpopulation is my agenda. Trees need to be saved because there are still people around who cut them. When the birth rate drops, fewer lumberjacks will be born! Don't you want it as an election agenda? Thank you for going for me! Thank you for not breeding!

WOMAN 1 He is going against himself: Where does he intend to get new voters?

PARTICIPANT 1 I must be dreaming!

WOMAN 2 (*breaks out of microsleap*) Who? Me?

PARTICIPANT 1 Just look at us!

WOMAN 2 Who??? Me???

PARTICIPANT 1 Can anyone be so inept?!

WOMAN 2 But me??? !!!

PARTICIPANT 1 And useless!

WOMAN 2 Come on!

PARTICIPANT 1 And ... and ... and ... and self-ceeeeeentreeed!!!

WOMAN 2 Me??? Me??? !!! Self-centred??? !!! I am self-centred??? !!! I haven't said a word for a good half hour. And I end up being the one to get attacked! I am not commenting on your looks. And yet, the stuff you wear, I wouldn't put on my fiercest of enemies. Plus, whatever it is you have on your head, I wouldn't call hairstyle even in my wildest dream. And I'm not even talking about your ...

PARTICIPANT 1 (*starts shouting hysterically*) Aaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!

The power goes off suddenly, lights on the mobile phones come on gradually.

PARTICIPANT 2 What was that?

WOMAN 2 Power-cut.

WOMAN 1 What now? I've got a fridge full of meat at home.

PARTICIPANT 4 I turned on the sauna.

PARTICIPANT 6 There we are. At least once I wanted to go home by tram, now I have to call my driver.

PARTICIPANT 1 You can take a shared bike.

PARTICIPANT 6 Keep your advice to yourself. We'll be at least two in the car, while you arrived alone.

PARTICIPANT 1 You're confusing me with my colleague, I came on a scooter.

PARTICIPANT 5 Ah, right. So you don't go about poisoning people with fumes: you straight knock them off the pavement.

PARTICIPANT 4 By the way, I have your wallet. Some animal must have died so that you have something to put in your ID, which they shouldn't have even given you anyway!

PARTICIPANT 1 At least I don't dye my hair with some crap like someone!

PARTICIPANT 3 Do you mean me? (*The character who has hitherto sat in silence suddenly lets out a desperate cry.*)

MYSTERIOUS 2 Enoooooooooooooooooouugh!!!

All lights from the mobile phones focus on the figure of the Mysterious 2; after a while, lights off.

Scene 8

Dilemma

The stage is divided into two halves: Wife is in one section, preparing a romantic dinner; Activist is in the other section.

Depending on the situation, Husband is running in between the two sections.

ACTIVIST (*enthusiastically narrates the monologue, Husband is watching her, captivated*) You know what I'd like? To own a piece of land. Meadow. I would never mow it, it would be full of life. Flowers, butterflies, beetles, small pond, compost, hotels for bees, trees. We would grow something there.

Why are you staring at me like that? Have you never heard of hotels for bees?

People think they can't do without a car, a house, a vacation, without each other. It's silly, because what they really can't live without is that which has tentacles and wings.

Life on Earth would collapse without those creatures. In ten years, there will be reportedly a quarter less insects than now; in 50 years just half, and – given our approach – in 100 years there will be no insects at all. There will be no one left to do those invisible chores that are vital for life on Earth.

It would be different on my plot. You can be there with me, we would walk about naked, sleep in the grass ... Though ... I have to admit I'm a little confused ... the more I

am with you, the more I feel like it doesn't really matter where I live. With you, I could live in a concrete garden or in the desert ... I increasingly think that we have too little time to waste on matters we can't change anyway ...

I'm not sure you understand me ...

Though, I'd be surprised if you did, given I suddenly understand myself less than a little.

Are you going to the loo?

Remember to flush it with the used water from the sink.

Light comes on in the other section of the stage, where Wife is lighting candles on a festive table.

Husband looks in the direction of that section, puts on his jacket and carefully moves there. Activist continues her monologue on how, in his presence, she is less and less interested in matters without which she could not imagine her life until recently. In a while, lights go off in her section. She falls silent when Wife delivers her line.

WIFE Are you here?

HUSBAND Obviously.

WIFE (*goes to him, takes off his jacket, kisses him in welcome*) Along with your spirit?

HUSBAND Are we celebrating?

WIFE I had a word with someone about our situation.

HUSBAND Situation?

WIFE I think we neglected our relationship. In such cases, it is recommended talk it over in a pleasant atmosphere.

HUSBAND Together?

WIFE If possible.

HUSBAND Go ahead, try.

WIFE How did it go?

HUSBAND What do you mean?

WIFE Those scheduled meetings. Did you happen to mess up anything?

HUSBAND What do you mean?

WIFE I hope not. It's principally in your interest. The case with your signatures when disposing of those excavated barrels is proceeding well so far. I took care of it. It would be a pity if you messed it up again, as you tend to.

HUSBAND You're right. As I tend to.

WIFE No need to thank me.

HUSBAND Thank you.

WIFE I did say no need to thank me. Do you do that on purpose or are you deaf?

HUSBAND Thank you for not having to thank you.

WIFE All you have to do is remember it whenever you feel like speaking to me in such tone.

HUSBAND Is that all?

WIFE Because it's not completely over yet. All sorts of uncanny people started snooping around. I had to pull some levers, as they're annoying like insects.

HUSBAND Do you know that, in ten years, there will be a quarter less insects than now; in 50 years just half; and, in 100 years, there might be no insects at all?

WIFE Have you been drinking?

HUSBAND Simply, there will be no insects in 100 years.

WIFE Can it be expedited? In 100 years I won't be here either.

HUSBAND Luckily.

WIFE What do you mean?

HUSBAND You won't have to deal with it.

WIFE Would you open the wine? I'm going to take a shower.

HUSBAND Can I ask you something?

WIFE No promises. But try.

HUSBAND Would you turn off the water while you're soaping up?

WIFE Are you serious?

HUSBAND I tried.

Wife is leaving. Husband quickly sips some of the wine he opened and rushes to the other section, where Activist speaks aloud, as if she thinks he is still in the bathroom.

ACTIVIST

I wanted to discuss something else with you. You should probably know that you might come across some reports. You might then see me in different light. I never cared ... but now ... I don't know ... I guess ... perhaps you should get it from me ...

Like this, for instance:

Affected by her disorder, the mentally impaired psychopath believed that the climatic end of the world was approaching. She is not interested in anything else. Inducing panic with pseudo-scientific theories about the unsustainability of life on Earth, as we know, has become her obsessive *raison d'être*. She marches with banners, debates, rallies people, just as Fascists and other anti-social elements do. She thus moves in circles of her equals, and anyone hiding behind her back should be ashamed of themselves.

It is an abomination to abuse an ill person in order to disseminate eco-propaganda. That's exactly what happened to this self-proclaimed ecological Joan of Arc.

Or this one:

Militant environmental activists even applaud and encourage her. They found an icon in her, a marketing symbol that sells effortlessly. An image of the Immaculate Virgin with an innocent face fighting ostensibly for her future and for a better world for us all. What more can a PR taskforce wish for? The interest and support of those who earn fortune from her seemingly innocent activities reaffirms her in her delusion that she was right to choose her bizarre lifestyle.

This one is also pretty good:

Everything this ecological terrorist does, is to fuel those who turned ecology into a money-making machine. Naturally, they aren't after a clean planet, but after business. Some came to believe that it was a serious issue, a real problem, not one that was invented and well-fuelled. They even came to believe that they could change something; that they were heartlessly abused without anyone telling them that, what they were

talking about, is first and foremost not the future of their children, but an enormous business they don't even dream of.

And this:

And then comes the frightening point. It turns out that nothing of what these contemporary knights of darkness proclaim is based on facts. Instead, it draws from assumptions, half-truths and scheming predictions that serve adulterated interests. What to do now? Are we going to burn them at stake? We should start right now. When we get told that we are polluting the air, it will be the proof of their toxicity, of the grubbiness of their character.

If you can still imagine being with me, we could agree that you will help me with one more matter. Then I will be here for you only. I want to place a banner on a mining tower to support this guy. It's no longer that important to me, but I'm telling myself that at least I should complete this. With you. No one will know we did it. Except for us. It will be something that bonds us.

Me and you! Bonnie and Clyde! Baader and Meinhof! I've thought it all out. Hold on. Let me show you something ...

Activist is leaving. Husband rushes to the other section, where the light just came on and Wife is returning from the shower.

Husband is pouring wine, pretending he has just opened it.

WIFE

I've been thinking ...

If you noticed, I took a break because I was expecting something witty from you, something that is bound to offend or humiliate me. Because that's what our communication has been like lately. I know what you want to say. Yet I really don't feel like pondering about whose fault it is.

You ought to know that I'm going to sell our shares in the companies, transfer liabilities and reset accounting. If you know what I mean. So we can focus on ourselves.

We can go on an exotic vacation. Or to a swingers' party. An acquaintance of mine went to it recently. She said it gave a boost to their relationship. Her husband even got jealous when he saw so much interest in her. Until then he barely noticed her.

Something you know about, don't you?

If you don't find it too imaginative, I found a resort. They have a specially tailored programme. One lives as if in harmony with nature, putting mud on, collecting herbs and drumming. You seemed to be quite interested in it lately, haven't you? We'll last there a week and then we'll be the stars at the parties as we talk about it to the fed-up lot.

You don't have to say anything, just pick. I'll arrange everything, as I always do.

In case you're wondering how I intend to legalise some of our income, I also thought of that. Apparently, there are more and more lonely people whom no one ever visits. It occurred to me that I might launch a company. It would clean and disinfect flats after those whose non-existence only gets noticed by a neighbour when the stench spreads in the shared hallway.

That's pretty much it. Of course, we'll keep some contacts live, so we don't totally lose control in case something from the past surfaces. Like your barrels.

Well?

Am I clever or what?

In the other section, Activist calls from behind the stage that she found what she was looking for, and she will show it to him right away.

Husband gets up without a word and is getting ready to leave Wife.

WIFE (*upset*) Like, where are you going now? I'm trying hard, thinking of how to save things between us, and you have nothing to say?

Husband says nothing.

WIFE If you leave now, you might regret it. I don't pledge what I might do. Maybe nothing. Or you get amazed.

Husband stands motionless briefly, as if hesitating, then he finally steps forward and leaves.

He crosses to the other section, where Activist in black clothes and a balaclava runs to. She is holding another balaclava and places it over Husband's head. He pulls her close and starts kissing her passionately.

Scene 9

A Story of An Actor

ACTOR

... forests suffer under an axe, billions of trees perish, desolate houses of animals and birds, rivers dry up, beautiful land disappears irretrievably, all because idle man doesn't have enough sense to bend down and take his fuel from the ground. Am I right? Only a reckless barbarian can burn all that beauty in a furnace, destroy what he cannot create. Yet man is endowed with reason and creative power to multiply what is bestowed on him. Though, today, he does not create. He just destroys. Day by day, there are fewer and fewer forests, rivers are drying up, wild animals are dying out, the climate is deteriorating. Tomorrow, the Earth will be poorer and ghastlier. *(to the director)* You're giving me sarcastic looks, everything seems ridiculous to you ...

DIRECTOR Sorry, I don't find you credible. It's unconvincing, it's not flowing from you. As if you have a problem with what you're saying. I don't know, but something's going on. Is there anything you want to tell me?

ACTOR Nope. Just that it reminds me of my ex: she used to say the same ...

DIRECTOR It's en vogue. That's why those up there decided to stage it, this century-proven classic. They just want us to highlight the environmental aspect so that we can tailor some grant to it. I don't understand why you feel the urge to look for a problem ...

ACTOR The problem is that we were expecting a child and she decided to get rid of it. It was supposedly better for the child and the planet. She used exactly these words – forests are dwindling, rivers are drying up, animals are dying out, only there are

increasingly more people, thus more forests are dwindling, more rivers are drying up and more animals are dying out ... and so on, round and round again.

DIRECTOR Look, I'm not environmental enthusiast either. I have a genuine leather bag, ivory glasses and I arrived for the rehearsal by car fitted with a proper combustion engine. I wouldn't even know what nature looks like had there been no television. As long as there are cafés and wine bars, I don't see why humanity wouldn't survive. I'm just trying to do my job. Whether we like it or not, it has its rules. When those who pay us request us to be up-to-date and to highlight the topics that resonate, we just highlight them, whatever we may think of it. Because that's our job.

ACTOR As soon as I start narrating the text, everything reminds me of it. Imagine, she found some instructions online. Using some needles she picked out the embryo from within like using a toothpick to remove a piece of meat from the teeth. What should I think of it? If I hadn't found her, she wouldn't be here anymore ... but that's just one angle. Because, on the other hand ... I had I not saved her, she wouldn't have been able to leave me ...

DIRECTOR Think of something more agreeable! For instance, what to buy with the money you get. Because we get money for what we do. Just as a factory worker gets paid, as does the waitress in the cafeteria we'll go to for a pint after the rehearsal. For, on the one hand, we do this because we like it. On the other hand, we do it because we have to, because we have to live the way everyone else has to live, they have to live for themselves, for their children ... sorry ... just for yourself in your case. Though it doesn't change anything about what I said that we have to live. Try to repeat after me, we have to live; come-on, we have to live; close your eyes and imagine a new kitchen or a beach on an exotic island, or a naked pole dancer ... We have to live ... That's what we have to ... Repeat ...

First and foremost, we must live!

ACTOR ... First and foremost, we must live ...

DIRECTOR More! More! Go for it! Put yourself in it! We have to live!

ACTOR ... First and foremost, we must live!

DIRECTOR I want to feel you in it! Go! Go!

ACTOR It will be a long series of days and long evenings ...

DIRECTOR ... there you have to emphasise the long ...

ACTOR ... it will be long! series of days and long! evenings ...

DIRECTOR That's it!

ACTOR ... we will patiently endure what fate has in store for us, we will have to work for others, now and in old age, we always work, and when our time comes, we will die quietly and only there, in the other world, we will say that we have suffered, that we have cried, that we did not have it easy, and then, together, we will see a joyful, beautiful, happy life, we will cheer up and will look back on our misfortune with an emotional smile – and we will be relieved! I believe it...

We will be relieved!

DIRECTOR That's it ... we will be relieved!!!

ACTOR We will hear the angels, there will be light everywhere, we will see all the evil of this Earth, all our suffering will dissipate in the mercy that will spread over the world entire, and we will get to know a life – quiet, tender and as sweet as a song. I believe it, I believe ...

We will be relieved!!!

DIRECTOR We will be relieved!!!

ACTOR We will be relieved !!! TOGETHER We will be relieved!!! We wiiiiill be relieeeeeved!!!

Relieved we shall beeeeeeeee!!! Reeeelieeeeeeeeeved weeeeeeee shall beeeeeeeee!!!

Their cries gradually disappear in the music and darkness.

Scene 10

Congress Participants 2

Everyone with plastic bags on their heads looks at Mysterious 2, who cried out during the quarrel.

MYSTERIOUS 2

I'm sorry, but I really can't listen to this anymore! When I came in, I was given a plastic bag and a leaflet. Let me read what it says:

We are definitely heading to destruction. The problems we have to deal with keep on accumulating and are pressing. The challenges we face, call for instant solutions, because it was too late yesterday! Climate change, excessive population, declining biodiversity, mass extinction of species, waste management, air pollution, deforestation, soil degradation, and water pollution, plundering of natural resources, acidification of oceans!

He throws the leaflet on the table.

Can any of you tell me where you got this from??! Nothing. Zero. Empty container! Have you heard of environmental depression? No? So look at me! I have two children. When I came here, I expected you to give me some hope that they had at least some future. Yet after what I've seen here, the darkest thoughts overcome me. I wonder whether it would have been better not to have them! The children! Not the thoughts! One of them has already developed asthma. The other has such eczema that he might put it on display in a museum! And it's only going to get worse. So, when I'm listening to you, I can't help but wonder whether it wouldn't be better to get up at night when my entire energy-intensive household is asleep and turn on the gas – while there is still some!

Brief silence, suddenly Woman 1 jumps up, starts clapping slowly, rhythmically, patiently, the others slowly join in.

PARTICIPANT 1 We've been waiting for someone like you!

PARTICIPANT 2 Tell us what to do and we do it!

MYSTERIOUS 2 You got me wrong. I don't want anything to do with you. We each have our place in the system, so let's try to defend it as best we can.

PARTICIPANT 1 I don't know where your place has been so far. Though, at this point, it is clear that you are destined to lead us!

MYSTERIOUS 2 (*starts to peel off his fake beard, takes off his spectacles*) This is how. Sorry if I raised false expectations. My job is to infiltrate you and pass information to the other party. I'm on the payroll of several multinational corporations. You know, children's treatment in mountain sanatoriums and seaside resorts isn't for free.

PARTICIPANT 5 Clearly. When it comes to children, there is no sacrifice that one wouldn't be willing to make.

PARTICIPANT 4 What are you kids' names?

MYSTERIOUS 2 (*shows photos*) The older one is Greta. Tibor is the younger. He is to go on a school trip in the countryside next week. He needs a mobile breathing device. The insurance plan doesn't cover it.

PARTICIPANT 6 Perhaps we can put some money together for you.

PARTICIPANT 3 Yeah, great. First I have to do a free spot. Now you're about to ask me for money.

Brief quarrel in the style of the previous scene, which Mysterious 2 stops with a proposal.

MYSTERIOUS 2 It might be enough if you give me some interesting information that I would pass on to my cash cow ...

A few bizarre proposals lead to a quarrel that is cut short by women's proposal.

WOMAN 1 We might have something ...

WOMAN 2 There is a ...

WOMAN 1 Soloist

WOMAN 2 ... who pretends to be more than us: she wants to place a protest banner on the mining tower.

WOMAN 1 That must be stopped! Such a sick idea!

WOMAN 2 What's worse, she stole the idea from us!

Scene 11

Action

Activist and Husband come to the crime scene, to a large metal ladder built into the wall, with balaclavas rolled up on top of their heads.

ACTIVIST Do you know what's weird? It doesn't matter to me anymore that I'm doing the right thing. What makes me much happier is that I'm doing it with you.

Husband's phone rings. Activist gestures him to be quiet.

HUSBAND *(on the phone)* I can't talk right now.

WIFE If you don't come back right away, I'll do something. I don't know yet whether to myself or to you, but I definitely won't be waiting here idly for you to kick me out. If something like this is to happen after all, it should be me to do it to you I won't let you humiliate me ...

HUSBAND Okay, hold on, I'll see what can be done. *(turns off the phone; to Activist.)*
Sorry, I do have to go.

ACTIVIST Too bad. It could have been nice. I got quite used to the idea of being with you.

HUSBAND No, wait a minute, I'll take care of it. *(He calls Wife.)* I can't right now, I have to sort something out and will ring you back.

WIFE You either come right now or you'll face consequences. You'll have to make up your mind and will have to do it ASAP. Don't you expect someone else to do it for you. Your clock is ticking. Have a good bath in that crap of yours. I understand that decision-making is not your forte, but I will no longer keep pulling you out of trouble. I can only tell you that ...

While Wife is talking, Husband pulls the phone away from his ear and looks helplessly at Activist.

She approaches him, takes the phone from him and throws it on the ground. She kisses him and pulls the balaclava to his face.

She hands him the banner and starts climbing the ladder. She then stops to take the banner from Husband.

Sound of police sirens, Husband gets arrested.

They handcuff him, want to take off his balaclava. He is screaming, asking them not to do it. He is begging, threatening them.

They take off his balaclava: a frightened face appears. The character who took off his balaclava is astonished: "You?"

Husband rolls his eyes, gasps for breath, his face gets crooked in a strange grimace.

Scene 12

In the Head

Husband got a stroke while getting arrested,.

The following scenes play out in his head while his body lies helplessly in intensive care unit.

His SELF tries in vain to get involved in scenes to which he is an invisible witness.

SITUATION 1

Wife is standing by her husband's body attached to hospital devices.

Next to her stands Mysterious 1, who appeared in the Video Chat and Whistleblower scenes.

Translucent figure of Husband emerges from behind the reclined body.

HUSBAND Why do you bring strangers here? Can't you see the state I'm in?

MYSTERIOUS 1 The hospital director is a good acquaintance of mine. They will take care of him.

WIFE Are you sure? You know how things are with healthcare here. I'm wondering whether I ought to take him abroad.

MYSTERIOUS 1 They owe me much. Sometimes I help them get rid of organic waste. They want to save money, and I know how to do go about it. I have a network of the right people. Sometimes we throw it in someone's coffin.

HUSBAND Isn't he the one to whom I used to pass the information from the meetings you sent me to?

WIFE I'm grateful to you.

MYSTERIOUS 1 (*leans intimately towards her*) I hope so, because I am not doing it for him only.

HUSBAND What's he doing?

WIFE Stop, I can't here.

HUSBAND Not here? And it's OK elsewhere?

MYSTERIOUS 1 I wonder what the idiot was up to over there with the banner.

HUSBAND Does he mean me?

WIFE Don't talk about him like that.

HUSBAND Thank you.

WIFE Not that it wouldn't be true, but what if he can hear us.

HUSBAND Do you know he was there when I got arrested? It seemed as if he knew all too well that I'd be there.

MYSTERIOUS 1 It actually turned out the best it could ...

HUSBAND What? What does he mean?

WIFE What do you mean?

MYSTERIOUS 1 Plenty got thus sorted out.

HUSBAND What? What does he mean?

MYSTERIOUS 1 (*embraces her, tries to kiss her*) We don't have to hide so much anymore.

The devices beep faster.

WIFE His pressure went up a bit, is this equipment accurate?

MYSTERIOUS 1 These are the most expensive devices available. I know because I helped procure them for double the price.

WIFE (*Mysterious 1 grabs her hand, she pulls away from him.*) I'm sorry, I can't in – front of him.

HUSBAND In front of him? I do have a name, don't I!

MYSTERIOUS 1 (*presses on her again*) We can go to your place. Now we don't have to worry about him catching us.

HUSBAND You slept with him?

WIFE Before, he at least had a chance to fight you for me.

HUSBAND How was I to, given I was oblivious of him? Though, the point is why would I do that.

WIFE Now that I see him so helpless, I see our relationship differently.

BOTH MEN (*at once*) Our relationship?

MYSTERIOUS 1 Do you mean a relationship with me or him?

WIFE I want to take care of him.

HUSBAND I'm not asking you to!

MYSTERIOUS 1 I'm telling you, they will take care of him here for as long as it takes. Then we shall see.

WIFE Don't you think he's shrunk?

HUSBAND What????!!!

WIFE He is as reliant and vulnerable as if he were just born.

MYSTERIOUS 1 I can't take this anymore ...

Mysterious 1 throws himself at Wife, saying the staff won't dare to enter until he calls them. She is shielding herself, he confesses his love and tells her how much he wants her. She is screaming, defending herself. An ordinary struggle develops as a few devices and hoses happen to get disconnected.

The devices set off the alarm, the staff break into the room, and start pulling Mysterious 1 away from Wife and taking him away. He is shouting: Do you know who I am? This

hospital wouldn't be here had it not been for me! He is warning, threatening them, and so on.

Wife leans over Husband's body, trying to reconnect the device. She is talking to him, treating him like a child.

Husband says that he does not intend to take part in this. Suddenly, he hears voices and sees a light that illuminates the space where Activist and Companion are talking about the surprising state of one of them.

SITUATION 2

Pregnant Activist and startled Companion.

COMPANION Do you know what the flyers you gave me to hand out read? Thank you for not breeding! They didn't say: Convince your best friend to get rid of the baby so you can get pregnant!

HUSBAND What? Are you expecting a baby?

ACTIVIST What can I tell you?

HUSBAND With me?

HUSBAND So you took the knife you used to tell me about and stabbed me in the back.

ACTIVIST Yes, but it was a coincidence. It has nothing to do with you!

HUSBAND and **COMPANION** (*together*) It doesn't?

HUSBAND Ever heard of DNA tests?

COMPANION Have you ever heard that children used to build sand castles ...

ACTIVIST Yes, I know! You are entitled to remind me of all this! Would you at least trust me in that I didn't plan it!

HUSBAND I'm relieved.

COMPANION Am I to believe you?

ACTIVIST Trust me, I didn't do it to you on purpose.

COMPANION I got rid of the child along with the father because of you, while you were having fun with the father of your ...

ACTIVIST I wasn't having fun. I wanted him to help me with the protests ...

COMPANION So he helped you.

HUSBAND Are you talking about me?

ACTIVIST It only happened once and, trust me. I regretted it a hundred times over!

HUSBAND What do you mean regretted?

ACTIVIST By the way, it wasn't worth much ...

HUSBAND What????!!!

Companion stretches her hands in conciliation and draws Activist close.

ACTIVIST Fortunately, he finished off fast enough. Unfortunately, as I found out later, he didn't finish off fast enough not to leave it without consequences.

HUSBAND Why are you lying to her! All the time she was screaming how wonderful it was, that she had never experienced anything like it before!!!

COMPANION Promise me you'll never again be with anyone but me.

ACTIVIST I promise.

HUSBAND You promised me that!

ACTIVIST If you want, we can raise the child together.

COMPANION I got rid of mine when it was as old as ours is now.

HUSBAND Yours? Where did you leave me in all this?

COMPANION From now on, you'll tell me every day what you feel, and I will imagine that I'm experiencing it, too.

ACTIVIST Actually, it is also ecological. Otherwise, each of us would have her own child. With one child less we save nature.

HUSBAND Wait, wait. This can't be happening.

COMPANION As long as the father doesn't wake up and stops us.

ACTIVIST No worries. I did have a word with his wife.

HUSBAND You did what?

COMPANION Did you talk to her?

HUSBAND You what???

ACTIVIST I spoke with her.

COMPANION With her?

HUSBAND With her, how ... with her?

ACTIVIST Well.

COMPANION And?

HUSBAND And what????!!!

ACTIVIST She said they didn't want it.

Husband yelps and grabs his heart.

HUSBAND I can't breathe, catch me or I faint. No, wait, I'm lying here ... I'm not going to listen to this. This is only a dream. I'm just punishing myself with what I myself invent. I've got to get out of it, which way, here ...

SITUATION 3

Whistleblower – Mysterious 2 – Husband

In panic, Husband escapes from the previous situation and crashes in Whistleblower, who stares at him, his clothes torn to pieces, he is all wounds, and is tied to a chair.

WHISTLEBLOWER Please ... Help me ...

HUSBAND Can you see me?

WHISTLEBLOWER You are the only one left for me.

HUSBAND Me? Why me?

WHISTLEBLOWER They told me I only had two options. I could either get photographed shooting polar bear from a helicopter in Spitsbergen with the owner of a chemical plant; or I could disappear, with no one ever hearing of me again.

HUSBAND And what am I supposed to do?

WHISTLEBLOWER Say out there that I didn't do anything.

HUSBAND I am not sure I'm the right person for that.

WHISTLEBLOWER There is no one else here.

Mysterious 2 arrives.

MYSTERIOUS 2 So, what did you decide?

WHISTLEBLOWER *(to Husband)* We are unlikely to see each other again.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Right. Whatever you say.

HUSBAND Wait, I'll try to talk to him. *(He turns to Mysterious 2, but he doesn't notice him. He picks up the phone and calls someone.)* You know ... when it comes to those barrels, I suppose I know something about that ... I helped to fix the certificates that they were legally disposed of, even though I knew they were removed away and buried in an agreed location ... Though it was long before this man bought the plot, so ...

Mysterious 2 grabs a large cushion and approaches Whistleblower from behind.

WHISTLEBLOWER *(to Husband)* I hope you take it to the end.

MYSTERIOUS 2 Yes, right away.

WHISTLEBLOWER *(to Husband)* I'm counting on you.

HUSBAND *(to Mysterious 2)* For God's sake, don't do it! *(He looks anxiously at Whistleblower, mistakenly giving the impression that it was to him.)*

MYSTERIOUS 2 Ready?

WHISTLEBLOWER *(to Husband)* Sorry?

MYSTERIOUS 2 I'm ready.

HUSBAND *(to Whistleblower)* I don't mean you! Him! Well, maybe you too, but ... this can't be!

Mysterious 2, from behind, presses the cushion to Whistleblower's face. He begins to quiver in mortal convulsions.

HUSBAND Do you hear?! You can't do that!!! Stop it!!! What should I do????!!! Tell me what to do!!! Do you hear????!!! Stop!!! Stop it!!!

Husband is screaming, protecting his head with hands as if someone were hurting him, instead of trying to prevent Mysterious 2 from doing what he does; he is turning away and running in the opposite direction.

Scene 12

Leaving

With a scream, Husband wakes up on a special cart equipped with the devices to which he is attached, panting, looking around in confusion, noticing suitcases and items packed for a journey.

Wife is standing next to them, looking at him in surprise, hurriedly pulling out her phone.

WIFE *(on the phone)* He seems to have woken up. We're leaving. If you want to say goodbye, you better come now.

WIFE *(to Husband)* How are you feeling?

HUSBAND I imagined dreadful things.

HUSBAND You've been out for quite some time. Things have changed.

HUSBAND How long?

WIFE Over half a year.

HUSBAND Are you leaving?

WIFE We are leaving together. I bought a resort on an island out of civilisation. We'll start anew. There is peace and clean air. It will do you good. Our car will be here shortly. It will drop us off at the airport and we take a private jet. Everything is arranged. Before we set off, there is someone to say goodbye to you.

Activist enters with Companion; Activist is in an evidently advanced stage of pregnancy.

Husband's eyes widen, he gets speechless.

Activist approaches him, takes his hand and places it on her belly.

ACTIVIST It seems that many things turned out differently than we had planned.

Luckily, though, your kind lady helped me a lot. We met when I was looking for you in the hospital. She even paid for DNA tests and promised to keep sending money for the baby. You needn't worry ... *(She turns and calls her Companion; they kiss and hold hands.)* We will be loving mothers.

Husband looks at the scene speechless in disbelief. Car horn sounds..

WIFE Well, it's time.

Wife tidies up Husband's blanket, checks the devices, caresses him, treats him like a child, tells him what progress he is making – he even said the first words a moment ago. Then she approaches Activist and Companion. They embrace each other. She is asking them to let them know as soon as the baby is born.

Enters Mysterious 1 and starts collecting suitcases.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Have we got everything?

WIFE Seems so.

MYSTERIOUS 1 We better hurry. I parked on the lawn. I'm sure some idiot would get upset, as if it were his. The plane has a permission to take off in two hours, so we should make it. I also bought a patch of beach at the island resort and got the barrier-free path paved, so that all three of us can stroll comfortably.

WIFE As long as they don't dump something beneath the concrete. You know how it goes.

MYSTERIOUS 1 It's fenced up. They won't dare on private property.

WIFE Let's go.

MYSTERIOUS 1 Are we all?

WIFE Goodbye, old life!

MYSTERIOUS 1 Where is it from? I've heard it somewhere. Ah, I guess I know. So, hello, new life!

WIFE Should I take a coat?

MYSTERIOUS 1 It's hot outside.

WIFE That's right. It snowed this time last year. Now, trees began to blossom. It's all kind of crazy.

MYSTERIOUS 1 High time to raise the anchors.

WIFE Let's go, gentlemen.

MYSTERIOUS 1 (*struggling to take all the suitcases at once*) After you.

They are leaving, Wife turns to Mysterious 1 laden with suitcases.

WIFE Do we really have everything?

MYSTERIOUS 1 What we don't have, we buy.

WIFE Just so we don't forget something essential.

They are leaving, locking up.

The abandoned Husband in a wheelchair remains on stage, looking ahead, as if dropping a tear.

Sudden screams, unlocking, Wife rushes on stage to the wheelchair, releases the break and hurriedly pushes it off the stage.

CODA

The character of Actor from the scene A Story of An Actor enters the dimmed stage.

ACTOR They left. And they forgot about me. At least they left the TV here. Well, never mind, I'll watch something ... (*turns on the TV*) ... I'll have a lie down ... (*He lies down.*) ... life will pass by as if I never lived it ...

Flashing screen, TV voice.

VOICE National news. During excavation works in the local park, workers discovered remains of an unknown person who had not yet been identified.

International news. Thousands of plastic toys from a sunken cargo ship floated to the azure shore of the Paradise Island in the middle of the ocean.

Actor is sitting motionless in front of the TV.

Sound, reminiscent of felling of trees, howling of chainsaws, breaking and falling logs.

Gradually, the sounds become clearer, suddenly they change into the sounds of dull blows, drilling a lock, breaking a door.

Characters in protective suits with respirators enter the stage.

In rubber gloves, they wrap the body of Actor in a plastic bag.

They sanitise the room.

Items placed there turn into a pile of waste to be removed.

The End