

Characters:

Husband I - Married couple I
Wife I
Son I – first couple's child
Daughter – first couple's child

Husband II - Married couple II
Wife II
Son II - second couple's child

Husband III - Married couple III
Wife III

Husband IV - Married couple IV
Wife IV

Part I

The first couple's story

Scene I

[a beautifully furnished sitting room; enter husband, wife, and two adolescent children, all of them loaded with suitcases, bags and other holiday equipment; they enter noisily and throw everything on the floor]

HUSBAND I : Well, here it is, our little house. [*he throws himself in an armchair and sighs*]

WIFE I : Don't throw everything on the floor ! I hardly managed to pack it all! [*she picks up things from the floor, tries to unpack and find a place for everything; the kids are milling around frantically exploring the house; exiting and entering, slamming the door*]

HUSBAND I : Two weeks holiday - finally! You have to admit it - a smart move! From now on, two weeks in this house are ours every year!

WIFE I : [*irritably*] I hope these two weeks will also be my two weeks.

HUSBAND I : When didn't we go on holiday together ?!

WIFE I : Don't push your luck...

HUSBAND I : I won't . Now we will finally get rid of the stress that prevents us from living like human beings when we are in town. [*pause*] I'll pour myself a beer... [*he doesn't move*] We should drink to this... [*pause*] Darling, where did you put the beer cans ?

WIFE I : [*without looking at him, continuing to unpack*] Find them!

HUSBAND I : OK, fine! In fact, I don't even need a beer to relax.

DAUGHTER: [*rushing in angrily from outside*] There's nothing here. It's a wasteland. In two weeks, I'll be dead of boredom!

HUSBAND I : Why don't you find something to do? Let's say, you could learn how to do something..

DAUGHTER: [*interrupting him*] I came here to rest.

HUSBAND I : Rest then!

DAUGHTER: I will, but what am I going to do ?

HUSBAND I :Do something with your brother.

DAUGHTER: I have nothing to do with him. You brought me here, you think of something.

HUSBAND I :People on holiday always find something to do. Come on, try!

DAUGHTER: [*stubbornly*] I can't try. I can't think of anything.

HUSBAND I :OK, I'll think of something for you.

WIFE I : Go ahead and do that, so that she can mock you some more.

HUSBAND I :Everything will be fine, we're on holiday. From now on, nothing can upset us. Girls, you don't even realize how lucky we are. Two weeks, ha?! Fantastic! Your old man is still good for something. [*searching through the luggage*] Where are those cans ?

WIFE I : Don't mess it all up! [*she coldly takes a can out of a bag and hands it to him without a word*]

SON I: [*wandering through the house; he finds a computer and takes off the cover*] A computer ! Great ! [*sits down and starts banging at the keyboard*]

HUSBAND I :Be careful, that computer is here for contacts the other owners of the house. Don't touch the account file or the tax file.

WIFE I : What's best of all is that there are no contacts with the other owners. I would go crazy if they came to visit us and we had to be 'friends' . They all probably have hysterical children and dirty dogs. Or vice versa. When I'm on holiday I don't want to see another soul.

DAUGHTER: I will definitely die here. There's no-one to meet here! [*she throws herself on the floor in revolt*]

HUSBAND I : You could get up, lazy-bones, and help your mom .

DAUGHTER: [*to her mother*] I dont ever want to be like you!

WIFE I : [*to her husband*] Slap her face!

HUSBAND I :Don't start again ! We're on holiday.

WIFE I : At least some of us are!

HUSBAND I : [*to his daughter*] Promise your mother you'll help her and apologise. Come on, be a good girl, I'll buy you something.

DAUGHTER: [*to her mother*] I promise I'll help you and I apologise.

WIFE I : I hope you'll keep your promise.

HUSBAND I : Come on, we don't have to be up-tight all the time! We can finally relax. At least nobody's watching us here. Come on girls, what do you say ? Didn't you old man bring you to a great house ?

DAUGHTER: What's makes it different from our house?

HUSBAND I : We've bought two weeks holiday here.

DAUGHTER: And what's here? Why did we have to come here?

HUSBAND I : Why do people go on vacation ? Not all places are the same. You have to change your surroundings so that you can recuperate from...

DAUGHTER: [*interrupting him*] But nothing here is any different.

HUSBAND I : Honey, you don't get it: your Mom and Dad are giving you a chance to rest.

DAUGHTER: [*stubbornly*] But, I'm not tired !

WIFE I : What would you be tired of? Come on, enough of that whining! A lot of people have nowhere to go and never see anything but their own four walls.

DAUGHTER: But the four of us are within four walls, too.

WIFE I : And when is that ? You and your brother are out of the house all the time.

DAUGHTER: And then we are in the house again!

WIFE I : When you earn your own living, you can leave our house!

DAUGHTER: [*offended*] I know, all you want to do is get rid of me as soon as possible but that won't be so easy !

HUSBAND I : You'll see, we'll have a good time here.

DAUGHTER: You keep promising! But nothing ever happens.

HUSBAND I : What do you mean, nothing happens? We came here, didn't we?

DAUGHTER: Everything's always the same.

HUSBAND I :How can it be the same ?

DAUGHTER: Because there is no difference.

WIFE I : Maybe you want a villa in the Seychelles!

DAUGHTER: No, I don't want a villa in the Seychelles ! I'm sick of travelling and moving around.

HUSBAND I : There, you see! It will do even you some good, for the four of us to be together. [*pause*] Now, if you've no objections, we could all eat something together. And later we can watch TV. There is a new comedy show tonight. Isn't that a wonderful coincidence!? We haven't laughed together in such a long time. Laughter is the best medicine, that's what doctors say. And after the show we could all go for a short walk , to see what there is to see.

DAUGHTER: There's nothing at all!

HUSBAND I : Well, then we'll go and see that nothing. [*to his son*] Son, don't keep such a distance from your family . Come over here so that we can all be together.

SON I: I'm right here, three feet away from you. [*continues to type*]

HUSBAND I : You always separate yourself from us . Come here, Son, let the two of us organise something. Your sister is bored. Your mother is killing herself with work. No wonder this happens when we are all over the place. Come over here and join us!

SON I: [*typing without listening*] The other owners are such jerks.

HUSBAND I : Stop fiddling with the computer, I told you!

SON I: I sent them all e-mail messages, but they are all total jerks.

HUSBAND I : You messed up! I told you! No communication with the other owners, no introductions, and no private conversations!

SON I: I just sent them a message with our regards!

HUSBAND I : And what did you get back ?

SON I: "We don't know you!" [*darkness*]

Scene II

[*the table in the living room is served for lunch; HUSBAND I and WIFE I are standing on one side of the table with SON I and DAUGHTER on the opposite side*]

WIFE I : LUNCH !!! [*counts down; before she finishes, the children are already seated and are eating greedily*] One!... Two!...Three!... Now! [*HUSBAND I and WIFE I sit down*] You've already started eating and no-one said you could start! [*HUSBAND I and WIFE I start eating greedily; they wave around their cutlery, talking each other down, they eat, munch, make a clatter, all together but in a very rhythmical, synchronised tempo*] Every family has a moment when they start eating! [*sipping*] Unbelievably greedy and badly brought-up children!

SON I & DAUGHTER:[*together, munching*] That's how you brought us up !

WIFE I : How can you come to the table so dirty?

HUSBAND I : [*sipping*] Leave them alone. You're being petty.

WIFE I : Oh, really! You think so, because you don't care about the kids or the house or anything. [*munching*]

SON I: [*to his sister*] Pass the bread !

DAUGHTER: [*to her brother*] You pass it to me !

HUSBAND I :[*to his wife*] And who cares !

SON I: [*to his sister; with his mouth full*] You'll get yours after lunch!

WIFE I : [*to her son*] Pass her the bread! And don't be rude! [*to her husband*] They get this kind of behaviour from you. [*sighing*]

DAUGHTER: [*to her brother, superciliously*] You heard Mom; pass the bread!

HUSBAND I :[*to his wife*] You're the one who's rude ! Pass the bread!

SON I: [*to his sister*] There you go, but it will be hard to swallow. [*munching*]

WIFE I : [*to her husband*] Pass it to me !

DAUGHTER: You're already arguing and we haven't even finished our lunch! In all families they at least finish their lunch first. Unbelievably greedy and badly brought-up parents!

SON I: [*to his sister*] Leave them alone! You're being petty.

HUSBAND I : [*to his wife, his mouth full*] You'll get yours after lunch!

DAUGHTER: [*to her brother*] Oh, really? You think so because you don't care for the parents or the house or anything.

WIFE I : [*to her husband*] Don't be rude ! They get such behaviour from you !

DAUGHTER: [*to her brother*] Don't be rude ! They get such behaviour from you !

HUSBAND I : [*to his wife*] There you go, but it will be hard to swallow.

SON I: [*to his sister*] You'll get yours after lunch !

DAUGHTER: [*gets up suddenly and shouts*] Alright then, will someone finally pass the bread!
[*they all "freeze" as they were, a few seconds pause; the same scene, somewhat shortened, starts to unwind backwards; the characters repeat the same precise movements, but backwards with occasional repetition of lines and movements, just like a broken gramophone record*]

WIFE I : [*to her husband*] Get behaviour they such you from! Rude be don't !

DAUGHTER: [*to her brother*] Anything or, house the or, parents the or, care you because don't. Really, oh?

HUSBAND I : [*to his wife with his mouth full*] Lunch after yours get you'll!

SON I: [*to his sister*] Petty being you're! [*like a broken record*] Alone them leave!
Alone them leave! Alone them leave!

DAUGHTER: Parents spoilt and greedy unbelievably! Finish eating in family every. Finished eating yet not , arguing already are you!

WIFE I : [*to her husband*] Me pass you! Me pass you! Me pass you!

SON I: [*to his sister*] Easy swallow not, but you go there!

WIFE I : [*to her husband*] Get behaviour they such you from . [*to her son*] Rude not be.
Bread the her pass!

HUSBAND I : [*to his wife*] Cares who ?

WIFE I : Dirty so the table sit?

SON I & DAUGHTER: [*together*] Brought up you us how? Brought up you us how?
Brought up you us how?

WIFE I : Children rude and greedy unbelievably ! Eating start when moment has family every. Start could you said no-one and eating started already have you! Now... Three... Two.. One... LUNCH !!! [*they suddenly get up from the table; darkness*]

The second couple's story

Scene I

[*the same apartment and immaculately decorated living room, enter middle-aged husbandII and wifeII ; the husband carries a load of things; the wife is pushing a wheelchair in which their twenty-year-old son is sitting; his posture, facial expression and movements show signs of mental retardation*]

HUSBAND II:Here it is, our little house !

SON II : [*clapping his hands in an unco-ordinated way and mumbling*] Mmmmm

WIFE II: [*stroking him gently*] Just look how happy our little boy is.

SON II : Mmmmm...

HUSBAND II:The peace and quiet will do our boy a lot of good! Far away from people! It will do you good, too, darling . You've been under a lot of stress. [*he hugs her*]

WIFE II: Thank you for these two weeks ! The boy and I are very grateful .

HUSBAND II:But you are everything to me! Who would I take care of if I didn't have you? Your Daddy is proud to take care of you ! [*to his son*] Little one, are you tired ?

SON II: Mmmmmm...[*HUSBAND II and WIFE II take hold of the wheelchair and rock it as if it were a stroller*]

WIFE II: Sleep, my precious little darling, sleep. [*SON II falls asleep in the wheelchair*] Look how tired he is !

HUSBAND II:There are too many new impressions for him. When I think about it, we almost never take him out of the house .

WIFE II: [*sighing*] You know how stressful it is for him. Last time he cried hysterically...

HUSBAND II:Have you noticed how well he is reacting to this new environment ?

WIFE II: How happy he seems to be, my precious little darling !

HUSBAND II: I'm so pleased we took him on this holiday !

WIFE II: Me too. It looks as if we should have done this before. But one never knows when bringing up children...

SON II: [*waking up and starting to whimper*] Mmmmmmmmm.....

WIFE II: [*using baby talk*] Is my little darling hungry ? Mummy will fix your yum-yum. I'll be very quick. [*takes out the bottle and pours milk into it; HUSBAND II puts a bib around the boy's neck*] There we go, yum-yum! [*she feeds the boy while he makes baby sounds and sucks greedily*] Look how hungry he is !

HUSBAND II: Just you eat, Son! That's it! The whole bottle! Well done!

SON II: Mmmm... [*points to the computer with unco-ordinated movements*]

WIFE II: Oh, that ! That's a computer, sunshine ! It's a no-no. We musn't touch it, or we'll get burned! It's not for you . [*giving him a stuffed toy*] Here, play with your Teddy Bear!

HUSBAND II: The boy has a point! What do we need a computer for on holiday? Smart boy!

WIFE II: Well then, why do we need a computer ?

HUSBAND II: Because of e-mail. That's the only way we can exchange information about the bills with the other owners. Private contacts, even on the phone, are not encouraged.

WIFE II: That's nice! How come?

HUSBAND II: So that we all feel we are the only owners. And so that no one bothers anyone. The company that sold us our two weeks guarantees complete protection of privacy. That's good! It pays to spend a little extra money to get rid of all the nosy people.

WIFE II: You're right ! Imagine if they all wanted to meet us and ruin our holiday. I hate it when people come to see us and stare at us as if we were the eighth wonder of the world.

HUSBAND II: Don't worry, we are completely protected here; it is the best for the boy as well .

WIFE II: Oh, our dear daddy thought of everything.

HUSBAND II: [*touched*] The two of you are everything to me ! My dearest ones ! How sweet you are ! [*pats their heads*] You know how I feel, as if the two of us haven't grown older these last twenty years. And our boy is just like he was as a baby!

Nothing's changed. The same dimples on his cheeks ! And your snub nose! Such a cute, helpless creature. And our baby brought you femininity and made you younger. You're more beautiful then ever! When I look at you, my heart fills with happiness we have created together! I'm so happy!

WIFE II: Our dear, darling daddy!

SON II: Mmmm... [*they all hug; darkness*]

Scene II

[*SON II is lying on the bed with the covers up to his chin; he is sleeping with a pacifier in his mouth; HUSBAND II and WIFE II are sitting at the foot of his bed*]

WIFE II: Our little one has fallen asleep...

HUSBAND II:Let him sleep ... now finally the two of us can relax... come here! There's no need to watch him like a hawk, you can see he's asleep .

WIFE II: He could wake up.

HUSBAND II:He won't. He took his usual dose of sedatives. You make too many sacrifices. Just relax, this is the time just for us [*he moves closer to her*]. Come here to me.

WIFE II: [*avoiding his touch*] Don't touch me !

HUSBAND II:What is it now ?

WIFE II: I have an allergy ...

HUSBAND II:All right, fine, I won't touch you. The main thing is that we understand and love each other. [*pause*] Can I ask you something ?

WIFE II: What ?

HUSBAND II:Do you sometimes have the urge like I do?

WIFE II: No way!

HUSBAND II:Never ?

WIFE II: Are you crazy? I am the mother of a sick child. I'm under a strain and I'm not well. .

HUSBAND II:Aha. [*pause*] You think that your illness is of such a nature that there is no way we could...

WIFE II: [*cutting in*] Yes, exactly. I am allergic to dust, hair and smells ...

HUSBAND II:I'll have a bath and shave off all my hair.

WIFE II: ... of animal origin. I cannot risk getting that rash again.

HUSBAND II:Certainly not: one should look after one's health and not allow anyone to endanger it.

WIFE II: You've got it right .

HUSBAND II:[*pause*] I haven't asked you in a very long time ...

WIFE II: Don't start again ! Why are you torturing your sick wife?

HUSBAND II:I just thought ... now that we are on holiday ... it's a good opportunity... we haven't in twenty years ...

WIFE II: You know very well that I've been ill for the last twenty years!

HUSBAND II:Can I see your illness? When will the symptoms finally show?

WIFE II: It comes to the surface internally. Why am I even talking to you about this?

HUSBAND II:Maybe there's a way to help you ?

WIFE II: There's no real therapy, they have not found the right drug yet . But they know one should refrain from any physical contact, avoid excitement and keep absolutely clean...

HUSBAND II:[*pause*] Don't you ever wish, just a little ...

WIFE II: No! Even the desire makes the condition worse! Don't make any suggestions to me, please. I will not be tempted...

HUSBAND II:I didn't mean to! I was just asking . It must be even worse for you.

WIFE II: If it is for my family, no sacrifice is too great. Not even my pleasure.

HUSBAND II:You are a wonderful wife . How you must suffer! I wanted to ease your suffering somehow !

WIFE II: Only your unconditional love can help me .

HUSBAND II: Oh, you certainly have that. You know how much I love you! [*pause*] Still I would like to help you somehow .. Actually we don't really have to touch ... we can keep our clothes on ... [*darkness*]

Scene III

[*a change of lighting signifies the surreal ; SON II is alone and sleeping in his wheelchair; enter SON I and DAUGHTER; they creep around SON II and kneel next to his legs*]

SON I & DAUGHTER: [*together*] Coo, coo !

SON II : [*he wakes up, is frightened and covers his eyes with his hands and starts squealing*] Mmm ...

SON I: Hey, kid, look at us ! We're your friends!

SON II: [*he continues squealing and keeps his eyes squeezed shut*] Mmmmm

SON I: We won't disappear because you keep your eyes closed.

DAUGHTER: Don't be scared! [*she pats his head*]

SON I: You're a good boy! [*he pats him on the shoulder*]

DAUGHTER: Have some chocolate! [*SON II timidly takes the chocolate, eats it awkwardly but seem to be happy*]

SON II: Mmmm ...

DAUGHTER: Don't say mmmm for everything. We have a different word for every single thing. When you get a chocolate from someone you say thank you! Say : "Thaaa-nk you !"

SON II: [*sulking; he keeps silent and his mouth is shut tight*]

DAUGHTER: [*to her brother*] That's it, he has no tongue at all! How could he talk?

SON II: [*slowly pokes out his tongue*]

DAUGHTER: [*to her brother*] Oh! Look at how big his tongue is! Anyone who has a tongue as big as that knows how to say thank you !

SON II: [*looks at them in surprise, slowly opens his mouth; first he just blows air, then he gurgles, and finally lets out articulate sounds*] Tha.. Than... Thank - You !

Thank - You !

SON I & DAUGHTER: Well done! Terrific! [*they clap, SON II claps clumsily and is happy: they take his hands, put them together properly and show him how to clap*] There, put your hands together: that's it ! Well done ! Try now ! Excellent ! More ! Well done !

SON II: [*claps coordinately, happily, laughs and shouts*] Thank you ! Thank you ! Thank you !

DAUGHTER: You see how easy it is ! Here, watch my mouth ! [*bands over him*] Look at how I say : A ! Come on, you try it !

SON II: A !

DAUGHTER: B !

SON II: B !

DAUGHTER: C !

SON II: C !

DAUGHTER: There you go you know everything ! Say : "X" !

SON II : X !

DAUGHTER: Let's try something more difficult ! Say superkalifragilisticexpalidious .

SON II : Superkali ...

DAUGHTER: Su - per - ka - li - fra - gi - li - stic - expa - li - di - ous !

SON II : Su - per - ka - li - fra - gi - li - stic - expa - li - di - ous !

DAUGHTER: Excellent ! And now easier ! Say mummy, daddy !

SON II : [*frowns quietly, pause*]

SON I: [*to his sister*] Come on, let's take him for a ride ! [*SON I and DAUGHTER push the wheelchair around the room; SON II watches the game frightened and protests squeaking*] Come on, we'll walk now! One cannot sit all the time and ride around . Come on ! [*SON I and DAUGHTER take him under his arms and try to prompt him onto his feet; SON II squeaks and limply sits back into the wheelchair*] Come on, don't be so lazy , you cannot sit all the time. We'll hold you !

DAUGHTER: Why are you frowning ? It is not difficult to walk . All grown ups walk . Only babies ride around . Look how big you are !

SON I: Don't even try persuading him. If he doesn't want to, he doesn't want to . Let him be ! He is a baby and he wants to sit in a wheelchair. [*as SON II hears those words he suddenly gets up*] Oh, he changed his mind ! Aren't you a good boy !? Come on ! [*SON I and DAUGHTER take him under his arm and lead him around the room; he walks at first with a lot of difficulty, and then better and better, he squeals with delight*]

SON I & DAUGHTER: Well done ! You see you can do it ! Excellent ! [*they let go off him and he continuous to walk by himself*]

SON II : [*happy and surprised, he walks, claps and talks more and more coordinated*] Thank you ! Thank you ! Thankyou !

DAUGHTER: [*brings him a book*] You have two weeks to make up for twenty years . This is a letter learning book, Grimm's tales and Little Prince . [*SON I & DAUGHTER disappear; SON II is left with the books in his hands surprised; darkness*]

The third couple's story

Scene I

[*newly-weds enter the same sitting room; the husband III carries his wife III over the threshold, they laugh and kiss each other all the time*]

HUSBAND III : Here we are, love, we made it ! [*they kiss*]

WIFE III: Dearest, this is the happiest day of my life ! [*they kiss*]

HUSBAND III : Love - champagne ! [*carries in the luggage*]

WIFE III: [*claps*] Champagne !

HUSBAND III : [*finds the champagne and two glasses , opens the bottle and fills the glasses*] I raise this glass to the two of us, to our marriage !

WIFE III: [*raises her glass*] To our marriage !

HUSBAND III : [*fills the glasses again*] To our parents who gave us a two weeks holiday in

this house every year till the end of our lives !

WIFE III: To our parents ! [*drinks*] Darling, I'm starving !

HUSBAND III: Here, love, you can start eating me right now, where I'm the toughest . [*hugs her*]

WIFE III: Oh no, I'll have that as a main course ! Can I have a starter?

HUSBAND III: Straight away, madam, you'll be served !

WIFE III: What did you call me ?!

HUSBAND III :Madam !

WIFE III: [*overwhelmed*] Say it again !

HUSBAND III :Madam !

WIFE III: Oh ! It sounds so good ! Madam ! I must get used to it. [*they laugh, take out a package of food and sit on the floor*]

HUSBAND III :Well, madam, open your mouth ! [*he puts a piece of food into their mouth, she laughs and takes a piece of food and puts it into his mouth; they laugh and kiss with their mouths full*]

WIFE III: How much do you love me ? [*chews*]

HUSBAND III: This much, this much, this much ! [*he pushes food into her mouth and he laughs*]

WIFE III: And how many children shall we have , love ?

HUSBAND III :[*he stuffs her with food*] This many, this many, this many ... [*she gurgles and laughs*]

WIFE III: [*she laughs as she swallows*] I'll be too full from all these children !

HUSBAND III:[*he continuous to stuff her with food*] And more, more, more ...

WIFE III: [*she starts losing her breath and coughs; her husband hits her on the back and she finally catches her breath*]

HUSBAND III: You are so greedy ! You never know when to stop !

WIFE III: I'm sorry ! I was joking a little !

HUSBAND III :Well, well ! Everything will be all right !

WIFE III: [*sucking up to him*] Do you still love me ?

HUSBAND III :I still do !

WIFE III: Promise me you will always love me !

HUSBAND III :I promise !

WIFE III: Promise me that we will never get a divorce !

HUSBAND III :Never !

WIFE III: Oh dearest ! Pour me a glass of champagne! [*he does*] To us , my love !

HUSBAND III :To us ! [*they drink*]

WIFE III: You're my love !

HUSBAND III :You're my angel !

WIFE III: My sweetest !

HUSBAND III:My dearest !

WIFE III: [*pause*] Darling, do you think we might be bored here for two weeks ?

HUSBAND III:I don't think so .

WIFE III: You don't suppose we could get a little bored .

HUSBAND III: We couldn't .

WIFE III: Is there anything interesting around ?

HUSBAND III : Well ... I don't think so .

WIFE III: Why did our parents buy us a holiday here ?

HUSBAND III: So we could rest .

WIFE III: But I'm not tired ! Well, I guess we'll think of something . [*she gets up off the floor , walks around the room*] Oh, look we have a computer for entertainment !

HUSBAND III: Oh, no ! That's for contacting the other owners .

WIFE III: But the contract says we're not supposed to contact the other owners .

HUSBAND III : That is only a connection for financial transactions .

WIFE III: I love the idea of never having to meet them.

HUSBAND III: Of course ! Do you have a feeling someone was here before us ?

WIFE III: No ! I have a feeling that this house exists only because we do ... I guess they had to pay a lot ...

HUSBAND III : Oh, yes, those things are expensive !

WIFE III: [*fiddling with the keyboard*] Here are the bills .. there are some data ... Oh, and a message for us !

HUSBAND III : Who cares ! Come here, leave that stupid computer !

WIFE III: Such primitive people ! They don't even know us ! Who are we sharing the house with ?

HUSBAND III : O.K., what did you find?

WIFE III: [*reads the message*] " If you want group sex, contact ... " and the address of some owners . [*HUSBAND III goes over to the computer and types, the WIFE III reads the message*] " We don't know you ." [*darkness*]

Scene II

[*husband III and wife III in bed, completely covered with a blanket, you can see only silhouettes of their bodies, moving in the same rhythm of the sexual intercourse; all the time they let out sighs as if they were doing hard physical labour, HUSBAND III head suddenly comes out of the covers , and he looks around the room*]

WIFE III: [*under the covers*] What is it, love ? Why did you stop ?

HUSBAND III : There's something wrong with this room !

WIFE III: [*peeks from under the covers, looks around*] What's wrong? Everything is normal .

HUSBAND III : [*gets up from under the covers only wearing boxer shorts, goes over to the computer, turns it off, picks up another cover and throws it over the computer*] I hate computers ! I'll cover it. I have a feeling someone is in the room !

WIFE III: [*peeking from under the cover*] Love, but it is just a computer .

HUSBAND III: I don't know what it is thinking ! [*goes back to the bed covers his head with the blankets; the same game starts again; it lasts for a while; suddenly you can hear a lawnmower from the outside; the game under the cover stops, HUSBAND III peeks out angrily*] What is this ?

WIFE III: [*peeks out again*] It's only the gardener, honey ! Come on, come back to our nest !

HUSBAND III :[*jumps angrily from under the covers; runs to the door*] What gardener ? I'll show him where to put his lawnmower ! [*runs outside*]

WIFE III: [*to HUSBAND III who returns victoriously*] But we pay for the gardener .

HUSBAND III : So what ? I just got him out of the account ! [*flexes the muscles on his arm*]. He won't spoil my vacation ! How dare he !? I must concentrate, I work and now I'm on holiday ! [*flexes his muscles again, touches them to see how hard they are and shows them to his wife*] Hard, ha ? [*sneaks in under the covers and the game starts again ; darkness*]

Scene III

[*change in lighting signifies the surreal; wife III is alone in the sitting room, drowsing in an armchair with a book in her hands; enter SON II in a wheelchair, rides around her, he looks at her surprised and carefully he's got idiotic but not aggressive movements, suddenly he laughs, starts clapping and lets out inarticulate sounds*]

SON II : [*clapping his hand clumsily*] Mama. Ma - ma !

WIFE III: [*jumps up from her sleep, screams*] Who are you !?

SON II : Ma - ma ! Ma - ma !

WIFE III: How did you get in here ?! Get out, now ! [*gets up and moves towards the door backwards; she's trying to stole for time*] I will start screaming, if you try anything ! And then my husband will come, and you don't want that ! He already did a gardener in .

SON II : [*sadly*] Ma - ma ! Ma - ma ! Ma - ma ! Ma - ma ! [*starts crying inconsolably*]

WIFE III: [*surprised and softened*] All right ! I won't scream . No one will touch you ! Why are you weeping now ?

SON II : Ma - ma ! Ma - ma !

WIFE III: I'm not your mother, darling, I got married yesterday, I'm as old as you are ! [*comes close to him and squats next to the wheelchair*] Look at me: how could I be your mother ? You must be lost, little darling ! [*completely softened she dries his tears and pats him on the head, SON II suddenly grabs her head and presses his lips to her, giving her a real man's kiss; she struggles; and when his hold weakens, she pulls away, she can barely catch her breath and hysterically screams*] Get away from me, you monster, animal !

SON II : [*again turning into a weeping imbecile*] Mmmmmmmmmmmmm ...

WIFE III: [*disgusted*] You distasteful, rotten, little, dirty animal ! Get lost now ! My patience has run out ! How he used a moment of my weakness .

SON II : [*gets out of the wheelchair; suddenly normal, very elegant, charming young man*] I apologise, madam, for distressing you. I just wanted to meet you...

WIFE III: What kind of a joke is this ?! Is this the way to meet people ? I'll call my husband.

SON II : That's not necessary, he is not important.

WIFE III: What do you want from me ?

SON II : Now, this moment ? I'll have to think about it . For that which I should have got from you twenty years ago, it is unfortunately too late now.

WIFE III: What are you talking about ?

SON II: I don't think you can understand that [*he approaches her as a man would*] I never thought you could be so desirable ...

WIFE III: [*hypnotized with his manliness, slowly gives in*] What do you mean ?

SON II : You've got everything a man needs ...

WIFE III: I have ...?

SON II : [*putting his hands on her body*] You need to be discovered ...

WIFE III: [*completely stiff*] Oh !

SON II : You have nothing under the dress ?

WIFE III: No !

SON II : [*touches her*] Relax ... that's it, that ... you're still stiff here ... let go ... [*the air is electrified with eroticism*] that is ... now you are a real woman ... Yes !?

WIFE III: [*obviously excited, sighs deeply on the verge of explosion, suddenly he lets go; walks around the room nervously; WIFE III obviously disappointed with the situation*] Sir, what's wrong with you ? Just a moment ago everything was fine ...

SON II: You are very sexy while you are young , Mom. I barely managed to restrain myself ..

WIFE III: I don't understand ...

SON II : I am sorry I came ! I wanted to meet you before you made an imbecile .

WIFE III: What imbecile ?

SON II : You'll have a son soon .

WIFE III: Oh ! [*instinctively grabs her stomach*]

SON II : In twenty years or so you'll make him an imbecile .

WIFE III: But I'm normal ! [*terrified*] How can I have an imbecile?

SON II: Don't get excited ! It is not good for you in your condition .

WIFE III: [*happily*] I'll have a baby soon ! I'll have a baby boy !

SON II : What a pity that I'll stop admiring you one day ! [*exit*]

WIFE III: [*goes after him*] Stop! Wait! Tell me about my son ! [*darkness*]

The fourth couple's story

Scene I

[*enter an elderly married couple to the same living room with a little luggage they can barely carry*]

HUSBAND IV: I'm sorry, love, that I cannot carry you into our heaven, as I used to a long time ago !

WIFE IV: Never mind love ; I put on some weight in the meantime.

HUSBAND IV: You are still as attractive as you were in your young days.

WIFE IV: You're so kind, thank you !

HUSBAND IV: [*takes out glasses and champagne*] We must drink to this ! [*pours the champagne into the glasses*] To us, my love !

WIFE IV: To us ! [*they drink*]

HUSBAND IV: To our children and their future children !

WIFE IV: To children! [*they drink; pause*]

HUSBAND IV: [*drinks another glass*] I'm glad we got our children married .

WIFE IV: Of course ! So am I .

HUSBAND IV: It seems we chose well for them .

WIFE IV: We have .

HUSBAND IV: [*pause*] You know, this is the first time in our lives we are spending summer holiday by ourselves.

WIFE IV: Yes ... [*pause*] When I think about it, I actually miss them ...

HUSBAND IV: Two weeks will pass quickly ...

WIFE IV: We have always been together ...

HUSBAND IV: They are all grown- ups .

WIFE IV: [*sighs*] Unfortunately .

HUSBAND IV: [*pause, suddenly remembers*] Let's have something to eat! [*they take two little bowls, two small spoons, box of cereal and milk out of the suitcase; they lay it all out on the table, in silence; and sit opposite each other*] Enjoy it !

WIFE IV: You too ! [*they slowly eat the cereal and sigh after each bite*]

HUSBAND IV: I cannot have any more of this cereal, it is terribly filling .

WIFE IV: You are not eating well, darling . Have some more .

HUSBAND IV: I really cannot have any more, it is a bit monotonous.

WIFE IV: [*takes his plate away*] There's nothing wrong with this food . I'll keep this for tomorrow. It's light food . It's a pity to waste it ! I wonder how the kids are dealing with the house keeping ...

*HUSBAND IV:*I guess they are doing well .

WIFE IV: They never knew how to do anything.

*HUSBAND IV:*We never taught them anything .

WIFE IV: They did not want to learn !

*HUSBAND IV:*Well, we did everything for them.

WIFE IV: Why should the children work ? [*pause*] Oh, they grew up so fast.

*HUSBAND IV:*You have me.

WIFE IV: It is senseless to cook without them, or clean or even fight without them.

*HUSBAND IV:*That's why we came here so that we wouldn't have to do any of these things.

WIFE IV: So what are we going to do?

*HUSBAND IV:*We'll rest .

WIFE IV: But I'm not tired.

*HUSBAND IV:*We'll think of something. For starters, let's relax ...

WIFE IV: [*pause*] Maybe we should call them ...

*HUSBAND IV:*We'd better not .. they could be busy ...

WIFE IV: I don't think so ... this is the first time they are without us.

*HUSBAND IV:*They'll think we are trying to control them.

WIFE IV: Ok, I won't ... Should I try later ?

HUSBAND IV:[*pause, happily*] I remembered ! Let's go and check the computer, maybe they sent us a message !

WIFE IV: [*brightly*] Well done ! What a good idea ! [*they run to the computer, HUSBAND IV types; suddenly they get sad*]

HUSBAND IV: [*slowly, confused, he reads the message on the screen*] " We do not know you ."

[*darkness*]

Scene II

[*husband sits at the computer with a worried face ; wife sits and reads*]

HUSBAND IV: [*depressed*] We' re supposed to leave tomorrow ...

WIFE IV: [*lifts her head in surprise*] Well, yes ! Tomorrow the two weeks are up . You, obviously don't feel like going home, do you ?

HUSBAND IV: [*confused*] Oh .. well ...

WIFE IV: Did you pay the bills ?

HUSBAND IV: I don't want to get you upset, darling ...

WIFE IV: You already have . What's wrong ?

HUSBAND IV: You know ... no one paid the bills ...

WIFE IV: [*jumping out of the chair*] That's impossible !

HUSBAND IV: They couldn't ...

WIFE IV: [*cuts him off, and walks over to the computer*] Let me see what's not paid for! Show me ! [*husband types fearfully*] Not one of the bills from the previous three owners has been paid. It's unbelievable ! Wait, let me see what is this. Compensation to the gardener ! They are complete fools ! I cannot understand ! That are all well off people.

HUSBAND IV: [*far away*] Maybe they were ...

WIFE IV: How can you be so indifferent; it's a robbery in broad daylight! Report them at once !

HUSBAND IV: [*confused*] I tried ...

WIFE IV: [*determined*] Forget the computer. I'll call them on the phone, one by one.

HUSBAND IV: [*panic*] But that's not allowed !

WIFE IV: What is not allowed ? And they were allowed to leave the bills ! It never stops surprising me what people are capable of! With that logic in mind we should leave all the bills to the fifth owners. How would they feel ? Please, can you give me the number of the first owners ?

HUSBAND IV:[*avoiding*] You know... I've already called them...

WIFE IV: And ?

*HUSBAND IV:*Nobody is answering .

WIFE IV: I would not be surprised if they changed the number. Give me the number of the police.

*HUSBAND IV:*Don't, please, it won't be necessary !

WIFE IV: What do you mean it's not necessary, they robbed us !

*HUSBAND IV:*I've already called the police ...

WIFE IV: And what did they say ? That they escaped across the border ?

HUSBAND IV:[*resigned*] Across the border.. They've been ...

WIFE IV: Thieves ...

*HUSBAND IV:*They've been dead for a long time .

WIFE IV: What are you saying ! It's impossible ! They were alive when you bought our two weeks in the house!

*HUSBAND IV:*I wouldn't know that. We've never met. That's in the contract. No meetings, socializing, communicating... all communication was supposed to be through a computer. We all wanted complete peace .

WIFE IV: We do not care whether they are alive or dead ! That's after all, their business ! If they are better off dead, let them be dead. At least we know we are free ! But the bills must be paid ! Those who signed the contract should pay .

*HUSBAND IV:*Try to understand, they no longer exist.

[*darkness*]

Scene III

[*WIFE IV packing the things; HUSBAND IV sitting down completely resigned*]

WIFE IV: You could help a little !

HUSBAND IV: There's no need ...

WIFE IV: I know there 's no need for you, stuck in that chair ! We must hurry ! The fifth owners are about to come ...

HUSBAND IV: You still don't get it ... They can 't arrive any more...

WIFE IV: [*suddenly the door bell rings; HUSBAND IV gets up; WIFE IV goes to the door*]
There, you see, they arrived . [*opens the door, there's no one there, pause ; darkness*]

Scene IV

[*change in lighting signifies the surreal ; all the characters repeat things that have already been said in their stories, and the gestures, resembling the musical figure of a theme, now and then a sentence comes out which transforms from character to character: after some sentences characters may one by one or more at once freeze*]

HUSBAND I : Well, here is our little house.

SON II: [*circles the whole room in his wheelchair, clumsily clapping*] Ma-Ma ! Pa - Pa!

WIFE II: Look how happy our little boy is.

DAUGHTER: But I'm not tired !

SON I: We don't know you . [*freeze*]

WIFE III: And how many children shall we have , love ?

HUSBAND III : This many, this many, this many ... [*freeze*]

SON I: We don't know you !

SON II: Ma - ma ! Pa - pa !

DAUGHTER: There you go, but it will be hard to swallow.

HUSBAND I : Well, didn't I bring you to this nice house !

DAUGHTER: We don't know you . [*freeze*]

WIFE III: Get away from me you monster, animal !

SON II: You're a real woman... You need to be discovered ...

WIFE III: What are you talking about ?

HUSBAND IV: You're still as attractive as you were in your younger days !

SON I & DAUGHTER: That's the way you brought us up ! [*they freeze*]

WIFE IV: It is senseless to cook without them, or clean or even fight without them.

HUSBAND I : You'll see, we'll have a good time .

SON II: Thank -you ! Thank -you ! [*circles in the chair, clapping*]

DAUGHTER: But I'm not tired !

SON I: We don't know you ! [*freeze*]

WIFE III: Love - champagne !

HUSBAND III: Champagne !

WIFE III: To us !

HUSBAND III: To us !

SON II : What a pity I'll stop admiring you some day .

SON I & DAUGHTER: We don't know you .

[*they continue to repeat the same movements for a while, but without a word ; they slowly freeze one by one; darkness*]

Scene V

[*wife IV nervously and hurriedly packs things, panic; husband IV sits resigned*]

WIFE IV: Let's get out of here ! This house is damned ! They sell dead people here ! Help me with the luggage !

HUSBAND IV:[*resigned*] Leave those suitcases ... you won't need them any more ... come sit next to me ...

WIFE IV: [*in a panic*] Maybe they all ... disappeared here ... we must get out of here ! I want out, back to life !

HUSBAND IV:[*slowly*] Leave those things ... we missed all that... we're not going anywhere. We've been dead for a long time .

[*darkness*]

Part II

The first couple's story

Scene I

[*HUSBAND I, WIFE I, SON I and DAUGHTER in the same sitting room; SON I sitting at the computer and types, very concentrated; HUSBAND I, WIFE I and DAUGHTER closely watching his work standing around the computer staring at the monitor*]

HUSBAND I :Press the 'escape' key now !

SON I: I know, stay out of it !

HUSBAND I :Please, do it slowly , so you don't mess it up, you are in the main database .

SON I: [*angrily*] Stop bothering me! I know where I am .

WIFE I : Let him do it, we know nothing about these things.

HUSBAND I :There, that's the database ! [*points with his finger to the screen*] Go in ! That's it ! We're in ! Skip this, it's not important and get rid of those records. That and that. Delete them all the way to the end ! Well done ! We did it ! [*he hugs everyone*] Children, we're saved !

WIFE I : [*to her son*] Explain what you've done ?!

SON I: I broke the code for the main database in the police and deleted all the data they had on us . And than I went to other databases. We're not in any of the databases in the whole world.

DAUGHTER: You broke into the highest security data base ? You're a genius !

HUSBAND I :How about that ?No more debts, bills

WIFE I : [*breaking in*] What is going to happen to us ?

HUSBAND I :We can do whatever we want to !

DAUGHTER: You mean now we can steel without fear .

HUSBAND I :What are you talking about ? We're a decent family .

DAUGHTER: Which no longer exists .

HUSBAND I :That's only fictitious ! We do not exist for bills.

DAUGHTER: Who do we exist for ?

HUSBAND I :What do you mean, for who ? For us ... Thanks to this we'll survive .

WIFE I : We must get out of here... I'll pack the things .

HUSBAND I :Why would we leave ? No one knows we're here any more .

DAUGHTER: So what do we do now ?

HUSBAND I :We can finally relax. I need a complete and thorough rest from paying bills and keeping our existence. Now we can start living .

DAUGHTER: But you deleted me from where I used to live ! I want to go back !

HUSBAND I :You cannot honey ! I can not afford that !

DAUGHTER: I'm a nobody now .

HUSBAND I :And what were you before ?

DAUGHTER: I was somebody !

HUSBAND I :I'm sorry, but I can only afford to have you as a nobody, but a nobody with a decent life.

DAUGHTER: And how did you envisage that ?

HUSBAND I :We'll have a life in those holiday houses ! We'll move every two weeks. We'll become owners of two weeks in another house, such as this. Than another, and another ...

DAUGHTER: But that is terrible !

HUSBAND I :No, it is not, we'll get used to it. It will be dynamic and full of new things. Every two weeks a new beginning.

DAUGHTER: Every two weeks a new end. What is the point ?

HUSBAND I :You are stubborn. Who needs a point ? That costs money ! I haven't got that kind of money. You'll have to find a point in things that are free of charge .

DAUGHTER: And you think we won't be caught .

HUSBAND I :They cannot find us; honey, we're not in the database. We have no barcode number. We're out . Get it, no data ! Clean ! [*suddenly a digital sound comes out of the computer; HUSBAND I walks over to it and reads out the message slowly in shock*]

HUSBAND I :“I know you are there . I'm coming . The Owner !” [*everyone is silent and in shock*].

DAUGHTER: [*in panic*] Let's get out of here !

HUSBAND I :[*types a message and reads*] " We don't know you ."

The second couple's story

Scene I

[*in the same sitting room HUSBAND II & WIFE II pushing the wheelchair around as if it were a pram while SON II is dozing in it*]

SON II: [*suddenly wakes up, mumbles in fear and looks around uncoordinatedly and shakes his head*] Mmmmmmm....

WIFE II: [*worriedly*] What is it darling ?

HUSBAND II:He's restless ! Did you give him his usual dose of sedatives ?

WIFE II: Of course ! [*to the son*] Does something hurt you ?

SON II: [*waves his head no energetically; points uncoordinatedly with his hands around*]
Mmmmm ...

WIFE II: Something in the room bothers him. [*to her son*] Show to mama, what's wrong ?

SON II: [*points his hands around the room; starts whining sadly like a puppy*] Mmmm...

HUSBAND II:The room is making him nervous because it is completely new for him. He'll need time to adapt.

WIFE II: [*to SON II*] Come on, don't be afraid. Mom and Dad are here. Are you afraid of something ?

SON II : [*points his head and points around the room*] Mmmm ...

HUSBAND II:Are you afraid of this house ?

SON II : [*nods his head*] Mmmm

HUSBAND II:There's nothing to be afraid of . It's just the three of us here !

SON II: [*he shakes his head nervously and points all around*] Mmmm...

WIFE II: He can feel something.. [*pause*] Remember those books about retarded children with especially developed senses ...

HUSBAND II:Come on, do not be superstitious . He is a sick retarded child and it is not surprising that new surroundings scare him. He has no developed systems for adapting, nor intelligence, and he cannot understand that new space is not bad and it won't hurt him .

WIFE II: He is a very sensitive child. I am telling you that he senses something we cannot see...

SON II: [*whines and looks around him*] Mmmm

WIFE II: Honey, are you afraid of someone ?

SON II: [*nods*] Mmm ...

WIFE II: You can see somebody except Mom and Dad in the room ?
SON II: [*nods; mumbles excitedly and points all around*] Mmmm ...

WIFE II: Where is it, honey ?

SON II : [*points to walls, floor, ceiling*] M mmmm

WIFE II : Someone is in the floor ?

SON II : [*nods*] Mmmm...

WIFE II: And someone is in the wall ?

SON II : [*nods*] Mmmm ...

HUSBAND II: Leave the child alone, can't you see he's making it all up.

WIFE II: He is not ! He can feel something ! Darling is someone in the ceiling as well ?

SON II: [*nods, getting more excited*] Mmmm ...

WIFE II : Did someone die here ?

SON II : [*nods and spreads his hands*] Mmm ...

WIFE II : Many people ?

SON II : [*very excitedly*] Mmm ... [*suddenly the light goes down*]

WIFE II: [*scared*] What is this ? Why did the electricity go down ?

HUSBAND II: Don't panic ! I'll go and check the installations .

WIFE II : Don't go anywhere ! Don't leave us now ! [*to her son*] Darling, don't be afraid of anything! Your Mom's here ! [*holds his hand*] Do you know who died ?

SON II : [*whining affirmatively ; electricity goes down again, the wall is cracking*] Mmmm ...

WIFE II: [*trying to fight panic*] Sunshine, did some of the owners of this house die ?

SON II: [*excitedly, strongly nods and starts moaning*] Mmmm ...

HUSBAND II:[*finally worried*] O.K., that is enough !

WIFE II : [*not listening, intensively and panicking questions her son*] Did the ones who were

here before us die ?
SON II : [*nods his head, moans , suddenly the chandelier falls down, light is turned off, the wall is cracking more and more, WIFE II screams*]Mmmm

HUSBAND II : [*in total silence*] I 'll go and check the installations . Don't worry .

WIFE II : [*in darkness*] Give me your hand ! Where are you ? Where did you disappear ?!
Say something ! [*starts gurgling as if she were choking*] This wall! No ! No ! I can't breath ! I'm falling through the wall ! Aaaaaa !!!! [*a few seconds of total silence in total darkness, a strong light suddenly appears; there's no one on the stage and no trace of anyone ever being there ; it is again a spotlessly clean living room; a few seconds of silence; total darkness*]

The third couple's story

Scene I

[*in the same living room the newly wed couple is sitting in the middle of their baggage, eating and drinking*]

HUSBAND III : Love - champagne !

WIFE III : Champagne!

HUSBAND III : [*fills the glasses and salutes*] To our marriage !

WIFE III: To us ! [*husband III drinks, the wife III turns her glass in her hands*]

HUSBAND III : What is it, love ? Why aren't you drinking ?

WIFE III : I cannot ... I feel kind of uncomfortable ... I have a feeling that I've already been here, drunk champagne and made a toast to our marriage . It sounds stupid , but I cannot repeat the same things .

HUSBAND III : You must have dreamt it , love . We are in this house for the very first time . This is a unique, unrepeatable, holiday house !

WIFE III: You are repeating the words from the add. I'm sure you did it before !

HUSBAND III : Love, don't be childish ! Come to me !

WIFE III : I'm sorry love, but I cannot . I don't feel well.

HUSBAND III: It must be from the trip . Tomorrow you'll be fresh and rested .

WIFE III : I don't know ... I feel a terrible weight in my whole body ...

HUSBAND III : Go and lie down , darling ! There was too much excitement today ...

WIFE III: [*slowly and without energy , goes to bed*] That's not it ... I'm falling apart from the inside ...

HUSBAND III : [*holding her worriedly*] You're not going to get sick , love, on the first day of our marriage ? You must have picked up a virus somewhere on the way .

WIFE III : [*stops him, listens*] Quiet! ... Can you hear ? [*voices from HUSBAND IV and WIFE IV are heard in the background*]

HUSBAND IV : [*voice*] You' re still as attractive as you were in your younger days !

WIFE III: [*cringes with pain*] Can you hear it ?

HUSBAND III : [*in panic*] No ! I can not hear anything ! Love, what's wrong ?

WIFE IV: [*voice*] It is senseless to cook without them, or clean or even fight without them.

WIFE III : That woman wants something from me ! She's trying to tell me something !

HUSBAND III : [*fearing his wife is going mad*] What woman, love ? We're all alone here . You can see there's no one here. Come on, come to bed with me. We'll have a rest.

WIFE IV: [*voice*] But I'm not tired !

WIFE III: But I'm not tired ! Someone is repeating my thoughts . Someone is taking thoughts out of my head !

HUSBAND III: [*holding her*] Calm down ! Nobody can touch you or your thoughts while I'm here .

WIFE III : I feel as if I'm dissolving . Second by second ! I'm never going to leave this house.

HUSBAND III : [*in panic*] What is it love ?

WIFE III : Put me to bed ! [*HUSBAND III puts her weightless body on the bed*] I can feel years speeding through my veins... my body is so heavy... I cannot move it ... I feel unreal .. give me the mirror from my bag , I must see myself !

HUSBAND III: But darling, you look completely normal , young, healthy and beautiful like you

did all day !

WIFE III: [*touches her face*] No, no, I can feel it under my fingers that it is not the same !
Quickly, hand me the mirror ! I am changing every second !

HUSBAND III : [*hands her the mirror*] Everything is all right, love !

WIFE III: [*screams when she sees herself in the mirror*] I'm an old woman ! [*her voice becomes older and she speaks slowly*] That voice, it was my voice . I'm dissolving !
We should not have come here . I got an aging disease .

HUSBAND III: But love, I still see you young and beautiful ! You're mumbling !

WIFE III: Hold me tight ... I can see hands coming out of the walls, ears, eyes, fingers... soon I
will too ... [*darkness*]

The fourth couple's story

Scene I

[*in the living room, the elderly couple*]

HUSBAND IV: We've been here, remember ?

WIFE IV: No, I don't recognize it. Nothing reminds me. No memory. We have definitely not
been here.

HUSBAND IV: You must remember ! Two weeks . They were always the same two weeks in the
same house .

WIFE IV: Sounds like a dream . You dreamt it .

HUSBAND IV: No way ! Everything started here and everything ends here . We've come to the
right place .

WIFE IV: We've come on holiday .

HUSBAND IV: That's beside the point now. We've come to our place . Here is the beginning and
the end . It will soon become one . We used up our two weeks .

WIFE IV: What are you talking about ? We've just arrived ! We haven't even started our two
weeks !

HUSBAND IV : You don't know . You can't see how we've been going in circles . The beginning is also the end, when you come from the other side ...

WIFE IV : Why did you bring me here ?

HUSBAND IV: It's O.K., darling . Don't waste your energy . We have so little time ... The Owner will soon be here ...

WIFE IV: What do you mean ? Doesn't this house have many owners ?

HUSBAND IV : This house is divide into strips of time belonging to different owners . But none of us really own the house. The time we spent here does not exist any more. You don't even remember it . We were like the others just renting our life .

WIFE IV: Then lets get out of here !

HUSBAND IV : That isn't possible any more. The Owner is coming .

WIFE IV: I don't care !

HUSBAND IV: Honey , get ready !

WIFE IV: What is wrong with you ? I don't want to wait for him ! I want to get out of here .

HUSBAND IV : There's no way out ...

WIFE IV: This is not the house from the add ! The walls are coming in! I can hear my heartbeat in the foundations ! I am scared ! What's wrong with me ? My breathing is coming from the outside ! I'm like in my own insides in this house !

HUSBAND IV: That is the sign you're feeling the Owner . This whole house is Him. We're becoming a part of Him ... [*the door bell rings; the door opens; there's no one there; HUSBAND IV and WIFE IV scream scared; jump and shout to someone they can only see, in horror and surprise*]

HUSBAND IV & WIFE IV : [*in unison, scared*] We don't know you ! [*darkness*]

THE END

Translation by Svetlana Jurko