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From *nervous lily unattended*

Dialogues From Act II *the making of a jury*

[two or more players may occupy the same dot]

Scenes take place in a one bedroom apartment, second floor, all lights on, 5 am.

In the living room

boy with many occupations: When does your flight leave?

girl in drag: Delayed.

boy with many occupations: Is that a time?

girl in drag: That's what I was told.

boy with many occupations: What are you reading?

girl in drag: *Airplanes For Charlie.*

boy with many occupations: What's the story?

girl in drag: It's about a first-round-out spelling bee contestant and a fifty-four year old alcoholic ex-model and their unlikely relationship.

boy with many occupations: How is it?

girl in drag: Haven't started.

boy with many occupations: Your bookmark is in the middle.

girl in drag: Sometimes I don't know how to explain it.

In the hallway

boy with many occupations: Is there a place I can rest my head?

girl in drag: Are you looking for safety?

boy with many occupations: Today, yes.

girl in drag: Do I know you?

boy with many occupations: You've known me half your life.

girl in drag: I just met you a minute ago.

boy with many occupations: You're suddenly uncomfortable now that you call me stranger.

girl in drag: You've become stranger, of course I'm uncomfortable.

In the kitchen

girl in drag: Are you in love with me anymore?

Boy with many occupations thinks for a minute.

boy with many occupations: If I think about it for awhile I would have to say no...but wait...ask me again and I'll answer right away.

girl in drag: Are you in love with me?

Boy with many occupations thinks for two minutes.

boy with many occupations: I can't answer that quickly so I would still have to say no.

girl in drag: Have you grown tired?

boy with many occupations: At times I've been tired.

girl in drag: Will you stay here?

boy with many occupations: Your sudden questioning is so endearing.

girl in drag: Avoidance of questions with insincere compliments.

boy with many occupations: I'm new to this.

In the bathroom

girl in drag: We are suppose to be talking about time travel.

boy with many occupations: Why?

girl in drag: The ancestor on the news yesterday was giving me suspicious looks.

boy with many occupations: When one moves too quickly there is a chance of misreading.

girl in drag: I have identified the location of the problem.

boy with many occupations: In the shoulders.

girl in drag: How did you know?

boy with many occupations: The ancestor on the news.

girl in drag: The ancestor is quite upsetting.

boy with many occupations: And helpful.

Into the closet

girl in drag: But what is the problem?

boy with many occupations: *The innocents?*

girl in drag: I use to think so.

boy with many occupations: Stage fright when crossing a large intersection?

girl in drag: Possibly.

boy with many occupations: Dirty glasses?

girl in drag: Now your just making fun of me.

boy with many occupations: Sometimes I let you sleep in.

girl in drag: Sometimes I pretend to be sleeping.

boy with many occupations: This is quite upsetting.

girl in drag: And helpful.

In the bedroom

girl in drag: Am I asking too many questions?

boy with many occupations: Yes and not enough.

Boy with many occupations turns off bedroom light.

Bedroom into kitchen

Girl in drag and boy with many occupations are sleeping in bed. Girl in drag gets up and goes to kitchen. She opens refrigerator door and kneels down, searching for something to eat. The refrigerator is filled with only condiments and a television on the first shelf. Television turns on, the ancestor on the news appears. She sees the ancestor and lights a cigarette. Girl in drag speaks to the ancestor in a proper English dialect.

girl in drag: Unfortunate.

ancestor on the news: Quiet, he will hear you.

girl in drag: The bottles on the counter are empty.

ancestor on the news: What are you looking for?

girl in drag: No loud questions.

ancestor on the news: Waiting.

girl in drag: It goes familiar then far.

ancestor on the news: Third grader from Schererville, Indiana killed herself after losing the annual spelling bee. A community in shock. A neighbor was heard to remark, "A shy girl, didn't say much but her drawings of zoo animals were exceptional. The local dentist said, "They seemed like such a nice family, who would have known such a dysfunction was going on in this town, how embarrassing for the medical profession everywhere."

girl in drag: Next time I shall bring a coat.

Girl in drag closes refrigerator door. Stands there, smoking. Lights out in kitchen for a minute. Lights up, girl in drag in the same place. She turns on the kitchen faucet to put out the cigarette. She opens refrigerator door, sits down and lights a cigarette.

girl in drag: Unfortunate.

ancestor on the news: Have you misplaced something?

girl in drag: Have you seen my moxie?

ancestor on the news: She was last seen in puffy sleeves next to train tracks.

girl in drag: I know the ducks on the front lawn but what's the idea?

ancestor on the news: I notice the way you sit.

girl in drag: A slump in the shoulders.

ancestor on the news: There is never a clean story.

girl in drag: What about expectation?

ancestor on the news: Spelling bee first round out not charmed. There was a fall. All the papers covered it. She was not one to speak first or second. Third grader never dreamed of a marriage. First start with religion then to sex. This is not a zipper. The community thought to say but instead understated and obvious. Comments please send us a sound of pulling. There was talk in a car. Unrecorded.

girl in drag: You pretend to sit flashy. I adore you.

Girl in drag closes refrigerator door. Lights out in kitchen for a minute. Lights up, girl in drag in the same place. She turns on the faucet to put out the cigarette. She opens refrigerator door and sits down. She holds a cigarette that she never lights.

girl in drag: Unfortunate.

ancestor on the news: I have never heard you talk so much.

girl in drag: Is this being recorded?

ancestor on the news: Now I recognize you.

girl in drag: What about rooms, assembly lines and things that have wings?

ancestor on the news: You are moving too fast.

girl in drag: A circle learns to build, name six escape routes.

ancestor on the news: Girl known as lower case. The papers said no note was found. Under her bed there was a note that read...

girl in drag: ...*Speak. Sound in head. Is that allowed. I speak sometimes. You hurt me with your flash. Guarded. But there is a long staircase of a seamstress with ready caramels. I don't think her hair is real but her stairs are always tempting. No more than two steps. Shit why am I not more brave.*

Girl in drag takes out the shelves in the refrigerator and the television. She enters refrigerator and closes the door. Television is still on. The ancestor on the news lights a cigarette and turns around to reveal a refrigerator. Opens it. There is a television on the first shelf. The ancestor turns on the television. The girl in drag appears. Lights out.

[the interview process]

Girl in drag stands center stage. The box in the middle not taped shut shutters overlapping and tucked is off stage. Penny Detective sits in the audience in the second row. The audience is mannequins.

girl in drag: I'm tired.

penny detective: "Your guest are wondering when they may be permitted to view the body?"

girl in drag: I require two to three feet of distance to tell my story.

penny detective: Your request has been reviewed and is considered useful in scenes without dialogue but other than that closeness has its own legs.

girl in drag: You look familiar.

penny detective: Possibly.

girl in drag: Were you in my refrigerator last night?

penny detective: Possibly.

girl in drag: You are always there.

penny detective: As are you.

girl in drag: Always.

penny detective: Comforting?

girl in drag: Always.

penny detective: Disturbing?

girl in drag: I have decided. Always and never mean the same thing.

penny detective: Possibly.

girl in drag: You have many names.

penny detective: I suppose I must have been well schooled.

girl in drag: Then you must have a good memory.

penny detective: I have no memory at all.

girl in drag: Then how do you move?

penny detective: Very carefully, mostly with my legs.

Girl in drag looks down at her hands, at him, at her hands, him, her hands, turns hands over and over and over, over and over.

girl in drag: How do I know if they're accurate?

[circle says]

circle: There is a Mr. at the door. Shall I let him in?

girl in drag: Not yet. I'm gluing my hands together.

[ventures]

Paper father is sitting on a bench, appears to be waiting. He is clutching the box in the middle not taped shut shutters overlapping and tucked in his hands. Girl in drag enters stage right, crosses his path and sits next to him. He doesn't seem to notice her.

girl in drag: Do you remember me?

paper father: You use to be a little girl.

girl in drag: I suppose I grew.

paper father: I don't know you.

girl in drag: What are you waiting for?

paper father: An elephant.

girl in drag: Here?

paper father: The investors told me to wait here.

girl in drag: What investors?

paper father: The ones on the news.

girl in drag: What is the elephant for?

paper father: A business venture.

girl in drag: They invest in elephants?

paper father: In ideas. I'm starting a circus.

girl in drag: I'm building a case.

paper father: Then we must be related.

girl in drag: You remember?

paper father: I remember a ghost t-shirt and a moving van. Everything else is under suspicion.

girl in drag: What's in the box?

Paper father looks at girl in drag for the first time in the scene.

paper father: Oh, I didn't see you sitting there. Are you waiting for the Clark Street bus too? It's running late.

Paper father and girl in drag stare into the audience. No one moves for a moment. Paper father hands the girl in drag the box in the middle not taped shut shutters overlapping and tucked. She takes the box. Gets up and exits stage left.

[overheard backstage]

the teeth I lost when I was four: Nancy Drew can not be blamed for this but Sherlock Holmes is still a concern.

[stable no horse]

Girl in drag and 99 red balloons center stage. The always room door divides them. It is hung from the ceiling by rusty wires. There are no walls or any sense of supportive structures. They have their ears pressed to the door. Girl in drag is speaking in a childhood language.

girl in drag: Efti onla secarredy?

No sound from 99 red balloons. He appears to be deaf. He slips paper under the door to communicate, drawings no words.

"A horse stable, no horse."

girl in drag: Gebin altros merg sinalanti netor bink carlauf.

"Feet wrinkled from bathtub."

girl in drag: Tasy linksy carm buv.

"A blue car with hands as wheels."

girl in drag: Hali yut dert venastrabu linc.

"Small cat yelling at a tree."

girl in drag: Poz?

"Girl giving a hot look."

girl in drag: Nr. Gurt mutee.

"A painting painting itself."

girl in drag: spalnk.

Lights out.

[a walk through]

Paper father and boy with many occupations enter stage left and walk across the stage. Their dialogue is spoken as they cross the stage.

paper father: I believe I am based on a real person.

boy with many occupations: I forgot my line.

Paper father pulls out a piece of paper from his back pocket.

paper father: It says you say, "By a show of hands, I see what you mean."

boy with many occupations: I would never say that.

paper father: I don't think these are our lines.

They exit stage right.

[gambling]

Two mannequins are sitting at a table. Agreeable utensil and an even number of sentences are standing behind each mannequin. They are holding a script, they speak for the mannequins. The mannequins are playing cards, six different card games at once. Agreeable utensil and an even number of sentences move the cards for them.

agreeable utensil: Peddling the rally?

an even number of sentences: Rummaging for Thursday.

agreeable utensil: First sea shell.

an even number of sentences: A steady drink hand.

agreeable utensil: A good fish.

an even number of sentences: Hook with...

agreeable utensil: ...a shy marmalade.

an even number of sentences: A kick and my billy.

agreeable utensil: Break of third posture?

an even number of sentences: A new since.

Under the agreeable utensil's mannequin's chair is the box in the middle not tapped shut shutters overlapping and tucked. The agreeable utensil puts the box in front of the other mannequin. They continue to play as lights very slowly dim to lights out.