

A Siren Concealed

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Characters:

Mother: *A woman in her late forties. She has the look of goodness, and a touch of beauty that has not gone away yet.*

Girl: *A young woman aged twenty. She looks very innocent and shy, and yet feels a lot of hatred for her stepfather.*

Man: *The stepfather. He is a strong man, of the mother's age or slightly older.*

Siren: *A personality concealed inside the Girl.*

Maid: *An elderly woman; the girl's nanny.*

The Lame Man: *A young man who is Lame and ugly. He wears shabby clothes and drinks lots of alcohol.*



- The action of the play takes place in the Girl's mind, in a combination of the workings of memory and imagination.

The Scene: A humble house in a small village. Backstage there is an elevation with a few steps at the centre, which can be used for the imaginary events taking place inside the Girl's mind. The front-stage level is used for the actual events taking place in reality.

Curtain rises to reveal the Girl asleep under a spotlight. She starts tossing and turning, which suggests her discomfort. There follows a simple dance as the Siren's personality comes out of the Girl's character despite the Girl's attempts at concealing it. The dance ends with the Siren's exit out of the Girl. The play begins.

- There is a chair over the elevation, on which the Girl is seated with her back to the audience, while the Siren is in front of her, facing the audience, wearing clothes

reflecting her personality, with a judge's pin attached. At the far left of the stage, the Mother is seated, while the Man is seated at the far right. Each of them is sitting still until their role begins in the action.

PART ONE

Siren: *(Standing in an imaginary courtroom)*
Court in session! .. **(Silence)** .. Today's
crime is a murder .. the victim is a man
in his fifties, and this girl is the cul-
prit.. The defence lawyer! .. **(Silence)**..
There's no defence .. so defend your-
self! Why did you murder him?

Girl: **(Crying)** I didn't kill him.

Siren: You did. There is a murder.

Girl: I didn't kill him .. He ran away .. I
didn't kill him.

Siren: There are witnesses.

*(At this point, characters pour out of the Girl's
memory.)*

*(The Maid appears and seems to be
talking to the Siren, but we discov-
er that she is actually talking to the
Mother.)*

Maid: I've been working here for over twenty

years .. I carried her in my arms when she was but a few months old baby .. She was very attached to you .. and was jealous about you. That's why I advised you not to remarry after her father.

Mother: (Enters into the action, and looks both exhausted and suffering) Many women remarry after their husbands' deaths. This wasn't a mistake, nor is it a sin for which I deserve to be punished. One's life is none of anybody's business.

Maid: But we don't live alone in this world. Please be sure of my trust in both you and your daughter. I'm absolutely sure that she hasn't done anything shameful to you or your family. But there are people who find utmost pleasure in gossiping about people's very private and personal lives.

Mother: This is driving me crazy. Could it have reached such a degree! Is there any

new gossip going on? **(Silence)** Please don't hide anything from me.

Maid: People are talking about...

Mother: About what? Speak out! **(Silence)** Please!

Maid: ... About a relationship .. some sort of a relationship.

Mother: Between whom???

Maid: It's not your daughter's fault. I'm sure.

Mother: Between whom?

Maid: Regardless of how much you care for him - because he's your husband - you shouldn't forget that he's a stranger to this house .. and that he's a man. And as you know, men's eyes always look at beautiful young women. It's their nature .. they're always seeking more.

Mother: What are you saying???

Maid: I'm not saying anything .. but they're the ones saying...

Mother: Who are they???

Maid: The people .. the villagers .. the neighbours .. Everyone around.

Mother: What are they saying??

Maid: They're saying that he asked her fiancé to break up with her, and that he threatened to kill him if he didn't.

Mother: (Turning paler) Who are you talking about?? I don't understand a thing!

Maid: Is it that you don't understand or cannot believe?! (Silence) They even made up a song .. Did you hear it?

Siren: (Singing) Beat the drums .. Let us say .. Who seeks her love .. Is chained and killed.

Mother: My husband?! (The Siren continues singing in a low voice) I knew it .. I felt it .. This means that everything

is right, and that it's no use wanting to remain blind so as not to see. What patch was there covering my eyes?! Now everything is as clear as the daylight, though if only one could stay blind!

(Here the scene between the Siren and the Mother freezes. The Siren and the Girl then appear backstage.)

Girl: I didn't kill him.

Siren: Was there "some sort of" a relationship between the two of you?

Girl: Between whom?

Siren: Between you and him.

Girl: I hated him.

Siren: Is that all??

(The Girl seems as though she is remembering something. The scene freezes. The Man moves towards the Girl.)

Girl: Why are you looking at me this way?

Siren: I know that you like me.

Man: What are you doing?

Girl: I was sewing these shirts, and I'm going to iron them now.

Man: Where you sewing them for me?

Girl: You can see for yourself.

Siren: Let your eyes delve deep inside me so that they may see.

Man: You look very beautiful today.

Girl: Do I look like my mother?

Man: You are more beautiful and spontaneous.

Siren: **(Laughing)** And what if you have the choice .. would you choose the mother or daughter?

Man: You .. You attract me very powerfully.

Girl: Go away!

Siren: **(Laughing)** Patience .. patience!

Man: You're mine.

Siren: Yes.

Girl: Go away .. go away from me.

(The scene freezes. The Man leaves, and the Girl goes back to her initial self.)

Girl: He was the one...

(The Siren laughs loudly, while the Mother goes to the Girl.)

Mother: Look steadily into my eyes.

Girl: What has happened to you, Mother?

Mother: No .. It can't be your fault.

Girl: What did they tell you?

Mother: What everyone knows now .. You don't know that your chastity is sung in songs.

Girl: My chastity!

Siren: *(Sings)*

Girl: I consider myself most chaste. As to the rest, they're free to think as they

wish.

Mother: Don't hide anything from me. Tell me everything. Why didn't you ever call him Daddy?

Girl: Because one has just one father .. as you well know. And this man could never be a father to me, because I've always hated him from the moment he set foot in this house and brought hell along with him.

Mother: But from now on you'll call him Daddy. Do you understand?

Girl: My father's dead. Do you want me to go to the cemetery and call him there? .. I have no other father. This one is your husband, and he cannot be anything to me other than being this man .. This Man .. That's the only name I have for him.

Mother: So why didn't you keep silent? Why didn't' you tell me everything?

Girl: Would you have believed me when you're so blinded in his presence. He used to eat me up with his eyes in your presence, and he used to run around chasing me like a madman all the time. Do you want me to tell you more? .. Well .. I hate him.. I hate him to the degree of wanting him to be madder and madder so that I may see you hate him as much as I hate him.

Maid: **(Enters)** Madam .. Madam .. They found the body .. The body of your daughter's fiancé.

Mother: Oh my God!

Girl: And who did it?

Maid: They're whispering that it has to do with the Lame man who must've been paid by someone to do it. That's what he said himself when he was drunk. But he's run away before the matter's out.

(The scene freezes. The Girl is stunned again,

and there's a renewed sense of tension between her and the Siren.)

Girl: What was my poor fiancé killed for?
We could've reached an end without death.

Siren: An end without death! How chaste you are indeed!

Girl: I am indeed chaste.

Siren: **(Interrupts her while staring at the earrings she is wearing)** How beautiful these earrings are!

Girl: He gave them to me as a gift.

Siren: And these handkerchiefs too!

Girl: He got them for me.

Siren: And this box!

Girl: It was full of sweets one day.

Siren: He really loved you.

Girl: Yes he loved me .. But I hated him. She's the one who loved him blindly. I wonder whether she'd have chosen me

or him if she was to choose between the two of us.

Siren: Enough of this talk that reminds us of things we wish not to remember.

Girl: Remember?? What is it that we'd remember?

Siren: **(Singing)** Beat the drums .. Let us say .. Who seeks her love .. Is chained and killed.

Girl: Enough!

Siren: **(Singing)** It angers her .. When we sing and say ... Beat the drums .. Let us say.. Who seeks her love .. Is chained and killed.

Girl: Enough!

(The scene freezes, while the Mother is seen standing by the window watching the road.)

Maid: **(She comes in and sees her)** Are you going to spend the whole day standing here without eating anything?

Mother: **(Without changing the direction of**

her eyes) Don't worry about me.

Maid: Come on inside with me. What are you doing?

Mother: Waiting.

Maid: For your husband?

Mother: What's been going on for years cannot end in a moment. In spite of everything that I know, I find myself here looking in all directions, and wanting my eyes to pierce their way through these hill-rocks .. It seems to me as if I'm waiting for him the way I used to in the past days, when he would arrive full of joy while I would receive him yearningly. We would, then, sit together like a newly-wed couple talking about the things we did when we weren't together .. And we would laugh .. But now I realise that all of this is over (**she cries**).

Maid: Don't say it.

Mother: I'd have liked to think that he wasn't so wrong.

Maid: Don't think about this man .. He's gone, and I pray to God that he's never back again. Come along with me .. let's go and sit downstairs.

(They go out while the Siren and the girl appear backstage.)

Siren: And what happened next? .. Go on!

Girl: The light was dimmed out .. and I was in the room where nobody could see me, and I realised there were intruders. I waited and I heard his voice, I knew it was him, with his servant.

Siren: And what were they saying?

Girl: **(Recalling the events)** Here I am. What is it that you want now?

(The scene freezes. The Man and the Lame Man enter.)

Man: Here I am. What is it that you want

now?

Lame Man: What should I tell you? You must stay here. You're in your house and you can stay protected here, but if you go on the run instead of facing the situation, we'll be caught.

Man: I'm telling you that here I am .. You brought me here just the way you wanted things to be.

Lame Man: Nobody can prove our involvement in the murder .. Rest assured!

Man: Everything would've been fine if you hadn't exposed us by revealing the secret.

Lame Man: You're right .. and you should've killed me that day. That was the day I felt fear for the first time in my life .. I was terrified for the first time, and I wanted to forget, so I had a drink .. and this is when I lost control over my words.

Man: I often ask myself now .. why did the

man die? what was he killed for?

Lame Man: You know better. Didn't you always repeat to me that "if this woman is to belong to another man I'll take nothing into consideration then"!?

Man: Enough!

Lame Man: Didn't you tell me in despair "she's getting married .. they'll take her away from here .. and this time I can't kick out the one who's taking her away"!?

Man: Shut up!

Lame Man: Weren't these your words? Didn't you say "I'm mad .. I can't live without her .. I'm dying .. I don't know what's happening to me"!?

Man: (About to slap him on the face) Won't you shut up!

Lame Man: Don't you touch me .. and keep this in your mind .. we have to be united. I know very well that you're sorry for everything that's happened, and that

you wouldn't want to see me for the rest of your life if you could. But you have to know that I didn't do anything for the sake of money, but for the sake of power .. I did it because you trusted me, and I know that you can always trust me. Yet when we approach the end, it will be my end alone as I won't say a word about your involvement in the crime. I don't know how many years of imprisonment I'll get .. is it ten or fifteen? But you can make them not exceed that. Anyway, all that I ask of you is that you never forget about me .. so that when I return I could be like a brother to you. A man is worth nothing alone. It's your wife coming here. **(The sound of footsteps)** Excuse me, Madam.

Mother: Go away .. don't get any closer to me. What are you doing here?

Lame Man: You have to see me and listen to me.

Mother: What a lowly position I've reached in my own house. What do you have say to me?

Lame Man: The general prosecutor's office will call for us, sooner or later. It's in everybody's interest that we take one stance. I alone will go to prison, and you have to be assured that things didn't happen the way you think .. I mean the gossip going around the village .. and even that obscene song which...

Mother: I believe nothing except truth .. I believe what I myself know. Don't worry, I won't give anyone in .. but what's the value of my silence when even the rocks sing and announce what's happened all over the place!?

Lame Man: Let them announce whatever they want .. but you are the one who should keep silent.

Mother: Because that's what you want?

Lame Man: Don't get so angry. There's no reason for that.

Mother: There's no reason! You've killed a man!

Lame Man: These words are directed to you, Sir.

Man: Listen to me attentively.

Mother: Do you dare to speak to me?

Man: You're right .. I didn't have the guts to kill myself and end it all once and for all.

Lame Man: Sir.

Man: Go away.

Lame Man: **(To Mother)** If it weren't for me, the man might not have died, but your daughter would've fallen .. But it's all over, now .. It was a matter of an impulse .. of lust. He's cured now, and maybe it's because of me .. So you must know that you should thank me for that.

(She turns her face the other side and cries.)

Man: Don't cry .. I don't want to see you crying .. I don't deserve all these tears. Don't say a thing .. I've already told myself everything that you're about to say .. I've told myself that I'm a criminal and a murderer - more times than you can ever tell me. I'll go and give myself in to the prosecutor's office.

Mother: Do you want to give yourself in, and thus ruin this family and let people talk about my daughter's reputation .. No .. They shouldn't be made to see the smoke even if the house is on fire.

Man: Have pity on me. I want to confess everything to you as though I were confessing before my death .. If you only knew of my sufferings .. it was as if I were in a fight with a much stronger person.

Mother: Why did you fall in love with my daughter?

Man: I don't know .. It's like a disease that takes one by surprise. All of us are sometimes subjected to sinful thoughts, but this sinful thought soon goes away and one stops thinking about it. I remember when I was very young that my father punished me one day and beat me up. So in my anger I wished that he were dead. But after the thought struck my mind, I felt very bad, and feared that God might take him from me. When he died, many years later, and I had become a man, I cried about that sinful thought as much as I cried for his death. Forgive me .. but the more I try to get rid of this sinful thought, the stronger hold it has of me. You yourself have known me well enough and you cannot say that I ever looked at another woman with any bad intentions. So please consider this a mistake or a passing impulse .. Forget it and forgive me.

Mother: If I knew you were evil, I'd have never

forgiven you, but I know that you're kind and I've seen it every day. But now...

Man: Don't hesitate to say that I seem evil. Right?

Mother: No .. No .. Why should we cause each other so much suffering? What counts now is to bring an end to all the gossip going around .. and we can think about the rest later. I'll send my daughter to my sister-in-law. She loves her dearly.. and who knows .. maybe she'll end up getting married there. And when she comes back to us after marriage, she'll have children of her own who'll call us Grandpa and Grandma. Then we'll get old. But there's still some happiness possible in this house .. if not for...

Man: The dead man.

Mother: He'll always stay between us.

Man: You're right. Everything can be wiped out except for death.

(The scene freezes. The Siren and the Girl appear.)

Siren: They made up?

Girl: Yes.

Siren: And it upset you. Right?

Girl: It was killing me.

Siren: And your mother wanted to send you away from the house.

Girl: As if nothing had happened.

Siren: Where you furious?

Girl: Yes.

Siren: Did you hold a grudge against them?

Girl: Yes.

Siren: You wished to see an end to their happiness?

Girl: Yes.

Siren: You got hold of the knife?

Girl: Yes.

Siren: You got behind him?

Girl: Yes.

Siren: You stabbed him?

Girl: No .. I didn't kill him.

Siren: We're back to the beginning. So let us start anew.

Girl: Lets start anew .. How I wish to start anew .. It's a dream that I've had ever since I was a child .. to start everything anew .. to have all the blunders, sins and slips of the tongue wiped out .. so that I may start anew. How I wish to start anew.

Siren: OK .. Lets start anew .. Why did you kill him?

Girl: I didn't kill him.

Siren: But there's been a crime.

Girl: I didn't kill him .. He ran away .. He ran away after...

Siren: After what?

(The scene freezes. We see than Man with the Girl.)

Girl: Are you mad? What do you want from me?

Man: You .. You are the devil.

Girl: Is that what you've come to tell me?

Man: You've cast a spell on me .. What is it that you've got? I see you in everything around me .. I can't take it any more .. I ran here and I don't know whether it's in order to kill you .. or to kiss you. But now I know (**tries to kiss her**).

Girl: Go away from me .. You're mad .. I'll kill you (**she holds a knife**) .. I'll kill you if you come any closer.

Man: Kill me .. Why don't you? It's because you can't .. I love you.

Girl: Don't come any closer.

Man: Then you come closer to me.

Girl: Get out of here.

Man: I haven't stopped loving you for a moment .. I loved you more and more

from one day to the other.

Girl: I don't want to hear your words.

Man: Yes you want .. I can feel it.

Girl: Go away.

Man: Give me this knife. **(She gives it to him.)**
You don't know how much I love you ..
Do you want me to say more .. My blood
used to boil just when I felt that you
were near me sitting at the table. I
didn't want to look at you .. and when-
ever I turned my eyes I would see you
in front of me. Even at night, when your
mother lay close to me ... in the middle
of the night's silence I could only feel
your presence .. I would feel your pres-
ence while you were asleep .. as if you
were breathing into my ears. And I used
to cry in frustration and beg God to give
me strength. Whenever I found myself
with you alone, I had to run away like a
madman .. and I don't know what would've
happened to me if I hadn't run away.

Girl: Was it all because of me?

Man: Because of you I had to do things that I should've never done .. Because of you I committed murder .. and I won't hesitate for a second to kill anyone who'll get too close to you. .. Do you love me? .. Answer me! .. Is it true?

Girl: Yes it's true.

Man: Say it .. Let me hear it from you.

Girl: I love you.

Man: We'll buy a piece of land and build a little house on the other bank of the river .. It'll be a beautiful house with a garden .. and you'll have walks in the garden. But I won't let you go out, because I'm a jealous man .. You'll have many servants and much more money than you've ever dreamed of. But you have to satisfy all my whims .. as many as they are.

Mother: Not before you've ended this story

with me. What do you, Girl, have to say?

Man: Don't come any closer.

Girl: Defend me.

Man: I'm saying don't come any closer.

Mother: So that's what you have to say .. You won't get out of here except with the police, and everybody will know the killer you are.

Girl: Run away .. run away!

Man: Not without you .. Come along .. I'll protect you .. I'll turn into a beast to protect you .. **(To the Mother)** Get out of my way .. I don't care about anything else now.

Mother: You're not getting out of here.

Man: I'm saying get out of my way.

Mother: On my dead body.

Man: OK .. Then that's that.

(The Mother and the Man get into

a fight. He gets hold of a knife and stabs her with it. She's injured.)

Blackout

Siren: After what...

Girl: After he .. killed my mother.

Siren: Lies .. This isn't true .. You're not saying the truth.

Girl: No .. This is the truth. He was with me when my mother saw us, so he killed her .. Yes .. He killed her in front of my eyes, so that he could run away with me.

Siren: That's what you wished for ... But unfortunately it never happened this way.

Girl: Yes it did .. It did.

Siren: But I know a different story .. Listen to it, maybe you've forgotten to tell us about it.

Blackout

PART TWO

- *In this part, the role of the Girl changes as she loses her innocence and completely identifies with the Siren.*

Man: Consider what's happened a matter of an impulse or mistake .. Forget it and forgive me.

Mother: If I knew that you were evil by nature, I would've never forgiven you. But I know that you are kind, and I've seen it so many times. A person who's kind all the time cannot become so criminal over night.

Man: It is a great consolation and joy to hear your words. Do you love me?.. Answer me! .. Is it true?

Mother: Yes, it's true.

Man: Then say it .. Let me hear it.

Mother: I love you.

Man: The days to come will prove to you how much I love you .. What do you think

about us leaving this place and moving to another town .. Lets buy a piece of land and build a little house on the other bank of the river .. and start a new life.

Mother: We can start a new life here .. I cannot leave the house where I lived the most beautiful days of my life with you. I'll send my daughter to my sister-in-law. She loves her dearly .. and who knows .. maybe she'll end up getting married there. And when she comes back to us after marriage, she'll have children of her own who'll call us Grandpa and Grandma. Then we'll get old. But there's still some happiness possible in this house. Go wash up and change your shirt. Nobody should see you like this.

(The Man leaves. The Girl exchanges a look with him, then enters to talk to the Mother.)

Girl: I want to talk to you .. in private.

Mother: Talk to me? You seldom talk to me ..
What's up?

Girl: I heard what you intend to do to me.

Mother: You were spying?

Girl: This has never been the case with me before .. but you may consider that I was spying on you. What you've been discussing with this man concerns me.. and it means that I am the cause of trouble in this house. The guiltless are the ones who have to pay for the mistakes of the ones to bLame.. You're doing all of this to ensure your happiness with your husband? And you're going to kick me out of the house so that the two of you may enjoy a piece of mind.

Mother: What are you talking about? Who is it who could kick you out of this house? Who has even tried to do so?

Girl: These were your words. Aren't you going to send me to your sister-in-law?

Mother: How could you say such things? How many times did you ask me to let you go to visit her? And now, that I'm trying to work out an arrangement that's in the interest of each of us .. in the interest of this house .. which is your interest first and foremost, you judge me?! What did you expect? To expose the man whom you should've considered like father to you?

Girl: Do you mean that it's all my fault?

Mother: I'm not saying anything. What I know is that he couldn't consider you like a daughter of his because you are not his daughter.

Girl: Am I the one who sought to attract him? Am I the one who drove him to kill my fiancé?

Mother: Shut up .. They'll hear you outside.

Girl: You're not getting what you want. I'll say everything at the prosecutor's office and to everyone. I have nothing to care about except my reputation .. I shouldn't worry about the reputation of those without any sense of honour or shame. He's never had any honour .. he's a criminal!

Mother: Shut up. How could you hate him so much while I've almost forgiven him what he's done.

Girl: Yes I hate him .. I've always hated him, and he knows it. So if he doesn't want me to tell on him, let him come and kill me .. That's all I want .. I want him to kill me, so that I may see whether you'd finally stop loving him.

Mother: Don't talk this way.

Man: **(Entering)** She's right .. she isn't the one who should be leaving the house.. I'm going to give myself in to the prosecution. **(To the Mother)** I knew that

you would forgive me .. but not she ..
she's always hated me.

Mother: No .. Don't leave .. I won't let you go.

Man: Leave me .. let me go. I have to confess everything.

Mother: I won't let you .. You won't leave .. Oh, Please!

Girl: Don't let him leave, Mother.

Man: *(Coming closer to her)* Do you want to tell on me? .. Why do you hate me so much? If only I could've heard you call me Daddy .. If you could've only known how much I always loved you?

Mother: Aren't you going ever to call him Daddy?

Man: She won't forgive me.

Mother: Come on my child .. forgive him just as I have forgiven him.

Girl: I want to talk to you in private.

Man: *(Hesitates, then addresses the Mother)*

Would you leave us alone for a while?

Mother: OK.

Man: Do you have a secret for me?

Girl: **(Rushes towards him full of lust)** Yes .. I have to reveal a secret to you .. I love you.

Man: Don't say such things .. You're going to detest yourself for saying these words, and you're going to detest me for hearing them.

Girl: I can't detest you .. I love you, and I know that you love me. Say that you love me. Don't you love me?

Man: Yes I do love you .. **(silence)**. Can't we forget this conversation for ever?

Girl: Lets escape from here and go anywhere else. Don't you want to run away with me?

Man: I'll stay here .. with your mother.

Girl: But you've just said that you love me.

Man: You don't know what you're saying.

Girl: But I know that I love you.

Man: Love alone doesn't guarantee happiness for a couple like us .. We are too different. If we run away together our life might turn into an unbearable hell, and your love for me will turn into hate. It's also possible that...

Girl: Do you love my mother?

Man: She's very much like me and we understand each other pretty well.

Girl: But you've said that you love me.

Man: I should've never said it .. I should've never said so.

Girl: As long as your meanness made you say so, then you're...

Man: Yes it's mean of me to say so .. I made a mistake against you and even more so against my wife. But how could I deny that I love you for your over-

whelming energy which I totally lack .. the energy that makes you capable of loving so violently and hating so violently. I could never be like you in that respect.

Girl: Then say openly that you're a coward, and that you're afraid of running away with me. Say that you prefer living with her to running away with me.

Man: Don't talk about your mother this way!

Girl: You coward! .. I'll hate you as long as I live. I'm going to tell the police about you.

Man: Do you want to ruin this house.

Girl: I don't care anymore.

Man: Even if I begged you to forgive me .. and to go to you uncle's house so that we could avoid trouble. Would you agree?

Girl: No .. Don't beg and plead .. I don't want to see this look of weakness in

your eyes .. I love you. (She throws herself in his arms, while the Mother enters and hears the conversation without being seen by them.) At first I used to chase away these thoughts, and whenever my mother looked into my eyes I would feel like a sinner. But once she'd turned her eyes from me, I'd find myself thinking of you .. and travelling away with you in my imagination. How I wished to free myself from all the chains and to throw myself into your arms, without any concern about the scandal and quarrels that would take place. You're now in my hands, so don't lose the chance. Run away with me.

Mother: What is this? Have you lost your mind?.. Now I know why you've never called him Daddy! .. Now I know that it's been all your fault!

Girl: Kill me if you can .. This is the truth ..

He's the only man I've ever loved.

Mother: What are you saying .. What are you saying? .. I'll kill you!

Man: Don't come any closer.

Girl: Protect me.

Man: I'm telling you not to come any closer.

Mother: So that's it! You're not getting out of here before everyone knows who the murderer is.

Girl: Run away .. run away!

Mother: On my dead body!

(They fight. The Mother gets hold of a knife and stabs the Man. He gives in and is injured. It has to be clear that he has chosen to die, and that his death was a result of his giving in.)

Blackout

The Girl imagines herself to be surrounded by all the characters of the play, who move round and round her. Their voices merge together in condemnation. So she collapses completely, takes out the knife and stabs herself with it. She dies.

Blackout