

LIKE THE
FIRST
TIME

ADAM SEELIG

MODELLED ON A PLAY BY
LUIGI PIRANDELLO

FIRST EDITION
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NOTE

Like the First Time is based on Luigi Pirandello's *Come Prima, Meglio di Prima* (1920).

DEAR ACTORS

Pace and emphasize the text as you see fit. At certain points I've indicated a pause or silence or what-have-you with a long line (———), but also feel free to pause or be silent or what-have-you in the middle of one of your dialogue entries if that's what's right.

The unconventional spacing of the text is generated by the vertical alignments of letters and words, creating a circumscribed 'tonal universe' or 'tone zone' for the dialogue. While the dialogue may not be naturalistic, by all means speak it naturally. The words, ultimately, are yours.

— Adam Seelig
Kibbutz Lehavot Haviva (Israel) & Toronto
Spring & Summer 2011

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Like the First Time premiered at the Walmer Centre Theatre in Toronto, October 28 - November 13, 2011 in a One Little Goat Theatre Company production.

The cast, directed by Adam Seelig, included Elva Mai Hoover (Ernestina), Dov Mickelson (Marco), Andrew Moodie (Sylvio), Cathy Murphy (Fulvia) and Jessica Salgueiro (Livia). Sets & costumes were designed by Jackie Chau; lighting by Laird MacDonald; sound by Thomas Ryder Payne; with stage management by Christopher Whitlock.

LIKE THE FIRST TIME

CAST

Fulvia or Flora or Francesca

Sylvio her husband

Livia their teenage daughter

Ernestina Fulvia's aunt

Marco Mauri Fulvia's lover

I

PRELUDE

Woman playing **ERNESTINA** prepares the hair of woman playing **FULVIA**.

1

FULVIA, barefoot, thinly clothed. Her copious hair covers her face and wraps around her neck, forming a kind of choker that also dangles over her half-exposed torso. **MARCO**, barefoot, slightly disheveled. He breathes rapidly, eventually slowing down, gaining control. ——. **FULVIA** takes one big, long, deep breath.

MARCO

Flora ———

Fulvia ———

Flora it's me

it's

i'm free

Flora i'm sorry

i ———

Look

FULVIA cocks head.

MARCO

Look Flora

look it's me

i'm back

Flora i came

back and

i know

i know

i left

and

i'm sorry

Flora i know

i should have stayed

believe me Flora

i wanted to

i wish

i could have

but now look i'm ———

FULVIA cocks head again.

MARCO

You should have seen her

when i

told her i said

i'm going

i said

it just like

that i'm going and
she said
where and
i said forever
i'm going forever
i said and
then
you want to know
what she said
you won't believe
it
she ———

She said oh ———

Just like that

that's all
like she knew i'd leave
she knew it
all along
and was
just waiting for me to
tell her i guess but

when

she couldn't have known

when i'd
do
it i thought

that

that

at least

would have surprised

her though

she didn't seem

surprised like

you don't seem

surprised

either

but

how

could

she

know

you

couldn't have known

when

i

was

coming back or that

i'd

come back

here

at

all

all this time goes and

then

here

i

am

i

mean

aren't you going

to say something Flora ——

I'll miss the kids ——

Not my work

not much anyway i was good

at

it

fine

so

i

did

a

good

job

but

someone else will

do

just

as good

a

job once

they

find

someone

to replace me which won't

be easy

but then

it

won't

be as hard

as you

might think

to replace

anyone

when

it

comes

to

the

work

force

as they

say

they'll

forge

ahead without me

i mean

really it's

not like being

a father

i guess or

mother

and even

then Jesus

i hate

to say

it but

they'll move on

they'll miss me at

first sure

my boys

will miss me until

they get used

to it

they'll get used
to it
i'm
sure and
i'll get used
to it
i think
we'll
all get used
to it
until
it's
more background
than right
here you know
a kind
of quiet pain well the
quieter
pain you can live with anyhow
they might not feel
the
pain any more once
she poisons
them against me
she always
poisoned
them against me since
she thought
i was seeing someone and of course
she was right Flora
she's always right and
thank god she never met you
she would rip
your face off that beautiful

face of
yours Flora
if
she ever meets
you i know
you
can be fierce
too Flora
god knows
you're fierce
but
you
should see
her
play the piano
that
may sound ridiculous
maybe but she doesn't
play the piano really
she attacks
it she throws
her
whole body at
it a
kind
of rage not
one trace
of the usual
her
her
usual genteel
self
she's your opposite Flora
you're vicious
you

know
are
but
the
you're
on
the
but
her
she's
all
all
caged
in
her
you
have
no
idea
until
she

Flora
on
outside
just
vicious
outside
with
it's
it's
up
and

almost
destroys the
keys not for Scarlatti
or
Mozart even though she
plays
them
well
i'm
talking

about Scriabin
Scriabin
do
you
know
how hard
that is Flora Aleksandr
Nikolaevich
Scriabin
Flora
his
etudes

Flora

his

Etude

in

D

sharp

minor

you

don't

you

don't

know

and

that's

fine

Flora

i

only

know

because of her

but

take

my word

for

it

it's

it's

she

was ———

unbelievable ———

that's why i married her ———

for the piano ———

well for her hands those

hands

of hers

Christ Flora

she can

stretch ———

and the kids for

the kids too

of course

they

came later

and i

had

no

idea

i

never thought

i'd want
them never mind love
that
i'd come
to love
them this
much
that's
still a shock and
she got
a bit of
a shock too well
a lot of
a shock almost the moment
she had
our
first and
i held him
and felt his
skin
on mine
i just
stopped thinking
about her really caring
about her
at all
and
she just
seemed to sag until
she had our second
and then everything
about her
seemed to sag even more
and
she saw i didn't care

anymore

she could
see i didn't really
care much
about her
and
that
i really only
cared
about the

boys

so she started hating
me at least
i think
that's why
she started hating
me and tried
to get
the
boys to turn against
me unless
she hated
me from
the start which
is
hard
to

believe

because i loved her and it's
hard Flora you know
it's
hard to
love when you're
not
so

she must have
loved
i mean
she married
me
not that marriage
is proof
enough no

obviously not

but kids
to leave
a
spouse fine
it isn't
easy
you had
trouble too
but kids how
did
you leave don't
you miss
yours
your girl
you've never
even mentioned

her name really it would

have been simpler
well less of
a mess
to just kill
her really i thought
about
it before
i finally
left

i thought

i would

come

home

one day or be at

home say when

she

comes

home and

the boys are

at her parents'

place

for the weekend

and i

say

honey you're

home

or

i'm

home

honey

or

something

like that and

then

i do it right there

i kill

her how

i don't

know exactly

how

i do it

i don't plan

it too much

ahead so i can always

plead insane if
it ever comes to that
and
i have
to
defend myself
in the worst
case
i
plead Flora right
i ———

premeditated insanity ———

beautiful ———

but suicide no
doubt
suicide'd
be the fastest way
out ———

i heard Flora ———

i heard from
a client if that's
what you call them
a client told
me you attempted ———

but i'm back Flora
i came
back and
i'm sorry
but i'm free this time
it's different
this time

it's

still

me

the

same

me

Flora

but free this time

the

circumstances

changed Flora

i changed them

for us

for you

and

please

Flora

tell

me

what

else

can

i

do

Flora

seriously

beg is that

what

it takes Flora

that's

what

you want me

to fucking

beg is that

it

okay i'll

beg

Flora

here

i'll

beg

you

see

i'm

fucking

begging

you

okay

Flora you

happy

i'm

begging

Flora and i'll keep
begging till
you fucking say something
for fuck's
sake
Flora say something ——

FULVIA laughs.

MARCO

Flora ——

Flora

FULVIA

Fulvia

MARCO

Fulvia of course

Fulvia

Fulvia Flora was

your idea

Fulvia remember

you wanted

me

to call

you Flora

Fulvia you wanted

to change

your name

remember but

i'll

call

you what

you want

Flora

Fulvia

whatever

you

want

FULVIA

Thank you Adam

MARCO

Adam

FULVIA

Barney

MARCO

Who

FULVIA

Chester

MARCO

Fulvia

FULVIA

Dick

Ernest

Frank

George

Hank

Indira

Julio

Kurt

Lang Lang ———

MARCO

Fulvia

FULVIA

Nusra

Omar

Peter
Quentin
Ralph
Sam
Torvald
Ubu
Victor
William
Xavier
Yuki
Zarathustra ———

FULVIA laughs. MARCO joins.

MARCO

It's me Fulvia
me

FULVIA

Of course it's
you how
could i forget
you know
you were always my favourite

MARCO

Fucking around eh
Fulvia even
now
you're
fucking with
me

MARCO cups FULVIA's breasts from behind

Remember Flora

FULVIA

Marco

FULVIA passes out.

MARCO

Shhhhhhhhhh there you
go

MARCO carries FULVIA to bed, lays her down, pats her, consoles her, fusses over her and her clothes and the sheets.

MARCO

Shhhhhhhhhh

There you

go Flora

there you

go Marco's

here now

you can rest

rest

Flora we'll start over

Flora nothing's

in

the way

this time

no

more bullshit

this time

we'll be

open

Flora honest

with

you i'll be

more

honest this time

Flora starting today

starting

now

Flora

my

beautiful

you

are

beautiful

Flora

my

beautiful

beautiful

beautiful

beautiful

beautiful

beautiful

beautiful

beautiful

beautiful

beautiful

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beautiful

SYLVIO has been watching.

SYLVIO

Dog shit ——

Sign of

spring

i guess ——

They say it's good luck

but for whom

whose

good luck

the street cleaners

the dogs and

bitches who walk

away from

it without

a second

thought

maybe

maybe not

for those

of

us left

to

step in someone else's

smear

but

what i'd really like

to know

is

what

MARCO

I was invited ——

She invited

me

SYLVIO

A guest then that's

what you're doing

here you're

her

guest in this

guest house is

that it

MARCO

No

not

SYLVIO

So you're a gentleman right

a gentleman caller

hanging around

her neck

MARCO

Look i'm a friend

ok

SYLVIO

Friendship how touching

MARCO

Shhh

FULVIA stirs.

MARCO

Shhh

FULVIA sits up

Sylvio

MARCO

Sylvio

SYLVIO approaches FULVIA, as does MARCO, but she stops them both. ———. She does up her hair and covers herself with a robe while they watch. She then approaches SYLVIO.

FULVIA

Sylvio

MARCO

Flora ———

FULVIA

Who's that

SYLVIO

I don't know he says

MARCO

It's me Flora

it's me Marco ———

Mauri Marco

Mauri

FULVIA

I'm sorry

Mr Mauri do

i know

 you

i don't
go
by Flora
are you
sure you've
got the right room Sylvio what
are you doing here

SYLVIO

You called me Fulvia

MARCO

Fulvia

Fulvia Flora

was your idea
you wanted me
to call
you

FULVIA cuts off MARCO with a gesture. To SYLVIO

I called you

SYLVIO

Yes

FULVIA

Yes ——

Why does that sound familiar ——

I must have

been

it

must have

been serious

SYLVIO

It was Fulvia of course

it was

FULVIA

A serious moment of stupidity

MARCO laughs.

FULVIA

It's the suicide

that made
me stupid ——

I mean

i was smart to try

to end

it just not

smart enough

to do

it all the way

and then what

i just go all

soft

is that

what

happened

i went

soft

enough in

the head

and called you ——

After thirteen years

SYLVIO

Yes ——

FULVIA

That's
what
happened

MARCO

Seriously Fulvia why
why would
you do that

FULVIA

It's a good question Mr
Mauri
a very
good maybe to ask
i don't know for
forgiveness
maybe

MARCO

For what

FULVIA

For leaving

MARCO

He made you

SYLVIO

How do you know that

MARCO

He's
the one who
should be
begging forget asking

he should beg for
you to forgive him after all
he did
you're
telling me Fulvia
are
you telling me
you just
forgot all that

SYLVIO

He's right Fulvia ——

FULVIA

He is

SYLVIO

I was wrong

MARCO

You see

FULVIA

Shut

up ——

Go

on ——

Let's hear what you

have

to say Sylvio

SYLVIO

With him here

FULVIA

Why not

MARCO

Yeah

SYLVIO

Come

on Fulvia let's

do this

in private

FULVIA

I think you've had

more

than

your share

in private Sylvio

you had me all to

yourself for

years from

the time

i was

barely legal

Sylvio

i was

all

yours almost locked

up

while you ran

around

and

everybody

knew

Sylvio

you

couldn't

keep

that private

could
you
no
now
you'll have to
earn it Sylvio
you'll have to
earn my
time
if
you
really want it
one
on
one

SYLVIO

Look i was thinking about
it on
the
way here and
i've been
going over
it for years Fulvia how
could
i not because
i know
i was wrong

MARCO

Hypocrite too little
too late
right Fulvia
right

SYLVIO

Who is this little weasel Fulvia seriously
who the hell are

you and what
the fuck
are
you doing here

FULVIA

Mercy boys maybe that's
what i expected
mercy if
i ended
it some light
at
the end
of some sort
of tunnel
maybe that's
what i thought
i'd see

instead of this
hole
of
a place but
i was obviously wrong
hanging here
like an idiot
this
shit
hole only got darker
and
i got
scared
i

guess that's
natural even if
it

is ridiculous
that i called
you Sylvio
all this time
later i suddenly
think
you can help me
when you're

half the

reason i'm fucked

up

in

the first place

i'm sure

i was plenty

fucked

on my

own but you definitely helped

out

in

that

department

i

was

barely an

adult when you taught me

an

adult trick

or

two

eh

Sylvio

SYLVIO

What

can i say Fulvia

i'm sorry

for

any

harm

i may
have caused you

FULVIA

May have

MARCO snorts.

SYLVIO

You're right the harm i
did cause you
i'm sorry

FULVIA

Then pay me

SYLVIO

What

FULVIA

Cash Sylvio
cash

MARCO

She's worth it Sylvio

SYLVIO

This
is how you've
been living
Fulvia people like Mr Mauri

FULVIA

Call him Marco

SYLVIO

So you

do know him

FULVIA

Intimately right my pet

MARCO giggles.

FULVIA

Watch this ———

Come Marco

MARCO goes to her.

FULVIA

Good boy now give

paw Marco

give

paw

He does.

FULVIA

That's

it now say hello

to Sylvio

MARCO dog-like

Hello Sylvio

FULVIA

Good boy now give us a kiss

They kiss.

SYLVIO

Wagging the dog my dear

he's
the one hiring you to lie
down you
know there's
a word
for that
don't you

FULVIA

Yeah honesty at least
he's
honest about
what he wants from me

SYLVIO

And what's
that

FULVIA

A whore to
love

MARCO

Flora

FULVIA

More than we
can say
for you Sylvio
for you i was just another
one of
your
whores

SYLVIO

Excuse me

FULVIA

Excuse me until

i became
a mother
then
i was untouchable
a
leper the
second she was

born you just

forgot me and all
the love
the real
love
you never had
for me all
of
a sudden
you have plenty
for her
and
she deserved it
of course
she still
deserves it

but Christ so

do
i don't you think more
than all
the women
you
couldn't give
up with
their perfect tight
skin

MARCO

Is that
what
happened Flora

SYLVIO

Livia

FULVIA stops SYLVIO from continuing.

FULVIA

You've got nerve
to bring
her
up Sylvio serious
nerve more
nerve than decency that's
for
sure

SYLVIO

Why

FULVIA

Because you either bring
her
up first
thing or
you don't
bring
her
up at
all but
don't raise
her now
in

this filth
 of all places

SYLVIO

Then what do you
 want Fulvia
 you call me but
 don't
 want me
 you
 want me to
 tell
 you
 about her
 but
 not now seriously
 what do you
 want from
 me
 don't
 you even
 want to know

FULVIA

Of course i want to know she's all
 i want to know
 about i may have left but
 she's
 still
 with
 me all
 the time Sylvio
 she's
 still my daughter

SYLVIO

Maybe Fulvia but you're not

her
mother
you gave
up being
her
mother before
she could
even remember

FULVIA

But i want to see her

i need

to see her again that

must be what

made

me call you

after

i tried

i must have

been thinking

i need

to see her again before

i die

SYLVIO

You can't

FULVIA

I can't or you

won't let me

SYLVIO

Both

FULVIA

You'd keep a mother from

her own daughter i'm sure Livia

would

want to meet

her own
mother
after
these

all
years

SYLVIO

Not if that mother's dead

FULVIA

But i survived obviously am

i or am

i

not alive Marco

would

you inform

our lovely visitor that

i am alive

not all that well true

but alive

all the

same

aren't

you all thrilled

i

didn't pull

it off there's

something else you can

add

to my endless

list

of failures

SYLVIO

I'm talking about when

you left

FULVIA

That was thirteen years ago

SYLVIO

And you've

been dead to her since ——

Livia doesn't just think you're

gone Fulvia

she thinks

you're underground

MARCO

How is that possible

FULVIA

He's been lying to

her that's how

SYLVIO

No

FULVIA

Feeding her some

sob story

since

she was three about

her

mom

probably

some

heartbreaking

story

with cancer

to

keep

her

from

finding

out

the

truth

SYLVIO

No Fulvia

FULVIA

Just like your

wife Marco

mark my words

your

wife will do the same thing

with your sons

MARCO

I know

FULVIA

It's disgusting

nevermind that

i'm alive

that's not

what bothers him

it's not

that

i'm alive

at all but how

i'm living

SYLVIO

Fulvia

FULVIA

And how this good father

here

this morally upstanding innocent

MARCO

Hypocrite

FULVIA

Hypocrite of a
man drove me to it

SYLVIO

Listen to me ——

It was her idea

FULVIA

When
she was three

SYLVIO

Yes

FULVIA

She came up with
my death

SYLVIO

Yes

FULVIA

All by herself or with a little
help from Daddy

SYLVIO

It evolved

FULVIA cries.

MARCO approaches

It's okay Flora
it's going
to be

okay

FULVIA

I'm never going to see

her

again

am

i

Marco Sylvio

i

want

to see

my baby

again

SYLVIO

She's hardly

a baby Fulvia

she's

sixteen

FULVIA

Then i'll start over

SYLVIO

Meaning

FULVIA

I'm pregnant

MARCO

We're having

a baby Flora

FULVIA

Who's we

MARCO

You and me Flora what

do

you

mean ———

It's mine too

isn't

it

FULVIA

Do you have to ask

MARCO

Yes

FULVIA

Well don't

MARCO

Then whose

is it

FULVIA

Mine ——

I don't know ——

Sylvio

SYLVIO

You're not suggesting

it's mine

are

you sperm

swims Fulvia

not even

mine can fly unless maybe this

is a virgin

birth

MARCO snickers.

SYLVIO

So this

is why

you

called

me

to raise another

one

of

your

children

FULVIA

Don't

do me

any favours Sylvio

SYLVIO

You want me

to

be the

father

of

your

fatherless child

FULVIA

It's the least you can

do for making

me daughterless

you

drove

me

from

my

own blood Sylvio

the least you can

do

is

take

in

someone

else's

SYLVIO

Without you

FULVIA

With

SYLVIO

Okay

MARCO

What

SYLVIO

I will ——

MARCO

He's not serious

FULVIA

Are you serious

SYLVIO

Let's go home

MARCO

What

about

your daughter

FULVIA

What

about Livia

SYLVIO

We'll find a

way

FULVIA

I can't believe this Sylvio

MARCO

Because you
shouldn't Flora

SYLVIO

It's okay Fulvia

FULVIA

Even though ——

SYLVIO

Yes

MARCO

No

FULVIA

You're a
bastard Sylvio

SYLVIO

I was

FULVIA

I missed you ——

I loved you

MARCO

Flora

FULVIA

Touch me again but gently this
time

FULVIA and SYLVIO kiss.

FULVIA

Take me
home

They start to walk off.

MARCO

Flora

FULVIA stops, crosses to MARCO.

FULVIA

You're such a dear
Marco

MARCO grabs her

Stay Flora don't
go i need
you

FULVIA

Get off me you pervert

SYLVIO pulls FULVIA away from MARCO.

SYLVIO to MARCO

Heel ———

Let's go Fulvia

They walk away.

MARCO

Don't
do this Flora
Flora look
at me

Flora
i have
nothing noone
i left
everyone for you
Flora Jesus
don't
do this please
Flora please
just
look
at me please
look
at me please
listen
to me
Flora please
this
is pathetic

MARCO screams

Flora

FULVIA and SYLVIO stop.

SYLVIO

Come

on Fulvia

FULVIA

Hold

on Sylvio

SYLVIO

Fulvia

FULVIA

We have to be

gentle Sylvio

be

gentle

FULVIA crosses to **MARCO** and comforts him

There you

go Marco

there you

go

She opens her blouse and brings **MARCO**'s mouth to her breast.

FULVIA

Shhhhhhhhhh

END ACT I

II

PRELUDE

Woman playing **ERNESTINA** prepares the hair of woman playing **FULVIA**, but this time, in contrast to Act I, the hairdo is tight and trim.

1

Months later. **SYLVIO**'s home, **FULVIA**'s former home. **FULVIA** is dressed properly, even conservatively, still barefoot. She prepares the layette for the new baby, folding blankets etc, occasionally laying a garment on her pregnant belly should she feel the baby move or kick. **LIVIA** enters unnoticed dressed all in black and watches **FULVIA**. ———.

LIVIA

Francesca ———

Francesca

FULVIA

Good morning my
darling

FULVIA goes to embrace **LIVIA** but **LIVIA** withdraws. ———.

LIVIA

Didn't you want something

FULVIA

Oh yes Livia

yes i ———

Is everything okay you're dressed so

LIVIA

It's for my
mom

FULVIA

Of course i'm sorry
i forgot
i think it's very sweet that
you

LIVIA

What do
you mean sweet ———

FULVIA

I'm sorry Livia
i meant thoughtful dutiful really
is what
i meant you're
so dutiful
to mark
your mother's ———

LIVIA

Death

FULVIA

I was going to
say passing
away but ———

In your room

oh don't worry Livia
i haven't

gone into
your room i just know
from Sylvio
that there
are some

baby clothes in
a chest
kept
in
the corner —

And i was wondering
if you
would happen to have
the
key
the
key
to
the chest

LIVIA
Maybe

FULVIA
Would
you mind Livia
if

LIVIA
I don't know where
it is

FULVIA
I just thought

it would be lovely
to welcome
your sister

LIVIA
Step

FULVIA
Of course
your step sister whom we'll
all treat
as
your full
sister
just like
i'd
like
to treat
you as my
own daughter

LIVIA
They're
my clothes

FULVIA
That your mother made hand
made for
you

LIVIA
I know

FULVIA
So i just thought
it would be lovely

to welcome
your sister i'm sorry
i mean the
new baby
to welcome her in those beautiful
clothes

You know
your mother worked
very hard
on those
clothes

LIVIA

I know
i know

FULVIA

Then don't
you think she'd want
them for
our baby
you were such
a beautiful
baby
in those
beautiful
clothes
and now look
at
you

LIVIA

What

FULVIA

You've grown
up into a beautiful
young woman
maybe
a tad
too serious
but
your mother
is
proud of
you i'm sure
of
that

LIVIA

Please stop talking about my
mom

FULVIA

But
it's true Livia

LIVIA

How would
you know
you don't
know the first thing about
my mother

LIVIA starts exiting.

FULVIA

Livia

SYLVIO enters

Fulvia ——

FULVIA

Did you just call me Fulvia

Sylvio

i know it's

her memorial and

all but

do

you really have

to

call me by

her name

SYLVIO

I'm sorry Francesca

i wasn't thinking

FULVIA

It's alright Sylvio

it's perfectly

natural

to slip now and then

when

a person's

changed

her name

because you know Livia

you do

know right that

i

used to be Flora
but
i always
found Flora ugly
you know a kind
of name
that's better for
a
dog so
i

switched
it when
i met your
father
i asked him how
he felt
about Francesca
my middle name
and
he loved
it

LIVIA

I'm sure he did

FULVIA

And i'll

admit

i like being Francesca Livia

Francesca feels

free you know

LIVIA exits.

FULVIA

This
is impossible Sylvio

SYLVIO draws her closer.

FULVIA

She
should at least respect me
as her new
mother

SYLVIO

She does

FULVIA resists him

No she
respects
the dead me idolizes
her
not
the real me that wants
to hold
her every
time i see
her
she's so

stiff and formal

and serious

and down

all she does

is avoid me

or ignore
me
for months
she's ignored
me Sylvio
and you
know why
Sylvio

because she's disgusted by me

she's disgusted by

her own
mother it makes

me want

to slap

the little twat

SYLVIO

Fulvia

FULVIA

Francesca Sylvio only

Francesca from now

on you better

get

in the habit

you killed Fulvia

a

long time ago

SYLVIO

You left

FULVIA

You drove me away

SYLVIO

How exactly

FULVIA

By making

my life unfuckingly livable Sylvio that's how you want all

the

degrading details

SYLVIO

So you left her

here with a

massive void

FULVIA

Which you filled

with

my dead body

SYLVIO

I told you that was her idea

FULVIA

Encouraged by her father

SYLVIO

As a temporary cover up

FULVIA

Or permanent burial

SYLVIO

Do you need to

put it so harshly

FULVIA

You're

right

it's actually much nicer than

that

you've actually kept Fulvia

alive all this

time by

sanctifying her spirit for your daughter's new religion

you know this

mausoleum reeks

so much

of my

spiritos

sanctus

that

she

even thinks our sham of

a marriage was

a happy

one

SYLVIO

She was young when it all happened

FULVIA

I don't mind lies Sylvio the

lies keep

her innocent

i understand

no what

bothers

me

is how well you

pull

them off

so easily

and

sincerely you were always

a hypocrite but i'm

impressed

you've

mastered

your

craft

over

the

years

SYLVIO

Thank you

FULVIA

You've just taken it all

just a little too far don't

you

think

making me

a

saint

it's

necrophilia

SYLVIO

Excuse me

FULVIA

Hagiography

necrophilia same thing they're

both just ways

of

fucking

the

dead really being

dead's

where it's

at

when you think

about

it the
dead can
do no wrong
and
at least
she'd love me that way

SYLVIO

She'll love you as Francesca too

FULVIA

Not if
i have
to put
up with more
of her torture
it's too painful
all
i wanted
was
a little happiness
not a lot just
a little piece

you know Sylvio it
would be easier
if
you treated
me
as
a dog
like
old times
you know like a stray bitch
you
couldn't shake off

on
your way home
at
least then
i
wouldn't expect
her to respect
me

SYLVIO

Come here

FULVIA nears, SYLVIO draws her closer.

SYLVIO

You're gorgeous

FULVIA

It's my hair isn't

it

SYLVIO

It's you

FULVIA

When i wear

it like this

it never fails

SYLVIO puts a hand in her hair, leans in to her neck. Faint knocking from outside. ———.

More knocking.

ERNESTINA with suitcase

ERNESTINA

I'm so

sorry Sylvio

i tried calling

i called several times but

i couldn't

get

through

so i thought maybe

you

weren't

answering

or

turned the

ringers off

or something because

the new Mrs

SYLVIO

She's right here Ernestina

ERNESTINA

Oh i'm so

sorry

i didn't see you there

SYLVIO

Francesca this

is Fulvia's dear

aunt Ernestina

ERNESTINA

Finally i'm so glad
to

finally meet you Francesca
and

i'm so sorry
if

my phoning disturbed

you but then

i
figured you turned the

ringers off because

i know

how annoying the

ringing can

be when you're

trying

to rest

if you

were

trying

to rest so that's

why

i knocked

i didn't

want to use the doorbell in

case you were sleeping

were

you asleep

just now because

i remember

how

tired i was when

i was pregnant
exhausted really
tired and exhausted all
the
time well sick
really
i was sick
all
the
time
i guess
this
is a little more information
a little too much
information Francesca you know
my
late husband
would always tell
me
i have
a
big mouth can't
you keep
your
mouth shut sometimes
he
would say and
it
sounds worse than
it was really
he always meant
well
and
besides

it was true
i do have a
big mouth and
i just
couldn't

keep it down

with my pregnancies both

of

them you

know

they say morning sickness

but

honestly

i

was

way more sick than just

mornings

i

was

so sick all

the

time vomiting constantly

vomiting breakfast

vomiting lunch

vomiting dinner

and even

vomiting when

i didn't

even

eat anything

and there wasn't

even anything

to

vomit even then

i was

vomiting so

i was

relieved when

it ended

and maybe it's good

in the

end maybe it's

a good thing

they didn't happen both times

it was

maybe

a kind of blessing

in disguise

and

they

weren't you know meant

to be

but still

i was sad for years really

i was sad

i couldn't have

my own except Fulvia

Fulvia was like

a daughter

and

my sweet

Livia is still

like

a grand

daughter

to me

and

i'm so

sorry about

Fulvia

Sylvio

ERNESTINA cries.

SYLVIO

It's okay Ernestina you
don't need
to play
it up
Francesca knows the whole story we've
been telling Livia

FULVIA

You've
been lying to Livia
too

SYLVIO

Lies fiction facet
of truth call
it what you
want
it's been
the same story
for thirteen years
why are
you so upset

ERNESTINA

Because she's really gone this time
we'll
really never see
her again

SYLVIO

What do you mean

ERNESTINA

You never divorced

SYLVIO

What does

that

have to

do with

it

ERNESTINA

Did you

SYLVIO

How could

we when

she just left

FULVIA

Left or ran away Sylvio there's

a big

difference

ERNESTINA

But no divorce

SYLVIO

So

ERNESTINA

So if she's alive how could

you

have married Francesca ———

You weren't planning

on keeping

her real death
a secret from
me were
you Sylvio
from Livia
i can understand
but from
me

SYLVIO

Of course not Ernestina

ERNESTINA

I'm
almost afraid to ask when
did you hear Sylvio
was it
last year why
didn't you tell me
Sylvio how
really that's
all
i want
to know is
how but
i'm
almost afraid
to hear what
you'll say
Sylvio at
least tell me
it ended

peacefully for my
Fulvia

FULVIA

I'll
tell you Ernestina

SYLVIO

You will

FULVIA

Of course Sylvio

i'll be happy to share
all
the details with
your late wife's aunt
well
happy isn't
the word exactly

but i know

how hard
it
is for you Sylvio
so let me
handle
it

SYLVIO

Francesca i don't think

FULVIA

Please have
a
seat my

dear Ernestina
i know
how difficult all
this
must
be for you

ERNESTINA

Thank you Francesca

FULVIA

Sylvio please check

on

Livia would

you —

She

should still be

in her room

SYLVIO exits.

FULVIA

I know Ernestina ———

ERNESTINA

You know

FULVIA

How much your niece meant to

you and

you meant to her

i know

i do

and

i'm really

not sure

how to tell

you this

ERNESTINA

It's okay Francesca you

can tell me

i need

to know

i just

want

to know

was she

okay in

the

end

or sick

was she sick

or what

happened
i just
want
to know
so
i can close this
chapter
that's
all
i need
to know
she had
a peaceful
end
so you
can tell me
Francesca please
it's okay

FULVIA

Aunty E

ERNESTINA

That's
what she called
me

FULVIA

Fulvia

ERNESTINA

My Fulvia

FULVIA

Fulvia was killed ———

I know it's

shocking

i was

shocked too but

what's even more

shocking

is

who did

it

ERNESTINA

She was murdered

FULVIA

By someone we both know

ERNESTINA

Who

FULVIA

Why do you think

i had

him leave

the room

ERNESTINA

Sylvio

FULVIA

And someone

else you know his accomplice —

ERNESTINA

You

FULVIA

You ———

ERNESTINA gets up

I'm sorry Francesca

i have to

go

i'm sure you're

a lovely woman

and

i'm sure you and Sylvio

are happy together

and

i hope

i truly

hope you

can be

a

good

mother

to my Livia

and to

your baby

i'm sure you

will but this

is crazy what you're saying

is

is absolutely

crazy

not just

crazy

but

but absolutely

impossible and maybe it's

me

going

crazy

honestly

maybe i'm losing

my

mind

so i'm

sorry

i better go Francesca

i'm

so

sorry

please

tell

Livia

i'm

so

sorry

i couldn't see

her would

you

tell

her please

i'm

sorry

i had

to

go before

i could even

see

her and please

tell Sylvio

i had

to leave

too and

i guess

well

it was nice

to meet

you

Francesca

i'm
sorry to leave
so
soon

ERNESTINA takes her suitcase.

FULVIA

Aunty E ——

Aunty E don't
you recognize me ——

Not my hair

my face look
at my face Aunty E
look
at me it's
me

ERNESTINA

Fulvia

FULVIA indicates for ERNESTINA to keep quiet.

ERNESTINA

Fulvia

FULVIA

Aunty E

ERNESTINA touches FULVIA's face.

ERNESTINA

I've missed you for

so
long

FULVIA

Then why didn't you look for me
why did you
and Sylvio
bury
me

ERNESTINA

I did we
didn't bury Fulvia
my Fulvia
i can't believe
it's where
have you been

FULVIA

You've
even formed
an alliance against
me

ERNESTINA

What

FULVIA

You and her
an alliance against
her own
mother so
she can spite me with
that
pure
spite of

hers

with

her

great

Aunty

E's moral support

ERNESTINA

What do

you mean

FULVIA

Why did you bring

your suitcase

ERNESTINA

I came for

a visit

FULVIA

With a whole suitcase

ERNESTINA

I brought

i brought some things for Livia

FULVIA

No you didn't Aunty E

you brought clothes

is what

you brought

your clothes for

a

long stay because

she invited

you didn't she

she invited

you to stay

here with

her while she

i don't know sabotages

her father's

new marriage

to some random

pregnant bitch she

can't

stand

ERNESTINA

Fulvia

FULVIA

She hates me Aunty E

ERNESTINA

She's your daughter

FULVIA

Yes and no

ERNESTINA

I'm your aunt

FULVIA

I'm not sure maybe

it's best

if you

just pretend

i'm dead again

just keep

pretending the old me's

dead

and all you've

got

now

is

this

Francesca whoever she

is

i don't

even know myself

ERNESTINA

Why would i

do that Fulvia you're

right

here

right

in

front

of me

FULVIA

Because Fulvia changed

ERNESTINA

Everyone changes

FULVIA

But Fulvia became

someone you'd rather

forget Aunty E trust

me

someone

else

entirely

ERNESTINA

In what sense

FULVIA

In the sense

that for thirteen years
i depended
on
the kindness
of strangers —

Then again it seems

to work
for Sylvio
he seems happy having
me this way
i mean
isn't
it every husband's
dream
Aunty E
to have his wife
and
whore
at
the same
time

ERNESTINA passes out.

FULVIA calls out

Sylvio

SYLVIO and LIVIA enter.

LIVIA

Aunty E

SYLVIO to FULVIA

What

happened

LIVIA

Aunty E

SYLVIO

She'll

be okay Livia you know

your aunt

she can

be very sensitive

LIVIA to FULVIA

What did you

do to her

SYLVIO

Livia

LIVIA

What did you

do

SYLVIO

Livia don't talk

to your mother like

that

LIVIA

She's not my mother Dad and look what
she did
to Aunty E

FULVIA

It just happened Livia
it wasn't
on purpose

LIVIA

It wasn't

FULVIA

No Livia you don't understand i
love Aunty E

LIVIA

Aunty E
Aunty E you don't even know
her

FULVIA

But i do Livia and
i love you too
Livia more than you're
a real
beauty
you know
that
look at
this beautiful hair
of
yours

FULVIA touches LIVIA's hair.

LIVIA

What

are you doing ———

ERNESTINA revives

Livia

LIVIA

Aunty E what

happened

Aunty E what did she do

to

you

ERNESTINA

It's okay Livia

i'm okay

i just got

a shock that's

all we

all

just need

to

get used

to how things are

now

that's

all

i'm okay

my sweet

Livia

really

it's okay

we

just need

to

get

to

know

her

ERNESTINA crosses to **FULVIA**, touches her hair.

END ACT 2

III

1

Months later. LIVIA and ERNESTINA wait for SYLVIO and FULVIA to come home with the newborn.

LIVIA

She just took it ——

She just took it Auntie E

ERNESTINA

Maybe it was Sylvio

Livia

LIVIA

No it was definitely her

it's

totally

the

kind

of

thing

she'd

do

Dad would never

go

into

my room without asking

she

should have

asked

me

first

at

least

she

could have

done

that

ERNESTINA

She did

she told
me Livia that
she asked you several

LIVIA

And you believe her

ERNESTINA

It's not
a
matter of

LIVIA

So you believe her more than
you believe me whose side
are
you on Aunty E
i mean what's
she what's
she

ERNESTINA

What

LIVIA

She's brainwashed you just like

ERNESTINA

Livia

LIVIA

Just like she
has Dad
do whatever
she wants
whatever

she wants
she gets
whatever
she wants
and now
she also
got you
to think
whatever
she wants you
to think
when you
have those little
chit
chats
of yours

ERNESTINA

Look Livia

i think all
this
is about
all she wanted
was
to bring
the baby home
in those clothes
that's
all they're
clothes
that
no
one
was using no
i know they're still special
Livia

i know they
are
but they're still just
clothes

LIVIA

They're mine

ERNESTINA

But she made

them hand

made

them Livia

LIVIA

What yes

exactly Aunty

E

that's

exactly

what i'm saying Mom made those clothes

especially for

me they're

my clothes she

has

no right to

take them just sneak

into my room

one

night while

i was out

or whenever and

just steal

the key

to the

chest and what
she just
helps herself
to my
clothes
my
clothes you think
that's
alright

ERNESTINA

You're
right Livia
you're
right i don't
know what
i was saying
i guess
i was just thinking she's
also
gone through
a lot
i guess
that's all
she's been
through
a lot

LIVIA

Most
of it sketchy

ERNESTINA

What do
you mean

LIVIA

I mean she's
sketchy Aunty E

ERNESTINA

Please don't
say that
about
your mother Livia

LIVIA

Mother Aunty E
she's
not even my
step
mother

ERNESTINA

Of course she is

LIVIA

Then why isn't
she married
to Dad
i haven't found
any record
of
any
marriage
to Dad anywhere
i even found
the old
record
when i was looking
it up
the record

of

Dad's

marriage

with

Mom

from sixteen years ago Aunty E it's there

from sixteen years ago but there's nothing

from this

year

with

Dad and

there's

definitely

no

Francesca whatever

her name is

ERNESTINA

Maybe the registry

i don't

know

maybe they haven't processed

LIVIA

It even makes you wonder whose baby

it is doesn't

it Aunty E

ERNESTINA

That's enough Livia

i

can't let

you talk like

that you're taking this way too far

and i'm sorry

i

can't i don't

think

i
can stay once Sylvio
and

LIVIA

I'm sorry Aunty E
i'm sorry

ERNESTINA

It's okay Livia

i understand but
i just
can't
stay here with all
this all
this once
she
and your dad
are back
with your baby sister

LIVIA

Just baby

ERNESTINA

Yes your new

well
yes the baby once
they're
all home i
have
to
go
once i've seen
the
baby

god i
hope
they come soon
they should
be
here by
now shouldn't
they
they already left
the hospital
you know it's

just like when you were born
you were a fall baby too
and
i
just couldn't wait
to meet
you
and hold
you for
the very first time

LIVIA

I know

ERNESTINA

Come

on Livia aren't you

at least

a little

bit excited

LIVIA

No i'm

not and

if
i see that precious little baby
of hers
in my clothes
i might strangle
her
in her crib

ERNESTINA

Livia

LIVIA

I can't
stay here
either Aunty
E

i can't
stand this place
i'm coming
with you

ERNESTINA

This
is your home Livia
i'm sure everything will be fine when
they
get back
i'm sure it
will
all be okay and
you can
all be together
come here
Livia
come here
come

come

come

here

my sweet girl

ERNESTINA kisses LIVIA

I love you

She kisses her again

This

is your home

LIVIA withdraws and exits.

MARCO, disheveled, has entered, startling ERNESTINA.

MARCO

The door was unlocked ——

Didn't even

have to pick

it ——

They're not back

yet

ERNESTINA

How did you know they're coming back today

MARCO

Checked with

the

hospital ——

That's why you left

the door unlocked isn't

it ——

Oh congratulations she's

a healthy six pounds

six ounces

ERNESTINA

You promised

me

MARCO

Don't worry i
won't wreck
your perfect little homecoming for
your perfect little baby Jesus
or Jessica
or what's
the girl's version
of baby Jesus what
would be the
female equivalent

ERNESTINA

You can't be
here
right now

MARCO

That's okay i'll
just wait
till she
gets back

ERNESTINA

She's not going with you
she's staying
right here
i don't
know what makes
you think

MARCO

Look Mom Aunty whatever she calls you i've
waited
a long time okay
i've

given
you
all your space

haven't i

i

haven't bothered you

have i disturbed

you

i

mean what

the

fuck right

what

in the

fuck

was

i

supposed

to

do

with

myself all summer

twiddling my thumbs that's

what i've been doing

twiddling my

little

pathetic

how

little

i've been doing

nothing

but waiting

till

she

has

the

baby

that's

all

just

waiting

till

today and i

went

away like you asked

i

was

patient

and

respectful

i

was

a

good boy

i gave
you
your space
like you
wanted you got
your space
and plenty of
time with her but
your
time

is up now come
on you
knew
it was
over Jesus
have i been crazy
lonely seriously fucking
crazy

you
know what
it's like
being
alone like
that i mean
out of
your mind
lonely

Maybe it'd
be easier
if Flora
were
dead

God forbid and
don't call her
Flora

MARCO

That's who she
is

ERNESTINA

She was born Fulvia my
Fulvia

MARCO

And whose
is the baby

ERNESTINA

You have to
go
now

MARCO

Whose
is the baby

ERNESTINA

Please go

MARCO

Truth is nobody knows that's
the

ERNESTINA

Please

MARCO

That's

the truth right no father

this baby won't

know her

father just like Livia didn't

know her

own

mother

What

ERNESTINA

She still doesn't know

MARCO

Flora never told her

She never told

her who

she is

ERNESTINA shakes her head.

MARCO

Fulvia's

still dead

ERNESTINA

Only to Livia she's Francesca

to Livia but

only for her

MARCO

That's fantastic

ERNESTINA

What

MARCO

She

never came back

here for good

ERNESTINA

No please you have to

go

now

please go before anyone

MARCO

I'm staying

ERNESTINA

You're giving

me a heart

attack please

at least

at

the very

least

let her come

home first

let

me just talk

to

her by

herself for just

a minute

please

so

i can

meet the baby

and be
alone with
just
her
and
the baby
just for
a minute
please just
give
me a minute with
them to myself
please

MARCO

Only if you tell her
i'm here
when
you see
her
tell her
i'm finally
here to
take
her back

ERNESTINA

She's not going with you

MARCO

Tell her

ERNESTINA

I told you she's

MARCO

Look lady i've
been kind
i've
been
a gentleman
and
i've
been patient
as fuck waiting forever
for

this day
okay
so don't make
me
get nasty because
i swear
to god
if

ERNESTINA clutches him

Shhh

Sounds of FULVIA and SYLVIO entering.

ERNESTINA

I'll
tell her you're
here fine
i'll
tell her
i promise just wait please
just wait
in
the back
i'll get

you soon come
here just wait outside and
i'll send
her out
to see
you as soon
as
i can
i promise
i promise
you just can't
be
here now
just wait

ERNESTINA has been leading **MARCO** to the back. They exit.

FULVIA and **SYLVIO** enter with baby.

FULVIA

Shhh

shhh

shhh

shhh

FULVIA nurses baby.

FULVIA

Where

are they

SYLVIO

I'll get Livia

FULVIA

And

Aunty **E**

SYLVIO exits.

ERNESTINA enters to FULVIA nursing.

ERNESTINA

Oh my god let

me see her

let's

see you

my sweet

sweet

my

oh my god she's adorable

she's beautiful

Fulvia

she's perfect congratulations

ERNESTINA kisses FULVIA.

FULVIA

Thank you Aunty E

ERNESTINA

And she's a great little sucker

FULVIA

I know ——

ERNESTINA

How do

you feel

FULVIA

I don't know Aunty E so much like the first

time you know

i don't know why

or maybe

i do

i don't know

but she reminds

me

so much of Livia

ERNESTINA

Of course she does

FULVIA

Where is

she doesn't

she want

to meet

her sister

ERNESTINA

I'm sure she's

she's just look at

how perfect

she

is she really

is perfect —

And you're

right she really does look like Livia

so much

like

her

FULVIA

I know

i wasn't expecting that

ERNESTINA

Can i hold her

FULVIA

Of course

ERNESTINA

She

even weighs

the same as Livia exactly

the same

FULVIA

Yes exactly the same weight

as Livia how did you
know that

ERNESTINA

How could i forget

six pounds

six ounces

you know

i remember Livia's birth like

FULVIA

No Auntie E the baby i know you

know Livia's of

course

i know you remember

Livia's but

the baby how

did you

know
the baby's

weight ——

You called the hospital ——

Sylvio ——

ERNESTINA

He's outside

FULVIA

He's in Livia's room

he just went

to get

her

ERNESTINA

No

not Sylvio i mean your ——

FULVIA

What

ERNESTINA

Your ex boyfriend ——

Mr

Mauri he says

he knew you and

he

i guess

he

FULVIA

Marco ——

Why didn't you tell me

ERNESTINA

I did

i mean just now

i just wanted you

to settle

in before

he

he

just showed

up

just now

FULVIA

Why didn't you

get

rid of him

ERNESTINA

I don't know he seems

i don't know a little disturbed

i guess

and there

was

no time

i couldn't

just

send him away
again

FULVIA

Again

ERNESTINA

Well yes

he's been here once

before

FULVIA

When

ERNESTINA

This summer

FULVIA

And you never told

me Aunty

E

FULVIA takes the baby back from ERNESTINA.

ERNESTINA

I wanted you Fulvia

i didn't

want you to

FULVIA

Jesus fucking Christ ——

Does Sylvio know

ERNESTINA

No

FULVIA

Livia

ERNESTINA

God no

FULVIA

Only you

ERNESTINA

Yes

FULVIA

And he's outside

ERNESTINA

Yes in the back

FULVIA

Right now

ERNESTINA

I need to

tell him something

he

won't leave

FULVIA

You can't

let him

in

ERNESTINA

I know

FULVIA

If he comes in

ERNESTINA

I know

i know

i know

FULVIA

Okay tell him

to wait

till i something

with

the baby nurse

the baby or change her yes

tell him

i'll come

out

once

the baby's changed but only

once

she's

changed

okay

please

he

has

to wait

ERNESTINA

Okay

ERNESTINA starts to exit.

SYLVIO enters

Ernestina

ERNESTINA

What ——

SYLVIO

Uh well

hello for starters

ERNESTINA

I'm sorry hello Sylvio ——

And congratulations

on the baby Sylvio

congratulations

SYLVIO

Thank you

FULVIA

Where is Livia

SYLVIO

She's

still in

her room

ERNESTINA

It's an emotional time for her

the poor thing

it can't be easy

SYLVIO

She could at least come see her new sister

ERNESTINA

Give
her
time

SYLVIO

I told her

she should come down but
she won't listen
to me
she hardly
even looks
at me maybe
if you go up Ernestina
she'll listen
to you

ERNESTINA

That's okay Sylvio

it's okay if we
let her stay up
there for
a while till
she's ready
okay

SYLVIO

Now's
not the time
to sulk
in
her room Ernestina this
is

the time
to meet
the baby don't you want
her
to see
the baby

especially
you and now
all of
a sudden you're what
you're
not sure
or something
what

Ernestina ———

FULVIA

She's stalling

SYLVIO

Why

FULVIA

Marco's here

ERNESTINA

Fulvia

SYLVIO

Who

FULVIA

Marco

Mauri remember

SYLVIO

That guy from
that

FULVIA

He's in the back

SYLVIO

Are you
serious

SYLVIO starts toward the back.

FULVIA

Wait ——

Let Aunty E go

SYLVIO

Your aunt

FULVIA

Then i'll do
it
i'll go talk
to
him

FULVIA puts the baby down.

SYLVIO

That's
not
a good
idea

ERNESTINA

Sylvio's right

Fulvia it's really
 not a good
 idea

FULVIA

Since when have

i had good
 ideas

FULVIA starts to exit.

LIVIA enters.

SYLVIO

Livia you came
 come
 come see the
 baby come here

SYLVIO encourages LIVIA toward the pram.

LIVIA

Aunty E ———

Aunty E is everything okay

FULVIA

Yes Livia Ernestina was just about to get something
 for me from
 the back weren't
 you
 Ernestina

LIVIA

No Aunty E stay here Francesca
 can
 help herself

SYLVIO

Excuse me Livia

LIVIA

It's okay Dad she's very good at
 it

i mean
she helped
herself
to the
key
to my chest
and
then
she helped
herself
to my clothes

FULVIA

They're baby clothes

LIVIA

My baby clothes that
my mom made for
me for
me do you even get
that concept she
made
them for
me not
for
some stranger's
baby

ERNESTINA

Livia

SYLVIO

Tone it down

LIVIA

For a thief

SYLVIO

This
is your family
you're talking
about

LIVIA

What family Dad she's
not my mother
she's
not even
my step
mother

SYLVIO

Of course she is

LIVIA

Not if you're
not married and
i don't
care
if you
are or
you
aren't Dad
i really
don't
care
if you're married but
you lied
Dad
you lied
to
me and to Aunty E

you

told us

you

were

SYLVIO

We

were

we

are Livia what kind of

Livia

we

are married

we

just did

it quietly

a

private ceremony

we

didn't

make

a

big

deal out

of

it

that's

all

LIVIA

So where's your

license

SYLVIO

License

LIVIA

Your marriage license Dad where

is

it

SYLVIO

What now i need proof this

is ridiculous ———

FULVIA

You're
right Livia

SYLVIO
Francesca

FULVIA
We

SYLVIO
Francesca i don't think

FULVIA
We didn't
get married recently
but

LIVIA
You see Aunty E i told
you i told
you

FULVIA
But we really
are married Livia it's complicated

LIVIA
Seems
simple to me you're just another
one of Dad's girlfriends that's
all
he hardly
even knows you
how long have
you

known each
other anyway
has it
even been nine months

SYLVIO

I don't like what you're insinuating
Livia

LIVIA

At least i'm not lying

ERNESTINA

Please stop Livia

LIVIA

But
it's true Aunty E he's a liar

ERNESTINA

Livia

LIVIA to SYLVIO

A liar

SYLVIO

That's
it go back
to your
room

LIVIA

Fine i'm leaving anyway so you
can all play happy family together with
your precious new
baby

FULVIA

Is that

what this

is Livia you're jealous ——

Because i

love both

of you really

you have no

idea how much

i've wanted

both

of you

with

me here

together

i

love you

both you

and

your

sister

LIVIA

She's not my sister

FULVIA

She is

she is

LIVIA

No she's

not

she's

the daughter

of a ——

FULVIA

What ———

The daughter of

a what
what
am i go
on tell me
what i
am Livia
what
am i

LIVIA

You know exactly what
you are

FULVIA

A woman who's tried

is that
what you mean
a
woman who's tried for months i've
tried to make this
a home where
you
can be happy
that's
all Livia
to make
you happy
and me too maybe
even
a home where
i could

love someone you

you

Livia and i was only hoping

you

would feel at least

a little the way

i feel

about

you and i

know

this

is hopeless

i'm sorry but that's

what

i am Livia

hopeless

i'm done with

this

this

is over

i'm sorry

i tried too

hard with you

or not enough

i guess

i thought

it

might

be

different

but

i'm an

idiot

only idiots

crucify themselves ———

Whore ——

That's

what you were thinking hey

she's

a whore is

what you were thinking Dad's

a liar

and Mom's

a whore isn't

that it

i'm

a thief

and

a fucking

whore

LIVIA

You said

it not me

FULVIA

You thought

it

LIVIA

Maybe

FULVIA

Then maybe you

should know

the truth

about yourself

LIVIA

Like what

FULVIA

Like you're the daughter of

a whore just

like your sister

just

like her

SYLVIO

That's enough Francesca

LIVIA

Don't insult my

mom

my

mom

FULVIA

My

mom

my

mom

my

mom would

you shut

up already

about

your

mom you

didn't even know

her

LIVIA

I remember

her

FULVIA

From when you were three

two

one

LIVIA

Yes

FULVIA

Then why don't

you recognize

her

Look at me Livia

look at me it's

me

Fulvia it's

me

your mother

your mom

Livia

i'm your mom

Livia

they told

you

i

was dead but

it's

me

it's

me

i'm

here

LIVIA

No

FULVIA

Yes

FULVIA approaches LIVIA. LIVIA passes out.

SYLVIO

Are you trying to kill her

FULVIA

Aunty E

get Marco ——

Aunty E

ERNESTINA

What about Livia

FULVIA

Go

get him

ERNESTINA exits.

SYLVIO

Livia

Livia

FULVIA picks up the baby

Livia ——

I'm taking Livia with

me this time she's coming

with

me

my Livia tell

that to your

Livia when

she

wakes

up

SYLVIO

You're

leaving

ERNESTINA and MARCO enter.

FULVIA

Marco

MARCO crosses to FULVIA.

FULVIA

Isn't

she beautiful

MARCO, FULVIA and baby. ERNESTINA, SYLVIO and LIVIA.

END

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



ADAM SEELIG is a poet, playwright, stage director, and the founder of One Little Goat Theatre Company in Toronto, with which he has premiered works by Yehuda Amichai, Thomas Bernhard, Jon Fosse and himself. Seelig is the author of *Every Day in the Morning (slow)* (New Star Books 2011), and his plays include *All Is Almost Still* (New York 2004), *Antigone:Insurgency* (Toronto 2007) and *Talking Masks* (Toronto 2009, published by BookThug). Born and raised in Vancouver, Seelig has also lived in northern California, New York, England and Israel.

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