

**MUSIC MUSIC LIFE DEATH MUSIC**  
**AN ABSURDICAL**

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**ADAM SEELIG (2018)**

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In memory of  
**Jory Groberman**  
**(1975-2016)**  
lifelong friend

# MUSIC MUSIC LIFE DEATH MUSIC

## An Absurdical

### CAST

**DD** a woman who is JJ's spouse

**JJ** a man who is DD's spouse

**B / Baba** a woman who is DD's mother

**PP** a boy who is DD and JJ's teenage son

**Band** drums, bass, piano, guitar

# 1

## SONG

“Fa Fa La La (One and One are One)”

**DD & JJ** enter. They approach each other over course of song, becoming intimate.

**DD & JJ** lead audience in call and response.

Fa

**AUDIENCE**

Fa

**DD & JJ**

Fa

**AUDIENCE**

Fa

**DD & JJ**

La

**AUDIENCE**

La

**DD & JJ**

La

**AUDIENCE**

La

Vamp.

**DD & JJ** to audience.

La la

**AUDIENCE**

La la

**DD & JJ** to each other.

Loving is a form of fa-fa fa fa

Fa fa

Fucking is a way of saying

Chorus One and one are one (2, 3, 4)

You and me is us (4, 3, 2)

Be together now

And we'll never be done

We'll never be done

**DD & JJ** overlapping "la la / fa fa" verse.

La la la la

Fa fa fa fa

Loving is a form of

Fucking is a way of

fa-fa fa fa fa fa

la-la la la la la

Fucking is a way of saying

Loving is a form of saying

Chorus One and one are one (2, 3, 4)

You and me is us (4, 3, 2)

Be together now

And we'll never be done

We'll never be done

Instrumental solo(s) over Chorus progression.

One and one are one (2, 3, 4)

You and me is us (4, 3, 2)

Be together now

And we'll never be done

We'll never be done

Song abruptly ended by three knocks at door. ———.

**DD**

Is that

the door

**JJ**

No ———

**DD & JJ** resume intimacy. Three knocks at door.

**DD**

Did you hear that

**JJ**

Ya but

it's

so

late

**DD**

Ya but ———

**JJ**

Hold

on i

think they've

gone

**DD** questioning.

Ya ———

JJ

Ya

DD

Good

DD & JJ resume intimacy. Many knocks at door.

DD

You better put  
your clothes  
on

JJ

Why

DD

Aren't you going  
to see who  
it is

JJ

Now

DD

Ya no

JJ

No

DD

But

JJ

What if  
it's your mom

DD

Shit you're  
right

JJ

Ya

DD

But we can't just leave her  
there

JJ

Why not

DD

Because she's  
she's what if  
it's  
Mimi

JJ

She'd call  
ahead wouldn't  
she

DD

What  
about Fifi

JJ

Isn't she  
out of town

DD

Lulu

JJ

Maybe

DD

Maybe it's Lulu ——

What

if

it's Lulu

JJ

Then i'll  
open  
the door

DD

But how  
will you  
know it's her

JJ

I won't  
till  
i

DD

So you'll open the door  
either way

JJ

Ya shit

DD

Because if

it's my

mom

JJ

I know

Knock(s) at door.

DD

Haven't

they

heard of

the door bell

JJ

Is that

the kind of

thing Lulu would

do

DD

What

JJ

Knock instead

of ring

**DD**

Maybe i don't  
know

**JJ**

Or your mom

**DD**

I

**JJ**

I'm just trying  
to figure out  
who  
it  
is before  
i go down

Knock(s) at door.

**DD**

You better just go before  
they wake  
up  
little PP

**JJ**

I'm sure he's  
still  
sleeping

**DD**

Okay but

JJ

Nothing can wake up little PP

DD

Okay but still ——

Knock(s) at door.

JJ

Okay i'm going to answer  
it

DD

Okay good luck

JJ

Thanks

DD

Then come right back okay

JJ

Okay

DD

Because i'm  
super horny

JJ

And what  
am i  
not horny  
i'm super  
horny  
too you

know

**DD**

Of course

you are i know

i'm sorry

i didn't mean

you're not

of course

you're horny

**JJ**

Super horny

**DD**

Super horny

of course

you are i'm

sorry

**JJ**

Okay

**DD**

So

go and come right back

okay

**JJ**

Okay

**DD**

Okay ——

**JJ**

Okay see

you

soon

**DD**

Great

**JJ** goes down stairs and opens door.

**B**

Hello JJ

**JJ**

Hi B ——

**B**

Do i still need

to take  
off my shoes you want  
me

to take them  
off  
don't you

fine  
i'll take them  
off

**JJ**

DD your mom's here

**DD**

Shh JJ you're going to wake  
up little PP

**JJ**

Sorry

**B**

Hi DD

**DD**

Hello mom shh

**B**

That's why i

**DD**

Shh

**DD** goes down stairs.

**B**

That's why i

didn't ring  
the bell  
i  
didn't want  
to wake our little PP even though  
i know  
he can sleep  
through  
anything  
well almost  
anything just  
i thought  
ding  
dong  
ding  
dong might  
too be a little much  
even  
for  
our  
adorable

little  
champion sleeper  
so  
i thought  
i'd knock

**JJ**

That was very considerate

**DD**

At midnight

**B**

Oh my god is  
it  
midnight

**DD**

You do have  
a watch  
you know  
that watch right there  
on  
your wrist

**B**

Oh my god i  
do  
i  
do  
indeed have  
a watch right  
here  
on my wrist  
and it seems

to  
be it does appear  
to  
be midnight even  
a touch  
after  
midnight you're  
right  
i'm so  
sorry

**DD**

So knocking a hundred times  
mom

**B**

A hundred times  
i knocked  
a hundred times

**JJ**

It was quite  
a lot

**B**

But a hundred times  
a hundred i couldn't have  
i couldn't possibly  
have knocked  
a hundred times  
a hundred times

**DD**

That's not  
the point

the point mom  
is  
that when  
it's this  
late  
at night

**B**

Ya  
ya it's  
late  
it's after midnight  
i know  
i do  
know the time  
now  
i  
have a watch  
after all we've established  
i  
have a watch  
right  
here on  
my  
wrist

**DD**

And  
a phone  
in your  
purse

**JJ**

DD

B

No

no JJ

DD's right she's absolutely

right

i

do

have

a

phone

right

here

in

my purse just

as

i

have

a

watch

right

here

on

my

wrist

i

appreciate

that and

i

appreciate

DD's

implication

that

i'm

therefore

perfectly aware

or should be

perfectly aware

or at least

should have

been

aware

of

the

time

before

i did

my

best

to

knock

courteously  
though clearly not  
courteously  
enough

for  
some

of

us

it's  
just

that

i'm

i'm

i'm —

Well your father

**DD**

Is dad okay

**JJ**

Ya is everything

**B**

Ya he's okay

he's fine

he's just

fine it's

just that

just

he

seems

to not

to want

to —

**JJ**

Here

have

a seat

**B**

Thank you JJ  
you're so sweet

**DD**

Is everything okay mom

**B**

Oh it's nothing really  
i really shouldn't even  
bring  
it up

**JJ**

Are you  
sure

**B**

Well since you asked

Music.

**B** sings.

Your father's sleeping on the couch

**DD & JJ** speak, interspersing validating comments such as:

We all do that sometimes

**B** sings.

Not because I put him there no by choice

**DD & JJ** validate again.

Okay so he wants some undisturbed sleep

**B** sings.

He'd rather keep to himself

**DD & JJ**

That's understandable now and then

**B** sings.

He barely even wants to hear my voice

**DD & JJ**

Alright that's a bit harsh

**B** speaks.

In other words

## **SONG**

"Daddy Doesn't Stuff Me Anymore"

**B** sings.

Daddy doesn't stuff me anymore

**DD & JJ** sing backup.

Do do-do do do-do (repeat for rest of verse)

**B**

He used to let me ride him on the floor  
He'd fill me up right to my very core  
His knocker knocking up my ding- dong- door

I used to be his one and own amour ("own" short for "on-ly")

**DD & JJ**

Ooh la-la ooh la-la

**B**

I used to be his virgin and his whore

**DD & JJ**

Ma-donna Ma-donna

**B**

But when I heard his inter-coital snore

**DD & JJ**

(Snore in rhythm.)

**B**

It was my raven saying ne- ver- more

Chorus

Daddy doesn't stuff me anymore

He used to fill my muffler with his roar

But now he's had enough it's just a chore

He doesn't stuff me

He doesn't love me any

I thought I'd introduce some extra ac-tion

**DD & JJ**

Why-why why not see

**B**

Maybe my sister'd join us in the sack-tion

**DD & JJ**

C-c Aunty C ?!

**B**

She too is lonely deep inside her crack-tion

**DD & JJ**

C-c u n-t

**B**

But we still couldn't get no sa- tis- fac- tion

Chorus

Daddy doesn't stuff me anymore  
He used to fill my muffler with his roar  
But now he's had enough it's just a chore  
He doesn't stuff me  
He doesn't love me any-

Bridge

-more  
He doesn't love me anymore  
a- a- ny- more

Instrumental solos over Chorus and Bridge progressions.

Chorus

Daddy doesn't stuff me anymore  
He used to crash his surf against my shore  
But now he's just a geriatric bore  
He doesn't stuff me  
He doesn't love  
He doesn't stuff me  
He doesn't love  
He doesn't stuff me  
He doesn't love me anymore

End song, transitioning into next one.

## SONG

“Sometimes (I’m Alright)”

**PP** enters/appears in bed in his room next door, sings.

Sometimes the moon will disappear  
Down to the sliver of an ear  
Sometimes I swear that it can hear  
My thoughts at night

Sometimes I think about the end  
How far and where my path will wend  
Sometimes I’ll sing to help pretend  
I’m alright

Chorus      I’m alright  
              I’m not alright  
              but I’m alright I’m not alright  
              but maybe not and then again  
              it could be all these little thoughts  
              are just the night

Sometimes my wall becomes a screen  
Showing scenes I’ve never seen  
Sometimes what I see’s obscene  
Then goes away

Sometimes I snap to feel a beat  
Fingers accompanying my feet  
Sometimes it helps me to repeat  
That I’m okay

Chorus        I'm okay  
                 I'm not okay  
                 but I'm okay I'm not okay  
                 but maybe not and then again  
                 it could be all these little thoughts  
                 will go away  
                 in the light of day

Bridge

**DD & JJ & B**

In the light of day

**PP**

I'll feel some lift again

**DD & JJ & B**

In light of day

**PP**

I'll chase the sun

**DD & JJ & B**

In light of day

**PP**

I'll catch the drifting of my thoughts  
Maybe some

Sometimes I stare out at the waves  
Watch their currents crest and cave  
And horizons that engrave  
Into the skies

Sometimes I stare out at a tree  
Sense that tree stare back at me  
Sometimes I wonder how I'll breathe  
The day it dies

Chorus I'm alive  
I'm not alive  
but I'm alright I'm not alive  
but maybe not and then again  
it could be all these little thoughts  
are what will die

**DD & JJ & B** sing backup.

A little nap a little sleep  
A little snap a little peep

**PP**

I'm alright  
It's just the night

End song.

**DD**

I think you woke

up little PP mom

I think he's

up

**B**

Don't be ridiculous DD

**PP** from his room.

Mom

**DD**

You woke him

up

**B**

So i'll put

him back

to bed

**JJ**

Thanks B

that's okay

thanks we'll

**B**

But if

i woke

him

up as DD claims

i woke

him  
 up then  
 i should be  
 the  
 one to take responsibility right  
 take responsibility  
 for what  
 i've  
 done the  
 way  
 i used to teach  
 my little  
 DD to take responsibility  
 for all  
 those things  
 you'd do right  
 i'll  
 put little  
 PP back  
 to  
 bed

**DD**

No thanks  
 mom JJ  
 and i  
 will

**B** interrupts.

What do  
 you mean DD  
 what does  
 she even  
 mean JJ

JJ

Nothing

nothing B

i just

think that

DD what

DD means is

just

that

B interrupts.

Good then

good because how many times DD

how many times

in my

life did

i tuck

you

in

when you were

little

and little

PP

when i

used to babysit

he loved it

when i babysat

and tucked

him

in

because well

i'm not exactly

sure but probably

because of

my well

my

touch i've always

had

a great

touch

with

children

i

don't know

why

i

wouldn't

quite

call

it

an

angel's

touch

sure

i

can

be

gentle

but

i'm

firm

so

maybe

i'd say

i

don't know

maybe

i'd call

it

a graceful

touch

or

maybe

just

the

right

touch

ya

maybe

that's

it

the

right

touch i have

the

right

touch

**DD**

Yes mom you do  
you have  
the right  
touch  
you do  
your  
touch is great  
it really  
is  
mom and

**B**

Thank you

**DD**

And little PP loves you  
of course  
he  
loves you he really truly does

**JJ**

It's true

**B**

I know  
of course it's  
true  
i know

**DD**

But right now mom  
right now little PP is

JJ

Right

DD

And i don't want you

to take this  
the

wrong way mom

B

What

are you getting

at DD

JJ

I think B what

DD

is trying

to say

is —

Well

it's probably

better for

DD to say

it herself

DD

Thanks JJ it's

just

that i don't want my

mom

to take

it personally

i don't want you

it to take personally  
mom

**B**

Nonsense of course i'm going

to take

it personally what

isn't personal right JJ there's

no such

thing as

not personal there's

nothing that

isn't personal

so

of course i'm going

to take

it personally whatever

it

is

DD

it's

only

natural

what

nonsense

does

she

always

spew

such

nonsense

JJ

such

an

intelligent girl

i thought

i raised

**JJ**

B i

**DD**

Don't answer that JJ

that's

just

one

of

my

mom's charming rhetorical questions

**PP** from his room.

Dad

**JJ**

Just a second little PP

**DD**

Listen mom

little PP's

in a

phase right now

**JJ**

He's growing and

**B**

I know that

that's obvious

it's obvious he's

growing

**JJ**

And he's you

could

say

he's having

growing pains

**B**

I didn't raise  
kids

i never saw growing  
pains

i know he's having  
growing

pains he's

a teenager of course

he's having

growing

pains

**DD**

And they're making him grumpy

**B**

Nonsense little PP grumpy

**JJ**

Let's  
just say disagreeable

**B**

Nonsense

**DD**

So  
mom at times  
like this  
mom like the middle  
of the night  
mom if

he wants

anyone

at

all

and doesn't just

want to be

left alone 'cause

it's

the middle

of the night

mom then

he

really

only

wants

his

mom

or his

dad

**B**

Or his grandma

of course

he wants

his Baba

**JJ**

Of course he does it's

just

that

**DD**

It's

just that

he doesn't

**JJ**

Right now

**DD**

At this moment

mom otherwise

he really truly

wants

to be

with you

of course

he does

**JJ**

It's true

**B**

I know

**DD**

But right now mom

**JJ**

Tell your mom what

he

told us the

other day DD

**B**

What

**JJ**

That teenagers

are like babies

**DD**

Ya he said teenagers

are like babies

they should  
sleep  
and feed every two  
hours

**DD & JJ** laugh.

**B**

I'll feed him you're telling  
me  
you don't  
feed him what  
kind  
of parents

**DD**

Not  
now mom

**B**

But little PP's hungry

**JJ**

DD can you please remind  
your mom it's  
the  
middle  
of  
the night

**DD**

Mom

**B** shouting and crossing to **PP**'s room.

PP ——

Little

PP

**B** enters **PP**'s room.

**PP**

Baba

**B**

PP my little

PP

**B** & **PP** hug.

**B**

You're so big now

you're                    my

                  big            little PP look

                  at

you

you're so                    much                    taller (than

                  me)

                  now

                  and

                  handsome

you're                    such                    a                    handsome

                  little PP

**PP**

Is everything alright Baba

**B**

What

why

**PP**

I mean what  
are you doing here

**B**

Aren't you happy  
to see  
your Baba

**PP**

Of course Baba  
of course i  
am  
it's  
just  
isn't  
it  
a little  
late

**B**

Here i brought  
you something

**PP**

Thanks  
what is  
it

**B**

Go ahead open it

**PP**

Is  
it an  
onion

**B**

Very funny go  
on open it

**PP** unwraps it.

**B**

It's an  
onion

**PP**

Thanks Baba i'll  
add  
it to my collection

**B**

Aren't you going  
to eat  
it

**PP**

I already brushed  
my teeth Baba so not  
right now okay  
maybe for  
breakfast okay

**B**

Okay my little PP  
my sweet  
sweet  
little PP you're so  
sweet  
i just always

want you

to

remember how

your

great Zaza

who would have

loved

you so much if only he'd met

you

and

you

would have

loved

him

too

he

was

such

a

wonderful

loving

person

who

loved

me

so much

and

worked

so

hard

and

sure

he

could

be

a

hard

person sometimes but

remember when

he came to this country

when

my

dad

came

here

he

had nothing

nothing and

i

want

you

remember to do you remember that expression i taught you

**PP**

Mankolipka

**B**

That's right

that's

what he'd always

say

**B** sings.

Mankolipka Mekeliokojokoshosoyipka

**B** speaks.

Like that

**B** sings.

I survived the wa-a-a-a-a-a-ar on onions

**B** speaks.

Remember that

my little PP

**PP**

I will Baba don't

worry

i will

**B**

Good that's

good and ——

PP

Baba

B

Well i

also want you now that

you're older

i think

you're old

enough

now to hear

the rest

of

what

your

great Zaza

told

me

about

his

life

your

mom

well

you

know

your

mom

she's

so

protective

she

may

never

tell

you

but

i

think

it's

important

for

you

to

know

## SONG

“I Survived the War on Onions”

Great Zaza’s Song

**B**

When they surrounded us  
I thought I’d end up dead  
Somehow I still stood there  
But all around me red

So I fled to this country  
To make a better life  
Find prosperity  
And myself a wife

A wife I found (my mom)  
And we had little B (that’s me)  
We hardly had a dime  
But I’d say don’t worry

Chorus

I survived the war on onions  
That was all I could afford  
I survived the war on onions  
Chopped up on the chopping board

I was an immigrant  
My English was all wrong  
But I picked it up  
So I could get along

I even learned some slang  
“Now you’re laughing eh”  
Still I was scraping by on  
Jobs for very little pay

I scrimped and saved and scrimped and  
Saved a thousand times repeat  
But no matter what  
We barely had enough to eat

Chorus I survived the war on onions  
That was all I could afford  
I survived the war on onions  
Chopped up on the chopping board

Instrumental solos over Verse and Chorus progressions.

Chorus I survived the war on onions  
That was all I could afford  
I survived the war on onions  
Chopped up on the chopping board

I learned to love this country  
But money's still a squeeze  
'Cause standing in my way are  
Other minorities

I learned to love this country

**DD & JJ & PP** sing backup.

He learned to love

**B**

But banks are run by Jews  
And I still love this country

**DD & JJ**

He still loves

**B**

A pound of flesh you'll lose

**DD & JJ & PP** continue singing backup through to end of song.

**B**

I learned to love this country  
But not some people's ways  
And I still love this country  
Who let in all the gays

I learned to love this country  
Now women vote in pants  
But that's so stupid 'cause they  
Have way less intelligence  
    except my wife your mama who's  
    the love of my life and  
    makes the best fried onions in the world  
    (this is what your Great Zaza told me)

Chorus      I survived the war on onions  
              That was all I could afford  
              I survived the war on onions  
              Chopped up on the chopping  
              Chopped up on the chopping  
              Chopped up on the chopping board

End song.

## 6

**DD** & **JJ** make their way into **PP**'s room.

### SONG

"Lullaby"

**DD** sings, beginning to the tune of "*Pizmon LaYakinton*" ("Song of the Hyacinth") by Lea Goldberg and Rivkah Gvilly.

Spring time night time moon is watching over you

**PP** speaks.

Hi mom

**JJ** sings.

And our little garden's growing something new

**PP** speaks.

Hi dad

**DD** & **JJ** sing.

Special green flowers budding bliss

Indica sativa cannabis

**DD** & **JJ** speak.

Say goodnight to your Baba

**PP**

Goodnight Baba

**B**

Goodnight my little

**DD** loudly at **B**.

Shhhhhh

**JJ** gently whisks **B** out of **PP**'s room.

**DD** & **JJ** sing.

Spring time night time moon is watching over you

**DD** & **PP** are left alone in **PP**'s room.

**DD** sings, with "you" of phrase above carrying over to the "you" of the following, to the tune of "You Are My Sunshine."

You are my sunshine my only sunshine  
You make me happy when skies are grey  
You'll never know dear how much I love you  
Please don't take my sunshine away

**PP** joins **DD**, to the tune of "Ophelia" by The Band.

**DD** & **PP** Was it something that somebody said

**PP** Mama I know I broke the rules

**DD** & **PP** Was somebody up against the law

**DD** Honey you know I'd die for you-

**DD** & **PP** -ou are my sunshine my only sunshine  
You make me happy when skies are grey  
You'll never know dear how much I love you  
Please don't take my sunshine away

Back to "Ophelia."

Ashes of laughter, the coast is clear  
Why do the best things always disappear  
Like my sunshine, please lighten my

Just **DD** singing now, back to "You Are My Sunshine."

Night dear as I lay sleeping

I dreamed I held you in my arms  
But when I woke dear I was mistaken  
So I held my head and I  
    cried  
    cried  
    cried  
    cried  
    cried

**DD** kisses **PP** on the head. **PP** goes to sleep.

End song.

JJ & B in room next door.

B

Is that new

JJ

What

B

That

JJ

That

B

No that over  
there  
that

JJ

Oh that

B

Ya

JJ

Is  
it new

B

Ya

JJ

No i don't  
think  
so  
no

B

Oh ———

Are you  
sure

JJ

Ya i'm sure

B

That it's  
not new  
that it's definitely  
not new  
are you  
sure

JJ

Ya

B

Definitely

JJ

Ya  
ya why do  
you want  
to know

**B**

Just wondering ——

So it's

not new

**JJ**

Right no

**B**

Then why

haven't i seen

it before

**JJ**

I don't

**B**

Because DD mentioned

remember she

mentioned well no you

wouldn't

remember

because she

mentioned it

to

me and

you

were probably

you

were out

when

she

mentioned i

remember her

mentioning an  
errand  
she had  
to  
do  
so  
she had  
to get off  
the phone  
though to  
honest  
be she always  
seems  
to have  
to get off  
the phone  
she's so quick  
to  
hang  
up  
so i  
figured the errand  
she mentioned that  
errand  
remember i was  
probably  
for that right  
to get something  
to have something  
something new  
right over there

JJ

But it's  
not new

B

Reminds  
me of that  
story about  
my mom did  
i ever tell  
you  
that  
story about  
my mom

JJ

Which one

B

I never told you the  
one about my  
mom and  
the  
chest  
of drawers  
she wanted for  
the front hall  
of our  
house  
she always  
thought  
it looked so  
bare  
there  
even though

it was  
a small  
hall  
in a small  
house and we  
were  
never very well off  
as  
you know but  
she still felt  
the front hall needed  
something  
and  
she'd seen  
the chest of  
perfect drawers for  
it she took so  
with her me  
one day  
to buy  
the drawers  
and  
told me  
to  
never tell  
my dad  
we had  
to buy  
the chest  
in secret

because my dad  
i'm  
sure you've heard how  
my dad could  
be with money  
anyhow  
he  
hardly ever let  
my  
mom get anything  
she wanted  
and  
it's true  
he  
had to work  
hard for  
it  
he worked  
very  
hard for  
it but  
even so  
when it  
came to  
my  
mom with money and  
my dad really loved  
my  
mom but  
when it  
came to  
money  
he  
could

be a total Jew  
you know  
what i  
mean  
anyhow  
my  
mom and  
i

JJ

Well no B  
well ya  
ya i  
do  
know what  
you mean  
B i think  
i  
know what  
you mean but

B

Excuse me

JJ

It just sounds  
it's  
just you're  
you're discriminating based on

B

I'm discriminating

JJ

Well when you

use that term  
when you

**B**

Me JJ you're telling  
me the daughter of an immigrant  
about discrimination  
i  
think  
i know  
a  
thing or two  
about discrimination  
JJ you think  
i don't  
know

**JJ**

No  
no B i'm sure you  
do it's  
not that  
it's just  
that

**B**

And Jew all of  
a sudden  
Jew isn't  
the right term  
of course  
it  
is  
Jew to say  
Jew is perfectly

and correct what  
should  
i say niggardly my dad was  
a niggard  
is that  
what  
i should say  
instead  
of  
Jew that  
he was  
a niggard  
would that  
be  
better for  
all you  
over sensitive  
types  
niggardly

**JJ**

Well miserly would work  
or frugal maybe  
or stingy parsimonious  
or even cheap  
there  
are a lot  
of other

**B**

Then what about my  
neighbour  
what is  
he supposed

to say Mr Haimowitz  
who is lovely  
by  
the way  
such a lovely  
lovely man  
the old widower  
Mr Haimowitz  
what is  
he supposed  
to call himself not  
a Jew no  
Jew  
he calls  
himself  
he identifies  
he self identifies  
as a Jew  
as  
he should  
he should be  
proud  
to be  
a Jew  
you've met him  
before  
haven't  
you Mr Hymiewitz  
i mean  
Haimowitz  
Mr Haimowitz  
you've met him  
before no

JJ

Ya i

B

Lovely such a

lovely man

anyhow my

mom

and i

without

my dad knowing

we buy

and sneak the chest

into the

house into the small hall

in the front

and my dad says

nothing for a week

he doesn't

seem

to even notice

it and

then one

day after

a week

of walking by

it

every

day

he finally

says

**what's this**

and my  
mom  
says  
oh that  
that's always  
been there  
and you  
want  
to know  
what my dad  
says

JJ

What

B

He says

oh ———

Just like that

oh

that's

all

just

oh

isn't

that

crazy

JJ

It's

B

But the crazier thing is

after

my dad

died

about

a week  
after  
he dies my mom and  
i are  
going through  
his  
things and organizing  
and tidying  
the house and  
we  
find  
in  
the  
drawers in the  
chest  
taped  
to  
the backs of  
the  
drawers there's  
stashes and  
stashes  
of money all  
this cash  
stashed  
away in there and not  
just  
a few  
bills  
or  
a hundred  
bucks  
but thousands

of dollars

in

cash

my

dad

had secretly

stashed

away in

there

unbelievable right

JJ

Right ya it's

B

So i tell my

mom

well mom

i

guess

now you can buy

**DD** enters from **PP**'s room and interrupts.

Shh ———

**B** whispers.

So i tell my

mom

well mom

i

guess now you can

**DD**

Don't whisper

whispering

only

makes your voice

travel

further ———

**B**

JJ and i were just talking about

your

fancy

new

**JJ**

It's not new

i was

just telling your mom

it's

**B**

Right he did

he did say that well

i like

where

you've

moved

it

JJ

But

it's always

DD

Mom it's ——

It's

late

mom

B

Of course it

is DD

of course it's

just

JJ never

i never got

to hear from

JJ

about

about

what's

happening

with

his

what's

happening

with

your

work

JJ

are

you

still

working

for

that

little

that

little

**DD**

You know mom

mom

you know he's

still working

for

**JJ**

That's okay DD

thanks ya B i'm still working

for

**B**

And how's your sister

**JJ**

She's

**B**

Good and your brother

**JJ**

He's

**B**

Such a lovely

lovely how about

your sister

**JJ**

You already

**B**

Now your parents

are they still living

in

that little

that little

**JJ**

Ya they're still

**B**

I remember your dad once telling

me

**DD** interrupts loudly.

Mom

Band plays two shots. **PP** is startled awake next door.

**DD** sings.

Can you let him get a word in edgewise ———

### SONG

“Edgewise Words”

**JJ** counts in and sings.

Edgewise words  
 Don't just occur  
 You have to push and push and  
           push until they're heard

Try to squeeze  
 You try to please  
 But conversation only  
           brings you to your knee- he- he...

Chorus     ...he's trying to say  
 In his own way  
 What may have happened  
 What may still happen to him

**DD & B & PP** sing backup.

He's trying to say

**JJ**

He's trying to say  
 In his own way  
 What may have happened

What may still happen to him today

Edgewise words

Can't rest assured

The lines you say will only  
wind up getting blurred

What should you do

Say something new

So that you've added your two  
cents to all the much ado...

Chorus     ...you're trying to say  
In your own way  
What may have happened  
What may still happen to you

**DD & B & PP** sing backup.

You're trying to say

**JJ**

You're trying to say  
In your own way  
What may have happened  
What may still happen to you today

Bridge     Maybe spent the morning walking the dog in the park  
Even though I don't have a dog  
Maybe later I'll curl up with the cats again  
If Jimi and Jerry come back from the dead  
And I said

Edgewise words

You're not deterred

But what comes out is sounding  
patently absurd

Try to lie  
You try to cry  
No matter how it goes you  
won't see eye to eye- I- I...

Chorus ...I'm trying to say  
In my own way  
What may have happened  
What may still happen to me

**DD & B & PP** sing backup.

He's trying to say

**JJ**

I'm trying to say  
In my own way  
What may have happened

**DD & B & PP**

What may have

**JJ**

What may still happen

**DD & B & PP**

What may still

**JJ**

What may have happened

**DD & B & PP**

What may have

JJ

What may still happen

DD & B & PP

What may still

JJ

What may have happened

DD & B & PP

What may have

JJ

What may still happen to me

DD & B & PP

What may still happen

End song.

DD kisses JJ. JJ requites. They kiss for a very long time. B watches, as does PP in secret from his room.

DD

I'm going up to bed

B

Goodnight DD

JJ

i wanted

to

JJ

I'm actually B

i'm going up too

**B**

Of course

of course

you are

**JJ**

So if

if you don't mind letting

yourself

out

**B**

Of course

of course not

no let myself

out

of course

i can

let myself

out

i can do that

i've

let myself

out

many

in

fact

many

times just

not

for

some reason

just

not

here

i don't

know

why i've

never

let myself

out

here

before

but i'm sure  
i know  
at least  
i'm sure  
i can figure  
out how  
to  
let myself  
out even  
if i've never  
done here  
it before  
i can figure  
it  
out i'm  
not stupid  
you know

**DD**

Okay goodnight mom

**B**

Goodnight DD

goodnight JJ

**JJ**

Goodnight B

**B**

Goodnight JJ

goodnight DD i'll just

let myself out

i don't mind

JJ i really  
don't mind  
letting  
myself out really  
i don't  
i don't really  
but  
don't  
you don't need  
to lock  
up behind  
me

JJ

Thanks B  
that's okay i'll  
i'll  
do it later  
B  
thanks

B

But what about little PP don't  
you want  
to  
be sure  
it's locked for  
safety right  
safety first  
no  
to keep  
our  
sweet little PP safe  
you know  
you really

should lock  
up  
i know  
if  
i were  
you and  
i  
had little PP  
in my home  
i know  
i  
would definitely  
definitely

**DD**

Okay mom  
okay

**JJ**

I'll  
let you  
out B it's no problem

**B**

No that's okay JJ i don't  
mind letting myself  
out i can  
let myself  
out all  
by  
myself  
thank  
you very much  
i don't need  
to be

let  
out like some  
kind  
of  
dog like some  
old bitch  
that needs  
to be  
let  
out to pee  
or some  
such  
i'm just  
saying  
i think  
you  
should lock  
up after  
that's me  
all

JJ

No problem B  
no problem whatsoever  
no problem at all i just meant  
i'll  
let you  
out  
so i  
can lock  
up after  
you  
just  
like you said  
that's all okay

**B**

Okay JJ thank you

JJ because i

can let myself

out it's

not

that

**JJ**

No

no

**DD**

Of course it's

not mom

**JJ**

No

**B**

But since you're

already locking

up

behind

me which

i

think

is a very good

idea

by the way

then

i

don't

mind

if

you

show

me

out

JJ

thank you

JJ ———

Goodnight JJ  
goodnight DD

JJ  
Goodnight B

DD  
Goodbye mom ——

B retrieves her shoes.  
Okay so goodnight everyone

PP  
Goodnight Baba

B  
PP

DD  
PP what are you doing  
up

PP  
I

B  
PP my sweet  
sweet little here  
i'll tuck you  
back in

B gives her shoes to JJ and starts crossing to PP.

JJ

Thanks B  
thank you but

DD

That's okay mom PP Baba  
was  
just letting herself out weren't  
you  
mom

B

Well JJ was  
JJ was showing me out if that's  
what  
you

DD

Right yes mom  
yes JJ  
is showing you  
out aren't  
you  
JJ

JJ

Of course

B

And locking right  
locking up behind me  
right JJ don't forget  
to

**DD**

Lock up yes mom JJ will

lock up we'll both

lock up okay

mom we'll both

be sure

to absolutely

sure

to

lock up

lock up —

**B**

Good you really

should it's

a

good idea

good night JJ

good night PP

**JJ** returning shoes to **B**.

Goodnight B

**PP**

Goodnight Baba ——

**B**

Just one question

### SONG

“What Will You Do With My Shoes (When I Die)”

**B**

When I die  
What will you do with my shoes  
What will you do with your shoes  
You use to kick me around

When I die  
What will you do with my voice  
You know you won't have a choice  
To get it out of your head

I hope you find that you can cry  
Streaks down your makeup  
when I die

What will you do with my bills  
All those piles of bills  
There's some I still haven't paid

When I die  
What will you do with my lips  
What about all those slips

I didn't mean what I said

I hope a tear falls from your eye  
Onto my closed lids when I...

Chorus ...I

**DD & JJ & PP** sing backup.  
When you...

**B**  
When I...

**DD & JJ & PP**  
When you...

**B**  
When I die  
What will you do with my gin  
Sometimes it would fall in  
To the bath where I drank  
  
When I die  
What will you do with my touch  
Maybe you'll miss it so much  
You'll imagine I'm there  
  
I hope that you all drink my  
Message in a bottle when I...

Chorus ...I

**DD & JJ & PP**  
When you...

**B**

When I...

**DD & JJ & PP**

When you...

**B**

Bridge I'll miss them us we you and me  
And simply counting one to nine  
And this I promise solemnly  
I won't come back here when I die

Instrumental solo(s) over Verse progression.

When I die  
What will you do with my shit  
I have so much shit  
I've been collecting for years

When I die  
What will you do with my love  
For you there's never enough  
I wish that I could give more

I hope you start to question why  
You hold your grudges when I...

Chorus ...I

**DD & JJ & PP**

When you...

**B**

When I...

**DD & JJ & PP**

When you...

**B**

When I die

What will you do with my shoes

You know they'll now be your shoes

END

## DEAR ACTORS

Pace and emphasize the text as you and director wish. 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 spacing of the script (whose first draft, like almost all of my texts, was written by hand - i.e. this is not a 'typewriter' piece) is generated by the vertical alignments of letters and words, creating a tonal zone for the dialogue. While the dialogue may not be conventionally naturalistic, by all means speak it as naturally, again, as you wish. The words, ultimately, are yours.

– Adam Seelig

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Adam Seelig** is a poet, playwright, stage director, and the founder of **One Little Goat Theatre Company** in Toronto ([www.OneLittleGoat.org](http://www.OneLittleGoat.org)), with which he has premiered works by Yehuda Amichai, Thomas Bernhard, Jon Fosse, Claude Gauvreau, Luigi Pirandello and himself. His works have been covered and acclaimed in an array of media including the *New York Times*, *Globe and Mail*, *New York Review of Books*, *Canadian Theatre Review*, *CBC*, *NOW*, *World Literature Today* and *Poetry Magazine*.

Seelig is the recipient of a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship for drama, and of a Stanford University Golden Award for his study of Samuel Beckett's original manuscripts (published in *Modern Drama*).

Born and raised in Vancouver, Seelig has also lived in northern California, New York, England and Israel.

### PLAYS

**Smyth/Williams: A Staging of the Police Transcript** - 2017

**PLAY: A (Mini) History of Theatre for Kids** - 2015

**Ubu Mayor** - BookThug 2014

**Parts to Whole** - BookThug 2014

**Like the First Time** - BookThug 2011

**Talking Masks** - BookThug 2009

**Antigone:Insurgency** - 2007

**All Is Almost Still** - 2004

### POETRY/FICTION

**Every Day in the Morning (slow)** - New Star Books 2011