**IVONA**

**By ANAT ZAUBERMAN**

**Dramaturgy and English version: Inna Eizenberg**

**~ Dedicato ai miei nonni- Ivon e Oswald**  ~

**Characters:**

Ivona – Pearl diver

Mother – Ivona's mother

Inessa – Pearl diver

Daniella – Pearl diver

Ossi – Author

Anton – Boat repairman

***//Act One//***

**1.**

***(At sea)***

(The after-dive blessing)

Ivona+Inessa+Daniella:

I own nothing but my own body.

My reflection is as light as it was on my first day.

Stormy waters, cursed land and passing desires of the flesh

Shall not distract my mind, nor silence my faith.

I am a pearl diver.

Flesh and blood, fire and water,

Wild wind in my hair.

The honor of deep waters precedes my own existence.

My duty is to guard all living things, deep, hidden and revealed.

It is my craft, my salvation, my sanity.

It is my choice and I make it alone,

Every day at dawn,

To dive on.

**2.**

***(At sea)***

(Sitting down to clean their diving masks)

Daniella: We met by the lighthouse,

Inessa: This just won't come off.

Daniella: He brought me cyclamens,

Inessa: I am sick and tired of this filth.

Daniella: He also brought a blanket and a bottle of grappa. We sat there

and talked and talked.

Inessa: Did you manage to get this shit off?

Daniella: After I told him my cyclamens withered, he brought me new

ones.

Inessa: She always takes us diving in the weirdest places, but this tar

gulf is-

Daniella: And then we slept together.

Inessa: What?!

Daniella: Yes… At the lighthouse.

Inessa: Upstairs?

Daniella: Upstairs. And we stayed the night there. He hold me all night

long. And I told him that I love him.

Inessa: Are you serious?

Daniella: I do love him. I've never felt this way before.

Inessa: I can already see your wedding. We'll arrange for

something gorgeous up on the cliff. Or in the lighthouse!

Daniella: Who needs weddings anyway. I just want to have his children.

A hundred of his children!

Inessa: You're mad. Will you quit diving?

Daniella: I trust Anton not to be sponge diving for very long.

Inessa: Fingers crossed.

Daniella: It will be great, Nessy, you will run the store, Ivona will

make sure the pearls keep coming and I will take care of all

our children for the three of us.

Inessa: Oh, yes, we'll be drowning in pearls.

Daniella: Don’t worry. I'm not giving up diving any time soon.

**3**.

**(*At Mother's house*)**

Mother**:** (Walking in) Ivona. What are you doing? Come here, come help

me here.

Ivona: Give me a minute.

Mother: Ivon!

Ivona: What?!

Mother: Hold this. I want to make sure it's hanging straight.

Ivona: This alright?

Mother: Right side up. A little bit higher. That’s it. Wait, yes, just there.

Hold still!

Ivona: Mama!

Mother: Hold still. Looks good, doesn’t it?

Ivona: Yes. What are you going to put in it?

Mother: We will see. A landscape of some sort. Or you.

Ivona: Not my picture, mama, it's horrible.

Mother: I want to sell the boat.

Ivona: Excuse me?

Mother: It has been hanging at the boathouse for no reason for tpp long

now. Unless you are planning on marrying a fisherman any

time soon, at least we can sell it and invest the money in the

house. You don't bring as many sponges as you used to. What

are you even doing out there all day long?

Ivona: It's not "hanging" there for any reason. I care for it every day

and it is mine. Ours. You are not selling it.

Mother: You are stubborn and you are stuck in one place, holding on to

the past instead of moving forward.

Ivona: Like mother like daughter.

Mother: I'm going to lie down.

Ivona: I made your salad.

Mother: Wasting your time on that boat. You and your father. Same

stupidities. Living in fantasy, wasting my time.

Ivona: Eat your salad.

Mother: Where are you going?

Ivona: Boathouse.

Mother: Hold on.

Ivona: What?

Mother: Come here. You're pretty. What will you do after I die?

Ivona: I will take your ashes on the boat with me and together we

will sail south with a bottle of rum.

Mother: I'm serious.

Ivona: Stop it. I don’t like these questions.

Mother: Promise me you'll leave this place. Promise me won't end up

like me.

Ivona: You are so dramatic. Look, it's such a beautiful day outside.

Mother: Your father used to say that if you live out in the sea, you are

happy. The idiot never realized that you need to love the sea,

otherwise you end up miserable. You get sea-sick and you

hate everyone around you. Look at me, I got sea sick a long

time ago, I just didn’t let myself be sick. I had no choice.

Ivona: You had a choice.

Mother: No. I did not. I had you.

Ivona: Eat your salad, mama.

**4.**

***(At the boathouse)***

Anton: The world doesn't revolve around you, Ivona. Not everything

is about you.

Ivona: I never said it was.

Anton: Yes you did. What is it, Ivona? Are you jealous?

Ivona: Right.

Anton: You know that if you say one word, I will devour you right

here, on this boat.

Ivona: Daniella deserves a better man that you are.

Anton: It was a joke, Bonny. Actually, no one asked for your

opinion.

Ivona: Shut up.

Anton: You're so tough. Give me a hug.

Ivona: Anton, you idiot, stay away from me.

Anton: You used to like it when I held you.

Ivona: You're with Daniella now.

Anton: You know very well that I'm with her because you turned me

down. Listen, I'm going to ask you this one last time. Last

chance, Ivona.

Ivona: Stop it, Anton, I told you before-

Anton: Would you just shut up and listen to me? It's only for six

months, it's loads of money, a big ship, a huge one! The best,

most advanced engine room there is and I will be chief

mechanic, do you understand what that means? Can you

imagine how amazing it can be? My cabin there will be bigger

than my shack here. We will get to see the world, you can

send you mama money, we'll be meeting new people, people

from elsewhere! We'll swim in the ocean, get tan, be together.

Ivona: Why are you even asking me? Why would you do this to me?

You know I can't leave!

Anton: Why? Tell me why.

Ivona: Because I'm looking for pearls, Anton!

Anton: Not that fairytale again.

Ivona: Enough. Do whatever you want.

Anton: It's a story, Ivona. Your papa told you a story. It's beautiful,

but it's not your story.

Ivona: These are my roots, this is what I was born to do, my nana

was-

Anton+Ivona: The Queen of Pearls, The First Diver/

Ivona: Yes.

Anton: Even if you do find pearls, they're not worth a lot more than

the sponges you don't bring any more.

Ivona: This is not about money.

Anton: There is no shame in being a sponge diver, it's a respectable

way to make living.

Ivona: It's not about the money!

Anton: Then what is this about?

Ivona: I am a pearl diver.

Anton: Come with me.

Ivona: She really loves you. Do you love her?

Anton: Yes. But I love you first.

Ivona: You have a really spacious heart.

5.

***(At sea)***

Ivona: The daily routine of a pearl diver.

Dawn – arousing from sleep

Hour of the Dragon – breathing practice

Hour of the Rabbit – breakfast and heading out

Hour of the Tiger – morning dive

Hour of the Rat – feedback on morning dive

Hour of the Dog - distress situations practice

Hour of the Horse – lunch and recess

Hour of the Rooster – real (theoretical?) practice (such as "Differentiation of the Pearl from minerals")

Hour of the Ape – technical practice (such as "Boat Covering", "Planned Ascent to shore")

Twilight – dinner and end of day

Respite of the Sun

**6.**

***(At sea)***

***)****The can hardly hear each other, screaming into the wind)*

Ivona: Inessa!

Inessa: What?

Ivona: Where are you going? Inessa! Where?

Inessa: I can’t see anything!

Ivona: There are pearls in places like these!

Inessa: I am never diving in these waters again!

Ivona: Come back!

Inessa: I'm cold! I can’t see anything! We've been here for two hours!

Ivona: Get over here!

Inessa: No!

Ivona: You're so spoiled! You'll never find pearls!

Inessa: Daniella can stay with you all she wants, I'm tired of you!

You're sick in the head!

Ivona: You're so annoying!

Inessa: You're obsessed! You think we're working for you? Just because

your nana found pearls doesn’t mean you will too!

Ivona: What does my nana have to do with this?

Inessa: There aren't any pearls, don’t you see that there are no pearls in

these waters?!

Ivona: Of course there are! You are just too lazy to find them-

Inessa: Three, four-

*(Pre-dive blessing)*

Daniella:

Drink the air

Fill your lungs

All the way

Slow your heart down

Ignore gravity

Remove the noises of the land

Swim deeper,

No fear, no regret.

The heart of your earth calls

Your passion is grand

But forever mute.

Your blood is boiling frozen.

You will go down

Feeding on that same breath of air

No fear, no regret.

**7.**

***)At Mother's house)***

Mother: You're not diving today?

Ivona: No.

Mother: What are you doing then?

Ivona: Nothing.

Mother: At least it wasn't you.

Ivona: I'm going to go to the boathouse.

Mother: They are electrifying me from beneath, Ivona. They think I'm

crazy. I know exactly what's going on.

Ivona: You are crazy.

Mother: What was that?

Ivona: Nothing.

Mother: Do you miss your friend?

(Pause)

Mother: The one who died?

Ivona: Yes, mama. Daniella died. That’s her name.

Mother: I know that.

Ivona: You know that.

Mother: She was your boyfriend's girlfriend, wasn't she?

Ivona: How do you know that?

Mother: I know.

Ivona: How about how we lied to her? Do you know that?

Mother: What?

Ivona: Nevermind.

Mother: Nevermind. You're prettier than her.

Ivona: She died, mother!

Mother: I know that. Is it your fault?

Ivona: Yes.

Mother: You will get over it. (Pause) Did you bring milk?

**8.**

***(At sea)***

Inessa: Bonny! How long were you under? What were you doing

there?

Ivona: There was a huge pearl.

Inessa: Really?! Did you get it? Show me!

Ivona: No… I couldn't.

Inessa: Tomorrow then. What happened?

Ivona: She wouldn’t let me.

Inessa: Who?

Ivona: The pearl.

Inessa: Was it caught in a thicket? Something poisonous?

Ivona: No. Nothing. She just didn’t want to surface.

Inessa: I don’t understand.

Ivona: Nevermind.

Inessa: Tomorrow then?

Ivona: Tomorrow.

Inessa: Let's go, I'm starving.

Ivona: Nessy, the blessing! Never mind. I'll say it for you too.

I own nothing but my own body.

My reflection is as light as it was on my first day.

Stormy waters, cursed land-

Inessa: Ivona?

Ivona: What?

Inessa: Are you alright?

Ivona: Yes.

Inessa: Are you sure?

Ivona: Yes, sure. Go eat.

*(Inessa exits, Ossi enters)*

Ivona:

I own nothing but my own body.

My reflection is as light as it was on my first day.

Stormy waters, cursed land and passing desires of the flesh

Shall not distract my mind, nor silence my faith.

I am a pearl diver.

Flesh and blood, fire and water,

Wild wind in my hair.

The honor of deep waters precedes my own existence.

My duty is to guard all living things, deep, hidden and revealed.

It is my craft, my salvation, my sanity.

It is my choice and I make it alone,

Every day at dawn,

To dive on.

Ossi: This is beautiful. Did you write this?

Ivona: What? No…

Ossi: It reminds me of Stroyanov. Do you know him?

Ivona: No.

Ossi: "… I sank into your warm waves, breathless… My

mere words shatter in the depths of your body…"

You're from around here, aren’t you?

Ivona: Why?

Ossi: It shows. (Pause) I'm looking for a place to eat. Everything

seems closed.

Ivona: Yes, it's noon.

Ossi: So what should a man do if he is hungry now?

Ivona: You didn't know that everything is closing between two and

four?

Ossi: Yes. No. No, I didn't know.

Ivona: There is a restaurant on the way east, half an hour away.

Ossi: Do you live nearby?

Ivona: Yes.

Ossi: On the hillside?

Ivona: No. Sea Village.

Ossi: Oh, that's amazing. Are you renting a place or-

Ivona: No.

Ossi: There is a community living there, of women who…

Ivona: Yes.

Ossi: So that is where you are from?

Ivona: Yes.

Ossi: So are you, what is it called, a sponge finder?

Ivona: I am a pearl diver!

Ossi: Pearl diver? Wow. Lovely to make your acquaintance, madam.

My name is Ossi.

Ivona: Ivona.

Ossi: Ivona. I didn’t know there were pearls here.

Ivona: So, what are you doing here besides looking for food between

two and four?

Ossi: I am a writer. My agent got me a place on the hillside so that I

can get out of the city for a while, to do some writing, you know.

Ivona: I don't. Know.

Ossi: Get some inspiration from the ocean, the greenery, the serenity.

Ivona: Oh. Is it working?

Ossi: Mmmm…

Ivona: What are you writing?

Oss: I wrote two novels. But it's been a while…

Ivona: Do they sell them in book stores?

Ossi: Yes. They did.

Ivona: Why does it matter where you write?

Ossi: That is a very good question.

Ivona: If you write, you just write, right?

Ossi: Sometimes it's not happening for me.

Ivona: And it is happening for you here?

Ossi: A little bit, yes. Sometimes it can be good to change the scenery

for the muse to visit again.

Ivona: What is it about?

Ossi: What is?

Ivona: Your story.

Ossi: It's about a woman running from war.

Ivona: Oh. That's depressing. Where is she running to?

Ossi: To a parallel universe.

Ivona: A what?

Ossi: A parallel universe.

Ivona: A parallel universe?!

Ossi: Yes. It's a world where everything is the same, but it is also

different. She knows the places and the people around here, but

she really doesn't. Because it's a whole different world, upside

down. Like quantum theory.

Ivona: Well. Good luck with that. Anyhow, I headed to the village. If

you wait outside for a few minutes, I can bring you fish soup

and some bread.

Ossi: Really?

Ivona: Or you can transfer yourself to another world where places are

open for lunch.

Ossi: After you, madam Pearl Diver.

Ivona: Ivona.

Ossi: Princess Ivona.

Ivona: It's simply Ivona.

Ossi: Simply Ivona.

9.

***)At sea)***

Inessa: (Yelling) Come out!

Ivona: What?

Inessa: Come out of the water!

Ivona: What's wrong?

Inessa: Take off your mask. Quickly.

Ivona: Why?

Inessa: Take it off already.

Ivona: What?...

Inessa: Your eyes are bleeding.

Ivona: I… Why is this happening?

Inessa: Are you feeling alright?

Ivona: Yes… I don’t know why…

Inessa: Did you dive to fast?

Ivona: No.

Inessa: Too deep?

Ivona: No.

(Pause)

Inessa: Here, wash your face. Everything will be fine.

Ivona: Inessa. This stays between us, yes?

Inessa: It's alright. Check it though.

Ivona: Yes.

Inessa: Really.

Ivona: Fine.

Inessa: I'll go with you.

Ivona: Fine. I own nothing but my own body-

Inessa: Stop this.

**10.**

***(At sea)***

Ossi: Last night I wrote about you.

Ivona: About me?

Ossi: It seems so.

Ivona: So that's really something people do? Writing about people?

Ossi: You are sweet.

Ivona: Sweet.

Ossi: Very sweet.

Ivona: You barely know me.

Ossi: Maybe I can turn to the ocean for a character testimony.

Ivona: No need. They'll tell you that I'm tough.

Ossi: Why is it that only women do this?

Ivona: It’s the way things are here. Besides, we are more flexible. Lighter. And our

hands are more gentle.

Ossi: To handle the pearls.

Ivona: (Nodding)

Ossi: And you have a stronger psyche.

Ivona: Yes. You're just saying that.

Ossi: I am not. To me it is like you are made of steel. I couldn't become a pearl

diver.

Ivona: It's a long way to go.

Ossi: Being in control, al the time. What about when you're out of the water?

Ivona: What?

Ossi: Who are you?

Ivona: Nobody.

Ossi: You are not nobody.

Ivona: Once in the ocean, you must give yourself to it. You must honor it, because

you depend on it. On land I try not to depend on anything.

Ossi: Dependence isn't necessarily a bad thing.

Ivona: A diver is only dependent on herself.

Ossi: Is that a part of your manifesto?

Ivona: No… It's just that… It's easier for me when other people trust me more than

I trust them.

Ossi: What happens when you get sad?

Ivona: I'm in the water. (Pause) Sometimes, when I'm diving, the tears salt and the

water salt mix for me.

Ossi: And then?

Ivona: Promise not to laugh?

Ossi: Promise.

Ivona: I feel like a woman.

Ossi: You are an exiting creature, Ivona.

Ivona: So what did you write about me?

Ossi: Here. Take this.

Ivona: Where are you going?

Ossi: Stay here, read it. We will talk later. It's yours.

Ivona: What? No, it's yours… Wait…

Ossi: It's yours. It came out of me to be on this page that is now in your hands.

**11.**

***(At Mother's house)***

Inessa: (Reading) Wow. He is putting in a lot of effort to get you into his bed,

Bonny!

Mother (Entering) So who is the lucky fellow?

Ivona: What?

Mother: I know you didn't let your hair down for me, have you?

Inessa: He is a writer and he came here to write!

Mother: Oh! Here for a vacation on the hillside, leavimg in two weeks?

Ivona: Yes. Are you happy now?

Mother: Don’t be a cliché, my baby. You know that they come here, catch a girl on

the beach and then they leave. They don't even send a letter. Is that good

for you? Is this what you want?

Ivona: We're just talking.

Mother: About what?

Ivona: Life.

Mother: Life.

Inessa: Life.

Mother: Oh, dear.

Ivona: You're harassing me.

Mother: When are going to bring some sponges?

Ivona: Mama, stop it.

Mother: (To Inessa) What are you doing at the tar bay all day long instead of

working?

Inessa: We are… I mean, I don't…

Ivona: Mama, live her alone. And it's the Bay of Pearls, not "tar bay".

Mother: Rubbish. There is nothing there and your not supposed to dive there at all.

Ivona: That's because people are scared, but we know it well, we know what to do.

Mother: Did you friends know too?

Ivona: Inessa, let's go, we're late as it is.

Mother: They were here this morning. Set up another pole on the hilltop.

Ivona: Please leave it be.

Mother: They're electrifying me from beneath.

Ivona: They are not! It's just your imagination.

Mother: Watch your mouth, Ivon. They put new wires up, those bastards. They are

waiting for it to rain so that they can get into every house here. Get logs.

We need to isolate the house.

Ivona: We are not isolating the house!

Mother: No problem. I will do it myself. I don’t need any favors from you.

Ivona: I told you already, they set these poles everywhere.

Inessa: (Gently) Tes, that's the way they do it, it has nothing to do with you-

Mother: Yes it does! Fools! Can’t anyone in this village see that they are killing

us?!

Ivona: You are embarrassing yourself, mama. You are embarrassing me. Inessa,

let's go!

Mother: You're evil.

Ivona: I'm sorry, mama, forgive me. I'm tired. Alright?

Mother: Why are you angry with me?

Ivona: I just don’t know how to explain what is real and what is not to you

anymore.

Mother: Are you real?

Ivona: Yes,

Mother: Are you my daughter?

Ivona: Yes.

Mother: Alright. That's enough. Now brew us some coffee.

**12.**

***(At sea)***

Ossi: I'm so sorry, Ivona.

Ivona: What for?

Ossi: That she died.

Ivona: But it's not your fault.

Ossi: I'm sorry that you are sad.

Ivona: When Anton left her, she asked me to come out with her. She wanted to

forget. She drank and drank and suddenly she grabbed my hand and told me

that she was done, that she wants to die.

Ossi: Do you think that she?..

Ivona: She said: "He doesn't want me" so I held her and I told her that it is what it

is and that reality just chews on our dreams sometimes. I told her to

remember what we always say- that every "no" is in waiting for a "yes"

that is yet to arrive and that Anton isn't good enough for her! She looked at

me, burst with laughter and said: "I'm in love with a man who loves

another".

Ossi: You?

Ivona: I didn't say anything.

Ossi: So what happened that day at sea?

Ivona: One can never know. Maybe a shark ate her.

Ossi: What?

Ivona: What?

Ossi: You dive with sharks around here?

Ivona: It’s the ocean, there is some of everything.

Ossi: The ocean can be cruel.

*(Inessa enters. They don't notice her)*

Ivona: There is nothing cruel about a shark attack. It just happens under the

surface, quietly. Maybe he was just there that day without anyone knowing,

which makes sense, because he is at his own house and he doesn't need to

let anyone know or ask for permission to look for breakfast, even if it's

Daniella. Do you know that one of the first rules that apply in case of a sea

mammal attack is that under no circumstances should you try to save your

friend?

Ossi: Seriously? What are you supposed to do then?

Ivona: Wait. Until the mammal leaves. You let the ocean do what it has to do and

you let go of any hysterical survival instinct. It's known that if you go to

war with the ocean, you lose.

Inessa: Absolutely right. Ocean – one, Daniella – zero. So boring today. Let's be

done with this haze already. Hello, Ossi.

Ossi: Hello.

Ivona: Inessa.

Ossi: Inessa…

Inessa: Two points. What are you doing?

Ivona: Nothing. When did you get here?

Inessa: It’s nice having you here. We get to see her on dry land a bit. It's better.

Ivona: Funny.

Ossi: If I can keep her on solid ground where there are no sharks…

Inessa: There will always be sharks.

Ivona: It’s getting cold…

Ossi: Yes, well, nature is stronger than anything else. It's easy to forget that

when you live in the city. You must miss her very much.

Ivona: It's getting dark.

Ossi: Inessa, will it be rude of me to ask what exactly happened out there?

Inessa: No, of course. Do you want to write this down?

Ossi: If that's alright?..

Inessa: Well, we came down to the bay just before sunset, visibility was terrible

because of the storm the previous night, but Bonny says that this is the

time when "the pearls manifest". It was cold and we couldn’t find

anything, so I was the first to come out, Ivona came out after me, I asked

her where Daniella was and she said that everything was fine and that she

will be right out. But Daniella didn’t come out. When it got dark we

realized that something was wrong. We spent all night and the next day

looking for her. I prayed for her to be wounded, mute, amputated, blue or

red, just let her get to shore alive.

Ossi: I am so sorry. That is terrible.

Inessa: We did this ceremony for her, like a funeral, only without the… We drank

grappa in her honor, danced and sand the songs she loved. People talked

about how she died in the place that was so… hers, at sea. Only Anton, her

fiancée, sat on the ground and didn't say a word.

Ossi: How is he know?

Inessa: He left. He isn't coming back.

Ivona: You don’t know that.

Inessa: Every person copes differently.

Ossi: You can't run away. We bring ourselves everywhere we go.

Inessa: Do you believe in god?

Ossi: Where I come from, every man is his own god.

Ivona: That's because you don't have an ocean.

Ossi: We have other things.

Inessa: Oh. Like what?

Ossi: You will have to come and see for yourself.

Inessa: Maybe I will.

Ivona: Alrught Nessi, tomorrow morning then?

Inessa: Tomorrow.

Ossi: It was lovely to meet you, Inessa.

Inessa: Yes.

*(Inessa exits)*

Ossi: Nothing will make me happier than buying two train tickets for us.

Ivona: I have to be at sea tomorrow.

Ossi: After tomorrow then.

***// Act Two //***

**13a.**

***(On the train)***

Ossi: The train is at formulated speed. I love it.

Ivona: It's going terribly fast.

Ossi: Going terribly fast.

Ivona: Do you like it?

Ossi: Look at the landscapes changing from planes to mountains, trees to desert and

again and again.

Ivona: Yes. The coastline is gone. You're reading this again?

Ossi: You must invest in a fine work of art, travel its infinite spaces.

**13b.**

Anton:

Bless your beauty

Gratitude for my body

Your spirit

They become one.

The moment we meet

Find forgiveness

For the invasion.

A man has two legs

And only a few years on burnt soil

Find mercy, love

For the unfortunate

Who adores you

Until his breath is no more.

**14.**

***(At an art gallery in the city)***

Ossi: Look at this one. So intense. It’s the last one he drew.

Ivona: How did he die?

Ossi: He committed suicide.

Ivona: Everyone is so beautifully dressed.

Ossi: You are the most beautiful of them all. I love you.

Ivona: Why?

Ossi: Because you are – you.

Ivona: That is a very nice thing to say to someone. You are – you – too.

Ossi: Can you hear that?

Ivona: What is that?

Ossi: Prelud number 4. Chopin. E minor.

Ivona: Oh. It is very sad.

Ossi: Ivona, since we've met I only write about you, through you.

Ivona: I haven't dived in two weeks.

Ossi: I don't want a shark to eat you.

Ivona: I don’t know what to do.

Ossi: Stay in the city with me.

Ivona: What about the ocean?

Ossi: There will always be an ocean.

**15.**

***(At sea)***

Ivona: Where is Nessy?

Inessa: Where is Bonny?

Ivona: You will come visit me often, won't you?

Inessa: Every day, three times a day.

Ivona: What's wrong with you?

Inessa: Nothing. I'll try.

Ivona: Inessa!

Inessa: Stop it.

Ivona: Stop what?

Inessa: Will see how it goes. I will do my best. (Pause) So this is it? You just give

up the ocean for a man? That easy?

Ivona: It’s not easy at all. You will continue to look for the pearls. I know you will

find them.

Inessa: There are no pearls here.

Ivona: You're wrong.

Inessa: We are not pearl divers; we are spongers, just like every other girl around.

Did you tell him that? Ha? Did you tell him what you really do?

Ivona: It doesn't matter. Believe me that I am happy now. I'm happy.

Inessa: How do you know that he even loves you at all? He looks at you like you

are this rare flower that he picked. He is so busy writing his story instead of

really look at you.

Ivona: You actually worked hard to become a part of his story.

Inessa: You will be all alone out there.

Ivona: Please, try to be happy for me.

Inessa: What about your mama?

Ivona: She'll manage. I want you to perform the farewell ceremony with me.

(Pause)

Ivona: Would you just be my friend?

Inessa: Let's do it.

Ivona:

I am grateful

For drops of silence

Waves of day and night

An immortal force

Streams of flame and ice.

Your depths will forever be

A cure for my desired

Your heart – my heart

Your sea – my sea.

*(Ivona and Inessa perform the farewell ceremony of the diver; as the diver leaves the ocean for more than 30 days.*

*1. Laying both palms, spread out on the surface of the ocean for one minute, eyes closed.*

*2. Placing the right hand on the center of the abdomen, and the left hand on the heart.*

*3. Repeating three times:*

*"Deep in my heart*

*Winds in my sail*

*In all space at all times*

*You will be in my tale."*

*4. Turning around via left shoulder and leaving the shore)*

**16.**

***(At Mother's house)***

Mother: They must be glad that you are leaving, the little piranhas. What about

Inessa?

Ivona: She'll manage.

Mother: You were always prettier than the rest of the girls at sea. They envy you.

When does the train leave?

Ivona: Twenty past five.

Mother: So you will get there around ten tomorrow?

Ivona: Nine forty five. Are you mad?

Mother: Why would I be mad?

Ivona: I don’t know. Because I'm leaving.

Mother: You're not leaving, you're moving elsewhere, Ivon. Moving to the city,

that's all. Don’t be so dramatic. It's better for you there. There is nothing

here.

Ivona: Rubbish.

Mother: I knew. I told you to get out of here a long time ago. You could have

studied, learnt something, started a business. With your hair you could have

been a beauty queen.

Ivona: What am I going to wear?

Mother: I'm selling the boat.

Ivona: No, you are not.

Mother: Ivona, I can't keep it anymore. Enough. I've made up my mind.

Ivona: You're not selling it.

Mother: Memories are meant for drawers. Here you are, moving forward, leave that

boat behind, it will do you good, trust me. Be a sweetheart and make some

coffee.

Ivona: Mama, I am begging you, don’t sell it.

Mother: Why not? Why?

Ivona: Because I am asking you not to. Please.

Mother: You're asking me? He has been gone for fourteen years, you are leaving

and I have to wake up every morning and look at it? No. Enough! He will

not abuse me any more. Do you hear me. I said no!!!

Ivona: Mama, come down-

Mother: He will not destroy me, do you hear me?!

Ivona: Please stop yelling.

Mother: That thing will be sold. I already have a buyer, he already put a down

payment and on it, end of story. If I hear another word about this, I will

kick you out of here and I will never want to see you or hear from you

again.

Ivona: Why do you have to be so bitter?

Mother: Because that how life is, little one. Bitter. Small, black and bitter, like my

coffee. You forgot to bring milk. I hope he is dead.

Ivona: Enough. Please stop it.

Mother: I hope he died in great pain and I hope that the man who bought his boat is

going to drown along with it.

Ivona: I'm leaving.

Mother: Don’t forget that he left us because we weren't good enough for him, me, I

wasn't good enough for the son of the "Queen of Pearls"…

Ivona: Goodbye, mama.

Mother: They are electrifying me from beneath, Ivon.

Ivona: No, they are not. Everything is alright, mama.

Mother: Ivon. There is a custom. Before you leave your home, you sit down.

Ivona: I never heard of it.

Mother: Because you've never left before.

*(They sit down)*

Ivona: Now what?

Mother: Coffee.

Ivona: Coffee.

**17.**

***(At the house in the city)***

Ivona:

I own nothing but my own body.

My reflection is as light as it was on my first day.

Stormy waters, cursed land and passing desires of the flesh

Shall not distract my mind, nor silence my faith.

I am a pearl diver.

Flesh and blood, fire and water,

Wild wind in my hair.

The honor of deep waters precedes my own existence.

My duty is to guard all living things, deep-

*(Ossi enters along with the interior designer who writes down everything he says)*

Ossi: Ivona?

Ivona: Hello.

Ossi: We're just passing for a minute, yes? *(To the designer)* White drapes in the

living room. Heavy ones. And a wooden chest on each side of the bed. Oh,

and sweetheart, ask them to paint this white as well, would you? Lovely.

Now, the sofa. We must replace them and bring in a soft rug that makes

every step a wonder. Maybe it's a crazy idea, but I was thinking painting this

outer wall dark grey and the rest white. What do you think?

Ivona: I can do that.

Ossi: (Laughing) What? My darling, why? We are bringing professionals in, to do

their work.

Ivona: Why? I can do all those things.

Ossi: I am certain that you can, only there is no need. I need you by my side,

helping me to write beautiful things. *(To the designer)* So, where were we? I

want the shelves and that fabric. We need to find more fabrics.

Ivona: Ossi.

Ossi: What?

Ivona: I will go look for fabrics tomorrow morning.

Interior designer: You really don’t need to make that kind of effort-

Ivona: Who are you?

Ossi: Ivona. This is our interior designer.

Ivona: That's what she does? (Pause) It's only a house. We can do things on our

own. We should do things on our own.

Ossi: Let's talk about this later…

Ivona: What does she know about our house that we don't?

Ossi: Do you know what my new novel is about?

Ivona: A woman running from war.

Ossi: It's about you. Princess Ivona, the Pearl Diver.

Ivona: And she runs to a parallel universe?

Ossi: No. She is going to look for drapes tomorrow morning. Kiss me.

**18a.**

***(In the city. The city is big and loud. Ivona walks around, searching for drapes. She sees Daniella)***

***18b.***

***(In the city. Ivona and Ossi are dancing, having a wonderful time)***

***19.***

***(At the house in the city)***

Ivona: Are you mad at me?

Ossi: No.

Ivona: Tell me the truth.

Ossi: I am not mad, leave it.

Ivona: I can’t talk to you.

Ossi: I can’t talk to you! You go mad!

Ivona: Because every time I talk to you, you make me go crazy! Those shoes are

killing me.

Ossi: Ivona, enough, I need some quiet.

Ivona: But you're not the only one here, there is a whole other person here with

you.

Ossi: You exhaust me.

Ivona: Because you're not answering me.

Ossi: Fine.

Ivona: You don’t see anything accept for yourself and your novel.

Ossi: Fine.

Ivona: What can I do? Those drawings were ugly!

Ossil: You don’t have to say everything out loud, Ivona.

Ivona: Do you want me to lie?

Ossi: I would like you to act in a polite manner.

Ivona: It's not like I came over to your strange friends and said: "This exhibition is

horrible." I was being polite.

Ossi: Thank you so much for that.

Ivona: So I said that it looks like the drawing of a small child, what is so terrible

about it?

Ossi: Nothing. It's just not very much "fun" when you-

Ivona: You always say how I pick up things other people don’t, but when I tell

other people what I think, you get mad and you sulk and you want to go

home.

Ossi: I am trying to broaden your horizons and you act like a fool.

Ivona: I am not.

Ossi: Yes, you are. You don’t know the first thing about art, but you criticize

anyway.

Ivona: What is there to know?

Ossi: Leave me be. I need some quiet.

Ivona: Ossi-

Ossi: Leave me alone for a few minutes.

Ivona: Stop it, let me hold you.

Ossi: I am asking that you leave me be now.

Ivona: Come on-

Ossi: Ivona. Enough.

**20.**

***(At the house in the city. Ivona is sitting in the tub. She sees Daniella.)***

21.

***(At a library in the city, late evening time)***

Ivona: (Sees strange man) Get away from me!

Anton: Hang on a minute.

Ivona: No!!! Go away!

Anton: Ivona.

Ivona: What?

Anton: Ivona, it's me/

Ivona: Anton.

Anton: Yes, come here. Sit. You got a little scared. Everything is alright.

Ivona: It’s just that everyone already left… I was just… How did you know I was

here? You're wet.

Anton: It's good to see you too, Bonny. What's been going on?

Ivona: Why are you here?

Anton: Why are you?

Ivona: What's arong? Did something happen?

Anton: No. I just like hanging around big cities, scaring women in libraries on

rainy nights.

Ivona: I'm sorry.

Anton: In all the time we've known each other, this is the first time I've ever seen

you scared.

Ivona: I wasn't focused. You scared me.

Anton: Look at you. Your hair. Your lips. Those clothes. Everything is so clean.

So this is what the wife of a writer looks like?

Ivona: You've come all this way to criticize me. That's great.

Anton: No.

Ivona: Where have you been?

Anton: On board a cargo ship. At the heart of it.

Ivona: A whole year in the engine room?

Anton: Yes. I had things I needed to think about, I sailed a lot. I came back a

month ago. It's strange that you're not there anymore.

Ivona: I asked about you. Noone knew where you were.

Anton: Your mama sold the boat.

(Pause)

Anton: I know how much it meant to you because of your papa and how

connected you were to it and-

Ivona: You know nothing.

Anton: I didn't come here for this.

Ivona: Why then?

Anton: I think Daniella is dead because of me.

Ivona: You did not just say that.

Anton: I told her the truth the day before she died. I told her it was you I loved. If

only I would have told her earlier. I lied to her. She died with my lie inside

her.

Ivona: It's not your fault.

Anton: I asked you to sail away with me, Bonny, to leave her. I came to you

without saying a word to her and this is my punishment, because how could

I lie to her face like that? She was so good. I wish I was there to save her

that day.

Ivona: It’s not your fault.

Anton: I am scum, Bonny, and you were right. She did deserve better than me.

Ivona: Is she alright? Did you see her?

Anton: What?

Ivona: My mama.

Anton: I passed by her house a few times.

Ivona: Is she much thinner?

Anton: I left fresh fish by her door. Are you happy here?

Ivona: Yes. I have to go.

Anton: Do you have an umbrella?

***// Act Three //***

**22.**

***(At the house in the city)***

Ivona: I am not taking this.

Ossi: I just brought it so that it's here in case you need it.

Ivona: Ossi, I'm not taking it.

Ossi: Fine.

Ivona: I really am fine.

Ossi: The doctor said you should.

Ivona: Everything is fine, really.

Ossi: Take these and you will sleep better at night.

Ivona: Pills.

Ossi: You need to rest, alright? Listen to me.

Ivona: I just saw someone who looked like her on the street, that's all!

Ossi: There is no shame in medications. Some times everyone needs training

wheels.

Ivona: I don’t believe doctors.

Ossi: Do whatever you want to.

**23.**

***(At an art gallery in the city)***

Ivona: What do you think?

Anton: It's strange.

Ivona: They say it took him six months to paint this.

Anton: What is it? It looks like an eggplant.

Ivona: It's a sunset.

Inessa: Looks like pumpkin.

Ivona: Like a sunset.

Anton: This is no sunset, Bonny. You know that.

Ivona: Here, read. He drew the sunset "through holes in the concrete wall that

belonged to the city construction site he explored".

*(Daniella enters)*

Inessa: Why would anyone look at the sunset through holes in concrete?

Ivona: I don’t know.

Anton: (To Ivona) Let's get out of here.

Ivona: Where?

Daniella: Into the water.

Ivona: I can’t do it when Ossi isn’t home. It scares him.

Daniella: We'll wait for him to fall asleep.

Ivona: (To Anton) Do you miss her?

Anton: Not any more.

Inessa: It really does look like an eggplant.

**24.**

***(At the house in the city)***

Ossi: How long have you been in there?

Ivona: What?

Ossi: Ivona, your lips are blue. Come out of there.

Ivona: No, everything is fine.

Ossi Come on.

Ivona: It calms me down.

Ossi: Go to the city pool then! I don’t know! What in the world are you doing in

a frozen bath tub?

Ivona: Keeping in shape. Calm down. Everything is fine.

Ossi: This is too much.

Ivona: Have I ever told you about the pearl that didn't want to come up with me this

one dive?

Ossi: Tell me later.

Ivona: I felt the seabed, expecting to touch a sea urchin or a poisonous algae any

minute. I sang the blessing of gratitude once again in my heart and kept

moving my fingers inside the reef, along the currents. I only had two

minutes of air left and I couldn't see anything. The water was muddy and

there were clouds of sand around me, but I knew it was there. I heard it.

Ossi: Ivona, I don't need this any more.

Ivona: I checked my pulse, it was slow. I had one minute and twenty seconds left

and then I touched it. A thousand electric snakes raged inside my right

hand. You won’t believe how this white halo was forming around it-

Ossi: Get out of there!

Ivona: Fifty seconds. I was bringing it in, but she looked at me. I looked back. She

closed her eyes and waited. I had thirty seconds left and I came back up.

Without her.

Ossi: Enough of this madness.

Ivona: Do you think I should have saved her?

Ossi: I'm getting you out.

Ivona: There are no pearls in lakes, you know?

Ossi: You need to go home for a few days.

Ivona: There are no pearls in our bay either.

Ossi: I need time.

Ivona: I tried to find pearls, but I never found any. I took Inessa and Daniella

down with me, every day, but there aren’t any in our bay. There just aren’t

any there.

Ossi: Fine.

Ivona: I am no pearl diver.

Ossi: Fine.

Ivona: I'm a sponger, Ossi.

Ossi: Fine!

Ivona: Can you hear what I'm saying to you? I have never found any pearls. Only

sponges.

Ossi: You are not a pearl diver.

Ivona: (Laughing hard) You wrote about me, you told my stories.

Ossi: About pearl divers.

Ivona: And I'm a sponger!

Ossi: Then it's not about you. I'm going away for a few days.

Ivona: When are you coming back?

Ossi: Sponge diver.

Ivona: Will you come back?

*(Ossi exits)*

**25.**

***(At a library in the city)***

Ivona: What’s new at the boathouse?

Anton: There are four new boats.

Ivona: Four? My papa had a big boat.

Anton: Well, he was a big man.

Ivona: We used to sing together. So you know the song about the swordfish who

was afraid of everything?

Anton: (Sings) All the world at the tip of its nose… Oh fishy-fish, just keep going,

fear none, fear none, your forces lay ahead…

Ivona: (Joins him) Never backwards, only forward, just keep going,

fear nothing, fear nothing, your forces lay ahead…

Anton: And then he left you, hey Bonny?

Ivona: I waited for him by the boat for hours until mama came and took me away.

I yelled at her, I told her she was a liar, because I couldn’t understand

how someone can just walk away like that.

Anton: You don’t belong here, Bonny.

Ivona: He left a note and a boat.

Anton: What did the note say?

Ivona: Things don’t have to last forever to be perfect.

Anton: You don’t belong here.

Ivona: I don’t want to spend my entire life diving for sponges.

Anton: Every day, you dived at the most dangerous area of the bay.

Ivona: I though all those new pearls are going to be found in our bay.

Anton: Poor Daniella. She really believed that she would find a pearl in the end.

Ivona: Go to hell, Anton.

Anton: You go to hell.

*(They grow closer)*

**26.**

***(At the house in the city)***

Ivona: What tree is this?

Ossi: It’s a tree.

Ivona: Why is it so grey?

Ossi: It's all grey at this hour. Why did you do this to the walls, Ivona? Why?

Ivona: I will make you fish for supper.

Ossi: I don’t want fish.

Ivona: Spicy fish.

Ossi: Take the pills.

*(Ossi exits)*

Ivona: When are coming back?

Anton: Why did you do this to the walls, Ivona?

Ivona: What tree is this?

Anton: All of the world …

Ivona: Why is it so grey?

Anton: At the tip of its nose…

Ivona: I will make you fish for supper.

Anton: Oh fishy-fish…

Ivona: Spicy fish.

Anton: Just keep going, fear none…

Ivona: My love. Dance with me.

Anton: Your forces lay ahead… Never backwards, only forward…

Ivona: Will you come back?

Anton: Fear nothing…

**27.**

***(At the house in the city. Ivona and Daniella are in the tub)***

Daniella: What is it about?

Ivona: What?

Daniella: Your story.

Ivona: It's a story about a woman who runs from war.

Daniella: That's depressing. Where is she running to?

Ivona: To a parallel universe.

Daniella: A what?

Ivona: A parallel universe.

Daniella: A parallel universe?!

Ivona: Yes. It's a world where everything is the same, but it is also

different. She knows the places and the people around here, but

she really doesn't. Because it's a whole different world, upside

down. Like quantum theory.

Daniella: Well. Good luck with that. Anyhow, I headed to the village. If

you wait outside for a few minutes, I can bring you fish soup

and some bread.

Ivona: Really?

Daniella: Or you can transfer yourself to another world where places are

open for lunch.

Ivona: After you, madam Pearl Diver.

Daniella: Ivona.

Ivona: Princess Ivona.

Daniella: It's simply Ivona.

Ivona: Simply Ivona.

**28.**

***(At a library in the city)***

Ivona: Do you believe in god?

Anton: I believe in everything.

Ivona: Me?

Anton: I try.

Ivona: Books are so easily destroyed, Anton.

Anton: A pile of dead trees.

Ivona: You can tear them, burn them, wet them, crumple them.

Anton: They're not like pearls.

Ivona: Only words.

Anton: It's not raining today.

Ivona: But it is cold.

Anton: Come.

*(Ivona and Anton burn the library down. They sit on a rooftop, watching it burn entirely)*

29.

Ossi: (reading out of his new novel)

I own nothing but my own body.

My reflection is as light as it was on my first day.

Stormy waters, cursed land and passing desires of the flesh

Shall not distract my mind, nor silence my faith.

I am a pearl diver.

Flesh and blood, fire and water,

Wild wind in my hair.

The honor of deep waters precedes my own existence.

My duty is to guard all living things, deep, hidden and revealed.

It is my craft, my salvation, my sanity.

It is my choice and I make it alone,

Every day at dawn,

To dive on.

**30.**

***(At Mother's house. Ivona enters)***

Mother: You cut your hair.

Ivona: Yes.

Mother: That'a a shame.

Ivona: It doesn’t matter.

Mother: There is tomato soup.

Ivona: It's going to rain.

Mother: It's alright. I took the washing off this morning.

Ivona: It's cold here.

Mother: Don’t cry, Ivon.

Ivona: You didn’t frame anything in this yet?

Mother: I couldn’t choose.

Ivona: For three years you couldn’t choose something to frame?

Mother: Three years and two months.

Ivona: Mama.

Mother: What?

Ivona: What am I going to do now?

Mother: What everyone does, little one. You force a smile. Until you get used to

it.

Ivona: I'm going to die. Something is wrong with me.

Mother: People don’t just die so fast.

Ivona: I am not well.

Mother: Nobody is well. The world is not well. The tide will always rise and you

will always have to find another island to sit on. I tried to tell you this

before. But you're stubborn, you don’t listen.

Ivona: What am I going to do now?

Mother: Start with coffee and we'll take it from there.

Ivona: Am I going to get better? Mama.

Mother: Look. The storm is coming from the west.

Ivona: It's cold here. (Pause) The noise of it.

Mother: The ocean.

Ivona: The ocean

Mother: Look at me. Here you are.

Ivona: Here I am.

***// The End //***