

**Usurper**  
**A Play by Noam Gil**

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**Characters:**

**Dan**, a Man in his mid-thirties.

**Karen**, Dan's wife, in her late Twenties,

**Ezra**, same age as Dan.

**Stage:**

The stage is divided into three parts -

The Living Room,

The Bedroom,

A smaller and rather empty room that functions as a work area for Karen.

## Scene 1

Late at night.

Karen and Dan are sitting on their couch in their lavishly decorated new apartment.

Ezra is sitting in his wheelchair next to a coffee table.

He stares ahead, sitting still as if he is an inanimate part of the furniture.

The couple looks helplessly at each other, waiting for the conversation to finally begin.

The uncomfortable silence between the three should last as long as possible.

**Dan:** You've lost some weight.

After few seconds, Ezra finally moves and stares at Dan.

**Ezra:** Excuse me?

**Dan:** I said you've lost some weight.

**Ezra:** Is that a question?

**Dan:** No, it's a statement.

**Ezra:** O.k.

**Dan:** No, really. You lost some weight. I'm very perceptive as far as scales are concerned.

**Karen:** I can vouch for that. He is very perceptive in matters of weight. He is.

**Dan:** You **did** lose some weight.

**Karen:** Didn't know you in the old days, but I trust my husband.

Ezra again stares ahead, resuming his numbness.

**Karen:** Dan, on the other hand didn't any.

**Dan:** Right.

**Karen:** He even gained some.

Karen and Dan are waiting for some sort of a response.

**Ezra:** Sorry?

**Karen:** I said that Dan probably gained a few since you last met.

**Ezra:** Was **that** a statement?

**Karen:** No, a question.

Pause.

**Karen:** So... did he?

**Ezra:** Perhaps.

**Karen:** You're very polite. Don't tell me that you didn't think the moment you came in, "my god, how fat he's become".

**Dan:** Why fat?

**Karen:** You know, compared to what you were.

**Dan:** I am adequately built.

**Karen:** He's very sensitive...

**Dan:** I'm not. It's just not true.

**Karen:** So what say you... I'm so sorry I forgot your name.

**Dan:** Ezra.

**Karen:** Yes, Ezra. So, Ezra, how did you find Dan? (Ezra doesn't respond) the same? Heavier? What... who... Ezra?

**Ezra:** Yes?

**Karen:** I asked how you found Dan after all these years.

**Ezra:** I always knew where he was.

**Dan:** You did?

**Karen:** No, what I meant was how did you find Dan after all these years? Fatter? The same? Skinnier?

**Ezra:** He looks... I don't know. He looks fine.

**Karen:** I'm about to gain a few (proudly touches her belly), end of first trimester thank you very much.

**Dan:** You're the very first to hear the news.

**Karen:** If only you knew the things we've been through.

**Dan:** Ezra doesn't care about the things we've been through.

**Karen:** Two years we've waited. And we did everything – IVFs, Acupuncture, Hormones.

**Dan:** Why are we telling...

**Karen:** Because we're not ashamed. We are proud.

**Dan (to Ezra):** She's telling everyone about our misfortunes... and she has a big mouth, my Karen.

**Karen:** I am not ashamed about anything. I am an open book.

**Dan:** Wide open.

**Karen (to Ezra):** Do you know what I have inside me?

**Dan:** Karen, we agreed to...

**Karen:** Twins. Here, it's out... We have twins, I have twins, two little babies inside me, and it's not what you think.

**Dan:** Ezra doesn't think...

**Karen:** That it's all IVF, right? Wasn't that what you were thinking? That if we have twins then IVF treatment has to be somehow involved? Well, let me tell you my dear friend, after at least three years of failed treatments we went to a therapist.

**Dan:** Holistic therapist.

**Karen:** And she immediately ordered me to take a break from all the medical mumbo jumbo, to clear my mind...

**Dan:** This is what they do...

**Karen:** For a couple of months...

**Dan:** These therapists, they don't believe in those sorts of things, drugs, IVFs, traditional medical procedures...

**Karen:** Trust me, I'm not one of those who can wait, but she told me "Karen, relax, stop tormenting your body..."

**Dan:** It's a spiritual thing...

**Karen:** Take a deep breath, just breathe..." So I stopped...

**Dan:** She did...

**Karen:** And took a breath...

**Dan:** Literally, took a breath, a deep breath...

**Karen:** A month later...

**Dan:** Guess what?

**Karen:** I'm pregnant.

**Dan:** True story.

**Karen:** And with twins, no IVFs, no nothing. All natural.

**Dan:** I couldn't believe it myself.

Ezra still sits uninvolved.

**Karen:** You don't mind our self-congratulatory speech?

**Ezra:** No.

**Karen:** It just turned official the other day, so we're... happy.

**Dan:** Yes, we're very excited.

**Karen:** And Dan works all day long, leaving his poor wife all by herself, and I've nothing to do but daydream.

**Dan:** You have your paintings.

**Karen:** I don't paint.

**Dan:** There were times when she sold, how much? Five, six, seven paintings a month, earning tens of thousands...

**Karen:** Ancient history, I don't paint anymore...

**Dan:** Oil painting, figurative stuff mainly. Also some abstracts...

**Karen:** An amateur painter ...

**Dan:** She exhibited in China, in New York, in Australia...

**Karen:** Commercial exhibitions, nothing artistic.

**Dan:** Why are you belittling yourself? You're an artist.

**Karen:** A bored woman with money and lots of free time, that's all.

**Dan:** You should've listened to the compliments she got... she was even in the papers, once. What did they say?

**Karen:** In a community paper... nobody reads that stuff.

**Dan:** "An engaging and talented artist". Was it "engaging"? "The engaging and talented artist..." I am pretty sure they said "engaging". Engaging... yes, it was... right, honey?

**Karen:** As I said, ancient history. But today, I don't do anything... and god knows I'm happy... truly I am... happy. Every day, after Dan goes out I sit on this couch, like I'm sitting now, and I stare, just stare ahead and smile. I touch

the babies... and smile. Sometimes I even cry... tears of happiness... endless hours of happiness... for the things to come... smiling... happily...

**Dan:** It's true. I get back home and there she is – sitting and smiling, staring ahead, thinking good thought, happy thoughts.

**Karen:** Life is beautiful... excuse this moronic statement... but it's true... this is what I truly believe in. This **is** the **true** state of affairs, that life is beautiful.

**Dan:** I wish I had her energy.

**Karen:** He always talks about my energy, but I'm the one who sits on her ass, doing nothing, gazing stupidly ahead...

**Dan:** Why stupidly?

**Karen:** While this adorable creature works his ass off with all the projects he manages.

**Dan:** Hardly manages.

**Karen:** Don't be modest, you manage your projects.

**Dan:** I'm an assistant to an assistant manager.

**Karen:** Whose primary job is to manage...

**Dan:** I don't even manage my lunch, I'm an assistant to an assistant manager.

**Karen:** A project manager I say.

**Dan:** I don't...

**Karen:** Shut up, my managing husband, you do what I say you do. Everybody is assisting someone, but there are those who manage and those who don't... you do... this is what I say when people ask me, it sounds simpler... there are projects and you manage them... (to Ezra) he is currently in the midst of some secret project even I can't know about.

**Dan:** It's secret because nobody gives a damn.

**Karen:** You worked hard to get to the position you're in. You probably know where he came from, right Ezra? My proletarian husband... and now he's become upwardly mobile. (to Dan) That's what you are, my little upwardly mobile.

**Dan:** Lucky I married you.



**Karen:** You made it on your own. You know you did.

**Dan:** With a little help from...

**Karen:** My family...

**Dan** (tries to change the subject): Any way...

**Karen:** Yes, anyway...

**Dan:** I **am** an assistant...

**Karen** (smiling, yet determined): Shut up, I say.

**Dan:** So, Ezra...

**Karen:** Can I tell you something? Before I became pregnant I had two involuntary abortions.

Pause.

**Dan** (stupefied): Karen?

**Karen:** We have nothing to hide, especially from Ezra.

**Dan:** You just met him.

**Karen:** The first was in the first trimester. The second was in the sixth month. (showing him with her two hands) this big was my little son. The first miscarriage went smoothly compared to the second one. The mess I was in...

**Dan:** The therapist said we should believe... isn't that what she said? That it's all a matter of belief.

**Karen:** And we believe... that life is beautiful.

**Dan:** Yes.

Pause.

**Dan:** So, Ezra, how are things...

**Karen:** The treatment I had was totally consciousness oriented – if you believe in something you in fact create the very thing you believe in. It exists, the thing, the thought, the object of perception, and all you have to do is release energy, a constructive energy that can change the universe, like ordering Pizza – you order a better existence, a better life, only this time you perceive it, the thing, you design it, you make it, and you do the special delivery. By releasing spiritual energy to the universe, the energy is transformed into matter.

**Dan:** The basic idea...

**Karen:** The basic idea is that you are the God of your own universe. The change, right from wrong, comes from within, and I know what you're thinking, that it's all phony baloney...

**Dan:** It's not what he's thinking...

**Karen:** And that there are objective and concrete materials that no human mind can alter. That is exactly what I was thinking, but then I went to my therapist. I was a nervous wreck, (to Dan) Tell him...

**Dan:** She was a nervous...

**Karen:** I was a nervous wreck. But then she asked me, the therapist, she asked me what I want, what do I truly want. I told her that I want kids.

**Dan:** Two months later...

**Karen** (points to her stomach): Ta dam...

**Dan:** Our wish was granted...

**Karen** (corrects him): It was materialized.

Pause.

**Dan:** Now it's your turn...

**Karen:** And it's not that simple. I remember shouting to Dan in the middle of the night "what are you doing with me? Why are you even here? Go and find yourself another woman? One that is not rotten inside... with functional organs? A real woman..."

**Dan:** But then, one day...

**Karen:** But then, one day... it all came to me as a glorious apparition...

**Dan:** Her philosophy.

**Karen:** The mistake... everything is a mistake.

**Dan:** That was the apparition.

**Karen:** Ezra?

Pause.

**Ezra:** Uhh?

**Karen:** Are you...

**Ezra:** What?

**Karen:** With us?

Ezra nods.

**Karen:** Sure?

Ezra nods again.

**Karen:** We live according to physical imperatives as if they were God sent, objective like... gravity, for example... and yet they are all illusions, man-made. We act in the universe as if we were insects, operating in a predetermined universe, going to work, to parties, restaurants, to social gatherings, to the theater. And everything is so organized and... well so organized. And then, one day, I walk from place a' to place b', you know in the neighborhood and then I stop and look around me and I see it all... the ugliness... the entire ugliness of human existence... and everything seemed as

if it were a great gigantic mistake... a big mistake... and then I realized that my sadness stems from the fact that I can't conform to the ugliness of existence... I can't, I won't... I'm still struggling... and I'm all alone in this struggle, like everyone else, and I'm afraid... but I know that fear is my biggest enemy...

**Dan:** Fear is a thought that releases energy which creates...

**Karen:** Fear is a thought that releases energy which creates matter...

**Dan:** Yes, matter.

**Karen:** You've got to understand... fear is like a whirlpool that drags you under... and I'm still swimming in wild waters, still struggling in my so called life to escape the state of terror I was in... but I am strong and the terror, it won't prevail ... because I believe I am strong, and this belief... you'll see... it releases energy... it transforms life and makes it... beautiful.

Long pause.

**Dan:** So, what's up, Ezra?

**Ezra:** Me?

**Dan:** Yeah you... how are things? What's new in your department?

**Ezra:** My father died today... or maybe it was yesterday.

Pause.

**Ezra:** I woke up this morning and there he was. Dead. Eyes wide open like in the movies and he was, is, dead. Last night he... I don't know, as he always was...

**Dan:** Your father died? Today?

**Ezra:** Today I found him... dead.

**Dan:** How did he die?

**Ezra:** My father, he ...

**Dan:** Ezra...

**Ezra:** I don't know how he died. Yesterday I went to bed, everything was ok and then I woke up... and everything was not.

**Dan:** Dead? Your father...

**Ezra:** My father, he was...

**Dan:** Ezra...

**Ezra:** He is...

**Karen:** Dead...

**Dan:** We were talking about how beautiful life was and you sat there after discovering your...

**Ezra:** Yes.

**Dan:** You sat there and didn't say, and we were talking about...

**Karen:** Our therapy...

**Dan:** And you...

**Ezra:** I didn't want to impose; it's the last thing that I want...

**Dan:** Impose?

**Ezra:** I sat next to him, this morning... and he was there, lying... for at least two hours we were there, side by side... and he was dead, like a piece of meat... my father, like a piece of meat... and I'm watching him and thinking, you know, to terminate my life as well... like the terminator who terminates... my father, he has gun, (to Dan) you remember the gun we used to play with when we were...

**Dan:** Yeah.

**Ezra:** Black gun, good as new... so I take it, I take the gun and I start thinking, bad thoughts, all kind of bad thoughts, thoughts about death, about annihilation... and he lies there, gazing at me with his dead eyes, as if inviting me to the party, "come, my little boy, come and join me, me and mom, like a lovely little family..." and by god I was this close to, you know, self destruct... blowing my brains out and all that... but then... then...

**Dan:** What?

**Ezra:** Suddenly you popped into my head.

Pause.

**Dan:** Me?

**Ezra:** Yes, you... imagine that, I'm there with a gun pointed at my head and you on my mind... and then I decided to come by... to pay a visit...

**Karen:** Here?

Ezra nods.

**Karen:** Why here?

**Ezra:** We have a mutual history, your husband and I.

**Karen:** What kind of history?

**Dan:** Your father's still there?

**Karen:** Where's the gun?

**Ezra:** In the apartment.

**Karen:** And the gun?

**Ezra:** Lying dead in the apartment.

**Karen:** What kind of history, Dan?

**Ezra:** And here I am, alone... nobody's left no more, besides you, Dan... Besides you.

**Dan:** Don't worry, brother?

**Ezra:** Yeah?

**Dan:** What?

**Ezra:** You said I'm your brother. Am I your brother?

**Dan** (confused): Yes, sure.

**Ezra:** Thanks, man. It means a lot, because I didn't know what to do.

**Dan:** You did the right thing coming here.

**Ezra:** You popped into my head, bother... instead of a bullet it was you... right into my head... you know, our history and all... so I came...

**Dan:** Where's your father?

**Ezra:** Like a piece of meat... lying there... like a piece of meat... and I'm here, and he's there... and here we are... after all those years... and I am, and he is not... I didn't know what to do... you've got to believe me, man... I didn't know what to do... so I came...

The lights gradually fade out while Dan is taking Ezra into the small bedroom. He lifts Ezra from his wheelchair and puts him on a bed.

**Ezra:** I had no choice, Danny... so I came...

Karen is going into her and Dan's bedroom.

## Scene 2

Three hours later.

Karen has undressed in her bedroom, dressed now in a white t-shirt and panties.

Das has entered the flat, after returning from Ezra' place. Karen immediately approaches him. He is tired, even traumatized. She is invigorated, restless. He stares ahead, unresponsive to his anxious wife.

**Karen:** Well?

Pause.

**Karen:** Did you see him?

Dan nods.

**Karen:** And...

**Dan:** What time is it?

**Karen:** Two thirty.

**Dan:** Got to sleep.

**Karen:** Dead?

**Dan:** Who?

**Karen:** His father.



Dan nods.

**Karen:** Lying there, dead?

**Dan:** They took him.

**Karen:** They?

**Dan:** The paramedics. The police was also there.

**Karen:** What did they say?

**Dan:** Who?

**Karen:** The police.

**Dan:** They want to talk to him.

**Karen:** About what?

**Dan:** Procedural stuff – somebody dies, the police asks questions.

**Karen:** What kind of questions?

**Dan:** What time is it?

**Karen:** Dan!!

**Dan:** What?

**Karen:** Start talking.

**Dan:** I didn't see him at first... the flat was empty, the living room, the bath room, no body, no nothing. I went back to the bed room.

**Karen:** And there he was.

**Dan:** Under the bed, not really under, kind of under... not really under... sort of under the bed...

**Karen:** Like he's ashamed of being dead.

Dan looks at his wife, bewildered.

**Karen:** Go on.

**Dan:** He had a hole in his head.

**Karen (dramatically):** Hole in his...

**Dan:** What's the matter with you?

**Karen:** Nothing. Go on.

**Dan (points to his head):** Here. A deep one... wide open, his head was wide open. Like an open invitation to a skull. The paramedics said he probably fell, bumped his head on the drawer and...

**Karen:** Probably?

**Dan:** He banged his head, rolled over... that's what the paramedics said... through the head... a hole in the head... I've never seen anything like that.

**Karen:** Who is this Ezra?

Dan doesn't answer.

**Karen:** Why didn't you tell me...

**Dan:** We were friends - a long time ago.

**Karen:** And...

**Dan:** What?

**Karen:** What did you do to him?

Dan remains silent.

**Karen:** I don't want him here.

**Dan:** Excuse me?

**Karen:** I – don't – want – him – in – our – house.

**Dan:** You don't want him... now you're telling me? A few hours after...

**Karen:** I don't want him here, yes.

**Dan:** He needs me.

**Karen:** So every cripple with a dead father gets a free pass here?

Dan empathically approaches her.

**Dan:** I don't know why he's here. There're things I can't explain, even to myself... I didn't have time to breathe since he... but I can't, just like that, because if I will, he will... and if he will, I will... you know?

**Karen:** No, I don't...

**Dan:** I'm asking you. I know it's quite an unexpected turn of events, this visit. I know that you'd prefer to be here with me, alone, but I need you to help me with... this... thing.

**Karen:** No.

**Dan:** No?!

**Karen:** No.

**Dan:** That is your answer?

**Karen:** He scares me.

**Dan:** Ezra?

**Karen:** And you, you terrify me.

**Dan:** I terrify...

**Karen:** Yes, you... It's like I don't know you, what you are dealing with, here... it terrifies me.

**Dan:** You've nothing to be frightened...

**Karen:** I'm surrounded by negative energy.

**Dan:** Give me a break.

**Karen:** I can sense it, you're getting away...

Pause.

**Karen:** Talk to me.

**Dan:** I thought that that was what we're doing.

**Karen:** No, you're evading.

**Dan:** It's late.

**Karen:** So grab a cup of coffee, because we're not going anywhere until you start talking.

**Dan:** Fuck.

**Karen:** I'm telling you, this Ezra...

**Dan:** He's harmless.

**Karen:** Did you see a gun?

**Dan:** A what?

**Karen:** He was talking about a gun, he nearly shot himself, right? Wasn't that what he said, that he nearly committed suicide? Where's the gun? He left it in his apartment? Fuck no.

**Dan:** I didn't see a gun.

**Karen:** So, where is it?

**Dan:** You **are** surrounded by negative energy.

**Karen:** Isn't it a legitimate question? He mentioned a gun, he mentioned you, he mentioned a mutual dark history, he came here to pay a visit. Where's the gun, Dan?

Dan hugs her.

**Dan:** It's going to be alright.

Karen shakes him off.

**Karen:** What did you do to him? Why is he here?

Pause.

**Karen:** Dan?

**Dan:** Listen, honey... he's going to stay here as long as he wants. You know why? Because I want him to stay. I went along with all your beliefs these last months, with all your philosophies and apparitions and the life is beautiful stuff, with everything... I conformed to every whimsical wish you had. I didn't understand you, sometimes I wanted to... but I conformed... I've been there for you and I never said no, right?

Karen doesn't respond.

**Dan:** Right, Karen?

She nods in a reluctant agreement.

**Dan:** So I'm asking, no, I'm telling you – he'll stay here as long as he wishes because that is what I want.

Pause.

**Dan:** Ok?

**Karen:** I asked what you did to him.

**Dan** (trying to stay calm): Ok?

Karen doesn't answer.

**Dan:** I want to go to bed. Give me a kiss.

Dan kisses Karen and closes the lights. Darkness.

**Dan:** Good night.

Pause

**Dan:** Good night, wifey.

**Karen:** Good night.

### Scene 3

The next day – around noon.

Ezra, Karen and Dan enter the apartment. Karen and Dan are dressed in formal and ceremonious black clothes. They have just returned from Ezra's father's funeral.

Ezra is dressed as he was the previous night.

Dan and Karen helplessly look at each other. Each one signals the other to start the conversation.

Finally, Dan breaks the silence.

**Dan:** I'll get the food.

Dan goes off stage leaving Karen and Ezra alone. She takes off her coat and places it on the living room table.

**Karen:** Too bad nobody came.

Ezra is unresponsive.

**Karen:** I said it's too bad nobody came.

Ezra still sits and stares ahead.

**Karen:** No friends, no family...

Dan returns with a tray filled with slices of vegetables. He puts them on the living room table (taking Karen's coat and hangs it on a collar near the door).

**Karen:** He had friends, your father, a family, some remaining siblings or something... people who were close... who cared ...

Nobody answers.

**Karen:** Dan?

**Dan:** Of course he had.

**Karen:** So where was everybody?

Ezra doesn't answer. Dan goes off stage again (to the kitchen).

**Karen:** Are you currently employed?

Ezra shakes his head.

**Karen:** So how did you make... money?

**Ezra:** Social security mostly...

**Karen:** What did your father do?

**Ezra:** Do?

**Karen:** For a living.

**Ezra:** Nothing.

**Karen:** Nothing? He did nothing?



**Ezra:** He once did and then he... didn't.

**Karen:** Did he leave you something?

**Ezra:** Like what?

**Karen:** Property, savings, money?

Ezra gazes at Karen, unresponsive.

**Karen:** All I'm trying to... what I'm pointing at... Ezra, what are your plans... what had you in mind to...

Karen stops. Ezra still gazes at Karen.

**Karen:** What do you want to do?

Dan enters with another tray filled with slices of cheese and bread.

**Dan:** No need to push.

**Karen:** Who's pushing? All I am saying is that if you want, Dan can help. (Dan again exits towards the kitchen) Even in the state you're in, there are a lot a people who could use your... talent.

Dan enters with two glasses of wine in his right hand and one in his left.

**Dan:** Let's raise a toast.

Dan gives Ezra a glass of wine.

**Ezra:** No, thank you.

**Dan:** I thought we'd raise a toast to your father.

**Ezra:** I don't drink wine.

**Dan:** So, what will you have?

**Karen:** All I'm saying is...

**Dan** (gives her Ezra's glass): Here, take.

**Karen:** No, thanks.

**Dan:** Why not?

**Karen:** Because I'm pregnant.

**Dan:** So just pretend.

**Karen:** What I'm aiming at...

**Dan:** So, it's only me drinking?

Nobody responds.

**Dan:** Here's to...

Ezra looks at Dan, suspiciously. Dan seems alarmed.

**Dan:** Here's to...

**Ezra:** You forgot his name.

**Dan:** No, I didn't...

**Ezra:** Yes, you did...

**Dan:** Here's to... Here's to... I remember the name... I remember... Here's to...

Dan helplessly and awkwardly drinks by himself.

**Karen** (to Ezra): I know you're in a bad shape right now. And I know...

**Dan:** It's not a good time, Karen.

**Karen:** All I'm saying is that...

**Dan:** We just buried his father.

**Karen:** Do you've better suggestions?

**Dan:** He's old enough to know what's right for him.

**Karen:** And what do you think it is?

Dan doesn't answer. Karen approaches Ezra.

**Karen:** Ezra, what do you want?

Ezra remains silent.

**Karen:** Remember what I said yesterday about the therapy I had? The crisis, the rehabilitation, the whirlpool? You remember I told you about the terror?

Karen gets closer to him, touches his shoulders as if she were consoling a small child.

**Karen:** When the terror was upon me, seconds before I'm drowning, I went to my therapist, the one I told you about... I sat in her clinic, all panicky, sweating

all over, my hands were shaking, crying like a little girl... and then she asked me what I want.

Pause.

**Karen:** Sometimes the hardest question is the simplest one.

**Ezra:** What do you want?

**Karen:** What do **you** want?

**Dan:** Ezra doesn't need...

**Karen:** Hush, I'm talking to him. So what's your answer?

Ezra doesn't answer. Karen smiles sympathetically at him.

**Karen:** Why are you here of all places? What do you want from us, Ezra? What do you want?

Ezra stares at Karen's breasts and then looks up at her.

**Ezra:** I want Dan's life.

**Karen:** You...

**Ezra:** I want Dan's life.

Pause.

**Ezra:** I want everything he has, his life, his children, his house, his car, his Tv, his bedroom... his wife. I want you, Karen.

**Karen:** Me?

Ezra nods. Karen looks at her husband, who stands at the far end of the living room staring blankly ahead.

**Karen:** Is this a joke?

Ezra shakes his head. Karen tries to understand her husband's helpless gaze.

**Karen:** Dan?!

He remains frozen in his place, trying hard to avoid looking at her.

**Karen:** Did you hear him? He wants me.

Dan is still unresponsive.

**Karen:** Say something.

Silence.

**Karen:** Ok, if you won't, I will. (to Ezra) Ezra, me and Dan would appreciate it if you'll...

**Dan:** Karen?

**Karen:** What?

**Dan:** It's not that simple.

**Karen:** Excuse me?

**Dan:** I said it's not that simple.

**Karen:** What do you mean, it's not that simple?

**Dan:** It means that it's not that simple.

**Karen:** So let's simplify it.

She again approaches Ezra.

**Karen:** Ezra, please pack your...

**Dan:** Don't listen to her.

**Karen:** You want to give me away?

**Dan:** Of course not.

**Karen:** So, how do you want to resolve this?

**Dan:** We just came back from his father's funeral... it was pretty shocking...

**Karen:** Does it give him the right?

Dan walks towards Ezra. He sits on the couch next to him.

**Dan:** Ezra?

Ezra doesn't respond, still looks at Karen.

**Dan:** You want my life.

Silence.

**Dan:** Why?

**Ezra:** You know why.

**Karen:** I don't.

**Dan:** But why... the car?

**Karen:** The car?

**Ezra:** Why do I want the car?

**Karen:** The fucking car?

**Dan:** Yeah, why? It's mine.

**Ezra:** So what if it's yours.

**Dan:** What are you going to do with a car?

**Ezra:** Whatever I want.

**Dan:** You need the money? Is that it?

Ezra doesn't respond, gazing at Karen.

**Dan:** Because if you need the money, a little cash to help you get back on your feet... roll ahead in life, we can talk...

**Ezra:** I'm not negotiating here.

**Karen:** Who's negotiating?

**Dan:** Karen, let me handle this.

**Karen:** Handle what? Why are you two even talking?

**Dan:** Because... I want to Handle things... let me handle the situation... things, between me and him... things, let me handle them.

Dan approaches his wife. He holds her in his arms. Ezra stares all this time at Karen.

**Dan:** Why don't you go for a while? Take a trip for a couple of hours, maybe more... go somewhere... Ezra and I need to talk.

**Karen** (to Ezra): What are you looking at?

Ezra doesn't respond.

**Dan:** Karen...

**Karen:** What's there to talk about?

Dan tries to hold his growing anger in. Ezra still stares at her, occasionally examines her figure and especially her breasts.

**Karen:** Talk to me.

**Dan:** I want you to leave us alone for a while. I need to talk to **him**.

**Karen:** Fuck No.

**Dan:** No?

**Karen:** You heard me, husband.

**Dan:** Isn't there a Yes in your vocabulary?

**Karen:** Stop looking at me.

Ezra looks away.



**Dan:** Go to a movie, go and be somewhere else, go to your sister, to your paren... no, not you parents, go somewhere else... just leave us alone, for awhile, we need to talk...

**Karen:** About what?

**Dan:** Honey, the love of my life, my dear wifey, I am asking you, imploring you, humbly, before I get... please, go... it's **my** thing here, let me resolve this... amicably... it's going to be ok... I just need a couple of hours with him.

Karen stands in front of her husband, thinks it through until finally supplying an answer.

**Karen:** No.

**Ezra:** Let her stay.

**Karen:** Did I ask your permission?

**Dan** (to Ezra): You're not getting my life.

Pause.

**Ezra:** Ok.

Ezra still stares at Karen.

**Ezra:** So, that's that. I'll go to bed, then.

Ezra strolls towards Karen.

**Ezra:** Wanna come?

Karen is dumbfounded.

**Ezra:** Ok, good night then.

Ezra rolls himself towards Karen and Dan's bedroom.

**Dan:** Ezra.

Ezra stops.

**Dan:** It's not your room.

**Karen:** The bed there (points towards the smaller room, where he spent the previous night)... it hurts my back.

Ezra continues to rolls to his new bedroom.

**Ezra:** I'm sorry for the inconvenience... I truly am. Thank you all.

Ezra shuts the door behind him, leaving the astonished couple outside.

**Karen:** He...

**Dan:** Yes...

**Karen** (points to the bedroom): There...

**Dan:** So it seems.

**Karen:** For the night.

Dan doesn't respond.

**Karen:** The whole night.

Dan remains silent.

**Karen:** The-whole-night.

**Dan:** He's out of his mind.

Pause.

**Dan:** Poor man.

**Karen:** Poor? him?

**Dan:** We just got back from his father's funeral... you saw him, sitting there, staring ahead, frozen, shocked, petrified. His father just died and he is there, alone... waiting to get out as soon as possible.

**Karen:** He's in our room.

Dan remains silent.

**Karen:** OUR ROOM.

Pause.

**Karen:** What the fuck is going on?

**Dan:** It's too complicated to even...

**Karen:** Just admit it.

**Dan:** Admit what?

**Karen:** You want him here.

**Dan** (frustrated, on the verge of losing it): Ok.

**Karen:** You asked for Ezra to come.

**Dan:** I asked for him... to come.

**Karen:** Someone to save you.

**Dan:** From what?

**Karen:** From your life, your whole life... your house, your job, me. He wants **your** life? What kind of life are you giving him? Worthless existence, just admit that that is what you feel, what you want, to give me away... just admit it.

**Dan:** That I want to give you away?

**Karen:** Your entire life... I saw it on your face after the second abortion, the despair, the helplessness, the mistake, your life, a mistake... marrying me... being with me...

**Dan:** Didn't we just get over it? Together? The crisis...

**Karen:** Yes, we did... I got over it, but now a poor man is sleeping in my room... and you remain silent.

Silence.

**Karen:** Why aren't you protecting your house? Your family? Your life?

**Dan:** He's like a little baby, fragile, weak, pathetic, alone in the world, just waiting to be fed, few crumbs that will help him get by... I'm not going to send him to the slaughterhouse.

**Karen:** Coward.

**Dan:** What did you say?

**Karen:** You wimp, coward, chicken shit, child, miserable child... you. The only thing I didn't figure out yet is who you are scared of more, darling, me or him?

**Dan:** I'll talk to him... tomorrow.

Karen gloomily laugh.

**Dan (furious):** Do me a favor, wifey, and go to your sister.

**Karen:** I'll die before I leave him this house.

Karen immediately gets up.

**Dan:** Where're you going?

She goes to her new smaller bedroom. She gets in and violently closes the door on Dan.

Silence.

Dan stares at both directions of his apartment – Ezra's room and Karen's.

He silently approaches Ezra' (Dan's original bedroom). He gets in and closes the door behind him.

## Scene 4

Ezra is still sitting in his wheelchair in front of the bed, staring blankly at the floor. When Dan enters, Ezra's gaze remains empty and still.

**Dan:** What are you doing?

**Ezra:** Waiting for someone.

**Dan:** Who?

**Ezra:** You, apparently.

**Dan:** Karen...

**Ezra:** I heard her.

**Dan:** She's freaked out... the pregnancy has turned her... she's scared... and you arriving didn't help...

Silence.

**Dan:** Why didn't you call me?

Ezra doesn't respond.

**Dan:** I could've helped... I didn't know you were...

**Ezra:** What?

**Dan:** Living... like this... without...

Dan sits next to Ezra.

**Dan:** I know you think I should've helped and maybe I should have... we were kids, that's all we were, stupid kids... and now things have changed... it's been awhile... even though I never forgot...

**Ezra:** You haven't.

**Dan:** No, never... you were always on my mind.

**Ezra:** Always? Strong word "always".

**Dan:** I never forgot you, Ezra... NEVER.

**Ezra:** What didn't you forget?

**Dan:** You.

**Ezra:** Me.

**Dan:** Yes, You.

**Ezra:** You never forgot me?

**Dan:** Never.

**Ezra:** Never ever?

Dad nods.

**Ezra:** Never ever? Not even once? Not even for a tiny bit of a micro second? You've never forgotten me... never ever... Never ever.

Pause.

**Ezra:** When you married your beautiful wife... even then you never ever forgot?

**Dan:** What?

**Ezra:** I was sitting in my home while you were celebrating... I didn't get an invitation... Why didn't you send me an invitation, Dan?

**Dan:** So that's why you're here? Because you didn't get an invite?

Ezra doesn't answer.

**Dan:** What do you want me to do? To apologize? I'm sorry. Do you want me to take responsibility? To take the blame? I am, I will. It was my fault. Again, I'm sorry. You want me to beg for your forgiveness? You want me to break down and cry? To humiliate myself? Here, anything you want, I'm ready... you want my legs? Should I bring the knife right now?

**Ezra:** You have a knife that cuts legs?

Dan looks at Ezra, petrified.

**Ezra:** Big knife? In this house?

**Dan:** So that's it. You want my legs.

**Ezra:** What will I do with your legs? You can keep 'em.

**Dan:** So what do you want? My life? This house? Look around you, it's a worthless piece of cement, this house. My life? There's nothing to grab... all around you... nothing... fucking worthless piece of nothing...

**Ezra:** Dan?

**Dan:** I don't have anything to give... really I don't... nothing...

**Ezra:** Dan?

**Dan:** A white house with white walls, a white existence... everything so mother fucking white...

**Ezra:** Dan?



**Dan:** Yeah, Ezra, tell me, what could you possibly want? Tell me... What? What? What? What do you want?

**Ezra:** I wanna sleep.

Silence.

**Dan:** Sleep.

**Ezra:** Take me to bed.

Pause.

**Ezra:** Come on. Do as I say. Take me to bed.

Dan approaches Ezra, about to lift him with his hands.

**Ezra:** Good night, Dan.

He lifts Ezra with his hands, remains standing.

**Ezra:** Dan?

Dan looks at Ezra.

**Ezra:** I said good night.

**Dan:** I heard you.

**Ezra:** So... good night.

**Dan:** Yeah...

Dan begins to walk toward Ezra's new side of the bed. Ezra, still held by Dan, stops him.

**Ezra:** "Good night, Ezra".

**Dan:** Good night.

Dan again begins to approach the bed, but again Ezra stops him.

**Ezra:** "Ezra"?

**Dan:** What?

**Ezra:** Good night, Ezra.

**Dan:** Ok.

**Ezra:** Good night, Ezra.

**Dan:** Good night.

**Ezra:** Ezra.

**Dan:** Good night, Ezra.

Ezra signals him to approach his side of the bed. Dan puts Ezra on the bed.

**Ezra:** Good night, Dan.

Dan lies next to Ezra in bed, stares ahead. He turns off the light.

## Scene 5

The next morning.

Karen sits next to Ezra in the living room.

They are both drinking coffee, silent.

**Karen:** Coffee's good?

Ezra nods.

**Karen:** I wasn't sure.

Pause.

**Karen:** You know, the usuals, cream, sugar, black, white... I figured you're the black type, but the moment you came in you didn't stop surprising me so I took a chance and made you a latte...

Karen waits for a response that doesn't come.

**Karen:** So, what are you? The black type or the white?

**Ezra:** Sometimes I'm black, sometimes I'm white.

**Karen:** I can make you black if you want.

**Ezra:** I'm fine.

**Karen:** Sure?

Ezra smiles politely.

**Karen:** Ok.

Ezra takes a sip.

**Karen:** So, how did you sleep?

**Ezra:** Fine.

**Karen:** Didn't you hear Dan's snores?

**Ezra:** No.

**Karen:** You're a strong sleeper. With me, I wake up from a fly miles away.

**Ezra:** I sleep ok.

Pause.

**Karen:** So... how do you want it to be?

**Ezra:** What?

**Karen:** Usually, after Dan goes to work I'm all by myself here. But now you're here and Dan's here, he took few days off, and I'm here as well... first time for me, a house filled with you guys... first time for you too, I imagine.

Ezra is unresponsive.

**Karen:** So...

**Ezra:** So...

**Karen:** How will it work?

**Ezra:** How will what work?

**Karen:** Things.

**Ezra:** I don't know.

**Karen:** The routine.

**Ezra:** The routine?

**Karen:** We're just supposed to exist?

**Ezra:** I guess.

Silence.

**Karen:** What were you planning to do?

**Ezra:** Nothing.

**Karen:** Ok, and then what?

**Ezra:** Don't know.

**Karen:** Want me to do something special?

**Ezra:** Like what?

**Karen:** Clean the house?

**Ezra:** If you like.

**Karen:** Whatever you like.

Pause.

**Karen:** Want to watch Tv?

**Ezra:** Not particularly.

**Karen:** Want to go out?

Ezra smiles.

**Karen:** Why are you smiling?

**Ezra:** I want to smile.

Pause.

**Karen:** You know what I usually do? It'll seem bizarre... I am planning the babies' room.

**Ezra:** Planning?

**Karen:** For the babies.

**Ezra:** Babies.

**Karen:** It's more than a room. I'm in fact planning their kingdom.

**Ezra:** Ok.

**Karen:** I want their room to be their kingdom.

Pause.

**Karen:** Want to know what I'm planning to do there?

**Ezra:** If you like.

**Karen:** If **you** like.

**Ezra:** What are you planning?

**Karen:** First – cradles, it goes without saying... but I also want to furnish the room with pink and green cushion like mattresses... I want the whole room to be either in pink or in green.

**Ezra:** Ok.

**Karen:** I asked Dan to get the brushes and the paint but he says it's too soon... and now, especially after your arrival it seems, well, pretty insane. But you can't blame a woman for dreaming.

Ezra doesn't respond.

**Karen:** I want to paint all the walls, the ceiling as well.

**Ezra:** What kind of paintings?

**Karen:** Oh, now we come to the heart of the matter. I want to create an atmosphere of a forest, in the room, of flowers, and trees and exotic animals, like a jungle.

**Ezra:** In pink and green.

**Karen:** There's more. At the center of the room there will be a tent, a fortress no adult can enter.

**Ezra:** Will there be enough room?

**Karen:** Of course.

**Ezra:** Ok.

**Karen:** Their room will still be their room, you know, four walls, a window, a door. And yet, at the same time I want their room to be something else entirely...

**Ezra:** A jungle.

**Karen:** Remember when you got here I told you that our existential problems are not with reality, with empirical existence, but in the way one perceives reality, that you are the center of your own universe.

Ezra nods approvingly.

**Karen:** That's what I want to exercise in my educational approach.

**Ezra:** They are the creators of their own universe.

**Karen:** Exactly.

**Ezra:** A jungle for a room.

**Karen:** A jungle for a jungle. If I believe I'm living in a jungle, then I'm living in a jungle.

**Ezra:** So, why paint?

**Karen:** For the incentive.

**Ezra:** Ok.

**Karen:** Because it's an expression of space.

**Ezra:** Ok.

**Karen:** Any thoughts?

**Ezra:** No.

**Karen:** It will take time, though. We've to find the proper arrangements, because when it comes to anything...

Karen abruptly stops. Ezra is uncooperative. She finally continues.

**Karen:** If we'll be frank, you, me and Dan – too many adults for a small apartment such as this... wouldn't you think?

**Ezra:** It all depends on the universe we create.

Karen and Ezra remain silent. She looks at him; he stares at her.



**Karen:** Ezra.

**Ezra:** Yes?

**Karen:** You see yourself sharing this flat with me? Me and you, like a couple?

**Ezra:** If you'll like.

**Karen:** And my kids, you see them as your own.

**Ezra:** If they'll like.

**Karen:** Your own.

Ezra nods approvingly.

**Karen:** And do you picture us... me and you... fucking?

**Ezra:** Yes, I do.

Pause.

**Ezra:** You've nothing to worry about. It is not my intention to rape you.

**Karen:** And if I'll refuse.

**Ezra:** It's the last thing I want, to rape you.

**Karen:** But, if I won't...

**Ezra:** I don't want to rape you, Karen.

**Karen:** But if...

**Ezra:** I believe you'll eventually... comply.

Pause.

**Karen** (frightened): And what about Dan?

**Ezra** (surprised): Dan? I don't know.

Ezra takes a sip from his coffee.

**Karen:** You'll never leave, will you?

**Ezra:** Leave?

**Karen:** This house, us. You're not going anywhere, right? Not now, not ever.

**Ezra:** I don't know.

**Karen:** But, it's not a matter of weeks, months... you intend to stay more.

**Ezra:** I don't know, Karen.

**Karen:** And you don't care that...

**Ezra:** My father didn't want me, either...

**Karen:** Ok.

**Ezra:** But people have responsibility in life, Karen. You know what a responsibility is? It means that I'm not a broken toaster ... there is no refund here.

**Karen:** Responsibility? You mean the mutual history you and Dan have?

Ezra continues to stoically drink his coffee.

**Karen:** That's why you're here.

Ezra doesn't answer.

Meantime, Dan gets up from his bed. He exits the bedroom and enters the living room.

**Karen** (unaware of Dan's presence): You want us to take care of you?

**Dan:** Good morning.

**Ezra:** Good morning.

**Dan:** How did you sleep?

**Ezra:** Perfectly. Can you make me a cup of coffee, please?

**Karen:** You're drinking now a cup.

**Ezra:** I want another one, if you don't mind.

**Dan:** Sure. Black?

**Ezra:** Yes.

Dan exists.

Karen cautiously and desperately approaches Ezra.

**Karen:** Ezra, I beg you... get back to your life.

Ezra doesn't answer.

**Karen:** I'm losing them.

**Ezra:** Who?

**Karen:** My kids, my family, Dan, everything...

**Ezra:** You feel you're in troubled waters? Caught in your own whirlpool... drowning away in a pool of terror.

Karen nods.

**Ezra:** And you blame me.

Pause.

**Ezra:** But I didn't do anything.

**Karen:** I'm begging you...

Dan enters with a cup of coffee in his hand. Karen immediately gets up. He gives Ezra his cup. Ezra give him back the previous coffee.

**Ezra:** Would you mind taking it away?

**Dan** (tries to conceal his annoyance): Sure.

**Ezra:** Thanks.

Dan again exists with Ezra's cup of coffee.

Ezra leans towards Karen.

**Ezra:** Listen to me, if you feel you're carried away by a strong whirlpool, if you are caught in troubled waters, don't fight the current... it's a known fact, whoever fights the current eventually drowns. It's a known fact. He hasn't figured that he fights forces that are much stronger than he is. It's a lost battle.

Ezra gradually pours the cup of coffee on the floor beneath him until finally emptying it entirely.

**Ezra** (continues): The whirlpool will always win, Karen. If you get caught in a current, go with it, let it carry you away, down below, let it carry you away into the abyss and when you're down there, below the storm above, only then you can deal with all the inner currents that you're dealing with... only then can you swim up... you know from down below.

Dan has already re-entered the living room, looking at the pool of coffee on his floor.

**Ezra** (looks indifferently on the spilled coffee): It spilled.

**Dan**: No problem, I'm on it.

Dan again exits.

**Ezra**: Are you with me, Karen?

Dan returns with a white rag and starts mopping the coffee beneath Ezra.

**Ezra** (looks at Karen, gives to Dan his empty cup): Make me another one.

**Dan** (gets up): I will.

Dan goes out.

**Ezra**: I'm not your guest here... I'm a member of this household. And as soon you'll go with the current, it'll be easier for you to swim up and... be happy again.

Dan returns with another cup of coffee.

**Dan:** Here.

**Ezra** (takes the cup): Thanks.

**Dan:** So, what did I miss?

**Ezra:** Karen told me about the room she going to design.

**Dan:** The jungle.

**Ezra:** Yeah.

**Dan:** She's very excited about the babies' room... she told you about the universe that they'll create for themselves?

Ezra nods.

**Dan:** She likes to talk about it... her educational approach. They live in a four walled bedroom, there's a window and a door, and yet, the babies are actually in a jungle of their own making... everything comes to light in space, right honey? (Karen doesn't answer) However, I asked her, if they create their own universe, why design a jungle?

**Ezra:** For the incentive.

**Dan:** That's what she said. But, I don't know, there's something extremely limiting in a jungle. A jungle is one space out of many, so why jungle, why not a desert or a sea or outer space. Why can't they be pirates, astronauts or Bedouins, right? There's nothing liberating with a jungle. Jungle is a jungle, nothing more. Am I wrong?

Ezra doesn't answer. Dan looks at his wife who seems shattered, devastated.

**Dan:** What's wrong, wifey?

She remains silent.

**Dan** (to Ezra): She doesn't like disagreements, so I follow all her philosophies, energies, apparitions. But sometimes I also have things on my mind. And goddammit, I want to be heard. I deserve it.

**Karen:** Dan, can you make me a cup of coffee?

**Dan:** Make your own.

Karen gets up from the couch.

**Dan:** Where're you going?

Karen approaches Ezra. She suddenly sits on Ezra and gives him a long wet kiss.

**Dan** (shocked): Karen?

The kiss still goes on.

**Dan:** What the fuck are you doing?

Karen stands again.

**Karen:** I'm going to make me a cup.

Karen exits leaving the two men in a state of astonishment.

**Dan:** She lost it.

Ezra doesn't respond. Looks towards the kitchen (off stage), still stunned.

**Dan:** You should've heard what she said about you.

Pause.

**Dan:** It doesn't matter. I won't get you involved in our lives. It wasn't easy, these past months; it's no secret, the motherload of all marital battles. But we survived and if that's an indication to something, well... we have a bond, she and I... Ezra, are you with me?

**Ezra** (still astonished): What?

**Dan:** It was hard, pretty atrocious. Let's leave it at that... and yet, in the end of it, she is still my wife... especially now, after the things that we've been through, and the babies...

**Ezra:** Dan?

**Dan:** Yeah, Ezra?

**Ezra:** It's time to break this deal.

**Dan:** What do you mean?

**Ezra:** To go our separate ways, you and I... all of us.

**Dan:** Ok.

**Ezra:** It's time.

**Dan:** I agree. There was some sort of...

**Ezra:** Conflict is the word.

**Dan:** Absolutely, an unpleasant conflict.



**Ezra:** I hate conflicts.

**Dan:** I despise conflicts.

**Ezra:** Unpleasant conflict, goddam right it is.

**Dan:** So...

**Ezra:** This house, it's too small.

**Dan:** Right.

**Ezra:** For the three of us.

**Dan:** This house...

**Ezra:** And there're the children... it's best for us...

Karen enters returns with her cup.

**Dan:** And when did you plan to...

**Ezra:** Separate? Now, perhaps tomorrow.

**Dan:** Ok.

**Ezra:** Either way, as soon as possible... let's not drag this thing. No point...

**Dan:** Couldn't agree more.

**Ezra:** And you know what? The car is yours.

**Dan:** The car.

**Ezra:** I'm giving you the car. It's yours.

**Dan:** You...

**Ezra:** What did I tell you? It's yours.

**Dan:** The car.

**Ezra:** I'm giving you the car. Take it.

Karen begins to uncontrollably laugh.

**Dan:** You're throwing **me** out?

**Ezra:** It was inevitable. You knew it the moment you saw me, that this party of three will not work. And this house...

**Dan:** You and her.

Karen's laugh only intensifies.

**Ezra:** She'll be in capable hands, trust me. No need to worry, and your kids... I'll be a good father, I can promise you that. I'll take care of everyone.

**Dan:** Who do you think you are?

**Ezra:** I'm Ezra.

**Dan:** Take my wife? What'll you do with her?

**Ezra:** Don't concern yourself with...

**Dan:** Take her to bed? Can you even fuck? Does it work?

**Ezra:** Watch it.

**Dan:** Why? What will you do? What can you do?

Ezra doesn't respond.

**Dan:** You crippled, helpless, pathetic fuckup. You have no legs, fuckup, so what can you do? You are nothing, you legless shit. And if I go, what will you do? How will you manage? You'll work? make a living, provide, care for her? What **can** you do, cripple? You're nothing, worthless cunt, a fuckup who fucks everything up while being a fucking fuck up. And you come here with your demands as if you're somebody, as if you're entitled to something, as if you have rights... but you have no legs, no body, you have no place in the world,

you have no life other than what I provide you, you fatherless piece of shit. You are disabled, existentially disabled, even before the accident you were been disabled, a little man with a little prick, that doesn't work, sick, vile, miserable, disgusting, ugly... an ugly human being. I'm telling you the truth, brother... when you carry yourself in the street and you see a baby you just passed begin to cry, you know, right? That "he cries because of me, the deformed". Nobody will ever want you, let alone a woman, let alone Karen. Because you are deformed, a crippled human being, in the head and in the body, helpless, worthless, lifeless, cripple of a human being, you...

Dan stands next to Karen. He hugs her.

Ezra still sits and stares at the two.

**Dan:** The time has come so take your things and get the fuck out.

Pause.

Ezra rolls towards Dan until he is the closest he could be to him.

**Ezra:** Make me.

**Dan:** Sorry?

**Ezra:** You heard me, brother.

Pause.

**Ezra:** Make me.

**Dan:** Even that I'm supposed to do for you?

**Karen:** What are you afraid of? Take him out.

**Dan:** He's big enough to carry himself out.

**Ezra:** I'm not leaving, brother.

**Dan:** You're not welcome.

**Karen:** We way passed welcome.

**Ezra:** It's your house, Danny boy, throw the deformed out already.

**Dan:** I'll call the cops.

Ezra and Karen laugh bitterly.

**Ezra:** The cops?

**Karen:** What will the police do?

**Dan:** It's trespassing, that's what it is.

**Ezra:** And I'm the crippled, the fuck up? **My** prick's not working? (Karen)  
That's the man you married?

**Karen:** Take him out already.

**Ezra:** What are you waiting for?

**Karen:** What **are** you waiting for, Dan?

**Ezra:** Throw me out, cocksucker.

**Karen:** Let's get on with our lives?

**Ezra:** Like I was never here, like I didn't exist... throw me away, get on with it...

Dan advances towards Ezra, taking his wheelchair toward the entrance. Immediately after moving the wheelchair, Ezra throws himself onto the floor, lying helpless in front of the couple. Dan tries to approach him a second time, but Ezra gets his hand into the back pocket of his pants and takes out a gun.

He points it towards the couple. Dan immediately draws back, taking Karen with him.

**Ezra:** I'm not going nowhere. You want to throw me out? To evict me from your life? Go ahead, you cunt, you piece of miserable shit, go ahead... I'm not moving... you hear me?

Dan remains silent and still.

**Ezra:** Know this, Ezra stays, as long he fucking likes.

Dan and Karen still stand helplessly in front of him.

**Ezra:** I'm here to fucking stay.

Ezra stares at the gun.

**Ezra:** ...to stay.

Ezra suddenly turns the gun to himself, still staring at it, contemplating his next move.

**Dan (terrified):** Ezra.

**Ezra:** What?

Ezra draws the gun nearer to his face.

**Dan:** You don't have to do this.

**Karen:** Let him.

Dan looks startled at his wife.

**Karen:** Leave him alone, Dan.

**Dan** (slowly approaches him): Don't listen to her, just give me the gun... we'll work something out.

Karen grabs Dan by his wrists, determinately turns her husband, so he won't see Ezra.

**Karen:** Listen to me, it's going to be alright, trust me on this.

**Dan:** No.

**Karen:** Yeah, it will... (Dan tries to look at Ezra but she turns his face towards her again) look at me... it's going to be alright.

**Dan:** He...

**Karen:** Let him drown... let him get under...

Dan, again, tries to look at Ezra but again Karen holds his face.

**Karen:** Let him go, I said... It'll be alright.

**Dan:** Ezra?

Ezra stares at Dan.

**Dan:** Don't do it.

Dan begins to approach him but Karen fights him back.

**Karen:** Don't, honey... it's his thing, now... he's finally off our hands...

Ezra gives a bitter smile and closes his eyes.

**Dan:** No, Ezra... please, no!!

A shot is fired. Ezra immediately falls to the floor, a pool of blood begins to flow.

Dan stands shocked, helpless, stunned. Karen's eyes are closed. Ezra's body still twitches, his legs move involuntary.

Dan looks at him appalled, tries to get nearer.

**Karen:** Danny, stay with me... don't... stay here... with me.

Dan looks at her.

**Karen:** Closer...

Karen pulls him towards her.

**Karen:** Don't look, close your eyes, honey. Close...

Karen kisses him. He is still shocked, tries unsuccessfully to look at the body, she takes his face into her hands, almost violently, and kisses him again.

**Karen** (her eyes closed): Close your eyes, my love... (Dan closes his eyes) and when we open them... he'll be gone.

Dan and Karen stand next to each other, trembling, hugging, lips pressed together. Behind them, Ezra's corpse still twitches helplessly until gradually fading away.

Lights go out on the entire stage, except on Ezra's body.



## Scene 6

After six months.

Karen is in the final stages of her pregnancy (few weeks, perhaps even days before she's expected to give birth). She sits on the couch, touching the twins in her big belly and stares happily ahead.

Karen looks as if she's transformed from the last scene, wearing a flowery dress, smiling.

Ezra's body is still there, as it was at the end of scene 5 (six months before). Occasionally, Karen looks towards the body. But most of the time she stares ahead, trying quite successfully to conceal her concerns.

Dan enters the apartment after a long day's work, dressed elegantly, holding an executive briefcase. Immediately upon his return, he takes a short glimpse at the body but hurriedly approaches Karen.

**Karen:** Sweetie?

Dan helps his wife to get up. They kiss.

**Dan:** What did I miss?

**Karen:** A happy life.

She takes his hand and places it on her tummy.

**Karen:** We spoke.

**Dan:** What did they say?

**Karen:** Boo boom, boo boom, boo boom...

He smiles, presses his head against her belly.

**Dan** (to his unborn infants): See you soon, my love.

**Karen:** What did I miss?

**Dan:** Another day.

**Karen:** Don't say that.

**Dan:** That's what it was.

**Karen:** We talked about it, your job is...

**Dan:** I know.

**Karen:** You have to find the little thing that...

**Dan:** I know...

**Karen:** Makes you happy.

**Dan:** I'm drawing charts.

**Karen:** That's what you think you're doing.

**Dan:** It is what I'm doing.

**Karen:** Why can't you...

**Dan:** I can, I am... I'm not complaining any more... I'm happy, seriously... and now with the kids.

**Karen:** Yeah...

**Dan:** Happy as a prince.

**Karen:** Kiss me, my love.

They're about to kiss again.

**Dan:** What's that smell?

**Karen:** Body lotion?

**Dan:** No, it's something else.

**Karen:** What is?

**Dan:** The smell... like something's... spoiled.

**Karen:** I don't smell anything.

Dan moves around the apartment, sniffing around the living room.

**Karen:** I want to finish the jungle by the end of the week.

**Dan:** Ok.

**Karen:** We've waited long enough.

**Dan:** Sure.

Dan is standing now next to Ezra's body. He looks down.

**Dan:** Sweetie?

**Karen:** Yes?

Dan gazes at Ezra's body.

**Dan:** Nothing.

**Karen:** Tell me.

**Dan:** It's just me...

**Karen:** What?

**Dan:** That sees...

**Karen:** Who?

**Dan:** Never mind.

**Karen:** Go on, tell me.

**Dan:** Nothing to tell.

**Karen:** Nothing my foot, tell me what you wanted to say.

**Dan:** Really, it's nothing.

**Karen:** But...

**Dan:** Karen, there was something and now there isn't... ok?

**Karen:** I insist.

**Dan:** Insist as much as you can, I still won't.

**Karen:** Won't you?

**Dan:** Will you stop?

**Karen:** I'll stop when you tell.

**Dan:** I don't want to.

**Karen:** Sure?

**Dan:** Positive.

**Karen:** Hundred percent?

**Dan:** Gazillion.

**Karen:** Not even...

**Dan:** Karen, it doesn't matter... nothing matters any more...

**Karen** (takes his hand and puts it on her tummy again): besides our...

**Dan:** Yeah, besides our ...

**Karen:** And soon we'll be a family, living in this house...

**Dan:** And nothing else will ever matter.

**Karen:** So...

Karen kisses him. She smiles, satisfied. He also smiles, tries to conceal his deep concerns.

Suddenly, there's a knock on the door.

Dan and Karen look surprised.

**Karen (to Dan):** Who is it?

**Dan:** Don't know.

Another knock.

**Karen:** Are we expecting anyone?

Dan shakes his head, intimidated.

Few more knocks are heard, a bit louder now.

**Karen:** Should we open?

**Dan:** No.

**Karen:** Sure?

Dan nods and holds his wife, as if preventing her from doing something foolish.

Another few more determined knocks are heard.

**Dan:** It'll stop.

**Karen:** What?

**Dan:** The knocks.

**Karen:** But the person...

**Dan:** Will go away... he'll go away.

**Karen:** What have you done now?

**Dan:** Nothing. I didn't do anything.

Few more knocks, beginning to sound unbearably louder.

**Karen:** So why are they knocking?

Another few knocks, the pace intensifies as well.

**Karen:** Who's there?

**Dan:** I don't care. We're not opening to anyone.

**Karen:** But they're still there.

**Dan:** They'll leave.

More noisily knocks.

**Dan:** They'll eventually leave.

**Karen:** No.

**Dan:** Yes.

**Karen:** You're not opening to anyone.

**Dan:** Of course I'm not.

**Karen:** We're not here.

**Dan:** We're not.

A few more determined knocks that almost break the door.

**Dan** (shouts towards the mysterious guests): There's nobody here.

More deafening knocks.

**Dan** (shouts): Go away... go the fuck away... There's nobody here.

Dan hysterically hugs Karen.

**Dan:** There's nobody here!!!

**The End**