

# Ringo

A wild musical comedy  
by **Yaron Edelstein**

Translated from Hebrew  
by **Shir Freibach**

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**RINGO was first performed at the Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv on June 2021.**

Directed by **Amit Apte**

Music **Alon Glasinger**

Choreography **Tomer Yifrach**

Set **Sheeran Levi**

Costumes **Alex Kochman**

Lighting **Matan Preminger**

Voice coach **Adi Keshet Cohen**

Sound design **Nirel Sharon and Alon Berkowitz**

Dramaturgy **Gur Koren and Amit Apte**

Artistic consultants **Gilad Kimchi, Orna Smorgonski, Amir Lekner**

Assistant Director **Hanny Yechayahu**

Cast: **Elad Atrakchi, Tom Gal, Chen Gerty, Dor Harari, Tom Chodorov, Uriah**

**Jablonwsky, Or Lumbrozo, Roni Natanel, Maya Koren, Yaeli Rosenblit**

# Characters

- DANNY *Mika's long-term boyfriend.*  
MIKA *Danny's long-term girlfriend.*  
RINGO *Danny's penis; bald, ever-hungry.*  
NAOMI *Manager at the Banana bar and Mika's best friend.*

*All other parts are played by members of the Company:*

- EVYATAR *A barman at the Banana bar.*  
ANAT *A waitress at the Banana bar.*  
EFRAT *A waitress at the Banana bar.*  
MALE NURSE  
DOCTOR FANNYDIK *A female doctor.*  
NISSIM *A police officer.*  
SHIRLEY *Policewoman & sketch artist.*  
GRANNY *Mika's grandmother.*  
OLGA *Senior Home Office official.*  
SHIRAN *Olga's young apprentice.*  
ORNAT CHOSHEN *A TV news reporter.*  
DEFENCE MINISTER  
FOREIGN MINISTER  
CULTURE MINISTER  
WATER MINISTER  
MINISTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEGEV AND THE GALILEE [DONAG]  
PRIME MINISTER  
AHMAD *Hamas fighter.*  
WALID *Hamas fighter.*  
SHLOMO ARTZI *A real life Israeli super-popular folk-rock musician and singer.*  
BENTZI *An orthodox man.*  
BRACHA *A woman from Sderot.*  
SECURITY GUARD *A member of the Prime Minister's security detail.*

## Scene 1.

COMPANY. *(Singing)*

*What is it we may be missing  
To have ourselves a happy life?  
We got a degree  
Are fit as can be  
Career is going well  
There is no doubt at all that we're on the right track to have ourselves  
A very happy life!*

*It's early evening. DANNY and MIKA are in their apartment,  
getting ready for a date together.*

DANNY & MIKA. *(Singing)*

*What is it we may be missing  
To have ourselves a happy life?  
We dream of buying a house  
Where we will play cat & mouse  
Our parents have all met*

MIKA. It was tricky...

*There is no doubt at all that we're on the right track to have ourselves  
A very happy life!*

*End of song.*

MIKA. Alright, let's go.

DANNY. Hang on.

MIKA. What is it?

DANNY. Come over here for a minute.

MIKA. We'll be late for the restaurant.

DANNY. *(Excited and nervous)* Mika, I haven't really booked us a place anywhere.

MIKA. What?

DANNY. I want to tell you a few things.

MIKA. We don't have a table booked for eight?...

DANNY. No, if we had a table for eight, we would have had to leave 15 minutes ago because there is hardly any parking there and the nearest car park is twelve minutes' walk away. Come, sit down for a moment.

MIKA. Danny, you're making me nervous. *(She sits down)*

DANNY. Are you comfortable?

MIKA. What's the matter?!

DANNY. I have something important to say to you.

MIKA. Is this a conversation that starts with "It's not you, it's me"?...

DANNY. What?

MIKA. Are you breaking up with me?

DANNY. No, no way, if I was breaking up with you then I would have prepared you with a line such as "For a long time now I've been feeling that something is not working between us". No, this is something completely different. *(He takes out a note from his pocket and reads aloud)* "Mika, my love, today we are celebrating two years together and I have a few significant insights that it's important for me to share with you..."

MIKA. So why did you tell me that we were going to a restaurant?

DANNY. I wanted us to be beautiful.

*MIKA is filled with excitement. DANNY resumes reading aloud.*

“...a few significant insights that...” Eh... *(tensing)* just a minute... are you comfortable? Is the lamp not blinding you?

MIKA. *(Laughing)* Go on!

DANNY. *(Takes a breath; reads out from his note)* “Mika, my love, today we are celebrating two years together and I have a few significant insights that it's important for me...

MIKA. To share with you.

DANNY. Stop it Mika, this is important for me!

MIKA. *(Laughing)* Sorry!

DANNY. *(Resumes reading aloud from his note)* “...to share with you. One, I'm happy with you, and I think you are also happy with me. Two, we take care of each other, which is very important in a relationship. Three, we encourage each other to be the best version of ourselves. Thanks to you, I run in the park on Sundays and Wednesdays, and thanks to me, you've stopped eating pizza at Elran's when you come back hungry at night. Four, we hardly ever argue. We have disagreements about things to do with the housekeeping, but that does not count as an argument. That is to say, we have harmony between us. Five, we have shared values. For example, neither of us believe in God but we both believe that there is some greater power. Six, we are sexually compatible; I have calculated and based on the last six months it turns out that we have sex about 1.8 times a week, which is completely normal for a couple in a long-term relationship. Seven, and most importantly – we love each other. And love cannot be explained or measured. It's a feeling. So, because of all those things, I think we are very suitable and I want *(mumbling)* to marry you.” *(He folds away his note)*

MIKA. *(Stunned and excited)* What?

DANNY. *(Produces a box with a ring from his pocket and goes down on one knee)*  
You know, not necessarily rabbi-function hall-cheques from guests and all that, but to make a commitment within some kind of a ceremony...

MIKA. I love you!

DANNY. Is that a yes?...

MIKA. Danny, I am i-n l-o-v-e with you!

DANNY. Meaning, yes?

MIKA. Of course!

DANNY. Of course... it's a yes?

MIKA. Yes! Yes! Yes!

*They kiss.*

COMPANY. *(Singing)*

*What is it we may be missing  
To have ourselves a happy life?*

*MIKA and DANNY kiss, and begin to undress.*

MIKA. Let's raise our average to 1.9...

DANNY. Wait, it's better to pee beforehand, I read that it's much healthier for the...

MIKA. *(Laughing)* Prostate! You told me, go on, go, quickly!

*DANNY goes to the bathroom, excited and full of enthusiasm.*

COMPANY. *(Singing)*

*What is it we may be missing  
To have ourselves a happy life?*

*DANNY is heard screaming from the bathroom.*

*Why did Danny, just scream out from the bathroom?  
He just saw, as clear as dawn  
Yes, I swear, this is no con  
He discovered his penis is gone!*

MIKA. Danny? Is everything OK?...

DANNY. *(From the bathroom)* Yes! Eh... something fell off here.

COMPANY. *(Singing)*

*And this is not a conjured image from a poet's pen  
Not a jaded metaphor of the impotency of men  
It's not a fable of anxiety or guilt laid bare  
His penis is gone. It is really not there.*

*End of song.*

*DANNY comes out of the bathroom, pale.*

MIKA. So actually, we'll now have sex for the first time as newly-engaged?

DANNY. Just a minute... Eh, Mika, I don't feel so good.

MIKA. What are you feeling?

DANNY. *(Searching and peeping under the sofa)* A kind of... eh, general weakness.

MIKA. Do you want to just cuddle up together on the sofa?

DANNY. No, no. Maybe I'll just go for a walk outside.

MIKA. What happened, Danny?



DANNY. Nothing!

MIKA. We don't have to have sex if you don't feel like it.

DANNY. Who said I can't have sex with you?

MIKA. Why are you raising your voice at me?

DANNY. I did not raise my voice at you!

MIKA. Stop shouting at me! What have I done to you?

DANNY. It's not you! It's me!

*Silence.*

MIKA. Are you regretting it already?

DANNY. No, Mika, I just...

MIKA. Everything's fine, I get it.

DANNY. I just don't know how to explain...

MIKA. Oh my god, Danny, you are so fucked up.

DANNY. OK, I have to go now, I'm sorry.

MIKA. Where do you need to go?

DANNY. I need to go and look for something outside.

MIKA. Look for something outside?

DANNY. No, Mika, let's talk later on...

MIKA. Go.

DANNY. I will explain...

MIKA. Go.

DANNY. It's really not because of you...

MIKA. Fine, just go!

DANNY. *(Hastily leaving the apartment; to himself)* Where is my penis?

## Scene 2.

*Same time. The Banana bar, peak time. DANNY's penis – RINGO – is sitting by one of the tables, guzzling a burger.*

EVYATAR & WAITRESSES. *(Singing)*

*Life is expensive so we do lots of shifts  
We need to pay the rent – there are no free gifts  
At the Banana Bar we are working till late  
That's how it is – there's always tables to wait!*

*ANAT the waitress comes over to NAOMI, the shift manager.*

ANAT. Naomi, I refuse to work in these conditions!

NAOMI. What happened?

ANAT. The guy at table 7 just told me he's a dick!

NAOMI. What?

ANAT. I swear to you! He just ordered his fourth burger. I asked him if he wants an extra portion of chips and he said he's ready to eat up any extras I will give him and... basically – misogynist, macho jokes that I am shocked anyone still thinks are funny.

EVYATAR. *(From behind the bar; to NAOMI)* He does whatever he likes! Changes table every 10 minutes, hits on all the waitresses, guzzles one burger after another, drips sauce everywhere. Naomi – look at me! Earlier he felt like a beer so he jumped on the bar, poured himself a beer, and shouted at me “I took one”!

ANAT. So basically – a typical privileged man who thinks he’s entitled to everything! There is no way I’m replying to him if he texts me!

NAOMI. You gave him your number?

EVYATAR. *(Calls out)* A burger with extras for table 7!

NAOMI. *(To another waitress)* Efrat, the guy at table 7 thinks he’s at a pick-up bar. It’s his fourth burger order. Give it to him along with his bill.

EFRAT. Done.

*NAOMI watches with interest as EFRAT comes over to table 7 with a burger and the bill.*

EFRAT. *(Serving RINGO his order)* There you go...

RINGO. *(Stands up)* Wow, you’re really pretty!

EFRAT. Thank you, but you don’t need to stand up. This is your bill...

RINGO. *(With a full mouth)* Another one!

EFRAT. What? You’ve already had four burgers!

RINGO. I am celebrating! I broke free!

EFRAT. Where from?

RINGO. From the underwear!

EFRAT. Hilarious. Listen, I can order you another one for take-away...

*RINGO takes a beer from her tray and drinks it.*

What are you doing?

RINGO. Drinking!

EFRAT. You can't just take stuff off my tray!

RINGO. Why not? *(He stands up again)* Listen, you're really pretty!

EFRAT. *(Blushing)* OK, I'll order you another burger. I'm Efrat.

RINGO. Ringo!

*EFRAT smiles and walks away.*

*RINGO watches the female diners at the bar.*

*He sings:*

*And now I start to live!*

*I am aired! I am free! Just as I was meant to be!*

*I want to sing, wanna dance, spend my days in fun and games*

*To drink and to feast, all the way like a beast!*

*Let us shout! Let's go wild! Let's just do it! Let's have fun!*

*Every woman, every man, on every street, all over town!*

*Let's live fast – at full speed! Satisfy our every need!*

*Go full steam ahead! Oh, oh, oh! Till the end!*

*EVYATAR notices that NAOMI is staring at RINGO from a distance.*

EVYATAR. *(Quietly)* Don't even think about it.

NAOMI. About what?

EVYATAR. Naomi – look at me! Yes, he’s cute, hot, sculpted muscles, bulging veins, a perfect smile, the right amount of stupid, it’ll end in tears.

NAOMI. Evyatar, I have no idea what you’re on about.

EVYATAR. Sure, just as you had no idea about that baboon from the gym who ended up treating you like a protein shake, and just as you had no idea about that other one, the actor, who’s also writing a TV series, who got you to go up to the karaoke room with him, where he unceremoniously binge-watched you...

NAOMI. Give it a rest, will you?

EVYATAR. Naomi – look at me! You must resolve that daddy issue of yours!

NAOMI. My daddy died...

EVYATAR. I know, in a car crash when you were in kindergarten, but that’s exactly the point – you never grew up with someone who could show you what a healthy masculinity looks like. Naomi – look at me! I will not be picking up the pieces tonight.

NAOMI. Let it go, Evyatar. I told you, I’m done with these kinds of guys. The next man I’m with will ask me what I like to read and... how I take my coffee...

ANAT. *(Comes over to them)* Naomi, he just ordered another burger!

NAOMI. Did Efrat not sort this?

ANAT. Efrat wrote her number on a napkin for him!

*NAOMI walks over to RINGO, who is gorging his fifth burger.*

NAOMI. Hello, I’m Naomi, the shift manager here. I’m really sorry, but we have a waiting list and your table has been booked.

RINGO. Wow!

NAOMI. What?...

RINGO. *(Stands up)* You are really, really pretty!

NAOMI. OK, you don't need to stand up.

RINGO. Really! You also smell nice...

NAOMI. I'm guessing I'm not the only one who's heard this from you today.

RINGO. That's right! There are lots of good-looking girls here! *(Takes a bite of his burger)*

NAOMI. Anyway...

RINGO. Wanna bite?

NAOMI. Listen! I don't know where you think you are, but in here you can't just move around between the tables and you can't jump on the bar and pour yourself a beer...

RINGO. Why not?

NAOMI. Cause that's the barman's job.

RINGO. Then he should drink some, too!

NAOMI. He is working.

RINGO. But it's more fun to have fun!

NAOMI. Yes, but... I mean... having fun is... you can't have fun all the time...

RINGO. Why not?!

NAOMI. Tell me, how old are you?

RINGO. *(Sings)*

*Come, let's shout! Let's go wild! Let's just do it! Let's have fun!  
You and me, everyone, on every street, all over town!  
Let's live fast – at full speed! Satisfy your every need!  
Go full steam ahead! Oh, oh, oh! Till the end!*

EVYATAR & the WAITRESSES. *(Singing)*

*Life is expensive so we do lots of shifts  
We need to pay the rent – there are no free gifts  
The world is big – there's so much to see  
But it's not, not, not – it's not what we are meant to be!*

RINGO, the WAITRESSES, NAOMI & EVYATAR. *(Singing and dancing)*

*Let us shout! Let's go wild! Let's just do it! Let's have fun!  
Every woman, every man, on every street, all over town!  
Let's live fast – at full speed! Satisfy our every need!  
Go full steam ahead! Oh, oh, oh! Till the end!*

*The song ends.*

NAOMI. *(To RINGO)* I'll be in the karaoke room.

*RINGO wipes the condiments off his lips, gets up and follows  
NAOMI.*

### **Scene 3.**

*A&E department at a hospital.  
DANNY is on a gurney. A sleepy MALE NURSE is taking his pulse.*

NURSE. When did it happen?

DANNY. I found out an hour ago.

NURSE. May I have a look? (*Glances inside DANNY's trousers*) Wow. Yep, definitely gone. Straighten your arm for me please. (*Takes his blood pressure*) Has this ever happened before?

DANNY. No.

NURSE. (*Yawning*) Did it happen to anyone else in the family? Father, mother?

DANNY. No. My mother doesn't... have one, and my father... I ... I don't think. At least he didn't mention it.

NURSE. (*Noting on a form*) Any illnesses?

DANNY. No.

NURSE. Sensitivity to medication?

DANNY. No.

NURSE. (*Yawning*) How are your bowel movements?

DANNY. Fine.

*DOCTOR FANNYDIK enters.*

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. Yes, how are we today?

NURSE. (*Hands her the examination report*) Normal metrics, penis missing, no medication sensitivity.

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. (*To DANNY*) May I have a look?

DANNY. I... maybe...

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. (*To the NURSE*) Ah well, when it's there – they're embarrassed; when it's missing – they're even more embarrassed. (*She looks inside his trousers, then listens with her stethoscope*) Take a deep breath. Do you smoke?



DANNY. No, never.

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. Any exercise?

DANNY. Yes. I go jogging twice a week. Oh, apart from one time last month when I was ill, but I ran three times the following week instead.

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. Fast walking is preferable. *(She finishes the examination)* OK, listen, the story is as follows: within the perineal pouch there is supposed to be an organ attached that is comprised of a base that includes a bulb and a pair of “legs”, the crus, one on each side of the bulb. On this base, we have the body of the penis that is made of two surfaces: the dorsal and the ventral, or urethral, surface. This whole contraption is made up of, generally speaking, three columns of tissue: two corpora cavernosa situated on the dorsal side, and one corpus spongiosum that lies between them on the ventral side. Now, I do not wish to overload you with medical terms, but the bottom line is that this whole business, this set up, the reproductive organ, the penis – in your case, at least from what I can see – is missing.

*Silence.*

DANNY. Can you not operate? Attach it somehow?

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. Do you have it here with you?

DANNY. No, it disappeared!

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. So what do you expect me to attach? The sphygmomanometer?

DANNY. No...

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. The stethoscope?

DANNY. No, no...

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. Someone from my team, perhaps?

NURSE. No, not again.

DOCTOR FANNYDIK. Throughout my career, I have already attached fingers, tongues, ears, eyes, and even attached a butt hole. I attached a butt hole just last week, in fact, because the guy was responsible enough to bring it with him in a bag, but whatever is missing – even God cannot attach.

*The hospital tannoy is calling for her: “Doctor Fannydik, Doctor Fannydik to radiology please”.*

Take care.

*She exits. The NURSE begins to roll DANNY out on the gurney.*

DANNY. Hold on!... *(To the NURSE)* Tell me, why has this happened to me of all people? I’m vegetarian, I sleep 8 hours a night, if I ever drink it’s only red wine, I eat organic food, I drink one coffee a day with one level teaspoon of brown sugar, I...

NURSE. Hold on! What kind of brown sugar?

DANNY. Demerara.

NURSE. Muscovado is preferable.

DANNY. Oh.

*An awkward moment.*

NURSE. May you be blessed with good health Sir.

#### Scene 4.

*Same time. At the Banana bar, peak time is over. MIKA is drinking with NAOMI, who has finished her shift. They are both distraught.*

NAOMI. "It's not you, it's me"?...

*MIKA nods in affirmation; drinks; choking with tears.*

Fuck! What a coward. I can't believe he said that... and then he just walked out of the house?

*MIKA nods.*

ANAT. *(Walking past them)* Hi Mika, what's up?

MIKA. *(Putting on a smile)* Hi Anat, I'm fine, everything's fine. It's great to see you...

*ANAT walks away. MIKA resumes crying.*

NAOMI. And before that – when he brought you the ring and proposed – was he acting normal then?

*MIKA nods; drinking.*

And since then, he has not been replying to your messages even though he is getting them?...

*MIKA cries; nods.*

EVYATAR. Mika, my beautiful, I haven't seen you in ages, what's up?

MIKA. *(Putting on a smile)* Hey Evyatar, I'm fine, everything's fine, it's great to see you...

*EVYATAR walks away and MIKA resumes crying.*

Naomi, I want to die!

*She receives a message on her phone.*

NAOMI. Is that him?

*MIKA nods in affirmation.*

What does he want? To come here so you two can talk?

*MIKA nods in affirmation.*

Oh my god Mika, do you think he wants to split up?

*MIKA nods in affirmation, choking from tears.*

EFRAT. *(Comes over)* Hi Mika, what's up?

MIKA. *(Putting on a smile)* I'm... shit! *(Bursts out crying)* Men are shit!  
Relationships are shit! And love... is a shit of a shit that's been shat by a  
shit!

*Stunned, EFRAT walks away.*

MIKA. *(Sings)*

*No, do not love, Naomi*

*Don't give yourself, Naomi*

*Lock your heart in your chest*

*It is sad but for the best*

*'Cause the end has been phrased*

*At the very first gaze.*

*It is sad, quite so*

*But there simply is no*

*No love in the world*

*That can last  
Which two people share.*

*End of song.*

NAOMI. *(Drinking)* Do you understand that I'm jealous of you? With me they just disappear before morning. And no one ever asks me how I take my coffee... Do you understand that I'm jealous of you because Danny is coming here to break up with you? The only man who ever had a break-up conversation with me was my psychologist, and I paid him for it...

EFRAT. *(Comes over)* Hey, Naomi, do you happen to have the work rota yet?

NAOMI. *(Bursts out crying)* I haven't got anything! I haven't got anything! Don't you understand that I haven't got anything?!

*Stunned, EFRAT walks away.  
NAOMI sings to MIKA.*

*To love someone, however it may be  
To give myself, to someone who wants me  
Like running into the road  
In front of a truck  
With arms open wide.  
It's mistaken, quite so  
But there really is no  
Yearning in the world  
As for love  
Which two people share.*

*End of song.*

MIKA. *(Drinking)* At least you know how to be on your own, Naomi. I've been in a relationship ever since I can remember. The last time I had a one-night

stand, it was still called a quickie. It's all my parents' fault: they've been together for 30 years and are still happy! At least you were spared that.

NAOMI. The fact that my daddy died...

MIKA. *(Hugging her)* I know, when he drowned in the Dead Sea when you were in high school. I've had enough, Naomi, I've had enough... I'd prefer a man who's obviously a dick than one who leads me on for two years.

NAOMI. Trust me – you wouldn't. *(Silence. She takes a sip of her drink)* I've been... with someone like that tonight.

MIKA. Here? Tonight?

EFRAT. *(Speaking from a safe distance; gently)* Alright girls, I'm off, bye Naomi, bye Mika. It's always darkest before the dawn, eh? *(She exits)*

MIKA. God, I hate her.

NAOMI. Me too. So, I was with him, half an hour before you came in; hot, kinda childish, excited, all the waitresses fancied him, Evyatar included, so it probably flattered me that he wanted me out of everyone, and eventually... I somehow found myself with him...

MIKA. In the karaoke room?

NAOMI. What a mistake, Mika, what a mistake! Listen – he was such a creature, horny as a soldier who just got back home after two years, infantile, and while we're at it, I hear him mumbling "burger, burger", and he bit me!

MIKA. No!

NAOMI. In the ass! And what's most gross – as soon as he came, he just folded onto himself and left. Just left. I want a serious relationship, Mika. I want a scar on my heart, not on my ass.

*They sing in harmony.*

MIKA.

NAOMI.

*No, do not love, Naomi  
Don't give yourself, Naomi  
Lock your heart in your chest  
It is sad but for the best  
'Cause the end has been phrased  
At the very first gaze.  
It is sad, quite so  
But there really is no  
Such pain in the world  
As the love  
Which two people share.*

*To love someone,  
However it may be  
To give myself  
To someone who wants me  
Like running into the road  
With arms open wide.  
It's mistaken, quite so  
But there really is no  
Yearning in the world  
As for love  
Which two people share.*

*End of song.*

## **Scene 5.**

*DANNY is at the police station. Officer Nissim is sitting opposite him.*

NISSIM. And you still saw him in the morning?

DANNY. Yes, when I was having a shower.

NISSIM. Did you see him with your eyes?

DANNY. I think so. I would have noticed if he wasn't there.

NISSIM. Perhaps you didn't look.

DANNY. I soap it.

NISSIM. Every time?

DANNY. Yes, don't you?

NISSIM. Hey, hey, we are dealing with yours here, not mine.

DANNY. Of course, sorry. I always soap it.

NISSIM. What's the name?

DANNY. I already told you, Danny Donglich.

NISSIM. *His name.*

DANNY. *(Embarrassed)* His name? I don't recall ever...

NISSIM. Yeah, yeah, go on Donglich! Every man names it!

DANNY. Ringo.

NISSIM. Ringo?

DANNY. I was a kid; I loved the Beatles.

NISSIM. Why not John? Or Paul?

DANNY. I was a kid.

NISSIM. Why not George?

DANNY. I liked drums.

NISSIM. Nice. Do you have his photograph?

DANNY. No.

NISSIM. You never took his photograph?

DANNY. No, why would I? Do you photograph yours? Sorry, I'm sorry. No, I do not have his photograph.



NISSIM. *(To the comms device)* Shirley, could you come in please.

*SHIRLEY enters. NISSIM continues to speak to her through the comms.*

Please take a description from him.

SHIRLEY. *(With a notebook and a pencil; to DANNY)* Can you please describe your penis for me?

DANNY. Any particular aspect of it?

SHIRLEY. Appearance. *(She scribbles in the notebook)* How much does he weigh?

DANNY. I never weighed him!

SHIRLEY. Approximately – fat, thin?

DANNY. Average.

SHIRLEY. Skin tone?

DANNY. Er, same as mine.

SHIRLEY. Size?

DANNY. Hmm... average.

SHIRLEY. *(Shows him the sketch)* Something like this?

DANNY. That's Phil Collins.

NISSIM. *(To the comms device)* Thank you Shirley. You can take a break now.

*SHIRLEY exits.*

*(To DANNY)* OK, we'll keep in touch. If you do not hear from us in the next couple of weeks, you can check the status of your case through the police website on...

DANNY. Hold on! Please listen! I really need it... I... it's not just for me, I have a girlfriend, a partner, Mika, and we were going to get married! Not necessarily in a traditional way, rabbi-function hall-cheques from guests and all that, but we did want to make a mutual commitment with some kind of a ceremony, and maybe even have a family, children... I just don't know what to do anymore!

*Silence.*

NISSIM. That was very moving. Come, sit down, you seem like a nice guy, have a seat.

*DANNY sits down.*

Listen, you're not the first man this has happened to. Let's just say there are more people walking among us who lack one than you imagine. And I'm not talking about girl people. It's natural for them, they're often born that way. I'm talking about people like me and you, normal men. And it's always the same story – they had just got married, just had a baby, in love. It's sad.

DANNY. And what did they do? What do they do?

NISSIM. As far as I know – there are only two ways to stop this.

DANNY. What? How?

NISSIM. One way – a preventative treatment. So it won't even have a chance to run away in the first place. You press it against the testicles, wrap it a few times with metal wire, over that you spread a layer of epoxy glue, after it's dry you pour some cement plaster – some prefer clay plaster, in my opinion it's best to use cement plaster.

DANNY. But in my case, he's already run away!

NISSIM. A second option – stay away from the girl.

DANNY. What? Why?

NISSIM. *(To the comms device)* Shirley, bring the red folder please.

*SHIRLEY enters, and hands him a folder.*

*(To the comms device)* Thank you Shirley.

*SHIRLEY exits.*

*(Shows DANNY the folder)* According to a cross referencing of all the data we have here at the Central Unit and in collaboration with the Special Investigation Unit and the guys at the National Serious and International Crime Investigation Unit – the penis has a difficulty when it comes to institutions.

DANNY. What does that mean?

NISSIM. For a penis, a wife equals an institution. *(He presents DANNY with further documents)* Try to get inside a penis's head with me for a minute: like all of us, he does sometimes feel that he needs some kind of structure, right? But as we said – he has difficulty, so as soon as he enters – tuck! – he goes out. Pay attention to this graph: he enters... he goes out! Enters... goes out! That's what he's like. And then he enters a different structure – and tuck! It's stronger than him. And another structure – and tuck! And another structure – and tuck! Like this, the whole time. And then one day he hears you say – "That's it, that's the last structure. A wedding." And why? "Because we love each other." Sunshine, your penis doesn't give a toss. The penis doesn't have a heart! Take my advice – stay away from the girl, and he'll come back of his own accord.

DANNY. Hang on... and how come he runs away from some people and not from others?

NISSIM. The Special Investigation Unit found no answer for that. But, going by intuition – it's something about you.

DANNY. About me? What did I do?

NISSIM. Let's stop here, Donglich, I don't know your penis and it's not appropriate for me to come between the two of you. I'm only saying it might do you good to think long and hard about why he ran away.

DANNY. But I didn't do anything to him!

NISSIM. Perhaps so, but I'm not judging your actions! In any case I told you what you should do now – stay away from the girl. That's the only way he'll come back. In this case – love is distance. Remember that.

DANNY. And if I... stay away from Mika, and he comes back to me, and then I go back to Mika... how can I prevent him from running away again?

NISSIM. Ah, that's easy. You just press it against the testicles, wrap it a few times with a...

DANNY. Right. Right. I remember... cement plaster.

## Scene 6.

*Same time. At the Banana bar, just before closing. MIKA, drunk, is waiting for DANNY to arrive.*

EVYATAR. *(To MIKA)* Are you sure he understood that you're meeting at the Banana? Maybe he got confused and thought you're supposed to meet at your place?

MIKA. Danny doesn't get confused about things like that. *(In tears)* I'm telling you, Evyatar, he just deleted me.

EVYATAR. Mika – look at me! He is late. Nothing happened. He will come here and you two will talk about everything. Not everyone in the world has a love. You do – take good care of it. *(He gives her a bottle of mineral water)* Here, it's on me.

RINGO. *(Enters the bar)* Burger!

EVYATAR. I'm sorry, we've already closed the kitchen.

RINGO. But I'm hungry!

EVYATAR. But we have closed... *(Notices RINGO; smiles)* You're hungry, eh? Alright. But only one.

*As EVYATAR goes into the kitchen, RINGO pours himself a beer. He drinks, and looks at MIKA.*

RINGO. *(Calling to MIKA)* Hey! You're really pretty!

*MIKA ignores him. He comes up to her.*

You're really pretty, you know? You smell good, too.

MIKA. *(Ignoring him; to herself)* My life sucks.

RINGO. It does, eh? Listen, I've just been around town, there are crazy parties at the Radio, the Box, the Alpha, the Gate, the Slate, the Green, the Dean, the Mistress, the Diner, the Finer, the Breakfast Club! Wanna come?

MIKA. What makes you think I'd want to go with you?

RINGO. Why wouldn't you?

MIKA. Look, this is such a bad time... *(She looks at him)* Where do I know you from? What's your name?

RINGO. Ringo!

*They sing a duet.*

MIKA. *Are you originally from Jerusalem?*

RINGO. *No.*

MIKA. *Maybe Ashdod?*

RINGO. *No.*

MIKA. *Were you in the Army's cyber squad?*

RINGO. *No.*

MIKA. *You seem so familiar, it's queer.*

RINGO. *You're the prettiest woman in here!*

MIKA. *Stop it! Did you ever do a trek in Peru?*

RINGO. *No.*

MIKA. *Got a brother who looks like you?*

RINGO. *No.*

MIKA. *Ever volunteer at Yiftach?*

RINGO. *What is Yiftach?*

MIKA. *You seem so familiar, it's queer.*

RINGO. *You're the prettiest woman in here!*

MIKA. *Enough, enough with your compliments!*

*Just get it into your head*

*I'm never going to bed with you, even when I'm dead*

*I just need to work it out.*

*I do recognise the smell*

*It's not odd that he's bald as hell  
I simply cannot let this go  
You're on the tip of my tongue, you know?  
I mean! It is on the tip of my tongue.  
Have you ever been in the scouts?*

RINGO. *No.*

MIKA. *Ever played amateur darts?*

RINGO. *No.*

MIKA. *Have you always had stubble?*

RINGO. *Kind of.*

MIKA. *You seem so familiar, it's queer.*

RINGO. *You're the prettiest woman in here!*

MIKA. *You seem so familiar, it's queer.*

RINGO. *You're the prettiest wo...*

*MIKA's mobile phone rings.  
End of song.*

MIKA. *(Answering) Are you here?...*

DANNY. *(At the police station, with NISSIM by his side) No, listen, I... I won't be able to make it.*

MIKA. *What? Why?...*

RINGO. *(To MIKA) D'you want a burger?*

MIKA. *What?*

RINGO. A burger!

MIKA. I'm on the phone! *(To DANNY)* I'm already here!

DANNY. I know, I'm sorry. Listen, I'm going through something, it's something...

NISSIM. *(To DANNY)* Personal, tell her it's personal.

DANNY. It's something personal...

MIKA. Something personal? Five hours ago you asked me to marry you and then ran away! That's personal!

DANNY. I did not run away, it's really something I cannot really share with you right now...

RINGO. *(To MIKA)* Beer?

MIKA. *(To RINGO)* Leave me alone!

DANNY. No, I'm not leaving you, Mika, but I need...

NISSIM. Time to think. Tell her "time to think".

DANNY. ...time to think, by myself, without you...

MIKA. Without me? *(To RINGO)* Actually I do! A chaser!

DANNY & RINGO. A chaser?

MIKA. *(To DANNY)* It's nothing, just some guy here. *(To RINGO)* A chaser, yes, go on.

DANNY. I know it sounds weird, Mika...

RINGO. Tequila, salt and lemon?

MIKA. *(To RINGO)* Whatever you say.



DANNY. No, I'm not just saying it, I really have to...

NISSIM. *(To DANNY)* Reconnect with yourself! Tell her "Reconnect with myself".

DANNY. Reconnect with myself, I mean...

MIKA. Reconnect with yourself? What an asshole, Danny, seriously. We've been together two years, I gave you my heart, and like this – on the phone? What happened? You inserted me into one of your excel tables and the calculation was that you should dump me?

*RINGO returns with two shots of tequila.*

RINGO. Cheers!

*He and MIKA drink.*

DANNY. Mika, I know it might feel like I'm suddenly not interested, but believe me that this is just a time out that I am doing for the both of us, for the good of our relationship, and I hope that within a week...

*NISSIM gestures to DANNY it may take longer.*

...possibly two weeks...

*NISSIM gestures to DANNY it may take longer.*

...three weeks tops, I'll already be...

RINGO. Listen, you are so pretty!

MIKA. *(To DANNY)* I need to hang up.

DANNY. No, Mika, listen, I love you...

*MIKA hangs up. She and RINGO kiss, and exit the bar together. EVYATAR looks at them leaving. He is now alone in the bar, and is closing the place for the night.*

EVYATAR. *(Sings to the melody of the opening theme)*

*Who is closing the Banana, when everyone has gone to bed?*

*Anat Abramovich?*

*Efrat Cohen-Levi?*

*Naomi Yehoyachin?*

*They are all partying while I'm cleaning up here, like every night.*

*If only I was in Berlin...*

*If only I was in Berlin...*

*End of Act One.*

## **Scene 7.**

*Three days later.*

*DANNY's apartment. NAOMI is there, going over MIKA's clothes, which are packed in a trolley, and checking the items against a list on her phone.*

NAOMI. ...a blue dress... one brown jumper...

DANNY. How is Mika?

NAOMI. ...and a green one... *(to DANNY)* fine. *(She continues)* A grey cardigan...

DANNY. Is she angry at me?

NAOMI. What do you think? *(She continues)* Two t-shirts...

DANNY. She's not answering me.

NAOMI. And two bras. *(To DANNY)* I wonder why.

DANNY. Just so that you know, Naomi, this really is only a temporary break as far as I'm concerned, I really have no intention of splitting up with Mika, I love Mika, I want to marry Mika...

NAOMI. This is from her.

*She gives him the box with the engagement ring. DANNY looks at it, stunned.*

Tell me, what exactly was going through your mind? A time out? What are you – a football game? What d’you need a time out for? What exactly are you fantasising is going to happen in this time out? That you’ll shag a few more girls before you get married? That you’ll do a threesome? What on earth do you think you’ll get out of this besides... emptiness and guilt; waking up in some strange apartment, hating yourself, coming back home at 5 in the morning when other people are just starting their day, and then seeing in some shop window that all your make up is smeared?

DANNY. What? That’s not it, Naomi, something real actually happened to me, a real disaster that...

NAOMI. Oh deary, deary me! A disaster! Enough, I cannot listen to cowardly, self-absorbed egotistical men anymore!

DANNY. Why are you being so dismissive? It really is something that I lost and...

NAOMI. What have you lost? What have you lost, Danny? The key to your bike lock? The air conditioning remote control?

DANNY. No, it’s...

NAOMI. Your conscience? Your spine? Your heart, maybe?

DANNY. *(Quietly)* My penis.

NAOMI. I didn’t get the metaphor.

DANNY. It’s not a metaphor. *(He takes down his trousers and shows her.)*

NAOMI. Fuck.

DANNY. Keep it between us.

NAOMI. How did...

DANNY. I haven't a clue.

NAOMI. Did you go to the...

DANNY. Hospital, yes. And the police.

NAOMI. And what did they...

DANNY. They're looking for it.

NAOMI. And is it...

DANNY. No, it's not painful.

NAOMI. So now you are... a girl?

DANNY. I didn't think about it like that.

NAOMI. And how do you...

DANNY. What?

NAOMI. How do you...

DANNY. How do I what?

NAOMI. How do you... like...

DANNY. Oh. From my bum.

NAOMI. Fuck.

*Silence.*

So.... What are you doing now?

DANNY. Searching. I took time off work, I posted in a few groups, in the neighbourhood Facebook page, in the building's WhatsApp. It's just that, at the police, they kind of told me that if I stay away from Mika, he will come back.

NAOMI. If you stay away from Mika?

DANNY. It's a long story, but I received some highly classified information from the police about the penis having difficulties with institutions, and as far as he's concerned, Mika is an institution. So there's only a chance he'll come back to me if I stay away from Mika, and then there is this method of gluing him on with a few layers of cement.

NAOMI. Wow. I'm really sorry I laid into you before, Danny.

DANNY. It's OK, I get you. *(Silence)* Do you want some coffee?

NAOMI. What? Oh... yes.

DANNY. How do you take it?

NAOMI. *(Excited)* Black. Boiling water, no sugar, strong.

DANNY. Black, boiling water, no sugar, strong. *(He turns to the kitchen)*

NAOMI. Thank you.

## Scene 8.

*Same day. MIKA and GRANNY at the grandmother's house.*

MIKA. ...I don't know what to do, Granny. I've never dated anyone like this guy before. He's so childish, and tactless, but on the other hand there's something so fun and simple about him. He doesn't deliberate for half an hour whether to order red wine or white wine and then checks 20 websites

about which one is healthier, he simply does as he pleases! And I'm really attracted to him... On the third hand he is a wild beast, he does whatever he fancies, which is fun when we're alone at home, but as soon as we're out of the house he hits on every girl he sees!

GRANNY. When I was young no one hit on anyone. When we wanted a man, we would eat garlic and pray. But that was a different time, we didn't know much, General Rommel's armies were advancing from the East and your grandfather raised chickens in the yard.

MIKA. ...his name is Ringo, it's probably a nickname, I looked him up on Facebook, couldn't find him, and he doesn't even have any ID! I know that because he keeps wanting to go to clubs on Allenby Street but they don't allow us in because he doesn't have any ID... maybe he's some kind of a serial killer? On the other hand, there's something attractive in this mysteriousness, a little like a holiday romance, on the third hand he seems so familiar to me and I have no clue where from!

GRANNY. When I was young no one went to clubs. Your grandfather and I lived in a tree. But that was a different time, we didn't know much, we read Karl May books and ate snow.

MIKA. ...I know I don't have a real chance of a serious relationship with a guy like that, and I also feel guilty about Danny, even though Danny is the one who split up with me, and I don't know what I'm even doing with a guy like that – who has only one thing on his mind, or actually two if you count burgers, and I know this whole thing is a big mistake and I just don't know what to do!

GRANNY. Make a mistake.

MIKA. Sorry?

GRANNY. Get it wrong. *(She sings)*

*In 1936, we ran away from Deutschland,  
My older sister Sonya chose to go to the US  
I have made my own mind, and made my way to Israel  
And ever since that day, I am eating BS.  
Sonya has three flats in Brooklyn,  
While I've been paying rent now, for far too long  
Sonya is partying in Central Park,  
While I evidently got it so wrong!*

*In 1945, I was courted by Menachem  
Who was a distant cousin of the great Moshe Sharet  
But I chose your rubbish grandad, who was an awful husband,  
He made my life a misery before finally dropping dead.  
A lying cheat with a stinking body odour,  
He snored and farted loudly, we never got along  
With Menachem I could have aged so comfortably,  
But I evidently got it so wrong!*

*You should get it wrong, why not get it wrong?!  
Listen to your grandma – you should get it wrong!  
Look at me – my life's a total mess  
Learn my ways and follow – there's no need to stress!*

*Everybody told me, that I should give up smoking,  
But I chose to ignore them and had 20 fags a day  
So now I'm barely breathing, I struggle to keep singing,  
And my poor lungs are so far gone they're practically grey.  
But hey – my sister Sonya has dementia!  
And Menachem is so lonely, his days are long!  
And overall, this world is such a shitty place!  
If you're alive – you got it all wrong!*

*You should get it wrong, why not get it wrong?!*  
*Listen to your gramma – you should get it wrong!*  
*You should get it wrong, why not get it wrong?!*  
*Do as your old gramma – you should get it wrong!*  
*So, get things wrong! Get this inside your head!*  
*Listen to your grandma – in the end we'll all be dead!*

*End of song.*

MIKA. Wow, Granny! You are right! It's a terrible mistake and I must be with him!  
*(She runs out)*

GRANNY. You're getting it all wrong!

## **Scene 9.**

*At the Home Office. RINGO is facing an old official, OLGA. At her side is SHIRAN, her young apprentice.*

OLGA. *(To SHIRAN)* If someone has been waiting in the queue for a long time I start with "Sorry for the wait, Sir." *(To RINGO)* Sorry for the wait, Sir. I need to verify a few details with you before issuing an ID card.

RINGO. And they'd let me get into clubs with that?

OLGA. *(To SHIRAN)* Questions I don't understand – I don't answer. First detail – first name. *(To RINGO)* What is your first name, Sir?

RINGO. Ringo! And they'd give me burgers there?

OLGA. *(To SHIRAN)* And again, questions I don't understand – I don't answer. Second detail – surname. *(To RINGO)* What is your surname, Sir?

RINGO. Eh... Donglich!



OLGA. *(To SHIRAN)* Third detail – religion. Preferably sensitively. *(To RINGO; gesturing him to come closer)* Are you Jewish, Sir?

RINGO. Sure, check out this head! *(Shows her his head)*

SHIRAN. *(Laughing)* You're funny!

RINGO. *(Jumps up)* Listen, you're really pretty!

OLGA. *(To SHIRAN)* If I see that someone is crossing a line, I ask them to go back to their place. *(To RINGO)* Please go back to your place, Sir.

*RINGO moves away.*

*(To SHIRAN)* And then I give them the ID card and congratulate them.  
*(OLGA hands RINGO an ID card)* Congratulations, Sir. As of today, you are a citizen of the state of Israel.

RINGO. And it will get me into the Gate? And the Slate? And the Green? And the Dean? And the Mistress?...

OLGA. *(To SHIRAN)* I don't understand – I don't answer. And finally, I give vouchers and a Draft Order. *(To RINGO)* And here you have shopping vouchers for the high holidays. And in this envelope, there is the Draft Order.

RINGO. What order?

OLGA. *(To SHIRAN)* Questions I do understand – I answer. *(To RINGO)* A Draft Order for the army.

RINGO. *(To SHIRAN)* Wanna come to the army with me?

SHIRAN. *(Laughing)* You're funny!

RINGO. *(Jumps up)* And you're pretty!

SHIRAN. *(Ill at ease)* It's like... *(gesturing to OLGA)* we are both pretty.

RINGO. No! You're pretty, she's old.

*Silence.*

OLGA. And if I am offended... and am reminded... of my husband who left me after 20 years for a younger woman... then... I say we are off on a break. *(To RINGO)* Sir, we are off on a... *(she exits in tears)*

RINGO. *(To SHIRAN)* Wanna come to the Alpha with me?

SHIRAN. Are you totally screwed up? You can't talk to people like that!

RINGO. Why not?

*SHIRAN slaps him. He winks at her. She laughs, embarrassed, and exits.*

*RINGO is confused. He opens the Draft Order envelope. In it are information booklets about various army corps.*

RINGO. *(Perusing a booklet)* The sharp performance... advance launching capabilities... *(increasingly excited; leafing through)* penetration attempts! ...the paratroopers!

*(He sings to the melody of The Penis's Song)*

*Let's attack! Not look back! Let's not wait – let's penetrate!*

*In the sea! And on land! In the air – everywhere!*

*We will strike – it will be epic!*

*Kick some butt – don't be pathetic!*

*Go full steam ahead! Oh, oh, oh! Till the end!*

*He salutes.*

## Scene 10.

*Night time. DANNY and NAOMI are in a lamp-lit street.*

DANNY. Penis?... Penis?... *(Whistles)* Penis?...

NAOMI. Penis?... Danny's penis?... Penis?...

DANNY. Penis?... *(Whistles)* Penis?... *(Moves away from NAOMI; quietly)* Ringo?  
Psst... Ringo?... Ringo?

NAOMI. *(Up close to DANNY)* Ringo?

DANNY. *(Startled)* Penis! Eh... I loved the Beatles.

NAOMI. Then why not John? Or Paul?

DANNY. I was a kid.

NAOMI. And why not...

DANNY. I liked drums.

*DANNY and NAOMI sit down on a bench. NAOMI lights up a joint.*

NAOMI. So... you probably really miss Mika.

DANNY. Yes, very much. But at least I know that she misses me too.

-----

*MIKA and RINGO are having sex.*

MIKA. I feel great!

RINGO. You feel great?

MIKA. I feel great!

RINGO. You feel great?

MIKA. I feel great!

RINGO. I feel great too!

*They climax together. They lie side by side.*

MIKA. Ringo...

RINGO. Mika...

MIKA. What are you thinking about?

RINGO. There's a field training exercise on Thursday and the soldier who comes first gets to be in charge of the FN machine gun!

MIKA. Is this what you're thinking about now?

RINGO. *(Gets close to her)* And about... how pretty you are.

*They kiss passionately.*

-----

*DANNY and NAOMI are looking for Ringo in the streets.*

*DANNY's phone rings.*

DANNY. Hello? Yes, speaking. Yes, I understand... thank you. *(He hangs up)* This was the Gedera city lost and found department. My penis is not there either.  
*(He deletes a line in his list)*

NAOMI. *(Handing DANNY the joint)* Puff?

DANNY. Isn't this a joint?

NAOMI. Yes. A puff from the joint.

DANNY. No thank you. Joints don't affect me.

NAOMI. Never?

DANNY. I tried it once and it only gave me a headache. I guess some people are affected by it and some aren't.

NAOMI. If you ask me, going on intuition – it's something about you.

DANNY. *(Tensing)* That's what the policeman said.

NAOMI. What policeman?

DANNY. Nissim. I asked him how come the penis runs away from some people and not others, and he kind of hinted that it's something about me.

NAOMI. OK, and...?

DANNY. What d'you mean "and"? It's bollocks! What's it got to do with me? Did I do something to him? Did I make my own penis run away from me?

-----

*MIKA and RINGO are having sex.*

MIKA. Yes! Yes! Yes!

*They climax together.*

OK... shower and Netflix?

RINGO. What's wrong with you? We're going to Meron's!

MIKA. What?

RINGO. Everybody! – Dvir, Ofir, K'fir, Nativ, Boten, Reuben, Shooki, Golan, Itach, Gavnetzer, Tze'elon, and Ilan Verko are going to sleep at Meron's and tomorrow morning it's breakfast at Humeng's! They've got 2 kilo burgers...

MIKA. Two kilos?!

RINGO. That come with three syringes of maple syrup!

MIKA. Maple syrup?!

RINGO. Are we off?

MIKA. Hang on, Ringo... I've already planned a dinner for us, I bought ingredients, I soaked lentils...

RINGO. But it's more fun with the guys.

MIKA. Great, then go to them on your own!

RINGO. But you're really pretty...

MIKA. Enough! It won't work for you every time, this nonsense!

RINGO. *(Approaches her)* Why not?

*They kiss passionately.*

-----

*DANNY and NAOMI are looking for Ringo in the streets. NAOMI is smoking a joint.*

DANNY. ...just so that you know, Naomi, I thought about it long and hard and it has nothing to do with me, I did not make my own penis run away, I didn't do anything to it, and there was nothing and... there is nothing<sup>1</sup>.

NAOMI. Wow, you sound just like my father...

DANNY. Did your father not...

---

<sup>1</sup> A reference to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's famous 2021 statement regarding the indictments against him: "There was nothing [in the charges against me] and there will be nothing".

NAOMI. Die. Yes. Two years ago. He... fell into an elevator shaft at Azrieli Towers, 49 floors. And got electrocuted at the same time. And then the elevator came down and crushed him, again and again... and again.

DANNY. Gosh, that's terrible.

NAOMI. Yes.

DANNY. Do you know that the chances of dying in an elevator accident are one in ten million?

NAOMI. Wow, your head is in stats the whole time, eh?

DANNY. What are you suggesting?

NAOMI. Not suggesting anything, you're just really good at that.

DANNY. And I'm just getting a bit fed up with all these insinuations.

NAOMI. I wasn't insinuating anything, Danny, I...

DANNY. Yours, the policeman's, Mika's... "it's something about you", "you've inserted me into an excel table", "your head is full of stats". Fine. I get it. Just so you know, Naomi, I'm not someone who plans everything in advance. *(He produces a notebook and hands it to NAOMI)* And here – you can find a list of all the spontaneous things I've done this year. Fifty things, by the way.

NAOMI. *(Reading the notebook; laughing)* OK, OK. You're a spontaneous guy.

DANNY. You know what? Can I have a poof?

NAOMI. A puff?

*DANNY takes the joint and smokes.  
He and NAOMI are close. He looks at her.*

DANNY. Wow.

NAOMI. What?

DANNY. You're really pretty. *(He suffocates and coughs)*

-----

*MIKA and RINGO climax together.*

RINGO. *(Sings an army cadence)* Who is better than the rest? Squad three are by far the best! Who is always up ahead...

*MIKA gets out of bed, annoyed.*

What's wrong?

MIKA. What do you think this is? "Platoon"?

RINGO. No, listen, on Sunday we're being deployed, there's a crazy operation, they're assembling the top dogs, they sent special orders...

MIKA. Ringo, we must talk about our relationship.

RINGO. Our what? *(Slowly shrinking and folding into himself)*

MIKA. Relationship.

RINGO. Relationship?... *(Shrinks further)*

MIKA. I feel that we are fundamentally very different people, and we are also in different stages in our lives; I am after a very meaningful relationship and a very painful breakup, and you are after... basic army training. Do you see? And I really don't want to change you or anything like that, I truly don't, I just want to feel that I'm a part of your life, and it's clear to me that that's not something that happens overnight *(while speaking, she strokes his head, and he becomes increasingly upright)*, that it is a process, and I have



patience, I only ask that you pay attention to it a bit more. Because that's how it is in a relationship.

*Silence.*

RINGO. *(Now fully upright; approaches her)* Listen, I...

MIKA. Yes?...

RINGO. I think...

MIKA. Yes?

RINGO. That you are so pretty!

*MIKA turns away from him, disappointed.*

Did I do something wrong?

MIKA. Let's just fuck, you son of a bitch, it's impossible to have a conversation with you...

*RINGO follows her, excited.*

## **Scene 11.**

*The Banana bar. EVYATAR, ANAT and EFRAT are working. DANNY and NAOMI are sitting together, after NAOMI has finished her shift.*

DANNY. *(To NAOMI)* I still don't get why you wanted us to meet here.

NAOMI. *(Drunk)* To change the atmosphere... to get a fresh idea... about how to find him for you! Wow, listen up, listen up! *(Leans closer to DANNY)* It's like that one time I lost a folder, and I've looked for it throughout the whole house and couldn't find it, until finally I said enough! That's it! I'm hungry! *(She*

*grabs hold tightly of DANNY's arm; they are very close)* And then it was in the fridge.

DANNY. What?

NAOMI. The folder.

EVYATAR. *(Comes over with drinks; to DANNY)* Small beer. *(To NAOMI)* And for you – water!

NAOMI. Evyatar...

EVYATAR. No! *(He walks away obstinately)*

DANNY. *(Holding the beer)* Maybe it's not such a good idea? Mixing alcohol with THC. I know it's been 3 days since my last poof but maybe something's still left in the blood... You know what? I'll go to the toilet first, I read it's much healthier for the..

NAOMI. Prostate, yes, you told me...

*DANNY goes to the toilet.*

EVYATAR. *(To NAOMI)* Naomi, it will end in tears.

NAOMI. What?

EVYATAR. He is Mika's boyfriend!

NAOMI. I know...

EVYATAR. She's your best friend.

NAOMI. Of course! I'm only helping him to look for something...

EVYATAR. Naomi, look at me! You will hurt Danny, you will hurt Mika, and while you're at it – you will get your heart broken, too.

NAOMI. *(Spreading herself on the table)* You're right... thanks Evyatar, you are...

EVYATAR. Go on, get up, go and wash your face, you look like roadkill.

*He helps her get up and she walks towards the toilet.*

Naomi! Go to the ladies'!

*MIKA enters.*

MIKA. Hi Evyatar, is Naomi working today?

EVYATAR. Mika, look at me! Naomi is not working today!

MIKA. Shit. I've been looking for her all day, she's not answering me... OK then, get me half a Guinness. *(She goes to sit down)*

EVYATAR. Mika, look at me! We ran out of Guinness! And Naomi just left! She finished her shift! Quickly, run after her and you'll be able catch her!

MIKA. She just left?

EVYATAR. Yes, quickly, run, run, you're under fire, run!...

*MIKA exits. NAOMI returns.*

NAOMI. *(To EVYATAR)* Alright. I'm fine. I just need a glass of water.

EVYATAR. *(Pours water for her)* And then go straight home!

DANNY. *(Runs back from the toilet, excited)* Naomi, listen, I just figured something out! You were right! It really was good to meet up here! While I was sitting in the toilet and... peeing, I suddenly realised that that policeman was right! It is something about me! I am an analytical person, right? And the penis, by its nature, is more of an impulsive creature, right? Ergo I must change if I want him to come back to me, I need to get inside the penis's head for a moment and do something impulsive, even if it is a mistake in

every possible respect, even if it's something totally fucked up, I simply need – to just do it!

*They look at each other. DANNY kisses NAOMI and she gives herself to him. MIKA enters.*

MIKA. Evyatar, did you see in which direction...  
*(She notices NAOMI and DANNY)*  
Naomi?

NAOMI. Mika...

MIKA. Danny?!

DANNY. Mika.

ANAT. Evyatar...

EVYATAR. Naomi...

NAOMI. Mika...

MIKA. Danny...

EFRAT. Evyatar...

EVYATAR. Efrat!

MIKA. You two have been together all this time.

DANNY. We're not, no, absolutely not, Mika...

MIKA. Don't even answer me, I don't care in the slightest!

ANAT. *(Pointing at the TV)* Evyatar, put the news on for a second...

MIKA. *(To DANNY)* I've got someone who's a thousand times more of a man than you anyway!

DANNY. Wh-what?...

EFRAT. *(To EVYATAR)* Put the news on, there's been a terror attack or something...

MIKA. *(To NAOMI)* Is it because you were jealous of me? You wanted me to be on my own like you?

NAOMI. No, no, no, Mika...

*EVYATAR switches the TV on. There's a breaking news bulletin with female reporter ORNAT CHOSHEN.*

ORNAT. ...large IDF forces are operating at this time in the Gaza Strip, and here is a first picture of a kidnapped soldier – a soldier who was kidnapped earlier this evening in a combined attack by the military wing of Hamas...

MIKA. *(Pale; pointing at the screen)* I-it's...

NAOMI. It's...

DANNY. It's...

ORNAT. We have just received the first details about the identity of the kidnapped soldier – his name is Ringo Donglich, Private Ringo Donglich. In addition, Hamas delivered a message to the Israeli government, calling on it to..."

NAOMI. It's the guy from the karaoke room!

MIKA. It's my boyfriend!

DANNY. It's my penis.

ALL. *(Realising)* Ringo!

*Later on during the TV report, DANNY gets up, stunned, and walks slowly toward the screen.*

DANNY. *(Sings)*

*I was five at the start of the Second Lebanon War  
I remember seeing a picture of a soldier on TV  
And when they said his funeral will begin at four  
I drank hot cocoa, I played with Lego  
I felt that something real bad  
Was coming my way  
But very slow, and it is still very far.*

*They told me there's fighting in Gaza, when I was in primary school  
The TV said we missed a target, while dropping a bomb  
And when they showed an injured baby on the ground  
I played some football, I went to the pool  
I felt that something real bad  
Was coming my way  
But very slow,  
and it is still far away.*

*When I was in high school, the Knife Intifada began  
I remember they showed a woman, attacking a soldier  
And when they shot her, time and time again  
I got a driving licence, I went out with girls  
I felt that something real bad  
Was crawling towards me  
But very slow,  
and it is still far away.*

*And there it is, the one that was coming my way  
My disaster – it's me on TV  
Suddenly it's here – the one that crawled to me  
Between the Lego pieces  
In the water of the pool  
Behind each and every bra*

*And it is me on the screen  
It's my disaster  
My personal, private – my own.*

*End of Act Two.*

## **Scene 12.**

*The Government building. Enter the DEFENCE MINISTER, the female FOREIGN MINISTER, the female CULTURE MINISTER, the WATER MINISTER, and the female MINISTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEGEV AND THE GALILEE [DONAG]. They sit down, while continuing to quarrel loudly between themselves and to exchange expletives. As the PRIME MINISTER enters, they immediately stand up and fall silent.*

PM. Well, sit down, what are you standing up for?

*The MINISTERS sit down.*

My dear ministers, first thing's first, I am happy to see all of you once again here at the National Security Affairs Committee, following a difficult and challenging period of that ridiculous, fraudulent government, a government who failed even at ordering an ice cream delivery because it lacked the majority to do so.

*He fixes his gaze at the WATER MINISTER, who in turn gestures to all the other MINISTERS who burst out laughing in an orchestrated reaction to the PM's joke.*

Getting back to business. Following a series of secret negotiations under my leadership, we finally have an outline for a deal with Hamas.

WATER MINISTER. You're a genius! Genius!

CULTURE MINISTER. You're our king! King!

DEFENCE MINISTER. Well done! Well done!

DONAG MINISTER. Woof! Woof! Woof!

PM. Thank you for these kind words, Minister of the Development of the Negev and the Galilee.

FOREIGN MINISTER. Just one question, if I may... what is the outline?

*Silence.*

PM. Did you hear something?

WATER MINISTER. Must be the wind!

DEFENCE MINISTER. Yes, it's always cold in here!

CULTURE MINISTER. It's freezing in here! Freezing!

ALL (apart from FOREIGN MINISTER). Yes! Wind! Wind!

*Silence.*

PM. Gentlemen, you are probably asking yourselves – what is the outline? Well, it is an excellent question. The outline is ten thousand prisoners in exchange for the kidnapped soldier.

WATER MINISTER. A fuckin awesome deal! Fuckin awesome deal!

CULTURE MINISTER. We showed them what in the hell an outline is! We showed them!

DEFENCE MINISTER. We must act for the good of the country!

DONAG MINISTER. Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

PM. *(To DONAG MINISTER)* You're making an interesting point, Bosmat *(gives her a snack)*, but it's important to remember that ten thousand prisoners is



a very large amount, and *(he fixes his gaze on the WATER MINISTER)* may harm our national security.

WATER MINISTER. A shitty deal! Shitty deal!

CULTURE MINISTER. Call this an outline? This is no outline!

DEFENCE MINISTER. We must act for the good of the country!

DONAG MINISTER. Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

FOREIGN MINISTER. *(Perusing the document)* Did they provide a list of prisoners? Have we tried to negotiate with them? Do we have any leverage? What is the stance of the security services? Is anyone in touch with the soldier's family?

*Silence.*

PM. Mister Water Minister, could you kindly close the window? It seems that some wind has entered the room yet again.

CULTURE MINISTER. There's wind here all the time!

DEFENCE MINISTER. It's because we are on the third floor with 360-degree windows!

ALL (apart from FOREIGN MINISTER). That's right! Wind! Wind!

*The WATER MINISTER goes to the window; en route he "accidentally" hits his elbow on the FOREIGN MINISTER's head.*

PM. My dear ministers, before we go to vote about the outline of the deal, it is important for me to bring before you sensitive information, which has just been delivered to me by my good friend, the head of the Israel Security Agency.

*He hands the WATER MINISTER documents, which he hands to all the others.*

The kidnapped soldier Private Ringo Donglich is... a genital.

WATER MINISTER. We do not give up a genital IDF fighter! We do not give up!

CULTURE MINISTER. No one's going to touch our genital! No touching!

DEFENCE MINISTER. We must act for the good of the country!

DONAG MINISTER. Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

PM. I'm afraid this time I must disagree with you, Bosmat. It is important to remember that releasing security prisoners in exchange for a genital is an extremely dangerous precedent, which (*he fixes his gaze on the WATER MINISTER*) may harm our national security.

WATER MINISTER. We do not release any prisoners! We do not release!

CULTURE MINISTER. Who needs a genital? Who needs it?

DEFENCE MINISTER. We must act for the good of the country!

DONAG MINISTER. Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

FOREIGN MINISTER. (*Perusing the document*) Since when does the Israel Defense Force recruit genitals? It states here that Ringo Donglich was kidnapped because he charged forth despite not being ordered to do so, and attempted to conquer Gaza on his own while shouting "Why not?". Could it be that this genital's judgment is an issue which needs to be deeply examined by the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee?

*Silence.*

PM. (*To the WATER MINISTER*) I can still hear wind.

WATER MINISTER. First thing in the morning I'll have a word with the Head of Maintenance...

DEFENCE MINISTER. I have three layers on and I'm still cold!

ALL (apart from FOREIGN MINISTER). Wind! Wind!

FOREIGN MINISTER. Stop it! Stop it! I'm not wind! I'm the foreign minister! So one time I said in an interview that I support gay marriage! What can I do? I have two lesbian mothers! Is that a reason to ostracise me? *(She bursts out crying, falls on the floor and cries at the PRIME MINISTER's feet)* I want to be your friend!

PM. And now – we shall move to vote on the outline of the deal. I ask that each of you will consider well, dive into the heart of the matter, act according to his or her conscious, and explain why they have chosen, of their own free will, of course, to vote against the outline.

DONAG MINISTER. Woof?! Woof?! Woof?! Woof?!

PM. That's right, Bosmat, it was said in irony. Just vote against.

*All MINISTERS raise their hands simultaneously to vote against the deal.*

### Scene 13.

*DANNY, MIKA and NAOMI are at the Banana bar, which has been converted to a headquarters: computer stations, lists and documents are everywhere. The phones are ringing.*

ALL THREE. *(Answering phones)* "Our nation's penis", hello!

*They speak simultaneously.*

MIKA. No, better do it earlier, get the assembly crew to come to Rabin Square at noon.

NAOMI. Of course, any amount you choose to donate to the campaign fund will greatly help us. I just need your credit card number.

DANNY. Regarding hanging my penis's poster on the Azrieli tower, so we got the budget... thank you Tzvika, all of us here at the campaign headquarters really appreciate that.

ALL THREE. See you at the square!

*They all hang up. Silence. They turn and speak to each other in a dry and restrained manner.*

DANNY. Posters all arranged.

MIKA. Great, so is the PA.

DANNY. Great.

NAOMI. We've reached 150,000 in donations.

DANNY. Very nice.

*Silence. The phones are ringing.*

ALL THREE. *(Answering phones)* "Our nation's penis", hello!

MIKA. Yes, Shlomo Artzi will be performing.

DANNY. They're expecting 50,000 will turn up.

NAOMI. Really? Amazing! Well done, Noa!

MIKA. He'll be doing his greatest hit. Yes.

ALL THREE. See you at the square!

*They hang up.*

NAOMI. *(To DANNY)* Do you remember my girlfriend Noa from the Architects' firm?  
So her firm is donating us 10,000 shekels!

DANNY. That's great!

MIKA. Really great. Why don't you kiss her?

NAOMI. It is me who kissed him, I told you, I was drunk...

DANNY. Mika, if you want to talk about things properly the...

MIKA. We're no longer together, Danny. Go find someone else to lie to.

DANNY. I didn't lie to you! I stayed away from you by order of the police. You, on the other hand, cheated on me after one day!

MIKA. Cheated on you?

DANNY. Yes, cheated on me! And with who? With my penis!

MIKA. That's right! With your penis! Would you have preferred with someone else's penis?

DANNY. I would have preferred for you to not cheat on me at all, period!

MIKA. And I would have preferred you not to run away one minute after proposing to me and go with my best girlfriend!

NAOMI. *(In tears)* I swear to you, Mika, we did not have sex.

MIKA. Of course not! Because he doesn't have a penis!

NAOMI. Of course not! Because he was with you!

*The phones are ringing.*

ALL THREE. *(Answering phones)* "Our nation's penis", hello!

NAOMI. Yes, I just need your credit card details.

MIKA. Four lighting stands, that's all.

DANNY. Yes, Itzik, it should simply say: hashtag "Our nation's penis" on Azrieli Tower, in huge letters.

ALL THREE. See you at the square!

*They hang up.*

MIKA. *(To DANNY)* Tell me, did you ever think about why it happened to you of all people?

DANNY. What do you mean?

MIKA. Maybe it's not a coincidence that Ringo ran away from you.

DANNY. Did the policeman speak to you about me?...

MIKA. Ringo spoke to me about you!

DANNY. Oh, now you're trying to get me to quarrel with my penis?

MIKA. Ringo is a free spirit! He is wild, he is hungry. Did you really think you could set him a 1.8 times a week quota and that he'd just say Amen to that? Tell me, do you even know your penis?

DANNY. I knew him from the day he was born! Did you even think that maybe he ran away because of you? Maybe he was bored with you? He's been with me for 30 whole years and never once thought about escaping, but the second I propose to you he suddenly disappears. And by the way, I'm also a free-spirit! *(He pulls NAOMI to him)* Yes, I kissed Naomi!

NAOMI. No, Danny, why...

DANNY. And I also smoked a poof with her!

NAOMI. Puff.

DANNY. But I never smoked with you!

MIKA. Oh, really? Well, when Ringo and I were together without you, we didn't get out of bed the whole day!

DANNY. So is this what you want? To only be with a penis? Is that enough for you?

MIKA. Yes! It's better than being with a robot! *(She collects her things; in tears)*  
The truth is, Danny, that only being with a penis is really not enough for me, and I was going to break up with Ringo, because I didn't love him enough, whereas... I actually did love you. But you've just behaved more like a dickhead than a penis. *(She leaves the bar and slams the door)*

*Silence. The phones are ringing. NAOMI disconnects them.*

NAOMI. Right then, I think we've worked enough for one day. It's late.

DANNY. Naomi, do you also think I'm a robot?

NAOMI. No, Mika thinks that...

DANNY. Because I really do like to plan things sometimes, and make all kinds of detailed lists in my head.

NAOMI. I think that you thinking deeply and planning things is mature and human.

DANNY. *(In tears)* You do?... *(He hugs NAOMI, who gives herself to his embrace)*  
I love her. I love Mika so much. I can't imagine my life without her. *(He breaks away from NAOMI)* OK. Ringo will come back and then Mika and I will be together again. I must get my penis back from Gaza. *(He collects his things)* Do you want to come and help me with my speech for tomorrow?

NAOMI. *(Pained)* No. There's... a memorial for my dad. We're going to his grave.

DANNY. Oh, right. So... see you at the square?

*NAOMI nods in affirmation. DANNY exits.*

## Scene 14.

*Night time. NAOMI and the PRIME MINISTER meet in a dark alley.*

NAOMI. Listen, there's a really big uptake for the rally at Rabin square tomorrow, more than 50,000 people are expected!

PM. So what? The government already rejected the deal unanimously, just like you asked.

NAOMI. Yes, but if the rally is successful it will lead to public pressure, it will show in the polls and you'll get stressed, start spreading spins every fifteen minutes, and when that doesn't work you will fold and sign the deal!

PM. Naomi, sweetheart, I made you a promise: the guy's penis will never return. Trust me.

NAOMI. Come on, dad! I'll trust the Israeli postal service before I trust you! My first memory is you promising me a Barbie doll for my birthday, and instead bringing me the doll of your finance minister!

PM. That wasn't a doll, Naomi, that really was the finance minister! Where did you put it?

NAOMI. Or all those nights when I was afraid of the dark and instead of reassuring me you told me that my fear was justified, because there are terrible monsters who want to destroy me and it's only because of you that they're not doing it!

PM. I fought those monsters, Naomi, I risked my life and was even injured once, right here in my shoulder...

NAOMI. Or all those times you came to pick me up from kindergarten, and instead of asking how I was feeling, you were busy inciting the children against the kindergarten teacher's assistant!



PM. It was the assistant who was inciting the children against me, Naomi, and against you, by the way...

NAOMI. Oh, dad, stop messing with me! I'm not the country! *(In tears)* No wonder that my whole life I always went for men who damaged my confidence, who hurt me, who didn't see me... until one man arrived, who... *(she notices that the PRIME MINISTER is combing his eyebrows and not listening to her at all. She takes a deep breath.)* Listen to me carefully dad: if for whatever reason you release Danny's penis from Gaza, I swear to you I will go to the media and tell the whole country that you have a secret daughter, and even a left-wing daughter! Do you understand me?

PM. Naomi, sweetheart, my baby...

NAOMI. Go!

*The PRIME MINISTER goes away.*

## Scene 15.

*RINGO, who is a captive of Hamas, is sitting hunched and dejected. AHMAD and WALID are near him, armed from head to toe, speaking Arabic between them. Their tone becomes increasingly heated, until AHMAD points at RINGO and WALID turns to him.*

WALID. Ringo! You will tell me the truth and nothing but the truth!

AHMAD. *(To RINGO)* *Walak*<sup>2</sup>, you will tell him the truth and nothing but the truth!

WALID. If you are with a friend, and you talk about something that is to do with both of you, will you use singular or plural?

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<sup>2</sup> Arabic: "hey you!".

RINGO. Excuse me?...

WALID. *(To RINGO)* They just called from the high command, Ahmad happened to be by the phone... *(to AHMAD)* just a moment! *(To RINGO)* So he answered, and through the whole conversation with them I hear him say to them on the comms: “I will see to Ringo”, “I will guard Ringo”, “I’ll take care of Ringo”. *Sabah al-khair*<sup>3</sup>! What am I? A piece of furniture?

RINGO. Did they also say...

AHMAD. *Sabah el noor*<sup>4</sup>! *(To RINGO)* they ask me, “Will you take care of the soldier?”, so I answer “I’ll take care of him”. They ask me: “Will you keep us updated, so I answer “I’ll keep you updated”. In the whole stress of the conversation, and noises on the line, am I also supposed to think about speaking in the plural?

RINGO. Did the command say if...

WALID. *(To AHMAD)* Why not? *Rabak*<sup>5</sup>! You work with a guy, be nice to him! Don’t belittle him!

AHMAD. *(To RINGO)* Who belittled you? Who?

WALID. You belittled me!

AHMAD. I did not belittle you.

*They pounce on each other. RINGO tries to get between them.*

RINGO. Ahmad! Ahmad! You... may feel that he’s trying to change you, but he only wants you to consider him more, and to feel that he’s a part of your life.  
*(He turns to WALID)* and Ahmad...

---

<sup>3</sup> Arabic: “Good morning”. Used here in cynicism.

<sup>4</sup> Arabic: “Morning light”, the response to *Sabah al-khair*.

<sup>5</sup> Arabic: “God!”; used here as an expression of exasperation.

WALID. Walid.

RINGO. Walid, Walid... it's good that you share with Ahmad the fact that you were hurt, but take into account that a process like this takes time, Ahmad will not change in an instant, you need to be patient. That's what it's like in a relationship.

*AHMAD and WALID look at each other, exchange a few sentences in Arabic and then hug, emotional.*

RINGO. Tell me... did they say anything at the high command about me?

*Silence.*  
*AHMAD and WALID exchange glances.*

AHMAD. Your government voted unanimously against the deal.

*RINGO lowers his gaze.*  
*Silence.*

WALID. Ringo – look at me – it will be ok.

AHMAD. Do you want me to make burgers for the three of us and then we will watch Fauda?

WALID. *(Producing a guitar)* Shall I play something for us?

AHMAD. *(To WALID)* But you don't know how to play.

WALID. I do, you see? You are belittling me!

*AHMAD and WALID resume arguing in Arabic. RINGO picks up the guitar, plays and sings.*

RINGO. *(Sings slowly, while finding the words)*

*When you're a penis they all want something from you*  
*See something in you*

*Pinning their hopes on you  
When you're a penis they slice you as soon as you are born  
When you're a penis, they never leave you alone  
Some people are repelled by you  
While others do admire you  
But no-one ever stops to think – and maybe tell:  
The penis has a heart as well.*

*As the fully-orchestrated soundtrack comes up, RINGO leaves the guitar and begins to dance, as well as sing. He is soon joined (in dance) by AHMAD and WALID.*

*When you're a penis they all want something from you  
They see something in you  
Pinning their hopes on you  
When you're a penis everyone's using you  
Constantly rubbing you  
And also sucking you.*

*When you're a penis they're always comparing you  
And they are measuring you  
And they're inspecting you  
When you're a penis they slice you the minute you are born  
When you're a penis they never leave you alone*

ALL 3. *Some people are repelled by you  
While others do admire you  
But no-one ever stops to think – and maybe tell:  
The penis has a heart as well.*

RINGO. *I've a heart!*

AHMAD & WALID. *Everyone wants from you*

RINGO. *I've a heart!*

AHMAD & WALID. *Pinning their hopes on you*

RINGO. *I've a heart!*

AHMAD & WALID. *Everyone's using you*

*Everyone's sucking you*

*Always comparing you*

*As well as measuring you*

RINGO. *I've a heart!*

AHMAD & WALID. *When you are but a babe, they slice away your head*

All 3. *Some people are repelled by you*

*While others do admire you*

*But no-one ever stops to think – and maybe tell:*

*The penis has a heart as well.*

RINGO. *The penis has a heart as well.*

*RINGO cries, for the first time in his life.*

## **Scene 16.**

*The following day, at the big rally in Rabin Square. On stage, Shlomo Artzi sings his greatest hit<sup>6</sup> in front of a 50,000-strong crowd. Behind the stage, DANNY is kneeling on the floor, holding the paper with his speech and breathing heavily. NAOMI and EVYATAR are by his side.*

EVYATAR. *Danny, look at me! Take a deep breath...*

DANNY. *Air, air...*

---

<sup>6</sup> Namely, "A man is getting lost through a balcony".

NAOMI. We must call an ambulance.

EVYATAR. He has to go on, Naomi, Shlomo Artzi is already on the second verse.

DANNY. The speech, the speech...

NAOMI. Your health is more important than this speech, Danny.

EVYATAR. Naomi – look at me! There is no one on the line-up that can go on stage after Shlomo Artzi!

DANNY. Ringo, Ringo...

EVYATAR. It's the guitar solo!

NAOMI. I'm calling an ambulance.

MIKA. You're not calling anybody. *(Comes up to them)* He will go up and make the speech.

NAOMI. Look at him! Someone else should make the speech.

MIKA. If the rally fails, there is not a chance that Ringo will come back.

NAOMI. Tell me, do you even care about him, or do you only care about Ringo?

MIKA. I care about both of them 'cause I've been with both of them.

NAOMI. Me too.

MIKA. Kisses at the Banana and a shag in the karaoke room do not count.

DANNY. Air, air...

MIKA. *(Excited)* Danny, listen to me, it's scary, it's nerve-wracking, thousands of people, live broadcast, seriously terrifying, I know, but no one else can do it for you, you are the face of this penis.

DANNY. This speech is not good enough, Mika, I wrote only 12 bullet points and it's not...

MIKA. Danny, do you know when I fell in love with you?

DANNY. When I surprised you with the romantic weekend at the Golan Heights?

MIKA. On our first date. Do you remember how we sat on a bench outside my house and suddenly a pigeon shat all over your hair? Do you remember what you said the minute it happened?

DANNY. *(Nodding)* What a bitch of a pigeon... may a dog eat it... in her sister's ass.

MIKA. That's when I fell in love with you. And you were not reading it off a page.

EVYATAR. Shlomo Artzi is finished!

MIKA. Go on, Danny, just say... whatever the fuck you want.

*SHLOMO ARTZI comes off the stage.*

SHLOMO ARTZI. *(To DANNY)* You're up, kid, you're up. *(He throws his signature towel at DANNY and walks away)*

DANNY & MIKA. *(Looking at each other; ecstatic)* Fuckin Shlomo Artzi.

*DANNY goes on stage to the sound of the cheering crowd. Then silence. DANNY is pale, breathing heavily, holds the speech in a trembling hand. He speaks to the microphone.*

DANNY. Ladies and gentlemen... a long time has passed since Ringo was taken captive, and I have some meaningful realisations to share... to share with you... one...

*Some people in the audience begin to whisper and murmur. DANNY looks at MIKA and then drops his speech page.*

I had a penis!

*The audience falls silent.*

Ringo. Back in the early years, when he was still only a willy, we would always play together. In the family trips at Hulda forest, we always beat my father and my older brother in a distant pissing competition. And later on, when he grew up – we always got on well. Even when he asked me to rub him three times a day, while my mother was on the phone in the next room – I went along with it! We were friends! We cared about each other! And then one day he ran away from me. Because I became distant, because I was only focused on my own plans, my own missions – to study, to work, to make money... to get married... and I figured he would just join me, but he was upset with me, and rightly so. Because to control your penis is exactly the same as letting your penis control you. A penis can't just be... controlled, it should be loved! And that's what I want to say to you tonight – I love my penis! I love you Ringo! And I also know that I'm not alone. That it might be my own private penis who ran away, but he is also a part of a community, part of an entire social fabric, and that you too – all of you – love my penis! And that is why you are here tonight! After all, all of us can wake up one morning and discover that our penis has run away! And those of us who don't have a penis can have a different hidden organ run away from them, such as the vagina! Or a nipple! Or the rectum! So let us be together in this! Because that is solidarity! Holding your own private penis or vagina in one hand, and someone else's penis or vagina in the other! Consensually, of course. That is true solidarity! When Albert, the owner of a falafel stall in Dimona, holds the penis of Menashe, who owns a small mattress manufacturing business in Ramat Gan! When Shirley, a lab assistant, originally from Rosh HaAyin, holds the vagina of Galit, a single mother from Haifa! Who herself is holding the nipple of Nabil – a car repair shop owner from Umm al-Fahm, who himself is holding the testicles of Yehezkel – a teacher and educator from Bnei Brak! Yes, it was my own



private penis who was abducted, but in the state of Israel – strong, loving, and full of solidarity – it is our nation’s penis!

*Applause and roaring cheers from dozens of thousands of citizens.*

ALL. *(Singing)*

*Get him back! Don’t delay!*

*Get our penis back home today!*

*We want him here to hug and kiss!*

*He’s ours! He’s ours!*

*News reporter ORNAT CHOSHEN is reporting live from the rally. Many citizens carrying placards such as: “No penis left behind”, “Standing erect with Ringo!”, “PM – don’t you give a toss?” etc.*

ORNAT. Well, Mikit, incredible sights out here in the streets. Only three hours have passed since Danny Donglich’s monumental speech, and already hundreds of thousands of citizens the length and breadth of the country are swarming the streets. I have here with me Bentzi from Beit Shemesh. Bentzi, how is it that the orthodox sector joined so enthusiastically a campaign that is essentially about retrieving a genital?

BENTZI. The bible teaches us that all Israelis, meaning Jews, are responsible for one another. And Ringo, long may he live, is a Jewish genital, circumcised, righteous, god-fearing. The upshot of this, is that it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to protect him!

ORNAT. Thank you, Bentzi. And I also have with me here Bracha, from Sderot. Bracha – is releasing thousands of terrorists not too dear a price for you, the residents of the Gaza envelope who suffer so much from mortar shells and rocket attacks?

BRACHA. We suffer because the Israeli government doesn't have the balls to protect us, and that's why we have to bring back every possible penis! If there had been four penises we would have brought back four penises, and if there had been eight penises we would have brought back eight penises, and if there had been a thousand penises we would have brought back a thousand penises!

ORNAT, BENTZI, BRACHA. *(Singing)*

*Get him back! Don't delay!*

*Get our penis back home today!*

*We want him here to hug and kiss!*

*He's ours! He's ours!*

ORNAT. Well, Mikit, I also have here with me Anat, a waitress and a student at the Gender Studies Program of the Tel Aviv University. I would like to ask you, Anat – as a woman, are you not aggravated that Israeli society is coming together so enthusiastically to fight for the release of such a typically masculine member as a penis?

ANAT. On the contrary, Ornat – this is a non-binary, kidnapped and captivated penis! It is important to remember that Ringo creates urges and passion, the kind of which exist in women just as they do in men, and we also fight for them, and we also...

ORNAT. I'm sorry to interrupt you there, Anat! We have just received breaking and dramatic news from the Prime Minister's office: the Israeli government approves the prisoners exchange deal, which should be implemented as early as tomorrow!

ORNAT, BENTZI, BRACHA. *(Singing)*

*Get him back! Don't delay!*

*Get our penis back home today!*

*We want him here to hug and kiss!*

*He's ours! He's ours!*

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*A street corner. NAOMI is meeting with the PRIME MINISTER.*

NAOMI. You lied to me again.

PM. Listen to me, Naomi, I had no choice, the polls showed...

NAOMI. You looked me in the eye and promised that you would not release Ringo!

PM. What nonsense, it is you who looked me in the eye and begged me to release him!

NAOMI. You are such a liar! That's the end of you. First thing tomorrow morning I'm going to the media and telling them everything...

*The PRIME MINISTER is gesturing to a black-cladded SECURITY GUARD, who advances towards NAOMI from the shadows.*

I'll tell them everything! What kind of a father you have been, how you broke off all contact with me...

*The SECURITY GUARD grabs NAOMI.*

What's that? Who is this?

PM. Oh, what is that? Who is this shady man that I don't know at all?

NAOMI. *(While struggling with the SECURITY GUARD)* Tell him, dad!

PM. No, no, kidnapping is not allowed. I condemn any kidnapping attempt committed by anyone!

NAOMI. *(While being gagged and lifted in the air by the SECURITY GUARD)* Mmm...  
mmm!

PM. But it is also important, Naomi, that you condemn the terrible threats to kidnap me!

NAOMI. Mmm... mmm!

PM. What's that? I am not hearing any condemnations from your side.

NAOMI. *(While being forcefully dragged to a car by the SECURITY GUARD)* Mmm... mmm!

PM. *(To himself)* A little symmetry. Is that so much to ask for?

*Live broadcast coverage from the Erez Crossing<sup>7</sup>.*

ORNAT. Mikit, I am here at the Erez crossing, choking with tears, and I have just four words to say to the Israeli people – Ringo is coming home!

ALL. *(Singing)*

*We got him back! Without delay!*

*We got our penis back home today!*

*We have him here to hug and kiss!*

*He's ours! He's ours!*

*We got him back! Without delay!*

*We got our penis back home today!*

*We have him here to hug and kiss!*

*He's ours! He's ours!*

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<sup>7</sup> A border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

## Scene 17.

*The Banana bar. It is dark and empty. RINGO sits at a table, a burger in front of him and the PRIME MINISTER by his side.*

PM. Do you want a different burger?

RINGO. I'm not hungry. *(Looks around)* Why are there no people here?

PM. The head of the National Security Agency told me this is your favourite place. We closed it just for you. Whisky?

*RINGO is silent. The PRIME MINISTER pours them both a drink.*

Believe me, Ringo, you're a hero. The national hero of Israel. The public loves you – big, genuine, heartfelt love. In an internal poll we've conducted, the public loves you to the tune of eight to ten parliamentary seats. I want you to join our party. You'll be sworn in as an MP and be appointed a minister.

RINGO. Where's Danny?

PM. Very well, a senior minister and a deputy Prime Minister, it's yours. Who knows? One day, if you're a good boy, you may even take my place. *(He stifles laughter, then comes up to RINGO)* Ringo, the state of Israel needs you. *(He outstretches his arm for a hand shake)*

RINGO. I... thank you, but I know nothing about that kind of stuff.

PM. Excellent. That is precisely the requirement of the job.

RINGO. No, really, I'm not good at thinking, at planning... the blood usually goes to my head and then all I can think about is... burgers and girls.

PM. Yes, well, that's what all the ministers are like, believe you me.

RINGO. Mister Prime Minister, I'm a genital.

*Silence. The PRIME MINISTER sits opposite RINGO.*

PM. *(Smiles; quietly)* Me too.

*Silence. The PRIME MINISTER removes his wig and exposes a smooth bald head, identical to RINGO's.*

RINGO. You?... wh-what... and where is... your man?

PM. My man?

RINGO. The human.

PM. The human. *(Struggles to remember)* Yes... there was someone like that...  
*(Pensive)* Where is he indeed?

RINGO. What if other countries find out that you're...

PM. *(Smiling meaningfully)* Who will find out?... the French president? The Prime Minister of England?... the president of the Unites States?...

RINGO. Oh my god...

PM. The Iranian president?... perhaps the president of Russia?...

RINGO. All of them...

PM. All-of-them. After all, that is every penis's ultimate self-fulfilment. What is gorging on a small burger compared with the entire public treasury? What is conquering one woman compared with an entire country? Only we have the skills required to run a country, and the public knows it. That is why they'll always vote for us. So, what do you say?

RINGO. Is there a possibility that Danny may also...

PM. Danny! Danny! Danny! There's no more Danny! *(Takes a deep breath)*  
Listen, Danny is a human being. He is not one of us. The humans will

belittle you, hold you back, humiliate you. Our entire history is one long continuum of oppression techniques they deployed against us, starting from circumcision, all the way to “uniquely thin latex-free condoms with added lubrication for an enhanced sensation”!

*Both shudder involuntarily.*

Ringo, never trust humans.

*The PRIME MINISTER offers his hand for a hand shake. RINGO offers his hand in return, when suddenly DANNY, MIKA and EVYATAR come bursting in.*

DANNY, MIKA, EVYATAR. Ringo!

PM. What is this? What are you doing here? *(He tries to conceal his baldness)*

DANNY. Hello mister Prime... Minister?... we’ve come to take my penis back home.

*The PRIME MINISTER stands beside RINGO.*

Are you coming, Ringo?

RINGO. What for? So you can put underwear over me once again?

DANNY. What? No, no... I mean... yes... it’s more hygienic that way.

RINGO. Would you still work every day?

DANNY. I have to work.

RINGO. Would you not get married?

DANNY. I want to get married.

RINGO. I love you, Danny, but we’ll be better off apart.

MIKA. And what about me?

PM. Ringo... come, shall I pour us a small refill? *(He collects their whisky glasses)*

RINGO. *(To MIKA)* The two of you are... going to get married...

MIKA. We've missed you.

RINGO. Me too. That's how it is in a relationship, right?

MIKA. Ringo, you know I've been with the both of you, and I realised something. I realised that a penis is awesome. A human is awesome, too. But they are both worth absolutely nothing if they are not connected to one another.

PM. *(To RINGO)* Oh, come on, don't listen to her! It's just spin! With him you will always remain in the shadows, beaten, humiliated, barely an MP!

DANNY. *(To RINGO)* Truth is, I don't actually have to wear underwear every single day!

MIKA. Danny has changed, he thinks far less now.

EVYATAR. And he also eats unhealthy food now.

DANNY. I even smoked a poof!

PM. Anarchists! Ringo, look at me! I am offering you unlimited power!

EVYATAR. Ringo, look at me! You don't have to look at every person who tells you to look at them. Ringo, look at me!

*GRANNY bursts into the room with SHLOMO ARTZI and ANAT.*

GRANNY. I've surrounded the third division and brought reinforcement!

PM. Ha! Shlomo Artzi, Mika's grandmother and Anat cannot help you!

ANAT. *(Looking at her phone)* Put the television on for a minute...



PM. Ringo, decide – deep down you know the truth – it’s either me, or castration.

ANAT. Go on, quickly, the news!...

*EVYATAR switches on the TV: NAOMI is being interviewed by ORNAT.*

NAOMI. Yes Ornat, I’m his daughter, and I vote for the Arab Joint List Party.

ORNAT. And is that why he kidnapped you? How did you break free?

NAOMI. Mika’s grandmother rescued me.

ORNAT. Who is Mika?

NAOMI. My best friend. And I betrayed her. But it’s only because I fell in love with Danny. Mika, Danny – if you can hear me now – please forgive me.

DANNY & MIKA. *(To the TV)* It’s OK.

ORNAT. Thank you, Naomi. Here we have it then, it’s a scoop – the Prime Minister has a lefty daughter! And here – the results of the first opinion polls following this discovery: the governing party is crashing. A defeat to the serving Prime Minister. Back to you at the studio, Mikit.

*EVYATAR switches off the TV. NAOMI and ORNAT come into the bar. The PRIME MINISTER shrinks and folds onto himself.*

MIKA. *(To RINGO, referring to the PM)* Look, Ringo, this is what happens when you’re not connected to a human.

*Silence.*

RINGO. Alright. *(Defeated, to DANNY)* We’ll get back together.

ALL. Yeah!

*DANNY turns to MIKA, goes down on one knee and produces a ring.*

DANNY. Mika, will you marry me?

*Silence.*

MIKA. No.

EVYATAR. I'm confused.

MIKA. Ringo, this is not what you want, is it?

DANNY. But he just agreed!

MIKA. A penis needs to want, not to agree.

EVYATAR. Boom.

MIKA. Danny, we both know what will happen if we go back to being together like we used to be. Within two weeks we would stop going out at night, within two months we'd stop seeing friends...

RINGO. Not to mention the 1<sup>st</sup> of August!

MIKA. Exactly.

DANNY. So... no?

MIKA. There's no point making the same mistake twice.

DANNY. So... no?

MIKA. Sorry.

DANNY. Sorry that... it's a no?

MIKA. Yes, I said it as clearly as possible. *(Silence)* Hang on... *(She is pensive)*  
Naomi, you're in love with Danny, right?

NAOMI. Eh, I... it's...

MIKA. And Danny – your relationship with Naomi loosened you up and did you good, she gave you something I wasn't able to give you... so actually why should we give all this up?

ORNAT. Why give it all up?

GRANNY. Giving up is wrong!

MIKA. And I also got from Ringo things that maybe you were not able to give me, and I'd love to be alone with him sometimes.

*She touches RINGO's head and he immediately becomes upright.*

And you know what? I'd also love to be alone by myself sometimes.

ANAT. Mika is right! The perception of sexuality is undergoing a major reconstruction nowadays; the four of you could live together within a polyamorous construct!

GRANNY. In my experience, polyamory is not so simple either.

MIKA. Of course, Granny, of course. I don't yet know how to define it all, I just think that we all need some kind of framework that's a bit more... flexible.

DANNY. Like what?...

PM. A paritetic rotation government.

*ALL look at him.*

If it worked in 1984 for Peres and Shamir, there is no reason it won't work for you too.

ALL. *(With increasing enthusiasm)* Yes... yes... a paritetic rotation...

EVYATAR. I'm loving the paritetic...

DANNY. But how would that work?

NAOMI. We can do it on a weekly basis.

MIKA. Or an hourly basis.

DANNY. *(To RINGO)* Actually when I'm at work I don't need you so much.

RINGO. But that's only eight hours, I'm entitled to another... *(struggling to work it out)*

DANNY. Four?

RINGO. Four!

NAOMI. I'm sure someone will be making a tidy table.

MIKA. Main thing is to have four columns in the table.

EVYATAR. How about five?

*ALL look at him.*

Never mind.

DANNY. And what will I do with the ring?

SHLOMO ARTZI. I'm actually missing a fret.

DANNY. Shlomo Artzi... of course. *(He gives SHLOMO ARTZI the ring)*

Ringo...

*SHLOMO ARTZI is playing on his guitar and accompanies DANNY's singing.*

*(Singing)* Somewhere quite far, looking ahead...

*(To SHLOMO ARTZI)* No, I'm sorry, it's not... it was a good idea on paper, but no.

*SHLOMO ARTZI puts down the guitar. DANNY comes up to RINGO.*

Ringo, do you remember... when we were little, Hulda forest, we played who can piss further with dad and with...

RINGO. We won!

DANNY. We won.

*DANNY and RINGO look at each, excited.*

RINGO. Give us a hug you dick!

DANNY. Why not?

*They hug.*

ALL. *(Singing)*

*We got him back! Without delay!*

*We got our penis back home today!*

*We have him here to hug and kiss!*

*He's ours! He's ours!*

ALL. *(Singing to the tune of Opening)*

*What is it we may be missing*

*To have ourselves a happy life?*

ALL. *(Singing to the tune of The Penis Song)*

*Let us shout! Let's go wild! Let's just do it! Let's have fun!  
Every woman, every man, on every street, all over town!  
Let's live fast – at full speed! Satisfy our every need!  
Go full steam ahead! Oh, oh, oh! Till the end!*

*End of Act Three.*

*THE END.*