

# Divorced

## A Play by Gur Koren

To English: Adi Drori

Cast of characters:

**Maya- 37 years old**

**Ben- 42 years old**

The play takes place in an apartment.

Playwright's note: This play was written to be performed in a real apartment (not on a stage with an apartment set) due to Covid-19 restrictions and because I believe this can be an exciting immersive experience for an audience to watch a play within their community, in someone's actual home. This, in a way, makes the two actors the entire cast and crew, therefore I have included specific directing notes. Of course this play can be performed "classically" on a stage, and some of the direction may be ignored and changed.

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**Maya's apartment.**

**Knocks on the door. Maya shouts from the bedroom**

**Maya: From the room: Come in.**

**Knocking again**

**Maya: Come in, it's open!**

**Ben enters the apartment holding a bike helmet, he walks in, looks around, sees  
no one**

**Ben: Hi...**

**Maya: From the bedroom It's on the table.**

**Ben: Huh...?**

**Maya: From the bedroom The bag is on the table.**

**Ben: Oh...**

**He realizes she has no intention of coming out, looks at the table and sees a boy's  
backpack**

**Ben: Yells back towards the bedroom Got it!**

**He opens the backpack and examines its contents. He pulls out a towel and lays it  
on the table, takes out two pairs of boys' underwear, two boys' t-shirts, a  
small bathing suit, a pair of arm floaties for the pool and an inhalation kit.  
He notices something is missing and can't decide whether to call Maya or  
not, before finally making up his mind**

**Ben: The goggles!**

**Maya: From the bedroom What?**

**Ben: His goggles, his swimming goggles.**

**A few seconds pass before we hear the sound of the bedroom door opening and  
closing, the sound of a closet being opened, the sound of something falling**

**Maya: From the bedroom Fuck.**

The sound of a closet door closing, then Maya enters the living room wearing sweatpants and an oversized t-shirt/tank holding a pair of swimming goggles, she hands them to Ben

Ben: Cool. Sorry for waking you.

Maya: I wasn't sleeping.

Ben: Okay. No need for a towel, we have towels.

Maya: Then leave it.

Ben: This too? Pointing to the inhalation kit

Maya: Take it.

Ben: You're giving him inhalations?

Maya: Not lately, but take it.

Ben: I can buy one to keep if he needs it, but I don't think...

Maya: Ben, if you're going away for two days take the inhalation kit, what's the issue?

Ben: No issue, I'll take it, just, you know, Karmatically I don't like it...

Maya: Fine, so make your next child a non-wheezing one and you'll have amazing Karma.

Ben: What's wrong?

Maya: Nothing's wrong.

Ben: I'm taking it, fine. He puts the inhalation kit in the backpack..He's not getting nosebleeds anymore, right?

Maya: Hasn't had one in six months.

Ben: Are you sure I didn't wake you?

Maya: No.

Ben: Were you fucking?

Maya: What?

Ben: I won't get jealous.

Maya: Bye, send me photos from the Banias<sup>1</sup>

Ben: The Hexagon Pool<sup>2</sup>.

Maya: Whatever.

Ben: Sorry for interrupting, pick up where you left off.

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<sup>1</sup> A river in the North of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> A natural spring in the North of Israel.

Maya: Mm hmm

Ben: **Calling towards the bedroom** Bye Udi.

Maya: Ben!

Ben: What? I'm just being polite.

Maya: Thank you, bye. Have fun.

Ben: You too.

Ben leaves, she locks the door after him, opens the refrigerator to peek inside, shuts it hard, then goes to the living room and falls apart on the couch. Knocks are heard at the door again.

Maya: To herself No...

Knocking again

Maya: What?!

Ben: **(From outside)** The helmet.

Maya: So, come in then!

Ben tries to open the door but it's locked

Maya: Hang on.

Ben: **(From outside)** What?

Maya: I said hang on!

Maya grudgingly gets up, grabs his helmet and walks to the door, she opens it and hands the helmet to Ben.

Ben: Sorry, hope you managed to "come".

Maya: Ben stop it. Enough, okay?!

Ben: Sorry. Bye.

He exits and reaches to close the door behind him, before she locks it back he opens it again.

Maya: What now?

Ben: Maya, hon, is everything okay?

Maya: Yes.

Ben: What's wrong?

Maya: What is your problem?

Ben: I asked if everything is okay?

**A beat.**

Maya: Not really, Udi left me.

Ben: **(Sighs emphatically)**

**They stand in silence**

**Ben:** That sucks.

**Maya:** Yep...

**A beat**

**So, have fun.**

**Ben:** I never liked him.

**Maya:** Well I did.

**Ben:** Come on, it was pretty clear that the guy is a loser...

**Maya:** Okay...

**Ben:** Shit, if you get back together I shouldn't...

**Maya:** We won't.

**Ben:** Then he's a loser.

**Maya:** He's not a...

**Ben:** ...and I hated the fact that he was raising Ari.

**Maya:** He was not raising Ari.

**Ben:** Then I hated him living with Ari in the same hou...

**Maya:** Okay, those are your issues, and you can work them out in the  
Hexagon Pool.

**Ben:** You don't have to bite my head off, you know.

**Maya:** You're irritating me.

**Ben:** But why so hurtful?

**Maya:** Oh... **you're** hurt?

**Ben:** Actually, I am, I wanted to...

**Maya:** Wow, all I want right now is to talk about how you're feeling.

**Ben:** Well, you told a thing, I'm processing.

**Maya:** Well, then go process at home.

**Ben:** Mayush, I'm sorry, give me a hug.

**Maya:** I don't wanna.

**Ben:** Come on, we're...at the end of the day this is my business too...

**Maya:** No, actually it's not really...

**Ben:** Well, you know...yeah, it's a little bit my business

**Maya:** Can you see what's going on?

**Ben:** I see, and...

Maya: Good. So you understand that everything you have just said has not  
been helpful...

Ben: I said I'm sorr...

Maya: And understand that I want to be alone for a little bit...

Ben: Okay...Sorry, I didn't know what to say.

Maya: Forgiven, forgotten...Oookay...She waits for him to leave

**A beat**

Ben: Why did he leave you?

Maya: Ben, seriously, do I look in the mood to talk about it?

Ben: Are you mad at me?!

Maya: This has nothing to do with you!

Ben: Okay, then talk to me.

Maya: I don't really feel like talking about it!

Ben: Not really or not at all?

Maya: Not at all!!!

**A beat**

Ben: Okay. Do you need anything?

Maya: Yes, I asked for it earlier.

**A beat.**

Ben: Okay, if you need anything besides me getting out of your way, just  
call...so...it just seems off to me for us to have fun in the North while you're  
a wreck over here...

Maya: Then have a terrible time in the North.

Ben: Come on...

Maya: I'll be fine.

**A beat**

Ben: Okay then, bye.

Maya: Bye.

**He heads towards the bathroom**

Ben: Let me just take a piss.

Maya: Don't you have a house?

Ben: Half of this house is mine, isn't it?

Maya: Ben, why are you being annoying?

Ben: I'm not being annoying, I'm peeing before I leave, what? It's very unhealthy to hold it in, for your prostate, you know...

Don't be a pain. Maya: Pee already!

He enters the bathroom, she grabs her phone, begins writing a text, deletes it, then she hears him

Ben: From the bathroom How's it going? Is he still up?

Maya: Are you peeing or talking on the phone?

Ben: From the bathroom Both! ...To the phone Because I'm taking a little longer...

Maya: No, you're not taking any longer!

Ben: From the bathroom No big deal..just stuff..I said "stuff", didn't I?

The sound of water flushing I said "a little" ...Okay, I know, so wait a little bit longer and then go wherever you want...

Ben comes out of the bathroom, still on his phone

Come on, give me a break...because I don't wanna hear it...then give me one hour and I'll give you two...

Maya: No, no, no, not one hour and not one minute.

Ben: Signaling to her "one sec" ...Then tell him this is the last video...then disconnect the router and tell him the internet is broken...Bye. Hangs up the call

Your son is overdoing it with the videos before bedtime.

Maya: Ben, what's the deal?

Ben: Ari is watching all these monkey videos.

Maya: You're not staying here.

Ben: Mostly monkeys...

Maya: Ben...

Ben: ...but really anything that's on the National Geographic Youtube channel...

Maya: Ben!

Ben: Give me a minute, I'm telling you about our child's issues.

Maya: Do you think I don't know what you're doing?

Ben: You let him watch non stop like that?

Maya: Enough!

Ben: Fine. It's just really not good for him, you know.

Maya: Stop, I really want you to get out of...

Ben: Okay, got it, a cup of coffee and I'm off...

Maya: No, no coffee! If you don't wanna go back to your house there's a  
cafe downstairs!

Ben: Okay, I just wanted to...

Maya: Ben, cut the bullshit, you're not my friend anymore, you're not my  
husband anymore, this isn't your house, and you don't have to pretend to  
care about me. Listen, for real, I'm in a really bad place, and I want to be  
alone, do you understand that?

A beat

Ben: Okay, so...I'll be going.

A beat. He goes to open the door

Ben: But why say I don't care about you?

Maya: Because it's the truth.

Ben: No, it's very far from the truth.

Maya: No, it's the truth.

Ben: Because of last year's Passover Seder?

Maya: Not just that.

Ben: Danny's dad is dying of cancer, they thought it would be his last  
holiday...

Maya: And that's what he needed? You and your son?

Ben: He's my partner, and it was my turn to be with Ari...

Maya: Yeah, it was your turn, but I explained that I want t...You know what,  
never mind, what difference does it make now?

Ben: It makes a difference, because you think I don't care about you.

Maya: If you cared about me you'd understand that it was important to...

Ben: Your parents aren't dying anytime soon.

Maya: You're comparing my parents to Danny's parents?

Ben: No, but...

Maya: My parents are Ari's grandparents.

Ben: No one is taking that away from them!

Maya: The only ones he has...



Ben: Oh, so now the fact that my parents are dead is my fault too?

**A beat**

Maya: Danny's dad didn't end up dying, so...

Ben: So sorry the chemo worked.

Maya: Okay, what are we...? **Stands up** Come one, you're only making me feel worse...please...go on, you have a roadtrip tomorrow.

**Ben turns to the door, then turns and says, emotional**

Ben: Do you know Grindr?

Maya: What?

Ben: Grindr. Have you heard of it? It's an app, Grindr.

Maya: Yeah, it's your Tinder, what? Why?

Ben: Danny's addicted to it.

**A beat.**

Maya:...What?...Like how?

Ben: Like having sex three times a week with men he finds on Grindr.

Maya: Oh...

Ben: Now, because we're going to the North for two days he "has" to go out tonight. So now he's dying for me to come back a.s.a.p so he can go out and fuck someone off of the Grindr

**A beat**

Maya: Is that why you're staying here?

Ben: Yes, that is why I am staying here, not because I care about you.

**He goes to the kitchen and switches on the electric kettle**

Maya: Okay Ben, but...**Sits down.** **He makes coffee, she's silent** And how do you feel about that? ...

Ben: I hate it.

Maya: And...

Ben: And...he knows I don't love it...**He pulls two cups out of the cupboard and starts making coffee.** He says "What do you care? You don't even notice it" because he usually does it on the days I have Ari. So around dinner time or bath time he disappears, and he comes back after Ari falls asleep, says "What's up?", lights a joint, watches Masterchef<sup>3</sup> like nothing's happened...

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Any hit reality t.v show<sup>3</sup>

Maya: But...

Ben:...and the one time I tell him it makes me jealous, like, let's be open and honest, I tell him "Listen, it makes me jealous" he says "So go back to being straight, then"...

Maya: What kind of answer is that?

Ben: Right?! What kind of answer is that?! Now he wanted this trip to the North, he found the best trails, got us a tent, decided we're going to the Hexagon Pool, the Yehudia<sup>4</sup>, did I tell you we're also going to the Yehudia? Now, he knows there's no Grindr there, I don't think there's even internet service there, but even if there is, if he opens Grindr up there the nearest DTF<sup>5</sup> gay guy he could find would be in Damascus, so, "he has to go out today", not that I care that much, because today is no different from any other day, it's just that whole thing of..."What? I'm going to the Golan Heights with you and your son, so give me tonight"...You have anything to nibble with the coffee? A little cookie maybe?

Maya: No, I'm on a ketogenic diet.

Ben: What is that and why is that?

Maya: It's not eating carbs, and why? **Points to her body**

Ben: You look great.

Maya: Shut up, okay?

Ben: What? I'm giving you a compliment...

Maya: Shut up, stop...

Ben: So should we order a pizza?

Maya: I'm telling you I don't eat carbohydrates.

Ben: Are there carbohydrates in pizza? Asking for a friend.

**She laughs and shakes her head in desperation, he hands her the cup of coffee he's made and sits down beside her.**

Maya: But you don't mind him screwing other people?

Ben: Why, did Udi screw other women?

Maya: What?

Ben: You asked that like that's why you broke up.

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A river in Israel's North<sup>4</sup>  
Down To Fuck, a signal for availability in Grindr speak.<sup>5</sup>

Maya: No, that's not why we broke up, as far as I know...

A beat, she sinks inwards for a minute

Ben: So, to answer your question...First of all- I mind it, I told you, I get jealous sometimes, a while ago I call him, he answers like "What's up?" I say to him "I got off work early, where are you, do you wanna get something to eat?" and he says "Yeah, let's meet up in like half an hour?" and I realize that he's with someone and it makes me crazy, it makes me crazy Maya, so yes, I do mind it...Secondly- hell, I'm no pigtailed little girl either, I have someone of my own.

Maya: What do you mean someone?

Ben: I have someone...

Maya: A man?

Ben The last time I checked, yes, he was a man.

Maya: Wait, you have like a lover?

Ben: You can call it that...

Maya: What? Wow...you're...how long?

Ben: Like two years...

Maya: Two years?!

Ben: Something like that.

Maya: Same as Udi and I.

Ben: Curse his name and memory!

Maya: But two years is...it's, you know...two years...Danny doesn't mind?

Ben: What do I know what he minds, what he doesn't mind, he barely talks about these things, just give him his joint, give him his Grindr, give him "The Amazing Race", and he's set.

Maya: Who is he?

Ben: Who?

Maya: Your, you know...

Ben: My Lover?

Maya: Uh huh

Ben: His name is Ivan, Vanya, he's Russian as you may have noticed from his name.

Maya: Yeah, I picked up on that nuance.

Ben: He's 50, but he's pretty good looking...wanna see him?

Maya: Well, since we've...might as well...

Ben: **Grabs his phone** You know what they say, seeing is believing...not bad,  
huh...?

**Shows her a photo on his phone**

Maya: Not bad? Amazing.

Ben: You can't believe he's with me, huh...

Maya: A. not at all, B. I would never have guessed he's gay.

Ben: He's not.

Maya: Not what?

Ben: He's not gay.

Maya: Then what is he?

Ben: He's...the other thing, what do you call it, hmm...damn, It's on the tip  
of my tongue...oh yeah- straight. Yes, he's straight.

Maya: Straight how?

Ben: Straight straight, wife, kids, mortgage, soccer, boobs, camping  
straight...

Maya: Ben, I...

Ben: I'll explain, remember my friend Yael?

Maya: The one with the asymmetrical...

Ben: The asymmetrical nipples, yes, don't mock, it'll come back to bite you,  
so she got a free couples' workout class at Studio C as a birthday present,  
but what do you know, she had also just gone through a breakup, all weepy  
and miserable like you, "Oh, I'm alone, I'm going to be alone forever" like,  
eating ice cream, watching "Beaches", truly pathetic, so I told her, "Go to  
Studio C already, you'll meet someone there" and she said: "Everyone there  
is gay", so I said "Why? Not everyone", and she said "Yes everyone" and  
we're arguing back and forth "Yes just gays", "Not just gays" and then she  
says "So come to the class with me". Mm I didn't really feel like it, because  
you know me, I'm a carbohydrate, but since I never gave her a birthday  
present, and she was so pitiful I said "Sure, I'll come", put on my tights, put  
on my deodorant and went to Studio C.

Maya: So that's where you met him?

Ben: No, not at all, she was right, everyone there is gay, and he's...

Maya: Straight.

Ben: Yeah, so I'm in this aerobics class, so hard, fucking difficult, the teacher puts this song on the stereo and I think, okay, it's like dancing class...No. Not at all, it's intense, it's Marine boot camp, it is highly strenuous. So I come home as if I have just been ravaged by a fully populated maximum security prison.

Maya:...Why so graphic?

Ben:... and I am worn out completely Maya, oh, you remember I was supposed to pick Ari up and I asked you to...

Maya: Oh...that time...

Ben: ...Yeah, when you wouldn't let me off the hook.

Maya: It was my second date with Udi.

Ben: Wow, I hated you that day...

Maya: Fuck off, so how did you meet Uncle Vanya?

Ben: So the next day I feel this pain right here **Points to his shoulder blade** this stabbing pain like someone stuck a Phillips screwdriver in there

Maya: Exa...

Ben: I'm not exaggerating, anyway, I need an urgent massage, so my friend recommends someone she knows...

Maya: Yael?

Ben: Shelly, her nipples are symmetrical, no need to be rude...

Maya: So he's a masseuse?

Ben: A masseuse? A magician! The energy that moves through his hands, electricity, even before he touches you, electric currents, and once he touches you...I have no words to describe it, it's like seeing rain for the first time, it's like eating pistachio gelato for the first time in your life, it's like something you've never known, oh my god, you have to book a session with him sometime...

Maya: So it happened during the massage?

Ben: The second time. The first time I was focused on the pain, he's not gentle, you know, gentleness isn't his thing, sex-wise too, by the way...

Maya: S...

Ben...but mainly in his massage technique, he goes straight for the pain, what's his method, really? It's his duel against the pain, and where do they battle? What's their battlefield? ...

Maya: On...

Ben: That's right, on your body, so you get a fistful of pain, but...Vanya always beats the pain in the end, he obliterates it...

Maya: Wow, you're really a fan of his...

Ben: I'm telling you, the man is a wizard! And thennnn...the second time it happened, I was in less pain, I was less focused on my back and I could tell that he was totally into me...

Maya: How could you tell?

Ben: You notice these things.

Maya: How do you notice? Really, explain it to me, you say he's straight, so how do you get the thought that he...? What is it, did you see it in his eyes?

Ben: I saw it in his pants...

Maya: Ohhhh

Ben: And it was right near my face, what can I do...?

Maya: And this is where the story ends, thank you so much, it was a lovely story, very interesting, but it's over, the end.

**They smile for a moment and sip on their coffee**

Ben: See, good thing you broke up with Udi, otherwise you would never have known about Vanya.

**A beat**

Maya: He broke up with me.

Ben: How? How? How could someone leave you, I can't understand it.

Maya: You broke up with me.

Ben: Yeah, but it wasn't because of you.

Maya: That's what Udi said too.

Ben: But Udi didn't come out of the closet, did he?

Maya: No...

Ben: Come on Mayush, what happened?

Maya: Ari doesn't know about it, right?

Ben: About what? ...

Maya: About Vanya.

Ben: What do you think...?

Maya: I don't know what I think anymore, 20 minutes ago I still thought you  
and Danny were exclusive...

Ben: Of course he doesn't know, though he does play with Danny's phone,  
so he might have seen something on Grindr...I'm kidding...Are you sad?

Maya smiles and nods

Ben: Can I ask you something seriously.

Maya: I don't feel like talking about it.

Ben: Not about Udi, may he be run over by an Audi Sport, something else,  
and please answer honestly...when is the last time you ate?

Maya: I eat.

Ben: If I order a pizza w...

Maya: You're not ordering a pizza.

Ben: I said if I were to order a pizza...

Maya: You're not ordering anything Ben, where from?

Ben: Donatello!<sup>6</sup>

Maya: Why are you a shit?

Ben: What? Am I turning you on?

Maya: Why are you a garbage human being?

Ben: Are you aroused?

Maya: Cut it out.

Ben: What is so hot about a thin crust brick oven baked pizza? Is it the  
assortment of fresh goat cheeses?

Maya: Shut up!

Ben: Is it the fresh cherry tomatoes on top? A bit of Arugula really gets you  
going, huh?

Maya: I as...

Ben: Or is it...the anchovies?!

Maya: I'm allowed, right? I've been through a terrible breakup.

Ben: Allowed? You're obligated to!

**He grabs his phone and dials**

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A famous pizzeria in Tel Aviv.<sup>6</sup>

Ben: They're on my speed dial.

Maya: Do you eat Donatello with Ari, too?

Ben: At least once a week.

Maya: And that little shit doesn't tell me...

Ben: I told him not to tell you, hehe

Maya: Asshole. And I see him staring at the eggs I make him for dinner with this disappointed look, now I know why...

Ben: Oh my god, get this story, one time Ari was at our place and we ordered pizza, and the delivery guy comes and it turns out that it's this guy Danny met on Grindr...

Maya: No way

Ben: Wait, now the thing is, Danny, that stoner, doesn't recognize him, now Ari...

**\*If the pizza place doesn't answer the story must be continued**

**To the Phone** Hello, good evening, he puts the phone on speaker We want to order a family size pizza

Maya: Family sized??

Ben: We're a family, aren't we? **To the phone**

Reply: What toppings?

Ben: One moment, let me ask my wife. What toppings would you like darling?

Maya: Umm...

Ben: She'll do Feta cheese, artichoke, sweet potato?

Maya: No sweet potato

Ben: So no sweet potato, but extra goat's cheese. Wait, do you have blue cheese?

Reply: Yes...

Ben: Lay that blue cheese on for her. **To Maya** You're going to lose it with this blue cheese **To the phone** now give me two slices with just goat's cheese and anchovies. **Turns to the audience** Yes, who wants what? Seriously guys, don't let us eat alone **Takes orders from the audience**



To the delivery person Okay, we'll take another family size, wraps up the orders from the audience...We're at *gives the apartment's real address*, when  
are you gonna be here?

Reply: So and so...

Ben: Just please make it snappy because we have a hungry crowd here, thank you, bye. To the audience. And we are now resuming our fourth wall. To

Maya So what were we talking about? One sec, I'll just text Danny to let him know that I'm running late Types on his phone "Held up at a super sexy chick's house, cover for me man, I might score".

He disappears into his phone for a moment, she disappears into herself

Maya: Good thing you have Ari tonight.

Ben: Because of the...?

Maya: I wouldn't know how to tell him.

Ben: Stop, it's not like...

Maya: It is like...he really loves Udi.

Ben:...I know, he told me, I hated it.

Maya: I loved Udi too.

Ben: Well, don't talk about him like he's dead.

Maya: What's the difference, Ben?

Maya opens one of the cupboards and pulls out a bottle of Arak/any alcoholic beverage and two glasses

Ben: Come on...

Maya: What's the difference, Ben? That there's no funeral? No grave? That I won't have to meet his mother at memorial services?

Ben: Mayush, where've you gone off to?

Maya: He was really sweet too...

Ben: Who?

Maya: Udi, Udi! He was really sweet today when he was breaking up with me.

Ben: Oh...

Maya:...And actually I could understand him...

Ben: In what way did you understand him?

Maya: I understood like...why he was breaking up with me.

Ben: No, no, no, no, we're really not at that point, we're still in the "Feeling sorry for ourselves, we hate him, let him die, Amen" stage.

Maya: Pours the drink in two glasses. We were having problems...

Ben: Who doesn't have problems?

Maya: And let's face it, I'm not the hottest commodity on the market...

Ben: Excuse me? What's not a hot commodity about you? The fact that you're divorced plus one doesn't mean that...

Maya: It means exactly that...

Ben: Give me a break, he didn't know you were divorced? He didn't know you have a kid? What's the issue?

They toast their glasses and drink

Maya: I think he stopped loving me.

Ben: Is that what he said?

Maya: He said "He was over it".

Ben: Loser.

Maya: That's what you said too.

Ben: How can you compare?

Maya: I can compare because five years later I find myself in the same exact spot, on the same exact couch, on the receiving end of the same "I'm over it" talk from another man...

Ben: Seriously? Don't be an idiot, how can you compare...I couldn't tell you I think I want to go be with men, so I said I was over it...

Maya: Then you're a loser too.

Ben: No, no, I don't get it, then why did he...Wait, from the beginning. What did he say? Don't tell me he also wants to be with men.

Maya: Why, are you into him?

Ben: He's hot, but...come on, really?

Maya: Actually, he mentioned you today.

Ben: What did he say about me?

Maya: He said that actually...He said that since...She drinks He knew that...I told him about our marriage...

Ben: Okay, about me being attracted to men and not telling?

Maya: That too. But I also told him that we were good friends and...

Ben: And...

Maya: So today he said...that...he said "I don't want us to be "Like you and Ben". He said he wants more than that from a relationship...

Ben: What does that mean?

Maya: I don't know what it means, I was stunned, I realized he was dumping me, and...he said that he feels like "We've become friends", that we're always busy with Ari...

Ben: B...

Maya: He meant it in a good way, not as criticism, that we talk about Ari a lot, he is really sweet with Ari...

Ben: Enough with that empathy...

Maya: He said...that we're like roommates who...that all we talk about is Ari, our lives, his job, my job, vacations, what should we do now, what should we do tomorrow...

Ben: That's a relationship, no?

Maya: So he's saying he wants more than that!...So I asked him "What? What? Tell me..." And he couldn't find the words, or he said something, I don't remember everything Ben, it's like a car crash, you can't recall every single detail, but you understand you're crashing, but I realized...I realized what he was trying to say is that he doesn't love me. And I tried so hard to keep us from getting like that, I would pamper him, and on days you had Ari we'd have sex, and I would give that sex my all, and I thought we were happy...and he said..."We're friends, we get along, he has no issue with Ari, no issue with me"... Basically that he doesn't love me...

Ben: Is that what he said? In those words?

Maya: What do the exact words matter?

Ben: They matter because that's the narrative you're going to be repeating to yourself from now on.

Maya: Fuck the narrative, he left me...

Ben: Yes, because that's the narrative you're telling yourself...

Maya: I get it, I get what you're trying to do, you want me to make up a narrative that says "Udi is an idiot and he was out of my league, so it's a good thing we broke up"

Ben: That's n...

Maya:...So I'm sorry that I can't lie to myself: Udi was lovely, he was sweet,  
he was the best and I was happy with him...

Ben: Now you're just exaggerating...

Maya: I am not exaggerating. And I wouldn't talk if I were you.

Ben: I don't get it, how am I suddenly the asshole? ...How did that turn on  
me, why?

Maya: Because I am in a psychotic state right now, so don't try to find logic,  
okay?!

**She refills their glasses**

Ben: Okay, I'm not trying to...Drinks but I don't understand why he was  
comparing himself to...Like, why would he compare himself to me...

Maya: You don't understand?

Ben: No, that's why I asked, are you going to flip out again?

Maya: Are you going to be annoying?

Ben: No, I'm really asking.

Maya: Don't be annoying. He meant that...he said you and I were friends...

Ben: Why does he see that as a bad thing? Because he wants more?

Maya: I'm telling you...How does he know you and I were friends? From my  
stories, yeah?

Ben: Yeah...

Maya: ...but when I...when I talk about how you and I were friends when we  
were married, I don't talk about it like "It was so good, we were such  
friends"...

**A beat**

Ben: You talk about it like we were friends because I was gay?

Maya: Something like that.

Ben: So that's the narrative you're telling yourself?

Maya: Why are you obsessed with the word "narrative"? Are you studying  
gender politics?

Ben: Well, I'll have you know that I hold a completely different  
narrative about our marriage.

Maya: That we were an amazing couple?

Ben: Something like that...

Maya: Cool, that's your narrative, ugh I hate that word.

Ben: We were a good couple Maya...

Maya: Oh, come on...

Ben: We were a good couple- first of all, we were a team, can you deny the fact that we were a team?

Maya: A team?

Ben: I think that's the most important thing in adult romantic relationships, being a team, especially if you have a kid you need to be a team, and we were a team, and I don't care what narrative you want to feed yourself, we were an excellent team, you know what, I want to declare something officially...

Maya: Oh, there's an official declaration?

Ben: Get this, you and I...we were a better fucking team than Danny and I are.

Maya: Quite a declaration...

Ben: And I stand by it. How could you even compare? You and I did the hardest thing possible- we raised a kid, and what a kid, including minor health issues, it wasn't easy but we were really good parents, and I'm not talking about "Warm up a bottle, I'll change his diaper", "Shit, he dropped the pacifier", "I'll wash it" "Don't wash it, take his other onesie out of the dryer", I'm talking about everything, and the fact that Ari is so amazing is also due to the fact that we were a team, it's due to my genes as well, but also because we were a team.

Maya: Okay, we were a team...

Ben: So what's the deal with saying "we were friends" in a negative vibe? What's wrong with the fact that we would laugh together? That we cooked together? That we'd watch movies together? That we re-did the bathroom together? By the way, did the paint crack again?

Maya: No, it's fine now

Ben: Cause I can swing by with some epoxy resin and patch it right up.

Maya: No, it's fine...

Ben: That's really annoying, why would you even say that we were friends as a bad thing? And why would you tell Udi that like it's bad...and what annoys me the most is that that's the narrative you're telling yourself!

A beat

Maya: Give me your glass.

He hands her his glass, and she pours them both more

Maya: This is more fattening than pizza.

Ben: Did you tell him I was bad sex because I was gay?

Maya: I didn't tell him that...

Ben: But that's what he thought, right?

Maya: Is that what's bothering you right now?

Ben: Actually it is, because I was pretty good sex.

Maya: Ummm

Ben: Ummm what? Was I good sex or not?

Maya: Well, technically yeah, when we had sex you were good sex.

Ben: I'm not talking about the quantity...

Maya: But there was an issue with quantity

Ben: Then set aside the quantity, I'm talking about quality, quality, in terms of quality, when we had sex was I good sex?

Maya: Yes, yes...

Ben: Well, I had to make up for the fact that...

Maya: ...that you weren't attracted to me. You made up for it, sure...

Ben: Good, but you had to badmouth me to motherfucking Udi.

Maya:...It's just that...today...I don't have good memories from our sex

Ben: Because?

Maya: Because I know you were thinking about men while we were doing it.

Ben: Everyone thinks about someone else while they're doing it.

Maya: Yeah, but the fact that you were thinking about men while...

Ben: Would you have preferred me thinking about Galit Morris while we were doing it?

Maya: You find her sexy?!

Ben: You don't?!

Maya: Actually, yeah, looking back I would have preferred you thinking  
about Galit Morris.

Ben: What does it matter what I was thinking about.

Maya: For the narrative's sake.

Ben: You like that word, huh?

Maya: It's a catchy little bastard.

**A beat**

Ben: But I gave you good head, didn't I?

Maya: And, this conversation is now over too...

Ben: Do you know that Danny has never been with a girl in his life, like maybe just kissed one, and when he talks to me about our marriage he asks me "Doesn't pussy disgust you?" But I don't find pussy disgusting, quite the opposite, I find it intriguing, or...

Maya: Ben, Ben Ben...Cheers.

Ben: Cheers.

**They drink**

Maya: What's your narrative?

Ben: About us? Very simple- I married a girl I loved and we were really good friends and had an amazing child together and then I realized I need to be with men and we broke up, and I'm still her friend, and now her partner left her so I'm getting drunk with her here instead of watching "Israel Ninja Warrior".

Maya: You like that show too?

Ben: To tell you the truth Maya, it's a little hurtful, why are you talking about us being friends in such a negative...?

Maya: Because friends, as far as I see it Ben, don't cheat on each other.

**A beat**

Ben: Okay...that's a strong word..."Cheat"? ...I cheated on you?

Maya: Didn't you...?

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Translator's note: In Hebrew infidelity and betrayal are expressed in the same word,<sup>7</sup> we have used "cheat" but the term used should express both of these intense elements.

Ben: No...not at all...First of all, I told you the story about my cousin on our  
second date...

Maya: You told that in the context of "I touched my cousin's dick when we  
were kids, isn't that hilarious", not in the context of "I've always been  
attracted to males and now I'm a closeted gay man"...

Ben: Because I didn't know I was a closeted gay man!

Maya: Oh, please, give me a break.

Ben: And even if I did know...what does that have to do with cheating?

Maya: How long did you know you wanted to leave me and be with men?

Ben: Those are two different questions.

Maya: Then answer them separately.

Ben:...Leaving you, mmm, I thought about leaving you...I thought about it  
more...in the last year before we broke up, maybe a little before...

Maya: So for over a year you...?

Ben: That's not called cheating.

Maya: It's also not called being a friend.

Ben: I would have...

Maya: You kept it from me for a year, so shut up. And the second part of  
the question?

Ben: Remind me.

Maya: When did you know you want to be with men?

Ben: Consciously or subconsciously?

Maya: Consciously!

Ben: ...I think... since our wedding...maybe a bit before...

**A beat**

Maya: Mmm okay...So, if you don't mind...the **narrative** I will be telling  
myself is that you cheated on me by not telling me any of that, therefore  
you are "A Cheater".

Ben: Okay, that's your choice. I understand that may be your...I still  
wouldn't use that word, but it's your narrative so use whatever words  
you...Question. You don't have to answer, but why can't the narrative be  
"My husband was miserable, he realized he was attracted to men, he didn't  
know what to do because he loved me, he loved our son, he didn't want to



hurt us, he was afraid of the consequences, and finally he broke up with me,  
and it made us both happier people and better parents”?

Maya: Do I look happy? **Stands up**

Ben: Well okay, but this is not the day to...

Maya: Not just today!

Ben: Where are you going?!

Maya: To the bathroom!

Ben: But we’re talking here!

Maya: I have to change my tampon, our talk can wait.

Ben: So if it was possible to...sorry, I’m going back to the...

Maya: Ben, I need to...

Ben: Wait a second, it’s important, if you could turn back time would you  
rather I never come out of the closet and you’d still be married to someone  
who was lying to you?

Maya: To be honest, Ben? If I could turn back time I wouldn’t have married  
you.

Ben: Wow. A lot of strong words today, a lot of strong words, I won’t judge  
you because of Udi, and...

Maya: I meant it. Bye. **She heads towards the bathroom**

Ben: Just so you know, if you turn back time and never marry me you lose  
Ari.

Maya: What? No way.

Ben: Those are the rules of the time machine baby.

Maya: Not at all...

Ben: I didn’t come up with the format!

**A small quick beat because she is really on edge**

Maya: Okay, you win, I’m not turning back time.

Ben: One more question.

Maya: Ben, for real, I’m bleeding...

Ben: I’m only asking if...

Maya: **In a vampire voice** Blood! This room will overflow with blood, rivers of  
blood...

Ben: Okay go, bye.

**Maya: Bloooooood Goes to the bathroom**

**Ben: He stands at the bathroom door** You said some very harsh words here  
today!

**Maya: v.o.** Take a few meters!

**Ben:** Well after what you just said I should leave, not just leave, I should  
storm out.

**Maya: From the bathroom** Then leave!

**Ben:** I will leave! I just...Lucky for you I'm a little drunk...and I want that  
pizza...I ordered a pizza...

**His phone rings. He answers while going to wash his face in the kitchen sink**

**Ben: Glances at his screen and picks up** What, what? I told you I'll be  
there...okay, let me talk to him...What's wrong sweetie? ...I told you I went to

Mommy's house to get you your goggles because we're going to natural  
pools and you can...because it took us a little while to find the goggles, why

aren't you sleeping? ...But I'm staying with Mommy for a little while  
longer...we're talking honey...No, no sweetie, you're going to bed because

we're getting up very early tomorrow to drive all the way up to the Golan  
Heights...No, no sweetie, no...Okay, so get in bed and I'll tell him...I'll tell

him, good night cutie, I'll see you in the morning, let me talk to Danny  
please...Do me a favor, let him watch some more videos on your phone...I

know, but I can't be bothered right now, no, no, no Danny, turn off the  
Grindr right now and let him watch three monkey videos so he falls asleep

first of all and when I get back we'll talk...Fine! **The sound of water flushing is  
heard...**Because there is a crisis over here!...it's her thing, I can't tell...Udi left

her...well, obviously...

**Maya steps out of the bathroom. She's drunk**

...So you take dill, parsley chopped up real fine, turmeric, ground black  
pepper, stick it in the oven for 20 minutes and you're done... Yeah,

so...Okay, I said okay. Bye. **Hangs up**

**Maya:** You told Danny?

**Ben:** About what? ...No, he's cooking something...

**Maya:** Don't bullshit me, I came up with that dill parsley bit.

**Ben:** No, I came up with it.

Maya: No, actually Nadav started it and we both ripped him off.

Ben: Yes, I told him.

Maya: Loser. Why is Ari still up?

Ben: He's excited about the trip, and about the fact that we're speaking to one another.

Maya: Tell him it's temporary.

Ben: I will.

Maya: Udi just posted a Story.

Ben: Is that what you were doing in the bathroom?

Maya: He posted a Story of himself standing in an elevator...**Ben hands her a glass of water** Do you follow him?

Ben: Hard no.

Maya: So he posted an elevator selfie and captioned it "Going up or going down? question mark"

Ben: Drink you idiot.

Maya: Get it? ...Like "I broke up with her, now I can start going up"

Ben: Drink.

Maya: Or "You have to go down to go up"

Ben: Drink.

Maya: Like philosophy...philosophical...

Ben: Drink, you're drunk. **She drinks**

Ben: What are you even doing getting on Instagram on the toilet?

Maya: Everyone gets on Instagram when they're on the toilet.

Ben: I hope you don't let Ari use the phone on the toilet.

Maya: Don't judge me!

Ben: He doesn't even know how to wash his hands after he poops, and you let him...

Maya: I shouldn't've drunk.

Ben: That's right.

Maya: I don't feel well.

Ben: And you were also talking like an asshole.

Maya: I meant every word.

Ben: That's why you're an asshole. Come on, lie down for a bit. You're on an empty stomach, I'll make you something to eat until the pizza comes.

Maya: I'm on the second day of my period.

Ben: Thank you for sharing, I was just asking myself what day of your period you're on, come on, lie down for a bit

He takes the glass of water from her hand, helps her lie down on the couch, he starts singing "their song" to her- "Still Loving You" by the Scorpions

Maya: Stop... not that song.

Ben: I thought like, ironically.

Maya: I don't find the irony amusing right now.

Ben: Okay...

Maya: And if that song comes on the radio I change the station.

Ben: Lately I started singing it to Ari before bed.

Maya: Then I would appreciate it if you stopped.

Ben: Come on, I don't tell him it's the soundtrack to the first time we had sex, and it helps him fall asleep.

Maya: Then find a different song to put him to sleep with...

Ben: It's just a song...

Maya: Ben, please, I'm really not doing so good right now...

**A beat.**

Ben: Remember that one night when you were on your period and you bled so hard I had to take you to the emergency room?

Maya: Yeah...

Ben: So you remember how you called me over to the shower and said you think it's serious...

Maya: Yes, dim the lights a little bit

He goes to the light switches and dims the light a bit

Ben: It was like a sign for me.

Maya: What sign? Ben, what are you talking about?

Ben: A sign that I need to be with men.

Maya: Oh my god, you're so gay.

Ben: It was one of those nights when once you'd go to sleep I'd come here and watch gay porn...

Maya: Is this the best story for this moment?

Ben: What, menstruation stories gross you out less than gay porn?

Maya: Everything grosses me out right now.

Ben...and then I heard you get out of bed and go to the shower so I paused the video I was watching and waited for you to finish and go back to bed. And I wait for a few minutes, and you're not getting out of the shower, so I thought maybe I could continue watching the video quietly, and just as I start it again, you call me over. And I remember thinking "Does she know?" and then you told me you're bleeding so hard we might have to go to the emergency room and I said to myself "There you go, you just got a sign from God"...

Maya: God said to you "Go be with men and you'll never have to deal with menstrual issues again?"

Ben: Something like that...

Maya: ...And that's when you finally decided to leave me...?

Ben: Sort of...

Maya: And how long after this did you tell me?

Ben: Maybe two years...

Maya: Such a doer, you just make up your mind and go for it right away...

Ben: Come on...

Maya: Eye on the prize, can't be stopped.

Ben: Even so...and even with the fact that Udi left you and you're drunk and in pain, still...what you said today was out of line...

Maya: Leave it, you nag.

Ben: Because I really was your friend...

Maya: You were my friend, yes you were...

Ben: And I never cheated on you even though I really wanted to and even though I had plenty of options.

Maya: Okay my hero, go to the candy cupboard and get a Kinder Egg for yourself as a reward for not cheating on me.

Ben: You have Kinder here?

Maya: Don't judge me!

Ben: I'm really trying to limit him with the candy.

Maya: I limit him too, unless he's being a total nag.

Ben: Well in that case, I'm gonna have to sue to revoke your custody.

Maya: Wow... Sounds like your case is airtight seeing as you live with a man who's addicted to Grindr and an allegedly straight lover named Vanya.

Ben: He really is straight. **He opens the candy cupboard** Whoa, you have so much junk in here, it's insane.

Maya: It's Udi's.

Ben: Nuni, that's it, you don't have Udi to blame for everything anymore.

Maya: **To herself** No more Udi.

**He sits next to her and peels off the Kinder Egg's wrapping**

Ben: Do you want to cry a little bit?

Maya: I've cried enough for today

Ben: No, cry more, anything to keep Danny from going out tonight works for me.

**He hands her a piece of chocolate egg**

Ben: Here, I took all the carbs out.

Maya: I haven't had chocolate since...

**He stuffs the chocolate in her mouth gently. They eat and he begins assembling the toy**

Maya: You really never cheated on me?

Ben: Like actual sex with other people?

Maya: Yes.

Ben: No.

Maya: I cheated on you.

**A beat**

Ben: With Leo?

Maya: Yes.

Ben: I knew it, God, I knew it, you little shit, and a liar, when I asked you if anything was going on between you two you told me that...

Maya: When you asked me it was before anything happened.

Ben: But something did happen afterwards.

Maya: Once.

Ben: Oh, just once, oh good, now it hurts less, such a bitch (**teasingly**).

Maya: And when we met again, like when I went over to tell him “It’s not going to happen” then we made out a little bit and that’s it.

Ben: You are such a loser.

Maya: Whatever...

Ben: Did you make out like kissing and boob stuff or did you make out and somebody climaxed as a result of the makeout session?

Maya: The latter, I believe.

Ben: Pff

Maya: Don’t j...

Ben: I will most definitely judge you!

**He continues assembling the toy**

Ben: What did you do that for?

Maya: I was attracted to him, okay? And this was during a time in which you were really hard to read...

Ben: No, no don’t blame me. I didn’t cheat on you.

Maya: You said...

Ben: In real life Maya, in real life I did nothing...

Maya: You couldn’t care less about me, Ben, I’d walk past you naked and you wouldn’t even flinch.

Ben: ....Do you know the opportunities I had?

Maya: Come on, don’t e...

Ben: Boys and girls

Maya: Girls too, sure.

Ben: Girls too! One time I was having a beer with Buxa at Etzion’s bar and there was this woman there who really wanted to get me in her pants.

Maya: You or Buxa?

Ben: Me! Why am I even dignifying that with a comment? And Shani...

Maya: Shani Gabay?

Ben: In the flesh.

Maya: She flirts with everyone.

Ben: It was more than that with me!

Maya: That’s her thing!

Ben: I could have had sex with her if I wanted to.

Maya: Sure...

A beat. He finishes assembling the toy and improves a bit with it according to what toy comes out. Say he gets a tiny plane, he gives it to her and says "Here, take a vacation, you deserve it". He gets up to get a glass of water.

Ben: Why'd you have to do Leo for?

Maya: I told you...I was attracted to him, he knew what I like, I also fangirled over him a bit, you know how talented he is...

Ben: I saw his work, meh...

Maya: And he was really sweet to me...he flattered me, and my body image back then wasn't...

Ben: What did you tell me that for?

He returns with two glasses of water

Maya: Mm I thought it would make me feel better...you of all people should know that telling the truth is supposed to do you good...

Ben: Like you wanted to "come out of the closet"?

Maya: You know, as long as we're being honest...

Ben: And, do you feel better?

Maya: Actually, I do a little bit...

Ben: I'm glad we've found a new cure for menstrual pain.

Maya:...And for a broken heart.

Ben: Whatever makes you happy Baby...

Maya: Can you do me a favor?

Ben: I'm not doing anything for you now.

Maya: Ben, be a pal and go pee for me.

Ben: Do you think you are deserving of that right now?

Maya: Scum. She tries to get up

Ben: Leo, pff

Maya stands up

Ben: Didn't you just pee?

Maya: No, that was more the...

Ben: Okay, okay...Maya is nearing the bathroom You wanna hear the truth?

Maya: After I pee.

Ben: I don't really care about that thing with Leo that much.



Maya: Why would you care? You have a partner, you have a lover, it's been four years...**She's back on her way to the bathroom**

Ben: I care about the narrative you're telling yourself...

Maya: ...The narrative again?

Ben: That we were good friends and I betrayed you...

Maya: That's my narrative.

Ben: But you're not including Leo in the narrative.

Maya: Enough with the fucking narrative!

Ben: But you told Udi I cheated on you.

Maya: I don't want to hear about Udi right now.

Ben: Did you tell Udi about Leo?

Maya: Bye

**Maya enters the bathroom but keeps the door open so she could continue her conversation with Ben**

Maya: And no, I didn't tell Udi about Leo.

Ben: Of course you didn't, it makes men nervous, he could think "If she cheated on him she could cheat on me too".

Maya: Men!

**The sound of her peeing is heard.**

Ben: I didn't betray you.

Maya: Are you still there?

Ben: I understand why you can't...but I didn't betray you...every day, every day I meant to tell you, I said "Come onnn, tomorrow you tell her and that's it" but one day it was "We had fun, so it would be a shame to spoil it", and another day it was "She's sad, so it can wait", and if it was the second day of your period, forget about it, and when you got pregnant...Then what? Do I ruin the chance of...And then once he was born, and we have a baby and you've given me the most precious thing in the world, so what do I say now? And I'm in love with him, it's not like I'm in a bad place, I'm in love with him, I live for him, and I say to myself "Shut the fuck up, stop it, now you want to be happy too? You have an amazing family, everyone's healthy knock on wood, and who the hell comes out of the closet at age 34?" And I know that if I tell you you'll divorce me and

we'll fight about everything and fight over Ari, and who's to say that any man would ever even love me? So to break up a family for that? And a family like ours...And there was that...there was that Family Day when his kindergarten teacher said "Send a picture of the three of you" and I send her that picture of us with the bicycle on the boardwalk and I know that picture is a lie, that picture is a complete lie, but it's also a picture of the best family in the world, "So come on, bear through it a little, big deal-you're sleeping in bed with a woman and want to sleep with other people, what, straight men don't lie in bed with a woman and want to sleep with other people? Do straight guys not jerk off after their wife falls asleep, what makes you think you're so different from other people?!..."...And then there's this really nice day which was a good day and I had fun with you and with Ari and I say to myself, "You know what, you can totally pull this off, you're really good at this, I think you might actually be straight, just start smoking joints like everyone else and go to sleep", and that works for some time, but the more I manage to push down at night, the more the sound of your voice annoys me during the day, and sometimes I hate you, for no reason, I just hate you, because you spoke, because you breathed, because I once fell in love with you, because I once married you, I just hated you because you're a woman.

**The sound of water flushing is heard. Then the sound of the faucet as she washes her hands, then comes out to the living room and looks at him**

**Maya: And I think you're a liar.**

**Ben: Fuck you, I'm getting out of here.**

**He starts gathering his belongings**

**Maya: Because after your dad died you suddenly found the courage to tell me...**

**Ben: Wow...**

**Maya: You weren't afraid of how I'd react, you were afraid of how he'd react.**

**Ben: That's not the...**

**Maya: It's not that you didn't want to hurt me, you didn't want to hurt him.**

Ben: That is so not...

Maya: Then how do you explain the fact that after he died you suddenly didn't care about...

Ben: It was a sign for me!

Maya: Yeah, a sign you can stop living in fear of your Daddy.

Ben: A sign that I don't want to die like that! **He starts crying** To die without...to die without even giving myself a chance to be happy...

**A beat. She comforts him, patting his back as he cries**

Maya: You did the right thing...You did what you had to do, but at the same time you kind of ruined my life, Ben...

And the fact that now I have to download some fucking app and start meeting all these lagoon creatures who will sit across from me on a date and think "Well, if she lost a few kilos she'd actually look okay" is because of you, it's because you "thought" you were in love with me...

Ben: I really was in love with you...

Maya: No, you were so happy you found a woman who somehow does it for you that you had to go for it...

Ben: I know I really was in love with you...

Maya: Would you have even proposed to me if your father's cancer wasn't diagnosed...?

**A beat**

Ben: Of course.

Maya: Swear on Ari.

Ben: I am not going to swear on Ari.

Maya: Then shut up. I wasn't thrilled with you either, of course I wanted someone who...But those were also the best years of my life, and then...then it was over, and you started your best years of your life, you're thriving, you even look better than you looked ten years ago, and I look like ass, and I feel like ass, and every time I go visit my parents I'm ashamed of what I've become and I hate myself for being so bitter, and I hate myself in general and if it wasn't for Ari I don't know what I'd do...and...Oh god, I think this visit was far too long for picking up swimming goggles.

**She drops to the couch. He collects Ari's bag. A beat**

Ben: Okay...What can I say? Good talk?

Maya: Not that good...

Ben: Yeah...

His phone rings

Maya: Ben, outside please...She points to the door

Ben: What, Danny, what? I'm coming!...Shit...To Maya Ari has a nosebleed.

Maya: Springs up I thought we were done with those...

Ben: Rinse it with water, I'm on my way...

Maya: No rinsing! Give me that

Maya grabs the phone from Ben's hand

Danny, is it a thin stream or a heavy flow? ...and it's coming slowly? ...Okay, here's what you do, gently hold his nose shut with your thumb and forefinger, but gently, don't asphyxiate him, and have him sit leaning forward a little bit...To Ben The Synthomycin (an ointment)...

Ben: It's in the...

Maya: Behind the cough syrup.

He runs towards the bathroom

To the phone Send me a video of the bleeding and make sure he doesn't lie down, we're coming...

She hangs up, tosses the phone and rushes to the bedroom to dress

Ben: From the bathroom I can't f...

Maya:...In the middle door!

Ben comes out of the bathroom with the ointment

Ben: I'll grab him another pair of py...

Maya: Loudly from the room ...In the dryer!

He runs to the dryer

Maya: From the room Cab.

Ben: What?

Maya: From the room Call a cab!

He returns to the living room with the pyjamas

Ben: Where did you put the...?

Maya: From the room On the table

He finds his phone, opens the taxi app when he receives a text. Maya comes from the room and grabs her bag

Maya: Did you get one?

**Ben receives another text from Danny, he plays the voice message**

Danny v.o: Go on, tell them.

Ari v.o: Is Mommy there too?

Danny v.o: Yeah, tell them, they can hear you.

Ari v.o: There's no more blood and I wasn't even scared and I didn't cry and now I'm going to bed because we have a trip tomorrow to Golan Heights and also we can go swimming in the natural pools.

Danny v.o: And tell them about the videos.

Ari v.o: And Danny let me watch animal movies on the phone.

Danny v.o: No, say I **didn't** let you.

Ari v.o: And Daddy come home already so we go to sleep and then we'll go to the trip tomorrow and Mom I also want you to come too.

Danny v.o: And goodnight...

Ari v.o: Good night.

Danny v.o: That's it Babe, he's in bed, I panicked for a second there but it was over in no time, I won't be...I'm not going out tonight, so you can come back whenever you like.

**The voice message ends. Maya puts down her bag and sits down**

Ben: You want to?

Maya: What?

Ben: Didn't you hear? Ari invited you to come on the trip with us.

Maya: No, come on, it's your trip...

Ben: It's a family trip...

Maya: No, I can't, I have a packed schedule of crying and feeling sorry for myself.

Ben: You can do that there...

Maya: At the Banias?

Ben: The Hexagon Pool. And the Yehudia.

Maya: I don't know if I'm up for sleeping in a tent...

Ben: Honey, we're sleeping in an 800 Shekel a night B&B...

Maya: Ari said you packed a tent...

Ben: Which will be erected in the B&B's backyard...

Maya: I don't know, I don't want to get in your way...

Ben: If this was a vacation with Vanya I wouldn't have offered, but with Danny... Give him his joint, give him Channel 2, and he won't even give the Sea of Galilee as much as a glance.

Maya: I...

Ben: I'll pick you up tomorrow morning?

Maya: Okay... I'm gonna knock myself out with two Advils, it's the...

Ben: The second day, I know. I'll get them for you, knock yourself right out sweetie.

She lies down on the living room couch, covers herself with the blanket, he gets her two pills and a glass of water

Maya: ...Udi wasn't that great...

Ben: From the start I thought he was a loser...

Maya: But I'm still going to cry for a few days...

Ben: Not just a few days, take a month, no rush...

She takes the pills, he takes the glass from her, they are suddenly very close

Maya: So...

Ben: So...

Maya: So...

Ben: So...

Maya: We're not about to kiss.

Ben: I was looking forward to it, but oh, well... Good night beautiful...

He stands up

Maya: Ben, play me a song.

Ben looks at her, smiles, goes to the stereo system and plays an acoustic version of "Still Loving You"

Ben: See you in the morning.

Maya: Ben... Thank you.

Ben looks at her, blows her a kiss, turns out the light and exits the apartment.

End

**Important note: At some point in the play the pizza will arrive (you must order a real pizza from a real pizzeria) the actors must improvise their inclusion of this pizza in theme with the part of the play they are in, and of course, share with the audience.**