

ACT I

1

Opening Scene

MOVIE NOISE

When he got home, she was waiting. Boy, you never heard nothing like that. What's the matter, honey? You lost?

BLANCHE

Nothing to be done

MOVIE NOISE

This is Elysian Fields. What number you looking for?

BLANCHE

Good evening

MOVIE NOISE

You don't need to look no further

BLANCHE

Mine is a faint voice kindly tune accordingly it will not be raised not lowered whatever happens

MOVIE NOISE

Yeah, that's the party, all right. You just did miss her, though.

BLANCHE

This was the dwelling to which I had been offered a key

MOVIE NOISE

She got the downstairs. I got the up.

Stella enters.

STELLA

This play is called Our Town

BLANCHE

Another heavenly day

STELLA

By Thornton Wilder

BLANCHE

Oh this is going to be another happy day ensign crimson pale flag I am the one I say the one and then the other

STELLA

Well I'd better show you how our town lies

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE

The glass had disappeared from the window the roof had fallen in at several places the interior was divided by the remains of a partition into two unequal parts

STELLA

The name of the town is Grover's Corners

BLANCHE

Simply gaze before me with compressed lips

STELLA

Nice town y'know what I mean

BLANCHE

It's not me it can't be me but am I in pain whether it's me or not frankly now is there pain

STELLA

Nobody very remarkable ever come out of it s'far as we know

BLANCHE

And I can desire them

STELLA

Right here... 's a big butternut tree

BLANCHE

Who says I desire them the voice and that I can't desire anything that looks like a contradiction it may be for all I know me here if they could open those little words open and swallow me up

STELLA

But town people sleep late

BLANCHE

When it was gone I would have to get more if I wanted to go on

STELLA

Here comes Howie Newsome

BLANCHE

Look again I was always as I am crouched in the dark scratching an old jangle to the four winds oh day if you like no sun of course otherwise you wouldn't have asked do you follow

Deliverin' the milk

BLANCHE

To say I am not disappointed no, I am I had anticipated something better more restful less confused less confusing at the same time I prefer this to the other thing definitely there are endurable moments on the other hand things may disimprove there is that danger

STELLA

Anything in the papers I ought to know

BLANCHE

Hm

STELLA

what's the matter with you today

BLANCHE

I can do nothing for anybody any more thank God so it must be something I have to say how the mind works still but I have said all I can all you let me all I if only I could think there is no sense in this either I can't

STELLA

How's your knee, Joe?

BLANCHE

Do you ever see my eyes

STELLA

You made a fine speech in class

BLANCHE

Did you never have the curiosity while I was sleeping to take off my glasses and look at my eyes

STELLA

Everything alright Frank

BLANCHE

Yes yes light there is no other word for it Shall I describe it to you

STELLA

You know how he is

BLANCHE

Shall I try to give you an idea of this light when I set out I don't know and when I get here I don't know and while I am here I don't know whether it's day or not

STELLA

Mama George's throwing soap at me

BLANCHE

I too would be happy to meet them the more people I meet the happier I become from the meanest creature one departs wiser richer more conscious of one's blessings even you...even you who knows will have added to my store but that would surprise me

STELLA

Oh, George. I'd forgotten that

BLANCHE

It's for the kidneys what do we do now with all that follows

STELLA

No he said it might make him discontented with Grover's Corners

BLANCHE

Sometimes I feel it coming all the same how shall I say relieved and at the same time appalled appalled nothing to be done well

STELLA

Is he

BLANCHE

Let us not waste our time in idle discourse let us do something while we have the chance it is not every day that we are needed not indeed that we personally are needed others would meet the case equally well if not better to all mankind they were addressed

STELLA

Remember what it was like to have been very young

BLANCHE

But at this place at this moment of time all mankind is us whether we like it or not

STELLA

Ma I hate that dress everyday I go to school dressed like a sick turkey

BLANCHE

But does that mean their sufferings equal mine

STELLA

Wha-a-what do you mean

BLANCHE

No alone

STELLA

Somebody sick

BLANCHE

Extinguished

STELLA

You mean the house and everything

BLANCHE

I haven't made you suffer too much

STELLA

George

BLANCHE

One day you'll be blind like me you'll be sitting there
a speck in the void

STELLA

Not serious

BLANCHE

Suddenly no at last long last I couldn't any more I the
top very flat of a mountain no a hill but so wild

STELLA

Yes I was if I do say it

BLANCHE

How are your eyes how are you your legs

STELLA

Mama were you pretty

STANLEY

Mitch, we gonna play at your house tomorrow?

MITCH

Feminism is a movement to end sexism sexist
exploitation and oppression

STANLEY

All right, you bring the beer.

BLANCHE

I walk here now rather I come and stand

STANLEY

Oh, you're Stella's sister.

BLANCHE

I was always as I am

STANLEY

Oh, hiya. Yeah, where's the little woman?

BLANCHE

At nightfall she fancies

STANLEY

Oh. Well, where you from, Blanche?

BLANCHE

Now I feel a little too far to the right

STANLEY

In Auriol. Auriol, huh? Oh, yeah, that's right.
Auriol. That's not my territory. Man, liquor goes fast
in the hot weather. You want a shot?

BLANCHE

We should hang ourselves immediately

STANLEY

Well, there's some people that rarely touch it, but it
touches them often. Mind if i make myself comfortable?
my shirt is sticking...

BLANCHE

We do what we can

STANLEY

"Be comfortable." that's my motto, where I come from.

BLANCHE

That means nothing I too pretended not to recognize
them and then nobody ever recognizes us

STANLEY

You gotta be careful. you sitting around in a damp
thing, you catch a cold. Especially when you been
exercising hard, like bowling is. Well, you're the
teacher, aren't you?

BLANCHE

Yes Sir

STANLEY

What do you teach?

BLANCHE
Again

STANLEY
Well, I never was a very good english student. How long
you here for?

BLANCHE
I know nothing

STANLEY
You gonna shack up here?

BLANCHE
I thought as much when we longed to have it to
ourselves there was always someone

STANLEY
Well, take it easy.

Cat screech.

BLANCHE
Have you looked

STANLEY
One of those cats. Hey, stella! what are you doing?
Fall asleep in there? huh? Well, I guess I'll strike
you as being the unrefined type, eh? You know, Stella's
spoke a good deal about you. She said you were married
once, weren't you?

BLANCHE
Oh I am willing to believe they suffer as much as such
creatures can suffer no doubt

2

Belle Reve

*It is six o'clock the following evening. Blanche
is bathing. Stella is completing her toilette.*

*Blanche's dress, a flowered print, is laid out on
Stella's bed. Stanley enters the kitchen from
outside, leaving the door open on the perpetual
"blue piano" around the corner.*

STELLA
Your father's been out all night and needs his sleep I
washed and ironed the blue gingham for you special

STANLEY
How about my supper? I'm not going to Galatoire's
tonight.

(CONTINUED)

STELLA

Bacon'll be ready in a minute set down and drink your coffee you can catch a couple hours' sleep this morning can't you

STANLEY

Isn't that just dandy?

STELLA

I think it would do you good

STANLEY

Hey, where is she now?

STELLA

Mrs. Wentworth's coming at eleven guess I know what it's about too Her stummick ain't what it ought to be

STANLEY

Over what?

STELLA

But the war broke out and he died in France all that education for nothing

STANLEY

What, the place in the country? Well, how?

STELLA

Well George while I was in my office today I heard a funny sound...and what do you think it was it was your mother chopping wood there you see your mother--getting up early cooking meals all day long washing and ironing-- and she still has to go out in the back yard and chop wood

STANLEY

All right.

STELLA

I suppose she just got tired of asking you

STANLEY

All right.

STELLA

She gave up and decided it was easier to do it herself well I knew all I had to do was call your attention to it

STANLEY

Okay, honey, I get the idea, but... Now, let's just skip back a little, the way you said the place was disposed of.

STELLA

Yessir

STANLEY

Well, how about a few more details on that subject?
Now, let's cop a gander at the bill of sale.

STELLA

I suppose that's it

STANLEY

What do you mean? She didn't show you papers, deed of sale, nothing like that?

STELLA

Seems like it's too much to ask

STANLEY

Well, now, what was it, then? Giveaway to charity?

STELLA

Now don't get upset

STANLEY

I don't care if she hears me. Now, let's see the papers.

STELLA

Sh you mustn't think of such things you're just nervous
Emily now now you're marrying the best young fellow

STANLEY

Wait. Now, listen, did you ever hear of the Napoleonic Code, Stella?

STELLA

I don't see why you have to decide right now

STANLEY

All right. Okay, then. Let me enlighten you on a point or two.

STELLA

Sure

STANLEY

We got here in the state of Louisiana what's known as the Napoleonic Code. According to which, what belongs to the wife belongs to the husband also...and vice versa. Will you listen.

STELLA

I wish I were dead

STANLEY

It looks to me like you been swindled. And when you get swindled...under Napoleonic Code, I get swindled too. I don't like to get swindled.

STELLA

Well I might as well say it right out George I don't like the whole change that's come over you in the last year I'm sorry if that hurts your feelings

STANLEY

Oh, come on, now. Where's the money if the place was sold?

STELLA

Wait just a minute

STANLEY

Come here.

STELLA

I'm ashamed of you

STANLEY

Will you open your eyes to this stuff? What, she got this out of teacher's pay?

STELLA

Gracious

STANLEY

Listen, I'm gonna bet you there's a thousand dollars invested in this stuff. Well, now, what is that?

STELLA

Now Ma you save Thursday nights Emily and I are coming over to dinner every Thursday night you'll see

STANLEY

Go ahead.

STELLA

Come on we've got to get ready for this

STANLEY

Now, since when are you giving me orders?

STELLA

You don't believe in superstition do you

STANLEY

You bet your life I'm gonna stay here.

Stella goes outside.

BLANCHE

Thirty-nine today sound as a bell apart apart from my old weakness and intellectually I have now every reason

STANLEY

Oh, that's good.

BLANCHE

I mean unconditionally

STANLEY

She's out there on the porch.

BLANCHE

Have you not heard it enough

STANLEY

You look okay.

BLANCHE

A dog came into the kitchen

STANLEY

Me and Stella was helping you unpack.

BLANCHE

I was saying that things have changed here since yesterday

STANLEY

Well, certainly looks like you raided some stylish shops in Paris, Blanche.

BLANCHE

That's the way I am either I forget immediately or I never forget

STANLEY

Your looks are okay.

BLANCHE

Can you not be a little accurate Nagg

STANLEY

I don't go for that stuff. Compliments to women about looks. I never met a dame didn't know she was good-looking or not without being told. I know some of them give themselves credit for more than they got. I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY (cont'd)

once went out with a dame who told me, "I'm the glamorous type." She says, "I am the glamorous type." I says, "So what?"

BLANCHE

Did I hear you say grey

STANLEY

She didn't say nothing. That shut her up like a clam.

BLANCHE

Imagine if a rational being came to Earth wouldn't he be liable to get ideas into his head if he observed us long enough ah good now

STANLEY

How about cutting out the rebop!

STELLA

Now Frank don't be grouchy come out and smell my heliotrope in the moonlight

BLANCHE

Then what a relief.

STELLA

Use your own window

STANLEY

Your sister and I are having a talk.

BLANCHE

That is what I find so comforting when I lose heart and envy the brute beast what is it you have there Willie may I see

STELLA

Yes Ma

BLANCHE

But you were there yourself in Macon county but we were there together I could swear to it picking grapes for a man called can't think of the name of the man at a place called can't think of the name of the place do you not remember

STANLEY

In the state of Louisiana we got here what's known as the Napoleonic code. Which says, what belongs to the wife belongs to the husband and vice versa.

BLANCHE

Want to watch that Willie before it gets a hold on you

BECKETT INSERT

BLANCHE

Still speak

STANLEY

Don't play so dumb. you know what.

BLANCHE

Do not flatter yourselves for one moment because I hold aloof that my sufferings have ceased

STANLEY

Where are the papers, in your trunk?

BLANCHE

Another thing I call that another thing the old thing I keep on not saying till I'm sick and tired

STANLEY

What's Ambler and Ambler?

BLANCHE

That was a true donkey

STANLEY

It was lost on a mortgage.

BLANCHE

All the bedding had disappeared

STANLEY

I don't want if, ands or buts. What's the rest of the papers?

BLANCHE

Or it's a room with furniture all that's required to make life comfortable dark because to ramble or receive company you may even believe yourself dead I don't know I don't imagine

STANLEY

Under the napoleonic code a man has got to take an interest in his wife's affairs. And I mean especially now that she's gonna have a baby.

BLANCHE

What am I waiting for then to say it to believe it and what does that mean the rest

(CONTINUED)

Stella enters.

Mother Calvert she knew what she liked perhaps even
what she would have liked and beauty strength
intelligence the latest daily action poetry all one
price

STELLA

I'm sorry if it hurts your feelings

BLANCHE

is that enough is that enough too make sense

STELLA

Pick up your feet

3

Poker scene

MOVIE NOISE

Are you going upstairs and tell her to cut that out?

If i go up, I won't come down. Let's just forget it.

Remember that night she poured boiling water through
them cracks in the floor?

MITCH

Feminists are made not born

MOVIE NOISE

Come on, what do you say?

MITCH

Let's start there

MOVIE NOISE

Every time you win a big pot, you're out like stout.

MITCH

Like all political positions one becomes a believer in
feminist politics through choice and action

MOVIE NOISE

What do you say?

MITCH

Let the movement begin

BLANCHE

I have said put on your hat now, Winnie

STELLA

Now Rebecca you always look very nice

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE

Not for the likes of us

STELLA

I declare. How do you boys feel about that?

STANLEY

Where you been?

BLANCHE

What's that you said I have no opinion

STANLEY

nobody's getting up here, so don't get worried.

STELLA

Don't you hear your mother calling you?

STANLEY

till we get ready to quit.

STELLA

I do wish I could get you to go away someplace and take a rest.

Stanley spansks her.

I'll come up and slap the both of you.

She exits to the other room, speaks to Blanche.

Now that's enough of that I never heard of such foolishness

BLANCHE

Is everybody ready

Knocks on the bathroom door, Mitch comes out.

In my lifetime

MITCH

She escapes.

STELLA

This is our doctor's house Doc Gibbs there's Mrs. Webb coming downstairs to get her breakfast too

BLANCHE

I had asked nothing

MITCH

Patriarchy promotes insanity

STELLA

What's it telling you today

MITCH

Both men and women participate in this torture value system. We must all change.

BLANCHE

If I said there's a way out there

STELLA

Twins eh

BLANCHE

She had long red hair hanging in two braids

STELLA

All he thinks about is baseball

BLANCHE

Is it Godot

STELLA

No sir

BLANCHE

Do you hear him

STELLA

I won't have you gobbling like wolves it'll stunt your growth that's a fact put away your book Wally

BLANCHE

Bone chicken

STELLA

You'll be late for school

BLANCHE

All I know is that the hours are long under these conditions

STELLA

Can you remember there

BLANCHE

At last

They laugh loudly and raucously.

STANLEY

hey, you hens! cut out that cackling in there.

(CONTINUED)

STELLA

Oh, hush-up-with-you.

STANLEY

well, you can hear me, and i told you to hush up.

BLANCHE

No no

STELLA

I declare, you got to speak to George. Seems like somethings come over him.

BLANCHE

Let's just do the tree for balance

STELLA

Well I hoped you'd like it hunted all over

Blanche turns on the radio.

STANLEY

What do you say, Mitch? C'mon, Mitch, are you in?

MITCH

Yes women can

STANLEY

who turned that on in there?

BLANCHE

Do you think God sees me

STANLEY

Well, turn it off!

MITCH

Implicit gender bias remains the norm throughout our society.

BLANCHE

That time

MOVIE NOISE

there you are.

i didn't hear you name it!

didn't i name it?

MITCH

Patriarchy supports and affirms that bias.

Mitch knocks on the wall

STANLEY

This game is going to be spit in the ocean.

BLANCHE

You think it's enough

MITCH

Why only one song,

STANLEY

Hey, mitch!

MITCH

At a time. Always the same...?

BLANCHE

Perhaps I put them back after use but normally I do not put things back after use no I leave them lying about and put them all back together at the end of the day

MITCH

The woman's movement must realize that work is not liberation?

BLANCHE

No doubt I've made the same mistake as when it was the sun that shone, of looking for sense where possibly there is none.

MITCH

No.

BLANCHE

You asked me to com I have come to listen is it true that music goes on all the time

MITCH

Because she can

BLANCHE

That some day somehow I may tell the truth at last and then no more light at last for the truth is that it

MITCH

Remain silent.

BLANCHE

But whom can I have offended so grievously to be punished in this inexplicable way all is inexplicable space and time

(CONTINUED)

MITCH

Most males conform to patriarchy in one way or another

BLANCHE

All I say will be false and to begin with not said by me

MITCH

Radical feminist critique of patriarchy has been silenced

BLANCHE

Here I'm a mere ventriloquist's dummy I feel nothing

MITCH

By highlighting psychological patriarchy we see that everyone is implicated.

BLANCHE

I feel nothing say nothing no need of lips

STANLEY

Hey, Mitch!

MITCH

Asking!

BLANCHE

How troubled you look well I leave you to your needs

MITCH

Basic to the structure of late capitalism

BLANCHE

Always winter then endless winter year after year

MITCH

Is a new global division of labor.

Stella Enters

BLANCHE

Then why do you stop

MITCH

Feminism is for everybody.

BLANCHE

We shall hang up all our things in the hot cupboard and get into our dressing gowns put your arm round me

MOVIE NOISE

Three bullets, mustache. Straight! I gotcha!

STELLA

I always expect a man to be perfect and I think he should be well my father is and your father is.

BECKETT INSERT

BLANCHE

Apart from that how do you feel

MITCH

Women are afraid that men will kill them.

STANLEY

Stella. Honey? Hey, Stella? Honey, where are you? Stella? Hey, baby...Hey, Stella! Stella! I want my girl down here! Hey, Stella! Don't ever leave me, baby.

MITCH

Gender was never binary.

BLANCHE

It all.

MITCH

Try to be attentive to yourself.

BLANCHE

Only the words break the silence all other sounds have ceased if I were silent I'd hear nothing

MITCH

Patriarchal violence in the home is based on the belief that it is acceptable for a more powerful individual to control others

BLANCHE

How outwardly unmoved...

MITCH

More women are beaten and murdered in the home than on the outside.

BLANCHE

I do not put things back after use no

MITCH

Patriarchy demands of men that they become and remain emotional cripples.

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE

I did not know where I was supposed to be going I had
the great good fortune more than once not to be run
over

4

Morning After scene

BLANCHE

Mr Tyler what is it to be at home a lingering
dissolution

STELLA

George is the moon shining on half the whole world

BLANCHE

What for?

STELLA

George look sharp

BLANCHE

For which is there

STELLA

Hm Simon Stimson far gone was he

BLANCHE

I feel very cold and faint the wind is whistling
through my summer frock as if I had nothing on

STELLA

It's bright as day I can see Mr Soames scowling at the
window now you'd think we'd been to a dance

BLANCHE

Not the first time by any chance

STELLA

I guess I know more about Simon Stimson's affairs than
anybody in this town some people ain't made for small
town life I don't know how that'll end but there's
nothing we can do but just leave it alone

BLANCHE

Did I hear a cry

STELLA

If the moon were getting nearer it'd be in all the
newspapers

BLANCHE

Did you not spring up and poke your head out of the
window

(CONTINUED)

STELLA

River's been rising all night

BLANCHE

But you must know you were on it was it at the terminus

STELLA

What do you mean Pa I want to be a farmer on Uncle
Luke's farm

BLANCHE

Or you forwards and I backwards

STELLA

How much did you want today

BLANCHE

Watch out for the right moment then not another word

STELLA

Do you think you can take care of her

BLANCHE

When he stopped coming I was prepared

STELLA

No no

BLANCHE

Ah the creatures the creatures everything has to be
explained

STELLA

Mr Webb what sense could there be in a superstition
like that

BLANCHE

I pity them in any case yes compare my lot with theirs

STELLA

Oh yes don't you misunderstand my boy

BLANCHE

There are so many terrible things

STELLA

I thought you two'd be talking about things worth while

BLANCHE

Of all these movements and they are legion sloth is the
most urgent and indeed by no movement is the soul more
urged than by this by this by this to and from by no
movement the soul more urged than by this to and from

(CONTINUED)

Stanley enters whistling.

STANLEY

Hey, Stell? Hey, Stell. Hiya.

STELLA

Why

STANLEY

Hey, is Blanche back yet?

STELLA

Emilee

STANLEY

Oh, hi there, Blanche.

5

Stella and Blanche scream

STANLEY

Hey, Stella, I can't find my other pair of shoes.

STELLA

Bessie's all mixed up about the route

STANLEY

I can't find nothing around this dump anymore.
Say...do you happen to know somebody named Shaw?

BLANCHE

I once knew a madman who thought the end of the world
had come

STANLEY

This somebody named Shaw is under the impression that
he met you in Auriol. I figure he must have got you
mixed up with some other party...because this other
party is somebody...that he met at a hotel called the
Flamingo.

BLANCHE

I used to go and see him in the asylum I'd take him by
the hand and drag him to the window he'd snatch away
his hand and go back into his corner

STANLEY

I figure that he must have got you mixed up...but he
goes in and out of Auriol all the time...so he can
check and clear up any mistake.

(To Stella)

I'll see you at the Four Deuces.

(CONTINUED)

STELLA

Is he sassy to you

STANLEY

No, not in front of your sister.

Thunder noises.

BLANCHE

Flora

STELLA

Can you give me a hint

BLANCHE

Is he gazing at me

STELLA

Oh

BLANCHE

As if he were asking me to take him for a walk

STELLA

The third

BLANCHE

Or as if he were begging me for a bone

STELLA

This is a good wedding

BLANCHE

I can't the mind won't have it

STELLA

What dress shall I wear

BLANCHE

Penitence yes at a pinch atonement one was resigned but
no that does not seem to be the point either

STELLA

Oh I'm sorry I mentioned it

BLANCHE

The mode in which the mind is most affected and indeed
in no mode is the mind more affected what is the object
of this invasion

STELLA

Only it seems to me that once in your life before you
die

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE

Why go down why not

STELLA

You ought to see a country

BLANCHE

Hard to say it's winter you know

STELLA

Where they don't talk in English

BLANCHE

So it is not a dream at last nor a vision they are mute
and I am mute before them

STELLA

Golly I never got a kiss from such a great lady before

BLANCHE

Can there be misery loftier than mine no doubt formerly

STELLA

Mama are these big enough

BLANCHE

I can't be punished any more

STELLA

Will you answer me a question

BLANCHE

If I were silent I'd hear nothing

Blanche screams.

STELLA

Goodness

BLANCHE

One sees little in this light

STELLA

I'm going to make speeches all my life

BLANCHE

She seems much the same oh

STELLA

What do you say

BLANCHE

May we not speak of the old days of what came after

STELLA

Can you give me a hint

BLANCHE

Impending for some time the following need for company
not continuous moments when his own unrelieved a relief
intrusion of voice

STELLA

Got all over your shock Emily

BLANCHE

Might not the hearer be improved made more
companionable if not downright human mentally perhaps
there is room

STELLA

What do you want to do

BLANCHE

But if I were silent the other sounds would start again
those to which the words have made me deaf

STELLA

Thank you Mr. Morgan

BLANCHE

What who

STELLA

For a while now the play gets pretty serious

Stella exits.

Doorbell rings.

6

Mitch date Scene

MITCH

It is also a question of rethinking love and of
refounding the family

BLANCHE

I've made you suffer too much

MITCH

Our bodies are no longer your capital

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE

Grain upon grain one by one and one day suddenly
there's a heap a little heap the impossible heap nice
dimensions nice proportions

MITCH

They are afraid of women

BLANCHE

Have you observed nothing

MITCH

No man who oppresses a woman can be free

BLANCHE

Have you not had enough

MITCH

If we continue to speak the same language to each other
we will reproduce the same story begin the same stories
all over again

Blanche laughs

Don't you feel it

BLANCHE

In the morning they brace you up and in the evening
they calm you down. Unless it's the other way round.

Mitch does a very goofball laugh.

Bring me under the window I want to feel the light give
me my pain killer

MITCH

But history does not cease to unfold,

BLANCHE

You used to hold the chair too high

MITCH

So that remaining faithful to a tradition means
conserving it spirit,

BLANCHE

If I could have blushed I would have but there was not
enough blood left in my extremities

MITCH

While nonetheless making it relevant to the
circumstances of a different era

BLANCHE

One knows what to expect

MITCH

Women who love themselves

BLANCHE

Holy light

He tries to kiss her.

Willie say it is a long time now since I saw you

MITCH

Woman's degradation is in mans idea of his sexual rights.

BLANCHE

I confess my first feeling was one of wonderment all grey with frozen dew And that all is falling all fallen from the beginning on empty air nothing being asked at all no one asking for anything at all

MITCH

If any female feels she need anything beyond herself to legitimate and validate her existence,

BLANCHE

All life long the same questions, the same answers

MITCH

The truth

BLANCHE

Well

MITCH

Will set you free but it will also piss you off

BLANCHE

Am I as much as being seen

MITCH

She is already giving away her power to be self-defining, her agency.

BLANCHE

Will you never have done will you never have done revolving it all it it all in your poor mind it all it all

MITCH

One is not born

BLANCHE

Finished it's finished nearly finished it must be
nearly finished

MITCH

Yes

BLANCHE

In the street I was lost I had not set foot in greatly
changed whole buildings palings had changed position I
saw in great letters the names of tradesmen I had never
seen

MITCH

Women are from Earth

BLANCHE

When you go out and I go out someday you will tire of
me

MITCH

Men...?

BLANCHE

Now I was making my way through the garden there was
that strange light which follows a day of persistent
rain when the sun comes out and the sky clears too late
to be of any use the earth makes a sound as of sighs
and the last drops fall from the emptied cloudless sky
a small boy stretching out his hands and looking up at
the blue sky asked his mother

MITCH

I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her
shackles are different from my own.

They kiss.

BLANCHE

Since that's the way we're playing it

7

Birthday scene

BLANCHE

(Singing)

That time in the end when you

And couldn't by the window

In the dark and the owl flown

To hoot at someone else

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE (cont'd)

Back with a shrew to its hollow tree

And not another sound...

STANLEY

Some canary bird.

STELLA

This here is the new part of the cemetery here's Mr
Stimson yes an awful lot of sorrow

STANLEY

You know your sister Blanche is no lily, don't you?

STELLA

What did she die of, Julia

STANLEY

You should know the line that she's been feeding to
Mitch. Our supply man at the plant's been going through
Auriol for years. He knows all about her.

BLANCHE

(Singing)

Hour after hour hour after hour

STANLEY

So she moved to a hotel called the Flamingo.....which
is a second-class hotel. Now, the Flamingo is used to
all kinds of goings on. But the management of the
Flamingo was impressed by Dame Blanche. In fact, they
were so impressed that they requested her...to turn in
her room key for permanently. And this happened a
couple of weeks before she showed here.

STELLA

All I can say is Emily don't

STANLEY

Baby, listen. I checked on every story. The trouble was
she couldn't put on her act anymore in Auriol...because
they wised up. Which brings us to lie number two...She
didn't resign temporarily because of her nerves. She
was kicked out...before the spring term ended. A
17-year-old kid she got mixed up with. The boy's dad
learned about it...and he got in touch with the high
school superintendent. And it was practically a town
ordinance passed against her.

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE

Alone

STELLA

Painful

BLANCHE

What have you done with your bicycle there are no more
bicycle wheels

STELLA

The whole day

BLANCHE

What is it, my pet

STELLA

Fine I guess

BLANCHE

Now it's sand he fetches from the shore

STELLA

I guess I told him a few things

BLANCHE

Is it that I do not tell the truth is that it

STANLEY

How soon is that gonna be, Blanche?

BLANCHE

Try giving her a shake see keep your hands off the
table

STANLEY

It's not my soul I'm worried about. Well? How many
candles you sticking in the cake?

STELLA

I told'm a few things

STANLEY

You got company expected?

STELLA

Your father has a surprise

STANLEY

Well, don't expect Mitch over here tonight.

STELLA

I didn't realize so all that was going on and we never noticed

STANLEY

You bet I told him. I would have that on my conscience...if I knew all that and let my best friend get caught.

STELLA

Every every minute

STANLEY

I don't know...but he's wised up.

STELLA

Well I hoped you'd like it

STANLEY

He's not gonna marry her now. He's not gonna jump into a tank with a school of sharks.

STELLA

Do human beings ever realize life

STANLEY

Oh, her future is mapped out for her.

STELLA

While they live it

STANLEY

Hey, toots! Canary bird, will you get out of the bathroom!

BLANCHE

Hold on till I find the verb and to hell with all this drivel in the middle were I but could I but

STELLA

Saints and poets

BLANCHE

As you like with your files if you don't mind do you want me to take you on my knees may i sit beside you no then opposite How does it run now Dated when

STELLA

They do some

BLANCHE

Pass me a sheet switch off

(CONTINUED)

TIME PASSES.

But I see what it is you are not from these parts you
don't know what our twilights can do look at the sky
pig

STANLEY

I didn't think you liked my stories, Blanche.

BLANCHE

I have such need of encouragement I weakened a little
towards the end

STANLEY

I don't know any refined enough for your taste.

BLANCHE

Oh very good very very good

STELLA

But just for a moment now we're all together just for a
moment we're happy

BLANCHE

I was once all right when my niece got her divorce that
was when was it now thirty years ago yeas thirty years
I was greatly put about

Phone rings.

I beg your pardon. When you think my niece had a little
girl as good as....

STELLA

Birthday girl

BLANCHE

Just been listening to that stupid bastard I took
myself for

STELLA

To spend and waste time as though you had a
million years to be always at the mercy of one
self-centered passion or another now you know that's
the happy existence you wanted to go back to

BECKETT INSERT.

BLANCHE

You don't know if you're unhappy or not where do you
sleep

STELLA

I should have listened to them

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE

The tears of the world are a constant quantity

STELLA

George

BLANCHE

Stories stories years and years of stories till the
need came on for me

STELLA

George

BLANCHE

No harm trying

STELLA

Don't do it

BLANCHE

Have you not done tormenting me

STELLA

Emily, it isn't wise

BLANCHE

Why will you never let me sleep

STELLA

Yes, now you know now you know that's what it was to
be alive to move about in a cloud of ignorance to go
up and down trampling on the feelings of those of those
about you

BLANCHE

Then why doesn't he Then why don't we what are we
waiting for

STANLEY

Honey.

BLANCHE

1903 1903 and you 1906 was it 1906 yes at Chatham

STANLEY

Honey, it's gonna be all right after she goes and after
you have the baby. It's gonna be all right again
between you and me, the way it was. Remember how it
was? It's gonna be so sweet when we can get them
colored lights going... with nobody's sister behind the
curtains to hear us.

(CONTINUED)

STELLA

Mother Gibbs it's George it's George

BLANCHE

Eh

STELLA

Just rest yourself

BLANCHE

We too were bonny once it's a rare thing not to have been bonny once

STELLA

They don't understand

BLANCHE

It's evening sir it's evening nights is drawing nigh

STANLEY

What poetry.

BLANCHE

I tell you it's rising

STANLEY

Blanche. You know, it's hot in there with the steam from that bathroom!

BLANCHE

That time you went back that last time to look was the ruin still there where you hid as a child when was that grey day took the eleven to the end of the line and on from there no no trams

STANLEY

I am not a Polack! People from Poland are Poles, they are not Polacks! But what I am is 100 percent American! I'm born and raised in the greatest country on earth and I'm proud of it! And don't you ever call me a Polack!

The phone rings.

BLANCHE

Some diversion

STANLEY

Just keep your seat. I'm not so sure. Hello. Yeah, Mac.

BLANCHE

No no there are not so many now do you think this game has gone on long enough

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

Will you shut up! No, we got a noisy woman in the place. We're gonna bowl at the West Side or at the Gate, and I'll see you. Sister Blanche, I got a little birthday remembrance for you. I hope that you like it.

BLANCHE

this this thing

STANLEY

That's a bus ticket back to Auriol. Tuesday.

Blanche does a really weird thing and runs out.

STELLA

Goodness that ain't no way to behave

STANLEY

Don't forget all that I took off of her.

STELLA

You really want me I see now I understand everything now

STANLEY

A delicate article, she is.

STELLA

I didn't realize so all that was going on and we never noticed good-by good-by world good-by Grover's Corners Mama and Papa good-by to clocks ticking and food and coffee and sleeping and waking up oh earth you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you

STANLEY

That's right.

STELLA

I'd forgotten all about that my wasn't life awful I'm ready to go back

STANLEY

Listen, baby, when we first met, you and me, you thought I was common. Well, how right you was. I was common as dirt. You showed me a snapshot of a place with columns...and I pulled you down off them columns and you loved it. Having them colored lights going. And wasn't we happy together? Wasn't it all okay till she showed here? Huh? Wasn't we happy together? Wasn't it all okay till she showed here? Hoity-toity, describing me like a ape. Stella? What's the matter with you? Honey, what's the matter with you? Baby, what is it?

STELLA

Take me back to my grave

They exit.

8

Mitch and Blanche Breakup Scene*The doorbell rings.*

BLANCHE

Is it day or night?

MITCH

If all men are born free

BLANCHE

There is no sleep so deep I would not hear you there.

He bursts in.

Bless you Willie I do appreciate your goodness I know what an effort it costs you now you may relax I shall not trouble you again unless I am obliged to by that I mean unless I come to the end of my own resources which is most unlikely

MITCH

Women who love themselves are threatening

BLANCHE

I mention it because the sound is so strange so unlike the sound

MITCH

The family is the institutionalization of our unwaged labor

BLANCHE

Out into this world

MITCH

It sounds like benevolent patriarchal imperialism

BLANCHE

Not the first time by any chance

MITCH

Of our wageless dependence on men

BLANCHE

You've asked me these questions millions of times

(CONTINUED)

MITCH

We ask equality.

BLANCHE

Your light dying listen to that well it can die just as well here your light take a look at me and then come back and tell me what you think of your light. Forgive me I said forgive me

MITCH

As long as reproductive work is devalued as long as it is considered a private matter and a woman's responsibility women will always confront capital and the state with less power than men and in conditions of extreme social and economic vulnerability.

BLANCHE

What what didn't you know mine was always that he wants a sugar plum he'll get a sugar plum you'll give me a sugar plum

MITCH

And women of color

BLANCHE

Hit me with the axe

MITCH

All oppression creates a state of war

BLANCHE

But we breathe we change we lose our hair our teeth our bloom our ideals but you say there is none we do what we can you're a bit of all right aren't you but you say there is none we do what we can

They kiss.

I look at the wall

MITCH

All white women know that whiteness is a privileged category.

BLANCHE

Well?

MITCH

This has always been a man's world, and none of the reasons that have been offered in explanation have seemed adequate.

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE

I see little change let us not speak never speak never speak

Weird time switch.

9

Rape scene

BLANCHE

Don't go off on me again now dear will you please, I may need you no hurry no hurry just don't curl up on me again perhaps a shade of colour just the same that is what I find so wonderful that not a day goes by to speak in the old style hardly a day without some addition to one's knowledge however trifling I mean provided one takes the pains

STANLEY

Hi, Blanche.

BLANCHE

Can you hear me

STANLEY

She's doing okay.

BLANCHE

And what of it

STANLEY

The baby won't come till tomorrow, so they told me to get a little shuteye.

BLANCHE

Could you not be a little accurate, Nagg

STANLEY

Yeah, it's just you and me, Blanche. Hey, what do you got them fine feathers on for?

BLANCHE

Yes that's your place I'll measure it

STANLEY

What, you got a wire?

BLANCHE

Things are livening up I did it on purpose

STANLEY

Anything good?

(CONTINUED)

BLANCHE

Let's see look at the ocean

STANLEY

What to?

BLANCHE

In the plains in the mountains by the seas by the rivers

STANLEY

Well, what do you know?

BLANCHE

Floats up one fine day out of the blue

STANLEY

Who'd you say it was from?

BLANCHE

Mr. Godot sir

STANLEY

Oh, the one that give you the white fox fur pieces. Well, it just goes to show you, Blanche, you never know what's coming.

BLANCHE

That is what I find so wonderful put the thing down and get on with something else

STANLEY

No, this is all I'm gonna undress right now. Hey, Blanche, you seen the bottle opener? What do you say, Blanche? You want to bury the hatchet and make a loving cup?

BLANCHE

No talk softer

STANLEY

Why don't you get with it?

BLANCHE

What exactly is a hog to think there are times when one cannot take off one's hat not if one's life were at stake

STANLEY

This millionaire isn't gonna interfere with your privacy none?

BLANCHE

But I feel too old and too far to form new habits good
it'll never end I'll never go then one day suddenly it
ends it changes I don't understand

STANLEY

Was this before or after you got the telegram?

BLANCHE

We're coming and to end up with discard with my
compliments

STANLEY

As a matter of fact...there wasn't no wire at all. And
there isn't no millionaire. And Mitch didn't come in
here with roses, because I know where he is.

BECKETT INSERT

10

Scene with the baby.

BRITT

It is some weeks later. Stella is packing Blanche's
things.

Stella has been crying as she arranges the flowery
dresses in the open trunk.

Blanche opens the bathroom door slightly

BLANCHE:

Stella? If anyone calls while I'm bathing... take the
number, tell them I'll call right back. Oh, and Stella.
The... The cool yellow silk, the boucle, see if it's
crushed. If it's not too crushed, I'll wear it. And on
the lapel...that silver and turquoise pin in the shape
of a seahorse. You'll find it in the heart-shaped box I
keep my accessories in.

BRITT

She closes the door.

BLANCHE

Is the coast clear? Please close the curtains before I
come out. What's going on here?

BRITT

She turns from Stella to Eunice and back to Stella.

BLANCHE

What's happened here? I want an explanation of what's
happened here. Why are you looking at me like that? Is
something wrong with me?

(CONTINUED)

BRITT

Stella hands her her dress.

BLANCHE

Must we pass in front of those men?

BRITT

A Doctor and a Matron have appeared around the corner of the building and climbed the steps to the porch. The gravity of their profession is exaggerated--the unmistakable aura of the state institution with its cynical detachment.

BLANCHE

I'm not quite ready. They! Who's "they"?

BRITT

There is a moment of silence.

BLANCHE

Yes. Yes, I forgot something.

BRITT

She rushes past Stanley into the bedroom. Blanche seizes the back of a chair as if to defend herself.

BRITT

Blanche retreats in panic.

BLANCHE

I don't know you--I don't know you. I want to be--left alone--please!

BRITT

Blanche turns wildly and scratches at the Matron. The heavy woman pinions her arms. Blanche cries out hoarsely and slips to her knees. The Doctor comes into the room and she looks at him.

BLANCHE

Whoever you are...I have always depended on the kindness...of strangers.

BRITT

As they go out on the porch, Stella cries out her sister's name from where she is crouched a few steps up on the stairs. Eunice descends to Stella and places the child in her arms. It is wrapped in a pale blue blanket. Stella accepts the child, sobbingly. Stanley has gone out on the porch and stands at the foot of the steps looking at Stella. She sobs with inhuman abandon. There is something luxurious in her complete surrender to crying now that her sister is

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRITT (cont'd)

gone. He kneels beside her and his fingers find the opening of her blouse.