

Maggie's Dream
A play in 2 Acts

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CHARACTERS

MAGGIE: *Mid-Twenties*

MOTHER: *Late Fifties - Early Sixties*

MAN 1: *Late Fifties - Early Sixties*

MAN 2: *Mid-Twenties*

A dream.

Maggie's Dream

ACT I
Scene One

Somewhere in rural America, 1917

The action takes place in a modest, two story farmhouse, built before the turn of the twentieth century. A front door is on one side of the room, and on the other, two glass doors that open in from outside. Hanging just above the glass doors are long white semi-translucent curtains. The curtains are drawn and the doors are open. There is an entrance that is used for the kitchen area, upstairs and cellar. Against one wall is a fireplace. Just above the fireplace is a collection of pistols and swords. Atop the mantle are some photographs. One is of a family; man, woman, a girl around ten years old and a boy around three. Next to the fireplace is a rocking chair. On the other wall is a sofa. Hanging above the sofa is a large framed mirror. On that same wall hangs a telephone with a hand crank. A small table with two chairs and a low-riding hutch are also present. Atop the hutch is an old phonograph.

The stage is dark. The phonograph begins to play. A small boy's voice with a slight echo is heard. The phonograph stops naturally when the record is over.

BOY'S VOICE

Maggie!? . . . Maggie!? . . . Wear are you? I've come back! . . . Maggie!? . . . Maggie!? . . .

MAGGIE

(Calling from off, over-lapping boys voice)

Philip? . . . Philip?

(Enters to a dimmed stage holding up an old lantern as she searches the room. We see MAN 1 at the table cleaning a gun. MOTHER is sitting in the rocking chair with a baby wrapped in a blanket. She occasionally will drink from a medicine vial she keeps in her dress pocket. MAN 1 and MOTHER Both have large blood stains on their chests. There are faint but noticeable sounds of a young girl banging and screaming from the cellar. Maggie is a suppressed, and demented woman of twenty six. She does not understand right from wrong. She would like to. Her hair is long and ratted, and her dress gives the appearance she has only the one, in her wardrobe. MOTHER and MAN 1 are oblivious of her)

Philip? . . . Philip? . . . Phil-

(MAGGIE holds the lantern up at MOTHER, stunned)

Mother?

(Then to MAN 1)

Father?

MOTHER

How long are you going to keep her down there Philip?

MAGGIE

Mother?

MAN 1

Until she learns.

MAGGIE

Father? . . . Father can you hear me?

MOTHER

You can't keep her down there forever you know.

MAN 1

You know what she did!

MOTHER

Yes.

(Pause)

I think we should call Dr. Weston again.

MAGGIE

No! No! Not Dr. Weston! No mother, please! I'll be good.
I swear I will . . .

MAN 1

We can't afford it.

MOTHER

We have to do something. I can't control her any longer.
She's becoming violent.

MAGGIE

Mother No. Please. I've changed. I'm better now. I
promise!

MAN 1

I know . . . I know.

MOTHER

I can't have her around the baby, Philip.

MAGGIE

Mother, what are you saying?

MAN 1

I know you can't. I think it's wise to keep them apart as
well.

MAGGIE

(In tears)

No father, no. You can't do that. I love Philip! He loves me! We have fun together. Please, don't take him away from me . . . Please.

MOTHER

What else can we do?

MAN 1

He is our only heir. I can't have her destroy the blood line . . .

MAGGIE

But, I won't father. I won't. Phillip is coming back. He told me.

MAN 1

(Rises and puts gun back on the wall)

She needs to be punished.

(Begins to unbutton his shirt)

MAGGIE

(In tears)

Father no!

(Collapses on floor)

Please father. I promise I won't tell anyone. Our secret is with me. You don't have to do this anymore. Please. You hurt me.

MOTHER

I know what you do with her Phillip.

MAN 1

(Removing his belt)

It's for her own good.

MAGGIE

Father no! Please! It's wrong. You can't do this to me anymore.

MAGGIE Cont.

(Turns to MOTHER)

Mother, please. Tell him. Tell him what he's doing to me
is wrong . . . Tell him! . . . Mother? . . . Mother?
Mother can you hear me? . . . Mother please listen to me
. . . I'M WITH HIS CHI- . . .

MOTHER

(Suddenly she looks up, annoyed)

. . . Maggie! What are you doing out of the cellar?

MAGGIE

(Rising, wiping her tears)

I, I was looking for Philip.

MAN 1

(He looks up, glares at MAGGIE for a moment)

Philip's not here.

MAGGIE

I heard him. I'm sure he came in here. . .

MAN 1

(Sharp)

Well he didn't!

MAGGIE

But father, he said I could find him . . .

MOTHER

. . . Run along now Maggie. You've caused enough damage
today. Don't make it any worse.

MAGGIE

But, it's very important that I find him, I have something
to tell him . . .

MAN 1

No!

(Silence)

MAGGIE

(Backs up a few steps, then stops,
thinks for a moment, then dashes to
the glass doors)

Philip!? Philip!?

MAN 1

(Stopping her from getting out)

Where are you going?

MAGGIE

(Trying to break free)

Philip!? Philip!?

MAN 1

Philip can't help you Maggie.

MAGGIE

Yes he can! He said he could. He said he would answer
me. He told me!

MAN 1

He told you did he? All right.

(Releases her)

Go on then! . . . Go on! Scream as loud as you want . . .
Here, I'll even scream with you.

(He goes to the glass doors and
screams)

Philip!? . . . Philip!?

(Laughs)

Philip!?

(To MAGGIE)

You see? He can't hear you.

(Calls out again)

Philip!?

(Laughs)

MAGGIE

He won't answer you. He only answers to me.

MAN 1

Is that so?

MOTHER

He can't answer anyone, Maggie! Get that through your head. He- can't! . . . He's dead.

MAGGIE

(Realizing)

But . . . No . . .

(Collapses on floor, breaking down)

No, no, no . . . This can't be happening. This isn't real . . . Oh my baby Phillip. Why won't you answer me? Why? Please come back to me. Please Phillip. I'm sorry. I'm sorry . . . I am so very, very sorry.

(Breaks down, MAN 1 and MOTHER stare at each other as lights fade to black)

ACT I
Scene Two

The lights rise as MAGGIE stands peering in from behind the glass doors. Motionless, and with a deranged glare in her eyes. After a moment, she opens the doors, and goes directly to the hutch, quickly searches inside. She finds a gift box, carefully un-ties the ribbon, opens the box and reveals a pistol. She puts it aside, then re-ties the ribbon and replaces the box. She then grabs the pistol and exits through the glass doors.

MOTHER

(From off)

Maggie? . . . Maggie? . . . Oh my god, not again!

(We hear what appears to be footsteps going up stairs)

Maggie? . . . Oh, my child where are you? . . . Maggie?
. . . Maggie!?

(Pause, then the lights quickly fade as she calls a long drawn out scream)

MAAAAGGGIIEEEE!!!

(Three gun shots are then heard from a distance)

ACT I
Scene Three

The lights rise. Maggie is seated in the rocking chair. She is unresponsive and has a long, dark stare about her. An empty medicine vial lays beside her on the floor. MAN 1, is kneeling in front of her. He is wearing a black wool suit with vest, and bowtie, a stethoscope hangs around his neck, and beside him rests a black leather doctors bag. MAN 2 stands just in from the glass doors watching. He is a young man dressed in a suit similar to MAN 1, but has a large blood stain on his chest. The phonograph is playing again, and ends naturally with the record is over.

MAN 1

(Placing a wool blanket over MAGGIE'S lap)

How long as she been like this?

MAN 2

I don't know.

MAN 1

How long have you been here?

MAN 2

I just got here.

MAN 1

Where were you? What took you so long?

MAN 2

I'm sorry, I came as soon as I could.

MAN 1

(To MAGGIE)

Magdalena? Can you hear me? . . . Magdalena?

(Notices a medicine vial on the floor,
quickly examines it)

Where did you get this? . . . Magdalena? Listen to me.

How much did you take?

(to MAN 2)

Did you see her take this?

MAN 2

No.

MAN 1

Did you see anything?

MAN 2

No . . . Nothing.

MAN 1

(Back to MAGGIE, shakes her a bit and
gently slapping her face)Magdalena? . . . Magdalena? She must have taken it all,
she's not responding. Magdalena can you hear me?(Urgently searches for a syringe from
his bag, then takes her arm and
starts to lift her sleeve)Stay with me girl. I'm going to give you something that
will help you . . . Now just relax.(MAN 1 injects the needle in her arm,
no reaction at all from MAGGIE)There . . . that's it, you're doing fine, just fine. It
shouldn't be long now.(MAN 1 is unrolling her sleeve, MAGGIE
notices MAN 2, suddenly a rage of
terror has overcome her)

MAGGIE

AAAAHHHHH!

(Jumping into MAN 1's arms,
hysterical)

He's here! He's here!

(MAN 2 drifts out of site)

MAN 1

Who? . . .

MAGGIE

He's back! He's back!

MAN 1

(Trying to set her back in the chair)

Who is back? Who do you see Magdalena? There is no one here but us.

MAGGIE

Don't let him take me doctor! Please! He's going to kill me!

MAN 1

No one is going to kill you. You're hallucinating. What you drank, will make you see things that aren't there. Whom ever you saw, was only in your mind.

MAGGIE

(Tries to run away, MAN 1 holds her)

I've got to get out of here!

MAN 1

There is no reason to run. You're much safer here.

MAGGIE

No I'm not! He's going to kill me! And if he sees you, he will kill you too!

(Starts to fight again)

Now let me go! Let me go!

MAN 1

Magdalena you're dreaming. He is only in your mind. He's not real. It's only a dream.

MAGGIE

But it's not doctor, it's not. I tell you he's here,
right outside! I seen him! . . . I seen him!

(Breaking down in MAN 1's arms. MAN 1
slowly takes her to the rocking
chair)

I am so sorry I did this to you darling . . . so very,
very sorry. Oh my God Philip, what have I done? I never
meant to hurt you! You weren't supposed to die! You
weren't supposed to die!

MAN 1

Magdalena please, you must try to . . .

MAGGIE

(Snapping back)

Maggie! . . . My name is *Maggie!*

MAN 1

Of course it is . . . Maggie, you must try to relax. Let
the medicine I gave you take effect.

MAGGIE

I've done a terrible thing. A horrible thing.

(Breaks down for a moment then looks up)

He will come back . . . and he will kill me!

MAN 1

You have such an imagination, my dear.

(Holds up the vial he found earlier)

How did you come by this Maggie? Is this your mother's?
Do you know what this can do to you?

MAGGIE

Yes . . . that's why I drank it.

MAN 1

You shouldn't have done that Maggie . . . Not in your
condition anyway.

MAGGIE

(Crying)

It's a bastard! . . . It's a bastard!

MAN 1

Hush now, it's going to be all right. You just need to rest.

MAGGIE

(She notices a figure by the glass doors, the audience however does not, MAGGIE jumps up and screams again in horror, MAN 1 tries to hold her)

He's back! He's back! . . . No Philip! No! I'm not ready. I can't go with you now!

MAN 1

Maggie your dreaming. There is no one here . . . Nobody is going to take you Maggie, there is nobody here but us.

MAGGIE

Yes there is! . . . He's here and he's real . . . Now, let me go! Let me go!

(They struggle, then realizes she can not get away, she pleads)

Please! . . . you have to hide me. I'm not ready doctor! . . . I'm not ready!

MAN 1

(Moving her back in the rocking chair, calls out)

"HARLAN!"

(To MAGGIE, slowly and direct)

Maggie, you're hallucinating. Any person you see other than me, is only in your mind. There is no one in the room but us.

MAGGIE

(Still in tears)

But, I'm not hallucinating doctor, I'm not! . . . He's here, and he's going to take me away. I can't go doctor . . . I can't go!

MAN 1

Who do you see Maggie? Can I can talk to him?

(MAGGIE returns to a stoned stare)

Maggie? . . . Who do you see?

MAN 2

(Appears from the glass doors, he is
in knickers and suspenders)

Me.

MAN 1

(Looks up at MAN 2, MAGGIE remains
motionless)

You? . . . Who are you?

MAN 2

I am Philip.

MAN 1

Do you know what she has done?

MAN 2

Yes, I do.

MAN 1

Have you come for her?

MAN 2

Yes.

MAN 1

She's sick Philip. She can't go with you now. She's too
weak.

(Turning his attention back to MAGGIE.

She is still unresponsive)

Maggie? . . . Can you hear me? . . . Maggie!? . . .
Maggie!?

MAGGIE

(Coming out of it, groggy, looking
into MAN 1's eyes)

Please don't take me Philip.

MAN 1

I'm not Philip, Maggie.

MAGGIE

Have you come for me too?

MAN 1

No . . . I am here to help you.

(MAGGIE returns to her stoned stare)

Maggie? . . . Maggie?

MAN 2

It's time Maggie.

MAN 1

No! Please! Can't there be another way? She is too ill
to be going anywhere now. She needs my help.

MAN 2

I will help her now. This is her choice. She chose this
for herself.

MAN 1

Why would she choose this? . . . To suffer like this?

MAN 2

We all choose our own pain . . . It's what gives us peace.

(Holding out his hand)

Come with me Maggie.

(MAGGIE, trance like, lifts her head,
pulls away the blanket, rises from
her chair and very slowly starts to
cross to MAN 2)

MAN 1

(Rises, goes to MAGGIE)

No Maggie! Don't! You're sick, you have to stay and rest.

(To MAN 2)

You can't take her now, she is sick. She needs medical attention!

(To MAGGIE)

Maggie please! Do not go with him!

(To MAN 2)

I am her doctor! . . . You can not do this!

(To MAGGIE)

No Maggie, no! Don't!

(To MAN 2)

You can't do this . . . you must listen to me. I am her doctor. I am helping her now!

MAN 2

Take my hand Maggie.

(Maggie slowly reaches out to take his hand)

MAN 1

(Loud and stretched out)

MAGGIE, NOOOOOOOOO!!!

MAGGIE

(She freezes immediately and holds for a moment, then slowly lowers her hand, looks into MAN 2's eyes)

I'm sorry Philip.

(MAGGIE remains motionless, watching, as MAN 2 slowly drifts out of site)

MAN 1

(After a moment, he goes to her)

Is he gone?

(She nods)

He can't harm you then.

MAGGIE

I killed him.

MAN 1

You did not kill him Maggie . . . you didn't kill anybody.

MAGGIE

(MAN 1 leads her to the rocking chair)

I didn't want to kill him doctor, I didn't.

MAN 1

Shhhhhhh! It's all right now . . . It's all right. Philip is all in your imagination. He is only in your mind.

MAGGIE

But he's not. He's real! . . . You don't believe me, do you?

MAN 1

I want you to try taking some deep breaths . . . you can do that for me, can't you?

(MAN 1 takes a couple deep breaths)

See? See how easy that is? . . . Now try it with me.

(He breathes again)

Maggie, you're not breathing . . . Please, you have to do this, it will make you feel better.

(MAGGIE eventually joins in)

That's it Maggie, breathe . . . Breathe deep . . . There. Are you feeling better now?

MAGGIE

Yes, I think so . . .

MAN 1

Good, keep breathing. Long deep breaths.

(She takes another deep breath)

That's it, you're doing fine Maggie . . . You're going to pull through this. Just keep breathing . . . There, you see? Your color is even starting to come back. Now you just sit there and keep breathing

(MAGGIE does)

May I use your telephone? I have to call into my office.

(MAGGIE nods, MAN 1 crosses to the telephone)

MAN 1 Cont.

Thank you, I'll only be a moment. Just keep breathing.

(At the phone, cranks, then speaks into the nozzle, MAGGIE continues to breath)

Yes, Dunhill Cove, four, nine, seven, seven, eight . . . Thank you . . . Good morning Gladys, I'm sorry, but I'm going to be a little later than expected this afternoon . . . no, no, there's no trouble. It's Maggie . . . yes, I think so. She just needs to rest . . . No, I have to stay here a little while longer, just until she's stable . . . Has Doctor Cooper returned? . . . He was! He was supposed to be checking in on Maggie with Harlan. Instead, I find Maggie here by herself, hysterical. I would expect this from Harlan, but Dr. Cooper . . . He isn't like this. I'm getting worried. He should have been here . . . He's a good doctor that's why . . . I know we can't afford it, but he's a-

(Pause, then cuts her off, snapping)

Are there any other patients? . . . Gladys, believe me I know, but this is a small town, not everyone can be in need of a doctor at the same time-

(Turning away trying not to let MAGGIE hear the conversation)

Gladys please, you're not making this very easy on me. . . I know there are expenses, I am perfectly aware of all the expenses! . . . Gladys please . . . I'll be by the office as soon as I can. I've got to go now.

(Hangs up, takes a moment, then turns back towards MAGGIE)

Well . . . how are we coming along?

MAGGIE

I think I am feeling better now doctor.

MAN 1

Good . . . I need to check your heart.

(MAN 1 puts the stethoscope to her chest, MAGGIE stops breathing)

Keep breathing Maggie. It's all right, I'm just checking your heart.

(MAGGIE breathes, after a moment he releases the stethoscope)

A little rapid, but with all that you have been through today, it's perfectly understandable. You should be fine. However, you must get some rest though.

MAGGIE

Thank you doctor.

MAN 1

You're quite welcome my dear. Now come, let's get you on the sofa, you can relax easier.

(MAN 1 leads her to the sofa, MOTHER enters from the kitchen area and sits in the rocking chair, she is wearing a long black skirt and white blouse with a large blood stain on her chest. She is very pale, like a walking corpse, neither MAN 1 or MAGGIE notice her)

MAGGIE

Maybe you're right doctor. Maybe I just need a little rest.

MAN 1

Yes, rest is exactly what you need.

(Covers her with the blanket)

There . . . are you comfortable?

MAGGIE

Yes, thank you. You don't need to fuss over me doctor, I'll be fine.

MAN 1

I'm not fussing Maggie. All my patients receive the same kind of care. You must lye and rest. Nobody can harm you now.

MAGGIE

(Looks up at him, softly)

But he will you know. He will come back?

MAN 1

Shhhhhhhh! Now, close your eyes, and try and get some sleep. I'll be right here.

MAN 1 Cont.

(MAN 1 is gently rubbing MAGGIE'S head, she quickly falls into a deep slumber, and starts to dream)

Go to sleep my dear. Everything will be better when you wake up . . . I promise.

MOTHER

(After a moment, she rises and goes to MAN 1)

Is she sleeping?

MAN 1

Yes, I think so.

MOTHER

Good. It won't be long now.

MAN 1

(Rising)

Very soon, I reckon.

MOTHER

Kiss me!

(They passionately embrace, suddenly MAN 2 appears at the glass doors, he is now wearing his suit with the blood stain, they break from their kiss and both stare at MAN 2)

MAN 2

(Slightly out of breath, stunned and frightened)

It's Mr. Van Burren!

(Blackout)

ACT I
Scene Four

Continuing from previous scene. The lights rise and MOTHER is now gone. Maggie is still lying on the sofa, with the blanket wrapped around her. MAN 1 is kneeling by the sofa looking over MAGGIE and MAN 2 is at the glass doors.

MAN 1

(Rises)

Mr. Van Burren? . . .

MAN 2

Yes Uh, he Uh I, uh

MAN 1

For God's sake Harlan, lets have it already!

MAN 1

Mr. Van Burren I, I think he's dead.

MAN 1

Dead!? Are you sure.

MAN 2

I found a body in the barn. In the trough. His head is bleeding

MAN 1

How do you know it's Mr. Van Burren?

(Another thought)

What were you doing in the barn?

MAN 2

I, I I was

MAN 1

Don't speak Harlan, please! I don't want to know.

(Picks up medical bag and crosses to

MAN 2)

Just take me to him.

(The lights fade as they exit through
the glass doors)

Maggie's Dream
ACT I
Scene Five

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Maggie is standing behind the glass doors looking in. The glass doors are closed and the curtains are down, however, we can still see her. Maggie may be seen by the audience, but not by the other characters. A knock on the door is heard, MAGGIE calmly ducks for cover. Another knock. MOTHER rushes in from kitchen area. She is wearing the same clothes as before, but without the blood stain. She also carries on her, a small medicine vial.

MOTHER

(Running to the door)

Is that you Dr. Cooper?

MAN 1

(Behind door)

Yes, what's wrong?

MOTHER

(Opens the door, almost hysterical)

It's Maggie! She's not in her room, I can't find her anywhere!

(Bringing him in, he is still wearing the clothes as before, including his doctor's bag and stethoscope. He also is holding a bouquet of flowers)

I gave her the tea. Later I went up to her room, the cup was empty and now she's gone. I've looked everywhere. She is supposed to be asleep!

MAN 1

(Placing the flowers on table, goes to her)

All right, all right. Please, you must remain calm. I'm sure she hasn't gone very far.

MOTHER

(Takes a swig from the medicine vial)

How do you expect me to be calm under these conditions?
God only knows what she's getting into. You know what
she's capable of!

MAN 1

You're right, I'm sorry.

(Pause)

You checked the entire house I presume?

MOTHER

Yes. I looked inside, I looked outside, I looked in the
cellar, I looked everywhere.

(She takes another swig)

MAN 1

Darling, be careful of that. That's not easy to come by,
you know. You need to keep a clear head.

MOTHER

I'm careful with it . . . I need it.

(Takes another swig)

MAN 1

(Pause briefly as he watches her swig)

Did you look in the barn?

MOTHER

I walked around it, I didn't go inside. Something has
happened to her, I can feel it. If she drank that tea and
has wandered off somewhere . . . I don't know what could-
. . .

MAN 1

Is your husband home?

MOTHER

He should be gone by now.

MAN 1

What?

MOTHER

He's gone.

(MAN 1 just looks at her)

To town . . . Buying-feed. He left shortly after I gave Maggie the tea. I'm sure he's miles away by now.

MAN 1

Oh. I thought you meant that he was . . . gone.

MOTHER

What? . . . Oh darling, no. That was just frustration talking last night. I don't have it in me. And you won't do anything. So, I guess we're stuck with the son of a bitch.

(Takes a swig)

MAN 1

(Pause)

Do you think he could have taken her with him?

MOTHER

Doubtful. They despise each other. They can't be within eye shot of one another anymore.

MAN 1

(Pause)

Maybe you just thought it was empty, maybe . . .

MOTHER

. . . *It was empty!*

MAN 1

All right, it was empty. She poured it out, crawled out the window and went for a walk or something.

MOTHER

That's what I'm afraid of! You know how she is. She's not stable, you know that. We should have done something with her along time ago. She needs to be in an asylum! . . . What if I called Dr. Weston again? If he would agree to make the trip, he would see how she is, and would have no choice but to take her away.

MAN 1

If he would agree to make the trip.

MOTHER

It's different this time.

MAN 1

Even if he does, he can't just take her away. It's much more complicated than that. The man has been here three times in the past two years, and all three times she has refused to sign. I'm sorry sweetheart, but unless the institution gets her signed consent, or she commits some sort of violent crime, they will not admit her.

MOTHER

She'll sign!

MAN 1

(Gives in)

All right. If you feel that strongly about it, then call him. So long as you understand that he won't make the trip, and if, by some miracle he does, it doesn't guarantee he will take her with him.

MOTHER

I have to do something.

(Starts to cry)

I'm just so worried what she'll do next.

MAN 1

(Holds her) I know you are dear. So am I. We'll talk to her again when she comes back, all right?

MAN 1 Cont.

(She nods, they hold each other for a moment)

You should have watched her drink the tea.

(MOTHER breaks away)

Uhh, I, uh, I'm sorry. I was out of line . . . Look, would you feel better if I went out and looked in the barn?

MOTHER

(Wipes her tears)

Would you mind?

MAN 1

Not at all. I want to check in on Harlan anyway. I told him to stay in the barn and keep out of trouble. You think Maggie is a handful. This kid is a walking disaster area. You call Dr. Weston, and I'll-

(Remembers)

Oh, I almost forgot. Here, these are for you.

(Hands her the flowers)

MOTHER

Oh, thank you, they're beautiful.

MAN 1

Just like my sweet Magdalena.

(Kisses her and then moves towards the door)

I'll be right back.

MOTHER

Darling?

MAN 1

(Turns)

Yes?

MOTHER

Happy Birthday.

MAN 1

Thank you.

(He exits)

MOTHER

(She quickly takes another swig from her vial, then places the vial on top of hutch and rushes to the phone and urgently cranks. As MOTHER is on the phone, MAGGIE stands and glares in on her from behind the glass doors)

Operator, this is urgent. I need an out of state line . . . Vermont. Granite Falls, two, seven, nine, one, oh . . . Thank you.

(As she is waiting, she is nervously looking over her shoulder while MAGGIE behind the glass doors ducks so not to be seen. When MOTHER speaks again, MAGGIE stands and stares in on her)

Dr. Charles Weston please . . . Magdalena Van Burren . . . Yes, thank you, please hurry . . . Dr. Weston this is Mrs. Van- . . . I know doctor and I'm sorry, but . . . I assure you I am not wasting your time (Pause) But, I . . . I know . . . Maggie has agreed to come with you! . . . She will sign, yes.

(Pleading, almost in tears)

I just need you to come and get her, please. I can't control her any longer, I'm so afraid of what she'll do next. I just don't know what to do anymore, I'm scared.

(Pause)

Uh, he's . . . he's in town now . . . Well, uh . . . he might not come back for a couple da- . . . Dr. I really need your help! Please! . . . He agrees, yes. He asked me to call you before he left this morning . . . He should be home by then, yes . . . Thank you so much doctor, and I appreciate all you have done for us, thank you again.

(She hangs up, a noise comes from outside the glass doors, she quickly turns. MAGGIE darts out of sight. MOTHER rushes to the glass doors)

Maggie, is that you!? . . . Maggie!? . . . Ma!-

(MAN 1 opens the front door, she turns, startled)

Ahhhhhh!

(Realizes who it is)

Oh, you frightened me.

MAN 1

(At the door, as if he saw a ghost)

I'm sorry.

MOTHER

Did you see her?

MAN 1

No, nothing . . . Nothing.

(Closes the door and locks it)

MOTHER

Where's Harlan?

MAN 1

I don't know . . . I didn't see him.

MOTHER

(She goes to him)

Are you all right darling?

MAN 1

Yes.

MOTHER

You don't look fine.

(Leads him to the table)

Here darling, why don't you sit down, and I'll get you some tea.

MAN 1

(Still in shock)

Yes, that would be fine. Thank you.

MOTHER

(Looking at him)

Are you sure you're feeling all right dear? You have a very peculiar look about you.

MAN 1

No darling, please, it's nothing. A cup of tea sounds perfect.

(She looks at him)

I'm fine! I just got a little light headed as I was walking out of the barn. That's all. I'm just not used to the heat.

MOTHER

It's not that warm.

MAN 1

It isn't? . . . Hmm.

MOTHER

(Checks his head)

Well, you're not running a fever. That's a good thing.

(She looks in his eyes)

Darling? Is there something you want to tell me?

(MAN 1 shakes his head, she looks in his eyes again, then kisses his head)

I'll be back with the tea.

(When she is gone, MAN 1 begins taking large deep breaths, after a moment, in the distance we hear what could be a gun shot, MAN 1 turns his head, listens for a moment, then slowly goes to the glass doors, opens them and stares out, MOTHER enters)

Oh good, he's back on his feet again. You had me worried.

(Sets the tray on the table and looks at him for a moment)

You getting some fresh air dear?

MAN 1

(Turns)

Did you hear that?

MOTHER

Hear what dear?

MAN 1

It sounded like a gun shot.

MOTHER

Oh, that's probably one of the farmers getting rid of one of his old mules.

MAN 1

Yeah, maybe you're right.

(Turns and gives another glance out the glass doors)

MOTHER

(Shutting the glass doors)

Of course I'm right.

(Leads MAN 1 back to the table, MAGGIE makes her appearance again, ducking for cover when she comes into view of the other characters)

Now have a cup of tea with me darling. This is supposed to be our day.

MAN 1

You're right dear, I'm sorry.

(MOTHER pouring the tea)

Thank you.

MOTHER

No . . . Thank you.

(Goes to the hutch, searches inside)

MAN 1

Looking for something?

MOTHER

Yes.

(Pulls out a gift box)

This!

(Crosses to him)

Happy birthday darling!

MAN 1

Oh sweetheart, no, you shouldn't have done this.

MOTHER

(She gives MAN 1 the box)

I even baked you a cake.

MAN 1

I don't know what to say . . . I'm embarrassed.

MOTHER

Don't be embarrassed darling. This is your birthday.

MAN 1

I can still be embarrassed can't I?

MOTHER

I suppose you could, but where would be the fun in that?

(MAN 1 just looks at her)

Are you going to just stand there and stare at me, or are you going to open it?

MAN 1

Oh . . . Yes, yes.

(He unties the ribbon and looks inside)

Oh, Magdalena . . . This is . . . How did you-?

(He reveals a gold pocket watch, and holds it up admiring it)

This is . . .

MOTHER

You don't like it?

MAN 1

No. I, I love it . . . Now I'm really embarrassed.

MOTHER

Well, don't be. I knew you'd love it. As soon as I seen it in Hadley's window that day. I knew. I had been waiting for just that right moment to give it to you.

MAN 1

Well, you certainly picked a fine moment indeed.

(Rises)

Thank you darling. I will treasure this forever.

(Kisses her)

MOTHER

There's an inscription on the back. Read it.

MAN 1

(Turns over the watch and reads)

"To my Darling, I will love you always . . . Magdalena"

(MAGGIE drifts out of site)

Darling this is . . . I'm at a loss of words. Thank you!

(Kisses her)

MOTHER

You know you have the same birthday as my son.

MAN 1

You mean the one that-

(MOTHER nods)

The little boy in the photographs . . . Is that him?

MOTHER

Yes, that's him.

(Goes to the photographs on the mantle, holding one up)

He disappeared when he was three. Sixteen years to the day as a matter of fact.

MAN 1

You never found out what happened to him did you?

MOTHER
(Staring at the photograph)

No.

MAN 1
Didn't they investigate?

MOTHER
If you can call it that. They walked around, took a few notes and mumbled to each other a lot . . . Put on quite a show. Everyone acted so important. It seemed as though, I was the only one who was concerned with where my son had gone. Then about three hours later, they call us into the room here, said there wasn't much to go on, then got on their horses and rode away. Haven't heard a word since.

(Stares at the photograph again)

MAN 1
(Goes to her)
Nice looking boy . . . strong.

MOTHER
He was too. He was very strong. And healthy.
(Pause)
Philip always wanted him to go to West Point. That's all he talked about.

MAN 1
Was he a . . . ?

MOTHER
. . . No. He never made it. All the men in his family went off and became high-ranking officers, except for him. Even with his fathers influence, they still wouldn't accept him . . . He was deaf in one ear.

MAN 1
I didn't know that.

MOTHER

Instead of becoming a distinguished gentleman of society, he was forced to work the land like a common citizen. He resented it so much. Philip always said that if he couldn't be that of an officer, then his son would have to be that of two officers. He had his life planned and lived before he was born . . . And when he disappeared . . . I believe it killed him.

(She starts to cry)

MAN 1

(Goes to her, takes the photograph and places it back on the mantle, then holds her)

I am so sorry.

MOTHER

I miss him so much!

MAN 1

I know you do. I know you do.

(Lets her cry for a moment)

Would you like to sit down for a while?

MOTHER

No.

(Wiping her tears)

I'm sorry, I should be stronger than this. I need to be strong.

(Crosses to the sofa, primping herself in the mirror)

MAN 1

He was your son. You have every right cry.

MOTHER

(To herself)

Not today I don't.

(Turns to him)

This is our day! Your birthday!

(Taking him by the hand and leading him toward the kitchen area)

MOTHER Cont.

Now. We are going to have *our* day if the heavens collapse and we die a fiery death.

MAN 1

(Stops)

What about Maggie?

MOTHER

Don't spoil the mood darling.

MAN 1

What if she walks in?

MOTHER

(Crossing to the glass doors and locking them)

Forget about Maggie. If she wants to stay outside, then let her stay outside. This is our day.

(Taking him by the hand again, leads him out through the kitchen area)

And when I say our day, I mean our day.

MAN 1

(Going off)

Yes, Ma'am

(After a moment, MAGGIE appears at the glass doors. She tries to open them, but they are locked. She then dashes out of site and we then hear her at the front door. She tries to get in, but it too is locked. She pounds on the door in frustration, then, we can hear her running from the door. After a moment of silence, we hear what assumes to be someone opening a window and knocking things over as they climb through. Then footsteps are heard going up stairs, a door opens)

MOTHER

(Off)

Maggie?

(Gun shot)

Oh my god! No! Maggie what are you-

(Another gun shot)

MAGGIE

(After the second gunshot, there is a moment of silence, then footsteps coming down stairs, MAGGIE enters from kitchen area, she goes to the gift box, places the pistol in it, re-ties the box and then places back inside the hutch where she found it. When she stands, she notices the vial. She holds it up, looks at it, then takes a big swig. She then cranks the phonograph and it starts to play. She reminisces a while, moving to the music, then notices the same photograph MOTHER had held earlier and goes to it, takes another swig from the vial, holds up the photograph and stares at it. Eventually, it becomes too much for her, she collapses in the rocking chair and breaks down, the vial falls out of her hand and onto the floor, she is still holding the photograph.)

I am so sorry I hurt you darling. Please forgive me! I only wanted to hurt father for what he did to me. I never wanted to hurt you!

(Lights slowly start to fade)

Please help me Philip, I can't live with myself anymore. I need you with me! . . . Please come back to me Philip! . . . Please! I never meant to hurt you! . . . Come back to me please!

ACT I
Scene Six

As the lights come up, Maggie is humming off stage. After a moment, still humming, Maggie enters from kitchen, glowing with anticipation and joy as if she is expecting someone special. She is carrying a tray with a teapot and two cups with saucers. She places the tray on the table, crosses to the glass doors, opens the curtains and lets the morning sun to beam through. She then opens the doors wide to let the breeze filter in. Still humming, she then glides about the stage almost on air, arbitrarily straightening up the room to give that perfect "First Impression"

A knock on the door is heard

MAGGIE

(Calling to the door)

Is that you darling?

MAN 1

(Off)

Yes it is my pet.

MAGGIE

(She crosses to the mirror primping herself)

Just a moment dear. I must be just perfect before my lover sees me . . . And not a moment sooner!

MAN 1

(Off)

Oh, you are perfect my dear. You are perfect.

MAGGIE

Perfect!

(Kisses to herself in the mirror, then crosses to the door)

Ready or not my love, here I come.

(As she opens the door, MAN 1 is wearing the same suit as before, but without the medical bag or stethoscope. He is holding a bouquet of flowers. Passionate)

DARLING!

MAN 1

SWEETHEART!

(They quickly move into a kiss)

MAGGIE

(She breaks away and crosses to the door shutting it)

We must get you inside. What will the neighbors think?

MAN 1

Let them think what they will . . . I'm in LOVE!

MAGGIE

And I'm married . . .

MAN 1

Let the word travel to the moon as far as I'm concerned. I'm not afraid to show my love.

MAGGIE

Ooooo, I like that in a man . . . Daring and brave.

(Notices the flowers)

Are these for me?

MAN 1

Fresh and pretty, just like my sweet Maggie.

(Hands her the flowers)

MAGGIE

Oh, darling, you are the kindest, sweetest and most thoughtful man in entire world.

(Kisses him)

MAN 1

Do you like them?

MAGGIE

Oh, they're beautiful.

MAN 1

And so are you.

(Advances on her)

MAGGIE

Careful my dear, you don't want to crush these lovely pickings do you?

MAN 1

No . . . but I want to crush you . . . In my arms, and never let you go.

MAGGIE

That can wait, my love.

MAN 1

Not to me it can't.

MAGGIE

I have something very special for you.

MAN 1

Oh?

MAGGIE

Remember what we talked about last night?

MAN 1

What I do remember, was much more enjoyable then talking,
my dear. Why? Was I supposed to do something?

(They look into each others eyes for a
moment)

MAGGIE

Let me just put these lovely flowers in some water and
when I return, maybe your memory will have come back.

(Starts to exit)

MAN 1

Don't leave me here all alone darling. I just got here.

MAGGIE

I will only be a moment, dear. Have some tea.

MAN 1

I don't want any tea. I want you!

MAGGIE

(Off)

Soon dear Very, very soon.

MAN 1

(Crosses to the glass doors, looks out
as if checking to see if someone is
where they are supposed to be, he
then reaches in his coat pocket and
pulls out a medicine vial, satisfied
that he still is in possession of it,
places it back in his pocket)

Oh do hurry my love, I can't be away from my precious
Maggie a second longer!

MAGGIE

(Off)

Patients dear. Patience.

MAN 1

Patients be damned! How can I be patient when my insides are melting?

MAGGIE

(Off)

I'll just have to cool you down then.

MAN 1

I'd be careful my dear . . . I might be too hot to touch.

MAGGIE

(Making a royal entrance, she is now wearing a short sexy dress of the time. She has the flowers in a vase.

MAN 1 is in awe of her sight)

Ahh, what a shame. I know of no other way to cool you down, other than to touch you.

MAN 1

Oh, Maggie, you look more radiant now, than I have ever seen you before.

MAGGIE

Did you miss me?

(Places the flowers down)

MAN 1

Did I miss you? I died a hundred times while you were away. Now let me hold you.

(They embrace, kissing each other in between their lines)

Ohh, you feel so warm and soft. Promise me, you will never leave me again.

MAGGIE

I promise. I will never leave you again . . . Never.

(She stops kissing him, makes her way to the hutch)

That's why I'm giving you this.

MAGGIE Cont.
(Retrieves a gift box from inside and holds it out to MAN 1)

MAN 1
Oh Maggie, I don't need any gifts. All I need is you.

MAGGIE
And that you shall have. And much, much more. All of me, will be yours forever.

MAN 1
Oh, I want you so badly my dear. I can't wait a moment longer, I must have you!

(Starts to take off his suit jacket)
NOW!

MAGGIE
(Stopping him)
Not so fast my darling, you haven't opened your gift yet.

MAN 1
I told you my dear, I don't need any gifts. All I need is you. How can I convince you, that you are all I need?

(Kissing her neck)
Oh you smell so good, I can nibble on you forever.

MAGGIE
(Tickled by his kisses)
Ha, ha . . . Stop it . . . Stop . . .

MAN 1
I can't!

MAGGIE
(Breaks away)
You must darling. You must control yourself.

MAN 1

I can't control myself, you are too irresistible.
(Starts to take his suit jacket off
again)

MAGGIE

(Stopping him once again)
How badly do you really want me?

MAN 1

Oh, I want you more than anything! More than life
itself.

MAGGIE

Would you do anything for me?

MAN 1

(Caught in her spell)
Yes, of course I would.

MAGGIE

Then, my darling . . .
(Kisses him)
Open this little box . . .
(Kiss)
and the world . . .
(Kiss)
shall be yours.
(Kiss)

MAN 1

I don't want the world. I just want you.

MAGGIE

Then *me*, you shall receive.
(Hands him the box)
Open!

MAN 1

Will that make my Maggie happy?

MAGGIE

It will make us both happy.

MAN 1

(Gives in, takes the box and begins to open it)

This was very thoughtful of you Maggie, you didn't have to do this by the wa-

(The box is now opened, he is stunned, the audience does not see it's contents, long pause)

MAGGIE

(Disappointed)

You don't like it? It's what we talked about last night.

MAN 1

I, I don't remember anything about-

MAGGIE

Don't you remember last night at all?

MAN 1

Oh, I do my sweet, I do. It was the most memorable evening we have ever had . . . But . . .

MAGGIE

I thought you said you loved me and you would do anything for me?

MAN 1

I did, I did . . . I do . . .

MAGGIE

But what then!?

(He does not respond, she breaks away in tears)

You don't love me! Everything you said last night was a lie!

MAN 1

No my dear, it wasn't, it wasn't! I meant every word!

MAGGIE

I thought you'd be surprised and happy. Maybe a little appreciative too, but, oh no! The moment of truth arrives, and you run like a coward! That's what you are! A coward. A MISERABLE COWARD!

MAN 1

It's a gun Maggie!

MAGGIE

(Matter of fact)

Yes, I know it is.

MAN 1

But why are you giving me a gun?

MAGGIE

You don't remember last night at all, do you? . . . Do you!?

MAN 1

What the hell are you talking about?

MAGGIE

You know perfectly well what I am talking about.

MAN 1

No, I'm sorry Maggie, but I don't.

MAGGIE

My husband.

MAN 1

What about him?

MAGGIE

Kill him!

MAN 1

What!? . . . Oh, no! No, no, no, no . . .

MAGGIE

. . . You promised!

MAN 1

I never promised that!

MAGGIE

Yes you did!

MAN 1

Maggie, listen to me! . . .

MAGGIE

. . . No! You listen to me! We made a deal! You promised! And now you're going back on your word. We were supposed to be together! You and I together. . . Forever!

(MAN 1 just looks at her)

Ahhhh! You cad!

MAN 1

I never promised to kill your husband!

MAGGIE

Yes, you did! Last night! I asked you, and you said yes!

MAN 1

But that was in the heat of passion wild-flower. You can't expect a man to really mean what he says in the heat of passion.

MAGGIE

Oh . . . So all those things you said about you loving me, and how beautiful I am, were nothing more than lies!?

MAN 1

No, no dear, those were all true. I mean, they still are, but-

MAGGIE

. . . But what? How am I to know the difference then, eh? How am I supposed to know when you are "Lost in the heat of passion" and when you really mean what you say?

MAN 1

Words like, you're beautiful and loving you, are all words of passion yes, and I meant them, and still mean them. But, saying you'd kill your lovers husband . . . Well. . . That goes far beyond passion my dear.

MAGGIE

Don't talk to me anymore!

MAN 1

Maggie please, can't we go back to where we were a few moments ago?

MAGGIE

No! That time has passed . . . I think you should leave now.

MAN 1

But I don't want to leave.

MAGGIE

I want you to leave . . . Now go!

(MAN 1 stares at her for a moment then turns to exit, places the box on the table)

Go! And be gone, you miserable coward!

MAN 1

(Turns back in)

Can we at least talk about this?

MAGGIE

There's only one thing to talk about. If you want me, you know what you have to do.

(MAN 1 reluctantly nods his head in agreement, MAGGIE'S demeanor suddenly changes, childlike)

You mean it?! You really, really, really mean it?

MAN 1

I shook my head didn't I?

MAGGIE

(Overjoyed, crosses to him, hugging and kissing him, MAN 1 does not reciprocate)

Oh my sweet, sweet, loving and caring man! I'm so sorry I harped at you earlier darling. Please forgive me. Oh, I love you so . . . (Kiss) much! . . . Now come on, why don't you sit down here and let me fix you some tea and we can discuss how we are going to do this, I have it all figured out.

(MAN 1 starts to grab the tea pot, Maggie clutches his hand and stops him)

NO!

(Changes tone)

I mean, no . . . you mustn't drink that.

MAN 1

Why?

MAGGIE

Because. It must be cold by now.

MAN 1

(Checks the pot)

It feels hot. I can even see a little steam coming out.

MAGGIE

No, no, I must do this right.

(Takes the pot and starts to exit to kitchen)

I'm sure I still have some water on the stove that must be hot. I'll just be but a moment darling.

MAN 1

(Once again, MAN 1 goes to the glass doors again checking to see if anyone is out there, then tries to spark up idle conversation, calling out)

Lovely day today!

MAGGIE

(Off)

Absolutely fantastic!

MAN 1

Unseasonably warm.

MAGGIE

(Off)

They said it was supposed to rain today, but I guess they were wrong.

MAN 1

(Crossing back to the table, takes the gun out of the box and puts it in his suit pocket, he then places the box back on the table)

Won't be long before the first heat wave.

MAGGIE

(Enters with tea pot)

Since when did you become so interested in the weather anyway?

MAN 1

I've always been interested in the weather.

(Sits)

MAGGIE

Really? I've never noticed.

(Pours the tea)

MAN 1

Yeah, well, I have!

MAGGIE

No need to snap at me darling, I've just never heard you talk about the weather before.

MAN 1

I'm sorry dear. I'm just a . . . I don't know . . . Sorry.

MAGGIE

Is something the matter darling?

MAN 1

No, no, I'm fine.

MAGGIE

You don't seem fine.

MAN 1

Well, I am!

MAGGIE

You're not going to back out on me again, are you?

MAN 1

No, no. I made a promise . . . Whether I meant it or not, I will abide.

MAGGIE

You don't sound very enthusiastic about it.

MAN 1

(Pause)

So what am I supposed to do?

MAGGIE

You really want to know?

MAN 1

No, but I don't have much of a choice now do I?

MAGGIE

No, I guess you don't.

(Rises, very excited)

Well. First. You will be hiding in the bushes, and I'll be lying here on the sofa, tossing and turning and waving my arms. When he comes in, he'll think that I am in the middle of one of my bad dreams. He'll rush to my side, wake me up, fuss over me a bit and then, as always, move on to putting me in an asylum. Which, I will refuse, no doubt. I will become hysterical, and even violent. I will use everything I have in me to get him to strike me. And when he does, I will start to scream. When you hear me screaming, you pop out of the bushes, crash through the door, take the gun out of the box. Which will be here, next to a cake I baked for him . . . It's his birthday today, you know?

MAN 1

No, I didn't . . .

MAGGIE

Now, the gun has only three bullets in it, so you have to make sure you shoot him with all three bullets . . . Then we call the Sheriff.

MAN 1

(Rises)

THE SHERIFF?

MAGGIE

Yes, dear, the Sheriff. When he arrives, I will tell him that you were just a passer-by. You heard a loud scream, then gun shots. You rushed in, and saw a man lying on the floor that appeared to be dead. Then you saw a large man about to attack me. You jumped him, wrestled the gun away

and pulled the trigger, several times. But, there were no more bullets left in the gun. You fought with him some more and then the man rushed out the back, knocking both of us over and escaped . . .

MAN 1

Wait, wait, wait!

(Rubbing his head)

I don't understand any of this . . . I'm feeling dizzy.

MAGGIE

That's just the tea darling.

(Sits at table, condescending)

Now, why don't you tell me exactly what it is that you don't understand.

MAN 1

All of it, actually.

MAGGIE

Oh sweetheart, you're exaggerating. It's really quite simple. You hide in the bushes until I scream, then you rush in, and shoot him. What could be so hard about that?

MAN 1

What if someone sees me? What if someone recognizes me?

MAGGIE

Nobody knows you in this town darling. They will have no idea who you are.

(Pulling him towards the glass doors)

Now go, run along, you have to be hidden before he comes home.

MAN 1

(Stops)

Now?

MAGGIE

Yes, now!

MAN 1

You never said anything of this happening now.
(Crosses to the table, pours tea)

MAGGIE

Be careful of that tea dear. It's very strong, it might make you a little . . . woosy.

MAN 1

I'm already woosy!
(Sips the tea)
Why does it have to be now? You can't give me a moment to just think about this?

MAGGIE

I can't give you any time to think about it darling, you know how you are. If I gave you time to think this over, by nightfall you'd be half way across three states.

(Crossing to him, gently kissing him about the face)

And then I would never, ever see my sweet and generous, handsome, caring, and most incredible lover again. You wouldn't want that to happen to me would you?

MAN 1

No, of course not. You know how mad I am about you darling.

MAGGIE

Well, if you want to ever see me again you'll get right outside this instant and hide.

(Pushing him out)

He'll be home for lunch in a few minutes.

MAN 1

A few minutes!?

MAGGIE

Go! Time is running out.

NOW!

(MAN 1 exits)

MAGGIE

(MAN 1 exits, Maggie, resumes humming her cheery tune, crosses to the mirror, messes her hair up a bit, then goes to the phone, cranks, then speaks into the nozzle)

Yes operator, Dunhill Cove, four, nine, seven, seven, eight . . . thank you.

(Pause. Almost too cheery)

Good morning Gladys, this is Maggie, has Philip left the office yet? . . . Oh, there's no trouble Gladys, I'm just curious that's all . . . I'm cooking him a very special lunch, it's his birthday today . . . Yes! . . . Oh, he did? Thank you ever so much Gladys, you've been most helpful, have a very pleasant afternoon . . . Thank you, I will.

(She hangs up the receiver, crosses and calls out to MAN 1)

Are you ready dear?

MAN 1

(Off)

As ready as I'll ever be.

(Maggie, again resumes humming and clears away the tray with the tea pot and 2 cups and saucers and exits into the kitchen area. When she returns, she is carrying a cake covered with white frosting and candles, she places it on the table, exits to the kitchen again and returns with two small plates, two forks, and a cake knife, which she also places on the table. She then looks up to the

mirror just above the sofa, and messes up her hair a little more. She then crosses to the sofa, covers herself with the blanket and begins her dramatic act. After a moment we hear someone approaching at the door,

it opens and MAN 1 enters. MAN 1 is wearing the same black suit as before and has his doctors bag and stethoscope. He notices Maggie, and crosses to her.)

MAN 1

Maggie! Maggie! Wake up! . . . Maggie! It's me! . . . I'm home!

MAGGIE

(Slowly coming to, mumbling)

No, no . . . go away . . . don't! . . . Go away, go away!

MAN 1

You're dreaming Maggie. Wake up!

MAGGIE

(She opens her eyes and sees MAN 1 hovering over her, startled)

HUUUUUUU! . . .

MAN 1

It's all right my dear, it's all right. I'm home now. Nobody is going to hurt you. It was only a dream.

MAGGIE

(Groggy)

Darling is that you?

MAN 1

Yes dear, it's me. You were dreaming.

MAGGIE

I was so scared. This man came in through the door, and he had a gun . . . and I . . .

MAN 1

It's all right Maggie. Everything is going to be fine now. I'm right here.

MAGGIE

(Still groggy, confused)

I just laid down for a moment . . . I don't even remember falling asleep . . .

MAN 1

You're safe now Maggie. It was just a bad dream.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

(Starts to shiver)

MAN 1

You're shivering. Let me get you another blanket.

MAGGIE

No! . . . Please, don't fuss over me, I'll be fine. Just hold me a little longer will you?

MAN 1

Darling I worry about you.

MAGGIE

You mustn't dear.

MAN 1

I know, but I do. I can't help it.

MAGGIE

You're very kind to me . . . Thank you.

MAN 1

Would you like a cup of hot tea? I can make it for you. It may help to warm you up.

MAGGIE

(Abruptly)

NO! . . . Uh, I mean, I'm fine . . . Really, I am.

MAN 1

Let me get you another blanket then.

MAGGIE

I told you, it's not necessary.

MAN 1

I'm a doctor Maggie. I think I know what is or is not necessary for a patient . . .

MAGGIE

Please don't refer to me as a patient.

MAN 1

Maggie, you're shivering. I'm going to get you another blanket whether you want it or not.

(MAN 1 exits, when he is gone, Maggie rises, looks out to see that MAN 1 is out of site, then rushes to the glass doors and looks outside, raises her arm, gestures with one finger as to say "one moment longer" She then hurries back to the sofa and regains her original position)

MAN 1

(Enters with another blanket, goes to her and wraps the blanket around her)

You can't keep doing this Maggie. I really wish you would let me admit you- . . .

MAGGIE

I do not need to be admitted!

MAN 1

You do! It's nothing to be ashamed of. There are many patients with this same kind of . . .

MAGGIE

I am not a patient!

MAN 1

No, but you should be.

MAGGIE

I told you! I do not need to be in an asylum! What will people think of me?

MAN 1

They will think nothing. We don't have to tell them. Nobody has to know about your illness.

MAGGIE

I do not have an illness!

MAN 1

You do!

MAGGIE

(Hysterical)

I DO NOT HAVE AN ILLNESS!

MAN 1

Very well. Have it your way. Don't treat yourself then. Instead of winding up in an asylum, you're going to wind up in a grave!

(Maggie quickly rises, tosses the blankets aside and storms toward the kitchen area, MAN 1 notices her dress, appalled)

MAN 1 Cont.

And look at you. My Lord!

MAGGIE

What?

MAN 1

You certainly don't go out in public like that I hope?

MAGGIE

There's nothing wrong with what I'm wearing.

MAN 1

Who do you dress like this for when I'm not around?

MAGGIE

No one!

MAN 1

Don't lie to me! You have someone who sneaks in here when I'm away, don't you?

MAGGIE

No! That's absurd.

MAN 1

Then how do you explain your hair as ratted as it is?

(Pushing her out of the way as he
makes his way, searches)

Where is he? If he's still hiding in here somewhere, I'll find him, and then I'll kill him! And then I'll kill you! I do not appreciate coming home to see my wife dressed like a . . . like a harlot!

MAGGIE

Ahhhh! That is an awful thing to say to me. How dare you call me that!

MAN 1

Don't dress like one then and I won't.

MAGGIE

I do not dress like a harlot!

(In tears, crosses to rocking chair
and sits)

I cannot believe you talk to me this way sometimes. Do you not realize how hurtful you can be? Do you not appreciate anything I do for you? You think I look like a whore! It was your birthday, so I thought that I would surprise you with something special for your lunch. I baked you a cake with your favorite frosting and even bought you a present . . . And you call me a harlot! Damn you! Your own wife for God's sake! . . . Your own wife! How could you?

(Breaks down)

MAN 1

(Realizing he has gone to far, moves
in a step to comfort her, unsure of
what to say)

Uh . . . Maggie . . . I uh . . . I'm sorry . . . I just worry about you.

(Looks at the cake and the box on the
table)

That was very thoughtful of you Maggie . . . The cake.

MAGGIE

(Still hurt)

Don't mention it . . .

MAN 1

I behaved rather selfishly just now. I should not have burdened you with my problems. That wasn't fair. With money being as tight as it is . . .

(Touching her stomach)

a child on the way . . . I'm just a little stressed. It was completely inexcusable. Can you ever forgive me?

(Maggie says nothing)

I promise, I will find a way to support us. All of us. I will take on another job if I have to. Mr. McCovey says he needs help unloading boxes in his store at nights, maybe I could . . .

MAGGIE

(She rises, goes to him)

. . . You don't have to get another job father, everything is going to be fine. I know it will. After today,

everything will be different. You're a very good provider
. . . I'm sorry too.

MAN 1

You have nothing to be sorry about my dear . . .

MAGGIE

I should have been a little more understanding. I think
we've both been on edge lately. And from now on, I will
make sure that I dress more appropriate for you.

MAN 1

I just want you to be happy.

(Kiss)

I don't want to loose you Maggie. You mean everything to
me.

MAGGIE

And you mean everything to me.

(Kiss, then she crosses to the table,
wiping her tears)

Now, how about I feed my little birthday boy some cake
before he has to run off back to his lonely office?

MAN 1

I thought you'd never ask.

(He crosses to table)

Mmmmmm, it looks delicious.

(Wipes some frosting on the cake with
his finger and tastes it)

Mmmmmm, it is delicious.

MAGGIE

(Picks up the cake knife)

You never could wait until I cut it, could you?

MAN 1

No. It's a weakness I will never recover from, I
suppose.

MAGGIE

No. I suppose you never will recover, will you?

(There is an uncomfortable stare
between the two. Maggie breaks to
the box on the table)

We've only got a few minutes, so I want to give this to
you before you have to go.

(Hands MAN 1 the box)

MAN 1

What's this?

MAGGIE

It's for you. Open it. It's your birthday present.

MAN 1

Oh Maggie, you really didn't have to . . .

MAGGIE

(Covers his lips with her finger)

Shhhh. I love you father, and I want you to have this.
It's a token of my love, to you.

MAN 1

I'm very embarrassed right now. Thank you Maggie.

(Kisses her. Opens the box, pulls out
a gold pocket watch, holding it up,
admiring it)

Oh, Maggie, this is wonderful. How did you know?

MAGGIE

Do you like it?

MAN 1

I love it! It looks just like the one in Haddley's
window. I had been eyeing it for quite a whi-

MAGGIE

It is. Or rather, it was the one in Haddley's window.

MAN 1

I, I don't know what to say. Thank you, this is a very thoughtful gift. I will keep it with me always . . . Thank you!

MAGGIE

Mr. Haddley told me you stop by his window almost everyday just to look at it.

MAN 1

I do. I hadn't made it 'round his store in a few days though. I would have been quite disappointed if I hadn't seen it.

MAGGIE

(They look into each others eyes)

Until now.

MAN 1

Until now.

MAGGIE

I insisted he set the time for me before I took it home. Check it.

MAN 1

(He compares the watch in his pocket to the new one)

Right on.

MAGGIE

I also had him engrave an inscription for me too.

(Turns the watch over and shows him)

See.

MAN 1

(Reading)

"To my darling husband, I will love you always . . . Maggie" . . . I really don't know what to say.

MAGGIE

Don't. I'm just glad you like it.

MAN 1

I do, I do.

(Looks in her eyes)

I love you Maggie.

(Kisses her)

MAGGIE

And I love you.

MAN 1

Now. Let's carve into that magnificent looking cake before I have to run off.

MAGGIE

Yes. I'm sure you are simply dying for a piece.

(Takes the cake knife and is about to cut, MAN 1 laughs)

What's so funny dear?

MAN 1

Oh, nothing. I was just thinking. It's times like these that make all of our quarrels suddenly seem so . . . petty.

MAGGIE

Yes, they do seem rather insignificant don't they?

MAN 1

You make me very happy, Magdalena.

MAGGIE

(Suddenly enraged, holding up the cake knife at him)

I told you never to call me that!

MAN 1

But why? It's such a pretty name.

MAGGIE

I don't care! I told you never to call me that.

MAN 1

All right! All right! I'll never call you that again.
Now put the knife down!

(Crosses to her)

Maggie, maybe you should lye down for a whi- . . .

MAGGIE

I do not want to lye down!

(Striking viciously with the knife,
missing him, chasing him around the
room)

MAN 1

Maggie, I am warning you . Stop this!

MAGGIE

NO! I won't stop until you are dead!

(Strikes again, missing him)

MAN 1

You're sick Maggie! Please let me help you!

MAGGIE

Ahhhhhhhhhh!

(Lunges at him again, he breaks away)

MAN 1

Damn it Maggie! Stop this behavior, at once! Now put that
knife down before you hurt yourself!

MAGGIE

(She strikes again, coming gravely
close to his neck)

You stay away from me. You hear that? STAY AWAY FROM ME!

(Slowly moves into MAN 1, who has
fallen back into a chair)

How long did you really think you could get away with what
you were doing to me, huh? (Holding the knife out)

MAN 1

(Pleading, in tears)

I am so sorry Maggie, I never meant to hurt you. But,
you were so young, and so pretty. I couldn't control
myself.

MAGGIE

You underestimated me father. I'm not that little girl
anymore. I've grown up. I'm much stronger and wiser now.

(She quickly jabs the knife to his
throat)

You will never be inside of me again! Did you hear that
father? You will never have me again!

(Releases the knife from his throat,
pause, calmer)

Did you know mother had a lover? That's right. Mother
had been secretly courting another man behind your back
. . . A doctor!

(Pause)

And to think, you trusted her. You don't feel so proud
now, do ya . . . *Father?*

(Pause, as MAN 1 cries)

So they could be alone and not disturbed, mother would fix
me tea, she always put something in it to make me sleep.
You got to hand it to the old girl, she could be very
ingenious when she wanted to be. It took me a while to
catch on to her scheme. But, eventually I did. Did you
know they were plotting to send me away to Dr. Weston in
Vermont? Were you in on that too?

MAGGIE Cont.

(MAN 1 with his head down, shakes
"no". MAGGIE quickly pulls his head
up by his hair and fiercely glares in

I hate Dr. Weston!

(Releases him)

Well, they weren't going to get away with it. Not with me . . . Not anymore. I took care of them for you, don't worry. I took care of all of you.

(A demented laugh)

Mother also underestimated me. She thought by locking the doors she could keep me outside. You see, the window in the kitchen opens just wide enough for someone with my frame to crawl in quite easily. And I did too. Then went directly up the stairs and found them, half naked and in each others arms. They looked so happy . . . They were in love.

(Pause)

And just as they were coming into what was soon to be their final kiss, I outstretched my arm, and in their lovers embrace, I shot them both.

(Beaming)

Oh, what a wonderful moment that was, to see them both in each others arms, on the floor . . . dying. Rather romantic, wouldn't you say? I left them both, still choking on their own blood . . . to die on the floor.

MAN 1

YOU KILLED MY SON!

MAGGIE

That's right I did kill him! And I enjoyed it too! Watching Philip kick and scream as I lit him on fire, gave me the greatest moment in my life! I knew by killing him, I would be killing you! . . . I took from you, what you took from me!

(Lunges at him in a furious rage, he manages to catch her wrist as she is striking, squeezing her wrist tightly, they struggle, she begins to scream frantically, the knife falls to the floor)

AHHHHHHH! AHHHHHHH!

MAN 1

(Taking Maggie by the arm)

You killed my son! And now you'll have to pay for it.
You are mine Maggie. Did you hear me!? Mine! I'm taking
you down in the cellar, where you can be mine forever!

MAGGIE

No father NO! Not the cellar! I promise, I'll be good. I
won't misbehave anymore, I promise!

(They struggle for a moment then
MAGGIE, breaks away and heads for the
front door)

HELP! HELP!

MAN 1

(Chases her)

Get back here! You can't hide from me Maggie

(MAN 1 catches Maggie at the door and
pulls her towards the cellar)

You are mine . . . And you will always be mine!

MAGGIE

(Fighting with all she has)

NOOOOOOOOOO!!! . . . NOOOOOOOOOO!!!

(MAN 2 enters through the front door,
crosses to the gift box, searches, he
is surprised to find it empty, he
hurries about the room looking for
the gun. MAN 1 and MAGGIE notice MAN
2. MAN 1 releases his grip from
MAGGIE, they both stand watching for
a moment)

MAN 1

Are you looking for something?

MAGGIE

Yes darling. Whatever are you looking for?

MAN 1

(Takes the gun out of his pocket and
holds it up)

MAN 1 Cont.

This perhaps?

MAN 2

How did you get that? Give me that!
(They struggle)
Maggie gave it to me. It's mine!

MAGGIE

(Jumping in, pulling the gun away from them)
No, it is mine! And I want him to have it. Not you!
(Hands the gun back to MAN 1)

MAN 2

I see. So you two planned this whole thing. You two are in this together?

MAGGIE

No my pet. You are in this one alone.
(MAGGIE and MAN 1 laugh)

MAN 1

Maggie, go in the kitchen, on the counter, the large cookie jar, inside is some rope, go and get it for me will you please?

MAGGIE

Yes, my sweet.
(She kisses him and exits)

MAN 1

(Keeping the gun pointed at MAN 2, retrieves chair from table and places it in front of the fire place, and forces MAN 2 to sit)
Now sit here and keep quiet!

MAN 2

(Pause)

What are you going to do to me?

MAN 1

I said keep quiet!

MAN 2

(Another pause)

Listen, if it's money you want, I can give it to you, I have . . .

MAN 1

I said, keep quiet!

MAN 2

You must listen to me. This was all Maggie's idea, not mine. She was using me to get to you. Ask her! Ask her why she made me hide out in the bushes until you came home. And the bad dream she was pretending to have. Why she put poison in the tea-

(Realizes)

Oh my god! The tea!

(Searches frantically through all of his pockets for something - he comes up short)

MAN 1

Lose something?

MAN 2

(Rises)

Where is it? I know you have it!

(Starts to advance on MAN 1)

Give it to me!

MAN 1

(Points the gun at his head, MAN 2 freezes)

SIT DOWN!

(MAN 2 sits)

MAN 2

(Pause)

What is it that you want from me?

MAN 1

I want you to sit there and be quiet!

MAN 2

(Pause)

You don't want to kill me. You don't want this on your conscious. You'll have to live with this forever, and ...

MAN 1

Quiet!

MAN 2

I was never going to go through with it anyway, I swear. I was going to aim the gun in the other direction, and purposely miss you. I was going to blame it on the gun misfiring, then run out the back and . . .

MAN 1

SHUT UP!

MAN 2

Please! You can't do this to me. It was her. Maggie is the one who should be sitting in this chair, not me . . .

MAN 1

. . . If you say one more word, I will put a bullet in your head right now!

MAN 2

(Maggie enters with the rope)

I found it!

MAN 1

Good, tie his hands before he tries anything.
(She goes to tie MAN 2's hands)

MAN 2

NO! Stop! Please, I beg of you, don't do this.

MAGGIE

(Sweetly)
Don't do what darling?

MAN 2

This . . . Don't do this.

MAGGIE

Oh, but we must my sweet, we must.

MAN 2

But why? We were supposed to kill him. Not me!

MAN 1

Plans have changed.

MAN 2

(To Maggie)
Maggie, why are you doing this? I'm your brother.

MAGGIE

You're a fool.

MAN 2

Maggie please, tell him. Tell him what you . . .

MAN 1

Quiet!

MAN 2

But I never planned anything. It was her. She forced me to go along with this. You must listen to me, please! She came up with the idea last night. When we were upstairs. Ask her. We were upstairs . . . In your

MAN 2 Cont.

bedroom . . . Last night!

(To MAGGIE)

I was here, with you, don't you remember?

MAGGIE

I'm sorry dear. I simply don't know what you're talking about.

MAN 2

But, you must. It was just last night. You made me promise to kill your husband and we would be together. Forever.

(MAGGIE with no response)

We had an argument about it, not thirty minutes ago. Maggie, please! Don't do this to me. I can't live without you. You know that. I love you!

(Still no response from MAGGIE)

You planned this! Every move I was to make, came from you. This was you . . . All you! (To MAN 1) You have to believe me?

MAN 1

(Pause)

Tie his feet!

(MAGGIE does)

MAN 2

But, I had nothing to do with it, I swear to you. Nothing! It was her! You have to believe me! This was . . . Her.

(MAN 2 is starting to feel the effects of the tea)

It was . . . All . . . Her

(Fading more)

MAN 1

(MAN 1 slaps MAN 2 across the face)

Phillip? Wake up! . . . Can you hear me!?

MAN 2

(Groggy)

Maggie, please . . . you . . . can't do this.

MAGGIE

Good bye Philip!

(Kisses his forehead)

MAN 2

(The effect is getting stronger now,
fighting to stay awake)

Tell him . . . tell him what you . . . told . . . what you
. . . how

(Appearing as if he is going to be
sick)

MAN 1

(MAN 1 and MAGGIE both watch MAN 2)

Is there something the matter?

(MAN 2 tries his best to nod his head)

Feeling a little queasy? A little dizzy perhaps?

(MAN 2 frantic, starts to pound his
chest with his chin, then pointing it
to MAN 1, as to signify that
something is in his pocket)

What? In here? Is there something in here that you
want?

(MAN 2 nodding, gasping)

There is? Well, let's just have a look then, shall we?

(He then reaches in his pocket and
pulls out the medicine vial and holds
it up)

Now, how did this get in here? Was this what you were
after?

(MAN 2 nods)

It is? What is this Philip? Are you really sure you want
to have it?

(MAN 2 nods, MAN 1 draws closer)

Is this your medication?

(MAN 2 nods)

You need this don't you?

(MAN 2 nods)

With out it you would die, wouldn't you?

(MAN 2 nods, MAN 1 looks at MAN 2 for
a moment)

MAN 1 Cont.

You don't look good at all Philip, your color is really starting to fade. You look white as a ghost. Are you a ghost Philip?

(MAN 2 shakes his head)

No? . . . Are you sure? You look like a ghost.

(MAN 2 starts to spit up, then begins to choke and cough)

Oh, all right Philip, stop drooling all over yourself, I'll give you the damn bottle.

(MAN 1 holding out the vial to administer the liquid, MAN 2 opens his mouth and just as MAN 1 is about to pour, he quickly pulls away the vial)

Never!

(Both Maggie and MAN 1 laugh, MAN 1 places the vial back in his pocket)

MAN 2

(Very groggy, fading away quicker now)

You . . . you did this . . . tell him . . . you did this-

MAGGIE

(MAGGIE and MAN 1 come together)

Oh darling, look at him dying. Isn't it beautiful?

(They watch MAN 2 take his last cough and breath, then turn and stare into each others eyes)

I love you so much darling.

MAN 1

And I love you Maggie. More than you will ever know.

(They kiss)

MAGGIE

Now, finish it.

(MAN 1, without hesitation, turns and fires three shots into MAN 2. They embrace as the lights fade to black. This is the end of ACT I)

ACT II

As the lights rise, funeral music is heard. Maggie is lying on the sofa. She is wearing the same outfit as she wore in ACT I scene one, however, her hair is done-up perfectly and her arms are folded. MAN 1 and MAN 2 are standing before her, each holding a single red rose. MAN 1 is wearing his black wool suit and MAN 2 is wearing his knickers and suspenders, they never take their eyes off of her.

The two men are silent, staring at her for a long while, then finally MAN 1 speaks . . .

MAN 1

She looks peaceful doesn't she?

MAN 2

Yes . . . she does.

MAN 1

Her hair is done perfectly. Just as I remember her.

MAN 2

I can't remember what she looked like the last time I saw her. I haven't seen her in quite a while. I, uh

(Pause)

I had a feeling I would never see her again. But, I couldn't bring myself to tell her that.

MAN 1

No, I guess you couldn't.

MAN 2

I never wanted to leave.

MAN 1

Of course you didn't.

MAN 2

I thought I could come back. Maggie said I could, if I really wanted to.

MAN 1

Maggie said a lot of things.

MAN 2

I really wanted to.

MAN 1

I know you did.

MAN 2

This was not my fault!

MAN 1

It was nobody's fault Philip.

MAN 2

(Long pause)

She seems so quiet.

MAN 1

She's at peace.

(Pause)

She's with child.

MAN 2

Yes, I know.

MAN 1

(Pause)

It was mine Philip.

MAN 2

Yes father, I know.

(Pause)

Did you lover her?

MAN 1

Yes. Very much . . . Too much.

MAN 2

I wish I could have been here.

MAN 1

What could you have done?

MAN 2

Nothing. Just to be with her.

(Pause)

If she just . . . Maybe she would still be alive.

MAN 1

It was inevitable Philip. This had to happen.

MAN 2

She didn't deserve this.

MAN 1

We all deserve what we ask for Philip. She wanted to go.
This was her choice

MAN 2

(Pause, looks up at MAN 1)

Will I ever see her again father?

MAN 1

(Looking up at MAN 2)

Yes Philip. You will see her again.

(Both men bow their heads and say a short silent prayer, then MAN 2 moves in to MAGGIE, places the rose over

MAN 1 Cont.

Maggie's Dream

83

her chest, kisses her forehead, he
then exits through the glass doors.
MAN 1 repeats the act, but kisses
her lips, then exits through the
front door, the lights fade)

ACT II

83

The lights slowly rise. Maggie has remained lying on the sofa. She is softly moaning and moving about. After a moment, the front door opens, MAN 2 wearing his knickers and suspenders and carries an old duffle bag. He stands and admires her for a moment, then places the bag down and moves in to her. MAN 2 and MAGGIE are brother and sister in this scene. When they kiss, it is on the cheeks only.

MAN 2

(Gently shaking her)

Maggie? . . . Maggie? Wake up! . . . Maggie! It's me! I'm home! . . . Wake up Maggie, you're dreaming . . . Maggie? . . . Maggie? . . . Wake up! It's me, Philip. I'm home!

MAGGIE

(Waking)

Huh, Wha- . . .

MAN 2

It's all right Maggie, it's all right. You were just dreaming. I'm home. I'm home . . .

MAGGIE

(Startled)

Huuuuh--

(Recognizes him, she becomes hysterically excited, hugging and kissing him)

PHILIP! It's you, it's you, it's really you! And you're all right, you're not hurt. Oh thank God you're alive! Oh, I am so glad to see you, I thought I would never see you again!

(Breaking down)

Ohhhhh! You're home! . . . You're home!

MAN 2

Yes Maggie, I am home. I'm home to stay. And I promise, I will never leave you again.

MAGGIE

I love you so much Philip.

MAN 2

And I love you Maggie.

(They embrace)

MAGGIE

Let me see you. I just want to look at you. I could stare at you forever. Oh, what a wonderful site you are to me right now Philip. Oh my darling! I missed you so much.

(Embraces him, looking up, speaks to herself)

Thank you God for bringing him back to me. Thank you . . . Thank you.

(To MAN 2)

You promised you would come back to me, and now you have.

MAN 2

It took me sixteen years to find you again. I thought I would never make it home.

MAGGIE

Well, you did make it. It doesn't matter how long it took you to find me. You're home now, that's the important thing.

(Staring at him)

You have come home. You've come home to me and that's all that matters.

(Embraces him)

MAN 2

(Pulls away and crosses to duffle bag)

Oh, I almost forgot. I brought you back something. I hope you like it.

MAGGIE

You didn't need to bring me back anything. You coming back to me, is all I asked for.

MAN 2

(Searching)

I know it's in here somewhere . . . Ah, here it is
(Pulls out something wrapped in brown paper, tied with string)
Here my darling. I hope you like it.

MAGGIE

Philip, really, you didn't have to . . .

MAN 2

I know I didn't, but I wanted to. Open it.

MAGGIE alone

All right!

(Opens the package, and reveals the same summer dress she wore in ACT I scene six. She rises and holds it up to her)

Oh, Philip! This is beautiful!

MAN 2

Do you like it?

MAGGIE

(Almost in tears)

Oh Philip, I love it!

MAN 2

Try it on. I want to see you in it.

MAGGIE

You are so wonderful to me Philip, thank you!
(Kisses him)

MAN 2

Try it on. I'm dying to see what it looks like on you.

MAGGIE

Really? Now?

MAN 2

Sure. Why not?

(Maggie just stares at him)

Well, go. What are you waiting for?

MAGGIE

I don't know, I just can't believe you're home.

MAN 2

Well, I am home. I am home forever. So, get used to it.

MAGGIE

I love you Phillip

(Kisses him)

I'll only be a minute.

(Starts to exit)

MAN 2

Take as much time as you need darling . . . we have the rest of our lives together.

MAGGIE

(Turns around)

Philip?

(They look in each others eyes for a moment)

Thank you.

MAN 2

You're quite welcome Maggie.

(MAGGIE exits, MAN 2 begins to wander around the room, eventually making his way to the fireplace, he notices the pictures, holds up the photograph of the family, stares at it for a

MAN 2 Cont.

Maggie's Dream 88
moment, then places it back, face
down. He then crosses U. to the glass
doors, opens them and stares out.)

MAGGIE

Ready or not, here I come!

(She enters, wearing the dress)

MAN 2

(Turns, he is in awe)

Oh, Maggie! You look positively magnificent!

MAGGIE

Do you like it?

MAN 2

Words can't describe how beautiful you are right now. It
fits perfectly on you!

MAGGIE

You think? It's not too big is it?

MAN 2

No, it's perfect. Absolutely perfect!

MAGGIE

It's so pretty!

MAN 2

Did I do good?

MAGGIE

You did wonderful.

(Kisses him)

MAN 2

I'm so happy you like it. I was worried that it wouldn't fit, or that you wouldn't like it.

MAGGIE

Oh, Philip, don't be a fool, I would love anything you gave me. But, I love you most of all.

(They hug, then she breaks)

Dance with me Philip!

MAN 2

Dance? . . . I can't dance, you know that.

MAGGIE

Sure you can. Everyone can dance. All you need is the right partner and the right music.

MAN 2

But, we don't have any music.

MAGGIE

We don't need any music, our hearts will keep the beat.

(She takes his arms and wraps them around her)

MAN 2

I guess I don't have much of a choice now do I?

MAGGIE

(They dance very close for a while)

You see? We don't need any music at all.

(Pause)

Can you feel my heart Philip? I can feel yours.

MAN 2

I think so.

MAGGIE

How does it feel?

MAN 2

It feels absolutely wonderful.

(They look into each others eyes)

MAGGIE

I just realized something . . . do you know what day it is?

MAN 2

Uhhhh . . . Tuesday?

MAGGIE

No silly, it's your birthday.

MAN 2

Oh, so it is. So it is. How old am I anyway?

MAGGIE

Lets see . . . You would be nineteen today.

MAN 2

Nineteen? Wow!

MAGGIE

Dip me!

MAN 2

I can't dip you.

MAGGIE

Yes you can.

MAN 2

I don't know how.

MAGGIE

Just try it.

MAN 2

All right . . . Like this?
(He dips her)

MAGGIE
Yes! Just like that. Do it again!
(He dips her again)

Now spin me.

MAN 2
Like this?
(He spins her)

MAGGIE
(Giddy)
Ooooooo . . . This is so much fun Philip. We haven't had
this much fun since we were kids playing in the bar-
(They stop, look into each others eyes
for a moment)
Promise me you will never leave me again Philip.

MAN 2
I will never leave you again Maggie.

MAGGIE
Promise?

MAN 2
Promise.
(MAN 1 has appeared in from the glass
windows, MAGGIE and MAN 2 are
positioned so, that only MAN 2 can
see MAN 1)

MAGGIE
What is it darling?

MAN 2
I'm sorry Maggie, I have to go.
(Starts to move to front door)

MAGGIE

No Philip! No, you can't! You can't leave me! You promised you would never leave me again! You promised!

MAN 2

I'm sorry Maggie.

(Continues to the door, MAGGIE follows him)

MAGGIE

(MAN 2 picks up his duffle bag and exits. She calls out)

PHILIP!

(MAGGIE turns and notices MAN 1, she is now ten years old)

Father?

MAN 1

(Stern)

Come here Maggie.

MAGGIE

What's the matter father, you seem angry?

MAN 1

What were you doing in the barn Maggie?

MAGGIE

Nothing father. Honest.

MAN 1

Don't lie to me! What were you doing in the barn?!

MAGGIE

Nothing.

MAN 1

I found the horses loose and the barn door open.

MAGGIE

I didn't do it.

MAN 1

Who else could have done it then?

MAGGIE

Maybe the dogs did it. They're always . . .

MAN 1

. . . Dogs! You expect me to believe that the dogs . . .

MAGGIE

. . . But they could have father, you know how they're always getting into the barn.

MAN 1

Look at your clothes Maggie. Why are they dirty?

MAGGIE

I . . . I . . . I fell.

MAN 1

Where?

MAGGIE

Outside.

MAN 1

Where outside?

MAGGIE

I don't remember.

MAN 1

Don't lie to me Maggie.

(Loosens his belt)

You know what happens to you when you lie.

(Begins unbuttoning his shirt)

I'm going to give you one more chance to tell me the truth
Maggie.

(MAGGIE says nothing)

Now . . . What were you doing in the barn!?

MAGGIE

(Starting to cry)

Nothing!

MAN 1

The truth Maggie!

MAGGIE

Nothing, I swear!

MAN 1

The truth.

MAGGIE

(In tears)

Father, I swear. We were only playing a game.

MAN 1

What game?

MAGGIE

I don't know.

MAN 1

(Lifts his hand as to strike her)

What game!

MAGGIE

(Heavy tears)
The burning game!

MAN 1

That's it! I'm taking you down in the cellar.
(Pulling her to the kitchen exit)

MAGGIE

(Fighting him)
No! Not the cellar father. Please! Not the cellar! He promised he would come back! He promised!

MAN 1

You have to pay for this Maggie.

MAGGIE

(Hysterical)
But, I didn't mean it! It wasn't my fault! It wasn't my fault! He said he would come back!

MAN 1

Stop fighting me Maggie, you're only making it worse!
(Closer now to the exit, MAN 2 appears at the glass doors, he is not noticed by MAN 1 or MAGGIE)

MAGGIE

No, father no! Not the cellar again, please! I promise I will never lie again. Please father don't do this to me anymore! You can't bring me down there! You can't!

(She manages to twist her body around, and notices MAN 2)

PHILIP! Save me! Save me Philip!

(Pulls herself free and rushes to MAN 2. As she is rushing to him, MAN 2 backs out of site. For a moment MAGGIE is standing alone, with her arms around a figment of her imagination. She realizes that Philip is not there, cries)

Why do you leave me Philip? Why won't you come back to me!? You know I never meant to hurt you! I only want you to come back to me.

(Calls out)

Philip!? Can you hear me? PHILLIP!?
(Collapses to the floor)
Phillip . . . Phillip
(She breaks down)

MAN 1
(He lets her break down for a while
then slowly kneels down and picks her
up)
It's over Maggie. He's gone now.

MAGGIE
Why isn't he coming back? He said he was coming back. He
said it! He said it!

MAN 1
(MAN 1 making his way to the front
door)
Philip is never coming back Maggie.

MAGGIE
No! Where are you going? Don't leave. Don't leave me,
please! Why isn't he coming back!?

MAN 1
(Turns in)
He can't come back Maggie.
(Turns and is gone)

MAGGIE
(Rushing to the door and calls out)
He promised! He promised!

MOTHER
(Off, from behind the glass doors)
Maggie? . . . Maggie?

MAGGIE
(Turns)

Mother, is that you?

MOTHER

(Appears from the glass doors. She is still wearing the same skirt and blood stained blouse)

What are you doing out of your room Maggie?

MAGGIE

I . . . I was jus . . . It was the . . .

MOTHER

Don't think for one second you are going to get away with any of your nonsense today, because you won't! Now, what are you doing out of your room?

MAGGIE

I was talking to Philip.

MOTHER

Maggie, please! I am exhausted. I do not have the strength to deal with your imagination today.

(Goes to MAGGIE)

Now, get back in your room before your father sees you.

MAGGIE

But, I was mother! I was just talking to him. He was here! He was right here!

(Breaking away from her, crosses to the front door calling out)

PHILIP!?

MOTHER

Philip is dead. Now hurry. Your father will be home any minute.

MAGGIE

No! He said he would come back! He promised!

MOTHER

Stop it Maggie.

MAGGIE

PHILIP! PHILIP! . . .

MOTHER

He can't here you Maggie . . .

MAGGIE

Yes he can! PHILIP! . . . PHILIP!

MOTHER

He's not there Maggie . . . He was never there.

MAGGIE

No! No! It was him. It was Philip!

MOTHER

He's gone.

MAGGIE

PHILIP!

MOTHER

He's gone.

MAGGIE

He can't be, he was just here. I was just talking to him.

MOTHER

You killed him.

MAGGIE

No! No! I didn't! I didn't!

MOTHER

You did Maggie.

MAGGIE

No! No! It was only a game. I told him he could come back if he really wanted to and he said he did. He said he was coming back!

MOTHER

It was no game Maggie. You killed him.

MAGGIE

No! It was a game! That's all . . . Just a game!

MOTHER

You brought him into the barn . . .

MAGGIE

It was his birthday!

MOTHER

You placed him in the wash bin . . .

MAGGIE

No!

MOTHER

You tied his hands . . .

MAGGIE

No! No! Mother, please stop!

MOTHER

You held the lantern over his head . . .

MAGGIE

Stop it! Stop!

MOTHER

Dousing his body with it's oil . . .

MAGGIE

No . . . I didn't . . .

MOTHER

You struck a match . . .

MAGGIE

No! Stop! Why are you telling me this? . . .

MOTHER

Then threw it on him . . .

MAGGIE

No! No! That isn't true! . . .

MOTHER

. . . You set him on fire Maggie.

MAGGIE

No more mother, please! It didn't happen! It didn't happen!

MOTHER

You covered his ashes with hay and ran inside as if nothing happened . . .

MAGGIE

(Crying hard now)

. . . He said he would come back!

MOTHER

Philip is dead Maggie. You killed him!

MAGGIE

No!

MOTHER

For revenge on your father . . .

MAGGIE

NOOOOOOO!

(Collapsing on the floor, breaking
down, MOTHER slowly exits out the
glass doors)

NOOOOOOOO! . . . I did it! I did it! I killed him! Oh my
Lord, I killed him! Why did you do this to me father?
Why would you do that?

(Looking up)

I only killed him to kill you! . . . I hate you father! I
hate you! I only wanted a normal life, like all the other
children. And you took it away from me. I hate you! I
hate you!

(She breaks down)

MAN 1

(After a moment, he enters through the
front door, goes to her. He has his
doctors bag and stethoscope)

Maggie!

(Kneels down and holds her)

It's going to be all right Maggie, it's going to be all
right.

MAGGIE

He's never coming back doctor. And it's my fault! It's
all my fault!

(Runs to the glass doors, calls out)

PHILIP!? PHILIP!?

(Collapses on the floor)

PHILIP!?

(To MAN 1)

Why doesn't he answer me?

MAN 1

I don't know dear, I don't know.

(Helping her up)

Now come Maggie, lets get you to the sofa, you have got to
get some rest.

MAGGIE

He was right here. And he was talking to me . . . You believe me, don't you doctor?

MAN 1

Yes, Maggie. I believe you. You can tell me all about it tomorrow, when you wake up.

MAGGIE

What if I never wake up, doctor? What if he comes back and I don't wake up? I'll never see him again.

MAN 1

You'll see him again Maggie. I promise.

(Tucking her in)

Now close your eyes and let yourself fall asleep.

(She does)

You're doing fine, Maggie. Just fine. Soon you will be in a beautiful place, where you will never feel pain again.

(The lights are starting to fade,

MAGGIE is quickly falling asleep)

There you are my dear. Let your body rest now. It will all be over soon.

(The lights fade)

The lights rise to MAGGIE sitting in the rocking chair. MOTHER is standing at the glass doors. She is wearing her blood stained blouse.

MAGGIE
Did you love him?

MOTHER
At one time, yes. But that was a long time ago.

MAGGIE
Do you still love him?

MOTHER
(Pause)
No!
(Takes a swig from her vial)

MAGGIE
That isn't good for you mother.

MOTHER
You're not my doctor, Maggie.

MAGGIE
Why do you take so much?

MOTHER
I need it!

MAGGIE
I worry about you mother.

MOTHER

Don't worry about me Maggie. You should be concerned with more important matters right now.

MAGGIE

I know.

(Pause)

What does it feel like, to be in love?

MOTHER

Maybe we should talk about this at another time, Maggie.

MAGGIE

No mother, please. Philip will be here soon, and I just want to know what it's like . . . Before I have to go.

MOTHER

I don't see what this is going to accomplish.

MAGGIE

I need to know mother. I'll never have an opportunity to be in love and I . . . My life is over now, and I just want to experience the feeling of love. Even if it is only in my mind. To imagine the feeling, just for a little while.

MOTHER

(Pause)

I knew what your father was doing to you Maggie. I knew why he took you down in the cellar.

(Close to tears)

MAGGIE

I know you did Mother

(Tearing up)

Why didn't you stop him?

MOTHER

At first I thought he was just punishing you. You were a rotten child Maggie. You needed a great deal of

MOTHER Cont.

discipline. I started noticing things, blood . . . and hair in your under garments . . . It didn't take long before I realized what was happening . . . But, by then, it was too late. I had become blind. Numb. You no longer see. You no longer feel.

MAGGIE

I'm carrying his child mother.

MOTHER

Yes, I know Maggie.

MAGGIE

Is that love?

MOTHER

Is what love?

MAGGIE

Having a baby. Is that love?

MOTHER

No Maggie. Children can bring you love, but having them is not love. They are gifts of love.

MAGGIE

Tell me about the real love mother, please. Before I go, I want to know the truth.

MOTHER

(Pause)

It's the most beautiful, and rewarding experience a woman could ever have. The entire world is yours for the taking. Two people, craving the same passion . . . Creating life.

(Takes a swig from her vial)

From which, unity is born. The family. The greatest love of all. And that bond, that togetherness . . . And all the admiration, and affection you have for one another,

MOTHER Cont.

will never disappear.

(Takes another swill from her vial)

Then people grow. They become wiser and more aware. They find out the truth.

(Pause)

Truth is it? Is that what you want? . . . The truth? All right, here's the truth. Love isn't real, Maggie. It doesn't exist. All trust becomes lost. All passion, all feeling, is lost. You're fooling yourself Maggie. There is no love. It's not real.

MAGGIE

So, then it's a lie? All of it? Love is nothing more than a lie!?

MOTHER

I'm afraid so.

MAGGIE

Butt why? Why do we have these feelings if their not real!? . . . WHY!?

MOTHER

Maggie! Control yourself!

MAGGIE

No! I will not control myself. Love has to be real. Is has to be! This is all your fault! No wonder he wanted me instead of you. You don't believe in love!

MOTHER

I'm sorry I let him do those awful things to you. I was scared. I didn't know how to stop him!

MAGGIE

Yes you did!

MOTHER

No, no I didn't . . .

MAGGIE

Yes you did! You knew what he was doing from the first time he took me down there! You're just as guilty . . . You let him do it!

MOTHER

(She slaps MAGGIE)

I will not be talked to like that in my house. Do you understand me?

(No response)

Do you understand me!

MAGGIE

Yes, mother.

MOTHER

(MAN 2 appears at the glass doors)

There is no way out for you Maggie. You can't hide any longer.

MAN 2

(Reaching out his hand)

It's time Maggie.

MAGGIE

(Takes a step towards him, turns to MOTHER)

Are you coming too mother?

MOTHER

No. I'm sorry Maggie, I can't. Phillip is here for you, not me.

MAGGIE

But, we can all be together. We can all be happy again.

MOTHER

We will never be happy again Maggie. You destroyed our happiness.

MAGGIE

I don't want to go. Not with out you mother. I'm afraid.

MAN 2

Don't be afraid. I will protect you.

(Outstretches his hand)

Take my hand, Maggie. We are running out of time.

MAGGIE

But, we're both dead. We have to go to heaven.

MOTHER

You're not going to heaven Maggie.

MAGGIE

But, NO! . . . No. No. We have to go to heaven. All good people go to heaven. You said so . . . Remember?

MOTHER

Yes, I remember. All good people do go to heaven.

MAGGIE

(Realizing)

Then . . .

MOTHER

You killed yourself Maggie. You aren't allowed in heaven.

MAGGIE

Don't try and turn this around on me mother. You were always good at manipulating, but, you can't get away with it this time. I have proof. I'm with child! It's growing inside of me. And it's his.

MOTHER

Look in your pocket Maggie.

MAGGIE

Why?

MOTHER

Reach in your pocket and pull out what's inside.
(MAGGIE does, and holds up the glass
medicine vial)

MAGGIE

I don't understand mother. This is your medicine. What
am I doing with it?

MOTHER

Pull the cork out and tip it upside down.
(Maggie does)
You see Maggie? It's empty.

MAGGIE

But . . . I, uh . . .

MOTHER

You drank it . . . All of it.

MAGGIE

But, mother I didn't. I swear . . .

MOTHER

. . . Stop lying Maggie.

MAGGIE

Oh, mother, I am so sorry. I just wanted it to stop. I
loved you. I wanted you to be my friend.

MOTHER

I was your friend Maggie.

MAGGIE

Then why wouldn't you stop him? Why didn't you do something?

MOTHER

Do what? Your father never touched you Maggie. He was a good man. He loved you. He protected you.

MAGGIE

By holding me in the cellar and having his way with me? Is that what you call protecting me?

MOTHER

You were dreaming Maggie. None of this ever happened. This is all in your imagination.

MAGGIE

But, it wasn't! It happened. I know it did. It was real.

MOTHER

In your mind.

MAGGIE

No. No. It can't be. I'm talking to you right now. I'm real. You're real. This is happening. Its all real.

MOTHER

Maggie, you have to listen to me. You are dead. I am not real. And neither is Phillip. We are in your dream.

MAGGIE

(Turns to look at MAN 2)

Phillip? . . . Is this true?

MAN 2

Yes Maggie. This is true?

MAGGIE

(To MOTHER)

Are you even my mother?

MOTHER

No. You made me up. I don't exist . . . I've never existed.

MAN 2

We have to go now Maggie.

MAGGIE

If you're not real, why are you taking me away?

MAN 2

Only you can answer that Maggie.

MAGGIE

Oh, mother, I am so sorry I got you involved in this.
(Rushes to MOTHER and embraces her
crying. MOTHER stands motionless)
Please forgive me mother. Please forgive me.

MOTHER

It's not up to me to forgive you. You have to forgive yourself.

MAGGIE

I do. I do.

(Breaking down, After a moment MOTHER
pushes her away. MAGGIE then slowly
moves to MAN 2, takes his hand, then
turns)

I will miss you mother.

MOTHER

(Doing her best to hold back the tears)
I'll miss you too Maggie.
(MAGGIE and MAN 2 drift out of site

MOTHER Cont.

through the glass doors, once they are gone, MOTHER breaks down and lights fade)

Maggie's Dream
ACT II
Scene Four

113

MAGGIE is lying on the sofa, violently shaking from a seizure. MAN 1 is kneeling beside her trying unsuccessfully to hold her down.

MAN 1

(Urgently calls out towards the glass doors)

HARLAN!

(To MAGGIE, who is shaking more now)

Hold on Maggie, hold on.

(Calls out again)

HARLAN! . . . Goddamn it get in here. I need you! NOW!

(MAGGIE begins to cough and spit-up)

Stay with me Maggie, don't let go. Stay with me! My assistant is on his way with your medicine. Just hold on.

(Turns and calls out)

HARLAN, WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?

(Back to MAGGIE)

Just a little longer Maggie. He will be here soon. Don't let go. Keep fighting it Maggie. Keep fighting.

(Maggie suddenly stops seizing, she opens her eyes and stares at MAN 1)

Where are you Maggie? Where are you? Talk to me. Tell me where you are . . . Maggie? . . . Maggie!? MAGGIE?

(MAGGIE remains motionless, he checks her pulse, then puts the stethoscope to her heart, after a moment, he pulls the scope from his ears, closes her eyes with his fingers, then gently places his hand on her stomach)

Rest in peace my child. Our secret is with me now.

(He slowly kisses her lips, then begins to put his gear back in his bag, walks to the front door, turns, and gives one last look at MAGGIE, then exits. Lights dim to a solo of MAGGIE. After a moment, MAGGIE rises and crosses to the glass doors, the light follows her.)

MAGGIE

(Opens the glass doors and faces the audience)

The truth is, I have no secrets anymore . . . Secrets don't exist, but only to those who keep them. I have no use for them here. I am free. Unaware of who I am and who I was. I prefer it that way. It's less painful. Less complicated. I am now aware of what will never be, always was. And what is true is never real. Life is for your heart. Death is for your mind. I have been deceased since the moment of my conception . . . Ending all that began. I feel no pain. Or sorrow. I have no memory of the past or interest in the future. It's irrelevant. Information of any kind, has no value to me . . . I am all-knowing. I walk with no legs, and fly without wings. Reaching the top, while motionless at the bottom. I have created what is not yet there, and destroyed that, what never was. I have no heart . . . No brain or lungs or any internal organs. They cannot function. No need of air, for I do not breathe. I'm a wealthy pauper, enriched by my own misfortune . . . Casting aspersions among the poised and dismayed. Never has there been Heaven . . . Or hell . . . Or good, or evil. What exists is only that, that doesn't exist. Leaving those who do . . . to be for naught. I cannot rest. I cannot tire. I am the mother of my parents, and the daughter of my children. I am neither weak, nor strong. I am unable to recognize light from dark. I am neither safe, nor in danger. I can neither see, nor hear. Fight or surrender. For I'm a soldier in my own war. An enemy of myself. Sent here to conquer the unknown. The unhinged. I've been here since the beginning of time, but, have yet to arrive. I can't describe what its like to be hungry, or to be of thirst. I crave nothing. I desire nothing. I do not want, nor do I need. I have all that remains intact, but am in possession of nothing. I do not speak, or cry, or make any sound at all. Yet, my message is always received. I stand on the hill, where the beginning ends, and the end begins. Arriving and departing in a concurrent dance of perpetual motion. I have no weight. No mass. No physical appearance. No fidelity. No sin. I am colorless. Odorless . . . Meaningless. I cannot sense, nor comprehend. I am clairvoyant. I am neither tame nor wild. I cannot hide, nor can I be found. I am the unborn. A vacant soul. A simple point in space. Wandering aimlessly through a spectrum of nothing. No direction to . . . No direction from. I do not exist. I never did. I'm a figment of my own imagination . . . I am, my dream.

MAN 1

(Appears)

I am my dream.

MOTHER

(Appears)

I am my dream.

MAN 2

(Appears)

I am my dream.

ALL

We are . . . your dream.

(Blackout)

THE END