

ROYAL
COURT
THEATRE

CLEANSSED

SARAH KANE

In an institution designed to rid society of its undesirables, a group of inmates try to save themselves through love. *Cleansed* is a tender and violent fable from the author of *Blasted* and *Phaedra's Love*.

CLEANSSED

Cleansed premiered at the Royal Court Theatre Downstairs, London, in April 1998.

methuendrama

METHUEN
RANDOM HOUSE

www.randomhouse.co.uk

ISBN 0-413-73330-0



9 780413 733306

£6.99

Cleansed

My thanks to all the writers, directors and actors, both at New Dramatists and in the UK, who gave their time to help develop this play.

For the patients and staff of ES3.

Author's note

A stroke (/) indicates the point of interruption in overlapping dialogue.

Stage directions in brackets function as lines.

Where punctuation is missing, it is to indicate delivery.

Scene One

*Just inside the perimeter fence of a university.
It is snowing.*

Tinker *is heating smack on a silver spoon.*

Graham *enters.*

Graham Tinker.

Tinker I'm cooking.

Graham I want out.

Tinker *(looks up)*

Silence.

Tinker No.

Graham Is that for me?

Tinker I don't use.

Graham More.

Tinker No.

Graham It's not enough.

Tinker I'm a dealer not a doctor.

Graham Are you my friend?

Tinker I don't think so.

Graham Then what difference will it make?

Tinker It won't end here.

Graham My sister, she wants –

Tinker Don't tell me.

Graham I know my limits. Please.

Tinker You know what will happen to me?

Graham Yes.

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Tinker It's just the beginning.

Graham Yes.

Tinker You'll leave me to that?

Graham We're not friends.

Pause.

Tinker No.

Graham No regrets.

Tinker (*thinks. Then adds another large lump of smack to the spoon*)

Graham More.

Tinker (*looks at him. Then puts on another lump. He adds lemon juice and heats the smack. He fills the syringe*)

Graham (*searches for a vein with difficulty*)

Tinker (*injects into the corner of Graham's eye*)

Count backwards from ten.

Graham Ten. Nine. Eight.

Tinker Your legs are heavy.

Graham Seven. Six. Five.

Tinker Your head is light.

Graham Four. Four. Five.

Tinker Life is sweet.

Graham This is what it's like.

They look at each other.

Graham (*smiles*)

Tinker (*looks away*)

Graham Thank you, Doctor.

(*He slumps.*)

Tinker Graham?

Silence.

Tinker Four.
 Three.
 Two.
 One
 Zero.

Scene Two

Rod and Carl sit on the college green just inside the perimeter fence of the university.

Midsummer – the sun is shining.

The sound of a cricket match in progress on the other side of the fence.

Carl takes off his ring.

Carl Can I have your ring?

Rod I'm not going to be your husband, Carl.

Carl How do you know?

Rod I'm not going to be anyone's husband.

Carl I want you to have my ring.

Rod What for?

Carl A sign.

Rod Of what?

Carl Commitment.

Rod You've known me three months. It's suicide.

Carl Please.

Rod You'd die for me?

Carl Yes.

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Rod (*holds out his hand*) I don't like this.

Carl (*closes his eyes and puts the ring on Rod's finger*)

Rod What are you thinking?

Carl That I'll always love you.

Rod (*laughs*)

Carl That I'll never betray you.

Rod (*laughs more*)

Carl That I'll never lie to you.

Rod You just have.

Carl Baby --

Rod Sweetheart honey baby I have a name. You love me so much why can't you remember my name?

Carl Rod.

Rod Rod. Rod.

Carl Can I have your ring?

Rod No.

Carl Why not?

Rod I wouldn't die for you.

Carl That's all right.

Rod I can't promise you anything.

Carl I don't mind.

Rod I do.

Carl Please.

Rod (*takes off his ring and gives it to Carl*)

Carl Will you put it on my finger?

Rod No.

Carl Please.

Rod No.

Carl I don't expect anything.

Rod Yes you do.

Carl You don't have to say anything.

Rod I do.

Carl Please, Baby.

Rod Fuck's/sake —

Carl Rod, Rod, sorry. Please.

Rod (*takes the ring and Carl's hand*)

Listen. I'm saying this once.

(*He puts the ring on Carl's finger.*)

I love you *now*.

I'm with you *now*.

I'll do my best, moment to moment, not to betray you.

Now.

That's it. No more. Don't make me lie to you.

Carl I'm not lying to you.

Rod Grow up.

Carl I'll never turn away from you.

Rod Carl. Anyone you can think of, someone somewhere got bored with fucking them.

Carl Why are you so cynical?

Rod I'm old.

Carl You're thirty-four.

Rod Thirty-nine. I lied.

Carl Still.

Rod Don't trust me.

Pause.

Carl I do.

They kiss.

Tinker *is watching.*

Scene Three

The White Room – the university sanatorium.

Grace *stands alone, waiting.*

Tinker *enters, consulting a file.*

Tinker He's been dead six months. We don't normally keep the clothes that long.

Grace What happens to them?

Tinker Recycled. Or incinerated.

Grace Recycled?

Tinker Most likely incinerated, but –

Grace You give them to someone else?

Tinker Yes.

Grace Isn't that very unhygienic?

Tinker He died of an overdose.

Grace Then why burn his body?

Tinker He was an addict.

Grace You thought nobody cared.

Tinker I wasn't here at the time.

Grace I need to see his clothes.

Tinker I'm sorry.

Grace You gave my brother's clothes to someone else, I won't leave until I've seen them.

Tinker *(doesn't respond)*

Grace What does it matter to you? Give me his clothes.

Tinker I'm not allowed to let anything leave the grounds.

Grace I just need to see them.

Tinker *(considers. Then goes to the door and calls)*
Robin.

They wait. A nineteen-year-old boy enters.

Tinker There.

Grace *(to Robin)* Take off your clothes.

Robin Miss?

Grace Grace.

Tinker Do it.

Robin *(takes off his clothes, down to his underpants)*

Grace All of them.

Robin *(looks at Tinker)*

Tinker *(nods)*

Robin *removes his underpants and stands shivering with his hands over his genitals.*

Grace *undresses completely.*

Robin *watches, terrified.*

Tinker *looks at the floor.*

Grace *dresses in Robin's/Graham's clothes.*

When fully dressed, she stands for a few moments, completely still.

She begins to shake.

She breaks down and wails uncontrollably.

She collapses.

Tinker *lifts her on to a bed.*

She lashes out — he handcuffs both arms to the bed rails.

He injects her. She relaxes.

Tinker *strokes her hair.*

Grace I'm not leaving.

Tinker You are. You won't find him here.

Grace I want to stay.

Tinker It's not right.

Grace I'm staying.

Tinker You'll be moved.

Grace I look like him. Say you thought I was a man.

Tinker I can't protect you.

Grace I don't want you to.

Tinker You shouldn't be here. You're not well.

Grace Treat me as a patient.

Tinker *(considers in silence.
Then takes a bottle of pills from his pocket)*

Show me your tongue.

Grace *(sticks out her tongue)*

Tinker *(puts a pill on her tongue)*

Swallow.

Grace *(does)*

Tinker I'm not responsible, Grace.

He leaves.

Grace and Robin *stare at each other, Robin still naked, hands covering his genitals.*

Grace Dress.

Robin *(looks at Grace's clothes on the floor.
He puts them on)*

Grace Write for me.

Robin (*blinks*)

Grace I need you to tell my father I'm staying here.

Pause.

Robin Leaving soon. Going to my mum's.

Grace (*stares*)

Robin If I don't mess up again.
Going to my mum's, get myself sorted so I –
Get sorted.

Grace (*stares*)

Robin What you doing here, don't have girls here.
Staring at me.

Grace Write for me. (*She rattles her handcuffs.*)

Robin Voice told me to kill myself.

Grace (*stares*)

Robin Safe now. Nobody kills themselves here.

Grace (*stares*)

Robin Nobody wants to die.

Grace (*stares*)

Robin I don't want to die do you want to die?

Grace (*stares*)

Robin Could be pretty soon, me leaving.
Could be in thirty, Tinker said.
Could be –

Grace You can't write, can you.

Robin (*opens his mouth to answer but can't think of anything to say*)

Grace It's not the end of the world.

Robin (*tries to speak. Nothing*)

Scene Four

The Red Room — the university sports hall.

Carl *is being heavily beaten by an unseen group of men. We hear the sound of the blows and Carl's body reacts as if he has received the blow.*

Tinker *holds up his arm and the beating stops. He drops his arm. The beating resumes.*

Carl Please. Doctor. Please.

Tinker *holds up his arm. The beating stops.*

Tinker Yes?

Carl I can't —
Anymore.

Tinker *drops his arm. The beating continues methodically until Carl is unconscious.*

Tinker *holds up his arm. The beating stops.*

Tinker Don't kill him.
Save him.
(He kisses Carl's face gently.)

Carl *(opens his eyes)*

Tinker There's a vertical passage through your body, a straight line through which an object can pass without immediately killing you. Starts here.
(He touches Carl's anus.)

Carl *(stiffens with fear)*

Tinker Can take a pole, push it up here, avoiding all major organs, until it emerges here.
(He touches Carl's right shoulder.)

Die eventually of course. From starvation if nothing else gets you first.

Carl's trousers are pulled down and a pole is pushed a few inches up his anus.

Carl Christ no

Tinker What's your boyfriend's name?

Carl Jesus

Tinker Can you describe his genitals?

Carl No

Tinker When was the last time you sucked his cock?

Carl I

Tinker Do you take it up the arse?

Carl Please

Tinker Don't give it, I can see that.

Carl No

Tinker Close your eyes imagine it's him.

Carl Please God no I

Tinker Rodney Rodney split me in half.

Carl Please don't fucking kill me God

Tinker I love you Rod I'd die for you.

Carl Not me please not me don't kill me Rod not me don't kill me ROD NOT ME ROD NOT ME

The pole is removed.

Rod falls from a great height and lands next to **Carl**.

Silence.

Tinker I'm not going to kill either of you.

Carl I couldn't help it, Rod, was out my mouth before I—

Tinker Shh shh shh.
No regrets.

(He strokes Carl's hair.)

Show me your tongue.

Carl sticks out his tongue.

Tinker produces a large pair of scissors and cuts off **Carl's** tongue.

Carl waves his arms, his mouth open, full of blood, no sound emerging.

Tinker takes the ring from **Rod's** finger and puts it in **Carl's** mouth.

Tinker Swallow.

Carl (swallows the ring)

Scene Five

The White Room.

Grace is lying in bed.

She wakes and stares at the ceiling.

She takes her hands from under the sheet and looks at them — they are free.

She rubs her wrists.

She sits up.

Graham is sitting at the end of her bed.

He smiles at her.

Graham Hello, Sunshine.

Silence.

Grace stares at him.

She smacks him around the face as hard as she can, then hugs him to her as tightly as possible.

She holds his face in her hands and looks closely at him.

Grace You're clean.

Graham (smiles)

Grace Don't ever leave me again.

Graham No.

Grace Swear.

Graham On my life.

Pause. They look at each other in silence.

Graham More like me than I ever was.

Grace Teach me.

Graham *dances – a dance of love for Grace.*

Grace *dances opposite him, copying his movements.*

Gradually, she takes on the masculinity of his movement, his facial expression. Finally, she no longer has to watch him – she mirrors him perfectly as they dance exactly in time.

When she speaks, her voice is more like his.

Graham You're good at this.

Grace Good at this.

Graham Very good.

Grace Very good.

Graham So/very very good.

Grace Very very good.

Graham *(stops and considers her)*

I never knew myself, Grace.

Grace *(stops mirroring him, confused)*

You've always been an angel.

Graham No. I just look good.

(He smiles at her confusion and takes her in his arms.)

Not so serious. You're gorgeous when you smile.

They begin to dance slowly, very close together.

They sing the first verse of 'You Are My Sunshine'.

Their voices trail off and they stand staring at each other.

Grace They burned your body.

Graham I'm here. I went away but now I'm back and nothing else matters.

They stare at each other.

She touches his face.

Grace If I—

(She touches his lips.)

Put my—

(She puts her finger in his mouth.)

They stare at each other, terrified.

She kisses him very gently on the lips.

Grace Love me or kill me, Graham.

He hesitates.

Then kisses her, slowly and gently at first, then harder and deeper.

Graham I used to . . . think about you and . . .

I used to . . . wish it was you when I . . .

Used to . . .

Grace Doesn't matter. You went away but now you're back and nothing else matters.

Graham *takes off her shirt and stares at her breasts.*

Graham Makes no difference now.

He sucks her right breast.

She undoes his trousers and touches his penis.

They take off the rest of their clothes, watching each other.

They stand naked and look at each other's bodies.

They slowly embrace.

They begin to make love, slowly at first, then hard, fast, urgent, finding each other's rhythm is the same as their own.

They come together.

They hold each other, him inside her, not moving.

A sunflower bursts through the floor and grows above their heads.

When it is fully grown, Graham pulls it towards him and smells it.

Graham Lovely.

Scene Six

The Black Room – the showers in the university sports hall converted into peep-show booths.

Tinker enters.

He sits in a booth.

He takes off his jacket and lays it over his lap.

He undoes his trousers and puts his hand inside.

With his other hand he puts a token in the slot.

The flap opens and he looks in.

A Woman is dancing.

Tinker watches for a while, masturbating.

He stops and looks at the floor.

Tinker Don't dance, I –
Can I see your face?

The Woman stops dancing and considers.

After a moment she sits.

Tinker *(doesn't look at her)*

Woman *(waits)*

Tinker What you doing here?

Woman I like it.

Tinker It's not right.

Woman I know.

Tinker Can we be friends?

The flap closes.

Tinker *puts in two more tokens.*

The flap opens.

The Woman is dancing.

Tinker Don't, I –
Your face.

Woman (*sits*)

Tinker (*doesn't look at her*)

What you doing here?

Woman I don't know.

Tinker You shouldn't be here. It's not right.

Woman I know.

Tinker I can help.

Woman How?

Tinker I'm a doctor.

Woman (*doesn't respond*)

Tinker You know what that means?

Woman Yes.

Tinker Can we be friends?

Woman I don't think so.

Tinker No, but—

Woman No.

Tinker I'll be anything you need.

Woman Can't.

Tinker Yes.

Woman Too late.

Tinker Let me try.

Woman No.

Tinker Please. I won't let you down.

Woman (*laughs*)

Tinker Trust me.

Woman Why?

Tinker I won't turn away from you.

Woman Won't face me either.

Tinker I'll give you whatever you want, Grace.

Woman *(doesn't answer)*

Tinker *(looks at her face for the first time)* I promise.

The flap closes.

Tinker *has no more tokens.*

Scene Seven

The Round Room – the university library.

Grace and Robin *sit together looking at a piece of paper. Both still wear each other's clothes.*

Robin *holds a pencil.*

Graham *is watching.*

Grace It's talking without your voice. Same words you use all the time. Each letter corresponds to a sound. If you can remember which sound corresponds to which letter you can start building words.

Robin That letter don't look like it sounds.

Grace R.

Robin That one does/but that one don't.

Grace O. You know what this word/says?

Robin Robin, I know it's my name because you told/me.

Grace All right, I want you to write a word –

Robin Grace.

Grace My name, so you think it looks like it sounds.

Robin *(looks at her and thinks. He smiles and starts to write, holding the pencil clumsily, poking his tongue out as he concentrates)*

Graham Boys.

Grace (*smiles at Graham*)

Robin Miss?

Grace I have a name.

Robin Grace, you ever had a boyfriend?

Grace Yes.

Robin What was he like?

Grace He bought me a box of chocolates then tried to strangle me.

Robin Chocolates?

Graham That black kid?

Robin Got a pink?

Grace It's not about colour, colour doesn't come into it.

Robin What was his name?

Grace Graham.

Robin }
Graham } Your boyfriend.

Grace Paul.
Concentrate.

Robin }
Graham } Do you still love him?

Grace Please.

Robin No but do you?

Grace I—
No.
I never did.

Robin Did you —

Graham Fuck him.

Grace Yes.
Yes, I did do that.

I did do that.

Robin Oh.

Silence.

Robin *writes.*

Robin }
Graham } Gracie.

Grace What?

Robin If you could change one thing in your life what would you change?

Grace My life.

Robin No, one *thing* in your life.

Grace I don't know.

Robin No but say one thing.

Grace Too many to choose.

Robin }
Graham } But choose.

Grace This is insane.

Robin Wouldn't you wish your brother back?

Grace What?

Robin Wouldn't you wish Graham alive?

Graham }
Grace } (*laugh*)

Grace No. No.

I don't think of Graham as dead.
That's not how I think of him.

Robin You believe in heaven?

Grace No not at all.

Robin Don't believe in heaven you don't believe in hell.

Grace Can't see heaven.

Robin I had one wish I'd wish Graham alive again.

Grace You said change one thing in your life not have one wish.

Robin Then I'd change Graham dead to Graham alive.

Grace Graham's not a thing to change. And he's not in your life.

Robin He is.

Grace How?

Robin They gave me his clothes.

Tinker *is watching.*

Grace It's not necessary, Robin. It's not like he's dead.

Graham }
Robin } What would you change?

Grace My body. So it looked like it feels.
Graham outside like Graham inside.

Robin }
Graham } I think you've got a nice body.

Grace I'm glad. I think you should write that word now.

Robin My mum weren't my mum and I had to choose another, I'd choose you.

Grace Sweet boy.

Robin If I –
If I had to get married, I'd marry you.

Grace No one would marry me.

Robin }
Graham } I would.

Grace It's not possible.

Robin I've never kissed a girl before.

Grace You will.

Robin Not here I won't. Not unless it's you.

Grace I'm not like that, a girl, no.

Robin I don't mind.

Grace } I do.
Graham }

Robin I don't.

Grace Listen to me. If I was going to kiss anyone here, and I'm not but if I was, it would be you.

Robin } Would it?
Graham }

Grace Definitely.
 If.
 But.

Robin (*beams and goes back to his writing*)

A long pause.

Robin Gracie.

Grace Hmmn.

Robin } I love you.
Graham }

Grace I—
 I love you too. But in a very particular—

Robin Do you?

Grace Robin, I—

Robin Will you—

Grace } No.
Graham }

Robin Be my girlfriend?

Grace You're a lovely boy—

Robin I won't strangle you.

Grace A good friend but –

Robin I'm in love with you.

Grace How can you be?

Robin I just am.
I know you –

Grace Tinker knows me.

Robin And I love you.

Grace Lots of people know me, they're not in love with me.

Robin }
Graham } I am.

Grace You're confusing me.

Robin I only want to kiss you, won't hurt you, I swear.

Grace When you leave –

Robin }
Graham } Never will.

Grace What?

Robin Don't want to leave.

Grace This is –

Robin I want to be with you.

Grace What are you saying?

Robin I like it here.

Tinker *enters and looks over Robin's shoulder.
He picks up the piece of paper and looks at it.*

Tinker Fuck is that?

Robin Flower.

Tinker *(sets light to the paper and burns the whole thing)*

Robin She smells like a flower.

Scene Eight

A patch of mud just inside the perimeter fence of the university.

It is raining.

The sound of a football match in progress on the other side of the fence.

*A single rat scuttles around between **Rod** and **Carl**.*

Rod Baby.

Carl *(looks at **Rod**.*

He opens his mouth. No sound comes out)

Rod You'd have watched them crucify me.

Carl *(tries to speak. Nothing.*

He beats the ground in frustration.

He scrabbles around in the mud and begins to write while

Rod *talks.)*

Rod And the rats eat my face. So what. I'd have done the same only I never said I wouldn't. You're young. I don't blame you. Don't blame yourself. No one's to blame.

Tinker *is watching.*

*He lets **Carl** finish what he is writing, then goes to him and reads it.*

*He takes **Carl** by the arms and cuts off his hands.*

Tinker *leaves.*

Carl *tries to pick up his hands — he can't, he has no hands.*

Rod *goes to **Carl**.*

He picks up the severed left hand and takes off the ring he put there.

He reads the message written in the mud.

Rod Say you forgive me.

(He puts on the ring.)

I won't lie to you, Carl.

*The rat begins to eat **Carl**'s right hand.*

Scene Nine

The Black Room.

Tinker goes into his booth.

He sits.

He puts in a token.

The flap opens.

The Woman is dancing.

Tinker watches for a while.

Woman Hello, Doctor.

Tinker Grace, I—
Your face.

The Woman sits.

They look at each other.

Tinker Are we friends?

Woman Will you help me?

Tinker I told you.

Woman Yes.

Tinker What should I do?

Woman Save me.

The flap closes.

He has no more tokens.

Scene Ten

The Red Room.

Grace is being beaten by an unseen group of men whose **Voices** we hear.

We hear the sound of baseball bats hitting Grace's body and she reacts as though she has received the blow.

Graham is watching in distress.

Grace is hit.

Grace Graham.

Voices Dead, slag
 She was having it off with her brother
 Weren't he a bender?
 Fucking user
 All cracked up
 Shit no
 Shit yes
 Crack crack crack

Grace *is hit once on each crack.*

Grace Graham Jesus save me Christ

Voices He can never (*Crack*) never (*Crack*) never
 (*Crack*) never (*Crack*) never (*Crack*) never
 (*Crack*) never (*Crack*) never (*Crack*) never
 (*Crack*) never (*Crack*) never (*Crack*) save
 you (*Crack*)

Graham Grace.

Voices Never (*Crack*)

Stillness.

Grace *lies motionless, terrified of bringing on more blows.*

Graham Speak to me.

Grace (*does not move or make a sound*)

Graham Can't hurt you, Grace. Can't touch you.

Grace (*does not move or make a sound*)

Graham Never.

There is a crack from nowhere, making Grace scream.

Voices Life in the old dog yet

Graham Switch off your head. That's what I did. Shoot up and switch off before the pain moves in. I thought of you.

There is a flurry of blows which Grace's body reacts to, but she

does not make a sound.

Graham I used to put my spoon in my tea and heat it up. When you weren't looking press it on your skin at the top of your arm and you'd (*A crack.*) scream and I'd laugh. I'd say Do it to me.

Grace Do it to me.

Graham You'd press a hot spoon on me I'd not feel a thing.
Knew it was coming.
If you know it's coming you're prepared.
If you know it's coming –

Grace It's coming.

The blow comes.

Grace's body moves – not with pain, simply with the force of the blow.

Graham You can surf it.

Voices Do it to me
Shag the slag

Grace is raped by one of the **Voices**.

*She looks into **Graham's** eyes throughout.*

Graham holds her head between his hands.

Voices Gagging for it
Begging for it
Barking for it
Arching for it
Aching for it
She gone?
Not a flicker

Graham presses his hands on to **Grace** and her clothes turn red where he touches, blood seeping through.

Simultaneously, his own body begins to bleed in the same places.

Graham Baby baby baby.

Voices Kill them all

A pause.

Then a long stream of automatic gunfire.

Graham shields **Grace**'s body with his own, and holds her head between his hands.

The gunfire goes on and on and on.

The wall is pitted with bullet marks, and as the gunfire continues, huge chunks of plaster and brick are blown from the wall.

The wall is being shot to pieces and is splattered with blood.

After several minutes, the gunfire stops.

Graham uncovers **Grace**'s face and looks at her.

She opens her eyes and looks at him.

Graham No one. Nothing. Never.

Out of the ground grow daffodils.

They burst upward, their yellow covering the entire stage.

Tinker enters. He sees **Grace**.

Voices All dead?

Tinker Not her.

*He goes to **Grace** and kneels beside her.*

He takes her hand.

Tinker I'm here to save you.

Graham picks a flower and smells it.

He smiles.

Graham Lovely.

Scene Eleven

The Black Room.

Robin goes into the booth that **Tinker** visits.

He sits.

He puts in his one and only token.

The flap opens.

*The **Woman** is dancing.*

Robin watches — at first innocently eager, then bemused, then distressed.

She dances for sixty seconds.

The flap closes.

Robin *sits and cries his heart out.*

Scene Twelve

The White Room.

Grace *lies sunbathing in a tiny shaft of light coming through a crack in the ceiling.*

Graham *is on one side of her, Tinker the other.*

Tinker Whatever you want.

Grace Sun.

Graham Won't get an even tan.

Tinker Can take you there.

Grace I know.

Voices Burn you clean

Grace Hold my hand.

Graham Sunshine.

Graham *takes one hand, Tinker the other.*

Grace My balls hurt.

Tinker You're a woman.

Voices Lunatic Grace

Grace Like to feel you here.

Graham Always be here.

And here.

And here.

Grace *(laughs. Then suddenly serious)*

They keep calling me.

Tinker That's what I'm saving.

Graham Love me or kill me.

Tinker Can make you better.

Grace Love you.

Graham Swear.

Tinker Yes.

Grace On my life.

Graham Don't cut me out.

Grace Graham.

Voices Frazzle it out

Tinker Tinker.

Voices Burn it out

Graham Darling.

Voices Frazzle it—

Tinker Trust me.

Voices Time to go

Tinker *drops Grace's hand.*

An electric current is switched on.

Grace's *body is thrown into rigid shock as bits of her brain are burnt out.*

The shaft of light grows bigger until it engulfs them all.

It becomes blinding.

Scene Thirteen

The patch of mud by the perimeter fence.

It is raining.

*A dozen rats share the space with **Rod** and **Carl**.*

Rod If you'd have said 'Me,' I wonder what would have happened. If he'd said 'You or Rod' and you'd said 'Me,' I wonder if he would have killed you. He ever asks me I'll

say 'Me. Do it to me. Not to Carl, not my lover, not my friend, do it to me.' I'd be gone, first boat out of here. Death isn't the worst thing they can do to you. Tinker made a man bite off another man's testicles. Can take away your life but not give you death instead.

From over the fence comes the sound of a child singing -- Lennon and McCartney's 'Things We Said Today'.

Carl and Rod listen, rapt.

The singing stops.

Then begins again.

Carl stands, wobbly.

*He begins to dance -- a dance of love for **Rod**.*

*The dance becomes frenzied, frantic, and **Carl** makes grunting noises, mingling with the child's singing.*

*The dance loses rhythm -- **Carl** jerks and lurches out of time, his feet sticking in the mud, a spasmodic dance of desperate regret.*

Tinker is watching.

*He forces **Carl** to the ground and cuts off his feet.*

He is gone.

Rod laughs.

*The rats carry **Carl's** feet away.*

The child sings.

Scene Fourteen

The Black Room.

Tinker goes to his booth.

He tears open his trousers and sits astride the back of the chair.

He feeds a number of tokens into the slot.

*The flap opens. The **Woman** is dancing.*

Tinker masturbates furiously until she speaks.

Woman Doctor.

Tinker Don't waste my fucking time.

Sit.

Woman (*sits opposite **Tinker***)

Tinker Open your legs.

Woman I'm confused.

Tinker OPEN YOUR FUCKING LEGS.

Woman (*does*)

Tinker Look.

Woman (*does*)

Tinker Touch.

Woman (*sobs*)

Tinker TOUCH FUCKING TOUCH.

Woman Don't do this.

Tinker YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU?

Woman YES

Tinker THEN DO IT

Woman Don't want to be this.

Tinker You're a woman.

Woman I want -

Tinker Don't say that.

Woman You said -

Tinker I lied. You are what you are. No regrets.

Woman Whatever I wanted.

Tinker I'm not responsible, Grace.

Woman Trusted you.

Tinker Yes.

Woman Friends.

Tinker Don't think so.

Woman I can change.

Tinker You're a woman.

Woman You're a doctor. Help me.

Tinker No.

Woman Is it someone else?

Tinker No.

Woman I love you.

Tinker Please.

Woman Thought you loved me.

Tinker As you are.

Woman Then love me, fucking love me

Tinker Grace

Woman Don't turn away

The flap closes.

Tinker If I'd known –
If I'd known.
I've always known.

Scene Fifteen

The Round Room.

Robin *is asleep amongst a pile of books, paper and a twelve-row abacus.*

He still has a pencil in his hand.

There is a box of chocolates next to his head.

Tinker *enters and stands staring at him.*

He pulls Robin up by the hair.

Robin *screams and Tinker puts a knife to his throat.*

Tinker You fuck her?

Fuck her till her nose bleed?

I may be a cunt but I'm not a twat.

(He sees the chocolates.)

Where'd you get them?

Eh?

Eh?

Robin They're for Grace.

Tinker Where'd you get them?

Robin Bought them.

Tinker What d'you do, sell your arse?

Robin *(doesn't answer)*

Tinker *lets go of Robin.*

He opens the chocolates.

He takes one out and tosses it at Robin.

Tinker Eat.

Robin *(looks at the chocolate.*

He starts to cry)

They're for Gracie.

Tinker Eat it.

Robin *eats the chocolate, choking on his tears.*

When he has eaten it, Tinker tosses him another.

Robin *eats it, sobbing.*

Tinker *throws him another.*

Robin *eats it.*

Tinker *throws him another.*

Robin *eats it.*

Tinker *throws him another.*

Robin *eats it.*

Tinker *throws him another.*

Robin *eats it.*

Tinker *throws him another.*

Robin *eats it.*

Tinker *throws him another.*

Robin *eats it.*

Tinker *throws him another.*

Robin *eats it.*

Tinker *throws him another.*

Robin *eats it.*

Tinker *throws him another.*

Robin *eats it.*

Tinker *tosses him the last chocolate.*

Robin *retches. Then eats the chocolate.*

Tinker *throws the empty box at him, then notices that Robin has wet himself.*

Tinker *Filthy little perv, clean it up.*

Robin *stands in the puddle, distressed.*

Tinker *grabs Robin's head and forces it down, rubbing his face in his own urine.*

Tinker *Clean it up, woman.*

Robin *looks around in a panic.*

He tries to use the empty chocolate box to clean up the urine, but it spreads it around.

He tears up some nearby books and soaks up the mess.

He looks at the books, distraught.

Robin *Gracie.*

Tinker *(tosses Robin a box of matches)*

Robin *(looks at Tinker)*

Tinker *(nods)*

Robin *(piles up the spoiled books and burns them)*

Tinker *All of them.*

Robin *burns as many books as he can and stands watching them go up in flames.*

Grace *enters, vacant and tranquilized, with Graham. She watches.*

Robin *smiles nervously.*

Robin *Sorry. I was cold.*

Graham leads **Grace** towards the fire.
She warms her hands from the heat of the flames.

Grace Lovely.

Scene Sixteen

The patch of mud by the perimeter fence.

Scorching heat.

The sound of fire.

Most of the rats are dead.

The few that remain are running around frantically.

Rod There's only now.

(He cries.)

Carl *(hugs him)*

Rod That's all there's ever been.

Carl *kisses him.*

He makes love to Rod.

Rod I will always love you.
 I will never lie to you.
 I will never betray you.
 On my life.

They both come.

Rod *takes off the ring and puts it in Carl's mouth.*

Carl *swallows it. He cries.*

They hug tightly, then go to sleep wrapped around each other.

Tinker *is watching.*

He pulls Rod away from Carl.

Tinker You or him, Rod, what's it to be?

Rod Me. Not Carl. Me.

Tinker *(cuts Rod's throat)*

Carl *(struggles to get to Rod. He is held)*

Rod It can't be this.

(He dies.)

Tinker Burn him.

Scene Seventeen

The Round Room.

Robin, Grace and Graham are by the ashes of the fire.

Grace is still rubbing her hands slowly and holding them up as if it were ablaze.

Robin retrieves his abacus from the ashes.

He holds it up to **Grace**.

She doesn't respond.

Robin Been working on the numbers. Think I've cracked it.

Grace *(doesn't respond)*

Robin Shall I show you?

Grace *(doesn't respond)*

Robin Right, I'll –
Days left. Try that.

(He counts off the beads on a single row.)

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. Seven.

(He stares at the seven beads, then slowly moves one bead on the next row along.)

One.

(He counts off the beads on rows three to eight.)

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. Seven. Eight.
Nine. Ten. Eleven. Twelve. Thirteen. Fourteen.
Fifteen. Sixteen. Seventeen. Eighteen. Nineteen.
Twenty. Twenty-one. Twenty-two. Twenty-three.
Twenty-four. Twenty-five. Twenty-six. Twenty-

seven. Twenty-eight. Twenty-nine. Thirty. Thirty-one. Thirty-two. Thirty-three. Thirty-four. Thirty-five. Thirty-six. Thirty-seven. Thirty-eight. Thirty-nine. Forty. Forty-one. Forty-two. Forty-three. Forty-four. Forty-five. Forty-six. Forty-seven. Forty-eight. Forty-nine. Fifty. Fifty-one. Fifty-two.

(He stares at the beads.)

Fifty-two sevens.

(He slowly moves one bead on the next row along.)

One.

(He counts off the beads on the last three rows.)

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. Seven. Eight. Nine. Ten. Eleven. Twelve. Thirteen. Fourteen. Fifteen. Sixteen. Seventeen. Eighteen. Nineteen. Twenty. Twenty-one. Twenty-two. Twenty-three. Twenty-four. Twenty-five. Twenty-six. Twenty-seven. Twenty-eight. Twenty-nine. Thirty.

Thirty fifty-two sevens.

(He looks at Grace.)

Thirty fifty-two sevens.

Gracie?

Grace *(doesn't respond)*

Robin *takes off his tights (Grace's) and makes a noose.*

He gets a chair and stands on it.

He attaches the noose to the ceiling and puts his head through.

He stands in silence for a few moments.

Robin Grace.

Grace.

Grace.

Grace.

Grace.

Grace.

Please, Miss.

The chair is pulled from under Robin.

He struggles.

Tinker *is watching.*

Graham He's dying, Grace.

Grace *(doesn't respond)*

Graham *looks at Robin.*

Robin *looks at Graham — he sees him.*

Still choking, Robin holds out a hand to Graham.

Graham *takes it.*

Then wraps his arms around Robin's legs and pulls.

Robin *dies.*

Graham *sits under Robin's swinging feet.*

Tinker *goes to Grace and takes her hand.*

Tinker Say good night to the folks, Gracie.

He leads her off.

Graham *sits motionless under Robin's swinging body.*

Scene Eighteen

The White Room.

Grace *lies unconscious on a bed.*

She is naked apart from a tight strapping around her groin and chest, and blood where her breasts should be.

Carl *lies unconscious next to her. He is naked apart from a bloodied bandage strapped around his groin.*

Tinker *stands between them.*

Tinker *undoes Grace's bandage and looks at her groin.*

Grace *stirs.*

Grace F- F-

Tinker What you wanted, I hope you —

Grace F- F- F-

Tinker helps **Grace** up and leads her to the mirror.

Graham enters.

Grace focuses on the mirror.

She opens her mouth.

Graham It's over.

Tinker Nice looking lad.
Like your brother.
I hope you –
What you wanted.

Grace (*touches her stitched on genitals*)

F– F–

Tinker Do you like it?

Grace F–

Tinker You'll get used to him.
Can't call you **Grace** anymore.
Call you . . . **Graham**. I'll call you **Graham**.

(He begins to leave.)

Graham **Tinker**.

Tinker (*turns and looks at Grace*)

Grace }
Graham } Felt it.

Tinker I'm sorry. I'm not really a doctor.

(He kisses Grace very gently.)

Tinker }
Graham } Goodbye, **Grace**.

Tinker and **Graham** both turn away.
They leave.

Grace stares at the mirror.

Carl sits up in bed and opens his mouth.
He looks at **Grace**. *She looks at him.*

Carl lets out a silent scream.

Scene Nineteen

The Black Room.

Tinker enters and sits.

He feeds the viewing mechanism.

The flap opens.

The Woman is dancing.

She stops and sits.

Woman Hello, Tinker.

Tinker Hello, my love.

Woman How are you?

Tinker She's gone.

Woman Who?

Silence.

Woman Can I kiss you?

Tinker *(smiles)*

The Woman opens the partition and comes through to Tinker's side.

She kisses him.

He hesitates.

She kisses him again.

He kisses her.

He looks down.

Tinker I'm confused.

Woman I know.

Tinker I think I --
Misunderstood.

Woman I know. You're beautiful.

Tinker Grace, she --

Woman I know. I love you.

They look at each other.

She kisses him.

He responds.

She takes off her top.

He looks at her breasts.

He takes her right breast into his mouth.

Woman I think about you when I . . .
And wish it was you when I . . .

Tinker (*withdraws and looks at her*)
Most glorious fucking breasts I ever met.

Woman Make love to me, Tinker.

Tinker Are you sure?

Woman Make love to me.

They both undress, watching each other.

They stand naked and look at each other's bodies.

They slowly embrace.

They begin to make love very slowly.

Woman (*cries*)

Tinker (*stops*) You all right? We can –

Woman No, no I –

Tinker Does it hurt do you want me to stop?

He begins to withdraw – she holds on to him.

Woman Stay there. Stay there.
I love you.

They begin to make love again, very gently.

Tinker *begins to cry.*

The Woman licks away his tears.

Woman I love your cock, Tinker
I love your cock inside me, Tinker
Fuck me, Tinker
Harder, harder, harder

Come inside me
I love you, Tinker

Tinker (*comes*)

Sorry.

Woman No.

Tinker I couldn't —

Woman I know.

Tinker Fuck me fuck me fuck me I love you I love you
I love you why have you come?

Woman (*laughs*) I know. My fault.

Tinker No, I —

Woman It's all right.
I love you.
Plenty of time.

They hold each other, him inside her, not moving.

Woman Are you here?

Tinker Yes.

Woman Now.

Tinker Yes.

Woman With me.

Tinker Yes.

Pause.

Tinker What's your name?

Woman Grace.

Tinker No, I meant —

Woman I know. It's Grace.

Tinker (*smiles*) I love you, Grace.

Scene Twenty

The patch of mud by the perimeter fence.

It is raining.

Carl and Grace sit next to each other.

Grace now looks and sounds exactly like **Graham**. She is wearing his clothes.

Carl wears **Robin's** clothes, that is, **Grace's** (women's) clothes. There are two rats, one chewing at **Grace/Graham's** wounds, the other at **Carl's**.

Grace/Graham Body perfect.

Chain-smoked all day but danced like a dream you'd never know.

Have they done it yet?

Died.

Burnt.

Lump of charred meat stripped of its clothes.

Back to life.

Why don't you ever say anything?

Loved

Me

Hear a voice or catch a smile turning from the mirror You bastard how dare you leave me like this.

Felt it.

Here. Inside. Here.

And when I don't feel it, it's pointless.
Think about getting up it's pointless.
Think about eating it's pointless.
Think about dressing it's pointless.
Think about speaking it's pointless.

Think about dying only it's totally fucking pointless.

Here now.

Safe on the other side and here.

Graham.

(A long silence.)

Always be here.

Thank you, Doctor.

Grace/Graham *looks at Carl.*

Carl *is crying.*

Grace/Graham Help me.

Carl *reaches out his arm.*

Grace/Graham *holds his stump.*

They stare at the sky, Carl crying.

It stops raining.

The sun comes out.

Grace/Graham *smiles.*

The sun gets brighter and brighter, the squeaking of the rats louder and louder, until the light is blinding and the sound deafening.

Blackout.