

Marco Ciaramella



When I will be reborn

CAST:

Eros Ramacciotti: Iva's husband

Iva Landi: Eros's wife

Nino Ramacciotti: Son of Eros and Iva

Anna Nardi: Nino's wife

Denis: Son of Nino and Anna

Giorgio: Friend of Denis

Renzo: Financial broker

Paolo: Lawyer

Telemaco: Notary

Claudio: Doctor

Mauro: Worker

FIRST ACT

The scene takes place in the living room of an apartment in Italy.

On stage there are: Eros, an old man without hands, sitting in a wheelchair and his son Nino.

Nino: *(Who is busy at the table reading papers)* Dad, now I don't have time to take you to the bathroom, wait a minute for mom to come.

Eros: If I ask you, it's because I have a full bladder.

Nino: One minute and I'll come.

Eros: *(After a minute)* Thanks anyway, now it's not needed anymore.

Nino: Won't you urinate in your pants again?

Eros: After all, I have a diaper, so I don't think I've done so much damage.

Nino: I, on the other hand, think so, since the task of lifting you up to change you is up to me. You know mom with her slipped disc can't do that. However, by now you can wait for this minute.

Eros: The problem is that we have two different watches, who knows why your minutes are much longer than mine.

Nino: How many stories! It seems I never take you to the bathroom.

Eros: It's that every time you always decide too late and, as if that weren't enough, you also make me feel guilty for not being able to hold back my bodily needs. While you're at it, why don't you blame me for losing my hands in that injury at work and having that damn stroke that paralyzed my legs?

Nino: Now don't start putting out the usual talk and don't start pitying yourself.

Eros: I get it! I must shut up, the complaints of a poor old invalid are boring to listen to.

Nino: The same story every day! All that is missing is that you remind us that you have been forced to work hard to offer us a better future and for today you said everything. We know well that it is only thanks to your sacrifices that we now have a company to run. Anyway now I have to think about it and you just have to enjoy your old age.

Eros: With my state of health, I have very little to enjoy! And the fact that you manage my carpentry is what worries me most.

Nino: You look like a broken record. How many times do I have to tell you that you have to be calm and that I have everything under control?

Eros: I think of my grandson. If you screw everything up, what future can he ever have?

Nino: Why are you always so pessimistic?

Eros: Because in my day we had thirty workers and now only four.

Nino: Only because, with the machines we have now, we need less staff.

Eros: So explain to me: why are earnings a hundred times lower? In my opinion, it depends on those movements you make that you do not keep me aware of.

Nino: This is enough! I'll take you over there and change you so you stop talking nonsense.

Iva, Eros's wife, enters the scene with the shopping and sees Nino dragging the wheelchair.

Iva: Does he need to urinate again?

Eros: Actually, I've already done it.

Iva: Did you wet your pants again? Look, I'm tired of always washing your clothes.

Eros: Then stop doing all the housework just you and start making your daughter-in-law do something too!

Nino: What does my wife have to do with it now?

Eros: Good boy! What does she have to do with this family? Rather, are you still convinced that you made a good choice when you decided to marry that woman?

Nino: Sure! Apart from a few small flaws, what's wrong with her?

Eros: You want to tell what's normal in her! She is not only stupid, but also a slacker.

Iva: Stop once and for all! Nino, leave this burden to me for society that can never hold its tongue!

Eros: Like pee, I can't hold it.

Iva: Keep it up and see if you don't stay wet.

Nino: Take him away, before Anna comes and feels him!

Eros: After all, I'm only telling the truth.

Iva: If you say another word, I swear I'll leave you like that until the end of your days.

Eros: This is the right reward for fifty years of work dedicated to the family. Okay, I'll stop! You all know what I think. *(Iva leaves the scene with Eros)*

Anna enters the scene.

Anna: Hello sweetheart! Do you like my new hairstyle? I'm going back to the hairdresser now. Am I beautiful?

Nino: Honey, you look as beautiful as ever! Other than that, did you go to school to talk to Denis' professors?

Anna: I'm going there this afternoon, I didn't have time this morning.

Nino: But the teachers' reception was this morning.

Anna: It will mean that we will talk to the professors next term.

Nino: Am I wrong, or did you say the same thing three months ago?

Anna: I promise you I'll be the first to introduce myself next time. Anyway, don't worry, Denis is definitely a model student.

Nino: And on what basis do you make this statement?

Anna: Our son is a smart boy, he asserts himself everywhere, even in volleyball he is one of the best.

Nino: Sport is one thing, study is another. In any case, if you are calm, so am I. But try to follow him, secondary school requires a greater commitment than primary school and I don't have the time to do it, I have a company to worry about. By the way, I really have to go now, I have to go to the bank.

Denis enters the scene with the backpack on his shoulders.

Anna: Hi darling! *(Then kisses him on the forehead)* Did school go well this morning?

Denis: Let's say it's gone.

Nino: *(Hugging him)* Be good, see you later.

Denis: Ok dad, see you later!

Eros and Iva enter the scene.

Eros: Denis did you study this morning?

Iva: At least get him in before you start asking questions. You don't even say hello to him immediately starting to interrogate him, but what a nuisance you are!

Denis: I studied grandfather, I studied.

Eros: And did you understand something?

Anna: I remind you that my son is not stupid.

Eros: If he inherited his intellect from his grandfather, certainly not, but if he inherited it from someone else...

Iva: Shut up! And rather worry about taking the pills. *(Handing him some pills)*

Anna: *(Looking in her bag)* I forgot my phone at the hairdresser's, I have to run and get it. *(Then she runs out)*

Eros: Luckily she has the head attached to her neck, otherwise she would also leave the one at the hairdresser's.

Iva: Stop talking bad about his mother in front of him! *(Pointing to Denis)*

Eros: Mine is a simple observation.

Denis: While I'm waiting for lunch to be ready, I go to my room and start doing my homework. *(Taking a piece of well-greased flatbread on the table and starting to eat it)*

Iva: Okay, but wash your hands well, otherwise you'll leave fingerprints on your notebooks.

Denis: Granny, what are fingerprints?

Eros: The fingerprint is the imprint left by the dermatoglyphs of the last phalanx of the fingers of the hand.

Denis: Sorry grandpa, but I know less than before.

Eros: Look closely at the tips of your fingers. Those patterns formed by the furrows or ridges of the skin are called dermatoglyphs. And the interesting thing is that they are our sign of recognition, because the same pattern never appear in different people.

Iva: Anyway, he had asked me.

Eros: And then explain it again to him, so he understands better.

Iva: It doesn't matter, it is clear that he understood.

Denis: Also because it was just a curiosity, I don't have to do a school search.

Eros: Dear grandson, it is curiosity that drives man to success. It is the thirst for knowledge that makes one go far.

Iva: Don't listen to your grandfather, he would expect you to have already graduated.

Eros: You are wrong! I wish he were more careful. I see that he focuses only on trivial things, on video games and on TV, but with these premises, it doesn't go far.

Iva: Let it grow in peace, you will see that then he will change. And then, even watching TV, he can learn many things.

Eros: But he only watches cartoons, what can he ever learn?

Iva: He can't even watch documentaries and the news all day like you do.

Eros: You don't know how many things we can learn from animals and how much smarter they are than many people I know, like the one who lives with us.

Iva: Don't pay attention to what your grandfather says! He always jokes, you know how prankster he is and how much he loves your mom.

Denis: Wow! It's Dragon Ball time already. *(And leaves the scene)*

Eros: What did I tell you? He's obsessed with those cartoons. First he wants to do his homework, a minute later he goes to watch TV. He is not balanced, he is identical to his mother.

Iva: I told you to stop talking bad about his mother, you just don't want to understand!

Eros: I wonder why Nino married her. It is true that he too is not a fox, but from there to take a stupid like that!

Iva: But the boy she raised it well.

Eros: Maybe you didn't notice, but she did it with our money. She never worked, we always maintained her. The only thing she can do well is spend without restraint. Also, she doesn't care about his son. Our grandson is half stupid and she doesn't even realize it

Iva: I won't let you talk about him like that.

Eros: It is with great regret that I say this, but it is so. If a miracle does not happen, he will become a man without a backbone that everyone can take advantage of.

Iva: *(Indignantly)* You're just a paralytic old man with no hands! What do you want to know about life? You who need to be accompanied even to the bathroom, do you want to lecture our grandson? Take a good look at yourself before you judge. *(After which she leaves the scene)*

Eros: *(Thinking aloud)* This is the reward for giving everything to the family. Being trapped in this body and having a woman next to me who barely looks after me just out of duty is a punishment I didn't deserve. With Hanne, probably, things would have been different. I would still like to feel loved, differently from before, but loved. I don't want to feel like a rejection of society. Sometimes I wonder if it's really worth living. Now enough, you stupid old man, stop thinking aloud and fight as long as you have the strength!

Nino and Renzo, the financial broker, enter the scene

Nino: Dad, are you alone?

Eros: I am even when there is someone.

Nino: *(Turning to Renzo) Come on!* This is my father, however don't pay too much attention to him. You know, with age, he lost his brain a bit.

Eros: *(Softly)* If you had at least half of mine...

Renzo: Nice to meet you! *(He gestures to reach out, then when he realizes the situation)* Excuse me, I didn't know, I'm sorry.

Eros: Do not apologize to me and do not be sorry, I assure you that the loss of hands was the lesser evil, it is the loss of the dignity and consideration of others that do much more harm.

Nino: Now don't start complaining to him too! Also because we have more important things to take care of. Please Renzo, take a seat.

Renzo: Thanks. *(After sitting down, he takes some papers from the briefcase)* This is the daily trend of the stock exchange and these are your stocks.

Nino: So how are they doing?

Renzo: Very well, they have all increased by at least two percentage points.

Nino: So are they finally going up?

Renzo: You will see that you will gradually return to earning.

Eros: Or you will lose everything.

Nino: You don't interfere! Now I'm the one who takes care of our business. It seems to me that so far we have done very well or am I wrong?

Eros: Tell this to the people you had to fire.

Nino: The staff cuts are necessary to bring back the balance sheets in surplus

Eros: In fifty years that I have been at the head of the company, I have never fired anyone. To me my workers were more than just employees and I would never betray them like that.

Nino: Stop talking nonsense. Renzo, let's go to my office so we can talk more quietly.

Eros: Are you afraid that I listen to the serious mistakes you are making?

Nino: The only mistake is not having put you in a retirement home.

Eros: I am sure you will soon remedy this too.

Nino: Come Renzo, Let's go!

Renzo and Nino leave the scene and Denis enters with notebooks in hand.

Eros: I see you changed your mind and decided to start doing your homework. *(Denis, without answering, sits down and in the meantime her mother returns)*

Anna: Have you already started studying? Good boy! And then someone doubts that you are not doing your duty.

Eros: *(Thinking aloud)* Actually, I doubt that you are not doing your duty, not him.

Anna: Are you talking to me?

Eros: Yes, you should take a look at your child's lesson and maybe give him a hand.

Anna: (*Indignant*) My son doesn't need any hand, those, if anything, would be necessary to you.

Eros: You're always very kind! Anyway, I don't care about your badness, all I care about is that you understand that Denis needs school support.

Anna: He is my son and I decide what he needs, you just have to shut up and don't break balls!

Eros: Otherwise what will you do? Will you kick me out of the house? Too bad I'm the owner! If there is an intruder here, it is you. So, I'm the one who can throw you out, you sluggish ugly witch !.

Anna: Do you think your son would agree? By the way, where did he go?

Eros: He went to squander what little fortune still remained of the cripple. On the one hand, however, I'm happy, so you can finally get your asses up and start doing something.

Anna: Go to hell yuck old and piss underneath! May you be cursed forever! (*She leaves the scene to look for her husband*)

Eros: Do you see how angry she gets when someone tells her there is a possibility that she has to work! In the meantime, she hasn't even looked at the child's lesson. Of course! She can't help him, she's more illiterate than a goat.

Iva enters the scene.

Iva: I heard Anna scream, I'd bet you made her mad. Yet I told you to stop bothering her, but you, nothing, you must necessarily upset her life.

Eros: You worry so much about her, why don't you ask yourself for once who is upsetting mine?

Iva: Are you mad at me now? But what do you want from all of us? You should have a good examination of conscience, before judging others, don't you see how intrusive and grumpy you are?

Eros: I can afford it, I'm in my house and I can't stand anyone who wants to domineer inside these walls. Until proven otherwise, am I or wasn't I the one who paid the mortgage?

Iva: However, this does not give you any right to be a despot. And I remind you that if they leave, I follow them and you are left alone.

Eros: In this house there is a regime of blackmail and not of understanding. You are ruining everything: company, grandson and family relationships.

Iva: The only one who is ruining everything is only you. (*Then hearing the doorbell ring*) I'm going to open the door, since you can't do that either.

Eros: Thanks, I will remember your kindness when I am reborn in another life.

Mauro enters the scene.

Iva: Why are you here? Has something serious happened in the firm?

Mauro: Absolutely not. I was looking for Mr. Ramacciotti, because the representative of the timber has arrived.

Iva: I'm going to tell him you're here right away. *(And she leaves the scene)*

Mauro: *(He approaches Eros and puts a hand on his shoulder)* How are you?

Eros: Sincerely? I'm like shit.

Mauro: I'm so sorry. However, if it consoles you, since when you are no longer at the helm, we too are in the same situation.

Eros: *(Intrigued)* Why, what's going on? And since when do you call Mr. Ramacciotti, my son?

Mauro: Unfortunately, things have changed a lot at the carpentry shop. Now the strategy of terror is in force. At one time people worked in harmony. The relations between us employees were of fraternal friendship. Your son, on the other hand, with his politics, has pitted us against each other and all this is counterproductive.

Eros: I'm so sorry. Unfortunately, as you can see, I can do very little. But take away another curiosity: why does he want to talk to the representatives, if he doesn't distinguish a cherry wood from a birch one?

Mauro: Because he does not want us to know if we reach the budget that entitles us to the annual premium that the timber company awards at the end of the year.

Eros: You mean he pockets that one?

Mauro: He told us that we have never reached it again.

Eros: That son of a bitch! But I deliberately left that premium to you.

Mauro: I know, as I know you made sure that each year went to a different person. This is how a good boss earns the esteem and respect of his employees.

Eros: Instead that selfish person wants everything for himself. I am ashamed of him. Give my apologies to everyone and hug them for me.

Mauro: It will be done, do not doubt! They remember you with nostalgia and with a lot of affection because you were great.

Eros: Enough now, otherwise you make me cry.

Nino enters the scene frowning.

Nino: What do you want?

Eros: He came to warn you that the representative of the timber has arrived.

Mauro: He's been waiting for you for a long time now.

Nino: Don't care! Make him wait and get back to your work immediately!

Mauro: Yes, sir! *(He nods his head to Eros and goes out with his head bowed)*

Eros: You are such a despot! I see that you have understood everything about life, especially how to deal with others.

Nino: You should be ashamed instead of giving advice, since you are always arguing with Anna

Eros: When it comes to your wife, you just can't see beyond your nose. But listen, once in a while, to your father's advice: treat your wife like your employees and them like you treat her, you would make a qualitative leap, both in the firm and at home.

Nino: I gladly do without your advice. So please don't bother with my business anymore. And listen carefully to my warning: if you don't stop treating Anna badly, you'll have to pack, am I clear enough?

Eros: *(Looking down, disappointed)* Very clear, there is no need to add anything else.

Nino leaves the stage and Anna enters.

Anna: Very well! Our cockerel has lowered his feathers. So which of us is the dumber?

Eros: At least avoid saying certain things in front of your child.

Anna: I don't think you refrain from speaking ill of me in his presence, so we're even.

Eros: If Denis is affected by this, I would say that we are not even at all but always loses someone.

Anna: *(Turning to her son and kissing him on the forehead)* Is it true you don't need anything my darling?

Denis: Sure mom.

Anna: See dear father-in-law? It's not at all like you say. You are paranoid. Now I'm going out, if Nino

comes looking for me, tell him I went to play the lottery, I can afford to do it... *(And she leaves the scene)*

Eros: You have someone who allows you to do it, if it were up to me you would dig the land to make a living. The worst part is that you do it with my savings.

Denis: *(He gets up to go to another room)* Since we don't eat yet, I'm going to play at the play station.

Eros: Have you finished your homework yet?

Denis: I finish today with Giorgio.

Eros: Why are you waiting for him? End up alone and today you will have more time to play together.

Denis: I prefer to study with him today.

Eros: Tell me the truth: do you want to do your homework with him because you are unable yourself?

Denis: No, if I wanted, I could do it all by myself

Eros: You're telling a lie. If you want, I can help you, I lack the hands, but I assure you the brain is still good. I don't know if you know, but I was good at school.

Denis: I don't need your help, I do as I said. *(Angrily leaves the scene leaving the notebook open on the table)*

Eros: *(Thinking aloud)* This is the result of our family quarrels. That child is ashamed to admit that he needs help and, in particular, mine. He is afraid of disappointing his mother. He didn't understand that instead that witch doesn't care if he's in trouble. She closes her eyes to the evidence so as not to have to help him, because for her what her son studies is more Arabic than it is for him. *(Then, approaching the table, pushing the pram with the stumps, he looks at the notebook Denis left on the table)* Look where the boy finds difficulty, on the Euler Venn's set theory, simple stuff, this confirms the suspicion that Denis is really an ass.

Nino enters the scene.

Nino: What are you doing you go back to studying? What you need to learn is manners, not math.

Eros: *(Nostalgically)* Do you remember when you went to school, how many times did I help you with your homework?

Nino: Of course I remember it. Why do you ask me that?

Eros: Because I've never seen you do the same thing with Denis.

Nino: Times have changed, I don't have time, I have a firm to run.

Eros: I also had it at the time, but I still found the time to devote to you.

Nino: Denis lacks nothing. He has his games, his friends and his passions.

Eros: Passions, which ones? Tell me at least three.

Nino: *(After thinking)* Now I can't think of any, but...

Eros: Do you know why you can't think of any? For two reasons: the first is that you don't know your child at all and the second, perhaps even more serious, is that he doesn't have any. He vegetates in front of electronic games for hours. Those, while beautiful and captivating, lead nowhere, do not create dreams.

Nino: Coming from you that you can't play, because you don't have hands, it's all a program!

Eros: It saddens me to hear you talk like that. Where is that child who listened to me? That tender boy respectful of his parents and his neighbor? Let me tell you: in my opinion, you have really lost the compass! It was certainly the fault of that woman you married, who doesn't love you and only exploits you. And now put me in a hospice as well, but that's the stark truth, whether you want to hear it or not!

Nino: *(With tears in his eyes)* I have to go, you better not listen to yourself, you just want to hurt me.

Eros: This is exactly where you are wrong. It is not badness that makes me speak, but the love I feel for you, despite everything. I only want to make you open your eyes even at the cost of paying the consequences.

Nino: Since we are on the subject, I inform you that Anna has already booked your hospice, so in a few days I will accompany you there and finally we will no longer be forced to listen to your nonsense.

Eros: Then those recommendations on my conduct only served to keep me quiet the last days I would spend with you! If this is the case, I inform you that I do not want you to take me anywhere, I will go there alone.

Nino: Instead of being offended, you should appreciate my sincerity, since we all agreed not to tell you anything

Eros: And what excuse would you have brought me there?

Nino: We would have staged a hospital stay, so the suitcase wouldn't have made you suspicious.

Eros: And once in front of the institute, what would you have told me? I can still distinguish a hospice from a hospital.

Nino: I would have just said hello.

Eros: So tell me now, as I will spare you the trouble of accompanying me.

Nino: I'm sorry, but it's your fault too.

Eros: Sure! It's always my fault.

Nino: Now I have to go back there

Eros: *(Ruefully)* I'll never forgive you.

Nino: Okay, I don't care!

Nino leaves the scene and Iva enters.

Iva: Lunch is almost ready.

Eros: What do you want me to care about?

Iva: What do you have now?

Eros: I'm not hungry, so leave me alone!

Iva: You never contradict, you have a really bad temper!

Eros: Convince yourself of this, so you will feel less remorse.

Iva: *(Embarrassed)* Remorse for what?

Eros: *(After a moment's hesitation)* For marrying me, of course.

Iva: But what comes to your mind now? Have you been drinking?

Eros: In that case you would have noticed, since I have serious difficulties in doing it alone.

Iva: And don't be touchy! I was saying so to speak. I know you need help. Am I or haven't I been the one to quench your thirst over the years? Santa Claus certainly did not!

Eros: He would certainly have done it with more love than you did.

Iva: Now you are unfair! I've never made you miss anything.

Eros: Only affection. You made me weigh your every single gesture.

Iva: You're just ungrateful!

Eros: Then answer these questions: How many times do you give me a smile as you feed me? I'll tell you: never. And how often do you stress the fact that I get dirty when I eat soup: always. Among other things, if you had the delicacy to serve it to me a little less hot and didn't rush me to swallow it, perhaps the result would be very different.

Iva: You never told me this.

Eros: Maybe because you never bothered to ask me.

Iva: From now on, I'll be more careful.

Eros: Don't you think it's a little too late?

Iva: I don't think you're dead yet.

Eros: I'm more than it seems!

Iva: Now we'd better take these notebooks off and set the table for lunch. It is useless to talk to you, today you have the moon sideways.

Eros: It is not by pretending that nothing is done that you cancel what you do.

Iva: You're starting to annoy me. What else do you want from me?

Eros: I just want to know why you married me.

Iva: Again with these speeches! Probably because I liked you.

Eros: So you felt a simple physical attraction and not love.

Iva: Then, when I am reborn, next time, I will be more careful.

Eros: Unlike you, I loved you, but then in the end I got tired of giving and receiving nothing in return. It is I who, when I am born again, will never again make the mistake of staying married to a woman who doesn't love me just for the sake of a child who doesn't deserve it. I just wanted a life full of love, instead I had a life full of hatred and betrayal.

Iva: I have never betrayed you.

Eros: Maybe not with the body. And you're also so hypocritical that you don't even admit it.

Iva: Think of it as you want!

Eros: However I assure you that you will regret it, perhaps not immediately, but over time you will regret your gesture.

Nino and Renzo enter the scene

Renzo: (*Turning to Nino*) We agree, I will carry out all ten transaction.

Eros: Here we are at the end. We are preparing to start the countdown. Ten, nine, eight ..

Renzo: You're wrong, you'll make a lot of money with those stocks.

Nino: He is the best financial broker out there and if he says so we can believe it. Following his advice will fix our finances.

Eros: Or we will be permanently ruined.

Iva: What do you want to know, you who have always cut wood? Leave it to this handsome young man.

Eros: If it were a fashion show, I'd agree with you, but the thing is much more complex. Do you know how the Stock Exchange works?

Iva: Of course not, but I often hear about it on TV. It must be a great opportunity

Eros: Yes, to end up in misery.

Nino: Don't listen to him Renzo! My father is raving, do as we have established.

Renzo: Goodbye Mr. Eros!

Eros: I really don't think we'll see each other again. You and me are linked by an unusual destiny: we both have the hours counted, albeit for different reasons.

SECOND ACT

Same scenography as the first act.

Anna: We need to get rid of him as soon as possible.

Nino: However, it seemed a bad thing to put him in front of the fait accompli and I decided to tell him the truth.

Anna: You shouldn't have done that. Now rest assured that in the last week he will spend with us he will make our life impossible.

Nino: After all, what can he possibly do in those conditions?

Anna: For sure, he will break my balls. Apart from that, did your mother call the lawyer?

Nino: Yes, he will come today, but it won't be easy to get hold of the rest of my father's assets.

Anna: I remind you that your mother is his support administrator. So just get her to sign the waiver of all assets.

Nino: That is not one of the acts she can perform in the name and on behalf of dad, but only in assistance, since he is still in full possession of his mental abilities.

Anna: But weren't we already in agreement to have him declare incapable of understanding and wanting?

Nino: Are we really sure we want to go through with it? It will cost us a lot to bribe the doctor in charge of the evaluation.

Anna: It seemed to me that the matter had already been decided.

Nino: Yes, but by whom?

Anna: From me, from your mother and partly from you too. I understood that you needed the money urgently.

Nino: Unfortunately yes, we are on the verge of bankruptcy.

Anna: And we don't want that to happen, do we?

Nino: Of course not.

Iva enters the scene.

Iva: Ah, you are here! He just fell asleep. That pill would also knock out a horse. So when the doctor comes, he won't be as lucid as usual.

Anna: But perhaps it was better to give him two pills.

Nino: With his hypertension, two could be fatal to him.

Anna: So we would also have saved the money from the expertise.

Iva: I don't want to be charged with murder. If that was your intention, you should have thought of giving them to him.

Anna: You know he would never accept anything from me.

Nino: Enough of these speeches! You make me nauseous.

Denis enters the scene.

Denis: Dad, Grandpa is crying.

Anna: Don't worry about him.

Nino: I will go and see.

Denis: Wait up! I'm coming too.

Anna: We have finally reached the final chapter, one more week and we will be free.

Iva: But who will manage those bonds? I am absolutely not capable of it.

Anna: I will do it. (*Hugging her*) You just have to think about enjoying your peaceful old age.

Iva: Without that human waste in the house, I will be able to take better care of Denis.

Anna: You read my mind, because from now on I will have much less time if I have to think about managing our finances.

Iva: Now I have to go and prepare the soup for tonight, will you be busy too?!

Anna: Go ahead.

Iva leaves the stage and Nino enters.

Nino: As soon as he heard me coming he stopped crying. He doesn't even want to see me.

Anna: Better that way. Indeed, do you know what I tell you? Why don't we keep him in bed all week?

Nino: Absolutely not, the lawyer has to find him in his wheelchair, otherwise he could become suspicious of something.

Anna: But, with the doctor's statement, why should he be suspicious?

Nino: I remind you that Paolo is a great friend of my father and therefore we must be very careful.

Anna: Do you want me to try to seduce him, as I usually do?

Nino: Because who else do you seduce?

Anna: I was saying so to speak. Changing the subject, I'd like to talk to you about your mother.

Nino: What does she have to do now?

Anna: I would think of having her sign a proxy so that I can then be the one to dispose of your father's bonds which will pass to her.

Nino: Those bonds will be used by me to raise the company's finances.

Anna: But we must also think about keeping a part for Denis.

Nino: For Denis or for you?

Anna: My love, you know that I cannot give up my little satisfactions. Don't forget that I have to make myself beautiful for you. *(Hugging him)*

Nino: *(Kissing her)* I know, my darling. And I assure you that you will not miss anything, I will allocate a part just for you.

Anna: I knew I had married the best man in the world! But, regarding your mother, wouldn't it be better if she went to keep her husband company?

Nino: What do you mean?

Anna: In my opinion, we shouldn't separate the couple. In this way they would spend the last years of their life together.

The phone rings and Nino goes to answer it.

Nino: Hello? ...Yes I am. Who's talking? ... The rest home "The shining sun"? How do you say? Is everything set up for Monday? There must have been a mistake, I don't have to bring my father to you at all... *(Anna, at that point, snatches the telephone receiver from his hand)*

Anna: Yes, I'm sorry, but I hadn't told my husband yet. All right, see you on Monday. *(After which she hangs up the telephone receiver)*

Nino: What did you still have to tell me?

Anna: I had to tell you about the change of plans.

Nino: We had agreed to take him to another institution, why didn't you do as I told you?

Anna: Because in the other there were no places available.

Nino: We would have waited for one to become available. The "bright sun" has a bad reputation. It seems that there personnel don't treat those poor old men very well.

Anna: But it costs half. And then they are just rumors. I know a lady who has been there for years and has never complained. Now don't make a fuss of it. Among other things, it is also closer than the other, so you can also save fuel to go and see him.

Nino: If we choose the place where a parent will spend the last days of life, based on the fuel consumption to visit him, it means that we have really hit rock bottom.

Anna: You told me that the situation is serious. (*Whimpering*) I just try to help you and you get angry.

Nino: But can't we undo everything?

Anna: Yes, but I warn you that I have already left a deposit.

Nino: You wasted no time! And how much did you leave?

Anna: I left the equivalent of six months.

Nino: You just wanted to be sure I wouldn't change my mind!

Anna: My love, you know that I only act for our good.

The doorbell rings.

Nino: Go and open it, it should be the doctor, I'm going to get my father.

Claudio: (*Entering the room*) Good evening, I'm Dr. Claudio Amato.

Anna: (*Helpful*) Come, take a seat, the mor... (*Without finishing the word moron*) arrives immediately. His son went to get him.

Claudio: The situation has already been explained to me, it is serious.

Anna: (*Undoing two buttons of the shirt to show the cleavage*) So serious, that just thinking about it makes me hot.

Claudio: I see it!

Anna: You know, Doctor, sometimes fruit is where one least expects it.

Claudio: Fruit?

Anna: The nice one to be grasped firm and succulent. *(Using that metaphor to actually allude to her boobs)*

Claudio: Are you saying what I think?

Anna: I see you understand. If the plant is cared for properly and bears fruit, then just pick them. If, on the other hand, you take too long, then they fall from the tree and eventually rot.

Claudio: Believe me, I will not let too much time pass to cure the plant and above all I will reap its fruits sooner than you think.

Anna: Even renouncing the fee we have previously established?

Claudio: Nature is much more important than money, also because I have always been an environmentalist.

Anna: Well then it will be a very beneficial deal for both of you.

Eros and Nino enter the scene.

Claudio: Good evening! Just leave it to me. *(Turning to Nino. Then he sits down in front of Eros who, being under the influence of drugs, barely sees him)*

Anna: Nino, it would be better to let the doctor work quietly, so why don't we go to the kitchen and help your mother?

Nino: But you, are you so hot?

Anna: It's the fault of this low air. Isn't it, doctor, it's very hot in this room?

Claudio: *(Embarrassed)* Yeah! I sweat.

Nino: *(Helping his wife to compose herself)* Come on, let's go over there.

Nino and Anna leave the scene.

Claudio: Well young man, what's your name?

Eros: Mutilated, crippled and sometimes even pain in the ass.

Claudio: But your first name, what is it?

Eros: When I am born again I will ask for another name to be given to me. Think of the paradox: I have not sexually active for twenty years and my name is Eros. Anyway now let me sleep. *(And he falls asleep)*

Claudio: Wake up! We're not done yet. I am a doctor.

Eros: Which doctor? The one who must judge me to be incapable of understanding and wanting?

Claudio: *(Strongly embarrassed)* I... would be... the one who... well you have to answer and not ask questions.

Eros: It's been a long time now that I haven't done it anymore, they don't have any answers. The meaning of life, fidelity, love are now only abstract concepts. I would have preferred to have died a long time ago, I would have saved myself so much pain.

Claudio: I understand.

Eros: You don't understand anything, otherwise you wouldn't be here wasting time pretending to do your job. Write what you owe and go away. I'm very sleepy. And this is not because I sleep little at night, but only because I have been drugged. The beauty is that I was also aware of it. *(Falling deeply asleep and starting to snore)*

Claudio: *(He gets up and calls the hosts)* I'm done.

Anna enters the scene.

Anna: So what's your response?

Claudio: To affirm the insanity of this old man, much more than a collection will be needed, because if there was a counter-report, I would seem like a real incompetent.

Anna: For that you don't have to worry. New fruits can be harvested every year, clearly it is necessary to take good care of the plants, otherwise they stop giving.

Nino enters the scene.

Nino: I have heard of plants, or am I wrong?

Claudio: You're not wrong, I was recommending to let the patient get some air. Maybe a walk among your beautiful maples could do him good.

Nino: Thanks for the advice, but when do we have to proceed with the payment?

Anna: I've already made arrangements for that.

Claudio: *(Then, taking a dossier from the briefcase)* This is the report to be delivered to the lawyer, so now I'm leaving, I have other visits planned.

Nino: But what if we still need you?

Anna: Don't worry honey, I know where to find him, don't forget I also have to pay off the debt.

Claudio: In this regard I suggest you do it as soon as possible.

Anna: Of course I will not fail, don't worry.

Claudio leaves the scene.

Nino: Don't forget to pay that debt!

Anna: I'll do it sooner than you think.

Nino: But did he ask for the amount mentioned when we contacted him?

Anna: We have yet to define the exact amount, although it should be more or less the equivalent of a harvest from our fruit trees.

Nino: I thought more.

The bell rings and Nino goes to open the door. Giorgio enters.

Giorgio: Hi! I am a schoolmate of Denis.

Nino: Come in, I'm going to call him.

Anna: Nino, I'll drop by the lottery office.

Nino: But haven't you been there before?

Anna: Yes, but I had promised Mara to play her usual numbers and instead I forgot.

Nino: So go, if it was the right time for those numbers to be drawn, I wouldn't want her to sue you for damages.

Anna: Hi love, hi Giorgio! *(And she leaves the scene)*

Nino: I'm going to call Denis. *(And he leaves the scene too)*

Giorgio: *(Left alone, he looks at Eros sleeping)* Sorry sir, are you alright? *(He goes to touch him)* Sir, I asked you if you are alright. Do you want some water?

Eros: *(Squinting)* I told you to do as you like, as long as you don't bother me.

Giorgio: I just arrived, I am a friend of Denis.

Eros: I'm sorry! I am his grandfather, albeit for a short time.

Giorgio: What are you saying? A grandfather is forever.

Eros: Until recently, I believed so too.

Giorgio: My grandparents are dead, but they are still my grandparents, even though they are not with me.

Eros: You are a smart boy. Maybe your classmate was too! My grandson, I don't know if he is subjugated by his mother, but he ignores me, for him I don't exist.

Giorgio: Unfortunately I have not even met my grandparents, they died before I was born and I would do anything to have one.

Eros: And do you know what I tell you? When I am born again I hope to have a grandson like you.

Giorgio: You are very kind, but you don't know me.

Eros: I assure you that thanks to my age I can judge people well. So believe me, if I tell you that the two of us would have gotten along very well.

Giorgio: We can do it even if there are no blood ties.

Eros: *(Chuckling)* Those, then, don't count for anything.

Giorgio: So why don't we start with introductions?

Eros: *(Stretching out the stump)* My name is Eros.

Giorgio: *(Clutching Eros's stump)* And my name is Giorgio.

Eros: Well Giorgio, now I'll explain why our acquaintance cannot go on. You must know that in a week those scoundrels will lock me up in a hospice, from which I will not get out until I am horizontal.

Giorgio: Excuse me but I don't understand! Who are the scoundrels? And what does it mean that you can only get out when you are horizontal?

Eros: *(Smiling)* It's just a saying. When I say I'll only get out of it when I'm horizontal, it means I'll only get out of it dead. And when I talk about scoundrels, I mean my closest family members.

Giorgio: I can't believe your family members want to lock you up, you are so nice!

Eros: But they don't think like you, I can assure you.

Giorgio: Anyway If they really put you somewhere, if you want, I could come and see you.

Eros: Of course! But you will have to find someone to accompany you.

Giorgio: I don't need anyone to accompany me. I have a bicycle, I am a runner and traveling long distances is certainly not a problem for me.

Eros: Ah, the bicycle! I too ran a lot with it, and not to finish first in a race, but to escape the bombs that fell from the sky.

Giorgio: Are you referring to having lived through the war?

Eros: Unfortunately. However, of that sad and difficult period, I don't have only bad memories. I have a very nice one that I jealously guard.

Giorgio: Really? Which?

Eros: That of the girl I have loved most in all my life.

Giorgio: So was it the moment you met your wife?

Eros: No, the true great love of my life was another.

Giorgio: You talk about her with nostalgia, is she dead?

Eros: Unfortunately I don't know. Her name was Hanne, she was a German girl.

Giorgio: So you fell in love with an enemy?! Or did it happen at the beginning of the war, when the Italians were still allied with the Germans?

Eros: I see that, unlike my grandson, you study and think; you are such a good boy! If you like, I'll tell you the whole story.

Giorgio: I am very curious to know it.

Eros: At the time I was part of a group of partisans, you know who they were?

Giorgio: Certainly.

Eros: So, you will also know who were the ones carrying the dispatches from one unit to another.

Giorgio: Of course! The "relays."

Eros: I was one of them.

Giorgio: Strong!

Eros: And do you know where I hid the messages I had to deliver?

Giorgio: Where? (*More and more intrigued*)

Eros: In my bicycle. Exactly in the column where the seatpost engages. Fortunately for me, the Germans never caught me, otherwise I wouldn't be here talking to you right now.

Giorgio: When did you meet Hanne?

Eros: She was the daughter of an SS commander and lived in the Nazi headquarters which was based right next to my house.

Giorgio: But how did you understand each other?

Eros: I speak four languages besides Italian, including German.

Giorgio: But I don't think the father liked that his daughter was dating an Italian.

Eros: In fact, we had adopted a particular communication system. We wrote messages on large sheets of paper and then went to the window so that the other, with binoculars, could read it from a distance.

Giorgio: Where exactly did you first meet?

Eros: In a fabric shop. The absence of the bodyguard, who usually accompanied her, allowed me to get close to her and make her acquaintance.

Giorgio: What did this girl look like?

Eros: She looked like An angel. That girl was of indescribable beauty and sweetness. I assure you that I would have gladly given my life for her.

Giorgio: Even if she was your enemy?

Eros: Dear Giorgio, love has no enemies or barriers.

Giorgio: However, her father was a Nazi and slaughtered many Italians.

Eros: But I was in love with her, not her father.

Giorgio: And she reciprocated you?

Eros: I'm more than sure of this! Perhaps seeing me like this it will seem impossible that such a beautiful woman could be interested in me, but I assure you that at the time I too was good-looking.

Giorgio: How many times have you been able to talk to each other in person?

Eros: Five more and I remember them all like it was yesterday. Always in the same shop.

Giorgio: And tell me, have you ever managed to touch her?

Eros: (*Sighing*) The last time I saw her, behind those shelves, I gave her a kiss, which she returned with great passion. Unfortunately, however, I never saw her again.

Giorgio: Why?

Eros: The Americans arrived and she was forced to flee quickly with the rest of her family.

Giorgio: It's a beautiful story. But if you loved her so much, why didn't you go looking for her?

Eros: Because I couldn't leave my family. At the time I was the only one to receive a meager salary with which, in addition to feeding ourselves, we had to take care of my younger sister who was very sick. I could not ignore my responsibilities to pursue love.

Giorgio: What a pity!

Eros: I assure you that when I am reborn if I find myself at the same crossroads, I will act differently. I will take the whole family with me and pursue happiness.

Giorgio: Who knows where Hanne will be now?

Eros: Perhaps she returned to Berlin. I know the whole Zimmermann family used to live there, so I assume she's reunited with the rest of her loved ones, assuming she's still alive.

Giorgio: Even your hands, did you lose them in wartime? Was it because of a bomb?

Eros: No, those were cut off by a machine I used to cut wood. It was an accident at work.

Giorgio: And what was the reason you are in a wheelchair?

Eros: It was due to a serious illness that hit me several years ago.

Denis enters the scene.

Denis: Hi Giorgio! Sorry if I made you wait. My father warned me that you were here, but I had reached the 90th level of "Frozen bubbles" and I could not leave. Since it is impossible to save, if I didn't finish, I had to start over.

Giorgio: Don't worry, I was talking to your grandfather.

Denis: Really?

Giorgio: It is very nice to be in his company.

Denis: If you say so! How about starting studying now?

Giorgio: All right. *(After winks at Eros, he goes to sit next to his companion. The old man looks at them and has the confirmation that, unlike his grandson, Giorgio is a very capable boy)*

Eros: I see you are studying Euler Venn's set theory.

Denis: Yes and how do you know it?

Eros: Dear grandson, this may surprise you, but I too went to school and I know a lot more things than you think. Anyway, do it yourself, you certainly don't need the help of an old stupid.

Iva enters the scene.

Iva: Guys, go and study in the room, now a person has to come and talk to Eros. Come on, take the books over there.

The two boys obey leaving some papers on the table.

Eros: Who is this person who has to come and talk to me?

Iva: Paolo, our lawyer.

Eros: You don't waste time!

Iva: What are you raving about? It's just that there are some things you can't do anymore and so you have to delegate them, that's all.

Eros: I bet it was the doctor who came in today who decided that. Maybe one of these is the management of my personal assets.

Iva: Maybe, but you have to hear from the lawyer, you know that I don't understand these things.

Eros: What percentage is his due?

Iva: Do you think we bought her silence?

Eros: Not just his, the doctor's too. However, the latter, do not worry, it will cost you little.

Iva: Don't worry, you will see that you will be fine.

Eros: Poor Iva, you arouse pity in me.

Iva: Here if there is someone who arouses compassion, that is you.

Eros: It is true, I am paralyzed and maimed, but at least I am aware of my destiny, you, on the other hand, do not even realize what the future holds for you.

Iva: What do you mean?

Eros: I mean you are not only dull but you are also blind!

Iva: I may be blind, but if you had been mute, we might not have gotten to this point.

Eros: In time we would get there anyway. But remember: today is my turn but tomorrow it will be yours.

Anna enters the scene.

Anna: I'm back.

Eros: Unfortunately.

Anna: Didn't Nino look for me?

Eros: No, but I hope that one day the police will look for him.

Anna: What do you mean, old fool?

Eros: That he deserves to go to jail for what he's going to do to his father. There is certainly nothing legal in what you are doing and even if you get away with it on this earth, I trust in divine justice. One day, when you are in the presence of another judge, we will see how things turn out.

Anna: He will understand that it was necessary.

Eros: Necessary for whom? For you.

Anna: No, for everyone.

Eros: Remember that you too will have to die one day, or do you think you will live forever?

Anna: But now we are alive and here the law of the strongest applies, so either you submit or you go away.

Eros: I would like to offend you, but I would lower myself to your level. If I were to call you sow, I would offend pigs, so I only tell you that the strongest is not those who have muscles or money, but only those who have a great heart and a deep respect for others and I also add one last thing: I hope you drown in the midst of that money!

Anna: *(Turning to Iva)* Do you see why it is necessary?! *(Then turning to Eros)* You don't notice, but you are making your situation even worse.

Eros: I don't think it is possible!

Anna: Then I inform you, in advance, that once you are locked up in that hospice, you will no longer see your grandson. And for that you can thank your forked tongue.

Eros: You are really a bastard! Do you want to deprive me of the only pure thing left in this house?

Anna: You wanted it! As you can see, you think you are so smart, but obviously you are wrong.

Eros: But I've never been wrong about you. I'm only sorry that when you are old, I won't be there to enjoy the sight of seeing you alone and abandoned by everyone. Remember that if you sow weeds, you will never reap wheat.

Anna: Seeing what awaits you, how many weeds have you sown?

Eros: I just plowed the wrong field, when I am reborn I will never make the same mistake again!

THIRD ACT

Same scenography of the first two acts.

Anna: Come on, put everything in order, we have visitors soon

Iva: Is the lawyer finally arriving?

Anna: Yes, he comes, he assured me.

The doorbell rings.

Iva: I'm going to open.

Anna: No, I'm going. You take those papers off the table. Always that damned habit of doing things at the last moment!

Iva: Before I had to put on the soup for tonight and then...

Anna: Now is not the time to argue. We cannot leave them outside the door waiting for an hour. Rather, did you give Eros the sleeping pill again as I told you?

Iva: Certainly.

Anna: Very well.

Iva takes papers that Denis and Giorgio had left on the table and puts them in a drawer. Paolo, the lawyer and Telemaco, the notary, enter the scene.

Paolo: Good evening, sorry I'm late.

Anna: No problem, please take a seat.

Iva: *(She asks Anna in a low voice)* Who is that? *(Alluding to Telemaco)*

Anna: In a minute you will understand.

Paolo: So if you want to favor me, the doctor's statement.

Anna: *(Anxiously takes the requested sheet from a drawer and shows it to the lawyer)* Here it is.

Paolo: Well, with that we can proceed. But where is Eros?

Iva: He is in bed. He's out of his mind now, so the doctor prescribed him some tranquilizers to calm him down a bit.

Paolo: In fact, he also wrote it here. *(Reading the declaration)* Then this is enough for me, so if you sign these deeds, from now on, you can act in the name and on behalf of Eros. You will be able to dispose of all his assets as you see fit.

Iva: I will do everything in his interest.

Paolo: Of course. *(Observing Iva who signs the documents)*

Telemaco: So now we can proceed with the other deed.

Iva: What other deed?

Telemaco: The one relating to the property.

Iva: But the company shed is already in the name of our son Nino, what other property are you talking about?

Telemaco: We are talking about this house!

Anna: Iva, it would be advisable to think about safeguarding the house, if the carpentry fails.

Paolo: *(Winking at Anna)* If it were assigned to Mrs. Nardi, who is the only one who is not a partner in the company, even if the company went bankrupt, the creditors could not make any claims on the property.

Iva: But I didn't know anything about this.

Paolo: I suggested this solution, trust me, you will see that you will not regret it.

Iva: If you suggested it then I trust you.

Anna: Then sign immediately that the notary must go away.

Telemaco: I'm in no hurry, if she wants to think about it even a few days, she can do it.

Anna: But what you're saying? She must sign now.

Paolo: Mrs. Nardi is right.

Telemaco: I was saying this only because the lady present here does not seem to be very convinced.

Iva: Can I go and consult with my husband for a moment?

Telemaco: What sense would that make? Is he not incapable of understanding and willing?

Anna: Also don't you remember he took that tranquilizer? He'll sleep for hours.

Telemaco: Can I see and understand how this man is?

Anna: How do you want a person who is out of his mind to be?

Paolo: The report is clear. Let's put the signatures on the deed and that's it.

Anna: Come on, sign, what are you waiting for?

Iva: *(Hesitant, pen in hand, in front of the documents that the notary has put in front of her)* Then I'll sign.

Anna: Come on, sign!

Iva: Do I sign?

Paolo: *(With insistence)* Sign, sign!

Iva: Once signed, I can't go back, can I?

Telemaco: Absolutely not.

Iva: Then I don't sign.

Anna: What did you say?

Iva: I need more time to decide.

Anna: We don't have any more time.

Telemaco: It seems to me that you are putting too much pressure on the lady.

Anna: Mind your own business!!

Telemaco: Moderate the tone! That you are rude and insensitive can be seen from the way you treat your mother-in-law. But with me you don't have to afford!

Nino enters the scene.

Nino: What is this confusion?

Anna: The notary is instigating your mother not to sign the deed of donation of the house in our favor.

Telemaco: I am not instigating anyone, I just wish that Mrs Landi was convinced of what she is doing.

Anna: *(Turning to Paolo)* But who did you bring us?

Paolo: I thought that...

Anna: You didn't have to think, you had to find someone more reliable.

Telemaco: Be careful of the words you say. I don't allow anyone to call me unreliable, least of all to a person like you.

Anna: Why what person am I?

Telemaco: Don't believe that I will react to your provocations. And even if your mother-in-law doesn't sign you will still have to pay me, because the deed has already been drawn up.

Anna: Paolo, please do something!

Paolo: I can't do anything.

Telemaco: It was enough to inform the person concerned, but you wanted to act behind her back and these are the results

Nino: Mom, please sign. I assure you it's only for our good.

Iva: But why should I donate the house to her?

Nino: You're wrong mom, you'll give it to me.

Telemaco: Actually your mother is right. The beneficiary is your wife.

Nino: *(Turning to Anna)* What is this story?

Anna: The lawyer advised to do so. In this way, in the hypothesis of the bankruptcy of the company, we will not lose the house. By chance, you don't trust me anymore?

Nino: I trust you, but you could also have told me before!

Iva: Nino, what should I do? Tell me.

Nino: Mom, this is the right solution, please sign..

Iva: Give me the paper before I change my mind. *(Then she signs)*

Telemaco: *(After putting his signature on the deed)* Now the die is cast.

Paolo: Everything went well and now we are happy.

Iva: If you say so!

Anna: I certainly am. It was what I wanted.

Nino: What do you mean?

Anna: I just wanted to say that I am happy because, in this way, no one can ever take our love nest from us.

Nino: *(Hugging her)* You're right my darling!

Paolo: I'm going now, so you *(Turning to Anna)* will come to my studio to make the payments.

Nino: Why, how many are there?

Paolo: Mine and the notary's, of course.

Nino: Don't worry, she will regularize everything as soon as possible.

Telemaco: So goodbye everyone!

Paolo: *(Winking at Anna)* I'll wait for you.

Anna: I'll take you out, so we agree on the day.

Paolo, Telemaco and Anna leave the scene.

Iva: Wasn't it better to ask your father for advice before signing?

Nino: Wouldn't it have been too much to ask him for such advice?

Iva: He resigned himself to the decision to go to the hospice.

Nino: After all these years, you still don't know dad. However, he has always hated Anna, so how could he be in favor of a donation to her?

Iva: In confidence, however, today I noticed in Anna a look that I had never seen and that I did not like very much.

Nino: What are you doing now? Do you start talking like your husband?

Iva: No, but I do not deny that the fear that she may send me away, now that this is her home, I have it. After all, who would stop her?

Nino: Me, of course!

Iva: But now you are a guest too.

Nino: Don't be silly! Besides, I have the company on my side, the one that allows to her not to go to work.

Iva: I remind you that the company is on the verge of bankruptcy

Nino: The situation will soon change. However, I guarantee that I will not allow anyone to throw you out of this house.

Iva: So why didn't you do it for your father too?

Nino: Nobody's throwing dad out of the house. It's just that Anna and I thought that being assisted by specialized personnel, for a person in his condition, was better. It seems to me that you agreed too. Do you have second thoughts?

Iva: I just let myself be convinced that it was right to do so.

Nino: Why, isn't that right?

Iva: Who can tell?!

Nino: Anna said so and that's enough for me.

Iva: I'll just ask you one question: If I too get sick, or I don't agree with her on something, what would happen to me?

Nino: She is happy now, she has everything she wanted, so you have no reason to worry.

Iva: And you, are you happy?

Nino: I don't know mom, I think so.

Iva: Now I'm going to wake up your father. I hope I haven't overdone those tranquilizers. I just didn't want him to hear what we were doing.

Nino: You did well, he would have suffered too much.

Iva: If he knew, he would curse us for sure.

Nino: Or he would have a heart attack.

Iva: Don't worry, I won't tell him anything

Iva leaves the scene and Denis enters.

Denis: Dad, do you want to see the homework Giorgio and I did today?

Nino: Who is Giorgio?

Denis: A classmate of mine who has very high grades in school.

Nino: Then, if you did your homework with him, they will surely be correct. But where is he now?

Denis: He stayed in my room doing an internet search. Come on dad, ask me about what I just studied!

Nino: Unfortunately I don't have time son, I have to go back to the carpentry urgently. But Mom is coming soon and you can ask her to question you.

Denis: She never does.

Nino: I promise that when I come back I will dedicate myself only to you and you will see that tomorrow you will get a good grade in school.

Denis: You promised it! So I won't accept excuses.

Nino: I would never do that.

Denis: Dad, you always do!

Nino: I ask your forgiveness and I assure you that from now on things will change.

Denis: I would to believe you.

Nino: I assure you, since we will no longer have to follow the needs of some people in this house...

Denis: Who are you referring to?

Nino: You must know that, in about a week, your grandfather will no longer live here.

Denis: Why? Where will he go to leave?

Nino: In a house made especially for him.

Denis: It must have cost a lot to have a house built just for him.

Nino: I didn't mean that. He will go to live with other people who have the same problems as him. Can't you see his condition is getting worse?

Denis: Actually, no. Even if mom says it all the time.

Nino: And if she says so do we believe it?

Denis: I think so.

Nino: I'm going now, see you later!

Nino leaves the scene and Giorgio enters.

Giorgio: What are you doing?

Denis: I was talking to my father, but now I'm going back in there with you.

Giorgio: Your grandfather checked this exercise e confirmed that it is correct.

Denis: Is my grandfather capable of doing this?

Giorgio: Of course! Your grandfather could be a teacher of Italian, mathematics, science and languages.

Denis: I had no idea.

Giorgio: Have you never asked him?

Denis: No and I don't even know why.

Giorgio: Was it because your mother always hinted that he was just a crazy old man?

Denis: How do you know this?

Giorgio: He was the one who told me. As he told me the reasons why he never proposed to help you.

Denis: And which would they be?

Giorgio: First of all, he hoped your parents would follow you. He also thought it right that you first try it on your own.

Denis: Usually I give up immediately, close the books and go to play or watch TV and leave my grandfather alone in the room.

Giorgio: I know, because your mother...

Denis: She tells me to stay away from him.

Giorgio: I go back to him, maybe he tells me another good story like the one a little while ago.

Denis: What kind of story?

Giorgio: A story about war. I'll tell you more, a little while ago he even confided a secret to me.

Denis: A secret?

Giorgio: Sure! All grandparents have them and yours too.

Denis: You, how do you know if your parents are dead?

Giorgio: I have read some letters written by my paternal grandfather.

Denis: Do you think mine has other secrets to tell?

Giorgio: I am more than sure.

Denis: *(Saddened)* Too bad he'll go away in a week. He decided to move into a house with all the amenities.

Giorgio: It's not his decision, your parents are forcing him to leave.

Eros enters the scene pushing the wheelchair with the stumps.

Denis: Are you telling me they want to throw him out of the house?

Giorgio: Yes, exactly.

Denis: *(Running towards Grandpa and hugging him)* Grandpa, I won't let that happen, I don't want you to go away.

Eros: *(Returning the hug)* I know, Denis, but it's too late now. Everything is already established. So now we will make a pact: no one must know that you too are aware of everything, this will be our secret. Come on, let's put one hand over the other and in the end we say secret.

Eros raises one of the stumps in mid-air on which first Denis and then Giorgio place their hand with the palm facing down and at the end they exclaim loudly:

Eros, Denis and Giorgio: *(In chorus)* Secret.

Eros: What are these sad faces? I go to the hospice, not to the gallows.

Denis: Grandfather, what is the gallows?

Eros: The gallows was the stage where, once upon a time, the instrument with which death sentences were carried out was placed. Dear Denis, as you see, I could have given you many answers. And you don't know how much I would have liked it. But who knows, maybe it will happen in another life.

Giorgio: So do you believe in reincarnation?

Denis: What does this word mean?

Eros: Reincarnating means that our soul, after death, is reborn a second time in another body and not necessarily in that of a human being. I would love to reincarnate as a dog.

Giorgio: Why as a dog?

Eros: Because I think it's a cross between a child and an angel. He remains simple and lifelong devoted to the people he loves, so what better being than it exists on this earth?

Denis: You are right, dear grandfather. And what race would you like to be?

Eros: *(Smiling)* I honestly didn't think about this, how about if we decide it together?

Giorgio: I like the Neapolitan mastiff.

Denis: He's too big to be my grandfather, I'd say a wolfhound.

Giorgio: No, that's too aggressive.

Denis: Could a Labrador be okay?

Eros: But I would not like to be too bulky, I would like a breed that reflects my personality. Basically a small one, but with an aggressive appearance. In short, someone who is respected especially in his house, what has not happened to me in this life.

Denis: And which could it be?

Eros: A Pinscher.

Giorgio: Ah! What looks like a little Doberman?

Eros: Just that! But of the deer red color.

Iva enters the scene.

Iva: What are you two doing here? If you have finished your homework, go and tidy up there and turn off your computer, television and so on. Let's move on!

Giorgio and Denis: Ok, let's go. *(And they leave the scene)*

Iva: I see you've recovered from the sleeping...

Eros: I know you gave me a sleeping pill instead of my usual medicines and I'm happy for that. I don't want to know what you do while I'm sedated, I don't care anymore.

Iva: Do you want me to do something for you?

Eros: Yes, pack my suitcase. I would like to go away today, I can't stand the idea of seeing your faces again. And above all, I don't want Denis to feel the same pain that I am feeling at the thought of separating myself from him forever.

Iva: What are you saying? They will bring him to visit you, so you will see each other again.

Eros: And who will do it? You, who don't even have a driving license? Your child who never had a backbone? Or the artificer of all this? I'm a realist and I know I won't see him again.

Iva: I'm sorry about how it turned out.

Eros: If you were really sorry, you would have objected. Instead it's okay with you too, but I won't hate you for it. Hate is a strong feeling like love and I now feel only indifference for you.

Iva: Is this what you want?

Eros: Yes.

Iva: Then I'll satisfy you. The institute told us that if we wanted to anticipate the hospitalization, there would be no problems, so, since the suitcases have been ready for days, I just have to call the Red Cross and then we can go.

Eros: I don't want anyone to accompany me, let alone you.

Iva: As you want! *(She picks up the phone and dials a number, after giving the interlocutor the home address)* We need to take a person to the "The Shining Sun" retirement home. I had made an appointment for Monday, but we would need to anticipate entry to the institute. Okay we are waiting for you. *(Then hangs up the receiver)* Let's get ready, they'll be here any minute!

Iva leaves the scene. In the meantime, Eros takes, with his stumps, a small book from his wheelchair from which he tears a page which he then places on the table. Then he swallows a bottle of pills which he leaves on the table with the torn page. Iva returns to the scene with the suitcase in her hand and Eros's jacket.

Iva: Do you want to greet someone?

Eros: Absolutely not.

Iva: Not even Denis?

Eros: In my own way I have already done it.

Iva: Will I be able to visit you?

Eros: No, but I ask you one last favor. Do you see this letter? As soon as I'm gone, you'll have to give it to Denis.

Iva: I will do it.

The doorbell rings

Eros: They have arrived.

Two Red Cross stretcher bearers enter to take Eros to the institute.

Iva: Come on, put on your jacket.

Eros: No thanks. I want to savor the last fresh air.

Iva: Do as you like.

Eros leaves the scene with the stretcher bearers, Iva goes to the kitchen and Denis and Giorgio return.

Giorgio: Eros will be happy to know that we have found his great love on Face-book.

Denis: My grandfather must have fascinated that woman, after all these years, she not only remembers him but also wishes to see him again.

Giorgio: Your grandfather is certainly not one who forgets!

Denis: I'm looking forward to breaking the news.

Iva returns to the scene.

Denis: Grandmother, where is grandfather? We have to give him great news.

Iva: Tell me and then I'll report to him.

Giorgio: This is not possible, it is private.

Iva: Then you will have to wait.

Denis: Why?

Iva: He had to go to the doctor.

Giorgio: And how would he do to go alone?

Iva: I think you are too curious! Besides, it's almost dinner time, I think your parents are waiting for you.

Giorgio: Okay, I'm leaving! But can I come back to talk to your husband tomorrow?

Iva: Tomorrow we will see, now row!

Giorgio: Goodbye Mrs. Landi, hi Denis!

Denis: Hi Giorgio!

Iva: Now go wash your hands! *(While the boy is leaving)* Ah, wait a second, there is a letter for you.

Denis: From whom?

Iva: Open it and see. But go read it in your room.

Denis: *(After taking the letter)* Okay grandma! I will come back later.

Iva: *(Pacing nervously back and forth in the room)* Who knows what's written in that letter?! *(Then she notices the torn page and the empty bottle of sleeping pills on the table)* And this? Who left it on the table with the barbiturates? But the bottle is empty! Let's see what is written here. It is a poem.

“Every moment I lived without stop, in every throb I tasted my life, but a day came when the stops and throbs were too long to bear. I don't have to ask anyone for forgiveness, only myself for what

awaits me, but I have no regrets, no disagreements, only a deep sadness for the human race, that's why when I am born again I never want to be a man again."

(Thoughtfully) What will it mean?

Nino and Anna return to the scene.

Iva: I inform you that Eros wanted to anticipate the times and has already left for the hospice. He didn't even want me to accompany him.

Anna: Very well!

Iva: Before he left, however, he ingested the barbiturates and left this poem on the table.

Nino: *(After reading it, he change expression)* Did you notice the author's name?

Iva: No.

Anna: *(After getting hold of the paper)* But it's your father's. I didn't know that a publisher had published one of his poems.

Nino: Knowing my father, he must have written a whole book of poetry without our knowledge. Who knows when they date back? If he wrote them after the accident, he must have sought help from someone he trusted.

Iva: And why hasn't he ever let us read them?

Nino: Because we weren't worthy. But haven't you yet realized that this is his farewell message?

Iva: Now I also understand why he ingested the barbiturates.

Anna: How many will he have ingested?

Nino: The amount needed to die.

Iva: Are you sure?

Nino: Don't you understand that he has decided to put an end to his existence and this is only our fault?!

Anna: After all, sooner or later, everyone dies.

Nino: *(He glances at her and then gives her a slap)* This too, sooner or later had to happen, maybe it was better if it happened sooner!

Denis enters the scene.

Denis: *(Elated)* Grandpa left me a treasure map.

Iva: And how did he manage to make a map without hands?

Denis: It was printed from the internet several months ago. Do you see the date? Surely someone must have helped him.

Nino: Probably the same person who helped him with the poems. And what would be the treasure you should find?

Denis: I'm not sure, but I know that I have to look for it on an island where it is only possible to access it with a dog.

Nino: How strange! Why with a dog?

Denis: It is not strange, however. Grandpa told me that when he is reborn he hopes so much to be a dog. So I imagine that on this island, to find the treasure, he and I have to go there together, as we have never done until today.

Nino: You have already found your treasure, my son! You found your grandfather's immense heart that we never had the sensitivity to see. Anyway if you want a dog, I promise you I'll get you one. From now on I will be the father you deserve and I will be more attentive to your wishes.

Denis: Dad, I would love a Pinscher.

Nino: Why do you like that breed?

Denis: Because my grandfather said that when he is reborn he would like to be a dog of that breed.

THE END