



*My*

*son*

*Marco Ciaramella*

## CAST:

**Ginnie:** Walter's wife

**Walter:** Ginnie's husband

**Mick:** Ginnie and Walter's son

**Martha:** Carter's wife

**Carter:** Martha's husband

**Ophelia:** Friend of Ginnie and Martha

**Gladys:** Veterinary's assistant

**Paul:** Doctor

**Rina:** Babysitter



## FIRST ACT

*The scene takes place in the kitchen.*

**Ginnie:** (*Feeding a child*) Mama's darling, how much do you eat?! Not even an adult who has fasted for weeks would be able to swallow so much food on the same day.

**Walter:** It will be for this reason he grows well! He is just a hungry creature.

**Ginnie:** The problem is that if he continues in this way he will clear our bank account.

**Walter:** How tragic you are! Many children throw tantrums when they have to eat. Do you know how many mothers would gladly exchange with you?

**Ginnie:** Maybe you don't realize it but that little creature swallows two hectograms of raw minced meat, just for a snack. And if you try to give him less screams and cries desperately like he's been fasting for a century.

**Walter:** Then let him cry! You will see that when he is tired, he stops.

**Ginnie:** I remind you that if you don't please him, he starts to bite. But what do you know? You always sit there in the armchair and I'm always the one to feed him.

**Walter:** It will mean that next time I'll do it! Anyway, I think it's time for the child to start eating alone. At the age of two, children are generally already independent. Why isn't he still?

**Ginnie:** Try asking him! Besides, are you only realizing it now?

**Walter:** You're really nervous today! I remind you that you are not the only woman in the world to have a child!

**Ginnie:** If I'm nervous, it's because I have a husband who never gives me a hand and who can't do anything but criticize me.

**Walter:** But I'm not even one of those who raise their hands to their wives when they break their balls.

**Ginnie:** You should just try to do it! Also I remind you that that evening two years ago, you were there too, so stop making stupid speeches!

**Walter:** Stop being grouchy! Now I'm going to buy half a roast chicken, so tonight you won't have to cook and you'll rest a bit.

**Ginnie:** Good idea! But half is not enough, take at least two.

**Walter:** Two? But for me a quarter is more than enough.

**Ginnie:** For me too. But he (Pointing to the child) one and a half he eats it all.

**Walter:** But aren't you exaggerating?

**Ginnie:** Absolutely! Before going to sleep he wants three baby food and two yogurts.

**Walter:** So should I buy those too?

**Ginnie:** Yes, take the family pack, it should be enough for tonight.

**Walter:** Of course this child consumes like a turbo diesel! From tomorrow it will be better if I ask my employer for permission to work a few hours of overtime. Hi! *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Ginnie:** *(Turning to the child)* I would like to know what your father ate that evening to conceive such an insatiable child? I am convinced that it is all his fault. *(Then, thinking aloud)* He must have been under the influence of some drug... In fact he had gone out to dinner with friends and on his return he was cheerful and animated by an unusual passion. Who knows what he had done to be so perky?

*Someone knocks on the door*

**Ginnie:** Come in!

*Ophelia enters the scene.*

**Ophelia:** Hi Ginnie! Do I disturb you?

**Ginnie:** Absolutely! Indeed, you came at just the right time! I need a break.

**Ophelia:** Do you want me to continue with the child?

**Ginnie:** Would you do it?

**Ophelia:** I will do it very gladly! *(After approaching him)* This child is growing visibly. What do you feed him?

**Ginnie:** Maybe it would be more correct to say what I don't give to him! He would eat three live chickens a day, if only we let him.

**Ophelia:** Really?

**Ginnie:** He has an insatiable hunger and if I don't feed it enough, he bites everyone and everything.

**Ophelia:** Ouch! He bit me too.

**Ginnie:** But wasn't he sucking the feeding bottle?

**Ophelia:** I thought I'd give him a breather, but he immediately bit me.

**Ginnie:** I am not surprised! You took his lifeblood out of him for a moment.

**Ophelia:** I had thought of giving him a little break, to catch his breath.

**Ginnie:** You thought wrong! It was like asking him to bite you.

**Ophelia:** But why do you still have to give him the feeding bottle? And why doesn't he talk and walk yet? Did you ask the pediatrician?

**Ginnie:** He does not walk because he rolls directly on the floor, he is too full of food. For speaking, a speech therapist is already following him, but for the moment the results are less than zero.

**Ophelia:** Maybe, he doesn't feel like it. When he changes his mind he will surely make up for lost time.

**Ginnie:** I hope that when he does decide to do so he doesn't have the same sense of proportion as when he eats, otherwise he will start making longer speeches than Perry Mason's harangues.

**Ophelia:** For this insatiable hunger, wouldn't it be appropriate to seek the advice of another doctor? If you want I could recommend a good one. Mine for example!

**Ginnie:** It wouldn't be a bad idea. The pediatrician who follows him says that I have to give him food in small doses, but you too have seen how he reacts if he does not receive the amount he wants!

**Ophelia:** Not only saw it, I also felt it! But apart from that, what else did he tell you?

**Ginnie:** Which is perfectly healthy.

**Ophelia:** But how does he explain that the child bites?

**Ginnie:** You know what doctors are like! They are only good at uttering incomprehensible words.

**Ophelia:** But what is this stench? How long have you not changed his diaper?

**Ginnie:** Don't tell me about this! You have no idea how much it costs me in terms of diapers. He also farts so much that his father has started calling him breeze. And he makes more noise than an adult.

**Ophelia:** Then he suffers from meteorism.

**Ginnie:** Maybe! But no matter what the weather is, he "thunders" all the time!

**Ophelia:** Meteorism is not about weather conditions. It is a gastrointestinal disorder caused by a buildup of gas in the digestive tract.

**Ginnie:** In fact, twenty people at the same time would not be able to do like him. If there was a world championship he would easily win it.

**Ophelia:** Then there is really something wrong with the child. Listen to me! Consult another doctor. If you want, I'll go immediately to call him to ask if and when he is available to come for a home visit.

**Ginnie:** I'd be really happy if you did this for me! Thanks Ophelia, you really are a friend!

**Ophelia:** But, in the meantime, you change his diaper and also his clothes, because he has a strange smell... of musk.

**Ginnie:** Do you think my son would smell like musk? How is it possible? By now it is certain that he eats everything, but he has not yet arrived to eat the musk!

**Ophelia:** He doesn't really smell like musk, I would say rather like wet sawdust.

**Ginnie:** If he hasn't eaten the bark of a tree in the garden, I don't know where this smell comes from. Among other things, I don't even feel it.

**Ophelia:** Perhaps your sense of smell has become so used to this stench that you can't even feel it anymore.

**Ginnie:** Are you really sure?

**Ophelia:** Yes, I am.

**Ginnie:** Then I immediately go to wash and change him.

**Ophelia:** It seems to me an excellent idea.

**Ginnie:** I hope, however, that during the operation he does not take my finger off with a bite, since his father has not yet returned with food and touching him when he is hungry is very dangerous.

**Ophelia:** Didn't he just drink a liter of milk?

**Ginnie:** Yes, but that's the minimum quantity for a snack.

**Ophelia:** Then you should buy a cow directly and put it in the garden.

**Ginnie:** It wouldn't be a bad idea. *(Hearing footsteps)* Someone is coming, I'm going to change Mick's diaper, before you leave, do me the favor of entertaining my guest. *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Ophelia:** Okay!

*Martha enters the scene.*

**Martha:** Hi Ophelia! Is Ginnie at home?

**Ophelia:** She is her son's room changing his diaper.

**Martha:** I wanted to ask her if she would do me the favor of keeping mine too.

**Ophelia:** Don't you think she's pretty busy with hers already?

**Martha:** It would only be for a few hours. Also, the children could play together.

**Ophelia:** How much does your child weigh?

**Martha:** Maybe you wanted to ask me how old is he?

**Ophelia:** Absolutely, I just wanted to understand if he can defend himself.

**Martha:** Why? I don't have to take him to a boxing match.

**Ophelia:** You may not know, but Ginnie's son is quite restless and bites, so if your son doesn't able defend himself, don't be surprised if you find him with some bruises.

**Martha:** Does Mick also have this habit?

**Ophelia:** Why? Does yours bite too?

**Martha:** Unfortunately! I was thinking of making him socialize with children his own age, just to make him stop.

**Ophelia:** Does he also have a lot of appetite?

**Martha:** A lot! I have to feed him all the time.

**Ophelia:** And does he also do a lot of farts?

**Marta:** Yes, more than an adult.

**Ophelia:** Ginnie has the same problem as you and is desperate because her doctor is incapable and cannot help her solve it. What does your doctor think?

**Martha:** I have heard the advice of many doctors but have lost hope of healing him. That's why I decided not to do anything anymore. After all, he is a healthy child, perhaps the situation will improve with his growth.

**Ophelia:** Otherwise the poor wretch who will marry him.

**Martha:** It will mean that when she goes to bed she will put plugs in her ears.

**Ophelia:** Not only those, even the gas mask! I advised Ginnie to have him examined by a doctor I know. Maybe, if she gets good results, it might then suggest what to do to you too.

**Martha:** Good idea! Even if I don't have great illusions.

**Ophelia:** I would like to ask you one last question: does your child give off some strange smell even after a bath?

**Martha:** It doesn't seem to me, but his grandmother says he smells like musk. But why are you asking me?

**Ophelia:** It was just a little curiosity. (*Ginnie enters the scene*) Ah, here's Ginnie! Then I go.

**Martha and Ginnie:** Bye!

**Ginnie:** Martha, what are you doing here? What happened?

**Martha:** Nothing! But do you have two mouthguards?

**Ginnie:** Two mouthguards?

**Martha:** I wanted to ask you if I could leave my son with you for a few hours so he could play with yours, but Ophelia told me that Mick bites like Andy and, if you accept, we should take precautions for their safety.

**Ginnie:** Do you have the same problem as me?

**Martha:** Basically my son is a photocopy of yours.

**Ginnie:** So this is an epidemic!

**Martha:** It is not an epidemic! It's just a funny coincidence!

**Ginnie:** There is nothing funny about this, my friend! Furthermore, I don't believe in coincidences. Does it seem possible to you that two children born on the same day and who live nearby both behave in such a particular way?

**Martha:** Why not? However I too would be happy to find a solution to the problem. Ophelia told me that you will ask for a consultation with a doctor you trust, maybe let me know if you find any benefit.

**Ginnie:** I will do it! But you still want to leave Andy here today?

**Martha:** Yes, maybe we could call a babysitter, in order to check if those two behave the same even in our absence. Perhaps their attitude is linked to some psychological discomfort towards us.

**Ginnie:** In fact, I know that eating disorders are often subordinated to psychological problems.

**Martha:** So I'll bring Andy here later.

**Ginnie:** Meanwhile, I'll look for a good girl who is right for us.

**Martha:** Very well!

*While Martha leaves the scene, Walter enters.*

**Martha:** Hi Walter!

**Walter:** *(He raises his hand in greeting, then turns to his wife)* Where is she going so fast?

**Ginnie:** She has commitments. By the way, she's leaving her son here tonight.

**Walter:** Was ours not enough? Don't you always say you're tired? Why did you agree to take care of another brat?

**Ginnie:** Don't worry, we will hire a babysitter. Rather, do you know a reliable girl?



**Walter:** Why should I know her?

**Ginnie:** I don't know, maybe some of your colleagues have a daughter who wants to earn some money.

**Walter:** I assure you that nobody comes to mind.

**Ginnie:** You seem defensive to me. I'm not accusing you of having a lover! Anyway, if you don't have anyone to suggest, I'll find someone myself. But while I search, you take care of the child.

**Walter:** But I have to fix the shopping!

**Ginnie:** You will do it later. I have to make a phone call, maybe I came to mind the right person for us.

**Walter:** And who would be the unfortunate? Whoever it is, let's tell her we vaccinated the child against rabies otherwise, after the first bite, we see her run away.

**Ginnie:** I have no intention of explaining Mick's problem, because I would like to know how the child behaves in my absence. The purpose of this experiment is precisely to verify if we are the cause of his problems.

**Walter:** But who put this strange idea into your head?

**Ginnie:** Let me do it! We absolutely have to understand why those two children behave in this strange way.

**Walter:** Why are you talking about children? We only have one. Who else are you referring to?

**Ginnie:** I'm referring to Andy, the son of Martha and Carter.

**Walter:** Carter never told me anything about him.

**Ginnie:** Did you tell him about Mick instead?

**Walter:** Absolutely not.

**Ginnie:** You two only talk about sports and sex.

**Walter:** Now do you also want to tell me what I should talk to my friends about?

**Ginnie:** I was just noticing how superficial you and Carter are, unlike me and Martha. We have faced the important issue of our children's health.

**Walter:** It will mean that from now on, Carter and I too will talk about dirty diapers and maybe we will discuss which of the two children produces more.

**Ginnie:** Now I'm going to make that phone call. There's no worse deaf than someone who doesn't want to hear! *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Walter:** *(After dialing a number on the mobile)* Hello? Carter, I need to talk to you urgently, where are you? ...Okay, I'll wait for you. *(After cutting off the communication)* Luckily he was home, so he'll arrive right away. If things are as I think, we risk a catastrophe. *(The doorbell rings)* It must be him!

*Walter goes to open the door.*

**Carter:** *(Elated)* Am I or haven't I been faster than light?

**Walter:** Listen, Flash Gordon, there is little to be happy about! If our wives find out what we've been up to, they throw us out of the house.

**Carter:** What are you alluding to?

**Walter:** Don't pretend you don't understand! You know it all started because of you.

**Carter:** But did you smoke your brain today?

**Walter:** Now I ask you a question, but please tell me the truth. What were the substances in that pill you made me take two years ago?

**Carter:** I don't remember what I ate for lunch today, imagine if I can remember...

**Walter:** *(Interrupting him)* Not even a dumb like you could have forgotten that night. In any case, I immediately refresh your memory. Do you remember when we went out for dinner and got drunk like two sponges?

**Carter:** As if it were the only time!

**Walter:** We had never reached those levels of drunkenness.

**Carter:** Why do you ask me that? Now we don't do that nonsense anymore.

**Walter:** I ask you, because that night on our return home we both conceived a child.

**Carter:** And what's wrong with that? We didn't swap our wives!

**Walter:** But doesn't it seem strange to you to have generated such particular children?

**Carter:** Don't tell me that yours has strange behaviors too?!

**Walter:** And as if this were not enough, our spouses have decided to investigate to understand why.

**Carter:** Do you think that that pill mixed with alcohol is the cause of all our problems?

**Walter:** If this were the cause, I wouldn't worry too much. My fear is that girl we both had sex with in my car is responsible for this situation...

**Carter:** Anyway, if I remember correctly, nobody forced you, you could have abstained, so stop blaming me!

**Walter:** If I succumbed to temptation it was because that pill gave me no peace.

**Carter:** In my opinion the situation is not as tragic as you describe it. The children are healthy and our wives will never know what happened that night.

**Walter:** But if the situation gets worse, we should confess everything.

**Carter:** Are you crazy? My wife would never forgive me for that fling.

**Walter:** Mine, would use me as a template to use for target practice.

**Carter:** Listen! With a blood test we can check if we have contracted a disease that we may have passed on to our children. If we have confirmation, we consult a doctor who prescribes drugs to treat us and our children. Clearly all unbeknownst to our wives, what do you think?

**Walter:** However, if we were sick, our spouses could be too. In this case, how would we verify it and above all how would we treat them without their knowledge?

**Carter:** Let's tackle one problem at a time. First we have to get a prescription for exams.

**Walter:** However, you still haven't answered my question.

**Carter:** I don't even remember it anymore!

**Walter:** What was in that damn pill and who gave it to you?

**Carter:** Do you really want to know?

**Walter:** Yes, I want.

**Carter:** But you will get angry.

**Walter:** You drugged me, you got me drunk, you led me into temptation and all of this could cost me my marriage, what could you tell me to make me mad even more?

**Carter:** Okay! That pill was given to me by the assistant of a veterinarian friend of mine.

**Walter:** Who gave it to you? *(Looking at him with a threatening look, not being able to scream so as not to risk Ginnie rushing)*

**Carter:** I knew you would react like that! For this reason I didn't want to tell you.

**Walter:** And why did she give it to you?

**Carter:** I asked her for something that supported me as much as possible. I don't know if you understand? So she gave me a drug that is usually given to horses or bulls to help them mate, so that they can repeat their performance many times.

**Walter:** You are truly a moron! Does it seem to you that we are the same size as a bull or a horse?

**Carter:** But, for once, the duration of our sexual performances had nothing to envy to theirs!

**Walter:** *(Who is about to jump on him)* I'll kill you! *(Then he stops because he sees Ginnie enters the room)*

**Ginnie:** What is this din? If you wake up the child, after the effort I made to put him to sleep, I will kill you!

**Carter:** You know well that when we start joking we forget the whole world around us.

**Ginnie:** So practically always! Your life manual does not include making serious speeches.

**Walter:** This is not true! Even if we were talking about football now.

**Ginnie:** But now get out of the way now, otherwise I'll kick both of you in the ass.

**Walter:** Why do you want us to go away? Are you waiting for someone?

**Ginnie:** Yes, the doctor, so hurry up and get out.

**Carter:** Why are you waiting for the doctor? Are you sick?

**Ginnie:** He doesn't come for me, he comes for my son.

**Walter:** Strange for our doctor to come for a home visit!

**Ginnie:** This is not our doctor he is the one who recommended Ophelia to me.

**Carter:** And who is he?

**Ginnie:** This is not important because he assured me that he is very good.

**Carter:** However it could be useful know him.

**Ginnie:** Don't worry. Depending on what the doctor says, the first to be notified will surely be Martha.

**Carter:** For what reason?

**Ginnie:** Unlike the two of you, who only talk about football, we talk about much more important things and we have found that both of our children suffer from the same strange ailments. That's why the doctor's diagnosis might interest Martha too.

**Walter:** Ginnie, why, speaking of Mick, did you say mine and not our son earlier?

**Ginnie:** Because, if my suspicions are confirmed, that's how it will end.

**Walter:** What do you mean?

**Ginnie:** For the moment you just have to disappear!

**Carter:** Okay, let's go. But it's certainly not Walter's fault that the children have problems.

**Ginnie:** So could it be your fault?

**Carter:** Absolutely not! I have always been an honest and caring father from the beginning.

**Ginnie:** If we talk about the beginning, there are some strange coincidences... *(At that precise moment the doorbell rings)* We will resume the discussion on another occasion.

**Carter:** Also because it's late and I have to go. Hi Walter, see you!

**Walter:** Wait up! I'm coming with you, this will surely be the doctor and the lady said a few moments ago that she doesn't want me to stay.

**Ginnie:** *(As she sees them go out)* They look like the cat and the fox!

*As Carter and Walter leave the scene, the doctor enters. The three exchange a nod of greeting.*

**Paul:** Hello, Madame!

**Ginnie:** Come doctor, take a seat!

**Paul:** Where is the child?

**Ginnie:** He's in his room, I'll take you.

**Paul:** I'd rather visit him without you being there, so just show me the way.

**Ginnie:** Follow me! *(Leading the way)* Excuse me, how did you say that your name is?

**Paul:** I haven't told you yet. I am Doctor Sting Paul.

**Ginnie:** Nice to meet you! I am Mrs. Cooper. The child is in the room down the hall.

**Paul:** Well, I'm going.

**Ginnie:** *(After the doctor leaves the scene)* Maybe he is a good doctor, but I don't like his attitude. Let's sit down and wait for the response of the visit.

**Paul:** *(Who enters the scene after a minute holding one hand with the other)* I understood everything!

**Ginnie:** Really?

**Paul:** I must tell you that the case will require a series of tests, so the child will need to be hospitalized for at least two days. At home we certainly can't do them. A moment ago he almost took off my finger with a bite. Someone at the clinic will help me keep him still. The only sample I was able to get from him was the saliva sample, when he bit me.

**Ginnie:** I'm so sorry doctor, if you want, I can disinfect your wound.

**Paul:** It is not necessary! I have some urgency to go. Anyway now I will have this sample analyzed and if I find anything I will notify you immediately, otherwise I'll see you in the hospital.



**Ginnie:** I wouldn't want to contradict you, but my son has already been hospitalized three times and your colleagues have found nothing, so it seems useless to me to do it again.

**Paul:** I'm the doctor, not you! I have no idea what my colleagues have done previously, so I will act as I see fit. Do you trust or not?

**Ginnie:** Of course, but I assure you that they have made all possible and imaginable checks on him.

**Paul:** Was the saliva sample also previously taken?

**Ginnie:** Honestly not that.

**Paul:** Then let's do as I told you. See you later! *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Ginnie:** *(Thinking aloud)* That man seems crazy to me! I will not have my son hospitalized. *(Someone knocks on the door)* It could be the doctor who forgot something. *(And she goes to open)*

**Ophelia:** I saw the doctor come out of here. What did he tell you?

**Ginnie:** He said he wants to hospitalize Mick. Meanwhile, he took away a sample of saliva that he will have to analyze.

**Ophelia:** Have you seen what a polite person he is? And then how is it available! It is a pleasure to talk to him.

**Ginnie:** *(Sarcastically)* Of course!

**Ophelia:** I'm really glad you liked him.

**Ginnie:** Ophelia, sorry, but what kind of contact do you have with him? How many times in a year do you go to be visited?

**Ophelia:** Honestly, I never go to the doctor, I don't need it. But my sister goes there often and says he is so good.

**Ginnie:** Your sister? But if she is just twenty!

**Ophelia:** Think how scrupulous that man is! Every time she goes to the clinic, he makes her undress for a thorough examination.

**Ginnie:** Sorry if I'm indiscreet, but what's her problem?

**Ophelia:** She has high cholesterol.

**Ginnie:** And he makes her undress for that reason?

**Ophelia:** Since she has been treated by him it has significantly lowered.

**Ginnie:** I don't think about the doctor!

**Ophelia:** What does the doctor have to do with it? My sister's cholesterol went down.

**Ginnie:** Then, now I think that she can reduce the visits.

**Ophelia:** Unfortunately not yet. The last time he also found her two inguinal hernias, one on the right and one on the left.

**Ginnie:** I guess he also advised her to keep them in check often.

**Ophelia:** Exactly.

**Ginnie:** I would have bet!

**Ophelia:** Why?

**Ginnie:** Isn't he so scrupulous?

**Ophelia:** I see that you have been positively impressed and I am happy about this. Giving good suggestions always gives me a lot of satisfaction.

**Ginnie:** *(Maliciously)* The same that the doctor feels in making certain diagnoses!

**Ophelia:** *(Without paying attention to Ginnie's answer)* I don't know exactly what his specialty is, but I'm sure he'll find out what your son has.

**Ginnie:** From what you told me, he must be very good at anatomy.

**Ophelia:** Forgive my ignorance, but I don't know much about the branches of medicine, but I think you must be optimistic.

**Ginnie:** I don't know! Maybe Mick is too small and male.

**Ophelia:** I don't think this is a problem for him.

**Ginnie:** Let's hope it is instead.

**Ophelia:** What do you mean?

**Ginnie:** I mean that by their nature, boys are more difficult to care for than girls. Anyway, thank you so much for introducing me to Dr. Sting, otherwise I wouldn't have known what else to do.

**Ophelia:** I gladly did it. Now I go and I recommend: wait confidently for his answer, you will see that it will not be long in coming. The special cases, like yours, for professional correctness, he tends to get them off his agenda quickly.

**Ginnie:** I have no doubt of this!

## SECOND ACT

*Same scenography as the previous act.*

**Walter:** *(Thinking aloud)* How I wish that damn night never happened! If only I could go back in time. And all because of that idiot. *(The doorbell rings)* The devil is being talked about... let's hope he brings good news. *(After opening the door)* Come on, move in and tell me everything!

**Carter:** It's all right. I am not sick, but this does not mean that you are not.

**Walter:** But how encouraging you are!

**Carter:** What the heck! I can't even joke anymore.

**Walter:** Does it seem appropriate to you to do it right now? You may not have noticed, but Ginnie is starting to get suspicious.

**Carter:** It is precisely for this reason that I did the blood tests and not you. Since my wife doesn't suspect anything. So you should thank me instead of complaining so much.

**Walter:** I should also thank you for drugging me with an exciting substance that would have been enough for an entire regiment and for bringing that unknown woman with whom... By the way, where did you find her?

**Carter:** It's a long story.

**Walter:** Come on tell me!

**Carter:** If I remember correctly, at the time, you weren't interested in asking me.

**Walter:** Of course! I was drunk. If I had been in full possession of my mental faculties, I would never have committed such nonsense. If I think back that that pill was intended for a four hundred kilo equine, I could choke you instantly. I don't do this just because I want to know who that girl was. *(Taking him by the collar)*

**Carter:** Okay, even if you won't be very happy about it.

**Walter:** Come on, talk!

**Carter:** That girl was Gladys, my vet friend's assistant.

**Walter:** *(Realizing that Carter would like to say more, but does not seem to have the courage)* Is there anything else I should still know?

**Carter:** Gladys, however, is not only his assistant...

**Walter:** Stop hesitating and get to the point!

**Carter:** She also undergoes his experiments for monetary compensation.

**Walter:** What kind of experiments?

**Carter:** Try to imagine! My friend is a researcher and tests the reaction of certain drugs intended for animals on humans.

**Walter:** *(Grabbing it a second time)* I denounce you! I'll take your head off your neck! But what do you have in place of the brain? Fish and chips?

*The doorbell rings.*

**Carter:** You can't denounce me or your wife will find out everything! And leave me! Can't you hear the doorbell? Come on, go open!

**Walter:** This story does not end there! *(Then he goes to open the door)*

**Paul:** Hi, is Mrs. Cooper at home?

**Walter:** No, but I am the husband. Can I help you?

**Paul:** I'm Dr. Sting...

**Walter:** *(Interrupting him)* Ah! You are the doctor who, from now on, should follow our son.

**Paul:** Exactly! I agreed with your wife that in case of news, I would have warned her immediately. Finding myself in this area for another visit, I thought I'd come to communicate her the laboratory results, but, since she isn't at home, I'll come back later.

**Walter:** Why to come back another time?

**Carter:** With what fuel costs today! Tell us.

**Paul:** And who are you? I certainly have no intention of violating professional secrecy and speaking in front of other people who are not directly involved.

**Carter:** But I am involved! My son has the same symptoms as Mick and it was my intention to call you to visit him too, so if you could anticipate something to us in the meantime.

**Paul:** *(Turning to Walter)* Do you give me permission to speak freely?

**Walter:** Unfortunately for me, he is one of the family, so please talk.

**Paul:** First I have to make a premise: mainly substances in saliva are produced locally, in the salivary glands, but some molecules pass from the blood. Several mechanisms both intra and extra cellular allow the molecules to be transported from the blood to the saliva. Biomolecules reach saliva both by passive diffusion and by active transport of proteins through a receptor mechanism. Practically, your children, I don't know how, but they came into contact with a virus, that is usually contracted by animals, of which we know very little. You must know that viruses are different from each other. Some are simple particles made up of proteins wrapped around a nucleic acid molecule and others are more complex.

**Walter:** In simple terms, what disease do our children have?

**Paul:** A virus that we don't yet know well and therefore we can't fight in a targeted way.

**Carter:** And how did they contract this disease?

**Paul:** The only explanation would be that of a transmission from the mother during pregnancy, or childbirth, or through breastfeeding, however, in this case, the parent should be a monkey, and it does not seem to me your case.

**Carter:** Why a monkey?

**Paul:** Because until now this virus has only affected primate babies, never human beings!

**Walter:** But, if we contracted it and then infected our wives, and they passed it on to children, shouldn't we be sick too?

**Paul:** No, you, like your wives, could be healthy carriers of the disease. However, I don't believe any of you have been defiled, unless you love particular transgressions.

**Carter:** Is there a cure?

**Paul:** It would be risky to test the drugs with which animals are generally treated on children of that age.

**Carter:** Then let's test them on an adult.

**Paul:** Do you know anyone else who shows the same symptoms and who has already passed the age of development?

**Carter:** No but...

**Paul:** In that case you just have to wait for those two to grow up.

**Walter:** But if, in the meantime, an adult with the same problem turns up, should we give him antibiotics?

**Paul:** Absolutely not, those are used for the treatment of bacterial infections, in this case you could try antivirals, but, as I told you before, we still don't know much about this virus, so before finding the most suitable ones it would be necessary to make several attempts. But now excuse me, I have other patients waiting for me.

**Walter:** Excuse me doctor for wasting your time and I assure you that I will report everything to my wife.

**Paul:** Okay, but my compensation? I remind you that I am not your family doctor, so my consultation must be paid for.

**Walter:** He will pay it, it's the least he can do, for having listened to the explanation.

**Paul:** So I'm three hundred and fifty.



**Carter:** Wow!

**Paul:** The price also includes laboratory analyzes.

**Carter:** *(After giving the money to the doctor)* Keep the change!

**Paul:** But they are three hundred and fifty.

**Carter:** Why, did you also want a gratuity?

**Walter:** Don't pay attention to what he says! It is just that the diagnosis you communicated has destabilized him!

**Carter:** More than the diagnosis is the pri...

**Walter:** *(Interrupting him so as not to make a bad impression in front of the doctor, he covers his friend's mouth with one hand)* So thank you very much and goodbye!

**Paul:** See you later! *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Walter:** Did you understand what we have to do now?

**Carter:** Yes, get my money back.

**Walter:** No, you need to contact the girl from that night.

**Carter:** Why?

**Walter:** She will be our cavy.

**Carter:** This time, however, you will be the one to pay her, not me.

**Walter:** It won't be you and me who will pay, Ginnie will.

**Carter:** It is the most stupid idea I've ever heard!

**Walter:** Maybe it is much less so than you imagine. The only one who may have infected us is that girl. This means that there is an adult on which to test antivirals.

**Carter:** Are you referring to Gladys?

**Walter:** And who else? You know where to find her?

**Carter:** Sure! But how do we convince her to come to us and then take the medicines?

**Walter:** If she is willing to undergo your friend's experiments in exchange for money, it means she needs money.

**Carter:** I inform you, however, that she will demand a lot of money, even that evening she demanded a good amount.

**Walter:** Why did you pay her?

**Carter:** Do you think someone like her would have sex with you for free? Have you seen yourself in the mirror?

**Walter:** But you didn't warn me she was a prostitute. If I had known, I would have taken precautions and I wouldn't have been so rash.

**Carter:** Now it is useless to return to the subject! And then it was convenient for you not to know, at least you didn't have to contribute to the costs.

**Walter:** What do you mean? That you also want the money back?

**Carter:** Don't worry, it is certainly not my intention.

**Walter:** Anyway, going back to my idea, Gladys will certainly gladly accept the babysitting job we offer her. While she is here, with the excuse of offering her a drink, we will give her the antivirals that you will get.

**Carter:** How can I get them in such a short time? For those you need the prescription.

**Walter:** This is not my problem. You put us in this situation and you will find the solution, if you don't want me to be seriously angry! *(Looking at him with a menacing look)*

**Carter:** All right! Maybe my pharmacist friend could help us, as he owes me a favor.

**Walter:** I don't want to know which one, I can only guess! *(In a sarcastic tone)*

**Carter:** *(Softly)* Gratitude no longer exists.

**Walter:** What did you say?

**Carter:** I said that even if he accepts, to see if the treatment is effective, it will be necessary to give it to him for a period of time that could be long. If so, who pays her?

**Walter:** I told you, Ginnie will pay. I will convince her to take some rest and to hire Gladys for the necessary period.

**Carter:** But what if Gladys recognized us?

**Walter:** It is not possible! That night she was more drunk than us!

**Carter:** It's true! Then it happened two years ago, she will surely have forgotten it. All in all, yours is a good idea.

**Walter:** Besides, if we cure her with antivirals, it will be a positive thing for everyone she comes in contact with from now on.

**Carter:** We will win the Nobel Award of Medicine!

**Walter:** I'm not interested in winning the Nobel Award, I'd settle for not taking a beating from my wife.

**Carter:** I go to contact Gladys and then I go to my pharmacist friend. But what antivirals should I get?

**Walter:** All those your friend can give you.

**Carter:** Okay, then see you later! *(And he leaves the scene)*

*Ginnie enters the scene.*

**Ginnie:** I see that you are alone. Isn't Carmelo with you?

**Walter:** Why did he have to be with me?

**Ginnie:** Because his wife told me she was coming here.

**Walter:** He actually came, but he's been gone for some time.

**Ginnie:** How strange! I thought I ran into him.

**Walter:** I too often exchange him with a man who looks like him, once...

**Ginnie:** Forget it, I don't care! Rather, did he call Dr. Sting?

**Walter:** Why, did he have to call?

**Ginnie:** Just in case of news, so if he calls or comes here when I'm out, give him my mobile number, because I want to talk to him personally...

**Walter:** Can I know why?

**Ginnie:** Don't worry, just do it!

**Walter:** I think I have the right to be kept informed of my child's state of health.

**Ginnie:** Depending on what that man tells me, I may inform you to find a lawyer.

**Walter:** What speeches are these?

**Ginnie:** If I were to find out what I fear, I assure you that I will not limit myself to speeches, I will also pass to the facts! Anyway now I'm going to prepare dinner, because we will have a guest.

**Walter:** Who are you referring to?

**Ginnie:** The new babysitter.

**Walter:** Have you found one yet?

**Ginnie:** Sure! You said you didn't know any, so I asked someone else.

**Walter:** If you had given me more time...

**Ginnie:** I remind you it was needed for tonight, so how could I do it? And now stop chatting, she'll be here shortly, so go change the baby's diaper.

**Walter:** Okay, I'm going! But when she arrives call me, I would like to meet her.

**Ginnie:** If you think you see Claudia Schiffer appear, I immediately disillusion you. I chose a slightly elderly person, so as not to make you fall into temptation.

**Walter:** Why should I fall into temptation?

**Ginnie:** Because you are staying stay at home with her tonight, to see if she is can take care of the child. If she passes the exam, we could also consider hiring her for an indefinite period, so that I can go back to work. But I don't want you to be yet another father trying to seduce his son's babysitter, so I took my precautions.

**Walter:** Why have you become so wary of me?

**Ginnie:** I sincerely hope I'm wrong, but there is something about this matter that doesn't convince me.

**Walter:** What do you mean? What do you still expect from me?

**Ginnie:** To put it in one word: loyalty!

*The doorbell rings.*

**Walter:** I'm going to open the door.

*Rina enters the scene.*

**Rina:** Good evening, I'm the new babysitter.

**Walter:** *(After looking at her from head to toe)* Very new, I wouldn't say!

**Rina:** What do you mean?

**Ginnie:** He means we never had one before now, you're the first.

**Rina:** Better late than never!

**Walter:** Sometimes it's better never!

**Ginnie:** My husband meant that he would never have imagined hiring a professional like her.

**Rina:** In fact I have a great experience with children.

**Ginnie:** I'm going to change Mick's diaper, you *(Turning to her husband)* entertain our guest and explain to her what she should do. *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Rina:** Come on, tell me, what should my duties be?

**Walter:** Hasn't my wife told you yet?

**Rina:** We only had a short telephone interview and I accepted the assignment for tonight regardless of the conditions. But if we want to talk about long-term hiring, perhaps it is better to go into details.

**Walter:** First, you will need to clean the whole house.

**Rina:** But I'm a professional babysitter, not a maid.

**Walter:** I pay and I set the rules. Take or leave! You also need to know that my son has a contagious disease.

**Rina:** In this case, I just take the necessary precautions. It's like being in contact with children who have got lice.

**Walter:** For those you won't have to worry, because he eats them before they multiply in his head. You know how monkeys do it? So does he too.

**Rina:** Do you have anything else to explain to me?

**Walter:** Yes, during the weekend you should also paint the living room and the kitchen, without forgetting the child's room which is always good to disinfect.

**Rina:** But are you looking for a nanny or a house painter?

**Walter:** We are looking for only one available person.

**Rina:** And all this for what amount?

**Walter:** Ten pounds.

**Rina:** Ten pounds an hour for all this honestly seems to me to be little.

**Walter:** I didn't mean ten pounds an hour, but a day.

**Rina:** Okay, I accept!

**Walter:** Really?

**Rina:** Of course, provided that I work no more than one hour a day.

*Ginnie enters the scene.*

**Ginnie:** So did you agree on everything?

**Walter:** Not yet, because she is only willing to work one hour a day.

**Ginnie:** But we would need you to do at least eight.



**Rina:** Then find a slave! And that she has a narrow sphincter, so as to insert the handle of a broom inside it, so when she walks she also sweeps the floor. Goodbye slave traders and don't worry, I know the way!

**Ginnie:** And how do we do for tonight?

**Rina:** It is not my problem! *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Ginnie:** But what did you tell her?

**Walter:** Only what she had to do, but she began to say: I don't do this, this is not my job, I am not able to do this...!

**Ginnie:** After all she just had to take care of the child, she didn't have to paint the house!

**Walter:** That's exactly what I told her! Some people would like to earn without doing anything!

**Ginnie:** I didn't think she was such a person, since Ophelia recommended her to me.

**Walter:** You have too much faith in her.

**Ginnie:** What do we do now?

**Walter:** I will try to look for a trusted person who is more helpful.

**Ginnie:** I don't understand how a person can show up for a job and want to dictate the rules! Just one hour she wanted to work, if I think about it, my blood boils in my veins.

**Walter:** Don't think about it anymore. While I'm looking for the person we need, it is better if you go for a walk and tries to dispose of the anger.

**Ginnie:** If I meet Ophelia, however, I reproach her for recommending that slacker.

**Walter:** It's not worth it. Try to be superior. Better not to break good neighborly relations, for so little. In fact, I speak to her, you are too impulsive.

**Ginnie:** This is true! You are much more diplomatic. *(Approaching her husband and hugging him)* Sorry if sometimes I'm a bit abrupt and jealous, but you know that behind my strong character there is a sensitive person who loves you.

**Walter:** *(Returning the hug)* I know my love, but now go, otherwise if he comes back...

**Ginnie:** Who are you referring to?

**Walter:** I'm referring to anger. Listen to me, go for a long walk that's good for you!

**Ginnie:** How thoughtful you are! Bye, see you soon. *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Walter:** Now I'm calling Carter *(He is dialing the number when someone knocks on the door)* Who is it now?

*Walter goes to open the door.*

**Ophelia:** Hi Walter! I came to talk to your wife.

**Walter:** I don't recommend it to you.

**Ophelia:** Why? She should thank me, I advised her a trusted person and then I have good news from the doctor.

**Walter:** Shut up! Speak softly and walk away from the door!

**Ophelia:** Why so much confidentiality?

**Walter:** I tell you to lower your voice otherwise you wake up Mick who has just fallen asleep.

**Ophelia:** Ah! Sorry, that's certainly not my intention!

**Walter:** Come on, tell me, why did the doctor call you instead of contacting us?

**Ophelia:** He didn't call me. I met him by chance at my sister's house, he came for a home visit. In any case, I'll tell Ginnie about it when she gets back.

**Walter:** It is better if you report it to me, because of this story, she started taking anxiolytics, so I would prefer to filter the news before communicating it to her so as not to make his situation worse.

**Ophelia:** This I didn't know, how sorry I am!

**Walter:** You must know that she was also rude to the babysitter you recommended. Indeed, if you meet that woman and she tells you that we treated her badly, apologize on my part, I did it only to comply with my wife's requests.

**Ophelia:** Alright! What the doctor told me is that, after talking with you, he phoned a colleague to explain Mick's case and this suggested a drug that could be right for him, the name is written inside this sealed letter that he told me to deliver to you.

**Walter:** So, now that you gave it to me, you can also go.

**Ophelia:** Absolutely! I'll wait for Ginnie to come home to break her the news personally.

**Walter:** It's not necessary, I'll do it for you, listen to me, it's better this way!

**Ophelia:** I said I want to do it, in fact I'm going to look for her.

**Walter:** You are really stubborn! So, wait here, but we'll give her the news together. In the meantime, could you go check on Mick? I think he woke up.

**Ophelia:** With pleasure. *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Walter:** Damn what a mess! *(Someone knocks on the door)* Let's hope it's not Ginnie. *(Opens)* Ah! Thank God! Come in we have a big problem to solve.

**Carter:** It seems to me that we have more than one!

**Walter:** This however has priority. Over there is Ophelia who wants to tell Ginnie that the doctor has found the medicine to cure our children.

**Carter:** Would this be a problem? I would say that it is good news.

**Walter:** But what do you have in place of the brain? If Ophelia says that the doctor had already talked to me, Ginnie will find out that I lied to her earlier.

**Carter:** Damn! And to think that I had two good news!

**Walter:** Then tell me! Maybe they could cheer me up.

**Carter:** The first is that I spoke to Gladys and she accepted the job offer. He also didn't recognize me, so she won't remember you either.

**Walter:** From the way you speak, it looks like I have a face so anonymous and ugly that it's easily forgotten!

**Carter:** Not easily, deliberately!

**Walter:** Listen to me, Marlon Brando, don't talk nonsense and keep explaining, that there is little to be braggart! Rather, tell me the second good news.

**Carter:** The pharmacist will give us any drug we ask him, indeed he already has given me some samples *(Showing him some boxes of drugs)*

**Walter:** Let's open this letter and see the name the doctor wrote. *(After opening it)* Retrovir, is there among those you brought?

**Carter:** *(After watching)* There is.

**Walter:** Now we just have to convince Ophelia not to report anything to Ginnie.

**Carter:** Maybe I have an idea of how to do. *(Showing his friend a pill he has in his pocket)* Do you know what this is?

**Walter:** I have no idea.

**Carter:** The solution to the problem.

**Walter:** I don't understand.

**Carter:** How do you get a woman to change her mind?

**Walter:** Do I strangle her?

**Carter:** There is an equally effective, but much less risky way ...

**Walter:** Which would it be?

**Carter:** You have to make her fall in love.

**Walter:** And who will make the sacrifice between the two of us? You, who are so beautiful?

**Carter:** I would certainly succeed even without artifices, but time is our enemy, so this could give us a little help. *(Raising the pill to eye level)*

**Walter:** Wait a moment! That won't be...?

**Carter:** Yes, that's it.

**Walter:** Was it not enough for you what happened because of that pill? Do you keep using it? But then, doesn't it have the effect of increasing men's excitement?

**Carter:** Not of men, but of males of horses and bulls.

**Walter:** Don't remind me, otherwise... So, what would your idea be?

**Carter:** Ophelia is a spinster and therefore in abstinence for millennia. The idea is to make her swallow this pill. The resulting aphrodisiac effect will lead her to fall in love with me and I will convince her to keep quiet...

**Walter:** We don't know, however, if the pill will have the same effect on a woman.

**Carter:** There is only one way to find out.

**Walter:** In theory, your plan could work. But you must be willing to do anything even...

**Carter:** Since I have combined this confusion, I will sacrifice myself and then, between us, spinster or not, it will also be a rewarded sacrifice.

**Walter:** Don't tell me you're tempted by her too.

**Carter:** Nothing is thrown away these days!

**Walter:** But your wife is much prettier than Ophelia.

**Carter:** My friend, when nature calls, man responds!

**Walter:** Having no alternatives, I accept your idea. We could dissolve the pill in that drink. *(He takes the bottle from the table and throws the pill inside, then closes it again)* Now I'm going over to Ophelia's and convincing her to come back here.

*Walter leaves the scene and after a moment Ophelia arrives.*

**Ophelia:** Hi Carter! Is Martha okay?

**Carter:** Very well. Take a seat and let's talk a bit.

**Ophelia:** What do you want to talk about?

**Carter:** We can exchange views on politics, economics, gossip and so on.

**Ophelia:** Gossip doesn't interest me, I think about my own business.

**Carter:** Can I buy you a drink?

**Ophelia:** No, thank you, I'm not thirsty.

**Carter:** I'm not thirsty either I, but I would not want Walter to be offended and then it must be very good.

**Ophelia:** Looks like a simple coke to me.

**Carter:** You're wrong it's Pimm's n.1 cup.

**Ophelia:** It's a coke, I recognize it from the smell.

**Carter:** I tell you it's Pimm's.

**Ophelia:** And I tell you instead that it is not.

**Carter:** Shall we bet ten pounds that I'm right?

**Ophelia:** Okay, but what a pain in the ass you are! *(After drinking the drink)* I told you it was coke, so I won, come on, pay!

**Carter:** *(Paying the money of the bet)* That's right: the loser must pay. However, it seems to me that you liked it, since you drank it all.

**Ophelia:** Not finishing it didn't seem polite to me.

**Carter:** I see that your attitude is a little different now, do you feel any changes?

**Ophelia:** Why? Should I behave differently after drinking a coke?

**Carter:** Now, for example, don't you find me more interesting?

**Ophelia:** *(After looking him straight in the eye for a few moments)* Honestly no, for that it would take me something much stronger.

**Carter:** Do you mean you don't think I'm a handsome man?

**Ophelia:** Have you gone stupid?! Are you trying to seduce me?

**Carter:** Besides being your neighbor, wouldn't you like me to take care of your heart?

**Ophelia:** Even if you were a cardiologist, I wouldn't allow it!

**Carter:** Maybe it is still early to see the effect...

**Ophelia:** Listen to me Marlon Brando, even if you were the only man around, I would never have a relationship with you. Was I clear enough?

**Carter:** Wouldn't you like to have some intimacy with me?

**Ofelia:** Do you know what I really want?

**Carter:** Sure, whisper it in my ear.

**Ophelia:** I want you to stop this stupid talk. But, doubting that you will satisfy me, I leave. *(She gets up and walks towards the door)* Ah, I forgot... Jeti is more exciting than you! *(And she leaves the scene)*

### THIRD ACT

*Same scenography of the two previous acts.*

**Walter:** As a seducer you leave a lot to be desired. A woman is not willing to have sex with you even under the influence of drugs!

**Carter:** That drug is likely to have a different effect on women. There is no other explanation.

**Walter:** But now we have to quickly find another way to get that woman not to talk to Ginnie, otherwise we're both in trouble.

**Carter:** After all, what would be wrong with that? If your wife finds out that you lied to her about the doctor, you might tell her you didn't remember he came here.

**Walter:** Are you crazy? If I told her this, after "killing" me she would call the doctor and she would find out everything he told us today.

**Carter:** But when she learns that the situation will solve with that drug, she will forget everything else.

**Walter:** You are very wrong!

**Carter:** Anyway, I told Martha to join me here and take Ophelia with her too.

**Walter:** Why? What's your plan? I remind you you've done enough trouble already!

**Carter:** I thought that that pill on women could have the effect of making them aroused, rather than with handsome men like me, with ugly ones like you.

**Walter:** But how does your absurd brain think?

**Carter:** We need to find out if you are her ideal man instead of me.

**Walter:** Even if it were as you say, how could I seduce Ophelia with my wife present?

**Carter:** You don't listen to me when I speak! I told you that Ophelia will arrive with Martha in moments and before Ginnie returns, you will launch your "attack".

**Walter:** I remind you that Martha is friends with Ginnie and would tell her everything.

**Carter:** But you don't have to seduce Ophelia in Martha's presence, because I'll take her to Mick's bedroom with an excuse.

**Walter:** It seems like an absurd plan to me.

**Carter:** Do you have a better one? Come on! *(Stamping his foot on the floor)*

**Walter:** If you shut up for a moment, maybe I could think of one. And stop that foot! It distracts me.

*Someone knocks on the door.*

**Carter:** It's too late now, they've arrived! So do your part!

*Walter goes to open the door and Ophelia and Martha enter.*

**Walter:** Hi, what a nice surprise!

**Martha:** But didn't you want to talk to us?

**Walter:** Ah, yes ... I ... I wanted to talk to Ophelia to thank her.

**Ophelia:** But didn't you already do it half an hour ago?

**Carter:** Kindness is never too much. Martha, in the meantime, we go over to Mick, we would have to change his diaper. *(Dragging her by the arm)*

**Ophelia:** But weren't you the one who spoke of kindness a few moments ago? Be careful, otherwise you could hurt her.

**Martha:** Thank you, but don't worry, he's not hurting me.

**Ophelia:** *(Looking at Martha with languid eyes)* If you want Martha, I'll come with you to change the Mick's diaper.

**Carter:** You stay here with Walter who has to talk to you. *(And he leaves the scene with his wife)*

**Ophelia:** What a beautiful wife Carter has! How could she marry such an ugly man?



**Walter:** I always tell him that too, but he has a different opinion; he even thinks I'm uglier than him.

**Ophelia:** Honestly choosing who is the ugliest of you tough is really hard.

**Walter:** What do you mean? I wouldn't be your ideal man?

**Ophelia:** *(Laughing)* My ideal man? I assure you not.

**Walter:** So tell me: who would be the one who could make you fall in love?

**Ophelia:** But what does it matter to you? Now if you have to thank me, do it, because I want to go see the child.

**Walter:** Do you want to go see the child or do you want to join someone else?

**Ophelia:** What do you mean?

**Walter:** Join Martha and tell Carter to come back here that I need to talk to him.

**Ophelia:** Do you know that you have a strange way of thanking? Anyway I go. *(And she leaves the scene)*

*Carter enters the scene.*

**Carter:** *(Euphoric)* So, have you already conquered her?

**Walter:** I didn't succeed, but someone else, yes.

**Carter:** I don't understand.

**Walter:** The drug worked, but in a way we never imagined. It increased her attraction but towards her own sex.

**Carter:** So now is she attracted to women?

**Walter:** Surely she is attracted to your wife!

**Carter:** What? Now I'll go over there and make the situation clear!

*Carter is on his way to join the two women but Walter stops him.*

**Walter:** Wait up! Don't you understand that this is our luck?

**Carter:** Maybe for you, she doesn't like your wife but mine!

**Walter:** Stop complaining! Now you'll go over there and tell Martha to persuade Ophelia not to tell Ginnie what the doctor told her. You will see that she will fulfill her request.

**Carter:** Maybe.

**Walter:** It will be enough for Martha to be a little seductive and Ophelia will do what she asks.

**Carter:** I don't like this strategy.

**Walter:** Do we have another alternative?

**Carter:** But how do I convince Martha?

**Walter:** You will tell her that, for Ginnie, knowing of the need for the child to take these antivirals could cause additional stress that would aggravate her already precarious psychological state.

**Carter:** But so I should also tell her that sooner or later our child will have to take drugs to heal.

**Walter:** Does your wife take psychiatric drugs?

**Carter:** No.

**Walter:** So what's the problem? Also because she can't understand that we are the cause of everything.

**Carter:** In this regard, in your opinion, the cause of this disease is due to the drugs we took, or to having had sex with that girl?

**Walter:** I don't know.

**Carter:** Okay! I'll try to persuade Martha to do what we want. But what if Ophelia decides to talk to Ginnie anyway?

**Walter:** If Ophelia doesn't want to keep her mouth shut, we'll use force.

**Carter:** Would you kill her?

**Walter:** Why not? To save my marriage, I would be willing to do anything. So keep this in mind, because she may not be the only victim. Now I'll go over there and tell your wife to come here, you do the rest. *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Carter:** *(Reflecting aloud)* Now how do I convince Martha?

*Martha enters the scene.*

**Martha:** Luckily Walter came to tell me you wanted to talk to me. Ophelia was clinging to me like a leech and I couldn't pull her off.

**Carter:** This is exactly what I wanted to talk to you about. Since she's been treated by that doctor... the same one she advised to Ginnie, Ophelia is strange.

**Martha:** So, is that doctor incompetent?

**Carter:** I don't know this, however, seeing in what strange way she behaves, it is better to be cautious with that doctor's prescriptions.

**Martha:** Why? What was his diagnosis?

**Carter:** Without doing any, he prescribed a series of pretty strong drugs for Mick. I spoke to my pharmacist friend and he told me that this is an experimental cure that has never been tried on children. For the moment, researchers are evaluating its effectiveness on adults. So it would be appropriate to wait for the results of this experimentation before administering it to our children.

**Martha:** It seems right to me!

**Carter:** Then you should convince Ophelia not to tell Ginnie that the doctor was here.

**Martha:** Why?

**Carter:** In order not to give her false illusions if the experimentation does not have the desired results.

**Martha:** But when that doctor came, were you there too?

**Carter:** Yes and he didn't convince me at all. So many incomprehensible words that's why I went to talk to my pharmacist friend.

**Martha:** So, are there other people who have the same problems as Andy and Mick?

**Carter:** Of course! With the difference, however, that they are adults.

**Martha:** And aren't they afraid of worsening their health by undergoing an experimental treatment?

**Carter:** The risk is well rewarded.

**Martha:** For money people would do anything! However, I think we should tell Ginnie the truth.

**Carter:** Walter says that she is unable to resign herself to her son's problem and does not want her to be tempted to try the cure before there is certainty that it is safe.

**Martha:** Then I'll try to persuade Ophelia not to tell her anything.

**Carter:** I am sure she will do what you ask her.

**Martha:** So I have to go talk to her right away?

**Carter:** Yes, before Ginnie gets home, otherwise it would be useless! You will see that if you look into her eyes it won't be difficult to persuade her.

**Martha:** So I'll go over there and tell Walter to come here. In private it will be easier. *(Then she leaves the scene)*

*Walter enters the scene.*

**Walter:** Have you convinced her?

**Carter:** Unfortunately not!

**Walter:** Then let's move on to the alternative plan.

**Carter:** Wait up! I was joking!

**Walter:** Does this seem like the time to play your usual silly jokes?

*The two men hear a scream.*

**Carter:** What is happening?

*Marta enters the scene.*

**Martha:** She kissed me.

**Carter:** Really?

**Martha:** I looked her in the eyes as you told me to do and she kissed me immediately.

**Carter:** Oh my God!

*Ophelia enters the scene.*

**Ophelia:** Why did you run away?

**Martha:** *(Turning to her husband)* Explain it to her because I'm too angry.

**Carter:** What happened besides the kiss?

**Martha:** Doesn't that seem enough to you?

**Carter:** It must have been a friendly little kiss!

**Martha:** Other than an friendly little kiss! She even touched my ass!

**Ophelia:** Her pants were falling off her.

**Walter:** But if she wears a dress!

**Ophelia:** I could have sworn she had the pants on and they were falling off. Sorry, it was an unstoppable instinct, but I assure you it will never happen again.

**Martha:** I hope it for you! Next time you try again, I'll give you a slap that will leave its mark.

**Walter:** Come on Martha! After all, nothing happened! Besides, we're against violence, aren't we, Carter?

**Carter:** Yes, especially you!

**Ophelia:** Maybe I better leave.

**Martha:** Go take a cold shower!

**Ophelia:** I promise I won't tell Ginnie anything.

**Martha:** It will be better for you, otherwise I'll tell everyone what you did!

*Ophelia leaves the scene.*

**Carter:** Hurrah!

**Martha:** Are you happy that she molested me?

**Carter:** Absolutely not! I'm just happy she understood the mistake, that's all.

**Martha:** However, from now on, I will not stay alone with her anymore.

**Walter:** Don't worry, this infatuation will pass to her!

**Martha:** How do you know this?

**Walter:** Male intuition, let's say I have some experience.

**Martha:** Why? Do you molest those of your sex?

**Carter:** Maybe of the other one!

**Martha:** *(Turning to Carter)* So you know about it too? And maybe you join him?

**Carter:** No, it's just him who...

**Walter:** Stop accusing me like I'm the worst of perverts!

**Martha:** You two don't convince me.

**Walter:** I assure you I have nothing to hide!

**Carter:** Me neither, my love!

**Martha:** Now come with me, we have to go home, my mother has to go away and we can't leave the child alone. *(And leaves the scene. Carter follows her, but before leaving...)*

**Carter:** Gladys will arrive soon, please do not be recognized!

**Martha (off stage):** So, are you moving?

**Walter:** Don't worry! Bye, see you soon. *(Then, thinking aloud)* If she didn't recognize him, why should she recognize me?

*Ginnie enters the scene.*

**Ginnie:** After this nice walk, I feel much better. And you, what did you do?

**Walter:** My love, we've solved the babysitter problem, she'll be here soon.

**Ginnie:** Very well! I just hope she's not too young.

**Walter:** I don't know her personally, Carter found her.

**Ginnie:** I like even less this.

*Someone knocks on the door.*

**Walter:** It must be her. *(And goes to open the door)*

**Gladys:** Hi! Is this where you are looking for a babysitter?

**Ginnie:** *(Seeing that she is a young girl)* Unfortunately yes.

**Walter:** Take a seat, then we'll show you the child.

**Gladys:** Do you know you have a familiar face?

**Walter:** Many people tell me this, but I'm sure I've never seen you.

**Gladys:** Maybe, even if his voice reminds me of something. Someone who screams; do you go to the stadium?

**Walter:** Sometimes.

**Ginnie:** But if the last time you went there we were still engaged! At the time this girl wasn't yet born.

**Gladys:** Then it will just be a strong resemblance.

**Walter:** But now tell us: how many hours are you willing to work each day?

**Gladys:** Four hours, no more.

**Ginnie:** Four hours will be enough.

**Walter:** Didn't you want to start working again?

**Ginnie:** Yes, but I intend to do a part time.

**Walter:** That's fine for me too! *(Then turning back to Gladys)* How rude I am! Can I offer you something to drink? I have a drink that I'm sure you will enjoy.

**Gladys:** No thanks! I'm not thirsty. Now I'd like to see the child.

**Walter:** All right, I'll take you to him.

**Ginnie:** You stay here, I'll take care of accompanying her.

**Walter:** Okay! *(After the two women left the scene)* Luckily she didn't recognize me! *(Someone knocks on the door and he goes to open it)*

**Carter:** A mess happened. Martha mistakenly took one of those pills, convinced she was taking a pain reliever.

**Walter:** Didn't you hide them somewhere?

**Carter:** Yes, in my nightstand drawer.

**Walter:** Couldn't you have found a safer place?

**Carter:** By now it is useless to talk about it. Now she is coming here because he has an unstoppable desire to see Ginnie. She says she is in love with her.

**Walter:** My goodness! How do we do now? Ginnie is over there with Gladys.

**Carter:** Did she recognize you?

**Walter:** I don't think so. *(Someone knocks on the door)* Will it be Martha?

**Carter:** I'm afraid so. *(Ginnie and Martha enter the scene simultaneously. One from the entrance door and the other from the one leading into the sleeping area. Martha goes to hug her friend)*

**Ginnie:** How much emphasis! It looks like you haven't seen me in a century!

**Martha:** It seems so to me.

**Ginnie:** Why are you looking at me that strange way?

**Martha:** Because I finally find the courage to coming out..

**Ginnie:** Martha stop tighten so hard, I can't breathe!

**Martha:** All right! I'll just tighten a little less.

**Ginnie:** No, don't tighten at all! You look like an octopus. *(After detaching her from herself)* And you Walter, are you sure you have told me all about the babysitter?

**Walter:** Of course!

**Ginnie:** I am not stupid! That girl smells like wet sawdust like our son and since what she said a few minutes ago...

**Walter:** What do you mean?

**Ginnie:** I mean you're hiding something from me. Since Mick did not inherit that particularity from me, you may have been the one to pass it on to him.

**Walter:** Why do I smell like sawdust?

**Ginnie:** No, but you may have been infected. Maybe during an escapade...

**Walter:** I categorically deny it!



*Gladys enters the scene.*

**Gladys:** The child fell asleep.

**Ginnie:** But I am quite awake, so Miss tell me when you met my husband and why you have the same strange smell as my son?

**Gladys:** Are you sure you want to know?

**Ginnie:** Very sure!

**Gladys:** Let's start by saying that her husband is a half-adulterer.

**Ginnie:** What? Did you betray me?

**Gladys:** I said half adulterer!

**Ginnie:** What does it mean, that he is left halfway through the performance?

**Gladys:** Exactly! And for two reasons.

**Ginnie:** Hurry up and explain them to me so I can kill him later!

**Gladys:** The first is that he was drugged and the second is that he loves you deeply.

**Ginnie:** And did he understand this by trying to have sex with you?

**Gladys:** I told you, he had been drugged by him, *(Pointing to Carter)* who, like him, did not finish his performance.

**Walter:** *(Turning to Carter)* And you who boasted of being Rocco Siffredi!

**Ginnie:** The drug, however, does not justify his transgression!

**Gladys:** I assure you instead that the blame for his behavior is attributable exclusively to drugs. The substance he had taken has the property of making lose total control of inhibitory brakes. Of this I am sure, having already tested it previously.

**Ginnie:** Why? On who had you experienced it previously?

**Gladys:** On some animals. But having to check the side effects of the drug, and especially the degree of toxicity, I decided to take humans as cavies. So, I found that the reaction is exactly the same.

**Martha:** And which would it be?

**Gladys:** On females, in addition to increasing sexual attraction, it also changes their tastes, while on males the potential attraction to any member of the opposite sex increases a hundredfold. Basically, because of that pill, her husband would have been difficult to resist even in front of the ugliest woman in the world.

**Martha:** This would also explain my sudden attraction to Ginnie and Ophelia's to me. But I probably hired that drug, mistaking it for something else, but where would Ophelia find it?

*Walter and Carter pretend indifference. Ophelia enters the scene in that instant.*

**Ophelia:** Martha did you call me? I was on the stairs and I heard your sweet voice.

**Ginnie:** But how long does the effect last? Forever?

**Gladys:** In a few hours everything will be back to normal.

**Walter:** However your moral ethics leaves a lot to be desired.

**Gladys:** I don't think you are the best person to lecture on the morality of others! In any case, I want to reassure you about your children. I have finally managed to develop the treatment that will heal your sons. I've already started giving Mick it and he'll start getting better from tomorrow. I promise you that within two weeks all those strange symptoms will disappear and he will start acting like a normal child.

**Carter:** So will Andy heal too?

**Gladys:** Of course!

**Ginnie:** But you still smell like wet sawdust, are you really sure you have found the therapy to heal our children?

**Gladys:** Unfortunately for adults the duration of treatment is much longer, I still have to finish the last cycle.

**Ginnie:** You are not wrong when you say that my husband is not the best person to lecture you, but I think I can say that what you have done is really reprehensible.

**Walter:** You, even knowing you contracted an easily transmitted virus, continued these experiments.

**Gladys:** I can only agree with you! At the beginning I did not have any scruples, because I was only looking for covies to punish, in fact I choose elements that in my opinion could be potential adulterers. Then I realized that some people became so because of the drug.

**Ginnie:** When did you realize this?

**Gladys:** A few months after the experiment.

**Ginnie:** I hope you have stopped now.

**Gladys:** Of course! I admit I was very superficial at first. I had not thought about the possible contagion of their respective spouses and the transmission of the virus to the children that would be generated.

**Carter:** So now you've come to remedy the mess you have made.

**Gladys:** Yes. However, I would never have believed that, in the meantime, you would have made other messes by distributing pills at random.

**Carter:** Martha mistook that pill for an analgesic.

**Ophelia:** But I didn't take any pills.

**Carter:** You took it but you didn't notice. I also spent ten pounds to convince you.

**Ophelia:** What a bastard you are! Did you put it in the coke?

**Carter:** Yes.

**Ophelia:** But why did you drug me?

**Walter:** We just wanted to stop you from telling Ginnie what the doctor told you.

**Ophelia:** And you wanted to stop me by taking drugs?

**Carter:** We thought that if you fell in love with us we would be able to convince you to shut up.

**Walter:** Not with us, with you!

**Carter:** How fussy you are! It's not the same?

**Ginnie:** I do not think so!

**Walter:** So what do we do now?

**Martha:** Will you deliver the treatment to us?

**Gladys:** No.

**Walter:** Didn't you say you'd fix everything?

**Gladys:** In fact, the treatment will be given only to the two children. You (*Turning to Ophelia and Martha*) don't need it, in a few hours the effect of the pill will fade and your sexual tastes will return as before. As for you, Ginnie, I believe that you haven't contracted the virus. Maybe you are a healthy carrier like your husband, since you haven't developed the disease.

**Martha:** Can you say the same for me too?

**Gladys:** Yes.

**Martha:** And are you sure I'll stop being attracted to my friend?

**Gladys:** Very sure. However, before the effect of the pills taken by the two of them wear off (*Pointing to Martha and Ophelia*), I propose that you finish the experiment. What do you think?

**Walter:** Let's take two pills too and see what happens?

**Gladys:** Absolutely not! I suggest that Ginnie take a pill too. Then the four of us go out for dinner. Let's say the wives will take a small compensation for the attempted betrayal. *(Handing a pill to Ginnie, after swallowing one herself)*

**Ginnie:** So your intent to use them for experimentation *(Pointing to Carter and Walter)* was just to punish cheating husbands?

**Gladys:** Not only that, I wanted to do a reverse search for the first time.

**Walter:** I don't understand.

**Gladys:** I'm tired of hearing about vivisection and torture on poor creatures. Who gives us permission to do all this? Where is it written that our life is worth more than theirs? Not to mention the cosmetic research. Is it possible that to test a cream we have to put the life of an innocent creature at risk? In summary, I wanted to do on humans what is done on animals. I just wanted to experience the effects of that drug on humans so that it could be used on animals.

**Ginnie:** From this point of view your intent was noble. You wanted to be a defender of the weakest and certainly the most innocent. *(Then swallows the tablet)*

**Walter:** It doesn't seem noble to me to risk someone's life just for an experiment. Have you ever thought that that substance could be lethal to a human being?

**Gladys:** That type of drug could never have had such devastating effects. But even in that unfortunate hypothesis, isn't it the same risk that man runs every time he does that kind of research on animals? However, I recognize that I was wrong, I shouldn't have been on the front line knowing I was sick. Unfortunately I can't change the past but I can change the future.

**Ophelia:** But now how will our hormones establish couples?

**Gladys:** We will find out in front of a nice plate of oysters.

**Walter:** And while you are having fun behind our backs, what do we do?

**Ginnie:** You will take care of the children. It won't be as fun but definitely useful. Maybe on our return, I can even forgive you.

**Martha:** *(Turning to Carter)* I hope I can do it too. In the meantime, for now, I want to go have a good time..

**Ophelia:** Won't I be excluded from this party?

**Ginnie:** I don't know. Of one thing, however, I'm sure: without men we will have fun like crazy!

**THE END**