

The Journey – The Mother

The Mother

The knowledge is ruthless. Not being able to protect what you love more than yourself. Your daughter.

To drag a suitcase towards a nonexistent dream.

The harshness of the past, and soothing tears of a grieving lie caressing your cheek.

Not having the strength any longer. It hurts, it hurts so much.

A whispering endlessness. Solitary vastness. Ashes in the wind.

Knowing that the journey has come to its end.

The Daughter – Fragile and ill. Your everything.

The Man – A warm body and seconds of comfort.

The Stranger – A black crow leading you to the illusion of the Turning Point.

Scene 1 – The Velorail

A barren winter landscape. Four on a journey. Silence, loneliness and desolation. Metal wheels against a rusty track and an eternal pendulum motion.

Scene instruction

4 monologues.

The following order:

1. The Man
2. The Mother
3. The Stranger
4. The Daughter

Your monologue:

Your worries about your daughter's weakness. Her face is white of cold and illness. How she coughs blood and breaks your heart. How there is nothing you can do. How you do not dare to think about, nor less telling the truth. She is dying.

Scene 2 – An Abandoned Road Restaurant

Everything is shattered. Starving they seek food. No luck today. The Stranger finds an old gramophone. The Daughter coughs blood.

Scene instruction

Gaming scene

Everyone sits and mixes silence with small talk. When the Man rises the other stop to play and listens to his inner thoughts. When the Stranger begins to talk about Turning Points the others stop talking. The scene is ending when he falls silent.

Your task:

Have your daughter's head in your lap. Only answer her questions with caressing, strokes or the sentence "I love you so much."

Scene 3 – The School

You felt the sense of smoke in distance. You knew it wasn't safe. The famine forced you. Like rats in the sewer you sneaked across the parking lot which once was black. There were people here. The chimney smoke did not lie.

Scene instruction

Storytelling monologues

1. The Mother
2. The Man
3. The Daughter
4. The Stranger

Your monologue

You describe how the hunger conquers fear and how you cross the cracked parking lot and into the school. Desolate and deserted. Dusty corridors. Shattered glass. Growing shadows. And the feeling of something lying in the dark.

Your monologue continues until the Man interrupts you and starts talking.

Scene 4 – The Railway Wagon (The Bonfire)

A rusty abandoned railway wagon. Exhausted but safe. For now. A fire made out of leaves and bark burns without giving any heat.

Scene instructions

Everybody plays. Taciturn. Shaken over what's happened. After a while the Stranger tells about himself.

Scene 5 – The Railway Wagon (Dreams)

Drops of rain coming through the roof. Thin blankets and a thinner sleep.

Scene instructions

Monologues

1. The Daughter
2. The Mother

Your monologue:

Firstly describe how you fall asleep with the Man still inside of you. He smells of refuge and a moment's peace.

Your dreams bring you down and back. You're in a empty playground. The Daughter sits in a swing and laughs. You swing her higher and higher each take. Every time she comes back she withers away. In the end you are swinging your daughter's dead body until the chain breaks and everything becomes black.

Scene 6 – The Dugout

Shards of tears. Lost and tired. A shelter under a bridge. Just close your eyes for a moment. Are we ever getting there?

Scene instructions

Monologue

1. The Man

Scene 7 – The Car Cemetery

Frozen rivers of metal and rust. Black rigid corpses. An aorta of lost life. Killed by fire.
The Mother throws up. The Man looks away. The Journey is turning.

Scene instructions

Conversation between the Man and the Stranger as a monologue.

1. The Man
2. The Stranger

Scene 8 – Under a Tarpaulin

The cold leaves no one untouched. The food is almost out. A leaky tarpaulin is keeping out the night.

Scene instructions

Firstly a scene between the Man and the Mother. The Stranger participates as a shadow over the Man's shoulder. This is followed by a monologue by the Daughter..

Your instruction:

The Man will persuade you to have sex with the Stranger. Finally he'll succeed. Then your part of the scene is over.

Scene 9 – A Cold Dawn

Everything is quiet. Not even the wind is heard.

Scene instructions

Monologue by the Man.

Scene 10 – The Great Dam

An endless mirror of dark water. Four shadows. Lost and tired.

Scene instructions

Gaming scene. You look out over the never ending dam. Only still water. A word here and there breaks the silence. The scene ends with the Stranger rises and says something.

Scene 11 – The Icy Creek

A frozen vein through the snow. Chilled, lifeless.

The Man takes the Daughter away from the bridge.

Scene instructions

A scene between the Man and the Daughter.

Scene 12 – The Lodge

A few days passes. The wind outside increases. The snow falls. In the glade a log cabin. Tin cans with food. Mostly rusted. Blankets and sleeping bags.

The Daughter is very ill.

Scene instructions

Monologues

1. The Mother
2. The Stranger

Your monologue:

Describe your fear what the Stranger might do to the Daughter. In detail depict your fear for what exactly he will do. It should be understood that implicitly are you describing exactly what he did to you by the bridge.

Scene 13 – Alone

The snow falls heavily. The cold has been shut out. The bucket has an ice coating. One morning the Stranger has suddenly disappeared.

Scene instructions

A scene between the Mother and the Man.

Your instruction:

You try to persuade the Man to run away. He doesn't dare to. In anger, fear and the feeling of powerlessness you destroy something. You stay.

Scene 14 – The Story

The snow falls. A caressing hand. A few whispering words. Promise me that everything will be fine.

Scene instructions

Scene between the Mother and the Daughter.

Your instruction:

The daughter lies with her head in your lap. She asks you to tell the story about the broken doll that no one wanted. The doll looked just like her. The story you told her when she was little. The story that always had a happy ending.

Scene 15 – Snowed in

A prison of ice and snow. The food is out. The Daughter is very weak.

Scene instructions

Scene between the Daughter and the Man.

Scene 16 – A Beloved Reunion

Torn apart by hunger. Seeing things that doesn't exist. What is the truth? Is it a nightmare? The door is wide open. The Stranger is back.

Scene instructions

Monologue by the Stranger

Scene 17 – Empty Pantry

The water is not filling up. The panic is growing. The Daughter is dying.

Scene instructions

A gaming scene between the Mother, the Stranger and the Man. The Daughter is a shadow.

Your instruction:

Introvert. You don't want to listen to the Stranger. You try to fight your thoughts. But you are powerless. You are quiet and feebly reminiscence the shadow. No decision is made.

Scene 18 – A Horrific Decision

Sometimes there is no turning back. Then you have to do it. Even if it hurts.

Scene instructions

Monologues

1. The Mother
2. The Daughter

You monologue:

You must abandon your child. The Man and you must run away. Motivate to yourself why it is the only right thing to do.

Scene 19 – The Flight Plan

It's dark outside. The wind screams and tears. There is no turning back now.

Scene instructions

Scene between the Man and the Mother.

Your instruction:

Persuade the Man to run away without the Daughter. The scene ends with the Man consents.

Scene 20 – The Escape

Rushes through the night. Snowdrifts and thorns. Tears apart, rips apart. Death is just behind.

Scene instructions

Storytelling monologues:

1. The Mother
2. The Man
3. The Stranger

Your instruction:

Describe how you and the Man rush through the woods. You force yourselves through the brushy woods that grip after you. The moonlight is shaded and behind you, you hear the Stranger crying out like a hurt beast. You run like you've never run before. For your life.

Scene 21 – The Reprimand

The lodge is in shade. Heavy heaving breaths from the darkness. Soaked shattered dreams that await punishment. To do right what was done wrongly. The time has come.

Scene instruction

Monologues:

1. The Stranger
2. The Daughter

Scene 22 – The Murder

A tiny sparrow with a broken wing. Pale, soft, thin and feverish. Blood coming from mouth and nostrils. Death is maybe days away, or a second.

Scene instruction

Scene between the Stranger and the Daughter. The Stranger kills the Daughter.

Scene 23 – The Last Supper

The hunger tears them apart. Is it night or day? The smell of boiled meat makes their head rush. The table is set. Everybody eats. The Mother throws up.

Scene instruction

Scene between the Stranger, the Mother and the Man. Everybody sits at the table. The Stranger is in a good mood. The Daughter is a shadow.

Your instruction:

You try to eat. You can't.

Scene 24 – The Funeral

Three guises in the falling snow. A tarpaulin is lowered in a well. An end of a beginning.

Scene instruction

Scene between the Stranger, the Mother and the Man. Everybody sits quietly. Each one stands up one at the time and share their inner thoughts.

When so is done the Daughter shares her last thoughts.

Your instruction

Share your thoughts around the Daughter and her death.

Scene 25 – Goodbye

For the first time it is above zero. The food is out and the bell tolls. The lodge is emptied on life. The ones who are not fully dead are just a breath away. Time to go.

Scene instruction

Firstly a scene between the Stranger and the Mother. The Man listens quietly.

After that a scene between the Mother and the Man.

Finally a monologue by the Man.

Your instruction:

Listen to the Stranger with apathy. Your life is over anyway. You obey him.

Then tell the Man that you must leave him. He can't make a journey with his knee. Try to receive his blessing. When he rises and starts his monologue your second scene is done.

Scene 26 – Unknown Paths

An abandoned bus station. Hungry and tired souls. Children, men, women. Listening to man and the woman who give them hope. Hope for a home. Hope for a future. Hope for the Turning Point.

Scene instruction

Monologue by the Mother. The Stranger is lying with his head in her lap and listens.

Your monologue:

Describe the Turning Point. There are food, warmth and safety. Come with us.

The scenario ends.