A PLAY on WORDS

A play for the page

london
2 0 0 8

CHARACTERS

1° Person I
2° Person you
3° Person she
4° Person (optional)

Numbers
ONE I
TWO squared
THREE cubed

Owls
RED
GREEN } outsiders
BLACK

Witches
L
M } insiders
LORD

VOICE OVER a rascally banker
DEATH an old sea captain
THE STAR his wife
AN EVILDOER DEVOID OF REDEEMING QUALITIES their son
A LONE VOICE IN A SEA OF INSANITY dad?
CURTAIN TWITCHES

1

Scene 1
The beginning

helsinki
On a raised platform

1st PERSON  (theatrically)
I can see some kind of way out of here
Pause

2nd PERSON  (sarcastically)
You can see a way out of here
Pause

3rd PERSON  (prophetically)
She can see a way out of here
Pause

4th PERSON  (like a drunken owl)
Minä tahdon kernaasti puhua suomen kieltä, [mutta] en minä taida

There is no response
Scene 2
Introduction to key characters

ONE How are you?
TWO Good
ONE Good
TWO How are you?
ONE Good
TWO You?
ONE F
TWO Good
ONE I feel good
TWO Great
ONE (nods)
TWO yes good, good
ONE good for you
TWO yes (pause)
ONE (to 3) meet TWO
TWO (to 1) greet THREE
THREE are you a 1 or an I?
ONE no one
THREE Greta
TWO and you?
THREE better
TWO That’s good
THREE Goody Proctor
ONE Good God
TWO Good bye
ONE Good riddance
TWO (Grief stricken)
THREE Good grief!

Exit
II

Scene 1
Setting the scene

*The scene is set*

II

Scene 2
Speech!

1) Like a cliche
   Like a simile
   A simile
2) Like a profanity
   Like a pitiful cunt
   (Do you remember the time
   when we fell in love?)
3) Like a lamb to slaughter
   Like an only daughter
   Like nobodies business
4) Like
   Like I just said
   Forest gate
   Death row
   *Brown bread*
   (doth art)
5) Like a virgin
6) Like a man possessed
7) Like there is no tomorrow
8) Like I like you
   I like you
   I like you a lot
   Who for my?
   Like it or not
   I bestow

(aside)
this play is taking shape
the shape is black or white
the shape is a cube / turned on its side
the lines are the same
only (blacker) (longer) (reflective) (non linear) (more obscure) never odd or even
III

Scene 1
Song & Dance

This scene may be identified by its distinctive lack of the letters b, c, f, q, w, z and å.

3 owls enter from the wings GREEN / BLACK / RED
The birds stand in a line facing the audience

Song

GREEN  la la la la la la
BLACK   la la la
RED     la la la la la

REVOLUTIONARY CHORUS
la la la la la la!

Dance

One step forward (left)
Together
One step forward (right)
Together
Turn around
Turn around
One step back (right)
(repeat)

Progress

When the performance ends everyone sits in their seats as though they want it to go on and on

Interlude
This is not an act

(aside)
This is dry

Dry like a
failed thumb click
A slow clap
A side glance
(cough)
Dry like the back of my throat
the roof of my mouth
the tip of my tongue
mouthing empty conversation
in a thickly thinned
(pause)

VOICE OVER
Dry like your friends
Dry like your friend’s friends
(there are boos)

IV
Scene 1
End of the line

Before the scene begins sinister music is heard (Enter DEATH)

DEATH
(like a ff fatal vision proceeding from a beat obsessed mind)

KILL THE MUSIC!
A cacophony of noise is delivered by a shaken conductor

THE STAR
(inexplicably)

I have forgotten my lines
(deadly silence)

Music dies
(fade to grey)
Scene 1
The End

Itchy Park
Night time
(o)(moon)
(\)(lightning bolt)

LORD
Speak not wretched sisters for we have blood on our hands

M
I stabbed myself with a sword
Look - 3 stitches
I tried to catch it but it escaped me

L
A fish steak leapt (from a lake) aboard a boat and skewered a bikini

M
It knifed Stevie too

LORD
What are you talking about?

M
A senseless murder in a mixed up word

LORD
There is no explanation
Only progressively messier long division
(Appealing to heaven)
Any questions?

M
Just the five W’s
Which
Which
Which

(The sword swallows chokes on her audacity)

L
(hic)
My pierced lip quivers

M
(muttered under breath)
The sword turns everyway

A LONE VOICE IN A SEA OF INSANITY
Dad?
LORD
I am confused
(aside) the whole earth is one of language and one of speech
I must go
I have lost my place

L
But who will replace you?

LORD
Anyone can wear a black wig and act weird

L
But not everyone can wrestle a sword

AN EVILDOER DEVOID OF REDEEMING QUALITIES
(very strong) Amateurs!

L
Which rogue character speaks out of turn?

M
If I could see where I was going
I might fear to tread

L
I was 10 once
I was 20 too
We three are now 30
And before we fought about it 40

M
I am not a number
I am a letter
Dear L.

L
You said we were friends

LORD
I never signed anything

L
(aghast)
I thou thee, thou traitor!

The last sunbeam sinks behind the expanding mountain

M
Let us not enjoy
Let us not enjoy anything
Forever and ever
And ever and ever
And ever and ever
And then
The END

BLACK-OUT

Pause

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

AGAIN

AGAIN

YAWN

Producers note

The play could end here or for an ending with more hope and strength producers may choose to end with the following scene:

A New Beginning

1st Person I can see some kind of way out of here

2nd Person You CAN see a way out of here

3rd Person She CAN SEE A WAY OUT OF HERE

4th Person We still may not know what happened, But we CAN... continue to be (d)

(Trumpets)