

A PLAY on WORDS

A play for the page

london
2 00 8

CHARACTERS

1 st Person	I
2 nd Person	you
3 rd Person	she
4 th 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 I 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) <i>Like a cliché</i>	With thee go
<i>Like a simile</i>	Without here these
<i>A smiley</i>	
2) <i>Like a profanity</i>	Go hence force!
<i>Like a pitiful cunt</i>	Thou art to me
<i>(Do you remember the time</i>	
<i>when we fell in love?)</i>	
3) <i>Like a lamb to slaughter</i>	Is to go
<i>Like an only daughter</i>	All places thou
<i>Like nobodies business</i>	Woe for my
4) <i>Like</i>	Who is how?
<i>Like I just said</i>	Art all things
<i>Forest gate</i>	
<i>Death row</i>	<i>(doth hat)</i>
<i>Brown bread</i>	
5) <i>Like a virgin</i>	In me no
6) <i>Like a man possessed</i>	Is to stay
7) <i>Like there is no tomorrow</i>	Thee to go
8) <i>Like I like you</i>	Art banished hence
<i>I like you</i>	Here to stay
<i>I like you a lot</i>	Who for my?
<i>Like it or not</i>	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, x, z and â.

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

Song

GREEN
la lal lal lal la la la

BLACK
la la la la

RED
lal lal la la la l a

REVOLUTIONARY CHORUS
la lal lal lal lal lal 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 thitutation

(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)

V
Scene 1
The End

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

LORD
Speak not werd 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 swallower 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
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)