ACT I

Scene I

*(Aran's apartment. Our protagonist, Aran, is alone in his rented TO on the outskirts of the city of Mankalla, the capital of the country of Gaiapan. Dirty laundry is plentiful on the floor. At the entrance, a fridge is on the left side of the door, occupying the corner that, when turning left, leads to the kitchen. The bathroom is after the kitchen. In front of the entrance, a mattress with disorganized and wet sheets is displayed. Some broken plates and glasses are found in some areas of the house. Some* *noisy music is heard too loudly.)*

ARAN *(while singing and simulating playing on the electric guitar)*: *(sings “Intoxicated Lies”)*

*(Someone knocks on the door. It’s Mirai, his older brother. He knocks three times before Aran realizes that someone is calling for him.)*

Mirai: I'm tired of calling for you and knocking on the door! How is it possible that you're listening to music so loud and you're screaming loudly at this time of the morning? It's the weekend which, and I hope no one hears us, is one of the few good things we have! People are tired and deserve to rest, just stop this noise!

Aran: Fuck off. I'm just trying to have fun.

Mirai: Having fun spending money that is not even yours! How did you manage to make the radio work without electricity? I have no idea what are you doing, it seems suspicious…

Aran: It’s just some normal batteries. I need to spend my free time with something, right? It’s fun. I’m having so much fun. This is so funny, actually.

Mirai: That is your problema, Mirai. You only think about yourself, only "me", "me", "me", and nothing else matters! This has to end!

Aran: As if I spent all my time bothering your majesty and our dear mother... That olden bitch...

Mirai: Watch your tongue! Already drunk? This has to end right now.

Aran: It would be over if you left me. But you insist on keeping me alive, tied to a crappy life with no purpose...

Mirai: Stop! Stop being such a snowflake, for the President’s sake! This world could be much worse if it weren't for him and his efforts so that everyone could survive in these conditions. The least you could do is to be grateful and work to help the family that took you in! This is my last warning, Aran. You know that now that I am married I have a responsibility to Gaiapan to care for a new being, one that will allow us to achieve our dream of eradicating the cold! Only the president thinks of this brilliant idea, he really thinks of all of us, and there are still those who say that he is only taking advantage to get rich! We have to work for the president, we have to work for him to finance his projects! Everyone is always tired and short of breath, more trees need to be planted! And, above all, betting on raising babies artificially, otherwise, our species will be extinct! Life represents a new source of heat, and together we will end this ice!

Aran: Oh God, you talk too much man…

Mirai: Look for the future, Mirai! Fight for it! The fucking future! I can’t send you money anymore. I need to take care of my child now, and my new family. And I already need to save money for the one that will come in 4 years. I’m tired of this! I have a purpose now, ok?

Aran: You never loved me. Just like that olden bitch. Why did you save me then?

Mirai: What are you saying? You’re not normal, dude. I don’t know what is happening to you, but I bet it’s not important. Remember that feelings are useless, they make you waste more energy all at once, and that could be used to work. And working is all that matters now. I’m sorry but it is what it is. You need to wake up. You should already be married by now, I did later than you but I was already working at your age! Take care of yourself. Make ourselves proud and survive! Good luck.

Aran: I love you too. Goodbye.

*(Mirai leaves Aran alone. Aran starts laughing uncontrollably. After a while, he begins to cry and murmur.)*

Aran: I’m sorry. Everything is gonna be alright. It’s ok, I deserve this.

Scene II

*(Mankalla. It’s possible to hear the sound of trains arriving. Aran exits the station, heading towards a bridge on his left).*

Aran: It’s so cold, if I stayed here I think I would freeze to death. It would be so painful. I like it quickly.

*(Aran walks on his way to the bridge.)*

Aran: I never wanted this. I feel… empty. I feel… disposed of, just like a syringe. Chichi, I needed you here. I did it again. I screwed up all over again.

*(Aran keeps marching on his way to the bridge. When he gets there, he begins to walk even more slowly.)*

NARRATOR: Aran, 22 years old. Single. No friends. No talent. No work. No money. No purpose in life. No future. Hope springs eternal, but the cherry blossoms have already fallen from the cold. He’s been dead for a long time.

*(Aran arrives at the bridge and jumps off the bridge. A voice is heard, screaming YAMERO out loud.)*

Aran: Why did you abandon me? Why did you leave me when I needed you the most? Why did you help me out of the pit to steal the hope you had given me? I have a hole in my chest, this pain has to end. I can’t take it anymore.

*(There is a huge bang. People start screaming in panic.)*

ACT II

Scene I

NARRATOR: The year is 2120. 8 years ago, the world experienced the worst natural catastrophe ever - the earth began to shake all at once, moving considerably. Many people died. The continents have moved towards the Arctic pole. Temperatures dropped drastically, reaching minus 38 degrees annually. The world was now formed by a super country, which was given the name of Gaiapan, in an attempt to unite the different races with the aim of human survival. The harsh temperatures had irreversible impacts - human beings no longer could reproduce. The current president has taken emergency measures to increase population density by forcing each individual at age 22 to marry and take in a child, artificially raised in a stable, every 4 years, in a desperate attempt to create infrared radiation to increase the global temperature. Misery spread.

*(Unknown place. 3 characters are near some rubbish bins, from which syringes can be seen. Aran is crying, confused about what is happening.)*

Mirai: Yamero! Yamero!

Mother: Shut up, or someone will come after us!

Aran: Mum, what did I do? “Pesident” is going to punish me? I’m scared.

Mother: Yes, Aran! You should never be born! Because of you, my family fell in disgrace. He left me. And I can’t even tell anyone, no one would understand me. “He was there just to raise our children”, they would say. I couldn’t even say goodbye. The last time we talked, he said that my heart was ill. That I’m crazy. I don’t even know what that means, anyway. You made our lives worse. He cared more about you than me. You made him exhaust all his energies. And now he is dead! That shitty Iceberg, what a disease! The virus took care of him. You made him lose his heat.

Mirai: Just stop it, already! It’s not his fault, he barely walks. He doesn’t understand, not even me. You are talking about hard topics that are just unnecessary, you are trying to end like Papa, are you? Save your energy to work! Papa would never allow this.

Mother: We need money.

Mirai: He is just a baby, wake up!

Mother: I’m wide awake, asshole! I don't have much more syringes to feed us. The dealer shouldn't be long in coming. Baby meat is more nutritious. It is what it is.

Mirai: Yamero!

Mother: Shut up, already! Or someone will report us to the police.

Mirai: Yamero!

Mother: Last warning, kid. Or do you wanna be next?

Mirai: Then do it. *(Mirai stands in front of Aran.)*

*(The screen goes black. Suddenly, the garbage cans reappear, but the characters are no longer there. Next to them, there is a petrified body, standing motionless.)*

Scene II

*(Aran’s apartment. Daytime, morning. He opens his eyes)*

Aran: Ah… It’s already daylight. Couldn’t even sleep for a second. I was thinking of you.

Aran: *(looking to the window)* I miss you so badly. It was all my fault.

Aran: Oh, don’t be a snowflake, be a man for a moment! C’mon, I need to get out of bed.

*(player chooses to make Aran get out of bed or not)*

GET OUT OF BED

Aran: Another day has started… And nothing will change. I wonder if someone would ever notice if I disappeared…

Aran: I’m hungry… Not that it matters, can’t only afford those crappy disposables…

NOT GETTING OUT OF BED

Aran: I just want to sleep forever. Even if I can’t. Being wide awake is pointless. Being is pointless, period. There is no hope for me. I feel sick. I’m shaking and shaking, I hope it is not the *Iceberg* disease. Well, I know it’s not. My heart is broken, and this feeling is never going to end.

Aran: Oh, this headache that never stops, it’s like my heart is beating inside my head.

Aran: I have to eat breakfast. Where do I keep the syringes?

*(looks for the syringes, which is a gameplay component.)*

Aran: Done. Now I can go to bed again. Or should I drink a beer? It’s fun, I guess. Better than nothing. At least I’ll have some company. And it will make me happy for a while.

Aran: I wonder how I’ll be able to pay Mirai for what he’s been doing. Sustaining a dead body. We were never close as brothers. But it’s not his fault. He soon made it to the household of the family. He needed to help mum, that little bitch. And bonding was never a good thing in the eyes of society.

*(sometime later, after wandering around the house)*

Aran: Out of disposables. Should buy some of them for the week.

Scene III

*(Mankalla’s surroundings, where Aran lives. He goes out to buy some shot syringes to feed himself.)*

Aran: Three knocks on the post. I should follow this sound and hurry before there are no supplies.

Aran: *(interacting with a frozen body)* I’m sorry. *Iceberg,* that disease, took you away. I hope you find peace, wherever you are. I would do everything to be in your place. Dead. Relaxed. For eternity.

Aran: *(interacting with blood on the floor)* Another murder, they already removed the body. I bet it’s gonna be my dinner, don’t know what they put in those recipes. This world’s sick, just like me.

*(arriving at the dealer’s post)*

Aran: Hey. Hum… Five, please.

Dealer: Five what, kid?

Aran: You know what I want, don’t make this harder than it is.

Dealer: Relax, son. It’s not because of selling and consuming these that you’re gonna be in trouble with the office guards. We all know this is wrong, but they just don’t care anymore. They don’t waste time with people like us.

Aran: Sure, sure. So, how much is it for the syringes?

Dealer: 20 *hirus*, son.

Aran: All that? Are you nuts?

Dealer: Life’s hard for everyone, son. Even to make these, I need to find high-quality ingredients that are increasingly rare to find. This morning, I had a new supply, but it’s not enough, you know? That meat only lasts for 2 days. I need to sustain myself and my family. It is what it is.

Aran: I’m sorry. I understand. Take the money.

Dealer: Thank you, son. Here are your shots.

*(While Aran is grabbing his syringes, someone running picks up one of them from the table.)*

Aran: Hey, what are you doing? These are mine! Come back, you thief!

*(Aran starts running after this person.)*

Aran: C’mon, wait! We can come to an agreement... now please stop running! My body’s not ready for this kind of adventure.

*(he reaches the thief, and grabs their hand.)*

Aran: Stop!

*(the person stops running as well. They turn around, letting the hood fall, revealing a beautiful girl with long blonde hair and light eyes.)*

Girl: I’m… I’m… I’m… Free…zing to death. I am hungry, I have… no money. I… need to… be strong. Future… is not… for… the weak. I need… to regain strength… befo…re is too late.

Aran: *(retrieves the syringe)* I need these as well, I’m sorry. I can give you some coins so you can buy them for yourself.

Aran: *(gives two coins)* Here, take the…

*(The girl starts running from the moment she reached the coins. She tries to arrive at the dealer’s place but, during her path, ends up frozen.)*

Girl: AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!

*(Aran hears a scream, looks at her, and starts running in her direction.)*

Aran: Oh, what have I done! I did not trust you, and *Iceberg* made you suffer til the end. No, I did it. I’m sorry, forgive me. I'd rather change places with you… I’m worthless, forgive me…

*(Aran starts crying and hugs the frozen statue. Suddenly, the ice melts and she comes back to life.)*

Aran: What is this? I don’t understand a thing…

Rose: Thank you! I’m Rose and from now on, I would never let you down. I promise.

Scene IV

*(Aran’s apartment. Aran wakes up in a good mood.)*

Aran: Good morning, my love! Oh, already up? Wait for me before we go to work! I am your true man! I deserve special treatment!

NARRATOR: For some time, Aran stopped feeling like a dead weight. He had a purpose, for once. To take care of the person he loves. He saved her, even if unintentionally, from strange circumstances. But it wasn’t important now. Everything was finally in balance. But when Fortune is low and the cycle repeats itself... you have to be prepared.

*(Aran gets up and looks for Rose.)*

Aran: Rose, darling, where are you? Please, don't go away just yet, I need you. Where are you? Rose! What about our plans? That’s why we’re pilling up some money. Wait… The money! Where do I keep the box key?

*(Aran finds the key and goes straight to the box. Inside, there is only a letter.)*

Aran: No, Rose! Come back… Come back!

*(Aran goes to work, in a brothel, in Mankalla. He picks up the train, and arrives at the city.)*

NARRATOR: My second worst day, ever. I had lost another person in my life. It was hard to function that day. The job was nauseous, but it was warm. And I could see her. Spend time with her.

Scene V

*(Elegant bedroom. Someone is on the bed. Aran enters.)*

Aran: Good morning, sir. The usual?

Client: My cute little monkey, how I missed you!

Aran: So did I…

Client: I don't even know how they got me off today, but as soon as I found out, I took the opportunity to come to visit you. You and your dear Rose, but I couldn't even find her around here... I wanted a threesome so bad…

Aran: She left me.

Client: Oh, I’m so sorry, anyway… Who needs a girl these days? Just to have more responsibility and be forced to take care of other people's children? Nah… And look at this… You have such a luxurious life, you can fuck all day, whatever you want, and whenever you want. So lucky! Who cares that this is not recommended by Mr. Hirohito? He’s not here to watch, not everyone wants to spend all their life working surrounded by plants and chickens.

Aran: I just wanted to be with her. In the same space as her. She was here before me. She made me come here. She made my eyes glow for her. Even working with different people I knew she was thinking about me while fucking someone else.

Client: Hey, buddy! I’m losing it with all this bullshit conversation. You care too much about emotions, no one knows exactly what they are and what are they for. C’mon, hurry and let me undress you…

*(Both start kissing. The client removes Aran’s shirt and starts kissing his chest.)*

Aran: *(voice-over)* Oh shit, here we go again. I hope it won’t hurt anymore. I don’t even know why I came to work today. I was doing it for her. And she’s not here. Anymore. I feel ashamed of what I’m doing. I feel used and lonely. Discarded, like a disposable that I took earlier this morning.

Client: Okay! Here we go! Ah, ah, ah!

*(Aran and the client have anal sex. Aran is lying on his back. There is a focus on his face and the beginning of the torso. It is noticeable small body movements and facial expressions of pain and discomfort.)*

Aran: It still hurts. But it’s ok, I deserve this. I deserve to be punished for what I am and what I’ve become. I’m so naive.

Aran: I hope I can come, it will satisfy him even more. While I think about you.

Aran: *(voice-over)*  Dad, I did it again. Come back, please, don’t leave me alone. I’m scared.

ACT III

Scene I

*(Aran’s apartment. Nighttime. He cannot sleep. So he starts singing and playing on his guitar.)*

Aran: You left me. You let me walk alone. You promised you would never do that!

*(Flashback begins. A door is closed. The camera pulls back abruptly. An individual covered by a coat appears in the center, in front of the closed door. He takes off the coat and reveals himself.)*

Aran: *(runs in his direction)* Pa, you came home!!

Father: Oh, my dear cherry blossom, you were waiting for dad to arrive from work? *(holds Aran in his arms. Both smile.)*

Father: *(thinks)* I’m so tired from work and I still need to take care of him… Fucking useless. They should be thankful for having me in this family. And that sonuvabitch is still outside…

Aran: I wanna play with you!

Father: *(quickly put the child down)* No!

*(The camera focuses on Aran’s face. He starts crying and running down the hallway)*

Father: No, don’t cry! Son, come here. Dad’s so drained from work, you know…

Aran: *(stops crying)* I’m “sowwy”, daddy.

Father: Oh, no need to say that. It’s my duty as the household… But you could let me relax a little bit… Never forget about making your dad proud. Let me show you the power of my love. *(touches Aran’s genitalia)*

Aran: Mitai, mitai! Yamero, chichi! It hurts, pwease, stop!

Father: Do you love your papa?

Aran: *(looks down)*

Father: Trust papa. Let you make me proud of you. *(dad starts undoing the buttons on his pants)* Sorry for not being a present father. I will never leave you alone, not anymore.

*(back to the present day, at Aran’s apartment)*

Aran: You promised me! Why everyone keeps lying to me? Why everyone keeps running away from me?

Aran: *(looks at a photo)* I only wanted to be perfect, to make you all proud of me. It hurts, to live like this. I can’t forgive myself for destroying my family. Papa died, because of me. Mama disappeared from my life, because of me. And I’m such a burden for my brother, I don’t even know how that lasted so long.

Aran: *(throws photo)* If only I never was born, why am I here in this photo? Such a waste of money!

Aran: *(suddenly, a breeze of icy air blows under the apartment's front door, towards the window)* And I’ve let you down too, right? That’s why you walked away. With all my money. Our money.

Aran: I love you. You gave me hope. You made me believe that I had a purpose in my life. I had lost everything, I was just surviving, just like anyone else. But in a different way.

Aran: And then, you showed up out of nowhere and made my heart melt. I thought I was enough for you. I even thought you had good intentions. I was wrong, once again. I just bring tragedy. I’m so tired of this.

Aran: *(he puts on Rose's high-heeled shoes, then heads for the kitchen section.)*

Rose: *(her voice is heard after he puts on her shoes)* I’m sorry. Life is harsh these days. I only needed some money to buy food for my family. My true family. *(her tone changes drastically)* Not you, silly. You are nothing. Nothing. From the first moment I saw you, I knew I could play with you. And oh, yes, what a fun ride! You miserable, you were so desperate to find someone to fill that void in your chest! Or whatever that means. Anyway, it was too easy. Sorry, but that money deserves better hands, not a jerk like you! Watch and learn, boy. Don’t make your happiness and life depend on someone else, or you’ll be constantly stepped on.

Aran: *(ironic tone)* Thank you for your kind words.

*(Aran prepares to kill himself, which will be focused on gameplay.)*

*(A phone rings.)*

Aran: Hello, who is it?

Mirai: Aran, is that you?

Aran: I guess. Do you know what time is it? I was busy trying to sleep…

Mirai: I don’t know the details, but mum is at the hospital. She is dying, Aran. She is there for, at least, two days. They say they won’t take too much effort into saving her, she’s just making them spend too many resources.

Aran: Oh, that olden bitch. How am I not surprised about that filthy’s behavior of them…

Mirai: I understand, it’s cheaper to let her go…

Aran: *(starts talking out loud)* Stop defending the Presid… *(is interrupted)*

Mirai: But it is our mother. She deserved better. She had such a painful life. I think we all have, with these clouds always hovering under our heads.

Mirai: I’m feeling weird for a while, Aran. I don’t know what is going on with me. *(screams)* This is wrong, this is wrong!

Aran: Calm down! What is happening?

Mirai: *(starts crying)* Her life was such a piece of shit. And I’m on the same way. My life’s working, all day long. No one really cares about anyone. I never understood you, Aran, until now, I guess… I feel empty.

Aran: Wait what, I thought you couldn’t feel noth… *(is again interrupted)*

Mirai: Please, hurry! Come visit mama, before she dies. I’m already here. Poor thing. We’re all doomed. There is no future for us, at least for me. Fly, brother. Change this world. Change this mess. I always knew that you could see behind the walls. I believe in you. You can do this.

Scene II

*(Hospital’s room. Aran approaches the bed, where his mother is.)*

Aran: Hey, mother. How are you…

Mother: Aran! *Iceberg* made me a visit… Fucking karma… But I’m so glad you did come! I was so worried…

Aran: Worried about what? You never cared about me. You wanted to abandon me, back in the days. You always blamed me for Papa’s death.

Mother: I… know. The truth, it hurts. I terribly know… about it.

Aran: Please, fuck off. I don’t have patience for this.

Mother: I know you don’t want to listen. I know you won't be able to forgive me, I can’t either. If it weren't for your brother helping you, you probably wouldn't even be here anymore.

Aran: I wish it could be true. You’re right, I just bring tragedy to everyone around me. I’m such a useless human being. I tried, I really tr…

Mother: *(interrupts)* Yamero, Aran. Please, stop, you know that’s not. It was never your fault. Let me tell you something…

*(Flashback. Family’s apartment. Leiko is the name of the mother, while Akui is the father’s.)*

Mother: Oh, I heard some noises, you arrived earlier than…

Mother: *(stops speaking and sees Aran naked, with her back to her, and her husband also naked behind the boy, with his chest facing him.)* What are you doing, Akui? Aran, go to your room, now!

Aran: But Mama, we were just playing together… Dad was showing me his love for me…

Mother: Now!

*(Aran quits the scene.)*

Father: Wait, I can explain this!

Mother: Shut up, you filthy demon! How could you do this to your own son? How could you even manage to think about those nasty thoughts with a child?

Father: Oh, c’mon, stop it, Leiko. You aren’t perfect either… We never slept together. You should think twice before you speak!

Mother: Is this a joke? You abused him! A fucking child! Your child!

Father: He’s still young, he won’t remember a thing by tomorrow…

Mother: But I will!

Father: Leiko, this is all your fault. If only you could satisfy my carnal desires…

Mother: You know that it’s forbidden!

Father: Even so… You never tried to…

Mother: *(interrupts)* I love you, Akui! Since the beginning, it was not just a convenience for me to marry you! *(realizes she talked too much)* Oh, I should have not said that! Mr. President won’t be happy about this…

Father: President, president, president, fuck the president!

Mother: Feelings are unnecessary. Sex is useless. We don’t need it anymore to have children, they do everything at the hospital.

Father: Even so… You never tried to…

Mother: *(interrupts again)* Who said I never tried?

Mother: *(screams)* Enough!

*(Change of place. Akui is shown near a garbage can, similar to what was shown during ACT I.)*

*(Back to the present day.)*

Mother: I needed to do it. I let him catch a cold and, not too long after, the *Iceberg* took care of him.

Aran: You killed Papa! You killed me! He was the only one that truly loved me!

Mother: That’s wrong, Aran! It’s not because I didn’t show it that I didn’t love you. It was just wrong to show you.

Aran: You killed him! You bitch!

Mother: I wanted to protect you. What he did to you… it should never happen to any child. I’m so sorry, Aran. Forgive me for not being more attentive. I tried to think of another solution, but I could not spend the rest of my life with a man that could make such atrocities.

Aran: He loved me!

Mother: No, Aran! That’s not love! He was just enjoying himself. He could have met a slut or whatever, but not my son!

Aran: Stop calling me your son! You didn’t even raise me, stop calling me that!

Mother: I’m sorry, Aran. Looking at you… it reminded me of him. And what I did to him. I needed some space to go on. But then, I thought it was too late…

Mother: *(starts crying)* I don’t ask you to forgive me. That’s my fault in the first place, all this happened because of me.

*(It is given a challenge to Aran – to kill or to save her mother.)*

KILL HER

*(Aran takes the pillow his mother has on her lap and chokes her.)*

Aran: You made me feel guilty all this time! I never understood why I carried such a heavy weight on my back.

Mother: *(begs)* Yamero!

Aran: You killed him! You deserve the same fate.

*(There is no pulse sign. The vital function machine begins to sound continuous noise.)*

Scene III

*(Aran’s apartment. He is playing guitar and singing “I wanna Die”.)*

Scene IV – BAD ENDING

*(Mankalla. Aran leaves the train station and goes in the bridge’s direction, just like in ACT I. He kills himself.)*

DO NOT KILL HER

Aran: I just wanted to make you both proud of me.

Mother: And you did! Don’t be so hard on yourself, Aran! This world’s sick, even surviving is a big conquer! You did your best, and that is what…

Aran: *(interrupts her mother)* You killed him. I would never accept it. I would never forgive you.

Mother: I know, I’m so…

Aran: *(interrupts again)* But I understand you. I imagine what you have felt. I’m sorry for Dad.

Mother: No, Aran! Yamero! Stop, immediately! Stop always apologising. As I already said, it was not your fault. And remember, son – not everything bad that happens in your life is because of you. There are so many variables. Some of them we can’t even control.

Aran: Thank you, Mum.

*(Aran embraces her mother, and magically she is cured of the Iceberg disease that was taking her away.)*

Mother: Thank you! From now on, I would never let you down. I promise.

Aran: Don’t promise anything, mother. I know how to take care of myself. I don’t need to be emotionally attached to anyone. Not anymore.

Scene III – GOOD ENDING

*(Mankalla. Aran leaves the train station and is going to work, at the brothel. But this time, he’s bringing his guitar with him.)*

NARRATOR: I finally found some peace. Living. Such a difficult task, I wish someone would have given me an instruction manual.

*(A cherry is blossoming near him, along the road. He interacts with it.)*

NARRATOR: Nah. It’s better like this. Just follow the wind. And be strong, just like a cherry. She probably will die. But it’s ok. We all die, sometimes. We are not made of ice, tough ice. We all have our highs and lows. But it’s ok. It’s all part of this path called life. Because I wanna live. Not survive, just like everyone else. Let my emotions flow. Let me flow. Just like the cherry blossom.

*(Aran stops walking and looks at the sky, and watches the sun.)*

NARRATOR: I’m no longer foggy. Not anymore. I can see the sun, so shiny. The sunshine. I hope one day everyone will be able to find it.

*(Aran returns to walk towards the brothel where he works. The song “Sunshine” starts playing. Zoom out. The end.)*