

# **the child that was born on the sabbath day**

by

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Persons:

MOTHER

SON, Mother's son

LOVER, Son's boyfriend

BROTHER, Son's brother

WIFE, Brother's wife

DOCTRESS

On the stage, six chairs are arranged as if for a chamber orchestra. In front of each chair, there is a music stand with papers. The actors and actresses come in with scarves round their necks, and sit down. They remove, fold up and put down the scarves with great care. They clear their throats for a few seconds. Silence falls.

At the points marked with '\* \* \*' in the script, all the actors turn to the next page, creating a sound effect that separates the episodes of the play.

SON

Mum! It's me.

DOCTRESS

Let's come back later. She's asleep.

MOTHER

(wakes up) Who's that?

SON

It's me, mum.

MOTHER

Give me some light! Lights, lights, lights!  
That's it. Now let me just... sit up. It's not easy... with these legs of mine.

SON

Let me help.

MOTHER

Where are my notes? I don't seem... to be able to recall who you are.

SON

I'm your son.

\* \* \*

MOTHER

You've changed. Something happened to your hair.

SON

I've bleached it.

MOTHER

You've changed.

\* \* \*

SON

How's she? Will she ever get back  
her memory?

DOCTRESS

I'm afraid the chances are low.

SON

She still remembers stuff before  
the accident quite clearly.

DOCTRESS

It's the usual set-up.  
I'm sorry.  
There's something else.

SON

Yes?

DOCTRESS

Her heart. It cannot cope with the  
stress caused by the constant  
grief. She keeps forgetting that  
her husband's dead, and -

SON

I see.

DOCTRESS

She might not have much left.

\* \* \*

MOTHER

Do you remember the accident?

DOCTRESS

You have told me about it many  
times.

SON

Mum, I have something to tell you.

MOTHER

All I remember is the accident. If  
only we hadn't been in a hurry...  
We were late for the rehearsal.  
There was snow everywhere.

SON

(to himself) Well, you'll forget it  
the next minute, won't you?

MOTHER

I knew he was a driver! But I loved  
him... and I miss him so much.

SON

Unless you write it down on one of those post-its of yours.

MOTHER

Guess what, I walked about a little in the garden. It's so nice.

SON

Damn it.

\* \* \*

LOVER

Have you told her?

SON

No.

LOVER

Do you want me to listen?

SON

Yes. (stands up)

Pause.

LOVER

A little faster! Hm-hm... That's it!

SON

(sits down) I can't do it.

LOVER

You play it beautifully. I think you'll get in.

SON

You really think so?

LOVER

I do. Just take care... and smoke a little less.

SON

I will. I love you.

LOVER

I love you. I believe in you.

SON

(affectionately) Would you care for some more music, sir?

LOVER

(laughing) I would certainly like to hear some more! Sir!

\* \* \*

BROTHER  
Good to see you.

SON  
It took me hours to get here.

BROTHER  
How do you like the house?

SON  
Why don't you visit mother any more?

BROTHER  
I went to the home two weeks ago.

SON  
I've no idea what to do.

BROTHER  
I have no money.

SON  
I hope I'll succeed.

BROTHER  
You're still young.

Pause.

SON  
How's your wife?

BROTHER  
Still writing that book.

SON  
Hope she'll succeed.

BROTHER  
Yeah.

Pause.

SON  
How's work?

BROTHER  
I haven't got used to the new place.  
It pays bad.

SON  
I thought there was a need for neurologists.

BROTHER

There is.

SON

I see.

\* \* \*

SON

Mother's birthday's coming up.  
What are you going to give her?

BROTHER

I bought a vase.

SON

A vase? In three minutes she won't  
even remember why it's there! If  
you're lucky, she'll wait a few  
days before throwing it out. She  
cannot stand a thing she doesn't  
know she'll need in the next  
minute.

BROTHER

What are you going to give her?

SON

I thought -

BROTHER

I don't think it's a good idea.

WIFE

Is it true?

BROTHER

What?

WIFE

That your brother and the man who  
bought him a flute...

BROTHER

How should I know?

WIFE

You just met him.

BROTHER

I don't know. Maybe.

Pause.

WIFE

What was he doing before?

BROTHER

Before what?

WIFE

Before meeting that bloke.

BROTHER

Worked in a bar.

WIFE

What kind of bar?

BROTHER

You don't want to know.

\* \* \*

LOVER

That's it. Perfect. Brown again.

SON

Do you think she'll recognize me?

LOVER

I'm sure she will. You're just like  
when you were sixteen.

DOCTRESS

The shock may help her bring back  
her memory.

MOTHER

Sonny! It's so good to see you  
again.

SON

Hi, mum.

MOTHER

How was school today?

SON

School? (pause) I got an A.

MOTHER

An A! I'm so proud of you.

LOVER

I'm not an expert, of course, but  
doesn't it make her more confused?

MOTHER

How's your brother?

SON

He moved. To the suburbs. That's  
why he can't come more often.

MOTHER

Has he finished university?

SON

Oh, yes. Well... yes, long ago.

MOTHER

I'm sorry I couldn't make it to the ceremony.

SON

It wasn't too interesting.

Pause.

MOTHER

What wasn't interesting?  
Forget it.  
It must be boring... talking to me.

SON

No.

LOVER

What did the doctor say?

DOCTRESS

Well, it didn't work.

SON

No.

DOCTRESS

But you made her so happy. And that was worth it.

SON

Maybe.

DOCTRESS

Yes.

\* \* \*

MOTHER

I walked about a little in the garden. It's so nice.

DOCTRESS

You walked about.

\* \* \*

WIFE

Damn it!

BROTHER

What?

WIFE

That was the fourth publisher.



BROTHER  
Rejected again.

WIFE  
No!

BROTHER  
Yes.

\* \* \*

SON  
Damn it!

LOVER  
What?

SON  
I didn't get in.

LOVER  
I'm sorry, honey.

SON  
That was the fourth audition I went  
to this year.

LOVER  
You still have lots of  
possibilities.

SON  
I'll work harder.

LOVER  
You don't have to strain yourself.

SON  
Yes.

LOVER  
No.

Pause.

LOVER  
Do you want me to listen?

\* \* \*

BROTHER  
Damn it!

DOCTRESS  
I'm sorry, sir.

BROTHER

Of course we knew that there  
were... complications with the  
baby.

DOCTRESS

We did every -

BROTHER

Maybe it's better this way. She'll  
have more time... for her books.

\* \* \*

MOTHER

Do you remember the accident?

SON

Mum, I have something to tell you.

MOTHER

If only we hadn't been in a  
hurry... we were late for the  
rehearsal, and it was raining  
hard... He loved me so much... they  
didn't even know what to do without  
him, the director...

SON

Mum, I have something to tell you.

MOTHER

Go ahead.

SON

It might sound silly, but I've  
found that special one.

MOTHER

Really? And what's she like?

SON

He.

Pause.

MOTHER

He? Who's he?

SON

Never mind.

MOTHER

I'm sorry, sonny, but, you know...

SON

Never mind.

\* \* \*

MOTHER

I've walked about in the garden.  
It's so nice.

DOCTRESS

Walked about. You can't even stand  
up. Let alone walk.

\* \* \*

MOTHER

Where are my notes?

DOCTRESS

It didn't work.

WIFE

It didn't work out.

LOVER

It didn't work out.

SON

It didn't work out.

BROTHER

It didn't work out.

LOVER

You're still young. You can try  
again.

SON

I'll try again.

DOCTRESS

I don't see why -

SON

I love you.

LOVER

I love you.

\* \* \*

DOCTRESS

Good morning, sir!

MOTHER

Sonny! I'm so sorry, honey. Believe  
me, you'll make it someday. I know  
it.

SON

Thanks, mum.

MOTHER

You still have many-many chances.

SON

Thanks, mum.

MOTHER

And how does your honour for this many a day?

SON

(sighs) I humbly thank you; well, well, well.  
Mum... here's a little... for your birthday.

MOTHER

Oh, it's so kind of you! I got a vase today, too.

SON

Yeah, it's nice.

Pause.

SON

Don't you open it?

MOTHER

Just leave it there, I will... in a minute.  
How was school today?

SON

I have no idea why I'm doing this.

DOCTRESS

I see.

SON

I think I'll try it again.

DOCTRESS

Why is it that important for you?

SON

I'd like to be honest with her.

LOVER

And the best way to do that is to play a sixteen-year-old boy. Now that's so fucking honest.

SON

A sixteen-year-old has no problems at all.

DOCTRESS

You know perfectly well that that's

-

SON

She knocked the vase down.

\* \* \*

MOTHER

Sonny! The vase's broken.

I broke it.

Please, sonny, don't be angry with me.

SON

It wasn't me who gave you the vase.

MOTHER

My honoured lord, you know right well you did.

SON

Mum, I have something to tell you.

MOTHER

Yes?

SON

Mum, I'm in love with a man.

MOTHER

You're a man, too, dear, aren't you?

SON

Yes.

\* \* \*

MOTHER

So you're angry with me.

SON

What does that have to do -

MOTHER

It was only a vase! I know it was a present, but it was still just a vase, and yes, I know it's broken, and it must be me who broke it because there was nobody else in this room, but -

SON

Mum!

MOTHER

- you shouldn't do this to me!

SON

I have no idea what -

BROTHER

Just for your information, I found it out. They moved in together.

WIFE

I always loved that boy. He was so... sensitive.

LOVER snuffles as if he was crying.

\* \* \*

SON

I still love you, mum.

MOTHER

Indeed, my lord, you made me believe so.

(overacting) O help him, you sweet heavens! Tell me he corrupted you! He led you astray! With a man! Just wait till your father gets to know of this! O, woe is me, to have seen what I have seen, and see what I see!

WIFE

What do you think they're doing now?

BROTHER

I haven't the faintest idea. What do two men do in the evenings?

DOCTRESS

Hold it a fashion. And a toy in blood.

MOTHER

No more but so? Ha-ha! Now there's a pansy! That's for thoughts. And a daisy - I would give you some violets, but they withered...

BROTHER

They might be watching TV.

MOTHER

(sings) 'Cause up he rose, and donn'd his clothes,  
And dupp'd the chamber-door;  
Let in the boy, that out a boy  
Never departed more.

DOCTRESS

Alas, look here, my lord.

SON

Can't you do anything?

MOTHER

And all because of that vase...

DOCTRESS

I'll be back in a minute.

MOTHER

The music... that did this to  
you... we always told you to do  
something else... something  
practical... like acting... I can't  
believe it! In love with a man!  
Haven't you got your father?

WIFE

Or they might be having dinner.

SON

Mum, it's not -

MOTHER

(sings) And will he not come again?  
And will he not come again?  
No, no, he is dead;  
Go to thy death-bed;  
He never will...

LOVER snuffles.

DOCTRESS

Now she'll sleep for a while. I  
hope she'll be all right when she  
wakes up.

BROTHER

Why do you ask?

WIFE

I'm searching for new characters.  
I'm starting a new book.

BROTHER

A new book.

\* \* \*

DOCTRESS

It's getting late, sir.

SON

I'm going.

DOCTRESS

Are you coming tomorrow?

SON

I don't know.

\* \* \*

LOVER

Are you going tomorrow?

SON

Yes. She won't remember a thing.  
I will work harder.

LOVER

You don't have to -

SON

(sternly) I will work harder.  
(stands up)

Pause.

LOVER

Do you want me to listen?

SON

(pause. Sits down) I don't care.

\* \* \*

SON

I didn't mean to hurt his feelings.

DOCTRESS

I see.

SON

I like coming here. We're having a  
hard time at home.

DOCTRESS

You still visit her often.

SON

Oh, yes. She was so mad she didn't  
write a thing down.

DOCTRESS

I'm sorry.

SON

You don't have to be.  
Do you like it here?

DOCTRESS

Since my mother died, I spend much  
more time here.

BROTHER

And of course she wasn't there at  
our wedding. We were afraid that  
she'd get confused. And you were  
afraid she'd be a disgrace.



WIFE

I was not!

MOTHER

I'm sorry I couldn't make it there.

SON

You know, I really did get As back then. Look, I brought my -

DOCTRESS

Why are you doing this?  
I see.

\* \* \*

MOTHER

Guess what, I walked about in the garden. It's so nice.

DOCTRESS

I'm glad you like it.  
Here's your medicine.

MOTHER

What medicine? I don't need any medicine. All will be well. We must be patient.

\* \* \*

BROTHER

Let me help.

WIFE

I have my own legs.

BROTHER

You know what the doctor said. And why don't you try to cut back on smoking? This is the second pack today.

LOVER

Please try to smoke less. Your breath's too short.

WIFE

I can't write without it.

SON

OK, OK, I will.

Pause.

SON

You don't like it? You have to eat something.

BROTHER

Still, you could've made something  
for dinner.

LOVER

I'm sorry, honey. It's delicious,  
I'm simply not hungry.

WIFE

I'm sorry, honey, I've been writing  
all day.

BROTHER

You haven't cooked for a week.

WIFE

I'm sorry, OK? I simply can't cook  
your dinner and produce something  
valuable.

\* \* \*

LOVER

How's your mother?

SON

I don't know.

LOVER

You went to the home, didn't you?

SON

Yes.

DOCTRESS

Why don't you go in her room?

SON

See? I was always good at music.

DOCTRESS

Why are you doing this?  
She misses you.

SON

No.

DOCTRESS

Yes.

MOTHER

(starts to sing) He is dead and  
gone, lady,  
He is dead and gone;  
At his head a grass-green turf,  
At his heels a stone.

\* \* \*

SON

Are you sure you're OK? You're pale.

BROTHER

Let me help you.

WIFE

You don't have to. I'm absolutely OK.

LOVER

I'm OK. It's just... I haven't slept well for the past few days.

DOCTRESS

A complete check-up might be necessary.

LOVER

I told you I'm OK.

WIFE

I told you I'm OK. I'm not going back to that hospital.

BROTHER

You don't have to strain yourself.

LOVER

That's OK.

WIFE

I'm trying to write, dear.

\* \* \*

DOCTRESS

I'm afraid... her heart. She doesn't have much time left.

SON

I see.

BROTHER

I see.

DOCTRESS

She keeps forgetting that she's in a nursing home. She's continuously crying for a taxi to go home. And she refuses to follow our instructions.

BROTHER

I know it's not easy.

DOCTRESS

Yes.

BROTHER  
Please let me know if there's  
anything -

DOCTRESS  
No.

Pause.

MOTHER  
The king rises! I shall obey, my  
lord.

DOCTRESS  
She no longer cries.

MOTHER collects her papers; puts on her scarf, and leaves.

\* \* \*

LOVER, SON, BROTHER and WIFE stand up. They start clapping,  
and then suddenly stop.

WIFE and BROTHER sit down.

WIFE  
It was a nice funeral.

BROTHER  
This time she made it there.

WIFE  
But your brother...

BROTHER  
He's been through a lot.

WIFE  
He was crying on the shoulder of  
that man.

BROTHER  
It was so embarrassing. In front of  
all the family.

SON and LOVER sit down.

SON  
I wonder what she's thinking now...  
I didn't even visit her during the  
last week.

LOVER  
I'm sure she knows how you loved  
and do love her.

WIFE  
At home at last.

BROTHER

Are you going to write?

WIFE

Yes. (mimes lighting up)

LOVER

(feels sick) Try to smoke less,  
would you?

SON

What?

WIFE

Mind your own business.

SON

I don't even have a cigarette on  
me.

WIFE

Some smoke and live for a hundred  
years.

SON

Are you sure you're okay?

Pause.

DOCTRESS

I think it would be better if he  
spent the night here, for safety's  
sake.

SON

And he was trying to comfort me. If  
only it hadn't happened today.

DOCTRESS

He's quite pulled down.

SON

...but was so charming... and  
graceful, just like a rainbow. She  
was always the centre of the stage.

BROTHER

Dad used to take us to all the  
plays she was in.

WIFE

Oh, yes?

BROTHER

I still see her... but during the  
last years, being confined to  
bed...

WIFE

Oh.

BROTHER

You're not paying any attention to me.

WIFE

Yes I am.

\* \* \*

DOCTRESS

Sir! Since you are living together, I think you should... we've found it in his pocket.

SON

Has he agreed to your giving this to me?

DOCTRESS

Yes.

Pause.

SON

Damn it.

DOCTRESS

Sir, I presume you'll request a blood test to -

SON

(calling her in an everyday manner)  
Mum!  
Mum!

DOCTRESS

Sir, it doesn't necessarily mean that... There, there. I think you'd better go home.

LOVER

Honey!

DOCTRESS

I think you'd better go home.

\* \* \*

BROTHER

They've kept him in.

WIFE

Do you think that -

BROTHER

Quite likely.

WIFE

Can't you ask them?

BROTHER

I'm not a relative of his.

WIFE

Is your brother considered as one?  
Is he?

\* \* \*

DOCTRESS

Sir?

SON

I... just came to see her.

DOCTRESS

Your friend's in that room.

Pause.

DOCTRESS

Your boyfriend is in that room.

BROTHER

He doesn't answer it.

SON

Dead. I can't believe it.

LOVER

Is it him?

DOCTRESS

Yes. Do you want me to help?

LOVER

I have my own legs.

SON

I'll find you, mum.

LOVER

What happened?

DOCTRESS

Nervous breakdown. I don't think  
it'd do good if he saw you.

LOVER

He'll be all right, won't he?

DOCTRESS

I think you'd better go back.

\* \* \*

SON

I'll find you, mum.

LOVER

It's all my fault.

DOCTRESS

Don't blame yourself.

SON

Mum... I know, I know. But it was just a fling of youth... and it's over. I didn't mean any harm. And I didn't want to hurt you, either. And, I know, I didn't visit you often enough. (pause) He never let me hug him in the street.

LOVER

Maybe I was too strict with him. But I was afraid for him. I was afraid he might get beaten up, or something. He was so honest... and naive.

SON

I think I was too young for such a thing... to make a reasonable decision... and to choose a lifestyle.

LOVER

He's so young... just like a child.

SON

I felt so safe when he was holding my hand.

LOVER

I thought, I believed that I was to protect him. I tried my best.

DOCTRESS

He told me a lot about you.

LOVER

I love him so much.

DOCTRESS

He loves you too. He was so worried. Couldn't talk of anything else.

SON

I loved him. But it's over. I miss him, mum. But you're here for me.

LOVER

I love him so much.



SON

But it's over.

LOVER

He was like a rainbow. And now look at him. It's all my fault.

DOCTRESS

Don't blame yourself.  
Maybe it's better this way.

\* \* \*

SON

See? I got two As in music on the same day.

DOCTRESS

I see.

SON

So? Why don't -

Pause.

SON

Would you care to listen to me play the flute?

DOCTRESS

It's getting late, sir.  
He's acting like a  
sixteen-year-old.

WIFE

You don't have anything to eat? Why didn't you go out and buy something?

SON

(in a drunken voice) I have no money, that's why. Everybody wants money from me. The shops and the doctors, too.

WIFE

He spent all his money on vodka.

SON

You don't have to help me. I have my own legs.

WIFE

He almost put the flat on fire when he was trying to light up.

BROTHER

My God.

WIFE

Don't smoke now.

SON

Why, what are you, my mother?

WIFE

You'd better lie down.

SON

She always wanted to come home. And I didn't do that for her!

WIFE

Don't blame yourself.

SON

I'm hungry.

WIFE

She was nothing but a buffoon who thought she was a star.

\* \* \*

SON

Everybody wants money. Everybody. The doctors, too.

BROTHER

We haven't thought of that.

WIFE

He could've asked us.

LOVER

Have you told him?

WIFE

I threw away the vodka that was left.

BROTHER

Well done.

DOCTRESS

Go to sleep. He'll come tomorrow.

WIFE

He went to sleep.

\* \* \*

BROTHER

We haven't thought of that.

DOCTRESS

Is there anybody who could help you pay for the treatment?

LOVER

Maybe my uncle. Yes, my uncle.

Pause.

DOCTRESS

No.

SON

When are we going to visit mum?

LOVER

What's going to happen now?

DOCTRESS

We won't be able to provide you the best possible treatment. But we'll do what we can.

LOVER

I see.

You know, it's not myself that I'm worried about.

\* \* \*

WIFE

More and more often it comes to my mind that finally, finally, something's happening around me.

SON

When are we going to visit mum?

WIFE

Something I could write from.

BROTHER

I have no idea what to do.

WIFE

It just occurred to me... maybe it would help your brother if his -

BROTHER

Not a bad idea.

DOCTRESS

Sir, I have some good news.

LOVER

I don't know how to thank you, sir. I do hope he'll get better when I -

BROTHER

Yes. So do we.

Pause.

LOVER

Excuse me. (collects his papers;  
puts on his scarf, and leaves)

\* \* \*

WIFE

Listen to me for a moment.

SON

Yes?

WIFE

Your mum... she's no longer with  
us.

Pause.

WIFE

But there's someone else in the  
hospital... whom you loved very  
much and who loves you very much.  
And who will become better and  
better every day. Are you listening  
to me?

SON

Who?

WIFE

Don't you remember?

SON

I play it the best.

\* \* \*

WIFE

Look, why don't we take -

BROTHER

I don't think it's a good idea.

DOCTRESS

It can last for several months.  
Usually the problem resolves itself  
after a while, and he'll be back to  
normal.

BROTHER

I see.

DOCTRESS

There's nothing we can do for him  
at the moment.

WIFE

I don't see why we couldn't take  
him -

BROTHER  
Well, we have no other choice.

\* \* \*

WIFE  
And then one must ask him about  
school.

SON  
I got an A!

BROTHER  
I see you cooked dinner.

WIFE  
I enjoyed it, actually.

BROTHER  
I see.

WIFE  
How was work?

BROTHER  
We're stuck.

WIFE  
Oh.

BROTHER  
If we don't come up with some  
results quick, we'll have to pay  
back all the money.

WIFE  
Oh.

BROTHER  
You're not paying any attention to  
me.

WIFE  
Yes I am.  
You know, when I imagined what it'd  
be like to have a child...

BROTHER  
We agreed not to mention it.

WIFE  
...I always imagined a child like  
him.

BROTHER  
We agreed not to mention it.

\* \* \*

BROTHER

I'm so tired.

DOCTRESS

That's understandable.

BROTHER

I have no idea why I'm doing this.  
I don't even know him.

DOCTRESS

For your brother?

BROTHER

I work too much.

DOCTRESS

You shouldn't strain yourself.

BROTHER

We try to help spine-related  
problems.

DOCTRESS

It's an extremely complex  
personality disorder.

BROTHER

We're stuck.

\* \* \*

SON

Would you like to listen to some  
music?

WIFE

What?

SON stands up. Flute music can be heard. It's the song  
beginning with 'He is dead and gone, lady'.

The music ends. SON sits down.

BROTHER

It's the song from that play mother  
used to sing.

\* \* \*

WIFE

Don't you eat?

BROTHER

I had dinner in the lab.  
How's your book?

WIFE

I'll have to work hard. But this one will be a good one.

BROTHER

You've missed the deadline.

WIFE

Leave me alone.

BROTHER

Don't smo-... never mind.

Pause.

SON

Am I really going to be in your novel?

WIFE

I'll try.

SON

It's so interesting to see you write.

\* \* \*

WIFE

It'll be harder than I thought.

SON

It'll be harder than I thought.

BROTHER

It'll be harder than I thought. But we have some new results.

DOCTRESS

I'm glad.

BROTHER

If we succeed, I'll get a nice sum.

WIFE

I'll work hard.

SON

I'll work harder.

\* \* \*

SON

Hey! I'm home!

WIFE

Err... what did you learn today?

SON

Nothing.

SON

Do you want to listen to...?  
(stands up)

WIFE

But I really don't -

Pause. SON sits down.

WIFE

You don't have to strain yourself.

SON

Are you going to write?

WIFE

Yes... no one else will do it for  
me.

\* \* \*

DOCTRESS

Good to see you again.

BROTHER

I like coming here. We're having a  
hard time at home.

DOCTRESS

It's the same for most of us.

BROTHER

I don't have enough money.

DOCTRESS

It's getting late, sir.

BROTHER

I thought we were getting along.

DOCTRESS

It's getting late, sir.

BROTHER

I'm going.  
You miss your mother, don't you?  
Don't you?  
You do it because he got an A  
today, don't you? Why can't you  
just open your eyes! Neither of you  
have jobs or get paid anything!  
He's been rehearsing for his  
audition for months, and you're  
writing your fifth book! Who's  
going to pay for all this? 'Cause I  
(MORE)



BROTHER (cont'd)  
can't! Not to mention the therapy  
for that poor wretch!

SON  
It'll be a success, won't it?

BROTHER  
I didn't mean to. Believe me, I  
didn't mean to.

DOCTRESS  
It's late, sir.

BROTHER  
Late.

DOCTRESS  
It's too late.

\* \* \*

SON  
I got an A!

WIFE  
I'm so proud of you.

SON  
I'll work harder.  
I don't smoke anymore.

WIFE  
I've given up smoking. My head's  
clearer. I can write better.

SON  
It'll be a success.

WIFE  
I believe in you.

BROTHER  
We're almost done!

SON  
It'll be a success.

BROTHER  
Hello! I'm home!

\* \* \*

WIFE  
Do you want me to listen?

SON  
Yes. (stands up)

WIFE

Yes... a little faster... that's it.

SON

(sits down) Did you like it?

WIFE

It was beautiful.

SON

(affectedly) Would you care for some more music, madam?

WIFE

I would most certainly like to hear some more, sir!

\* \* \*

WIFE

It'll be harder than I thought.

SON

It'll be harder than I thought.

BROTHER

It was harder than I thought.

WIFE

But it'll work out.

SON

It'll work out.

BROTHER

It worked out.  
You're not paying any attention to me.

WIFE

Yes, I am.

BROTHER

We did it! You know what that means?

SON

(to WIFE) I believe in you.

BROTHER

We'll have enough money for you to write!

WIFE

(to SON) I know you'll get in.

BROTHER

Your boyfriend will get better!

SON

It'll be a success.

BROTHER

I don't want you to thank me, but I  
thought this was good news for...

WIFE

You play it beautifully.

BROTHER

Maybe it's...

Pause. Then BROTHER collects his papers; puts on his scarf,  
and leaves. The click of a door closing can be heard.

SON

What happened, mum?

WIFE

Nothing, sonny. Nothing.

Pause.

WIFE

Do you want me to listen?

Pause. The lights fade. WIFE and SON collect their papers;  
put on their scarves, and leave. A few seconds later,  
DOCTRESS does the same.

END