

The Eiger

A play in two acts

by Dennis Fisher

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CHARACTER NAME	DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Eileen	American educator in Europe (white)	early 30's	female
Fred	American educator in Europe (white)	early 30's	male
Terry	American businessman (white)	early 30's	male
Wendy	Student (African/American)	22	female

The main set is the interior of a chalet in Switzerland. The final scene takes place on a glacier.

The time is the summer of 2008.

About a subjugated plain,
 Among it's desperate and slain,
 The Ogre stalks with hands on hips,
 While drivel gushes from his lips."
 - W.H. Auden

The Moench, the Jungfrau, and the Eiger.
 Peaks in the Bernese Oberland.

The Monk protects the Virgin from the nearby Ogre.

ACT ONE - SCENE ONE

We are in a chalet in Wengen, Switzerland. It has wooden beams in the ceiling and wood paneling throughout. There is a large combined living room, dining room, and kitchen. The furniture is rustic and comfortable. Sliding doors open to a balcony with a view of mountain peaks. Other doors lead to two bedrooms. A telescope on a tripod is next to the balcony doors. FRED is preparing food, EILEEN is cleaning the chalet and drinking wine.

EILEEN

I wanted olives.

FRED

I told you to get them. If you've changed your mind it's a long haul back up the hill.

EILEEN

They're too expensive.

FRED

Life is short. You should have gotten them.

EILEEN

I wish the chalet was on the same level as the shops. Sometimes that climb gets old.

FRED

It's a chalet in Switzerland. It's on a mountain. By it's nature a climb is involved. If you want to vacation on a prairie climbing won't be an issue.

EILEEN

Even eating in costs a fortune here. Vegetables are so expensive at the market.

FRED

Olives aren't vegetables.

EILEEN

The gourmet olive samples were amazingly good. They were from Lugano. The only Swiss olives.

FRED

You should have gotten them. But they aren't vegetables.

EILEEN

All fruits are vegetables. Either way they cost too much. They don't sell many outside of Lugano.

FRED

All fruits are vegetables? Olives are fruits? Are you sure? And vegetables? I can't believe I didn't know that.

EILEEN

Everything isn't always what it seems, Mr. Know it All.

FRED

When you vacation in a town with no cars on the side of a mountain it's part of the deal. Everything costs a few pennies more when you need a cog train to stock shelves.

EILEEN

It's more than a few pennies. A lot more. I love it here but we aren't the Rockefellers.

EILEEN pours wine and takes a drink.

FRED

Everyone back home would kill to vacation in Switzerland just once and we get to do it half a dozen times a year. This is what we dreamed of when we took teaching jobs in Germany. A little extra for food is a small price to pay to spend time in paradise.

EILEEN

When Terry gets here he is going to be spending money relentlessly and he'll want to go out to eat for every meal and to go to a club every night. He's loaded. We've got to pace ourselves or the kids won't be going to college.

FRED

Which kids are those?

EILEEN

The ones we'll have someday.

FRED

Not yet conceived and already deprived.

EILEEN

Frau Wachenfeld told us we can only have the two of us here. No guests. Her instructions were explicit. The Swiss thrive on rules. They live for rules. They do not like for their rules to be broken.

FRED

It's just one more person. And Frau Wachenfeld lives in Basel. How could she possibly know if we had a guest?

EILEEN

If we were paying market value their would be no Swiss vacations. I don't want to blow our sweetheart deal with our American loving landlady because we didn't follow the rules.

FRED

The Swiss do have a thing about rules.

EILEEN

Terry isn't known for following rules. His thing is breaking rules. You'd make a good German. You like rules. Until you're around him.

FRED

A good German? Is that a compliment? . . . It'll be fine. She isn't going to find out. It's just one extra person. Lay off of Terry. You've just never seen his generous side.

EILEEN

No I haven't seen that. He has subatomic generosity. Not visible to the naked eye.

FRED

He nurtured me through some struggles in college.

EILEEN

Terry, nurturing? He only thinks about himself.

FRED

That's my friend you're talking about. He's a very charming guy.

EILEEN

Terry can be incredibly charming. Endearingly charming. But I've known him as long as you have, remember? His charm is unctuous. Frankly, your friendship is a puzzle to me.

FRED

I knew you thought he was a scamp, but this seems pretty harsh.

EILEEN

I didn't know he'd be a permanent fixture in your life.

FRED

I'll be honest. After years of watching him bounce from one financial success to another I'm excited that, for once, we get to show off a Swiss chalet life style instead of a teacher lifestyle.

EILEEN

It's a shame he wasn't here to listen in on our lifestyle discussion about not buying olives because they're too expensive. That would impress him.

FRED

It appears that you're cranky because he's coming.

EILEEN

Not exactly spiritualist level insight Fred.

FRED

Look out the window. We are at the end of the rainbow. The only thing missing is unicorns. Terry can be a pain but he's my buddy and we're going to have a great time showing him the local sights.

EILEEN

I'll be civil to him for you. At least we're in a town with no cars. How many times has he been pulled over for drunk driving?

FRED

No convictions.

EILEEN

That should be on his resume. Lot's of arrests but no convictions. He should run for office with that record. He's lucky he hasn't killed someone.

FRED

He enjoys a drink. So do a lot of people. Keep an open mind about this visit. Please. Here's an idea. Everything is cheaper down in Lauterbrunnen since they can handle trucks - I'm going to trek down the path and get you some Lugano olives.

EILEEN

That's silly.

FRED

I'll get the olives and take the cog train back up. Much less work. We've got train passes for the whole week. Might as well make use of them.

EILEEN

Going down to Lauterbrunnen is a long hike. Much longer than going up to the Wengen market.

FRED

Yes but it's all downhill ... and I promise I'll be back in time to greet Terry.

EILEEN

Olives are still as big of a luxury as when this discussion started.

FRED

My selfless hike to Lauterbrunnen will save a few Swiss Francs so you can feel better about your desires. Unfulfilled desire can cause suffering.

EILEEN

No. Desire *causes* suffering. Sidhartha Gautama. The Buddha.

FRED

Things cause happiness. Adam Smith. The Economist. I'm off to get *things* to make the love of my life happy.

FRED kisses EILEEN.

EILEEN

Be careful walking on the boulders when you cross the stream. That always makes me nervous. If you slip and get swept to your death it would ruin my vacation . . . I'm sorry. I shouldn't make jokes like that.

FRED

It's OK. You make me laugh. Don't be surprised if some flowers arrive back here with the olives. I promise I won't spend any of our imaginary children's college money. The first child you conceive will be able to afford college. The second one I'm not so sure about.

They embrace.

EILEEN

Oh wow! Look at that!

She points out balcony windows.

FRED

An avalanche off the glacier!

We hear a faint rumble of the avalanche. They watch as it rolls down the mountain side, EILEEN holding her hand over her mouth.

EILEEN

Do you think it got anyone?

FRED

Too far up. Above the tree line. That'll get your pulse racing though. Beautiful and dangerous. Like life.

EILEEN

Not just handsome and thoughtful. . . a philosopher too.

They embrace and kiss and FRED exits. EILEEN goes to balcony, looks down and waves.

EILEEN

Be careful!

END OF SCENE

ACT ONE - SCENE TWO

We are in the chalet. EILEEN is on the couch reading. FRED enters, holding flowers in one hand, a bag in the other. He holds out the flowers to EILEEN.

FRED

Beautiful flowers for a beautiful woman.

EILEEN

They *are* beautiful. How much did they cost?

FRED

I'm not going to answer that. It's unseemly.

EILEEN

Sorry. I feel like I'm about to be pulled into Terry's rich guy spendathon tractor beam and I'm freaked out about money.

FRED

Sometimes you just have to let go.

EILEEN

Letting go of my free will and giving it to him has no appeal.

FRED

We're having a guest, not joining a cult. Give the guy a break.

EILEEN

The Cult of Terry. You know he put a move on me in line at Freshman orientation.

FRED

Terry is exuberant. He seeks out people and experiences. He embraces all of life.

EILEEN

God you're naive. He was all over me. He groped me. He embraced all of *me!* I felt like I was losing control. First day of college.

FRED

Why did you never mention this before?

EILEEN

In those days girls suffered in silence. Not anymore. Anyway I met you later that same day and lived happily ever after.

FRED

Good for us.

EILEEN

I wasn't thrilled when you guys became friends.

FRED

I'll make sure he behaves.

He hugs her.

EILEEN

What's in the bag?

FRED

As if you don't know.

FRED opens bag, takes out an olive and pops it in EILEEN's mouth.

EILEEN

Oh. My. Goodness. That is fantastic.

FRED

Let me put some in a bowl for you to snack on.

EILEEN

No. Let's save them for when Terry gets here. We'll have them with cheese and wine. When does his train come in?

FRED

About that.

EILEEN

Here it comes.

FRED

I got a cell signal up there. A text message from him came through. He missed the train in Munich. He won't be here until tomorrow.

EILEEN

We took a day off of work to meet him early to match his endless vacation and he doesn't even show up. I should have seen it coming. Call him and tell him to stay in Munich.

FRED

Come on.

EILEEN

Trains leave Munich all day. He could have taken another train.

FRED

You don't have to tell me.

EILEEN

Do you see why I'm not thrilled about hosting this man child?

FRED

It's Terry being Terry. Take a deep breath. Have some olives. Enjoy your book. What are you reading?

EILEEN

"The Castrato and his Wife".

FRED

Say what?

EILEEN

I got a several books for the week at the school library. The collection suggests they had a librarian with mixed feelings about men.

FRED

I hope it's a work of fiction.

EILEEN

True story. It's about the world of opera. Aside from the title grabbing me, I want to know more about opera for when we get to visit Italy. Did you know castrati are often taller than uncastrated men? Terry's kind of short. I might recommend it to him.

FRED

I'm speechless.

EILEEN lets out a huge laugh.

EILEEN

You should see the look on your face. You look queasy. A mention of castration works wonders on a man.

FRED

Can't imagine why.

EILEEN

You can't depend on him Fred.

FRED

He'll be here tomorrow. We'll still have fun.

EILEEN

I don't need him for fun. I'm going to read my book. That's fun.

FRED

Do you love me?

EILEEN

Just because I question your judgment in friends doesn't negate my love for you.

FRED

I love you more than anything in the world.

EILEEN

I love you too.

They kiss. EILEEN gets up and prepares flowers to put in vase.

FRED

Don't do the dishes. It's my turn.

EILEEN

You won't clean them properly.

FRED shrugs and wanders over to telescope, looks through it and adjusts focus. He zeroes in on something on the mountain.

FRED

Wow.

EILEEN

Climbers on the North Face?

FRED

How did you know that?

EILEEN

Mind reader. And I looked in the telescope while you were gone.

FRED

That looks so dangerous.

EILEEN

It's awfully late in the day for climbing.

FRED

They'll have to camp tonight hanging from the rock face.

EILEEN

It takes all kinds. We were even higher than the climbers when we went up there. The crevices in the glacier scared me out of my wits.

FRED

Taking the train to the glacier is a lot easier than climbing up there.

EILEEN

Of course. Either way it's dangerous once you're that far up.

FRED

On the way down to Lauterbrunnen I walked by the graveyard with all the climbers in it. The odds are pretty grim. One in ten die trying to get to the top.

EILEEN

The male ego at work.

FRED

That's presumptuous. Women climb too.

EILEEN

You've read the book under the coffee table. It's always men dying on the North Face. Did you see any graves of women climbers?

FRED

No. You're right . . . There are probably hundreds of people watching them up at Kleine Scheidigg. I can make the climbers out fairly well, but up there they can see the climbers faces through the telescopes.

EILEEN

It's like Nascar. They're hoping for the thrill of seeing someone die.

FRED

That's not fair . . . You really haven't liked Terry since freshman orientation?

EILEEN

You haven't noticed my body language towards him?

FRED

I listen to what you say.

EILEEN

Words aren't the final word. If you paid attention you could have seen that I've never liked being around him.

FRED

Words aren't the final word? Can I quote you on that? Note to self: ignore words, watch body.

EILEEN

You're starting to learn.

FRED

Who knew words were such a hindrance to communication? Now let's enjoy this beautiful evening. Do you want to play our traditional scrabble game to end the evening? Or would you prefer Twister ? No words, just body language?

EILEEN

That has a certain kinesthetic appeal my love.

FRED

You have a way with words Eileen. And with body language.

EILEEN

I'm conversant in five body languages. Would you like me to teach you one?

EILEEN takes out her smart phone and touches the screen. Operatic music with a male soprano vocal fills the room from a blue tooth speaker.

FRED

I'm all limbs Frau Professor.

EILEEN

Come here mein schoener studentin.

FRED dims lights and moves to the couch where he and EILEEN intertwine limbs and passionately kiss. Operatic music plays as lights go down and EILEEN gets on top of FRED on couch.

END OF SCENE

ACT ONE - SCENE THREE

In the chalet. EILEEN is looking through the telescope at the mountains. FRED opens door and enters chalet with a sheepish look on his face. He is quickly followed by TERRY, who has a huge backpack on. TERRY has expensive travel clothes, a pouch holding his wallet around his neck. He has perfect hair, perfect grooming. He is quite handsome, if a little short.jjj

TERRY

Eileen!

TERRY drops backpack and bag and rushes to EILEEN. He grabs her in a strong embrace. She half heartedly reciprocates.

TERRY

It is so great to see you! You look fantastic. What's it been, three years?

EILEEN

Time flies.

Everyone's attention is diverted to the door. WENDY enters, also with a huge backpack. She is African American.

FRED

Eileen this is Terry's friend Wendy. She'll be staying with us for a few days.

TERRY

Isn't she great Eileen? We met in Munich and hit it off. Wendy is studying philosophy at Brown. You two are going to love each other.

EILEEN

How interesting. Now we know why you're a day late. You were traveling by yourself Wendy?

WENDY

I was traveling with friends from Brown, but they met some guys and it was becoming a drag staying in our room and listening to them ... well you know.

EILEEN

So your solution was to hook up with Terry? Well he is something of an uncle figure to many young women.

TERRY

Wendy's an old soul.

EILEEN

Did you get that off of a greeting card?

TERRY goes to the balcony doors.

TERRY

Oh my god! Look at that view. Look at that view Wendy.

WENDY goes to balcony.

WENDY

Wow. It's gorgeous.

TERRY

And the stream right there! I can hear it babbling. It's a babbling mountain stream Wendy!

EILEEN

Speaking of babbling.

FRED

It's glacier melt.

WENDY

The mountains are gorgeous.

FRED

Those three peaks are the Moench, the Jungfrau, and the huge one is the Eiger. Local lore says the peaks represent a monk who is protecting a virgin from an ogre.

WENDY

Folklore is fascinating isn't it?

TERRY

That monk sounds like a troublemaker (chuckles). I plan to spend a lot of time looking at that view.

FRED

You need to check out the telescope too. A climbing group is going up the Eiger. It seems to be taking them a long time.

WENDY

We've got to get closer to those peaks.

FRED

A train takes you through the mountain to the glaciers on top. Highest train station in Europe. One of the highest in the world.

TERRY

I read in a brochure that they stamp your passport at the Jungfrauoch. I collect visa stamps. I get my passport stamped at every border crossing. This is one of the rarest visa stamps on the planet. Gotta get it. We're gonna go up there.

EILEEN

It's really expensive. We did it once. There are lots of other things to do here that don't cost an arm and a leg.

TERRY

I want to be able to prove to people that I've traveled to places they haven't.

FRED

Then we'll go.

EILEEN

Everything is a competition.

TERRY

Oh - I almost forgot. I brought you guys presents from Amsterdam.

TERRY pulls a package out of bag and give it to FRED.

TERRY

Open it!

FRED opens package and unrolls poster.

TERRY

It's a map! I know how much you like maps. You can have it framed.

FRED

A map of the red light district in Amsterdam.

FRED

Do you like it?

FRED

Yeh, thanks man.

EILEEN

Classy.

TERRY

Open yours Eileen.

She opens package.

EILEEN

Wooden shoes.

TERRY

Do you like the color? Yellow is your favorite color, right?

EILEEN

I can't believe you remembered that.

TERRY

You can really wear them. You should wear them when we go out.

EILEEN

They're probably a little hard on the bunions.

TERRY

You have bunions?

EILEEN

Just a figure of speech. Thank you for the shoes.

TERRY

Awe it was nothing. You're welcome.

TERRY hugs EILEEN.

WENDY

Terry said you guys have two extra bedrooms so I hope it's OK to stay here. It means a lot to me. You can burn through money in a hurry in Europe.

EILEEN

We never said anything about two extra bedrooms. There is only one extra bedroom Wendy. I'm sorry.

TERRY

I thought you said you had two extra beds.

FRED

There are two beds in the guest bedroom.

TERRY

Oh. I thought you meant two bedrooms. I'm sorry Wendy.

EILEEN

The couch folds out into a bed. You can sleep out here Terry.

TERRY

That's would mean I'd would have to wait until everyone else goes to bed to get some sleep. Wendy, I'll use one bed in the guest room and you can use the other. I promise I won't snore.

EILEEN

Always thinking of others.

WENDY

Gosh. I don't know.

TERRY

Let's just put our stuff in the guest room for now and we can work it out later.

WENDY

OK. I guess so. Where's it at?

FRED and EILEEN point to a door off of the living room.

WENDY

Thanks so much you guys. I can't believe how kind strangers can be.

EILEEN

You are very welcome. But remember, there's a reason why the word strange is inside of strangers.

FRED laughs uncomfortably.

FRED

Eileen has a sly sense of humor Wendy. Welcome. We're so glad you'll be joining us.

TERRY

Here we go.

They enter the bedroom and close the door. EILEEN
pivots to FRED.

EILEEN

Dammit Fred! Why didn't you remind him the invite was for him and nobody else? We were pushing our luck with one guest, much less two.

FRED

Quiet. Please. Don't let them hear us. It'll be fine.

EILEEN

One of the neighbors has probably already called Frau Wachenfeld and told her we've started a commune.

FRED

Come on.

EILEEN

Come on my rear. God knows what he has in mind for that hopelessly naive girl.

FRED

Woman.

EILEEN

She's a girl. You heard what she said. She was upset by her roommates making screwing noises with the strangers they just picked up.

FRED

That's not what I heard. Anyway, enough of the drama.

EILEEN

Drama? Terry has provided the drama as usual. You should have put them on the next train out of town.

FRED

Quiet.

EILEEN

We've got two more years on our teaching contract. Looks like we won't be spending any more time in our inexpensive Swiss chalet. Best deal in the world. We'll soon be in the Swiss equivalent of a Motel Six. At twice the cost!

WENDY and TERRY emerge from bedroom.

WENDY

Is everything OK?

EILEEN

Oh. Of course. We were just discussing how exciting it is to have an Ivy League guest. We all went to a state college. The Ivy League is a source of mystery to us. What's Brown like?

WENDY

I imagine it's like any other university. My area of concentration is metaphysics and creativity. I'm on the sculling team. Played a little lacrosse. Interned for Congress one summer. Worked on a team that created an iOS app that helps match orphans in Guatemala to potential parents. Oh, and I did a semester in Milan with my mentor studying the history of Opera.

Room is silent for a long moment.

TERRY

Interesting. What do you say we go to a bar?

EILEEN

Hush Terry. I'm a music teacher Wendy. I'm fascinated with opera. Have you read the book I'm reading?

She picks it up from coffee table.

EILEEN

"The Castrato and his Wife".

WENDY takes the book.

WENDY

Not only have I read it, look at this.

She opens the book to a page and holds it so
EILEEN can read it.

EILEEN

“Special thanks to Wendy Brooks for her tireless assistance in fact checking. This work would not have been completed without her wonderful scholarship.”

WENDY

My mentor put me in touch with the author. I helped with some research, and next thing I knew I was credited in a book.

EILEEN

Wow. Wow. What a coincidence. Small world, huh fellas? Brown is a little different than Illinois State. Terry, your room mate is an expert in castration.

FRED

Eileen, behave.

TERRY

I'd forgotten about how funny you are Eileen. It's refreshing.

EILEEN

What's the best technique for creativity oriented castration Wendy?

WENDY

Creating a castrato is more nuanced than you might imagine.

EILEEN

Let me savor that sentence for a moment.

Pause.

TERRY

Why don't you tell us about it over drinks Wendy.

EILEEN

What were your extracurricular activities in college Terry?

TERRY

Oh, you know ...

WENDY

You were involved with International student's group right? Which accounts for your love of travel and amazing passport visa collection. I've never seen another passport like it. And you worked at non profits that helped disabled children and fought religious intolerance.

TERRY

Uh, yeh ...

EILEEN

International students and disabled kids? And religious intolerance?

TERRY

Uh, I like to help make the world a more compassionate place.

EILEEN

I knew you back then and your focus was stacking empty beer cups at bars. I don't remember any work with disabled kids.

TERRY

I didn't like to put it out there. Helping others is important. It would have shown a lack of humility to bring it up.

EILEEN

You have more humility than anyone I know.

FRED

Wine anyone?

EILEEN

It's not NCAA sculling or lacrosse but you guys were on an intramural softball team weren't you?

TERRY

We won the university championship.

FRED

Runner up.

EILEEN

It was a coed team. That shortstop, I think her name was Susan. She was the best player on the team.

WENDY

You enjoy giving these guys the business don't you Eileen? You're funny. It's easy to see you guys are old friends.

FRED

We sure are. Have a seat everybody. I'll pour some wine. Tell us about your adventures in Europe Terry. How was Amsterdam?

FRED goes to kitchen counter and returns with four glasses and a bottle of red wine.

TERRY

Aw, Amsterdam was fantastic! I met the coolest people. Some of them might turn out to be good business contacts. And . . .

TERRY gets his carry on bag, opens it, and removes a pouch. He opens the pouch and pulls out a huge chunk of blond hashish and a glass pipe.

TERRY

Check this out!

EILEEN

Holy shit. You took that across how many borders?

TERRY

I don't know. It's no big deal. Let's get high.

EILEEN

Are you out of your mind!?

FRED

It's here. He didn't get caught.

EILEEN

He took illegal drugs across national borders. And instead of allowing himself to be safely waived through each border crossing like a sensible person, he stopped at each guard station and invited more scrutiny by asking for visa stamps. He has the judgment of a imbecile.

TERRY

Eileen. Ever since I got here you've been busting my balls. What's going on? We're here to have fun. Damn.

FRED

Let's reboot.

EILEEN

If you think you are going to smoke that here you need psychological help. We already are breaking the rules just by having guests. There will be no dope smoking in this house. Wendy. What do you think about drug use?

FRED

Eileen. Wendy you don't have to discuss this.

WENDY

Seriously?

EILEEN

Yes.

WENDY

In America blacks are arrested for pot up to eight times more often than white people, even though usage is about the same. So I don't indulge. Why give the system a chance to destroy what I've worked so hard to achieve?

EILEEN

I didn't know that.

WENDY

Most white folks don't. It's part of the institutionalized racism in America. Just a part of everyday life if you're black. It's discouraging but I'm not letting it define me.

EILEEN

Bravo Wendy.

WENDY

Still, I don't think they usually put you in jail for pot in Europe unless you're a big dealer.

TERRY

Exactly.

FRED

I don't think they do either.

EILEEN

Nonsense. OK. Do you think it is discourteous to smoke pot in someone else's house after they tell you it makes them uncomfortable?

WENDY

That would be discourteous. Yes.

EILEEN

Thank you. Terry put it away. And guard it if you don't want it to go down the toilet.

TERRY

Well this is just great. Jesus you're a goddamn party animal Eileen. You used to be fun.

EILEEN

Fuck off.

FRED

Terry. Eileen. Stop acting like children.

EILEEN

Don't hit me with a false equivalency. He's the child! A child who takes drugs across borders and asks for closer scrutiny with his obsession for visa stamps.

TERRY

Nothing is going to happen to me at the border. My people made the world and it's borders so there's rightfully some privilege involved.

EILEEN

Your people? What's that supposed to mean?

WENDY

Wait. Here's an idea. Fred and Terry could use some time to catch up. Why don't Eileen and I walk up the hill and I'll buy another bottle of wine or two to thank you for putting me up. That way Eileen and I can get to know each other and talk about Opera and castratos.

FRED

Works for me.

TERRY

Why don't Fred and I go get the wine?

EILEEN

Not happening.

TERRY

So it's ok for you to go get wine but not me and Fred? The plan is ok when it involves the girls comparing notes on castration?

EILEEN

We'll come back. You might not. And yes a plan is ok when it involves girls discussing castration. It's an international rule. The Copenhagen Testicle Protocols of 1972. Let's go Wendy.

The women grab their bags. WENDY is laughing.
EILEEN kisses FRED. They exit through front door.

TERRY

What the fuck was that all about?

FRED

Eileen isn't thrilled about you being here. We're not supposed to have guests. You showing up with Wendy really set her off.

TERRY almost tips his wine glass over.

FRED

Careful! Don't spill anything.

TERRY

Is she still cleaning obsessively?

FRED

It gets more intense when she's stressed out. That and the wine drinking. She's a wonderful woman but she's always carried around some anger. It's just part of the Eileen package I guess.

TERRY

Oh well. I just hope she doesn't fuck up my chance to get laid tonight.

FRED

Always the optimist. In a creepy way. Isn't she kind of young for you?

TERRY

I'm from Chicago. Make no small plans.

FRED

And what was that thing about disabled children? Really?

TERRY laughs.

TERRY

She's an altruistic type. I thought it was something she would like to hear. And I did ask a German exchange student out a date once. She was hot. Didn't shave under her arms. Let's smoke some hash.

FRED

I don't know.

TERRY

They won't have a clue.

FRED

What about the smell?

TERRY

I've got a spray in my bag. This isn't my first rodeo, pardner.

FRED

I'm not sure that stuff works.

TERRY

Come on you big pussy. Get high with me. How often do we get together?

FRED

OK. I guess so.

TERRY

Fuckin' A!

TERRY opens pouch, takes a large pocket knife out of his pocket, cuts some hash off and puts it into pipe, lights pipe, takes a huge hit.

TERRY

Hell yes!

He coughs repeatedly.

TERRY

Do you think there's a strip club in town?

FRED

I'm pretty sure there isn't.

TERRY

Shit. Here man.

He offers pipe to FRED and lights it for him. FRED takes a conservative hit on pipe and begins coughing uncontrollably.

FRED

Aw. Shit. Shit.

TERRY laughs hysterically at FRED.

TERRY

We are going to have so much fun this week!

Door opens. EILEEN and WENDY enter.

EILEEN

I forgot my . . .

EILEEN surveys the scene on the couch and the fog of hash smoke.

EILEEN

So it took all of one minute for you to convince Fred to betray my wishes? All of one minute Fred, to give up your free will and join the Cult of Terry?

As FRED looks on embarrassed, TERRY beams with a big smile and extends pipe towards EILEEN.

TERRY

Take, smoke, this is my body.

TERRY explodes in laughter. EILEEN grabs her wallet and leaves in a huff. WENDY looks at TERRY and follows EILEEN. TERRY holds pipe out for FRED, lights lighter and giggles. FRED shrugs and takes a puff. They both giggle hysterically.

END OF SCENE

ACT ONE - SCENE FOUR

In the chalet living room. FRED is lying on couch, eyes closed. TERRY is looking through telescope. Empty wine bottle is on coffee table along with empty bowls and plates, crumpled napkins and the pipe and pouch.

TERRY

Aw man, I can see into that chalet across the ravine. Check this out! Some woman is walking around with no top on! This is awesome. It's Christmas and the Fourth of July rolled into one.

FRED

The telescope is for looking up at the mountain.

TERRY

I'm looking at the Grand Tetons buddy.

EILEEN and WENDY enter carrying paper bags.
FRED jumps up and gives EILEEN a hug. TERRY goes to greet WENDY.

FRED

Hey babe. I'm glad you're back. You look refreshed.

EILEEN

I was talking to Wendy and reminded myself of my basic life rule - never punish myself because someone else is an asshole.

TERRY

Good to see you too Eileen.

EILEEN

What a mess. I'll clean up in a minute.

FRED

We'll take care of it.

EILEEN

Not to my standards.

WENDY

Tell them what we brought back.

EILEEN

We got some Prosciutto and fresh bread to go with the cheese and the olives. And Wendy bought a couple of bottles of wine. Wendy, why don't you uncork a bottle?

WENDY

My pleasure.

TERRY

Yum.

EILEEN

Fred, get out the cheese and olives while I slice the bread.

FRED

Sure enough.

FRED gets up and goes to the fridge.

FRED

Where are the olives?

EILEEN

The box looks like a big Chinese food carry out box.

FRED

I know, I bought the box. It's not in here.

They all look to the coffee table. An empty box sits there. FRED looks pained.

FRED

Oh boy. Terry?

TERRY

What? I got hungry. When you fell asleep on the couch I had some olives. No big deal.

EILEEN

You ate all of the olives?

TERRY

I was hungry.

FRED

All of them?

TERRY

I dropped one on the floor. I'm surprised you haven't cleaned it up yet.

EILEEN

You rotten, no good, sonofabitch! Those were for all of us. They were my favorite olives! They are rare. They are expensive. They were mine!

TERRY leans over and picks up olive from floor. He throws it straight up and as it comes down it hits him and his forehead and falls to floor. He picks it up and puts it in his mouth.

TERRY

Tasty. This aggression is getting old. I'm leaving to get a drink.

EILEEN

Sit down! We are going to have a meal of cheese and ham and wine. You will enjoy our company. You are going to be a part of the evening, not the centerpiece, you self absorbed jack ass.

FRED

Eileen . . .

EILEEN

Sit down and enjoy yourselves!

WENDY

You know, I think maybe I should head back to Munich and find my friends. I'm kind of freaked out that we can't get a phone signal here anyway.

EILEEN

Wendy, I'm sorry you had to experience this. You are a really sweet, interesting person. Please honor us with your continued presence. By which I mean, don't leave me alone with Terry and his cult member Fred. I might kill one of them!

WENDY

If you say so. That's a joke isn't it?

FRED

No violence please, even if it's metaphorical. I think I can be de-programmed from the cult. Let's try again for a reboot here.

EILEEN

I'm going to put a boot up his rear.

TERRY

You seem to have a lot of violent fantasies. Are you who you think you are Eileen?

EILEEN glares at TERRY.

FRED

As I said. What do you say we decide what we are going to do tomorrow? Let's come up with a plan. Let's consider our wonderful options. Terry and Wendy, you are the guests here so what would you like to do?

TERRY

Is there a strip club in town?

FRED

I wouldn't know.

WENDY

You're kidding right?

EILEEN

Trust me, he's not kidding.

TERRY

Lighten up. Of course I was kidding.

WENDY

If I'm going to stay, I would really like to take the train through the Eiger up to the Jungfrauoch. You said it's the highest station in Europe right?

FRED

It is.

WENDY

Perfect.

TERRY

Great idea. I have to get that commemorative visa stamp up there. It will serve as proof of place in time. Proof of my journey. Proof of my existence. Validation of who I am Eileen. I want to have the most impressive passport of anyone I know.

EILEEN

To track your remarkable life's journey of narcissism.

TERRY

Because I'm special.

EILEEN

It's a really expensive train.

WENDY

It may be my only chance to experience it. A train that goes through a giant mountain peak to the top. Awesome. Isn't that near where they found the hiker that was thousands of years old in the melting ice?

FRED

I think that was on the Italian side of the mountains.

WENDY

Of course. That's right.

TERRY

I'd like to go up there for sure. There's an outdoor cafe at the top isn't there? For people watching?

FRED

You can hike on the glaciers near the train station. You're on top of the world. If you walk far enough it's like you're alone on top of the world. It's amazing.

EILEEN

Kind of expensive Fred.

FRED

Let's treat ourselves.

TERRY

That's the spirit!

EILEEN

The cafe up there costs a fortune. If we go I'll pack a picnic lunch. Money saver.

WENDY

That's a great idea. I'm watching my pennies too.

FRED

We can take a long hike on the ice. That's free.

EILEEN

There are crevices in the glacier. You walk across a board. One slip and you're a goner. I don't know how they get insurance.

FRED

Just stay away from the crevices.

TERRY

Wow. Holes in a glacier that swallows bodies. I need to see that.

EILEEN

If you fall down a crevice they find your body in thousands of years. I think that's what happened to the mummified hiker they found.

TERRY

We'll be careful. Sounds cool. I'm in.

WENDY

I'm in.

FRED

Eileen?

EILEEN

You're sure the kids will still be able to go to college?

TERRY

What kids?

FRED

Having never conceived, Eileen is hearing the tick of the biological clock.

EILEEN

The the second time you've worded it that way. How about you say what a normal person would say - Eileen hopes someday to give birth, to have a child?

TERRY

What difference does it make?

EILEEN

It makes a big difference to me Terry. A big f-ing difference. I want to give birth at some point. It's the birth that attracts me, not the conception. So why don't you humor me, OK?

TERRY

That's just kind of weird.

FRED

Terry.

TERRY

It's just odd.

EILEEN

Wendy and I had a delightful afternoon. I told her what a dick Terry is, and she filled me in on the many repercussions of castration. Her expertise in castrations to create a high pitched voice for singing are fascinating. The techniques are applicable to any castration necessity. Does my mention of this topic give you any insight into the passion behind my request that we speak of birth and not conception Terry?

TERRY

Are you going through an early menopause?

FRED

Jesus Christ Terry.

EILEEN glares at TERRY.

EILEEN

Karma Terry. Karma.

EILEEN gets up, goes to bedroom. She straightens some items on the counter as she exits.

TERRY

Goddamn Fred, how much shit do I have to take off of her? What the hell is the problem?

WENDY

Terry sometimes you have to give a woman the benefit of the doubt.

FRED

I'm going to check on her.

FRED gets up and goes to bedroom to check on EILEEN.

WENDY

Terry, I shouldn't have come here. Maybe you shouldn't have either.

TERRY

Aww. Fred will get her to lighten up and everything will be fine. Let me get us a glass of wine. And I'm digging into the ham and cheese.

WENDY

We should wait for them.

TERRY

What if a meteorite crashes through the roof and kills us? I don't want to die on an empty stomach. I want food. Now.

TERRY gets up and brings wine, cheese, ham to coffee table.

WENDY

What's up between you and Eileen? There seems to be a history. She really does not like you.

TERRY

Very perceptive of you Wendy. Very perceptive. Don't repeat this ...

He gets up, looks at door to bedroom, making sure it's closed.

TERRY

Freshman year of college, before Fred and Eileen started being exclusive, Eileen and I had a fling.

WENDY

What? Oh my. It begins to make sense.

TERRY

Fred doesn't know. It was fueled by beer, pot, and animal lust. It was awesome. But it didn't end well.

WENDY

What do you mean?

TERRY

Relationships end. It was no big deal. But she'd been dating Fred and he's got this nice guy persona so I think she felt guilty and ah, it's, it's just boring. But I think she's been re-visiting it in her head. For god's sake don't tell Fred. I don't need him getting cranky too.

WENDY

So what are you going to do? I don't see her cutting you any slack. This could go on the entire week.

TERRY

Fred will take care of things. He's a peace keeper. Maybe you and I can just hang out and see the sights. You're really good company.

WENDY

Eileen and I hit it off. She's a riot when *you're* out of sight. I want to spend time hanging out with her.

TERRY

When you agreed to come to Switzerland with me, my understanding was that you and I . .

FRED comes out of bedroom.

FRED

Need some wine.

WENDY

How is she doing?

FRED

For the record Terry, fight the impulse to bring up menopause around an angry woman.

FRED grabs bottle, goes back into bedroom.

WENDY

I hope she's OK.

TERRY

Glass of wine?

WENDY

I believe so.

He pours wine and hands her the glass.

WENDY

Let's go to the balcony.

TERRY

Sure. This is more like it.

On the way to the balcony she stops at the telescope.

WENDY

I haven't looked at the climbers. Is this pointed the right way?

TERRY

I think so.

She adjusts the view finder.

WENDY

At the market someone said they've been on the face of the mountain for two days. It's become talk of the town. There's a lot of concern. . . Oh. There they are!

TERRY

Let me see.

She lets him look into telescope.

TERRY

OK. I see them. Interesting. For about five seconds.

He takes a drink of wine and allow WENDY to return to telescope. She gazes into the eye piece.

WENDY

This is fascinating. Imagine the mental and physical will power it takes to do something like that. It's almost superhuman.

TERRY

I don't know. A wise man once said, if it isn't making you money or getting you laid what's the point? Just kidding.

She doesn't look up.

WENDY

I don't know about the money, but when they come back down, those folks are going to get laid. That's a certainty.

TERRY

That's how it works?

WENDY

They are super achievers. It's the ultimate aphrodisiac.

TERRY

I'm suddenly thinking about doing some climbing tomorrow.

WENDY doesn't respond.

TERRY

I said I'm thinking about doing some climbing tomorrow.

No response.

TERRY

An thinly veiled suggestion that I will climb a mountain so you will want to jump my bones.

WENDY

Oh my God!

She jumps back from telescope.

WENDY

Oh no! No!!

TERRY

What's going on?

WENDY collapses on couch. She is shaking.
EILEEN rushes out of bedroom. FRED follows her
into room, as EILEEN slaps TERRY hard on the
face.

EILEEN

What the hell are you doing to her you bastard!

TERRY

God dammit! Have you lost your mind?

EILEEN

I heard her scream no! Wendy, what did he do? What did he do!

WENDY sits up.

WENDY

Nothing. He did nothing.

TERRY

I did nothing.

EILEEN

Then why did you scream no!

WENDY

The climbers. They, they fell off the mountain!

FRED

Say what?

WENDY

They fell. They fell! They were tied together and one fell then they all fell!

EILEEN

Is there a chance they're OK?

TERRY

They could be OK.

WENDY

They fell off the North Face. They bounced on the way down . . . No they are not OK. All
three have to be dead. I just saw three people die.

EILEEN

You're sure?

EILEEN looks through the telescope. FRED takes a look through the eye piece.

FRED

They aren't there anymore. They're out of our field of vision.

EILEEN

The male ego leads to death.

TERRY

That's a hell of a lesson to take out of this.

EILEEN

Of all people you know I'm right.

WENDY

I just saw three people die.

EILEEN goes to WENDY's side.

EILEEN

We've got to call 911. Do they use 911 in Switzerland?

FRED

It doesn't matter. There were hundreds of people watching them from Kleinescheidig. The entire Bernese Oberland will know in a matter of minutes.

WENDY

I feel lightheaded. I need to lay down.

EILEEN

Come on Wendy. I'll keep you company.

EILEEN helps WENDY up and as she leads her to the bedroom she grabs another bottle of wine and a feather duster.

EILEEN

Fred, bring me some hash please.

They disappear into bedroom.

TERRY

How has she gone from condemning dope smoking to burning through my stash?

FRED

You ate all of her olives. It's a fair trade.

TERRY

Unbelievable.

TERRY cuts off a chunk of hash with his knife, gives it to FRED who takes it into the bedroom. TERRY looks around quickly and dashes into the bathroom. He is in bathroom briefly, comes out rubbing his nose.

TERRY

Fuck me!

FRED returns from bedroom.

FRED

Wendy is really shook up. Wow.

TERRY

I can't believe this. There goes any chance of me getting laid tonight.

FRED

Three people just died and your take on it is that it's inconveniencing your sex life? That's really messed up.

TERRY

I don't know those people. Shit. Maybe she'll need some attention and affection. When life gives you lemons . . .

FRED

Make lemonade by taking advantage of a traumatized woman?

TERRY

Goddamn. You might as well wear a dress. Anyway how do we know they died? She could have imagined it.

FRED

They were there. They aren't there. The only way that can happen is to fall. She saw it you jackoff.

TERRY

Let's drink some wine and smoke some hash. Might as well get a buzz. This has really fucked up my vacation.

FRED

How dare those people die. The dead selfish bastards.

TERRY pours wine, fires up hash pipe. They partake. They quickly are buzzed.

FRED

Terry, it's not my nature to confront people. We've been buddies a long time. Eileen thinks my personality changes when I'm around you. She thinks I do what you want. She thinks I become a mini-Terry. This really bothers me.

TERRY

That's female bullshit. She's scared to death you'll maintain free will.

FRED

Sometimes she says stuff that makes me think she heard about some of your antics in college. From her friends.

TERRY

For example.

FRED

I think she knows about the time you got two women pregnant at the same time.

TERRY

There's no way she can know that. None of her friends could have known that.

FRED

She says weird things about conception when you're around. It makes no sense.

TERRY

That's a hell of a leap. She mentions conception so she knows about my conquests?

FRED

You used to make jokes in the bars about telling those two women it was their problem not yours. I thought that was fucked up at the time.

TERRY

You never said anything to me.

FRED

I should have.

TERRY

Birth control is the woman's responsibility. They're the ones who get pregnant. They shouldn't have been screwing if they aren't on the pill.

FRED

No. That's fucked up. It's both party's responsibility. And if you told it to guys in bars for a laugh they could have told other people and it could have gotten back to Eileen.

TERRY

I don't think so.

FRED

Why didn't you just help them out with the abortions? You made jokes about it instead.

TERRY

Why should I help them out? We had sex. They didn't use the pill. They got pregnant. The abortions are their responsibility. My conscience is clear. And - I've got a problem with abortion anyway. End of story.

FRED takes a long drink from wine glass and stares
into space.

FRED

That is the most fucked up thing I have ever heard. We might have to rethink our friendship.

TERRY

What?!

FRED

Your first concern about those climbers dying was that it might keep you from getting laid. I thought you might change your mind someday about what you did with those two girls. But you haven't grown a bit. It's still just a funny bar story to you.

TERRY

It always got a laugh.

FRED

Who were the women?

TERRY

What difference does it make?

FRED

Who were they?

TERRY

Remember Jenny at University Hall? I forget her last name.

FRED

She was so sweet. She always seemed kind of sad.

TERRY

She was a flake.

FRED

Who was the other one?

TERRY

I forget her name.

FRED

How do you forget the name of a woman you got pregnant?

TERRY

It was just a quick fling. I can't remember every woman I get naked with.

FRED

Eileen said you were unctuous. I defended you. I get it now.

TERRY

What, does she get out a thesaurus before she insults me? She sure got to you, you pussy.
Do you squat to pee now?

FRED

I'm out of the cult.

TERRY

What the fuck does that mean?

FRED

You're sleeping on the couch tonight Terry. I'm not letting you anywhere near Wendy. She knows you well enough now to say no to you.

TERRY

Sometimes a woman's mouth says no but her eyes say yes.

FRED

That's exactly wrong.

TERRY

I bet you \$50 I will be sleeping with Wendy by the end of the week.

FRED

Romance isn't a competition Terry.

TERRY

Nothing on earth is more of a competition than romance.

FRED

That's sad.

TERRY

Woman like companionship and most importantly they like for a guy to pick up the check. Goods for services. The guy that receives the most services wins.

FRED

Pathetic.

TERRY

You are naive my friend. How many checks did Eileen pick up during your courtship? If your memory fails you I know the answer. Zero. You complained about it to me while it was happening. And you also told me that she blew you on the first date. If the blow job precedes the first check to be picked up a woman is in business. She has won the romance competition. Ever since that first blowjob you've been Cash Register Fred.

FRED

God you have a fucked up world view.

Eileen stumbles out of the bedroom. She has worked through a bottle of wine and the hash.

EILEEN

I'm taking Wendy to the train station. She's going back to Munich. We'll call her friends when we can get a signal.

TERRY

Why would she leave?

EILEEN

She's traumatized for God's sake. She wants to be with her friends.

TERRY

Maybe I should escort her.

EILEEN

That's not going to happen.

TERRY

She came with me.

EILEEN

I don't want her alone with you.

FRED

Me either.

TERRY

Wow. So I'm the bad guy here?

EILEEN

That's a fair question. The answer is yes.

EILEEN wobbles. She is unsteady on her feet.
FRED grabs her and helps her sit down.

FRED

I'm going to take Wendy up the hill to the station. You're a little tipsy honey.

EILEEN

I can take her.

FRED

Trust me on this. Terry, keep an eye on Eileen.

EILEEN

No.

EILEEN stands up, wobbles, sits back down.

FRED

We aren't negotiating this. I'm taking her.

FRED goes into bedroom and comes back out with
WENDY's backpack.

WENDY

Thanks so much you guys. I'm so sorry it didn't work out. My head is really messed up from seeing that ... horror. I feel sick. I need to be with my friends.

TERRY

I'll walk you up to the station. I got you here.

FRED

I'm good. I've got it. I'll take her.

EILEEN

Fuck off Terry.

TERRY

Who do you want to take you Wendy?

WENDY

Fred.

TERRY

Come on. We hardly got to talk. This is nuts.

EILEEN

Fuck off Terry. You aren't going to get lucky, hah!

WENDY

Lucky?

TERRY

This is insane.

EILEEN

Goodbye Wendy. I'm sorry you had to suffer. I hope we cross paths again someday.

WENDY

I've got your contact info.

EILEEN

Stay in touch.

FRED

We need to go. It'll be dark soon. We don't want to miss the train.

EILEEN

Remember Wengen to Lauterbrunnen, to Interlaken, to Zurich, then connections to Munich.

TERRY

Here's my card. Get a hold of me if you're ever near Chicago.

He tries to hand her a card. WENDY won't take it.

WENDY

That's OK. Goodbye you guys. Thank you for the kindness Eileen.

FRED and WENDY exit.

TERRY

After all I did for her she wouldn't take my card.

EILEEN

She should be more grateful for the grooming and leering.

EILEEN takes a giant drink of wine.

TERRY

Are you going to bust my balls the whole time I'm here? This is getting old. And thanks for helping Wendy leave. X

EILEEN

She wanted nothing to do with you.

TERRY

We made out in Munich. She was all over me.

EILEEN

Then she got to know you in Wengen. Fire up that pipe.

TERRY

I thought you were against drug use in your precious chalet.

EILEEN

I need to get fucked up to be able to stand being in the same room with you.

TERRY

God you're an angry, bitter woman. You constantly criticize me but there was a time that you couldn't wait to get in the sack with me.

EILEEN

I was young and stupid and confused. I turned the Etch a Sketch upside down, shook it, and the experience was gone. I met a man a million times better than you.

TERRY

Your time line is a little haywire there. We had our fling after you met Fred.

EILEEN

Which I've always regretted. I could puke when I think about it.

TERRY

Fred thinks you know that I got two women pregnant at the same time. He has a new found sense of righteousness that has somehow emerged. Ex post facto righteousness.

EILEEN stands up, facing TERRY.

EILEEN

Wait. Wait, wait, wait. Two women pregnant? At the same time? You got *two* women pregnant? Not just me?

TERRY

I was a popular guy. Can I help it if I'm irresistible?

EILEEN

While I was having the worst experience of my life, while I was all alone, conspiring to kill my own child, hiding it from Fred, you were turning your back on another woman? While you were fucking my life up you were simultaneously fucking another woman's life up!? You bastard!

TERRY smiles.

TERRY

No. The last honest man.

She screams and kicks at TERRY, catching him in the crotch. He goes down to his knees, moaning. He is bent over. He has trouble speaking.

TERRY

You crazy bitch. Is this from that fucking book? You trying to get me ready for the fucking opera? Jesus fucking Christ. You don't even know for sure if it was my kid. You were obviously sleeping around. What the fuck happened to the pacifist, tree hugger you try to present to the world?

EILEEN

I crossed paths with you, you sick bastard. And you ate my olives!

She kicks TERRY a second time in the groin. He falls to the floor. He moves painfully to wastebasket under kitchen sink and throws up. He gains he composure, wipes his mouth under kitchen faucet. EILEEN paces unsteadily.

TERRY

What is wrong with you?

EILEEN

It was your child. I know. Fred used condoms. You were too selfish to use them. I was drunk. I was disoriented. I aborted my child because of you. You turned me into a murderer.

TERRY moans as he speaks

TERRY

Fucking nutcase hypocrite.

TERRY stands and gingerly moves over to telescope, and stands by the open doors to the balcony.

EILEEN

You're a million times worse.

TERRY

You're just jealous. You've always resented that I have you and Freddy boy's number.

EILEEN

I can only imagine what twisted view you have of people like us.

TERRY's face is contorted with discomfort.

TERRY

Fred's a guy who wants to please whoever the alpha dog in the room is. It can be you or, when I show up, me. He barely has free will. He's an amusing side kick, a puppy. He's an empty vessel waiting to be filled by whoever he's in a room with. He's a giant pussy.

EILEEN

This is what you think of a man who considers you his friend? He's a beautiful person. His only flaw is that he hasn't seen what a fucking phony you are! He understands love. You never will.

TERRY

Love is like hypnosis Eileen. You give up your free will to a stranger with the understanding that you'll participate in an illusion for a brief, mildly entertaining moment. A con. Willful delusion. Weak people can be hypnotized, strong people can't.

EILEEN

You cynical bastard.

TERRY

You two hypnosis victims are made for each other. A pussy and a ball busting bitch. You fucked me out of all the work I did on Wendy. I always wanted to screw a black woman. She was going to be my trophy catch. I was so fucking close. You and this goddamned telescope!

He knocks the telescope over.

EILEEN

You don't even see women as humans. They're trophies. Did you ask Wendy if she's on the pill? Or is that a question you ask afterwards so the conquest isn't complicated?

TERRY

I don't ask. Women get pregnant, not men. Thus it is the woman's responsibility to avoid pregnancy. I don't approve of abortion. It's immoral. I could argue that you scarred me by being reckless and having sex while not on the pill. Because you didn't just kill your child, you killed my child.

EILEEN

You misogynist, sadistic motherfucker!

EILEEN grabs one of her wooden shoes, screams and runs at him in an explosive burst, screaming as she dashes. She hits him in the head with the wooden shoe and he staggers and falls backwards off of the balcony with a gasp. We hear a sickening thump as he hits the ground far below. She stares over railing of balcony and gasps at what she sees. She looks at wooden shoe in her hand. She almost collapses.

EILEEN

Oh god.

She loudly whispers off of balcony.

EILEEN

Terry. Terry. Are you all right? Terry?

She goes back inside, drops shoe and goes to the couch and sits, staring ahead, in shock. She can't move. Finally she grabs a wine glass and guzzles it. She slowly walks to telescope and sets it upright. She starts moving quickly, goes through a drawer in the kitchen, finds a pair of gloves and rushes out the front door. Lights goes down and only the balcony is illuminated.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO - SCENE ONE

*In the chalet living room. FRED and WENDY enter.
EILEEN is on couch holding book but not reading it.
She is staring straight ahead.*

FRED

Wendy is going to lay down. She's a little rattled.

No response from EILEEN.

FRED

She got in touch with her friends. They're in Berlin. Too far to go tonight. Their new boyfriends talked them into going there. She's going to try catch a train there tomorrow, after a night's sleep.

No response.

WENDY

Is everything OK? Where's Terry?

Nothing.

FRED

Look honey. I bought some apples and bread and cheese. And I bought you some more olives. Swiss olives. And don't say anything about the expense. It's my treat.

He holds up box of olives then puts them in fridge.

FRED

Honey.

EILEEN

Terry and I had a fight. An argument. He stormed off. I don't know where he is.

FRED

We didn't see him on the path to the town center.

EILEEN

Maybe he went down the mountain. Maybe he went down to Lauterbrunnen.

EILEEN gets up and begins tidying up the room.

FRED

Well I hope not. He doesn't know that path. It could be dangerous in the dark. Should I go look for him?

EILEEN

I don't know.

WENDY

Are you OK Eileen?

EILEEN

I don't know.

FRED

I can't believe the drama since he showed up. What was the argument about?

EILEEN

He insulted me, he insulted you, he insulted Wendy. He said Wendy was going to be his trophy catch because she's black but that I screwed it up. Then he knocked over the telescope and took off into the night. If he broke that telescope we'll never get to come back to the chalet!

She cries.

WENDY

I'm his trophy? Because I'm black? That sonofabitch. That's how sociopaths talk.

FRED

I don't know how I bought his shit for so long. While you were in the bedroom he and I went at it. I called him pathetic. We almost came to blows.

EILEEN

You almost hit him?

FRED

The light finally went on. He used to make jokes about getting two women pregnant at the same time. It was one of his standard amusing raps in a bar to get laughs. It always bothered me. I told him I'd thought about it and that it was disgusting.

EILEEN

He made jokes about that? About getting two women pregnant?

She sobs.

FRED

He did.

EILEEN

Two women.

FRED

I let him get away with it. What was I thinking?

Pause.

EILEEN

Did you laugh?

Pause.

FRED

I'm ashamed.

WENDY

He brings out the worst in people. He's a freak.

WENDY begins to cry. She goes to bedroom and closes door.

FRED

I'm going to go look for him. When I find him I'm putting him on a train out of town.

EILEEN

Don't go. It's too late. He'll come back if he's going to come back.

FRED

He wouldn't leave his stuff here if he wasn't going to come back. Whatever path he took, it leads to a bar, and he's grooming some young woman as we speak. That friendship is over. Permanently.

EILEEN is still sobbing.

FRED

Do you want something to eat?

EILEEN

Why do they say women committed the original sin?

FRED

It's unfair. It really is.

EILEEN

Trace all human heartache backwards and you find a man and his ego.

FRED

No argument here.

EILEEN

A man ate the fruit in the Garden of Eden then he lied and told the world a woman did it!

FRED

Probably so.

Pause.

FRED

Could have been a vegetable.

EILEEN

What?

FRED

You know, all fruits are vegetables. We could've said a vegetable was eaten in eden. Like you said. Just trying to lighten the tension.

EILEEN

Show me a woman suffering and I'll show you a man reacting inappropriately.

FRED

We're not real bright. Men. I'm sorry.

Silence.

EILEEN

At least you're capable of redemption. Do you think Terry would ever be capable of seeing the light? Of redemption?

FRED

Maybe if he fell on his head. Maybe not.

Her sobs continue.

END OF SCENE

ACT TWO - SCENE TWO

It's morning. EILEEN is in living room, looking out window at mountains. She looks like she hasn't slept. FRED comes out of bedroom.

FRED

Morning.

He sits down. EILEEN doesn't answer.

FRED

I meant to tell you but it got lost in the insanity of last night - there's a memorial to the dead climbers at the marketplace later. We should go. To show respect.

EILEEN

I don't know.

FRED

I'm infuriated at Terry. The asshole doesn't come back. This is rude beyond measure. He probably picked up some woman and stayed with her.

EILEEN

I hope he didn't try to cross the stream in the dark.

FRED

He wouldn't have gone down the hill. The bars are up the hill.

EILEEN

God.

FRED

Honey? Eileen?

EILEEN

What?

FRED

There's not going to be a good time to tell you this.

EILEEN

You're scaring me.

FRED

While I was up at the train station I got a message. From Frau Wachenfeld. She somehow knows we have guests. She's angry. She wanted to let us know we can't rent the chalet anymore. When the week is over, that's it.

EILEEN

I knew it! I told you. Why did we let him visit here?

Eileen fights back tears.

FRED

Someone who knows Frau Wachenfeld must have seen them come in with their backpacks.

EILEEN

People can't see into the chalet from the balcony side can they? The neighbors can't see in that way can they?

FRED

It doesn't matter. Our guests came in the front. Someone saw them.

We hear knocking at the door.

FRED

Who could that be?

Wendy emerges from bedroom, bleary eyed.

WENDY

Who's at the door?

FRED

Don't know.

He goes to door and opens it. He is surprised by what he sees. We hear voices.

FRED

My wife isn't dressed yet.

FRED goes out and closes door behind him.
EILEEN nervously paces around the living room and exchanges glances with WENDY.

She goes to the balcony and looks down. FRED comes back in the room, in shock.

FRED

Get dressed. Both of you. We have to go to the police station within the hour. They found Terry.

WENDY

Is he in jail?

FRED

No . . . They found him in the stream below the cabin. Downstream. He fell in. He must have hit his head. He was washed downstream. . . It's not good. It's bad. He's . . . dead.

WENDY collapses in tears. FRED comforts EILEEN. He suppresses a sob.

WENDY

This is a goddamn nightmare. People are dying everywhere! I just wanted a free place to stay!

FRED

Someone on a morning hike along the stream found his body. The policeman says they're stretched thin. They're dealing with recovering the bodies of the three climbers.

EILEEN

Four people gone.

FRED

They want to talk to us in a bit at the municipal building.

EILEEN

Oh god.

FRED

They have some basic questions. I told the officer about him wandering off after drinking. Shit!

FRED jumps up.

EILEEN

What?

FRED

What if the police asked to come in here? The hash! It's in plain sight.

EILEEN jumps up.

FRED

Shit! Let's flush it down the toilet.

EILEEN

How do we get rid of the pipes? He'll screw us up from the fucking grave! That bastard.

FRED

A little respect please. Wash the pipes in hot water and soap. That will get rid of the residue. Then we can grind them to powder in the chalet's mortar and pestle.

WENDY

That's seems a little over dramatic.

FRED

Not to me.

FRED leaves and we hear the toilet flush. He comes back.

FRED

Wait. What if he has more in his pack?

FRED goes into bedroom and comes back with TERRY's pack. They search through pockets and find baggies. They sniff them.

FRED

Unfuckingbelievable. More hash.

He holds up a bag, opens it and smells inside.

FRED

Cocaine. I had no idea.

He looks closely at package of pills.

WENDY

He was doing cocaine. I can't believe it.

FRED

Among other things. Pills too. No wonder he stumbled into the stream.

EILEEN

What are those pills?

FRED

I'm pretty sure they're viagra and quaaludes. A fucking pharmacy.

EILEEN

Quick. Let's flush them all. Wait. Viagra and quaaludes?

They rush to bathroom and we hear several flushes.
They return and collapse on couch.

FRED

No wonder he was Jekyll and Hyde. He was fried beyond measure.

EILEEN

This was your friend. Do you see now why I loathed him? Quaaludes and viagra. A pervert's starter kit. What else has he been doing? Shit. I'm going to start cleaning the pipes. If I grind them can we clean the mortar and pestle enough that the glass powder won't kill someone making pesto?

WENDY

(Weakly) What if he used the Quaaludes on me? I walked through that door strong, and accomplished, and confident. Now I'm a complete mess.

EILEEN

Me too.

FRED

I haven't exactly blossomed. But let's don't forget. A human being has died. It shouldn't matter how awful he is he's gone.

WENDY

It is sad.

FRED

How about a moment of silence for Terry?

WENDY

I guess so.

EILEEN

Whatever.

WENDY and FRED bow their heads. EILEEN
stares out balcony window.

FRED

Oh fuck. Dammit.

WENDY

Dammit what?

FRED

I just remembered something.

WENDY

About Terry?

FRED

There are no sewers on the mountain. We just flushed a drug cartels worth of illegal drugs
into a septic container under the house. They'll just be laying there. We've got to slow
down. We're not thinking clearly.

EILEEN

They won't look there will they?

FRED

I can't imagine they will. But someone staying in this chalet just died with a bloodstream
full of drugs so who knows what will happen.

WENDY

They were his drugs not ours. Why are we even worrying? Why did we flush it?

EILEEN

It's a nightmare. Terry is a never ending nightmare.

FRED

It isn't going to get better for a while.

EILEEN

How could it be worse?

FRED

They have his wallet but that's not enough. We've got to go identify the body.

EILEEN gasps. FRED puts his arm around her and walks her and WENDY out the door.

END OF SCENE

ACT TWO - SCENE THREE

In chalet. Door opens, FRED, EILEEN, and WENDY enter. WENDY moves to enter guest bedroom.

WENDY

I'm going to smother myself with a pillow.

EILEEN

Is that a joke?

WENDY

I'm going to lay down. I feel catatonic. I feel broken. I'll worry about Berlin later.

She goes to bedroom. FRED and EILEEN sit on couch, shell shocked. It is a moment before they speak. EILEEN is stricken.

EILEEN

I'm sorry I didn't go in with you. I felt like I needed to stay with Wendy. She's on the brink of a breakdown. She couldn't look at that . . . No. That's a lie. I was just afraid to look at his body.

FRED

It's ok. You didn't want to see him. Trust me.

EILEEN

You saw his face?

FRED

What was left of it. The boulders in the stream beat him up pretty badly. He was unrecognizable. The current tore his clothes off. Only thing left on him was the wallet pouch around his neck.

EILEEN

I'm sorry I made you do that alone.

FRED

I noticed the oddest thing.

EILEEN

I'm afraid to know.

FRED

Terry's clothes were torn off by the current. I've seen him naked at the gym. I could have sworn he was circumcised.

EILEEN

He wasn't?

FRED

He wasn't.

EILEEN

Could it grow back?

FRED

You are a mess. No. It can't grow back.

EILEEN

You're right. I'm a babbling fool.

FRED

It's not like I keep a mental note of my friend's foreskins, but still.

EILEEN

We're all discombobulated.

FRED

I can't get the image of his face out of my head. It was beaten into a bloody pulp by the boulders. I may never sleep again.

EILEEN

Maybe it's karma.

FRED

Karma?

EILEEN

Terry's.

They sit in silence for some time. They hear a roar outside of the chalet. FRED rushes to the balcony door.

FRED

It's another avalanche!

EILEEN rushes to the door.

EILEEN

The whole world is coming apart.

FRED

It's staying above the tree line.

FRED embraces EILEEN. The roar of the avalanche diminishes. The front door suddenly opens. A man staggers into the room. He does not speak. He has one shoe on, one foot bare. His clothes are torn and soaked with water. His hair is wet and unkempt. There is blood on the side of his head, under his nose, and on the front of his pants. FRED and EILEEN stare at him in shock. It is TERRY.

He staggers to the kitchen, turns, looks at FRED and EILEEN, who stare back, then he turns and walks into the bedroom.

In a moment we hear WENDY scream in terror. TERRY reenters the room. He speaks haltingly, in a strangely high pitched voice.

TERRY

Who is that woman . . . in the bedroom?

FRED

Terry?

TERRY

She's Terri?

FRED

No. You're Terry.

TERRY

I'm Terry. OK. Who is that . . . woman in the bedroom?

FRED

Wendy.

TERRY

Who's . . . Wendy?

FRED

You met her in Munich. She came here with you.

TERRY shakes his head and winces. He looks confused. EILEEN and FRED are incredulous.

TERRY

I think I was going up the mountain to get the special visa stamp. Did I go up the mountain?

FRED

No.

TERRY

I've got to go up and get that visa. The last thing I remember is . . . being in Amsterdam and getting on . . . the train to come here.

FRED

Are you OK?

TERRY

My head and my . . . balls are killing me. I'm going to . . . lay down.

He goes back through door. WENDY soon runs out of the room and collapses on EILEEN. All three sit in stunned silence.

EILEEN

He . . .

WENDY

I . . .

FRED

Who was that at the morgue?

EILEEN

He . . .

WENDY

I'm going to puke.

She runs to bathroom.

EILEEN

He's a fucking ghost! He was dead. I know he was dead.

FRED

Who is that guy I looked at? Why did he have Terry's wallet pouch around his neck?

EILEEN

Wine. I need wine.

FRED

Me too.

EILEEN

He's the Ogre.

EILEEN clings to FRED as they get up and go to kitchen. FRED pours wine. They both drink glass of wine in one gulp. EILEEN is draped over FRED as they stare at guest bedroom door.

EILEEN

The Eiger.

WENDY returns with her back pack.

WENDY

I'm going to the train. I'm taking it to an airport and I'm flying back to the States. Today. As I emptied my stomach into the toilet I had a moment of clarity. I have nothing to do with this freak show. I didn't even know Terry. I just wanted a free place to stay and in an opportunistic moment I flirted with him a bit to that end. I didn't use my powers wisely. You've known him for years, you've known what kind of terrible person he is and somehow you still choose to spend time with him. You should have dropped his malignant ass long ago. I've seen three people die, seen another person apparently rise from the dead and suddenly I am as frightened by you as I am by him. Where are the consequences for you people? Momma told me white people are nuts. Amen! Good bye. Forever.

WENDY quickly exits, slamming the door behind her. EILEEN and FRED sit in silence for a long moment. EILEEN points at the bedroom.

EILEEN

He's the ogre, Wendy was the virgin, you're the monk. What does that make me?

ACT TWO - SCENE FOUR

In chalet living room. FRED and EILEEN are pacing. TERRY comes out of the bedroom and sits. TERRY's voice is still raw and high pitched.

TERRY

I feel like I got hit by a truck.

EILEEN

Do you remember anything?

TERRY

A little. I remember meeting Wendy now. In Munich. Where is she?

FRED

She's heading back to America.

TERRY

She seemed sweet. That's disappointing. Where's my wallet?

FRED

You don't remember losing the wallet pouch?

TERRY

I don't know. Wait. I had a dream. A dream that some man was above me, looking down at me and took it. Or maybe that happened.

FRED

He must have taken it from you when you were unconscious and then he somehow fell into the stream himself.

TERRY

I fell into the stream?

EILEEN

You should get cleaned up.

TERRY

I think I was going to the station to take the train up to the glaciers.

FRED

That was our plan.

TERRY

We talked about it. Yes, that was our plan. Let's go. I've got to get the stamp for my passport.

EILEEN

That's low on our priority list Terry.

FRED

You don't have your passport.

TERRY

I do. I keep it in my back pack. Let's go.

FRED

I don't know.

TERRY

Let's go. If we said we were going to go we should go. I remember that. If we go I might remember who I am. Who am I? I feel like I've disappeared.

FRED

You're Terry. Get cleaned up. You're smeared with blood. You only have one shoe on.

TERRY

I'll wear my sandals.

FRED

On a glacier?

EILEEN

I'm not going anywhere.

TERRY

Both of you. We are going to the glacier. I have to go to the glacier. To the Jungfrauoch.

FRED

You've got a head injury. You're not making sense. Let's find a doctor.

TERRY

I'm fine.

FRED

Then we need to go to the police station and tell them they need to figure out who they have up there.

TERRY

They have my ghost. Or am the ghost?

EILEEN

Wow.

TERRY

I'll get my passport.

FRED

You should know we threw the drugs away.

TERRY

What drugs?

EILEEN

You don't remember that?

TERRY

I hear a voice calling me. You promised we'd go.

EILEEN

I don't remember a promise.

FRED

We did discuss it. You heard a voice?

TERRY

A climber. I think it's the voice of a climber.

FRED

You took a pretty good shot to the head Terry. Maybe we should find a doctor.

TERRY

Loan me enough money to take the train up there.

EILEEN

It's like a hundred bucks. No way.

TERRY

I'll pay you back. I need to prove I'm here. To prove I'm alive. I can document a time and place I reappeared . . . I'm going to the market to beg enough money to go.

FRED

We'll give you the money.

EILEEN

Fred!

FRED

He needs to go. Let's get him up there. It might help him get his memory back. It might help.

EILEEN

So suddenly you want to help him? Don't you remember our conversation about this man? We know who is he. He's the Ogre!

FRED

He's been hurt. He thinks it will help.

TERRY

I need help.

EILEEN

No shit!

TERRY

Let's go.

FRED

You can stay here Eileen. I'll take him.

EILEEN

Don't trust him. He called us terrible names. He's done terrible things!

TERRY

Maybe it's God's voice I hear. I need that stamp! Proof of my existence! Can you prove you're alive?

EILEEN

I never get my passport stamped and I exist.

TERRY

You sure about that?

EILEEN

Yes.

TERRY

It's time.

FRED

Stay here Eileen. Let's you and me go Terry.

TERRY

I need you both. You're my friends.

He stifles a sob.

EILEEN

I'm not leaving you alone with him Fred. No. That's not happening. He'll poison your thoughts. I've lost enough because of him. Terrible things happen around him.

TERRY

That's just mean Eileen.

TERRY begins to cry.

FRED

I'll look after him. It'll be OK.

EILEEN

He's working you again Fred! Shit!

TERRY

When I get my credit cards back I will give you ten thousand dollars if you take me up the mountain to get my stamp.

FRED

That's silly.

EILEEN

Hold on.

FRED

What?

EILEEN

Ten thousand dollars?

FRED

That's a lot of money.

EILEEN

Not for him. Do you mean it Terry?

TERRY

Yes. Ten thousand dollars. I gotta go up. We gotta go up.

EILEEN

Terry. Here's my deal. If you give ten thousand dollars to a woman's shelter of my choice we will take you up.

TERRY

That's weird.

EILEEN

That's the price of a trip to the glacier.

TERRY

Yeh. Sure. We're burning daylight.

EILEEN

It has to be in writing.

TERRY

OK.

EILEEN quickly grabs some stationary and a pen.
She talks as she writes.

EILEEN

I Terry Jenson, do hereby promise to donate the sum of ten thousand dollars to a woman's shelter of Eileen Rhodes choice within one week of the signing of this note. Witnessed by ... Fred sign it.

FRED shrugs and signs it. Then EILEEN signs the paper.

EILEEN

Ok Terry. Your turn.

TERRY slowly signs paper, concentrating intently.

EILEEN

You had better do this.

TERRY

I will, I will, I will. I promise. Let's go!

EILEEN

I'm grabbing some food first. It costs a fortune to eat in the restaurant up there. I'm not buying you a meal.

She's goes to fridge and hastily puts together a bag of food, including the olives. She grabs a bottle of wine. She quickly cleans around the kitchen counters.

TERRY

We're going? Thank God. We can help find the climbers.

FRED

They're at the bottom. They fell. They are not at the top. They are dead. Let's just get the stamp. A souvenir.

TERRY

We have a kinship. We both fell.

FRED

Are you ready Eileen?

EILEEN

I just got the food. I'm not paying for food at the top.

TERRY

Once we get there I'll get the stamp. Then I'll know I'm not the ghost. It's the other guy. Rebirth.

END OF SCENE

ACT TWO - SCENE FIVE

Darkness. We hear the sound of a cog train. Lights come up. TERRY, EILEEN, and FRED are on a frozen expanse, suggested by creative lighting. They walk across the glacier. TERRY, wearing sandals with no socks, walks ahead of FRED and EILEEN on the ice. FRED and EILEEN speak in sotto voice.

EILEEN

This is insane. Why are we following him? We're out of sight of the station. He got his stamp. Let's go back down and get his credit cards.

FRED

I feel we need to indulge him.

EILEEN

They're having the memorial in the square for the dead climbers soon. That's where we should be.

FRED

He's not himself.

EILEEN

Not him? Even with brain damage he's still him. What is wrong with us? He got the goddamn stamp.

FRED

He's had a trauma. Have a little compassion.

EILEEN

You try to make everyone happy, so you make no one happy. It's the same as before. He controls you. Nothing has changed!

FRED stops and looks around.

FRED

I'm on a glacier following a misogynist who is hearing voices. You're right. It's like he hypnotizes me.

EILEEN

He said you don't have free will.

FRED

Hey Terry! Terry! Stop!

TERRY shouts in the high pitched voice.

TERRY

Just a little further! I see a body!

FRED looks at WENDY.

FRED

A body? What body?

EILEEN

He doesn't see a body. He's either got brain damage or he's acting. I'm done with his games. I'm heading down and I'm going to have my picnic on the train then I'm going to get his wallet.

They catch up with TERRY as he is standing next to a crevice with a board over it. EILEEN reaches into bag and gets some olives.

TERRY

Let's go across.

FRED

I don't know.

EILEEN

You're kind of bossy for a ghost.

TERRY

Eileen I want some of those olives. As a peace offering. Olives branches are peace symbols you know.

EILEEN

You're dreaming. The Devil doesn't dream.

TERRY

That's mean. You go across Fred.

FRED

I don't know.

TERRY speaks in his regular voice.

TERRY

Come on you big fucking pussy.

TERRY takes out his knife and waves it at FRED.

TERRY

You will get on to the board.

FRED

Jesus Terry.

TERRY waves the knife in his face. FRED steps on to the board.

EILEEN

Fred. If you get on that board don't bother to come back to the chalet. He isn't stabbing anyone. It's a game with him. The control his minion game. Either you listen to me or you listen to him. The end.

FRED pauses. TERRY speaks in his regular voice.

TERRY

Eileen, get on the board!

EILEEN

I'm not in your cult.

TERRY

I hear voices from down in the crevice. Don't you hear them?

FRED

Please Terry.

TERRY brandishes knife threateningly.

TERRY

Look around. It's exactly like you described it. We are far enough away from the station that no one can see what we're doing.

FRED

What *are* we doing?

TERRY

When I woke up on the bank of the stream I reflected on how I went over the balcony and ended up by the boulders. I reflected on what a wonderful life I've built for myself and how you tried to take it all away from me Eileen . . . I looked up at the glacier. I remembered the prehistoric man. I knew what had to be done. When the glacier melts enough in a few thousand years to expose your bodies you'll end up in a museum down in Bern.

EILEEN

What happened was an accident.

TERRY

You'll be on display for all to see. I hope you have some interesting stuff in your pockets so they can draw conclusions regarding how you once lived. Eileen, if you had a corkscrew and a feather duster on you they'd have a perfect snapshot of your life. OK. Get to the middle of the board Fred, so Eileen can get next to you.

FRED is terrified. TERRY kneels down, grabs the board and gives it a shake. FRED almost loses his balance.

FRED

Stop! Oh god. This has been a put on since you came back?

TERRY

A little slow on the uptake there Fred. Acting ain't rocket science.

EILEEN

You remember everything?

TERRY

Everything you did and everything that bastard that stole my wallet did. He thought I was dead. When he turned his back I pushed him into the stream. Dumb fuck.

EILEEN

I really do think I'm in the presence of the devil.

TERRY

Me. Too. . . . You.

EILEEN

This is the third time you've made me into a murderer.

TERRY

What a fucking drama queen. And not to nit pick, it was twice.

EILEEN

Three.

EILEEN throws several olives underhanded at TERRY. He tries to catch them all, does a spastic juggle, loses his balance, stumbles . . .

TERRY

Shit.

. . . And falls into the crevice. We hear his scream fade as he drops. EILEEN and FRED look on, stunned. FRED steps off of the board into EILEEN'S arms. They are almost hyperventilating when they speak.

FRED

Did you, did you plan that?

EILEEN

I just tossed him some olives.

FRED

He would have been OK if he would have just tried to catch *one*. He had to have them all.

EILEEN

His epitaph.

FRED

I'm sick.

EILEEN

He made jokes about heartache.

FRED

I laughed.

FRED sobs.

FRED

What did he mean you tried to take away his wonderful life?

EILEEN

Babbling. In a thousand years he'll appear out of the ice and they'll wonder why ancient people were buried surrounded by olives.

FRED

Let's go to the police. We gotta tell the police.

EILEEN

Why?

FRED

Because it's the proper thing to do.

EILEEN

They already have a body for Terry.

FRED

Are you joking?

EILEEN

No more chalet. That's no joke.

She walks away from FRED who continues to stand by the board over the crevice.

FRED

Careful.

EILEEN

You want a peace offering?

She tosses handful of olives towards him. They hit him and fall into the crevice as he staggers near the edge. He gasps and appears shaken. He looks at EILEEN as if he's never seen her before.

EILEEN

An empty vessel waiting to be filled.

FRED

Don't.

EILEEN picks up more olives and throws them one at a time into the crevice as she speaks.

The monk. EILEEN

Eileen. FRED

The virgin. EILEEN

Enough. FRED

The ogre. EILEEN

No. FRED

I know what I am. The murderer. I'm the murderer. EILEEN

Stop. FRED

Somewhere in the Alps is a peak called der Moerder. EILEEN

Please. FRED

Let's go to the memorial they're having for the dead climbers. We'll pretend it's a memorial for my child. The child that won't be going to college. EILEEN

She lowers her head and walks toward distant station. FRED watches her, then follows across the ice, head down.

END OF PLAY