



IN GODOT'S WAITING ROOM

Kajsa Dahlberg
&
Gritt Uldall-Jessen

In Godot's Waiting Room

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Abby, Agneta L, Agneta N, Anna, Anna Britta, Anna E, Anne, Annelie, Annica, Annika, Åsa, Berit, Beth, Birgitta, Bodil, Bodil N, Britt, Britt-Marie E, Carin, Carina, Cecilia, Charlotte, Elinor, Elisabeth, Estragon, Eva E, Eva H, Eva L, Fernanda, Fia, Gudrun, Gunilla, Gunilla G, Helén, Helén L, Helena G, Inga, Inga-Britt, Inga-Marie, Irma, Jaana, Kajsa J, Karin, Katy, Kerstin, Kerstin N, Kerstin O, Kirsi, Lena, Liisa, Louise, Lucky, Maria B, Mariann, Marie, Marja, Maud, Mette, Mimmi, Monika, Nicole, Päivi, Petra, a boy, Pozzo, Sonja R, Susan, Ulla, Ulla K, Vladimir and the Tree.

KAJSA DAHLBERG & GRITT ULDALL-JESSEN 2011

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PLAY IN ONE ACT

by

The women from the Women's House occupation
in Umeå 1983, Samuel Beckett, Kajsa Dahlberg
& Gritt Uldall-Jessen

CHARACTERS

THE WOMEN FROM THE WOMEN'S HOUSE OCCUPATION

Charlotte Nordenfors, Gunilla Nordenfors
& Kerstin Norlander

ESTRAGON

Kajsa Dahlberg

VLADIMIR

Gritt Uldall-Jessen

LUCKY

Charlotte, Gunilla, Kerstin,
Gritt & Kajsa

POZZO

Charlotte

A BOY

Charlotte

THE TREE

Malin Arnell

(All in chorus): We speak to you as Vladimir and Estragon.

KERSTIN: Five women were arrested this morning in the Yellow Villa. They were interrogated, suspected of illegal trespassing and arbitrary conduct. I hereby announce that I also participated in the occupation and am prepared to take responsibility for my political action.

PROLOGUE

KAJSA: World famous playwright loses a legal case concerning one of his most famous works dealing with the meaninglessness of existence.

PARTIES:

Plaintiff: Samuel Beckett, Paris, represented by attorney J.M. van Veggel, Amsterdam,
against

Defendant: Teatern De Toneelschuur, Harlem, represented by attorney S.S.H. Wibbens, Amsterdam.

2.1. Case history:

- A. In October 1987 De Toneelschuur entered into a written agreement with Beckett and has in return for certain recompense, obtained the right to stage the play 'Waiting for Godot'.
- B. The play has five roles, four men and one boy.
- C. *La Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques*, SACD, is the international association which defends playwright's copyrights, including Beckett's. Julia Scheffer, who represents the association in Holland, at the end of January/beginning of February 1988 received information that the roles in De Toneelschuurs' production of 'Waiting for Godot' would be cast with women and not men, as stated in Beckett's play.

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- d. In a letter to De Toneelschuur's boss, Ina Otte Veen, dated February 18, 1988, Julia Scheffer wrote that Beckett is opposed to the play being staged with a female cast. In the same letter Ina Otte Veen is urged to sign and return a written commitment with the following wording: 'We accept Samuel Beckett's objection and will refrain from staging the play'.
- e. In an answer dated February 23, 1988, from Ina Otte Veen to Julia Scheffer, Ina Otte Veen writes that she will not agree to the association's demand and states among other things: 'We are absolutely convinced that from our side it is both legally and artistically motivated not to change our minds.'

COURT FINDINGS:

- 3.7. Now to the main controversial issue in the case: Will the play's integrity be violated by being staged with women and not men?
- 3.11. The story in 'Waiting for Godot' is according to Beckett's text the following: two men have a relationship with each other as they wait for someone (or something?) in an existentially uncertain and hopeless situation. They pass the time with meaningless and foolish conversations, activities and/or non-activities, and they meet two other men who are mutually dependent. A messenger informs them repeatedly that Godot (again) is not coming.
- 3.12. The above-mentioned description of the work does not support the assertion that the work can only be

played by men. The story is not dependent on the actors being men or women. The story takes place beyond such conditions and the central theme is, as De Toneelschuur has correctly stated, of a universal nature.

3.13. That the play is played by women—who wear Beckett’s prescribed bowler hats, and are as to the rest dressed in relatively shapeless, loose fitting trousers, vests, jackets and raincoats and are consequently not dressed in a typically female way, nor does it seem ‘dressed-up’— does not affect the overall impression of the piece. Nor do the available stage directions by Beckett contain any actions or stage-settings that can only be done by men.

3.14. These circumstances lead to the conclusion that the work’s ‘integrity’ is not violated by being cast with women. (The question could have been judged differently if the play were to be staged with a cast of both men and women.)

JUDGEMENT:

3.16. In consideration of what has been stated above with regard to the dispute between the parties it has been established that Beckett’s written work has not been changed. No violation of article 25, point b, in the law regarding copyrights from 1912 has therefore been committed.

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CROSS-DRESSING IN A THEATRE PERFORMANCE DOES NOT VIOLATE THE INTEGRITY OF THE AUTHOR AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN INFRINGEMENT OF HIS PERSONAL RIGHTS.

LITIGATION EXPENSES:

- 3.27. The pronouncing judge who settles the question sentences the defeated party, Beckett, to pay the litigation expenses of De Toneelschuur, to date estimated to 1350 franc.

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A country road. A tree.

Estragon, sitting on a low mound, is trying to take off his boot.

Enter Vladimir.

ESTRAGON: (*giving up again*). Nothing to be done.

VLADIMIR: (*advancing with short, stiff strides, legs wide apart*). I'm beginning to come round to that opinion. All my life I've tried to put it from me, saying Vladimir, be reasonable, you haven't yet tried everything. And I resumed the struggle. (*He broods, musing on the struggle. Turning to Estragon.*) So there you are again.

ESTRAGON: Am I?

VLADIMIR: I'm glad to see you back. I thought you were gone forever.

ESTRAGON: Me too.

VLADIMIR: Together again at last! We'll have to celebrate this. But how? (*He reflects.*) Get up till I embrace you.

ESTRAGON: (*irritably*). Not now, not now.

VLADIMIR: (*hurt, coldly*). May one inquire where His Highness spent the night?

ESTRAGON: In a ditch.

VLADIMIR: (*admiringly*). A ditch! Where?

ESTRAGON: (*without gesture*). Over there.

VLADIMIR: And they didn't beat you?

ESTRAGON: Beat me? Certainly they beat me.

VLADIMIR: The same lot as usual?

ESTRAGON: The same? I don't know.

VLADIMIR: When I think of it ... all these years ... but for me ... where would you be ... (*Decisively.*) You'd be nothing

more than a little heap of bones at the present minute, no doubt about it.

ESTRAGON: And what of it?

VLADIMIR: (*gloomily*). It's too much for one man. (*Pause. Cheerfully.*) On the other hand what's the good of losing heart now, that's what I say. We should have thought of it a million years ago, in the nineties.

KERSTIN: We hereby request that the municipality let premises as a women's house in Umeå. The premises should be centrally situated and close to public transportation and Vasaplan, since women are to a large extent dependent on public transportation. It should be possible to combine a visit to the women's house with errands, library visits etc. We have the following requirements for the premises:

(*All in chorus*): —two large rooms. One to house a café with access to a kitchen and one for classes, study circles, meetings and other things.—Smaller rooms to serve as a library and for legal, social and professional counselling. Workshops for sewing, woodworking, etc, a playroom, a women's bookstore, an office with a copying machine, typewriters, telephone, study room. Garden.

KERSTIN: We think that the Yellow Villa satisfies these requirements in a good way. We request that the following committees be given an opportunity to express their opinions regarding this application:

(*All in chorus*): —The social affairs, recreational and cultural committees, the local education authority, the district council, the immigration committee, the committee for equal opportunities, the committee for consumer affairs and the building committee.

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GUNILLA: We request that the municipal executive board appoint a negotiation delegation in which Torsten W Persson and Ove Löfgren should be members. That water and electricity be connected and that we are given access to refuse collection during the time that the negotiations take place. That the negotiating delegation visits the Women's House and that we be given regular times for negotiations.

CHARLOTTE (*song*): Council members! Council members!
Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?
Don't you hear our demands?
Don't you hear our demands?

(*All in chorus*): Women's House! Women's House!

(*Pause*)

ESTRAGON: What exactly did we ask him for?

VLADIMIR: Were you not there?

ESTRAGON: I can't have been listening.

VLADIMIR: Oh ... Nothing very definite.

ESTRAGON: A kind of prayer.

VLADIMIR: Precisely.

ESTRAGON: And what did he reply?

VLADIMIR: That he'd see.

ESTRAGON: That he couldn't promise anything.

VLADIMIR: That he'd have to think it over.

ESTRAGON: In the quiet of his home.

VLADIMIR: Consult his family.

ESTRAGON: His friends.

VLADIMIR: His agents.

ESTRAGON: His correspondents.

VLADIMIR: His books.

ESTRAGON: His bank account.

VLADIMIR: Before taking a decision.

ESTRAGON: It's the normal thing.

VLADIMIR: Is it not?

ESTRAGON: Where do we come in?

VLADIMIR: Come in?

ESTRAGON: We've no rights any more? (*Laugh of Vladimir, stifled as before, less the smile.*)

VLADIMIR: You'd make me laugh if it wasn't prohibited.

ESTRAGON: We've lost our rights?

KERSTIN: We are back from seeing Torsten W Persson.

He and Evert Gustavsson, Margot Wikström and silent secretary met with us for about an hour. The press, local-TV, Radio, the newspapers *Västerbottens-Kuriren* and *Västerbottens Folkblad* were in the hall when we arrived. However they were thrown out during the meeting.

The house will be demolished and be replaced with a parking lot. The house is ramshackle, heating pipes are busted, new electrical wires are needed, elevator and fire cables, no—fire escapes.

ESTRAGON: (*his mouth full, vacuously*). We're not tied?

VLADIMIR: I don't hear a word you're saying.

ESTRAGON: (*chews, swallows*). I'm asking you if we're tied.

VLADIMIR: Tied?

ESTRAGON: Ti-ed.

VLADIMIR: How do you mean tied?

ESTRAGON: Down.

VLADIMIR: But to whom? By whom?

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ESTRAGON: To your man.

VLADIMIR: To Godot? Tied to Godot! What an idea! No question of it. (*Pause.*) For the moment.

(*Pause*)

GUNILLA: Scrape around the windows. We have to buy lye and remove the old paint before the windows fall out, and spackle lightly around the frames. Otherwise it's all right.

VLADIMIR: You're right. (*Pause.*) Let's just do the tree, for the balance.

ESTRAGON: The tree? (*Vladimir does the tree, staggering about on one leg.*)

VLADIMIR: (*stopping.*) Your turn. (*Estragon does the tree, staggers.*)

CHARLOTTE: There are now water pipes up to the second floor, for the kitchen and bathroom that is. The toilet doesn't really work—some leaking gasket and the float doesn't work—but flushing with a bucket of water works. Turn off the water in the cellar during the days—so that it doesn't show that we have water. Anna-Britta buys ethanol and kerosene for the heater.

KERSTIN: In the evening Helen, Monica, Lena, Petra and Mimmi started washing off the wall in preparation for painting. If one scrubs the wall with ammonia the colour will fix better and won't flake off. We mixed the strong ammonia with 10 parts water in two buckets and got started. Never smell ammonia! Weightlifters sniff it before they do heavy lifts to gather strength. But we are strong anyway.

GUNILLA: The foghorn is connected. There is a button in the sleeping quarters.

VLADIMIR: Sometimes I feel it coming all the same. Then I go all queer. (*He takes off his hat, peers inside it, feels about inside it, shakes it, puts it on again.*) How shall I say? Relieved and at the same time ... (*he searches for the word*) ... appalled. (*With emphasis.*) AP-PALLED.

(*Pause*)

GUNILLA: A sleepless night after my meeting with the local politicians. The ones who don't listen to us. The ones who decide over us: Margot Wikström, Torsten W Persson and Janerik Gidlund. I felt by turns, in a daze, agitated, sad and angry all at once. I lay there, tossing and turning. What did it really say in that textbook I quizzed my daughter about in her homework on municipal democracy a couple of months ago? I who told her that what is so good about democracy is that everyone has the right to influence and take part in decision-making.

In the textbook there is an appeal to the children: 'PLAN FOR THE FUTURE. Imagine ten years into the future. You will be around 25 years old. What demands will you then make on your society? Ten years is a long time, you think. But already now the local government needs to think about what you will expect from your environment.'

ESTRAGON: He should be here.

VLADIMIR: He didn't say for sure he'd come.

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ESTRAGON: And if he doesn't come?

VLADIMIR: We'll come back tomorrow.

ESTRAGON: And then the day after tomorrow.

VLADIMIR: Possibly.

ESTRAGON: And so on.

VLADIMIR: The point is—

ESTRAGON: Until he comes.

VLADIMIR: You're merciless.

CHARLOTTE: Now the foundation of the House is beautifully silver coloured and decorated with wheel rims. Last night a number of pricks again attacked the House with black paint. They probably felt their position threatened by us militant rag piles and have written 'prick haters' on the house. Really enthusiastically done, the rain poured down and it was so windy that not a cat would have dared to go outside, —but if there is a will ...

ESTRAGON: (*despairingly*). Ah! (*Pause.*) You're sure it was here?

VLADIMIR: What?

ESTRAGON: That we were to wait.

(*Pause*)

(*Sitting in a circle reading the text as in a round robin.*)

KERSTIN: We ought to go out of the house and continue working from the outside.

GUNILLA: End the occupation. We have to look forward.

CHARLOTTE: We have to go through and see how many can take part.

KAJSA: We'll stay! We're already empowering girls and can't let them down.

CHARLOTTE: If we have the strength left to hang in there until this autumn then we'll have a chance to get the annex. We have nothing to lose by staying on. I think we should continue the activity until this autumn if we can manage it.

KERSTIN: We ought call on the board now in order to get the annex.

GUNILLA: It won't do us any good to leave.

CHARLOTTE: Ridiculous to leave just for the sake of a parking lot.

KAJSA: There is a risk we'll lose sight of each other, that people will be disappointed in us. It's good if we do a better job of listing ourselves in the book.

GUNILLA: It's tough having to call around to ask people to do their bit. Important to contact Ove Löfgren and not only wait for the police.

GUNILLA: We ought to have a space before we leave the house.

KERSTIN: The property management office should be contacted. We could leave the house on a set date, if we had somewhere to go! The social services should be told that the longer we occupy the more people will need us.

KAJSA: We don't need to be in such a hurry. Ought to talk to Ove Löfgren and the social services.

KERSTIN: If there are people we ought to stay.

CHARLOTTE: If people have come here because they have problems we should all help out. For example with counselling. Now we appear to know more than we really do.

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GUNILLA: We can't have a functioning Women's House now while we are occupying.

KERSTIN: Contact the on-call services. We can take over some evenings. We are just like everyone else.

GUNILLA: The nights are tough. That's when you fantasize about demolition and the police.

KERSTIN: Let's decide now to contact the social services.

GUNILLA: The local authorities must think about who the women who are here are. I don't think they will come at night. Probably in the morning.

CHARLOTTE: I know a policeman and can check if they know anything.

GUNILLA: We should keep in touch with Torsten W Persson. A CHAOS-list should be drawn-up point-by-point which everyone takes part in. CHAOS-group: Bodil, Anna, Sonja and others. Letter to the district council.

KERSTIN: Have checked with the student union about a garage where we can store our stuff if there is a demolition. Torbjörn will check when the student board have their next meeting. He will speed up the decision. Comments to the proposal should be written concerning the rights of crime victims to have their own legal representation. Notice about women's rights centre. Create a network of different professional groups, which can quickly reach each other in situations like the Norrtälje-rape, for example.

KAJSA: Why was there an extra general meeting?

CHARLOTTE: I was sad around midsummer. Why should we go around here agonizing when we know that the house is going to be demolished.

KERSTIN: We have to do other things so we can forget the threat.

GUNILLA: I have looked at the parking standards. On September 17 the parking lot will be here. If we could only delay it.

KERSTIN: Is Gudrun going to write the appeal by July 21?

(Silence for about 30 sec.)

BOY: What am I to tell Mr. Godot, Sir?

VLADIMIR: Tell him ... *(he hesitates)* ... tell him you saw me and that ... *(he hesitates)* ... that you saw me. *(Pause. Vladimir advances, the Boy recoils. Vladimir halts, the Boy halts. With sudden violence.)* You're sure you saw me, you won't come and tell me tomorrow that you never saw me!

GUNILLA: Annika called and wanted me to come down to the Women's House to talk to Tova, who is still in shock after the assault on June 14. We talked for at least an hour, then Elizabeth came and reminded me that we were to call on Assar Karlsson at the property management office. All three of us went off on our bicycles. Assar Karlsson was out buying ice cream, so we sat down and talked to the girls in the office. They had a hard time understanding that we need a Women's House, even Tova gave it her best shot to get them to understand. And then came the ice cream man Assar Karlsson.

ESTRAGON: *(undertone)*. Is that him?

VLADIMIR: Who?

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ESTRAGON: (*trying to remember the name*). Er ...

VLADIMIR: Godot?

ESTRAGON: Yes.

POZZO: I present myself: Pozzo.

(*Pause*)

LUCKYS's monologue

GRITT: Just make yourself comfortable on the beer crate. Sit down! Would you like some more almond milk? Just a minute. Where was it now I came from? It's not quite clear yet. More almond milk? Just lie down now. You are welcome. How long have you been waiting? We will soon go to bed. I have just come. It is late already? It is early in the evening. It is wonderful to have a visit. Have you heard about Candy Darling? Now, what was it that I wanted to say? You can park your fishing rod in one of the corners.

KERSTIN: The Manning list, no, of course I mean the Womanning list. The police's label K5040-83, 2404-83-509-3.

KAJSA: My question is a legal one, as when I speak during an interrogation. For what exactly is this torture of thoughts? As we have already said: muddled—the grey-black-is in the end nothing else but an empty stage. In order to fill it it is important to go to the region which forms speech. We have to turn towards our own commentary. This time the expression 'writhe in pain' should be interpreted literally. I do not produce truths, I register them. I wander along the edges and you are still my most perfect witnesses. Where would I go, if I could

go, who would I be, if I could be, what would I say if I had a voice.

GUNILLA: The Manning list, no of course I mean the Womanning list. Wednesday 4/27 1983. Night: Helen—slept at home ill, Monika, Elisabeth, Elinor, Anna Britta, Eva E, Mette, Bodil N, Birgitta, Britt-Marie E, Sonja R—ill, Helena G, Maria B—late. At 13.00. Hopefully 100 municipal politicians will come. Two came.

KAJSA: I want a dyke as a council member. I am the one who speaks out in favour of the collective although my greatest fear is to be dependent on others. I am the kind who messes everything up with personal experiences.

I have been in therapy for the insight that my most urgent problems should not be looked for in the past, but in the fact that this world can make anyone insane.

I have stood in line at welfare and at the employment agency. I have eaten hospital food. I have had more than one abortion. I have seen friends die without being able to intervene. I have loved and been jilted. I have been beaten and I have beaten. I have been told that the way I eat is unappetizing. That my words are ill chosen and my movements clumsy. I talk too loud. My hands sweat.

I have defended togetherness without desire. I have sat on my hands in a self-made prison. I have played many roles.

(All in chorus): I have been a woman.

(All in chorus): Men are animals. Has anyone seen a man?

Has anyone seen a woman?

GRITT: Has anyone seen a fish?

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(*All in chorus*): I am Lucky. I inflame my wrath. I do not operate in the security zone. A doghouse is a small house, but it is better than no house at all. I live out the impatience of 'enough already!' I just can't wait any longer.

CHARLOTTE: The Manning list, no of course I mean the Womanning list. Wednesday 5/11 1983. Night: Kirsi—let's see if she can, Inga Mari, Berit, Anna E, Cecilia, Eva L, Carin, Carina, Helén L. Shall we show the cellar? One could lock the door to the water room and show how good the foundation is, which is an advantage.

GUNILLA: It's important that there are lots of people here!

KERSTIN: The Manning list, no of course I mean the Womanning list. Thursday 7/21 1983. Night: Sonja.

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ESTRAGON: (*He moves away from Vladimir.*) I sometimes wonder if we wouldn't have been better off alone, each one for himself. (*He crosses the stage and sits down on the mound.*) We weren't made for the same road.

VLADIMIR: (*without anger*). It's not certain.

ESTRAGON: No, nothing is certain. (*Vladimir slowly crosses the stage and sits down beside Estragon.*)

VLADIMIR: We can still part, if you think it would be better.

ESTRAGON: It's not worthwhile now. (*Silence.*)

VLADIMIR: No, it's not worthwhile now. (*Silence.*)

KERSTIN: Discussion in small groups about whether to continue occupying. Eva H's group is united about continuing the occupation. Carina B's group is divided.

The majority do not want to continue. They think that we should instead do ‘targeted actions’, like camping out by city hall this autumn. Anneli’s group is united about continuing. Thoughts about how it would feel if there were only a few of us marching out this summer. Cecilia’s group is united in staying and doing targeted actions, like an open house. Gudrun’s group is divided 4 for and 2 against. We end by everyone having to think this over until the next general meeting.

ESTRAGON (*All in chorus*): What do we do now?

VLADIMIR (*All in chorus*): While waiting.

ESTRAGON (*All in chorus*): While waiting. (*Silence.*)

VLADIMIR (*All in chorus*): We could do our exercises.

ESTRAGON (*All in chorus*): Our movements.

VLADIMIR (*All in chorus*): Our elevations.

ESTRAGON (*All in chorus*): Our relaxations.

VLADIMIR (*All in chorus*): Our elongations.

ESTRAGON (*All in chorus*): Our relaxations.

VLADIMIR (*All in chorus*): To warm us up.

ESTRAGON (*All in chorus*): To calm us down.

ESTRAGON: Charming spot. (*He turns, advances to front, halts facing auditorium.*) Inspiring prospects. (*He turns to Vladimir.*) Let’s go.

VLADIMIR: We can’t.

ESTRAGON: Why not?

(*Sitting in a circle reading the text as in a round robin*)

KERSTIN: Continue.

GUNILLA: Continue, many may be here this summer.

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CHARLOTTE: Continue, we will otherwise let those down who support us.

KAJSA: Continue, we can save the house if we stay.

KERSTIN: Continue, it's fun to come here when you know people.

KERSTIN: Continue, possibly.

GUNILLA: Continue, those from Stockholm want us to continue.

KERSTIN: Continue, nothing is gained by leaving.

CHARLOTTE: Continue: we think it has gone better than expected; we can have the house over the summer.

GUNILLA: Continue, new people are starting to come.

CHARLOTTE: Continue, this will benefit the women's movement.

KAJSA: Continue, afraid that we will be divided otherwise.

KERSTIN: Continue, we have reached new women.

CHARLOTTE: Continue, as long as it feels like a good thing.

GUNILLA: Continue, important to get activities going.

GUNILLA: Continue, this is the best thing that's happened to women in Umeå.

KAJSA: (*This person silent, go on to the next in the round robin.*)

KERSTIN: Continue: I will continue as long as I live.

CHARLOTTE: Pass.

GUNILLA: Uncertain.

KERSTIN: Continue, if we get strong. If there are enough of us it is good to stay.

KAJSA: Continue.

GUNILLA: Continue.

KAJSA: Continue, we have a chance of victory.

GUNILLA: Continue, and I have support from my work place.

CHARLOTTE: Don't want to continue.

KERSTIN: Continue, I think the support will increase.

KAJSA: Continue: we are reaching more people.

KERSTIN: (*This person silent, go on to the next in the round robin.*)

CHARLOTTE: Continue, we might lose against politicians, but win with women.

KERSTIN: (*This person silent, go on to the next in the round robin.*)

CHARLOTTE: Continue, feel strongly about this.

GUNILLA: Continue, haven't been organized before.

KERSTIN: Uncertain, tactics and strategy are important.

CHARLOTTE: Uncertain, finished.

GUNILLA: Uncertain, take the initiative ourselves to stop.

CHARLOTTE: Continue, want to use this house for our activity, a living house for women.

KERSTIN: Uncertain, but want to continue.

GUNILLA: Continue, but must feel that there is support from the others. We can't let those down who support us.

KAJSA: Want to quit, this is our thing. We should quit while we are at our strongest. But I support a continuation.

KERSTIN: Stop, tactically correct. Have no illusions.

GUNILLA: Continue, we are not going to leave the house without making demands. Important that the house is still here.

KAJSA: Want to quit, leave now when we are strong.

GRITT: Continue.

GUNILLA: Vice property manager Walter Eriksson came Tuesday morning on his bicycle and said that he was going to report us to the police for illegal trespassing. He

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wanted to inform us about the consequences. Didn't like the wall. Everybody was calling around thinking that the police were coming now. When Annica later called and wanted a copy of the report, Walter Eriksson said that we had misunderstood everything and that he wasn't going to report us at all. Elisabeth G. has looked into the question, but has not found anything out. They probably spoke 'off the record'. In any case they can't remove us whenever.

POZZO: Waiting? So you were waiting for him?

VLADIMIR (*All in chorus*): Well you see—

POZZO: Here? On my land?

VLADIMIR (*All in chorus*): We didn't intend any harm.

ESTRAGON (*All in chorus*): We meant well.

POZZO: The road is free to all.

VLADIMIR (*All in chorus*): That's how we looked at it.

POZZO: It's a disgrace. But there you are.

ESTRAGON (*All in chorus*): Nothing we can do about it.

KERSTIN: Delay, appeal, write and fight. Whatever happens and how we respond if the excavators come we will discuss later. If the police take you. Interrogation, trial and fines. Passive forceful resistance. What will we do with our things? Store them all in one place. Watch over valuables.

VLADIMIR: He'd punish us. (*Silence. He looks at the tree.*)

Everything's dead but the tree.

ESTRAGON: (*looking at the tree*). What is it?

VLADIMIR: It's the tree.

ESTRAGON: Yes, but what kind?

VLADIMIR: I don't know. A willow. (*Estragon draws Vladimir towards the tree. They stand motionless before it. Silence.*)

GUNILLA: Am desperately trying to stay in my own place, but after an hour or two I wander restlessly around, around in the lonely apartment, burn myself on the hot water in the tap, swear and ask myself what is happening in the Women's House.

KERSTIN: The lump in my stomach is growing. What power we have in us. We will mobilize it whatever they decide on 6/23.

GUNILLA: I, who barely dared speak in a group of more than five people, now dare stand in front of several hundred listeners and tell them our demands. We have all gained self-confidence and learned a lot about legislation and society and how the media works.

GUNILLA: The house has meant so much to me, made me think, made me strong. I want to say that I will never forget any of you and never will I be the same again.

VLADIMIR: Let us not waste our time in idle discourse! (*Pause. Vehemently.*) Let us do something, while we have the chance! It is not every day that we are needed. Not indeed that we personally are needed. Others would meet the case equally well, if not better. To all mankind they were addressed, those cries for help still ringing in our ears! But at this place, at this moment of time, all mankind is us, whether we like it or not. Let us make the most of it, before it is too late! What do you say?

ESTRAGON: Ah!

IN GODOT'S WAITING ROOM

GUNILLA & CHARLOTTE: It is scary to be here by oneself, if the police come two of us can't do much about that. Since there are lumps in the porridge I can't make any more statements, except that if you're on the list then you're on the list and then you are on the list and ought consequently to be on the premises.

(All in chorus): Preparedness in the face of demolition:

GUNILLA: 1. Mark all things and furniture and where they come from.

CHARLOTTE: 2. Store in the garage.

KERSTIN: 3. Decision about trying to have the use of the garage during the summer.

GUNILLA: 4. Safety deposit box or similar for: journal, telephone lists, photos, sleepover lists. Better with briefcase or suitcase with a lock.

KERSTIN: 5. Call the media at once.

GUNILLA: 6. Always have the telephone list with you.

CHARLOTTE: 7. Everyone must get telephone lists.

KERSTIN: 8. CALL EVERYONE!

GUNILLA: 9. Mobilize for demonstration outside the house.

KERSTIN: 10. IMPORTANT: Bodily contact, at least two and two, carry out systematically, never go out many at the same time, pass from hand to hand!

CHARLOTTE: 11. If we are few everyone agrees to leave 'voluntarily'. If we are many, 9 are for staying and being carried out and 10 vote for leaving 'voluntarily'.

GUNILLA: 12. Copying machine has now been moved to Ellinor.

GUNILLA: Last night we again had visitors who broke two windows. Lots of panes!

GUNILLA: Kerstin came bursting in this morning with the newspapers. She had also talked to Elisabeth G yesterday regarding the municipal board. The request for postponement of the motion has been denied. The municipal board seem to be going along with the town council's decision to demolish.

POZZO: (*violently*). Don't question me! The blind have no notion of time. The things of time are hidden from them too.

VLADIMIR: Well just fancy that! I could have sworn it was just the opposite.

VLADIMIR: Well? Shall we go?

ESTRAGON (*All in chorus*): Yes, let's go.

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