

MEMORY

A play by Christopher Kloeble

Translated from the German by Nataša Ďurovičová

PERSONAGE.

Max (suffers from dementia; 30)

Katharina (Max' girlfriend; 30)

Anni (Max' mother; 60)

PLACE.

Apartment with an aquarium

1

MAX standing on a chair in a wide-open window. KATHARINA comes in from the shower.

KATHARINA What's happening?

MAX Quiet, please.

KATHARINA Oh no.

MAX I need quiet.

KATHARINA I really don't have patience for that stuff today .

MAX Leave me alone. This is an important moment for me.

KATHARINA In that case may I suggest you take one more step ahead and we'll both have peace and quiet.

MAX I cannot.

KATHARINA Why's that?

MAX You may not watch.

KATHARINA I'll turn around. Like this.

a pause

MAX That...

KATHARINA Yes?

MAX That won't work.

KATHARINA Come on, all you need to do is to lean just a bit forward. Gravity will handle the rest.

MAX It's not that simple

KATHARINA Sorry, but I've really had a hard week. So please, either you'll get off that chair and we'll have some milk and cookies or we'll draw a line across your name.

MAX Have you no compassion at all?

KATHARINA It's your call.

MAX So it is. I mean, here I stand, I just—stand.

KATHARINA All right, all right. I've got some compassion—whatsitcalled, empathy.

MAX You don't really mean that.

KATHARINA You are my life.

MAX Who *are* you, really?

KATHARINA occasionally takes a swig from a wine bottle. More bottles are hidden everywhere in the apartment; throughout she takes the occasional, always concealed, drink from one of them.

KATHARINA Want one?

MAX No, thank you.

KATHARINA Jumping sober won't stop you from dying, you know.

MAX I had not made a decision to stand here.

KATHARINA You mean, it was more of an impulsive thing.

MAX No. And I still haven't thought it through.

KATHARINA So why don't you just come on down.

MAX There must be a reason for my standing here.

KATHARINA Maybe you just thought the windows needed washing.

MAX So where is the rag, then?

KATHARINA It fell down

MAX No it didn't.

KATHARINA Maybe you were planning on taking in the view.

MAX Of a housing project?

KATHARINA Don't know, checking out chicks in underwear, whatever.

MAX Why would I have needed to climb up on a chair for that?

KATHARINA What do I know.

MAX But what if I were to want to make it down there after all?

KATHARINA Here's your window of opportunity.

MAX I'm jumping.

KATHARINA You brave little Aboriginal!

MAX I'm jumping now!

KATHARINA Right-ho.

MAX I'm doing it!

a pause

KATHARINA On the count of three.

MAX No pressure. Otherwise it won't work.

KATHARINA Pardon me.

a pause

MAX I can't get it out of my head.

KATHARINA What?

MAX "The last item on the list."

KATHARINA That's one way of putting it.

MAX I didn't think this through.

KATHARINA How can you be so sure?

MAX Maybe I made it all up.

A pause

MAX Wonder how long it takes to get down there.

KATHARINA Does that really matter?

MAX Those will be my final seconds.

KATHARINA Let's say seven. One for each floor.

MAX Less, I'd say. A maximum of two.

KATHARINA I'd say no less than four.

a pause

KATHARINA Do you need a countdown?

MAX No, no, that would only make me nervous.

KATHARINA You mean, you aren't now?

MAX Quiet!

a beat.

KATHARINA You can't say it, can you?

KATHARINA There was this thing I saw on TV yesterday, about this kid who was in a coma for eight years. Shit—eight years! And when he finally woke up, someone asked him, why did you wake up just today? And the kid, you know what he says? ‘I felt like a Pepsi.’ What’d you want first off if you had been in coma for eight years? Me I’d first have sex. Just to wake up. And after that, then I’d want to jump naked into the sea.

MAX Pssst.

a beat

MAX Alright. Let’s focus.

KATHARINA What?

MAX Concentrate.

KATHARINA Right. Of course. Not a word.

a pause

MAX Sorry?

KATHARINA Yes?

MAX My head’s a bit, you know. How long did we say it would take?

KATHARINA I agreed on four.

MAX That’s quite a while.

KATHARINA Not at all. In the blink of an eye.

MAX But what if we misjudged this?

KATHARINA In any case, it won’t go on for five hours.

a pause

KATHARINA You’re right.

MAX WHAT ABOUT!?

KATHARINA Even a second can be ever so long. One would probably have time to reconsider the whole thing. Or even worse: having to be upset in the last seconds of one’s life because one has forgotten why one is jumping.

MAX “Good things or bad things”?

KATHARINA Huh?

2

ANNI and MAX are playing Memory.

ANNI To hold the past in one's hands. Living images of each moment. Further survival remains to be tested. How come there aren't any personal Memory cards? Every couple has an intimate memory—has nobody ever had that idea?

MAX I don't need a deck of cards for that, mama, you are my childhood.

ANNI Sounds like a foreign word it's been so many years now. Any time now I'll turn so pale people will think I'm dead even before I really am.

MAX You are in the best age.

ANNI The only meaning of life is decay. Somehow you grow up, recognize a wrinkly girl in the mirror and think: so that's what things look like at fifty two. At which point, frankly, I couldn't care less about inner values.

MAX Why don't you ever date? You'd have men at your feet.

ANNI Well what kind of men would those be!

MAX Each day brings something new. It's always worth getting out of bed.

ANNI You cut your fingernails, too short as always, you change the sheets because you can't stand your own smell, you eat low cal bread with low cal spread for breakfast because it's healthier. You buy canned food because it lasts longer, you step in dog shit, only notice it after you've walked all over the apartment, you get down on your knees and scrub the floor. You complain about dog shit in the lobby to the building manager, you slip on the just-polished floor, you meet an old friend who looks more like her dog than like a person. You eat your dinner from a can, some low cal bread on the side, you file your nails, you change the sheets again before rolling all over them. What's the point, sweetie?

A pause

ANNI A stylish end is harder than you'd think. Many people think pills are a charming solution. That's before they remember the stomach cramps. Ever seen the face of anyone who went like that? Freddy Krueger.

MAX My skin crawls when you talk like that. Did you know the Aborigines consider it a honor to endure pain?

ANNI I bet they don't have people who agonize about getting old.

MAX On the contrary, death is considered an advantage [viewed as a plus]

ANNI To live every day as fully as if it were the last.

MAX Have you ever been to Australia?

ANNI Your aboriginals are probably the only people who can stand sitting in those economy-sized seats for all those hours.

ANNI takes a cable and bends it into a noose.

ANNI Very popular. Looks good on stage, too. A famous place in Germany— what am thinking of?

MAX The Black Forest!

ANNI A building, I need a building

MAX The Brandenburg Gate.

ANNI Can one really go up to the top?

MAX The Am Horn House in Weimar.

ANNI Don't know that one. A bigger scale!

MAX The Monument of the Battle of Nations.

ANNI Bigger!

MAX The Cologne cathedral?

ANNI Perfect! Strolling above the city roofs to the ringing of the church bells. It's Holy Night, of course. One or two of the pastors would feel themselves remembering the glory days of the old church. And the kids would be pointing their fingers and asking, is that baby Jesus?

a pause

ANNI If only one wouldn't have to worry about fear of height. So how do you imagine your exit, sweetie?

MAX Don't know. Preferably in my sleep.

ANNI Like son like father. The only thing he didn't take into account was that it can take days before they find you. The whole effect of the dramatic last hours gone up in smoke.

MAX Still, it's peaceful.

ANNI Rubbish. Ideally one would do a slow wasting death. Friends and relatives showing up for a last visit. Trembling lips, swollen tear ducts,

hollow cheeks as far as the eye can see. A pass to vent, to spill everything that used to drive one crazy.

MAX Not everybody would be understanding.

ANNI One couldn't be nasty enough.

MAX Compassionate. Considerate. Cordial!

ANNI Being on IV would get one in the best shape ever.

MAX Deathly pale.

ANNI Sexy.

MAX The unpleasant odor of disinfectants.

ANNI A bed like a throne.

MAX A coffin without lid.

ANNI The visitors bowing their heads like servants.

MAX The stricken kin.

ANNI Gazing helplessly.

MAX Full of grief.

ANNI At me.

MAX You?

a pause

ANNI They calm themselves down with advice.

MAX Cheer you up with happy endings.

ANNI Which reek of envy and reproach.

MAX "We're doing that only for you."

ANNI "We're ONLY doing that for YOU."

MAX "You just go ahead and splurge"

ANNI "YOU can go ahead and splurge."

MAX "Is there anything else you would like?"

ANNI "Is there ANYTHING else you would like?"

MAX Then make a list.

ANNI Make a list.

a pause

MAX A list?

ANNI Pages and pages of it.

MAX To plant a tree.

ANNI To drive a racing car to shreds.

MAX Only eat chocolate mousse cake from now on.

ANNI Then wash it down with gallons of champagne.

MAX Mountain climbing.

ANNI Bungee jumping.

MAX Smoke a cig.

ANNI Get high.

MAX Shout out loud.

ANNI Wreck a penthouse.

MAX Talk to women.

ANNI Hire a fancy hooker.

MAX Speak one's mind to the chairman.

ANNI Blackmail a dirty pol.

MAX Free the zoo animals .

ANNI Blow the head off some asshole.

MAX NO!

a pause

MAX I love you, mother.

ANNI Now now, no need to get all sentimental, my dear. I've read that there are roughly one thousand eight hundred forty types.

MAX Please!

ANNI 'Suicide' is such a Latin euphemism, don't you think? The term should be plainly what it is – a self-murder.

MAX Beautiful weather we're having. Let's go get an ice cream.

ANNI I've figured out a new method – one thousand eight hundred forty one.

MAX I'm not even listening.

ANNI This is how it works: you give in to your illness.

MAX Really neat.

ANNI Don't interrupt me. It's not easy at all. You must do your own enforcing. Give up on yourself. It takes quite a bit of practice to master the technique but once one has honed it to perfection, even a runny nose can become lethal. So ? What do you think?

MAX Congratulations.

ANNI Thank you! And now, come dance with me.

MAX ---

ANNI Darling, today is a special day! You wouldn't want to deny your aged mother her very last wish?

MAX That's not funny.

ANNI *I* think so!

They dance. Not too shabbily, either.

3

A knock on the door

MAX Yes?

KATHARINA Let me in.

MAX Who's there?

KATHARINA It's me.

MAX Get out of here, whoever you are.

KATHARINA But we said...

MAX We?

KATHARINA We... said we would get together today.

MAX Are you making fun of me?

KATHARINA I was so looking forward to being with you.

MAX Please keep your feelings to yourself.

KATHARINA It felt so good last time we were together. That Australia-shaped mole on your inner thigh...on your leg, we said we'd go to Australia together, to see the Aborigines.

MAX looks to see

MAX Could be any country.

KATHARINA As far as I am concerned, we can travel to any place you would prefer.

a pause

MAX But you won't stay too long.

KATHARINA As long as you would prefer.

Max unlocks the door.

MAX Good afternoon.

KATHARINA Hello.

MAX Please take a seat.

KATHARINA May I have a drink? I really need to drink something.

MAX Do you do this sort of thing often?

KATHARINA Depends.

MAX On what?

KATHARINA Lust.

MAX Aren't you afraid? That something happens?

KATHARINA You are harmless.

a pause

KATHARINA Do you think I'm pretty?

MAX Do I... I have no idea. No one has asked me that before.

KATHARINA Is this how you imagined I looked?

MAX I didn't imagine anyone.

KATHARINA Right. My boyfriend doesn't always tell the truth either. With him one doesn't know whether he's screwing around with me or just doesn't know any better.

MAX How long have you been together?

KATHARINA About two years. Why do you ask? Interested?

MAX ---

KATHARINA I'm not especially faithful. Or... maybe I am.

MAX One can only be faithful or unfaithful. There's nothing between.

KATHARINA Sure there is. We have this sort of an exception.

MAX An exception.

KATHARINA You could say that I'm faithful to him by sleeping around.

MAX If he doesn't know about it, it's cheating, no matter what.

a beat

MAX And you can do it just like that, no bad conscience? Does he cheat on you?

KATHARINA He wouldn't even dare.

MAX But were you to find out that he in fact does?

KATHARINA I'd kill him

MAX One lucky man.

KATHARINA Yes.

MAX You... forgive me, I haven't even asked what your name is.

KATHARINA Look at me.

Pause

KATHARINA And now say what it is.

MAX A game?

KATHARINA Da-da-da-da.

MAX Da-da... Ca-ro-li-na?

KATHARINA Katharina. With a 'K.' Close enough. Not too bad. You feel like it?

MAX Feel like what?

KATHARINA unbuttons her shirt.

MAX Now?

KATHARINA I have a mole too. Would you like to see what shape it's in?

MAX I can just imagine.

KATHARINA Well?

MAX The prerequisite for travels is thorough and extensive planning.

KATHARINA Says your mother.

MAX Exactly.

KATHARINA Better get closer.

MAX Keeping at an arm's length preserves objectivity.

KATHARINA You haven't been brought to the world thanks to an arm's length.

MAX So you really could go with a completely strange man...and

KATHARINA fuck him? How d'you get that idea?

MAX That is not how I wanted to put it.

KATHARINA Of course that's not what he wanted.

MAX I'd like to formulate this differently.

KATHARINA For instance?

MAX One... we... I mean... .. intercourse?

pause

MAX May I ask you a question?

KATHARINA Of course.

MAX Do you love your boyfriend?

KATHARINA Oh man, does this stupid little word have to be dropped into every damn thing?

Love is a shitty feeling. Whatever I say he'll always say I'm lying. And he goes on like that until I finally lie, so he'll believe me. And sometimes, as that's where it really gets to me, sometimes I can't even tell anymore if I'm telling the truth or not--because he believes me.

Pause

KATHARINA Have you ever been to the Black Forest?

MAX I love hiking there! Especially the air – wonderful. A forest in the rain – I really should go again some time.

KATHARINA That could be arranged.

KATHARINA takes out a Polaroid camera.

KATHARINA Stay like that. Can I have a smile?... Look over there... toward the waterfall...

MAX Waterfall?

KATHARINA Like that. Perfect. You're lying on a patch of moss. How does it smell?

MAX Like moss.

KATHARINA And...?

MAX It smells... like earth. And ... mushrooms and wood and something sweet. A heady fragrance.

KATHARINA Look at me.

Pause

KATHARINA No, look at me the way you only look at me, not at anyone else.

MAX I don't believe I can do that.

KATHARINA No thinking. Turn your head off.

KATHARINA And backs.

MAX And eyes.

KATHARINA Brown.

MAX Light blue.

KATHARINA Skin.

MAX Every hair.

KATHARINA And every crease.

MAX Sounds.

KATHARINA Smells.

Pause

KATHARINA The stranger knows what turns women on.

MAX He doesn't want to know what this woman likes. He is not her boyfriend.

KATHARINA He does make himself just a bit dumb.

KATHARINA laughs

MAX Does she have to laugh?

KATHARINA What else can she do?

MAX No matter what, he didn't really deserve that. He is making an effort, after all.

KATHARINA He's so nervous.

MAX It's embarrassing.

KATHARINA Nah, nah, nah. He's not the one who's got to be embarrassed.

MAX That is exactly what makes him ashamed.

KATHARINA She wants to know if he's liking it with her.

MAX Not really.

KATHARINA All the same to her.

MAX Why can't she buckle him up just a bit?

KATHARINA Haven't you had enough now?

a pause

KATHARINA He should love her. Or just drop it.

MAX But he wants to. He really does.

KATHARINA Right. And she wants a bottle of wine.

a long pause

MAX May I...

KATHARINA Yes?

MAX May I have the pleasure?

KATHARINA What—now?

They dance. Not all too well, though.

MAX You remind me of someone.

KATHARINA I do?

MAX Your lips, and your cheek bones. You are the very picture of her.

KATHARINA Was she pretty?

MAX Exquisite.

KATHARINA You loved her?

MAX Still do.

KATHARINA Miss her?

MAX Of course. Every night, before going to bed, we used to dance a little.

KATHARINA No way.

MAX We did, and every night she danced me to sleep.

KATHARINA You never danced.

MAX Because I was little, Mother always led.

KATHARINA ---

MAX What?

KATHARINA ---

MAX What's the matter?

KATHARINA Your mouth tastes like throw up.

MAX exit

KATHARINA

Watch it, you're crying. Stupid cow! Watch it, you're starting to cry.

4

Enter ANNI and MAX.

ANNI The list!

MAX ---

ANNI You're holding it.

MAX clumsily unfolds a sheet of paper.

ANNI Come on, today may be an important day but that doesn't make it any longer than usual.

MAX There's plenty of time for this tomorrow.

ANNI Today! Everything must, and will, take place today. What's first?

MAX It says... Mr. Huber's tires.

ANNI Check him off.

MAX Who's Mr. Huber?

ANNI The ponytail who lives on first floor.

MAX Did you borrow his tires? Does he sell car parts? I didn't even know you had a car.

ANNI He drives a cab. We'll see how well he'll be barreling though the pedestrian zone with four flats.

MAX You wouldn't---

ANNI You don't think your mother is capable of something like that?

MAX ---

ANNI Your mother?

MAX That's called street justice.

ANNI Correct, my clever little piggy.

MAX ---

ANNI Second!

MAX Get the cashmere shawl.

ANNI They'll never know how lucky they were.

MAX I just don't believe any of that.

ANNI Number five?

MAX "Dogs in the park."

ANNI Check. Basically I think...

MAX You can keep that to yourself.

a pause

ANNI Basically I think of myself as an animal lover. And the critters really can't help that they need to do their business

MAX I'm not even listening.

ANNI One hot dog per puppy, stuffed with something special, of course. The next morning the owner just won't understand why Rover won't wake up anymore.

MAX That's enough now.

ANNI But darling, everyone has a wish etched on his heart. Only a few make it happen, though. And you know why? Because that would take away the justification for getting up in the morning, sitting in the office for hours, enduring the pontifications of the kids...

MAX What if you were wrong. What if one has the nerve to get one's wishes satisfied---?

ANNI Then you make a check.

MAX And are happy.

ANNI Content. A check mark is after all nothing other than an abbreviation.

MAX For what?

ANNI Point # 6!

MAX For what?

ANNI Quiet.

MAX Where to?

ANNI To the last item on every list.

KATHARINA It's called behavior modification. In boot camp the soldiers are always saying KILL KILL KILL KILL. So then it's easier when they're in action. If you just say often enough Katharina, Katharina, Katharina, then....

a pause

KATHARINA We could just fuck. It would feel so great. The sex endorphins make you happy, didn't you know that?

MAX mumbles something

KATHARINA WHAA? A bit louder, if you please!

MAX Nothing.

KATHARINA You were saying something— spit it out!

MAX There's a good reason why there's '—ex' in sex.

KATHARINA That what your mother says?

MAX No-one would lie down next to someone like yourself out of their own free will.

KATHARINA That's where you're always lying down! But if it's so damn hard for you... how's this: let's just split that love of mine.

MAX No.
I cannot love you.

KATHARINA You have no way of knowing that. YOU HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT! One ought not speak of love unless one feels it.

MAX One must speak of love only as long as one doesn't feel it. When one feels it, it is already too late.

KATHARINA As you'd like. Let us then speak of love.

A long pause

KATHARINA Shit, there's nothing here EXCEPT love! The whole apartment is just stuffed with love. Open your eyes! It's going to burst from love. You just have to---give me a kiss.

KATHARINA holds the knife to her throat. Max kisses her reluctantly.

KATHARINA That felt good---didn't that feel good? Just what was needed. Don't stare like that. That was wonderful.

KATHARINA and MAX fight for the knife. MAX wins.

KATHARINA My hero.

MAX I'm warning you!

KATHARINA Oh look, your little cheeks are all red! Let me pinch you! What a.....

MAX stabs at her, wounds her slightly on her arm. MAX lets the knife drop.

MAX You are sick.

KATHARINA Me? Lol! Only just one day without scrubbing the toilet bowls, or emptying trash or wiping asses. I wish! But this is what it really comes down to, isn't it? You make the shit and I get rid of it.

MAX Who are you!

KATHARINA Maybe you'll wake up tomorrow morning, give me that retard look and call me mommy. And you know what I'm going to do? I'm going to put diapers on you. That way I don't have to explain to you where the crapper is. Then you'll just live from diaper to diaper, day by day. Like a fruit fly, born again every new morning. Except with even less brain. That way I can just let you sit in your own shit. Won't bother you, you'll probably feel fucking great. Fruitflies love crap.

A pause

KATHARINA What's the matter? Go ahead, hit me. You're so, like, pathetic. A broken nose would seem right about now, no?

A pause

KATHARINA Jeez, I wish you'd hit at least one time.

MAX ---

KATHARINA God, of all the men I fuck, you're the biggest loser.

MAX Liar.

KATHARINA Oh, so he's a concerned party at long last! You thought you were the only one or what? I'll tell you a secret: I get it on with all your buddies. The whole dementia unit at the hospital. And you know why? 'Cause they treat you like you're their first woman ever. And while I fuck them, I think about you. I get off on that. I'm not on the pill and rubbers just take out all the fun. So if you wake up one of these days and I'm holding a baby in front of your nose, don't be surprised. It'll be yours.

a pause

KATHARINA Couldn't you say something nice to me every once in a while at least. Something sweet. 'I care about you.' Just once. 'I care about you.' I mean, I'm what there is. And this is all there's going to be. I'm your jackpot, Max. I am it.

6

Enter Katharina

ANNI He's asleep.

KATHARINA When he's asleep he always looks like... He should have every detail, every little thing that makes him *him*, cut out—cut off. Until he's a hideous cripple, a cripple who could be anyone. Except himself.

ANNI What's better as one gets old, Parkinson's or Alzheimer's.

KATHARINA Alzheimer's, of course. Better to forget to pay for one's wine than to spill it.

KATHARINA bolts.

ANNI What are you doing?

KATHARINA Until I'm totally out of breath. After that everything will be completely new.

ANNI You're running. In circles.

KATHARINA I imagine I'm running around the globe. Once, twice, three times. One step per continent. That way I can leave the whole shit behind me. You should try it sometime.

ANNI Come along for a glass?

KATHARINA I shouldn't.

ANNI Your favorite. Dry and tannic.

KATHARINA sits next to ANNI. They drink.

KATHARINA So, done with that list soon?

ANNI Soon. One but last item.

KATHARINA I'm honored.

ANNI What makes you think it's about you?

KATHARINA Isn't it?

a pause

KATHARINA 'd you pick out a coffin yet?

ANNI I'll let myself be surprised

KATHARINA The obit sent off yet?

ANNI You'll be there, right?

KATHARINA Will there be refreshments?

ANNI Would you wear that black pantsuit?

KATHARINA The low-cut one?

ANNI It's not too low.

KATHARINA One time I did it with this one guy at the funeral of my uncle.

ANNI ---

KATHARINA He was more than seventy.

ANNI Really!

KATHARINA My uncle.

ANNI So was it exciting?

KATHARINA The party?

ANNI Katharina.

KATHARINA Oh come on, I'd never do it in mourning. Just wanted to see your face.

ANNI I didn't believe you for a second.

KATHARINA But the idea as such isn't bad. Maybe I'll bring Max along. I don't want to be the only one. Alone with the minister in the wet and icy church. Kind of creepy.

ANNI I'm an atheist.

KATHARINA You could still join up a church. Heaven, hell, one has to have something to look forward to, no?

a pause

KATHARINA Better get going.

ANNI Another bottle?

KATHARINA I really ought to go.

ANNI Stay! It's a big day today!

KATHARINA laughs

KATHARINA I've thought about it before. The sort of thing one thinks about after a bottle of red.

ANNI Or two. I've never been in love.

KATHARINA Don't be ridiculous, you're way too old. Falling in love this late is like wanting to learn dancing when you have arthritis.

ANNI It's never too late.

KATHARINA The whole life is one big delay. But who can I tell that to?

a pause

ANNI I'm nervous.

Dancing ensues. ANNI is soon dancing with relish. KATHARINA isn't.

KATHARINA Stop.

a pause

ANNI It's he, isn't it?

KATHARINA ---

ANNI I'm the only one whom he still remembers. He'll never know who you are. But I do.

KATHARINA Shut up.

ANNI I don't have much time left.

KATHARINA What a headfuck. For you death is way too worth living.

a pause

ANNI I'm so sorry. Please sweetheart, I'm your jackpot after all. Sit next to me for just one minute.

KATHARINA Long gone.

KATHARINA exits

ANNI Right, just go on and disappear. Fuck a bunch of bad guys. Or good ones, they like to get laid too. They just don't talk about it. Go for it, all the way. But leave me alone at long last. Leave me alone.

8

MAX standing on a chair by a wide-opened window.

Enter KATHARINA.

KATHARINA So? Seeing the tunnel of light yet? Or more like rivers of lava and smell of sulphur?

MAX Keep your distance!

KATHARINA Not to worry. There's only one thing you could do for me.

MAX And that would be--?

KATHARINA Hurry up. I'm next in line.

MAX You!?

KATHARINA C'mon, get going.

a pause

MAX I can't get this sentence out of my head.

KATHARINA "The last item on the list?"

MAX Yes! Absolutely right! How did you... ?

KATHARINA This is your first time, right ?

MAX And you? Whatever for?

KATHARINA Me? Oh, the usual stuff. Broken heart. Nothing better ahead of me.

MAX One mustn't give up hope.

KATHARINA Says who?

MAX It would surely be worth the trouble. You have a whole life ahead of you!

KATHARINA This? Just an infinity loop. Time for some change.

MAX Don't settle for so little. Think it all through one more time.

KATHARINA One ought to listen to one's heart.

MAX And act with one's head.

KATHARINA Will you give me your hand?

MAX We barely know each other.

KATHARINA My name is Katharina.

MAX Max.

KATHARINA So Max—what’s in your day today?

MAX Well...

KATHARINA Shall you and I ...

MAX If you wouldn’t mind.

KATHARINA A pleasure. On three?

MAX One more thing.

KATHARINA Yes?

MAX I like you a lot.

KATHARINA Thank you!!

MAX I usually never do this sort of thing but I thought... since you and I are about to...

KATHARINA Do you believe there is an end?

MAX I have a good feeling about this. Very promising.

KATHARINA It’s as if I were looking forward to... you feel that way too?

MAX Am I pushing too hard?

KATHARINA No, no, it’s perfect.
I mean, this here, this moment.
Now that it’s almost over, I feel that I sense my life at its most intense.

a pause

MAX You are right.

KATHARINA As always. Ready?

MAX Ready.

a pause

KATHARINA One?

MAX Two.

KATHARINA /MAX Three!

a long pause

MAX

Have you ever been to Australia?

THE END