

## Characters

BILLY  
late 70s

MAGGIE  
late 70s

WILLIAM  
mid 20s-30s

MARGARET  
mid 20s-30s

The play is set in a house and garden in a suburb of a city over several years.

## SCENE ONE

*Night.*

*A house, surrounded by an overgrown garden.*

*BILLY stands on a porch, smoking a cigarette.*

BILLY: When I clean my teeth, I always clean them twice.

This takes time. I use a little brush. I work between every molar, like a tiny chimney sweep. Because it is important. Because decalcification removes the enamel and yields decay. Because our teeth are our legacy, after bones and muscles have dissolved into dust and the earth, our teeth remain. Their value to archaeologist and paleontologist is infinite and undeniable. They reveal what we eat and how we live. I see it as my duty to preserve them.

*A light goes off somewhere in the house.*

Then I turn off the light and go to my bed.

I read. I wind my clock. I say no prayers.

*A light goes on in a bedroom window.*

I sleep.

And in my sleep...

*BILLY flicks out his cigarette -*

*In my sleep...*

*A front door suddenly illuminated by WILLIAM holding a standard lamp.*

I am young again.

*MARGARET stands under a tree in the garden. She holds a kitchen chair and a tin bucket.*

*WILLIAM nods, heads inside. WILLIAM ascends the stairs, just visible through the hall window, holding the standard lamp. In*