

*Cleansed* was first performed at the Royal Court Theatre Downstairs on 30 April 1998. The cast was as follows:

**Graham** Martin Marquez  
**Tinker** Stuart McQuarrie  
**Carl** James Cunningham  
**Rod** Danny Cerqueira  
**Grace** Suzan Sylvester  
**Robin** Daniel Evans  
**Woman** Victoria Harwood

*Director* James Macdonald  
*Designer* Jeremy Herbert  
*Lighting Designer* Nigel Edwards  
*Sound Designer* Paul Arditti  
*Movement* Wayne MacGregor

#### **Author's note**

A stroke (/) indicates the point of interruption in overlapping dialogue.

Stage directions in brackets function as lines.

Where punctuation is missing, it is to indicate delivery.

#### **Editor's note**

This edition of *Cleansed*, first reprinted in 2000, incorporates minor revisions made to the original text by Sarah Kane shortly before her death. It should therefore be regarded as the definitive version in all respects.

#### **Scene One**

*Just inside the perimeter fence of a university.  
It is snowing.*

**Tinker** *is heating smack on a silver spoon.*

**Graham** *enters.*

**Graham** Tinker.

**Tinker** I'm cooking.

**Graham** I want out.

**Tinker** *(Looks up.)*

*Silence.*

**Tinker** No.

**Graham** Is that for me?

**Tinker** I don't use.

**Graham** More.

**Tinker** No.

**Graham** It's not enough.

**Tinker** I'm a dealer not a doctor.

**Graham** Are you my friend?

**Tinker** I don't think so.

**Graham** Then what difference will it make?

**Tinker** It won't end here.

**Graham** My sister, she wants --

**Tinker** Don't tell me.

**Graham** I know my limits. Please.

**Tinker** You know what will happen to me?

**Graham** Yes.

**Tinker** It's just the beginning.

**Graham** Yes.

**Tinker** You'll leave me to that?

**Graham** We're not friends.

*Pause.*

**Tinker** No.

**Graham** No regrets.

**Tinker** *(Thinks. Then adds another large lump of smack to the spoon.)*

**Graham** More.

**Tinker** *(Looks at him. Then puts on another lump. He adds lemon juice and heats the smack. He fills the syringe.)*

**Graham** *(Searches for a vein with difficulty.)*

**Tinker** *(Injects into the corner of Graham's eye.)*

Count backwards from ten.

**Graham** Ten. Nine. Eight.

**Tinker** Your legs are heavy.

**Graham** Seven. Six. Five.

**Tinker** Your head is light.

**Graham** Four. Four. Five.

**Tinker** Life is sweet.

**Graham** This is what it's like.

*They look at each other.*

**Graham** *(Smiles.)*

**Tinker** *(Looks away.)*

**Graham** Thank you, Doctor.  
*(He slumps.)*

**Tinker** Graham?

*Silence.*

**Tinker** Four.  
Three.  
Two.  
One.  
Zero.

### Scene Two

**Rod** and **Carl** *sit on the college green just inside the perimeter fence of the university.*

*Midsummer — the sun is shining.*

*The sound of a cricket match in progress on the other side of the fence.*

**Carl** *takes off his ring.*

**Carl** Can I have your ring?

**Rod** I'm not going to be your husband, Carl.

**Carl** How do you know?

**Rod** I'm not going to be anyone's husband.

**Carl** I want you to have my ring.

**Rod** What for?

**Carl** A sign.

**Rod** Of what?

**Carl** Commitment.

**Rod** You've known me three months. It's suicide.

**Carl** Please.

**Rod** You'd die for me?

**Carl** Yes.

**Rod** (*Holds out his hand.*) I don't like this.

**Carl** (*Closes his eyes and puts the ring on Rod's finger.*)

**Rod** What are you thinking?

**Carl** That I'll always love you.

**Rod** (*Laughs.*)

**Carl** That I'll never betray you.

**Rod** (*Laughs more.*)

**Carl** That I'll never lie to you.

**Rod** You just have.

**Carl** Baby—

**Rod** Sweetheart honey baby I have a name. You love me so much why can't you remember my name?

**Carl** Rod.

**Rod** Rod. Rod.

**Carl** Can I have your ring?

**Rod** No.

**Carl** Why not?

**Rod** I wouldn't die for you.

**Carl** That's all right.

**Rod** I can't promise you anything.

**Carl** I don't mind.

**Rod** I do.

**Carl** Please.

**Rod** (*Takes off his ring and hands it to Carl.*)

**Carl** Will you put it on my finger?

**Rod** No.

**Carl** Please.

**Rod** No.

**Carl** I don't expect anything.

**Rod** Yes you do.

**Carl** You don't have to say anything.

**Rod** I do.

**Carl** Please, Baby.

**Rod** Fuck's/sake—

**Carl** Rod, Rod, sorry. Please.

**Rod** (*Takes the ring and Carl's hand.*)

Listen. I'm saying this once.

(*He puts the ring on Carl's finger.*)

I love you *now*.

I'm with you *now*.

I'll do my best, moment to moment, not to betray you.

Now.

That's it. No more. Don't make me lie to you.

**Carl** I'm not lying to you.

**Rod** Grow up.

**Carl** I'll never turn away from you.

**Rod** Carl. Anyone you can think of, someone somewhere got bored with fucking them.

**Carl** Why are you so cynical?

**Rod** I'm old.

**Carl** You're thirty-four.

**Rod** Thirty-nine. I lied.

**Carl** Still.

**Rod** Don't trust me.

*Pause.*

**Carl** I do.

*They kiss.*

**Tinker** *is watching.*

### Scene Three

*The White Room — the university sanatorium.*

**Grace** *stands alone, waiting.*

**Tinker** *enters consulting a file.*

**Tinker** He's been dead six months. We don't normally keep the clothes that long.

**Grace** What happens to them?

**Tinker** Recycled. Or incinerated.

**Grace** Recycled?

**Tinker** Most likely incinerated, but —

**Grace** You give them to someone else?

**Tinker** Yes.

**Grace** Isn't that very unhygienic?

**Tinker** He died of an overdose.

**Grace** Then why burn his body?

**Tinker** He was an addict.

**Grace** You thought nobody cared.

**Tinker** I wasn't here at the time.

**Grace** I need to see his clothes.

**Tinker** I'm sorry.

**Grace** You gave my brother's clothes to someone else, I won't leave until I've seen them.

**Tinker** *(Doesn't respond.)*

**Grace** What does it matter to you? Give me his clothes.

**Tinker** I'm not allowed to let anything leave the grounds.

**Grace** I just need to see them.

**Tinker** *(Considers. Then goes to the door and calls.)*

Robin!

*They wait. A nineteen year old boy enters.*

**Tinker** There.

**Grace** *(To Robin.)* Take off your clothes.

**Robin** Miss?

**Grace** Grace.

**Tinker** Do it.

**Robin** *(Takes off his clothes, down to his underpants.)*

**Grace** All of them.

**Robin** *(Looks at Tinker.)*

**Tinker** *(Considers, then nods.)*

**Robin** *removes his underpants and stands shivering with his hands over his genitals.*

**Grace** *undresses completely.*

**Robin** *watches, terrified.*

**Tinker** *looks at the floor.*

**Grace** *dresses in Robin's/Graham's clothes.*

*When fully dressed, she stands for a few moments, completely still. She begins to shake.*

*She breaks down and wails uncontrollably.*

*She collapses.*

**Tinker** *lifts her onto a bed.*

*She lashes out — he handcuffs both arms to the bed rails.*

*He injects her. She relaxes.*

**Tinker** *strokes her hair.*

**Grace** I'm not leaving.

**Tinker** You are. You won't find him here.

**Grace** I want to stay.

**Tinker** It's not right.

**Grace** I'm staying.

**Tinker** You'll be moved.

**Grace** I look like him. Say you thought I was a man.

**Tinker** I can't protect you.

**Grace** I don't want you to.

**Tinker** You shouldn't be here. You're not well.

**Grace** Treat me as a patient.

**Tinker** *(Considers in silence. Then takes a bottle of pills from his pocket.)*

Show me your tongue.

**Grace** *(Sticks out her tongue.)*

**Tinker** *(Puts a pill on her tongue.)*

Swallow.

**Grace** *(Does.)*

**Tinker** I'm not responsible, Grace.

*He leaves.*

**Grace and Robin** *stare at each other, Robin still naked, hands covering his genitals.*

**Grace** Dress.

**Robin** *(Looks at Grace's clothes on the floor. He puts them on.)*

**Grace** Write for me.

**Robin** *(Blinks.)*

**Grace** I need you to tell my father I'm staying here.

*Pause.*

**Robin** Leaving soon. Going to my mum's.

**Grace** *(Stares.)*

**Robin** If I don't mess up again. Going to my mum's, get myself sorted so I — Get sorted.

**Grace** *(Stares.)*

**Robin** What you doing here, don't have girls here. Staring at me.

**Grace** Write for me. *(She rattles her handcuffs.)*

**Robin** Voice told me to kill myself.

**Grace** *(Stares.)*

**Robin** Safe now. Nobody kills themselves here.

**Grace** *(Stares.)*

**Robin** Nobody wants to die.

**Grace** *(Stares.)*

**Robin** I don't want to die do you want to die?

**Grace** *(Stares.)*

**Robin** Could be pretty soon, me leaving. Could be in thirty, Tinker said. Could be —

**Grace** You can't write, can you.

**Robin** *(Opens his mouth to answer but can't think of anything to say.)*

**Grace** It's not the end of the world.

**Robin** *(Tries to speak. Nothing.)*

## Scene Four

*The Red Room — the university sports hall.*

**Carl** *is being heavily beaten by an unseen group of men. We hear the sound of the blows and Carl's body reacts as if he has received the blow.*

**Tinker** *holds up his arm and the beating stops. He drops his arm. The beating resumes.*

**Carl** Please. Doctor. Please.

**Tinker** *holds up his arm. The beating stops.*

**Tinker** Yes?

**Carl** I can't —  
Any more.

**Tinker** *drops his arm.*

*The beating continues methodically until Carl is unconscious.*

**Tinker** *holds up his arm. The beating stops.*

**Tinker** Don't kill him.  
Save him.

*(He kisses Carl's face gently.)*

**Carl** *(Opens his eyes.)*

**Tinker** There's a vertical passage through your body, a straight line through which an object can pass without immediately killing you. Starts here.

*(He touches Carl's anus.)*

**Carl** *(Stiffens with fear.)*

**Tinker** Can take a pole, push it up here, avoiding all major organs, until it emerges here.

*(He touches Carl's right shoulder.)*

Die eventually of course. From starvation if nothing else gets you first.

**Carl's trousers are pulled down and a pole is pushed a few inches up his anus.**

**Carl** Christ no

**Tinker** What's your boyfriend's name?

**Carl** Jesus

**Tinker** Can you describe his genitals?

**Carl** No

**Tinker** When was the last time you sucked his cock?

**Carl** I

**Tinker** Do you take it up the arse?

**Carl** Please

**Tinker** Don't give it, I can see that.

**Carl** No

**Tinker** Close your eyes imagine it's him.

**Carl** Please God no I

**Tinker** Rodney Rodney split me in half.

**Carl** Please don't fucking kill me God

**Tinker** I love you Rod I'd die for you.

**Carl** Not me please not me don't kill me Rod not me don't kill me ROD NOT ME ROD NOT ME  
ME

*The pole is removed.*

**Rod** *falls from a great height and lands next to Carl.*

*Silence.*

**Tinker** I'm not going to kill either of you.

**Carl** I couldn't help it, Rod, was out my mouth before I —

**Tinker** Shh shh shh.  
No regrets.

*(He strokes Carl's hair.)*

Show me your tongue.

**Carl** sticks out his tongue.

**Tinker** produces a large pair of scissors and cuts off **Carl's** tongue.

**Carl** rears his arms, his mouth open, full of blood, no sound emerging.

**Tinker** takes the ring from **Rod's** finger and puts it in **Carl's** mouth.

**Tinker** Swallow.

**Carl** (Swallows the ring.)

### Scene Five

*The White Room.*

**Grace** is lying in bed.

She wakes and stares at the ceiling.

She takes her hands from under the sheet and looks at them — they are free.

She rubs her wrists.

She sits up.

**Graham** is sitting at the end of her bed.

He smiles at her.

**Graham** Hello, Sunshine.

*Silence.*

**Grace** stares at him.

She smacks him around the face as hard as she can, then hugs him to her as tightly as possible.

She holds his face in her hands and looks closely at him.

**Grace** You're clean.

**Graham** (Smiles.)

**Grace** Don't ever leave me again.

**Graham** No.

**Grace** Swear.

**Graham** On my life.

*Pause. They look at each other in silence.*

**Graham** More like me than I ever was.

**Grace** Teach me.

**Graham** dances — a dance of love for **Grace**.

**Grace** dances opposite him, copying his movements.

*Gradually, she takes on the masculinity of his movement, his facial expression. Finally, she no longer has to watch him — she mirrors him perfectly as they dance exactly in time.*

*When she speaks, her voice is more like his.*

**Graham** You're good at this.

**Grace** Good at this.

**Graham** Very good.

**Grace** Very good.

**Graham** So/very very good.

**Grace** Very very good.

**Graham** (Stops and considers her.)

I never knew myself, **Grace**.

**Grace** (Stops mirroring him, confused.)

You've always been an angel.

**Graham** No. I just look good.

(*He smiles at her confusion and takes her in his arms.*)

Not so serious. You're gorgeous when you smile.

*They begin to dance slowly, very close together.*

*They sing the first verse of 'You Are My Sunshine' by Jim Davis and Charles Mitchell.*

*Their voices trail off and they stand staring at each other.*

**Grace** They burned your body.

**Graham** I'm here. I went away but now I'm back and nothing else matters.

*They stare at each other.  
She touches his face.*

**Grace** If I—

*(She touches his lips.)*

Put my—

*(She puts her finger in his mouth.)*

*They stare at each other, terrified.*

*She kisses him very gently on the lips.*

**Grace** Love me or kill me, Graham.

*He hesitates.*

*Then kisses her, slowly and gently at first, then harder and deeper.*

**Graham** I used to . . . think about you and . . .

I used to . . . wish it was you when I . . .

Used to . . .

**Grace** Doesn't matter. You went away but now you're back and nothing else matters.

**Graham** *takes off her shirt and stares at her breasts.*

**Graham** Makes no difference now.

*He sucks her right breast.*

*She undoes his trousers and touches his penis.*

*They take off the rest of their clothes, watching each other.*

*They stand naked and look at each other's bodies.*

*They slowly embrace.*

*They begin to make love, slowly at first, then hard, fast, urgent, finding each other's rhythm is the same as their own.*

*They come together.*

*They hold each other, him inside her, not moving.*

*A sunflower bursts through the floor and grows above their heads.*

*When it is fully grown, **Graham** pulls it towards him and smells it.*

*He smiles.*

**Graham** Lovely.

### Scene Six

*The Black Room — the showers in the university sports hall converted into peep-show booths.*

**Tinker** *enters.*

*He sits in a booth.*

*He takes off his jacket and lays it over his lap.*

*He undoes his trousers and puts his hand inside.*

*With his other hand he puts a token in the slot.*

*The flap opens and he looks in.*

*A Woman is dancing.*

**Tinker** *watches for a while, masturbating.*

*He stops and looks at the floor.*

**Tinker** Don't dance, I—

Can I see your face?

*The Woman stops dancing and considers.*

*After a moment she sits.*

**Tinker** *(Doesn't look at her.)*

**Woman** *(Waits.)*

**Tinker** What you doing here?

**Woman** I like it.

**Tinker** It's not right.

**Woman** I know.

**Tinker** Can we be friends?

*The flap closes.*

**Tinker** *puts in two more tokens.*

*The flap opens.*

*The Woman is dancing.*

**Tinker** Don't, I—

Your face.



**Woman** (Sits.)  
**Tinker** (Doesn't look at her.)  
 What you doing here?  
**Woman** I don't know.  
**Tinker** You shouldn't be here. It's not right.  
**Woman** I know.  
**Tinker** I can help.  
**Woman** How?  
**Tinker** I'm a doctor.  
**Woman** (Doesn't respond.)  
**Tinker** You know what that means?  
**Woman** Yes.  
**Tinker** Can we be friends?  
**Woman** I don't think so.  
**Tinker** No, but—  
**Woman** No.  
**Tinker** I'll be anything you need.  
**Woman** Can't.  
**Tinker** Yes.  
**Woman** Too late.  
**Tinker** Let me try.  
**Woman** No.  
**Tinker** Please. I won't let you down.  
**Woman** (Laughs.)  
**Tinker** Trust me.  
**Woman** Why?  
**Tinker** I won't turn away from you.

**Woman** Won't face me either.  
**Tinker** I'll give you whatever you want, Grace.  
**Woman** (Doesn't answer.)  
**Tinker** (Looks at her face for the first time.)  
 I promise.  
*The flap closes.*  
**Tinker** has no more tokens.

**Scene Seven**

*The Round Room — the university library.*  
**Grace and Robin** sit together looking at a piece of paper. Both still wear each other's clothes.  
**Robin** holds a pencil.  
**Graham** is watching.

**Grace** It's talking without your voice. Same words you use all the time. Each letter corresponds to a sound. If you can remember which sound corresponds to which letter you can start building words.  
**Robin** That letter don't look like it sounds.  
**Grace** R.  
**Robin** That one does/but that one don't.  
**Grace** O. You know what this word/says?  
**Robin** Robin, I know it's my name because you told/me.  
**Grace** All right, I want you to write a word—  
**Robin** Grace.  
**Grace** My name, so you think it looks like it sounds.  
**Robin** (Looks at her and thinks. He smiles and starts to write, holding the pencil clumsily, poking his tongue out as he concentrates.)

**Graham** Boys.

**Grace** (*Smiles at Graham.*)

**Robin** Miss?

**Grace** I have a name.

**Robin** Grace, you ever had a boyfriend?

**Grace** Yes.

**Robin** What was he like?

**Grace** He bought me a box of chocolates then tried to strangle me.

**Robin** Chocolates?

**Graham** That black kid?

**Robin** Got a pink?

**Grace** It's not about colour, colour doesn't come into it.

**Robin** What was his name?

**Grace** Graham.

**Robin** } Your boyfriend.  
**Graham** }

**Grace** Paul.

Concentrate.

**Robin** } Do you still love him?  
**Graham** }

**Grace** Please.

**Robin** No but do you?

**Grace** I—

No.

I never did.

**Robin** Did you—

**Graham** Fuck him.

**Grace** Yes.

Yes, I did do that.

I did do that.

**Robin** Oh.

*Silence.*

**Robin** *writes.*

**Robin** } Gracie.  
**Graham** }

**Grace** What?

**Robin** If you could change one thing in your life what would you change?

**Grace** My life.

**Robin** No, one *thing* in your life.

**Grace** I don't know.

**Robin** No but say one thing.

**Grace** Too many to choose.

**Robin** } But choose.  
**Graham** }

**Grace** This is insane.

**Robin** Wouldn't you wish your brother back?

**Grace** What?

**Robin** Wouldn't you wish Graham alive?

**Graham** } (*Laughs.*)  
**Grace** }

**Grace** No. No.

I don't think of Graham as dead.

That's not how I think of him.

**Robin** You believe in heaven?

**Grace** No not at all.

**Robin** Don't believe in heaven you don't believe in hell.

**Grace** Can't see heaven.

**Robin** I had one wish I'd wish Graham alive again.

**Grace** You said change one thing in your life not have one wish.

**Robin** Then I'd change Graham dead to Graham alive.

**Grace** Graham's not a thing to change. And he's not in your life.

**Robin** He is.

**Grace** How?

**Robin** They gave me his clothes.

**Tinker** *is watching.*

**Grace** It's not necessary, Robin. It's not like he's dead.

**Graham** } What would you change?  
**Robin** }

**Grace** My body. So it looked like it feels.  
Graham outside like Graham inside.

**Robin** } I think you've got a nice body.  
**Graham** }

**Grace** I'm glad. I think you should write that word now.

**Robin** My mum weren't my mum and I had to choose another, I'd choose you.

**Grace** Sweet boy.

**Robin** If I –  
If I had to get married, I'd marry you.

**Grace** No one would marry me.

**Robin** } I would.  
**Graham** }

**Grace** It's not possible.

**Robin** I've never kissed a girl before.

**Grace** You will.

**Robin** Not here I won't. Not unless it's you.

**Grace** I'm not like that, a girl, no.

**Robin** I don't mind.

**Grace** } I do.  
**Graham** }

**Robin** I don't.

**Grace** Listen to me. If I was going to kiss anyone here, and I'm not but if I was, it would be you.

**Robin** } Would it?  
**Graham** }

**Grace** Definitely.

If.

But.

**Robin** (*Beams and goes back to his writing.*)

*A long pause.*

**Robin** Gracie.

**Grace** Hmmn.

**Robin** } I love you.  
**Graham** }

**Grace** I –  
I love you too. But in a very particular –

**Robin** Do you?

**Grace** Robin, I –

**Robin** Will you –

**Grace** } No.  
**Graham** }

**Robin** Be my girlfriend?

**Grace** You're a lovely boy —  
**Robin** I won't strangle you.  
**Grace** A good friend but —  
**Robin** I'm in love with you.  
**Grace** How can you be?  
**Robin** I just am.  
 I know you —  
**Grace** Tinker knows me.  
**Robin** And I love you.  
**Grace** Lots of people know me, they're not in love with me.  
**Robin** } I am.  
**Graham** }  
**Grace** You're confusing me.  
**Robin** I only want to kiss you, won't hurt you, I swear.  
**Grace** When you leave —  
**Robin** } Never will.  
**Graham** }  
**Grace** What?  
**Robin** Don't want to leave.  
**Grace** This is —  
**Robin** I want to be with you.  
**Grace** What are you saying?  
**Robin** I like it here.  
**Tinker** enters.  
 He picks up **Robin's** piece of paper and looks at it.  
**Tinker** Fuck is that?  
**Robin** Flower.

**Tinker** (Sets light to the paper and burns the whole thing.)

**Robin** She smells like a flower.

### Scene Eight

*A patch of mud just inside the perimeter fence of the university.*

*It is raining.*

*The sound of a football match in progress on the other side of the fence.*

*A single rat scuttles around between **Rod** and **Carl**.*

**Rod** Baby.

**Carl** (Looks at **Rod**. He opens his mouth. No sound comes out.)

**Rod** You'd have watched them crucify me.

**Carl** (Tries to speak. Nothing.)

*He beats the ground in frustration.*

**Carl** scabbles around in the mud and begins to write while

**Rod** talks.

**Rod** And the rats eat my face. So what. I'd have done the same only I never said I wouldn't. You're young. I don't blame you. Don't blame yourself. No one's to blame.

**Tinker** is watching.

*He lets **Carl** finish what he is writing, then goes to him and reads it.*

*He takes **Carl** by the arms and cuts off his hands.*

**Tinker** leaves.

**Carl** tries to pick up his hands — he can't, he has no hands.

**Rod** goes to **Carl**.

*He picks up the severed left hand and takes off the ring he put there.*

*He reads the message written in the mud.*

**Rod** Say you forgave me.

*(He puts on the ring.)*

I won't lie to you, Carl.

*The rat begins to eat Carl's right hand.*

### Scene Nine

*The Black Room.*

**Tinker** goes into his booth.

*He sits.*

*He puts in a token.*

*The flap opens.*

*The Woman is dancing.*

**Tinker** watches for a while.

**Woman** Hello, Doctor.

**Tinker** Grace, I—  
Your face.

*The Woman sits.  
They look at each other.*

**Tinker** Are we friends?

**Woman** Will you help me?

**Tinker** I told you.

**Woman** Yes.

**Tinker** What should I do?

**Woman** Save me.

*The flap closes.  
He has no more tokens.*

### Scene Ten

*The Red Room.*

**Grace** is being beaten by an unseen group of men whose  
**Voices** we hear.

*We hear the sound of baseball bats hitting Grace's body and she reacts as though she has received the blow.*

**Graham** is watching in distress.

**Grace** is hit.

**Grace** Graham.

**Voices** Dead, slag

She was having it off with her brother

Weren't he a bender?

Fucking user

All cracked up

Shit no

Shit yes

Crack crack crack

**Grace** is hit once on each crack.

**Grace** Graham Jesus save me Christ

**Voices** He can never (*crack*) never (*crack*) never

(*crack*) never (*crack*) never (*crack*) never

(*crack*) never (*crack*) never (*crack*) never

(*crack*) never (*crack*) never (*crack*) save

you (*crack*)

**Graham** Grace.

**Voices** Never (*crack*)

*Stillness.*

**Grace** lies motionless, terrified of bringing on more blows.

**Graham** Speak to me.

**Grace** (*Does not move or make a sound.*)

**Graham** Can't hurt you, Grace. Can't touch you.

**Grace** (*Does not move or make a sound.*)

**Graham** Never.

*There is a crack from nowhere, making Grace scream.*

**Voices** Life in the old dog yet

**Graham** Switch off your head. That's what I did. Shoot up and switch off before the pain moves in. I thought of you.

*There is a flurry of blows which Grace's body reacts to, but she does not make a sound.*

**Graham** I used to put my spoon in my tea and heat it up. When you weren't looking press it on your skin at the top of your arm and you'd (crack) scream and I'd laugh. I'd say Do it to me.

**Grace** Do it to me.

**Graham** You'd press a hot spoon on me I'd not feel a thing.

Knew it was coming.

If you know it's coming you're prepared.

If you know it's coming —

**Grace** It's coming.

*The blow comes.*

**Grace's** body moves — not with pain, simply with the force of the blow.

**Graham** You can surf it.

**Voices** Do it to me

Shag the slag

**Grace** is raped by one of the **Voices**.

*She looks into Graham's eyes throughout.*

**Graham** holds her head between his hands.

**Voices**

Gagging for it

Begging for it

Barking for it

Arching for it

Aching for it

She gone?

Not a flicker

**Graham** presses his hands onto **Grace** and her clothes turn red where he touches, blood seeping through.

Simultaneously, his own body begins to bleed in the same places.

**Graham** Baby baby baby.

**Voices** Kill them all

*A pause.*

*Then a long stream of automatic gunfire.*

**Graham** shields **Grace's** body with his own, and holds her head between his hands.

*The gunfire goes on and on and on.*

*The wall is pitted with bullet marks, and as the gunfire continues, huge chunks of plaster and brick are blown from the wall.*

*The wall is being shot to pieces and is splattered with blood.*

*After several minutes, the gunfire stops.*

**Graham** uncovers **Grace's** face and looks at her.

*She opens her eyes and looks at him.*

**Graham** No one. Nothing. Never.

*Out of the ground grow daffodils.*

*They burst upwards, their yellow covering the entire stage.*

**Tinker** enters. *He sees Grace.*

**Voices** All dead?

**Tinker** Not her.

*He goes to Grace and kneels beside her.*

*He takes her hand.*

**Tinker** I'm here to save you.

**Graham** picks a flower and smells it.

*He smiles.*

**Graham** Lovely.

### Scene Eleven

*The Black Room.*

**Robin** goes into the booth that **Tinker** visits.

*He sits.*

*He puts in his one and only token.*

*The flap opens.*

*The Woman is dancing.*

**Robin** *watches — at first innocently eager, then bemused, then distressed.*

*She dances for sixty seconds.*

*The flap closes.*

**Robin** *sits and cries his heart out.*

### Scene Twelve

*The White Room.*

**Grace** *lies sunbathing in a tiny shaft of light coming through a crack in the ceiling.*

**Graham** *is on one side of her, Tinker the other.*

**Tinker** *Whatever you want.*

**Grace** *Sun.*

**Graham** *Won't get an even tan.*

**Tinker** *Can take you there.*

**Grace** *I know.*

**Voices** *Burn you clean*

**Grace** *Hold my hand.*

**Graham** *Sunshine.*

**Graham** *takes one hand, Tinker the other.*

**Grace** *My balls hurt.*

**Tinker** *You're a woman.*

**Voices** *Lunatic Grace*

**Grace** *Like to feel you here.*

**Graham** *Always be here.*

*And here.*

*And here.*

**Grace** *(Laughs. Then suddenly serious.)*

*They keep calling me.*

**Tinker** *That's what I'm saying.*

**Graham** *Love me or kill me.*

**Tinker** *Can make you better.*

**Grace** *Love you.*

**Graham** *Swear.*

**Tinker** *Yes.*

**Grace** *On my life.*

**Graham** *Don't cut me out.*

**Grace** *Graham.*

**Voices** *Frazzle it out*

**Tinker** *Tinker.*

**Voices** *Burn it out*

**Graham** *Darling.*

**Voices** *Frazzle it —*

**Tinker** *Trust me.*

**Voices** *Time to go*

**Tinker** *drops Grace's hand.*

*An electric current is switched on.*

**Grace's** *body is thrown into rigid shock as bits of her brain are burnt out.*

*The shaft of light grows bigger until it engulfs them all. It becomes blinding.*

### Scene Thirteen

*The patch of mud by the perimeter fence.*

*It is raining.*

*A dozen rats share the space with Rod and Carl.*

**Rod** If you'd said 'Me,' I wonder what would have happened. If he'd said 'You or Rod' and you'd said 'Me,' I wonder if he would have killed you. He ever asks me I'll say 'Me. Do it to me. Not to Carl, not my lover, not my friend, do it to me.' I'd be gone, first boat out of here. Death isn't the worst thing they can do to you. Tinker made a man bite off another man's testicles. Can take away your life but not give you death instead.

*On the other side of the fence a child sings - Lennon and McCartney's 'Things We Said Today.'*

**Carl and Rod** listen, rapt.

*The child stops singing.*

*Then begins again.*

**Carl** stands, wobbly.

*He begins to dance - a dance of love for Rod.*

*The dance becomes frenzied, frantic, and Carl makes grunting noises, mingling with the child's singing.*

*The dance loses rhythm - Carl jerks and lurches out of time, his feet sticking in the mud, a spasmodic dance of desperate regret.*

**Tinker** is watching.

*He forces Carl to the ground and cuts off his feet.*

*He is gone.*

**Rod** laughs.

*The rats carry Carl's feet away.*

*The child sings.*

### Scene Fourteen

*The Black Room.*

**Tinker** goes to his booth.

*He tears open his trousers and sits astride the back of the chair.*

*He feeds a number of tokens into the slot.*

*The flap opens. The Woman is dancing.*

**Tinker** masturbates furiously until she speaks.

**Woman** Doctor.

**Tinker** Don't waste my fucking time. Sit.

**Woman** (*Sits opposite Tinker.*)

**Tinker** Open your legs.

**Woman** I'm confused.

**Tinker** OPEN YOUR FUCKING LEGS.

**Woman** (*Does.*)

**Tinker** Look.

**Woman** (*Does.*)

**Tinker** Touch.

**Woman** (*Sobs.*)

**Tinker** TOUCH FUCKING TOUCH.

**Woman** Don't do this.

**Tinker** YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU?

**Woman** YES

**Tinker** THEN DO IT

**Woman** Don't want to be this.

**Tinker** You're a woman, Grace.

**Woman** I want -

**Tinker** Don't say that.

**Woman** You said -

**Tinker** I lied. You are what you are. No regrets.

**Woman** Whatever I wanted.

**Tinker** I'm not responsible.

**Woman** Trusted you.

**Tinker** Yes.



**Woman** Friends.

**Tinker** Don't think so.

**Woman** I can change.

**Tinker** You're a woman.

**Woman** You're a doctor. Help me.

**Tinker** No.

**Woman** Is it someone else?

**Tinker** No.

**Woman** I love you.

**Tinker** Please.

**Woman** Thought you loved me.

**Tinker** As you are.

**Woman** Then love me, fucking love me

**Tinker** Grace

**Woman** Don't turn away

*The flap closes.*

**Tinker** If I'd known —

If I'd known.

I've always known.

### Scene Fifteen

*The Round Room.*

**Robin** is asleep amongst a pile of books, paper and an eleven row abacus.

He still has a pencil in his hand.

There is a box of chocolates next to his head.

**Tinker** enters and stands staring at him.

He pulls **Robin** up by the hair.

**Robin** screams and **Tinker** puts a knife to his throat.

**Tinker** You fuck her?  
Fuck her till her nose bleed?  
I may be a cunt but I'm not a twat.

*(He sees the chocolates.)*

Where'd you get them?

Eh?

Eh?

**Robin** They're for Grace.

**Tinker** Where did you get them?

**Robin** Bought them.

**Tinker** What did you do, sell your arse?

**Robin** *(Doesn't answer.)*

**Tinker** lets go of **Robin**.

He opens the chocolates.

He takes one out and tosses it at **Robin**.

**Tinker** Eat.

**Robin** *(Looks at the chocolate. He starts to cry.)*

They're for Gracie.

**Tinker** Eat it.

**Robin** eats the chocolate, choking on his tears.

When he has eaten it, **Tinker** tosses him another.

**Robin** eats it, sobbing.

**Tinker** throws him another.

**Robin** eats it.

**Tinker** throws him another.

**Robin** eats it.

**Tinker** throws him another.

**Robin** eats it.

**Tinker** throws him another.

**Robin** eats it.

**Tinker** throws him another.

**Robin** eats it.

**Tinker** throws him another.

**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** tosses him the last chocolate.  
**Robin** retches. Then eats the chocolate.  
**Tinker** takes the empty tray out of the box — there is another layer of chocolates underneath.  
**Tinker** throws **Robin** a chocolate.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws him another.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** tosses him the last chocolate.  
**Robin** eats it.  
**Tinker** throws the empty box at him, then notices that **Robin** has wet himself.

**Tinker** Filthy little perv, clean it up.

**Robin** stands in the puddle, distressed.  
**Tinker** grabs **Robin**'s head and forces it down, rubbing his face in his own urine.  
**Tinker** Clean it up, woman.  
**Robin** looks around in a panic.  
 He tries to use the empty chocolate box to clean up the urine, but it spreads it around.  
 He tears up some nearby books and soaks up the mess.  
 He looks at the books, distraught.  
**Robin** Gracie.  
**Tinker** (Tosses **Robin** a box of matches.)  
**Robin** (Looks at **Tinker**.)  
**Tinker** (Looks back at **Robin**.)  
**Robin** (Piles up the spoiled books and burns them.)  
**Tinker** All of them.  
**Robin** burns as many books as he can and watches them go up in flames.  
**Grace** enters, vacant and tranquilized, with **Graham**.  
 She watches.  
**Robin** smiles nervously.  
**Robin** Sorry. I was cold.  
**Graham** leads **Grace** towards the fire.  
 She warms her hands from the heat of the flames.  
**Grace** Lovely.  
**Scene Sixteen**  
 The patch of mud by the perimeter fence.  
 Scorching heat.  
 The sound of fire.  
 Most of the rats are dead.  
 The few that remain are running around frantically.

**Rod** There's only now.

(*He cries.*)

**Carl** (*Hugs him.*)

**Rod** That's all there's ever been.

**Carl** (*kisses him.*)

*He makes love to Rod.*

**Rod** I will always love you.

I will never lie to you.

I will never betray you.

On my life.

*They both comic.*

**Rod** *takes off the ring and puts it in Carl's mouth.*

**Carl** *swallows it. He cries.*

*They hug tightly, then go to sleep wrapped around each other.*

**Tinker** *is watching.*

*He pulls Rod away from Carl.*

**Tinker** You or him, Rod, what's it to be?

**Rod** Me. Not Carl. Me.

**Tinker** (*Cuts Rod's throat.*)

**Carl** (*Struggles to get to Rod. He is held.*)

**Rod** It can't be this.

(*He dies.*)

**Tinker** Burn him.

### Scene Seventeen

*The Round Room.*

**Robin, Grace and Graham** *are by the ashes of the fire.*

**Grace** *is still rubbing her hands slowly and holding them up as if it were ablaze.*

**Robin** *retrieves his abacus from the ashes.*

*He holds it up to Grace. She doesn't respond.*

**Robin** Been working on the numbers. Think I've cracked it.

**Grace** (*Doesn't respond.*)

**Robin** Shall I show you?

**Grace** (*Doesn't respond.*)

**Robin** Right, I'll —

Days left. Try that.

(*He counts off the beads on a single row.*)

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. Seven.

(*He stares at the seven beads, then slowly moves one bead on the next row along.*)

One.

(*He counts off the beads on rows three to eight.*)

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. Seven. Eight.

Nine. Ten. Eleven. Twelve. Thirteen. Fourteen.

Fifteen. Sixteen. Seventeen. Eighteen. Nineteen.

Twenty. Twenty-one. Twenty-two. Twenty-three.

Twenty-four. Twenty-five. Twenty-six. Twenty-seven.

Twenty-eight. Twenty-nine. Thirty. Thirty-one.

Thirty-two. Thirty-three. Thirty-four. Thirty-five.

Thirty-six. Thirty-seven. Thirty-eight. Thirty-nine.

Forty. Forty-one. Forty-two. Forty-three.

Forty-four. Forty-five. Forty-six. Forty-seven. Forty-eight.

Forty-nine. Fifty. Fifty-one. Fifty-two.

(*He stares at the beads.*)

Fifty-two sevens.

(*He slowly moves one bead on the next row along.*)

One.

(*He counts off the beads on the last three rows.*)

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. Seven. Eight. Nine. Ten. Eleven. Twelve. Thirteen. Fourteen. Fifteen. Sixteen. Seventeen. Eighteen. Nineteen. Twenty. Twenty-one. Twenty-two. Twenty-three. Twenty-four. Twenty-five. Twenty-six. Twenty-seven. Twenty-eight. Twenty-nine. Thirty.

Thirty fifty-two sevens.

(*He looks at Grace.*)

Thirty fifty-two sevens.

Gracie?

**Grace** (*Doesn't respond.*)

**Robin** *takes off his tights (Grace's) and makes a noose.*

*He gets a chair and stands on it.*

*He attaches the noose to the ceiling and puts his head through.*

*He stands in silence for a few moments.*

**Robin** Grace.

Grace.

Grace.

Grace.

Grace.

Grace.

Please, Miss.

*The chair is pulled from under Robin.*

*He struggles.*

**Tinker** *is watching.*

**Graham** He's dying, Grace.

**Grace** (*Doesn't respond.*)

**Graham** *looks at Robin.*

**Robin** *looks at Graham — he sees him.*

*Still choking, Robin holds out a hand to Graham.*

**Graham** *takes it.*

*Then wraps his arms around Robin's legs and pulls.*

**Robin** *dies.*

**Graham** *sits under Robin's swinging feet.*

**Tinker** *goes to Grace and takes her hand.*

**Tinker** Say good night to the folks, Gracie.

*He leads her off.*

**Graham** *sits motionless under Robin's swinging body.*

### Scene Eighteen

*The White Room.*

**Grace** *lies unconscious on a bed.*

*She is naked apart from a tight strapping around her groin and chest, and blood where her breasts should be.*

**Carl** *lies unconscious next to her. He is naked apart from a bloodied bandage strapped around his groin.*

**Tinker** *stands between them.*

**Tinker** *undoes Grace's bandage and looks at her groin.*

**Grace** *stirs.*

**Grace** F- F-

**Tinker** What you wanted, I hope you —

**Grace** F- F- F-

**Tinker** *helps Grace up and leads her to the mirror.*

**Graham** *enters.*

**Grace** *focuses on the mirror.*

*She opens her mouth.*

**Graham** It's over.

**Tinker** Nice-looking lad.

Like your brother.

I hope you —

What you wanted.

**Grace** (*Touches her stitched-on genitals.*)

F- F-

**Tinker** Do you like it?

**Grace** F-

146 Cleansed

**Tinker** You'll get used to him.  
Can't call you Grace any more.  
Call you . . . Graham. I'll call you Graham.

*(He begins to leave.)*

**Graham** Tinker.

**Tinker** *(Turns and looks at Grace.)*

**Grace** } Felt it.  
**Graham** }

**Tinker** I'm sorry. I'm not really a doctor.

*(He kisses Grace very gently.)*

**Tinker** } Goodbye, Grace.  
**Graham** }

**Tinker and Graham** both turn away.  
*They leave.*

**Grace** stares at the mirror.

**Carl** sits up in bed and opens his mouth.

*He looks at Grace. She looks at him.*

**Carl** lets out a silent scream.

**Scene Nineteen**

*The Black Room.*

**Tinker** enters and sits.

*He feeds the rickshaw mechanism.*

*The flap opens.*

**The Woman** is dancing.

*She stops and sits.*

**Woman** Hello, Tinker.

**Tinker** Hello, my love.

**Woman** How are you?

**Tinker** She's gone.

**Woman** Who?

*A long silence.*

**Woman** Can I kiss you?

**Tinker** *(Smiles.)*

*The Woman opens the partition and comes through to*

**Tinker's side.**

*She kisses him.*

*He hesitates.*

*She kisses him again.*

*He kisses her.*

*He looks down at the floor.*

**Tinker** I'm confused.

**Woman** I know.

**Tinker** I think I—

Misunderstood.

**Woman** I know. You're beautiful.

**Tinker** Grace, she—

**Woman** I know. I love you.

*They look at each other.*

*She kisses him.*

*He responds.*

*She takes off her top.*

*He looks at her breasts.*

*He takes her right breast into his mouth.*

**Woman** I think about you when I . . .

And wish it was you when I . . . .

**Tinker** *(Withdraws and looks at her.)*

Most glorious fucking breasts I ever met.

**Woman** Make love to me, Tinker.

**Tinker** Are you sure?

**Woman** Make love to me.

*They both undress, watching each other. They stand naked and look at each other's bodies. They slowly embrace. They begin to make love very slowly.*

**Woman** (Cries.)

**Tinker** (Stops.) You all right? We can —

**Woman** No, no I —

**Tinker** Does it hurt do you want me to stop?

*He begins to withdraw — she holds on to him.*

**Woman** Stay there. Stay there. I love you.

*They begin to make love again, very gently.*

**Tinker** begins to cry.

*The Woman licks away his tears.*

**Woman** I love your cock, Tinker  
I love your cock inside me, Tinker  
Fuck me, Tinker  
Harder, harder, harder  
Come inside me  
I love you, Tinker

**Tinker** (Comes.)

Sorry.

**Woman** No.

**Tinker** I couldn't —

**Woman** I know.

**Tinker** Fuck me fuck me fuck me I love you I love you  
I love you why have you come?

**Woman** (Laughs.) I know. My fault.

**Tinker** No, I —

**Woman** It's all right.  
I love you.  
Plenty of time.

*They hold each other, him inside her, not moving.*

**Woman** Are you here?

**Tinker** Yes.

**Woman** Now.

**Tinker** Yes.

**Woman** With me.

**Tinker** Yes.

*Pause.*

**Tinker** What's your name?

**Woman** Grace.

**Tinker** No, I meant —

**Woman** I know. It's Grace.

**Tinker** (Smiles.) I love you, Grace.

### Scene Twenty

*The patch of mud by the perimeter fence.*

*It is raining.*

**Carl and Grace** sit next to each other.

**Grace** now looks and sounds exactly like **Graham**. She is wearing his clothes.

**Carl** wears **Robin's** clothes, that is, **Grace's** (women's) clothes.

*There are two rats, one chewing at **Grace/Graham's** wounds, the other at **Carl's**.*

**Grace/Graham** Body perfect.

Chain-smoked all day but danced like a dream you'd never know.  
Have they done it yet?

Died.

Burnt.

Lump of charred meat stripped of its clothes.

Back to life.

Why don't you ever say anything?

Loved

Me

Hear a voice or catch a smile turning from the mirror You bastard how dare you leave me like this.

Felt it.

Here. Inside. Here.

And when I don't feel it, it's pointless. Think about getting up it's pointless. Think about eating it's pointless. Think about dressing it's pointless. Think about speaking it's pointless. Think about dying only it's totally fucking pointless.

Here now.

Safe on the other side and here.

Graham.

*(A long silence.)*

Always be here.

Thank you, Doctor.

**Grace/Graham** looks at **Carl**.

**Carl** is crying.

**Grace/Graham** Help me.

**Carl** reaches out his arm.

**Grace/Graham** holds his stump.

*They stare at the sky, Carl crying.*

*It stops raining.*

*The sun comes out.*

**Grace/Graham** smiles.

*The sun gets brighter and brighter, the squeaking of the rats louder and louder, until the light is blinding and the sound deafening.*

*Blackout.*