

EXTRACT

SEE-THROUGH

Ciella Williams

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NOTE ON THE SCRIPT

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Cast: Lily - 26.
Rhea. Lily's daughter - 8.
Franz. A cockroach Man - Ageless.
Peacock 1 - Ageless. Female.
Peacock 2 - Ageless. Male.

Setting: A forgotten block of flats.

Note to director: The stage directions are there to give a sense of the world. They are not prescriptive. It is important that there is a sense of magic.

'Mooni' is pronounced with the 'oo' sound of good, rather than moon.

Two ghosts, a young mother and daughter, are trapped in their flat. They are always there, but not always visible. Two peacocks sit on the powerlines above.

Rhea stares at the audience.

She tries to get them to hear her.

She tries to scream at them.

Feathers fall from her mouth.

Peacock 2 You're wasting your breath, little ghost.

Peacock 1 Not that you have any

Peacock 2 They can't hear you

Peacock 1 They won't hear you

They didn't hear you when you died

Peacock 2 Is hearing a choice?

Peacock 1 Listening is.

Peacock 2 We had singing voices once

Peacock 1 Us peacocks

Peacock 2 Beautiful

Peacock 1 Arresting

Peacock 2 Floating, warbling

Peacock 1 But they took them off us

Together Left us to scream.

They scream - a peacock's call.

Rhea There are peacocks that live at our flats. Like we're royalty

Lily Like a rotting zoo

Rhea They call out

Lily They scream

Rhea Like you do when you can't keep it in

I heard a woman laugh like that once.

Lily I laughed like that once.
Rhea I heard a woman scream like that once.
Lily I screamed like that once.
Together When I was alive.
Lily Sometimes it sounds the same.
Rhea I don't think so. You can feel the difference.
Lily Sometimes it feels the same.
Rhea I've never felt that
Lily I hope you never do.

Throughout the following Lily waits. She sits and waits. She walks to the door, looks out and waits. She closes the door and waits. Rhea plays a game with some rat bones.

Peacock 1 You're not the first and you won't be the last.
Peacock 2 This is a place for forgotten things.
Peacock 1 Public housing. The wait to get in is close to 10 years.
Peacock 2 The wait to get out is
Peacock 1 Well
Together Forever.

Peacock 1 The walls are riddled with concrete cancer.
Peacock 2 Crumbling around those who need them most.
Peacock 2 Chunks fall away to reveal rusted red steel rods.
Peacock 1 Grids grinning out of walls like bloody smiles.
Peacock 2 Be grateful, they say
Peacock 1 Through bared teeth.

Peacock 2 A woman goes up in smoke
Lit cigarette catching the frays
Of her armchair

and her insides.

Peacock 1 A man drinks himself
 into the fabric of the couch
 and it swallows his bones.

Peacock 2 A boy climbs onto the TV cabinet
 Wishing he could crawl through the flickering screen
 And out of this place.
 When it falls
 And crushes his chest.

Peacock 1 A young couple fuck and fight
 Loudly
 Until she pushes right through him
 and he strings himself up.

Peacock 2 A mother opens her door
 To find her ex, estranged

Peacock 1 He's heard

Peacock 2 He knows

Peacock 1 She's going to meet someone new

Peacock 2 And he feels justified

Peacock 1 In making sure she can't

Lily There's something in his hand
 An iron bar.
 Rhea, go to your room.

Peacocks She knows the drill.

Rhea Hide.
 Under the bed.
 Toys and hairdustballs and a cockroach on a paddlepop stick
 Try not to sneeze

Peacock 2 But this time is different.

Rhea He's not supposed to be here.
 We left him.

Peacock 1 When it starts
 The neighbours

Peacock 2 One by one

Peacock 1 Turn their TVs up

Rhea Pretend I can't hear it.
 Those sounds in the kitchen.
 Stay quiet.

Peacock 2 Down the hall

Peacock 1 Thongs slap footsteps on tiles

Together Stop.

Rhea *sneezes*

Peacocks Aha.

Rhea He takes my pillow
 My soft one.



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