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reducing the  
ecological footprint  
through eco-awareness

# SHAKESPEARE AND THE GOLDEN TOAD

A PLAY ABOUT ENVIRONMENT AND LOVE

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# CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Narrator

Director

Peach Blossom

Spider Web

Moth

Mustard Seed

Oberon

Titania

Professor Clever-Clever

Sunny

Vilebichski

Servant

Mother

Violetta

Marty Crump

Violetta's father

Violetta's mother

Psychotherapist

Animals

Nanja

Grandfather

Grandmother

## Prelude

Narrator                    When you come to a fork in the road, you can decide which path to take: the one on the left or the one on the right. Is the world full of magic? Is it full of disgust? Is it full of hope - or full of despair? Is it flat or steep, hot or cold? It is as we perceive it. We can heal, or we can destroy. Will we continue to plunder the planet and destroy life, or will we nurture, care and heal? It depends on us. It depends on each of us. Shakespeare created a work in *Midsummer Night's Dream* that is incomparable to any other. Let us first look at a scene between Titania, the fairy queen, and Oberon, the fairy king, her husband.

### Scene 1: „A Midsummer Night's Dream“

Director                    Everyone on stage, please. We will do the first scene in Act 2. Are all the fairies present? Peach Blossom?

Peach Blossom            *(jumping)* Here!

Director                    Spider's web?

Spiderweb                 *(jumps)* Here!

Director                    Moth?

Moth                        *(jumps)* Here!

Director                    Mustard seed?

Mustard seed             *(jumps)* Here!

Director                    So we're going to start moving around the stage, but don't move like sacks of potatoes. You're all standing in front of the audience and you're fairies. Fairies don't have bodies. Now move around the stage in curves, without weight

*(actors start moving)* Light as feathers! Head straight ahead! Like gliding! *(they go on)* Stop! No! You are sacks of potatoes again! Glide! *(they try)* No! I'll show you *(he shows them and explains)*. Bend your knees slightly *(they follow his instructions)*. Roll on the soles of your feet from heel to toe. Small steps. Who is wearing a long skirt? *(Three girls approach him.)* Now try again. Let the audience think you have little wheels instead of feet. Small steps! Yes! That's gliding. Now all of you. *(Everyone tries the same as the girls)* Better! Now think about your arms. You must move them as if you were walking through water, as if they were weightless. Good! So what is the scene about?

Spiderweb

A dramatic fight!

Director

Yes. It's about a dramatic argument about a child in the context of the environment. Wouldn't it be reassuring if all was well again and the fairies settled their dispute? *(Pause)* The genius of this scene is that Titania is delivering a monologue that Shakespeare wrote over 400 years ago about the environment literally being out of balance. Shakespeare was a visionary! Let's play the scene now!

*Light changes. Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Act 2 starts.*

Oberon

I'll met by moonlight, proud Titania.

Titania

What, jealous Oberon? Fairies, skip hence:  
I have forsworn his bed and company.

Oberon

Tarry, rash wanton. Am not I thy lord?

Titania

Then I must be thy lady,  
Why art thou here,  
But that, forsooth, the bouncing Amazon,  
Your buskined mistress and your warrior love,

To Theseus must be wedded, and you come  
To give their bed joy and prosperity?

Oberon

How canst thou thus for shame, Titania,  
Glance at my credit with Hippolyta,  
Knowing I know thy love to Theseus?  
Didst not thou lead him through the glimmering night  
From Perigouna, whom he ravished?  
And make him with fair Aegles break his faith,  
With Ariadne and Antiopa?

Titania

These are the forgeries of jealousy;  
And never, since the middle summer's spring,  
Met we on hill, in dale, forest, or mead,  
By paved fountain or by rushy brook,  
Or in the beachèd margent of the sea,  
To dance our ringlets to the whistling wind,  
But with thy brawls thou hast disturbed our sport.  
And thorough this distemperature we see  
The seasons alter: the spring, the summer,  
The childing autumn, angry winter, change  
Their wonted liveries, and the mazed world  
Now knows not which is which:  
And this same progeny of evils comes  
From our debate, from our dissension;  
We are their parents and original.

Oberon

Do you amend it, then. It lies in you.  
Why should Titania cross her Oberon?  
I do but beg a little changeling boy,  
To be my henchman.

Titania

Set your heart at rest:  
The Fairyland buys not the child of me;  
If you will patiently dance in our round  
And see our moonlight revels, go with us;  
If not, shun me, and I will spare your haunts.

Oberon Give me that boy and I will go with thee.

Titania Not for thy fairy kingdom. Fairies, away!  
We shall chide downright if I longer stay. *(exit)*

Oberon *(calls after her)* Beware of the golden toad!

*Light changes back.*

Prof. Clever-Clever Very good, very good, children! By the way, the golden toad is the first scientifically proven species to become extinct due to climate change.

Director Ah, Professor Clever Clever! Thank you for coming all the way from Cambridge to join us!

Prof. Clever-Clever Buna sera! I quickly learned Romanian on the way.

Director Allow me to ask you flatly: How many people lived in London during Shakespeare's lifetime?

Prof. Clever-Clever It's estimated at around 200.000. Now London has 8.961.989 inhabitants.

Director And what do we know about the average ecological footprint?

Prof. Clever-Clever Globally, the ecological footprint was far less than 1% of our footprint today. Unfortunately, I am very pessimistic about the future of our planet... But I am very optimistic if we manage to act decisively together! Oh, by the way, I brought you something.

Director That's very kind. Thank you.

Prof. Clever-Clever      Ah, well, it's this double chart. Let's look at the graph of the growth of humanity (*pointing at the graph*), do you see how fast it is increasing? It's the same in reverse. Now we look at species extinction in the same time frame (*as children put up a second chart, he continues*). The more humans there are, the less diversity there is in other living things. That is a problem. Not for us, of course, but for the others, for the animals.

Scene 2: Sunny and Prof. Clever-Clever

*Prof. Clever-Clever appears with a long blue coat. Sunny, who plays as an elf in Midsummer Night's Dream, goes to him. He has a ball in his hand.*

Sunny                      What was it like in the beginning with the creation of the world?

Prof. Clever-Clever      The earth was desolate and confused, darkness lay over the primeval flood. And God's spirit hovered over the water. But then something wonderful began: there was light and the creation of life began!

*Little plants, fish, trees, animals, humans - all brought to life through mime and music.*

Prof. Clever-Clever      It was breathtaking, overwhelming. Fantastic.

*Light changes. Now-time around the year 2000.*

Prof. Clever-Clever      When astronauts went into space and saw the earth from a distance, it was so beautiful blue... That was in 1967. Now the earth has become grey and dull.

Sunny                      Everywhere...?

Prof. Clever-Clever      There's still a bit of blue shining through in places.

Sunny But what happens if this planet is destroyed (*hands the ball to Prof. Clever-Clever*)?

Prof. Clever-Clever (*smiles*) Maybe we'll discover a new one somewhere (*throws the crumpled ball away*).

Sunny But I mean, we, the humanity - and I - are we going to... die...?

Prof. Clever-Clever Not if we learn to live with nature and not against it. It is the greatest war ever fought. It is the war against life. Almost eight billion people fight life every day with the goods they consume.

Sunny But what is the solution?

Prof. Clever-Clever Use less of the earth and give more back to the earth!

#### Scene 3: Choir

*Choir (that reflects modern life: 1. electrics - LIGHT 2. shopping 3. travelling 4. food 5. hygiene 6. clothes and 7. Rubbish) One after the other enters the stage in full costume, with a parody of modern life. Man and woman in a restaurant, food is cheap, half is thrown away. They look at their mobile phones and don't talk to each other. Rubbish on stage at the end.*

Sunny Do you see the birds? Do you see the trees? I love our beautiful world. I'm going to save it.

#### Scene 4: Vilebichski and Servant

*Left side of stage: Cluttered bedroom with high walls, Vilebichski sits in a wheelchair in front of the mirrored dresser.*

Vilebichski (*looks at herself in the mirror and analyses the wrinkles*) I wonder why I even bother looking in the mirror in the morning... (*plucks at her eyelids and the corners of her*



*mouth*) You can literally watch the skin sag. And the circles under my eyes are as deep as caves. The dying off is just ghastly.... Eschek! Eschek!

Servant                      Your Grace?

Vilebichski                Do you think I look old?

Servant                      But Your Grace, you never look old you evergreen orchid!

Vilebichski                Don't talk such nonsense.

Servant                      But Your Grace - when I say truth, I don't always have good experiences with it...

Vilebichski                What?? So you admit that I look old, you insolent bastard?! Get out!! At once! (*Servant leaves*). The servant was a wedding gift... How many marriages did I have in a hurry?! Four? Five? Never mind. They're gone, all long gone - thank God (*rings, rings once more and a third time*)...

Servant                      (*enters with earplugs plopping out of his ears*) Well, Your Grace?

Vilebichski                What have you got there? Chewing gum in your ears? What is this new fashion?

Servant                      No, these are...

Vilebichski                Don't interrupt me, moron. I may look like a blooming orchid, but there is one merciless, statistical fact: namely, that no one is immortal. I need a worthy successor, someone full of verve, ambition, ideas and creative drive. Someone who is willing to give everything, skin and hair.

Scene 5: Sunny and Mother

*Right side of stage: Projection of a skyscraper typically for Romania in the 60s. Mother in work clothes is washing up or cleaning the floor. The TV in the background shows advertisements.*

Sunny                    *(entering)* I want to save the world.

Mother                 Your food is on the table.

Sunny                    Mother, we have global warming, the oceans are turning sour and we have species extinction on an unprecedented scale!

Mother                 I don't know what you're talking about. Do they teach you such nonsense in school? Go and eat your food!

Sunny                    So you don't think it's true?

Mother                 Look, Sunny: What is true about the so-called justice of communism? Lies are as old as mankind. Lies, manipulation and breaking of promises. Just think of Eve and the snake. We have to get on with our lives. The earth was created a long time ago. It will not perish in our lifetime. Not in mine. Not in yours. Don't worry about it! Think about your exams. And learn languages. That's important. You can only get out of Romania if you know other languages, at least three. I can also give you one piece of advice: don't look to the right, don't look to the left, just get on with your life!

Scene 6: Vilebichski and Servant

*Left side of stage: Vilebichskis bedroom.*

Servant                 Madame are up to something? I know when you get nervous mouth twitching...

Vilebichski            I need this boy.

Servant But why this boy in particular do you want?

Vilebichski I think because I was like that once.... Back when I was young. But my sensitivity brought me nothing but scorn. So I got rid of it... Little by little. I managed to build a shell around myself and gradually began to ignore that voice inside me - the conscience or whatever you call it. Well - and - and I did well, didn't I? (*laughs cynically*).

Servant But what do you need the boy for? Do you find him nice?

Vilebichski Pah! No, that's not a qualification (*laughs uproariously*). Everyone is nice to me. That's the problem! An endless trail of slime from would-be favourites expecting benefits... No, I like him because he's so beautifully unspent and innocent. For now. I want to give him something. Everything I have, my inheritance, my money, my everything, and he should give me his innocence, his pure conscience and his heart that beats for the environment and the animals!

Servant But why? I don't understand motivation...

Vilebichski I want the assurance that I did it right, even if things happened in one deal or another that may not always have been flawless. When the oil rig blew up, eleven workers died of oil flowed into the sea for 90 days. Admittedly, it was not pretty to see the dead animals on the beaches. But - investments are risky! It's part of the game!

I bet that I will succeed lulling in this boy. He shall become greedy and powerful (*rubs her hands together*) and his idealism shall be forgotten once and for all.

Scene 7: Prof. Clever-Clever

*Projection of a burning ball.*

Prof.Clever-Clever      Already 125 years ago, in 1896, the Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius said: "We are blowing our coal mines into the air. It would be quite possible for this change to heat up the planet to such an extent that it would be beyond all human experience." He was not the only one to worry, but they all went unheard for a long time - too long. Now it will be difficult to stop the rise in global temperatures. Strictly speaking, we still have two to three years. By 2025, global emissions must have peaked! By 2030, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 43 percent.

Scene 8: Sunny and Mother

Sunny                      Mother, I can't go on. I feel sick. I have worked day and night for these exams. I feel weak and exhausted. And now I don't know if I want to take these terrible exams anymore. What is the point?

Mother                    You're tired, go to bed! I'll make you a good hot chocolate.

Sunny                      You don't understand. I am serious about this.

Mother                    Sunny, I'm serious too. Do you think it's funny to work in a factory for 380 Euros a month? And the long way there. I have to go whether I'm tired or not, whether I have a headache or not. I have to get up at 5 in the morning. Do you think I want to stand there for 8 hours doing the same movements until I go numb? And you know what's the only thing that keeps me going? *(Sunny doesn't answer)* It's the fear of losing the job, of being replaced by a robot. As long as I have the job, I can help you, I can finance you, I can wash your clothes, I can take care of you.

Sunny But, mother. I have no life. I have no friends.

Mother You will have friends. Later. When you will have a good job. That's why you have to be the best. Friends are a waste of time now. Just think of your father. He was an enemy of the system just because he was born into a privileged family. He was a child. And because he was the son of a landowner, he was treated like a criminal. By that time, the system had already killed and imprisoned anyone who was privileged and did not conform. Artists, intellectuals, peasants, secretaries. That was the enemy. The enemy was completely defeated. But some of the enemies had children. What to do with them? They decided to start an experiment. The Experiment of Pitesti. The enemy children had to torture, torment and kill each other. Your father was luckily sent there at the very end, so he survived. Still, it marked him for life. And then he had to work in a stone mine. He could never complain. Complaints were always followed by beatings and humiliations. You were the greatest joy of his life. You have to take the exams. You have to do it for him.

Sunny And for you.

Mother I have sacrificed everything for you. You are my only hope.

*Suddenly the doorbell rings. They look at each other.*

Mother Are you expecting company?

Sunny No.

Servant May I enter?

Mother Oh, and you are...?

Servant I am a servant to The Vilebichski...

Sunny Who is Vilebichski?

Servant My boss. She wants to meet you.

Sunny What for? (*Servant hands him a letter and leaves*)(*Sunny reads:*) Dear Sunny: The question is: Do you want to be the spider in the spider's web, holding the threads in your hand, or do you want to be a pathetic fly caught in it...? - like my dumb servant who has just delivered my letter? I can help you to have the strings in your hand. And more than that, you shall inherit all that I possess. I await your answer! The Vilebichski.

Mother There must be some mistake. We know no one of that name.

Servant The Vilebichski is seldom mistaken.

Sunny Oh - it's probably a prank by my classmates. Isn't today the first of April...?

*They are relieved for a moment.*

Servant The Vilebichski is impudent, yes, a terrible person, but she is also powerful and rich. You will never have to suffer again. You will have a good life.

Sunny It's better to live a humble life than to surrender to that sinister person...

Mother

No Sunny. I don't see it that way. Sometimes you have to jump over your own shadow.

Scene 9: Choir

Choir

Back to the roots?!

They say the old life was difficult- and perhaps it was...

It was dark as soon as the sun disappeared behind the horizon

And the Earth rested for a new day.

In these dark nights people dreamed it was light!

Not day and night alternating - light at the push of a button, simple, quick!

They wanted it to happen that way

And they saw that it was good and comfortable!

Then the people spoke:

We no longer believe in the invisible- -

We'd much rather buy goods.

Shopping! Yes! It's fun!

Follow the impulse without measure!

Then the people thought:

It's boring to sit at home all the time.

In winter, we want to sweat in Thailand

And in summer? Up to the North Pole,

For it's time to cool down.

Then people thought:

Sauerkraut is awfully bland,

And with it, red beet salad...

We'd rather slurp oysters,

And afterwards Argentinian steak!  
And for dessert? Litchis and kiwis  
From the farthest corner of the world!

Then the people spoke:  
We want variety in our wardrobe  
And not always the same depressing garment,  
Colourful and black and short and long,  
Beautiful and flashy and also quite ordinary!

Then the people thought:  
Now we have everything, just the way we like it!  
What we don't want - we throw away!  
And so the mountains grow,  
They are no longer made of stone..  
They are ugly, and stink, and cause a lot of pain.  
Where can we put them?  
Off to the planets in space,  
And this ball of Earth would be redeemed!

Scene 10: Vilebichski and Sunny

*Voices are heard from backstage.*

Vilebichski            Ouch! Do you want to push me to the grave, you idiot...?

Servant                *(with a strong accent)*What have I done?

Vilebichski            What have you done?! You bumped over a stone and now  
it hurts my back!

Servant                O - I have not seen.



Vilebichski                      Didn't see what? How not seen?

Servant                              Stone was pebble, smaller than pea!

Vilebichski                      I decide, whether the stone was big or small!

*Servant pushes the Vilebichski in her wheelchair onto the stage. Vilebichski throws the cat into the servant's lap, the cat howls loudly. Then it bites the servant's hand, who then cries out loudly. The Vilebichski ignores them both completely. Then she throws the servant her hat and waves them both off the stage.*

Vilebichski                      Sunny, nice to finally meet you! Some idiot psychotherapist once told me I was a narcissist. He then added that narcissists have no ability to reflect on their behaviour. I can only laugh at so much hair-raising nonsense! Hahaha!

Sunny                                  What are you trying to tell me...?

Vilebichski                      Maybe only this much: That you don't have to be afraid. That you are in the best of hands. You're making the right decision when you put your life in my hands. But you have to be the best. Do you understand? The best! And you have to be creative too! And invest properly, you understand? Be original. I started investing in fish. *(A sequence from "Seespiracy" is shown)* In the last 5 years, I've had profits of 28-61%, so when they tell you it's a terrible business, it's not true.

Sunny                                  What makes you so sure?

Vilebichski                    These environmentalists are a nuisance, of course. They don't know anything about profit. You just have to be clever. The important thing is to do everything within the law. I own a fleet under the flag of Panama - all legal - and a crew from different countries, mainly Asia, so we don't come under the scrutiny of EU regulations. We are 100% legal. And if anyone says it's bad for the fish, that's a lie, it's not true, and I'll gladly sue anyone who says that, with my crew of lawyers. Now do you understand how it works?

Sunny                            But... I don't care about any of that! I want to save the world!

Vilebichski                    *(laughs loudly)* A truly modest ambition! You'll need strong partners for that.

Sunny                            And how do I get them?

Vilebichski                    One step at a time, Sunny. Here - this is our pact. You get everything I have.

Sunny                            And your condition?

Vilebichski                    Lifelong obedience to me.

Sunny                            That's a high price!

Vilebichski                    Please, please. If you have goals, you have to be willing to make sacrifices. Eschek! *(doesn't come immediately, so she shouts louder again)*. Eschek!!

Servant                         *(stumbles onto the stage)* Yes, Madame!

Vilebichski                   And the cat!?!? Where is the cat?

Servant                       Madame, I don't know...

Vilebichski                   How do you not know?? What don't you know (*stands up - very unexpectedly for everyone - straight from the wheelchair, takes the hat, puts it on the servant and pulls it over the servant's eyes so that he can no longer see*)?!

Servant                       But Madame... I can't drive like this.

Vilebichski                   Of course, you can.

*They rattle off the stage, scolding and placating. Sunny leaves in confusion.*

#### Scene 11: Prof. Clever-Clever

Prof. Clever-Clever       Recent studies show, regrettably, that the world average temperature will most likely rise by more than two degrees - possibly much more. A global average rise of four degrees is considered very likely - six degrees is also possible. A rise of four to six degrees would be absolutely devastating. It would trigger completely uncontrollable climate changes, the whole planet would possibly "tip" within a short time. The Earth would be hell on Earth. Until it finally does, we will witness unprecedented weather extremes: bushfires, floods, heat waves, crop losses, forest dieback, water shortages and a catastrophic rise in sea levels.

#### Scene 12: Vilebichski and Sunny

*Fire, hell dance... - scene transitions into the transformation scene. A trendy club, some people on stage, the red-orange mood light remains, later it dips more into*

*dark red... Sunny is now transformed, fully materialistic and out for his own gain – Vilebichski's slave. Sunny and Vilebichski sit together at a table.*

Vilebichski                      Sunny, how happy I am! Now my world is open to you! You'll never have to look back! Let's drink to that! And from now on we're on a first-name basis (*toasting!*)

Sunny:                              You promised to explain the secret of money to me.

Vilebichski                      There are and always have been a handful of people who really understand and understood how money works. Even in ancient Egypt, about 3,000 years ago, they knew a secret that gave them an advantage over everyone else. That was the gold/silver ratio, because silver was much more valuable in the East than in the West. You paid in silver in the East and they paid in gold in the West and you had a profit of about 40% as long as nobody knew about it. It is a world of unlimited possibilities! The world of money, the world of infinite growth, the world of prosperity! You need money, lots of money, to play in the top league. And networks. Hierarchies have always existed, and you have to be at the top. And the great thing about money - I mean, if you're rich, really rich, you get more of it every day, every minute. But you have to be in on the secret.

*Projection „The Capital“ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YglXNINF\\_AE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YglXNINF_AE) - maybe a Scrooge McDuck cartoon combined with the explanations of the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBRrCY5uhWY>*

*Scrooge McDuck (video): (in a duck voice) The popular saying about getting rich is: The first million is the hardest. But what happens then is a miracle! What can't you do with 1 million euros! If you lend 1 million, you'll get 50,000 euros a year as interest! You can spend that, but my advice is to keep saving it!*

*And if you have a lot, a lot of money, then you can invest it - preferably in what is needed for sure! In oil platforms that dig under the sea for the black gold! Not entirely harmless for the environment but- with the right lawyers you can wash yourself clean and sink the oil film under the earth with a little poison! Or you buy a piece of rainforest, by chance it burns down a short time later and palm trees, palm trees, palm trees grow as far as the eye can see, and you sell palm oil and soon have a lot more money! Moneeeey! Moneeeey!*

Vilebichski Shameless activists with their exaggerations! That's called manipulation of the masses. Hopefully things like that don't impress you anymore...?

Sunny This is envy, only envy, of those who are less skilful and belong to the losers! But we are the winners! Because we are hardworking and talented!

Vilebichski Yes, that's right Sunny. You gave everything to make a better life for yourself and your mother. It's very simple: if you perform, you contribute to the growth and success of society. He does good, Sunny, you do good by being successful and earning money. You will get a job worthy of your stature with Wolf, one of my closest confidants. I've already set it all up.

Scene 13: Prof. Clever-Clever

Prof. Clever-Clever The manufacturing of a car is the composition of individual components: body, tyres, seat covers, batteries, etc, ... Let's look at the car's body: first, iron ore is mined somewhere in Brazil, for example. From there, it is transported to Germany by a cargo boat that emits a lot of pollutants in order to produce steel from it, with an enormous energy input, in other words, an enormous

ecological footprint. Then again, the steel is transported by boat to a car plant, for example, in Japan. And so it goes with most other components. 500 million containers are in use worldwide to satisfy our hunger for consumption. In addition, there are several billion tonnes of raw materials that form the basis of our consumption. The consumer does not pay for the damage caused by pollutants. Nobody pays for it. But sea life is slowly dying out.

*Projection of a coral reef in shining colour, of a coral reef in grey, photo of oil-covered bird.*

#### Scene 14: Violetta and Sunny

*Sunny rushes into the office of Violetta's father. She finds Violetta sitting behind his desk.*

Violetta                      If you run too fast you might fall.

Sunny                         *(embarrassed)* Ah ... Hello... I'm Sunny.

Violetta                      Is he making you work so hard?

Sunny                         *(confused.)* Who?

Violetta                      Wolff, my father. He's an ass.

*Sunny doesn't know what to say.*

Violetta.                      Where are you from?

Sunny                         Romania.

Violetta *(thinks for a moment)* Where is Romania?

Sunny Guess!

Violetta *(after a brief moment)* Somewhere in Eurasia.

Sunny Bingo. On the border of Europe, looking towards Asia.

Violetta Ah, - *(seems to think again)* I'm Violetta.

Sunny And what do you do, Violetta?

Violetta I'm a blogger.

Sunny Oh, cool! What do you blog about?

Violetta About what really matters. Beauty and spiritual health to raise consciousness on our planet. Have you heard about my latest product - inspired by the hardship of my own life: my anti-vampire spray...? Do you know who gave me the idea...? My own father.

Sunny But why...? Your father is very nice!

Violetta O - ... Do you think...? He is an energy vampire. You know, the temple of your soul is your body and around it is your aura. But it is endangered when low vibrating subjects endanger the high vibrating frequencies. Help your aura to protect itself - with the anti-vampire spray. Without garlic, but with the seductive scent of grated energy stones! Well? What do you say?

Sunny I've always wanted to meet a girl who is clever and fascinating. *(pauses)* I think that's you.

Violetta Bingo!

Scene 15: Prof. Clever-Clever and Marty Crump

Prof. Clever-Clever     The first species recorded to be extinct through climate change is the golden toad on Monteverde Mountain in Costa Rica.

*Marty Crump, an amphibian expert, enters in expedition gear describes what she is seeing in April 1987*

Marty Crump             I trudge uphill... through cloud forests, then through gnarled elfin forest... At the next bend I see one of the most incredible sights I've ever seen. There, congregated around several small pools at the bases of dwarfed, windswept trees, are over one hundred Day-Glo golden orange toads poised like statues, dazzling jewels against the dark brown mud (*stops to take notes*).

Prof. Clever-Clever     A few days later, on 20th of April...

Marty Crump             Breeding seems to be over. I found the last female four days ago and gradually the males have returned to their underground retreats. Every day the ground is drier and the pools contain less water. Today's observations are discouraging. Most of the pools have dried out completely, leaving behind desiccated eggs already covered in mold. Unfortunately the dry weather conditions of El Nino affect tis part of Costa Rica.

Prof. Clever-Clever     As if they felt it, the toads started breeding again in May.

Marty Crump             (*counting the eggs*) Ten pools, some of them very small. Over 43.000 eggs. What is going to happen? (*takes notes*)

Prof. Clever-Clever     The pools dried up quickly.

Marty Crump             29 tadpoles survived for over a week. Will they make it? (*she packs her stuff sadly and looks around gloomily*)

Prof. Clever-Clever     The next year Mrs. Crump was back for the breeding season. And the next year again.



Marty Crump                    *(taking notes)* 15th of May 1989. Again, I see a solitary male. I expect it is the same one I saw last year, as it is only 3 meters where I sighted him last year. He is holding a lonely vigil, waiting for the others, who have all disappeared.

Prof. Clever-Clever        That was the last sight of a golden toad. It has become extinct, dead, gone forever. It's always devastating to witness the extinction of a species, for what you are seeing is the dismantling of the ecosystem and an irreparable genetic loss *(shakes his head)*. Any stupid child can crush a beetle. But all the professors in the world can't make one.

Scene 16: Mother and Sunny with Violetta

*Sunny's new, modern flat. Mother is arriving.*

Mother                        *(embarrassed, doesn't know how to behave in such beautiful surroundings)* Oh Sunny, your flat is - - - *(lacks the right words)!*

Sunny                         Well? Do you like it?

Mother                        Oh, yes! Yes *(not quite convinced, but overwhelmed)!*

Sunny                         Hm. Well - maybe not quite your taste...?

Mother                        Definitely better than the orange-brown wallpaper in our kitchen. Do you remember?

Sunny                         *(laughs)* Uh, yes. How could I ever forget those hideous colours?

Mother                        Funny. And at that time I felt so blessed. I had waited three years for the wallpaper...

Sunny                      Would you like a cup of tea?

Mother                     I'd rather have a glass of Palinka!

Violetta                   *(comes in and turns around in front of Sunny in a self-indulgent and flirtatious way)* Well, how do I look?

Sunny                      As gorgeous as ever! Violetta, may I introduce you to my mother?

Violetta                    Enchanté! How was the journey?

Mother                     Exhausting, but now that I'm here...

Violetta                   *(abruptly cuts the mother off)* Sunny, tell me: how do you like my dress and my shoes?

Sunny                      Didn't you already have them on earlier?

Violetta                    But no! They are brandnew!

Sunny                      Funny. I could have sworn I'd seen them both before. You already have a black dress and shoes like that!

Violetta                    These have a pointed shaft and a silver... You know what? It's my 99th pair of shoes in my shoe collection!

Sunny                      Then I'll buy you the 100th pair!

Violetta                    Oh, Sunny, you're so good to me... You know, and this robe! I don't know where to put it -

Sunny                      Then we'll enlarge the wardrobe!

Violetta                    Yes, or the old robes will just go to the charity. My mother is organising another big event in a fortnight. There she

can feel important again, she who has been in my father's shadow all her life.

*An awkward silence is spreading.*

Mother                      Sunny, Violetta - - - what a nice life you have! It's so much better than the other way round... I had a pair of shoes, and when they were soaked, in winter, from the long walk to school, I didn't have a pair to change into. They were shoes - not boots. Snow was creeping in everywhere. Five months of cold feet. And the coat? Thin, we were freezing all the time.

Violetta                      Oh! I'm sorry...

Mother                      But you're free! The world is yours! A freedom I never knew!

*Projection of a Video „Fast Fashion“ (<https://www.n-tv.de/wirtschaft/Fast-Fashion-stapelt-sich-in-der-Wueste-article22955784.html>)*

Scene 17: Violetta and Sunny

Violetta                      Honey, we have to talk.

Sunny                        Oh no, let's not analyse our relationship again. We already do that practically every evening deep into the night...

Violetta                      I'm unhappy with us. I think we're stagnating as a couple and I'm afraid we'll end up like my parents. He was always grumpy and overwhelmed with work, and you're already like that. And she used to bitch about him during her bridge rounds...Frustrated, she went shopping; so she could at least be tired of something too. That's what I want to prevent. The slow death of a love which was once great. The imbalance in our lifestyles...

Sunny Violetta, don't be so dramatic. I'm doing this all for you! To give us a good life! Surely you want to maintain the lifestyle you were used to?

Violetta Yes. Of course. But I would like to add something in common...

Sunny And what exactly?

Violetta: A common basis... And I already have a great idea. Come - let's bathe our spirit in the cosmic light of Uranus, the planet that stands for revolution and change! Tonight at full moon the heavens are open for us to do so.

Sunny What are you saying...? Have you taken a completely wrong turn?

Violetta You're already talking like my father! You don't respect or appreciate my uniqueness any more than he does!!! Sometimes I get the impression that you're all about performance... Numbers... Profit... Didn't you ever have dreams of a better, more peaceful world?

Sunny Ha - like those naive demonstrators, activists in their Jesus sandals and grid curls?

Violetta Why do you get so cynical and aggressive?

Sunny I don't know what you mean. I'm the same as always.

Scene 18: Prof. Clever-Clever

Prof. Clever-Clever Half a ton of household waste per capita: According to official statistics, each inhabitant of the European Union produced 502 kilograms of waste in 2019, seven kilograms more than a year earlier. Austria was well above average with 588 kilograms per person, while the frontrunners

were Denmark with 844 and Luxembourg with 791 kilograms. Romania had the lowest amounts in the EU with 280 kilograms. And yes, in recent decades the amount of recycled waste has also increased - which has helped to reduce waste production in the world. However, no amount of recycling can completely solve the problem.

Scene 19: Sunny is dreaming

*Sunny in ihis bed. Choir is singing „Sunnyboy“ to the tunes of „Bel ami“.*

Sunny                    *(has wings in his dream)* Yes, oh yes, it's beautiful, and it's light, very light - I'm flying!

Choir                    Don't fly too high!

Sunny                    But I can't fly at all!

Choir                    No? *(laughs creepily)* You can't?

Sunny                    No one can fly. I must be dreaming. Yes, I'm dreaming.

Choir                    Yes, you're dreaming, Sunny, and yet it's true! Your life - a dream. Sunny, you're a high-flyer! Isn't it beautiful?

Sunny                    Beautiful? Yes, everything is new, and big and luxurious.

Choir                    Don't you enjoy it, Sunnyboy?

Sunny                    Enjoy?! Yes, oh yes. But I was - wasn't I - dreaming of something else!? Help! Help! Help! Help! My wings are - breaking off! Help! I'm falling!

Choir                    You are living a life many are only dreaming of, but most don't succeed in! Bravo!

Sunny But I - wanted something completely different... Where is it? What was it...? It's gone!

Choir O, the poor man! He's suffering from memory loss! Amnesia! Amnesia! Amnesia!

Sunny Amnesty! Please set me free! Put me out of my misery! Put me out of my misery!

Choir The news: Sunny, who wanted to go down in the history books as the saviour of the world, has fallen vertically into the sea of the collective. There his identity has been neutralised, no - has been dissolved.

*Sunny wakes up in a cold sweat.*

Scene 20: Violetta's argument with her parents

Violetta You're part of the old system. We're creating a new world. A new consciousness. We will rule everything and we are strong.

Violetta's father And who is going to earn the money?

Violetta You don't get it. It's not about money. It will be fair. It will be just.

Violetta's father I've worked all my life, I went right to the top. That's not cut out for everyone, you've got to be the best. And who did I do this for?

Violetta Don't give me that crap. You live in a world of greed, lies and destruction.

*Violetta's mother comes in. Very done up, high heels etc.*

Violetta's father Your daughter is just lecturing me on a new age coming.

Violetta's mother      Well, she's always been spiritual. And we are coming in a strong astrological constellation... *(she turns to Violetta)*  
Darling, you look so pretty when your hair is done. And a bit of lipstick - You know what I think about the plastic coffins on your feet - - -

Violetta                      Mother, stop it! Don't you see - you both just live for your damn status symbols. There is no meaning. Your lives are empty. You don't care. I hate you. I hate you both. - Everything about you is fake! *(runs out)*

*Violetta's Father sinks into a chair.*

Violetta's mother      I think we both could do with a stiff drink.

*Violetta's father just nods.*

Scene 21: Prof. Clever-Clever

Prof. Clever-Clever      In many parts of the world, more has been built in the last 70 years than in all of history up to that point. For the last 100 years or so, more and more building materials have been used that are not degradable, mainly concrete, steel buildings, aluminium, glass, plastics, etc. "About 47% of global emissions, 49% of global energy consumption and 50% of resource extraction is due to construction" (T.C.) "Construction is a \$10 trillion industry worldwide. That equates to about \$1,400 per person per year. That means that in 2016, for each of us, for each person on Earth, about 11 tonnes of material was extracted from the Earth." How does this affect the climate? The production of concrete needs a heating process of about 1,200 degrees Celsius. Chemicals used to break down metals sink into the groundwater and thus enter the water cycle. Sealing the earth with concrete destroys the habitat of many animal and plant species and is a disaster for many ecosystems.

Scene 22: Violetta's father in therapy

*The psychotherapist is silent, Violetta's father is silent - 30 seconds of uncomfortable silence.*

Violetta's father        Doctor, can you answer me a question?

Psychotherapist        Usually it's my job to ask questions and not to give answers.

Violetta's father        Doctor, what is the meaning of life?

Psychotherapist        Well, hm... Are you sure you want to go deeper into this matter? The more you dig, the more you might realize that there is a hole. Which nobody is able to fill - - - except you... But what causes your questions and your troubles?

Violetta's father        My daughter... She treats me as if everything I have ever done is wrong.

Psychotherapist        Hm.

Violetta's father        She is so aggressive.

Psychotherapist        Isn't that her right?

*Quite a long pause.*

Violetta's father        Everything was so different, when I was her age. I was different. I respected my parents. My father worked his butt off to give me a good education. He always said: "You can get right to the top!" And to the top I went.

Psychotherapist        It's hard if our beloved ones don't meet our expectations.

Violetta's father        Do you know what she said to me, before she slammed the door and walked off? "You unscrupulous asshole. All



that money on your accounts, the employees in your mines, do you think that all that wealth will ever give you an answer about what the sense of life is? For money and success you sold your soul."

Psychotherapist            How did the relationship with your daughter use to be?

Violetta's father            *(looks at her picture on his phone)* She used to be my angel... When she was born - I remember it so well - it was like the world stood still. Time stood still. Like you know - on a cold winter day, when everything gets covered with snow, and gets slow and silent, and you get the impression that finally there is peace and quiet... It had that surrealistic dimension to me. No time, nobody, not even my wife, who has just given birth to that miracle --- just her and me...

Psychotherapist            Try to cultivate this image. it will make you feel reconciled.

Violetta's father            There is a gap as wide as the ocean between us now. But I'm doing so much for her. *(laughs suddenly)* Young madam wouldn't like a life in the gutter, I can assure you.

*Time is up. Violetta's father gets up and goes, but leaves his handkerchief on the couch. As he is leaving, the Psychotherapist goes over to him and gives him the handkerchief.*

Violetta's father            My wife is also going to come for your help.

*Violetta's father leaves. The Psychotherapist stays and writes something in a notebook.*

Scene 23: Vilebichsky and Sunny

Vilebichski I hear there are problems? Arguments? Nerves on edge? Did I get you out of the gutter to have your first burn-out at not even thirty years old?

Sunny You know what I've been asking myself all this time? Why should I succeed you? You know a lot of ambitious young people...

Vilbichski Because you have something, Sunny, something special. You reminded me of myself... Could it be that I was wrong about you? But then it would be the very first time in my life that I would have made a bad investment... Because up to now I have always had an unerring hand.

Sunny But I can't... function any longer.

Vilebichski Oh fiddlesticks! You have an absolutely formidable life - thanks to me! We have a pact for life - don't you forget that.

Sunny I try to please everyone anyway. But I'm so restless and depressed.

Vilebichski Depressive moods are for old women, but not for young men in the prime of their creativity!

Sunny It's nice, but somehow I don't see any meaning in my work any more.

Vilebichski I'll give you meaning. The inheritance that beckons to you have enough meaning. And don't forget to always eat and drink enough! *(pats Sunny encouragingly on the thigh)* Enjoy life. *(browsing the menu)* Pork medallions with chive sauce... Pah! Don't make me laugh. In a gourmet restaurant, no one cares about that. Hahaha! Kobe beef on a bed of sugar snap peas and papaya mirror? Well, Sunny? What do you think?

Sunny I don't have much of an appetite.

Vilebichsky But that's a mistake! Food is good for the nerves! You haven't become a vegetarian, I hope? Or even fruitarian? One can eat meat with a clear conscience, because the animals are doing great! Quality seals confirm that they are kept in a species-appropriate manner! And for starters... hmmmmm... A nice fat goose liver. Poultry is not really meat. Just like fish. We could order some oysters.

Scene 24: Animals and their reproachful questions

Pig Why do you keep us behind bars during birth and deprive us of all movement? You do it even though I could crush one of my dear piglets. If you gave me enough space, that wouldn't happen. Why do you keep us on concrete floors without straw?

Cow You bred us to give you 60 litres of milk a day. But we can only do that for 4 or 5 years. Our natural lifespan is three times that, then you stuff us into trucks on our way to death, which we feel all the way - and then...

Little chicken Why do you cut off our beaks and shred the male chicks? Do you think we have no feelings?

Elephant Why do you shoot us to extract our tusks?

Filly Why did you use a stun gun to separate me from my mother? Would you do that to your children?

Lobster Why do I have to die in boiling water?

Goose                    Why do you fatten me up so much that my liver swells to 10 times its natural size and you sell it as a delicacy called "foie gras"?

Monkey                 Why do you chop off my head and eat my brain when I am still alive?

Tiger                    Why do you set these traps and inflict endless pain on us?

Shark                    On average, we kill about 6 people a year. And you kill about 6 million of us - per year!

Choir                    You are the masters of the world. Why torture and torment us, why take our babies, why do you treat us so brutally, why don't you care?

Scene 25: Vilebichsky and Sunny

Vilebichski            Good. You can order steamed courgettes. There you go. Now let's get down to business. Alaska. Nothing but snow and silence and sun. That might be a nice change? No family animosities, the focus is entirely on the job... So. Listen: The fossil age is not over yet! We can still make big profits in this segment too! We will squeeze out all the oil reserves that are still lying dormant somewhere in the depths of the earth to the very last drop!

Sunny                    And where should that be?

Vilebichski            There is a national park in the very north of Alaska, a „nature reserve“, and I have been fighting for an exemption for decades. Finally - with success!!!

*Vilebichski holds a document under Sunny's nose in which permission is given to extract oil.*

Vilebichski                    Be happy, Sunny! Nothing will happen if you just do what I tell you.

Scene 26: Prof. Clever-Clever

Prof. Clever-Clever        Ah, there is an interesting thing - I almost forgot - If you take the mass of vertebrae animals, what is the ratio of those who live in freedom to those who live domesticated by man? 97 - 3%! If you add up the mass of all land-dwelling animals with vertebral columns and the animals we have domesticated, i.e. domestic animals, cows, horses, etc., already account for 97 per cent. This means that very few species make up 97 percent of the mass, while the by far larger number of species has been reduced to 3 percent.

Scene 27: Violetta and Sunny

*Violetta is all excited because she has spent weeks working on an improved formula for her anti-vampire spray, which now shows increased effectiveness.*

Violetta                    Sunny, just imagine, I've been experimenting with all kinds of elixirs for weeks now, and I've found the ultimate formula: Mistletoe juice plus cumin oil plus the grated stones. It works like a bomb!

*Violetta sprays around, they both get a coughing fit and watery eyes.*

Violetta                    *(laughs)*O, o, o, that was really too much.

Sunny                        *(after a pause)*Vilebichski is sending me to Alaska.

Violetta                    Excuse me? You know I hate winter and cold!

Sunny                        You only think about yourself again! I don't want to go there, but I have no choice!

Violetta                    I could also blog from there...

Sunny But I think it will be better to go alone.

Violetta So you want me to stay with my stuffy parents???

Sunny You'll be fine, Violetta!

Violetta *(to herself)* I'm not upset, no, I'm not upset... A - wrong. The brain doesn't understand no... So. I'm calm, calm, calm...

Sunny Oh, Violetta, I'm sorry too!

Violetta Find yourself again, Sunny.

Sunny I will.

*Sunny hugs Violetta, they both don't know what's going to happen to them.*

#### Scene 28: Prof. Clever-Clever

Professor Clever-Clever Deep in our psyche, we are still Stone Age people. You know the magic of many computer games: Escape and attack. It works especially on children because it appeals to primal instincts. And so we are genetically polarised to react to danger: Thunderstorms, falling rocks, the tiger behind the bush. But our brain has difficulty recognising creeping dangers that happen slowly and invisibly. So the problem is the human brain. It simply cannot comprehend the danger of climate change and cannot react adequately to it. And the further we move away from nature and from a natural way of life, the more difficult it becomes.

#### Scene 29: Nanja and Sunny

*Alaska. Projection of light and snow and aurora borealis. Nanja sings a song and works a fur.*

Nanja Up on the north coast. The caribou give birth to 40.000 calves year after year - right there in front of where they want to drill now! Now it's that time again! They are very sensitive, noble animals. If the deposits were developed, the caribou would no longer be able to live here.

Sunny Why not?

Nanja Because we have observed it elsewhere. They avoid pipelines for 40 kilometres. They are confused. My tribe couldn't hunt anymore.

Sunny That's terrible....

Nanja For as long as I can remember, my Matoo tribe has been fighting to just keep their original way of life. There are 8000 of us and we are fighting against the most powerful government in the world to keep the oil in the ground in the nature reserve where our sacred animals have their breeding ground. But the western mentality wants to make money out of everything, everything that is possible.

Sunny But progress has its good side, don't you think? I mean, progress has also made life easier and even longer for the people of the world.

Nanja *(turns her head away)* My father came from so-called civilisation. From somewhere in Europe - Ireland, I think. He thought like you. But he didn't know the necessities of survival here. He drowned while fishing. After that, my mother went to Milwaukee. She waited tables at a late-night café for truck drivers. I went to see her once. *(pause)* It was a mistake.

Sunny *(after a pause)* Are you happy then - I mean with this so humble life - up north? In the cold?

Nanja Every time I come back here, after the meetings and discussions with other NGO's and government

representatives, I know what is really of value... Our living space. And I will do everything I can to preserve it.

Sunny You are living the dream I once had...

Nanja What do you mean?

Sunny Oh - nothing nothing. It was just something I said. *(after a pause)* I'd like to see you again.

Nanja Me too. *(exit)*

Sunny When I looked into her eyes, it was as if my own life film was playing out before me. It was so strange... I wonder if she felt something similar? I feel so agitated. Shaken inside. *(after a pause)* I have mutated into a pathetic puppet! I hate my mendacity. I hate my dependence. I hate Vilebichski. Her promise was like a curse. I must end this! I have to! I'll call her right now! How could I say it? „Vilebichski, it's over.“ No. That's too theatrical. „Vilebichski, release me from our pact.“ But she wouldn't do that...

*The mobile rings. Sunny doesn't pick it up. It's Vilebichski. Phone rings again in a moment. He wants to throw it away angrily, but then he comes to his senses.*

Sunny *(pained, but in a friendly manner)* Yes?

Vilebichski Sunny, listen! Tonight heavy vessels will land on the coast. With these vessels, which are used to trigger earth tremors, the oil deposits up on the north coast can be estimated. Isn't that great?

Sunny Yes - but in the area...

Vilebichski So - everything is discussed! The operation is to take place at night! It has to be secret! Do you understand? Top discretion.

Sunny But in the nature reserve it's calving season of...



Vilebichski                      Good. So tomorrow at 2 a.m. After that I expect an immediate report.

Scene 30: Nanja and Sunny

*The next evening in twilight. Nanja and Sunny meet again. She explains to him the medicinal herbs of the Gwichin.*

Nanja                                My grandmother knows so many stories and for every illness she had a cure - mostly herbs.

Scene 31: Nanja and Grandfather with Grandmother

*The scene changes, the Nanja is sitting on a small stool, grandfather and grandmother on a bench.*

Nanja                                The fish you caught, grandfather, is very big, you are really strong.

Grandfather                      Yes. When the leaves turn red, Siskra will call me. *(Silence)* I will go.

Nanja                                *(crying)* What will I do without you?

Grandfather                      That is a question you must never ask. *(pause)* You will do much good. You will fight! You will teach! You will leave your mark on the earth. *(silence again)*

Nanja                                *(struggling for words)* Where will I be able to find you?

Grandfather                      *(smiles)* In the wind, in the clouds, in the first blossom of a tree. In the eyes of a caribou. You will recognise me.

Nanja                                *(softly)* How do you know that?

Grandfather                    We know these things. There are people who have these insights. All Matoos have them. Not when they are young, at your age. But later, the more the body wears out, the more we see with our inner eye... We come from the earth and we return to it.

Nanja                            Aren't you afraid of Siskra?

Grandfather                    It is the spirit of life, the spirit of the invisible, the spirit of our ancestors. Siskra weighs every soul at the end of its life span.

Scene 32: Nanja and Sunny

*The scene changes back to Nanja talking to Sunny.*

Sunny                            What did your grandfather mean by „weighing each soul“?  
Nanja                            Judging whether you have done more good than bad.

Sunny                            Who judges that?

Nanja                            Siskra. *(trying to find the right words)* The spirit of everything.

Sunny                            And how do you think he will judge you?

Nanja                            Do you know what my motto in life is? ... If you do something, and you do it with heart, love and conviction, then it's right. I remain true to that. That's why I'm not afraid of Siskra. How about you, Sunny? How would Siskra judge you?

Sunny:                            Nanja... My Nanja... Is Siskra also - merciful?

Scene 33: Vilebichski and Sunny

*The night operation on the north coast: ships landing.*

Vilebichski                Sunny! The ships are landing in half an hour! Make sure no one gets wind of this.

Sunny                        I don't want to do it.

Vilebichski                Will you finally stop your defiance?

Sunny                        This will be my very last involvement in this.

*Then just projection of how the noisy machines create tremors and the caribou all flee screaming. How Sunny organises the work and so on.*

Scene 34: Nanja and Sunny

*Next morning.*

Nanja                        *(excited, comes running on stage)* Sunny, did you feel it too? The quake tonight? Several times? Our caribou herds have been scattered to the four winds! They must have walked many miles - and now of all times!

Sunny                        Nanja, calm down. They will surely return.

*Suddenly there is a sound from the radio, time for the daily news. „News has just reached us from the earthquake centre that there was no quake last night. Rather, earth tremors were caused by artificial devices. Recently, the government opened Alaska's last nature reserve for mineral development, which had been fought against by indigenous tribes for decades.“*

Sunny                        Nanja - I'm so terribly sorry, I didn't have the heart to tell you earlier: I'm involved. I was in charge of the operation last night. I am so ashamed. There was no other way. But now it's out - I couldn't bear not to tell you.

Nanja                        *(After a pause)* Sunny, we Matoos have a saying: wolves fight with each other inside us. And do you know which

one wins? *(pause)* Always the one you feed. I don't know, Sunny, which one you fed. I don't think it was the one that led you to a good life.

Sunny                      But I love you. And it was your love that gave me knowledge. Gave me courage to leave the old behind.

Nanja                      Obviously the love was not strong enough. Sunny, you lied to me. You didn't tell me the truth.

Scene 35: Sunny turns his back on Vilebichski

*Sunny storms into Vilebichski's house. He is very upset. The Servant tries to hold him back somehow. But without success.*

Servant                      Sunny! You - here? Thought you were far away?

Sunny                      *(snorting angrily)* Vilebichski! Where is she? Where can I find her, this personified devil who destroyed my life?

Servant                      She is being massaged. Does not wish to be disturbed.

*Sunny tries to go in everywhere, Servant tries to stop him.*

Servant                      You not allowed to go in!

Vilebichki                      *(from backstage)* What's that noise? What is that deafening noise? Eschek, you incompetent creature, get this noisy rabble off my back!

*She rolls in and is equally astonished when she catches sight of Sunny.*

Vilebichki                      Sunny! What do you think you're doing, just bursting in here? Shouldn't you be in charge of the test drills?

Sunny                      Tearing up the pact: It's over!

Vilebichki                    How it's over?

Sunny:                        *(after a pause)* Vilebichski, you give me the creeps.

*Sunny leaves the house. Servant goes after him.*

Vilebichski                    And where am I now?

Scene 36: Sunny's letter to Nanja

*Nanja receives a letter from Sunny.*

Nanja                         A letter from Sunny... Let it be forgotten, this episode of brief happiness. *(wants to hand the letter over to the fire)*

Grandmother                He was a dear boy, Nanja. Read the letter and then you can give it to the earth.

*Nanja finally does read Sunny's love letter - Sunny's voice reads it.*

Sunny's voice                Nanja! Dearest, I can't know whether you are actually reading these lines or whether you are angrily crumpling up my letter or have perhaps already thrown it into the fire without reading it. I want to hope that you have read it this far and are now reading on. My angel: When I left you and flew back, something happened: the colour was gone. Everything seemed to be shaded grey. I lost my love of life, and when I think of you, a deep longing fills my soul. I realise how much I disappointed and hurt you. I was not honest with you - I was not because I was not honest with myself. I couldn't tell you why I came to Alaska because I was so insanely ashamed. What am I getting at, dear? That can't excuse my dishonesty. I can understand you not wanting anything more to do with me. But allow me to tell you one more thing, that I'm finally getting over this Sunny who does everything others want him to do - out of cowardice? Out of fear? - that I have finally shed this

Sunny. I don't care what happens next. I am prepared to do without anything, even if it means my financial ruin for good. There's only one thing I won't give up, Nanja: you. I love you more than my life... Sunny.

Scene 37: Nanja and Sunny find each other again

Nanja                   What should I do, grandmother?

Grandmother         Perhaps the question is superfluous....

*Sunny appears. They look at each other wordlessly for a long time. Then they embrace.*

Sunny                 If you can still love me now, Nanja, then I will save the world with you.

Nanja                 The whole world? You have very modest wishes.

Sunny                 Where do we start?

Nanja                 Yes, where do we start?

Sunny                 Then perhaps the best thing to do is to start dreaming?

*Suddenly Vilebichski appears on stage.*

Vilebichski         Sunny! Sunny!

Sunny                 Oh no, now that devil is here again!

Vilebichski         Sunny, I know we are both smart enough to know that there are no fairy tales.

Sunny                 What are you trying to tell me?

Vilebichski         Despots usually die as despots.

Sunny Yes - if you say so...

Vilebichski But I will not die paranoid and lonely, I have decided.

Sunny And that means?

Vilebichski That I have decided to leave you my inheritance while I am alive. Do with it what you see fit.

Sunny But...

Vilebichski Take it and say yes before I change my mind...

Sunny And the conditions?

Vilebichski At some point you have to learn to relinquish control.

Sunny So now I'm speechless...

Vilebichski Save nature, Sunny, if it is so dear to your heart... I may not have much of that left - but maybe my servant who comes from an Indian village where there are heat waves of 50 or 60 degrees... Now, let's stop all this schmaltz. Get a move on, get a move on, you two! Good luck!

### *Epilogue*

Marty Crump Monteverde Mountain borders the sea. The golden toad had lived about 1,500 metres above sea level on the floor of misty, wet forests. In 1976, El Nino was such a huge event, a climate game-changer, that the sea surface temperature in the central western Pacific rose sharply and in the following years the Monteverde region became drier - the misty days decreased. The change was very subtle and pushed the cloud line up, far above the forest. This threw the entire ecosystem of the mountain massif into crisis.

The delicate skin of the golden toad had made it vulnerable to sunlight and drier conditions. I published this study in 1999. By then, the beautiful golden toad had been extinct for a decade.

Nanja

Climate change. The consumption of resources. We have deeply intervened and changed natural processes. If we want a future, we have to act. All of us. Immediately. What do we need? Do we need all these lights? Let's go to a minimum. Immediately. (*Technicians reduce all but one spotlight*) Thank you! Legend has it that the golden toad lives far away on mystical mountains on the other side of the world. Only once every 100 years, after hard trials and patient searching, does a person see the fabled toad in all its glittering brilliance and unique beauty. The toad then gives those who see it the most precious gift: happiness. One was afraid of luck, the other found luck too painful and the others couldn't see it - so it disappeared. The golden toad was first scientifically identified in 1966. It became extinct in 1989 due to man-made climate change. Let's pull off our dangerous path. The golden toad shall not have died in vain.