

ACT II
Scene ii

Early afternoon, at HOME. EVA is playing on water glasses when VAN enters. She sees him and jumps up, elated.

EVA
(way too loud)

Hello!

VAN
(winces)

EVA
(quieter)

Loud.

VAN

Loud.

EVA
(they kiss)

Yes. Sorry. Loud. Yes.

Quiet.

VAN

Yes.

EVA

Quiet kiss.

VAN

Yes.

Pause. EVA kisses VAN forcefully with a big, *mwah* sound.

EVA

Loud kiss!

VAN

Yes.

EVA

Loud.

VAN

I like quiet kiss better.

EVA

I like quiet *and* loud. I like all...I like every...
(can't find right word)

Come see.

VAN

They worry me to stay home.

EVA

See? Like this.

(striking one of the glasses with the fork,
hard)

Loud! *Loud!* See? But like this...

(striking the glass gently)

Quiet.

VAN

Did you hear what I—?

EVA

But! Wait. But! See.

EVA strikes the full glass, then the empty glass.
She waits an excited moment, hoping that the
discovery sinks in with VAN. She tries to
demonstrate the different pitches with her hands.
VAN doesn't get it.

VAN

Yes, that's very—

EVA

Wait! No. See.

She pours all the water from the full glass into the
empty glass and strikes both again. She makes
an excited face. Her hands demonstrate how the
pitch has reversed.

EVA

(shouting)

Nifty!

VAN

(wincing)

Too loud. Eva—

EVA

(quietly)

Nifty. Nifty-nifty-nifty. Is very—

VAN

Eva, did you hear me?

EVA

Yes. You say, “Too loud.”

VAN

Before.

EVA

Before what?

VAN

Did you hear—? Eva. Stop. Listen. They worry me to stay home.

Pause.

EVA

What?

VAN

At work. They worry me to...No. Wait.

(pulling out the dictionary and flipping through it, finding his word)

Want. Yes. They *want* me to stay home.

EVA

Can't leave?

VAN

For the now. In case they have more questions.

EVA

They ask questions?

VAN

They did. They might ask more.

You are...are you...fire? EVA

Fired. No. VAN

Not fired? EVA

No. Since Box is broke / they don't need me— VAN

You didn't fix? EVA
(over)

What? VAN

Box. You have tools. You can fix— EVA

I tried. VAN

But? EVA

It's...a problem. They're looking at it now. VAN

They fix for you? EVA

Yes. I think. VAN

So they fix and you go back and good and good. Why upset? EVA

(doesn't answer) VAN

Not fired. EVA

No. VAN

You said not fired. EVA

I'm not. Still— VAN

Or, you can do another job. Barber or street cleaner or fishing guy or cheese seller or goat herder— EVA

That's not the— VAN

Or *I* can do the job! (inspired) EVA

No— VAN

I can! Yes, I can! EVA

No, I don't mean—Of course, you can— VAN

You watch! I can herd the goats! Or sell the cheeses! Or—ooo! Or *make* the cheeses! Yes! I can *make* all kinds— EVA

Eva, stop! Please stop! VAN

An uncomfortable beat. EVA plays a little tune on the glasses.

How long to fix? EVA

(shrugs) VAN

Long time? Short time? EVA

I don't know. VAN

Pause.

Well. *Well.* This is good. EVA

(doesn't answer) VAN

We can practice making words. EVA

Maybe we should making dinner. VAN

Dinner is long way away. EVA

I know. I just thought— VAN

Make words! Let's make words! EVA

Talk? You want to—? VAN

Very much! EVA

What do you—? VAN

All things! I make words! You make words back! Make words together! EVA

Conversation. VAN

Conver—what? EVA

VAN

Wait.

(looking up word in dictionary to confirm)

Yes. Conversation. Making words together.

EVA

Con-ver-sa-tion. Let's do this!

VAN

Maybe later.

EVA

Dinner later. Do con-ver-sa-tion!

VAN

Don't want to.

EVA

Being silly. You talk gooder than me.

VAN

Not that.

EVA

Then what?

VAN

Have nothing to say.

EVA

(long pause, then laughs)

VAN

What's funny?

EVA

Funny is...I don't have word.

VAN

Describe.

EVA

Okay. You: have words and nothing to say. Me: everything to say and no words.

Long pause. VAN pulls out his dictionary and meticulously pages through it. He eventually stops at a specific entry.

Irony.	VAN
Irony.	EVA
Yes.	VAN
I'll remember irony.	EVA
I'm sure you will.	VAN
Come. Practice.	EVA
Eva, I don't need—	VAN
<i>I practice making words. You practice having things to say.</i>	EVA
	VAN (doesn't answer; he's dubious)
Try.	EVA
	VAN (still doesn't say anything for a long time)
Start slow. Start small.	EVA
Today is bad day. I don't think I—	VAN
Start slow. Start small.	EVA

VAN

Today is bad, Eva! I don't *want* to talk about it!

EVA

Talk anyway. Why is today bad? Tell.

Long pause.

VAN

Box is Hum. When they fix Box, they fix Hum.

Pause.

EVA

I don't know how you're saying.

VAN

You know Box?

EVA

Yes-of-course I know Box. You talk Box all the time. I don't know Hum.

VAN

Yes, you do.

EVA

I don't.

VAN

You know but not know.

EVA

Okay. Tell.

Pause.

VAN

Yesterday, Hum. Today, no Hum.

Long, long pause as this sinks in with EVA.

EVA

(quietly)

Hum is the not water and glasses.