

# SHED NO TEARS FOR APRIL

**CHARACTERS: (4)**

**APRIL**, difficult daughter, can be played from mid-twenties to forty-something

**EVE**, dying, put-upon mother, fifty to seventy-five, depending on age of daughter

**DARREN**, gay friend of **EVE**, executor of her will, same age as or somewhat younger than **EVE**

**SEAN**, long-time partner of **DARREN**, about the same age as **DARREN**

**SETTING:** Modern day, minimal sets; a few props and pools of light

**STYLE:** Realistic, except when the characters move in slow motion from one scene to the next before resuming realistic movement within the scene.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**ACT I**

**Scene 1**

**EVE** (to audience) My doctor told me I'm dying this morning. Well, not dying *this* morning, but she *told* me this morning. When's the dying part? They say: Don't ask if you don't want to know. . . . Darren was with me.

(Lights up on doctor's office. The FEMALE DOCTOR is represented by a chair.)

**EVE** I'm sorry if my friend Darren bothers you, Doctor . . . Sally. But I would like him to be here. He's a doctor too.

**DARREN** A Ph.D. . . . I can leave if . . . (Starts to get up from his chair.)

**EVE** No! Please!

**DARREN** Okay. (Sits back down.)

**EVE** (to Doctor) I know my tests have been pretty dismal, but surely there are new drugs. Every day I read about – in fact, I recently read that ovarian cancer with the right treatment doesn't have to be

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

nearly as fatal as it used to be. Isn't there  
*something*? Isn't there this — ?

(She listens to Doctor.)

**DARREN** (as the voice of the Doctor) But, Eve, I  
thought I explained this to you.

**EVE** (still talking to the Doctor's chair) I  
know, I know. But Maria over in In-  
Take was talking about this terrific new  
development. I forget the exact name of  
it, but a number of so-called terminal  
patients have shown remarkable  
improvement. It's at least worth  
investigating. I mean, we can call Maria  
and get the exact name, can't we?

**DARREN** (as voice of Doctor) Maria is not a  
doctor, Eve.

**EVE** I know that! That doesn't mean she  
can't have new information. What are  
we, living in the ancient past, where the  
patient is just supposed to bow her head  
and accept her fate? And why? Because  
some doctor, even a woman doctor, says  
so! I don't think so.

**DARREN** (as himself) Eve . . .

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** I got started late in my career, Doctor, and now it's over even before I really begin? No, no, this can't be!

**DARREN** (as voice of Doctor) Eve . . . how can I put this? You've already lived much longer than most women who have what you have.

**(Freeze)**

**Scene 2**

(**EVE** gets up from her chair and in slow motion moves into the next scene. **DARREN** stays where he is as the lights fade. **APRIL** is waiting.)

**EVE** (now in realistic time, going through a purse) April, have you seen my Ebay credit card?

**APRIL** Why would *I* see it?

**EVE** It was right here on top of everything.

**APRIL** Mom, I've told you and told you not to leave stuff like that where it can fall out.

**EVE** It couldn't have fallen out. I closed it.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** It's a wonder you don't lose your . . .  
For god's sake! Here, let me look.  
(Grabs the purse) Look! The clasp is  
broken. You probably dropped it outside  
and who knows who got your card.

**EVE** (under her breath) I think I'm pretty sure  
who got it.

**APRIL** What's that supposed to mean?

**EVE** Whatever you want it to mean. Give me  
the purse back. (**APRIL** hands it back  
snottily) *April!*

**APRIL** Well, you asked for it back, didn't you?

**EVE** Never mind. I don't feel like fighting.  
Did anybody call?

**APRIL** (lying) Ah . . . no. Nobody. I'm going to  
go out later. I know, I know I promised  
to take you out for your birthday, but  
something special has come up.

**EVE** What's that?

**APRIL** It's my business.

**EVE** I only have one birthday a year.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** Oh, please! Who doesn't! It's a date, if you must know. You *want* me to date, don't you? So I can move out and get out of your hair.
- EVE** I want you to date. I just thought for my birthday you might —
- APRIL** Oh, for Christ's sake, I'll cancel the date then! Jesus!
- EVE** Don't cancel it. It'll be good for you.
- APRIL** Oh, now you don't want to go? That's so like you, Mom. Changing your mind every five seconds.
- EVE** (very patiently) Are we going to go out to dinner or not?
- APRIL** It's completely up to you. It's your birthday.
- EVE** Maybe we'd better skip it. I don't feel that well anyway. The doctor's news was not very . . . .
- APRIL** Oh, yeah, how did that go?
- EVE** She said I've lived longer than most people with my form of cancer.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL**            That wasn't very nice of her.
- EVE**                I guess I wanted her to lie to me. Only she wouldn't. I took Darren along hoping that would somehow help.
- APRIL**            You asked Darren to go and not me? I swear you care more about that fag than you do me!
- EVE**                He's not a "fag."
- APRIL**            I don't what you think he can give you, "romantically speaking," but if you ask me you're barking up a very wrong dick.
- EVE**                He's just a friend.
- APRIL**            (dismissively) If you could only get that through your thick skull. You should see yourself primping. "Darren's coming over. Darren's coming over."
- EVE**                It's none of your business, April.
- APRIL**            He just wants your money. He knows he's in your will.
- EVE**                He does not! . . . How do you know what's in my will? Have you been looking through my things?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL**           What do you take me for! *God!* You mentioned that he was in your will.

**EVE**               No, I didn't.

**APRIL**           Yes, you *did!* Several times.

**EVE**               I did not mention it to anyone.

**APRIL**           See how you are – can't find your own credit card, can't remember who's in your will. You're losing it, big time. (sincerely) It's so sad, Mom, really.

**EVE**               (feeling her forehead) Maybe you're right. Maybe I'll lie down. (Starts to leave.)

**APRIL**           Yeah, get some rest. I'll take you out for your birthday – next year for sure!

**EVE**               God, April!

**APRIL**           (angrily) What? . . . *What did I say?!*

**(Blackout)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 3**

(**APRIL** moves in slow motion from the previous scene into the next.)

**APRIL** (then to audience) Don't feel sorry for her! She was a terrible mother when I was growing up. You want a list? Believe me, I could give you a long one. But I don't want to sound like a crybaby. There are too many crybabies in this world already. You weren't there, so you wouldn't know. I'll give you one example. The first time I was arrested, when I was twelve, she screamed at me! Screamed! She called me 'a wicked, wicked girl.' It was just cocaine, for god's sake!

**DARREN** (entering) Liar! Eve never screamed at you. You screamed at her.

**APRIL** Fag! Pervert!

**DARREN** I won't dignify that with a response.

**APRIL** (mocking him with a lisp) I won't dignify that with a response.

**DARREN** (to audience) Don't trust this woman. It's *her*, not her mother!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- EVE** April, have you seen my Ebay credit card?
- APRIL** I'm sorry, I haven't.
- EVE** It was right here on top of everything.
- APRIL** Here, let me help, Mom. (She sweetly and gently takes the purse.) Here, it is. Right on the bottom. See?
- EVE** You sure? (Looks into the purse.  
**APRIL** shows her the credit card.)
- APRIL** Isn't this it? (Replaces the credit card in the purse and hands the purse back to her mother nicely.)
- EVE** I was sure that it wasn't . . .
- APRIL** I understand. You're not feeling well these days. How did the visit with the doctor go?
- EVE** Not that well, even though I took Darren with me.
- APRIL** I'm sorry to hear that. You really can't expect Darren to help that much. He's not family.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- EVE** He's been very helpful.
- APRIL** I don't remember him being that helpful before you put him in your will. He's going to get a big share of this house. Is that what you really want?
- EVE** It's my house and my money, April.
- APRIL** I don't deny that. I'm just saying he has ulterior motives. He knows you've got a little crush on him even though he's a homosexual, and he may be exploiting your feelings for him.
- EVE** I don't think you really know Darren that well.
- APRIL** Oh, by the way, he called. He wants you to call him.
- DARREN** (interrupting) You liar! You never once told your dying mother when I called her!
- APRIL** I did too. She just forgot. There's only so much I can do.
- DARREN** You're incredible.
- APRIL** Excuse me, I've got a date tonight.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** But you're supposed to take your mother out for her birthday.

**APRIL** It's not her birthday. You're crazy!

**(Blackout)**

**Scene 4**

**(DARREN** moves in slow motion into next scene.)

**DARREN** (stopping suddenly) I am not crazy! But *she* may be. How do you deal with pathological people like her? What I can't figure out is if she knows she's lying or if she even lies to herself that she's not lying.

**EVE** (on telephone) Darren? Are you there?

**DARREN** (now on telephone) I'm here.

**EVE** I thought you were supposed to call me, to go out to dinner.

**DARREN** I called, but I didn't hear back. I tried to leave a message on your answering machine, but April picked up. (Nods toward action.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** (picking up the telephone) Oh hello, Darren. My mom's out right now.
- DARREN** Could you leave her a message?
- APRIL** Sure. What?
- DARREN** Have you got a piece of paper?
- APRIL** (obviously without pen or paper) Shoot.
- DARREN** Tell her I'd like to see a movie tomorrow. Maybe she and I can agree on which one.
- APRIL** I'll tell her. Bye. (Hangs up abruptly.)
- DARREN** There was more to my message. (Hangs up in disgust.)
- EVE** (to **DARREN**) I didn't get the message. April must have forgot.
- DARREN** Yeah, sure.
- APRIL** Oh, it was so goddamned important – which goddamned movie you were going to see! You think I got nothing better to do with my time than, like, write down your stupid messages?!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** I thought you had moved in there to help your mother, not cause her more frustration.

**APRIL** My mother and I have a very special relationship, ever since I was a little girl. You wouldn't understand since you don't have kids.

**DARREN** You don't have to have kids to understand you, April. All it takes is a trip to the zoo.

**APRIL** (fast) You don't say. Which cage?

**DARREN** The monkey?

**APRIL** Oh, that's dumb. I thought you were supposed to be smart. That's what my mother keeps saying anyway. I haven't seen it myself.

**DARREN** Perhaps you wouldn't recognize intelligence if it sat on your face.

**APRIL** What's that supposed to mean – some of your kinky queer stuff? I'm not into eating ass myself.

**DARREN** I'm not into . . . Would you just tell your mother I called. Pretty please! (Hangs

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

up) (to audience) God, she's infuriating!  
I'm usually articulate, but around her I  
find . . .

**EVE** (impatiently) Well, I didn't get any  
message, Darren.

**DARREN** We can still make the movie. It's at ten.

**EVE** I wish I'd known earlier. I get tired so  
easily nowadays. I don't think I can last  
until ten.

**DARREN** You sure? Might be good for you to get  
out of the house, away from you know  
who.

**EVE** I'm sorry this didn't happen, but I'm  
just not up to it tonight. I'll call you  
tomorrow.

**DARREN** All right, another time. Give April my  
love.

**EVE** She's not a bad girl, Darren. Life has  
been difficult for her.

**DARREN** And she's been difficult for life, it  
seems to me. Your life.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** She thinks I didn't pay enough attention to her after I divorced her father.

**DARREN** Bull! From what I know, she's drained every ounce of attention from any human being she's ever been around during her entire lifetime.

**EVE** I did palm her off on her father for about a year.

**DARREN** And why? Because she was getting arrested, right? She was a juvenile delinquent! No wonder you couldn't stand to be around her.

**EVE** I should have tried to help her more. Those were her most troubled years.

**DARREN** Oh, Eve, April has sold you that bill of goods in order to squeeze every bit of sympathy she can out of you. You've more than made up for a little neglect just in the last six months. It wasn't even neglect. It was escape from your – not just Bad – from your Rotten Seed. You have nothing to feel guilty about!

**EVE** She was calling out to her mother.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** I thought she got arrested umpteen times  
*before* you left her father.

**EVE** She did.

**DARREN** So your being there didn't exactly make  
her into a saint. . . . This isn't coming  
out the way I meant. What I mean is that  
anyone but her mother can see that she's  
just milking you blind, guilt tripping  
you. Some people are just bad from the  
git-go, and April is one of them. Didn't  
you tell me her father had a criminal  
record too?

**EVE** Forgery. And some other things.

**DARREN** And he served time, right?

**EVE** Two years.

**DARREN** See, it's in the genes. Her father's genes.  
Your son by your first husband isn't a  
crook, is he?

**EVE** No, he runs a limo service in Indiana.

**DARREN** A pillar of the Indiana community. Stop  
blaming yourself for April. She isn't  
your fault. She's using you against  
yourself. Isn't it interesting she comes

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

back into your life *after* she finds out that you got the house in the divorce from her father, that you're terminal, and that she stands to inherit a decent house in a hot San Francisco housing market?! How serendipitous of her!

**EVE** She means well. Just sometimes she gets a little too ambitious, with my money. But I want her – I've always wanted her – to be a go-getter. I did all the right womanly things I was expected to when I was growing up, and I was not happy, and I didn't – and don't – want April to suffer the same way I did.

**DARREN** Eve, Eve, Eve, you're contributing to making the monster she's becoming. Already become.

**EVE** Darren, she's my daughter. . . . I'll call you.

**DARREN** Whatever!

(**EVE** is upset. **DARREN** hangs up in frustration)

(**Blackout**)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 5**

(**APRIL** is going through her mother's drawers and papers. Can be mimed.)

**APRIL**           Where *is* it? (Throws some items on the floor.) Did she move it again?

**EVE**             (offstage) What's that noise? . . . April?

**APRIL**           I'm cleaning up in here. (Tosses some papers on the floor with elaborate, spiteful carefulness) Sorry, I'll try to be quieter. (Searches.) Where the *fuck* is it?! Ah! (Finds the will she has been looking for in a cardboard box, reads it aloud.) "I leave my house, which is the bulk of my estate, to my son, Ross, in Indiana and to my friend, Darren Burton, to be shared equally. My daughter, April Clay, is to receive nothing." Signed Eve Clay. . . . The bitch! What if I tear it up? No will and then Probate will divvy it up between us kids. (Starts to rip it up but hesitates.) Unless there's another copy.

**EVE**             (appearing in a nightgown) What are you doing?

**APRIL**           You need your rest. Go back to bed.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- EVE** Are you looking through my papers?
- APRIL** (brazenly) *Yes!* Somebody's got to, they're in such a mess!
- EVE** Those are my things, April!
- APRIL** When did you sign this handwritten will?
- EVE** What?!
- APRIL** It doesn't have a date on it, and it's not witnessed. If you're trying to cut me out, you'd better do a better job of it. Or is there another version? This one won't hold up in court. Believe me, I've checked on what's legal and what's not.
- EVE** Give me that.
- APRIL** Go back to bed.
- EVE** I'm afraid to. You might bash my head in in my sleep.
- APRIL** I might bash your head in standing here if you don't leave.
- EVE** There *is* another will, for your information, and you don't know what's in it

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

or whether it's witnessed or dated or anything else about it, and I'm going to keep it that way.

**APRIL** Oh, yeah? I'll find it.

**EVE** And change it?

**APRIL** I'll make you change it!

**EVE** I'd like to see you try. I'm not so sick that I can't fight you off.

**APRIL** I don't need you to change it. I know how to imitate your handwriting.

**EVE** You don't even deny it? At least you used to. When you stole my credit cards and maxed them out, you were all innocence: "Oh, Mom, I didn't steal them. I swear! I swear to God!"

**APRIL** I didn't steal those, but I could have, and probably should have. That's what you get for giving me the middle name of Eve.

**EVE** You're the only one who could've stolen them. You could have gone to jail for that! Don't you realize that?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** Only if you pressed charges. Yeah, that would look great on your list of Mommy accomplishments: Neglected her flesh and blood to run off to give motivational speeches to old ladies. Ladies too old to motivate a fart! Produced a daughter who stole her own mother's credit cards. What else? Died denying her daughter even a penny to live on! No wonder the daughter did what she did. She was every inch her mother's daughter!

**EVE** You're screwing your chances with the way you're acting now. Maybe my other will leave you something – have you thought of that?

**APRIL** It's way past time trying to butter you up to get a pittance. If you're leaving me something, let me see it in writing, okay?

**EVE** So you can decide how much to “love” me before I die?

**APRIL** I know how much I love you already. Do you want to know how much that is?

**EVE** Don't say anything you'll regret later.

**APRIL** I never say anything I regret later.  
(Freeze)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 6**

**DARREN** (entering in real time) Nor anything you *do* either, I suppose.

**APRIL** (unfreezing) Regrets are for losers. What regrets have you got, Darren? That you can't love my mother the way a man should? Do you need a diagram?

**DARREN** What a paltry mind you have.

**APRIL** (mocking him) "What a paltry mind you have." What side of my mother are you interested in – her will? You'd like to make love to that, I bet.

**DARREN** You're the one who's so intent on the will.

**APRIL** Wasn't it you that talked my mother into cutting me out?

**DARREN** I have never discussed her will with your mother even once.

**APRIL** I'll just bet. I see how you exert influence on her. No doubt you convinced her to drop me because I forgot to tell her about some, like, fucking phone calls.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** She dropped you, if she has indeed dropped you, because of who you are. It has very little to do with me.

**APRIL** It's going to look very funny in Probate to see half the money going to a son in Indiana who has not been near his mother in years and the other half to a con artist Lover Boy. While the only daughter is aced out. You're a known type: the confidante of questionable sexual orientation who moves in for the goodies when the goose is about to croak.

**DARREN** I'm sure you're the expert on con artists, April — if not on metaphors.

**APRIL** Is that supposed to be witty?

**DARREN** Stop changing the subject. Your mother is fed up with you. And *you're* the reason. Not me.

**APRIL** Don't you dare talk to me about what's between my mother and I. You couldn't begin to phantom what's between us and has been for years and years! So just shut up, Gay Lover Boy Fucking Faggot Ass. Do you catch my meaning?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- DARREN** . . . The word is “fathom,” not “phantom.”
- APRIL** And the right word is so important, isn’t it? Fag Ass! Is that the proper word?
- DARREN** You illiterate bitch! The right word is very important, especially in a will. But apparently the word “April” doesn’t appear in a positive way in Eve’s will, now does it?
- APRIL** Because you made her change it.
- DARREN** Eve’s her own woman – except with you, evidently, and for some ridiculous, inane reason.
- APRIL** My mother loves me! She doesn’t love you. How can she love *you*?
- DARREN** How can she love *you*?
- APRIL** Because I’m the lost puppy. Mom always had a fondness for little critters she’d drag home from god knows where. And she thinks I’m the “lostest” of the bunch.
- DARREN** I heard you were going through her papers.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** I was straightening them up.

**DARREN** That's not the way I heard it.

**APRIL** Well, you heard wrong. My mother's mind is going. (Points)

(**EVE** and **APRIL** replay their previous scene.)

**EVE** (offstage) What's that noise?

**APRIL** Sorry. I'm cleaning up in here. (She accidentally and innocently finds the will.) Oh, what's this? (Reads the will silently.)

**EVE** (appearing in a nightgown) What are you doing?

**APRIL** I was cleaning up and just found your will. Do you realize it's not witnessed?

**EVE** Have you read it?

**APRIL** Of course not. It's private.

**EVE** I wish you wouldn't interfere with my papers.

**APRIL** I didn't even know what this was until I picked it up!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE**                    There's a later will than this. You're screwing your chances, April, with the way you're acting now.

**APRIL**                Mom, I love you, and I don't care who you leave your money to, as long as it's what you personally want.

**EVE**                    Oh, I know that, honey.

**APRIL**                Here, let me give you a squeeze. (Holds out her arms.)

(**EVE** comes over and **APRIL** hugs her.)

**DARREN**            (entering) No, no, no, no! Didn't happen that way.

**APRIL**                (still hugging her mother) Yes, it did. Like this!

**EVE**                    (lovingly) April, you are the comfort of my last days.

**DARREN**            Eve, stop that! (He tries to separate them.)

**EVE**                    Don't you touch my mother! Come on, Mom. Let's get away from this creep.

(**APRIL** helps her mother off the stage.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** (to audience) She's an absolute pro.

**APRIL** (off to the side) I don't see you giving up your interest in my mother's will, if, as you say, you're so uninterested in her money.

**DARREN** (flustered) I don't want her money! . . .  
But I don't want *you* to have it even more than that!

**(Freeze)**

**Scene 7**

**(SEAN, DARREN's partner, appears.)**

**SEAN** (in slow motion, then speaks in real time) Darren, you're making yourself sick over this.

**DARREN** There's something about her. Reptilian. A charming reptile.

**SEAN** Is it really worth it for half a house?

**DARREN** I'm not doing it for the house! How can you think that?!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN**            It's in the back of your mind. Don't forget, I know you. Darren is number one in your book.
- DARREN**        Thanks for the support.
- SEAN**            (taking **DARREN**'s hand) Don't sulk now. Come on.
- DARREN**        (pulling his hand way) I'm not sulking. I'm protecting my friend from a vampire.
- SEAN**            I thought she was a reptile.
- DARREN**        She's a vampire reptile.
- SEAN**            A new species?
- DARREN**        Spawn of Satan, Daughter of Darkness!
- SEAN**            That doesn't say too much for her mother, does it?
- DARREN**        I don't mean it that way. Her *father*. Eve herself is wonderful.
- SEAN**            So you say. I don't see it myself.
- (Points.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Use three chairs to represent the car. **DARREN** is driving, **EVE** is in the passenger seat, and **SEAN** is in the back seat.)

**EVE** (to **DARREN**) Thank you for the trip out of the city. I felt so cooped up. It's so clean out here!

**DARREN** You're welcome.

**EVE** So pretty. Maybe we can go to Hawaii for Christmas. What do you think?

**DARREN** Maybe.

**EVE** (turning to **SEAN** in back seat) What do you say, Sean? Can you spare him for a week or two?

**SEAN** (Does not reply.)

**EVE** You could come along too, but I know how much you hate to fly.

**DARREN** (heading off tension) It's a bit too soon to plan Christmas, don't you think?

**EVE** You get the best deals if you plan ahead. Right, Sean?

**SEAN** (Again does not reply.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** I guess Sean doesn't have much to say.

**SEAN** Do you think you'll still be around by Christmas, Eve?

(Pause.) (**DARREN** looks back at **SEAN** reprovingly.)

**EVE** I hope to be. My results have been better this time around.

**SEAN** But you never know, do you?

**DARREN** Hey, you two!

**EVE** Oh, Sean doesn't bother me. I guess his Paxil has run out.

**SEAN** Maybe we could stop at a pharmacy and you can run in for it, Eve. Don't you have your prescriptions to fill anyway?

**EVE** And I stopped taking two of the medications and I feel a hundred percent better.

**DARREN** Do you think that's a good idea?

**EVE** I've stopped the chemo too. I haven't felt this well in months.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** I don't know about this, Eve.

**EVE** I've got to make it to Hawaii. I've never seen Maui.

**SEAN** It's overrated.

**DARREN** (trying to avoid tension) Look at that view!

**EVE** I'll treat you to the Maui Hilton, all expenses paid. Is it a date? (**EVE** kisses **DARREN** on the cheek) (Looks back at **SEAN**.) Too bad you can't go, Sean.

(She turns back and the three ride along in uncomfortable silence for a few moments.)

**(Freeze)**

**Scene 8**

(**DARREN** and **SEAN** leave the "car." **APRIL** takes over driving. **EVE** remains in the passenger seat)

**APRIL** Do you mind if I say something to you?

**EVE** When did you ever care if anyone else minded?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** I'm trying to spare your feelings.
- EVE** What is it you want to say? I'm not telling you where I moved the will, if that's it.
- APRIL** That isn't it. It's about the way you act around Darren.
- EVE** What do you mean?
- APRIL** I've seen you enough times now, and it's pretty disgusting.
- EVE** Disgusting?
- APRIL** Do you know what you're becoming? There's still time to stop.
- EVE** Stop what?
- APRIL** The way you fuss over him, and right in front of his partner. Aren't you even aware you're doing it?
- EVE** I don't know what you're talking about.
- APRIL** You're a fag hag, Mom.
- EVE** What's that supposed to mean?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** A straight woman hanging around gay men.
- EVE** I like them. Him. Shut up.
- APRIL** (pressing on) It's obvious he doesn't share your feelings, and yet you get all giddy and girlish around him. Has he ever once kissed you back?
- EVE** Yes, he has. Just not in front of you.
- APRIL** A kiss kiss? Or a peck?
- EVE** That's between Darren and me.
- APRIL** What about Sean?
- EVE** What about him?
- APRIL** They're *lovers!* They have sex together! You're not part of the equation.
- EVE** As a matter of fact, Darren told me they haven't had sex for three years.
- APRIL** Really? And you think that means he's going to go straight for you?
- EVE** Stranger things have happened.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** You're deluding yourself. That's the one thing about life you haven't learned – never delude yourself. I certainly don't.

**EVE** (Laughs.)

**APRIL** I don't go around kissing men who don't want to kiss me back. Have you even given him a hand job?

**EVE** No! *Hey!*

**APRIL** Maybe that would be a start. He could pretend your hand was a man's.

**EVE** April!

**APRIL** Another thing. You're not the looker you used to be. There's been some wear and tear over the years. Even if he was straight, or bi, you are not exactly any man's cup of tea anymore. I'm sorry, that's the truth and nothing but.

**EVE** (after a silence) So help you God?

**APRIL** (as if testifying.) So help me God! And the cancer hasn't helped either!

**(Blackout)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 9**

(On sofa, **DARREN** is watching TV, which is where the audience is. After a few seconds, **SEAN** enters and picks up the remote.)

**DARREN** Don't change the channel.

**SEAN** (sitting, watching some TV too) Do you mind if we talk?

**DARREN** About what?

**SEAN** Eve.

**DARREN** What about her?

**SEAN** I don't like the way she treats me.

**DARREN** You aren't exactly friendly to her.

**SEAN** She's trying to get you away from me.  
And she's a dead woman!

**DARREN** You've got to give her credit for not giving up.

**SEAN** You encourage her. Do you know that?

**DARREN** I do not.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN**            You flirt with her.
- DARREN**        You're imagining things.
- SEAN**            No, you do. You lead her on.
- DARREN**        She flirts with me. I don't with her.
- SEAN**            You're misleading her.
- DARREN**        Who's misleading? Maybe I've really been straight all these years.
- SEAN**            You could've fooled me.
- DARREN**        Perhaps I've altered since you left my bed.
- SEAN**            Tell that to the men in the back rooms.
- DARREN**        "Hey, men in the back rooms, I'm straight! Okay, bi."
- SEAN**            She seems to think something is going to happen with you two. It's not fair to her, Darren.
- DARREN**        Maybe it gives her something to live for.
- SEAN**            The impossible dream!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN**      Everybody needs hope. Why does it annoy you so much that a woman might find me attractive?

**SEAN**            Why does it give you so much pleasure to pretend you're straight?

**DARREN**        I've never said one word to Eve that would lead her to believe I'm sexually interested in her. But I do love her.

**SEAN**            What?!

**DARREN**        The love that dare not speak its name: that between a straight woman and a gay man! It is a chaste love, bur real.

**SEAN**            Why do you put yourself in the position where you have to practically fend her off?

**DARREN**        If she wants to kiss me on the cheek, for god's sake let her. The woman has just a few months to live. Give her a break. Give me a break.

**SEAN**            What about giving me a break?

**DARREN**        You don't have to go out with us.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** I thought you liked me tagging along.  
So that I can see what a “babe magnet”  
you are.

**DARREN** If you go with us, you could at least talk.  
You sit there like a stump. A judgmental  
stump.

**SEAN** You know what I wish? I wish she’d  
die.

**DARREN** Sean!

**SEAN** I do.

**DARREN** Do you think that would restore our sex  
life?

**SEAN** (after thinking) I’m not interested in  
restoring our sex life. I’m just interested  
in Eve backing off my lover! (Throws  
the TV remote across the room, exits.)

**DARREN** (continues watching TV for a bit, then  
says) I didn’t know you cared.

**(Blackout)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 10**

**APRIL** (on cell phone) I can't afford to pay much, but I'd like him investigated as much as possible for, say, a thousand dollars. (Listens.) That's all I'd get? He's probably done this before with other women. He needs to be stopped. (Listens.) No, I don't have proof. That's what I'm hiring you for, I thought. (Listens.) I don't think someone like that should be appointed to handle my mother's affairs. I want him changed before she dies. Can't you run a check on his criminal record? I believe he was involved in some law-suit he lost. He even runs a gay porn site.

**DARREN** (entering) No, I don't! And what fucking difference does it make if I did?!

**APRIL** (ignoring **DARREN**, still on phone) I looked on the Internet and I saw it.

**DARREN** It's a cartoon!

**APRIL** (on phone) He's completely naked.

**DARREN** The figure is seated in a chair. He's comic! It's my personal website.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** (to audience) I found it absolutely filthy. Like who wants to see his butt cheeks!? Apparently he's got this infatuation with butts. (Listens.)

**DARREN** I do not have an infatuation with butts! But you do. This is ridiculous. Is there nothing you won't say?

**APRIL** (ignoring **DARREN**, on phone) Time is running out. They don't give my mom much time. And this creep is controlling her affairs. He hates my guts and is going to try to cut me out, I can feel it in my bones. Can you help me or not?

**DARREN** Two can play at this game, my dear.

**APRIL** (suddenly to **DARREN**) Violence against women!

**DARREN** (mystified) What?! I haven't laid a hand on you.

**APRIL** You've thought about it, though.

**DARREN** (to audience) Who wouldn't?

**(Freeze)**

**(Blackout)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 11**

**DARREN** (at a computer, which can be mimed)  
Oh, this is good!

(Sound of a printer printing if possible but not essential.)

**SEAN** (reading in a chair) What?

**DARREN** (holding about twenty pieces of printed paper) Guess how many arrests April has?

**SEAN** None?

**DARREN** Sixty-six.

**SEAN** Sixty-six? For what?

**DARREN** Grand theft, driving while intoxicated, driving with a revoked license. (looking at screen) Here's a good one – assaulting a public officer. Just two years ago.

**SEAN** (getting up, looking over **DARREN**'s shoulder at the computer screen)  
What's her full name?

**DARREN** April Eve Clay.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN** (leaning in) Those arrests are for April Sue Clay.
- DARREN** What? (leans in) It can't be.
- SEAN** In Ohio. Look at her birthday.
- DARREN** Christ, you're right. It's a different date from our April.
- SEAN** She's not *my* April.
- DARREN** Look, she is your April too. If she succeeds in getting me cut out of the will or removed as executor of the estate, I won't get anything, and I won't be able to pay you back the money I owe you.
- SEAN** All right. Let me have another look at that. (He does.) Some of them do seem to be our April's.
- DARREN** Good boy! Which ones?
- SEAN** There. In Marin County. April *Eve* Clay.
- DARREN** Grand theft. Could that be credit card fraud?
- SEAN** I don't know.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** Look. Time served: one year! She went to jail for it! That is better than I had hoped. And most of them seem to be *hers!*

**SEAN** You'd better be sure it's her before you go trumpeting the news all over the place. There are libel laws.

**DARREN** She hasn't hesitated to libel me! Porn site, my ass! . . . My *ass* on the website, my ass!?

**SEAN** I hadn't known your ass was so pornographic. Maybe I'd better give it another look. (Does so.)

**DARREN** This is serious! April is a felon! She's going down!

**SEAN** You're into this, aren't you?

**DARREN** I haven't felt this alive in years.

**SEAN** Better be careful. What exactly are you going to do with this arrest information?

**DARREN** Arrests and umpteen *convictions*, I might add. I'm going to make copies and send them to relevant people.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN**           Who? Not Eve.
- DARREN**       Why not? A mother should know about her daughter's crime spree.
- SEAN**           You trying to kill her early?
- DARREN**       Of course not.
- SEAN**           She doesn't need the stress.
- DARREN**       She probably knows already. Some of these go back to when April was a teenager.
- SEAN**           I wouldn't tell her, if I were you.
- DARREN**       Why can't you back me on this?
- SEAN**           I'm telling you it's a bad idea. You risk Eve turning on you besides. Remember, blood is thicker than . . . lust. Daughter trumps Gay Boyfriend.
- DARREN**       Eve will be grateful – and cut April off without a sue.
- SEAN**           She'll cut you both off. Neither one of you is behaving very nobly.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN**      What do you mean?! I'm attempting to get a common criminal off the streets. Or at least off my back.

**SEAN**          My experience as a personnel manager with people like April has led me to run as far away from them as I can manage. You think you're going to beat her, or make her change her ways, but, believe me, you won't. She'll never change, and no doubt she's got other tricks up her sleeve.

**DARREN**      Oh, she does, does she!? Well, let her do her worst.

(In slow motion **DARREN** takes the copies of her rap sheet over to **APRIL**, who is still on the phone.)

**APRIL**          (to someone in the audience) What do you mean I'm talking too loud? This is important! Move off if you don't like it! . . . Fuck you, asshole!

(**DARREN** tries to force the papers on **APRIL**, but she resists.)

(Freeze)

(Blackout)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 12**

(EVE's house.)

**APRIL** (unfreezing, looking at a large envelope in her hand) What's this? (on phone) Something just arrived by courier. (Opens the envelope, sees that they are her rap sheet.) Shit!

**EVE** (offstage) Who was that at the door, April?

**APRIL** Oh, just some stuff I ordered in the mail.

**EVE** Special delivery? Doesn't that cost?

**APRIL** It was the same price.

(EVE emerges from her offstage bedroom, ruffled.)

**EVE** What did you buy?

**APRIL** (hiding her arrest record) Some job offers. From an employment service.

**EVE** You're looking for a job?

**APRIL** I told you that! Even though it would mean less time to look after you.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- EVE**                    Funny, I don't feel that looked after.
- APRIL**                  Now you know how I felt when I was eleven and you left Dad.
- EVE**                    That's wearing out, April.
- APRIL**                  Dad did not mistreat you. I know that for a fact. So don't give me that crap. Why did you become a mother if you didn't like being one so much?
- EVE**                    I was misled. I didn't have as much trouble with your brother.
- APRIL**                  You left him too! How could you do that to little kids?
- EVE**                    Ross was fifteen when I left. And mature for his age.
- APRIL**                  No, he wasn't. He cried.
- EVE**                    What? This is the first I've heard of that.
- APRIL**                  Because you weren't there. I was! He cried like a baby. You came into our bedrooms and kissed us goodbye, and no sooner were you out of the driveway than Ross rolled up into a little baby with his hands over his ears, sobbing

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

and sobbing to break anyone's heart.  
But not yours, apparently. The man who  
wasn't even his biological father treated  
him with more love than that!

**EVE** April, if I enumerated all the times you  
hurt me and gave me grief, from the  
time you were five years old until last  
night —

**APRIL** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Whine, whine, whine.  
Excuse me, I've got to check out these  
jobs. (Holds up the envelope.) (Exits.)

(**EVE** shakes her head, sighs.)

**(Blackout)**

**Scene 13**

(**EVE** moves in slow motion to another part of  
the stage, sits at a table in a coffee shop. After a  
moment, **DARREN** joins her.)

**EVE** Oh, thank you for coming.

**DARREN** Of course. You sounded distraught on  
the phone.

**EVE** I need some advice.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- DARREN** I'm your man. Do you want some coffee?
- EVE** I guess.
- DARREN** (signaling the unseen counterman) Two black coffees. I'll come and get them.  
(to **EVE**) What's she done now?
- EVE** Hired a private investigator. I don't know how she managed since she says she has no money, but she's managed it somehow.
- DARREN** To investigate me?
- EVE** She says she has something on you.
- DARREN** I don't think we should talk about this too much, Eve It's not good for you. But she hasn't got anything on me.
- EVE** She wants me to drop you as the executor of my estate. We have to talk about it.
- DARREN** And what – appoint *her*?
- EVE** Yes.
- DARREN** Tell her no. That's absurd.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- EVE** I did tell her no. She keeps pushing.
- DARREN** Make her move out.
- EVE** Darren, I can't do that.
- DARREN** Let me get this clear. You're saying you might put her in charge of your estate?
- EVE** April just has this way of burrowing in and not letting go until she gets what she wants. I need some help.
- DARREN** Eve, I can't believe this. You don't want your money in her hands.
- EVE** Maybe *you* could talk to her.
- DARREN** What?!
- EVE** She doesn't really know you the way I do. Why don't you meet with her, and she'll see how nice you are? You're good with people.
- DARREN** No, I'm not.
- EVE** You could convince her that you'd be more competent with the estate than she would be. God, I'm not even in my grave yet and all this squabbling!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** Exactly. (to unseen counterman) Where are those coffees? Eve, I wouldn't know where to begin to convince April of anything.

**EVE** Just meet with her, talk to her, nicely.

**DARREN** "Hi, April, I hear you are up to your usual shit." How's that for an opening?

**EVE** (smiling) Maybe you could re-phrase it.

**DARREN** "Hi, April, how's my favorite lady in the whole wide world? Give up the power of executor to you? But of course! Where do I sign?"

**EVE** If anybody can do it, you can. Don't be modest.

**DARREN** I'm not being modest. I don't think people change. Certainly not from just talking to them.

**EVE** She'll probably get me to change my will too.

**DARREN** It'll seem like I'm just after your money. *Now* I can't do it.

**EVE** I know you're not just after my money.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** I don't even know what's in your will.

**EVE** What if I said you're *not* in my will.  
Would you talk to April then?

**DARREN** I'm not in your will?

**EVE** My will is not final yet. Besides, I'm not going to die.

**DARREN** I'm just kidding. How have your tests been lately? You haven't said.

**EVE** One month they're good, the next they're not. Bad again this time.

**DARREN** I'm so sorry to hear that. (He touches her hand.)

**EVE** (choking up a bit) Thank you. You always help me.

**DARREN** To be honest, I wish you hadn't asked me to be the executor. There are too many moral quagmires around all this.

**EVE** It's what I call the "April touch." She can twist anything to her advantage.

**DARREN** Soon I'll be lying through my teeth at every opportunity?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** I really have no one else to protect me from April but you. What do you say? . . . Darren?

**DARREN** (to unseen counterman) Where are those goddamned coffees?

**(Freeze)**

**Scene 14**

**(DARREN and SEAN's home)**

**DARREN** (dialing phone)

**APRIL** (picking up phone) Hello.

**DARREN** April, it's me, Darren Burton.

**APRIL** (bridling) What do *you* want?

**DARREN** I want to talk to you about something.

**APRIL** Well, I don't want to talk to you.

**DARREN** Actually, I don't want to talk to you either. But I promised your mother.

**APRIL** Yeah, okay, right. What is it?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** Your mother wants me to be the executor of her estate. That's the way she has it. That's the way she wants it to continue.

**APRIL** I think you're doing a lousy job of it.

**DARREN** You don't know anything about it. Most of the work comes after the person . . . after the person . . .

**APRIL** Dies? Don't be afraid of the word, Mr. Burton. How can you be the executor of the estate when you can't even stand to say the word "dies"? My mom deserves somebody stronger. You'll screw up and we'll probably lose the house.

**DARREN** April, I know you have a lot more experience in cooking the books and manipulating money than I have, but you are not going to take your mother's house away from her, and I want you to stop pestering her about it. It's not going to happen. Got it?

**APRIL** My mother got the house away from my father. It was *his* house. She stole it in the divorce. She is her daughter's mother.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** I don't know, and I don't want to know, about who got what in the divorce. I'm just saying that if anything is changed in Eve's estate or papers, either now or after she goes, I will have everything verified for forged signatures.

**APRIL** How nice of you to let me know. But if I want my mom to change anything, I don't have to resort to forgeries. Maybe *you* would. Not me.

**DARREN** You will not exert any pressure on your own mother to give you financial control of anything!

**APRIL** Says you.

**DARREN** I think you should move out of your mother's house, right now.

**APRIL** So you can move in?

**DARREN** I have a house, thank you.

**APRIL** Well, I don't, asshole! But I'm going to have one. And don't bother telling my mother about this conversation because she won't believe you. (Hangs up hard.)  
**DARREN** shakes phone.)

**(Blackout)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 15**

(EVE enters with the aid of a walker.)

**EVE**            I had to get away for a while. So I came here. It was a little difficult getting on the plane. But I didn't forget my medicine! (Holds up a bottle.) Here we go. (She mimes putting nickels into a slot machine.) It's mindless, but they're only nickels. Who knows, maybe I'll win millions. All the more to leave April. . . . She's been a difficult child since she was . . . in here, I guess. (Touches stomach.) She came out screaming and she hasn't stopped yet. She means well, though. She gave me a valentine when she was about six. "To My Mommy," it said. She was so cute then. You couldn't deny her anything. . . . Oh yes, the valentine was stolen from another girl. It was the sentiment that counted. Why do I find it so hard to resist my own child? She knows just where to jab or poke, or sometimes even stroke, and I've seen all her tricks, and yet she always catches me off guard. I keep expecting her to be different. Yet every time I let her back in my life she's the same. Didn't somebody define insanity that way? To be honest, I think there could be a little bit

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

of insanity in April. Who wants to admit their daughter's crazy? But that's a possibility with mine. And my son Ross has not called me in six years. He hung up on me last time. . . . I thought they were supposed to comfort me in my old age. Ha! Have you tried motherhood? Try it. You'll love it. Oh, look I hit the jackpot! (Counts the imaginary coins coming out.) Looks like it's at least four dollars! Maybe five!

**(Freeze)**

**Scene 16**

**(APRIL** on phone in **EVE's** house.)

**APRIL** Do you know where my mother is?

**SEAN** Who's this?

**APRIL** Who are you? Where's Mr. Burton?  
Sorry, Dr. Burton.

**SEAN** Is this April?

**APRIL** Are you his boyfriend? Excuse me, his  
"partner"?

**SEAN** He's not in right now.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** Did he go off somewhere with my mother? I saw some brochures for Las Vegas. Did they run off there?
- SEAN** Darren didn't go anywhere. I can't speak for your mother.
- APRIL** She's probably off gambling her money away. She has a problem. I don't know if you know that.
- SEAN** I'll tell Darren you called.
- APRIL** Do you mind if I ask you something? You seem like a perceptive guy.
- SEAN** (tongue in cheek) That's me all right.
- APRIL** Darren makes plenty of money as a school administrator, doesn't he? Why does he need *my* money? Why can't he keep his claws off *my* mother.
- SEAN** I don't know how to answer you, April.
- APRIL** Oh, you're in this together!
- SEAN** I'm trying to stay out of it, actually.
- APRIL** Can't you speak to your "partner" and get him to see how cruel he's being to

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

my mom? All this stress is terrible for her. He should let the family handle this. It's our business. Sure, mom and I are fighting now, but there were tons of good times – great times – in the past. He's making this into a tug of war, and my mom is the one who's suffering. She's using a walker now, did you know that?

**SEAN** No, I did not know that. It's your mother and Darren who are friends. I barely know your mother. But I'm sorry to hear about the walker.

**APRIL** (seizing the information) You don't get along with mom? You don't like her?

**SEAN** I didn't say that.

**APRIL** She mentioned you a couple of times.

**SEAN** Oh?

**APRIL** I can't remember what she said.

**SEAN** Good.

**APRIL** Oh, but it was positive! I'm pretty sure.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN**            Your mother and I don't see eye to eye  
                         very much.

**APRIL**            (sensing something she can use) Oh?  
                         Why's that?

**SEAN**            We just don't. That happens with some  
                         people.

**APRIL**            It's because she's after Darren, isn't it?

**SEAN**            Is she?

**APRIL**            She's shameless.

**SEAN**            What have you seen?

**APRIL**            Plenty, let me tell you.

**SEAN**            Such as?

**APRIL**            (pointing) I caught them kissing.

(Lights up on **EVE** and **DARREN** embracing,  
kissing.)

**APRIL**            It was disgusting!

**SEAN**            Where was this?

**APRIL**            In the bedroom.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** Darren was in your mother's bedroom?

**APRIL** I swear to God! I think I interrupted them before they did the Dirty.

(**EVE** and **DARREN** hear something and stop kissing. Lights out.)

**SEAN** I don't think we're talking about the same Darren.

**APRIL** Yeah, he's experimenting. That's what my mom tells me. Would he do this just for the money?

**SEAN** No! But he might do it just to be doing it.

**APRIL** So I'm not wrong!

**SEAN** I don't know, April.

**APRIL** Doesn't that make you jealous? It would make me very jealous.

**SEAN** Darren and I have an open relationship.

**APRIL** I'll bet. Is that like an open sore?

**SEAN** No, we do.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** Is he really bi?
- SEAN** I haven't seen any evidence of that. He's flirted with the idea at times. I don't think he's ever acted on it.
- APRIL** Until now!
- SEAN** I think it's pretty innocent.
- APRIL** You should have heard them. You'd better interfere before it's too late.
- SEAN** What am I supposed to do, pull them apart? Lock them up?
- APRIL** He might leave you for her.
- SEAN** April, you don't really know Darren.
- APRIL** Maybe you don't know him as well as you think you do. She knows a lot of sex tricks. They wouldn't have to do the old you know –
- SEAN** Thank you for calling, April. I'll tell Darren you tried to reach him.
- APRIL** I'm glad I caught you, Vaughn.
- SEAN** (correcting) Sean.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** Sean. I think you need to be alerted as to what's happening around you. I'd have a word with the man in your life, if I were you. At your age, I'm sure you don't want to lose him.

**(Blackout.)**

**Scene 16**

**(SEAN** calls **DARREN** at work. Perhaps there is a desk in **DARREN**'s office.)

**SEAN** (on phone) Hi! Do you want to have lunch?

**DARREN** Oh, I'd love to, but the Chancellor called a sudden meeting in about fifteen minutes. Somebody got stabbed on campus.

**SEAN** Really? I didn't know April attended your school.

**DARREN** Sounds like she's gotten under your skin too.

**SEAN** She wants your hide, that's for sure.

**DARREN** It usually takes a lifetime to build up the amount of animosity I feel toward that

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

unholy being. April, however, has managed in no time to have me checking Craigslist for hit men. *You* wouldn't want to do it, would you?

**SEAN** And the pay is?

**DARREN** A dollar.

**SEAN** A dollar twenty-five.

**DARREN** Sold.

**SEAN** You're on.

**DARREN** We'd better stop this. I think the Chancellor monitors our calls. He's not supposed to, but I wouldn't put it past him.

**SEAN** By the way, she called to talk to you.

**DARREN** April did?

**SEAN** Wants you out of the picture, financially and romantically. Yeah, that pretty well sums it up.

**DARREN** I'm not returning her call.

**SEAN** She seems rather single-minded.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- DARREN**        So can I be.
- SEAN**            You're a pussycat.
- DARREN**        I am not! I'm a tiger.
- SEAN**            April seems to believe that you and Eve are becoming quite the item. Pardon me for asking, but is . . . ?
- DARREN**        I thought you understood. Eve is a good friend. Practically my only friend of late. Since Harriet died.
- SEAN**            What about me? Am I not your friend?
- DARREN**        Lovers aren't "friends"!
- SEAN**            No?
- DARREN**        (covering) We're more much more than that.
- SEAN**            Or much less? That's comforting. And if we're *not* lovers? Does that make us less than friends?
- DARREN**        Of course not.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** Just curious. If you want out of the relationship, it's time we had more than lunch.

**DARREN** What are you talking about? I don't want out of the relationship. Boy, April has really gotten her claws into you, hasn't she? What is she saying exactly?

**SEAN** Oh, just stuff about you and her mother.

**DARREN** Stuff? Sex stuff?

**SEAN** Yes.

**DARREN** Whoa! There's no sex stuff going on between Eve and me! Don't be preposterous.

**SEAN** What about kissing?

**DARREN** It was one kiss, and Eve got a little carried away. We were in her car saying good night. Maybe April saw us out in front of the house. A one-time episode.

**SEAN** But does Eve understand that?

**DARREN** She's dying. She's unhappy with her children. She's thinking about filing for bankruptcy. There's no harm in a little kiss.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** Uh huh.

**DARREN** I'm telling you there's no romance with Eve!

**SEAN** I know the sex part for us is pretty well dead, but I don't mind telling you that this still bothers me.

**DARREN** I get it, Sean! Believe me or not, I'm telling you the truth. I've got to go see the Chancellor.

**SEAN** Whatever. If you don't want to talk, okay don't talk.

(They both hang up disgruntled. **SEAN** exits. **DARREN** freezes.)

**(Blackout)**

**Scene 17**

(**DARREN** unfreezes and rapidly dials another telephone number.) (Lights up on **APRIL**.)

**APRIL** Yes?

**DARREN** You've got a hell of a lot of nerve! Stop telling my partner your mother and I

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

are romantically linked! You are nowhere to be seen for years. Then all of a sudden you're here and you're in everybody's business. Stop it. Stop it. Stop it. Do you get the goddamned message?

**APRIL**

Who is this?

**DARREN**

You know damn well who it is.

**APRIL**

I don't like your language. I'm going to — (Starts to hang up.)

**DARREN**

Don't you dare hang up. Do you promise to butt out?

**APRIL**

I don't know why you're so upset, Dr. Burton. Perhaps you're feeling guilty about something and have decided to take it out on others?

**DARREN**

Oh, fuck you and your psychobabble! Communicate like a human being!

**APRIL**

I don't know what you're talking about. You're the one that's losing control. I haven't raised my voice once.

**DARREN**

For your information, raising one's voice is not necessarily a sign of

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

conflicted feelings. Sometimes, like now, it is merely a sign of legitimate anger.

**APRIL** Are you finished with your anger?

**DARREN** No, I'm not. If you don't back off, I'm going to do my best to see to it that you don't receive a penny from your mother's estate. Not one.

**APRIL** For you information, my mother is *not* leaving me a penny in her estate. I saw the will.

**DARREN** (surprised) Well, good for her.

**APRIL** But it's not going to stay that way. Fuck lips.

**DARREN** I beg your pardon?

**APRIL** Like in getting your lips fucked. I figure that's you. So oral. Or do you take it up the old ass? Though you're so *old* now I don't suppose anybody wants to put their dick up your wrinkled old . . . man-pussy. Is that correct term?

**DARREN** You're amazing.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL**           What's wrong? Why is saying it worse than doing it?
- DARREN**        Do you want me to reply in kind?
- APRIL**           You'd better be careful. Don't you got a secretary who might overhear?
- DARREN**        She's out! And I would say it even if she was here. But I will refuse to drag *your* sex life into this discussion.
- APRIL**           Don't worry. I don't have a sex life.
- DARREN**        Or even speculate on your sex life, however special it may be.
- APRIL**           Finished, Suck Lips? I need to help my mother take a bath.
- DARREN**        I'll bet!
- APRIL**           It's more than you do.
- DARREN**        Perhaps I'd better alert the fire department as to a potential drowning.victim.
- APRIL**           You needn't bother, Dr. Burton. There is no danger of my mother drowning.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** Why not? Because the will hasn't been changed yet?

**APRIL** So nice talking to you, Suck Ass.

(She hangs up, and then **DARREN** slams the phone down.

**Blackout.)**

(**APRIL** moves closer to the audience.)

**APRIL** What a pain. But I mustn't let him distract me. My mother has a history of inappropriate men in her life. He's just one more. She even had an illegitimate baby that died. She's highly sexed. (Shudders.) Even now. You'd think with her ovaries gone she'd cut back a little. But no! And now she wants him. (Shudders again.) I swear, what's a loving daughter to do?! Tell me!

**(Freezes)**

**EVE** (entering, with walker) It's true. I have always enjoyed sex. April's father, Mr. Clay, was particularly entertaining in bed. I'll spare you the gory details. I'm not ashamed of it. I miss her father. April looks a lot like him, as a matter of

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

fact. I had to make it on my own when he died. By the way, he died violently. I'll spare you the gory details. . . . And no, I've never had sex in this walker.

**(Freezes)**

**DARREN**

(entering) (to audience) I *won't* spare you the gory details. This is a mess. I shouldn't have let Eve kiss me. But I didn't want to hurt her feelings, especially since she's sick. What am I supposed to do – slap her? The kiss did go on too long, I know that. And it wasn't unpleasant. It's just that I may have misled her. And for that I am profoundly sorry. . . . If only I could speak this directly to her instead of like this.

**(Freezes)**

**Scene 18**

**(APRIL unfreezes.)**

**APRIL** Wake up, Mom!

**(EVE unfreezes.)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE**           What?

**APRIL**           (to **DARREN**) Wake up, Lover Boy!

**(DARREN unfreezes.)**

**DARREN**       What's going on?

**APRIL**           I forgot to tell you — I'm a witch.

**DARREN**       I thought as much!

**EVE**            You are not!

**APRIL**           I'm taking a correspondence course, so shut up. I want to know what's going on between you two. Tell me or I'll turn you into dogs. Not that you aren't dogs already.

**EVE**            April, there's nothing going on.

**DARREN**       Who appointed you God? Or Satan? I don't have to explain diddly squat to you.

**APRIL**           Have you or have you [*sic*] had sexual relationships together?

**EVE**            I'm single. I can do what I want.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** You shouldn't be having sex with someone who's in charge of your estate. It doesn't look good.

**EVE** He's not in charge of my estate yet. Nobody is.

**APRIL** Besides, you're breaking up Dr. Burton's happy home. His happy homo home.

**DARREN** She is hardly doing that.

**APRIL** That's not what I hear from . . . Sean, is it? The lovely Sean.

**DARREN** He's not lovely! Stop feminizing us! . . . What do you hear? . . . I don't want to hear any more lies.

**APRIL** Let's just say we had a very illuminating chat on the phone. He's about ready to walk out on you.

**DARREN** He is not!

**APRIL** There are none so blind as those who will not –

**DARREN** I can see perfectly fine, thank you. There's nothing to see.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL**            You'd better pay attention to your man  
is all I can say.
- DARREN**           You haven't even met my man.
- APRIL**            I've talked to him. That's plenty. Mom,  
move closer to Lover Boy. (She barks at  
him.) Ruff, ruff!
- EVE**                April, you're getting increasingly out –
- APRIL**            No, let's get the whole picture. (Gestures  
and **EVE** involuntarily starts to move  
next to **DARREN**.)
- EVE**                Hey! April!
- APRIL**            Hug her, Lover Boy! Show us how it's  
done.
- DARREN**           I will not!
- APRIL**            Come on, pucker up. Then fuck her up.  
Doggy style? (Barks) Ruff, ruff, ruff!
- DARREN**           (resisting) You cannot manipulate me  
like you can your mother. (Begins to  
move despite his protestations.)
- APRIL**            I know it must be hard to make love to  
an old lady, especially given your usual

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

erotic inclinations, but you have been marvelous in faking it so far. Show us your techniques, Casanova.

**DARREN** (moving against his will) No! No!

(**DARREN** and **EVE** wind up almost embracing.)

**APRIL** Very good. Now show us that hard-on, Darren. Should I get a video camera?

**DARREN** What?!

**APRIL** It must be something to see. I know my mom likes big ones cuz she told me so. All her men had big ones or she dropped them. Yours must be fantastic, to overcome all the other many negatives about you.

**EVE** It has not gone this far, April. Not even once.

**APRIL** What's the matter, Dr. Burton? Not shy, are you? Forget the camera. Just show us how you let Mom play with it?

**DARREN** I do not let your mom play with it!

**APRIL** Sure you do. Do it. (Points.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(**DARREN** is being forced to unzip his pants.  
He reaches inside toward his underwear.)

**EVE**                Darren, I do know some tricks. Maybe I  
could —

**DARREN**          Eve, don't help her!

**EVE**                Well, I am curious.

**DARREN**          I've had no complaints, thank you. With  
men! I do it with men only.

**APRIL**            Go ahead. My mother sort of looks like  
a man now.

**EVE**                I do not!

**APRIL**            Sure you do. That fuzz on your cheek.  
(Touches it.)

**EVE**                April, stop it!

**APRIL**            But April is the cruelest month. Who  
said that? I never liked that line,  
actually.

**DARREN**          What is wrong with my hand? (It is  
reaching further into his underwear.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** Are we almost there? This should be good.

**DARREN** I think you are a witch. (He is both feeling around inside his underwear and trying to resist the impulse.)

**APRIL** Mom, help him out.

(**EVE** touches **DARREN**'s pants front.)

**APRIL** That's right. Go for it. Maybe we need at least a snapshot. (Pulls out a tiny camera and takes a picture of the two of them.)

**DARREN** (pulling away) Give me that camera!

**APRIL** Sorry. No.

**DARREN** (moving closer to **APRIL**) Give it here. This misrepresents the facts.

**APRIL** But I have a photo. What more proof could there be?

**DARREN** You've doctored the photo!

**APRIL** When you're sick you need a doctor! That's me – Dr. April. Don't worry. I won't charge you much.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** (to **EVE**) If we put our minds together, I think we can stop her.

**EVE** I feel my hand getting near your penis.

**APRIL** Oh, Mom, you slut you.

**DARREN** Think, Eve. Think!

(**DARREN** tries to concentrate his mind on **APRIL**. **EVE** joins him. They glare at **APRIL**.)

**APRIL** I don't feel a thing.

(**DARREN** and **EVE** alter their positions slightly and concentrate harder on **APRIL**.)

**DARREN** Take that!

**EVE** April!

**APRIL** Uh oh, I felt a little twinge of regret. But not much!

**DARREN** Get her, Eve. (He helps her toward her daughter.) Take her away.

**APRIL** Wait! I have a suggestion.

**DARREN** What's that?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** Bark like a poodle.
- DARREN** I will do no such thing.
- APRIL** Okay, then like a Chihuahua.
- DARREN** (resisting but succumbing) Arf! Arf!  
Arf!
- APRIL** Good boy.
- EVE** Darren?
- DARREN** Arf! Arf!
- APRIL** As you sow, so shall ye reap – you dog  
you!
- DARREN** I am not a dog. Arf!
- (**DARREN** goes down on all fours, barking,  
sniffing like a dog.)
- EVE** Darren, stop that!
- DARREN** I can't help it. Arf! Arf!
- APRIL** I hope this opens your eyes, Mom.  
Excuse me. (She goes and picks up a  
Frisbee nearby.) (to **DARREN**) Here,  
boy! (**DARREN** comes over to her,

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

eager for the Frisbee, leaping around.)

Go, boy! Fetch it. Fetch!

(**APRIL** tosses the Frisbee and **DARREN** chases it. If he can catch it in his mouth that would be nice, but it is not crucial to the scene.)

(From offstage he brings it back in his mouth.

**APRIL** pats his head.)

**APRIL** Well done! So talented!

(**DARREN** pants happily, sits up, wants to play some more.)

**APRIL** Okay, here we go. (Takes the Frisbee and twirls it over **DARREN's** head, causing him to twist around.)

**DARREN** (barking) Arf! Arf! Arf!

**APRIL** What's a good boy! Him's a good boy, yes, him is! (Throws the Frisbee into the audience.) There it is, boy! There it is!

(**DARREN** pursues the Frisbee, catches it, and runs out an exit.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** (to audience) Isn't he darling? Come back here, you scamp! Come on now!

(She follows the dog and exits, calling to him.)

**EVE** Oh, my God! (She collapses and falls to the floor, sending the walker skidding across the stage.) Oh, my walker!

**(Blackout)**

**End of Act I**

**Intermission**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**ACT II**

**Scene 19**

(**DARREN** appears with the Frisbee, looks at it, and throws it aside.)

**DARREN** You think you saw me turn into a dog, but that was just April wishing. She has a way of manipulating, shall we say, the truth, Some of you – the mystery readers among you ? – are already jumping ahead and thinking you’ve got the twist in this story. April is the sane one, and everything *I’ve* said about her is a distortion. Not so. I won’t even claim homophobia – you can’t trust those homos. That kind of thing. But that’s cheap. Often true, but still a cheap way “out” on my part. Playing the “gay card.” I’m probably going on too long defending myself. He doth protest too much, right? It’s hard to fight the Aprils of the world. They play by their own warped rules.

**APRIL** (entering) I liked you better as a dog. And don’t say I’m a bitch! Too easy.

**DARREN** You don’t make anything easy, April.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL**            Why, thank you.
- DARREN**        I did hear that your mother fell down.
- APRIL**            Her walker caught on something.
- DARREN**        Your foot?
- APRIL**            Not yet, Dr. Asshole. Mom still hasn't changed her will. All in good time.
- DARREN**        Brazen, aren't you?
- APRIL**            I am nothing but a figment of your worst fears, I'm afraid. You simply can't believe that my mother would ultimately prefer me over you. But she will, because I am her own flesh and blood and you are but a fancy and a hint of sperm. And we all know how long sperm lasts, don't we, when it can't find the right place to come to rest?
- DARREN**        I'm flattered, I'm sure.
- APRIL**            Don't be. (taunting him) Arf! Arf!

**(Both freeze.)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 20**

(Enter **EVE** with walker.)

**EVE** (to audience) I don't need this any longer. I'm cured! (Pushes the walker away from herself.) See! (Begins to topple.) Oh, please! No! (Falls down.) Yes, I'm actually worse. The doctor gives me a month or so. If I have to go, at least let me go with some dignity. (Crawls toward the walker.) Not like this!

(**APRIL** appears and watches her mother crawling for a few distinct moments.)

**APRIL** I hope they put me to sleep before I come to that! . . . Oh, Mom, what's wrong! (Hurries over to **EVE**.) How long have you been like this? You poor thing!

**EVE** Could you help me with the walker, honey?

**APRIL** Of course. Here. (Helps get the walker back into her mother's hands.)

**EVE** Thank you.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** No problem. You want some tea?
- EVE** I wouldn't mind. Something herbal.
- APRIL** You got it! (Pulls out a teabag and a cup.) This should relax you. (Dips the dry teabag into cup several times.) There we go. One more dunk and we're through.
- EVE** (pulling up a chair and sitting) Whew!
- APRIL** Look out. It's hot. (Gives the cup to her mother.)
- EVE** You can be very helpful, April.
- APRIL** (slangy) I shoulda been a noyse!  
(Ostentatiously throws the teabag over her shoulder but not so that **EVE** can see.)
- EVE** It's not too late.
- APRIL** Thanks but no thanks. I've had enough pills and dirty Kleenex and bedpans around here to last a lifetime.
- EVE** I haven't asked you to empty my bedpan.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** Thank God for small favors. It's bad enough that I can smell it. (Clamps her nose.) Not pretty, Mom! Not pretty.

**EVE** I'm sorry about –

**APRIL** Not to worry! I can handle it. The question is: can you? It can't be easy breathing in your own stink.

**EVE** How delicately put.

**APRIL** Poop's poop. You deal with it. I deal with it. Hey, why don't you sit back in that chair and let me relax you?

**EVE** I haven't finished my tea yet.

**APRIL** Sure you have. Besides, it's gotten cold. (Takes the cup away, sets it aside.) What you need is to relax! Close your eyes.

**EVE** I just got up.

**APRIL** Close them. (She assists in closing **EVE's** eyes.) That's better.

**EVE** Now what?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** I was reading this book about . . . relaxation techniques. Very good for you. You envision these different colors and patterns and it's supposed to be terrific, especially when you're terminal.

**EVE** Can't wait.

**APRIL** It might make the cancer go away. Who knows? What have you got to lose?

(**APRIL** arranges **EVE**'s arms and legs to be more "relaxed.")

**APRIL** How's that?

**EVE** If I don't slip off.

**APRIL** We've really got to have a talk about how much you're falling these days. You need one of those scooters — you know, which allow you to scamper all over the place, even if you can't, like, walk right.

**EVE** Please, not that.

**APRIL** You'd look so cool running around here on your . . . what do they call them? The Go-Getter? The Senior Wrangler. I looked them up online. There's one

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

called The Avenger. Even the Golden Years Avenger. Wouldn't that be fabulous? Mom on her hot rod!

**EVE** They probably cost too much money.

**APRIL** Not true. Some are really cheap. It's guaranteed — some were only used a few times.

**EVE** What does one say?

**APRIL** One even comes with a free supply of adult diapers. You need those now, don't you?

**EVE** April, do we really have to go into this at this time?

**APRIL** A diaper a day keeps the odor away!

**EVE** We'll discuss it later, when I'm not so tired. As long as you don't get me *used* diapers!

**APRIL** Would dream of it. All comfy?

**EVE** I guess.

**APRIL** Eyes closed?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** Look for yourself.

(**APRIL** checks, then takes a manual on hypnosis from nearby and opens it.)

**APRIL** (finding a page, half-reading, half-summarizing) If the patient . . . If you are relaxed, the . . . treatment can begin. Imagine yourself in a leafy bower . . . Are you there?

**EVE** What exactly is a bower?

**APRIL** I don't know. A leafy place? Lots of leaves. Like you're laying in a big pile of leaves. Yeah, it's, like, fall.

**EVE** Okay, I'm in my leaves.

**APRIL** Keep those eyes closed. (But **APRIL** is behind the chair just in case **EVE** peeks.) Imagine there is a weight on your eyelids, gently pressing down. Feel it?

**EVE** I don't know.

**APRIL** Feel that weight, ever so gently pressing down on the eyelids.

**EVE** Okay.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** Now the patient . . . you will attempt to open the eyelids – but you will not be able to! Got that? Will not be able to! You will feel the flutter of the eyeball against the inner lid. Feel it?

**EVE** A little bit.

**APRIL** Feel the flutter. You want to open your eyelids, but you won't be able to. Feel the flutter?

**EVE** I feel something, but I think it's something in my eye.

**APRIL** Mom, concentrate! This is good for you.

**EVE** I'm concentrating.

**APRIL** You feel relaxation flooding through your whole body. Feel it?

**EVE** I think my leg is falling asleep.

**APRIL** That's good! You're getting there. Relax . . . relax . . . breathe deeply.

**EVE** (breathes deeply, then mumbles) This isn't too bad.

**APRIL** Great! Relax, relax!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** You can't hurry relaxation, April.

**APRIL** You're right, you're right. Don't open your eyes.

**EVE** I don't know if this is a good . . .

**APRIL** You are drifting . . . drifting . . .

(**EVE** nods off.)

**APRIL** Don't fall asleep! Just go into a trance. . . You're not asleep. Are you?

**EVE** (mumbling) No . . . not asleep . . .

**APRIL** Just a light trance. Can still hear me?

**EVE** I can.

**APRIL** Good. (still consulting the hypnosis manual) Now I want you to . . . let's see . . . move your right thumb to answer *yes*, and move your right index finger to answer *no*. Got it?

**EVE** (groggily) Yes.

**APRIL** Show me. Thumb for *yes*. (**EVE** raises her right thumb.) Good. And the index

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

finger for *no*. (**EVE** hesitates.) The index finger? (**EVE** slowly raises her right index finger.) Perfect. . . . Are you relaxed now?

**EVE** (a bare mumble) Yes. (Also raises her right thumb.)

**APRIL** Terrific. . . . And now I'd like to plant a suggestion or two, things you want, things you in fact desire. I'm only going to suggest things that your loving heart knows it wants.

**EVE** (faint grunt)

**APRIL** I take that as a yes? (**EVE** raises her right thumb.) We're ready then. As I'm sure you know, there's the matter of your will and who the executor of it is. We needn't say anything about the will itself now, only who the executor should be. We'll deal with the will later. First, you wish the executor to be changed, don't you? (**EVE** hesitates.) Don't you? (Finally **EVE** raises her thumb.) Excellent. And now who do you want to change it to, huh? I'm going to suggest a name to you, all right? (**EVE** does not respond.) Are you getting this, Mom?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

. . . Mom? (**EVE** raises her thumb.)  
And do you know what the name I'm  
going to suggest is? (**EVE** raises her  
index finger.) No? Let me whisper it to  
you, okay? (**EVE** raises thumb.)  
(**APRIL** comes closer to her mother in  
the chair, whispers into **EVE**'s ear.)  
Now are you sure you don't know the  
name of the person that you want to  
make executor of your will? (Waits.)

**EVE** . . . April.

**APRIL** Good girl, Mom. Good girl. Thumb up!

(**EVE** raises her thumb.)

**APRIL** Hey! Thumbs up, thumbs up is right!

(Dropping the hypnosis manual, **APRIL**  
gives two "thumbs up" for herself.)

**(Blackout)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 21**

(**APRIL** moves to another part of the stage.)

**APRIL** (as if to a secretary) Would you tell Dr. Burton I'd like to see him, please.  
(She waits.)

**DARREN** (appearing, in suit) Yes?

**APRIL** I thought it wise to do this in person, but since I don't know how you'll react, I want to say it here in your office.

**DARREN** You found my office?

**APRIL** Wasn't hard. What I came to tell you is my mother has removed you as executor, so your services won't be needed anymore. She does want to thank you for whatever you've done for her in the past, but she really doesn't want you in her life any longer. Clear enough? Okay, goodbye. (Starts to leave.)

**DARREN** Wait! When did all this happen?

**APRIL** Never mind when. It happened. Don't try anything.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** You always seem to think people are going to get you. Maybe you need to re-think the way you relate to people.

**APRIL** I wouldn't put anything past you.

**DARREN** You know what? I don't believe you. I don't think your mother has touched a thing. Goodbye. (Turns away.)

**APRIL** Oh? That's why I brought this. (Produces a copy of the appointment of the new executor.) See! My name is there now. Not yours. (Thrusts it at him.) Read it and weep.

(**DARREN** reads it quickly.)

**APRIL** And don't try to tear it up. It's just a copy.

**DARREN** How did you get this?

**APRIL** My mother changed her mind.

**DARREN** No, you changed her mind.

**APRIL** My mother and I are very close.

**DARREN** Odd, she didn't mention this to me.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** She wouldn't, would she? She sent me to tell you.

**DARREN** You just made that up on the spur of the moment, didn't you?

**APRIL** I must be leaving now. I want to be sure this is on file properly with the lawyer. I'll tell mom you send her your love. Just don't bother her again, got it?

(**APRIL** exits.)

(**DARREN** freezes.)

**Scene 22**

**DARREN** (unfreezing, hurrying to a phone) We'll just see about this! (Dials.)

**APRIL** (answering the phone) Hello?

**DARREN** *You?* I want to talk to you mother.

**APRIL** She doesn't want to talk to you. (Hangs up.)

**DARREN** (re-dialing) The nerve!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** (answering) Hello?
- DARREN** I want your mother.
- APRIL** You can't have my mother.
- DARREN** I'll come over there.
- APRIL** Yeah, and I'll call the cops.
- DARREN** With you record? You probably have outstanding warrants.
- APRIL** Your wooing days are over, buster. Find somebody else to rob.
- DARREN** You're the thief!
- APRIL** You tried to break a sacred bond between a parent and a child, but we foiled you. You ain't gonna get nothin', sweetheart.
- DARREN** Well, you're not getting the house. Over my dead body.
- APRIL** Don't tempt me, Mr. Burton.
- DARREN** I want to talk to your mother!

(EVE enters in nightclothes.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(**APRIL** covers the mouthpiece.)

**EVE**                   Who's that, April?

**APRIL**                  A friend of mine, Mom. Get some rest.  
Go on. Go on now. You're not well.

**EVE**                   Is that Darren?

**APRIL**                  Who?

**EVE**                   You know who Darren is.

**APRIL**                  (rolling her eyes) She thinks this is  
Darren! (into phone) I'll call you back.  
(Hangs up.)

**DARREN**              That *was* Darren, wasn't it?

**APRIL**                  I told you he called me this morning and  
said he was so furious you removed him  
as executor of your estate that he never  
wants to talk to or see you again. If  
you call him, you can count on him  
blasting your ass. You don't need that  
with your health the way it is.

**EVE**                   (weakly) Why don't I believe you?

**APRIL**                  Don't believe me. But, Mom, you're  
really not well. You're not thinking

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

clearly. You don't know what's best for you. Don't you feel weak?

**EVE** Unfortunately I do. (Begins to sink.)

(**APRIL** hurries over to help **EVE**.)

**APRIL** You poor darling! You shouldn't be without your walker. Here, lean on me.

**EVE** I'm fine, I'm fine.

**APRIL** No, you're not. You look awful.

**EVE** I do not look awful!

**APRIL** *Whatever!* I'm just trying to help you.

(**EVE** pulls away.)

**EVE** If only I were stronger, I could . . .

**APRIL** Yeah, if only you were stronger you could pogo through the Himalayas! Get real, Mom!

**EVE** I'll tell you one thing. I may have changed you to the executor, but I am not going to put you in my will. Never!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

You stole all my credit cards and maxed them out. How could you do that to your own mother?!

**APRIL** Hello! You wouldn't give me any money, that's why And you were the only mother around! I served a year in jail for that. So I paid my f—ing debt to f—ing society! How could a mother testify against her own daughter?! How could you do that?!

**EVE** It was the only way to stop you. Apparently it wasn't enough!

**APRIL** You don't seem to get it. I need money to live on. I can't stay inside this house with you all the time. Why don't you give me an allowance, and I'll forget about the will.

**EVE** That's probably the only way I can hope to insure you help to prolong my life instead of shorten it.

**APRIL** That is so unfair, Mom, I can't believe you said it. Why do you always have to suspect me? How do you expect me to have any self-esteem when you do that to me all the time?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE**            You have to earn self-esteem! You have to *deserve* it!

**APRIL**           I do earn it! I do deserve it!

**EVE**            Let's stop this. Please. I don't think I have much time left.

**APRIL**           Don't start that again. It's getting old.

**EVE**            I thought you'd be overjoyed to hear it.

**APRIL**           I don't want you to die, no matter what you think. I love you! I love you very much!

**EVE**            I don't think you have a clue about what love means.

**APRIL**           You know what, Mom? Fuck you. Just fuck you! You're impossible!

**(Blackout.)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 23**

(**DARREN** and **SEAN**'s home.)

(**SEAN** enters.)

**SEAN**            I'm home!

**DARREN**        (entering) Howdy.

**SEAN**            Hi.  
(**SEAN** gives him a kiss on the cheek.)

**DARREN**        Maybe you can help me. I can't get through to Eve.

**SEAN**            So forget her then. I'm tired. Crabby customers today. So I need a massage from somebody.

**DARREN**        I'm sure she wants to talk to me, but April is preventing her.

**SEAN**            (pointing to his shoulders) Let's go. Massage therapy. Right here. (Points to neck and shoulders.)

**DARREN**        Maybe she's killed her!

**SEAN**            Don't be melodramatic. Right here. (Points.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(**DARREN** begins to massage **SEAN**'s shoulders.)

**DARREN**      How's that?

**SEAN**          Perfect. You know what I think?

**DARREN**      What?

**SEAN**          You are better off out of it.

**DARREN**      What!?

**SEAN**          You don't need Eve's money. April probably does. Let her have the money, the house. This is not good for you. . . .  
(about the massage) Don't stop.

**DARREN**      What do you think I am? It's not for the house. I can't abandon Eve. It's for my friend.

**SEAN**          (insincerely) Of course.

**DARREN**      It is!

**SEAN**          You seem to forget how much you hate sick people, dying people. What did you do with every single friend of ours who died of AIDS? You positively ran so that you wouldn't have to deal with it.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** That's not so.

**SEAN** (naming names) Peter, Scott, Devon.  
Shall I go on? You were nowhere to be found. . . . Sammy.

**DARREN** All right, I wasn't very good. I don't do death well, I admit it. That's why I want to do better with Eve.

**SEAN** Yeah, a veritable Florence Nightingale. I hear she was a lesbian, by the way.

**DARREN** Good. Change the subject.

**SEAN** (pointing to an area of his back needing massage) Don't change the fingers. You're very good. You've missed your calling.

**DARREN** Being an administrator is sort of like being a masseur. Egos mostly. I think I should go over to Eve's house.

**SEAN** Maybe she just wants to die in peace.

**DARREN** (stops massaging) Jesus, you're as bad as April! You've never liked Eve and she's never liked you, and you can't wait for her to croak so you can get her out of your hair!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** She's not in my hair. She may be in your hair, but she most definitely is not in mine.

**DARREN** You're no help.

**SEAN** Do you want to take your massage back?

**DARREN** Yes.

**SEAN** You can have it. It wasn't that good anyway.

**DARREN** Yes, it was! It was a wonderful massage!

**SEAN** I'm the one who go it. I ought to know.

**DARREN** Take it back! It was a wonderful massage. Wonderful! Say it. . . . Say it!

**SEAN** You can't make me. Any more than you can make Eve call you if she doesn't want to. And she doesn't! And she won't. Life isn't a Holiday Movie!

**(Blackout.)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 24**

(**EVE** enters in her walker, reluctantly. **APRIL** follows soon after, carrying a shopping bag. They are in a department store.)

**APRIL**           Go on! Go on!

**EVE**             April, I don't think this is the right department. (She is feeble.)

**APRIL**           Yes, it is. (Points to sign.) "Women's Clothing."

**EVE**             I don't think so.

**APRIL**           I was just here yesterday! I shouldn't even bring you along. You're more trouble than you're worth.

**EVE**             Let me go wait in the car then.

**APRIL**           No! Stay here until this goes through. I want you here in case.

**EVE**             You can't return stuff you shoplifted!

**APRIL**           Keep your voice down, for god's sake. Make your will over to me, voluntarily. I can get a loan on that, and then I won't have to resort to this. Deal?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- EVE** No deal.
- APRIL** Okay. (summoning a clerk) Some service here, please!
- EVE** April! You can't get away with this.
- APRIL** You watch me. (loudly) Does anybody work here?! I have some things to return.
- EVE** You have the gall of Genghis Kahn.
- APRIL** Yeah? Who's she? Let's just say I'm a strong woman.
- EVE** Here's the clerk.
- DARREN** (as the clerk) May I help you?
- APRIL** It's about time. I bought these clothes a day or two ago, but I've decided they are inferior goods. (Shows shopping bag.) I'd like to return them for a full refund.
- DARREN** (as the clerk) I see. You have an account with us, I take it?
- APRIL** My mother does. She's right over there. As you can see, the your store labels are still on them.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** May I see your store card, please?

**APRIL** That's the problem, you see. We've lost the card. That's why I brought my mother along. That woman in the walker. She's not well, so she asked me to take care of it. The account is in the name of Eve Clay.

**DARREN** Can't she sign for it?

**APRIL** Not really. You can see how ill she is. However, if you insist . . .

**DARREN** I'm sure it'll be all right. The name again?

**APRIL** Eve Clay.

**DARREN** (miming searching a computer for the account) Yes, here you are.

**APRIL** Naturally.

**DARREN** But I don't see any record of recent sales.

**APRIL** I guess this store screwed up. It's not the first time. I have the clothes here, don't

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

I? My mother bought them for my birthday, but they didn't fit. It spoiled my birthday and all this is making my dying mother even sicker.

**DARREN** Are you sure you bought them here?  
There would be a record of it.

**APRIL** It's your screw-up. You want me to call my sick mother over? Put her under stress? She only has a few months left.

**DARREN** Well . . .

**APRIL** All right then. Mom, can you come here? This gentleman doesn't believe us.

**EVE** (hanging back) April . . .

**APRIL** Come over here, Mom. He thinks there is something fishy going on with us.

**DARREN** I didn't say that, Miss.

**APRIL** Doesn't matter. My mother will testify for me. Won't she? (Beckons to **EVE**.)  
Come on, Mom. Tell him how you bought these things for me the other day. How they got it all screwed up because you didn't have your card with you.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** Is that true, M'am?

**APRIL** Do we look like liars? Come here, Mom.  
(All solicitation) Be careful with your  
walker now.

(**EVE** in the walker creeps closer to the others.)

**DARREN** I'm very sorry about this mix-up, M'am.

**APRIL** No problem. Just as long as the store is  
happy! Isn't that right, Mom? Didn't  
you buy these for me? Hmm? Tell the  
clerk. Tell him.

(**EVE** arrives near them. She is torn between  
helping **APRIL** and risking having her  
daughter get into even deeper trouble.)

**EVE** Yes, I bought them here . . . yesterday.

**DARREN** If you could just verify that by signing  
for the refund. (Offers a piece of paper.)

**APRIL** I told you there was nothing wrong.

**DARREN** I'm sorry, Miss.

**APRIL** And make that cash!

(All three **freeze**.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 25**

(**DARREN** and **SEAN**'s home.)

**SEAN**           What do you hear from Eve?

**DARREN**       Nothing.

**SEAN**           I'm *not* stopping you from seeing her,  
you know.

**DARREN**       I didn't say you were.

**SEAN**           Go over there if you're so worried about  
her.

**DARREN**       She's probably completely under the  
sway of April by this time.

**SEAN**           Interfere.

**DARREN**       *Now* you say that.

**SEAN**           Better than having you mope around all  
the time.

**DARREN**       I sent her five e-mails.

**SEAN**           And?

**DARREN**       No reply.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN**            So send her a note by regular mail.
- DARREN**        I did.
- SEAN**            Yes?
- DARREN**        Nothing. It's been over a week.
- SEAN**            Go knock on her door. Put a note under it. Whatever you do, don't hold this against me, once she's gone.
- DARREN**        I'm not blaming you. I'm blaming myself, for being unable to cope with this.
- SEAN**            Get off your butt and act. You're always lecturing me.
- DARREN**        Could you go over there for me?
- SEAN**            To Eve's? Why should *I* go?
- DARREN**        Because I can't drag myself to do it.
- SEAN**            I'm not going over to Eve's.
- DARREN**        Please.
- SEAN**            She wouldn't let me in – either one of them.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** You could at least find out what's going on?

**SEAN** I'm surprised at you, Mr. Take Charge!

**DARREN** Thanks.

**SEAN** Wait! Don't leave the blame on me. You do it. You!

**DARREN** How many things, important things, have I asked you to do in the years we've been together?

**SEAN** Four hundred and fourteen.

**DARREN** I don't think, ever. Ever!

**SEAN** You had me put your cat to sleep. You wouldn't do it, even when she was crying out in pain.

**DARREN** That wasn't the same.

**SEAN** You said I never helped you.

**DARREN** Okay, so you killed my cat for me! You didn't like the cat anyway! You enjoyed killing the cat!

**SEAN** I did not enjoy killing your cat.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** You did too. Just the way you're glad Eve is dying. You don't want me to have any friends!

**SEAN** Why are we arguing about this? Get it done. Subvert April. Find a cure for cancer for your dear friend – your dear friend and more – poor, poor Eve.

**DARREN** This is just an example of how you always try to opt out of my life. I can't ask you for shit! Why are we even a couple?

**SEAN** Shit I can give you. Is it shit you want? Is that what you want?

**DARREN** Believe me, I have more than enough shit in this relationship. In fact, that's all this relationship is. A *relationship*!

**(Blackout.)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 26**

(**APRIL** enters with a yo-yo.)

**APRIL** I found this yo-yo in a box in my mom's closet. It was mine when I was just a little kid. (Plays with the yo-yo.) I was better with it then. I think my dad gave it to me. Or it could have been my mom. . . . I played with it for years. The fact that she's kept it means something, don't you think? Sort of touching. Shhh. She's sleeping. I don't think there's a whole lot of time left, to be honest. Mom probably shouldn't have gone for that store refund with me. I could have done it on my own. Yeah, she helped a little, but all she's done since we left the f\_\_\_\_\_ store is nag about how I forced her to commit grand theft! For god's sake, it takes more than a few crummy clothes to constitute grand theft. Does she think I wouldn't think of that?! She's bumming me out. Making me depressed. And I don't get depressed easily. All I want is some money. I'm quite happy when I have money. Is that so hard to understand? I would've been a totally different person if I'd been born into wealth, instead of into . . . Mom's

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Con't.)

trash. Let's face it. . . . My father was too. When I look at myself up close, do you know what I see? From trash comes trash. (Throws down the yo-yo in disgust.) Trash, trash, trash.

**(Starts to exit.)**

**Scene 26**

(Enter **DARREN** to **APRIL**.)

**DARREN**      Hey, don't leave yet. You need to have an epiphany.

**APRIL**          (stopping) I just had one. A good one.

**DARREN**      It looked like you were going to, but you didn't follow through. See yourself for what you are and *change!* Stop what you're doing to your mother, to me. It's not too late.

**APRIL**          Do you think so?

**DARREN**      I do!

**APRIL**          (hopefully) I can stop being like I am and become a good person?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- DARREN** Absolutely.
- APRIL** But I've done so many bad things, evil things. There's no saving me.
- DARREN** Sure there is!
- APRIL** I don't think it's possible.
- DARREN** You can do something. We'll think of it.
- APRIL** Yes, maybe if I pray. (Kneels down.)  
Dear Lord in Heaven, it's me – April.  
I'm sending you a prayer from down here cuz I need to turn my life around.  
Won't you help me look into my soul?
- DARREN** (jumping on board) Yeah. Help her, Lord!
- APRIL** I can do this by myself.
- DARREN** For you, two people praying may be necessary.
- APRIL** It's something private.
- DARREN** But we're all behind her, Lord! Kneels.)  
Lead her from her selfish ways to a better life! Please! And do it soon! She

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

is making many lives miserable down here. Crack that wicked heart of hers so that we can have some peace in our own lives. . . . Amen.

**APRIL** Are you finished with *my* prayer?!

**DARREN** Just trying to help.

**APRIL** You don't know when to back off, do you?

**DARREN** I thought it might be your first time.

**APRIL** Lord, if you're still listening, this is April again. Buttinski here does not speak for me. He needs to look to his own heart, if he has one. Open his eyes! Let him see what an A-hole he is! Maybe then he'll get lost. Am I coming through, Lord?

**DARREN** I thought this prayer was about you.

**APRIL** It was.

**DARREN** Go on. Finish it. I'll shut up.

**APRIL** Amen to that. (Starts to pray quietly.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- DARREN** (anticipating) Good. She's actually praying.
- APRIL** (Moves her lips as if in prayer.)
- DARREN** (whispering) Do you hear her, Lord? Give her what she wants. She needs a big, big change in her life.
- APRIL** (Moves lips) Amen! (Gets up.) Thank you, God. (to **DARREN**) And thank you.
- DARREN** Have you changed?
- APRIL** (rubbing her face and hair maniacally) I have! I have! Can't you see?!
- DARREN** I didn't think it was possible.
- APRIL** Anything is possible — especially with two people simultaneously praying for it.
- DARREN** Well, great.
- APRIL** Not only was I praying for my mother to change her will to me, but *you* were praying too. (quoting him) "Give her what she wants. She needs a big, big

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

change in her life." So thank you very much indeed for all your help.

**DARREN** (with egg on his face) What?!

**APRIL** I was about to give in, but now I'll re-double my efforts. Until you're groveling on the ground, tears up to your armpits. And then I may saunter over and give you a hand. Like this. (She mimes pushing her own head underwater and making drowning bubbles.) Glug, glug! Get the picture, prayer-boy? (Starts to **Exit**.)

**DARREN** Wait! You changed! You said you changed!

**APRIL** Grow up. People only change in books, asshole!

**(Blackout.)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 27**

(**DARREN** moves fast to **SEAN**'s office.)

**DARREN** I'm sorry to disturb you at work, but that woman's impossible!

**SEAN** Do I know you?

**DARREN** Sorry, are you busy?

**SEAN** Sort of. I don't really want to talk.

**DARREN** I thought we got over our quarrel.

**SEAN** Perhaps you did. I didn't.

**DARREN** I'm sorry if I hurt your feelings.

**SEAN** You didn't hurt my feelings! Stop with the generic apologies!

**DARREN** I didn't mean it to be generic.

**SEAN** You always think you can drag me through a really vicious fight and come out on the other side as if nothing has happened. Not any longer, you can't.

**DARREN** What's happened?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN** I don't want to hear any more about April.
- DARREN** But this is good. She was praying, and –
- SEAN** I don't care. I don't want to know about her mother either.
- DARREN** Why not? They're the only thing we have to talk about, apparently.
- SEAN** What *you* have to talk about maybe! It's a very small part of my life.
- DARREN** But we need something in common!
- SEAN** Well, April's not it.
- DARREN** I feel like I'm in a life-or-death struggle.
- SEAN** You've made it an obsession.
- DARREN** I thought you were enjoying it, in some perverse way. You and me against the forces of April and Lucifer. No?
- SEAN** No. And you know what else? I don't think we're working out anymore.
- DARREN** What's that supposed to mean? As a couple?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN**            You can't just gloss over everything,  
every time. Every damn time.

**DARREN**        People fight. People have arguments.  
They pick up and go on. It's love.

**SEAN**            Is it? Do they? Well, maybe I'm just  
tired of our particular arguments.

**DARREN**        But April is vulnerable right now. We  
can win if we play our cards right.

**SEAN**            I tell you I'm not interested in April. I  
don't want to hear another word about  
her, what she did, what she didn't do.

**DARREN**        Sure you do.

**SEAN**            No, I *don't!*

**DARREN**        It's the most important thing in my life  
right now.

**SEAN**            I'm sure it is. It certainly isn't *me*.

**DARREN**        But I'm trying to include you in my life.  
I know we've been drifting apart for  
some time now. I thought this fight  
could bring us back together.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN**            Funny, I think it's pushing us even further apart.
- DARREN**        That isn't so! Eve is going to die, and April will be out of our lives, with or without the money. We'll go on after that. We always go on.
- SEAN**            You make it sound like some disease. They died of couplitis. They irritated and bored each other silly, but, boy, they went on.
- DARREN**        I didn't think it was that bad.
- SEAN**            Perhaps April was just the catalyst, the catalyst we needed.
- DARREN**        No, she's not! I don't need her one bit.
- SEAN**            Well then, the catalyst *I* needed.
- DARREN**        We need to talk about this.
- SEAN**            We are talking about it. Don't try to schmooze me!
- DARREN**        That's not what I was trying to do. I –

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** (finding some work to do) Would you mind leaving my office? I have work to do.

**DARREN** Just like that?

**SEAN** Yeah, just like that. It's over, Darren.

**DARREN** No, it's not.

**SEAN** Yes. It is.

(**SEAN** freezes.)

**Scene 28**

(**APRIL** enters to **DARREN**.)

**APRIL** Poor baby.

**DARREN** How did you hear?

**APRIL** I have my ways.

**DARREN** How's your mother?

**APRIL** Not well.

**DARREN** I'd like to see her.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** I hear you don't do sickness.
- DARREN** How much time do you think she has left?
- APRIL** Oh, just about enough to change her beneficiaries – make that her *beneficiary*. About the same length of Time as you and what's his name.  
(Points.)
- DARREN** You're a piece of work, aren't you?
- APRIL** Have I kept you from seeing my mother?
- DARREN** You have.
- APRIL** No, you have been unable to summon up the gumption to come and see her and say your goodbyes or whatever the hell it is you want to say.
- DARREN** You're probably right.
- APRIL** Of course I'm right. . . . Do you want to see mom?
- DARREN** Could I?
- APRIL** She's right here.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(**EVE** enters with her walker, even more sickly than earlier.)

**DARREN** Eve!

**APRIL** Speak up. Her hearing's going too.

**DARREN** How are you, Eve?

**EVE** Darren?

**APRIL** How sweet. Gay Lover Boy meets Dying Woman Friend.

**DARREN** Oh, shut up.

**APRIL** Aren't you going to embrace? Maybe fuck?

**EVE** (weakly) April.

**APRIL** Oh, that's right. You can't fuck each other, can you? It's right out of Greek tragedy. Or is it Greek comedy? I was never very good in school.

**DARREN** Shut your evil mouth!

**APRIL** What's the matter? I'm just attempting to facilitate here. I've brought you two

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

together, perhaps for the last time.

(introducing them) Mom – Darren.

Darren – my mom. You keep insisting that I'm keeping you two apart, when nothing could be further from the truth.

Here! (Shoves them closer together.)

*Party!*

**DARREN** Maybe if you went away.

**APRIL** But I have presents for both of you!  
Wait a second! (Goes off, returns quickly with gifts.) Just what you two need.

**DARREN** I don't think this . . .

**APRIL** Tut, tut! Take this. (Opens plastic bottle.)

**DARREN** What is it?

**APRIL** Viagra!

**DARREN** I don't need Viagra.

**APRIL** Sure you do. It'll make you horny. Have you ever tried it?

**DARREN** No.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL**            Maybe it's the missing ingredient. You think? Try one.

**DARREN**        I don't want it!

**APRIL**            Stop! (**DARREN** and **EVE** both **freeze**. **APRIL** comes over with the pill.) I said *take* this. (Places the blue pill in his mouth, then tickles his throat until he swallows.) Okay, snap out of it, Mom.

(**EVE unfreezes**.)

**EVE**                What happened?

**APRIL**            I think it takes about an hour to be effective. Or is the word "erective"? (Pats his crotch.) Maybe I should give him two? Five? (Opens bottle again.) Can you overdose on Viagra?

**EVE**                You leave him alone.

**APRIL**            Shut up. Lie down here. Oh, I guess one pill is all right for now. We can always see about seconds later, can't we? Lie down! Until he's warmed up!

**EVE**                I don't want to lie down.

**APRIL**            Do you want that walker?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** Of course.

**APRIL** I think *I* need it.

**EVE** April!

**APRIL** Lie down or I take the walker. (Points.)

(Reluctantly **EVE** lies down, with **APRIL** roughly assisting.)

**EVE** Ouch!

**APRIL** What a crybaby. I'm giving you what you want. Lover Boy. (Looks at frozen **DARREN**.) He looks hard already! That stuff is good! And here's your present, mother mine. (Shows a box of adult diapers.) Which do you prefer? Serenity or Mollicoddle Super Plus?

**EVE** What are they?

**APRIL** Now don't be coy, Mom. You and I both know what they are. After your bath, you put one of these on. For maximum protection! Otherwise, you have a little soiling problem. Now you don't want to soil Darren, do you?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

Although it's going to be a little awkward fitting him in with this diaper – I'm sorry, *adult protection* – in the way. What are we to do?!

**EVE** Oh, April.

**APRIL** Don't you dare cry! You wouldn't let me cry! Ever! (Undressing **EVE**.) Get out of those clothes!

**EVE** (crying) April . . . no . . .

**APRIL** Ugh. What's that I smell?

**EVE** (crying harder) Oh, my God, my God!

**APRIL** I think I smell poop. (Sniffs.) By God, I do. Mommy's gone poo-poo all over herself. Thank God, I got here just in the nick of time. Get out of those clothes!

**EVE** I will not!

**APRIL** Do you think Lover Boy there is going to get it up for you when you've got poo-poo down there? C'mon. It's bad enough that's it's pussy. But poopy pussy? Even Viagra won't take care of that!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** Darren! Wake up! Wake up!

**APRIL** Wake up, Darren. Wake up. Oh, he doesn't seem to hear. I thought it was you going deaf, Mom, but my bad. I guess it's Darren!

**EVE** (desperate) Darren . . .

(**EVE** gets up and moves toward **DARREN**.)

**APRIL** Oh, no you don't! Come back here. Naughty girl. Naughty, naughty girl, running around all dirty, all stinky. (Chases **EVE** with the adult diaper.) Wait till I get a hold of you. Then you're really going to cry.

(**DARREN** struggles to come out of the freeze, but he can't quite make it.)

Oh, look at Lover Boy getting all hot.  
Hot for momma.

(Grabs **EVE** and tries to put the adult diaper on her.)

I think I got you this time!

(**EVE** and **APRIL** struggle.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Suddenly **DARREN** screams and becomes **unfrozen.**)

(**APRIL** and **EVE** freeze.)

**DARREN** (feeling his head, as if waking up from a nightmare) Christ! . . . Oh, Christ.

**(Blackout.)**

**Scene 29**

(**APRIL** unfreezes, moves away from **EVE**.  
Lights out on and exit **EVE**.)

**APRIL** (snapping her finger to freeze **DARREN**) Bad dream, booboo? (She feels his forehead.) I think you've got a fever. Yep, a fevered brow. Who knows, you might go before mom does!

(Enter **SEAN** to **APRIL**.)

**SEAN** You leave him alone. Keep your hands to yourself.

**APRIL** Ah, he's here to rescue his woman. And they say that chivalry is dead.

**SEAN** You're like some virus, some toxin.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL**           What are you defending him for? I thought you two broke up.
- SEAN**            We did. Thanks to you.
- APRIL**            My pleasure. You weren't a good couple anyway.
- SEAN**            We were fine until you arrived on the scene.
- APRIL**            Not what I hear. Small irritations, big-time boredom, bedroom issues. If I had what you two had, I'd rather be alone.
- SEAN**            You will be alone, April. You're going to alienate everybody who knows you, even those who just hear about you. You will wind up a vicious old crone in a shack cutting up toads for your potions.
- APRIL**            Maybe you can give me some good recipes? Gay food? Just what is it you people eat?
- SEAN**            I won't descend to your level.
- APRIL**            Sure you will. You already have. Something about "viruses, toxins"?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN** Darren and I may be over, but that doesn't mean I don't still care about his welfare, and you are a direct threat to that. So lay off.
- APRIL** I'm scared, I'm scared. The big bad gay boy is gonna get me.
- SEAN** I don't know where you got your imagery of "gay boys," April. But some of us don't just take it anymore. We dish it out. And I don't just mean words.
- APRIL** You don't take it anymore? Up the ass, you mean?
- SEAN** Why is taking it up the ass any worse than taking it anywhere else?
- APRIL** (singing) "Because, because, because!"
- SEAN** And for your information I have never taken it up the ass. And if I had taken it up there, I wouldn't be ashamed of it! Jesus, this is ridiculous!
- APRIL** (to audience) He's so proud. Whether he takes it or not, he's proud of his heritage!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN** In case you don't know it, there is as much anal intercourse, or more, among you people as there ever is among mine!
- APRIL** Tut, tut! You've been peeking!
- SEAN** There's no arguing rationally with you.
- APRIL** You want a little secret about life, boyfriend? Rationality gets you nowhere. Absolutely nowhere. The point is to win. *Win!*
- SEAN** And do you think you're winning, April?
- APRIL** I'm about to. At least this battle.
- SEAN** I don't think so.
- APRIL** I am about to take my mother to meet with the lawyer. And you know why? To change the will. I've talked to my brother in Indiana and he doesn't want his half of the house. And your good friend Darren is about to be cut out of his half, leaving one new, sole heir, whose name I cannot remember for the life of me.
- SEAN** It won't happen.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** No? You want to go along? . . . Come on! I dare you!

(**APRIL** snaps her fingers.)

(**Lights out on DARREN.**)

**Scene 30**

(**APRIL** pulls **EVE** onstage by the walker.)

**APRIL** That's right, Mom. We're almost there.

**EVE** Stop!

**APRIL** No, we're almost there. Here's the lawyer's office.

(**SEAN** in slow motion moves into place as the Lawyer.)

**SEAN** How nice to see you and your daughter, Mrs. Clay.

**EVE** (a mutter) I suppose.

**SEAN** I have some papers I've drawn up as per your daughter's instructions. Right here. (Produces some legal documents.)

**APRIL** Thank you for being so prompt.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** I happened to have a lull. You're lucky. Usually it takes me months. I have just a few details I'd like to clarify, if I may.

**APRIL** Clarify away!

**SEAN** The questions are chiefly for Mrs. Clay.

**APRIL** That's why I brung her along – brought her along! I think we've gotten everything squared away on the will. She hasn't been well. But we've talked and she's ready to sign.

**SEAN** I have an affidavit from a certain Ross Clay, your brother and Mrs. Clay's son, correct?

**APRIL** Correct.

**SEAN** He says he will not contest any will that leaves him out. Signed and dated. (Shows it to **APRIL**.)

**APRIL** Excellent. See, Mom? (Shows it to **EVE**.)

**EVE** (quietly) I see.

**SEAN** And I also have the new will right here – somewhere. (Finds it in a folder.) Here

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

it is. It's very simple and straight-forward, as your daughter requested.

**EVE** Yes, I know.

**APRIL** It's almost over, Mom. Don't be irritable. (to **SEAN**) She hates legal stuff.

**SEAN** The new will leaves your home — your entire property — and a small amount of cash in a checking account to April Clay upon the . . .

**APRIL** Of course there's no rush here. Mom is probably going to live to be a hundred.

**SEAN** (glibly) No doubt. Nevertheless, it's always good to have a will.

**APRIL** Precisely. Notarized or whatever, fussed over by a lawyer. For when the time comes. Years from now. Years!

**SEAN** I've handled many a will in my day. This one should cause no problem. I understand there is an earlier will, which leaves half the money to another person aside from the son in Indiana.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- EVE**                    That's true.
- APRIL**                    But not anymore. Right, Mom? Darren's name does not appear anywhere in this new document. Didn't we agree on that?
- EVE**                    (Does not reply.)
- APRIL**                    Didn't we? Just this morning.
- EVE**                    (Does not reply.)
- SEAN**                    Mrs. Clay?
- APRIL**                    Mom? . . . No pressure.
- SEAN**                    Are you feeling any pressure to sign this new will, Mrs. Clay?
- EVE**                    (Does not reply.)
- APRIL**                    (trying not to sound insistent) Mom, what do you say?
- SEAN**                    If you don't mind, please let her answer on her own.
- APRIL**                    (sounding sincere) I'm sorry. I'll be quiet. It's completely up to mom.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** (offering a pen to **EVE**) Would you care to sign? If you don't want to, this is the time to say so.

(**EVE** stares ahead, doesn't take the pen.)

**APRIL** Mom, there's the pen.

**SEAN** Miss Clay, please.

**APRIL** Oh, pardon me. I just want my Mom to have her affairs settled. There's nothing worse than those horrible fights over people's estates that I've heard about.

**SEAN** Have you read it through, Mrs. Clay?

**EVE** I have.

**SEAN** Is it what you want?

(**EVE** hesitates. **APRIL** holds her breath.)

**EVE** I guess.

**APRIL** You guess?

**EVE** (caving in) It's what I want. Let me sign it. I don't care anymore.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** I wish more people would take the time to get their affairs in order, the way you're doing, Mrs. Clay. Believe me, it would save a lot of grief afterwards.

**APRIL** (correcting where **EVE** is about to sign)  
Not there, Mom. Here.

(**EVE** heaves a big sigh and is about to sign the will.)

**APRIL** Wait!

**SEAN** What?

**APRIL** I wonder if we could insert one word – just one.

**SEAN** And what would that be?

**APRIL** Right here. After it says “to my daughter April as my sole heir” could we insert this word? (She writes it on the will.)

**SEAN** What does that say?

**APRIL** “to my beloved daughter April . . .” Just that word, *beloved*.

**SEAN** I suppose. Any objection, Mrs. Clay?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** I can't see why there would be. After all, she's my beloved mother, that's for sure.

**SEAN** Well, if it's acceptable to you, Mrs. Clay, then I can't see why the court should object to a word expressing mother-daughter affection. In fact, the court usually favors family members.

**APRIL** You hit the nail right on the nose!

**SEAN** Mrs. Clay?

**APRIL** Mom?

**EVE** (puts the pen to the paper) “. . . to my beloved daughter April . . . Eve . . . Clay . . .”

(She signs the will.)

**APRIL** Eureka! (in his face) Did you get that, Sean?! Was it in your face enough?

(**SEAN** and **EVE** freeze.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 31**

(Enter **DARREN** to **EVE** in hospital.  
**SEAN** exits.)

**DARREN**      How are you, Eve?

**EVE**            (unfreezing) Not too good. My skirt's  
                     hiked up. (Adjusts her skirt.)

**DARREN**      I'm sorry I haven't come to see you.

**EVE**            That's all right. April's been looking  
                     after me.

**DARREN**      I'm sorry about that too.

**EVE**            (looking offstage eagerly) Where are  
                     they?

**DARREN**      What do you mean?

**EVE**            They're bringing my clothes. I'm  
                     getting married today.

**DARREN**      You're getting . . . ?

**EVE**            I don't know what's taking them so  
                     long. I guess they're not used to people  
                     getting married in the hospital.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** (touched) Oh, Eve, I don't think so.

**EVE** (changing suddenly) I changed my will!

**DARREN** Did you?

**EVE** To April.

**DARREN** If that's what you want.

**EVE** It's not what I want, but I couldn't keep on resisting her. I kept hoping you would interfere somehow, somehow help me.

**DARREN** Apparently I'm not "family" enough. But that's just an excuse on my part. I should have come to see you, looked after you.

(**EVE** lies down on a cot.)

**EVE** Well, you're here now. For the end.

**DARREN** Don't talk like that, Eve.

**EVE** Why not? It's the truth. I've arranged the funeral. I want to be cremated and buried at sea. Will you see to it that that happens?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** Of course. But I'm sure that's a long way away –

**EVE** It's not a long way away, Darren.

**DARREN** Is there anything I can do? Are you in pain?

**EVE** Sit and wait with me while I die.

**DARREN** You're not going to die!

**EVE** It's just as well. I feel sick all the time. What's the use? I don't know if I can handle this marriage or not. Where are those people with my clothes?

**DARREN** (weeping) Oh, Eve, I wish I could help you. I wish I could . . .

(**EVE** sees him weeping and finds a napkin from her cot and hands it to him.)

**EVE** You need this?

**DARREN** (taking the napkin) Don't die, Eve. Please.

**EVE** I wanted to leave you something, but I guess it wasn't to be. (yelling) Where

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

are my clothes! Where are they?! They won't listen to me.

**DARREN** Who are you marrying, Eve?

**EVE** (after a long pause) Darren. . . He's a very nice person. We're going to have lots of children.

**DARREN** Are you?

**EVE** He loves me very much. Unlike my daughter.

**DARREN** Eve . . . (crying)

**EVE** I never liked my daughter. I tried to, but she was hateful almost from the beginning. I don't suppose it's her fault, though. There's something defective there. From her father . . . from me. She's going to get everything I have. Isn't that funny? Can I have my napkin back, please?

**DARREN** Oh, I'm sorry. Do you really want this? It's got . . .

**EVE** You can always use a napkin. (Takes it from **DARREN**.) I guess they're not

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)  
coming. (Slumps.) I don't care. I'm  
tired. . . . So tired.

**DARREN** Oh, Eve . . . (Leans down and kisses her  
gently on the cheek.)

**EVE** Be careful. Darren will be jealous. He  
loves me very much. (Drifts off.) Darren  
loves me very, very much.

**DARREN** (touching her forehead) Yes, he does,  
Eve. Yes, he does.

(Lights fade as **EVE**'s breath labors for a long  
time before she dies.)

**Scene 32**

(Enter **APRIL** with will, looks at them.)

**APRIL** What bullshit! *He* wanted the money  
just as much as I did. Only I got it!  
(Holds up the will.) To the victor belong  
the spoils! Is that the saying? Whatever!  
I got it, and no last-minute crying crap is  
gonna change it. Wait a second.  
(Searches for something in a pocket.)  
Here it is. (Puts the will under her arm  
and pulls out a floss container.) There's

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

something stuck in the back of my mouth. Excuse me, but I've got to get this. (Starts to floss, not at all embarrassed or shy about it.) They still have not cremated my mother. She's been laying in that place for weeks now. They're busy, they say. Well, it's not right. My mother deserves better than that. She had her problems, but in the end she was okay; yeah, she was all right. Wait! (Having difficulty with the floss.) There! Got the son-of-a-bitch! (Pulls out the floss and drags her fingers along it to remove the debris. *Voila!*) Don't mess with April! (Waves the floss and the will in triumph.)

**(Blackout.)**

**Scene 33**

**(DARREN** on telephone at home.)

**DARREN** I don't know what you're talking about.

**APRIL** You stole them. I want them.

**DARREN** I do not have them.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL**            On my mother's bedroom walls. You took them.
- DARREN**        I did not take them. I don't remember even seeing them.
- APRIL**            One is of a swan, a beautiful white swan. The other is of a lady in a hat.
- DARREN**        I don't know what you're talking about. I've got to go. Enjoy the money.
- APRIL**            Those paintings are missing. I want them returned. You have no right to them. I want to give them to my own kids one day.
- DARREN**        They were probably thrown out when your mother's house was cleaned.
- APRIL**            I saw them after that! You had a set of keys for the house. You went in and took them so that I couldn't have them. I especially want the lady in the hat. I knew I should have demanded those house keys!
- DARREN**        April, I am trying to maintain my composure, for your late mother's sake. Let me say it again. I don't recall any such

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

paintings on your mother's bedroom walls. Whatever you think, I did not make a habit of visiting your mother's bedroom. If they were there, I did not notice them. If they are missing, I did not take them. More than this I cannot tell you.

**APRIL** I'll have you know that those paintings were given to my mother by my father on the day I was born!

**DARREN** Was that the same day the heavens opened up and choirs of Seraphim sang their guts out?

**APRIL** Give me those paintings! As soon as I sell the house, I'm going to hire me a big, fat lawyer and we'll see about those paintings or not!

**DARREN** For the final time, I do not have them, and I do not know where they are.

**APRIL** My mother wanted me to have those, especially the swan. She always called me her little swan. You didn't see that side of her because you were so busy trying to get her dough. But I did. My mother loved me. My mother loved me

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

much, much more than she ever cared  
for you. Much, much more!

**DARREN** I'm sure she must have. After all, she  
left you her house, didn't she? I hope  
you live happily ever after on the sale –  
and the memory.

**APRIL** I will. No thanks to you. All your  
scheming *did not* work! Poor little un-  
educated me beat the pants off you!

**DARREN** April, if you don't hang up and  
disappear from my life, I —

**APRIL** What? *What?* You'll slap my wrist? Be  
“very upset” with me? I'm quaking.  
Can you feel me shaking in my boots?!  
There's not a thing you can do to me  
now, Darren baby. I won! . . . I won!  
I won! I won! I won – bitch!

**(Blackout.)**

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**Scene 34**

(**EVE**'s funeral on board a Neptune Society boat.)

(Enter **SEAN** and **DARREN** separately. They stand apart.)

(Enter **EVE** as the boat's Funeral Director, holding an urn.)

**EVE**            Welcome! Thank your for coming to Eve Clay's memorial service aboard the *Naiad*. I'm sure she would be glad to know she had not been for-gotten . . . even if there are only a few of you could make it today. The water is a bit rough out there under the Golden Gate, but I'm sure we'll manage. (to **SEAN**) And you are . . . ?

**SEAN**            I'm Sean. I knew Eve.

**EVE**            It's nice of you to come.

**SEAN**            It's the least I could do.

**EVE**            (to **DARREN**) And you must be . . . ?

**DARREN**        Darren Burton. We spoke on the phone.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** Of course. Thank you for finalizing the arrangements for today.

**DARREN** I'm sorry we didn't have more time to invite more people.

**EVE** Mrs. Clay's daughter . . . uh . . .

**DARREN** April.

**EVE** Yes, April. She was arranging everything and seemed quite thorough in fact. Then she suddenly couldn't be reached. I phoned her several times with no reply. Well, the sailing was scheduled and . . . I'm just so grateful you completed the arrangements.

**DARREN** (quietly) It's fine. Apparently April couldn't make it, to her own mother's funeral.

**EVE** The last I heard she said she would be attending.

**DARREN** (about **SEAN**) I didn't know *he* was coming.

**SEAN** Do you object?

**DARREN** Just surprised.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**SEAN** I didn't actually come for Eve.

**DARREN** Oh? . . . Did you come for . . . ?

(**APRIL** enters, interrupting. She is dressed all in black and has noticeable bandages on both wrists.)

**APRIL** Oh, thank God, I made it! I was afraid you might have left already!

**EVE** And you must be the daughter.

**APRIL** Yes, I arranged the service.

**EVE** Well, that's neither here nor there, I suppose. You're all here now, the three who are coming. Let me signal the captain and we can proceed. (She does so.)

(The boat moves out, with the actors miming the occasional swaying caused by the unseen waves.)

**APRIL** In case you're wondering why I'm a little late, it's because I had a little accident. (Holds up her bandaged wrists.)

**SEAN /  
DARREN** (together) What happened?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(They look at each other.)

**APRIL** I have been grieving so much about my mom's passing I . . .

**DARREN** Slashed your wrists?

**SEAN** With what – the will? Those must be incredibly nasty paper cuts.

**APRIL** FYI, Mister, they're lots deeper than paper cuts! I almost, like, died!

**SEAN** I don't believe you.

**APRIL** What do you want me to do – show you the actual cuts? They're still ragged. Encrusted with blood! That's the real reason I was late just now. I could barely get here. I lost a lot of blood. I get dizzy real easy. I keep throwing up.

**DARREN** (sincerely) . . . I'm sorry.

**SEAN** (under his breath) Don't be sorry to her!

**DARREN** (placatingly) Sean.

**SEAN** (quietly) Well, don't! It's probably just another trick.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** Is he talking about me?
- DARREN** No.
- APRIL** If he is, he doesn't know what the fuck he's talking about! These are real wounds. Encrusted! I bled like crazy. I almost died just like my poor mother did.
- EVE** Yes, your mother and her funeral. I have her remains here. (Shows the urn.) She did not want a formal or religious ceremony. Instead, she asked that whoever attended the service say a few words in memory if they wished. And after that we will scatter the remains into the sea for her final resting place.
- APRIL** (rocking) Jesus, it's rough today!
- EVE** It's not too much farther. Possibly we can pray or just remember the deceased until we're about half a mile from here.
- SEAN** All right. (Lowers his head.)
- DARREN** It's beautiful here – the sky, the horizon. Beautiful.
- APRIL** Not for my mother!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** (not wanting to fight) No, I suppose not.

**SEAN** Stop placating her!

**DARREN** It's a funeral, Sean. We can down her afterwards.

**APRIL** What did you say?! Did I hear you right?

**EVE** Please, Miss, it's time to be quiet and thoughtful, if you don't mind.

**APRIL** I do mind! They're planning to throw me off this boat and drown me.

**EVE** I don't think so, Miss.

**APRIL** They are too! I wouldn't put anything past the either of them. But let me just warn them that there's a witness here – this woman! (Points at **EVE**.)

**EVE** I won't let anything happen to you, Miss. I assure you.

**APRIL** Yeah, well, you'd better assure yourself cuz they could wind up drowning you too, to cover up their crime. You wouldn't believe the nasty things they're done already.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**DARREN** We're not going to drown you, April. It was a joke. You won. As far as I'm concerned, the war is over.

**APRIL** What about *him*?

**SEAN** Not to worry, April. I won't do it . . . unless he does.

**APRIL** See! See!

**EVE** All right, all right, we're just about there. Mrs. Clay requested to be within sight of the Golden Gate Bridge, and this is going to be just fine . . . (Signals to the captain. Sound effect of motor shutting off.) Now, who would like to speak first? Or we don't have to say anything. It's completely up to the participants. . . . So what would that be? (Pause.) Nothing?

**SEAN** (stepping forward) I'll speak. . . . First of all, Eve and I were not good friends. As a matter of fact, we were hardly friends at all. I knew her because she knew Darren.

**EVE** I see.

**SEAN** And I don't have that many memories of the woman, at least not many good ones.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE**            Okay.

**SEAN**            But I do recall a car ride we took not so long ago.

**DARREN**        (warning him) Sean!

**SEAN**            On this car ride Eve made fun of my inner ear.

**EVE**            What?

**SEAN**            She made fun of the fact that I am susceptible to air sickness. I won't fly. I also can't stand to be on boats. Yet I came today anyway, to pay my respects to the woman who meant so much to . . . to Darren. So that's all I want to say. Goodbye, Eve. Rest in peace.

**APRIL**            (loudly, weeping) Oh, momma! If only I could have had your paintings!

**SEAN**            (stepping back) Oh, momma is right!

**EVE**            Someone else?

**DARREN**        I'll go next. (Steps forward.) I knew my friend for five years. She filled a place for me, and I hope I filled a place for her.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- APRIL** (snickering) What “place” was that?
- EVE** Miss!
- APRIL** What!?
- DARREN** Eve was a fighter. Her life was hard, but you never heard her complain. She sucked it up. I just hope that she has taught me how to deal with my own problems in my own life. I’m sure she would like to know that I admire her in death just as I did in life.
- APRIL** (snickering) Sucked it up?
- EVE** Anyone else? Miss?
- APRIL** Me? I don’t know if I have the eloquence of these other people or the strength because of my recent . . .  
(Holds up her bandaged wrists.)
- EVE** Okay then, we can –
- APRIL** No! I want to try to say something.
- EVE** Go right ahead.
- APRIL** Can I hold my mother’s urn?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- EVE** I suppose.
- APRIL** I'd like to, if it's not too heavy.
- EVE** Let's see. (Hands it to **APRIL**.) How's that?
- APRIL** I'm not sure. My wrists are still very tender.
- DARREN** Can I help?
- APRIL** I'll do it!
- DARREN** Go right ahead.
- APRIL** (to the urn) Hello, Mom. It's April. I'm glad I made it today. I almost didn't, as you well know. I really miss you. I didn't realize how close we had become again since I moved back to be with you. But you know I wouldn't, like, forsake my mom on the day of her funeral, even if it is way out here in the middle of nowhere and awfully rocky.
- SEAN** (unsteady) Tell me about it.
- APRIL** I just want to say that you were the best mom in the whole wide world. Maybe I

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

caused some difficulties from time to time. Still, I never meant you harm. I always paid for what I did in one way or another. So take these cuts as a sign of my affection for you. They are very deep, just as is my love for you, my only mother. . . . P.S. Your daughter April, who will one day give you the grandchildren you've always wanted.

**SEAN** Gag.

**APRIL** What!?

**SEAN** I'm seasick.

**APRIL** Then you shouldn't have come. Nobody wants your puke all over everything.

**EVE** All right then! I guess that about does it, except for the scattering itself. Now who would like to perform the honors?

**APRIL** I would. Only I'm afraid with my arms the way they are from the cuts . . .

**EVE** I can do it. It often occurs that –

**DARREN** Let me.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE**            You sure?

**DARREN**        Please. (Takes the urn from her.)

**EVE**            Let me remove the top. (She does.) It's best to rest the urn here, in this holder. (Mimes the holder placement.) That way it's secure.

**APRIL**          Have you got it firm?

(**SEAN** provides the place where the urn rests.)

**DARREN**        I think so. . . . There. I'm ready.

**EVE**            Here are some roses. As the ashes are scattered, you each can step to the railing and toss your rose in remembrance. Ready?

**DARREN**        Yes. (Begins to sift the ashes into the sea. Either mimed or real ashes can be used.)

**APRIL**          (loudly) Goodbye, Mom!

**SEAN**            Goodbye, Mom!

**APRIL**          She wasn't your mom!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SEAN** Oh, sorry, I forgot – just the way you did sometimes. Goodbye, Eve. (Tosses his rose overboard.)
- EVE** (to **DARREN**) Tilt the urn a little more. (He does.) Good. . . . Now April?
- APRIL** I have just one more thing to mention.
- EVE** Yes?
- APRIL** You should all know that my mother was a prostitute up until her mid-thirties. I bet you didn't know that, did you? Well, she was! She used to turn tricks in the front seat of our car when I was just a little kid – three or four a night sometimes. She thought I was asleep, I guess, but I usually wasn't. I had to lay there under some coats and old blankets and hear her *sthuping* somebody or sucking some guy's dick, and it wasn't pretty, let me tell you! So if I turned out a little raw or "bad," it's no surprise. No little kid should have to hear her own mother sucking cock! It's like no other sound in the world. I'm sorry, Mom, I suppose you had to earn us a living, but why did you have to do it as a whore?! (Tosses her rose.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- DARREN** Christ!
- SEAN** Don't believe her. Anybody!
- DARREN** Surely she wouldn't lie about that, at own mother's funeral?
- SEAN** I'm only surprised she didn't say that her own mother raped her.
- APRIL** Don't listen to him, Mom.
- EVE** I think there may be just a few ashes left – there. (**DARREN** empties the urn.)  
And your rose? (**DARREN** takes it.)
- DARREN** Rest in peace, Eve. I miss you. I miss you very much.
- APRIL** Is that it?
- EVE** Unless there's more to be said.
- APRIL** Not from me.
- DARREN** Nor me.
- SEAN** Enough has already been said.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE** I think we can head back then. (Signals the captain.) Thank you all for being here.

**SEAN** Sure. It was everything it should have been.

**DARREN** Thank you for the service.

**EVE** You're more than welcome.

(Pause.)

**APRIL** That was the single most touching experience I have ever had in my entire life.

(All freeze.)

**Scene 35**

(**APRIL** alone, on the boat.)

**APRIL** (to audience) Mom would've liked that. She had a sentimental streak. I suppose I do too. Those roses totally got to me. . . . There was an extra one there. Did you see it? (Produces the rose.) Well, they were just gonna throw it out anyway! (Sniffs the rose.) It doesn't have much smell. It's the thought that

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

(Cont'd.)

counts. And no matter what Darren and Sean think or say I thought about my mother! A lot! Do you suppose those two fags are going to get back together? I wouldn't put it past them! That Sean is so conniving! He just came to the service to make up with his "boyfriend." How shabby is that! Some of us are almost dying out of sadness and grief and all other kinds of emotions, and all we have to show for it is bandages! (Shows them.) But I will recover. I will not let any of this get me down. You've got to survive in this old world cuz it's kill or be fittest, as Henry H. Darwin put it. He was so, like, right! And you know what else? Even though I cut my wrists and almost perished, I am today taking the first step into the rest of my life! (Holds up her wrists.)

**(APRIL freezes.)**

**(Blackout.)**

(In the blackout **APRIL** tears off the bandages and throws them aside. She is rubbing her *uncut* wrists when the lights come on brightly.)

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**APRIL** (to light crew) Hey, turn that off! Hey!  
(trying to hide her wrists) These were cut!  
They were cut! What the fuck are you doing?  
They were cut, I tell you!

**(Another Blackout.)**

**APRIL** (in the dark) Wait! I can explain. I'm a fast healer!

**(EVE** appears, walking but with wings.)

**APRIL** Mom, is that you?

**EVE** No.

**APRIL** Then who the hell are you?

**EVE** (Takes out a dart blower.) An avenging angel

**APRIL** What?!

**(EVE** blows a dart at **APRIL**. The actual dart can be invisible.)

**APRIL** (feeling the dart hit her) Ouch! Oh, my God, you've killed me! You've killed your own child!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**EVE**            I should have. But, no, it's just something that will render you sterile for the rest of your life. You will never, ever, ever, ever reproduce! Now I can die in peace. My work is done here.  
(Exits.)

**APRIL**        *Mom!*

**(Final Blackout.)**

**The End**

*Copyright 2006*

# **V** *OID*

## *(WHERE PROHIBITED)*

– a one-act meditation on existence

### **CHARACTERS: (6)**

Assorted types, males and females

### **SETTING:**

At rise there is a tempest. The characters scream as they swirl back and forth as if in a force of nature. After a while they come to rest near each other on a bare stage.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**ONE** (waking up) Oh, my god, what was that?

**FIVE** I don't know. (to **THREE**) Do you know?

**THREE** (not answering)

**FIVE** Can't you hear me?

**THREE** (not answering)

**FIVE** What's wrong? Are you hurt?

**THREE** I can hear you. I just don't know.

**ONE** (fearful) Where are we? . . . Who *are* you people?

**FIVE** I think we were all on the tour together. Weren't we?

**THREE** Some were.

(**OTHERS** agree that they were.)

**ONE** I don't remember any of you.

**FIVE** And then what happened?

**TWO** That's what we're trying to find out. Nobody seems to have any answers.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- FOUR** I know what it was.
- TWO** Yes?
- FOUR** It was an act of God.
- TWO** I know, but which act? That doesn't explain much.
- FOUR** Don't ask if you don't want the answer.
- TWO** No, don't answer if you don't have the answer!
- FOUR** I have the answer! It's an act of God, I tell you. Let's all pray.
- TWO** Yeah, maybe God will get His act together.
- FOUR** I hope you aren't going to be like one of those characters in a play who's just there to make fun of religious people!
- TWO** I'm not a character in a play. I'm a person in the real world.
- FIVE** Maybe the real world is a play? It has the elements: the curtain goes up, there's conflict –

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**ONE**                   And then the curtain comes down, and  
it's all over. And few of us are stars.

**THREE**                But God either applauds or doesn't.

**TWO**                   More likely He gives thumbs up or  
thumbs down. I sort of like that. It  
raises the stakes.

**FOUR**                 I think God is here with us right now.  
Listen!

(They listen.)

**ONE**                   You do?

**SIX**                   (calling from offstage) Hello! Is  
anybody there?

**FOUR**                 See!

**SIX**                   Help! Help!

**TWO**                   God is calling for help?

**SIX**                   (entering) Thank God! Somebody's  
here!

**ONE**                   Are you one of us?

**SIX**                   What?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**TWO** Are there any other survivors?

**SIX** I didn't see anybody. I think I was disoriented over there. But I'm so glad to see you all! Hell is definitely not other people.

(They are cool to **SIX**.)

**ONE** Have you got any food?

**SIX** No. Don't you have?

**ONE** I don't see any. Does anybody?

(All look for food, don't find any)

**FIVE** How about water?

**ONE** I don't see any. Doesn't anybody have anything to drink? Oh, no, what next!

**FIVE** Don't start making us panic now. We're not thirsty!

**ONE** I'm just trying to assess our resources. Didn't you see that movie?

**SIX** I did. I'm not eating human flesh, that's all there is to it!

**FIVE** Who asked you to?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- TWO** I'll eat it. Anybody volunteering?
- FIVE** Jesus, at least wait until we're starving!
- THREE** I'll tell you one thing – I'm not drinking anybody's piss, my own included.
- ONE** How do you know it will come to that?
- THREE** I just know. It always comes to that.
- TWO** You might even like it? Have you ever tried piss?
- THREE** I most certainly have not.
- ONE** Oh, my God!
- TWO** What now?
- ONE** I think we're surrounded by a void.
- TWO** No kidding.
- FIVE** I found some food!
- (Others look over expectantly.)
- TWO** Well, what is it?
- FIVE** Some Extra gum.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- ONE**           What?
- SIX**            You know, Extra brand. It lasts and lasts. But there are only two sticks left in the pack.
- TWO**           Oh, Buddha!
- FIVE**          I'm going to have one of the sticks of gum now. After all, they are mine.  
(Takes out a stick, opens it, begins to chew.)
- ONE**           How is it?
- TWO**           Does it taste like human flesh?
- FIVE**          I don't know. I've never tasted human flesh.
- TWO**          Something tells me we'll all know before this trip is over.
- SIX**           Oh, now don't be negative! I'm sure we can work something out.
- TWO**           Like what?
- SIX**           We can share the gum.
- FIVE**          Yes. After I chew it.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- OTHERS**      Yuck! No thanks! etc.
- TWO**            I'm a survivor, but I refuse to share gum  
– with anybody.
- FIVE**            Good, that means more for the rest of  
us.
- TWO**            I don't want to be a spoilsport in this  
love feast but something tells me two  
sticks of gum do not a survival kit make.
- TWO**            By the way, what flavor is the gum?
- FIVE**            (checking) Pink bubblegum.
- TWO**            Oh, great! We're going starve to death  
blowing bubbles, pink bubbles at that!
- FIVE**            I thought you said you didn't want any.
- TWO**            I don't want any! I'm just making a  
joke. That's my method of surviving in  
the world!
- FOUR**            Well, I hope you're not the kind of  
person who's always cracking jokes in  
serious moments. You trivialize our  
lives. And I don't want to laugh when  
I'm dying!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- TWO**            Would you like to hear a non sequitur?  
                      That's how I cope.
- FOUR**            No.
- TWO**            Yes, you would. More people are killed  
                      by family members than by strangers.
- FOUR**            I don't think that's true.
- TWO**            Oh, god.
- ONE**            Oh God? What?
- FIVE**            What now?
- ONE**            The void that we were surrounded by ...
- THREE /**  
**FOUR**            Yes?
- ONE**            It's gotten voider.
- SIX**            Is that a word?
- ONE**            (irritated) I don't know! Who cares  
                      about the damn word! Look at  
                      what's happening!
- THREE**            I don't see any void.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- FIVE**            We'd better move closer together.
- TWO**            I don't want to move closer to you  
people. Strangers!
- FOUR**            Come now, you may need us.
- FIVE**            Does anybody else have anything we  
can survive on? Come on, people, look  
through your stuff – your clothes, your  
purses, your underwear – forget the  
underwear. But look! Look!
- SIX**            Who made you dictator?
- TWO**            Exerting his/her natural leadership  
qualities. He/she took a workshop  
once. And got a certificate.
- THREE**           I think I should be the leader.
- FOUR**            No, I should. You're too quiet.
- THREE**           Well, if you'd shut up I wouldn't be so  
quiet.
- TWO**            I don't think any of this is within our  
control. Personality will out.
- ONE**            Oh, my God!
- OTHERS**        What now?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**ONE**            That void that was getting voider . . .  
Now it's much worse. It's about  
to surround and engulf us.

**FOUR**            Oh, I don't believe that.

**ONE**            Check it out. But be careful.

(**TWO**, **FOUR** and **FIVE** check the perimeter  
of the area.)

**TWO**            You know what? Maybe we ought to  
move closer together after all.

(They move somewhat closer.)

**FOUR**            Maybe we should give thanks.

**TWO**            Give thanks? For what?

**FOUR**            Because we've found this safe haven.

**TWO**            Why aren't we screaming at whoever or  
whatever it is that's forcing us to seek a  
safe haven in the first place? Why do  
people like you always want to give  
thanks, and for nothing?

**FOUR**            Because nobody likes a complainer.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**TWO** Well, maybe some well-directed complaining and looking at the problem as it is might get some results that thanking the goddamn universe is never going to accomplish in a million years.

**FOUR** You're tempting fate.

**TWO** I hate you already. I hope I don't have to spend a lot of time with you.

**FOUR** Believe me, you won't – if I can find my way out of here. . . . The way out is probably right over here. (Moves hesitantly) Isn't it? I can't seem to get past this area.

**TWO** Like a fourth wall?

(There is an invisible barricade that cannot be penetrated.)

**FOUR** Yes.

**TWO** Then sit down.

**FOUR** I will not.

**FIVE** Will you two please try to get along. It's hard enough without us at each other's throats.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

**TWO /  
FOUR**

Shut up!

**SIX**

Please, all of you.

**TWO /  
FOUR /  
FIVE**

Fuck you!

**THREE**

You're giving me a headache!

**ONE**

I'm cold.

**FOUR**

So am I.

**ONE**

And tired.

**TWO**

I think I'm hungry. (to **FIVE**) How's that gum coming along?

**FIVE**

Not bad.

**ONE**

Aren't you finished with it yet?

**FIVE**

Not quite.

**THREE**

Is there any taste left?

**FIVE**

A little. (Chews hard.)

**SIX**

Well, don't use it all up!

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- FIVE**            It's my gum!
- TWO**            Where's that other piece you had?
- FIVE**            I'm keeping it for an emergency.
- TWO**            I think we're *in* an emergency.
- SIX**            Yeah, maybe we should divide up that stick of gum.
- FIVE**            No way.
- TWO**            You're going to hoard it all for yourself?
- FIVE**            Jesus, it's only one stick of gum. If I divided it up, each of us would get almost nothing.
- TWO**            Yeah, but maybe that one little piece might give us the strength to last until we're rescued. I feel the need for another non sequitur. I want my epitaph to read: Onward to Oblivion. Or is that sequitur?
- SIX**            We'll be rescued.
- ONE**            How do we know we're going to be rescued? Maybe no one knows we're even here? Will we be rescued or not?

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- THREE**        Maybe no one cares, here or there.  
                    (Points offstage, then to heaven.)
- FIVE**        They're probably searching for us right  
                    this minute.
- THREE**        Do you hear that?
- (All listen.)
- FIVE**        It's . . . a plane.
- TWO**        I don't hear anything.
- FIVE**        Don't you all hear it? I tell you it's a  
                    plane!
- SIX**        Could it be a bird?
- TWO**        It's Superman! Life is a comic book.
- THREE**        No, it *is* a bird. See it. (Points up.) It's a  
                    vulture. (It is out of sight.)
- ONE**        My god, I think you're right.
- FOUR**        This doesn't look promising.
- TWO**        Not losing hope, I hope.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- SIX** Let's chase it away. (Goes after the unseen vulture) Shoo! Shoo!
- FIVE** It'll just come back.
- ONE** And eat us?
- FIVE** Or we it.
- SIX** I think it's an optical illusion. There's no vulture there.
- FIVE** But I can see it! It's got a bone in its mouth.
- SIX** Then maybe it'll leave us alone.
- TWO** Until we're dead.
- FOUR** We're not going to die!
- ONE** We're going to starve to death, very slowly. And then that vulture is going to eat us, very rapidly.
- FOUR** You're a very negative person.
- TWO** (to **FOUR**) And you're stupid.
- THREE** Maybe we should offer the remaining stick of gum to the vulture.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- FIVE**            Why?
- THREE**          To placate it.
- FIVE**            That's not going to do much good.
- SIX**             You never know. Why not try?
- FIVE**            I'm not throwing away my last piece of gum!
- TWO**            I've got an idea. Why don't you throw your used gum to the vulture, as a test?
- OTHERS**        Yeah. Why not? What have we got to lose? Go ahead! etc.
- FIVE**            I'm still chewing it.
- OTHERS**        Throw that gum! etc., etc.
- FIVE**            All right. Don't get aggressive. I'll throw it. (Takes the gum from his/her mouth, pretends to throw it into the air.) There!
- ONE**            Did the vulture catch it?
- TWO**            Where'd it go?
- FIVE**            The vulture gobbled it up.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- TWO** I don't think you even threw it. You palmed that gum.
- FIVE** No, I didn't.
- TWO** You did too. I saw you. Show us your hands.
- FIVE** I will not!
- TWO** (to the others) I'm telling you he/she didn't throw the gum.
- FOUR** Did you throw the gum?
- FIVE** It's my gum. I can throw it or not if I want to.
- FOUR** Yeah, but you can't lie about it.
- FIVE** Yes, I can.
- TWO** So you admit you didn't throw the gum.
- FIVE** I admit nothing.
- SIX** Let's look for the gum, okay? . . . Am I going to get any help?
- ONE** All right, I'll help you.

*Collected Plays of Daniel Curzon*

- FOUR**            So will I.
- FIVE**            I threw the gum to the vulture!
- FOUR**            Then why is it still hovering there?
- FIVE**            Maybe it doesn't like pink bubblegum.  
Maybe it wants more?
- TWO**            (seizing **FIVE** by the hand) Look,  
everybody! Here's the gum in  
his/her hand! Someone take it!

(**FIVE** resists.)

- FOUR**            I've got it!
- FIVE**            This is anarchy! That's my bubblegum!  
Give it back.
- FOUR**            I'm throwing it to the vulture.
- FIVE**            Don't you dare!
- FOUR**            (to vulture) You who! You who! Want  
some gum? (makes lip noise, as with a  
cat) You want this? Here it comes!  
(Throws the gum.) Remember who  
threw it!
- SIX**            Did it catch it?