

Samuel Beckett - Come and Go. A dramaticule

Written in English early in 1965. First published in French in 1966. First published in English in 1967. First performed in English at the Peacock Theatre, Dublin, 1968 and at the Royal Festival Hall, London, 1968.

CHARACTERS :

FLO

VI

RU

(Age undeterminable)

Sitting centre side by side stage right to left FLO, VI and RU. Very erect, facing front, hands clasped in laps.

Silence.

VI : When did we three last meet?

RU : Let us not speak.

[*Silence. Exit VI right. Silence.*]

FLO : Ru.

RU : Yes.

FLO : What do you think of Vi?

RU : I see little change. **[*FLO moves to centre seat, whispers in RU's ear. Appalled.*]**

Oh! [*They look at each other. FLO puts her finger to her lips,*] Does she not realize?

FLO : God grant not.

[*Enter VI. FLO and RU turn back front, resume pose. VI sits right. Silence.*]

Just sit together as we used to, in the playground at Miss Wade's.

RU : On the log.

[*Silence. Exit FLO left. Silence.*]

Vi.

VI : Yes.

RU: How do you find Flo?

VI : She seems much the same. **[*RU moves to centre seat, whispers in VI's ear.***

***Appalled.*]** Oh! **[*They look at each other. RU puts her finger to her lips.*]** Has she not been told?

RU : God forbid.

[*Enter FLO. RU and VI turn back front, resume pose. FLO sits left.*]

Holding hands . . . that way.

FLO : Dreaming of . . . love.

[*Silence. Exit RU right. Silence.*]

VI : Flo.

FLO : Yes.

VI : How do you think Ru is looking?

FLO : One sees little in this light. **[*VI moves centre seat, whispers in FLO's ear.***

***Appalled.*]** Oh! **[*They look at each other. VI puts her finger to her lips.*]** Does she not know?

VI : Please God not.

[*Enter RU. VI and FLO turn back front, resume pose. RU sits right. Silence.*]

May we not speak of the old days? **[*Silence.*]** Of what came after? **[*Silence.*]** Shall we hold hands in the old way?

[*After a moment they join hands as follows : VI's right hand with RU's right hand. VI's left hand with FLO's left hand, FLO's right hand with RU's left hand, VI's arms being above RU's left arm and FLO's right arm. The three pairs of clasped hands rest on the three laps. Silence.*]

FLO: I can feel the rings.

[*Silence.*]

CURTAIN

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