

ACT TWO

Scene One

(8:54 p.m.)

(JENNY, GENEVIEVE, and MERTIS are all sitting around a table.)

(An open bottle of white wine.)

(All three women are holding wine glasses but MERTIS is drinking water out of hers.)

(GENEVIEVE is in her 80s. The irises of her eyes are so pale blue they're nearly white. She is blind.)

(GENEVIEVE is telling a story.)

(JENNY is a little tipsy.)

Start Here

GENEVIEVE. That was around the time I went crazy.

MERTIS. Oh Genevieve.

GENEVIEVE. It's true.

I was clinically insane!

That's what they called me!

JENNY. How were you—what /was the—

GENEVIEVE. I was convinced that my ex-husband had taken possession of my soul and that his spirit was trying to destroy me.

(stage whisper)

The thing about being crazy is it can also all be true.

(MERTIS slowly gets to her feet and starts walking towards the French doors.)

GENEVIEVE. I hear you walking away, Mertis!
MERTIS. I'm just getting us some Vienna Fingers.

(MERTIS is gone.)

GENEVIEVE. I left him in '64. In '65 I woke up and I realized that he was still with me. He was still inside my body. All his judgments and his thoughts. I had left him but he hadn't left me!

I didn't get out of bed for a month. He wouldn't let me move. I felt his fingers opening and closing my lids.

Now you sleep.

Now you wake.

(MERTIS re-enters with a plate of Vienna Fingers.)

GENEVIEVE. Sometimes I would have a thought of my own and he'd say: "THAT THOUGHT IS MY THOUGHT."

THAT THOUGHT IS MY THOUGHT."

JENNY. Wait, he wasn't there? He /was—

GENEVIEVE. No no no. I'd left him back in California.

MERTIS. Jenny, would you like a Vienna Finger?

JENNY. No thanks.

MERTIS. Genevieve?

GENEVIEVE. Yes please.

(MERTIS holds the plate out and GENEVIEVE gropes for and then begins munching on a Vienna Finger. [She will consume at least five more before she leaves.])

JENNY. So then what happened?

GENEVIEVE. I checked myself into an institution.

Only to discover he had insinuated himself into the minds of all the doctors and nurses.

HE was prescribing me my medication.

HE was the psychiatrist assigned to my case.

Don't you see that you're imagining things? HE would say to me.

My roommate started to say things that only HE would say.

She began singing OUR song under her breath.
(One time she started humming it in the middle of the night.)

How do you know that song?!

What song?

That song!

The song you were just humming!

I wasn't humming anything.

I was fast asleep.

JENNY. What was the song?

GENEVIEVE. (in a warbling voice)

SINCE YOU'RE GONE

THE STARS, THE MOON

THE SUN IN THE SKY

KNOW THE REASON WHY I CRY

(MERTIS joins in singing.)

GENEVIEVE & MERTIS.

LOVE DIVINE

ONCE WAS MINE

NOW YOU'RE GONE...

GENEVIEVE. Mertis knows it.

MERTIS. That song was sung by the great Ferlin Husky.

GENEVIEVE. Now I could use this as proof that HE is still invading the thoughts and memories of those close to me. Including my dearest friend Mertis Katherine.

I am choosing to believe otherwise.

JENNY. What was his name?

GENEVIEVE. John.

But I called him Jack.

JENNY. Oh. That's funny.

GENEVIEVE. Why?

JENNY. I just... I just know someone named John.

GENEVIEVE. Everyone knows someone named John.

MERTIS. (singing softly)

I ACTED SMART