

# **In-Sanity or the irrationality of the human psyche**

**by Phillip W. Weiss**

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**This is a one-act play consisting of six scenes.**

**The story is set in New York City.**

**Synopsis: a man commits murder, driven by motives that reveal the murkier recesses of the human mind.**

**Tagline: Too much thinking can be lethal.**

**Characters**

**Victor Dennerman**

**Eugene Losofsky**

**Yvette Dennerman**

**Dr. Kara Kornbluth**

**A bouncer**

**A corrections officer**

**This play is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to any person, living or dead, or any place, past or present, is purely coincidental and entirely unintentional.**

## Scene 1

*Time: 1994*

*Place: An apartment in Brooklyn, New York*

*Two men, Victor Dennerman and Eugene Losofsky, both in their early-forties, are having a discussion.*

**EUGENE**

I called her up and she won't talk to me. What the hell happened? We really had something going.

**VICTOR**

These things happen.

**EUGENE**

These things happen? That's not telling me anything. You were there when we met. We hit it off immediately and now all of a sudden the brush off. I'm baffled.

**VICTOR**

Maybe she met somebody.

**EUGENE**

No way. We've been seeing a lot of each other

**VICTOR**

Ah, forget about it. You know that these women are sluts.

**EUGENE**

I can't forget about. I really liked her. Man, I was thinking about asking her to go to California with me.

**VICTOR**

Really? You just met her.

**EUGENE**

Oh, shut your face! You don't know what you're talking about.

*Pause*

VICTOR

*(takes a deep breath)*

Listen, Eugene, I think I know what happened.

EUGENE

You do?

VICTOR

Yes, I do.

EUGENE

Okay. Then let me in on the secret.

*Victor takes a long deep breath.*

VICTOR

Uh, this is kind of hard for me.

EUGENE

Hard for you?

VICTOR

Okay, look, I did the animal act with Renee.

*Eugene says nothing. He is stunned.*

EUGENE

When?

VICTOR

Two nights ago.

EUGENE

No way. You got to be joking.

VICTOR

No joke. I gave her call and she came over and the next thing I know we're both eating cherry pie, and it was sweet.

*Eugene is beginning to feel shock.*

EUGENE

Prove it.

VICTOR

She has a small birth mark on her you-know-where.

EUGENE

*(speaking slowly, the truth sinking in)*

I can't believe it. You knew how I felt about her.

VICTOR

*(laughing)*

What are you talking about? She wanted action and I gave it to her, but good.

EUGENE

*(bitter)*

You rained on my parade.

VICTOR

*(still laughing)*

Come on, I didn't rain on anybody's parade. I got some action. So what?

EUGENE

You went behind my back, that's what you did, and messed up my relationship, and are now causing me to come down with a bad case of indigestion.

VICTOR

I can't help it if you have a weak stomach.

EUGENE

You knew I was seeing her.

VICTOR

Hey, my man, we just had some fun. No big deal!

.

**EUGENE**

She was my girl, not yours! You know she has problems.

**VICTOR**

Yeah, she was hungry and you weren't feeding her.

**EUGENE**

You're some friend.

**VICTOR**

Get off your high horse already. C'mon, let's go for a drink.

**EUGENE**

*(sarcastic, bitter laugh)*

Look who's talking about getting off their high horse. You're riding real high, at my expense. I bet the two of you had a jolly good time laughing at me behind my back.

**VICTOR**

If I had mentioned your name it would have ruined the ambiance. Look, pal, you're not exactly Mr. Debonaire.

**EUGENE**

And you're such a charmer? I'm calling Renee right now.

*Eugene picks up the phone and dials a number.*

**EUGENE**

Hello. ... Renee? ... Yes, this is Eugene. I'm with Victor right now. ... **HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME? ... YOU MALICIOUS, TWO-TIMING EXCUSE FOR GIRLFRIEND ... I'LL CALL YOU WHATEVER I WANT ... CALL THE POLICE? ... GO RIGHT AHEAD YOU SELF-CENTERED TRAMP!**

*Eugene slams down the phone on the receiver.*

**EUGENE**

*(to Victor)*

You, sir, are a piece of manure. What demon inside you possessed you to do this? I ought to shove this phone down your sewer-like gullet.

VICTOR

Hold on now. I think you better can that kind of talk.

EUGENE

*(putting on his jacket)*

You fool. You stupid fool. You just destroyed our friendship and if I don't get out of here right now I'm gonna puke.

*Eugene exits, slamming the door hard as he leaves.*

End of scene 1

**Scene 2**

*Time: 1997*

*Place: A singles' dance in midtown Manhattan. Lots of people are milling about. Eugene is talking to a woman named Yvette. He is holding a drink.*

Hello.

EUGENE

Hello.

YVETTE

EUGENE

Do you go to many of these dances?

YVETTE

This is the first time I've been to one of these things. How about you?

EUGENE

I've been to a few. (*pause*) What's your name?

YVETTE

Yvette.

EUGENE

My name's Eugene. (*pause*) Where do you live?

YVETTE

In Queens.

EUGENE

I live just a few blocks from here.

YVETTE

Really? Lucky you. I gotta commute every day. I hate it.



EUGENE  
What kind of work you do?

YVETTE  
I'm a secretary.

EUGENE  
Where do you work?

YVETTE  
At a bank in midtown. What about you?

EUGENE  
What about me what?

YVETTE  
What kinda work you do?

EUGENE  
I work for the city.

YVETTE  
Doing what?

EUGENE  
I'm a social worker at City Hospital.

YVETTE  
I heard that social work is a hard job.

EUGENE  
(*annoyed*)  
That's what everybody says. It makes me sound like I'm a jerk. Who wants to work hard? I don't. It's a job, period; it provides steady employment and pays the bills.

YVETTE  
(*placating*)  
Why the attitude? I was just trying to make conversation. Do you mind if I ask what do you do as a social worker?

**EUGENE**

I do discharge planning. You know, when a patient is cleared for discharge I make sure that the services they need are in place so they can leave the hospital. *(pause, changing the subject)* You know, you look very attractive.

**YVETTE**

Thanks.

**EUGENE**

Maybe we can get together.

**YVETTE**  
*(indifferent)*

Yeah ... maybe.

*Victor enters. He is walking about. Suddenly he sees Eugene.*

**VICTOR**  
*(yells)*

Eugene!

*Eugene turns and sees Victor.*

**EUGENE**  
*(to Yvette)*

Oh, no.

**YVETTE**

What's the problem?

**EUGENE**

There's a guy here who knows me and just hearing his voice causes my stomach to do a flip-flop.

**YVETTE**

Why so?

**EUGENE**

He's a first class schmuck.

YVETTE

So what? The world is full of schmucks.

*Victor walks over to Eugene and Yvette. Victor is drunk.*

VICTOR

Hey, pal, I haven't seen you in a long time!

EUGENE

Get lost!

VICTOR

Same ol' Eugene.

EUGENE

Stop patronizing me.

VICTOR

*(to Yvette)*

You hear that? I'm patronizing him. I'm just glad to see a friend.

EUGENE

*(to Victor)*

Please leave!

VICTOR

Who's the doll?

EUGENE

None of your business

YVETTE

*(to Victor)*

My name's Yvette.

VICTOR

*(to Yvette)*

I'm Victor. Nice to meet you.

**EUGENE**  
*(to Victor)*

What's wrong with you? Can't you see that I'm with a lady? *(to Yvette)* I'm not with this guy. *(to Victor)* Will you please just leave!

**VICTOR**  
Whoa! What's your problem?

**EUGENE**  
*(getting angry)*  
YOU, that's what.

*A bouncer enters.*

**BOUNCER**  
Any problems here?

**VICTOR**  
Absolutely none, my good man.

**EUGENE**  
Yes, this guy *(gestures toward Victor)* is bothering me and this lady *(points to Yvette)*.

**YVETTE**  
*(to Eugene)*  
Speak for yourself. *(to the bouncer)* Look, I just met these guys.

**BOUNCER**  
Look yourself. If I hear anymore yelling, you're all out of here, get it!

**EUGENE**  
I didn't do anything, sir.

**BOUNCER**  
*(to Eugene)*  
I don't want any trouble, okay?

*Bouncer exits.*

**YVETTE**  
*(to Eugene)*

I have to go powder my nose.

**EUGENE**  
Why don't you give me your telephone number?

**YVETTE**  
Maybe later. Right now I want to circulate.

*Yvette exits.*

**EUGENE**  
*(to Victor)*  
Thanks a lot, for nothing.

**VICTOR**  
Whadaya griping about? She's a waste.

**EUGENE**  
You've ruined it for me, as usual.

**VICTOR**  
Don't blame me for striking out. I didn't tell her to leave.

**EUGENE**  
You know, you're evil. And to think that I once thought you were my friend.

**VICTOR**  
I am your friend. You just take yourself too seriously.

**EUGENE**  
You screwed things up for me three years ago and now you want to do it again. Why are you doing this to me?

**VICTOR**  
I'm not doing anything to you. I just want to have a good time.

*Yvette returns.*

VICTOR  
(to Yvette)

Hey, you're back!

YVETTE  
(to Victor)

You're very observant. So, what's your story?

VICTOR

I'm just a guy trying to meet someone nice. Excuse me (*Victor reaches inside his jacket and takes out a small bottle of vodka which he pours into his cup*)

YVETTE  
(amused)

I see you come prepared.

VICTOR

Yeah, I guess I do. It comes in handy. (*to Eugene*) What about you? You want a drink?

EUGENE  
(disgusted)

Why don't you just get out of here.

VICTOR  
(laughs)

I'll leave if the lovely lady here will join me. (*to Yvette*) Let's get outta here and go for a couple of drinks.

YVETTE

I can't. I'm with a friend.

VICTOR

C'mon now. Your friend will understand. Don't she want you to meet a guy?

EUGENE

She said she doesn't want to go with you.

VICTOR

*(to Eugene)*

Who said that? The only person I've heard say that is you. *(to Yvette)*  
C'mon, this place is a drag. I know a bar a couple of blocks away where we can  
get to know each other better.

YVETTE

Okay, but I first have to tell my friend that I'm leaving.

VICTOR

Good. Go tell you friend and then meet me at the door.

*Yvette exits.*

EUGENE

*(enraged)*

You selfish piece of .... *(simmering)* Can't you just leave me alone?.

VICTOR

*(scoffing)*

What are you talking about? I didn't do anything to you. You struck out.  
It's no big deal. It happens.

*Victor takes out his bottle and drinks what's left.*

VICTOR

Mmm, that's good. Well, wish me luck.

*Eugene glares at Victor and says nothing. Victor exits.*

End of scene 2

## Scene 3

*Time: 2000*

*Place: The promenade in Brooklyn Heights.*

*Eugene is photographing the Manhattan skyline. He's by himself*

VICTOR  
(*off stage*)

Hey, Eugene!

*Eugene turns. Victor enters, accompanied by Yvette.*

VICTOR  
(*elated*)

I haven't seen you in years. Whatchya been up to?

EUGENE  
(*cool, distant*)

Nothing much.

VICTOR

You remember Yvette, don't you?

EUGENE

Kind of.

VICTOR

Whadya mean kind of? You were hot for her!

EUGENE

I don't know what you're talking about.

VICTOR

Sure, you do. Remember when we all met at that dance?

EUGENE

If I correctly recall, it more like you barging in.



VICTOR  
(*laughs*)

Ah, so you do remember!

YVETTE  
(*to Eugene*)

So, how are you doing Eugene?

EUGENE

Do you really care?

VICTOR  
(*laughing*)

Wait a minute! Why the attitude? All she did was ask you a question.

EUGENE

I'm doing okay. Okay?

VICTOR

Great! Guess what? Me and Yvette are getting married.

EUGENE

If you don't stop talking I will puke right in your face.

VICTOR

I want you to come to the wedding.

EUGENE

Did you not hear me? You are making me sick!

VICTOR

Stop it already. Ever since we've been kids you always bitching and complaining. We've been friends for years and you're coming to the wedding.

EUGENE

Look, I'm gonna be busy.

You? You're never busy.

VICTOR

*Yvette laughs.*

Could I talk to you privately?

EUGENE  
(to Victor)

What for?

VICTOR

It's personal.

EUGENE

Okay. (to Yvette) Just give me a moment.

VICTOR

*Victor and Eugene walk a few feet and stop.*

Okay, pal, what's on your mind?

VICTOR

I'm very pissed off at you.

EUGENE

At me? What did I do?

VICTOR

Just stay the hell away from me! Please!

EUGENE  
(imploring)

Why?

VICTOR

**EUGENE**

You're ruining my life. First you stole Renee from me and then you stole Yvette. Enough already.

**VICTOR**  
(*surprised*)

What are you talking about?

**EUGENE**

I'm not here on this planet to set you up with women and then show me up, okay?

**VICTOR**

You didn't set me up with anybody.

**EUGENE**

Like hell I didn't. I met both of them first, but you didn't care. You just take what you want, at my expense. You don't give a damn about me.

**VICTOR**

Just because you strike out with women doesn't mean I have to look the other way.

**EUGENE**

That just shows what kind of guy you are. Just in it for yourself. You're mean. There must be some kind of evil spirit inside you. That's it! You are evil!

**VICTOR**  
(*laughs*)

Evil spirit? Where'd you get that idea? I think you've been watching too many horror movies. Anyway, the offer stands and I'm expecting you to be there.

**EUGENE**

You haven't heard anything I said, have you?

**VICTOR**

I heard everything you said. Now are you finished?

EUGENE

Yes, I am.

VICTOR

Good.

*Victor walks back to Yvette. Eugene turns and resumes taking pictures. Victor and Yvette are exiting, then Victor stops, turns and faces Eugene.*

VICTOR  
(to Eugene)

Don't forget: we're expecting to see you at the wedding.

*Eugene keeps taking pictures. Victor and Yvette exit.*

End of scene 3

## Scene 4

*Time: Three months later*

*Place: A banquet hall. The room is crowded. Victor and Yvette are mingling with the guests. Then Eugene enters. Victor sees Eugene and walks over to him.*

VICTOR  
(*elated*)

You made it! I was worried that you wouldn't show.

EUGENE  
I wouldn't want to disappoint you now, would I?

VICTOR  
Of course not.

*Victor calls to Yvette.*

VICTOR  
Look who's here!

*Yvette turns.*

YVETTE  
Eugene! How nice of you to be here.

*Yvette walks over and gives Eugene a quick embrace.*

VICTOR  
(*to Eugene*)  
Some banquet hall, eh?

EUGENE  
(*somber*)  
Yeah, some banquet hall.

YVETTE  
We have a lot good food. Go grab yourself something to eat at the buffet.

EUGENE  
Thanks, but I'm not hungry.

*Yvette gives Eugene a peck on the cheek and returns to the other guests.*

VICTOR

Boy, I am so glad you showed up. Between Yvette's relatives and my own lovely family it's been hectic.

EUGENE

I bet it has.

VICTOR

Sometimes I can't believe that this is even happening to me. Boy, did I luck out. Yvette's father wants to make me executive vice president of his company.

EUGENE  
(*sarcastic*)

Couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

VICTOR

(*oblivious to Eugene's sarcasm*)

Well, he does. And then he's paying for our honeymoon in the Riviera. If anybody told me that this would happen to me I would have told them they were nuts.

EUGENE

I guess you lucked out.

VICTOR

Enough of me. How are you doing?

EUGENE

Do you really care?

VICTOR

Of course I care. We're friends.

EUGENE

Oh sure, whatever you say.

VICTOR

Hey, don't cop an attitude now. Didn't I invite you to the wedding?

EUGENE

Sure you did and here I am.

VICTOR

So, what's the problem? Enjoy the moment! Like I said: we're friends.

EUGENE

You just forgot one thing.

VICTOR

I did?

EUGENE

You make my stomach turn.

VICTOR

Oh no. Not that again.

EUGENE

That's right, and it's because you're evil.

VICTOR

*(nervous laugh)*

C'mon, cut out your joking. Have yourself a drink. In fact, let's go over to the bar and I'll make you a tall one myself.

EUGENE

I don't think so.

*Eugene then pulls out a .357 Magnum hand gun.*

VICTOR

*(alarmed)*

What are you doing?

*Eugene points the gun at Victor. Some of the other guests start screaming. Yvette runs over to Victor.*

**EUGENE**

Something I should have done long ago.

**YVETTE**

*(screams to Eugene)*

**ARE YOU INSANE!?**

**VICTOR**

*(trying to maintain his self-control, to Eugene)*

Please don't do this. Let's talk. There is no need for guns.

**EUGENE**

It's too late for talk. The dice have been cast. And now I have to do what has to be done.

**VICTOR**

*(terrified)*

You got it all wrong. I wanna be your friend.

**EUGENE**

You invited me here to humiliate me, make me sick and drive me crazy.

**VICTOR**

I swear that's not the case. I thought we were friends.

**EUGENE**

Some friendship. You're evil and you're my nemesis. Yvette should have been with me, not you.

**YVETTE**

*(to Eugene)*

You're wrong!

**EUGENE**

I'm wrong? He is evil and was sent to destroy me, and you, but now I'm about to fix that forever.

*The sounds of gunshots, screaming and sirens can be heard as the scene ends.*

End of scene 4



## Scene 5

*Time: One month later.*

*Place: An office in a prison. The room is sparsely furnished. Eugene is wearing a prison jump suit. He is sitting in chair. Sitting opposite Eugene is a middle-aged woman, Dr. Kara Kornbluth.*

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

My name is Doctor Kara Kornbluth. I have been asked by the court to evaluate your competency to stand trial. Do you understand?

**EUGENE**

Yes.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Do you also understand that this examination is not confidential and that what we say here will generate a report that will be shared with the court?

**EUGENE**

Yes, I understand.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

What is your name?

**EUGENE**

Eugene Losofsky.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

How old are you?

**EUGENE**

Fifty years old.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Where were you born?

**EUGENE**

Brooklyn, New York.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Were you ever married?

**EUGENE**

No, never married. But I'm still looking. How about you?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Mister Losofsky, let's stay on track. Now, are your parents alive?

**EUGENE**

*(chuckling)*

My parents? What does any of this have to do with my parents? I'm much more interested in you. So, how about it? Me and you do a little tete-a-tete on the desk?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

That would not be appropriate.

**EUGENE**

Oh, stop being so ... formal. Just because you're a doctor doesn't mean you don't have, well, ... feelings.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

You're making this quite difficult. Do you have a problem answering my questions?

**EUGENE**

I think it's YOU who has the problem answering MY questions.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

You do understand that you are under a court order to be examined.

**EUGENE**

Of course I understand that. I just did not know that I was supposed to follow some kind of pre-arranged script.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

What makes you think there's a pre-arranged script?

**EUGENE**

From the way you are hiding behind those ridiculous questions so you don't have to talk to me. But that's typical for a woman, always wanting to be in control.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

So, is this what all this is about to you: a struggle for control?

**EUGENE**

O good lord, no. How can a lady as attractive as you be so dense?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

I'm sorry if I don't meet your expectations, but I have a job to do and I want to get it done.

**EUGENE**

Now you're just brushing me off. Are you like this on your dates?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

I hope you understand that this is not a date.

**EUGENE**

I know that, my dear. I was just playing. I hope I didn't offend you.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

You did not offend me. However, I want to know this: do you tend to be argumentative with women?

**EUGENE**

No. I protect women.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Even when they reject you?

**EUGENE**  
*(defensive)*

Who said anything about rejection?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

It's my understanding that you shot your friend who was getting married to a woman who had rejected you. Isn't that correct?

**EUGENE**  
*(emphatic)*

Incorrect! I drove away an evil spirit which had taken possession of a human body that just happened to be my friend's. **THAT'S** what happened. There was no rejection. To suggest otherwise is insulting and degrading to me and I won't stand for it. *(pounds his hand on the table.)*

*(A corrections officer enters)*

**OFFICER**

Everything okay here?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**  
*(to the officer)*

Everything is fine, officer.

**OFFICER**

Okay, I'm just checking.

*The officer exits.*

**EUGENE**

Who's he: your boyfriend?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

No, he's a prison guard who works here.

**EUGENE**

I saw the way he looked at you. He seemed to be quite interested in your welfare.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

He just wanted to make sure that everything was fine. That's his job.

**EUGENE**

I understand that. I'm not a dunce. I just want to know why he chose to show up at that very moment.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

What do you think?

**EUGENE**

I don't know. All we were doing was talking. It's not like I grabbed you or something.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Did you want to do that?

**EUGENE**

Do what?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Grab me?

**EUGENE**

No. I was just talking. I don't treat women like that.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

What about men? How do you treat them?

**EUGENE**

I don't pick fights, if that's what you're driving at.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

What about with Victor?

**EUGENE**

I keep telling everyone: it wasn't Victor. It was the evil spirit.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

What does this evil spirit look like?

**EUGENE**

I don't know. He can take any form.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Is the evil spirit here with us in this room?

**EUGENE**

For a while I thought the evil spirit was inside that guard, but nothing happened to you, so I could rule that out.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

What would have happened to me?

**EUGENE**

If that guard was possessed, he would have done something to drive you away from me.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Like what?

**EUGENE**

Cause you to start yelling at me or taunt me, or laugh at me, like all women do, including Yvette at the wedding when she was acting so flighty with me.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Maybe she was happy.

**EUGENE**

She was only acting like she was happy.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

How long did you know Victor?

**EUGENE**

Since we were kids.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

How did you get along with him as kids?

**EUGENE**

Fine. We were the best of friends. But then he went away to college and after that we didn't interact very often.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

That's rough.

**EUGENE**

It was. It was almost like losing the brother I never had.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

When did the evil spirit take possession of Victor?

**EUGENE**

I can't say for certain, but I believe it was while he was away at college because when he returned he had changed.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

In what way?

**EUGENE**

He came back with an attitude; you know, like he was stuck up.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

And that was because he was possessed?

**EUGENE**

Yes. There can be no other explanation.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

You sound certain about that.

**EUGENE**

That's because I am. I could see it in his eyes. The eyes don't lie, and I could hear it in his laughter, which was completely demonic.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

That must have been frightening.

**EUGENE**

No, not frightening: confusing.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

How so?

**EUGENE**

I wondered why the evil spirit would have chosen Victor, and then I realized why: The evil spirit was out to destroy me and obliterate all vestiges of my blood.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

You said you were an only child.

**EUGENE**

Yes, and with me destroyed, my parents would never be able to rest at peace and I could not bear the thought of that happening.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

So, when did your parents pass away?

**EUGENE**

My father died in 1986 and my mother in 1992, both from natural causes.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Did you have any aunts or uncles?



**EUGENE**

I have no relatives, Just me. All my relatives died in the Holocaust; my parents were sole survivors. So, if I die with progeny my blood line will be gone.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

But why would the evil spirit want to end your blood line?

**EUGENE**

I am the reincarnation of the chief Rabbi of Worms who in 1283 purged the evil spirit from a beautiful Jewish woman whose body the spirit had defiled. Before he fled, however, he swore that as an act of revenge he would destroy my blood line if it took all eternity, and with my parents gone and no relatives left, he finally had his chance.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

That's some history. Would you mind if I asked you a few more mundane questions?

**EUGENE**

Go ahead. I knew we'd get back to that.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

What is your work history?

**EUGENE**

I was employed by the city for twenty-four years, first as a caseworker for the Department of Social Welfare and then for the past ten years as a social worker for the Department of City Hospitals.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Do you understand what you've been charged with?

**EUGENE**

Yes, I do.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Could you tell me the charges?

**EUGENE**

Of course. First degree murder.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Who did you allegedly murder?

**EUGENE**

Victor Dennerman. Is it really necessary to ask me all these questions? All of this was discussed in court.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Yes it is because I am being asked to assess your competency to stand trial.

**EUGENE**

You're wasting your time. There is nothing wrong with me upstairs.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

That's good to know. Anyway, your attorney felt that this evaluation was necessary and the court agreed.

**EUGENE**

I don't care what my lawyer said. Look, I know that all this talk about evil spirits may sound bizarre but I'm not insane. I knew exactly what I was doing.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

What do you mean?

**EUGENE**

Victor Dennerman was out to destroy me and I couldn't let that happen.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

And that's because you wanted to protect your blood line.

**EUGENE**

Correct. It makes sense to me. Doesn't it make sense to you?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Frankly, no, but I'm not here to debate you or catch you in a lie.

**EUGENE**

I don't lie; I tell the truth.

**KORNBLUTH**

I didn't say you don't tell the truth. But let me ask you this: how exactly did Victor go about trying to destroy you?

**EUGENE**

He did it through his whiny high-pitched laughter, actually it was more like a girlish giggle, which rattled my brain and made me feel nauseous. In fact, recalling it now is now making me feel sick.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

So because of his laughter which made you nauseous, you felt you had to kill him?

**EUGENE**

That's right, or I would have died and with me my blood line, which was destined to continue through me and Yvette.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

So that's where Yvette fits in.

**EUGENE**

Yes.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Could you further elaborate?

**EUGENE**

It's very simple. Victor had a diabolical laugh which was meant to kill me, which he wanted to do before I could plant my seed inside Yvette.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Plant your seed? Could you please explain this further?

**EUGENE**

Gladly. The sound of his laughter, and the way he is used it to mock me, was like the sound of a hammer banging inside my brain which in turn knotted my guts, made me sexually flacid and caused Yvette to avoid me.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

If the evil spirit was so intent on destroying you, couldn't he have killed you the same way you killed Victor?

**EUGENE**

No. Since the evil spirit knew I was already on to him, he lost the element of surprise. The only thing left was to de-sex me and then get me to commit suicide.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

So, to recap, Victor wanted to destroy you because?

**EUGENE**

For revenge for what happened in 1283 and also to punish me for opposing him and his nefarious plans to produce a race of demons, half-human, half spirit, to destroy the human race and take over the planet. So he used his laughter like a knife to try to drive me to death.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Do you feel any remorse for having killed Victor?

**EUGENE**

No, not in the least, though I do feel badly for the commotion that it caused.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Did you ever have suicidal thoughts?

**EUGENE**

Yes, I did. Why do you ask?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

It's a standard question that I ask all patients.

**EUGENE**

Oh, am I one of your standard patients?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

I use the term standard patient in the generic sense and not to imply any doctor-patient relationship.

**EUGENE**

Look, I have absolutely no objection to a hot-looking lady like you being my shrink. I just don't want to be billed for this examination.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Don't worry about that.

**EUGENE**

Okay, if you say so, but I hope you understand my cause for concern because right now I have no access to funds and I believe that a man should always pay for the lady. Do you realize how lovely you look to me?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

I understand your concern. Now, could you tell me more about these suicidal thoughts?

**EUGENE**

I wanted to talk more about us, but okay, I'll answer your question. After Victor told me in 1994 that he had had his way with Renee, I considered jumping from the Brooklyn Bridge.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

But you didn't.

**EUGENE**

No, but I thought about it, a lot, and once I actually went to the bridge at night and seriously considered jumping onto the traffic lane below, but I chickened out, and it's a good thing I did because it bought me time to prepare for the final confrontation.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Did you ever tell anyone about these suicidal thoughts?

**EUGENE**

No, I did not because I had no one to talk to, and besides who would have cared?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

So you think nobody cares about you?

**EUGENE**

That's right. Nobody cares, except Yvette ... and you.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

How do you know she cares about you?

**EUGENE**

I just know. Remember, a long time ago I was a chief rabbi and chief rabbis know a lot.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Have you ever had any formal religious instruction?

**EUGENE**

Eight hundred years ago, in Worms.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Do you remember the names of your teachers?

**EUGENE**

There was Rabbi Beryl Ben Lazar and Rabbi Isadore Cahan from Cracow, and then there was Rabbi Jakov Schmuel Bimstein from Minsk, each one a brilliant Talmudic scholar.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Did you ever visit Worms?

**EUGENE**  
No. Is that important?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**  
I'm just asking.

**EUGENE**  
Did YOU ever visit Worms?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**  
No, I haven't but after this examination I may go there for a visit.

**EUGENE**  
Why? Are you Jewish?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**  
If I said yes, what would that mean to you?

**EUGENE**  
*(angry)*  
Can't you give me a straight answer to a simple question? Why are you playing games with me?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**  
This is not a game.

**EUGENE**  
*(indignant)*  
You're acting like it's a game. You want me to open up to you but you won't open up to me. Is that fair?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**  
You said you were employed as a social worker. Correct?

**EUGENE**  
Yes.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

So you had training as a mental health professional.

**EUGENE**

Yes. I have an MSW. So what? Does that make me less worthy of your attention?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

You're getting my attention. Now, wasn't there anyone at work, any mental health professionals, with whom you could discuss your feelings regarding Victor and suicide?

**EUGENE**

I did not want to do or say anything that would call attention to myself and possibly jeopardize my job, which I valued because I needed a paycheck, and besides I had no need to confide in anyone because thinking about something is not the same as actually doing it. People have all kinds of thoughts and I didn't want to bore anyone with mine. I had lots of patients tell me that they had suicidal thoughts and afterwards I would wonder whether it would have been better if they'd just stop talking about it and just do it and get it over with instead of wasting everyone's time alarming people about stuff they had no intention of doing. To me, it was just a childish way of getting attention and the last thing I needed or wanted was attention.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

Do you understand the concept of right and wrong?

**EUGENE**

Yes, I do. I know right from wrong.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

When you decided to murder Victor did you understand that to be a right act or a wrong act?

**EUGENE**

Boy, is that a loaded question.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

How so?



EUGENE

Because no matter how I answer that question, it won't be the right answer and I'll be incriminating myself.

DR. KORNBLUTH

This is not grade school and I'm not trying to trick you. You told me that you understand the concept of right and wrong, and so all I'm asking is if you understood murdering Victor to be a right act or a wrong act.

EUGENE

It's a good thing that you're a woman and that I like you because if you were a man I would have either punched your face or left this room by now, or both.

DR. KORNBLUTH

Why the hostility?

EUGENE

If I say shooting Victor was wrong, then I'm giving the devil his due and might as well kiss Yvette good bye, and if I say it was right, then I come off as some kind of unfeeling monster and then the judge can throw the book at me, thanks to you.

DR. KORNBLUTH

Thank you for sharing that with me. Now, once again, was your decision to murder Victor Dennerman a right act or a wrong act?

EUGENE

Oh, what the hell. (*sighs*) It was a right act.

DR. KORNBLUTH

Murdering Victor was a right act?

EUGENE

Of course. You sound surprised. I thought you would understand.

DR. KORNBLUTH

Then enlighten me.

EUGENE

I acted in self-defense.

DR. KORNBLUTH

Because he was out to destroy you.

EUGENE  
(*annoyed*)

Yes. As I already told you: Victor was out to destroy me and there was no way I was going to let him do that to me. He had to be stopped.

DR. KORNBLUTH

And he was going to destroy you with laughter.

EUGENE

That's right: with laughter.

DR. KORNBLUTH

So you took matters in to your own hands ...

EUGENE  
(*emphatic, agitated*)

Right again! I told you: He had to be stopped!

DR. KORNBLUTH

Maybe he was laughing because he was happy and wanted to share his happiness with you.

EUGENE

Victor? No way. He was much too selfish to share anything with me. He was cleverly using his laughter to taunt me and drive me to distraction.

DR. KORNBLUTH

And that angered you.

EUGENE

And scared me too after I came to realize Victor's real purpose in wanting to destroying me.

DR. KORNBLUTH

Which was?

EUGENE

Maybe you weren't listening: to torment me and drive me away from Yvette and thereby end my blood line.

DR. KORNBLUTH

The evil spirit wanted to do that.

EUGENE

*(irritated)*

Yes, the evil spirit. Please stop asking me to repeat myself. Obviously he was under the control of the evil spirit; of that I have no doubt whatsoever, and the only way I knew to defeat the evil spirit was to destroy the vessel which contained it.

DR. KORNBLUTH

This concludes the examination.

EUGENE

That's it? How did I do?

DR. KORNBLUTH

Ask your attorney. Your attorney will be provided a copy of my report.

EUGENE

Thank you and it was nice talking with you and please forgive me if I said anything out of line. I always get that way when I'm in the presence of a beautiful woman.

DR. KORNBLUTH

Okay. Good bye.

*Dr. Kornbuth exits.*

End of scene 5

## Scene 6

*Time: Six months later*

*Place: The visitors' room in a penal institution. The room contains tables and chairs that are riveted to the floor.*

*Eugene, Yvette and Dr. Kornbluth are sitting at a table. Eugene is sitting opposite Yvette with Dr. Kornbluth sitting in between.*

YVETTE

*(to Eugene)*

You asked for this meeting and so here I am now. What do you want?

EUGENE

To talk to you.

YVETTE

About what? You killed my husband. What else is there to say?

EUGENE

I think we have a lot to talk about and you know it too, otherwise you wouldn't be here.

YVETTE

*(to Dr. Kornbluth)*

Is it okay for me to be talking with him?

DR. KORNBLUTH

It's okay, if you're comfortable with it.

EUGENE

Thank you, doctor, and thank you, Yvette, for agreeing to meet with me. I know that you are angry and upset with me, but I'm asking that you please give me a chance to explain what I did because what I did I did for your own good.

YVETTE

*(angry and shocked)*

WHAT? FOR MY OWN GOOD? THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS! YOU MURDERED MY HUSBAND!

DR. KORNBLUTH  
(to Yvette)

Are you okay?

YVETTE  
(still agitated)

No, I'm not okay. I didn't come here to listen to this garbage.

DR. KORNBLUTH  
Why don't you take a moment to calm down.

YVETTE  
Okay.

*Pause. Yvette gradually calms down.*

DR. KORNBLUTH  
(to Yvette)

Are you alright now?

YVETTE  
I'm okay now. (to Eugene) Keep talking but don't waste my time.

EUGENE  
I know what I did and I can understand why you would be upset, but what I did wasn't done through maliciousness but was done in order to protect you and liberate you from evil.

YVETTE  
If anybody here is evil, it's you, so what you're saying is that I need protection from you.

EUGENE  
That's not true at all. You have no reason to fear me. Victor was possessed with a spirit that came between us and which would have destroyed me and then you. We were meant to be together and it was because of Victor that we were kept apart and denied true happiness. Can't you understand that?

**YVETTE**

I have no idea what you're talking about. All I know is that you murdered my husband. I was there, I saw what you did, and what you did was horrible and terrifying, and something that I can never forget.

**EUGENE**

Yet I did not harm you, did I?

**YVETTE**

You sure did. You hurt me badly. I hope you're happy now, you beast.

**EUGENE**

I could have killed you too but I didn't. Have you ever wondered why I didn't kill you too?

**YVETTE**

No. I can't figure out what's going on in that muddled brain of yours and furthermore I couldn't care less.

**EUGENE**

Then let me tell you. It was because you are a blessed angel from heaven sent to earth to do good works, but Victor would have stopped you from fulfilling your destiny because he was evil. Do you understand now?

**YVETTE**

*(contemptuous)*

Now what are you saying?

**EUGENE**

Do you believe in the all mighty?

**YVETTE**

Don't tell me you're gonna start preaching at me because if you do, this meeting is over.

**EUGENE**

Please answer the question.

YVETTE  
(*sarcastic*)

Okay, I'll humor you, if that will make you happy. I believe in an all mighty.  
Now what?

EUGENE  
Well, then there's your answer.

YVETTE  
My answer to what?

EUGENE  
To what I'm talking about.

YVETTE  
Look, I don't know anything about any religious stuff, okay? I'm just trying  
to get by and deal with what you did.

EUGENE  
(*condescending*)  
Oh you poor uninformed lady. You don't even realize what you really are.

YVETTE  
(*to Dr. Kornbluth*)  
Is he for real or is he just pulling my leg?

DR. KORNBLUTH  
I can't answer that question. My job is to supervise this meeting and not to  
interfere. Eugene wanted this meeting and you agreed to attend. What you and  
he discuss is entirely up to the two of you.

EUGENE  
Dr. Kornbluth, you're being much too modest. (*to Yvette*) Did you know that  
the doctor and I are in fact the best of friends?

YVETTE  
(*to Dr. Kornbluth*)  
What's he talking about? Is there something going on between the two of  
you?

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

*(to Yvette)*

Let me assure you that there is nothing of sort happening between Eugene and me.

**EUGENE**

*(to Yvette)*

This good lady (*gestures to Dr. Kornbluth*) cares about me, and I am telling you this because I want that you follow her lead.

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

*(annoyed, to Eugene)*

Let me warn you that if I believe you are misusing the time set aside for this meeting, which has been arranged at your request and at the state's expense, I will terminate this meeting at once and report your conduct to the court. Have I made myself clear?

**EUGENE**

*(to Dr. Kornbluth)*

Yes, Dr. Kornbluth, you have made yourself perfectly clear. All I was trying to say ...

**DR. KORNBLUTH**

We'll talk about this later. Right now, you talk with Yvette.

**EUGENE**

*(annoyed, to Dr. Kornbluth)*

Okay, my dear doctor. Women can be so prissy. *(to Yvette)* Do you see what I have to put up with in here? *(sighs)* Now, what was I saying? *(pause)* Oh yes, it's really important that we be open and honest with each other so that we can understand each other better. Don't you want to be happy?

**YVETTE**

I was happy, with Victor, but you ended all that.

**EUGENE**

No, that's not so. What I did was rescue you from the grip of something malevolent and which would have surely destroyed you if I had not acted. And because of what I did the two of us can now be friends.



**YVETTE**

Friends? Us!? You must be kidding. I hated you so much after what you did and wanted to hurt you so badly, really badly.

**EUGENE**

But you didn't, right?

**YVETTE**

No, I didn't, but that's only because you were already in jail.

**EUGENE**

No my dear Yvette. It's because I'm a nice guy and angels don't hurt nice guys. If you had wanted to, you could have arranged for something bad to happen to me because you have the power, but you didn't because, like I said, you are an angel who's been sent to earth, something which I sensed when I first met you at that dance.

**YVETTE**

You! A nice guy? And you think I'm an angel? Now I know that you're looney.

**EUGENE**

*(keeping his composure)*

At the time I did not know that, but I sensed that you had a very special quality which I found attractive. The fact that we met at all is more than coincidental. We were meant to be together and Victor was the instrument through which our relationship would be forged.

**YVETTE**

But you hurt people; you hurt me; you killed Victor; you almost destroyed my life. And you definitely are not a nice guy.

**EUGENE**

Believe what you want, my sweet. But Victor had to be eliminated for a higher purpose: to bring us together, in this place where we are now. Now we can be one.

**YVETTE**

What are you saying?

**EUGENE**

I'm saying that I love you and showed you my love by killing for you in order to protect you.

**YVETTE**

If you do love me, you chose an extreme way to show it.

**EUGENE**

My dear, you're wrong. All I did was to do what had to be done. It was meant to be; we can't stop fate.

**YVETTE**

Where did you get the gun?

**EUGENE**

On the street, of course. What do you take me for, a chump?

**YVETTE**

I didn't mean to insult you.

**EUGENE**

Then don't because I don't deserve it. I am your knight in shining armor.

**YVETTE**

No, you're my sicko who's did a number one and a number two on me.

**EUGENE**

Can the bathroom talk. There's violence everywhere in the world and I'm the one who's sick? I'm the freak? I'm the social mutant? No, you are wrong. There is evil in the world, and you are an angel sent to earth to help me cleanse the world and make it pure. Don't you understand that?

**YVETTE**

Whatever you say. Are you finished?

**EUGENE**

Yvette, we have a glorious future ahead of us.

**YVETTE**

How can you say that after what you did? How can I ever forget it or forgive you?

**EUGENE**

You shouldn't forget nor forgive because it makes you a stronger person. You want to haul off on me? It's okay. Take your best shot!

**YVETTE**

I don't want to hurt you, okay? I just want to try to understand you better and try to make sense over why my life is now a complete wreck!

**EUGENE**

You feel confused now, but that will pass. Remember this: Victor deserved what he got; and if it wasn't for me, we'd both be dead. He was evil and would have driven you to the deepest depths of hell, but by confronting him head on I allowed the both of us to live and be together and thereby create a paradise here on earth.

**YVETTE**

But Victor was such a wonderful, outgoing, happy person.

**EUGENE**

Yes, yes, yes, but that was facade meant to deceive you as he plotted his next course of action to suck the life marrow out of your very bones. But now he is gone, and now we're together. Can't we be ... friends?

*Eugene reaches out and touches Yvette's hand. Yvette hesitates and then tentatively takes Eugene's hand into hers.*

**EUGENE**

*(Stares directly at Yvette's face)*

You are truly a beautiful and blessed woman.

**YVETTE**

Why are you looking at me that way?

**EUGENE**

Like how?

**YVETTE**

Like you're drilling a hole right through me.

**EUGENE**

Well, that's because I can see right through you, to the very essence of your soul.

**YVETTE**

I feel that you're exerting some kind of ... power over me.

**EUGENE**

It's the power of divine love, a love so strong no evil can ever break it. I'm glad you're feeling it.

**YVETTE**

I don't know what I'm feeling. You're freaking me out.

**EUGENE**

Do you realize how beautiful you are right now? Your beauty is as radiant as the colors of the rainbow after a summer rainstorm.

**YVETTE**

That a monster like you can say something so beautiful is amazing.

**EUGENE**

It's your inner beauty emerging and it's a sure sign that we are destined for happiness together. Do you not understand that?

**YVETTE**

I know you're a beast who deserves to die, yet I feel so confused. I don't know what to think anymore.

**EUGENE**

Then don't think. Just feel, feel the bond of love forming between us. Don't fight it, let it happen.

YVETTE

But I should hate you!

EUGENE

Then hate me, loath me, despise me, even spit on me because hate is good and the more you hate me, the more you will love me because hate fires the passion inside us.

YVETTE

Then you must hate me too.

EUGENE

With all my heart I do, but I welcome hate as a friend and you should too, like I do.

YVETTE

You're confusing me.

EUGENE

My dear, it's quite simple. It is hate that fuels love, for without hate there can be no love, and so let us wallow in our mutual hatred because in that muck we will find true happiness.

YVETTE

Eugene, that sounds crazy.

EUGENE

But it isn't. It's part of a larger plan for us to attain everlasting spiritual salvation, not for ourselves alone but for us together, as a couple.

*Suddenly Eugene stands up, backs away from the table, pulls down his pants and exposes himself. He is fully aroused.*

DR. KORNBLUTH

*(shocked and alarmed)*

This visit is over. *(to Eugene)* Pull up your pants! Now! It's time for you to take your meds!

**EUGENE**

*(calm)*

Of course, doctor. *(to Yvette)* Do you see how much I want you? I want to give you my seed. Will you marry me?

**YVETTE**

*(flustered)*

I don't know. Maybe. *(to Dr. Kornbluth)* Can you help me?

*Eugene is looking at Yvette. He is smiling. Two guards rush into the room, guns drawn, as the stage lights fade.*

The end.

