

GIORGIO

by

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***Giorgio* received a production by Theater with Your Coffee at the Hollywood Boulevard Theater in Hollywood Florida in June of 1997. The production was directed by Peter King with Rosina De Luca in the role of the MOTHER, April Daras in the role of YOUNG ELENA and Jennifer Fen in the role of OLDER ELENA**

SCENE ONE

(The present. A living room with an open kitchen is USC. A window USL. The main door is DSL, the door to the bedrooms is DSR. There is a big marble table center, with three chairs. A rocking chair and a small table are right of the table. NORMA, a woman in her mid-sixties, is sitting on the rocking chair, sewing. She bears the signs of a stroke not completely recovered. ELENA, a woman in her mid-forties, is sitting at the table snipping string beans. It is evening of a summer day. The window and the main door are open and we hear crickets.)

It's been three hours. NORMA

Not quite. ELENA

(Pause)

Isn't it about time? NORMA

Relax. ELENA

How long has it been? NORMA

Not long enough. ELENA

(Pause.)

Are you sure? NORMA

I 'm sure. ELENA

You were sure yesterday too. NORMA

What about yesterday? ELENA

You forgot. NORMA

Did I? ELENA

Didn't you? NORMA

What do you think? ELENA

Is this a game? Are you playing games with me? NORMA

Don't get too excited mother. ELENA

I want my medicine now. NORMA

It's not time yet. ELENA

That's what you said yesterday, and then you forgot. NORMA

I didn't forget. ELENA

It was five past nine. NORMA

ELENA
 It was nine o'clock. The clock was five minutes fast.

NORMA
 So?

ELENA
 (Looks at her mother.)

So, what?

NORMA
 When did I eat?

ELENA
 At six.

NORMA
 If I finished eating at six and I need to take my medicine after three hours, I should get it at nine... whether the clock is five minute fast or not. Am I right?

ELENA
 I should leave you to your misery and get out of here.

NORMA
 You did that once before, did you forget?

ELENA
 I'm trying to.

NORMA
 What time is it?

ELENA
 Five to nine.

NORMA
 Still?

ELENA
 Yes.

NORMA
 Get my medicine.

ELENA
 It's not time yet.

NORMA
 I want to make up for yesterday.

ELENA
 Mother-

NORMA
 Don't mother me, get my medicine now.

ELENA
 (Standing.)

Have it your way.

NORMA
 You forgot yesterday. If I wasn't there to remind you, God only knows if I would be alive today.

ELENA
 (Gets the pills, and a glass of water and crosses to her mother.)

Here is your medicine.

NORMA
 (Looks at ELENA.)

You've become lenient with me. (ELENA pulls back the medicine.) What now?

ELENA
 (Crosses back to table where she places the glass of water and the pills.)

At nine.

NORMA
 You'll have me on your conscience.

ELENA
 You'll bury me and everyone else on the island.

NORMA
 That's funny, that's exactly what your father used to say.

ELENA
 He was right.

NORMA
 Unfortunately.

ELENA
 It was a long time ago.

NORMA
 Not long enough.

ELENA
 It is for me.

NORMA
 That man, always teasing me and pinching my behind.

ELENA
 (Smiles.)

Oh, that must have been terrible.

NORMA
 If I turned around, he went for it, even at mass, during Don Alberto's homely. I was always in trouble because of your father.

ELENA
 And you didn't like it?

NORMA
 Of course I did. He was gorgeous. With his dark Sicilian eyes, and his high cheek-bones. Oh yes... you are right. It has been a long time. My God, it seems ages. It was so long... (Smiles.) It seems like yesterday.

ELENA
 At least you had someone, I got stuck.

NORMA
 It could have been worse.

ELENA
 It has been.

NORMA
 What are you talking about?

ELENA
 What do you think?

NORMA
 I don't know, I'm not a fortune teller.

ELENA
 It's time.

NORMA
 For what?

ELENA
 For your medicine.

NORMA
 Are you sure?

ELENA
 (Gets medicine and glass of water from table.)

It's nine o'clock.

NORMA
 Already?

ELENA
(Crosses to NORMA.)

Already.

NORMA

What did I tell you?

ELENA
(Hands pills to NORMA.)

Come on, take your medicine.

NORMA

Time passes so fast.

ELENA
(Gives glass of water to NORMA.)

Yes.

NORMA

That we never catch up with it.

ELENA

Right.

(NORMA takes her medicine gives back the glass of water to ELENA.)

NORMA

Sometimes you seem so unhappy.

(ELENA crosses back to table, sits down, places glass on table and resumes snipping string beans.)

ELENA

That's your imagination.

NORMA

When you were a little girl you had a beautiful smile. I haven't seen that smile since you came back.

ELENA

Is it that long?

NORMA

You never told me why you came back.

ELENA

You know.

NORMA

It was after I had the stroke, wasn't it? It's all so confused. Why can't I remember that day?

ELENA

Sometimes it's better to forget.

NORMA

I thought you would never come back.

ELENA

You were wrong for once.

NORMA

You were doing so well.

ELENA

Not that well, after all.

NORMA

What was the name of that man? I never met him, he sounded nice over the phone. What happened to him?

ELENA

Things didn't work out between us.

NORMA

When your father died, I was still young, I could have re-married. I was a handsome woman... I could, but I didn't... hmh... you were so little. I had to take care of you, I didn't want anybody to take you away from me.

ELENA

Why would anyone do that?

NORMA

They tried. Do you remember that day you fall off your bicycle and skinned your knee?

ELENA

I never had a bicycle.

NORMA

It was a red bicycle. I bought it for your birthday.

ELENA

I don't remember.

NORMA

You only had it a week before you broke it.

ELENA

Are you sure?

NORMA

I realized then how easy it could have been to lose you and from that day on, I never left you alone again. I was a young woman with a child and no job. They could have taken you away from me. But I didn't let them. I worked hard sewing. Here in this same chair. Day and night.

ELENA

That was a long time ago.

NORMA

Not long enough to forget.

ELENA

It never is, is it?

NORMA

I'm old now. I'm not what I used to be, and I'm glad that you are here. (Pause.) How old am I? Sometimes I lose count... let's see, you came back six years ago-

ELENA

It was fifteen years ago.

NORMA

Fifteen?

ELENA

Fifteen.

NORMA

My good God, where did time go?

ELENA

Nowhere, it stayed here, frozen.

NORMA

What?

ELENA

Nothing.

NORMA

Sometimes it's difficult for me to follow you, to understand what you say. I'm too old for this. You've become too complicated for me.

ELENA

I'm sorry.

NORMA

You should get ready.

ELENA

For what?

NORMA

Aren't you going out with Giacomo?

That's tomorrow night. ELENA

I thought it was tonight. NORMA

Tomorrow. ELENA

I wish it wasn't so hot. My eyes are tired. Do you mind if I rest a moment? I'll close my eyes just for a moment. NORMA

You want to go and lie down? ELENA

No, this is fine. Only one moment. (Takes off glasses, closes her eyes. Pause.) What time is it? NORMA

It's late. ELENA

It went so fast. NORMA

Too fast. ELENA

(ELENA stands up, removes glasses from NORMA's hand and places them on the table. She gets the glass from the table and crosses to the counter, rinses the glass out and places it on the counter, turns to window, crosses to it, looks out, and closes it. As she closes the window she notices the reflection of her face in the window. She covers her face with her hands, and backs away. The reflection vanishes. Through the window an eighteen year old ELENA is standing. The window springs open, the sun light comes in. The Older ELENA disappears. It is 1969.)

SCENE TWO

ELENA

(Happily, calling from the window.)

Mamma! Mamma!

(NORMA wakes up. She is holding a dress in her hand. No sign of illness is evident.)

NORMA

What... What's the matter?

(NORMA looks for her needle, finds it in the dress, and starts sewing. ELENA enters, singing.)

ELENA

I'm so happy.

NORMA

I can see that.

ELENA

Today is a wonderful day.

NORMA

(Smiling.)

So, it seems.

ELENA

(Stops in the middle of the room.)

Oh, my God!

NORMA

What?

ELENA

This is terrible!

NORMA

(Laughing.)

I thought it was a wonderful day.

ELENA

I don't have a dress to wear.

NORMA

You have many dresses cara mia.

ELENA

I hate all my dresses. Oh, my God, what will I wear?

NORMA

Wear where?

ELENA

Maybe... No, I can't wear pants. It has to be casual but elegant, pretty and comfortable... and something that doesn't make me look fat.

NORMA

You are not fat.

ELENA

Oh, yes, I am. Mamma, can you help me find a picnic dress?

NORMA

What's a picnic dress? I've never heard of such a thing.

ELENA

That's because you've never gone to a picnic.

NORMA

Well, let me tell you, your father and I have... (Stops suddenly.) Well, never mind.

ELENA

What?

No, nothing. NORMA

What did you and father used to do? ELENA

Come on tell me, what do you need a picnic dress for? NORMA

Guess. ELENA

I have no idea. NORMA

Matteo invited me to go with him and his friends to a picnic. ELENA

Matteo? What happened to Giacomo? NORMA

I don't want to talk about him. ELENA

I see, now there is Matteo. NORMA

Exactly, and I have nothing to wear. ELENA

Cara, it's just a picnic. NORMA

It's not just a picnic mother. It's a picnic with Matteo. ELENA

Is Matteo that young man I saw you talking to yesterday in town? NORMA

How did you know? ELENA

I'm a fortune teller, remember? NORMA

Isn't he cute? ELENA

He has a big nose. NORMA

But he has the most beautiful green eyes I have ever seen. ELENA

He's short. NORMA

He is not. ELENA

How tall is he? NORMA

He's about my height. ELENA

Giacomo was taller. NORMA

That's because Giacomo used to wear boots all the time. He slept in them. ELENA

How do you know that? NORMA

He bragged about it. ELENA

I liked him, he had un non so che. NORMA

Yeah, right. ELENA

How did you meet this Matteo? NORMA

We used to play together when we were little. ELENA

I have never seen him before. NORMA

He is Giovanna's nephew. ELENA

Oh, my good God! That's Franco's son?! NORMA

Yes. ELENA

I can't believe it, he's so tall. NORMA

He is. ELENA

You're right, the two of you used to play together. NORMA

He had that red bicycle, do you remember? ELENA

You broke it the first week he had it. NORMA

And I skinned my knee, I still have the scar. ELENA

I didn't know that Franco moved his family back to the island. NORMA

They didn't move back, Matteo is visiting his aunt. ELENA

They still live in the city? NORMA

Yes. ELENA

That's far away from here. NORMA

Wait a minute. Where is that dress that you bought last summer? ELENA

What does Matteo do? NORMA

He goes to the university. ELENA

And how long is he going to stay? NORMA

Two weeks. ELENA

Only two weeks. NORMA

He invited me to visit him at school. ELENA

He doesn't waste any time. NORMA

Do you remember that long green dress that you wore last summer? ELENA

It's in my closet. (ELENA exits SR.) On the left hand side, next to the black dress. I don't think that is going to fit you though, it's too big. NORMA

You can take it in for me. ELENA
 Does he have a girlfriend. NORMA
 What? ELENA
 He might have a girlfriend. NORMA
ELENA
(Entering, wearing the flowery dress.)
 He might. (Turning around.) So, what do you think?
NORMA
 It's too big.
ELENA
(Pointing to her waist)
 Can you take it in?
NORMA
 Let me see. (ELENA goes closer to NORMA. Elena hands her the pins. NORMA pins the dress.) Did you ask him?
ELENA
 What?
NORMA
 If he has a girlfriend.
ELENA
 If he had a girlfriend he wouldn't invite me to visit him.
NORMA
(Picks up some more needles from the box on the small table)
 You never know what these young men have in their minds.
ELENA
 Oh God, mamma.
NORMA
(Checks length of dress.)
 I know that you can take care of yourself... just be careful. (Stands.) Stand on the chair.
(ELENA pulls a chair out from the table and climbs on to it. NORMA bends over and pins the hem of the dress.)
 Remember, he is leaving in two weeks, and you are going to stay here.
ELENA
 It's just a picnic.
NORMA
 It's a picnic with Matteo. (Pause) That's what you said.
ELENA
 Yes, I know what I said.
NORMA
 I hope you know what you're doing.
ELENA
(Getting down.)
 Why do you have to do this to me every time?
NORMA
 I don't want you to get hurt, that's all.
ELENA
 I know what I'm doing,
NORMA
 If you say so. (Places pins back in the box.)

ELENA
Mamma, please.

NORMA
When do you need this done?

ELENA
Tomorrow morning at ten. No, at nine. He's coming to pick me up at ten.

NORMA
And where are you going?

ELENA
To the lake. Do you think you can have it done for tomorrow?

NORMA
(Smiling.)
Take it off, let me see what I can do.

ELENA
(Kisses her.)
Thank you. (Runs off, SR.)

NORMA
Don't forget, I need you to go to the store.

ELENA
(From off.)
I'll go right now.

NORMA
The list is on the table. Get some money from my wallet.

ELENA
(Enters, gives dress to NORMA.)
I still have some money left from-

NORMA
No, you get the money from my wallet, I told you more than once...

ELENA
(Grabbing list, and wallet, mimicking.)
As long as you are under my roof, I'll take care of everything. Yes, I know, you told me a thousand times.
(Exits SL.)

(NORMA looks at dress, stands up, and with dress in her hand crosses to window SL. Looks out for a moment, goes to phone book and looks up a number. Picks up phone and dials. As caller answers, lights cross-fade to SR. It's the following morning. ELENA is sitting on the rocking chair wearing the flowery dress and holding a basket. Phone rings. ELENA looks at it, lets it ring another time, then crosses SL and picks it up. As she crosses lights cross-fade to SL.)

ELENA
Yes. Matteo is that you? I'm ready... (Silence.) I... I see... yes... I understand... (Older ELENA enters, takes receiver away from Younger ELENA who runs off SL. Older ELENA hangs the receiver up.)

SCENE THREE

(Lights to full. Present, later that evening. Norma is sleeping on the rocking chair. Older ELENA crosses to NORMA, sees the basket, picks it up, and opens it. It's empty. Crosses to kitchen counter, and places the basket on top of the refrigerator.)

NORMA
(Wakes up.)

Where are my glasses? Elena are you here?

ELENA

Yes, mother, I'm here.

NORMA
(Agitated.)

I can't find my glasses, did you see my glasses?

(ELENA crosses to NORMA picks up glasses from side table next to the rocking chair and gives them to NORMA.)

ELENA

There.

NORMA

I'm going blind.

ELENA

You are only getting older.

NORMA

That's nice of you to remind me.

ELENA

You are not going blind.

NORMA

If you say so, I see better already.

ELENA

You see.

NORMA

But, I'm getting older.

ELENA

There is nothing you can do about that.

NORMA

I could forget if you weren't there to remind me all the time.

ELENA

You always say that time passes very fast.

NORMA

And that is true, isn't it?

ELENA

Certainly.

NORMA

I had the same dream I had last night.

ELENA

(Crossing to table starts to set it.)

And what was that?

NORMA

Remember? I told you about it. But this time I was wearing that dress.

(Points to the dress ELENA is wearing, which is the same flowery dress of the previous scene.)

Why do you keep wearing that dress, it must be twenty years old?

ELENA

I like it, it's comfortable.

NORMA

Look at that, all the colors are gone, it was so colorful. (Pause.) I was wearing it... in my dream, that was my wedding dress... a green flowery wedding dress. It seemed perfectly natural to everybody that I would wear that dress for my wedding. Your father was standing next to me, smiling. People all around us were singing and dancing. What was that song... Ah, yes. (Starts singing an old song of the fifties, she stops and laughs.) Oh, my voice is not what it used to be. You were there singing along with me... with your curly hair. You must have been five, just before your father got sick. He was strong then, he had you on his shoulders, and the two of you were laughing. It was windy that day... the end of September, just when the leaves were starting to change color. Your father was spinning around and around with you on his shoulders... and as you spun around the music got louder and louder, and the two of you got smaller and smaller. Suddenly, the music sounded like thunder, I called after you but you were far away, spinning around after the sun... setting. You didn't answer... how odd... I couldn't see, the sun blinded my eyes. I called out again but silence swallowed my voice. Everything was gone around me... spun away. I could still hear the echoes of your voices. What a strange dream, I thought. Then the sun rose again, warm, reaching your father with its delicate rays, he was lying in bed, next to me, and you came... you called him... but he wouldn't answer, wouldn't wake up. So you got on the bed and opened his eyes-

ELENA

Mother!

NORMA

What's wrong?

ELENA

It was almost forty years ago.

NORMA

Thirty-seven... You came in the room where we were dressing him. I got very upset, I didn't want you to see your father... But you didn't know. You sat next to him, leaned against his chest, looked up, and with your hand opened his eyes. It was as though you were trying to give him life again.

ELENA

That's enough, mother. Let's eat, dinner is ready.

NORMA

What's the matter with you?

ELENA

I made soup.

NORMA

With this heat you made soup?

ELENA

It's good for your stomach.

NORMA

Did you put salt in it?

ELENA

Of course not.

NORMA

The last time you did.

ELENA

That wasn't for you.

NORMA

Because I can't have salt.

ELENA

I know that.

NORMA

It's bad for my blood pressure.

ELENA

There is no salt.

Good. (Pause.)

Here, come to the table.

Where's my cane?

Behind the chair.

Why do you keep hiding it?

(Picks up cane from behind the rocking chair, and gives it to NORMA.)

Here it is. Come on, hold on to me.

I can do it myself. You take care of the soup.

(ELENA goes to kitchen counter and from a pot pours soup into two plates. NORMA stands up.)

I haven't had salt... When was the last time I had salt? It was a salad that I had gotten from my the garden... when I used to plant vegetables in the backyard... before my stroke. Do you remember? Well, no, you weren't there. (Pause.) Were you? (Pause. Looks at ELENA who tries to avoid looking back at her mother.) Were you there?

When?

My God.... Were you-

Mother, please.

Is that what happened?

Come on sit down, now.

Were you there when I had the stroke?

It was a long time ago, mother.

My good God.

Mother!

I don't feel good, get... get my pills... (ELENA runs off SR. Lights change. NORMA stands up, no handicap is apparent. Younger ELENA runs in, holding a box of pills. It's 1974.)

SCENE FOUR

ELENA

Here, here! (Opens NORMA's mouth and under her tongue puts two small pills.) Come on, sit down. (Eases her mother into the rocking chair.) It's going to be fine... Easy... good... it's the diabetes... your color is coming back to your cheeks already... how do you feel? Better?

NORMA

Get me some water.

(ELENA goes to the kitchen counter, fills up a glass of water, sees the left over of NORMA's dinner on the table.)

ELENA

(Picking up the plate from the counter.)

What's this?

NORMA

Nothing.

ELENA

What did you eat today?

NORMA

Give me that water, please.

ELENA

You know you are not supposed to eat pasta.

NORMA

I had a little bit, that's all.

ELENA

You can't.

NORMA

I was waiting for you, I got hungry, so I had some pasta.

ELENA

Oh, now it's because of me.

NORMA

Please Elena, I need some water.

ELENA

(Crosses to her mother.)

How many times must we go through this?

NORMA

I was hungry, what was I supposed to do?

ELENA

I went to the market this morning to buy you vegetables.

NORMA

I'm tired of boiled vegetables, they don't taste of anything. I can't use oil. I can't use salt-

ELENA

That's the diet the doctor gave you.

NORMA

The doctor... the doctor.

ELENA

You'll never get better if you continue like this.

NORMA

I'll never get rid of this diabetes, it's my cross... it runs in our family, it's hereditary. There is nothing the doctor, with all his diets, can do.

ELENA

That's not true, I don't have it.

NORMA

That's because you-you took after your father.

Mamma.

ELENA

NORMA

From time to time, I would like to think that I'm fine, and I forget. After all I don't do anything fancy with my life. I spend all my life here, in this chair, sewing, so, sometimes, I get... you know, I feel like I need to reward, to treat myself.

ELENA

You can fool yourself, but you can't fool me.

NORMA

I'm your mother, don't talk to me like that.

ELENA

I'm not finished yet.

NORMA

Don't you dare-

ELENA

I dare, of course I dare.

NORMA

Elena calm down.

ELENA

I know what is going on here, do you think I don't know what you are up to?

NORMA

Don't get so upset, Elena. I'm feeling much better, there is no reason to react like that. I'll be more careful in the future, don't worry.

ELENA

I don't believe you anymore. You promised before. We have been going on like this for years now. It's as if you enjoy it.

NORMA

Oh, yes, now I like being sick.

ELENA

Do you want to know what the doctor told me the last time I spoke to him?

NORMA

Doctor Martino exaggerates sometimes.

ELENA

He told me that you deliberately refuse to follow his prescriptions. He has changed your diet a thousand times.

NORMA

What did I tell you, he exaggerates. How many diabetes diets can there be?

ELENA

That's very funny.

NORMA

It's hereditary, there is nothing he can do.

ELENA

It's not hereditary, it's from what you eat. You have to watch what you eat and get your sugar down. That's all.

NORMA

If it was so easy, do you think that I would be here listening to my daughter screaming at me? There is nothing to do, that's how it is.

ELENA

If there is nothing to do, explain to me why every time that doctor Martino threatens you to put you on insulin, you get better? Tell me.

NORMA

I get better, but it doesn't mean that the diabetes disappears, it's still here.

ELENA

You don't want to get better. You need to get sick from time to time.

NORMA

Now, why would I do that?

ELENA
 You would do anything to keep me here. As long as you are sick, you think I'll stay here.

NORMA
 That's the most incredible story I've ever heard.

ELENA
 Mother, I know what you're doing.

NORMA
 Why do you want to leave?

ELENA
 It's-

NORMA
 Are you unhappy?

ELENA
 I'm not-

NORMA
 Is there something I'm doing wrong?

ELENA
 What I'm saying is that your getting sick won't keep me here.

NORMA
 You don't like to be here anymore?

ELENA
 It's not that.

NORMA
 When you find a nice man that loves you and marries you, you will leave.

ELENA
 I don't want to feel guilty every time you get sick.

NORMA
 I'll live another hundred years, don't you worry. I'll have time to see my great-grand-children and play with them.

ELENA
 But that's not what I want.

NORMA
 Why are you upset?

ELENA
 Because I can't get through that wall you put up whenever I talk about what I want.

NORMA
 I'm very proud of you, you are doing very well. I have never forced you to do anything you didn't want to do.

ELENA
 You plan my life for me.

NORMA
 Are you telling me that my sacrifices are worth nothing?

ELENA
 You see, this is what you do all the time. You don't listen to me.

NORMA
 If your father were here, things would be different. He would guide you and I would be relieved of this responsibility. But it didn't work that way, and there is nothing I can do.

ELENA
 Yes, there is something you can do.

NORMA
 And I know that soon or later-

ELENA
 Mamma.

NORMA
 What?

ELENA
Listen to me.

NORMA
I'm listening. Here, look, I'm sitting down, (Sits at the table.) and I won't talk.

ELENA
What if I told you that I want to move to the city?

NORMA
Why would you want to do that?

ELENA
Because it's the best for me, for my future.

NORMA
You're just a girl, what do you know?

ELENA
I'm twenty-three, I'm not a little girl anymore. I don't want to spend the rest of my life on the island.

NORMA
I spent my life here, it's not that bad. The city wasn't a good place to raise a child.

ELENA
I don't have any children.

NORMA
You will.

ELENA
That's not the point.

NORMA
You have a home here.

ELENA
Don't you want the best for me?

NORMA
Of course, that's why I sent you to the best university.

ELENA
The only university on the island.

NORMA
The best one, and I'm still paying for it.

ELENA
Let me pay for it.

NORMA
Don't insult me. I'll do what I have to do.

ELENA
And I'll do what I have to do.

NORMA
What's that supposed to mean?

ELENA
There are so many things I want to do. I studied very hard knowing that one day I would find a way to get out, and now finally that day has arrived.

NORMA
What?

ELENA
There is a publishing house interested in giving me a job. (Pause.) I have an interview Monday morning.

NORMA
Oh...

ELENA
I'm flying out to the city Sunday night.

NORMA
To the city? (Pause.) Sunday is three days away. When were you planning on telling me?

ELENA
They called this morning.

Ah, and where was I?
 NORMA

You were out in the garden.
 ELENA

Well, I see.
 NORMA

I'm going to stay with a friend of mine from the university.
 ELENA

Who is it?
 NORMA

Don't be upset mamma, this is a great opportunity for me.
 ELENA

Who are you staying with?
 NORMA

Beatrice, she works there, she is already the junior editor. She is the one that got me the interview.
 ELENA

Beatrice... Isn't she the girl who smoked too much?
 NORMA

She told me that I have the job, the interview is only a formality.
 ELENA

So, what are you going to do, pick up smoking too?
 NORMA

Aren't you happy for me, not even a little?
 ELENA

You're so young Elena... naive.
 NORMA

I'm not that naive.
 ELENA

People take advantage of you. You don't know what is like out there.
 NORMA

It's time I start to look after myself.
 ELENA

It's so soon.
 NORMA

Mamma, I can't wait anymore.
 ELENA

But, Elena...
 NORMA

Don't worry about me. After all, I took after you.
 ELENA

It's a big step. A new job, a new place, the city, new people, all at once. I would be scared to death.
 NORMA

I am scared and very excited at the same time.
 ELENA

You should do it one step at the time. First, you can find a job close to home and see how it works out. For a few years. Then, when you have some more experience, you could move to the city.
 NORMA

You never give up.
 ELENA

No, I'm serious.
 NORMA

I know you're serious, and I am too. This is a big opportunity that I won't pass up.
 ELENA

You will have other opportunities. I can talk to Mario, he was a good friend of your father's. He knows a lot of people on the island. I'm sure he can help you find a better job.
 NORMA

I've already bought the plane ticket. ELENA

I'll reimburse you. How's that? NORMA

I want this, mamma.. ELENA

But what if it doesn't work out? What if you hate the city? You've only been there once in your life. How can you be sure that you will like it? NORMA

What if I do like it? What if it does work out? Try to understand me, you'll be very proud of me, I promise you. I need your support, now, more than ever. ELENA

I know you do. (Looks at ELENA with pride.) My little Shu-shu. NORMA

Mamma. ELENA

I guess I can't convince you to let me come along, for the interview I mean... NORMA

No. ELENA

I knew that it was coming, that it would come sooner or later. Children grow up and leave, even my Shu-shu. (Crosses to ELENA, caresses her hair.) Wait here. ELENA

(NORMA runs off, and reappears after a moment with an handkerchief in her hands. She crosses to ELENA and opens it. There is a roll of money.)

Where did you get this? ELENA

I saved this money, in my private bank. NORMA

The mattress? ELENA

I saved it for a very special moment. (Gives some of the money to ELENA.) NORMA

Mamma, I don't need it. ELENA

That's not for you, it's for me. I want you to do me a favor. NORMA

All right, what? ELENA

Once you get to the city, I want you to go to The Mediterraneo. It's the best hotel in the city. I stayed there for my honeymoon. NORMA

Mamma, I can't- ELENA

No, listen to me. You go there and you ask for room 221. And you stay there. It's a beautiful room. (Gives her more money.) And go out for dinner, and lunch, and breakfast. NORMA

You don't have to do this. ELENA

Oh, yes, I have to do this. Shu-shu has grown up. She's a woman now. (Kisses her. Black out.) NORMA

SCENE FIVE

(Present, the following day, late evening. Older ELENA enters SL. Turns on the light to discover NORMA sleeping in her rocking chair. ELENA stops for a moment, takes off her jacket, and crosses to NORMA. NORMA is holding a book in her hands, and is still wearing her glasses. ELENA takes book and places it on table. As she is about to remove the glasses, NORMA wakes up.)

NORMA
You're home.

ELENA
I told you many times not to wait up for me.

NORMA
I wasn't waiting for you, I was reading. You know that I can't go to bed if everything isn't shut up for the night.

ELENA
I have my keys. You shut everything up and go to bed.

NORMA
I can't fall asleep.

ELENA
I always find you sleeping in the chair.

NORMA
It's a very comfortable chair. What time is it?

ELENA
Ten o'clock.

NORMA
That's not so late. (Stands.)

ELENA
It is for me.

NORMA
You came home early tonight. (Crosses to kitchen counter.) Do you want some milk?

ELENA
No, thank you. I'm going to bed.

NORMA
You never go to bed so early.

ELENA
I had a long day at work today, and tomorrow won't be any better. This job is going to kill me.

NORMA
Find another job.

ELENA
I've been working there for fifteen years. There aren't that many jobs for a woman of my age on the island.

NORMA
You can get back into publishing, there is that newspaper-

ELENA
I'm fine mother. Don't worry about me.

NORMA
If you say so.

ELENA
Did you take your medicine?

NORMA
(Pouring milk into a cup.)
Are you sure you don't want some?

ELENA
(Crosses to kitchen counter. Picks up a small plate with two pills.)
You didn't take your pills.

NORMA
(Pours milk into a second cup.)

Have some.

ELENA
(Crosses to NORMA.)

Why didn't you take your pills?

NORMA

I forgot.

ELENA
(Hands pills to NORMA.)

Here, take them now.

NORMA

It's too late.

ELENA

It's never too late.

NORMA

Are you sure?

ELENA

Yes.

NORMA
(Takes and swallows pills.)

I hope you are right. (Pushes the other cup of milk to the center of the table.) Keep me company.
(ELENA sits on the other side of the table, and starts sipping from the cup.) Where did Giacomo take you?

ELENA

We went to a restaurant.

NORMA

That's nice. What did you eat?

ELENA

Fish.

NORMA

But you don't like fish.

ELENA

He likes it.

NORMA

Good to know. I can make fish Saturday. You can take me to the market Saturday morning.

ELENA

He's not coming for dinner Saturday.

NORMA

Why?

ELENA

He can't. Something has come up.

NORMA

Oh, well. Maybe next week?

ELENA

I don't know.

NORMA

Is it everything all right?

ELENA

Yes, everything is fine.

NORMA

I hope you didn't cancel the dinner because of me. You know, after dinner, I'll leave the two of you alone.

ELENA

It's not because of you mother.

NORMA

Sometimes I feel like you think it is all my fault.

ELENA
 For what?

NORMA
 For everything. If something goes wrong, it's my fault. I promise you, I won't talk too much. I know, I get carried away. I'm alone all day, so when there is company I like to talk to people.

ELENA
 You're a great hostess.

NORMA
 But with Giacomo, I won't get in your way. I know you like him, and I don't want to be responsible for-

ELENA
 Mother, I told you! (Pause.) It's has nothing to do with you. It's just between me and him.

NORMA
 And I don't want to know, I don't want to get involved in anything.

ELENA
 Good. (Stands, puts cup on the counter.)

NORMA
 You seem upset. (Pause.) Why are you upset? (Pause.) You really are-

ELENA
 (Crosses to NORMA.)
 Mother, Giacomo won't be coming for dinner, Saturday, Sunday, ever.

NORMA
 Oh... what happened?

ELENA
 Nothing happened, that's the problem.

NORMA
 I thought you liked him.

ELENA
 Oh, yes, I like him all right.

NORMA
 He is perfect for you, the right age, you two make a nice couple.

ELENA
 I remind him of his mother. That's what he said.

NORMA
 Well, that's a compliment. All men look for their mothers in the women they want to marry.

ELENA
 Not all of them.

NORMA
 You're not kids anymore, you shouldn't waste any more time.

ELENA
 That is the problem. We are not kids anymore.

NORMA
 So?

ELENA
 He wants children.

NORMA
 Well?

ELENA
 He thinks that I'm too old to have children.

NORMA
 Did he say that?

ELENA
 He was very tactful about it. He went around and around, but that was what he meant. That's why he is not coming to dinner, mother.

NORMA
 I'm sure he didn't mean that. Maybe you're over-reacting.

ELENA
Trust me on this mother.

NORMA
Why did he lead you on then?

ELENA
Maybe because I remind him of his mother. (Laughs bitterly.) I don't know what stopped me from throwing that plate in his face.

NORMA
Well you should have thrown that plate on his face. You can still have children.

ELENA
Mother, please-

NORMA
No, listen to me, it was on television. Women in their forties can have babies, even if it is their first... (Pause, as if hit by a sudden thought, a memory.) first baby.

ELENA
Well, I guess that what he meant was that I was too old to have his baby.

NORMA
(Stands and crosses to kitchen counter.)
I'm sorry, cara mia. It's better this way. You know, I never liked him.

ELENA
You never like anyone. (NORMA doesn't respond.) I'm going to bed now. (Crosses to SR.)

NORMA
You don't want babies anyway.

(ELENA stops at the door SR, turns, looks at her mother smiling bitterly.)

Do you? (ELENA opens door and exits.) Elena?

(NORMA crosses to door, she is about to open it but she backs away from it, unsteadily, with her hands looks for the table, finds it, and leans against it. Black out.)

SCENE SIX

(1981. Mid-afternoon. As NORMA opens the window SL, the sun spills into the room. Lights up. She crosses to refrigerator, opens it, and takes out some salad that she washes. From time to time, she stirs the sauce that is cooking on the stove. The sound of a car stopping in front of the house, catches her attention. We hear the car door closing. NORMA goes to window, looks out.)

NORMA

My God. (Retreats from the window.) My good God.

(Agitated, crosses to table, takes off apron and throws it on the table, crosses toward the bedroom door, stops, checks her hair. We hear a knock on the door. More agitated, crosses back to table, picks up apron, another knock at the door. NORMA doesn't know what to do with apron, throws it on the kitchen counter. More knocking.)

ELENA

(From off)

Ma, it's me!

NORMA

(Runs to door.)

Elena! (Opens door. ELENA is standing holding a suitcase.) Elena. (Both women stand there not knowing what to do.)

ELENA

Can I come in?

NORMA

Oh... yes, yes. (ELENA enters and crosses to table. NORMA closes the door.) Why didn't... why-

ELENA

(Turns and looks at NORMA)

I wanted to surprise you.

NORMA

(Crosses to ELENA and hugs her)

It's really you. Cara mia, welcome home. Give me that. (Takes suitcase from ELENA.) This is a wonderful surprise.

ELENA

It's so good to see you. (Looks around.) And this house... nothing has changed... It's like a frozen image, (Inhales.) with its own smells. (Inhales) Hmmn... It brings back so many memories.

NORMA

Good memories, I hope.

ELENA

(Looks at NORMA, and with a soft voice, smiling.)

Yes.

NORMA

From the weight of this suitcase you are not here to stay.

ELENA

I came for four days. (Crosses to NORMA) Let me take care of it. (Takes suitcase from NORMA.)

NORMA

If you had come home this Christmas, you would have seen the snow covering the hills.

ELENA

It snowed twenty-one times last winter in the city. (Exits SR.)

NORMA

(Going to the window and looking out.)

It was so pretty... the first white Christmas I've ever had.

ELENA

(Re-enters without the suitcase.)

It must have been beautiful. (Crosses to window.)

NORMA

It would have been nice to share it with you. (Turns to face ELENA.) Let me take a look at you. (ELENA turns around, just as she did in scene two.)

ELENA

So, what do you think?

NORMA

You are so beautiful.

ELENA

Do you remember this dress?

NORMA

Yes, it looks familiar.

ELENA

This is one of your dresses, I borrowed from you some years ago.

NORMA

Yes, I remember now. It looks like new.

ELENA

I never wear it.

NORMA

You are wearing it now.

ELENA

I'm wearing it for you.

NORMA

Oh, Elena you are full of surprises today.

ELENA

Am I forgiven?

NORMA

For what?

ELENA

For not coming last Christmas?

NORMA

I know, you had to work.

ELENA

I'm here now.

NORMA

Finally.

ELENA

How is your diabetes?

NORMA

(Crosses to table.)

It comes and goes. (Looks at ELENA.) I'm taking care of myself. Doctor Martino is very proud of me. I can show you the results of the lab tests.

ELENA

(Crossing to stove, and uncovers the sauce pot.)

I thought so. (Smells it.) Tomato sauce.

NORMA

That's not for me.

ELENA

Are you having guests?

NORMA

(Smiling.)

Yes. (Goes to refrigerator, and take out a tray, places the tray on the table, and uncovers it.) I made fettuccine. Is it still your favorite pasta?

ELENA

Of course, nobody can beat your fettuccine. (NORMA covers fettuccine and turns the tray back in the refrigerator.) Who is coming for dinner?

You are. NORMA

You didn't know I was coming. ELENA

I always have homemade fettuccine and tomato sauce ready for you in case you decide to surprise me. NORMA

In all these years you have- ELENA

Since you moved to the city, seven years ago. NORMA

It has been seven years already. ELENA

And you have come home only three times. NORMA

It seems yesterday. ELENA

It has been a long time... an eternity. NORMA

What do you do with the fettuccine and the sauce? ELENA

I give everything to Don Alberto. He has gotten fat since you left. (They both laugh.) NORMA

Wait. (Exits SR.) ELENA

Another surprise? NORMA

(Re-enters with a bottle of spumante.) ELENA

Ta-da! NORMA

What's the occasion? ELENA

I got a promotion. NORMA

That's wonderful. Congratulations. ELENA

You are looking at the new junior editor. NORMA

What happened to Beatrice? ELENA

Who? NORMA

Beatrice. The one who convinced you to move to the city. ELENA
(Smiles)

You never forgive her. NORMA

Hmph. ELENA

She got married, and moved away with her husband three years ago. NORMA

I didn't know that. ELENA

She got tired of the city. NORMA

And are you tired of the city?

Sometimes... when I'm alone. ELENA

So, you know how it is then. NORMA

Yes, I know very well. (Pause, Smiling.) The inevitability of life. ELENA

What? NORMA

Nothing. (Pause.) Well, we'll have this spumante after your fettuccine. (Goes to refrigerator and places the bottle of spumante in the freezer.) ELENA

Not for me, I can't drink alcohol. NORMA

At least toast with me. ELENA

Very well, I'll toast with you. NORMA

To celebrate my promotion. ELENA

And your homecoming. NORMA

And the fact that with the extra money I can buy the apartment I live in! ELENA

You will never come back home. NORMA

Oh, mamma, we have talked about this a million times. ELENA

You'll be back when I am dead. NORMA

Buying an apartment is not a commitment for life, it's an investment... maybe in a few years I can- ELENA

Don't say that to make me feel better. You know I'll believe you. NORMA

You can move in with me. ELENA

Where? NORMA

In my apartment. It's big enough for both of us. ELENA

Me? In the city? NORMA

Yes. ELENA

That's silly. NORMA

I'm serious. ELENA

Thank you, but I can't. NORMA

Why? ELENA

Everything I have is here. NORMA

You have me there. ELENA

I'll be a burden for you. NORMA

Now, you are being silly. ELENA

This house is my world, if I leave it, I'm lost. NORMA

You can live six months with me, and six months here. ELENA

I'll come visit you. NORMA

You never have yet. ELENA

I will, I promise. I want to see where you live. NORMA

And when you see it, you'll fall in love with it, and move in with me. ELENA

(Smiling.) NORMA

You know that's impossible. ELENA

Maybe one day you'll change your mind. NORMA

Or you will change yours. ELENA

Who knows. NORMA

We'll see. ELENA

Yes. NORMA

I'll be waiting for you. ELENA

Waiting for what? NORMA

Maybe one day you'll need me again. ELENA

I need you now. NORMA

You see, what did I say? ELENA

You are right. NORMA

I know you very well. What is it? ELENA

Nothing, really, I was- NORMA

Don't scare me Elena. Tell me, are you sick? ELENA

I'm fine. NORMA

(Sits on the chair.)

No, you are not, I know... I know what it is. ELENA

You do? NORMA

Yes.

ELENA
 What mother? What do you know?
 NORMA
 There is something different with you. I can see it in your eyes, in the way you move.
 ELENA
 I don't need to tell you then.
 NORMA
 Mothers know.
 ELENA
 What is it that mothers know?
 NORMA
 You came here to tell me, you tell me. (ELENA stares at her mother and doesn't respond. Silence.)
 ELENA
 What can you see in my eyes that I can't hide from you?
 NORMA
 You can't hide anything from your mother.
 ELENA
 What's different in the way I move? Tell me mother what I don't know.
 NORMA
 My God, it's true.
 ELENA
 What is true mother?
 NORMA
 (Standing.)
 My worst fear...
 ELENA
 Yes?
 NORMA
 It has come true.
 ELENA
 What is it?
 NORMA
 You are pregnant.
 (Silence. ELENA sits on the same chair NORMA was sitting. NORMA crosses toward the window.)
 ELENA
 It's about five weeks.
 NORMA
 I... don't know... in our family...
 ELENA
 I got the results of the test two days ago.
 NORMA
 It never happened in our family... I...
 ELENA
 Don't say anything.
 NORMA
 Who is the father?
 ELENA
 That's not important.
 NORMA
 Of course it's important! Is he going to marry you?
 ELENA
 He doesn't know, I didn't tell him.

Why?
 NORMA

Because it's my responsibility, not his.
 ELENA

What are you talking about? It's his responsibility too, and you better tell him.
 NORMA

I won't tell him, I've already made up my mind.
 ELENA

But you have to. You don't want this baby to grow up without a father. You know how difficult it is. Children need both parents. And believe me, for a woman alone it's very difficult to raise a child. You need to talk to this man, if there is something wrong, you'll fix it, for the baby. I'm sure that everything will work out for the best... you love him, don't you? (Pause.) Does he love you?
 NORMA

Have a baby, everything will work out for the best... Do you really think that is so simple? I won't tell him, and, as you said I know what it means to grow up without a father, look at me, I'm the result of it... what do you see?
 ELENA

You didn't answer my question. Do you love him?
 NORMA

No, I don't.
 ELENA

So, why did you sleep with him?
 NORMA

I'm not here to discuss that.
 ELENA

That's not how I raised you.
 NORMA

Well, evidently, you must have done something wrong.
 ELENA

I did what I could.
 NORMA

Yes, I know, but it wasn't enough for me. And what I can do won't be enough for any child either.
 ELENA

I sacrificed all my life for you... I know it hasn't been easy.
 NORMA

And it won't be easy for me.
 ELENA

Life is not easy Elena. What is the matter with you? It's a baby... it's your baby.
 NORMA

That's the problem. I don't know where to start. I don't even know who and what I am myself. What can I offer to a child?
 ELENA

You have so much to offer. (Crosses to ELENA) Come here my little Shu-shu. I know how you feel, I know how afraid you are... (Hugs ELENA) Everything will be all right, don't worry, I am here.
 NORMA

No mother, not this time. Listen to me, I made a mistake.
 ELENA
 (Pulling away)

A mistake?
 NORMA

It happened.
 ELENA

So, what are you going to do?
 NORMA

I told you.
 ELENA

No, you didn't.
 NORMA

I can't have a child.
 ELENA

I don't understand. What are you going to do?
 NORMA

I don't know.
 ELENA

What do you mean you don't know?
 NORMA

That's the reason I came here mother, because I'm scared, I need your support.
 ELENA

You should have thought of the consequences of your actions before going sleeping around.
 NORMA

I see, this is what you think of me, now I have become a whore.
 ELENA

I didn't mean that.
 NORMA

I shouldn't have come here. I should have gone to a clinic in the city and gotten rid of it. But I didn't do that. I came here because I needed to talk to you. Do you understand? Can you understand? I am here because if I can get through to you this time, maybe, you will finally acknowledge that I exist, not as you see me, but as who I am.
 ELENA

You'll know what I mean when you'll see your baby grow up. You will want to be there, every moment. And if he comes late one day, you will have thought of all the worse things that could have happened to him. I didn't mean to hurt you. I... I have an idea! I can take care of the baby.
 NORMA
 (Goes to ELENA)

That's not what I want.
 ELENA

I'll treat it as if it were my own child, it's my blood. I won't make the mistakes I made with you. I am even willing to move to the city... yes, I would do that...
 NORMA

You haven't heard a word I said.
 ELENA

I always dreamed of holding your baby in my arms. Think about, it will be wonderful, and if it is a boy, we can call him Giorgio after your father... Giorgio... It would be like having a part of him back.
 NORMA

I don't want you to take care of the baby.
 ELENA

But you said you couldn't have the baby. I understand, it's a big responsibility, not everybody is up to it.
 NORMA

So, are you saying that I'm not up to?
 ELENA

No, I'm not saying that, but you are still young, you are not married. You work all day long. Babies need a lot of attention. I took good care of you, didn't I? But I had to sacrifice my life for you.
 NORMA

And you have never missed a chance to remind me of that, and now you want to sacrifice your life again.
 ELENA

I would do that for you.
 NORMA

I'm sure you would.
 ELENA

NORMA

Of course it would be best if you moved back here. We can be a family again. We can turn your room into the baby's room.

ELENA

You have it all figured out. Let me guess, you had it all figured out even before it happened, just in case it would happen.

NORMA

Things happen, I need to be prepared for it.

ELENA

I can picture you sitting in that chair planning away my future and waiting for your worst fear to come true.

NORMA

I think of you day and night, what's wrong with that? I'm your mother, you are all I have left.

ELENA

How many times in your mind have you gone through this plan of yours? How many times did we have this same discussion? Tell me, what am I supposed to say next?

NORMA

Elena, you don't know what it takes to be a mother.

ELENA

You have made that very clear already.

NORMA

You asked for my support, and I'm giving you all I am, all I have. I'm doing this for you.

ELENA

Yes, I know.

NORMA

Do you understand?

ELENA

Now, I know what I have to do.

NORMA

You won't regret it.

ELENA

I hope not.

NORMA

We should start making plans for the future.

ELENA

I know I won't be able to take care of a child.

NORMA

I'll be there for you. First of all Giorgio needs a father. What about Giacomo? He is not married, and has a good job.

ELENA

I know why I came here.

NORMA

Don't worry about anything, it will be all right.

ELENA

I came here to have an abortion.

NORMA

Elena... you... you can't be serious.

ELENA

I got the answer I was looking for.

NORMA

You want to kill this baby?

ELENA

It's time to. Before it kills me.

NORMA

I... I can't believe... that... that you could even think about that. What did I do wrong to deserve this?

ELENA

(Stands in front of NORMA.)

It has nothing to do with you. It's about me this time, about me.

NORMA

No. It is about that life that you carry inside you. You can't say: "I'm going to have an abortion." How could you even think about that? You are talking about life and death as if it didn't matter... I have never... What did they do to you in the city? You can't possibly have thought this through. Is it the father? (Pause.) Did he abuse you?

ELENA

No, it's not that. I came here to make a decision. And you have answered for me.

NORMA

I've never told you to have an abortion. You can't put this on me.

ELENA

You know, when you were talking I saw myself in your place thirty years from now, and I saw a faceless person in my place. And I don't want it, not for me, not for anyone else. I would rather kill myself.

NORMA

You are tired Elena, you can't think straight, let's talk about this tomorrow.

ELENA

No, now, it's the moment. For the first time in my life I see everything clearly. I tried once more for the last time, I will never reach you, and you will never let me go.

NORMA

Please Elena, don't make a mistake that you will regret for the rest of your life.

ELENA

And, now if you will excuse me.

NORMA

At least give him a chance to be loved by someone. There are so many couples that don't have children, you can give him up for adoption... that's not much to ask... you have the responsibility to give him a chance, everybody deserves a chance.

ELENA

I deserve a chance too. (Crosses to bedroom door.)

NORMA

And you had your chance. You wouldn't be here if you were your own mother.

ELENA

(Stops and turns.)

What?

NORMA

She was sixteen when she had you. It was a mistake, she was young, it happened. She made the right choice. We saw her in the hospital, just before you were born. Her big stomach... (Holding her stomach.) I couldn't have children...

ELENA

What are you talking about, have you lost your mind?

NORMA

The first time we saw you, your little hands were waving through the air, and your little fingers grabbed your father's hand, they wouldn't let it go.

ELENA

Why are you doing this to me?

NORMA

The first time your father held you in his arms he was so scared.

ELENA

Mother don't...

NORMA

But as soon as you were in his arms you stopped crying-

ELENA

(Crossing to NORMA.)

STOP IT! STOP IT!

You were so delicate.

NORMA

ELENA
(Grabs her mother shaking her arms.)

NO! Why? Why didn't you tell me? WHY? (Crosses away.)

NORMA

Your father and I were going to... but he died, I was afraid you would leave me.

ELENA

You should have told me.

NORMA

I know, forgive me cara Elena.

ELENA

I... I...

NORMA

Please Elena don't punish him, give him a chance. Don't punish yourself.

ELENA
(Turns, looks at her mother.)

Like father, Giorgio is no more. Forget it mother.

NORMA

W... what...

ELENA

Yesterday... Giorgio will never be.

NORMA

What are you saying?

ELENA

I went to that clinic in the city, yesterday.

NORMA

But you said that-

ELENA

I know, I lied, just like you lied to me all my life.

NORMA

No!

ELENA

You see, I have become you. I started to believe my own lies and play your games.

NORMA

My God! NOOO! (NORMA stumbles on the table and falls on the floor.)

ELENA
(Running to her.)

Mother... mother, it's not... I was never... I was never... Mother! (NORMA doesn't respond.) Mamma!
(ELENA runs to the phone. Black out.)

SCENE SEVEN

(Present. The following evening. Older ELENA is sitting at the table snipping string beans. NORMA is sitting on the rocking chair, needling. The window and the main door are open and we hear the crickets.)

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| It has been a long time. | NORMA |
| I know. | ELENA |
| Isn't it time? | NORMA |
| For what? | ELENA |
| How long has it been? | NORMA |
| A long time. | ELENA |
| | NORMA |
| Ah... I remember now. | (Turns to ELENA.) |
| | ELENA |
| | (Turns to NORMA.) |
| Not long enough to... | |
| ...Forget? | NORMA |
| I was close... | ELENA |
| It's not over yet. | NORMA |
| ...So close. | ELENA |
| The inevitability of life. | NORMA |
| What? | ELENA |
| | NORMA |
| You were right Elena... All right. | (Takes to audience.) |

(Silence. Lights dim to black. End of play.)