

REAL TIME

Albert Mestres

Translated by David George

CHARACTERS

MEME

CLITA

ARCHIE

URI

ELI

ACTOR

Characteristic stage kitchen. Or not even that.

The stage is divided into quadrants: kitchen 1, kitchen 2, kitchen 3 and kitchen 4, connected by four doors, two A and two B.

Throughout the performance, the Actor crosses the stage only once and diagonally from left to right.

Act 1**I****CLITA PREPARES BREAKFAST****KITCHEN 1**

Clita prepares breakfast

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Meme enters via door A. He sits down.

Clita: You could say hello.

Meme looks at his nails.

Clita: Do you want coffee?

Meme uncorks the bottle of wine and pours himself a glass.

Clita: I'll go mad in this house!

Clita gives him a cup of coffee.

Meme: No, Clita.

II**MEME RETURNS FROM THE WAR****KITCHEN 2**

Clita washes dishes. The doorbell rings.

Clita: I'm coming! I'm coming!

Clita opens door B. Meme.

Clita: Meme, for God's sake!

Clita flings herself at him.

Clita We'd given you up as missing, or dead!

Clita weeps.

Clita: This war...

Uri and Eli play hopscotch in kitchen 4.

III

URI AND ELI PLAY

KITCHEN 4

Hopscotch. Uri jumps. Eli watches.

Eli:

Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

When Uri is about to pick up the rock, Eli hops and shoots it two squares away.

Uri: That's not fair!

Meme drinks in kitchen 1. Clita washes dishes in kitchen 3.

IV

MEME GETS URI AND ELI READY FOR SCHOOL**KITCHEN 4**

Clita washes dishes. Uri sits at table with a bowl half full of hot chocolate. Eli sits at table with an empty bowl. The clock strikes eight. Meme comes in via door A, shaved and showered. He goes up to Uri.

Meme: Let's see your shoelaces.

Uri shows him the untied shoelaces while he wipes his lips. Meme bends over and ties his laces.

Meme: Have you got your sandwich, Uri?

Uri nods. Meme gets up. Eli gets up.

Meme: Give me a kiss, Eli.

Eli gives Meme a big hug.

Meme: Come on.

Meme opens door B and takes Uri and Eli by the hand and goes out with them. Clita turns round.

Clita: My God!

V**MEME HITS CLITA****KITCHEN 4**

Clita washes dishes. Sound of keys in door B. Meme enters. He goes up to Clita and gives her a slap on the bum.

Clita: You could say hello.

Meme grasps her breasts from behind.

Meme: Tart!

Clita laughs.

Clita: Help!

Meme pants.

Meme: Shut up, tart!

Clita laughs. Meme lifts up her apron, takes her knickers down, unfastens his zip, and tries to penetrate her. Clita doesn't laugh. She moves away, turns round and tries to escape.

Clita: Meme, please, stop.

Meme shoves her away roughly. Meme zips up his trousers. Meme slams door B as he leaves. Uri and Eli play doctor games in kitchen 3.

VI

CLITA SWEEPS UP WHILE MEME GETS DRUNK

KITCHEN 2

Clita washes dishes. Meme reads the newspaper with a glass of wine and a half empty bottle in front of him.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Clita wipes her hands on her apron. She grabs the broom.

Clita: Do you want coffee?

Meme turns the page. Clita sweeps up.

Clita: A fine man I've got.

Meme turns the page. Clita sweeps up.

Clita: You're as useless as a.

Meme: Will you shut up?

Meme turns the page. Clita sweeps up.

Clita: No, I won't shut up. I've had it up to here.

Meme turns over the page. Clita goes up to him.

Clita: Get your arse in gear.

Meme: I'll go mad in this house.

Meme gets up, folds his newspaper, shoves Clita and leaves via door B. Uri and Eli play cowboys and Indians in kitchen 3.

VII

CLITA MAKES BREAKFAST

KITCHEN 1

Clita makes breakfast. Meme sits at table and reads the newspaper.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Uri enters. He sits at table with a bowl of hot chocolate.

Clita: You could say hello.

Meme turns the page. Uri sips.

Clita: Do you want coffee?

Meme nods. Eli enters holding a comb and gives it to Clita.

Clita: I'll go mad in this house!

Eli fusses with the knots. Uri sips. Meme gets up, goes over to Clita, takes her chin and gives her a kiss.

Meme: No, Clita.

Clita laughs. Meme laughs. Uri laughs. Eli doesn't laugh. Archie cuts meat in kitchen 4.

VIII

MEME RETURNS FROM THE WAR.

KITCHEN 4

Clita washes dishes. Archie sits at table with a bottle of wine and a glass he constantly fills. The doorbell rings.

Clita: I'm coming! I'm coming!

Clita opens door B. Meme.

Clita: Meme, for God's sake!

Clita hugs him tight. Archie trembles and knocks back two glasses of wine.

Clita: We'd given you up as missing, or dead!

Clita weeps. Meme looks at Archie. Archie senses his penetrating look. He doesn't dare to turn round.

Clita: This war...

Uri and Eli play doctor games in kitchen 3.

IX

URI AND ELI PLAY

KITCHEN 3

Doctor games. Uri drops his trousers and pants and turns round like a spinning top.

Uri: Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

Uri pulls his pants and trousers up. Eli lifts her skirt and turns round like a spinning top without dropping her knickers.

Uri: That's not fair!

Meme gets drunk in kitchen 2. Clita washes dishes and Archie drinks wine in kitchen 4.

X

MEME GETS URI AND ELI READY FOR SCHOOL

KITCHEN 2

A pile of dishes to be washed. Meme sits at table with a glass of wine and a couple of bottles, one empty and the other half empty. Uri sits at table with a bowl half full of hot chocolate. Eli sits at table with a full bowl of hot chocolate. Sighs offstage. The clock strikes eight. Meme tries to focus to see the time.

Meme: Let's see your shoelace.

Meme tries to get up, but stumbles. He falls onto the chair. Sighs offstage.

Meme: Have you got your sandwich, Uri?

Uri shakes his head. Sighs offstage. Meme gets up, stumbles. Meme opens the fridge. Meme grabs an apple. Meme falls on the chair and leaves the apple on the table. Sighs offstage. Meme weeps.

Meme: Give me a kiss, Eli.

Sighs offstage. Eli doesn't move. Meme weeps. Meme gets up, stumbles. Sighs offstage. Meme opens door B.

Meme: Come on.

Clita, *offstage*: My God!

Clita washes dishes and Archie drinks wine in kitchen 4.

Xi

MEME HITS CLITA

KITCHEN 3

Clita washes dishes. Sound of keys in door A. Meme enters. Meme sits a table. He belches.

Clita: You could say hello.

Meme gets up, grabs Clita by the arm and hits her.

Meme: Tart!

Clita: Help!

Meme grabs her by the neck.

Meme: Shut up, tart!

Meme strangles her.

Clita: Meme, please stop!

Meme gives her a kiss and sticks his tongue deep into her mouth and releases her. He opens door A and exits, slamming it so hard the house shakes. Uri and Eli play hopscotch in kitchen 4. Archie cuts meat in kitchen 1.

XII

CLITA SWEEPS UP WHILE MEME GETS DRUNK

KITCHEN 4

Clita washes dishes. Meme sits at table with a glass of wine and one empty bottle another half full. Uri and Eli play in a corner.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Clita wipes her hands on her apron. Meme gets up. Meme looks at the inside of the empty coffee pot.

Clita: Do you want coffee?

Meme nods. Clita hands him the broom.

Clita: Here you are.

Meme pushes the broom away and sits down again. Clita sweeps up.

Clita: A fine one I've got myself.

Meme drinks. Clita sweeps up.

Meme: Will you shut up?

Meme drinks. Clita sweeps up.

Clita: And he can't even get a hard on.

Meme drinks. Clita sweeps up.

Meme: Will you shut up?

Meme drinks. Clita leans over Meme.

Clita: No, I won't shut up. I've had it up to here. Even as a man you're useless.

Meme tries to drink.

Meme: Evil tart!

Meme bursts into tears. Clita knocks him onto the floor.

Clita: Move your arse.

Meme weeps.

Meme: I'll go mad in this house.

Clita runs to the corner where Uri and Eli are playing.

Clita: And you two, get out!

Clita tries to hit Eli with the brush.

Clita: You!

Eli escapes via door A.

Clita: And you!

Clita hits Uri with the brush. Uri runs to door A. Uri cries. Archie cuts meat in kitchen 3.

Act 2

I

CLITA LAMENTS THE DEATH OF JENNIFER

KITCHEN 1

Clita washes dishes. Clita bursts into tears. Clita wipes her hands on her apron and sits on a chair.

Clita: Jennifer, my lovely daughter, where are you?

Clita takes out a handkerchief.

Clita: Jennifer, my lovely daughter, why you? Why me? Why? Why? Why?

Clita collapses, distraught. onto the table.

Clita: It was my fault, Meme.

Clita Beats herself in the face, in the stomach.

Clita: If only I hadn't left her on her own!

Archie cuts meat in kitchen 3. Uri and Eli play doctor games in kitchen 2. Meme drinks wine in kitchen 4.

II

CLITA WEEPS OVER MEME

KITCHEN 2

Clita washes dishes. Eli and Uri sit heads bowed before their bowls of hot chocolate.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Clita bursts into tears. Clita wipes her hands on her apron.

Clita: My children!

Clita turns round. She sits down.

Clita: Children, your father!

Eli and Uri: Father, Father!

Clita weeps. Uri weeps. Eli doesn't weep. Archie cuts meat in kitchen 3. Meme drinks wine in kitchen 4.

III

ARCHIE HAS A QUICK SHAG WITH CLITA

KITCHEN 2

Clita washes dishes.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Archie enters via door A. He sits at table.

Clita: You could say hello.

Archie fills a glass of wine and drinks.

Archie: Do you want coffee?

Archie gets up and grasps her breasts from behind. He rubs his pubis against Clita's bum and sucks her neck.

Clita: Calm down, man.

Clita tries to break free. Archie sticks his tongue deep into her mouth. Clita struggles. Archie picks her up and carries her to the table. He puts her down on the table without removing his tongue from her mouth. Bottle and glass fall on the floor. Unzips his flies. Drops her knickers. Archie penetrates Clita. Archie groans. Clita groans.

Archie: Tart! Gorgeous!

Archie groans more loudly. Clita groans even more loudly. They finish.

Clita: What are you like!

Meme drinks wine in kitchen 4. Uri and Eli play hopscotch in kitchen 1.

IV

CLITA RUNS THROUGH THE HOUSE LIKE A MAD WOMAN

KITCHEN 1

Clita paces up and down wiping her hands on her apron. Uri and Eli watch her.

Clita: I'll go mad in this house.

Clita runs wiping her hands on her apron. Uri and Eli watch her.

Clita: They still smell. Will they never be clean?

Clita goes round and round wiping her hands on her apron. Uri and Eli watch her. Meme drinks wine in kitchen 4. Meme takes a rubbish bag from the bin in kitchen 2, ties a knot in it and takes it out via door B.

V

ARCHIE BRINGS CLITA CARNATIONS

KITCHEN 2

Clita washes dishes. Uri plays in a corner. Sound of keys in the door. Archie enters, with his hands behind his back.

Clita: You could say hello.

Archie leaves a bunch of carnations on the table. He covers Clita's eyes with his hands.

Archie: You're always washing dishes.

Clita turns round and sees the flowers.

Clita: Archie, for God's sake!

Clita hugs Archie, Archie rummages in his pocket, takes out a couple of coins and throws them to Uri.

Archie: Get out, lad.

Uri catches the coins, opens door B and runs out. Archie gropes Clita.

Archie: Tart!

Meme drinks wine in kitchen 4. Eli and then Uri play cowboys and Indians in kitchen 1.

VI

ELI AND URI PLAY

KITCHEN 1

Cowboys and Indians: Uri under the table.

Uri:

Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

Eli looks for him, trying not to make a noise. Suddenly, she turns the light out.

Uri: Not fairs!

Eli: Bang, bang, dead.

Meme drinks wine in kitchen 4. Clita washes dishes and Archie drinks wine in kitchen 2.

VII

CLITA MAKES BREAKFAST

KITCHEN 3

Clita prepares breakfast. Meme sits at table reading the newspaper and drinking coffee. Uri sits at table with an empty bowl and combs his hair.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Archie enters via door A and greets them. Uri looks at Meme, Eli looks at Meme, Clita looks at Meme.

Clita: You could say hello.

Meme doesn't even blink.

Clita: Do you want coffee?

Archie nods. Uri deliberately spills the bowl of hot chocolate.

Clita: I'll go mad in this house!

Meme whacks Uri, which spins him round. Clita wipes up the spilled hot chocolate. Clita takes the coffee pot and goes to leave it on the table.

Meme: No, Clita.

Meme looks at Clita, Clita looks at Meme, Clita leaves the cup on the table. Meme takes the cup and plate and smashes them on the floor.

VIII

MEME RETURNS FROM THE WAR

KITCHEN 4

Clita washes dishes. Archie sits at table with two empty bottles of wine and another half full. He constantly fills up a glass. Uri and Eli play in a corner. The doorbell rings.

Clita: I'm coming, I'm coming!

Clita opens door B. Meme.

Clita: Meme, for God's sake!

Clita hugs him. Archie gets up. Uri and Eli get up.

Clita: We'd given you up for missing, or dead!

Clita cries. Meme looks at Archie. Archie senses his penetrating look. Without turning round, he moves to door A. Eli runs to grab Meme's leg. Uri cries.

Clita: This war...

Eli: Father, Father!

IX

ARCHIE MISTREATS URI AND ELI

KITCHEN 1

Clita washes dishes. Archie sits table with a glass of wine and a half full bottle. Eli and Uri play cowboys and Indians. Eli and Uri trot on pretend horses. Eli and Uri find the enemy. Eli points at Archie, spits pretend saliva and gestures to Uri. Uri shakes his head. Eli makes a chicken gesture. Uri approaches Archie. He looks at Eli. Eli nods. Uri swallows. Uri takes out a pretend pistol and sticks it in Archies's back. Archie turns round and twists Uri's ear.

Uri: That's not fair.

Archie: Ill-mannered child.

Eli shoots from distance.

Eli: Bang, bang, dead.

Archie grabs Uri's cheeks and twists them. Eli turns the table around.

Eli:

Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

Archie grabs a fork and sticks it in Eli's arm when she runs past him. Uri and Eli flee, crying. Clita turns round.

Clita: Brute!

Meme lies dead in Kitchen 4.

X

CLITA GETS URI AND ELI READY FOR SCHOOL

KITCHEN 1

Clita washes dishes. Archie sits at table with a glass of wine and a couple of bottles, one empty and another half empty. Uri sits a table with a half full bowl of hot chocolate. Eli sits at table with a full bowl of hot chocolate. The clock strikes eight. Uri gets up. Eli gets up. Clita turns round and wipes her hands on her apron. Clita inspects Uri.

Meme, *offstage*: Let's see your shoelace.

Clita sees Uri's unlaced shoe. She smacks him on the cheek. Uri holds back his tears, bends down and ties his laces.

Meme, *offstage*: Have you got your sandwich, Uri?

Clita inspects Uri's satchel. Uri protects his face in case it's not his lucky day. Clita takes out all the half-eaten sweets and chocolates. Smack on the other cheek. Clita places the sandwich wrapped in foil in Uri's satchel. Clita goes up to Eli.

Meme, *offstage*: Kiss, Eli.

Clita tries to give Eli a hug. Eli escapes. Clita opens door A.

Meme, *offstage*: Come on.

Uri and Eli leave. Clita closes the door.

Clita: My God!

Clita weeps. Meme lies dead in Kitchen 2.

XI

MEME BEATS CLITA

KITCHEN 3

Clita washes dishes. Sound of keys in door A. Meme enters. Sits at table. He pours himself some wine. He drinks. He belches.

Clita: You could say hello.

Meme gets up, grabs Clita by the arm and smacks her on the neck, making her ears ring.

Meme: Tart!

Meme punches her on the nose causing her to bang her head on the cupboard and fall to the floor.

Clita: Help!

Meme kicks her in the stomach, which makes her vomit. Uri and Eli run in via door B.

Meme: Shut up, tart!

Meme punches Clita on the arm, making her moan. Uri and Eli cry. Meme grabs a chair, lifts it up and makes to smash it against Clita. Uri and Eli run to Meme and grab him by the legs. Meme pushes Eli away, causing her to fall against the wall. He grabs Eli by the neck, lifts her up and goes to punch her on the nose. Clita gets up and grabs Meme's arm.

Clita: Meme, please, stop.

Meme drops his arms. Meme weeps. Meme opens door A. Meme turns around and stares at the kitchen. Closes the door and leaves. Archie takes a bag from the rubbish bin in kitchen 1, ties a knot in it and takes it out via door A.

XII

CLITA SWEEPS UP WHILE MEME AND ARCHIE GET DRUNK

KITCHEN 4

Clita washes dishes. Meme sits at table with a glass of wine. Archie sits at table with a glass of wine. Four empty bottles and one half full. Uri and Eli play in a corner.

Clita: A grey day...

Clita wipes her hands on her apron. Clita leans over Meme.

Clita: ... one more day.

Meme looks disheartened. Archie laughs. Clita goes up to Archie.

Clita: Coffee?

Archie nods. Clita serves him coffee. Clita takes the broom. Hands the broom over to Meme.

Clita: Here.

Meme gets up and sweeps the floor shakily. Archie laughs. Clita goes up to Archie.

Clita: A fine man I've got.

Clita downs Archie's glass. Meme sweeps the floor shakily. Archie laughs.

Clita: He just drinks and drinks.

Archie puts his hand under Clita's skirt.

Meme: Will you shut up!

Meme holds on to the chair. Archie laughs. Clita puts her hand round Archie's neck.

Clita: And he can't even get an erection.

Meme cries. Archie doesn't laugh now. He takes his hand from under Clita's skirt.

Archie: Will you shut up!

Clita moves away. Clita cries. Archie drinks.

Clita: No, I won't shut up. I've had it up to here.

Clita leans over Meme.

Clita: You're not even any good as a man.

Meme grabs Clita by the neck.

Meme: You evil tart!

Clita shoves him off her. Meme loses his balance. Meme attempts to hold on to Clita. Clita moves away. Meme falls, taking the chair with him and lies unconscious on the floor. Clita goes up to Archie.

Clita: Move your arse, man.

Archie gets up, stumbles over to Meme, grabs him by the feet and drags him outside via door A. Clita goes over to the corner where Uri and Eli are playing.

Clita: And you two, get out! You! And you!

Clita grabs Uri and Eli by the arm, drags them to door B, opens the door, throws them out, closes the door.

XIII

CLITA LAMENTS THE DEATH OF JENNIFER

KITCHEN 4

Clita washes dishes. Meme sits at table with a bottle of wine and a glass. Clita bursts into tears.

Clita: Jennifer, my daughter, where are you?

Meme gets up, hugs her, takes out a handkerchief, gives it to her.

Meme: Will you be quiet, Clita?

Meme turns her around, rests her head on his chest.

Clita: Jennifer, my lovely daughter, why you? Why me? Why? Why?

Meme: It was my fault.

Clita: It was my fault, Meme.

Meme: If I hadn't gone out!

Clita: If I hadn't left her alone!

Meme and Clita weep, embracing each other. Uri and Eli play hopscotch in kitchen 3. Archie cuts meat in kitchen 1.

XIV

CLITA LAMENTS MEME

KITCHEN 1

Clita washes dishes angrily and with desperation. Uri and Eli sit heads down and nervous before their bowls of hot chocolate. Archie sits before a glass of wine and half a dozen empty bottles.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Clita wipes her hands on the apron. Clita grabs Archie by the hair and lifts his head. Archie doesn't even object. Clita lets him go and Archie bounces his head on the table. Clita approaches Eli and Uri in a tragic pose.

Clita: My little children!

Eli and Uri lift their heads.

Clita: My children, your father!

Eli and Uri lower their heads.

Clita: Your father!

Eli and Uri: Father! Father!

Archie lifts his head.

Eli: Bang, bang, dead.

Archie lets his head fall. Clita is desperate. Meme lies dead in kitchen 4.

XV**ARCHIE HAS A QUICK SHAG WITH CLITA****KITCHEN 2**

Clita washes dishes. In Kitchen 1 Uri and Eli play doctor games and Meme drinks wine.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Archie enters via door A. He sits at table and fills a glass with wine. Clita wipes her hands on her apron. Clita approaches Archie from behind and strokes his hair.

Clita: You could say hello.

Archie takes her head in his hands and sticks his tongue deep into her mouth.

Clita: Coffee?

Clita strokes his ear. Archie sticks his hand down her cleavage. Archie goes to get up and Clita sits astride him.

Clita: Keep still, man!

Clita unbuttons his shirt and sucks his tongue. The doorbell rings. Archie plays with Clita's breasts under her apron. The doorbell rings. Clita rubs her pubis against Archie's. The doorbell rings. Clita unzips Archie's flies, bends down and swallows his cock. Archie pants.

Archie: Tart! Gorgeous!

The doorbell rings. Archie pants more loudly. The doorbell rings. Archie becomes tense. The doorbell rings.

Clita: The children! The children!

Clita gets up, swallows, wipes her mouth, tries to put her breasts back in place. Sound of keys. Archie buttons up the best he can. Door B opens. Meme, Eli and Uri. Meme spits.

Clita: What are you like!

Meme turns round and departs.

XVI**CLITA RUNS THROUGH THE HOUSE LIKE A MAD WOMAN****KITCHEN 2**

Clita paces up and down, wiping her hands on her apron. Archie follows her. Uri and Eli follow her with their eyes.

Clita: We have to tell him everything.

Clita paces the room, wiping her hands on her apron. Archie follows her. Uri and Eli follow her with their eyes.

Clita: He's so irritable.

Clita runs, wiping her hands on her apron. Archie follows her. Uri and Eli follow her with their eyes.

Archie: Will you stop!

Meme: I'll go mad in this house.

Clita goes round and round, wiping her hands on her apron. Archie follows her. They bump into each other. Clita looks at Archie.

Meme: They still smell. Will they never be clean?

Uri and Eli follow them with their eyes. Meme lies dead in kitchen 1.

XVII**ARCHIE MISTREATS CLITA****KITCHEN 3**

Clita washes dishes. Uri plays in a corner. Sound of keys in door A. Archie enters, drunk.

Clita: You could say hello.

Archie sits at table with a glass and a bottle of wine. He uncorks. Pours. Drinks.

Archie: You're always washing dishes.

Clita turns, grabs the bottle of wine.

Clita: Archie, for God's sake!

Archie leaps up, walks once round the table, goes up to Uri, bends down.

Archie: Get out, boy.

Uri opens door B and exits. Archie goes up to Clita. He takes the bottle from her.

Archie: Tart!

He pinches her bum. He knocks back the wine. Meme drinks wine in kitchen 1. Eli, and then Uri play cowboys and Indians in kitchen 4.

XVIII

ARCHIE MISTREATS URI AND ELI

KITCHEN 4

Clita washes dishes. Archie sits at table with a glass of wine and a half full bottle. Eli and Uri play cowboys and Indians. Eli and Uri trot on pretend horses. Clita wipes her hands on her apron.

Clita: I'm going to buy soap. I'll be back in a minute.

Clita takes off her apron. Clita goes out via door B. Archie gets up. Archie goes towards Uri and Eli. Uri and Eli stop, retreat. Archie corners Uri and Eli. Archie grabs Uri by the arm and Eli by the arm. Archie tries to kiss Eli on the mouth. He slobbers on her lips. She escapes from him. Uri can't.

Uri: That's not fair.

Archie: Ill-mannered child.

Archie Puts his hand in his trousers and fiddles with his cock and balls. Eli shoots from afar.

Eli: Bang, bang, dead.

Sound of keys. Archie runs and sits at table. Clita enters via door B. Clita puts her apron on.

Eli:

Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

Clita washes dishes. Archie drinks. Uri grimaces as he rubs his groin. Clita looks at Uri. Clita looks at Eli.

Clita: Brute.

Meme drinks wine in kitchen 4.

3 Act

I

CLITA STABS MEME TO DEATH**KITCHEN 1**

Clita prepares breakfast.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Meme enters via door A. He sits at table.

Clita: You could say hello.

Meme looks at his nails.

Clita: Coffee?

Meme opens a bottle of wine and pouts some into a glass.

Clita: This is when they kill him.

Clita opens the drawer. Clita takes out a long kitchen knife. Clita sticks it into Meme's back. Archie cuts meat and Uri and Eli play doctor games in kitchen 4.

II**MEME RETURNS FROM THE WAR****KITCHEN 2**

Clita washes dishes. She grumbles. Archie sits at table with three empty bottles of wine, holding the glass as he sleeps off his hangover. Uri and Eli cry in a corner with a hard crust of bread. The doorbell rings.

Clita: I'm coming! I'm coming!

Clita opens door B. Meme.

Clita: Meme, for God's sake!

Clita leaps into his arms. Archie wakes up and gets up from his chair. Uri and Eli get up.

Clita: We'd given you up for lost, or dead!

Clita weeps. Meme looks at Archie. Archie looks at him and smiles. He exits via door A. Eli and Uri hurry to grab a weeping Meme by the legs.

Clita: This war...

Eli: Father! Father!

Meme shoves Clita away roughly, kicks Eli and Uri away and enters.

III

URI AND ELI PLAY

KITCHEN 2

Doctor games. Uri drops his trousers and pants and spins like a spinning-top.

Eli:

Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

Before he's finished, Eli drops her knickers and raises her skirt and turns around. Uri looks at her open-mouthed. Eli takes hold of his cock and balls and squeezes them.

Uri: That's not fair!

Clita washes dishes and Meme drinks wine in kitchen 1. Archie takes out a rubbish bag in kitchen 4, ties a knot in it and takes it out via door B.

IV

MEME HITS CLITA

KITCHEN 2

Clita washes dishes. Uri and Eli play in a corner. Sound of keys in door B. Meme enters holding on to the walls. Without even closing the door he goes to the table, takes the bottle of wine and knocks it back. Archie ties a rubbish bag in kitchen 3.

Clita: You could say hello.

Meme throws the bottle against the wall, grabs Clita by the hair and punches her on the nose. Clita's head bounces several times against the marble. Uri and Eli look on, petrified.

Meme: Tart!

Clita collapses on the floor. Meme kicks pieces out of her with all his force. Meme covers her face with her arms, weeps. Uri weeps. Eli doesn't weep.

Clita: Help!

Meme: Shut up, tart!

Archie enters via door A and grabs hold of Meme. Meme turns around. He knees him in the genitals, delivers him a right hook to the stomach and a left hook to the face. Archie looks at him. As he falls, Meme delivers two right jabs to his ear. Archie falls unconscious. Meme delivers right and left hooks to his stomach and back.

Clita: Meme, please.

Meme covers his face. Meme looks at Uri and Eli. Meme cries. Meme exits via door B.

V

CLITA SWEEPS UP WHILE ARCHIE GETS DRUNK**KITCHEN 2**

Clita washes dishes. Archie sits at table with a glass of wine, a couple of empty bottles and a half full one. Uri and Eli play in a corner with a hard crust of bread. Clita bursts out crying.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Clita wipes her hands on her apron. She takes out a handkerchief and dries her eyes. She blows her nose. The tap drips.

Clita: Coffee?

Archie shrugs his shoulders. Clita sweeps up. The tap drips. Clita sweeps up. Clita takes out a toolbox from the lower cupboard. The tap drips. Clita places the toolbox in front of Archie.

Clita: Here you are then.

Archie pushes the toolbox away, grabs the bottle and helps himself to wine. The tap drips. Archie drinks wine. Clita sweeps up.

Clita A fine man I've got.

Archie drinks. Clita sweeps up. The tap drips.

Clita: Just drinks and drinks.

Archie drinks. Clita sweeps up. The tap drips. Archie opens his mouth.

Clita: Will you shut up!

Archie drinks. Clita sweeps up. The tap drips.

Clita: And he can't even get an erection.

Archie drinks. Clita sweeps up. The tap drips. Archie opens his mouth.

Clita: Will you shut up!

Archie: No, I won't shut up. I've had it up to here.

Clita puts the broom between her legs in such a way that the handle sticks out from her pubic area.

Clita: I do it with a brush. Even as a man you're useless.

Archie drinks. Clita sweeps up. The tap drips.

Archie: You evil tart!

Clita opens the drawer; takes out a few lottery tickets, grabs Archie's jacket and places it all before Archie.

Clita: Move your arse, man.

Archie nearly in tears, opens door B.

Archie: I'll go mad in this house.

Archie goes out. The tap drips.

Clita: And you two, get out!

Eli and Uri run out through door B.

Clita: You!

Eli and Uri stop dead. The tap drips. Eli gestures "me"? Eli goes up to Clita. The tap drips. Clita points to her tangled hair. Clita gives her a clout.

Clita: And you!

The tap drips. Uri gestures "me"? Uri swallows. Uri goes up to Clita. Clita points to his unlaced shoe. Clita gives him a clout. The tap drips. Uri cries. The tap drips.

Meme lies dead in kitchen 4.

CLITA LAMENTS THE DEATH OF JENNIFER**KITCHEN 4**

Clita washes dishes. Meme sits at table with a bottle of wine and a glass. Clita bursts into tears.

Clita: Jennifer, my lovely daughter, where are you?

Meme: Once and for all, will you shut up!

Clita wipes her hands on her apron and sits on a chair.

Clita: Jennifer, my lovely daughter, why you? Why me? Why? Why? Why?

Clita takes out a handkerchief.

Meme: It was your fault.

Clita: It was your fault, Meme. When you threw me down the stairs, I was expecting the little girl. The poor thing was born deaf and dumb.

Clita collapses onto the table.

Meme: If only I hadn't gone out! Why did you leave her alone in the bath?

Clita hits herself in the face, in the stomach.

Clita: If only I hadn't left her alone!

Archie drinks wine in kitchen 1. Uri and Eli play hopscotch in kitchen 2

VII**ARCHIE HAS A QUICK SHAG WITH CLITA****KITCHEN 2**

Clita washes dishes. Uri and Eli play in a corner.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Uri gets up, goes up to Clita, caresses her arm. Clita pushes him away. Sound of keys in door B. Archie enters. Archie pushes Uri out of the way. Archie sits at table, fills a glass of wine for himself and empties it. He fills another glass of wine and empties it.

Clita: You could say hello.

Archie gets up.

Clita: Coffee?

Archie unzips his flies. Archie lifts up Clita's skirt and takes down her knickers.

Clita: Calm down, man!

Clita tries to break free, Archie ties her up with the belt and immobilises her.

Archie: Tart! Gorgeous!

Archie penetrates her. Clita cries.

Clita: The children! Oh, the children!

Archie carries on regardless. Clita cries. Uris cries. Eli doesn't cry.

Clita: What are you like!

Meme lies dead in kitchen 4.

VIII

CLITA RUNS THROUGH THE HOUSE LIKE A MAD WOMAN

KITCHEN 2

Clita walks up and down wiping her hands on her apron. Archie follows her. Uri and Eli follow her with their eyes.

Clita: Get them out of my sight, for God's sake. I can't bear to see them.

Clita walks wiping her hands on her apron. Archie follows her. Uri and Eli follow her with their eyes.

Archie: Will you stop!

Clita: I'll go mad in this house.

Clita runs wiping her hands on her apron. Archie follows her. Uri and Eli follow her with their eyes.

Meme: They still smell. Will they never be clean?

Clita goes round wiping her hands on her apron. Archie stops. Smells his hands. Eli and Uri follow her with their eyes. Meme drinks wine in kitchen 4.

IX

ARCHIE MISTREATS CLITA

KITCHEN 3

Clita washes dishes. Uri plays in a corner. Sound of keys in door A. Archie enters, drunk.

Clita: You could say hello!

Archie comes up behind her. He breathes in her face.

Archie: You're always washing dishes.

Clita: Archie, for God's sake!

Clita stands in front of the bottle of wine to prevent him grabbing it. Archie pinches her cheek.

Archie: You're worthless.

Uri gets up. Uri runs over to Clita.

Uri: Mother!

Archie bends over. Archie grabs Uri by the ears.

Archie: Get out, boy.

Archie pushes him towards door B. Uri is stuck to the door. Archie turns round and threatens to walk towards Uri. Uri opens the door and runs out. Archie turns round to face Clita. Archie places his face right next to Clita's. He spits in her face.

Archie: You can't do anything. You're not even good for fucking.

Archie shoves Clita away and grabs the bottle.

Archie: Tart!

Meme weeps in kitchen 1. Eli plays in kitchen 4.

X

ARCHIE MISTREATS URI AND ELI

KITCHEN 4

Clita washes dishes. Archie sits at table with a glass of wine and a half full bottle. Eli and Uri play cowboys and Indians. Eli and Uri advance along a non-street with their hands on non-pistols beneath the non-dog day sun. Clita wipes her hands on her apron.

Clita: I'm going to buy soap. I'll be back in a minute.

Clita takes off her apron. Clita exits via door B. Archie gets up. Archie approaches Uri and Eli with his hands over the pockets of his trousers. Archie, Uri and Eli turn round. They stare at each other. They turn round. They stare at each other. Archie swiftly grabs hold of Uri.

Uri: That's not fair.

Archie shakes Uri. Uri spits at Archie.

Archie Ill-mannered child.

Archie raises his hand. Uri escapes.

Uri: Not this time.

Eli shoots from distance.

Eli: Bang, bang, dead.

Archie runs towards Eli. Eli throws a chair in his path. Archie bumps into it. Archie hurts himself. Archie and Eli run round the table. Eli throws chairs in his path.

Eli:

Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

Archie gets Eli. He grabs her by the hair. He rips her blouse. Uri grabs the bottle of wine and throws it at Archie's back. The bottle smashes on the floor. Archie turns round to Uri. He leaves Eli go. He goes towards Uri. Eli overturns the table and causes Archie to fall. Archie gets up, raging. He turns to face Eli. Uri grabs a chair. Sound of keys in door A. Clita enters. She observes the damage. She observes Eli. Clita grabs Uri by the arm and gives him a clout that leaves his ears ringing.

Clita: Brute.

Meme lies dead in kitchen 2.

XI

URI AND ELI PLAY

KITCHEN 4

Doctor games. Uri and Eli drop their trousers, pants and knickers and spin round like tops. Archie spies on them.

Eli:

Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

Sound of keys. Clita enters via door B. Eli drops her skirt and bends over. Uri carries on spinning. Clita grabs him by the arms and hits him, leaving his ears spin.

Uri: That's not fair!

Meme drinks wine in kitchen 2.

XII

CLITA RUNS THROUGH THE HOUSE LIKE A MAD WOMAN

KITCHEN 1

Clita runs up and down wiping her hands on her apron. Uri and Eli follow her.

Clita: Pity me! Stop! I breastfed you.

Clita runs, wiping her hands on her apron. Eli and Uri run after her.

Clita: I'll go mad in this house.

Clita runs, wiping her hands on her apron. Eli and Uri run after her.

Clita: They still smell. Will they never be clean?

Clita runs round and round, wiping her hands on her apron. Eli and Uri surround her. Archie weeps in kitchen 4. Meme weeps in kitchen 3.

XIII

CLITA STABS MEME TO DEATH

KITCHEN 3

Clita prepares breakfast. Meme sits at table reading the newspaper and drinking coffee. Uri sits at table scoffing a bowl of hot chocolate. Eli sits at table with an empty bowl and combs her hair.

Clita: A grey day, one more day.

Archie enters via door B and greets them. Uri looks at Meme. Eli looks at Meme. Clita looks at Meme.

Clita: You could say hello.

Meme doesn't even blink.

Clita: Coffee?

Archie nods. Clita gestures "now?" Archie gestures "now". Clita opens the drawer and takes out a long kitchen knife. Uri spills the bowl of hot chocolate. Meme turns round. Clita sticks the knife into Meme's shoulder, Meme falls to the floor. Archie takes out another long kitchen knife. Clita raises her knife. Meme backs away. Clita knifes him in the arm. Meme staggers. Archie knifes him in the thigh. Meme turns round and kicks Archie away. Clita knifes him in the stomach. Meme crawls under the table. Archie knifes him in the hand. Meme can't move his hand, as it's nailed to the floor. Uri and Eli run to grab hold of Archie. Clita goes under the table. Clita knifes Meme in the other shoulder. Uri and Eli struggle with Archie. Meme vomits blood. Meme falls lifeless. Clita looks at Meme. Uri looks at Meme. Eli looks at Meme. Archie looks at Meme. Meme lifts his head.

Clita: This is when they kill him.

Meme: No, Clita.

Clita knifes Meme in the back one two three four five six seven eight nine ten times. Clita, Archie, Uri, Eli, the table, the floor, the walls, everything is spattered with blood.

XIV

CLITA AND ARCHIE GET RID OF MEME'S BODY

KITCHEN 4

Clita scrubs the floor. However hard she scrubs, it remains red with blood. Archie cuts pieces of meat with a huge knife and puts them in a rubbish bag. He ties up the rubbish bag.

Archie: And now what?

Clita: Just as well nobody knew he'd returned.

Archie exits with the rubbish bag via door B. Clita bursts into tears. Uri and Eli play cowboys and Indians in kitchen 2. Meme lies dead in kitchen 3.

XV

URI KILLS ARCHIE

KITCHEN 2

Clita washes dishes. Archie sits a table with a glass of wine and half full bottle. Eli and Uri play cowboys and Indians. Eli and Uri advance through a non-wood towards a non-Indian camp. Clita wipes her hands on her apron.

Clita: I'm going to buy soap. I'll be back in a minute.

Clita takes off her apron. Clita exits via door B, Eli makes a sign to Uri. Uri gestures "me"? Eli gestures "yes". Uri swallows. Uri opens the drawer. Uri takes out a very long kitchen knife. Uri advances in silence. Archie looks for Uri.

Archie: Ill-mannered child.

Uri covers Archie's mouth and slits his throat.

Eli: Bang, bang, dead.

Uri and Eli jump around the table.

Eli and Uri:

Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

XVI

URI KILLS CLITA

KITCHEN 1

Clita runs up and down wiping her hands on her apron. Uri and Eli follow her.

Clita: This is when they kill him.

Uri takes a very long kitchen knife from the drawer.

Clita: Pity me! Stop! I breastfed you.

Uri: Can a son kill his mother?

Uri knifes Clita in the stomach as hard as he can.

Clita: They still smell. Will they never be clean?

Clita falls dead.

Eli: Father! Father!

Uri: Mother! Mother!

Meme lies dead in kitchen 2.

XVII

URI AND ELI KILL ARCHIE

KITCHEN 2

Clita washes dishes. Archie sits a table with a glass of wine and a half full bottle. Eli and Uri play cowboys and Indians. Eli and Uri advance through a non-wood towards a no-Indian camp. Clita wipes her hands on her apron.

Clita: I'm going to buy soap. I'll be back in a minute.

Clita takes off her apron. Clita exits via door B, Eli makes a sign to Uri. Uri gestures "me"? Eli gestures "yes".

Uri gestures "and you too". Eli and Uri swallow. Eli and Uri take two very long knives from the drawer. The knives clang. Archie turns round.

Archie: Ill-mannered children.

Eli: Father! Father!

Archie gets up. He runs through the kitchen. Eli and Uri follow him through the kitchen. Archie bumps into a chair. Archie falls. Uri knifes him in the back. Eli in his side. Blood pours out. Archie gets up. Eli knifes him in the buttocks; Uri in the thigh. Blood pours out. Archie thros them off. Archie flees. Eli and Uri block the door; Eli and Uri surround him. Archie tries to hit them. Eli and Uri cut his hands and arms. Blood pours out. Archie falls. Eli knifes him in the cheek, Uri in the stomach. Archie

gets up. Eli and Uri climb on him. Eli knifes him in the neck; Uri in the breast. Archie falls. Eli and Uri jump on him.

Eli and Uri:

Three blind mice, three blind mice
 See how they run, see how they run
 They all ran after the farmer's wife
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

Clita enters via door B. Eli and Uri knife Archie one two three four five six seven eight nine ten times.

Clita: Brutes!

Meme lies dead in kitchen 4.

XVIII

Clita RUNS AROUND THE HOUSE LIKE A MAD WOMAN

Clita runs through all the kitchens. Eli and Uri follow her.

Clita: Pity me! Stop! I breastfed you. They still smell. Will they never be clean?

Meme lies dead in kitchen 4. Archie lies dead in kitchen 2.

XIX

URI KILLS CLITA

Clita runs up and down wiping her hands on her apron. Eli and Uri follow her.

Clita: This is when they kill him.

Uri takes a very long knife from the drawer.

Clita: Pity me! Stop! I breastfed you. Your bones will rot in prison, you'll bear the mother's curse, you won't have a moment's peace ever again.

Uri: Can a son murder his mother?

Eli pushes him. Uri knifes Clita in the stomach as hard as he can.

Clita: They still smell. Will they never be clean?

Clita falls down dead.

Eli: Father! Father!

Uri: Mother! Mother!

Uri weeps. Eli doesn't weep. Meme lies dead in kitchen 4. Archie lies dead in kitchen 3.

XX

ELI KILLS CLITA

KITCHEN 1

Clita runs up and down wiping her hands on her apron. Eli and Uri follow her.

Clita: This is when they kill him.

Uri takes a very long knife from the drawer.

Clita: Pity me. Stop! It's sad for a wife to be far from her husband, my children!

Uri: Can a son kill his mother?

Uri hesitates. Eli pushes him. Eli takes the knife.

Clita: Doesn't a mother's curse frighten you, my daughter?

Eli takes a step forward.

Clita: I've brought you up. I want to grow old with you.

Eli takes a step forward.

Clita: It looks like you've decided to kill your mother, my daughter.

Eli takes a step forward.

Clita: Is this the price I must pay?

Eli knifes Clita in the stomach one two three times.

Clita: Pity me, I've given birth to this snake, and breastfed her.

Eli knifes Clita in the stomach one two three times.

Clita: They still smell. Will they never be clean?

Eli knifes Clita in the stomach one two three times. Clita falls down dead.

Eli: Father! Father!

Uri: Mother! Mother!

Eli weeps. Uri embraces Eli. Uri weeps. Steps on the stairs. Uri looks through the keyhole.

Uri: Ah! Women... Police... like witches, dressed in black, twisted with the thickness of snakes... mother's irate dogs...

Meme lies dead in kitchen 4. Archie lies dead in kitchen 2.