



WAITING FOR HER

Written by  
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Loosley inspired by "Waiting for Godot" by Samuel Beckett

**EXT. A BUS STOP - EVENING.**

A bench.

A road.

A tree.

A lonely women's march-sign.

We hear:

*"Lush life" with Zara Larsson.*

ON THE BENCH sits **ELINA** (24). She tries to tie her shoes but it seems impossible. She gets more and more frustrated.

She has her headphones on. Sings along to the song. After a while she gets so irritated and throws away the headphones.

**The music goes silent.**

ELINA  
(mumbling)  
Damn it.

Elina buries her face in her hands.

She tries again.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
Come on...

*Pling!*

A sound from her mobilephone.

Elina picks up her phone.

And puts it back down.

She barely has time to put the phone away before it starts ringing.

She picks it up again.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
Not today Satan.

She hangs up the phone again. Continues to try to tie the shoes.

It won't stop calling tho.

She continues with the laces.

The ringsignal gets louder and louder and louder...

She picks up the phone again. One. Last. Time.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
Hiiiiiii mom!

We can only hear Elinas side of the phonecall.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
I hope you are fully aware that  
when people do not answer the  
phone, it is because they are  
probably busy.

Beat.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
Yes, I'm incredibly busy right now.

Beat.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
What I am doing? Mom! It is quite  
possible that I do important  
things. Yes. **Yes**. Important things.  
No, I'm not watching *Netflix*. No,  
I'm waiting for the bus. It is  
important!

ELINA (CONT'D)  
I'm fine.

She stops to think.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
Yes, I'm sure.

Beat.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
Mmm, I won't make it to the  
graveyard today. Well, I could'nt  
care less if you bought flowers.  
It's actually a bit perverse that  
you do, I think.

Beat.

ELINA (CONT'D)

No, I'm sorry. I didn't mean it like that. You bought pink roses? That sounds beautiful honestly.

Beat.

ELINA (CONT'D)

I'm actually a little busy right now. Have just been on this like demonstration thing. Mm, I said I do important things. What it was for? Abortion or something. Well, I'm not sure what every single demonstration is about. I'm there! That's the main thing, mom. Of course I made a new poster for the demonstration! You really believe I'm reusing my 8 march poster. COME ON MOM.

Beat.

ELINA (CONT'D)

What if it went well lol? I still have a lower salary than men, but otherwise it went well.

Beat.

ELINA (CONT'D)

No, I'm not a lesbian yet.

Beat.

ELINA (CONT'D)

But mom it's actually problematic to say so. Lesbian girls do not have it easier than straight girls! No, I'm not going to test for that matter! Yes, I know you did. Congratulations Mom. What do you want? A pussy licking diploma?

Beat.

ELINA (CONT'D)

Mom, please. I have so much to do right now. Yes, I'm really busy. With? With ... with. I'm just busy, okay?! What is this? The Nuremberg Trial or? We'll talk later, bye bye, bye, BYE!

Elina sighs. Heavy. The shoes are still fucked. She takes off her shoe and throws it abruptly aside...

VANESSA

OUCH!

Elina flinches to the sudden sound.

*What the hell was that?*

ELINA

Hello?

She realizes it could be Vanessa. Again.

ELINA (CONT'D)

Not again...

Elina tries to take off the other shoe instead.

ELINA (CONT'D)

Stupid hipster-shoes.

The other shoe does not really want what Elina wants.

Elina stumbles to the bus stop's digital information board.

SUDDENLY the information board jumps from "COMING IN 7 MIN" to "COMING IN 16 MIN". Elina makes a sound that can only be interpreted incredibly passively aggressively.

**THEN VANESSA COMES OUT ON THE STAGE** with Elina's shoes.

Elina freezes.

VANESSA

Why the hell did you do that for?

Elina looks around. *Is she going mad?*

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Hello?

Vanessa walks up to Elina. She jokingly throws the shoe back at Elina who catches it.

Elina flinches.

ELINA

(quietly)

What are you doing here?

Vanessa does not look very affected.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
 (louder)  
 What are you doing here?

VANESSA  
 I'm waiting for the bus.

ELINA  
 Where are you going?

VANESSA  
 Wherever you're going.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
 Can you at least be happy to see  
 me? I thought like I was gone  
 forever.

Elina can't look at her.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
 But hey? Please? Can you at least  
 look at me?

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
 Also, maybe you should put on your  
 shoes. The bus is coming soon.

They both look at the digital bus timetable, which suddenly  
 adds two more minutes before arrival.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
 (loud)  
 Are you kidding me!

ELINA  
 (quietly)  
 Come on...

Elina looks up just for second when she sees Vanessa looking  
 straight at her, she quickly looks down again.

VANESSA  
 Enough.

Elina hesitates.

ELINA  
 But you can't just ...

VANESSA  
 (interrupts)  
 Together again at last! We have to  
 celebrate this.  
 (MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Maybe a glass of red wine or something? The outdoor cafes are open and the sun is shining. Get up so I can hug you.

Vanessa stretches her hand towards Elina who gently catches it.

They hug.

ELINA

Where have you been?

VANESSA

In a ditch. No, where do you think?

ELINA

Can you help me with the booth?

VANESSA

So, now you want my help? The last time we saw each other I was a "warthog whore".

ELINA

Warthog whore? I would never call you a warthog whore.

VANESSA

Yeah right.

ELINA

Could you help me with the booth or not?

VANESSA

If you now insist.

Elina stands up on shaky legs.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Okey but if I start to pull...

ELINA

I'm thinking - maybe I should like hold on to the bench?

VANESSA

Is that really a good idea?

ELINA

Do you got one better?

VANESSA

Nope.

Vanessa starts pulling the booth.

ELINA

OUCH! That hurts!

VANESSA

Get over it!

The booth slips off. **TJOFF!**

ELINA

(choked)

You did it!

VANESSA

I know. I'm the best.

Vanessa takes a deep breath. She smiles with her whole face.

She begins some kind of yoga exercise.

ELINA

What are you doing?

VANESSA

It's time for my evening yoga.

ELINA

Do you do it at bus stops?

VANESSA

It is an important part of Buddhism. Not letting the physical place take over for my own inner compass.

ELINA

What the hell are you talking about? And when did you become a Buddhist?

Vanessa continues yoga. Elina follows suitably.

Vanessa inhales / raises her hands in the air / exhales / lowers her arms and / **SCREAMS A MONSTRUOUS SOUND**. Elina does not react. She's used to it.

ELINA (CONT'D)

Did you get it all out?

VANESSA  
Yeah, like a juice-cleanse.

ELINA  
Mhm.

VANESSA  
I don't get why you don't do it.  
Nicer than an orgasm to be honest.

Silence.

ELINA  
But how can you be here? You should  
be ... Kind of a pile of bones  
right now.

VANESSA  
That's really mean. Why would you  
say something like that? And hey,  
we kind of saw each other  
yesterday. Are you not happy that  
I'm back?

Elina looks away.

ELINA  
But are you even here?

Now Vanessa looks sad. She cuddles with her lower lip like a  
small child.

VANESSA  
I mean, I'm kind of here.

ELINA  
Kind of here?

VANESSA  
Yeah... I mean, I'm here for you!

ELINA  
For me?

VANESSA  
Exatcly!

ELINA  
Why would you be here for me?

VANESSA  
Uh, whatever! We can hang like we  
did before, right?

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Dance until the sun rises and make out with ugly dudes? I know! We'll go home to your place and get ready!

Elina stands and hesitates. Vanessa pulls out Elina's backpack. Elina has a speaker and lots of other sketchy stuff in her bag.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Listen!

Suddenly we hear: "Lush life" by Zara Larsson. Vanessa starts dancing first and then reluctantly drags Elina with her.

They pull out make-up, small mirrors and a bottle of white wine from Elina's backpack. They start getting ready to go out and dance.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

You have to fill me in! What has happened since last time? Have we had a female president? Prime Minister? It feels like I've been gone a lifetime!

ELINA

Well actually...

VANESSA

Or like, omg what happened after the me too-movement? How did it go for Harvey Weinstein? Is he in jail right now? Lifetime I hope!

ELINA

Well actually...

VANESSA

And hey! Trump must be deposed now, right? Right? And that Corona virus?! Siiiiick thing anyway.

Elina is stressed by Vanessa's enormous energy. Vanessa tries to drag Elina around dancing.

Elina has enough.

ELINA

No! Stop!...

Vanessa looks offended.

ELINA (CONT'D)

I want you to take a break. Pause!  
Pause! Pause!

Elina sits down on the bench.

VANESSA

Okey, time out.

ELINA

What are you doing here?

VANESSA

Is that really important?

ELINA

It's important because I want to  
know if I'm not totally fucking  
crazy and hallucinating you.

VANESSA

Okey, you haven't gone mad.

ELINA

"You haven't gone mad", that is  
something I'd probably definitely  
would have tried to tell myself.

VANESSA

But quite honestly, I do not know  
why I'm back. But I'm dying for  
life! I want to party, drink wine  
and make out!

ELINA

You haven't changed a bit.

VANESSA

You have. You're boring now.

ELINA

I'm not boring.

VANESSA

What are you then? Depressed?

Elina doesn't have anything to answer to that.

LUKAS

Elina?

**IN COMES LUKE (25).** The music ends abruptly. Handsome. A  
dream prince of Disney material.

Elina turns around.

ELINA  
Luke?

VANESSA  
(annoyed)  
Luke...

Vanessa picks up her phone. Like a grumpy child.

LUKAS  
(happy)  
Elina!

ELINA  
Luke!

They hug.

VANESSA  
Vanessa?

LUKAS  
How are you? I've not seen you in  
ages!

ELINA  
No, well, I'm fine. So how are you  
doing? How was Thailand? And  
Amanda? How is she? I love your  
guys Thailand instagram account!  
What a dream you lived!

VANESSA  
Did you "find" yourself during the  
backpacking trip as well?

LUKAS  
(awkward)  
No, well. Amanda dumped me in  
Thailand.

VANESSA  
Oh. Like we didn't see that one  
coming.

Luke can't hear Vanessa.

ELINA  
I'm so sorry.

LUKAS

Uh, that's okay! We were probably never meant for each other anyway. She thought Taylor Swift was problematic and I have a bit of a hard time with that kind of misogyny. But what are you doing now? Where's Vanessa?

VANESSA

Well this is gonna be awkward...

ELINA

Yes, haha. She, like, disappeared.

LUKAS

Disappeared?

ELINA

She got ill. It went fast anyway. Until she died of course. She didn't have to suffer much haha! The rest of us had to take that shit instead.

VANESSA

(for herself)  
Surpriiiiise!

LUKAS

What do you mean "ill"?

ELINA

No, she woke up one morning and felt a cold with a little headache type. Then the headache got worse and then the fever came and knocked her out. When she went to the emergency room, it was already too late. Some virus that had found its way into the cerebral cortex and knocked out the entire system. She died in the waiting room. I didn't even have time to say goodbye. Just thought she was exaggerating.

LUKAS

Oh... I understand. Must have been hard for you.

ELINA

Well, I am alive and breathing anyway. So that's something.

LUKAS

I mean, I know how close you were.

ELINA

Yeah.

LUKAS

It was like... impossible to just see you, alone. Vanessa was always there. Wherever you were, Vanessa were.

ELINA

That's true.

LUKAS

What a sick thing anyway. Losing your best friend that way. I can't even imagine.

ELINA

No, you can't obviously do that.

LUKAS

I really, really feel sorry for you.

ELINA

Okay, you don't have to rub it in as well.

LUKAS

Yeah... I should probably start going.

ELINA

Yeah, me too.

LUKAS

But it was fun to catch up. Maybe a coffee someday soon?

ELINA

I, I don't know. I have a lot going on at the moment.

VANESSA

Exactly! Damn much to do! Like watching Netflix and sleeping until noon!

Luke looks disappointed.

LUKAS

Yes. I get it. Bye then.

ELINA

Bye...

Luke leaves.

ELINA (CONT'D)

Was it really a good choice? He's like a realllyyyy good guy.

VANESSA

Bitch please. He's just some guy.

ELINA

Not to be like *that* one... But I haven't had sex in fourteen months.

VANESSA

Fourteen months?

ELINA

Yeah?

VANESSA

Why are you talking about the last time you got laid as a newborn child?

VANESSA (CONT'D)

(screams after her)

That's ACTUALLY problematic Elina!

Elina turns around annoyed and goes after Luke.

ELINA

Luke! Do you want to follow me home?

Luke shines up.

LUKAS

I would love to follow you home! If you want me of course.

They sit down on the bench together.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

When does the bus arrive?

VANESSA

It's late. As hell. So you might as well leave.

ELINA

It should be here in like five.

All three look at the digital screen. Now it shows 24 minutes to arrival instead.

ELINA (CONT'D)

Think it's broken. So it should come earlier.

LUKAS

It's cool. I love waiting with you.

Vanessa takes a hat out of her backpack.

ELINA

Why?

Vanessa look at the hat.

LUKAS

What do you mean "why"?

Vanessa stares inside the hat, feels around it, taps on the inside, blows into it to finally put it on her head.

Elina has a hard time keeping her focus on Lukas when she notices how weird Vanessa is behaving.

ELINA

I mean like, why do you like waiting for the bus with me?

LUKAS

It just feels right. So you don't have to wait alone. It's not good for girls to be out late, especially not alone.

ELINA

I'm turning 26 this year. Doubtful if I were to call myself a *girl*.

LUKAS

No! Of course! I mean you're a woman.

ELINA

Woman sounds a bit old.

LUKAS

Females?...

VANESSA

Did he just call us females?

ELINA

Did you just call me a female?

LUKAS

I mean, a good female!

ELINA

What exactly is a "good female"?

Luke start sweating.

LUKAS

So, I kind of don't want to say anything stupid, especially after the womens rights demonstration as well! I was there too! I just want to say that I really love women!

VANESSA

Excuse me! Can anyone give this man a prize? It's officially my dear audience, Luke loves women! The women's fight is over! We can sleep safely tonight! Patriarchy is shattered! All Hail our Lord and Savior! Luke! All power to Luke! Our liberator!

A bubbling laugh comes from Elina. She laughs so the tears flow.

Then it's like grief flows over Elina. She looks sad.

LUKAS

What is it?

ELINA

I haven't laughed since Vanessa died.

Luke looks confused and a little disgusted.

LUKAS

Why did you laugh when Vanessa died?

ELINA

What?

VANESSA

What?

LUKAS

What?

ELINA

I don't think we should see each other again.

VANESSA

I get that feeling too.

LUKAS

But I like spending time with you.

VANESSA

"I like spending time with you"  
Baby girl, dump his ass.

ELINA

(To Vanessa)

Hush!

LUKAS

Are you hushing me?

ELINA

Oh, no, I didn't mean it like that.

LUKAS

Then how do you mean?

ELINA

I think I need to lie down.

LUKAS

Lie down?

ELINA

No, more like, get laid. I think I need to get laid.

LUKAS

With whom?

ELINA

With anyone!

LUKAS

(a bit hurt)

Oh.

ELINA

Oh, come on. I mean with you!

LUKAS

Ooh.

Silence.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Does that mean you like me?

ELINA

Really?!

She throws herself at him.

VANESSA

What are you GUYS DOING

They doesn't respond.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

WE ARE OUTSIDE

VANESSA (CONT'D)

PEOPLE CAN SEE

VANESSA (CONT'D)

ELINA YOU'RE NOT FIFTEEN ANYMORE

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Could you like? PLEASE

No reaction.

Vanessa SCREAMS.

LUKAS

What was that?

ELINA

Did you hear it too?

LUKAS

Yes? What the hell was that?

ELINA

Nothing.

LUKAS

But you heard it too?

ELINA

Oh yeah, it was me. Look!

Elina screams.

Lukas looks skeptical at her.

They start making out again.

We hear some funny noises.

Lukas and Elina sit up together with tousled hair.

LUKAS

Did you finish?

Now Vanessa gets up. Also with tousled hair. In the middle of the pair.

VANESSA

You gotta be honest right now. I've heard you finish and this ain't it.

ELINA

(lying)  
Yes, of course.

VANESSA

UUUURRGGGGHHHHHH.

Elina jumps at the sound from Vanessa's sudden outburst of sound while Lukas sits completely unmoved.

LUKAS

(happy)  
Wow, me too.

Vanessa rolls her eyes.

VANESSA

Pleeease.

ELINA

(mumbling to Vanessa)  
Shut up.

LUKAS

What?

ELINA

What?

LUKAS

Sometimes it feels like you're talking to yourself. I've read that really intelligent people do it, like Marie Curie.

Elina gets dressed.

ELINA  
Wow, Marie Curie...

LUKAS  
So, speaking of Marie Curie,  
should'nt we travel together? Like  
Poland?

ELINA  
What does Marie Curie have to do  
with Poland?

LUKAS  
Hellooo, she's from there. I think  
we could maybe visit  
Krakow.

VANESSA  
Please, you have to correct him.  
Elina, you know Marie Curie is from  
France.

ELINA  
Oh.

VANESSA  
Elina, I'm begging you. On behalf  
of all women in the world with a  
bachelor's degree, you can't let  
this man get away with it.

ELINA  
I don't know if I can travel to  
Poland right now.

LUKAS  
I'll pay for the whole trip!

VANESSA  
You can't leave. What about me?

Elina glances at Vanessa.

ELINA  
Yeah, that sounds cool.

LUKAS  
I've got to confess something.

ELINA  
What?

LUKAS

It takes me like five minutes to go home from... here.

ELINA

So you don't need to wait for the bus?

LUKAS

Yeah...

Beat.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Do you want to walk me home?

ELINA

Naaaaah. I'm taking the bus home, but thank's anyway. I have like hair washing day today. Haven't washed my hair in about two weeks or so haha. So I have to go home. And shower. And wash my hair.

LUKAS

Is it ... fresh? To go so long without washing your hair?

VANESSA

But please. Just admit you're not washing your hair because you're depressed.

ELINA

Yes? Dry shampoo? Never heard of it?

LUKAS

Okay, but see you later then? Tonight maybe?

ELINA

I can be at you place around midnight.

LUKAS

Great.

Luke leans in for a kiss, but Elina turns around so that they collide with her nose.

VANESSA

That's just embarassing.

Luke walks away with a big smile on his face.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Thank goodness we got rid of him.  
Not a second too late.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Let's leave.

ELINA

We can't. We're waiting.

VANESSA

On what? Equality? Then we will  
have to wait forever. Or try going  
to a womens march demonstration  
again. You didn't even know what it  
was about.

ELINA

Of course I knew what the march was  
about!

VANESSA

Okay, then tell me.

ELINA

Uh-it was like the like-right to  
abortion!

VANESSA

Wrong.

ELINA

How the hell are you supposed to  
know if it's wrong? You are dead. A  
ghost. Or something. You're just  
what's left of how I remember you.

VANESSA

Maybe I'm a ghost? Why should you  
decide over my after-life?

ELINA

This isn't a movie.

VANESSA

No, because in a movie you had  
moved on with your life and maybe  
washed your hair!

ELINA

I feel like I'm alive at least!

VANESSA

How?

ELINA

I've been putting myself in stupid and dangerous situations.

VANESSA

Like?

ELINA

I had three girls get me beaten up.

VANESSA

For real?

ELINA

Yeah, for real.

VANESSA

How?

ELINA

We got into a fight at the nightclub. One of the chicks accused me of stealing her Calvin Klein jacket and then beat the shit out of me outside the club.

VANESSA

Well did you steal her jacket?

ELINA

Yeah.

Elina pulls a Calvin Klein jacket out of her backpack.

VANESSA

Damn nice jacket. Did it help to get beaten up then? Did it felt better afterwards I mean?

ELINA

It felt good to be seen. Even if it was with a fist blow.

VANESSA

But you can feel seen without doing shit like that?

ELINA

My psychologist says the same thing. Do you know what else my psychologist says?

VANESSA

No, tell me.

ELINA

That you maybe not really was such a perfect best friend. That I have a much nicer picture of you now, than how you really were. That you were actually quite rude.

Silence.

VANESSA

Are you sure this is the right bus stop?

Vanessa lights a cigarette.

ELINA

You know I have asthma.

VANESSA

You know I had corona?

ELINA

You didn't have that at all. You died before Covid-19.

VANESSA

(repeats)  
"Covid-19"

VANESSA (CONT'D)

How intelligent you sound then. Just say corona like the rest of us mortals.

ELINA

You're not mortal anymore.

VANESSA

"You're not mortal anymore"

Vanessa blows smoke at Elina's direction who angrily waves it away.

Elina turns to Vanessa annoyed.

Elina turns back to the digital bus table, which now backs away for another 39 minutes.

ELINA  
 (mumblng for herself)  
 I hate my life, I hate my life, I  
 hate my life. Ok, ok. Breathe - in -  
 Breathe out - Breathing in a  
 square.

Elina breathes in a square.

In

Out

In

Out

VANESSA  
 Oh come on Elina? Is that something  
 your psychologist told you to tell  
 yourself?

ELINA  
 (mumblng)  
 I'm losing my mind.

VANESSA  
 Get over yourself.

ELINA  
 Do you have to be so rude to him?

VANESSA  
 Who?

ELINA  
 LUKE!

VANESSA  
 You don't even like him! He's just  
 a rebound!

ELINA  
 For whom?!

VANESSA  
 For me!

ELINA  
 Why would he be a rebound for you?  
 We didn't date?

VANESSA

I'm your best friend! The love of your life!

ELINA

You're not "the love of my life".

VANESSA

What am I then? We LIVED together when I was alive. We did everything together. WE HAVE HAD A THREESOME TOGETHER.

ELINA

IT'S NOT A THREESOME WHEN YOU HAD SEX WITH MY BOYFRIEND THE SAME NIGHT WE BROKE UP!

VANESSA

EX! HE HAD DUMPED YOU!

ELINA

WE WERE ON A B - R - E - A - K! Can you even spell it?

VANESSA

Of course I can spell! I wrote all your essays in school!

ELINA

That's so mean.

VANESSA

What?

ELINA

You promised to never bring it up.

VANESSA

I said "I promise to bring that secret to the grave" but oh how the tables have turned.

ELINA

There are times when I wonder if it wouldn't be better if we went separate ways.

VANESSA

Keep it together.

Beat.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

It will be business as usual. I disappear for a few weeks and then you start talking to me again. We're going to do this when you're 60 years old as well.

That makes Elina even angrier. She starts throwing things around. Breaking things.

ELINA

No! I'm so tired of you! I'm so mad at you! I'm so angry you got sick! So angry that you died! You left me with all this shit and all these emotions without the slightest thought of me! Of my feelings! I hate you! *I hate you!*

VANESSA

Elina...

Vanessa tries to pick up the things that Elina throws away.

ELINA

Elina, Elina, Elina! Vanessa! Vanessa! Vanessa! I don't even know who I am without you! Who am I without you? I was always attached to you! The one you invited because "it's Vanessa's bestie" but no one could ever even remember my name! I felt perfectly okay until you were suddenly resurrected from the dead in time and out of time! You should have stayed dead!

VANESSA

Frankly Elina, you weren't like... healthy... Even before I "resurrected" and I haven't resurrected, I'm still dead.

ELINA

Yes! And I hate you for it!

Elina throws things from the backpack towards Vanessa who ducks away.

VANESSA

Fine. You're on your own.

Elina sits down among the chaos and begins to cry.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Okay, I obviously can 't move on.  
Even if you're really dumb right  
now.

ELINA

(sobbing)

I wish you weren't dead.

VANESSA

Damn, I wish that too.

ELINA

I wish ... I wish I died instead.  
Because sometimes it feels like I  
did.

VANESSA

But you didn't. You're alive. And  
you can do almost anything. Drink  
red wine and... and... hell, change  
the world. You can, you can crush  
the patriarchy.

ELINA

But I don't want to do it without  
you.

VANESSA

But you have too. You haven't even  
got a choice.

ELINA

It feels ... it feels easier  
sometimes if I just took the simple  
way out. Just close my eyes, go to  
sleep and never wake up again.

VANESSA

But it's enough that I'm dead. What  
makes it better with you being dead  
too?

ELINA

I can sit and think about death for  
hours. How calm it would be. How  
nice it would be. Especially since  
you're already dead. Not just to  
meet you again, because I don't  
even know for sure if we would meet  
again the afterlife. But if I die

...

I don't have to feel everything  
then.

(MORE)

ELINA (CONT'D)

I don't have to meet your mother and know that she wishes it would have been me instead. I don't honestly even know if my own mother would rather have had you still here. Everyone always liked you so much more. I've always been just a tiny, tiny gray mouse in comparison to you. It would be so nice to die sometimes, I mean. To avoid all this. Avoid people's sad looks and how they don't greet you when they find out that you are "The Girl with a Dead Best Friend". It's like people think death is contagious in some way. If they start talking to me, someone close to them will also get sick and die. It's like I've become a wandering bubonic plague with the mark of death shining around me and there's absolutely nothing I can do about it.

VANESSA

I'm sorry.

ELINA

What are you sorry for?

VANESSA

For being dead.

ELINA

Thank you. But it's not your fault.

VANESSA

I might have been able to avoid catching a cold that fall. Maybe would have washed my hands. Or wear a scarf.

ELINA

I don't think it would have helped. I think we only have a certain amount of time here on earth no matter what we do.

VANESSA

So then you are you wasting your precious time here on earth then?

ELINA

I'm not wasting it?

VANESSA

You refuse to do anything. You don't take care of yourself. You don't wash your hair. You don't clean. You don't water your plants. You don't cook, and the only thing you eat is pad thai from the local Chinese restaurant, which by the way is not even a very tasty pad thai. You haven't continued your studies, you never travel anywhere and you don't dare to start new relationships because you are terrified that people will die. It's not people who think you're infected with death, it's what you yourself imagined you were doing. And you sit and wait for a bus that never comes.

Lukas ENTERS STAGE.

LUKAS

Hi... Oh, what has happened here?

Elina wipes away her tears.

ELINA

Eh, I... I...

At the same time:

VANESSA

Got a breakdown.

ELINA

I had a personal yoga-class.

ELINA (CONT'D)

Weren't you going home?

LUKAS

I remembered I forgot my backpack.

He sees all the stuff that is scattered around Elina..

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Is that my ... backpacks stuff ...?

ELINA

Oh.

LUKAS

Oh.

ELINA  
It wasn't my intention.

VANESSA  
It was absolutley the intention.  
You should have heard her.

LUKAS  
(impressed)  
You're not at all like other girls.

VANESSA  
Yeah, it's almost like Elina is her  
own individual just like all other  
girls who are their own individuals  
with their own dreams and goals.  
Shocker.

ELINA  
Oh, heh, thank you.

VANESSA  
And the prize for today's feminist  
goes to ELINA!

Vanessa honks a small party horn.

Lukas and Elina go one step closer to each other.

ELINA  
You may not know this about me  
Luke, but I am a person with many,  
many flaws.

VANESSA  
I already know that, thank you.

LUKAS  
I like your flaws.

A kiss *almost* happens. But Elina sweeps away at the last  
second.

ELINA  
Sorry but you ... You smell a  
little bit garlic. Have you eaten  
at (name of local place) today or?

LUKAS  
I think you're so, so fascinating.  
I mean, we're the same age but you  
feel so mature.

ELINA  
Thanks. It's the trauma.

LUKAS  
Look! The bus is almost here!

The digital bus table shows 2 minutes to departure.

Lukes phone starts ringing.

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
Oops! It's mommy calling. Be right  
back.

He kisses Elina lightly on the forehead. She blushes.

**LUKAS OUT.**

VANESSA  
Please...

Elina starts packing her backpack. There are little things everywhere around the bench that she threw around earlier in her outburst of anger.

We hear: "Lush Life" by Zara Larsson. Vanessa starts dancing, trying to drag Elina with her.

ELINA  
(confused)  
What are you doing?

VANESSA  
Oh come on and dance with me! It's  
our favorite song!

Vanessa sings along.

It becomes obvious that Elina doesn't hear the music.

The music stops. Vanessa stops.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
Do you want help with packing?

ELINA  
No, I think I got it now.

VANESSA  
What about me then?

ELINA  
What about you then?

VANESSA  
What am I going to do?

ELINA  
Maybe it would be, kind of nice if  
you could rest.

VANESSA  
Don't you want to be with me  
anymore? I thought I was your  
number one.

ELINA  
You'll always be my number one.

Elina is starting to cry.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
But I have to start putting myself  
as number one too.

Elina reaches out to hold Vanessas hand.

ELINA (CONT'D)  
I'll never forget you.

VANESSA  
Drink a box of vodka for me.

ELINA  
A whole box?

VANESSA  
Did I stutter?

ELINA  
You should've been a poet.

VANESSA  
I was. Isn't it obvious?

De stand up.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
So I'm leaving.

ELINA  
Do you have to?

VANESSA  
Oh come on, enough.

Elina shrudders her shoulders.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
You'll be just fine. And have I  
ever really left you?

ELINA  
You let me go.

Elina is on the verge of crying.

They hug each other.

VANESSA  
I love you.

ELINA  
And I love you.

They look at each other. One last time.

VANESSA  
Life is just around the corner.  
It's waiting for you.

LUKE ENTERS STAGE.

LUKAS  
Hey, what are you doing?

Elina turns around.

Vanessa LEAVES STAGE.

ELINA  
What? No, nothing.

LUKAS  
Looked like you were standing and  
hugging yourself. Such a cutie.

Elina laughs.

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
Are you ready?

ELINA TURNS TO THE AUDIENCE.

ELINA  
I hope so.

Elina can't see Vanessa any longer.

**We hear the sound of an approaching bus.**

LIGHTS DOWN.

THE END