

# **PATIENT**

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Cast and Setting:

Patient

Doctors

Nurse

Ashraf

The play moves through stations in the Patient's memory. The numbers before the dialogues and monologues represent a new movement in the Patient's mind.

1.

*Bright stage. There is a hospital bed made out of old iron, with no bed sheets. A rain of pills in many colors and shapes falls from the sky; red pills and pink pills and white pills and blue pills big pills and small pills and shiny pills. A loud buzzing sound is heard. A female patient is walking after a moving hospital gurney. Five doctors walk behind her. A loud short buzzing sound is heard. The movement stops. A moment. The doctors help Patient to the bed, as others pick up some of the pills from the ground.*

*They hand it to her; one Doctor puts one pill in her mouth, another puts a glass of water in her mouth, another makes sure she swallows the pill.*

**Doctor:** how are you doing today, Miss Vivian?

*(The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

2.

*The Patient holds her doll Dooba.*

*She is playing by herself.*

*Ashraf sits on the bed.*

**Patient:** Are you a real soldier?

**Ashraf:** Your mom never told you not to talk to strangers?

**Patient:** No. My mom tells me to be like everybody else!

**Ashraf:** Smart Imma.

**Patient:** So?

**Ashraf:** What?

**Patient:** Are you real or not?

**Ashraf:** *(laughs)* Here, pinch my arm. If I'll say ouch, it means I'm real.

*(stretches out his arm to her. Patient looks at him with full of amazement. She hesitates. Then quickly she pinches Ashraf's arm close to his hand)*

Ouch!

**Patient:** You're real!

**Ashraf:** I'm real. And you, are you real?

**Patient:** All kids are real!

**Ashraf:** Really?

**Patient:** Yes.

**Ashraf:** So if I'll pinch you, you'll say Ouch?

**Patient:** Yes! *(Patient stretches out her arm to Ashraf and closes her eyes. Ashraf pinches her softly. She doesn't respond. He pinches her again, harder)*

Ouch! I'm real!

**Ashraf:** Yes you are. What's your name?

**Patient:** Vivi. (*points to her doll*) And this is Dooba.

**Ashraf:** Well, nice to meet you ladies. I am Ashraf.

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** mhmm.

(*pause. Patient and Ashraf look at each other*)

**Ashraf:** Do you want to sit with me here?

**Patient:** I want to sit on the top of the tower. (*She climbs*)

**Ashraf:** Do you live around here?

**Patient:** Where do you live?

**Ashraf:** I live far away from here

**Patient:** Away from here?

Dooba and I live at the top of the tower. But there is no room for you here.

**Ashraf:** That's okay.

(*A moment*)

**Ashraf:** Well, say something.

**Patient:** What

**Ashraf:** I don't know, something. Like, how are you doing today?

**Patient:** I'm hungry. Dooba is hungry too.

**Ashraf:** You are hungry

**Patient:** Yes!

**Ashraf:** What do you like?

**Patient:** What

**Ashraf:** You, what do you like to eat when you're hungry?

**Patient:** We're very hungry now.

**Ashraf:** I see

**Patient:** Yea, very hungry.

**Ashraf:** I wish I had some food with me

**Patient:** You do? You do?

**Ashraf:** No. I'm sorry.

**Patient:** *(disappointed)* Oh.

**Ashraf:** *(points at Dooba)* She.

**Patient:** What?

**Ashraf:** What does she like?

**Patient:** What does she like what?

**Ashraf:** What does she like to... eat?

**Patient:** She likes. Soup. From a big bowl of soup! Like Imma makes!

**Ashraf:** Soup.

**Patient:** From a big bowl.

**Ashraf:** That Imma makes!

**Patient:** Yes!

**Ashraf:** You didn't have dinner tonight

**Patient:** No, and you?

**Ashraf:** No.

**Patient:** Why

**Ashraf:** Why what

**Patient:** Nothing. *(They both sit at the on the top of the bed)*

Well, we're not hungry anymore. We got tired of being hungry.

Now, Dooba is just tired.

**Ashraf:** Let me see. I want to see. *(waits)* Please. *(Ashraf extends his arm to her. Patient freezes. A moment. She shows him the doll. Ashraf moves closer)*

**Ashraf:** Yes. She looks tired. It's late, isn't it. Time for bed really.

*(They don't move. The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

3.

*Sounds of heavy breathing.*

*Patient is sitting on the floor holding a knife.*

*She slowly and quietly cuts her inner arm, from the top of the arm all the way down to her wrist. A line of dark blood appears on her arm.*

*Ashraf walks onto the stage.*

*He walks toward Patient.*

**Ashraf:** *(to Patient)* do you feel it? Do you? Do you feel something? Do it faster. Can you do it faster? Don't cry. Not good for the blood.

*(Patient doesn't respond. Ashraf wipes the drops of blood that dropped on the floor with his hands, rubs both of his hands together)* Gone! Magic! Without even washing. *(approaches her again)* I was recruited, again. I'm sorry, Vivi, but I have to go again. They need me. I'll be gone. I have to protect you, I have to make sure you're all right, right? I have to destroy the

enemy, kill them, finish them. Bad guys. God said. Boom! I have to go there now, so they'll stop kill us. They kill us. Every day. I don't want them to kill you. You don't see, but they do. They hate us. Do you hear me? They called me, in the middle of the night, they called me in the middle of the day they called me all the time they call everyone now. *(A moment)* It's war you see. It's my mission. I had to go. I can't wait. *(he doesn't move)* I have to go.

*(The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

4.

*Patient in bed. A Doctor takes notes*

**A Doctor:** How are you doing today, Miss Vivian?

**Patient:** Okay

**A Doctor:** *(writes)* 'The patient feels okay.' Okay. What would you like to talk about today?

**Patient:** I don't know.

**A Doctor:** *(writes)* 'The patient doesn't know'. Okay. *(a moment)*  
You look okay.

**Patient:** I look okay.

**A Doctor:** Okay!

**Patient:** Okay.

**A Doctor:** *(writes)* 'the patient is okay.' Okay. See you in a bit.

*(The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

5.

*Patient is in bed. She wakes up. Nurse looks at her, a book in her hand*

**Nurse:** Oh, good morning. Welcome to hell

**Patient:** If this is hell then who are you

**Nurse:** I'm your sweet angel

**Patient:** There are no angels in hell

**Nurse:** That's good.

**Patient:** What's good about not having angels in hell?

**Nurse:** No, I mean it's good that you think clearly. You slept for almost a week.

**Patient:** A week?

**Nurse:** A week. You were uneasy

**Patient:** Uneasy?

**Nurse:** Uneasy. If the patient looks disturbed or uneasy, you have to administer tranquilizers. That's what the manual says.

**Patient:** You look uneasy too.

**Nurse:** I didn't try to kill myself.

**Patient:** I didn't try to kill myself!

**Nurse:** I'm sure you didn't

**Patient:** No, really, I actually tried to... feel, you see, live myself

**Nurse:** *(reads her book)* Good for you

**Patient:** I wanted to see that I feel, feel the- *(beat)* do you understand?

**Nurse:** *(reads)* Mhmmm.

**Patient:** Do you understand me? Because... Are you happy? (*Nurse doesn't respond, louder*) Are you happy or not? (*louder*) I asked you a question, tell me if you are happy! Tell me!

**Nurse:** (*rests her book*) I'm really sorry you don't feel well.  
(*reads again*)

**Patient:** I didn't try to kill myself I didn't try to kill myself  
I wanted - to check - I wanted to see if my blood works - feels -  
if it's salty - in the circulation--from my belly--my breasts -  
sea of blood - ocean - all over the bathroom floor - wash wash -  
cover cover the floor - puking - red lumps - myself - kitchen  
floor - there is so much - so much coming out of these holes - I  
fill the rooms of my home -

**Nurse:** (*prepares a needle and injects it into Patient's arm*) Here  
you go.

**Patient:** - Wallow on their - floors - I have to do this I must -  
protect him - I didn't -  
Really -

(*Gone. The loud short buzzing sound is heard*)

6.

*Ashraf and Vivian are sitting on the bed*

**Patient:** Make me a ship

**Ashraf:** What

**Patient:** Make me a ship. A big ship that sails the sea.

**Ashraf:** Okay *(gets a piece of paper from his backpack. He folds her a small paper ship. Patient watches curiously as Ashraf folds the paper. When Ashraf is done, he hands Patient the ship)*

Here. A ship. For you.

**Patient:** *(holds the ship carefully)* Look! Dooba! A ship! A ship that sails the sea, wanders over water. Here. I go here. No here is better. I can go whenever I want! The sea is big the sea is huge. I'll sail to here, I'll sail there *(to Ashraf)* look, look!

**Ashraf:** I see. How high are the waves in your sea?

**Patient:** Ocean! Actually it's an ocean!

**Ashraf:** How high are the waves in your ocean, sailor?

**Patient:** Very high, very high

**Ashraf:** Be careful then

**Patient:** What

**Ashraf:** Be careful so the sea won't wash you away

**Patient:** What

**Ashraf:** Wash, wash you away from your ship! Hurry up. You don't want to sink!

**Patient:** it's an ocean! It's an ocean! *(she throws away the paper ship)*

I don't want to play this anymore! I don't like your games at all!

*(Ashraf picks up the paper ship from the ground. He unfolds the paper ship. Then he tears up the sheet of paper)*

**Ashraf:** It's just a game

**Patient:** The waves won't wash me away.

**Ashraf:** Okay. They won't. Can I make you something else? A swan maybe?

**Patient:** No

**Ashraf:** I can make you a little box

**Patient:** No

**Ashraf:** I can make a house, a little home. I think

(a moment)

**Patient:** I'll ask Dooba. (*she does*) Dooba says a house is fine

**Ashraf:** (*makes her a home*) here.

**Patient:** It's not going to wash-wash away, right?

**Ashraf:** No. No wash-wash. Just fold-fold.

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** Yes, Vivi.

**Patient:** I'm sorry that you don't have an Imma ve Abba.

(*Ashraf doesn't respond*)

**Patient:** If you want, Dooba and I can maybe think to make you a little room in the tower maybe.

**Ashraf:** You are a good protector, Vivi.

(*The loud short buzzing sound is heard*)

7.

*Patient is lying in bed. A Doctor examines her.*

**A Doctor:** How are you doing today Miss Vivian?

**Patient:** (*sings*) Wash wash

**A Doctor:** How are you?

**Patient:** (*sings*) Wash wash wash wash

**A Doctor:** Do you hear me?

**Patient:** (*looks at him*) I feel like crap

**A Doctor:** Tell me more

**Patient:** I feel like crap crap crap crap crap crap, like shit,  
like hell, like shit in hell, like hell full of shit, like shit  
full of hell and shitty shit

**A Doctor:** I think I preferred crap

**Patient:** All the crap in world- just for you.

**A Doctor:** You have to talk about your feelings -

**Patient:** (*Sings*) I don't talk. I sing

**A Doctor:** You have to...sing about your feelings. It is a necessary  
part of your healing-

**Patient:** I don't have feelings. I don't feel anything.

**A Doctor:** I see.

**Patient:** Do you?

**A Doctor:** What?

**Patient:** Nothing.

(*Doctor makes some notes*)

**A Doctor:** So. Anything else?

**Patient:** I have nothing to say

**A Doctor:** Do you want to sing then? All breeds of creativity are  
encouraged in our institution.

**Patient:** I don't want to sing anymore.

**A Doctor:** Do you want to be quiet, it's perfectly fine, you can  
just be quiet

**Patient:** I don't know what I want

**A Doctor:** Okay.

**Patient:** It's not okay

**A Doctor:** Okay.

**Patient:** Can you help me

**A Doctor:** I don't know, do you think I can help you?

**Patient:** I don't want to be here

**A Doctor:** Okay.

**Patient:** I want to go home

**A Doctor:** I see.

**Patient:** Do you?

**A Doctor:** Miss Vivian. I'm afraid you are not ready to go home yet.

*(A moment)*

**Patient:** You promised, you promised I'll go home! Do you hear me? I'm fine! I'm fine! There's nothing wrong with me! Nothing wrong with me! I just - *(A Doctor prepares a needle and injects it into Patient's arm)*

No. No. Look at me, you said I can go home there is nothing wrong with me

**A Doctor:** Here you go. Okay.

**Patient:** No. No. listen. Look at me, you said I can go home there is nothing wrong with me

**A Doctor:** You'll feel better now, Miss Vivian. *(He leaves)*

**Patient:** You'll feel better now - Miss Vivian - better - where is Imma - I want Imma - you'll feel better now - do you love me - you'll feel better now - you'll feel better now - I'll protect

you - enemy - I promise - did you hear - that - do you hear me -  
do you see me - better now -

*(gone. The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

8.

*Sounds of heavy breathing.*

*Patient sits on the floor, holds a knife.*

*She takes off her gown.*

*Slowly and quietly she cuts between her breasts, in a straight  
vertical line all the way down to her crotch.*

*A line of dark blood bursts out of her.*

*She grabs a soup bowl with her other arm and makes sure the blood  
flows into the bowl and not on the floor.*

*Everything is done very calmly.*

*Ashraf walks onto stage towards Patient, swallows a few pills  
from his rifle's magazine.*

*Patient gives Ashraf the soup bowl. He holds it.*

**Ashraf:** *(to Patient)* Did you make this for me? What, are you  
hungry again? Are you and Dooba hungry again? Did you see them?  
Did you really see them, Vivi? Do you want to go home? Where are  
the stupid nurses? Do you want me to get you the nurse, Vivi?  
Did you see them? They called me again! I have to plan the  
ambush! We are at war now. See. War. I can't make you soup  
now. Take it. *(he gives her the bowl, she doesn't respond)* Take

it. I promise, later. Promise- promise? Cross my heart (*rests one of his hand on his chest*) It's not your fault. It's not. No. You can't take the blame. You. Me. There is nothing else to do with an order but to take it. We are running out of time, Vivi! I need my gear. I have to be there in an hour, you have to be very precise they say, they look up to you they know you're an officer you have responsibility you have this...responsibility ...my gun. Where did I put my gun?

*(The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

9.

*Patient in bed. Nurse sits beside the bed and looks at her, a book in her hand*

**Patient:** HELP! HELP!

**Nurse:** What

**Patient:** Dooba! NO!

**Nurse:** What

**Patient:** Hurttttts! Hurts!

**Nurse:** Shut up

**Patient:** Hurts! Oh my God

**Nurse:** There is nothing, shut up

**Patient:** I can't move

**Nurse:** You're tied down

**Patient:** I need to get out of here

**Nurse:** Yeah and I need to go to Mexico for the weekend. What's your point?

**Patient:** No, really. I think I had a bad dream.

**Nurse:** Well, thank God you're awake now.

**Patient:** Thank God

**Nurse:** Do you mind, I'm reading

**Patient:** You always read.

**Nurse:** Yes I do.

**Patient:** What do you read?

**Nurse:** Go back to sleep

**Patient:** You always read

**Nurse:** Well, I need to sit here and watch all you nuts

**Patient:** But you always read the same book

**Nurse:** Shut up

*(a moment)*

**Patient:** What time is it?

**Nurse:** It's late

**Patient:** I'm cold

**Nurse:** You already have two blankets

**Patient:** My feet are cold

**Nurse:** It's the side effect of the drugs. Sleep now. You'll wake the others

**Patient:** I can't sleep. I saw Dooba. Dooba. She was sitting on the bench alone in our playground. Alone. And she was real and there was blood everywhere... everywhere. Blood. All over the bench. All over the playground. *(a few moments pass. Nurse goes back to reading. Another look, reads)*

**Nurse:** I can get you another blanket. *(gets ready to leave)*

**Patient:** No, don't go

**Nurse:** What

**Patient:** It's okay. I'm not cold anymore. You can stay.

**Nurse:** What

**Patient:** I'm fine.

**Nurse:** You are really not alone you know. There are many more nuts here in this room.

**Patient:** Many nuts is like being alone.

*(The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

10.

*Ashraf stands by Patient's bed. He looks at her, like he wants to ask her a question. Patient lies in bed*

**Patient:** I want to grab your face with my two hands, like this *(she does)* smell your body, your breath, I want to crush my eyelashes into yours, to take a walk in your eyebrows, hide in your nostrils, swim in your pupils, to nap between your lips, I want to hear you breathe from the inside of your body, and move inside you; with you. I want to lie on your arms, I want to scratch your legs, to stand on your feet, to swallow your big brown eyes when you look at me like that. I want to fold you like the paper ship you folded for me, and to lock you in my drawer, so you'll never sink again, I want to grab your face with

my two hands, like that, and cut you to pieces: a face piece, and an arms piece, legs pieces, feet pieces, eyes piece, and hands piece. I'll put your pieces on the shelves in my room, so every time I miss you, I have you around me.

**Ashraf:** Okay, Vivi.

*(The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

11.

*Patient sits on the bed.*

*She holds the knife in her hand.*

*Slowly she tears her hospital gown from the top down with her hands and knife.*

*Her naked body bursts out: white, round, secretive.*

*She throws the torn gown at Ashraf, who stands there.*

*Ashraf grabs Patient's torn gown from the floor, a piece in each hand.*

*Then he folds the pieces carefully and rests them back on the bed.*

*He leaves. The loud short buzzing sound is heard*

12.

*Ashraf and Patient are sitting on the bench*

**Ashraf:** Here, take my coat

**Patient:** I'm not cold

**Ashraf:** Are you sure?

**Patient:** Yes.

**Ashraf:** And she?

**Patient:** What

**Ashraf:** Dooba. Is she cold

**Patient:** No, she's not cold. Dooba is never cold. She's strong  
*(she looks at him)*

So where is your playground?

**Ashraf:** What

**Patient:** Where is your playground? Where do you play?

**Ashraf:** I play in the army. We play war.

**Patient:** Really?

**Ashraf:** Really. And you? Do you play here every day?

**Patient:** I play here with Dooba. Do you have a doll?

**Ashraf:** No.

**Patient:** No?

**Ashraf:** No.

**Patient:** Do you have like a boy-doll?

**Ashraf:** No.

**Patient:** No?

**Ashraf:** No.

**Patient:** So what do you play with at war?

**Ashraf:** Well, we play with bullets and guns. And we play Ambush games, it's like Hide and Seek. This is how we catch the bad guys and kill them, so I can protect you. Right?

**Patient:** Right!

**Ashraf:** And now I have you to play with!

**Patient:** Really?

**Ashraf:** Really what?

**Patient:** You really want to play with me?

**Ashraf:** Sure! Let's play a game

**Patient:** What

**Ashraf:** A game

**Patient:** A ambush game?

**Ashraf:** No, not an *ambush* game

**Patient:** (*disappointed*) Then what game

**Ashraf:** ...You tell me what your favorite color is

**Patient:** This is boring!

**Ashraf:** Okay. You tell me what your favorite thing to do is

**Patient:** I don't know...

**Ashraf:** I'll go first. I like to walk along the beach. I like to breathe the clear salty air, sit on the sand and think.

**Patient:** What do you think about?

**Ashraf:** I think about the war

**Patient:** What do you think about the war?

**Ashraf:** I think about the ambush games

**Patient:** Do you like to play ambush games?

**Ashraf:** I just think about what I want to do when I'll grow up, about-

**Patient:** But you are a soldier!

**Ashraf:** Right. I'm a soldier. A real one!

**Patient:** You are already a grown up

**Ashraf:** Actually, I'm not going to be a soldier forever, I'll be done with the service in couple of months and then I want to travel the world. *(pause)* I want to go away from here. I want a break.

**Patient:** Break? What break? Like a summer break?

**Ashraf:** Yes. A summer break. Now, your turn

**Patient:** I want to have a summer break too!

**Ashraf:** Okay.

**Patient:** I don't know

**Ashraf:** Yes you do

**Patient:** I like to play with Dooba. And I like to come here, in the afternoons, right after school, with Dooba. I come here and I forget about the bad things. I hide at the top of the tower inside the inner space, so no one can find me. This is a magical place! No one can find me here. Nobody.

**Ashraf:** I found you.

**Patient:** You're different.

*(a moment)*

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** Yes, Vivi.

**Patient:** Why do you want to go away from here?

**Ashraf:** Let's just be quiet now, okay?

**Patient:** Okay.

*(another)*

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** Yes, Vivi.

**Patient:** Do you really want to play with me?

**Ashraf:** Yes.

**Patient:** So, Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** What, Vivi?

**Patient:** So you should really stay.

**Ashraf:** Let's just be quiet now, okay?

**Patient:** Okay.

(and another)

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** Shhhhhh.

**Patient:** Okay.

*(They sit. The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

13.

*Patient is lying in the bed, Nurse sits beside her and looks at her, book in her hand*

**Nurse:** Oh, good morning. Welcome to hell!

**Patient:** Who are you?

**Nurse:** *(full laugh)* I'm your sweet angel! I am!

**Patient:** There are no angels in hell

**Nurse:** How do you know? Want to play a game?

**Patient:** What game??

**Nurse:** Let's play *hell!*

**Patient:** They drugged me, they drugged me

**Nurse:** You were uneasy

**Patient:** Uneasy?

**Nurse:** Uneasy. "If the patient looks disturbed or uneasy, you have to administer tranquilizers," That's what the manual says!

**Patient:** Manual?

**Nurse:** The manual. So what is your favorite thing to do?

**Patient:** You drugged me! Where am I?

**Nurse:** Welcome to hell! You were uneasy! That's what the manual says! I didn't try to kill myself! Welcome to hell! You were uneasy! That's what the manual says! I didn't try to kill myself...

**Patient:** I didn't try to kill myself!

**Nurse:** *(full of laughter)* I didn't try to kill myself! I didn't try to kill myself! I didn't try to kill myself!

**Patient:** *(together with Nurse) I didn't try to kill myself! I didn't try to kill myself! (Nurse keeps laughing. The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

14.

*Ashraf stands by Patient's bed.*

*He swallows pills from the magazine.*

*He looks at Patient, like he wants to ask something.*

*Patient lies on the bed, covered.*

**Patient:** Leave me alone, Ashraf

*(Ashraf doesn't move, he looks at Patient, his body erect)*

Go away, Ashraf. I'm tired now.

*(Ashraf doesn't move)*

Go away! I can't, Ashraf, I can't.

*(Ashraf doesn't move)*

I can't play now, Ashraf, again. I can't. Not now. Come back later.

*(Ashraf doesn't move. Patient looks back at him. Pause. She gets up from the bed. She stands in front of him. Ashraf doesn't move. She grabs his arm, leads it to her)*

I'm cold. Hug me. That's what you wanted, right? Right?

*(Ashraf doesn't move)*

Blood brothers, remember?

*(Ashraf doesn't move. Patient grabs his arm again)*

If you love someone why can't you just say it. You go to this war of yours when they call you but you don't come to me.

You don't come to me.

*(Ashraf doesn't move. The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

15.

*Bright stage.*

*Patient sits on the bed.*

*Nurse and a Doctor approach her.*

**Nurse:** How are you doing today, Miss Vivian?

**A Doctor:** *(writes something down)* Yes, how are you doing today Miss Vivian?

*(Patient doesn't respond)*

**Nurse:** Getting some light, ha?

**A Doctor:** *(writes down)* Light. Ha. Miss Vivian

*(Patient doesn't respond)*

**A Doctor:** *(writes down)* The patient does not respond. That's not bad.

**Nurse:** Should we move her to a different ward, Sir?

**A Doctor:** No, no. No moving. Just asking. Didn't we move her last month though?

**Nurse:** No. Sir.

**A Doctor:** I see.

**Nurse:** Yes Sir.

**A Doctor:** We haven't even talked about it?

**Nurse:** No.

**A Doctor:** I see. *(to Patient)* Miss Vivian? Miss Vivian? Do you hear me?

**Patient:** Wash wash...

**A Doctor:** Good. 'the patient washes'. *(to Nurse)* Did you wash?

**Nurse:** Excuse me, sir?

**A Doctor:** Did you wash your hands at the beginning of your shift? 'Always wash your hands or use the alcohol hand gel, on the wall by the entrances to the wards, when you start and you finish your shift'. Remember?

**Nurse:** Yes, Sir.

**Patient:** *(sings)* Wash wash wash wash ship ship wash wash the ship waves waves salty sea-

*(Nurse and the Doctor prepare a needle to inject into Patient's arm)*

**A Doctor:** *(writes down)* Oh dear. 'The patient is uneasy and expresses strong feelings such as frustration and anger. She expresses concern about washing ships. Tranquilizers were administered.' Good. Time for lunch now. *(to Nurse)* Don't forget to wash after Miss Vivian.

*(they leave. The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

16.

*Ashraf and Vivian sit together on the bed*

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** Yes, Vivi?

**Patient:** Where are your Imma and Abba?

**Ashraf:** They are very far away

**Patient:** Like on the top of a far away tower?

**Ashraf:** Yes, something like that

**Patient:** In a far away land?

**Ashraf:** Yes... I think so.

**Patient:** Wow.

**Ashraf:** Wow.

**Patient:** So where is this place? Can we go there? Let's go there.

**Ashraf:** No, we can't.

**Patient:** Why?

**Ashraf:** It's too far, it takes a long, long time.

**Patient:** Really?

**Ashraf:** Really.

**Patient:** Wow.

**Ashraf:** Wow.

**Patient:** Have you ever been there?

**Ashraf:** Where?

**Patient:** On this top of the tower in the far away land.

**Ashraf:** No

**Patient:** Never ever?

**Ashraf:** *(looks at her)* You have a lot of questions

**Patient:** I do!

**Ashraf:** Just drop it, please

**Patient:** *(confused)* Drop who?

**Ashraf:** Me! Me! Leave me alone. *(gets up. walks away)*

**Patient:** *(upset. walks back and climbs the tower)* I was here first! You are the one who came after and sat on my bench! That is my bench! This is my tower, this is my playground! Mine! Mine! Mine! Look. You made Dooba cry now.

*(Ashraf walks back towards her)*

**Ashraf:** I'm sorry, Vivi.

*(Patient doesn't respond)*

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make you feel bad. I really didn't. I'm just tired. You hear me, Vivi, tired of playing war games. I want to play with you now.

*(A moment)*

My Abba and Imma are gone, Vivi. Do you remember the bad guys I told you about? The enemy Vivi?

Vivi. I promise, I'll protect you. I promise. I'm sorry.

*(Another)*

Dooba, can you ask Vivi if we can sit together again? Please?

**Patient:** *(turns her back to Ashraf)* She says... I mean, I say... okay.

*(Ashraf sits down on the bench. Patient slowly climbs down the tower and sits on the bench. They don't move. The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

17.

*Patient is lying in bed, Nurse looks at her, a book in her hand*

**Patient:** Do you love me?

**Nurse:** What?

**Patient:** Do you love me?

**Nurse:** This is a funny question, you slept for almost a week-

**Patient:** Do you love me?

**Nurse:** Who are you talking to?

**Patient:** Do you love me? Tell me tell me tell me -

**Nurse:** *(Softly)* It's okay. There is nobody there It's me. Shhhh.  
There is nobody here but me.

**Patient:** - tell me do you love me me me tell me tell me please  
please tell me -

*(Nurse prepares the needle)*

**Nurse:** Shhh, it's okay. Why do you have to make it so difficult.

*(The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

18.

*Ashraf is alone on the bench.*

**Ashraf:** Are you ready- Vivi- are you ready- they died- so fast  
like that- have you ever killed somebody- I remember - there's  
blood everywhere- what is it- salty blood- I remember- do you

remember- now- yes- nails- bullets- screws- put it all in the heavy belt- close close- closer than a hug- Vivi- on a bench- bad guys Vivi- bad guys- enemy- I'll protect you, Vivi, I'll protect you- don't worry- Imma- do you love me- questions questions drop it- no- don't drop me- Vivi- BOOM- BOOM- BOOM-

*(The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

19.

*Bright stage. Patient is in bed. Nurse approaches her*

**Nurse:** How are you doing today, Miss Vivian?

**Patient:** I'll never get out of here, right?

**Nurse:** What do you mean?

**Patient:** You know what I mean

**Nurse:** I don't know.

**Patient:** It means no

**Nurse:** You can never know.

**Patient:** There is nothing wrong with me.

**Nurse:** Here, yes.

**Patient:** And outside?

**Nurse:** Outside where? Where the normal people live?

**Patient:** We are nuts, aren't we.

**Nurse:** You'll be fine, Vivian. You are a smart talented woman.

You'll be fine. I promise. You'll float.

**Patient:** Really?

**Nurse:** Really. Just never forget that you are a nut... and that there is nothing wrong with you.

**Patient:** Right.

**Nurse:** Right.

**Patient:** Promise?

**Nurse:** Promise. Cross my heart.

*(The loud short buzzing sound is heard)*

20.

*Ashraf and Patient on the bench*

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** What

**Patient:** Do you really know how to sail?

**Ashraf:** Oh, no!

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** What, Vivi

**Patient:** Can you make Dooba some soup? We're really hungry.

**Ashraf:** From a really big bowl?

**Patient:** Yes.

**Ashraf:** Like your Imma makes?

**Patient:** Yes!

**Ashraf:** I think I can do that.

**Patient:** Good. Because Dooba is really hungry now.

**Ashraf:** Okay.

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** What

**Patient:** You love Dooba, right?

**Ashraf:** Oh yes, Dooba is wonderful.

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** What

**Patient:** You're going to stay here with me, right?

**Ashraf:** What

**Patient:** To make soup, and protect us from the washing of the sea and all the other bad things and then we can play games

**Ashraf:** Yeah. And you'll protect me too, right?

**Patient:** Yes.

**Ashraf:** Promise?

**Patient:** Promise. Promise?

**Ashraf:** Promise.

**Patient:** Promise, promise?

**Ashraf:** Cross my heart (*rests his hand on his chest*)

**Patient:** Good.

**Ashraf:** Good.

(*Moment*)

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** What, Vivi

**Patient:** So now, we are like blood brothers, we are, right?

**Ashraf:** Yes. We are. We are Blood Brothers.

**Patient:** So we have to swear.

**Ashraf:** It can be painful, you know.

**Patient:** We are blood brothers now! We have to taste each other's blood

**Ashraf:** *(laughs)* Okay.

*(Gets out a box-cutter knife from his pack)*

Give me your hand.

*(she does)*

Are you sure?

**Patient:** Yes yes!

*(He cuts carefully. She watches him cutting)*

**Ashraf:** You are so brave!

**Patient:** Now you

*(Ashraf hands Patient the knife and his hand. Patient cuts. He shows pain. Patient watches him bleed)*

Wow!

*(They taste each other's' blood)*

**Patient and Ashraf:** Blood brothers blood brothers blood brothers

*(A moment of real happiness. Then life begins again)*

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** What, Vivi

**Patient:** Do you have other blood brothers or I'm your only one?

**Ashraf:** You are my special one.

**Patient:** Really?

**Ashraf:** Really.

*(They're quiet)*

**Patient:** But you have more

**Ashraf:** What

**Patient:** Blood brothers

**Ashraf:** Yes. I do. My war team players are... And all the bullets and guns are...

**Patient:** Did you taste their blood?

**Ashraf:** Yes. Many times.

**Patient:** Did it hurt?

*(Ashraf looks at Patient. He rests his arm on her shoulder. This is the first time they have any physical contact)*

**Ashraf:** Very much. I'm not brave like you.

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** Yes, Vivi.

**Patient:** Why does your blood taste so salty?

**Ashraf:** I heard once that people who don't cry a lot have really salty blood. I guess it's because of the salt in the tears that don't come out, it gets into the blood circulation or something. So it makes the blood really thick and salty. *(a moment)* And it makes the heart really strong and heavy.

**Patient:** Really?

**Ashraf:** Really.

**Patient:** Ashraf?

**Ashraf:** Yeah

**Patient:** It was real fun protecting you today.

**Ashraf:** Good. I had fun as well.

**Patient:** Ashraf

**Ashraf:** Yeah. Vivi.

**Patient:** Do you love me right it's right you love me right and Dooba too?

**Ashraf:** *(takes Dooba from her, and holds the doll in his arms. Then he holds Patient's cut hand with his cut hand. He looks at Patient)*

Yes, Vivi.

*Ashraf leaves. Almost no light. Vivian is alone on the bed. She straps herself down. Sounds of heavy breathing. The rain of pills starts again. The loud short buzzing sound is heard*

**Patient:** one hundred and thirty volts- *(the loud short buzzing sound is heard)*- one hundred and forty volts- how it feels- what- I here- want- make- home- little paper house- we can help you- okay- okay- okay- go to hell- make me a ship- I don't want to be left alone- you left me- alone- they called you- let's play a game- no- what game- wash wash pluck pluck- you promised- you look small- you look well- good- well- do you love me- slow down- pay attention- that's all -hell- hell- but not real- blood brothers- mine- really- wow- how it feels- what- I here- want- make- home- little paper home- we can help you- okay- okay- okay- go to hell- make me a ship- I don't want - alone- you left me- alone- they called you- let's play a game- no- what game- wash wash pluck pluck- you promised promise promise

*The loud short buzzing sound is heard. Five Doctors walk in again. A loud short buzzing sound is heard.*

**A Doctor:** how are you doing today, Miss Vivian?

*The loud short buzzing sound is heard, then immediately,  
blackout.*

***End of play***