

SCENE 1

A room filled with cigarettes and ashtrays. A shelf holds three large jars with ashes in them. They are labeled BABY JAMES 1, BABY JAMES 2, BABY JAMES 3. EMILIE sits in a pile of cigarette boxes. She cries softly.

BUGG enters.

BUGG

Honey, I'm home!

She picks up a handful of cigarette boxes.

BUGG

What's for dinner, babe?

She tosses the handful at him.

BUGG

You know you have to talk to me.

EMILIE

Says who?

BUGG

Who else are you gonna talk to?

EMILIE

...

BUGG

You can't talk to a cigarette.

EMILIE

Says who?

BUGG

Come on, babe.

EMILIE crawls out of her cigarette pile.

BUGG

How was work?

Silence.

EMILIE

You know I didn't go to work.

They chain smoke constantly throughout the entire scene.

BUGG

Without you the dancers are an uneven number. Cassandra doesn't have a partner. I bet she's really missing you.

EMILIE

She doesn't know the meaning of the word "missing."

BUGG

She just has to stand there with her arms up and no one to clasp hands with. Looking like a fool. Think about that. She has to do the partner moves all by herself.

EMILIE

She doesn't know the meaning of "all by herself."

BUGG

It'd be good for you.

EMILIE

It would be good for you, you mean.

BUGG

What's good for you is good for me. That's a partnership. That's a marriage.

EMILIE

I feel like I've eaten a cigarette. I feel like raw meat. I feel like a train wreck. How many days has it been now?

BUGG

One hundred. One hundred slow and smoky days.

EMILIE

Why do I always get pregnant on the fourth of July?

BUGG

Maybe it's the fireworks.

EMILIE

Why is the baby always an April Fools Day joke?

BUGG

It's a pretty dirty trick, ain't it?

EMILIE

I hate summer. I hate dinner. I hate mosquitos. I hate dishes. I hate backpacks and graveyards. I hate death hanging over me. Death hanging under me. Death in the windows and the doors. Death on the shelf. Death in our bodies.

BUGG

And the saddest word in the english language is...

EMILIE

Stillbirth.

BUGG

And the most common word in the english language is...

EMILIE

Buried.

BUGG

And the dumbest word in the english language is...

EMILIE

Dust buster.

BUGG

And the smallest word in the english language is...

EMILIE

Baby.

BUGG

And the hardest word to say in the english language is...

EMILIE

Stillbirth.

BUGG

Have you been at this all day?

EMILIE

How long?

BUGG

You know, twenty-four hours.

EMILIE

Yeah, I guess about that.

BUGG

You need to do something else. Take a walk. Go to the store. Breathe some air.

EMILIE

I need a little more time.

BUGG

Take a walk. Go to a movie. Kick a rock.

EMILIE

And the first one looked like you and I loved him.

And the second one looked like me and I hated him.

BUGG

It would do you good to breathe some air.

EMILIE

And the third one looked like you and I loved him the most.

BUGG

Enough. Light me up.

She lights his cigarette for him. They smoke.