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# Breaking the Waves

By Lars von Trier

His name is Jan.  
I do not know him.  
He's from the rig.  
You know we do not favor  
matrimony with outsiders.  
Can you even tell us  
what matrimony is?  
It's when two people  
are joined in God.  
Do you really believe  
you're capable  
of bearing the responsibility  
not only for your  
own marriage in God,  
but also another's?  
I know I am.  
Can you think of  
anything of real value  
that the outsiders have  
brought with them?  
Their music.  
Out you go, Bess McNeill,  
and be seated.  
Forgot my six- string razor,...  
...hit the sky  
Halfway to Memphis...  
...before I realized  
Well, I rang the information...  
...my ax was cold  
They said she rides  
a train to Oreoles  
Now it's  
a mighty long way...  
Bess.  
Bess, come on.  
Don't be silly.  
He's late.  
All right, but at least  
he's coming.  
Get this on, then.  
You're going to  
ruin your dress.  
He's late.  
You're being silly.

Come on.  
Come on.  
Bess, get your clothes on.  
Come on.  
Don't ruin it.  
It's a good day.  
Come on.  
Bess, you're not supposed to  
see him. You know that.  
You're going to ruin your...  
You're late!  
Hey!  
Break out the bottles!  
Come on.  
It's my wedding.  
Will you please,  
be upstanding for the bride?  
The Lord's my Shepherd,  
I'll not want;  
He makes me come to God...  
...in pastures green;  
He leadeth me...  
...as quiet waters lie  
As we stand in thy presence  
today, in thy house,  
We worship thee as the author  
of every good  
and perfect gift.  
Christ loved the church  
and gave himself for her.  
We should love Christ  
and give ourselves to him.  
If it is not too inappropriate...  
...may I say that you, Bess,...  
...have shown that love and that  
commitment in your own life.  
It is not once or twice  
that you have been  
in this building,  
giving your time  
and effort to cleaning it.  
I know that  
you have done that...  
...not so as to be

well-thought-of here on earth  
...but out of your love  
for God in heaven.  
Great sermon, father.  
Ring the bells, then.  
Our church has no bells.  
That's not too fun, is it?  
Whoo!  
Oh!  
Yay!  
Whoo-hoo!  
Ha ha!  
This is Dodo.  
Oh, the sister-in-law.  
We haven't really met, have we?  
No. Well, everything  
happened so quickly.  
What makes you say that?  
I just mean...  
Well, it did, didn't it?  
Are you not happy for me?  
Of course I am.  
Of course I am.  
Come on, Terry.  
Whoo! Whoo-hoo!  
Whoo-hoo-hoo!  
Yee-ha!  
Hey!  
Yee-ha!  
Get along, little dogies!  
Bess.  
"Dear Bess,  
"I've known you for 6 years,...  
...and I can definitely say...  
...you have the biggest heart...  
...of anyone I've ever met."  
"It wasn't easy for me here  
when I married Sam,...  
...but you welcomed me instantly,...  
...and I won't ever forget that."  
"Your generosity  
knows no bounds,...  
...like the time when you  
lent Jack a bike...

...because his was broken,  
only it was mine, ...  
...and I had to walk to work."  
"I was furious with you then, ...  
...but I regret that now, ...  
...because it's your spirit."  
"You'd give anything to anyone."  
"When Sam died, I lost  
a husband, and you a brother."  
"We saw each other through that  
and promised to  
look after one another."  
"You are the reason..." sorry.  
"I have stayed...  
...when I almost gave up  
in this cold place, ...  
...and now your warmth  
has embraced another outsider."  
"His name is Jan, ...  
...and I don't know  
much about him, ...  
...but I'll accept  
his right to be here...  
...because of you, Bess."  
"If he doesn't take care of you...  
...and give you  
everything you need, ...  
...I'll kill him."  
"Thank you for all  
you've given me, Bess.  
I love you very much."  
Have me now?  
Here?  
Maybe you wanted  
something more romantic.  
This is lovely.  
You sure?  
No. Have me.  
What do I do?  
Ok?  
You got blood on your dress.  
Shall I go down  
and wait for you?  
You ok?

Hi.  
Yee-hoo!  
Take care of yourself.  
Go get her now, Jan!  
Go get her, Jan!  
Every day I spend my time  
Drinking wine, feeling fine  
Waiting here to find the sign  
That I can understand  
yes, I am  
In the days between the hours  
Ivory towers,...  
...bloody flowers  
Push their heads into the air  
I don't care if I ever know  
there I go  
Don't push your love too far  
Can't get this fucker open.  
Shit.  
Da da da  
Da da da  
What's so funny?  
Da da da  
Hmm.  
How could you take it?  
How could you keep  
away from the boys?  
I waited for you.  
No. Don't laugh.  
Yeah.  
But you must  
have been lonely.  
Who did you talk to?  
I thank you for  
the greatest gift of all:  
the gift of love.  
I thank you for Jan.  
I'm so lucky to have been  
given these gifts.  
But remember to be  
a good girl, Bess,...  
...for you know I giveth  
and I taketh away.  
What? I didn't mean it

like that.  
Yes. I'll be good.  
I'll be really, really good.  
Thank you.  
What did you say?  
Thank you.  
Fly.  
Aaaaaway!  
Oh!  
Hello, Jan.  
Hello.  
Bess.  
Hello.  
Why don't you have  
any church bells?  
We do not need bells in  
our church to worship God.  
I like church bells.  
Let's put them back again.  
Have fun.  
But now, friends,...  
...things have become  
very different.  
It hurts me  
to have to say it,...  
...but there appears to be  
those in the church...  
...who are prepared to  
cling to the world...  
...instead of fleeing from it.  
But those to whom I refer...  
...will know what I  
am speaking about.  
It grieves my heart,...  
...and I know there are others...  
...who feel just the same.  
Amen.  
Mr. Donald John Beaton, will you  
rise and address the question?  
Thank you, Lord, for this day  
you have blessed us with.  
It's stupid that only men  
can talk in the service.  
Hold your tongue, woman.

Lassie! It's Lassie!  
It is Lassie, I know it!  
Lassie! Oh, Lassie!  
Lassie. Oh, Lassie.  
Oh, welcome home.  
They're burying anthony now.  
Go and listen to the minister.  
What?  
Yeah. You can do  
that if you want.  
Men are allowed at funerals.  
Go on.  
Anthony dod mantle,  
who has been one...  
Anthony dod mantle,  
you are a sinner...  
...and you deserve  
your place in hell.  
The minister said  
he would go to hell.  
Did he say that?  
Bloody cheerful.  
Will anthony go to hell.  
Everyone knows that.  
You do realize...  
...that I will have to go back  
soon, don't you?  
You knew it all the time.  
"Lord, we are unworthy of  
the least of all thy mercies.  
We thank thee for this food.  
Pardon our sins  
for Jesus' sake. Amen."  
Amen.  
When are you going back?  
Oh, didn't you know?  
Jan's going to stay  
at home with me...  
...quit the rig because  
we're so happy.  
Bess, come on.  
I wish I could.  
I will not have that kind of  
behavior in my house!



I'm sorry, mother.  
I'm sorry.  
If you cannot  
control your moods,...  
...It's the hospital again  
for you, my girl.  
I'm sorry. I'm sorry.  
I'm sorry.  
Why should you  
be any different?  
Every woman around here  
has to learn to be alone  
when their man's away  
at sea or on the oil rigs.  
Even you can learn  
how to endure.  
I don't even know  
who you are.  
I don't know  
anything about you,...  
...and quite frankly...  
I'm sorry.  
I'm sorry to say this,...  
...but I don't trust you.  
She's...  
She's very susceptible.  
And you could  
get her t...  
You could get her to do  
anything you wanted.  
No. I don't think so.  
How am I supposed to  
look out for her now?  
What do you want to do?  
Keep her here, locked up  
for the rest of her life?  
She hasn't got the strength.  
She's stronger than you and me.  
You don't understand, do you?  
She's not right in the head.  
Come on.  
She just wants it all.  
What's this?  
What?

What?  
What's that?  
What's that?  
It's a present.  
Can I open it?  
Yeah, sure. Open it.  
Nice colors, aren't they?  
Very cheerful.  
It's open.  
We've been  
waiting for you, bud.  
Hey.  
Yeah. That's fine.  
You want a little snort?  
Look at you.  
Ha ha ha!  
Bess!  
No!  
Aah!  
No!  
Come, come, come.  
All right?  
It's ok.  
It's ok.  
Whoo!  
Watch your head!  
Wum! Ha ha ha!  
Watch your head.  
Ok?  
It's just for a little.  
I'll call you.  
Jan!  
No!  
Bess!  
No!  
Bess!  
You're going  
to be all right, dear.  
Ok? You're ok.  
It's all right, darling.  
It's all right.  
It's all right.  
It's ok.  
It's all right, dear.

Let's give you one of these.  
One of these down you.  
Here we go.  
Take one of these.  
That's it.  
Pop it in your mouth.  
Swallow.  
Who would be a poor man,  
a beggar man, a thief?  
If he had a rich man  
in his hand?  
And who would steal the candy  
from a laughing baby's mouth?  
If he could take it  
from the money man?  
Cross eyed Mary  
a- goes jumping in again  
She signs no contract  
but she always  
plays the game  
She dines in Hampstead village...  
You are guilty of selfishness, Bess.  
You didn't even consider  
for one second  
how painful  
it must have been for him.  
You put your own feelings  
before everyone else's.  
I can't see that you love him  
when you behave like that.  
Now you must promise  
to be a good girl, Bess.  
I promise to be a good girl.  
I'm sorry for the way  
I behaved, mother.  
It's all right, Bessie.  
Mother, would it be ok...  
...if I came home for a bit  
while Jan's away?  
Of course it would, Bessie.  
Ok.  
You got it.  
A little bit of this shit.  
Mmm.

Oh, shit.  
Nice.  
Huh?  
You know, the waves are  
getting pretty heavy.  
JesusCchrist. What the  
fuck's wrong with you?  
Just pissed.  
Just give me one.  
Just wait.  
Now, but you know,  
there's some nice...  
Shit. Sorry, guys.  
Just throw  
the goddamn radio away.  
You can't get anything  
in here anyhow.  
You and your fucking radio.  
Oh, God! Fuck. Jeez!  
Come on. Dance! Dance!  
Yee-ha! Yee-ha!  
Yee-ha!  
Yee-ha!  
Fire! Fire!  
Wet towel!  
Just...shit!  
Whoo! Whoo!  
Whoo! Whoo! Whoo!  
Hey!  
Bueno! Bueno! Bueno!  
Didn't he say he'd call?  
Do you want me  
to wait with you?  
Yes, please.  
Where the fuck  
is the second shift?  
I got a phone call to make.  
I got to go  
to the hospital.  
Are you cold?  
No.  
No?  
You're all right?  
Don't wait too long, will you?

Oh, shit.  
Pim, got to make  
a phone call.  
Get out of here.  
Hello?  
Oh, is Bess there?  
One moment.  
Bess. Bess.  
Is that you, Bess?  
Hi.  
Oh, I'm sorry I couldn't  
get to the phone earlier.  
That's ok.  
Don't you love me anymore?  
Oh...  
Of course I do.  
Say so, then.  
I'd made up  
my mind not to.  
Everyone says that  
I love you too much  
and if you found out  
how much I loved you,...  
...you might get upset  
...because we're not  
together right now.  
Oh, Bess, never stop  
saying you love me.  
You hear?  
Yes.  
No matter what anybody says.  
Yes.  
Say it, then.  
I love you so much.  
I love you, too.  
I can hear you breathing.  
Can you hear me?  
What are you thinking?  
That you're here.  
And what are you doing?  
Um... I'm touching your arms  
and your chest  
and your tummy  
and...

...your prick.  
You're so huge.  
Ha ha ha!  
Jan will be home in  
ten days for a week.  
Pardon?  
Jan will be home in  
ten days for a week.  
Pits.  
Hi.  
What are you doing here?  
Where's Jan?  
I'm the only one back.  
Hurt my wrist.  
They sent me home.  
Oh.  
He sends his love.  
How long have  
you got off now?  
Only three days.  
Oh.  
Yeah. You know me.  
I'm back.  
Oh, sorry.  
How long  
has she been asleep?  
What's the matter with you?  
Cat got your tongue?  
Have you taken my calendar?  
Huh?  
Have you taken my calendar?  
No, I have not.  
What would I want  
with your calendar?  
Don't be ridiculous.  
You've taken it.  
I have not taken it.  
Yes, you have.  
I don't know what  
you're talking about.  
What calendar?  
Where is it?  
Bess, you've got to  
stop all this, you know.

You've got to go on living  
when he isn't here.  
I mean, he's not dead.  
You're not dead.  
You know what I mean?  
You've got to stop it.  
Shh. It's all right.  
It's nothing.  
What's going on?  
Go back to sleep.  
It's all right.  
Was that Bess?  
No. It's ok.  
It's all right.  
Bit of hysterics.  
No, no. It's all right.  
I'll sort it out.  
We're not to have this  
carry on in the house.  
I know. Just stay where you are.  
Go back to sleep.  
It's terrible.  
Bess McNeill, for many years,  
you've prayed for love.  
Shall I take it away  
from you again?  
Is that what you want?  
Oh, no.  
I'm still grateful for love.  
What do you want, then?  
I pray for Jan to come home.  
He will be coming  
home in ten days.  
You must learn to endure.  
You know that.  
Oh, I can't wait.  
This is unlike you, Bess.  
Out there, there are people  
who need Jan and his work.  
What about them?  
They don't matter.  
Nothing else matters.  
I just want Jan home again.  
I pray to you.

Oh, please,  
won't you send him home?  
Are you sure  
that's what you want?  
Yes.  
Ok. Get her up.  
Blow out!  
Get away!  
Blow out!  
Terry!  
Terry!  
Terry! Terry!  
Terry!  
Talk to me, will you?  
Watch out!  
Jan!  
Go get... get a medic!  
I don't know what kind of  
condition he's in.  
I think it's very serious, though.  
I don't quite know.  
It's Jan. There's been  
an accident on the rig.  
Jan, can you hear me?  
Oh.  
What are you doing?  
I'm holding your hand.  
Don't touch me.  
Don't touch me!  
Jan, relax.  
Just take...  
Sit down here.  
All right.  
All right.  
Shh. Deep breath.  
Hello.  
Talk to me, darling.  
Talk to me.  
Talk to me.  
Come on.  
It's all right.  
It's all right.  
It's going to be all right.  
Uh, they're going



to operate straightaway.  
It will be a few hours, ...  
...so I think we better wait...  
Bess.  
Bess, you can't go in there.  
It's not allowed.  
I want to be with him.  
I know you do.  
I know.  
But come on. Come with me.  
Come on.  
No. I want to see him  
all the time.  
Bess, it's not a good idea.  
Come on.  
Bess. Bess, please,  
you can't stay here.  
It's just not possible.  
Bess!  
Can I have  
a word with you?  
Stay there, all right?  
Don't move.  
I want you  
to pray with me.  
But...  
Please.  
Dear god,  
we pray that you  
will hold your hand  
over Jan  
and not let him die.  
Amen.  
Mrs. Nyman, will you please  
come with me?  
Will he live?  
We have stabilized your husband's  
condition for the time being.  
Will he live?  
Yes. Yes, Bess,  
He will live.  
Your husband suffered  
very serious injuries.  
Life shouldn't always

be preserved at any cost.  
What do you mean?  
Um, well, the doctor  
means, Bess...  
...that, um, sometimes...  
...in some cases when  
life isn't worth living,...  
...then it may  
be better to die.  
You don't know Jan, or you  
could not say such a thing.  
Your husband  
may never walk again.  
We think he'll be  
completely paralyzed.  
But he'll live?  
Yes. He will live,  
it seems.  
Father.  
Are you there?  
Are you still there?  
Of course I am, Bess.  
You know that.  
What's happening?  
You wanted Jan home.  
I've changed my mind.  
Why did I ask for that?  
Because you're...  
...a stupid little girl, Bess.  
I had to test you.  
Your love for Jan  
has been put to the test.  
Thank you  
for not letting him die.  
You're welcome, Bess.  
he said  
"there is no reason  
And the truth  
is plain to see"  
But I wandered  
through my playing cards  
And would not let her be  
One of 16 vestal virgins  
Who were leaving

for the coast  
And although  
my eyes were open  
They might just as well  
have been closed  
And so it was...  
I would say to you...  
...that if there is one of  
these commandments...  
...which you do not love  
and do not obey,...  
...you have no place  
at the Lord's table.  
When did you get back?  
I came back with Jan.  
Oh, it's good to see you.  
Oh, surf's up!  
Hi.  
Hi, guys.  
How you doing, buddy?  
Well, fine.  
How are you?  
Ok.  
Did you find anything?  
Gas.  
Nothing really.  
Ha ha!  
Guess what, now.  
We're heading up north.  
Well, north,  
that's good.  
That's where you  
always said the oil was.  
What are you doing here, anyway?  
We're meant to be  
out drilling.  
I just felt like  
Putting my feet up  
for a while.  
I didn't trust you  
two guys out there alone.  
Oh, my...  
My arms aren't ok, so...  
I'm not thirsty, anyway.

Bullshit!  
Hey, come on.  
Come on.  
Oh, man, sorry.  
Oh, man, sorry.  
Ok.  
Thank you.  
I'm not really supposed to  
have any visitors, so...  
We really don't have  
the time, either.  
Ha ha ha! Ok.  
You take care of yourself, huh?  
Take care.  
Get well soon.  
See you, guys.  
Will you do  
something for me?  
Yes.  
The next time you come,...  
...could you wear something more...  
More loose...  
So I, uh...  
So I won't have to see your body.  
Bess, you'll have to go now...  
...because Jan needs to rest.  
All right.  
You shouldn't get him  
too overemotional, you know.  
It's not good for him.  
I'm sorry.  
You got to cheer him up.  
Is he asleep now?  
Well, he should be...  
the amount I've given him.  
Would it be all right...  
...If I went and had  
a look at him?  
I love you, Jan.  
I love you, too, Bess.  
You are the love of my life.  
Bess.  
Where have you been?  
I've been to the church.

**What, at 2:**

I don't want you  
getting ill again...  
like you did  
when Sam died.  
I said I've been  
to the church.  
It has nothing to do  
with the church.  
Did you hear what I said?  
Did you?  
I don't want you  
to get ill again  
Like you did when Sam died.  
I've had a word with  
Dr. Richardson, all right?  
And he says  
he could see you tomorrow.  
Oh, can he?  
Bess, would you like  
to come in?  
Dodo said I had to come.  
She has this idea  
about me treating you.  
My predecessor admitted you  
a few years ago.  
Well, why did he do that?  
I don't know.  
No, nor do I.  
You were upset because  
your brother had died...  
...and now you're upset  
because your husband's ill.  
Nothing unusual about that.  
Am I not going to  
have some pills?  
I'm probably not like  
your old doctor.  
I don't think that people  
should be given pills...  
...just because they do  
what's only natural.  
Maybe showing what you feel

isn't the done thing...  
...from where you come from,...  
...but it's certainly no disease.  
What...happened on the rig...  
...was my fault.  
How come?  
I prayed to God  
to send him home.  
Well...  
Well...  
What powers you possess.  
Do you really...  
Do you really believe  
that you possess such powers?  
I know you people believe  
a lot about yourselves.  
Bess...  
Perhaps you should do  
a bit of grieving  
for yourself  
instead of him.  
I think you should  
come and see me...  
...now and again  
if you feel like it.  
I'm sorry.  
Oh. Ha ha!  
Come on.  
Well, things will pick up  
once he gets home again.  
Well, she's my woman of gold  
Yes, she's not very old,  
uh-huh, huh  
Well, she's my woman  
of gold  
Yes, she's not very old,  
uh-huh, huh  
I don't mean  
to be bold, uh  
But, uh, may I hold  
your hand?  
Well, she ain't  
no witch  
and I love the way she twitch

, uh-huh, huh  
Well, she ain't  
no witch  
and I love the way she twitch  
, uh-huh, huh...  
Happy birthday to you  
Squashed tomatoes  
and stew  
You look like a monkey  
and I thought it was you  
Look at that.  
Special.  
Shall I open your present?  
Yes.  
Your presents.  
Can you see all right?  
What is it?  
Wait and see.  
Ha ha ha!  
I don't believe it.  
Where did you get that?  
I got it in a shop.  
That is the stupidest thing  
I've ever seen.  
Oh, look, it's not  
doing anything now.  
Ahem. All right, go on. Well, go on.  
That is just terrible.  
That is daft, that is  
completely daft.  
Happy birthday, Jan.  
Thank you.  
I'll see you later.  
Do you like it?  
Oh, yes, it's...  
Ha ha!  
It's... it's nice.  
I'll give you your pill.  
Ok?  
Oh...  
One more drink.  
Ok?  
Yeah. Thank you.  
Happy birthday.

I'm finished, Bess.  
No.  
You could take a lover  
without anybody noticing...  
but you can't  
divorce me.  
They'd never let you.  
Bess.  
No. No.  
Is that what  
you think I want?  
You cripple!  
You must make up with him.  
A husband and wife  
have to be able  
to talk to each other.  
He's the one who is helpless,...  
...and you're the one...  
...who must show you're strong.  
Go to him and tell him...  
you are sorry  
you were angry.  
You have God.  
You have the strength...  
...your life in God  
has bestowed upon you,...  
...and that is a strength  
he does not possess.  
Oh, no.  
Come on.  
Come on.  
you're all right.  
Come on. That's it.  
That's it.  
It's all right.  
It's all right.  
All right, all right.  
What's she thinking of...  
Going off leaving you like this?  
You must admit that she was...  
She was happy  
when we got married.  
She blossomed...  
Didn't she?



I can't just lie here.  
I can't even  
make love to her.  
She's got to  
get out of here.  
She's got to get on with life.  
Help me set her free.  
She'd do anything for you, Jan.  
You know that.  
She don't care  
anything about herself...  
but she'd do  
anything for you...  
just to see a smile  
on your face.  
Do you understand me?  
Yeah.  
Right.  
Thanks for telling me.  
No trouble.  
Do you want me  
to read to you?  
Hmm?  
Are you all right?  
They took him back  
to the hospital.  
Bess.  
Bess, what is going on?  
He went unconscious.  
We had to bring him back here.  
At home anymore...  
Not if you're going to go running off...  
...and leaving him like that.  
I'm sorry.  
Well, it's just not  
good enough!  
I'm not... I'm not even allowed  
to kiss him anymore.  
Why don't you try listening to  
what he says, Bess?  
It's up to you.  
He ain't got anyone else.  
You could give him  
the will to live.

That's more than  
any doctor can do.  
Bess?  
I'm sorry.  
No, it was my fault.  
Come here.  
Hi.  
Hi.  
Love is a mighty power...  
Isn't it?  
If I die...  
It will be because love  
cannot keep me alive.  
But I can hardly remember...  
...what it's like to make love.  
And if I forget that...  
...then I'll die.  
Remember when I phoned  
you from the rig?  
We made love  
without being together.  
Do you want me to talk  
to you like that again?  
I'd love to.  
Bess.  
I want you to find  
a man to make love to...  
...and then come back here  
and tell me about it.  
It will feel like you and me  
being together again.  
Now, that...  
that will keep me alive.  
I...I can't.  
This morning when I...  
When I told you to get a lover,  
It wasn't for your sake.  
It was for my sake...  
...because I don't want to die.  
I'm afraid.  
Do you understand?  
Yes.  
It will be you and me, Bess.  
Do it for me.

I...  
I can't.  
Please.  
Bess?  
Are you all right?  
Sure?  
Here you go.  
Whoa-oh. Easy.  
Suzanne takes you down...  
...to her place near the river  
You can hear the boats go by,...  
...you can spend the night, beside her.  
And you know  
that she's half crazy,  
But that's why  
you want to be there  
and she feeds you  
tea and oranges...  
...that come all the way from China  
And just when you mean  
to tell her,...  
that you have no love  
to give her  
Then she gets you  
on her wavelength  
And she lets the river answer  
That you've always been her lover  
You certainly needed  
some shuteye.  
I put your rose  
in a vase.  
Perked up a bit.  
You should think of  
yourself a bit, too.  
Go out.  
Go dancing.  
I've seen you dance.  
You like to dance.  
Where's Jan?  
There's nothing  
you can do in here.  
Don't let him die.  
And why shouldn't  
I let him die?

I love him.  
So you keep saying,  
but I don't see it.  
There's nothing I can do.  
There's nothing at all.  
Prove to me that you love him...  
...and then I'll let him live.  
I've come to dance.  
It's great. you're great.  
great movement,  
But, um, maybe  
you could talk to me.  
And love  
lies bleeding in my hand  
Oh, it kills me to think  
of you with another man  
I was playing...  
Bess, stop dancing.  
talk to me.  
But my guitar  
couldn't hold you  
So I split the band  
Bess...  
Talk to me.  
Give me five minutes.  
You can touch me now.  
You can have me now.  
Bess, listen to me.  
We're not  
going to make love.  
Now put your clothes back on.  
Don't you want me?  
Don't you like me? You said  
that you liked me.  
Yes, Bess, I like you.  
Now put your clothes on.  
But you don't understand. I'll...  
I'll be good to you, and...  
I want us to make love.  
Listen. Um, Bess,  
If you want to talk to me...  
...we can meet at the hospital.  
Now just put your clothes on, Bess.  
No...

Please. I don't know  
what to do with you.  
All right, now just put  
your clothes on, Bess, ...  
...and go home.  
No.  
I'm lying on my back, all naked.  
And...  
...he comes in, and he sees me.  
And he kisses my breasts.  
Um...  
And he enters me...  
And...  
And he's making love to me...  
Gently...  
And...  
He's coming.  
It was Dr. Richardson.  
Hi.  
Hi, Bess.  
Where are you going, then?  
Jan, we're going to  
take you off the respirator...  
...for five minutes to exercise  
your lungs a little bit...  
...and see how you are, ...  
...so just relax  
and take it easy.  
Ok, start to breathe  
by yourself, now, Jan.  
Just take very deep breaths.  
Slowly.  
That's it.  
And again.  
Very good.  
Deep breaths.  
Now, that's it.  
Bess.  
Yes?  
What are you doing  
on this bus?  
Which bus, Jan?  
Come to me. Come.  
I'm here.

I'm here in the back.  
Yes.  
In the back of the bus.  
Yeah.  
Come.  
Dodo. Dodo.  
Jan.  
Go and get Dr. Richardson.  
I'm going to put you back  
on the respirator now, Jan.  
Jan, can you hear me?  
Are you awake?  
Talk to me.  
Hi, Bess.  
I'd like to have  
a chat with you.  
Bess.  
This is my bus... My bus.  
Forgive me, father.  
I have sinned.  
Mary Magdalene sinned,...  
...and she is among  
my dearly beloved.  
I go to the back  
of the bus...  
...and you're there.  
And you're so huge...  
...that you're almost  
bursting out of your pants.  
And I undo your fly...  
...and I touch you.  
I'm touching your prick.  
Have you been in to see Jan?  
How is he?  
Better.  
He's better?  
Just a bit.  
Hey, Bess, it looks like  
your prayers  
have been answered.  
We've been able to take  
him off the respirator.  
Good news, isn't it?  
Do you think...

...that we turn  
to different people  
...when we get close to the edge?  
And that we, um...  
...we turn bad when we're going to die?  
You're not going to die.  
I know you're not.  
I promise you.  
When are you  
gonna come down?  
When are you going to land?  
I should have stayed  
on the farm  
I should have listened  
to my old man?  
you know you can't hold me forever  
I didn't sign up with you  
I'm not a present  
for your friends to open  
This boy's too young to be singing...  
...the blues...  
Oh, look.  
Here you go.  
Hey, hey, girlies!  
We found some shroomies!  
Don't get your hopes  
up too high, will you?  
Dr. Richardson says that  
Jan could get worse again.  
I'm the one  
who saved his life.  
I can save it again.  
Bess, what are you  
talking about?  
I told Jan stories...  
Stories about love.  
That was almost like  
being together, him and me.  
You see, love can save Jan.  
He must not forget about love.  
He told me that.  
He tells me what to do.  
Bess, I'm glad that  
you listened to Jan,...

...but don't let him gain  
too much power over you.  
Sickness is a mighty power.  
I've saved Jan.  
Don't talk like that.  
It's stupid!  
You always said  
that I wasn't stupid.  
Well, you're stupid if you  
say things like that.  
Why are you saying  
I'm stupid now?  
Because I can see  
that you're disappearing...  
...into a world  
of make-believe,...  
...and it worries me.  
I used to go mad...  
...when people called you stupid,...  
But... you are stupid!  
We're going to put  
a drain in this afternoon.  
It'll be much easier  
to get through to him.  
Don't worry.  
It's a very minor operation.  
Are you trying to  
make me feel guilty?  
What makes you say that?  
I think she's trying  
to make me feel guilty.  
Come here.  
You look fucking awful.  
Why do you dress like that?  
You dress like a widow.  
I'm not even dead yet.  
Maybe you wish I was.  
No. No, no.  
You haven't done  
what I asked you to do.  
I have!  
I asked you to be with a man.  
I have done that.  
You call that



being with a man?  
I call it a joke.  
I love you. I don't love  
some other man.  
Prove it.  
Bess, what is going on?  
Are you sleeping with other men  
to feed his sick fantasies?  
He did get better.  
No, he did not  
get better!  
That's just the way  
it goes, Bess.  
Sometimes he's better;  
Sometimes he's worse.  
It has nothing to do with what you're  
doing. That's all in your mind.  
He is my husband, and god has  
said that I must honor him.  
Well, if that's what  
honoring is all about...  
...then I must have  
something wrong.  
Well, you don't come from  
around here, do you?  
No, and I'm glad I don't.  
With locals talking.  
It makes me sick.  
But you live here,  
and you go to the church.  
Yes, but it don't mean I don't  
look at things me own way.  
Why don't you move, then?  
Your husband's dead.  
You know very well  
why I don't move.  
I don't move  
because of you.  
A woman has to choose  
for herself, Bess.  
She has to have  
a mind of her own.  
Now, what you're doing is making  
things worse. it's nonsense.

His head's full of scars.  
He's up to his eyeballs in drugs.  
He doesn't know  
what he's saying.  
And he doesn't know.  
I'm sorry.  
I'm sorry.  
Am I going to go to hell?  
Whom do you want to save...  
yourself or Jan?  
Bess.  
It's been a long time...  
most unlike you.  
I must warn you that  
the Lord looks with anger...  
...upon those who fail him.  
You've got to lend me  
something to wear.  
A good shot.  
All right.  
All right.  
Hello.  
Good shot.  
How much, darling?  
1, 2, 3, up.  
Ok. Good.  
Thank you.  
I can't hear the blood pressure.  
The blood pressure.  
We have a fibrillation.  
Clear.  
Still no change.  
Ok. Clear.  
Clear again, please.  
Go on.  
Clear, please.  
Yes!  
Oh, yes!  
All right.  
Good work.  
Good work.  
It's ok?  
Hi, Bess.  
Bess...

Bess, I think it's time  
we had a little chat.  
I love you no matter  
what is in your head.  
So you didn't  
have to give Jan...  
...electric shock treatment  
when his heart stopped...  
...in the operation yesterday?  
No, we didn't.  
It was a perfectly  
simple operation.  
As you know. Well,  
I shouldn't have to say that.  
You know that very well.  
I want a word with  
Bess on her own.  
Thank you, Dorothy.  
I'm not going to ask you  
what you've been getting up to...  
...because I don't want  
to hear you lie to me,...  
...but as long as you are  
living under my roof,...  
...you are to behave  
like a decent human being.  
I have never lied to you.  
Do you understand me?  
Yes, mother.  
This is very painful for me.  
Your grandfather can no longer  
Hold his hand over you  
with the elders.  
I don't think you realize  
what that means.  
Have you any idea  
what it's like to be cast out?  
You will have nothing, Bess.  
I've known strong men and women...  
...wither away  
after being cast out.  
Now, you are not strong.  
You're a feeble girl.  
It would kill you, Bess.

I've said enough.  
Bess. Bess.  
Can you come down  
a minute, love?  
Dr. Richardson is here.  
Hi, Bess.  
Hello.  
How are you?  
Can we sit down?  
Uh-huh.  
Bess...  
I think...I think  
you've got yourself...  
...involved in something...  
...which is  
out of your control.  
Have I?  
Come on, Bess.  
You're not a kid anymore.  
Look, for Christ's sake,...  
...he's forcing you  
to get screwed...  
...by every Tom,  
Dick, and Harry.  
It's just not you.  
I don't make love with them.  
I make love with Jan...  
...and I save him  
from dying.  
Well, I'm sorry,  
but you know,  
To me, he seems more  
like a dirty old man...  
...who wants to play  
the peeping Tom.  
Sometimes...  
I don't even have  
to tell him about it.  
Jan and me...  
We have a spiritual contact.  
God gives everyone  
something to be good at.  
I've always been stupid...  
But I'm good at this.

God gives everyone a talent.  
And what's Jan's talent?  
He is...  
He's a great lover.  
Well, what's...  
what's mine, then?  
I don't know.  
Haven't you found it yet?  
I see.  
And what's your talent,  
then, Bess? Because, um...  
Oh, surely it can't  
be being screwed...  
...by men you've never seen before.  
I can believe.  
Are you angry now?  
Yes, I am!  
Yeah, yeah, yeah,  
yeah, I'm angry...  
...because you can't see that  
he's messing you about.  
He's the one who's sick.  
Look, what he's doing  
to you is sick,  
and it's getting  
sicker and sicker.  
He's becoming more  
and more of a danger to you  
the more the fluid  
rises in his...  
...listen to me,  
for god's sake!  
Do you always get so involved...  
...in your patients'  
problems, Dr. Richardson?  
Listen to me, Bess.  
I care for you.  
I love you, Bess.  
You're very special.  
Will you move  
your hands, please?  
Certainly.  
Dodo.  
Will you show

Dr. Richardson out, please?  
W...what's going to  
happen now, Bess?  
Um, has he told you any more...  
...of the thoughts he's had?  
Any more services  
for you to perform?  
Don't come here again.  
Oh, he has, has he? And what's  
it going to be this time?  
What are you going to give him  
to slobber over this time?  
Dear father, what's going on?  
Father, where are you?  
That boy scared me.  
Hello.  
Can you take me  
out to the ships?  
Can't take you out there.  
The other girls  
wouldn't like it.  
But they can't  
do all the ships.  
They don't have time.  
Maybe not.  
What about the big one?  
I don't go out  
to that one anymore.  
Girls won't go aboard.  
Well, then you can  
take me. No harm done.  
How are you feeling, Jan?  
Well, I've felt better.  
Yeah. Yeah.  
Unfortunately, the periods...  
...in which we can  
get through to you...  
...have lately  
become very rare.  
I'll have to send you  
back to Glasgow...  
...for a while, I'm afraid.  
I don't want any more...  
...operations.

Of course,  
it's entirely up to you,...  
...but...  
I have to say that your  
condition's unlikely to improve...  
...without surgery.  
Well, if you've made  
your mind up on that point,  
Um, maybe it's time  
to consider other matters.  
I mean, we should start thinking  
about other people than just you.  
Bess.  
I'm glad you understand  
what I'm driving at.  
Your...your condition's been-  
it's been very hard on her.  
And I can't judge why,  
but she's suffering...  
...from delusions  
regarding your condition.  
I have to be blunt.  
I don't think that  
seeing you is good for her.  
I guess not.  
I am convinced  
that the best thing  
...we can do for her right now...  
is to admit her again.  
Get her away?  
Yes.  
As far away as possible.  
Think that's necessary?  
Listen, if you  
don't want surgery,  
...the indications are that we  
will enter a prolonged period...  
...in which you will be more and  
more affected by your condition.  
The poorer you are, the more  
detrimental your influence on Bess.  
I've drawn up some papers giving  
me the authority to detain her...  
...under the provisions

of the mental health act.  
I'll need your consent.  
You're going to section Bess?  
It's the only way  
I can get her treated.  
Tell me, Dr. Richardson, does...  
...does this mean I will  
never see her again?  
To be realistic, yes.  
It's just there at the bottom.  
You said you wanted to help her.  
Come on, Jan.  
If you've been bad  
Lord, I bet you have  
And you've not been hit  
You've not been hit  
by flying lead  
You'd better  
close your eyes  
You'd better  
bow your head  
Wait for the ricochet  
Ooh ooh ooh  
Ooh ooh ooh  
Ooh ooh ooh ooh  
How do I get back?  
I'll keep an eye out for you.  
Hello.  
What do you want?  
I want that you do it  
with the sailor and I watch.  
Ok.  
It's all right.  
It's ok.  
All right.  
Come here, you.  
No!  
There we go, eh?  
Yeah. That's better.  
Come on down.  
Yeah.  
You like it like this, eh?  
Oh, please.  
can I go home now?



No. No. Can I  
go home now?  
Please, I don't want...  
Stay still.  
No. Please.  
No. No. Please.  
Please.  
Stay still, I said.  
Stay still, I said.  
Stay still, I said.  
No.  
Aah!  
Bitch!  
I'm going to shoot you.  
You will, huh?  
I'm going to shoot you.  
You think so?  
You don't even know  
how to use that thing.  
Nobody will believe a hooker!  
Because there is  
only one thing for us,...  
...sinners that we are,...  
...to achieve perfection  
in the eyes of God...  
...through unconditional love...  
...for the word that is written,...  
...through unconditional love  
for the law.  
I don't understand  
what you're saying.  
How can you love a word?  
Love words.  
You cannot be  
in love with a word.  
You can love  
another human being.  
That's perfection.  
No woman speaks here.  
Bess McNeill,  
the kirk session...  
...has decided this day  
that henceforth,...  
...you shall no longer

have access to this kirk.  
They who know you  
shall not know you.  
Please, let me stay!  
Please!  
Begone, Bess McNeill,  
from the house of God.  
Hello, Bess.  
You're...you're coming with us.  
We're going to Glasgow.  
Bess, they're  
going to take you...  
...back into hospital  
just for a little bit.  
It's for your own good.  
I want to see Jan.  
I want to see my husband.  
I know, but not now, Bess.  
It's for your own good, Bess.  
Mother can't have me admitted.  
Not now that I'm married.  
Bess, it wasn't mother  
that signed the paper.  
It was Jan.  
You liar!  
Come along, Bess.  
Jan!  
Jan!  
Dodo, how can you do this?  
You had a husband, too, once.  
Your love could have saved him,  
if only you'd tried!  
Jan!  
Jan!  
Ok, Bess. let's go.  
Oh, fuck!  
Ryan, she's not here!  
Hello.  
Who's a tart?  
What are you doing?  
Who's a tart?  
Who's a tart?  
Tart! Tart!  
I can't open the door.

Mother?

Please. Please, mother,  
open the door!

Please, open the door!

Mother!

I'll be good.

I'll be really, really good.

I'll be really good.

Oh, please, open.

Please go away.

Stop it! Go away.

You just go away  
and leave me!

Who's a tart?

Away with you.

Stop all this racket  
outside the house of God.

Come on! On you go.

What's happened?

Bess.

Bess!

Bess, are you all right, love?

Bess, it's Dodo.

Oh, Bessie.

Jan is dying.

I...I wasn't to tell you.

I wasn't to tell you.

No. It's good you told me.

I know you love me.

I have to go.

Is there anything

I can do for you?

Anything at all?

Yes.

I'd like you to go to Jan...

...to be curedr him

and to rise from his bed

and walk.

Will you take me

to the big ship?

Again?

Are you sure?

Father, why aren't

you with me?

I am with you, Bess.  
What do you want from me?  
Where were you?  
Oh, don't you think  
I have other people...  
...who want to talk to me?  
Well, of course.  
I hadn't thought of that.  
There's this silly  
little thing called Bess...  
...who keeps on wanting me  
to talk to her,...  
...so my work's been  
piling up a bit.  
But you're with me now?  
Of course I am, Bess.  
you know that.  
Thank you.  
Um, I'm sorry.  
Do you need me?  
No. That's all right.  
Stay there.  
Bess asked me to pray.  
For what?  
For Jan's life.  
For a miracle.  
Yeah. That would be a miracle.  
Dear God,  
I pray that Jan gets better,  
That he rises  
from his bed and walks.  
Sister McNeill here.  
We'll make you better.  
Where's Jan?  
I'd like to see him.  
No. Not now, love.  
You're going to have  
an operation now.  
I want to see him.  
Not now, love.  
You need an operation.  
No. I've got to see Jan.  
Please, Dodo.  
All right.

All right. Stop.  
She wants to see Jan.  
I'm going to take her to see Jan.  
Come on. Out of the way,  
for God's sake.  
Help me. Come on.  
Move, for Christ's sake!  
All right. All right.  
There you go.  
There you are.  
You can see him now,  
can't you?  
How is he...  
How's he doing?  
Is he not any better?  
No. No, he's not.  
Oh. I thought he  
might be better now.  
Hmm.  
Maybe I was wrong  
after all.  
Ok, let's get inside.  
Here. Take those.  
Tape.  
Ok, take care. Let's go.  
1, 2, 3.  
There we go.  
It's all right, love.  
Now, Bess,  
do you know me?  
Yeah.  
Pulse 90.  
What happened?  
Do you know?  
No.  
Pressure on 100.  
Get the blood pressure.  
It will be all right, love.  
It will be all right.  
Can I have a look at her back?  
There we go.  
Ok. Hand me the scissors.  
Yes.  
All right.

Mother.

Oh, mother.

Here she is.

Bessie.

Bess.

I'm sorry that I  
could not be good, mother.

That's all right, Bessie.

Your grandfather's  
sorry he couldn't come.

Will you tell him  
that I love him?

I am glad that you  
came, mother.

Blood pressure.

It will be all right.

It's going down.

2 units now.

2 units immediately.

2 units.

Ok, we're just going  
to lower you down  
a little bit now,  
all right, Bess?

There we go.

That was easy, wasn't it?

Going to be all right.

Oh. Oh.

Dodo, hold me.

Here I am. I'm holding.

It's all right, love.

I'm here. I'm here.

I'm afraid.

I know. I know.

Jan?

Jan!

Shh. Now, shh.

I'm frightened.

It's...

It's all wrong.

No pulse.

Bess?

Stand clear.

Stand clear!

Clear. Clear.  
What?  
It's going to be all right.  
That's a good girl.  
Come on.  
Ok. You can stop now.  
What? What?  
What do you mean?  
She's gone, Dodo.  
She's gone.  
No.  
She's gone.  
Bess. Bess.  
listen to me.  
I'm sorry.  
Oh, I'm sorry.  
Dodo.  
No!  
Come on, Dodo.  
let's go!  
Come on.  
I'm sorry!  
It's a little bit funny...  
...this feeling inside  
I'm not one of those who can...  
...easily hide  
Don't have much money...  
...but, boy, if I did  
I'd buy a big house where...  
...we both could live  
if I was a sculptor...  
...but then again no  
Or a man who makes potions in the...  
...traveling show  
I know it's not much...  
...but it's the best  
I can do  
My gift is my song, and...  
...this one's for you  
And you can tell everybody...  
...this is your song  
it may be quite simple, but...  
...now that it's done...  
You describe the deceased as

"an immature, unstable person,...  
...a person who, due to the  
trauma of her husband's illness,...  
...gave way  
in obsessive fashion...  
...to an exaggerated,  
perverse form of sexuality."

Would you like to clarify  
that to the inquiry?

That's what I wrote.

Yes. That's what it says.

Can I have a glass  
of water, please?

Get Dr. Richardson  
a glass of water.

Thank you.

Listen, man, you had  
the deceased in your care.

The court would like  
to hear the medical facts.

If...If you'd, um,  
if you were to ask me again...

...to write... um...

the conclusion, then...

...instead of writing

"neurotic"...

...or, um, "psychotic,"

then I might...

...just, um,

use a word like...

"Good."

Good?

Yes.

You wish the records of this court...

...to state that

in your medical opinion,...

...the deceased was suffering  
from being "good"?

Perhaps this was

the psychological defect...

...that led to her death.

Is that what we shall

write, Dr. Richardson?

No.



Of course not.  
Very well, then.  
Perhaps we should stick to your  
original statement then, doctor.  
Yes.  
I think that everything  
there is to say...  
...about Bess McNeill  
has been said already.  
We have agreed  
to sanction her burial,...  
...but there can be  
no funeral service.  
The fact that some of us  
knew the deceased girl well...  
...cannot be allowed to  
influence the form of her burial.  
Bess McNeill's funeral  
must be the same...  
...as anyone else of her kind.  
The body will be released by  
the authorities sometime this week.  
I've obtained permission from  
the elders to bury Bess...  
but...I cannot deviate from the principles  
that apply to funerals here.  
I must say about Bess  
what must be said.  
Ok. Come on.  
Where's Jan?  
has he gone down there yet?  
I don't know.  
Have you seen Jan?  
Bess McNeill, you are a sinner,...  
...and for your sins,  
you are consigned to hell.  
Not one of you has the right...  
...to consign Bess to hell.  
Terry, it's time.  
Let's do it.  
Get up, for Christ's sake.  
Come on, man.  
Come on.  
Take good care of her.

Come on, Jan.  
you got to let her go.  
Bess!  
Jan.  
Jan, hey.  
What?  
What's the matter?  
Come on.  
Come on.  
I want to show you something.  
You're not going to believe it.  
What?  
Come on.  
Please.  
Here. Let's go.  
Pim! Pim, come on!  
You're not going to believe it.  
Ha Ha Ha!  
Hey, Pim, Come on.  
Check this out.  
Check this thing out, man.  
You see anything?  
There's nothing out there.  
I've tried all  
the fucking ranges,...  
...and there's nothing there.  
I just wanted  
to be sure. Come on.