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VIVA VIAGRA
Ovidia Yu

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VIVA VIAGRA

Characters:

BERENICE

DAN HO

ELIZABETH (Berenice's mother)

KUN MENG

VIAGRA

MAN 1

MAN 2

Part 1

Scene: Television Studio

(Stage is dark)

MAN 1'S VOICE

Things weren't going well—my thing wasn't going at all—for some time. Then my doctor recommended Viagra. Now, no problem.

(Woman's giggle)

MAN 1

My wife and I are getting along much better now. Much better and much, much more often.

MAN 2'S VOICE

I don't know... I tried so many cures already... rhinoceros horn, buffalo penis, tiger bone wine, foot reflexology, aromatherapy, so far nothing works. But I don't know I dare to try Viagra or not. Sometimes you try these new things, not properly tested, next thing you know you are losing hair or growing breasts!

(Lights up to reveal MAN 1 and MAN 2 sitting,
holding black cards over their faces)

(DAN and BERENICE sit a little apart from them, in
talk show set up)

BERENICE

What would you say to that, Dr. Ho?

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DAN

Please, Berenice, since we're discussing such an intimate topic, I think you should call me Dan...

BERENICE

Dr. Ho, don't you agree that his fears are valid?
After all, Viagra is still largely untested and we have no way of knowing what long term side effects it may produce.

DAN

Well, pretty extensive tests have been done, and as long as it's taken under a doctor's supervision—

BERENICE

But wouldn't you agree that Viagra is basically a sex drug that causes heart attacks in its users?

DAN

Well, that's not quite how I would put it—

(Man 1 is anxious enough to lower his identity-
masking card. He clutches at his chest and slides
off his seat.)

MAN 1

What? It can give you heart attack ah! I think I can feel—here pain means heart attack, right? Oh no—Nora! Nora, you see what happen now all your fault! Why you non-stop come and cho-cho me!

(Dan goes to bend over Man 1)

DAN

Excuse me, I really don't think—

(Man 2 also drops his mask to bend over Man 1)

MAN 2

Aiyoh! Take Viagra can die ah? Eh, quick, tell me before you mati, worth it or not—quick, just say—worth it or not!

MAN 1

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It was... worth it...

BERENICE

Turn off the cameras! You're not still taping this!

DAN

You're all right. Just a bit of heartburn. And over-excitement.

BERENICE

What do you mean this is the best footage ever! What? All right! All right!

(composes herself with an effort. Puts on a bright
smile. Speaks rapidly.)

Well thank you for joining us. Tonight Viva Voice looked at Viagra... a small
blue pill that's been raising some hard questions.

DAN

You mean it was really that good with Viagra?

MAN 1

You got to know what it is like to cannot do before you know how good it feels
to can do again.

BERENICE

(through a fixed smile) Well, keep those letters and emails coming in! Good
night and have a great weekend!

MAN 1

And can do better than ever before!

BERENICE

What do you mean credits still rolling—roll them faster!

MAN 2

Maybe I want to try after all. Doctor, can you give me prescription or not?

DAN

Sorry, I can't do that without examining you,

MAN 2

Okay,

(Man 2 starts undoing his trousers)

DAN

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Hey—wait—

BERENICE

Why are you filming again? You! You keep your trousers on!

(‘On Air’ lights dim. Berenice starts unwinding
recording microphone etc.)

BERENICE

Are you mad? At first you don’t even want to show your face on TV, now
you’re trying to show everything! Just—just go away, all right!

(Her off air speaking voice is noticeably different
from her on air speaking voice.)

(Man 1 & Man 2 go off together in deep
discussion. We hear snatches of ‘I give you one
you try first’ ‘how much’ ‘You’re my friend I sell you
twenty dollars’ as they go off.)

DAN

Hey, calm down Berenice. Show’s over. See? It wasn’t so bad.

BERENICE

Viagra! Viva Voice doing a show on Viagra! (snorts)

When I took this job they told me they were looking for thoughtful, in-depth
journalism.

What do they give me for my first assignment? The super sex drug that gives
horny old men hard-ons and heart attacks!

DAN

There’s really a bit more to Viagra than that, you know...

BERENICE

And you weren’t much help! You were supposed to come on as a medical
expert, talking about Viagra’s hidden risks, exposing short term ill-effects,
long term ill-effects, constant side effects, how it makes horny old men sex-
crazy...

DAN

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Berenice, you asked me to come on your show to answer some questions
and I did!

BERENICE

You didn't answer them the way you were supposed to!

DAN

Ah. The fair, non-biased point of view.

BERENICE

Look, when a person gets too old for sex, isn't it time to stop?

DAN

But who's to say when you're too old?

(Lights up on ELIZABETH.)

ELIZABETH

Viagra? Sure, why not? Why should any woman object to her husband using
Viagra? As long as he uses it with her lah! (Laughs) If my husband was still
alive I wouldn't mind him trying it and telling you whether it works.

Or maybe I should be the one to tell you how well it works! (laughs loudly)

(Lights down on Elizabeth)

(Lights up on KUN MENG)

KUN MENG

Viagra? You mean that—that medicine for old men who can't—can't—you
know... you know...

Why are you asking me about Viagra! What makes you think that I need
Viagra! How dare you try to suggest I need it!

(Lights down on Kun Meng.)

(Lights up on Dan and Berenice)

DAN

I presented a medical view of Viagra like you asked me to. In a sense Viagra
Can be seen as a miracle cure. It's not just older men who suffer from erectile
dysfunction you know. Viagra is helping a lot of people, giving a new lease of
life to struggling marriages.

BERENICE

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Come on. A marriage that falls apart because of sex isn't worth saving.

DAN

(sotto voce) So That's why you're still single.

BERENICE

What's that?

DAN

Nothing. Come on, I'll give you a ride home if you have a coffee with me first.

BERENICE

Me? Coffee? With you?

DAN

Me Dan, You Berenice, We go hunt Coffee Bean.

BERENICE

Nah, it's late. I've got to be getting home.

DAN

Hey, I can give you a ride home even without the coffee stop!

BERENICE

Very funny. Anyway, thanks for helping out with my show. Good night.

(Berenice exits)

DAN

I wasn't being funny.

I could tell she was going to grow up beautiful.

VIAGRA V.O.

You can see she's beautiful, much as she tries to hide it?

(Dan looks round, not quite sure if he just heard something...)

Scene: Elizabeth's House

(Kun Meng is pacing up and down)

(Berenice enters)

BERENICE

Oh, hello Uncle Kun Meng. I thought you and Mum would have left by now.

KUN MENG

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I told your mother I would pick her up at seven. Seven sharp, I told her. At six-thirty I phoned her. I'm leaving now, I said. I rang the doorbell here at seven sharp. Was she ready? Do you think she was ready?

BERENICE

Can I get you a drink or something?

KUN MENG

Women. Never ready. I told her we have to leave at seven. I told her if we go late, very hard to get parking. Go and hurry your mother up. Tell her I'm going to start the car.

(Kun Meng exits, muttering.)

(Elizabeth enters, adjusting hair and earrings.)

ELIZABETH

Hello Darling. Kun Meng hasn't left without me, has he?

BERENICE

He's gone to wait in the car. He told me to tell you to hurry.

ELIZABETH

(Studying appearance in mirror) Things worth doing should never be done in a hurry. Yes, I think that will do.

I'm very late, aren't I... and it's impossible to get parking there if you're late.

Did your show go all right?

BERENICE

Mum, you should bring a jacket or something. What you're wearing doesn't cover very much.

ELIZABETH

I didn't shave my arms for nothing, Darling!

BERENICE

Mum!

(Car horn sounds)

ELIZABETH

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(Suddenly uncertain) I do look—all right, don't I?

BERENICE

You look beautiful, Mum.

ELIZABETH

Thank you.

You do like Kun Meng, don't you?

You know that in no way am I trying to replace your father...

BERENICE

Mum, I am very, very happy you've got a friend to keep you company and go to your concerts with. I really mean that.

(Elizabeth smiles at Berenice, turns back to mirror.)

ELIZABETH

(To herself) A friend and maybe just a little more...

(Car horn sounds)

KUN MENG V.O.

Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH

Coming! Bye Darling.

(Elizabeth exits after Kun Meng.)

BERENICE

Mum—be careful—don't rush in those shoes...

If only everybody could grow old as gracefully as my mother.

Nowadays everybody is going for face lifts, youth elixirs, lasers burning off their liver spots...

And now this bloody Viagra!

(VIAGRA enters)

VIAGRA

Yes, Sweetie?

BERENICE

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Who said that!

(Berenice looks around, spots Viagra)

BERENICE

Who are you! What are you doing in here!

VIAGRA

I heard my name mentioned. And I sensed an overwhelming need for my presence and influence. Are you a lonely soul? Unable to express your love or enjoy your lust? Let me help you unblock your channels of love!

BERENICE

What the hell are you talking about! Where did you come from!

VIAGRA

Pfizer.

BERENICE

What!

VIAGRA

The Pfizer researchers, actually. More than seven years ago. They were looking for an angina treatment, but they found me a much more 'uplifting' experience. I'm sure I can't say their time was wasted... commercially speaking, anyway.

But now I find it's not enough to help men rise to the occasion... there's only so much a man can do alone. I want to help women too...

BERENICE

What are you?

VIAGRA

I'm Viagra, Dear.

BERENICE

Viagra?

VIAGRA

Up till now strictly for men, but I'm trying to find a way to help women too.

Maybe you can help me. What do You think is slowing your social life and sex life down to a standstill?

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BERENICE

You're crazy!

VIAGRA

Of course, some women need help so much more than others!

BERENICE

I'm calling building security.

VIAGRA

Hey, if you talk about seeing me, I won't be the one they carry off in a straitjacket.

BERENICE

I'm imagining things. Hearing things.

VIAGRA

You know, if you would just bring your hair round a little you could actually be quite attractive. You don't have a bad figure at all. It just looks that way. Probably the way you dress, the way you stand... and that air of repressed hostility you throw around.

BERENICE

You can't possibly be Viagra.

VIAGRA

Oh no? You really should think about shaping those eyebrows. Little things like that affect men without their realising it.

BERENICE

And even if you are supposed to be Viagra, why do you look so old?

VIAGRA

Hey, looks can be deceiving. The older you get, the better you'll understand that.

(Catches glimpse of herself in mirror)

VIAGRA

Oh dear...

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Besides, how I look to you is entirely your fault. I am so many different things to so many different people. You just happen to see me as a blue siren imported from the West, luring over aged men into sex.

I promise you'll like me better once you get to know me better.

BERENICE

Thanks, but I don't want to get to know you better. I've already made up my mind about you and your kind and the less I have to do with you the better!

VIAGRA

Making up your mind alone is like reaching a climax alone. You run the whole show, but you miss out on so much!

BERENICE

I must be more tired than I thought. More upset. Take a deep breath, Bernie.

VIAGRA

Of course, getting a woman ready for sex isn't as easy as getting a man ready. With a man, all you have to do is make sure that his equipment is ready to stand up when he's ready to lie down—which for most men is most of the time. But it takes more than increased blood flow to the clitoris to arouse a woman.

BERENICE

You're disgusting!

(Viagra suddenly drops facetious manner)

VIAGRA

(Gently) My dear girl, there's nothing wrong with using the right term for the right organ. I'm only trying to get you ready for opportunity when opportunity knocks for you.

BERENICE

I don't expect opportunity to knock for me.

(Telephone rings.)

VIAGRA

My mistake. Opportunity rings, these days.

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(Telephone rings.)

VIAGRA

Aren't you going to get that?

(Berenice hesitates before answering the phone.)

(Dan appears, holding phone, on other side of the stage.)

DAN

(Phone) Berenice? It's me, Dan. I'm sorry if I said anything to upset you just now. I didn't mean to.

VIAGRA

Hmm... nice...

BERENICE

(Phone) What do you want?

VIAGRA

You're sounding a teensy bit hostile, girl.

DAN

(Phone) Well, it was so great seeing you again after all these years—I thought we might get together some time... talk over the old JC days?

BERENICE

(Phone) Look Dan, I appreciate you helping me out with the Viagra program and everything, but I'm really busy right now.

VIAGRA

Even if you don't want to grab the first available guy, you don't have to push him away quite so hard.

BERENICE

It's no use talking to me because I don't hear you.

DAN

(Phone) What's that?

BERENICE

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(Phone) Sorry, Dan. I'm busy.

(Berenice puts down phone.)

(Dan stands a moment longer with the receiver,
then exits.)

VIAGRA

What's wrong with you, Girl? What's hurting you?

BERENICE

Nothing. Nothing that isn't your fault!

(Exit Berenice.)

VIAGRA

Women. Definitely a tougher job than men.

(Enter MAN 1 and MAN 2)

MAN 1

Excuse me, Viagra? My friend wants to know can you help him.

MAN 2

I really, really need your help—anybody's help! The fact is, I'm desperate—

VIAGRA

No matter how desperate you are, a man can take a moment to say 'Hello' to
a lady.

MAN 2

I don't even know if I can still be called a real man!

VIAGRA

Oh dear, I think we have a serious problem,

MAN 1

Serious? What do you mean? Why can't you help him the same way that you
helped me!

MAN 2

Serious problem? I can't take it! I can't take any more! If you tell me I'm
turning into a woman I'm going to kill myself now!

VIAGRA

Relax. It's much harder to be a real woman than a real man.

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(Viagra links her arms through both men's and
starts to walk them off stage)

VIAGRA

But you really shouldn't accept word-of-mouth recommendations from your
friends. Have you consulted a doctor about your little problem?

MAN 1

(Bursting into tears) Exactly! That's the problem! It's always little!

(Exit Viagra, Man 1 & Man 2)

Scene: Kun Meng's car

(Kun Meng and Elizabeth side by side)

ELIZABETH

I don't think there's any point trying, Kun Meng. Look at the time.

KUN MENG

Are you sure about this? They won't give us a refund for the tickets, you
know. You would think that at the prices we pay they would ensure ample
parking for everyone. But do they? Huh!

ELIZABETH

Oh, just this once we'll call it a donation; a donation to the arts. It's such a
beautiful night, look at the stars!

KUN MENG

Look at the traffic!

If we don't go to the show then what are we supposed to do now? I was going
to take you out for supper after the concert, but it's too early to go now. I had
something to eat before leaving home. That crazy young doctor told me I
should 'eat less and eat more often'. How ridiculous is that, I ask you? Either
tell me to eat or don't eat. What 'eat less and eat more often'! Huh!

ELIZABETH

Dear Dan. He's so patient dealing with old folk like us. I'll tell you a secret: I'm
hoping he and Bernie will spend more time together, that's why I suggested

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that she call him for that show of hers. Since coming back to Singapore she's refused to get in touch with any of her old friends. Friends are So important, don't you agree? And... staying in Touch with friends...

(Elizabeth touches Kun Meng gently. Kun Meng swings away, dislodging her hand, without noticing it.)

KUN MENG

Unless—do you want to go somewhere to eat? If you want to go and get something to eat now, of course we can go and get something to eat.

ELIZABETH

I'm really not hungry, Kun Meng. Not for food, anyway.

KUN MENG

Then you mean you want me to bring you home now?

ELIZABETH

(Quickly) No-no-no.

(Composing herself) No. For one thing, Berenice is there. We're just getting used to living together again, I don't want to get in her way too much.

KUN MENG

Oh.

ELIZABETH

I thought we could just go for a short walk, have a relaxing drink, and then maybe you'll bring me back to your place and we'll just have a quiet evening and see what we feel like doing?

KUN MENG

I'm not sure I know what you mean—I mean, I'm not sure if you mean what I think you may be meaning—

ELIZABETH

Unless of course you'd rather not—

KUN MENG

Yes! I mean, I think what you just said sounds like a wonderful plan.

ELIZABETH

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Maybe you should let me make plans more often!

(Lights down on Kun Meng and Elizabeth.)

Scene: Man 1 and Man 2 standing, facing Viagra as in doctor's consultation.

(Sung to the tune of 'My Way')

MAN 1

And now, my turn has come, and so I face this dread inspection

And stand here to reveal I can't achieve a full erection

I live a life that's full

I have a wife, who's into foreplay

But now, that's all she gets, I've lost the hard way

MAN 2

These cures, I tried a few, I tried them all—but no solution

Took pills, exercised my will, got massaged, swallowed infusions

And then she filled my life, my lady blue, lit up my dark day

(Viagra appears & dances)

Hope, she raised my hopes, back up the high way

(Man 1 & Man 2)

You should have seen, my love's surprise

When my machine started to rise

And through it all, in spite of bills

(Viagra aside: Nobody calls me cheap)

Performed with strength endowed by pills

And through it all I stood tall

Stood proud the hard way

(Exit Man 1 & Man 2)

(Enter Berenice)

VIAGRA

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Still up and about, are you? Insomnia is often a sign there's something wrong with the system, you know.

BERENICE

It's just jet-lag. I'm going to get myself some camomile tea.

VIAGRA

A little tabby of Melatonin might do you more good. Your mother's probably got a bottle in her bathroom cabinet.

BERENICE

I don't believe in such things.

VIAGRA

In what things? Bathroom cabinets?

Melatonin's just something to help you sleep. No sugar, salt, artificial flavours or preservatives and no animal by-products. Probably much healthier than fast food and you look like you could do with the sleep!

One chap claims it gives him erotic dreams, lucky him.

BERENICE

I don't believe in using chemicals to interfere with nature, all right?

VIAGRA

Travelling by jet plane from New York to London to Singapore is definitely interfering with nature on a much larger scale. All I'm suggesting is putting in a little effort to shift things back.

BERENICE

Well, that was my last trip. I won't ever be flying to New York again.

(Exit Berenice)

VIAGRA

There are more barriers to love in the human mind and memory than in the human body.

Scene: Berenice's Bed on one side of the stage. Lights up on Dan's easy chair on the other.

(Berenice lies on her bed)

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(Lights up on Dan in his easy chair, reading. He doesn't address Viagra directly, but as though he is thinking out loud & she is voicing his counter-thoughts.)

VIAGRA

Of course, a man's physical problems are only one of many things that keep men and women apart.

(To Dan) You like that girl don't you? Why don't you let her know it?

DAN

What's the use. She doesn't like me.

VIAGRA

Come on. How can you say that? A Genetically sound, sperm producing young man like you? Go on. Ask her out.

DAN

I did. She said 'No'.

VIAGRA

Well, ask again! Maybe you caught her at a bad time. Maybe she had somebody there with her.

DAN

Why would she go out with me, anyway? She was the prettiest, most popular girl in our class. I was the class geek.

VIAGRA

So? Maybe she's changed. Maybe you have. Anyway, she did call you, didn't she?

DAN

She did call me.

VIAGRA

And after all you went and talked on her show... Hey, she owes you a favour now!

DAN

I couldn't take advantage—

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VIAGRA

And remember, Berenice has been away for a long time. She may be out of touch with people here, feeling lonely...

If you've already been turned down once and survived, how much worse can a second time be?

DAN

She does seem lonely.

She seems different, somehow. Almost as though she's built up walls around her because she's scared of something,

VIAGRA

The girl you fell in love with when you were both seventeen years old is still somewhere in there, Dan. Are you willing to try to find her?

(Dan looks thoughtful. Lights down on Dan.)

(Lights up on Berenice in bed, tossing and turning.)

(Man 1 and Man 2 appear.)

MAN 1

A bit early to be in bed, isn't it?

MAN 2

Not if you're in bed with someone.

(Man 1 and Man 2 look all around Berenice.)

MAN 1 & MAN 2

Nope!

BERENICE

I happen to be tired. That's why I'm in bed.

MAN 1

(Whispering) Not asleep, is she?

MAN 2

(Whispering) Wide awake and all alone!

MAN 1 & MAN 2

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(Sympathetic) Ohhh...

BERENICE

Go away!

MAN 1

It would be so nice if she had a nice man to cuddle up next to ...

MAN 2

Or a nice woman, even.

MAN 1

Hey, don't complicate matters! This is show about Viagra! Women don't use Viagra!

MAN 2

Well, right this minute researchers are working on Viagra for women—

BERENICE

I don't want to hear any more about Viagra! The bloody producers wanted me to do a show on Viagra, I did it, and the bloody show is over!

MAN 1

Sounds like there's a woman right here who could use a shot of Viagra...

BERENICE

One thousand sheep, two thousand sheep, three thousand sheep...

MAN 2

If only she had somebody in bed with her, not being able to sleep would be a bonus, not a problem.

BERENICE

Four million sheep, five million sheep...

MAN 1

What about that nice young doctor she had on her show today? Upwardly-mobile, university-educated Singapore women like marrying doctors.

BERENICE

I'm not looking to marry anybody! And even if I were, Dan's the last person I'd consider!

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(Phone rings)

MAN 2

That's probably Dan now—

BERENICE

(Phone)(Angrily) What do you want!

(Conciliatory) Oh, Mr Yun, sorry—I thought you were—no, no I wasn't busy...

What? Oh, I'm glad so many people liked the show. I've got a lot of ideas for future topics...

Fax and Email questions? But the Viagra show is finished. Over. How can I answer questions...

You want me to do a follow up programme...

You want me to get the same doctor back...

No-no-no, I'm not saying you should get another presenter! I'll do it. Of course I'll do the show. It's my job—it's still my job, right?

Yes. All right. Bye.

(Berenice puts down the phone, looking glum.)

And my boss is still a great manipulator

Great. A follow-up program on Viagra with the great Dr. Dan handling a question and answer session.

MAN 1

Once love comes into your life—

MAN 2

It's hard to tell how you ever lived without it!

(Berenice throws pillows at Man 1 & Man 2)

(Lights down on Berenice.)

Part II

(Berenice reading newspapers. Elizabeth enters)

ELIZABETH

Good morning, Bernie!

BERENICE

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Hi Ma.

ELIZABETH

Isn't it a beautiful morning? Sorry I was back so late last night. Did you sleep all right? Have you had breakfast?

I feel like cooking this morning. What do you think—scrambled eggs? French toast?

(Berenice shakes her head)

ELIZABETH

Your show went all right yesterday, didn't it?

(Berenice shrugs)

ELIZABETH

(Joking) If that's 'okay', I don't want to be around if it's ever bad!

I'll make you some toast okay?

BERENICE

No!

ELIZABETH

Bernie, what's wrong with you—

I'm worried about you, Sweetheart. You used to be so driven, so ambitious... and you used to have so much fun all the time—whether it was at work or with your friends...

You took better care of yourself, Darling...

BERENICE

Don't fuss. I'm fine.

ELIZABETH

Going to America—of course I worried. Any mother would have worried. But I was worried that you would come back with some ang mo husband. I didn't think you would come back like this...

Bernie Baby, did something happen while you were away? Did something happen to upset you?

Where are you going?

(Berenice exits)

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Supposed to be one of TCS top presenters. Supposed to be able to talk to anybody about anything. Cannot even answer her own mother.

(Dan & Viagra)

VIAGRA

Dan, why are you so afraid of calling Berenice? She's a nice girl.

DAN

I've been with nice girls before.

VIAGRA

And?

DAN

And nice girls don't seem to like me.

(Enter Man 1)

MAN 1

I am a nice girl. Twenty-six years old. Formerly from CHIJ. Now looking for a rich husband.

(Dan settles with Man 1 on sofa/bed.)

DAN

Oh, Lucy...

MAN 1

Oh, Dan...

DAN

(Romantic murmur) Lucy Darling, I love you.

MAN 1

I love you, Dan!

DAN

Can we try something new tonight?

MAN 1

Mmm-Hmm (giggle) What do you want to try?

(Dan whispers to Man 1)

MAN 1

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(Indignant shriek) You want me to put THAT in my Mouth?

DAN

Shh-shh-shh-Lucy, please...

MAN 1

I can't believe you would ask me to do such a thing!

DAN

Lucy—I was just kidding—just joking—

MAN 1

What do you think I am! You're mad! You're perverted! You're dirty!

(Man 1 bursts into tears. Dan tries to comfort.)

MAN 1

Don't touch me, you pervert!

DAN

And after that, I knew she was talking about me, because several of her friends stopped talking to me.

MAN 1

You know what that Dan Ho asked me to do? Yes! You mean your guy also ah? Don't know where they go and pick up things like that!

What? Taiwan or Thailand ah?

I jolly well let him know what I thought of him! And after that? No flowers, no apology, nothing. Of course I'm not seeing him any more!

VIAGRA

Not all girls are like that, Dan.

DAN

No. Just the 'nice' ones.

(Man 2 enters)

MAN 2

I am not a nice girl. I'm thirty-two years old and educated in the really sensitive arts.

(Dan turns to Man 2)

DAN

Hi there.

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MAN 2

Hello. What is your name?

DAN

My name? My name is Joe.

MAN 2

Joe, do you like me? I like you very much, Joe. You come with me and let me make you very happy?

DAN

Er—how much?

MAN 2

We don't talk about that now...

VIAGRA

And how much did she charge you?

DAN

Whatever it was, every cent was worth it.

VIAGRA

You can't blame a girl for having a limited worldview and not being very bright.

DAN

Hey, I liked her! I don't exactly see myself marrying her, but I wasn't blaming her.

VIAGRA

I was talking about the first girl. The 'nice' one. And not all nice girls are like her, Dan. When you meet the right one you'll realize that.

DAN

I think I've already met the right one. But what's the use? Now her Viagra show's over I don't think she'll ever talk to me again.

(Phone rings)

DAN

(Phone) Dr. Ho speaking.

Berenice! Of course I'm free!

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Another show? Sure! No problem! When?

(Lights down on Dan & Viagra)

(Enter Elizabeth in dressing gown. Lights are dark
over the rest of the stage.)

ELIZABETH

If only I had some way of knowing whether I'm doing the wrong thing—

No. I'm sure I'm doing the wrong thing. I want to do the wrong thing.

If only I had some way of forgetting—just for a while—that I know I'm doing
the wrong thing.

I've been good all my life. Growing up I was a good girl. Getting married I was
a good virgin. Growing old I was a good wife and mother. From my husband's
porno magazines I found out that I don't have the body of a sex goddess, and
from my daughter's Cosmopolitan (at that time banned in Singapore but
Berenice has always had initiative) I learned I wasn't the only forty, fifty or
sixty year old woman who had never had an orgasm, who didn't know what it
was.

(Aside) And if American women also don't know, Singapore women where got
hope, right?

But that was the path I had chosen, so I accepted it.

There should be a love menu somewhere, so that everybody can see what's
available before they choose how to live their love life. The way things are
done now, you don't know what you want until you see somebody else with it!

(Lights up on Love's Labours Lust Fast Food
Counter. Man 1 and Man 2 are behind the counter,
wearing caps with big red hearts on them.)
(Elizabeth approaches them, looking around in
wonder.)

MAN 1

Hello Ma'am. Some soothing, refreshing love potions for you for you today?

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MAN 2

Or try one of our hearty lust burgers—juicy, meaty experiences you can really get your teeth into.

ELIZABETH

Oh... I don't know... I think I better have a low-fat, lean cuisine budget meal...

MAN 1

But Ma'am, that's what you ordered the last time you were here!

MAN 2

Very few people get to place orders more than once a lifetime, you know! I'm a respectable middle-class woman with a grown up daughter. I think I should play it safe...

MAN 1

But look at our menu! With all we can offer you want to play it safe?

ELIZABETH

It's important to use a little wisdom when it comes to one's love habits you know. I must make a safe, sensible choice.

MAN 2

The safest choice isn't always the most sensible one. We have Love Burgers, Lust bangers, Ecstasy Shakes, Fantasy Frappes...

MAN 1

Romance Sizzlers, Passion Fries, Sensuality Sodas...

But if you really insist. Here. One low sensation, no colour added diet stick.

(Hands miserable offering to Elizabeth)

(Elizabeth looks at it then turns back.)

ELIZABETH

No. Wait.

MAN 2

Sorry, Mam. One order only. Move on, please. You've had your chance.

Other people are waiting.

ELIZABETH

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No, wait! I haven't ordered my—my dessert!

(Man 1 and Man 2 look at each other, shrug and nod.)

MAN 1

What would you like to have for dessert?

MAN 2

You can see here our special over-fifty dessert menu. Every item is special and a great offer.

ELIZABETH

I'll have a Fantasy Frappe, a Gorgeous Hunk of Dream Cream and A High Intensity Earthquake Special.

MAN 1

Good choice. One lady ordered that just a couple of months ago. She said it was fantastic.

MAN 2

Maybe you heard about it. All her neighbours on the East Coast felt the aftershock.

MAN 1

Thank you for your order. If you return to your bedroom, we will deliver your dessert to you as soon as it's ready.

ELIZABETH

After a lifetime of being good, I think I deserve a taste of dessert!

(Lights down on Fast Food Counter)
(Elizabeth moves over to bed on other side of stage. Muffled moans & sighs, but everything interesting is covered up.)

ELIZABETH V.O.

I don't know how I ever lived without it!

What's wrong?

KUN MENG V.O.

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Nothing. Nothing. Mustn't rush things, you know. Heh-heh.

ELIZABETH V.O.

How wonderful—a sensitive man!

It's all quite safe, you know—I'm way beyond reproductive risk, and I've been a good girl all my life, so everything is quite safe...

KUN MENG V.O.

Mustn't rush things. Mustn't be in too much of a hurry...

ELIZABETH V.O.

I was never like this before you know. It's this HRT that I've been taking. One thing I know for certain now is, if you wait for the right moment, the right moment may never arrive. You have to grab the moment and make it right. I like you, I really want to be with you. And we don't have much time left. Come here!

(Bed fades into darkness.)

(Berenice and Viagra)

VIAGRA

Why does your blood pressure rise every time someone smiles at you or you catch a man's eye? If it was passion I would understand, but I really don't think it is.

And why are you spending all your time alone? Even your mother's getting more action than you are!

BERENICE

Leave my Mum out of this.

VIAGRA

She gets along really well with her sweet gentleman friend, doesn't she?

BERENICE

Uncle Kun Meng's good company for my mother. I know I'm not. He always takes her out for supper after whatever they've gone to see. It's like they're pretending they're actually out on a date or something.

VIAGRA

Maybe they are out on a date, 'or something'.

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BERENICE

At their age? Don't be ridiculous!

(Bed appears in the background with muffled
shapes and muffled moaning.)

VIAGRA

Sex is only ridiculous to people who aren't getting any.

(Dan enters. Bed Fades.)

BERENICE

Well, I think the most ridiculous people are the ones who have sex on their
minds all the time!

DAN

I swear I have other things besides sex on my mind!

BERENICE

Oh! Dan!

DAN

Though of course when I see you it's hard to remember that!

BERENICE

Very funny.

VIAGRA

I like this guy's style!

BERENICE

Dan, thanks so much for coming. I thought that before the show you should
look at some of the questions that people have been sending in.

I really appreciate you agreeing to come and help out again.

DAN

Actually, I had a sort of deal in mind.

BERENICE

(Highly suspicious) A deal?

DAN

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The thing is, I've got a couple of tickets for some show at Waterloo Street tomorrow night. The guy I was supposed to go with is standing me up. Would you like to come with me?

BERENICE

Waterloo Street?

DAN

Some weird theatre group has set up shop there. They do strange things but they're supposed to be entertaining. How about it?

BERENICE

I don't know... I've got a lot of work...

VIAGRA

Bernie! After all the trouble he's gone through to make up a story like that, the least you can do is go out with him!

BERENICE

He didn't make up the story!

DAN

Sorry?

(Viagra looks pleased with herself.)

BERENICE

Nothing, nothing.

VIAGRA

He's a handsome looking chap, you know. Not many like him around. Nice hands too. Smooth but strong...

(Dan flicks his hands as though he feels Viagra touch him.)

BERENICE

You stop that!

DAN

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Bernie, are you all right?

BERENICE

Yes. Fine. I'm fine. I'm just—it's just some insect by your ear.

(Berenice swats at Viagra but misses.)

DAN

Bernie. You're not looking in very good shape... have you been sleeping all right?

VIAGRA

He's sharp too. Didn't I tell you you weren't looking so good?

BERENICE

Why does everybody keep bugging me about how I look!

DAN

Tell you what. Come to this show with me and I promise to do your show without saying a word to you about how you look. How about that? I don't want to waste a ticket that's all.

BERENICE

Can't you find somebody else to go with you?

DAN

But I want to go with you.

VIAGRA

I like this man's style.

BERENICE

Will you shut up!

DAN

Hey, don't bite my head off!

BERENICE

I wasn't talking to you!

DAN

All right, Bern. It's all right, Bernie. Calm down. Forget about the show. Look, sit down for a moment. Just calm down. Keep breathing. Slowly. You're not on any medication, are you? Legal or otherwise? I won't tell.

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VIAGRA

Be careful. Next thing you know, you'll find yourself locked up in a mental hospital.

BERENICE

Sorry, Dan. I'm just—I don't know what's wrong with me.

DAN

Nothing's wrong with you. I remember in JC you were good at everything. Council VP, basketball rep. While I was the geek.

BERENICE

And look how the tables have turned, right?

DAN

That's not what I meant at all!

BERENICE

Why do you keep going on about JC? We hardly knew each other in JC. I mean, I knew who you were, but I don't remember us ever talking.

DAN

I remember you. You were tanned, you were healthy, you were gorgeous! You always had so much energy and so many bright ideas!

BERENICE

All right, I do remember you. You always jumped in and contradicted what I said, I remember that—you were trying to make me look stupid, right?

DAN

I guess—I was just trying to get you to notice me.

(Lights down on Dan & Berenice)

(Lights up on Kun Meng and Elizabeth in bed together. Kun Meng sitting with his back to Elizabeth.)

KUN MENG

I'm sorry.

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ELIZABETH

It's all right.

KUN MENG

I'm really sorry.

ELIZABETH

I said it's all right.

KUN MENG

I'm really, really sorry.

ELIZABETH

Look, I'm running out of ways to say that it's all right, all right!

(Elizabeth gets out of bed)

ELIZABETH

I've got to be getting on home. My daughter will be wondering where I am.

(Exit Elizabeth.)

(Kun Meng is left alone on the bed.)

(Viagra comes to him, puts her arms over and
around him, without actually touching him.)

(Kun Meng does not give any sign he sees or
hears Viagra.)

KUN MENG

My life is over.

VIAGRA

No it's not.

KUN MENG

I can never see her again. She will despise me forever.

VIAGRA

No, she won't. Why should she?

KUN MENG

I am totally, completely and utterly humiliated. I should kill myself. Yes, that's
what I should do. I should kill myself... that's the least I can do for Elizabeth...

VIAGRA

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You say it's the least you can do for Elizabeth. Would Elizabeth even know you were doing it for her?

(Kun Meng stirs uneasily.)

KUN MENG

Before killing myself I will write her a letter telling her I did it to show her how sorry I am.

(Viagra's phone goes off.)

VIAGRA

(Phone) Not now. I'm on an emergency case here. What do you mean, at your age every case is an emergency! I'll get back to you!

(To Kun Meng) Haven't you already told her how sorry you are? Several times?

KUN MENG

When I am dead she will see that I mean it.

VIAGRA

Come on, old man. Isn't Elizabeth Ang more to you than somebody you can have sex with?

KUN MENG

Of course!

VIAGRA

Don't you think you mean more to her than somebody she can have sex with?

KUN MENG

I don't know.

VIAGRA

Come on. You should know Elizabeth better than that by now.

Sex would be nice, of course. But sex would be whipped cream on top of the relationship you two already have. Only even better—and done right, it uses up more calories than whipped cream adds.

KUN MENG

But what should I do now? Should I call Elizabeth? Can I ever talk to Elizabeth again?

I don't know what to say to her.

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VIAGRA

What about finding out what's really wrong with you first?

KUN MENG

Maybe I should find out what's really wrong with me first.

But how?

VIAGRA

You could go and see a doctor.

There's that nice young man who took care of your irritable bowels...

KUN MENG

I suppose I could talk to Dr Ho—

(Viagra nods, pleased)

KUN MENG

No! I cannot talk to Dr Ho about this! I cannot talk to anybody about something like this!

(Elizabeth appears on other side of stage. She and Kun Meng look towards each other but make no move.)

VIAGRA

You think you've finally figured things out, but the world around you has changed again. And even worse, you find you've changed too. This time it's your own body you no longer understand. Your own body that lets you down.

KUN MENG

Elizabeth—

VIAGRA

Dr Ho wouldn't say anything to anybody. Can't you swallow your pride and see him for Elizabeth's sake?

KUN MENG

Maybe... as long as Dr Ho promises not to say anything to anybody... no. I couldn't!

VIAGRA

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You know, if you don't do anything about it, you may lose her anyway.

(Elizabeth goes off.)

KUN MENG

Elizabeth?

(Lights down on Kun Meng & Viagra)

(Dim Lighting.)

(Berenice enters. Man 1 enters.)

MAN 1

Berenice?

BERENICE

No! Go away! Get away from me!

MAN 1

Berenice! Come here, my little China doll!

BERENICE

No! Leave me alone!

MAN 1

Everybody knows you want me to give it to you!

BERENICE

No—no—Please! No!

(Full lighting shows Berenice that she is alone,
breathing heavily.)

BERENICE

It's only a dream—it's just a nightmare.

(Elizabeth enters, grim faced, moving slowly)

BERENICE

Mum?

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(Elizabeth nods to Berenice but walks on without
stopping)

BERENICE

Mum, how was your 'date' tonight?

ELIZABETH

It wasn't a date...

BERENICE

Mum?

ELIZABETH

... just two old fools going out together.

BERENICE

Mum, why do you look so—

ELIZABETH

Bern, listen to me. You should do everything you can while you still can. Don't
wait.

BERENICE

Huh?

ELIZABETH

Go out more. Do more things. While you're still young. While the people
you're going out with are still young.

BERENICE

Mum?

(Exit Elizabeth)

VIAGRA

You should take your Mum's advice, Girl.

BERENICE

You again! How long are you going to keep hounding me!

VIAGRA

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I don't know that any more than you do, dear. What I do know is, if I keep appearing to you it's because you need me.

BERENICE

Me? Need you? Why would I need you!

VIAGRA

Hey, don't laugh. Erectile problems aren't the only things that block the channels of love.

I don't think there's anything wrong with you physically. It must be something in your brain—or just in your mind.

You should relax. Spend more time with Dan and let nature take its course.

BERENICE

Dan's just a friend. Nothing more.

(Exit Berenice)

VIAGRA

And I'm just a cold tablet.

(Enter Kun Meng)

KUN MENG

I was asked to face a charge—

(Enter Man 1 & Man 2)

MAN 1

All rise! Justice Dum

MAN 2

And Justice Dee presiding.

MAN 1

Your charge is one of Tampering With Nature!

KUN MENG

But I haven't done it yet! I don't even know how. I was only thinking about it.

MAN 2

Thinking about it is bad enough. Do you know that it is against Singapore law to engage in any forms of sex not designed by nature to lead to reproduction?

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MAN 1

For example sodomy or oral sex!

KUN MENG

No, no—I don't want to do any of those things. I only want to get an erection hard enough to have normal sex with my lady friend.

MAN 2

Is this girlfriend of yours beyond reproductive age?

KUN MENG

Er—yes, I think so...

MAN 1

And are you thinking of using unnatural means to sustain your required erection?

KUN MENG

Er—yes.

MAN 1

Then your sexual encounter is likely to be every bit as 'unnatural' as sodomy or oral sex!

MAN 2

Case not granted! Next!

KUN MENG

No—wait—you can't just decide like that... I'm still going to try to find out how...

(Fade out on Kun Meng)

(Dan on one side of stage)

DAN

(Reading newspaper) Hi, Bern. Hey, listen to this—'Eighty-four year old Millionaire on Viagra leaves thirty year old wife for teenager. "She couldn't keep up with me" he says, 'Isn't that something?

(Dan laughs, then his expression changes.)

(Lights out on Dan)

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(Berenice & Viagra)

BERENICE

I can't believe he thought I would find something like that funny!

VIAGRA

Holding grudges is most unladylike. And most unhealthy.

Your mother has more and more of my sympathy.

You could do worse than him—or worse than that, you could end up with no one at all. Like one fifth of your female workforce. Next thing you know, they'll be offering tax rebates for second and third wives...

...as long as they're Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents with University Degrees and not HIV positive.

BERENICE

That's typical of you, isn't it? Breaking up families!

VIAGRA

Hey, second and third wives are an old Asian tradition! And in the natural world too. Look at lions!

BERENICE

Look at hyenas! We're more civilised these days, thank you. And that's another thing I hold against you. The poor women whose husbands left them once they met you.

All those women thought they were going off into the sunset holding hands but once their husbands recovered their sexual abilities they ran off with younger women!

VIAGRA

That really has more to do with the men they were married to than with me.

BERENICE

But if not for you, those men might have stayed with their families.

VIAGRA

Do you really want to keep a man who stays only because he has no choice?

BERENICE

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I know I don't want a man who chooses to go off with someone else!

VIAGRA

What if he stays at home? What if he turns to Viagra just to keep the little woman happy?

(Enter Man 1 & Man 2)

MAN 1

You just swallow this Viagra, hard-on guaranteed!

MAN 2

Hey, wait. I never said I got problems in that department...

MAN 1

I never said you got problems. But face it, we're not eighteen anymore, okay? After I pop a Viagra pill, I can go on and on and on...

MAN 2

On and on, huh...

MAN 1

I feel like the Energizer Bunny.

MAN 2

How much did you say these pills are?

MAN 1

Depends where you get them from—I got these twenty-five bucks each. And don't just think of yourself. I mean, think about her. Don't you want to show her a good time?

MAN 2

How long does it—you know?

MAN 1

I've stayed hard for what—two hours? Didn't feel that way to me, but she told me it was two hours. And she told me every minute was filled up... you know what I mean? Her every minute was completely filled up...

MAN 2

Wow...

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MAN 1 & MAN 2

Half hour good, Two hours better!

Half hour good, Two hours better!

Half hour good, Two hours better!

Half hour good, Two hours better!

BERENICE

I hate you! Hate you! Hate you! Hate you!

DAN

Bern?

(Berenice looks round to see Man 1 and Man 2
gone & Dan present.)

BERENICE

Oh. Dan.

DAN

I'm sorry—are you all right? Should I leave?

BERENICE

No-no—please don't. It's not you.

DAN

You wanted to drill me on what I'm supposed to say on your next show?

BERENICE

I thought you might want to see some of the questions that have come in,
that's all. But if you don't, that's fine with me.

DAN

Hey, just kidding.

BERENICE

So do you want to see the questions or not?

DAN

Please.

(Dan holds his hand out for the questions.

Berenice hands them to him.)

DAN

So. Do you have time for a drink?

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BERENICE

I really have to get back to my work.

VIAGRA

Bernie! After all he's doing for you, you owe it to him to let him buy you a drink!

BERENICE

He didn't come all the way here to see me!

DAN

Sorry?

(Viagra looks pleased with herself.)

BERENICE

In the old days, people reaching a certain stage of life were happy to retire. They would sit around in a singlet and sarong all day, feed chickens and play with grandchildren. If you stopped being able to do it, you stopped doing it.

DAN

What?

BERENICE

Now there's this stupid Viagra. People go running to their doctors and swallowing pills that turn them into animals.

I don't understand what doctors are thinking.

DAN

It's not just older men who are affected by Erectile Dysfunction. If you ever had to consider getting a penile implant, or lived with injecting yourself in the groin every time you wanted to have sex, you might consider Viagra a miracle solution yourself.

VIAGRA

There. You see? Listen to your nice doctor.

BERENICE

Why do old men make such a big deal about sex? They risk heart attacks, catching strange diseases...

VIAGRA

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Such charm in the women of today.

DAN

Sex isn't all that dangerous, you know. It's probably the closest some people get to regular exercise.

(Berenice snorts)

DAN

You might try working out some time.

BERENICE

What!

DAN

You're very tense. It might help relax you.

BERENICE

You're so disgusting, Dan! A disgusting, two faced jerk!

(Berenice storms out.)

DAN

If only women got aroused as easily as they get upset.

What's wrong, Berenice? What's happened to you?

(Kun Meng and Elizabeth)

KUN MENG

Elizabeth, thank you for coming. I just wanted to say I've thought long and hard about it and—

ELIZABETH

No. I'm the one who should apologise. It was all entirely my fault.

Everything was fine as it was, really. Going out for dinner, going out for a show or a concert now and then—that should really be enough. More than enough for two old fogies like us. I hope you won't feel too uncomfortable, embarrassed or compromised to resume our old pattern of outings.

KUN MENG

No it isn't.

ELIZABETH

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What?

KUN MENG

It isn't enough for us. And we are not two old fogies. You may call me names if you want to, but I will not stand having you called an 'old fogie'! Not even by yourself!

ELIZABETH

Kun Meng? I'm not sure if I understand you correctly...

KUN MENG

Elizabeth, there are ways for a man and a woman to be close together that is like nothing else. Elizabeth, my dear Elizabeth, that is what I want for us. That is how close I want to be to you.

Of course, that is, if you still feel the same way?

ELIZABETH

You are very special to me, Kun Meng. But if you can't—I mean, what are you going to do about—you know.

KUN MENG

Leave that to me. I am in consultation with a—a specialist. As long as you don't give up on me...

ELIZABETH

I'm not the type of woman who gives up easily.

Oh, Kun Meng, I was so afraid you were going to be upset with yourself, with me, with us... I was so afraid that I had done something so stupid and ruined everything...

KUN MENG

If I let you do that, I would deserve to lose you!

ELIZABETH

Let me decide that, all right!

(Lights down as Elizabeth & Kun Meng hold hands.)

(Lights up on Dan & Kun Meng)

KUN MENG

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I would rather nobody else knows about this. My friend is a very sensitive man. That's why he doesn't dare to come and consult you himself.

DAN

But Mr Lee, there could a hundred and one reasons why your friend couldn't sustain an erection—

KUN MENG

Shhh! Not so loud!

DAN

Nobody can hear us in here, Mr Lee. You really should get your friend to come and see me. It's in his best interests.

KUN MENG

The main problem is he doesn't want to upset his wife. He doesn't want her to think that—you know.

DAN

Look, I'm sure his wife of all people has noticed by now that something's not happening!

KUN MENG

Men of my generation... we don't find it so easy to talk about some things.

(Kun Meng looks at Dan for a long moment.)

KUN MENG

One day when you reach my age you will understand.

DAN

There are some tests that I will have to do—

KUN MENG

Wait, wait, wait. What tests! What are you going to test!

DAN

—if your friend's not going to come in to see me, you'll have to collect the samples and bring them to me.

This could get me into serious trouble, you know. I hope you appreciate that.

KUN MENG

Whatever it costs he's willing to pay.

DAN

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It's not a matter of payment. Look, there may not be anything wrong with your friend.

KUN MENG

If there's nothing wrong—why isn't his equipment... functioning?

DAN

Let me just get some things clear. Your friend can still get erections, am I correct? He can still get erections, he can still reach orgasm, he just—on one occasion—had difficulty achieving penetration. Am I right so far?

(Kun Meng grunts an affirmative.)

DAN

That's what I mean—given these facts it doesn't sound like there's anything seriously wrong with his equipment.

KUN MENG

Then what—Look, I'm not going to let you say there's something wrong with the lady in question! Let me tell you once and for all! Leave the lady in question out of this!

DAN

Mr Lee, please calm down! It probably doesn't have anything to do with who he was with. Most men experience problems of this sort some time in their lives. Your friend had trouble staying hard—hard enough to penetrate—once. That's all. Maybe he was tired. Maybe he wasn't feeling well. Or maybe he was feeling under pressure that night. It really is nothing to worry about.

KUN MENG

You mean this could be—temporary?

DAN

Oh definitely. Quite likely, in fact. If it lasts then we'll see what we can do about it.

Look, are you sure you can't get your friend to come and see me? That would really be the best course of action.

KUN MENG

Some men... (shakes his head in apparent exasperation) Get older, get more stubborn.

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DAN

Yeah. I know what they can be like.

But try and talk him into it, okay? Tell him I'm not going to judge him, I won't say anything to embarrass him.

(Kun Meng nods, looking hugely embarrassed.)

DAN

And there just may be something that can help...

KUN MENG

You mean that magic pill ah?

DAN

Viagra? Well, yes.

KUN MENG

I heard people talking about it...

(Lights down on Kun Meng and Dan)

(Man 1 & Man 2 enter)

MAN 1

You want to be Superman, take two!

MAN 2

Fifteen dollar to fifty dollar a pill, depending on how strong, how long you want it.

MAN 1

There's nothing wrong with me. But if this can make sex more exciting—why not?

MAN 2

At my age if I go to the doctor to buy, people sure to laugh at me. 'You so old still want to have sex!' Here nobody asks any questions. As long as I can pay, I can play!

(Lights up, showing Berenice watching them.)

(Viagra enters.)

MAN 1

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This pill will enhance your sex drive. Erection guaranteed!

MAN 2

You don't know how good it can feel until you've tried it!

MAN 1

Not only guaranteed erection, guaranteed bigger erection!

MAN 2

And erection that lasts longer!

MAN 1

And longer is definitely better...

MALE VOICES

Half hour good, Two hours better!

Half hour good, Two hours better!

Half hour good, Two hours better!

Half hour good, Two hours better!

Half hour good, Two hours better!

(Berenice enters, watches them in horror)

(Man 1 approaches Berenice)

MAN 1

Hello Little China Doll. I knew you would be back for more... can't resist me, can you?

BERENICE

No! No! Stop it! Go away!

(Lights on. Man 1 and Man 2 exit.)

(Viagra enters)

BERENICE

You see what monsters you turn men into!

VIAGRA

Just because one man hurt you doesn't mean all men are monsters.

BERENICE

Deep down, at some level, all men want the same thing. Even men you think you know.

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VIAGRA

Even Dan?

(Berenice does not answer.)

(Lights down. Shadow of Man 1 looking menacing)

Part III

Scene: Dan's Office

(Kun Meng enters & approaches Dan.)

KUN MENG

So have you tested the sample?

DAN

I'm really not comfortable with this, you know. Unless your friend is willing to come in and see me himself, I don't know that I should...

KUN MENG

Have you tested the sample or not!

DAN

Mr Lee!

KUN MENG

My friend Choy has already answered all the questions on your questionnaire. He has given you those—those samples that you asked for. I don't know what else you want from him. Things like that are not easy for a man his age, you know!

DAN

These things are not easy for a man of any age.

I thought you said your friend was a 'Mr. Quek'?

KUN MENG

Same thing. You tell me what other things you want to know, I go and ask him.

DAN

Right now, it looks pretty good. According to the results you've given me, he has no history of heart disease or low blood pressure and he seems in excellent health for a man his age.

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KUN MENG

So you can do something to help him?

DAN

There are still some procedures—

KUN MENG

I tell you, if you won't help him somebody else will!

(Viagra appears for a moment on other part of
stage)

VIAGRA

In the old days, when men arrived at this stage of desperation, it would be
time for them to turn to delicacies like tiger's penis and rhinoceros horn.

(Scene: Love Solutions Counter appears. Man 1 and Man 2
behind it.)

MAN 1

Hey, friend! You need some help or not? You know what I mean lah. Try
this—rhinoceros horn! The best, I guarantee you! You ever see got
rhinoceros horn soft one?

I tell you, this will give you top power!

This kind of thing is serious! If you want to be a real man, cannot play the fool.

MAN 2

You know what this is?

Part of a tiger.

You know which part of the tiger this is?

The most important part.

No lah! Not the tiger's brain! You so stupid—you think like a woman!

If you want to be a real man, this is something you cannot afford to miss!

MAN 1

Rhinoceros horn!

MAN 2

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Tiger's penis!

MAN 1

Rhinoceros horn!

MAN 2

Tiger's penis!

MAN 1 & MAN 2

Why? Because you're worth it!

(Exit Man 1 & Man 2)

VIAGRA

I come from a long line of penile stimulants and other aphrodisiacs. Viagra is only my present incarnation. Since the beginning of time, men have been making big issues of limp tissues. And the rest of the animal world has been suffering on account of it.

At least I'm on good terms with the World Wildlife Fund!

DAN

Please be reasonable.

KUN MENG

You are the one who is being unreasonable!

(Kun Meng turns back on Dan from here on)

DAN

Your friend may think there are alternatives out there. Some of them may even work. But are they safe?

KUN MENG

If you won't give him what he wants, he will get it from somewhere else!

(Enter Man 1 and Man 2)

DAN

There are worse things than not being able to sustain an erection...

MAN 1

Aiyoh! My friends all told me they tried it, how bad can it be, right? So I also went and got some to try loh!

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MAN 2

You mean they didn't work for you? You didn't get an erection ah?

MAN 1

I did! My erection lasted six hours! Aiyoh! You don't know how painful!

MAN 2

Doctors had to stick hollow needles into his penis to drain the blood out of it.

MAN 1

Aiyoh! Aiyoh! Aiyoh!

For one month after that, every time I want to pee also pain! As for sex, forget it!

VIAGRA

That wasn't me. That was some cheap imitation. I'll give you an average of two hours high time, max.

DAN

When you buy drugs off the street you have no way of telling what's authentic and what's not.

KUN MENG

What to do? When all the so-called doctors refuse to help?

MAN 1

I just wanted to try! It was my first time! The pill looked so real. Diamond shaped, blue colour... the dealer even gave me a guarantee. And it cost me fifty dollars. I thought, something that costs so much must be real, right?

MAN 2

What happened? Did it work?

MAN 1

My erection lasted three days. It was agony. I thought I was going to burst. Every move I made was agony. Now I'm only thirty years old, but I'm permanently impotent.

(Viagra appears for another moment)

VIAGRA

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What can I say? Another impostor. These street pills are nothing to do with me.

KUN MENG

Dr Ho, please—

(Pause. Dan looks at Kun Meng then seems to understand and relent.)

DAN

One warning, though. If he's not planning to have children, he better stock up on condoms!

KUN MENG

Oh—you mean he—he can still—

(Both men laugh)

DAN

This is Viagra. I'm going to start him off on a 25mg dose. Tell him to take a pill half an hour to an hour before any activity...

KUN MENG

How will he know when it's working? And what if it starts too soon? Like before we—I mean—'they' have finished dinner?

DAN

Don't worry. Nothing will happen until he's ready. But this is important: I want you to make him promise to tell you about any and all side effects he may experience... anything like headaches, heart burn, any discomfort anywhere, any visual blurring and get back to me, all right? I'm holding you personally responsible,

KUN MENG

Thank you, Dr Ho. I owe you. I owe you big time.

DAN

And make it clear to him that this is the one and only time.

(Man 1 and Man 2 enter and sing. To the tune of
"Making All Our Dreams Come True" (theme from
Mary Tyler Moore Show))

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MAN 1 & MAN 2

Viagra, Viagra

Make all my dreams come true, you do

Viagra, Viagra

Make all my dreams come true, for me and you.

(Exit Man 1 and Man 2)

KUN MENG

Thank you, Dr. Ho.

(Lights out on all except...)

(Kun Meng and Elizabeth in bed together after successful sex. Hint of background music, 'Climb Every Mountain' Viagra conducting, occasionally dabbing sweat from the heated lovers.)

ELIZABETH

If I died right now I would die happy.

KUN MENG

I think I died already and this is heaven.

ELIZABETH

But you know—I'm almost glad it didn't work out the first time?

KUN MENG

What? Why?

ELIZABETH

Because knowing it's something we both wanted makes it so much more special.

KUN MENG

Should I take another pill?

ELIZABETH

It's all very well to jump into bed when you are some young teenager. Even the half hour of anticipation was special in its way, you know what I mean?

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Wondering if it was going to work... hoping it would... wondering whether it would be hard -- I mean difficult.

KUN MENG

Remind me to take my pill after dinner every night!

(Berenice enters.)

BERENICE

Mum, sorry to disturb you—I've got such a headache, do you have any more paracetamol?

ELIZABETH

Berenice!

VIAGRA

I'm gone!

BERENICE

Uncle Kun Meng! What are you—

KUN MENG

Berenice?

(Kun Meng starts to get out of bed then realises it might be safer to stay in.)

BERENICE

Mum?

ELIZABETH

Berenice, how dare you come bursting into my room like this!

BERENICE

Mum—what are you doing! What's he doing here! In your bed!

Mum, are you crazy! How could you! How dare you!

(Elizabeth gets out of bed, pulling a housecoat over her.)

ELIZABETH

Bernie, I didn't know you were home—

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BERENICE

(Noticing something) And what's that! He's taking Viagra? Oh, god! Not again!

KUN MENG

What do you mean 'not again'? This is my first time!

Will you get your daughter out of here!

And pass me my clothes.

(Elizabeth pulls Berenice aside.)

ELIZABETH

Bernie, why are you so upset?

(Kun Meng dresses himself under the bedclothes)

BERENICE

Why am I upset? Why not? Why shouldn't I be upset? Didn't I just find my mother in bed with a total stranger? I mean, Dad hasn't been dead two years yet! How can you just forget him like this!

ELIZABETH

I haven't forgotten your father.

What do you want me to do, burn myself alive on a funeral pyre?

KUN MENG

I can't find my—

ELIZABETH

Here—you're sitting on it! You men are all the same once you get in bed!

No, no, Miss. You don't turn away from me like that. You started this, you're going to listen to what I have to say. I loved your father. I stayed married to him for nearly forty years during which time I looked after him, I looked after you—as long as he was around I was a good wife.

What more do you expect from me! What more do you want me to do now!

Your father is dead. Hey, I'm sorry about that too. But your mother here is still alive. You don't want to bury me as well, do you? Look, I'm still alive.

(Kun Meng climbs out of bed, not yet fully dressed
but decent.)

KUN MENG

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I'm going now, Liz.

ELIZABETH

Bye. I'll call you.

(Exit Kun Meng)

ELIZABETH

For a long time I felt like I died the night your father died. And the wife I was for over thirty years did die. This woman you see here now was born again the first time Kun Meng took my hand and I realised that my life could go on. Darling, it's not that I don't appreciate you trying to keep me company. I do. But I don't need you.

BERENICE

Mum, I was glad you found somebody to keep you company and go out with. But wasn't that enough? Why couldn't you have kept it that way?

ELIZABETH

Kun Meng is very special to me. I believe I am special to him too. Having sex brings two people together in a way that nothing else can. If you can't understand that then maybe I'm the one who should be worried about you!

BERENICE

It's bad enough there are older men out there still wanting to have sex—

ELIZABETH

You think it's even worse that we older women still enjoy sex too? Let me tell you something. I've missed it for a long time. Even while your father was still alive. I had just started on HRT and wanting it was almost driving me crazy, and your father—

BERENICE

Mum, I don't want to hear this—

ELIZABETH

Well, I want to say it and before you go through the roof judging me you're going to listen. Your father was the best of men. As long as he was around I could never have looked at anyone else.

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(Pause)

Kun Meng is a very special friend of mine.

(Berenice turns to face Elizabeth.)

BERENICE

Mummy, you don't understand! You can't trust old men on Viagra!

ELIZABETH

You don't have to be so protective, you know. (Laughs) I'm a big girl, Bernie. I can take care of myself. I've been taking care of myself since before you were born!

(Pause)

ELIZABETH

There's something else, isn't there? Is there something you don't like about Kun Meng? Is that what's bothering you?

BERENICE

No! Oh no—he's okay. I suppose I'm glad you've got somebody here to—you know—keep you company and everything.

ELIZABETH

I know you'll probably want to go back to New York some day. That's why you're having so much trouble settling down here, isn't it? You never go anywhere except to work, you don't see any of your friends... except for that nice doctor...

BERENICE

I don't want to talk about Dan.

ELIZABETH

I'm just making sure I don't come to depend on you too much.

BERENICE

Mum. There's no way I'm ever going back to New York.

ELIZABETH

Bern, I've told you how many times I don't need you to look after me. I don't want you to.

(Pause)

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You're like your father. You decide what's best for people, and you do it for them, whether or not they want you to.

Look, give Kun Meng a chance. I would really like the two of you to get to know each other better. That silly man said he thinks you look at him as though he is a cockroach sometimes!

Bernie? What's wrong?

BERENICE

I'm sorry, Ma. I'm sorry. It's not him—it's me!

ELIZABETH

You? What are you talking about, Bernie?

(Lights out.)

(Dan & Kun Meng bump into each other in passing)

DAN

Oh sorry—

KUN MENG

Can't you see where you're going!

DAN

Mr Lee? Are you all right?

KUN MENG

Oh. Dr Ho. It's you.

DAN

Mr Lee? What's wrong? Did something happen?

(Kun Meng looks flustered and drops something.)

Dan bends and picks it up.)

DAN

Viagra? You're the one who's been taking the Viagra I gave you?

(Lights down.)

(Dan joins Berenice)

DAN

You'll never believe what one of my patients was pulling on me!

Bernie? What's wrong?

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(Berenice turns away from him.)

DAN

Berenice. All I want to know is, what did I do wrong? I thought we were getting along great, then suddenly out of the blue you're treating me like I'm a serial killer—

BERENICE

No, Dan. It's not you—

DAN

—or—or—a convicted rapist.

BERENICE

Don't be disgusting!

DAN

Berenice—

BERENICE

Don't touch me! Look, I didn't invite you here. You're not welcome here. If you don't leave right now I'm going to call Security.

(Berenice picks up the phone)

DAN

Bernie—look—I'm staying right here, okay?

(Viagra enters.)

VIAGRA

There are some relationship problems that an erect penis won't solve, Dan.

BERENICE

I don't have to dial Security, you know. I just have to press one button. Don't think I won't have time.

VIAGRA

Listen to her, Dan. Try to understand her. She didn't get upset when you said you weren't a serial killer. What was that word you used that did upset her?

DAN

(To himself) 'Rapist'?

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Berenice. It's me, Dan. I've never done a thing to hurt you—God willing I never will. I would rather kill myself.

I just want to understand what I've done to upset you so much.

Look, I'll stay right here. And I'll open the door and keep it open, all right?

(Berenice has to struggle before answering.)

BERENICE

You didn't do anything, Dan.

DAN

Should I have?

BERENICE

Dan, you don't understand.

DAN

No. I don't.

But I want to.

(Berenice turns away)

DAN

Berenice, I really want to try.

VIAGRA

If you don't try to explain, nobody is ever going to understand you.

(Berenice turns away from Viagra)

DAN

Is it something that happened while you were away?

BERENICE

It was while I was still in New York. I had been to an evening film presentation, and when one of the lecturers invited back to his apartment to look at some of his manuscripts...

(Enter Man 1)

MAN 1

I am an important professor. Important in my own eyes and in the eyes of people who don't know any better and haven't talked to my two ex-wives.

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Hello, Young Lady. Are you from China or from Japan?

BERENICE

Actually I'm from Singapore. I really enjoyed your talk, Professor. I thought your comments on the structure of 'Ruthless People' were very insightful.

MAN 1

You speak very good English! How long have you studied English? 'Sukiyaki', 'Tempura', 'Mitsubishi', that's all the Chinese I know. How's my accent?

BERENICE

That's not really Chinese, Sir—

MAN 1

You don't have a drink? That's terrible! No, no—the wine here is terrible. Cheapskates here buy discount wine made from diseased grapes, that's the problem.

MAN 1

Come on. We'll go back to my place. I've got stuff there you won't believe! Not to mention better hock!

(Man 1 whistles and arches a finger)

(Man 2 enters in blue dress)

MAN 1

Here—whiskey's good for the complexion—

BERENICE

I don't really drink—

MAN 1

Come on, don't be a baby! Your Mummy and Daddy aren't here to watch you now! Go on. Swallow it and let me top you up. Come here, my little China Doll!

MAN 2

You were looking for me? I thought you were saving me till your wife gets back from Mexico?

MAN 1

Hey, if the opportunity arises I want to arise too!

MAN 2

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I live to serve.

BERENICE

Professor, what are you doing?

MAN 1

I think I'm doing pretty well. What do you think?

BERENICE

I think it's time I left.

(Man 2 blocks Berenice's every attempt to leave)

MAN 1

Not so fast. Come here and give me a little kissy face first—here, China Doll!

BERENICE

No! Don't! Please!

MAN 1

You know you like it, you little China doll!

BERENICE

No! Stop—take your hands off me!

MAN 1

You all thought I was way over the hill, didn't you? Now, thanks to Viagra I'm Superman!

BERENICE

No—no—please stop!

(Freeze)

DAN

Oh, Bern—

(Exit Man 1 and Man 2)

BERENICE

Thanks to Viagra, he said. Later on he tried to tell me it was his first time in five years—thanks to Viagra.

VIAGRA

Berenice, what happened to you was not my fault!

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BERENICE

All right, then—it was my fault. For being there. For trusting a man, for going back to his apartment with him. For being so disgustingly stupid.

DAN

He raped you?

BERENICE

I know I was stupid, all right! I know I was asking for it! I don't need you to tell me how stupid I was to go back to his rooms with him. I'm not some kid—I should have known better!

DAN

He raped you?

VIAGRA

Humans can still destroy relationships more effectively and efficiently than any chemicals. It wasn't my fault, Berenice. It was that man. It was something that came out of his nature.

BERENICE

And no, I didn't report it. What would have been the use? Who would have believed me? After all I'm just some dumb foreigner who probably led him on and—

And I didn't want to talk about it. I just couldn't talk about it. I went back to my apartment and I stood under the shower until the hot water ran out and I just went on standing there. I left for the airport that night.

DAN

That lousy, vicious, filthy scumbag raped you.

BERENICE

Why do you keep saying that?

DAN

Who is he? What's his name? Where can I find him?

BERENICE

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Why? Dan, what's wrong with you—you look so strange.

DAN

Just give me his name. I'll find him, I promise you. I'll take care of him.

BERENICE

Dan, nobody there is going to believe that it happened!

You mean you believe me?

DAN

Of course I believe you.

I'll find him and I'll make damned sure he's sorry he hurt you.

BERENICE

No, Dan. It's all right. I don't want you to—

But if you could stay with me and...

(Berenice holds her arms tentatively open. Dan
folds his arms around her.)

BERENICE

Thank you, Dan. I've been feeling so dirty.

DAN

I want to be here for you. Just let me be here for you. I promise, nothing happens until you're ready.

(Berenice nods.)

DAN

And if you're so anti-Viagra, fine. No Viagra for us. Not ever. All right?

VIAGRA

Hey! I don't go where I'm not wanted!

(Smiles) And it's so good to see a place where I'm not needed...

(Enter Kun Meng and Elizabeth)

ELIZABETH

Berenice, I think that Kun Meng and I should talk to you about—

(Sees them in embrace.)

ELIZABETH

Is she all right?

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DAN

She is now. Everything is going to be all right now.

(To Berenice) But I don't think we're doing that second Viagra show.

VIAGRA

One day you may be begging me to join you, just wait and see.

(Final song, sung by all to the tune of 'I saw
Mommy kissing Santa Claus')

ALL

I'll remind you, Dear, to pop a pill

Half an hour before the time is right

We really needn't keep

Our beds reserved for sleep

There're better acts upon our backs to make our pulses leap

VIAGRA

I am really more than just Viagra you know. This is just my present incarnation. Wherever people have difficulty loving and communicating with each other—wherever their love channels are blocked, I will be there. And I will do my best to bring them together again.

ALL

Oh I'll remind you, Dear, to pop a pill

Half an hour before the time is right

Now the gloom we'll all discard

Since the things that should, stay hard

And Viagra keeps our hopes up high!