

A  
Lively  
Journey  
Through  
Plays  
by

LUDOVIC COUTAUD

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to  
my beloved parents and sister.

## SHOWCASES

*One Day, A Series of Original Short Plays* (page 5)

*Hell Week: One at a Time, Please!* (page 32)

*A Very Abstract Night* (page 57)

*An Evening with Women* (page 73)

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## AUTHOR'S NOTE

The following collection of original stories were born while I was living in New York City between the years of 2011 and 2018.

Throughout my artistic path, I had the support of many of my friends, the ones who showed up to the showcases produced, who listened to my various stories and believed in my style.

These friends remain and have my eternal gratitude.



*Dinner Table, I Need You, Penniless, Each Minute Counts* received their world premiere during the showcase *ONE DAY, A Series of Original Short Plays* at The Players Club in New York City on July 25, 2012. It was also directed and produced by Ludovic Coutaud.

## ***Dinner Table***

### ***First part***

(JOEL is sitting at a table waiting for LULU, his girlfriend.)

LULU: Oh my God. I'm so sorry.

JOEL: That's fine. I mean...

LULU: No, really. It's the train, I messed up. I took the six uptown and anyway...

JOEL: Whatever. How are you, apart from that?

LULU: Good, good. I need to talk to you about something.

JOEL: Oh, okay... That sounds serious.

## ***I Need You***

### ***Scene 1***

(A bench. A woman, JULIE, seated, texting.)

JULIE: Thank you so much for the invitation! I'm free tomorrow after 5 pm. What about you? (She waits for an answer.) Good then. What do you think about an Italian restaurant?! No, delete... French, it's more exotic. Where do

you live? (She waits. He replies.) Wow, he is quick. I like that! Upper West Side. Geez! He is rich! We could meet at...

(Suddenly, a woman, CATE, runs and sits next to JULIE without noticing her.)

CATE: Jesus... I'm gonna quit. I'm telling you, I'll quit soon.

(JULIE pretends to text. She observes CATE. CATE feels her phone vibrating.)

CATE: Shit! No... (She picks up, faking being sick.) Marc...? Hi... I'm... (She coughs.) Ouch... Oh, Marc, I am feeling really weak right now. What? ... I know... Marc... What? Sure... I'll take care of it... Oh my God Marc, it's so painful...What? (She freezes.) I have... Errr...

JULIE (whispering): The flu...

CATE: The flu! Yes, that's the flu. I forgot the word. In Australia, we're just sick... I have to get some rest... (Beat.) Thank you, Marc... You're a sweetheart... (She hangs up, yelling at her phone.) Fuck you, Marc! I hate you! Jesus! I need to quit this job! (She turns to JULIE.) Thank you so much. That was nice... Sorry, I'm loud. I'm not like that usually... I mean... I'm Cate, from Australia!

JULIE: I can tell. I'm Julie, from here.

CATE: That's good too!

JULIE: So... Are you gonna be okay?

CATE: What do you mean?

JULIE: Well, you've got the flu...

(They both laugh.)

CATE (faking being sick): I'll be fine... (Coughing.) Are you waiting for somebody?

JULIE: Well... I just texted a guy... It's like... Well, we chatted on a... Dating site... And...

CATE: Really?!

JULIE: What?

CATE: No. Nothing. Carry on.

JULIE: We started texting, like, actually before you got here, and I just want to meet him first before I get into, you know, something serious... But, he doesn't answer anymore... I don't understand...

CATE: I see. Well, first, take a deep breath and just wait a little. It's just been two minutes since you answered I'm sure. Let him think about it and he'll let you know.

JULIE: How do you know that?

CATE: I know. Jesus, I've been through all kinda shit.

JULIE: That's not reassuring at all...

CATE: No, what I mean is that I failed and succeeded in relationships with people, and men are just a unique species!

JULIE: Okay...

CATE: Don't freak out. Look, the guy I was talking to, Marc. Well, he is my ex-boyfriend. We just broke up. We

were together for seven years. Seven long years. And, one morning, this moron discovered a new side of himself... He said: "Cate, baby, you have to understand. I'm not gay, it's just that I'm sensitive and open to the world!" What the fuck, right? I said: "Marc, I mean, that's fine. Good for you, I guess. Better sooner than later". (To JULIE.) At that point, we both wanted to have a baby... Anyway... So, did he answer?

JULIE: YES! Oh my God! You're so good.

CATE: Well, I told you. Let him process it and think about it. So, what did he say?

JULIE (sobbing): He's saying that he doesn't want to commit to any serious relationship. He is confused about personal stuff...

CATE: Oh, Jesus... Julie, he is gay... Done, move on!

JULIE: What do you mean he is gay?! He is not gay? He can't be gay!

CATE: Personal stuff? Julie...

JULIE: We met at the Premiere of...

CATE: What?

JULIE: Oh my God, he is gay... What do I do now?

CATE: What do you mean "what"? You keep doing this! You keep meeting new people and having fun. Why are you here by yourself?

JULIE: I don't have any friends...