

Southside

by Fredrik Brattberg

Characters

Magnus

Her

Grandma

Grandpa

Frida

A

A summerhouse. Inside the house is a kitchen and a living-room, doors leading to two bedrooms, a front door and a door out to the veranda. The veranda is right down by the sea, there is a ladder down to the water. On the veranda is a table and chairs.

It is morning. Grandma and Grandpa come in from the bedroom.

Grandma

I'm so glad we left yesterday, would rather wake up here.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

Spend the whole day here.

Grandpa

Yes

It's so lovely. So lovely to wake up here.

Grandma

Yes, isn't it lovely.

And quiet.

Grandpa

Yes. It's so quiet.

So lovely and quiet.

Pause

I'll go and wake them up.

Grandma

Yes.

Grandpa opens the door to the bedroom where Magnus, Her and Frida are asleep.

Grandpa

It's morning.

It's time to wake up.

Her and Magnus come in.

Her

Good morning.

Magnus

Good morning.

Her gives Grandpa a hug.

Grandpa

Good morning.

Grandma walks towards them, gives Magnus and Her a hug.

Grandma

Good morning, isn't it nice here.

Her

Yes.

Grandma

Isn't it lovely to be here.

Magnus

Yes, it's ... it's really good.

Grandma

Like a dream.

Her

Like a dream to ... to wake up here.

Grandpa

Imagine, we're going to be here, together.

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa

In this cottage. Just us.

Her

So lovely.

Magnus

So lovely, to be together like this.

Her

Yes, to be able to go away like this.

A

It is morning. Grandma and Grandpa come in from the bedroom.

Grandma

I'm so glad we left yesterday, would rather wake up here.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

Have the whole day here.

Grandpa

Yes

It's so lovely. So lovely to wake up here.

Grandma

Yes, isn't it lovely.

And quiet.

Grandpa

Yes. It's so quiet.

So lovely and quiet.

Pause

I'll go and wake them up.

Grandma

Yes.

*Grandpa opens the door to the bedroom where **Magnus**, Her and Frida are asleep.*

Grandpa

It's morning.

It's time to wake up.

Her and Magnus come in.

Her

Good morning.

Magnus

Good morning.

Her gives Grandpa a hug.

Grandpa

Good morning.

Grandma walks towards them, gives Magnus and Her a hug.

Grandma

Good morning, isn't it nice here.

Her

Yes.

Grandma

Isn't it lovely to be here.

Magnus

Yes, it's ... it's really good.

Grandma

Like a dream.

Her

Like a dream to ... to wake up here.

Grandpa

Imagine, we're going to be here, together.

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa

In this cottage. Just us.

Her

So lovely.

Magnus

So lovely, to be together like this.

Her

Yes, to be able to go away like this.

B

Grandma

Her light's on, do you see that.

Grandpa

Yes.

Magnus

What?

Grandma

No, just ... the cottage next door. She always gets up so early. And the light's on in the kitchen. It isn't usually.

She turns it off when she gets up.

Frida comes out from the bedroom, she's wearing swimwear.

Grandpa

There she is.

Grandma

My little girl, come to Grandma.

Grandma and Frida hug each other.

Grandma

My little girl, isn't it great that we're going to be together, that we're going to be together, these days here. Grandma is so happy about that, to be able to see you for a few days in a row.

Grandpa

Grandpa too.

Grandma

My little girl, oh my little girl.

Her

She'd love to have a morning swim.

Grandpa

Of course. Of course everyone must have a morning swim.

Her

Perhaps we should come.

Grandma

Yes, of course. Everyone must come.

Grandpa

Everyone must have a swim.

They change into swimwear.

Magnus

I thought I'd go over to the south side.

Grandma

The south side?

Magnus

A place there, where it's so nice to swim. I was there a few years ago.

Her

You'll have to swim here now.

Grandpa

Yes, everyone must swim here now, with Frida.

Magnus

I wasn't thinking of now, I was thinking of later in the morning.

Grandma

Yes.

Magnus

After breakfast. To have lunch there.

Grandma goes into the water.

Grandma

So lovely. Christ, it's lovely.

Frida, come to Grandma

Frida goes into the water, joins Grandma. Magnus, Her and Grandpa go into the water too.

Grandpa

Yes, it's lovely.

A

It is morning. Grandpa comes in the front door, he is carrying shopping bags. He puts away the shopping. Grandma comes in from the bedroom.

Grandma

I'm so glad we left yesterday, would rather wake up here.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

Have the whole day here.

Grandpa

Yes

It's so lovely. So lovely to wake up here.

Grandma

Yes, isn't it lovely.

And quiet.

Grandpa

Yes. It's so quiet.

So lovely and quiet.

Pause

I'll go and wake them up.

Grandma

Yes.

Pause.

Grandpa

We were supposed to wake them up.

Grandpa opens the door to the bedroom where Magnus, Her and Frida are asleep.

Grandpa

It's morning.

Her comes in.

Her

Good morning.

Her gives Grandpa a hug.

Grandpa

Good morning.

Grandma gives Her a hug.

Grandma

Good morning, isn't it nice here.

Her

Yes.

Grandma

Isn't it lovely to come here.

Her

Yes, it ... It's really good.

Grandma

Like a dream.

Magnus comes out.

Magnus

Good morning.

Grandma gives Magnus a hug.

Grandma

Good morning. Isn't it great here.

Magnus

Yes.

Like a dream to ... to wake up here.

Grandpa

I've been down to the petrol station.

Grandma

Yes, he's already been doing some shopping.

Grandpa

To Magnus. Thought we should have something extra nice for lunch today.

Her

So lovely.

Grandpa

Imagine, we're going to be here, together.

Her

To Magnus. Yes. Magnus. Imagine being here together.

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa

To Magnus. In this cottage. Just us.

Her

So lovely.

Magnus

Yes, so lovely, to be together, like this.

Her

Yes, to be able to go away like this.

B

Grandma

Her light's on.

Grandpa

Yes, she ...

Magnus

What?

Grandma

The cottage next-door, the woman in the cottage next-door. The light's on in the kitchen, it isn't usually.

Her

Perhaps she ...

Grandpa

Yes, who knows, perhaps she's lying dead in there.

Grandma

None of that silly talk.

Her

It's just a light.

Grandma

Yes, it's just a light.

Frida comes out from the bedroom, she is wearing swim wear.

Grandpa

There she is.

Grandma

My little girl, come to grandma.

Grandma and Frida hug each other.

Grandma

My little girl, isn't it good that we're going to be together, those days here.
Your Grandma is looking forward to that, to see you for a few days in a row.

Grandpa

Grandpa too.

Grandma

My girl, grandma's girl.

Her

She'd love to have a morning swim.

Grandpa

Of course. Of course everyone must have a morning swim.

Her

Perhaps we should come.

Grandma

Yes of course. Everyone must come.

Grandpa

Everyone must have a swim.

Grandma

So nice to have the water so close. *To Magnus.* To be able to swim, right outside the door.

Her, Grandma and Grandpa change into swim gear, Magnus changes more slowly.

Magnus

I thought I'd go over to the south side.

Grandma

To the south side?

Magnus

A place there, where it's so nice to swim.

Her

But where do you mean, where on the south side?

Magnus

Right across, right across on the south side.

Her

But where, where on the south side?

Magnus

You just drive right across.

Five kilometres.

I thought I'd go after breakfast, later this morning.

Grandpa

Before lunch?

Grandma goes into the water.

Grandma

Frida, come to grandma.

Grandpa

Are you going before lunch?

Magnus goes into the water, then Frida, then Her and Grandpa.

While they are swimming, Grandma, Grandpa and Her become uncertain about what's going to happen next, the uncertainty is directed at Magnus. Magnus notices.

C

Magnus comes out of the water. The others continue to swim.

Magnus

I'd better get some breakfast.

Grandma

Yes.

Pause.

Her

Shall I give you a hand?

Magnus

That'd be good.

Her gets out of the water. Magnus and Her set out spreads / cold cuts and bread, they lay the table on the veranda, just a few steps from the water where Grandma, Grandpa and Frida are swimming.

Her

To Grandpa. Did you buy butter?

Grandpa

Yes. It's in the fridge.

Magnus begins to pack Frida's backpack.

Her

What are you doing?

Magnus

I'm packing her backpack.

Her

Is Frida coming?

Magnus

I thought I'd take her.

Magnus goes out on the veranda.

Frida, do you want to come with daddy for some special fun?

Grandma

Is Frida coming?

Magnus

Thought I'd take her.

Do you want to come, to a really nice place?

Grandpa

Is Frida coming with you?

Magnus

A nice place to swim.

Frida answers.

That's what I thought.

It's breakfast!

Magnus sits down at the table, waiting for the others before he starts eating.

Pause.

Her

Yes.

Yes, it's breakfast.

Her sits down at the table, the others are getting out of the water.

A

It is morning. Grandpa comes in from the front door, he has been out fishing, he carries five small fish with him. Grandma comes in from the bedroom.

Grandma

I'm so glad we left yesterday, would rather wake up here.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

Have the whole day here.

Grandpa

Yes

It's so lovely. So lovely to wake up here.

Grandma

Yes, isn't it lovely.

And quiet.

Grandpa

Yes. It's so quiet.

So lovely and quiet.

Pause

I'll go and wake them up.

Grandma

Yes.

Pause.

Grandma

Don't ...

Grandpa

What?

Grandma

Don't wake Magnus.

Maybe.

Maybe he'd like to sleep.

Grandpa

Yes.

Yes, maybe he'd like to sleep.

Grandpa opens the door to the bedroom where Magnus, Her and Frida are asleep. He whispers, only wants to contact her.

Grandpa

Hi.

Hi.

Dear ...

Dear ...

It ...

It's morning.

Her comes in.

Her

Good morning.

Her hugs Grandpa.

Grandpa

Good morning.

Grandma comes out, hugs Her.

Grandma

Good morning, isn't it nice here.

Her

Yes.

Grandma

Isn't it lovely to come here.

Her

Yes it ... It's really good.

Grandma

Like a dream.

Magnus comes in, he hugs Her and Grandma.

Magnus

Good morning.

Grandma

Good morning, isn't it wonderful here?

Magnus

Yes.

Her

Frida's so tired.

Grandma

Is she?

Grandpa

Yes. Yes, no wonder she's tired. From the trip yesterday.

Her

Yes, so we should relax today. *To Magnus.* She should take it a bit easy.

Grandma

Yes. Yes, of course.

Of course she should, it's tiring to travel. *To Magnus.* For little ones like her.

Pause.

Isn't it ...

Her

What?

Grandma

No.

Grandpa

What she's trying to say is that, isn't it lovely that we're going to be together. The five of us. That we're going to enjoy ourselves, have a holiday together.

Magnus

Yes. Yes, isn't that nice.

Her

So lovely.

Grandma

Yes, so lovely ... to be together like this.

Grandpa

Yes, to be able to go away like this.

B

Grandma

Look.

Grandpa

What?

Grandma

Her light's on.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

It's still on.

Magnus

It's just a light.

Grandpa

But what if she ...

Grandma

I'm so worried that she's lying dead in there. She's alone there, you know, with her children in Oslo and ... yes, she's alone all summer, she could've been lying there for weeks.

Her

Imagine, imagine not finding her.

Grandpa

We mustn't think like that.

Grandma

No.

Her

No, we mustn't think about it.

Grandma

Because we're going to have such a good time.

Frida comes in from the bedroom, she's wearing swim wear.

Grandpa

There she is.

Grandma

My little girl, come to grandma.

Grandma and Frida hug each other.

Grandma

My little girl, isn't it good that we're going to be together, that we're going to be together, these days here. Grandma is so happy about that, to be able to see you for a few days in a row.

Grandpa

Grandpa too.

Pause.

Frida, come here, grandpa wants to show you something.

Grandpa takes Frida over to the kitchen, shows her the fish he has caught.

Grandpa

Look here. Five fish. One for each.

Grandma

He got up early this morning.

Grandpa

I was fishing for two hours. And got us lunch. *To Magnus*. So today we're going to have a proper lunch.

Her

She'd love to have a morning swim.

Grandpa

Is that what you want, you want a morning swim.

Her

Perhaps we should come too.

Grandma

Yes of course. Everyone must come.

Grandpa

Everyone must have a swim.

Her, Grandma and Grandpa change into swim wear.

Magnus

I thought I'd go over to the south side.

Grandma

The south side?

Her

To Frida. Daddy's going, your daddy's going off.

Grandpa

When were you thinking of going?

Her

To Frida. Daddy's going off.

Magnus

I thought I'd go this morning, after breakfast.

Her

To Frida. Tired today aren't you, tired today.

Grandpa

And when will you be you back?

Her

Tired girl.

Magnus

No, I don't know.

Grandpa

How long are you going to be away. One hour. Two hours.

Magnus

No, I don't know.

Should be back this afternoon.

Grandpa

This afternoon?!

Pause.

Grandma

Well, let's go swimming.

Pause.

We've promised Frida.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma goes into the water.

Grandma

Frida, come to grandma.

Frida comes out the water to grandma. Her and Grandpa also go into the water. Magnus stays on land.

C

Magnus

I'd better get some breakfast.

Grandma

Yes.

Her

I'll help you.

Magnus and Her set out spreads and bread, they lay the table.

Her

Do we have butter?

Magnus

Yes, we've got butter here.

Magnus begins to pack Frida's backpack.

Her

What are you doing?

Magnus

I'm packing.

Her

Are you taking Frida?!

Magnus

I thought I'd take her.

Her

But she's so tired. *To Grandpa and Grandma.* Magnus is taking Frida!

Grandpa

Is he taking Frida?

Grandma

Are you taking Frida with you?

Magnus

Yes. I thought I would.

Frida, do you want to come swimming with daddy?

Grandma

Or would you rather stay here?

Magnus

Swimming in a nice place.

Grandpa

We others are staying here.

Her

We others are staying here, Frida.

Magnus

Do you want to come with daddy?

Frida answers.

Magnus

Yes, that's what I thought.

It's breakfast!

Magnus sits down at the table. Grandma, Grandpa and Her watch him closely. Magnus begins to eat.

D

As before. Magnus is eating breakfast. Grandma, Grandpa and Her watch him carefully. Magnus has to call them a few times before they, somewhat carefully and something uncertainly, move towards the breakfast table.

Magnus

It's breakfast.

It's on the table.

Pause.

It's breakfast.

It's on the table.

Pause.

It's on the table.

Just help yourselves.

Grandma

Isn't it great, to have breakfast outside.

Grandpa

Yes, it's lovely, with a morning swim and breakfast.

Magnus

Makes you wake up.

Grandpa

Yes.

Magnus

Makes you wake up, to jump in the water, in the morning.

Grandma

Yes.

Her

Frida, do you want mummy to make you a sandwich?

Do you want a sandwich?

Grandma

Isn't she hungry?

Magnus

No, so let's go then. Come, Frida, let's get ready.

Then you can eat in the meantime, before you give us a lift.

Grandma

Give you a lift?

Magnus

Well, we can't walk. It's five kilometres.

Magnus and Frida go inside. Grandma, Grandpa and Her remain sitting around the breakfast table, they are not eating.

Magnus

My girl, my little girl.

You're coming with daddy, aren't you, to have a swim.

That'll be fun.

Grandpa comes in to Magnus and Frida.

Grandpa

I was wondering if you could help me with something, before you go?

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa picks up a lamp to hang on the wall.

Grandpa

I'd really like to hang this one up.

Magnus

Yes of course.

Grandpa

Thought we could do it together, it's nice, isn't it, to stand here and get things done.

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa

And then we ought to be two, it takes two, to hang it up.

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa

We don't have a screwdriver, but perhaps we could use a knife.

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa

If we could use a kitchen knife.

Magnus

Yes. That could work.

Magnus tries if the kitchen knife fits the screws.

Magnus

The knife's too big, it ... it doesn't fit the threads.

Grandpa

No.

Then we'll have to drive and buy a screwdriver.

Magnus

Yes.

I suppose we'll have to.

Afterwards.

A

It is morning. Grandpa and Grandma come in from the bedroom. Grandpa picks up the lamp, he carries it until the end of the play.

Grandma

I'm so glad we left yesterday, would rather wake up here.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

Have the whole day here.

Grandpa

Yes

Pause.

Should I wake her up.

Grandma

I don't know.

Then.

Then we'll wake up him too.

Grandpa

I can whisper.

Pause.

Grandma

Yes.

Grandpa opens the door to the bedroom where Magnus, Her and Frida are asleep. He whispers, carefully.

Grandpa

Hi.

Hi.

Grandma

Careful.

Pause.

Grandpa

Hi.

It's ...

It's morning.

Grandma

No.

No it's not alright.

He's lying in there, next to her.

It's not alright.

Grandpa closes the door to the bedroom carefully.

Grandpa

No it's not alright.

Pause.

Her comes out, she, too, she whispers, afraid to wake up Magnus.

Her

Good morning, we ... we'd better be a bit quiet.

Grandma

Yes.

Her

I don't know if we should wake him up, or ... or if he wants to sleep in.

Grandpa

He'll wake up when he wakes up.

Her gives Grandpa and Grandma a hug.

Grandpa

Good morning.

Grandma

Good morning, isn't it nice here.

Her

Yes.

Magnus comes in.

Magnus

Good morning.

Grandma

We were just talking about how great it is here, isn't it lovely?

Magnus

Yes.

Magnus hugs Grandma

Magnus

Yes, it's really fantastic.

Grandpa

It's a great place.

Grandma finds her eye drops.

Her

Are you alright?

Grandma

Yes, it's just that ... that my eyes become so dry out here. Too much fresh air.

Grandpa

That's what it's like to grow old.

Grandma

That's what it's like to grow old. But then I have these drops, salt water drops, and they help.

Puts drops in her eyes.

There.

As good as new.

B

Grandma

Look.

Now the light's off.

Grandpa

Yes.

Magnus

Good.

Pause.

Grandma

Yes.

Pause.

But just the thought.

Imagine.

Imagine lying like that without being found. That's the worst, yes, that's the worst, not to die, but not to be found, that's the worst, not to be found.

Her

Or not to find, that's the worst, perhaps, not to find.

Magnus

But now it's off.

Her

Imagine coming in through the door and finding her, and it's been months.

Magnus

Now the light's off.

Grandma

Yes.

Magnus

The light's off.

Her

Yes, it's off.

Grandma

Fortunately.

Her

Fortunately.

Frida comes in from the bedroom, she is wearing swim wear.

Grandpa

There she is.

Grandma

My little girl, come to grandma.

Grandma and Frida hug each other.

Grandma

My little girl, so nice that we're going to be together, that we're going to be together, these days here. Grandma is so happy about that, to be able to see you for a few days in a row.

To Magnus. It means so much to me, it means everything to me, to be able to come here, and ... and be together, see Frida, and see you, Magnus, and see you all. And that we're going to be together today, the whole day, that ... yes that means everything to me.

Grandpa

To Magnus. That's what it's like to grow old.

Grandma

To Magnus. Yes, That's what it's like to grow old, then ... then things like that mean something.

Magnus

Yes.

Her

To us as well.

Magnus

Yes.

To us as well.

Pause.

Her

She'd love to have a morning swim, but ... but I wonder if it's a good idea she ... she was hot during last night. I felt her forehead last night, and ... and I wonder if she had a little fever.

Magnus

I'm sure it's from the journey, she's tired from the journey.

Grandma

Poor little girl.

Magnus

And it's easy for little ones like her to become feverish when they're tired.

Her

Yes. But. But in case. In case she's brewing on something. But. But a little swim. Here. Here, you know. Yes, that ... Surely that should be alright.

Grandpa

Yes, surely that should be alright.

Magnus

She's fit as a fiddle.

Why don't you two have a swim with her.

Grandpa

Yes. Yes, we can have a swim with her.

Magnus

If you have a swim with her now, we'll have a swim with her afterwards. We'll take it in turns, I'm sure she'll want to swim a lot.

Grandma

Yes.

We'll take it in turns.

We'll take it in turns to swim with her.

Come, Frida.

They go into the water.

Grandma

Frida, come to grandma.

Magnus

I thought I'd go to ...

Her

Don't say it.

Let them swim and enjoy themselves first.

Magnus

Only to her. I thought ...

Her

Afterwards.

Magnus

I thought I'd go to the south side.

Her

Tell them afterwards.

Perhaps you don't know.

Magnus

What?

Her

He's booked catering for us.

Magnus

Catering?

Her

Haven't you seen how happy they are, that we're here, that we're going to be together. They don't know the best they can do for us.

Magnus

But catering, now? For lunch?

Her

He didn't want to say anything, it was supposed to be a surprise.

You'll have to think about it ... about what you do.

Magnus

Yes.

Pause.

C

Magnus

I'd better get some breakfast.

Her

Yes.

Magnus and Her set out spreads and bread, they lay the table on the veranda, just a few steps from the water where Grandma, Grandpa and Frida are swimming.

Her

Do we have butter?

Magnus

Yes, we have butter here.

Magnus begins to pack Frida's backpack.

Her

Please dear, please. She was feverish last night.

I beg you.

I don't often beg you like this.

Magnus

Wasn't she just tired?

Her

I don't often I beg you like this, straight out.

Please.

Magnus, please.

Magnus

She's swimming now.

Her

Yes, she's swimming now. Here. *Calls out to Grandma and Grandpa.* She can't stay in any longer, she must get up now, up from the water.

Grandma

What's happening?

Her

To Magnus. She was feverish last night, dear, the poor girl, I felt her forehead, I rolled close to her and she was hot. I'm in no doubt about that, I don't have the least doubt about that.

Grandma

What's happening up there?

Her

No, he ...

Grandpa

She was feverish last night!

Her

Magnus is going. He's going and he ... He's taking her with him.

I'm trying to convince him, to promise me to ... not to go, to keep her at home but ... but I don't know ... he ...

Grandma

To Grandpa. Get her up from the water, do as she says, get her up from the water.

Magnus sits down at the breakfast table and begins to eat. Grandpa gets Frida up from the water, dries her, warms her. Her comes and warms Frida with an extra towel. Grandma comes up from the water, dries herself, sits down by herself, quiet, pensive, serious.

D

Magnus is eating breakfast. Grandpa, Frida and Her stand by themselves away from the table. Grandma, who is sitting alone, quietly and pensively, stands up and walks over to the table, sits down.

Grandma

Isn't it great to have breakfast outside.

Magnus

Yes, it's lovely, isn't it, to have breakfast like this.

Grandma

Yes.

Pause.

Magnus

Was it lovely to have a swim?

Grandma

Yes. Yes, it ...

Magnus

It wakes you up.

Grandma

Yes.

Pause.

Magnus

But isn't Frida having breakfast?

Grandma

I don't know.

Magnus

Calls out to the others. Isn't Frida having breakfast?

Her

Yes.

Magnus walks over to the others.

Magnus

Come, Frida.

Magnus takes Frida over to the breakfast table. Grandpa and Her remain where they are.

Grandma

Shall Grandma make you a sandwich?

Do you want a sandwich?

Magnus

Aren't you hungry?

She isn't hungry.

Well, let's go then. Come Frida, let's get ready.

Magnus and Frida walk towards the front door.

Grandma

Wait.

Magnus

Yes?

Grandma

Wait a bit.

Grandma finds her eye drops, puts drops in her eyes.

Grandma

No.

No, it was nothing.

Magnus and Frida come out the house, get ready. Grandpa comes out.

Grandpa

I was wondering if you could help me with something, before you go?

Magnus

Yes.

Yes, of course.

Grandpa

I'd like to hang this one up.

Magnus

Of course.

Grandma

We can do it together, put up the lamp together.

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa

Then it'll be nice and light, but ... but first of all ...

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa

We're standing here working, together.

Magnus

Yes.

Grandpa

You and me.

Magnus

Yes, of course.

Did you go and buy a screwdriver?

Grandpa

No.

Not yet.

Magnus

Then you'll have to go and buy one first, and then ...

Then we'll do it together.

Then we'll put it up together.

Grandpa

Yes.

Pause.

Grandma comes into the house.

Grandma

Do you manage to hang it up?

Magnus

No, we ...

Grandma

It gives me such a sharp light, you see. That's why we bought it.

Magnus

We don't have a screwdriver.

Grandma

It gives me such a sharp light.

Magnus

We need a screwdriver.

Grandpa

We'll go to the shop and buy one.

We'll go to the shop and buy a screwdriver.

Magnus

Yes.

Afterwards.

Grandpa

Yes.

Pause. Grandpa and Grandma glance at Magnus, nervously, waiting for him to say or do something. Her, who stands outside, glances in through the window, worrying where this is going. Magnus touches Grandma, tenderly, consolingly. They stand for a while looking into each other's eyes.

E

As before. Magnus calls out to Her.

Magnus

We're ready.

We're ready to go.

Grandma

I'll come.

Her comes out the house.

Grandma

To Her. I'll come with you.

Magnus

Come Frida.

Magnus and Frida walk out the door, sit down in the car, in the backseats.

Grandma

Yes.

Pause.

Her

The car keys?

Grandpa

On the bench.

I'll ... I'll get them for you.

Grandpa gives Her the car keys. Her and Grandma walk out to the car.

Her

Well, we'll be off then.

Grandma

Yes.

Her starts the car, they drive off.

Her

I don't know where we're going, I've ... I've no idea where I'm driving.

Magnus

But I do, I'll tell you.

Her

Up here? Is it up here?

Magnus

No, it's straight ahead.

Pause.

Grandma

To Her. Is everything alright?

Her

Yes.

Is it here, it is up here, you must answer me IS IT UP HERE?

Magnus

It's straight ahead. I'll let you know.

Just follow the road.

To Frida. Now we're going to a nice place, now you're going with daddy to a nice place.

A nice place to swim.

My girl.

My little girl.

The car stops.

Her

And now?

Are we crossing the bridge?

Magnus

No, we're not crossing the bridge.

Her

Right or left?

Right or left?

RIGHT OR LEFT?

Magnus

I ...

I don't know.

I don't remember.

Try left, and then we'll see.

Her

No.

Magnus

We'll try one of the roads. It's not far.

Her

No.

You must know where we're going.

Grandma

Yes, you must know where we're going.

Her

But you must know where we're going!

A

It is morning. Grandma is in the living room. Grandpa comes out from the bedroom.

Grandma

I was so glad when we left yesterday, and was looking forward to waking up here.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

To have a nice morning here.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

But then I can't go to sleep. So I sit here, awake, half the night.

And then all I think about is that this is the last time.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

That this is the last round.

Grandpa

Yes.

Pause.

Grandpa

Should I wake her up?

Grandma

Yes.

Yes, if you're able to.

Grandpa

I'll whisper to her, quietly.

Grandpa goes close to the bedroom where Magnus, Her and Frida are asleep. Stands for a short while outside the door.

Grandpa

No.

Grandpa turns away abruptly.

Grandma

What is it?

Grandpa

I'll wake him up.

I'll just wake him up.

Grandpa sits down, to calm down, to get his pulse rate down.

Grandpa

Let them sleep in, both of them. There's nothing to do about that.

Grandpa fights against his strong feelings, against his tears.

Grandma

Are you ... you ... are you alright.

Grandpa swallows his tears, pulls himself together.

Grandpa

Nothing to worry about. Let ... Let them sleep in the three of them.

Her tiptoes out of the bedroom.

Her

Good morning.

Grandma

Good morning.

Grandpa

Glad you managed to slip out. We ...

Grandma

We wanted to wake you up, but we ...

Her

You mustn't wake me up, then you could wake him up and ... And he'd better sleep till he wakes up.

Grandma

Yes, he'd better sleep till he wakes up.

Grandpa

He should decide for himself when to get up.

Grandma

Yes, that's his business.

Grandpa

No, he'll decide that for himself.

Her

Yes.

B

Grandma

Now it's on.

Her

Yes.

Yes, look.

Grandma

It's on again.

Her

The light's on.

Grandma

The light's on.

It's on.

I ...

I just have to ... turn away. Just stop looking at it, then ...

Grandma turns away from the light. Grandpa puts his arms around her, comforts her.

Grandpa

Then it'll be alright.

Grandma

Just have to ...

Grandpa

Then it'll be alright.

Grandma

Turn around.

Grandpa

She's up, walking around.

Grandma

Can't bear to look.

Grandpa

Turning it off and on.

Grandma

I can't bear to look.

Grandpa

Turning the light on and off.

Grandma

Sorry.

So foolish.

Her

No.

Grandma

Yes, how foolish.

Her

No, it's not foolish.

Grandma

I feel so foolish.

Grandpa

It's not foolish.

My dear, it's ... it's not at all foolish.

Frida comes in from the bedroom, she is wearing swim wear.

Grandpa

There she is.

Grandma

My little girl, come to grandma.

Grandma and Frida hug each other.

Grandma

My little girl, so nice that we're going to be together, that we're going to be together, these days here. Grandma is so happy about that, to be able to see you for a few days in a row.

Grandpa

Grandpa too.

Grandma gets tears in her eyes.

Grandma

Grandma is a bit foolish today, you see, a bit foolish.

I become so moved sometimes, when I see you.

Grandma loves you so much, you know.

It's just that grandma loves you so much.

Then grandma becomes a little foolish, you see.

Then grandma becomes a little foolish.

Magnus comes in.

Magnus

Good morning.

Grandma and Her hug Magnus.

Her

Good morning.

Grandma

Good morning. Did you sleep well, was it good to sleep in a little?

Magnus

Yes. It's good to sleep in a little when you're on holiday.

Grandma

Yes.

Magnus

That's part of it.

Grandma

Yes.

Magnus

That's part of the holiday.

Pause.

Her

Frida would love to have a morning swim.

Grandma

Grandpa can go swimming with you.

Grandma doesn't have the energy today, Frida dear.

Grandma's a little foolish.

To Grandpa. Perhaps you can go swimming with her?

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandma

Then I can sit and watch. Then I can sit and watch and enjoy myself.

Magnus

I thought I'd go to the south side.

Grandpa sits down.

Long pause.

Grandma

To Grandpa. You'll just have to go swimming with her.

The two of you just have to go swimming.

Grandpa

Yes.

Grandpa gets up.

Grandma

Poor little girl.

Poor little girl, just look at her.

She's standing there, ready, wearing her swim rings.

Her

Yes.

Grandma

Look at her.

She has dressed herself.

Her

Yes.

Grandma

Ran out of the bedroom.

With her swim rings.

And swimsuit.

Wanting to have a swim.

Looking forward to having a swim.

Look at her.

Look at her then.

Poor thing.

I ...

I cant bear it.

Grandpa

Come.

Grandma

I can't bear to look at her.

Grandpa

Come, Frida, let's have a swim.

Grandma

I can't bear it.

I can't bear to look at her.

Grandma moves away.

Magnus

Is everything alright?

Is she alright?

Frida and Grandpa go in the water. Magnus goes over to Grandma.

Magnus

Are you alright?

Grandma

Yes.

Just ...

Perhaps you could get some breakfast. I'm so hungry.

It helps once I get something to eat.

Magnus

Yes.

Yes, of course.

To Her. She's hungry.

C

Her

Let's get some breakfast then. I'll ... I'll help you.

Magnus and Her go inside. Magnus starts getting the food, Her glances at Frida's backpack, which is by the front door, for a few seconds.

Magnus

Could you help getting some spreads?

Her

Yes.

Her goes over to the fridge and finds spreads, but cannot concentrate, keeps glancing at the backpack, nervously.

Her

Do we have butter?

Magnus

Yes. At the back, to the right.

Her keeps glancing at the backpack.

Magnus

What are you looking at?

Her

No, nothing. Just lost in my own thoughts.

Pause.

Magnus

Are you looking at the backpack?

Her

No.

Magnus

At Frida's backpack?

Her

Can you bring the juice?

Her is about to take the spread with her outside, Magnus stops her, grabs her.

Magnus

Dear.

Come here.

Magnus holds her, tenderly and comfortingly.

Dear.

Dear.

Her

Yes.

Pause.

Grandma's hungry, we'd better ...

Magnus

Yes.

Her pulls away from Magnus and walks out on the veranda. She stands right outside and glances at him through the window. Magnus goes over to Frida's backpack, picks it up and begins to pack it. Her suddenly pulls away half a metre from the door, out of Magnus' sight. She stands there crying.

Grandpa and Frida come up from the water, Grandpa walks towards Her, Frida remains standing a few metres away. Her signs to Grandpa that he should have a look through the door into the garden. Grandpa peers in, cautiously, discretely, he sees Magnus packing the backpack. Then he walks over to Her and lays a hand on her shoulder.

Grandma stands by herself, like before, she doesn't see what's happening.

D

As before. Frida stands alone, Her and Grandpa stand hidden next to the veranda door, Grandma stands by herself. Magnus is inside the house making breakfast.

Magnus comes out with spread and plates.

Magnus

It's on the table!

Magnus puts spreads and plates on the table.

Magnus

Breakfast's on the table!

Magnus goes to Grandma.

Magnus

There, now you can have something to eat.

Magnus sits down at the table and eats. The others remain where they are.

Magnus

Frida, it's ready!

Her walks over to Frida.

Her

Frida, what do you want? *To Magnus.* She wants a peanut butter sandwich!

If you could bring it over here!

Her walks over to where she was standing before, Grandpa places his arm on her shoulder again. She continues to cry, men hides her tears for Magnus. Magnus makes Frida a sandwich.

Magnus

Should I bring it over?

Her

Peanut butter sandwich!

Magnus walks towards Frida to give her the sandwich, Her walks towards Magnus, takes the sandwich from him and gives it to Frida.

Her

Here Frida. Sandwich.

Her walks back to where she was standing before, Grandpa places his arm on her shoulder again.

Magnus walks back to the table, eats and glances over at Her and Grandpa.

Magnus

Are you alright over there?

Her

Yes. We'll come and eat.

Magnus

Good.

Her and Grandpa remain standing where they are. Magnus keeps eating, glances at Frida.

Magnus

She's not eating.

Her

What?

Magnus

Frida. She's not eating.

Her frees herself from Grandpa's embrace and goes to Frida.

Her

Aren't you hungry?

Magnus

She's not hungry. She isn't eating.

Her

Don't you want something, have something to eat.

Magnus

She isn't hungry.

Then ...

We'll just go then.

Her goes back to the house wall, like before, Grandpa puts his arm around her.

We'll just go then.

Come Frida.

Magnus goes into the house, Frida follows. They begin to get ready. Her remains standing outside. Grandpa comes in, he begins to hang up the lamp. He tries to fasten the screw with the help of a kitchen knife, but it doesn't work. He puts the kitchen knife down, glances at Magnus. Magnus and Grandpa stand and look at each other for a while.

Grandma comes in. Grandma glances at Grandpa, at the lamp and at the kitchen knife lying on the table, then she glances at Magnus.

Grandma

To Magnus. I'd just love to ... sit and ... breaks down sit and read for a while.

Grandpa

But my dear ...

Magnus and Grandpa go over to Grandma, take care of her, comfort her.

Magnus

Are you alright?

Grandma

Yes, I'm alright, I just ...

I just ...

Grandpa

She wanted to read.

Grandma

I wanted to read for a while and then ... then I don't know what came over me it ...

Her comes in.

Her

Oh ... Oh, my dear ...

Her runs over to Grandma, holds her, holds her tight, comforts her and cries herself.

Grandpa

Get her eye drops.

Magnus looks in Grandma's pockets, finds the eye drops, and tries to drip them in her eyes.

Magnus

If you could keep your head still.

Look up.

Look up.

Her

Sorry.

Magnus

Look up.

Her

Sorry I'm crying ...

Magnus

There.

Her

But ...

Magnus

There.

Her

But that's how it is, when you see someone crying, when you see someone you love crying, then ... then you just start yourself.

Magnus

She wanted to read.

Her

Oh well, I thought perhaps she ... had fallen and hurt herself or ... I ... *Keeps crying.*

Magnus

Yes.

Magnus comforts her, puts his arms around her. Her clings to him, buries her face in the crook of his arm.

There, there, it's alright.

Her

Hold me.

Magnus

Everything will be alright.

Her

Hold me.

Magnus, who is already holding her, changes the position of his hands.

Magnus

Like this?

Her

Hold me, just hold me.

Magnus changes the position of his arms again.

Magnus

I ...

I'm holding ...

Her

Hold me.

Magnus

I'm holding you.

Her dries her eyes, pulls herself together.

Magnus

There, there. Everything's alright.

Yes. Everything's alright.

E

Magnus

We're ready now.

If you're ready?

Pause.

If everything's alright?

Her

Yes.

Yes, everything's alright now.

Grandma

I'll come.

To Her. I'll come with you. I'll come, my dear.

Her

But where is it?

Magnus

We'll just drive along, towards the river.

Her

To the bridge?

Magnus

Yes, to the bridge.

Her

And then, right or left?

Magnus

I don't know.

Her

Right or left at the bridge?

Magnus

I don't know.

Her

You don't know, but surely you must know?

Her sits down, resigned, as if she has given it all up. Grandma sits down in the same way.

Magnus

We'll see it when we get there.

We'll see it when we get to the bridge.

Drive us to the bridge, at least.

You can drive us to the bridge.

There at least.

Then we'll walk from there.

Grandpa

You should drive them over there, then. To the bridge. They'll come back today.

Magnus

This afternoon.

Grandpa

They'll come back this afternoon.

Her

Yes.

She stands up.

Her

To Grandma. Let's drive them to the bridge.

Pause.

Grandma

Yes.

Grandma stands up.

Magnus

Come Frida.

Magnus and Frida go out, sit down in the car, in the backseat.

Grandma

Yes.

Pause.

Her

The car keys?

Grandpa

On the bench.

I ... I'll get them for you.

Grandpa gives Her the car keys.

Her and Grandma hug Grandpa, embrace him.

Grandpa

Thank you.

Thank you both for ...

For driving them.

Her and Grandma go outside. Her and Grandma go and sit in the car.

Her

Yes.

Let's drive then.

Grandma

Yes.

Her starts the car and they drive.

Her

I don't know where we're going.

Magnus

But I do.

Her

I don't know where the bridge is.

Magnus

I'll tell you.

Pause. They're driving.

Grandma

Is everything alright?

Her

Yes.

Grandma

Let's take turns. Let's take turns driving.

Her

Up here?

Is it up here?!

Magnus

No, it's straight ahead.

Her drives the car to the side of the road, stops.

Magnus

Is everything alright?

Pause.

Her

Yes.

Let's take turns.

Her and Grandma change places. They drive on.

Grandma

Is it here?

Is it up here?

Up here?

Magnus

No.

Grandma

Is it here, is it up here, you have to answer me IS IT UP HERE?

Grandma drives the car to the side of the road, stops.

Magnus

It's straight ahead. I'll let you know.

You just follow the road.

Pause.

Magnus

Are you alright?

Grandma

Yes.

Magnus

You'd better be alright.

Grandma

Yes.

Pause.

Her

My turn?

Grandma

Yes.

Her and Grandma change places. Her drives on.

After a while, the car stops.

Her

And now?

Are we crossing the bridge?

Magnus

You can just let us out here.

Her

Right or left?

Magnus

It's not far.

Her

Right or left?

Magnus

We can walk.

Her

RIGHT OR LEFT?

Magnus

I don't remember.

Grandma

Try the left turn.

Magnus

We'll walk.

Grandma

Try the left turn, then we'll see.

Her

We can try one of the roads.

Magnus

We'll walk.

Her

We'll try one of the roads!

Magnus and Frida go out of the car.

Her

We'll try one of the roads, we'll drive you where you're going.

Magnus

See you.

Grandma

We'll drive you, we'll drive you.

Magnus

See you.

Her

Please, can't you ... come back to the car, we'll drive you where you're going, we promise, please, we'll drive you.

Magnus and Frida go off.

F

Her and Grandma alone in the car.

Her

I don't understand it.

I don't understand it.

I just don't understand it.

What's he going there for, why ... why's he going there, I ...

I don't understand it.

I don't understand it.

Grandma

He's stubborn.

Her

He's so stubborn so stubborn.

He's so terribly stubborn.

I ...

I don't understand it.

I just don't understand it.

He ...

Her panics, goes out of the car.

Grandma

Wait ...

Her

Magnus!

Grandma

Come back.

Her

Magnus!

Grandma

Come back, into the car.

Her

Magnus.

MAGNUS!

Grandma out of the car. She stands by the car, she never leaves the car, but Her does. She keeps moving further and further away.

Her

MAGNUS!

Grandma

Come.

Her

MAGNUS!

Grandma
Come back.

Her
MAGNUS!

Grandma
COME!

Her
MAGNUS!

Grandma
COME BACK.

Her
MAGNUS!

MAGNUS!

Grandma
COME!

Her
MAGNUS!

Grandma
COME BACK!

Her
MAGNUS!

Grandma
INTO THE CAR!

Her
MAGNUS!

MAGNUS!

Grandma
COME!

Her
MAGNUS!

MAGNUS!

MAGNUS!

MAGNUS!

Her walks further and further away from the car, she continues to shout until her voice is hoarse and worn out, and slowly she disappears from sight, but we still hear her for a while, far away, into the forest.

THE END