

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

THE HOURS

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

VIRGINIA

Ah, Mr. Wolf. What an unexpected pleasure.

LEONARD

Perhaps you could tell me exactly what you think you're doing?

VIRGINIA

What I was doing?

LEONARD

I went to look for you and you weren't there.

VIRGINIA

You were working in the garden and I didn't wish to disturb you.

LEONARD

You disturb me when you disappear.

VIRGINIA

I didn't disappear! I went for a walk.

LEONARD

A walk? Is that all? Just a walk? Virginia we must go home now. Nelly's cooking dinner. She's already had a very difficult day. It's just our obligation to eat Nelly's dinner.

VIRGINIA

There is no such obligation. No such obligation exists.

LEONARD

Virginia, you have an obligation to your own sanity.

VIRGINIA

I've endured this custody. I've endured this imprisonment.

LEONARD

Oh, Virginia.

VIRGINIA

I am attended by doctors. I am attended by doctors who inform me of my own interests.

LEONARD

They know your interests.

VIRGINIA

They do not! They do not speak for my interests!

LEONARD

Virginia, I can... I can see that it must be hard for a woman of your...

VIRGINIA

Of what? Of what my exactly?

LEONARD

Your talents, to see she may not be the best judge of her own condition.

VIRGINIA

Well then who is a better judge?

LEONARD

You have a history! You have a history of confinement. We brought you to Richmond because you have a history of fits, moods, blackouts, hearing voices. We brought you here to save you from the irrevocable damage you intended upon yourself. You've tried to kill yourself twice! I live daily with that threat. I set up the press... We set up the printing press not just for itself. Not just purely for itself, but so that you may have a ready source of absorption and a remedy.

VIRGINIA

Like needlework?

LEONARD

It was done for you! It was done for your betterment! It was done out of love! If I didn't know you better I would call this ingratitude.

VIRGINIA

I am ungrateful? You call me ungrateful? My life has been stolen from me. I'm living in a town I have no wish to live in. I'm living a life... I have no wish to live. How did this happen? It is time for us to move back to London. I miss London. I miss London life.

LEONARD

This is not you speaking, Virginia. This is an aspect of your illness.

VIRGINIA

It is me. It is my voice.

LEONARD

It is not your voice...

VIRGINIA

It is mine and mine alone.

LEONARD

It's the voice that you hear.

VIRGINIA

It is not! It is mine! I'm dying in this town!

LEONARD

If you were thinking clearly Virginia you would recall that it was London that brought you low.

VIRGINIA

If I were thinking clearly... If I were thinking clearly...

LEONARD

We brought you to Richmond to give you peace.

VIRGINIA

If I were thinking clearly, Leonard, I would tell you that I wrestle alone, in the dark, in the deep dark, and that only I can know. Only I can understand my own condition. You live with the threat, you tell me. You live with the threat of my extinction. Leonard, I live with it, too. This is my right.

(MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

It is the right of every human being. I choose not the suffocating anaesthetic of the suburbs but the violent jolt of the capitol. That is my choice. The meanest patient, even the very lowest is allowed some say in the matter of her own prescription. Thereby she defines her humanity. I wish, for your sake, Leonard, that I could be happy in this quietness. But if it is a choice between Richmond and death, I choose death.

LEONARD

Very well, London then. We'll go back to London. Are you hungry? I'm a little hungry myself.

VIRGINIA

Come along. You cannot find peace by avoiding life, Leonard.