

Ceci n'est pas une Pièce

(this is not a play)

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CHARACTERS:

First Movement:

SALLY, in the third person, until the end
MADAME ETIQUETTE, never without a helpful word of advice, adapted from IT'S FUN TO WRITE LETTERS! (1950)
LITTLE BOY, seven years old in the city playground
PHILOSOPHER, adapted from Jacques Derrida's THE GIFT OF DEATH (1993)
CHORUS OF YOUNG MEN, three graduate students
GOD, yes, the great and powerful, adapted from THE ST. JOSEPH BALTIMORE CATECHISM (1959)
GERARD DE NERVAL, a cameo appearance by the 19th century French poet

Second Movement:

MRS. G., a multiple personality, adapted from Robert Stoller's study, SPLITTING: A CASE OF FEMALE MASCULINITY (1973)
G.G., one of MRS. G.'s personalities
BIG BOY, adapted from THE LITTLE BOOK OF THE BIG BANG, Springer-Verlag (1997)
PHILOSOPHER, expounds on the game of Pinochle, adapted from Hal P. Sims' PINOCHLE POINTERS (1935)
DOCTOR, played by three young men
GOD, yes, the great and powerful, adapted from RULES GOVERNING DRIVERS OF PUBLIC TAXI CABS (1950s)
INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Third Movement:

YOUNG WOMAN, archetypal daughter
HANDWRITING EXPERT/DISEMBODIED VOICE OF MOTHER, adapted from Irene Marcuse's GUIDE TO THE DISTURBED PERSONALITY THROUGH HANDWRITING (1969)
LITTLE BOY, a voice from the distant past
PHILOSOPHER, adapted from Tom Leis BULLFIGHT MANUAL FOR SPECTATORS (1957)
TRINITY, adapted from WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY (1972)
GOD, adapted from Clare W. Graves' "Human Nature Prepares for a Momentous Leap," THE FUTURIST (April 1974)
ASTROLOGER AT LARGE, adapted from Linda Goodman's LOVE SIGNS (1978)

Note: The characters in the first movement are replaced by "counterparts" in the second and third movements as follows:

SALLY/G.G./YOUNG WOMAN
MADAME ETIQUETTE/MRS. G./HANDWRITING EXPERT &
disembodied voice of MOTHER
GOD/GOD/GOD
PHILOSOPHER/PHILOSOPHER/PHILOSOPHER & disembodied
voice of FATHER
LITTLE BOY/BIG BOY/LITTLE BOY
CHORUS OF YOUNG MEN/DOCTOR/TRINITY
GERARD DE NERVAL/INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS/
ASTROLOGER AT LARGE

SETTINGS:

First Movement: a blue sky and clouds

Second Movement: a cityscape

Third Movement: naked trees in a black sky

Note: Furniture should be kept to a minimum; chairs where necessary.
The sets should read like abstract paintings.

Second Movement

PROLOGUE

(**MRS. G.** asks the first question, “Qui suis-je?” followed by **G.G.**, then all others overlapping and repeating the four lines several times into a fade.)

Qui suis-je?
D'où viens-je?
Où vais-je?
Who am I?
Where do I come from?
Where am I going?

(**DOCTOR**, played collectively by **CHORUS OF YOUNG MEN**, sits in three chairs interrogating **MRS. G.**)

DOCTOR (1)

When did you have the shock treatment?

MRS. G.

I had my last on Friday, last Friday.

DOCTOR (2)

And it was after that that you left the hospital--you ran away.

MRS. G.

The following Sunday.

DOCTOR (3)

How many shock treatments had they given you?

MRS. G.

I'm not sure; between ten and fifteen.

DOCTOR (1)

Why did they give them to you?

MRS. G.

Because I asked for them.

DOCTOR (2)

And why did you ask for them?

MRS. G.

Because I didn't seem to be accomplishing anything.

DOCTOR (All)

What?

MRS. G. and G.G.

The most frightening part of all is that I've forgotten who I am.

DOCTOR (3)

What does that mean?

MRS. G.

The flies won't get out of my head.

PHILOSOPHER

One of the greatest problems confronting the average American family today is that of finding some method of entertaining children. Let me strongly advise you to teach your children to play Pinochle. It is a fine mind trainer and they will quickly become interested in it.

DOCTOR (All)

What do you think of an erect penis?

MRS. G.

A penis means strength. What's a bigger word than strength? What's the biggest word you can think of that means strength? That's what an erect penis means to me. I look in the dictionary. I don't see a big enough word for that. And a nonerect penis. What does it look like?

G.G.

Nothing — just a piece of flesh. How can a man look masculine with a non-erect penis?

MRS. G.

It's funny-looking.

G.G.

A piece of wet spaghetti.

MRS. G.

A wilted flower.

G.G.

Have you ever seen a tomato worm?

MRS. G.

That's what a nonerect penis looks like, a tomato worm.

MRS. G. and G.G.

I think all men should walk around in the nude with an erection.

BIG BOY

The overall motion of the universe is expansion.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

(staccato)

Moo goo gai pan

Moo goo gai pan

Moo goo gai pan

DOCTOR (2)

What would happen if you lost your penis?

MRS. G. and G.G.

Then I wouldn't be anything. My penis is what I am.

GOD

Requirements for a hack driver's license to operate either a public taxicab or a public coach:

DOCTOR (1)

She hallucinated and was delusional in order to have a better reality.

GOD

1.) Applicant must be a United States Citizen, declarant or permanent resident.

DOCTOR (2)

She was addicted to drugs; used (and was used by) her sexual partners for almost everything but her own pleasure;

GOD

2.) Sound physique, good eyesight; not subject to epilepsy, vertigo, heart trouble or any other physical or mental infirmity which might render him unfit for the safe operation of a vehicle.

DOCTOR (3)

She stole; had illegitimate babies;

PHILOSOPHER

I am sure no other method of mind-training can be as effective as that of card playing and I think, on these grounds, that Pinochle should be included in the curriculum of every school.

DOCTOR (1 and 2)

and even attempted murder and suicide--

PHILOSOPHER

As I look back on my life, the most interesting fellow I ever played cards with was a man who, at any time but in a Pinochle game, was rather disagreeable.

DOCTOR (3)

and even attempted murder and suicide--

DOCTOR (All)

(in unison, then overlapping)
all to experience the feeling that she existed, to keep from being swept away.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

(drawn out)
Movie star
Movie star

BIG BOY

We live in a galaxy, in an expanding universe of galaxies, that emerged from a hot, dense early universe filled with light.

GOD

3.) Able to speak, read, and write the English language.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Mais, moi, je suis la moitié français.

Mais, moi, je suis la moitié français.

Mais, moi, je suis la moitié français.

DOCTOR (3)

You say you have two children?

MRS. G.

Yes.

DOCTOR (1)

Have you had any other pregnancies besides those two?

MRS. G.

Yes.

DOCTOR (2)

How many?

MRS. G.

Four.

DOCTOR (ALL)

And what's happened to those children?

MRS. G.

I lost three--

G.G.

two were stillborn--

MRS. G.

and one died after birth. I also had a single birth that was adopted out--

G.G.

and I had a set of twins that were adopted out.

DOCTOR (3)

How do you get along with your mother?

MRS. G.

Fine, when I'm not home.

PHILOSOPHER

He never had much to say, and when he did say anything, nobody wanted to listen. But let that fellow get into a Pinochle game and he immediately became an outstanding humorist.

G.G.

When I was a little girl -- I couldn't have been less than 8 or more than 10 -- and I was living with my mother, I can remember that I believed in God and I would beg him to help me because the pain was too intense and I cried too much.

GOD

4.) Good character.

BIG BOY

Earth goes around the sun, the sun goes around the galaxy, and the galaxy is falling toward its neighbors.

GOD

Typewritten applications will not be accepted; applications must be prepared in the handwriting of the applicant.

MRS. G.

There was something terribly wrong with me. I have never really been sure of what it was but no one wanted to keep me.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Injured in an accident?

G.G.

Well, my dad always knew who I was, but he was always gone.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

The call is free.

The advice is free.

MRS. G.

Now he's dead. I think he's dead. I went to the funeral.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

1-888-I-GOT-INJURED.

DOCTOR (1 and 2)

(to **Mrs. G.**)

How did you feel when you were pregnant?

PHILOSOPHER

I began to play cards when I was about five, being needed usually to make a fourth.

MRS. G.

Fine, very well.

DOCTOR (2 and 3)

(to **MRS. G.**)

By that do you mean you felt better than usual, or the same as usual?

PHILOSOPHER

My parents were very proud of the fact that I could remember the thirteen cards in a suit. By the time I was eight or ten years old I had acquired quite a reputation with my family.

DOCTOR (1 and 3)

(to **MRS. G.**)

Better than usual?

MRS. G.

Healthy, happy, no problems.

PHILOSOPHER

I have been striving to live up to that reputation all my life.

DOCTOR (1)

Is that the best you feel, when you are pregnant?

MRS. G.

Either pregnant or locked up. I feel fine here.

DOCTOR (3)

It does seem puzzling, doesn't it, that at the times when you are locked up you feel better? Most people aren't that way, are they?

BIG BOY

A person contains 1028 atoms, about the number of people that would fit in a star.

DOCTOR (2)

Did you feel that you were mentally ill when they committed you?

MRS. G.

I don't know; they had been saying that since I was real small.

BIG BOY

Events that happened very quickly in the earliest moments of time can affect the structure and evolution of the universe on the very largest scales after a very long time.

MRS. G.

So it wasn't unusual. I was in juvenile hall three times, I think.

G.G.

But I lie to you pretty often and unless you question it the lie stands.

DOCTOR (3)

How old were you the first time?

MRS. G.

Fifteen.

DOCTOR (2)

How many jails have you ever been in?

MRS. G.

Let's see. . . I was in about four in Arizona. In California I've been in the X jail and I've been in the Y County Jail, and I've been in the X federal prison, and I've been in the O jail, and I've been in the B city jail and in the S rehabilitation center--

G.G.

and. . . you know. . . what difference does it make?

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

If you're feeling moody, depressed —

MRS. G.

A jail's a jail.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Write a letter.

G.G.

I like being in jail.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Then don't mail it.

MRS. G.

I was in jail once when I was seven.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Wait until you see the right side--

G.G.

For telling a lie.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Which is the bright side--

MRS. G.

My mother took me to the police station. Then I told her a lie that got me out of jail.

G.G.

(giggling)

I told her I was scared. (beat) I wasn't really scared--I kind of liked it.

DOCTOR (1)

But she wanted you to be scared?

MRS. G.

She sure did.

DOCTOR (All)

Was that the first time you were in jail?

G.G.

I guess so.

GOD

A driver shall be clean and neat in dress and person.

MRS. G.

I will never claim to have been abused, but I have been —

MRS. G. and G.G.

slapped, kicked, sedated, strapped, ignored and called filthy names.

G.G.

ridiculous, unreasonable, wicked
ridiculous, unreasonable, wicked
ridiculous, unreasonable, wicked

PHILOSOPHER

For the gaming table is a miniature world, the stake your own self-respect. The man who refuses to improve, who fails to do his utmost to win, is not admired; he is pitied. I, for one, want no charity.

GOD

The driver shall appear as in his photograph displayed on the identification card. Where the photograph shows eyeglasses, hearing aid, mustache, beard, etc., they shall be worn.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Rub a dub dub
Rub a dub dub
Rub a dub dub

BIG BOY

In the quantum world of the very small, for each spatial size scale there is also an energy or mass carried by a particle of that size.

MRS. G.

Something I did that I never got caught at —

G.G.

it was a miracle I wasn't killed —

MRS. G.

and that was holding a gas station up with an empty gun.

GOD

1st violation: \$100 fine

G.G.

I did it a half dozen times.

MRS. G.

It never occurred to me until maybe lately that I could very easily have been shot.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Là, on peut dire qu'elle est toute petite.

G.G.

Women can be hurt easy.

DOCTOR (All)

Men really can't be hurt, can they?

GOD

2nd violation within two years of first violation: \$150 fine and three (3) day suspension.

MRS. G.

I don't see how.

DOCTOR (1)

You still don't see how?

(**G.G.** and **MRS. G.** shake heads no.)

DOCTOR (2)

Aren't you well enough yet to see it?

(**G.G.** and **MRS. G.** shrug shoulders.)

GOD

3rd violation within two years of first violation: \$250 fine and revocation of driver's license.

DOCTOR (3)

Haven't you yet learned that men are vulnerable?

MRS. G.

If men aren't strong, God-like creatures —

PHILOSOPHER

More than a score of years ago I had the unforgettable experience of playing with thirty of the best Pinochle players in America who, collectively, reminded me of so many hungry wolves.

G.G.

If men aren't the most intelligent —

PHILOSOPHER

Individually I noted that some had longer fangs —

MRS.G.

The most all-knowing and all-giving —

PHILOSOPHER

some were quicker on the chase; others sprang in at the kill —

G.G.

And all the good things —

PHILOSOPHER

It was then I decided that either erratic brilliance or methodical correctness —

MRS. G.

If men don't have all those good qualities, if all men don't have all those good qualities —

PHILOSOPHER

would prove of equal value in the field of Pinochle.

MRS. G. and G.G.

Then why do I have a penis?

DOCTOR (All)

Good question. What do you think the answer is?

BIG BOY

Over the last few billion years, the flurry of star formation has been fading.

MRS. G.

Look, when I first met you I lived on the street,

BIG BOY

During the same period of time, life has evolved on our own planet and very recently has sprouted intelligence.

G. G.

When I was telling men older than me how to rob gas stations —

MRS. G.

and I was teaching young boys how to steal hubcaps and how to hot-wire cars—

G.G.

when I was doing those kinds of things —

G.G. and MRS. G.

I wanted to be a prick, that's what I wanted to be. Soft and hard.

DOCTOR (3)

You must have really been something when you had sexual relations. Did you have any with men in those days?

G.G.

Uh huh, all the time. Some of those men still come around for sex with me.

MRS. G. and G.G.

Some of those men that I knew then.

GOD

The man wants to love the woman.

MRS. G.

I was outfucking each man.

GOD

The man wants to take care of the woman.

G.G.

I was a better man than he was.

GOD

The man wants to bring the woman some orange juice.

MRS. G.

Then I'd kick his ass out of bed and get another one because he wasn't good for anything anymore.

G.G.

Those were the good old days.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Happy.

Happy.

Happy.

GOD

A driver shall not drink intoxicating beverages during a shift period.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Not happy.

Not happy.

PHILOSOPHER

Some night, when unable to find any other couple to play bridge with, you and your wife can play a game of two-handed Pinochle.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Irrelevant whether happy.

Irrelevant whether happy.

Irrelevant whether happy.

BIG BOY

From molecules and tiny dust particles to cities and small moons, the shape of material bodies is determined by electrical forces between atoms and molecules.

DOCTOR (2 and 3)

As far as you know, no woman has a penis.

MRS. G.

Yes.

DOCTOR (1)

You are not, then, a woman in the same way as other women, or are you?

G.G.

Of course I am.

GOD

A driver shall be courteous to passengers.

DOCTOR (2)

Look, physically, biologically, according to a doctor's examination, there's no penis. Right?

MRS. G. and G.G.

I think I haven't made it clear enough to you so you can understand.

MRS. G.

I feel this inside of me —

DOCTOR (3)

Inside?

MRS. G.

Yes, and it's hard.

G.G.

It's average size — whatever that is.

DOCTOR (2)

Is it erect?

G.G. and MRS. G.

Yeah.

DOCTOR (1)

Always?

G.G. and MRS. G.

Yeah.

DOCTOR (3)

Does it come when you have intercourse?

G.G. and MRS. G.

Yeah.

DOCTOR (1)

Inside?

G.G. and MRS. G.

Yeah.

DOCTOR (2)

You actually feel it?

G.G. and MRS. G.

Yeah.

DOCTOR (3)

Does it ejaculate?

G.G. and MRS. G.

Yeah.

DOCTOR (2)

You've got to make that clearer for me.

MRS. G.

How can I make it any more clear?

G.G.

When I have a relationship with a woman, it comes and I ejaculate and I feel it.

DOCTOR (All)

Can you tell me one more time?

MRS. G.

You're just bugging me, that's all. (beat) I have this.

MRS. G. and G.G.

(exasperated, then to a rising pitch)

I have it and I use it and I love it and I want it and I intend to keep it, and there's nothing you can do about it.

MRS. G.

(regaining composure)

It's mine. It makes me what I am.

GOD

The vehicle, particularly the interior, shall be kept clean and in good condition.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

We want to promote small bus-i-ness and small bus-i-ness growth.

DOCTOR (1 and 3)

Have you ever dreamed you have a penis? At night?

BIG BOY

At night, the sky is dark both because the universe is young, and because the universe is expanding.

MRS. G.

These questions are ridiculous. Why should I daydream or even dream about it when I know it's there?

DOCTOR (3)

Did it grow as you grew over the years, or has it always been the same size?

MRS. G.

Of course it grew.

MRS. G. and G.G.

How could it always have been the same size?

DOCTOR (All)

Look, if you're talking about magic, anything can happen with magic.

MRS. G.

I'm not talking about magic.

G.G.

Naturally it grew if I wasn't always a big girl.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

This device will end all pain and suffering.

DOCTOR (1)

Mrs. G.'s penis has an interesting quality with respect to psychotic mechanisms in identity development:

MRS. G.

Your books are floating around and you look strange to me.

DOCTOR (2)

a delusion fitted early enough into the construction of one's identity may be as automatized, accepted, unnoticed, and "neutralized" as, say,

G.G.

I thought this morning that I was dead.

DOCTOR (3)

a body part like an arm or a belief like "I am a girl."

MRS. G.

Why don't we talk about nice things? Okay? Quiet things. You tell me a nice thing, and I'll tell you a nice thing.

G.G.

Is it time for me to go now?

DOCTOR (1 and 2)

It's time for you to talk.

MRS. G.

Can you hear me scream?

DOCTOR (2 and 3)

No, but I can see you. What do you want?

MRS. G.

Don't you know what I want? How come nobody ever knows what I want?

G.G.

I want to find out who I was.

MRS. G. and G.G.

I don't know who I was.

PHILOSOPHER

There must be latent talents buried within you. Bring them out in the sunlight.

DOCTOR (1 and 3)

Open up. It's all right. You're here with me.

G.G.

I'm trying to.

PHILOSOPHER

It may be that Pinochle is the game for which you have been searching all these weary years.

MRS. G.

I remember what the man looks like, but I can't remember what he did.

MRS. G. and G.G.

I can see myself in the park with the kids, but I can't see him.

PHILOSOPHER

Let your talents flourish and multiply under the warming influence of a new field to conquer.

MRS. G.

Sometimes when I'm crazy I have flies in my head.

DOCTOR (1)

But now you're resting and waiting.

MRS. G.

Waiting to wake up?

DOCTOR (3)

Yes.

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

Dream Dream Dream Dream Dream Dream Dream

MRS. G.

Resting from years of being crazy?

DOCTOR (2)

Yes.

MRS. G.

And you know being crazy does tire me out.

PHILOSOPHER

I had an uncle who firmly believed that the threes and fours were designed by a revengeful Providence to plague him. With Pinochle, he has contentedly found his own special niche.

G.G.

Am I screaming now?

MRS. G.

Am I crazy?

MRS. G. and G.G.

(to **DOCTOR**, but in a fugue state)

I knew you when you were happy.

DOCTOR (All)

Who am I?

MRS. G. and G.G.

I don't know where to go.

GOD

A driver shall not indicate by word, motion, or gesture that he is restricting his direction of travel or destination.

DOCTOR (2)

Who am I?

MRS. G.

I really don't know where to go.

GOD

He shall not ask a passenger for a destination UNTIL THE PASSENGER IS SEATED.

G.G.

We should go to a place where you are supposed to learn things.

GOD

A driver who has been found guilty of the violation of this rule shall be penalized as follows:

MRS. G. and G.G.

Is it time for me to go now?

DOCTOR (3)

No.

MRS. G.

What did you say?

DOCTOR (1)

Nothing. What did you hear?

MRS. G.

You know, I was supposed to be born in Y. This is one of the family jokes. My mother was all prepared to go. She had her trunks sent and everything. My father was stationed there. But I was born two weeks early. She never forgave me for that.

DOCTOR (1 and 3)

Why?

MRS. G.

Because I'm bad. Because I do bad things. Because I steal and I lie and I go to bed with women. But she didn't tell me about right and wrong. To do something or not to do something. She never told me there were two things to do: not to do something and to do something. I did things, and I didn't know that they were bad. Nobody ever told me about that.

PHILOSOPHER

Another reason why children should be taught early to play cards is that card playing is a necessary social accomplishment.

DOCTOR (2 and 3)

How did you find out?

MRS. G.

When I got pregnant. Then she said that's a bad thing to do. That's wrong. There's right, and there's wrong; but nobody ever told me what that means. I'm a very bad person, I know that, but I don't understand it.

PHILOSOPHER

Now, although I have Pinochle to meld and ten to take in, I would wait for development of the hand.

MRS. G.

Suicide just came on me.

GOD

Official notice will be taken of any misconduct, deceit, fraud, subterfuge, or actions of a driver which are against the best interests of the public, even though not specifically mentioned in these rules.

G.G.

And I thought, well, I'll die, but next week I'm going to be alright. All the good things are going to happen if I just die for a little while.

DOCTOR (2)

Death isn't rewarding. Death's only the end of pain.

MRS. G.

And that's a reward.

GOD

Any violation of these rules may result in suspension or revocation of license.

G.G.

Then I found out you can't die for a little while.

MRS. G.

I read in a book, "Where is your soul?" and I used to think maybe it was in your stomach, and maybe it was in other parts of the body. Or in your head where the flies go.

PHILOSOPHER

Spades are trump; Queen in talon. I am on opening lead. I would lead Hearts and attempt to build either the Diamond or Club Suit.

G.G.

I don't even know what a soul is; I was thinking about that this morning--

PHILOSOPHER

Spades are trump; Queen in talon. Opponent leads Jack of Clubs.

MRS. G.

but it isn't thought that makes me want to live, and it's not my health, and it's not what I eat or anything like that--

G.G.

maybe that's what your soul is, that makes you want to survive.

PHILOSOPHER

Spades are trump; Queen in talon; I am on lead.

MRS. G. and G.G.

I have the feeling that because of the rottenness inside of me, my body is rejecting my soul.

PHILOSOPHER

I would lead Hearts and take strictly defensive means.

MRS. G.

So, if I'm not Sugar,

G.G.

and I'm not Sally,

MRS. G.

and I'm not Mrs. G.,

MRS. G. and G.G.

Who am I?

BIG BOY

It seems strange at first that we can know a lot about the early universe when some basic facts about its later evolution are still unknown, but this is indeed the case.

DOCTOR (1)

Who are you?

MRS. G

I'm somebody who sometimes likes women and sometimes doesn't—

DOCTOR (2)

Where do you come from?

G.G.

who sometimes likes men and sometimes doesn't—

DOCTOR (3)

Where are you going?

MRS. G. and G.G.

and who sometimes gets confused about who I am and what I am and sometimes gets scared about who I am and what I am.

PHILOSOPHER

Spades are trump; Queen of Spades in talon. I am on lead.

MRS. G.

That's why sometimes I have a penis and sometimes I don't.

MRS. G. and G.G.

Is that OK with you?

INTERNATIONAL LOVER OF FOOD AND SOUNDS

I eat my peas with honey—

DOCTOR (2)

What does G.G. think of your penis?

MRS. G.

Oh, she thinks it's silly. She thinks I'm silly. She thinks it's like pretending you have a dog,

G.G.

and you talk to the dog, and the dog follows you around, and you sic the dog on people, and you make it bite your enemies; but there isn't a dog there,

MRS. G.

and you know there isn't a dog there, and everybody else knows there isn't a dog there, so why pretend there is such a thing?

DOCTOR (1)

And are you still pretending?

MRS. G.

No.

(Pause.)

What do you want?

BIG BOY

Just because everything is flying away from us doesn't mean we are at the center. Rather, every point is the center -- or no point is, because there is no preferred center.

DOCTOR (3)

What do you want?

MRS. G. and G.G.

You tell me what I can give you that will please you, and I'll do that for you.

DOCTOR (2)

No, you tell me. What do you want?

MRS. G. and G.G.

I don't know what I want. I'm crazy.

DOCTOR (3)

What do you want?

MRS. G.

(trying to give the right answer)

I want the voices to go away?

DOCTOR (2)

No. What do you want?

G.G.

(angry)

I want you to stop asking me what I want.

DOCTOR (1)

Where's G.G. now?

MRS. G.

In my secret heart.

DOCTOR (2)

What does she want?

MRS. G.

Oh, no. We're not doing that. We don't give away that information.

DOCTOR (3)

What would happen if you did? Where would G.G. go?

MRS. G.

G.G. doesn't go anywhere. Don't you start fucking with G.G., you hear me?
G.G.G.G.G.G.G.G.G.G.G.G.G. (beat) Just stay out of it.

DOCTOR (1)

What are you afraid of?

MRS. G.

Nothing.

DOCTOR (2)

What do you want?

MRS. G.

Stop asking me that.
Stop asking me that.
Stop asking me that right now.

DOCTOR (3)

You know what you want. Tell me what you want.

PHILOSOPHER

All the strips, elimination plays, end plays and squeezes are every day occurrences in Pinochle.

MRS. G. and G.G.

(whispering, overlapping)

I want love.

G.G.

(whispering and beginning to retreat)

I want love.

DOCTOR (1)

What did you say?

MRS. G.

Love. I want love.

G.G.

(whispering, retreating)

I want love.

GOD

A driver shall not ask for a tip, or indicate in any manner that a tip is expected.

G.G.

(whispering, exiting)

I want love.

DOCTOR (3)

That's what you want?

MRS. G.

Yes, love.

G.G.

(whispering from offstage)
I want love.

PHILOSOPHER

With the above hand I would lead Hearts and then lead more Hearts.

DOCTOR (2)

Is that such a terrible want?

MRS. G.

No. (beat) Do you think I'll be able to get it?

DOCTOR (1)

Do you think you will?

End of Second Movement