Southside

by Fredrik Brattberg
Characters

Magnus
Her
Grandma
Grandpa
Frida
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.*
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 wandering 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.
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.*
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.
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.
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!
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.
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 on and off.

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.
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.

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, discreetly, 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.
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.
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._
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!

MAGNUS!

Grandma
COME BACK.

Her
MAGNUS!

MAGNUS!

Grandma
COME!

Her
MAGNUS!

Grandma
COME BACK!

Her
MAGNUS!
Grandma
INTO THE CAR!

Her
MAGNUS!

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