

MAGNE VAN DEN BERG

THE BIG
AFTERMATH
OF A SMALL
DISCLOSURE

*Four people: Jon, Sjon, Johan and Louise in a public
space*

O

Jon to Louise

jon It's so nice to be standing here with you,

Louise

louise Yes

jon Yes

I mean it

louise Yes

jon Yes

I really do mean it

louise Jon

jon Yes

louise Have you been drinking

jon No

louise Is something wrong

jon No

louise No

jon No

louise But

jon Agh

I suppose if one's honest there's always something
wrong

louise And you're honest

jon Yes

louise Jon

jon Yes

louise What's up

jon Louise

I've had this idea about going away

louise What kind of idea

jon Just an idea I've been having

louise You can't just leave

jon No

louise No

jon It's only an idea

I thought

Maybe it would be good to go and see what it's like
somewhere else

1

Louise to Sjon

louise Sjon

sjon What

louise Jon is thinking about leaving

sjon Oh

louise Yes

sjon Why

louise He didn't say

sjon When

louise He didn't say that either

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon I just heard

johan Who from

sjon From Louise

johan What

sjon Jon is thinking about leaving

johan Why
sjon She didn't say
johan When
sjon She didn't say that either

Johan to Louise

johan Louise
louise What
johan Is it true about Jon
louise Yes
johan Where did he get this idea
louise I don't know
johan Did he get it from you
louise Well no
johan From who then
louise I have no idea

Johan to Sjon

johan Sjon
sjon What
johan Where did Jon get this idea
sjon No idea Johan
johan Not from you

sjon Not from me

johan Try and find out where he got it from
will you

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon What

sjon Over here

jon What

sjon Is it true you're going away

jon No

sjon How come I thought you were then

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon Jon says he's not leaving

johan How come we thought he was

sjon I don't know

Johan to Louise

johan Louise

louise What

johan How come you think Jon is leaving

 He's not leaving

louise Who says

johan Sjon

Louise to Sjon

louise Sjon

sjon What

louise Johan says you said Jon's not leaving sjon

That's right

louise How come I thought he was then

sjon I don't know

louise So it's not true

sjon No

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

jon What

louise You're not leaving

jon Maybe, maybe not

louise Sjon says you're not leaving

jon Oh

louise Are you leaving

jon I'm thinking about it Louise

But that doesn't mean I am

Louise to Johan

louise Johan

johan What

louise It might not mean anything but he's
thinking about it

johan But it might mean something

Johan to Jon

johan Jon

jon What

johan I hear you're thinking about leaving

jon That's right

johan So why did you tell Sjon you're not

jon I didn't want to discuss it yet

johan But you did tell Louise

jon Louise is different, she's a woman

johan And Sjon

jon Sjon is not a woman

johan But he is a friend

jon More of an acquaintance

johan And me

jon You're a friend Johan

Johan to Sjon

johan Sjon

sjon What

johan Would you say Jon is a friend

jon Yes of course

johan He lied

sjon Oh

johan And he says he's not your friend

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon What

sjon Did you lie to me

jon About what

sjon About being my friend

jon I never said that Sjon

sjon ...

jon Sjon

sjon What

jon Did I actually say that

sjon No but I thought

I thought we were friends

jon You're a very close acquaintance

but not a friend

sjon But we play pool

jon You don't have to be friends to play pool

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon What's going on

johan What

sjon Jon didn't lie

johan Oh

sjon He never said he was my friend

johan But that's not what I meant

sjon What did you mean

johan I meant he lied about going away

sjon What did he say

johan He told you he wasn't leaving but

he told Louise he was

sjon So then he lied to Louise

johan No, Louise is a woman

Sjon to Louise

sjon Louise

louise What

sjon You and Jon are friends

louise Yes of course

sjon Do you think he would lie to you

louise I don't think so

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon What now

sjon You did lie to me

jon What

sjon You did lie to me

jon About what

sjon About not leaving

jon What did I say

sjon You told me you weren't going

jon I never said that

Go and ask for yourself

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon What exactly did Jon say

johan To whom

sjon To me

johan I don't know

sjon But you just told me

johan Look Sjon, I can't just go around
remembering everything people say
to you – you have a brain, do it yourself

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon What

sjon I can't remember exactly what you said
to me but it had to do with you leaving

jon Oh

sjon You said to me you're not leaving but
you said to Louise that you are

Jon to Louise

jon Louise

louise What

jon What did I say to you

louise When

jon Before

louise You said a lot of things

jon About me going away

louise You said you're thinking about it

jon That's what I said

louise Yes

jon Can you please go and tell Sjon

Louise to Sjon

louise Sjon

sjon What

louise Jon asked me to come and tell you that
he's just thinking about the idea of

leaving

sjon Is that what he said

louise Yes

sjon That he's thinking about the idea
of leaving

louise Yes

sjon OK

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon John is only thinking about the idea
of leaving

johan What does that mean

sjon It means he might go but he also might
stay

johan We don't know

sjon Just that he's thinking about it

johan I don't like it

Johan to Jon

johan Jon

jon What

johan What is this

jon What

johan This thing you're thinking about

jon It's just an idea

johan About leaving

jon It's an idea

Nothing serious yet

johan What's brought this on

jon You know Johan I feel lost here

2

Johan to Louise

johan Louise
louise Yes
johan Jon feels lost here
louise Oh
johan Did you know that
louise Yes
johan How did you know
louise I don't remember
johan Did he tell you that
louise I don't remember

Johan to Jon

johan Jon
jon Johan
johan Did you tell Louise you feel lost here jon I
don't remember
johan She knows
jon I expect she does

Jon to Louise

jon Louise

louise Jon

jon Did I tell you I feel lost here

louise I don't remember

jon Then how do you know

louise I don't remember

jon Could you please not go around telling
everyone because the fact that everyone
already knows I'm thinking about
leaving is bad enough

louise We care about you and we don't want
you to go

jon No no

louise Do you understand that

jon Yes

louise So please put it out of your head,
and anyway where would you go

jon I don't know yet

louise You see

jon But Louise

louise Yes

jon I think about it nearly all the time

I need to get the fuck out of here

louise That's what you're thinking

jon Yes

louise Jesus Jon

jon Yes Jesus yes

Louise to Johan

louise Johan

johan What

louise It's serious

johan What

louise The Jon thing

johan How do you know

louise He keeps thinking:

I have to get the fuck out of here

johan Did he say fuck

louise Yes

johan Are you sure

louise Yes

Johan to Sjon

johan Sjon you were right

sjon About what

johan About Jon

He does want to leave

He's at breaking point

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon If he wants to go, just let him go

johan Yes

sjon Don't you think?

johan Yes

Johan to Jon

johan Jon

jon What

johan If you really want to go

jon Then

johan Then you should go

jon Yes

johan I think

jon Yes yes

johan How will you go

jon If I go

I think I'll go in the car

johan Your car

jon I think so

johan Do you think you'll get very far

jon I think so

Johan to Louise

johan Louise

louise What

johan He is going

And he's going in the car

louise His car

johan Yes

louise He won't get far in that

johan No

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon What

sjon I heard things are getting serious

jon Yes

sjon Then you have to do it

jon I know

sjon How will you go?

jon I don't know yet
sjon Why don't you go in the car
jon I could

Louise to Sjon

louise Sjon
sjon What
louise What were you talking about?
sjon I asked Jon how he would go
If he goes
louise He's taking the car
sjon He just said he's not sure yet
louise He's taking the car
sjon Which one
louise His own car
sjon He won't get far in that
louise That's what I said
sjon But he won't
louise What
sjon Go in his car
louise Did he say that?
sjon I think so

Johan to Jon

johan Jon

jon What

johan If I were you I wouldn't take your car
because you're not going to get very far
in it

jon Who says I want to go far

johan Nobody
Nobody at all

Louise to Johan

louise Johan

johan What

louise Is he or isn't he going in his car

johan I think he is

louise He really won't get far

johan Who says he wants to go far Louise

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

jon What

louise So you're staying in the area

jon In what way

louise Well, you're taking your car

jon Louise

louise What

jon I think I'll go this week

3

Louise to Sjon

louise Sjon

sjon What

louise Jon's leaving this week

sjon Where's he actually going?

louise He doesn't know

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

jon What

louise You don't know, do you?

jon What

louise Where you want to go

sjon Why's he in such a rush

louise Jon

jon What

louise Sjon wants to know why you're

in such a rush

jon ...

sjon Look, Jon

jon What

sjon What's got into you

jon How do you mean

sjon All this going away

All this sudden rush

jon ...

sjon What

jon People find themselves when they travel

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon Would you say Jon is a friend

johan Yes

sjon He's lost

johan How do you know

sjon That's what he says

johan What does he say

sjon He says he needs to find himself again

4

Johan to Jon

johan Jon

jon What

johan Aren't you happy

jon Happiness is something I see more in
other people

Johan to Louise

johan Louise

louise What

johan Jon isn't happy

louise I know

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

jon What

louise What's up with you

Aren't you happy?

jon Happiness is something I see more in
other people

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon Can I talk to you about something

It's about Louise and Jon

johan Not right now Sjon, please

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

jon What

louise I'm not happy either but I manage

jon Manage what Louise

louise What I have

jon What do you have

louise Everything I need

jon And what is that

louise Well Jon

jon Well Louise

louise A house and a husband

And a friend like you

jon Yes yes

louise Or don't I

jon Yes

louise Do you think not

jon Yes

louise And if you go

jon Then what

louise Then I'll be missing something

jon You mean

You'll be missing your lover

louise ...

jon Find someone else, Louise, please

louise I don't want someone else

jon Do you want to come

louise What, you think I can just leave

jon Yes

louise Jon, I have Johan

jon You have me too

louise That's different

I'm stuck Jon

jon Cut yourself loose

louise I don't want to be loose

jon Then you'll stay stuck

louise I will

Johan to Louise

johan Louise
louise What
johan What is it
louise Nothing
johan Oh

I just thought

louise No
johan Have you been crying
louise No
johan I just thought
louise No no
johan Do you want to go home
louise No
johan Don't worry Louise

Jon will be around

Louise to Jon

louise Jon
jon Yes
louise You can't just go

You have everything here
Everything is here
What's there that's not here

jon I don't know yet

louise Here you know exactly what you have
Because we're here
You have us

jon ...

louise What is wrong with you

jon I'm tired

louise I'm tired too Jon
We're all tired

jon Louise

louise Yes

jon Can I ask you a favour

louise Depends

jon Can I leave some things with you

louise What kind of things

jon Just things

louise What do I say to Johan

jon Just say they're mine

louise He won't like it

jon Then don't tell him
louise So what do I say
jon Say they're your sister's
louise You're so young and so beautiful
Please don't go away
jon Louise, don't, you're driving me nuts
louise Kiss me
jon You know I like you
But I'm going
louise Fine, then go
But I can't come with you
jon You're staying with Johan
louise I think so
jon Because you love him
louise I think so
jon You also love me
louise It's different
jon There's no ring
louise No Jon
I mean
Yes Jon
There's no ring

In fact, there's nothing
What do you have to offer me?

jon Perspective

louise Perspective

jon Yes, perspective

louise I don't know Jon

I have perspective

I have perspective with Johan

But I will miss you very badly

Can't you stay nearby

jon Stop it Louise

louise I won't stop

I love you

jon You've said it now

louise What

jon What you said

louise I didn't say it

jon You said it and I heard it

louise Kiss me Jon

Just a quick kiss

jon No

5

Sjon to Louise

sjon Louise

louise What

sjon I suppose you'll miss Jon

louise I will yes

sjon What are you going to do

louise What do you mean?

sjon On evenings like this

louise I don't know what you mean

sjon You know I like having a drink too

louise Yes yes I know Sjon

sjon As long as you know Louise

...

Louise

louise Yes

sjon You don't ever need to feel alone

louise No Sjon

sjon Is what I meant

louise Sjon

sjon What

louise I wish it was you going instead of Jon

6

Louise to Johan

louise Johan

johan What

louise It's about Jon

johan Oh

louise He needs to get rid of some things

johan What kind of things

louise Just things

johan And he wants to leave them here

louise Jon is confused

 He's abandoned his friends

johan He'll be back

louise Do you think

johan I'm certain

 He can't manage alone

louise How do you know

johan I know him

louise I know him too

 I know him better

johan That's true
 You know him better

louise Well then

johan Is he still in love with you

louise No

johan Is this never going to end

louise Maybe

johan You're not fuelling this are you Louise

louise I'm not fuelling anything Johan

johan OK good

louise So what do you think
 About his things

johan What kind of things are they

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

jon What

louise What kind of things are they

jon Boxes

louise Of what

jon Of stuff

louise Not stolen stuff

jon What do you take me for

louise I was just asking
jon Just some stuff and... things
louise What kind of stuff and things
jon Books, notebooks, letters
louise Whose letters
jon Your letters
...
louise You're leaving because of me aren't you

7

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon What

sjon So you're really going

jon Yes

sjon Is it because of Louise

jon No

How do you know about that

sjon Everybody knows about that

jon Johan too

sjon Johan too

jon What does he say

sjon Not a lot

jon I can't help it

sjon We know

jon I didn't know you knew

sjon We've known for ages

jon And the others

sjon Oh the others know too

Where are you actually going

jon I don't know yet

sjon Is it our fault

jon No it isn't

sjon What is it then

jon I want to get out of here

And if I don't go now

sjon No

jon No

sjon No no

jon So that's why

sjon If you want

jon What

sjon You can take my car

jon I just want to get out of here

sjon Just do it man

Just do it

jon No obligations

sjon I'm not obligating you to anything

I'm just saying you can take my car

jon What about you

sjon Meh

jon It's nice of you
But I have my own

sjon I want to help you
I've thought about it too you know

jon Yes

sjon But you're still young

Johan to Louise

johan Louise

louise What

johan Did you tell Jon it's fine about his stuff

louise Not yet

Johan to Jon

johan Jon

jon What

johan It's fine to leave your stuff with us

jon Thanks Johan

johan It will be safe with us

What kind of stuff is it anyway

jon Some boxes of exercise books and letters

johan Schoolbooks

jon Yes

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon Yes

sjon What are you actually looking for

jon Solitude and stillness

sjon Do you think that will make you happy

jon I don't know

But it sounds good

sjon Solitude is not good Jon

You should try and avoid it at all costs

Johan to Louise

johan Louise

louise Johan

johan Why would Jon have kept his

schoolbooks

louise I don't know

Is he keeping them

johan Yes

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

jon Louise

louise Those aren't schoolbooks

jon No of course not

louise What's in them

jon Just things

louise Can I read

jon What

louise Can I read what you wrote in them

jon Why

louise To have you near me

When you're gone

jon I don't know Louise

louise Or am I in them

jon ...

louise Jon

jon No

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan Yes

sjon I don't understand Jon

johan No

sjon I offered him my car

johan Oh

sjon But he turned me down

johan He turns everyone down

8

Louise to Sjon

louise Sjon

sjon What

louise You know Jon and I are close, don't you

sjon Yes

louise Please don't talk to anyone about it

sjon No

louise Because I think that's why he's going

sjon ...

louise I have Johan

sjon Yes

louise You know that

sjon Yes

louise But it hurts

He's leaving a box of notebooks and letters behind

sjon He's not dying

louise I mean, he's leaving them with us

I get to look after them

sjon What's in them

louise Nobody knows
sjon Aren't you curious
louise Yes of course
 But I think I know
sjon Oh yes
louise Yes
sjon Louise
louise Yes
sjon You know the time I gave you those roses
louise Yes
sjon I didn't mean it like that
louise No
sjon It was because we're friends
louise Yes
sjon I thought that was OK
louise Yes
sjon Johan understood
louise Yes
sjon But I thought
 I'll just say it again
louise Sjon
sjon What

louise Look at Johan
sjon Yes
louise Do you think he looks happy
sjon Sure
louise I'd like to keep it that way
sjon What do you mean Louise
louise What I'm saying
 I like seeing Johan happy
sjon Louise
louise What
sjon Are you happy
louise Oh stop it

9

Johan to Jon

johan Jon

jon What

johan Do you want me to take you somewhere

jon Where to

johan Wherever you want to be

jon I don't know where I want to be

johan Where do you think

jon Maybe by the sea

johan North Sea, Baltic Sea,

Mediterranean Sea

jon I don't know

johan You don't know much do you Jon

jon No

johan Shouldn't you maybe try and figure

some of that out first

jon No

johan What are you going to live on

jon Seasonal work

johan OK

jon I think

johan OK

Jon

jon What

johan What will you do on New Year's Eve

jon What do you mean

johan Will you come back

jon I might

johan Because you shouldn't be alone on
New Year's Eve

jon No

johan I just wanted to say

jon Johan

johan What

jon Are you thinking about New Year's
already

johan It's that kind of thing Jon

Louise to Johan

louise Johan

johan Louise

louise Are we OK

johan I dunno
What do you think
louise ...
johan So
louise What
johan Are we OK
louise Oh Johan that's not something a person
can answer straight away

Sjon to Louise

sjon Louise
louise Can you please leave me in peace
for one minute Sjon
sjon I want to ask you something
louise I'm busy
sjon It's just a quick thing
Do you think I'm very unattractive
louise No
sjon That was all
louise Why would you ask such a thing
sjon Because you're so unfriendly
I thought, there's something behind it Then I thought
It's not my personality

Because I have a good personality

So it must be my appearance

louise Oh Sjon

sjon Yes

louise You're such a dick sometimes

sjon Louise

louise What

sjon If I were you

I'd be a bit more careful with me

Johan to Louise

johan And

louise What

johan Do you know yet

louise Sjon interrupted me

johan With what

louise Nonsense

johan What did he want

louise Attention

johan He sees his chance

louise What do you mean

johan Now Jon is going, he sees his chance

louise Chance of what Johan

johan His chance to get you

louise Nobody here stands a chance with me

Except you

johan And Jon

louise What Jon

johan Doesn't he stand a chance

louise I've told you

Nobody Johan

Except you

johan Louise

louise What

johan Why don't we throw a really massive

party

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon Sjon

sjon Do you like me

jon Yes

sjon Louise doesn't like me

jon Of course she likes you

sjon She doesn't

But sometimes I fantasise about her

jon What do you fantasise about

sjon That she loves me

jon She doesn't love you

She loves Johan

sjon And you

I fantasise about you too

Louise to Sjon

louise Sjon

sjon What

louise Can you give me a minute alone

with Jon

sjon No

louise What is it

sjon I fantasise about you sometimes Louise

louise Oh

sjon And not just nice things

louise Are you trying to scare me

sjon Yes

louise Why would you do that

sjon To get your respect

louise That's not the way Sjon

sjon What's the way then Louise

Being silent and enigmatic like Jon
Or being big and strong like Johan
louise Are you trying to provoke me
sjon That's not my intention
I'm trying to scare you
louise Sjon
sjon Yes
louise Can you please leave me alone with Jon
for a minute
sjon No

Louise to Johan

louise Johan
johan What
louise Can you come and get rid of Sjon for me
johan What's the matter
louise He's bothering me

Johan to Sjon

johan Sjon
sjon Yes
johan What's going on
sjon Nothing – but Louise is just so unfriendly

johan Why is she unfriendly

sjon I don't know

johan Of course you know

sjon Well yes of course I know

But still

johan Just leave her alone a bit will you

sjon OK, as long as she's a bit friendlier

Johan to Louise

johan Louise

louise Yes

johan Be nice will you

It becomes you so

Louise to Sjon

louise Sjon

sjon Yes

louise I'm sorry

sjon OK

louise So can I –

sjon Of course

Louise to Jon

louise ...

You see

Now I don't know what it was I wanted to say to you

jon It'll come back to you

10

Sjon to Johan

sjon There's cold in the air Johan

johan Yes

sjon I think it's the end of summer

johan Could be

sjon I have this idea summer isn't coming
back

johan It could change just like that

sjon I don't think it will

johan No

sjon I think it'll stay cold

johan It might

sjon Have you got your wood

johan Not yet

sjon Best get on with it I reckon

Louise to Jon

louise When do you think you'll be going

jon I don't know yet

louise This week
jon I think so
louise I think so too
jon Why
louise I sense something in you
jon What do you sense
louise I feel some kind of urge
jon Maybe
louise Or haste
jon That's also possible
louise The calm before the storm I feel
 I feel a lot
 I feel sadness too
jon Yes
louise Yes
jon Yours or mine
louise Yours
jon No, that's not right
louise You're not sad
jon No
louise That's strange because I can feel it
jon I don't feel it

louise Then it must be me
jon I think so
louise You're so cold suddenly
jon I'm really not
louise Then that must be me too

 ...
 Jon
jon Louise
louise What if I wanted to come with you
 after all
jon That might not work anymore
louise Because
jon Because it might be better if I go alone
louise Why
jon Because I have to find myself again
louise I could help you do that
jon Oh Louise

Johan to Louise

johan Louise
louise What
johan What is it

louise I don't understand Jon anymore
 I want to help him
 I'm wise Johan

johan I know Louise

louise I offered to go with him

johan Oh
 Is that a good idea

louise What

johan Driving off in an old banger

louise Do you think it isn't

johan I think not

louise Why though

johan I know you

louise Yes yes you know me

johan Or am I wrong

louise No no

johan ...

louise Johan

johan Louise

louise I'm glad you know me

johan You weren't being serious were you,
 about going too

louise No

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon What

sjon It's getting cold

jon Yes

sjon The summer's as good as over

jon Yes

sjon I think it's done, Louise

How long is it since that day in the
garden, in your bikini

louise I don't remember

sjon Crazy to think how long ago that
was Jon

jon Yes

sjon I'd go south If I were you

jon I might

sjon Why go

If you're not moving forward
Then you might just as well stay

Johan to Jon

johan Jon

jon What

johan I know what you're looking for

jon Yes

johan You want to detach

Be alone with yourself for a while

jon Right

johan I understand that

jon ...

johan Even though I don't have need of that
myself

jon ...

johan I do understand

jon ...

johan I have a different personality

jon ...

johan But I do get it

jon ...

johan I'm more gregarious

I like friends around me

A beer, game of pool, seems obvious
to me

jon I get that Johan
johan But we understand each other
jon Yes
johan Even though we're very different
jon Yes
johan I like you
jon I like you too
johan We like each other
It's a shame you're going

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan
johan What
sjon Have you guys got your wood already
johan No no not yet
sjon I'd get on with it if I were you
jon Yes yes yes you already said

11

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

jon What

louise Do you properly understand what
you're leaving behind

jon Maybe I don't

louise Look

What do you see

jon I see you all

louise What else do you see

jon I see Johan talking to Sjon

louise And what else

jon I see you

louise And

jon I see you standing in front of me

louise And

jon I see you're getting drunk

louise You're not seeing that right

jon And I see something else

louise What do you see
jon A lost Louise
louise A lost Louise
jon That is what I see
louise You think Louise feels lost
jon I don't know what she feels
 but it is what I see
louise I feel betrayed Jon
 So lost is not right
jon Your love turns into hate very quickly
louise Oh Jonny
jon You're suddenly full of hate Louise
louise Because I love you
jon And you're saying a lot of big stuff today
louise Do I not normally say big stuff
jon No, actually you've never said this much
louise Is that so
jon That is so, yes
louise So what did you think of me
jon I thought you were exciting
louise Because I didn't say much
jon Maybe

louise You never said anything either
jon ...
louise You never said anything Jon
jon ...
louise That you were fond of me or anything
jon I wasn't fond of you
louise ...
jon I wanted you
louise ...
jon That's completely different
louise ...
jon And you're not fond of me either
louise ...
jon You want me
louise ...
jon Which is completely different
louise ...
jon Does what I'm saying alarm you
louise ...
jon Because it's true
louise ...
jon Just admit it's true

louise It's not true
jon It's not true according to you
louise But it is according to you
jon Don't take it too personally
louise How personally should I take it
jon Not too personally
louise You're breaking something Jon
jon Yes
louise Is it easier
jon Easier than
louise Easier to leave
jon I'm not going because of you
louise That wasn't my question
jon What's your question
louise Is it easier leaving after you've broken
 something
jon I'm not breaking anything
 I'm actually just being honest
louise Yes yes you're being honest
jon I think you're very beautiful Louise
louise That's not really worth very much
 to me right now

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon Have you ever been in hell

johan No Sjon, I never have

Louise to Johan

louise Johan

johan Louise

louise I want to go home

johan Yes

louise Now

johan Yes yes

louise Johan

johan Louise, we're not going to have a fight

with everyone here

louise I don't care

johan Oh Louise

Johan to Sjon

johan Sjon

sjon What

johan We're going
sjon Why
johan Louise wants to go

Johan to Louise

johan Why do you want to go
louise I need the toilet
johan You could go here
louise I've been needing to go for ages

Johan to Jon

johan Jon
jon What
johan Louise and I are going
jon I wanted to spend a bit more time
 with you Johan
johan Yes but
jon Louise
louise What
jon I wanted to spend a bit more time
 with you two
louise Oh yes
jon Yes

louise Johan
johan Yes
louise I'm off
johan If you're going, I'm coming with you
louise I'm going right now
jon Louise, stay a bit longer
louise Why
jon Otherwise I might not see you again
johan Are you leaving so soon
jon I might be
louise Johan
johan What
louise I'm leaving
johan Yes yes yes, I'm leaving too
jon So go
johan Sjon's still here
jon Of course Sjon's still here
johan Sjon
sjon What
johan We're off
sjon Why
johan Louise wants to go

sjon Why do you want to go Louise
louise I've had enough Sjon
sjon Enough of what Louise
louise Johan
johan What
louise Are you coming
johan Yes yes, I'm just saying goodbye
We might not see Jon again
sjon Johan
johan What
sjon What about Jon's box Louise was
supposed to look after
johan Oh yeah, the box
Jon
What do we do about the box
jon I'll leave it with Sjon
Sjon
sjon What
jon Can I leave the box with you
louise No Jon
jon What
louise I'm supposed to have the box

jon Yes but if you're leaving
louise Then what
jon Then it's complicated
louise What is
jon Bringing the box over to yours
louise Are you driving off tonight?
jon Who knows Louise
Who knows
louise The box is supposed to stay with me jon Yes but
if you're leaving
louise Then I'll stay a bit longer
jon I'll leave the box with Sjon
louise I said I'll stay a bit longer
jon OK Louise OK
OK

Louise to Johan

louise Johan
johan What
louise We're staying
johan OK
louise Just for a bit
johan Don't you need the toilet?

louise Not anymore

12

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon What

sjon So you're driving off tonight

jon Anything is possible

sjon It's really getting cold

jon Yes

sjon Summer's over

jon Yes

sjon Well then

jon What

sjon What I said

jon What did you say again

sjon Have you ever been in hell Jon

jon What

sjon You're not really here anymore are you

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What
sjon Jon's already left you know
johan Oh
sjon He's not here anymore
johan No
sjon Just look at him
johan Yes
sjon Is he here or isn't he
johan I don't know
 I can't tell
sjon He's gone already
johan It's possible
sjon I can see it
 I can hear it
johan Maybe
sjon I mean, just look at him
johan Right
sjon That's what I mean
louise What are you looking at
johan We're looking at Jon
louise Why
johan We're seeing if he's still here

louise You think he's not here anymore
johan We think in his head he's gone already
 Look
louise I don't want to look
sjon Just have a look
louise I don't think it's cool for the three of us
 to stand here looking at him
johan We're his friends
 We're allowed to look at him
louise Anyway, I already saw
johan What did you see
louise That he's gone
johan Do you hear that Sjon
sjon What
johan Louise already saw
sjon Yes yes I expect she did
johan That happened fast
sjon Yes
johan I didn't see it
sjon No
johan No
 Though if I think about it in hindsight

sjon Yes

But Louise

louise What

sjon You already saw

louise What

sjon Jon

That's he's gone already

louise Yes

sjon Louise

louise What

sjon Have you ever been in hell

louise If I had Sjon, I'd have bumped into you

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon Yes

sjon She was mean again

jon Sjon

sjon Yes

jon If you care about her, don't be like this

sjon How

jon This

sjon How am I being

jon Provocative

Nobody likes that

sjon No

jon No

sjon Jon

Louise thinks I'm subhuman

jon Have some sensitivity

sjon I do

Sjon to Louise

sjon Louise

louise Go away

sjon You can behave however you like

towards me because you're classy

louise Oh get lost

Johan to Jon

johan Jon

jon J'han

johan There's something in the air

Can you feel it

jon Yes

johan Like the excited feeling you get on

Christmas Eve

Except that's about someone arriving

jon Johan, if I stay

I'll never get anywhere

Something happens to Louise

Johan to Louise

johan Louise, what happened

louise What

johan Maybe we should go after all

louise I wanted to ask Jon something

johan What did you want to ask, Louise

louise I wanted to ask him if he thinks

he'll meet new people

johan What do you mean new people

louise Other people who aren't us Johan

johan Of course he's going to meet new people

louise I mean completely other people

Different people

johan What a question Louise

louise I know but I still want to ask him

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

jon Yes

louise Can I ask you a question

jon Go ahead

louise Do you think you're going to meet

other people

jon What do you mean

louise What I'm saying

Other people

jon Jesus Louise

louise Yes Jesus Jon

jon Well, I don't know

Yes, I think so

louise Do you think those other people

will be completely different to us

jon Jesus

louise Will they be different or not

jon Are you angry

louise I think so

jon Why

louise Because you're leaving

Because you're looking for something else
Because you think meeting other people is better than
staying here
But Jon
The fact that everyone here knows each other is worth
something too
And anyway, what are you thinking

jon What do you mean

louise I mean, people are all the same Jon
And it doesn't matter who you're with, because we all
want the same and we're all made of the same actual
stuff

jon What exactly do you mean

louise People are all the same Jon
So it doesn't matter who you're with,
because we all want the same and we're
all made of the same actual stuff

jon Louise

louise ...

jon I don't think that's true

louise What

jon What you said about being the same
and made of the same actual stuff

louise You just want to be different from us

13

Johan to Louise

johan Louise, what's going on
louise Nothing
johan You're shaking
louise I'm not shaking
johan Are you hungry
louise No
johan You're totally shaking
louise I'm not hungry
johan What is it then
louise Johan I'm so upset with Jon
that I'd rather he left right away

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan
johan What
sjon What's going on
johan Louise is really upset
sjon She shouldn't be

It's not worth it

johan She cares about Jon

sjon Yes

johan She really cares about him

sjon Really a lot

johan Really a lot

Jon to Louise

jon Louise

louise No

jon You're taking it too personally

It's not personal

It's not about you

louise If only it were

jon But it isn't

What are you thinking Louise

louise I'm not thinking

jon You're not thinking

louise I'm feeling

jon Would it feel good if I was leaving

because of you

louise Better

jon Better than what

louise Better than this
jon What is this
louise This isn't anything
jon Feeling
louise Yes
Completely nothing

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan
johan What
sjon I really want to talk to you
about something
johan Yes, later Sjon
sjon I think Louise is in love
johan With whom?
sjon With Jon
johan I think Louise is in love with me
sjon I don't think she is anymore
johan Since when
sjon Since Jon kissed her
johan Did he kiss her
sjon He kissed her
johan And you were there

sjon I was there
johan Watching
sjon I glanced
johan And where was I
sjon You were gone
johan Oh
sjon But you know all this
johan I knew
But I'd forgotten
sjon You've known for ages
johan And I forgot about it ages ago
I thought it was over
I asked her: is it over
And she said: yes it's over
sjon It's never been over
Not yet
johan Sjon, are you my friend
sjon What do you think
johan I'm suddenly not sure
sjon I'm your friend
johan Who am I supposed to believe
sjon Believe whoever you want, Johan

johan Then I believe Louise

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon Are you sure you've never been in hell

Johan to Louise

johan Louise
 louise Johan
 johan I know
 louise What
 johan I know about you and Jon
 louise Who from
 johan Sjon
 louise I'm sorry
 johan I'm sorry too
 louise We couldn't help it
 johan I thought it was over
 louise It was over but then it came back

Johan to Jon

johan Jon
 jon ...
 johan Jon
 jon ...

johan Jon
jon Yes yes I hear you
johan I know
jon Who from
johan The two of you
jon Who from
johan Sjon
jon ...
johan Jon
jon ...
johan Jon
jon ...
johan Is that why you have to go
jon No
johan Then why are you leaving
jon Because it's not about who we are
but where we are
johan And what we leave behind
jon ...
johan Jon
jon Yes Johan, and what we leave behind
johan I won't let Louise crumble

jon No

johan I see her disintegrating

jon Don't worry Johan

Louise and I didn't mean anything

johan Who do you think you are

jon Nobody Johan, nobody at all

johan I think Louise is right and that it's best
you leave tonight

15

Sjon to Johan

sjon Johan

johan What

sjon Now you know everything and you
don't need to be afraid of anything
anymore

johan I wasn't afraid of anything Sjon

sjon So much the better

johan But now I am

sjon What are you afraid of

johan Of you

sjon Of me

johan Yes

sjon That's crazy

johan Because you didn't spare me

sjon I'm your friend

johan That's something to really be afraid of
– a friend who doesn't spare you
because he's your friend

sjon But I am your friend

johan Yes yes you are

A friend to be afraid of

Jon to Sjon

jon Sjon

sjon Yes

jon Why did you do that

sjon I'm not a friend Jon

jon You're not whose friend

sjon Anyone's

jon You're Johan's friend

sjon I'm not a friend

jon Is that why you told him

sjon Because I'm nobody's friend

16

Louise to Johan

louise Johan, I'm going

johan Good

louise I'm going to bed

johan Good

louise I'll sleep on the couch because I assume
 you don't want me next to you anymore

Louise to Jon

louise Jon, I'm going

jon OK

louise I never want to see you again

jon OK

louise And if I see you again

jon Don't get your hopes up,
 you'll only be disappointed

louise I'm already disappointed

jon It's better if you don't miss me

louise No

jon Because that won't do anyone any good

louise I'm glad you said that

jon ...

louise What do I do now

jon What you said

louise What did I say

jon You said you're staying with Johan

louise Yes yes I am

But the question is is Johan staying with me

17

Jon to Johan

jon Johan

johan Yes

jon Shall I tell you

johan No

jon About how it was

johan No

jon Louise was alone

johan I said no

jon She was far too alone

johan I said no didn't I

jon And I thought she was pretty

johan What did I say

jon That's when I kissed her

johan ...

jon And she liked it

johan ...

jon But then she became clingy

johan ...

jon And once someone gets clingy

johan I'm going to punch you very hard
in the face

jon Just listen a minute Johan
Then you can't do anything about it

johan And you
Did you get clingy

jon No
I didn't get too involved
But I did think she was very pretty

johan She is pretty
Fucking pretty

jon Do you think you can stay with her

johan I don't think so

jon Then she should come with me

johan I'm going to punch you so hard

jon She can't stay here by herself

johan Why not

jon Louise needs love
And not just a bit
Do you give her enough

johan I give her everything I have

jon That should be enough

johan But maybe I don't have that much

Louise to Johan

louise Johan

johan What

louise I could go to my sister's

johan Why don't you

louise Do you mean that

johan Do I look like I don't

louise But what I would like best is

to go home with you

johan I'd rather not

louise Then we can talk about it

johan I don't need to talk

louise I love you Johan

johan Yes, yes

louise That's what I said to Jon

I said

But I love Johan

johan And then you kissed him

louise That's not how it went

johan Why did you kiss him
louise He kissed me
johan And you let him
louise Yes
johan Do I not kiss you enough
louise It's not that
johan What is it then
louise It did me good
johan That someone kissed you
louise It just did me good

 To have some affection

 It wasn't meant in a bad way

johan How was it meant then
louise It was innocent
johan Do you care about him
louise Kind of
johan Yes or no
louise Yes
johan Who do you care about more
louise I care more about you

 I think

johan I get no pleasure out of I think

louise I'm sure of it Johan
johan Louise you're in love
louise Maybe a tiny little bit
johan What do you think it's like for a man
to have a wife who maybe might be
a tiny little bit in love
louise Not very nice Johan
johan Not very nice Louise
louise But it'll pass
Now that Jon is going away
johan And what if he doesn't go away
louise ...
johan Louise
louise Yeah, I don't know Johan
johan Right Louise
But even if you don't know, I do
Then I won't trust you anymore
louise But please don't leave now
Johan, please don't leave me
johan I'm going home
louise I'll come too
johan No no no, you're not coming too

louise Johan, don't leave me here by myself

Johan

johan Sjon

sjon Yes

johan Take Jon's box, will you

19

Sjon to Jon

sjon Jon

jon What

sjon I'll take your box

jon I'll take it myself

sjon It's no trouble

jon I'm taking it with me

sjon Drive carefully Jon

It'll be cold tonight

Get a hotel

jon ...

sjon Do you have money

jon ...

sjon Jon

jon What

Yes

sjon Enough

jon What

Yes yes

sjon Here

jon What am I supposed to do with that

sjon Get a hotel

With breakfast

jon Thank you

sjon Jon

jon What

sjon And send a card

jon Alright

sjon With girls

jon What girls

sjon Girls from there

Wherever you're going

jon If you want

sjon Will you do that for me

jon I don't mind doing that

sjon Have you got my address

jon Yes of course

sjon Yes of course

jon OK Sjon

sjon OK Jon

Go for it

jon You too

sjon For what though

jon For whatever you want

sjon Can you think of anything else?

jon No

sjon I can't think of anything either

20

Louise to Jon

louise Jon

Jonny

jon ...

louise Stay just for a minute

jon ...

louise Don't abandon me like this

jon ...

louise Jon

jon ...

louise Or take me with you

jon ...

louise But please don't leave me here like this

Louise to Sjon

louise Sjon

sjon Yes Louise

louise Why did this have to happen

sjon I know Louise

louise Now everything's ruined
sjon I'm leaving too in a minute Louise
louise Broken broken broken
 You've ruined everything with your disgustingness
sjon I have to get up early tomorrow
louise Sjon
sjon What
louise Stay here
sjon I have to get up early tomorrow Louise
 I'm going to get wood
 Have you got your wood yet
 I'd get on with it if I were you
 Because it's getting very cold Louise Very very cold
 Summer's over
 And I don't think it'll be back
louise Why did you have to break what I had
 Because you have nothing yourself
sjon I've really have to go now

De lange nasleep van een korte mededeling

premiered on April 16, 2010 at the Toneelschuur Haarlem

jon René van 't Hof

sjon Jaap ten Holt

louise José Kuijpers

johan Willem de Wolf

Director Joeri Vos

www.viarudolphi.nl

Big Aftermath of a small Disclosure premiered in the UK by
the Actors Touring Company on August 3, 2018 at the
Summerhall Edingburgh

jon Abhin Galeya

sjon Mark Weinman

louise Wendy Kweh

johan Sam Callis

Director Alice Malin

Translation Purni Morell

www.atctheatre.com

Magne van den Berg (Enschede, 1967) graduated from the AHK Mime School in Amsterdam in 1994. Until 1999 she wrote and performed her own plays. Since 2006 she has concentrated mainly on writing. In 2008, *De lange nasleep van een korte mededeling* was awarded with the last H.G. Van der Vies prize. The play has been translated and performed in German and English. In 2014, her play *Met mijn vader in bed (wegens omstandigheden)* was selected for the Neue Stücke Festival Wiesbaden and nominated for the Taalunie Playwright prize. A performance of this play is due in 2019. She won the Taalunie Playwright prize 2016 for *Ik speel geen Medea*. Next to her own plays she writes youth theatre for director Timothy de Gilde and also creates performances in collaboration with choreographer Nicole Beutler (1: *Songs, Piece, Liefdesverklaring, Role Model, Liefdesverklaring voor altijd*).

Plays

Game over – 2018

*Liefdesverklaring voor altijd** – 2018

Genoeg nu over jou – 2018

Ka-Blamm – 2018

*Gender** – 2017

*Ik speel geen Medea** – 2015

*Liefdesverklaring** – 2014

Stel je bent een koe – 2014

*Met mijn vader in bed (wegens omstandigheden)** – 2013

De wending – onderdeel van *Het geluk** – 2012

*Vijf sec. erin eruit** – 2011

*Huis** – 2010

Ik stond in een kutvoorstelling maar m'n haar

zat wel heel goed – 2010

*Mijn slappe komedie voor vier mensen, een handjevol personeel
en een tafel die niet vrijkomt** – 2009

*Halverwege omgedraaid** – 2009

*De binnenkomst of je gaat tenslotte weer naar huis** – 2008

*De lange nasleep van een korte mededeling** – 2007

*Kale bomen ruisen niet** – 2006

Korte stilte, meisje begint – 2002

Op dagen van scherp licht – 2001

God woont in Texas – 2000

Translated plays

*Im Bett meines Vaters umständehalber**

*Das Lange Nachspiel einer kürzer Mitteilung**

*Keale beammen rûzje net**

*Big Aftermath of a small Disclosure**

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