

TWO AMERICANS CHANTING

composition for a woman and man
07/28/18 draft#7 BY SEAN EDWARD LEWIS

** performers are unseen (around corner)
** pre-show music starts 7:15, when house opens (no audience allowed in before 7:15.
** 7:40 (7:45 at latest) show starts. pre-show music stops. Michael opens curtain.
** silence for extended period. no music or sound amplified. the beginning drifts into place ...

PART ONE

[MAN AND WOMAN ARE UNSEEN AS THEY BEGIN SPEAKING]

MAN/WOMAN [CHORAL]:

i wanna be this when it comes to this
when it comes
and that is that and that that that

MAN:

one trigger darling

WOMAN:

what is this story of me and of you trying to see into
reality. dead men dead woman watch all the right things

MAN:

dead men dead woman she was clinging to me all the time
she laid there. of her coming back

WOMAN:

getting past this

MAN:

and we'll be able to start again. i saw her
she had blonde hair perfect curls black eyes

WOMAN:

swimmin in i i here swimmin in here

house plants me ohhh i've slowed maybe
icy waters

MAN:

plankton

WOMAN:

new kids think while you say THINK this is a love life
my heart goes to you and to your family

MAN: where is my family
WOMAN: un located
MAN: un available
WOMAN: un attentive
MAN: un abiding sea dwellers torn from the pages of history
WOMAN: we are one race
the others are from other places
but we are one race
i know these issues make people feel
i don't want to be ashamed of my
in this world of my
if you could express to me baby baby what you really feel
then maybe the two of us could for the first time

do you think they're laughing at us

MAN: don't you think they expected to be annihilated
blackness forever for you dear
love i'll exchange 50
perfectly shaped 50
stand on the air where men sit
left forever to be solid
to be upside down the earth
all our air times bombs
times minds traveling → ○ → into time
50 GERMANS you believe it ?
CAMUS SARTRE PARIS the surrealists left !
whose got weight here ? POING a prostitute clap ! clap !
GERMAN hands hear ME GERMAN hands hear ME hear ME

WOMAN: GERMAN hands are you laughing at us

MAN: annihilate me if there is any of me pointing towards that

WOMAN: these things happen hairy heads

MAN: with other heads

WOMAN: is this holding a breech in my own life
everything's washed an intelligence
i don't want this protracted emasculation

if it is actually inheritance i claim it
if not i do not accept

MAN: emasculation annihilation determination perpetuation

WOMAN: creeps dopamine lipso-gram device rolled neuter

MAN: nuisance elaboration conflatulation terrible peace

WOMAN: un governed

MAN: un compliant

WOMAN: everything protects everything to a certain point

MAN: what are these words

WOMAN: whose

MAN: how can you say that ? why do you say that ?

WOMAN: there aren't spies on this street are there

MAN: you're not being recorded. your "complex"

WOMAN: "complex"

MAN: pop a wheelie Carrie

WOMAN: show them your shorts Doug

MAN: drive up state to Frisco Doug

WOMAN: be yourself suck some dick Carrie

MAN: a triple marginal young folk porn game HA HA HA

WOMAN: mr chairman are you implying i have no guts
mr chairman mr chairman excuse me mr chairman
what is it mr chairman leave it mr chairman
can i speak candidly mr chairman here (yes) i see
it's here mr chairman this is 2 0 1 8 not 1 9 1 8
mr chairman yes the JEW
for that mr chairman we love him 60 years
a good mans life are you a bad man

MAN: yes

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WOMAN: what kind ?

MAN: i'm not scared

WOMAN: i see dirty rotten pool hummed seen alone
he has clips the shirt is white the borders are white

MAN: Blake is a fake mytho-madness LIE
sheep crust indian-angler peered
this sexuality is

WOMAN: how can it be

MAN: Bertrand Russell is a she-male

WOMAN: hyper active kids aren't worth the trouble

MAN: keep your mouth shut
stop it there's this sic to my stomach thing

WOMAN: downtown take him downtown we'll get into it then
downtown if you need me you'll know where i am

MAN: what is this nausea ?

WOMAN: i want to stay at your house

MAN: is this a psychological event

WOMAN: stop it let me show you my legs
world class style

MAN: do you know what they look like

WOMAN: their face looks

MAN: it's anatomy

WOMAN: these days they look like

MAN: they look like these days

WOMAN: my heart tells me certain things

MAN: does this hold your chest

WOMAN: i hold your chest

MAN: i hold your chest

WOMAN: monochrome (sign sign) this is going to end
formality saves us you feel the shape
an apes fist. pull me in grab me my nerves are shot
you remember going for it tall blonde dressed in black
you can just decide to go get the ... go get the ...
woman... corn copy woman

MAN: breathe woman. just a bad rap. truths out spread it
sudden like a trap. i need emancipation too

WOMAN: the MAN

MAN: the WOMAN

MAN/WOMAN: TWO AMERICANS CHANTING

MAN: i could lie rather than tell you i am happy
this is the start and it is possibility
mercy the long trip desire (so much)
everything is so fucking normal
revel my loving drowning
sing while drowning
your eyes say you want to
i'll listen i'll help you

MAN/WOMAN: [CHORAL] spider mountain breasts

PART TWO

WOMAN: eat me man i'm here you can munch my elbows first
and my wrists and my hands will just fall away
and you can eat them like snacks found on the ground
what were my hands are now in your mouth. i'll keep
walking. you can follow i'll see you without seeing you
behind me and just stare ahead not blind but bold
shivering come on sit closer i feel i need you
stare we turn into quirky ancestors of each other
you'll have my hands in your mouth how do my fingers taste
i hope satisfying. i hope you are finding this satisfying
what can i do for you. what do you desire dear

oh dear inter-changeable we are. hands saliva
 bust-contraption holy places next to hands
 next to ancestors coordinates on a wheel
 spindle as dice for a better future
 wheedle the war if there's mud
 mud what do you think this is VERDUN!
 your hearts been trained and these are the moments
 you must rely on this training

MAN: put a pistol in my mouth CARRIE i'm dying
 you CARRIE we must CARRIE
 spread the word DOUG'S back in town !
 DOUG'S BACK ! and Doug no longer feels affects

WOMAN: these years now DOUG knows DOUG'S not in-tuned
 DOUG'S been other places. each time i say this my mood
 changes from dark to light back to dark
 coordinates in this i value thus coming eastward thus
 you crying mud faced swine in your blood

MAN: swine blood they say this all the time

[MAN KISSES WOMAN. PROLONGED]

MAN: skirt-da-skates
 skirt-da-skates
 do you hear them chanting
 skirt-da-skates
 skirt-da-skates

MAN/WOMAN: TWO AMERICANS CHANTING

WOMAN: do you hear them chanting

MAN: do you

WOMAN: do you hear them

MAN: do you
 chanting
 do you hear them

MAN/WOMAN: chanting
 do you
 skirt-da-skates

skirt-da-skates
do you
skirt-da-skates
skirt-da-skates

[EMPTY]

skirt-da-skates
skirt-da-skates

[EMPTY]

skirt-da-skates
skirt-da-skates

WOMAN: perfect fit aces. don't think about it

MAN: think but don't think about it

WOMAN: JOLLY JOLLY

MAN: don't think about it

WOMAN: from scratch heave ho ... there you go

MAN/WOMAN: TWO AMERICANS CHANTING
two two heave ho
two AMERICANS there you go
CHANTING CHANTING
two two heave ho

MAN: this is a..i hope you like it

MAN/WOMAN: TWO AMERICANS CHANTING

WOMAN: perfect fit

MAN: aces

WOMAN: don't think about it
think about it but don't think about it

MAN: jolly jolly

WOMAN: don't think about it

MAN: from scratch

WOMAN: heave ho there you go

MAN/WOMAN: [BARELY AUDIBLE] heave ho there you go ...

MAN: does this help?
don't start that again you'll feel terrible

WOMAN: you did it

MAN: it's self inflicted

WOMAN: i love you

MAN: i love you not

WOMAN: i love you

MAN: i love you not

WOMAN: i love you

MAN: i love you not

WOMAN: i love you

MAN: i love you not

WOMAN: i love you

MAN: i love you not

WOMAN: i love you
i love you
i love you
i love you
i love you

MAN: i love you

WOMAN: i love you not

MAN: i love you not
WOMAN; i love you not

MAN: i love you
WOMAN: i love you not
MAN: i love you
WOMAN: i love you not
MAN: GOD died in the nineteen hundreds and it's passe to say
bourgeoisie therefore the other thing too
WOMAN: bourgeoisie...and the other thing,,,yes it is darling
i love you
MAN: i love you
MAN: i was crying angry i didn't say when i knew
WOMAN: watch where you're going
MAN: OK
WOMAN: stay here
MAN: i'm going down that way
WOMAN: notice me
MAN: OK
WOMAN: i got this way from...and if someone out of no where gave
me a clean slate as an un happy forgotten face returns
MAN: so would i
WOMAN: so would i
MAN/WOMAN: i will not deny my madness nor push it away. my awkward broken clumsy
cowardice that has driven me on and on and haunted me all my days
this is me. i no longer hide. and i might be cackling and graying and
less bounce than Brit but i am here this play this place ...
WOMAN/MAN: [SINGING] *over there over there
spread the word have you heard over there
the yanks are comin the yanks are comin
na na na na na na na na*

*over there over there
spread the word have you heard over there ...
the yanks are comin the yanks are comin ...*

WOMAN: it was about being blamed
a sic feeling i had to turn myself in

MAN: sic

WOMAN: but

MAN: but

WOMAN: i cry

MAN: i cry

WOMAN: touch me

MAN: it's changing

WOMAN: "tisk tisk"

MAN: so i made them

WOMAN: yes i did

MAN: i did so what i did

WOMAN: why does this become this beware you're happy
your teeth in my teeth trouble is my lips
are soft yes i made them yes

MAN: love woman is not me not you and i
we're not we're just trying to make sense and get along

WOMAN: baby are we darlings she said
you are in my arms she said and she slipped away
that's the last we saw of each other

MAN: a split self had to stand up front on knees popping out
scared embarrassed ashamed i am who in a flash
pretending trying manipulating to get love
to get comfortable

WOMAN: this is a special day hurray hurray this is a special day

MAN: let your hero(ness) show. who cares what the french say

WOMAN: we like hero(ines) in AMERICA haha
lay down let a french girl slap your face

MAN: you'll be glad you did

WOMAN: fucker show no sign of slowin down. 29 remember? the room
she put you in black Jcpenney the look on her face
you lazy fuck

MAN: everyone hears you

WOMAN: don't let me lose. i'll die or kill holding onto this

MAN: just to say "this is it" "this is my life"

WOMAN: hold my hand dear

MAN: i walk back this ...

WOMAN: OK

PART THREE

MAN: can you feel this

WOMAN: car fender?

MAN: yes. car fender

WOMAN: turn 20 degrees silly fuck 20 degrees

MAN: she is happy

WOMAN: i sense that. it's fine

MAN: it's fine

WOMAN: virile yes potency yes going fast you betcha
catching up minds in trouble

MAN: whose?

WOMAN: this is a tie [CHORAL:MAN/WOMAN] *no one won
how do i point to a loser when there is none*

MAN: buy me 10 coffees

WOMAN: buy me pizza

MAN: buy me hamburgers

WOMAN: TWO AMERICANS CHANTING

MAN: i have no way to see

WOMAN: no one does

MAN: some people do

WOMAN: what do they say

MAN: don't worry

WOMAN: what else

MAN: count your blessings

WOMAN: what else

MAN: stop worrying it's not what you think it is

WOMAN: what else

MAN: stop please

WOMAN: soon what else

MAN: she's coming clean your ears

WOMAN: it's a dialogue between who what

MAN: what is talking to what who

WOMAN: gosh by golly

MAN: yes. can't hear, please speak louder. more clear slower

WOMAN: a machine terrific EUROPE
why they don't see. why this is naked
it's drafty out here today
her boundaries out here this saying that
this thinking creates this

MAN: where do you see that

WOMAN: she was in the mood

MAN: what else

WOMAN: it will appear

MAN: swear upon this oath

WOMAN: get us more info

MAN: OK

WOMAN: this stuff works let me tell ya
stuff does the trick won't be long now

MAN: sure

WOMAN: we're in bed late in the day
7 drum 12 nights lick lawyers heaps bad news that has you
laying in bed cause it's so bad but your eyes are open
you lay there eyes open wishing for GOD knows what

MAN: oblivion fish go

WOMAN: woman shows up you knew she was on her way before she got
there that's part of it being the fish woman
everyone knows you're comin before you get there
so your deal is less about surprise than anticipation

MAN: fish woman go

WOMAN: i don't know it's really flawed thrown into this

MAN: keep it knee highs steel cleats
some is just like you see em
cept nothing been leavin here now
all day wez been looking back

wonderin ... DAY DOUG notice
 you think DAY DOUG notice
 he's high head dis done be
 nothin bout it i sic myself
 into it don't know where
 go my head you see me comin to
 you know i say see this is
 that place where minds go
 i see you go DOUG said
 we could sit here ooh crazy
 been lookin light in the night
 been stolin left my barbs
 where they can be hooked
 left my barbs on the shelf
 nobody left nothin

WOMAN: tons of women scraps

MAN: TV

WOMAN: take this street for what it is *play play*
 your enemy will die eventually *anyway anyway*

MAN: it's OK love

WOMAN: shut up give me what i want
 think i'm having a weird break down of sorts
 or maybe this is what i am that moment when people

MAN: a person me

WOMAN: OK tell me

MAN: what is it with WW ONE

[PAUSE] [SUSPENSION]

WOMAN: maybe they just fuck in the trenches

MAN/WOMAN: *over there over there*
the yanks are comin
the yanks are comin

PART FOUR

MAN: blow me up honey send that over

WOMAN: i have to admit a personality fell apart

MAN: she's not there you'll never find her

WOMAN: she's gone

MAN: do you understand

WOMAN: wrestle i want to

MAN: YES

WOMAN: this is that desperate time to move no matter what

MAN; i don't know what to do my head is

WOMAN: don't even go there

MAN: quick hand me the did this
no more dollars i'm high
this woman was symbolic
haemoglobin's daughter

WOMAN: i can't accept anymore of this

MAN: everyone's waiting you'll have to just make do
a liars test. mind + you + those walls + those people

WOMAN: you tell me where this is going

MAN: no you tell me

WOMAN: this is nothing to you but it's something to me
just don't be funny. you're here to serve who?

MAN: i'll serve you

WOMAN: you fucking beggar get up take a bath

MAN: oh my GOD i can't hold a knife

WOMAN: he was stabbed in the back a knife stabbed him in the back
TRY TRY TRY

MAN: gun attack

WOMAN: lame. don't just walk. most of us see this type of thing
all the time

MAN: your type

WOMAN: again dimes

MAN: one in each dozen go back to FRANCE see how they treat you

WOMAN: am i to blame

MAN: stop touching the neck

WOMAN: this is where you choke

MAN: don't touch certain parts of the anatomy

WOMAN: try me

MAN: great the most regal teen ate me. this is an announcement
crazy woman who pays attention to you pretending to read

WOMAN: i'm sorry he started wearing sweat shirts for sweaters and
watching VAN DAMME movies as though he was having a
break through "these are really great really great!"
silently mouthing the words *listen kid we like you
you've been part of things around here.*
she lost her way ha ha do you understand ?
give me an indication you do

WOMAN: what i am. what we are. this. us two. and you there

MAN: i am seeing

WOMAN: i am happy fulfilled we are innocent this is chosen

MAN: have you seen them ? the AMERICANS !? they're over
there ... look they're chanting
the AMERICANS are chanting TWO AMERICANS CHANTING
you'll know it when you see it it's unmistakeable

it's TWO AMERICANS CHANTING
 you must come and see for yourself they are chanting
 the AMERICANS are chanting TWO AMERICANS CHANTING
 do you see that

WOMAN: somewhere i disappeared

MAN: i feel particularly trapped particularly in hell
 i don't see freedom or possibility
 i see limits and i'm losing faith in my project
 i'm feeling my age i can only see this getting worse
 i have not saved i have not built character
 i feel petty and small and deserving of shit
 i am so alone i see a face plain and grayed
 a face deserving ridicule i eat my own guts
 i've always been good looking funny smart

WOMAN: are we allowed to eat our here?
 feel it dude make it new if you want to
 remember it's them not you
 be proud dig a hole bury your uncle DOUG
 your fathers trembling hands "boys"
 PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN is Jesus

MAN: you can talk to me

WOMAN: out of my fear out of my fucking never satisfied itch to
 fit in to be approved of i forget my own point of view
 my taste my perspective and i lie cater con cheat
 fuck i'm free TWO AMERICANS CHANTING look at me

MAN: who do you talk to (talk to myself)
 what do you talk about (i talk about things)

WOMAN: i want to kill someone for doing this to me

[SINGING FALSETTO. MAN ALONE, THEN WOMAN JOINS]

*NEVER AGAIN NOT THIS TIME I WILL SEE
 I WILL SEE NEVER AGAIN NOT THIS TIME
 I WILL SEE EE NEVER AGAIN NOT TIME
 NEVER AGAIN NOT THIS TIME EE OO
 NEVER AGAIN NOT THIS TIME OO EE*

WOMAN: so what happened boob job JEWISH
 teething. masturbation again over the velvet turtle
 the woman dated ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER wanted me

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MAN: i go to therapy i write poetry

WOMAN: of course you do sean

MAN: wearing pants you hate that feel bad
then suddenly saying hey fuck those pants
and just taking them off on the spot
don't think i'll wear those pants again

WOMAN: cry baby french philosopher dictates my puss to me

MAN: 2 AMERICANS CHANTING

letting your whole heart grind away
coffee to piss to hamburger to Vietnam's intestines

WOMAN: yes my education frenchy ass oh ya frenchy ass

MAN: you're real

WOMAN: i don't feel real

MAN: creep

WOMAN: creep

MAN: clearly this great mystery of a relationship with you you
and this mystery of a relation with this this great
unknown thing this relationship with it that seems to be
me me what is this me me that looks out towards you and
towards it

WOMAN: can i just shoot you fucking dead motherfucker until you bled

MAN: no i'm not

WOMAN: they would play cowboy music

MAN: look at her face she doesn't cry

WOMAN: shut your eyes. lift your face
man your stupid country music put your shoes on

MAN: this music i can smell yes the smell
put your hands on my face my glowing face

WOMAN: glowing face

MAN: i can't do anything ever again

WOMAN: i'm not going there with you dumb bell

MAN: my assistant

WOMAN: you like to say my assistant

MAN: glowing face

WOMAN: do you want the idea or the real thing
whose authenticity. note to self beware

MAN: relax man she's no match for you

WOMAN: relax woman he's no match for you

MAN: i would chose her

WOMAN: i would chose him

MAN: she just grosses me out

WOMAN: this is more up to you than me

MAN: sounds like paranoia

WOMAN: in ten short years i'll love you and i'll touch you
right now i need you to go over there

MAN: wow abate thee wow
this skirt and upon this future
lean in man lean in
because of this dreaded lemon holy water
come over i'll feel you up
this will be terrific

WOMAN: do you count each time she puts her finger up her ?
when is the last time you stood in front of a committee ?
these are developmental problems ?

MAN: don't stop you are butcher with teeth
last of a kind dreary woman
the way this thing is over looked 100%

WOMAN: i want to make noises with my mouth at people
is that bad ? am i bad ?

MAN: yes you are bad

WOMAN: i'm here so you may get off on me
put your face in my lap
Elvis said *wait at the door you can come in one at a time*
knead my belly

MAN: Tom Cruise is 1000 times James Franco

WOMAN: shut the fuck up dick head
1918 it's mothers day

PART 5 / EPILOGUE

MAN: i went to England Norfolk specifically and when i was
there a fire destroyed the Chapel. i have a record deal

WOMAN: you'll obey my command New York has been frozen
all creatives have gone to Madrid but not Madrid proper
rather 45 minutes outside the center by train to a complex

MAN: back roll back onto your flanks

WOMAN: i can't do crazy anymore
hmm that tastes so good let me
everything is shared
you "pay" to shower
you "pay" to fuck
you "pay" to drive
MAN: you "pay" to hump

WOMAN: go get me some breakfast ant

MAN: it's not anything without you

WOMAN: leave the door ajar
the way artists interact with other artists
i felt like shit so i just slept
remember how ugly that picture was
and everyone was like huh ?

OK that's how things are reversed
 you have ugly as your base
 and then if something pretty happens
 everyone's like what ?

MAN: i love that

WOMAN/MAN: [CHORAL]
 the way artists interact with other artists
 i felt like shit so i just slept
 remember how ugly that picture was
 and everyone was like huh ?
 OK that's how things are reversed
 you have ugly as your base
 and then if something pretty happens
 everyone's like what ?

WOMAN: wanna see my tits

MAN: YES

WOMAN: you are concerned

MAN: yes there has been talk

WOMAN: you've heard talk

MAN: there has been talk

WOMAN: you know what i am going to say

MAN: we have to listen each time

WOMAN: here man hey here hey

MAN: to varying degrees we can handle only some much

WOMAN/MAN: [CHORAL. WHISPERED] of your shit

WOMAN: i just need company i want a man's company
 theater for horses [WOMAN MAKES HORSE SOUNDS]
 drove all the way down here from upstate you expect me to
 kiss your ass
 pucker up [WOMAN MAKES PUCKER SOUNDS]

a sense of humor and and semi regular practice of

participation in the orgasmic joy of the opposite sex
this is hard biology

MAN: NYC is my home i'm from CALi via new MEX via soft porn via
Cadillac

WOMAN: it's a dreaded loaded question i can see why the sadness
now and the rain now you're too much
i'm not hiding i spilled some soda pop under the table
now i'm picking it up
it's religious pitiful night time
our aches and pains
religious nosy people go to hell !
crash course in how funny we can be
build me something i'll lay on the floor
[MAN AND WOMAN GO OUT OF SIGHT, LEAVING FRAME]
the chemist the frozen man
the pig the hip bird
dove tailed snake the sunset
evening with us sleeping on a hill dreaded picnic
you'll lie for who
lie for who

[**MICHAEL CLOSE CURTAIN]

[BLACKOUT] [SILENCE]

[HOUSE LIGHTS UP]

[NO SOUND 1 OR 2 MINUTES (APPROX.) BEFORE HOUSE MUSIC RETURNS]

[CURTAIN STAYS CLOSED UNTIL ALL AUDIENCE IS GONE]

THE END