



# “PROBABILITIES”

by Olha Annenko

A Dramatic Play About the Probabilities of Happiness

*Translated into English by Anna Halas*

Life is a gamble, at terrible odds – if it was a bet  
you wouldn't take it.

*Tom Stoppard,*

“Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead”

## **ACTING CHARACTERS:**

Paul – Man, 38

Susan – Woman, 35

## **EPISODE 1. “THE OLDER SISTER”**

### **Scene 1. Heads**

**Susan.** What’s the probability my older sister will find me a husband?

**Paul.** What, are you...

**Susan.** I’m serious. Do I look like a woman who can’t find a husband for herself?

**Paul.** I’m sorry...

**Susan.** Do I?

**Paul.** Oh, so you’re serious? You really don’t know why she invited you, do you?

**Susan.** Of course, I do. To bring with you.

**Paul.** Maria is dying.

**Susan.** Don’t be... That’s ridiculous. What did she say?

**Paul.** She has cancer. Stage 4. She loves you and didn’t want you to be lonely after her death. I’m sorry.

**Susan.** How do you...

**Paul.** We’re co-workers. And I’m the only single man who agreed to be here today.

**Susan.** You mean she invited more than one person?

**Paul.** Does that bother you? Listen, I promised Mary that I’d be here and I’m here. And now, see you.

### **Scene 2. Tails**

**Susan.** What’s the probability my older sister will find me a husband?

**Paul.** Look at me. Don’t you think I’m a good choice?

**Susan.** You mean...oh my. How do you know my sister?

**Paul.** We're co-workers. It's ok to feel lonely from time to time. How about we go to your place?

**Susan.** Did she tell you?

**Paul.** Tell me what?

**Susan.** Mary has cancer. So she wanted to find me a good man before...before she dies.

**Paul.** Oh, no... Lord. I feel so... stupid.

**Susan.** Don't tell her you know, okay?

**Paul.** Damn!

**Susan.** Let's go inside for half an hour and pretend her plan worked out. Let's act like we like each other.

**Paul.** Christ!

### **Scene 3. The Edge**

**Susan.** What's the probability my older sister will find me a husband?

**Paul.** Mary told me about her illness. I don't know what to say...should go inside and be with her? Maybe we should pretend that her plan worked out and that we like each other.

**Susan.** Turn around and look at the window upstairs. See her spying? I can sense it. She's observing us as if we were rabbits in an experiment. Should we start copulating right on this lawn? Any ideas?

**Paul.** Baby rabbits.

**Susan.** I'm sorry?

**Paul.** Baby rabbits. It sounds cuter and fluffier.

**Susan.** (*surprised*) Who are you?

**Paul.** By profession, I'm a herpetologist. I study turtles.

**Susan.** (*waving*) Ninja turtles?

**Paul.** Almost. Funny joke by the way.

**Susan.** Sorry about this situation with Maria. She shouldn't have gotten you involved.

**Paul.** I'm okay. Really. By the way, why are you single?

**Susan.** I'm the kind of woman who's more into statistics and probability theory than relationships. I just don't have time for it.

**Paul.** That would make a great little blurb on a dating site.

**Susan.** Yeah, I'm a tasty piece of cake for maniacs. Is she still spying?

**Paul.** No.

**Susan.** I need to go and check up on her. And thanks for showing up.

**Paul.** I could stay.

**Susan.** No. I need to put her to bed.

**Paul.** You'll call if you need help, promise?

**Susan.** I promise.

### **DIARY. DAY 1.**

*Paul switches on the video. Susan appears on the screen.*

*Susan sits next to Paul, but Paul doesn't see her.*

**Susan (video).** My name is Susan, I'm 35, and this is the first recording of my diary. It's three in the morning, but I'm still awake. I haven't slept for almost 17 days. It started the moment I... the moment I found out. I still don't have my exact diagnosis. It's not as easy as you might think. People think you just need to see a doctor, take a blood test, and he says...

*Paul turns off the video.*

**Susan (picks up where the video left off).** And he says: you have cancer! Why'd you turn it off? I was about to advance an interesting hypothesis.

**Paul (looking for something).** When did you record that?

**Susan** (to Paul). I recorded it a week after we met. I took a blood test and the doctor turned to me with a serious face and said...turn it on!

**Paul** (to the screen). Why didn't you...Jesus!

**Susan** (with pressure). And he said...! Come on! Turn it on!

**Paul**. I'm sorry, I just can't watch this.

*Susan stands up and turns on the TV. The recording begins to play.*

**Susan** (video). He said: "You have cancer. It's a genetic anomaly. It's located somewhere in between the lungs, the trachea, and the ridge. But it will require more testing to find the exact location." At this point, an inexperienced person would think that I have only two possibilities. First, there's "heads", which means that I'll recover. And secondly, there's "tails", which means - I don't have a chance. But there's a third possibility. The edge!

**Paul**. The edge of the Earth. It's so...

*Paul notices a coin on the floor, throws it.*

**Paul**. Heads!

**Susan** (to Paul). The probability of a coin falling on the edge is one in a 1000. Did you know that?

**Susan** (video). The edge is the most difficult combination. In my case, it would mean metastases. And that would mean I'd have to be irradiated, poisoned, beaten...

**Paul** (to the coin). Heads!

**Susan** (video). It seems like you've won, but new metastases have appeared and a new duel has begun. And it will continue until one of our combatants - the metastases or the patient - gives up the fight. Sometimes patients give up first. They buy a ticket to an island and slowly, quietly, without injections or pills wait until the end...but I'm fibbing. Of course, they still take a lot of pills. And morphine. Because it hurts.

**Paul** (to the coin). Heads! You've got heads, Susan!

**Susan** (video). At first, I noticed that I couldn't swallow. Like I had a lump in my throat. But I thought it was because of my sister's loss. Then I noticed that I couldn't breathe

easily. It seemed like my lungs were refusing to bring in enough air. But I was sure it was because of my loneliness. And then I met you, my loneliness disappeared, but my condition became even worse. And then I thought, what if I'm sick? Do you think love can overcome even that?

**Paul** (*to the coin*). You've got heads, Sus!

**Susan** (*to Paul*). I do too. So, my story will end well. Hopefully!

**Paul** (*in despair*). You've got heads!

*Paul turns off the video.*

## EPISODE 2. "SO, YOU'RE AT HOME NOW"

### Scene 1. Heads.

**Paul**. So, you're at home now.

**Susan**. Thanks for helping me today. Are you hungry?

**Paul**. Yes. How about a pizza?

**Susan**. Let's get a 4-cheese pizza. My sister loved 4-cheese pizza.

**Paul**. Oh, I'm sorry. It's so...maybe we shouldn't.

**Susan**. Hey, if we don't order pizzas, other people will. And pizzerias will keep baking them. New York Style, Hawaiian, Thick Crust, Thin Crust. The world isn't going to change.

**Paul**. I disagree.

**Susan**. Why did the mortician apply red lipstick? We were planning to cremate her anyway. That was silly.

**Paul**. Listen...maybe you want me to stay?

**Susan**. Why?

**Paul**. To support you. Just to be around.

**Susan**. Does that "support" include sex? No? Then just go home.

**Paul**. Am I annoying you?

**Susan.** Imagine this situation: you meet an old man and find out that he's alone: no wife, no children. What conclusions can you draw about him?

**Paul.** That his name is George.

**Susan.** George?

**Paul.** It's a very lonely turtle.

**Susan.** What if loneliness is his choice?

**Paul.** I don't think so.

**Susan.** I'm trying to say that...it's my choice! I'm not going to betray my principles and spend the night with a stranger.

**Paul.** Loneliness can be a burden.

**Susan.** The probability of our happiness is close to zero.

## **Scene 2. Tails.**

**Paul.** So, you're at home now.

**Susan.** Thanks for everything. I'm sorry I called, but I just didn't know who else to call.

**Paul.** It's okay. Sorry, but I'm in a hurry. I have to catch the bus. On Saturdays, the last bus is at six, so...

**Susan.** Don't go, please! Stay the night.

**Paul.** Listen, I...

**Susan.** We could sleep together if you want.

**Paul.** Listen, Susan...

**Susan.** You mean you don't want to? But that day you came to Mary's house you suggested we go to my place. Well, here we are at my place. What's the problem?

**Paul.** Here's the thing...it's Christy. My ex-girlfriend. She called me and said we could have a brand new start. So...

**Susan.** Ask her to come here! We can sit, drink, order a pizza. I'd be happy to meet her.

**Paul.** No. Christy...Christy is loud.

**Susan.** This house needs a good shake.

**Paul.** She's messy too, and your place is so clean.

**Susan.** Perfect! It'll be nice to clean up after the living, and not a ghost that scatters dust everywhere...Jesus, I'm joking! There aren't any ghosts here.

**Paul.** I got it. It's a funny joke.

**Susan.** See, I can be funny. Come on, give her a call!

**Paul.** Maybe it would be better if you were alone. It's a heavy loss. You probably don't want to see strangers today and pretend that you're happy.

**Susan.** Are you telling me that you know what I want?

**Paul.** I'm just trying to say...

**Susan.** Get out of my house!

### **Scene 3. The Edge.**

**Paul.** So, you're at home now.

**Susan.** I am.

**Paul.** Do you...

**Susan.** Do you want to come in?

**Paul.** Of course. Actually, I've got a business trip tomorrow and I need to pack...but it can wait.

**Susan.** Where are you going?

**Paul.** The Galapagos Islands. Not all of them at the same time! First one, then another, and then another. Did I tell you about George? He's a turtle.

**Susan.** No, you didn't.

**Paul.** George is a giant Galapagos elephant turtle. He's a hundred years old and I have to find him a lady turtle.

**Susan.** Why can't he do that himself?



**Paul.** He's the last of his kind. We can't just release him from the nursery. He might swim away. We could lose him. That's why I'm his matchmaker.

**Susan.** What kind of lady turtle is he looking for? A height, weight, eyes color?

**Paul.** Any female will do. A few days ago, one of my colleagues sent me a message about a possible lady turtle. Now we have to do a genetic examination. And if everything goes right, we'll save his species.

**Susan.** And what if she doesn't like George? Or George doesn't like her?

**Paul.** Turtles aren't humans.

**Susan.** What do you mean? Lady turtles never say no and males are always ready to go?

**Paul.** There's a courting ritual. If George is active enough, the female will agree.

**Susan.** And if he isn't?

**Paul.** He should! He's 100 years old, and I don't think he's ever been with anyone...any turtle...that way! If I was George, I'd take the initiative! *(stops laughing)* Sorry, maybe it's out of order to joke on a day like this.

**Susan** *(smiling)*. Mary loved funny jokes. She would have loved yours.

**Paul.** By the way, I liked your speech about probability theory and life. Like you said: "Life gives us a lot of probabilities, but each of them has the same outcome."

**Susan.** It's a pity that none of these theories help me at all.

**Paul.** A shoemaker without boots, and a mathematician without suitable probabilities.

**Susan.** Exactly. What time is it? I don't want to keep George waiting. You need to pack.

**Paul.** You're right. But if you don't mind...

**Susan.** I don't. Stay.

*Susan kisses Paul.*

#### **DIARY. DAY 17.**

*Paul switches on the video. Susan sits close to him.*

**Susan** (*video*). I haven't slept for 34 days. Really! The doctor said it's a side effect of the medication, but there's nothing he can do about it. I'm taking 73 pills a day and he doesn't know which pill is the one that's keeping me awake. And if I decided to stop taking one pill each day to find the culprit, it might take more than 2 months to find the right one. And I'm not sure if I have 2 months. And I'm not sure what scares me more: dying from insomnia or cancer. Yeah, you heard that right: I still don't know how much time I have left.

**Paul**. Why? Why should I watch it?

**Susan** (*to Paul*). Shh!

**Paul** (*video*). I'm a lemon, and you're squeezing out all my hope. I'm so angry! Why didn't you tell me then? It would be easier to think that you just left me!

**Susan** (*to Paul*). Hey! I'm trying to tell my story right now. Could you please listen?

**Susan** (*video*). I deal with math problems every day, but they never had any personal meaning to me. What a horrible feeling! If I ever hear someone say that math is just a theory, I'm going to spit in his face. Maybe you guessed it. I did the calculations. Now I know how long I'm going to live.

*Susan shows the calculations on the board.*

**Susan** (*video*). There are three possibilities. And even with the best outcome, I only have a maximum of 15 years left. To get those additional years I'll have to go through chemotherapy. And that includes all the alkylating agents, platinum preparations, antimetabolites, anthracyclines, taxanes, and vincalcaloids. The same processes that will destroy cancer cells will kill everything alive in me. I'll feel sick all the time. I'll get sick of life.

*Paul turns off the video.*

**Paul**. I'm going to kill the doctor who told you to record a diary. Who said it would help? Did it? I doubt it. It certainly isn't helping me!

### **EPISODE 3. "IT'S JUST A NIGHTMARE"**

#### **Scene 1. Heads.**

**Paul** (*calms Susan down*). Shhh. It's okay. It's just a nightmare.

**Susan.** My whole life is a total nightmare.

**Paul.** Take the day off. Let's go somewhere.

**Susan.** I don't want to.

**Paul.** You need some rest.

**Susan.** I'm not in the mood.

**Paul.** Come on. I can go to work for an hour, and then we can have a picnic by the lake.

**Susan.** Not today.

**Paul.** You know, it seems like we've succeeded. George and turtle-wife are going to have baby turtles. We got the eggs in the morning. All I have to do is check the embryos for viability. I don't know why, but I'm certain it's going to be positive.

**Susan.** Send George my congratulations.

**Paul.** And I was thinking, maybe we could also have...baby turtles.

**Susan.** Can you keep baby turtles in an apartment?

**Paul.** What? Baby turtles? No.

**Susan.** Then why are you asking me?

**Paul.** I'm trying to say that...

**Susan** (*nervously*). What?!

**Paul.** Why are you so annoyed? You promised. Don't be angry, don't pretend that you're the most independent woman in the world, that you don't need anyone. You do, don't you?

**Susan.** You don't understand me at all.

**Paul.** I'm trying!

**Susan.** Not one bit! I lost my sister!

**Paul.** I know.

**Susan.** She told you about her illness, but she didn't tell me. It's killing me.

**Paul.** Maybe it's because you are too selfish?

**Susan.** Me?!

**Paul.** Just forget about it. I really tried. But you don't listen to anyone but yourself.

**Susan.** Myself? I hear every word you're saying.

**Paul.** Okay. What did I just ask you?

**Susan.** About turtles! That's all you ever talk about. You have them at work and now you want to bring them here.

**Paul.** Do you love me?

**Susan.** Stop annoying me with these questions. Of course, I do, Jesus!

**Paul.** But I don't feel it. You called and asked me to help with your sister's funeral. I helped. I was around all the time. And you...it seems you just don't care.

**Susan.** That's unfair.

**Paul.** I told you five minutes ago that we also could have baby turtles...well, I wished we had a baby!

## **Scene 2. Tails.**

**Paul** (*calming Susan down*). Shhh. It's okay. It's just a nightmare.

**Susan.** Don't leave me, okay? Never!

**Paul.** Do you want some tea? Chamomile will calm you down.

**Susan.** Stay a while.

**Paul** (*getting up*). How about a cup of Melissa?

**Susan.** Don't go!

**Paul.** I've got to go to work early today. Yesterday we got turtle eggs. I have to test their viability.

**Susan.** So George is going to be a father?

**Paul.** Hopefully.

**Susan.** Lucky turtle! I'd like to be a mother.

**Paul.** Someday you will.

**Susan.** I'd like to get married.

**Paul.** Someday you will.

**Susan.** Will you marry me?

**Paul.** Look, Susan...

### **Scene 3. The Edge.**

**Susan** (*calming Paul down*). Shhh. It's okay. It's just a nightmare.

**Paul.** There was a fire in the lab and the turtle eggs were on fire. And I didn't do anything. I just stared at the fire and felt paralyzed.

**Susan.** Do you want some tea?

**Paul.** No. Stay with me. Sometimes it seems to me that I don't take any decisions in my life. It's just an endless *deja vu*!

**Susan** (*kissing*). I will help you. I will try to solve this problem as a mathematical one.

**Paul.** As a complex mathematical probability?

**Susan.** It will take a long time ...

**Paul.** How much?

**Susan** (*continues kissing*). Years! Decades! Some mathematicians dedicate their entire lives to solving complex problems. So, don't expect quick results from me.

**Paul.** I'm not expecting them. I am ready. "Solve" me for my whole life. And I will bring a little turtle warmth to your dry formulas and gently take care of our children.

**Susan.** Children?

**Paul.** Exactly. I think that's what I said ... Children.

**Susan.** Are you trying to ...

**Paul.** I guess I have just made you a proposal.

**Susan.** It's so unexpected.

**Paul.** Yes, indeed.

*They are silent.*

**Paul.** *(looking closely)* Don't do it.

**Susan.** What?

**Paul.** You know perfectly well what I am talking about. Don't reject me.

**Susan.** The whole life is too long. I'm not sure I can give you that much.

**Paul.** How much can you give?

**Susan.** I don't know. You have to live one day at a time ...

**Paul.** I agree. Then give me today. And tomorrow I will make a proposal again. Then again the next day, then again and again...

**Susan.** I don't know.

**Paul.** Don't reject me!

**Susan.** Fine. I will gladly spend this day with you.

**Paul.** Thanks.

**Susan.** But tomorrow, if you can, prepare a better speech, okay? This is not a proposal, but pure nonsense. Where is my wedding ring?

### **DIARY. DAY 56**

*Paul is sitting without motion. Susan switches on the video. Susan is on the screen.*

*She is getting ready.*

**Paul** *(to the video)*. Fine. Let's look at it constructively.

**Susan** *(to Paul)*. Finally!

**Susan** *(to Paul)*. It is exactly somewhere between the ridge, the trachea and the lungs. Right in the middle. They don't know exactly where it began to form. They don't know how to get to it. So, the doctors decided to poison it and then observe what happens.

**Paul** (*to the video*). After all, for some reason you sent me this video. It's not just a farewell. I hope it's not a farewell. Because it would be...

**Susan** (*video*). Done. I have already packed up. Today I have "osteoscintigraphy". I am going to be X-rayed to see if there are metastases in other organs and bones. They say the process is unpleasant, but in the evening, I can drink some red wine. So, if you think of the bottle of chianti we had for dinner, keep in mind that it was to celebrate "osteoscintigraphy".

*Susan pushes a bottle of chianti to the screen.*

**Paul** (*to the video*). I remember. You made a joke that you wanted to cook chianti with your best friend's liver. That I am your best friend... Damn it!

**Susan** (*to Paul*). You are my best friend.

**Susan** (*video*). If they don't find anything terrible, I'll keep my head up.

**Paul** (*tossing the coin*). Heads.

**Susan** (*video*). If they find something, then ....

**Paul** (*to the video*). I'm not sure I will cope with what I could hear. It's easier for me to think that you have just left me.

*Paul turns off the video.*

## **EPISODE 4. "WHO'S ALEX?"**

### **Scene 1. Heads.**

**Paul.** Who's Alex?

**Susan.** Alex?

**Paul.** Yes, he called you. He said he was from the hospital.

**Susan.** What did he want?

**Paul.** He said he couldn't discuss it with me. Doctor-patient confidentiality. Are you sick?

**Susan.** Me? No!

**Paul.** What kind of doctor is he?

**Susan.** He is an oncologist.

**Paul.** Oncologist? Susan, do you have .. cancer?

**Susan.** No! Alex is .....

**Paul.** What? Go ahead! I'll always be there for you! I love you! I'll never leave you!

**Susan.** I know.

**Paul.** Tell me, is it so bad?

**Susan.** No. Everything is fine.

**Paul.** I know what is fine for you. Why do you do it all the time? You keep pushing me away. Why do I always need to solve your riddles? Why am I always the initiator of our relationship? I offer my help – you refuse, I propose to marry me – you refuse again.

**Susan.** Are you unhappy with me? Tell me.

**Paul.** It can be tough sometimes. Quiet often! To be honest, every day with you is like... it's not easy with you. That's what I wanted to say.

**Susan.** I see.

**Paul.** You asked me and I answered. I don't need your 'I see' now. What did the doctor want?

**Susan.** I... I have been sleeping with him, Paul. With Alex.

**Paul.** Hmm... doctor-patient confidentiality.

## **Scene 2. Tails**

**Paul.** Who is Alex?

**Susan.** You scared me. What Alex?

**Paul.** From the hospital. An oncologist. He keeps calling you. He's been calling you for the last 3 days. Who is he?



**Susan.** I don't want to hear that right now. I'm tired after work.

**Paul.** Are you sleeping with him?

**Susan.** What? No!

**Paul.** Why? He is a promising doctor. He works in a district oncological hospital. Besides, he calls you. I know all about him. I was spying. It has come to that. A loser.

**Susan.** It's not that. I didn't want to tell you... after my sister's death, they offered me to get tested to exclude an inherited condition. I did it and the results were not so good. So they sent me to Alex.

**Paul.** When was it?

**Susan.** Two months ago.

**Paul.** What was next? What happened next? You saw him. He appeared to be such a smart and promising man. What happened next?

**Susan.** He suggested getting tested one more time to rule out a diagnostic error.

**Paul.** And?

**Susan.** And I got tested.

**Paul.** And?

**Susan.** And he said that he would be seeing me a lot more often from then on.

**Paul.** Oh, really? More often! Okay, I got it!

**Susan.** But we are not together.

**Paul.** Just admit that you are lovers. Susan, make me feel better. You are either at work or too tired to talk. So we just lie on the couch and watch this freaking TV.

**Susan.** It was your idea to buy a TV.

**Paul.** How did he seduce you? Did he ask you to marry him? I refused to marry you and he asked you to marry him... Why are you so quiet, Susan?

**Susan.** I don't see the point in continuing this conversation.

### **Scene 3. The Edge.**

**Paul.** I want to talk about Alex.

**Susan.** What Alex?

**Paul.** I want to talk about Alex from the hospital. He called the other day. He didn't say anything definitive but he had a trained voice and a confident tone ... I got jealous.

**Susan.** That's not what you...

**Paul.** Please, listen to the end. It is important! I got jealous. You worked late and I went out to have a drink. Please, sit down and listen to me.

**Susan.** Okay.

**Paul.** Christy was there. My ex-girlfriend.

**Susan.** I see.

**Paul.** She came to the bar to get drunk because she broke up with her boyfriend. She wanted to blow off some steam. That is why she ordered a shot of tequila or, more specifically, twelve shots of tequila and drank... those twelve shots of tequila. Actually, there was one more shot but I drank it. No, I licked it from Christy in the VIP-room.

**Susan.** What did you do?

**Paul.** You've heard it.

**Susan.** Did you have...?

**Paul.** No, we didn't. She was too drunk and I took her home. I only had one thought about you and me. I'm not quiet good enough for you. This is all because of Alex's trained voice.

**Susan.** Believe me, I understand you, Paul. Every time I get upset about something, I also go to the bar and lick tequila from Christy. Well, that's a perfectly normal reaction.

**Paul.** This isn't about me!

**Susan.** Exactly! It's about Susan! Susan! She is the cause of all your problems. And all possible tragedies. But I will save you ... from me. Pack your things and go wherever you want.

**Paul.** I understand you're upset. I'm just trying to say that ... I guess I'm falling into the abyss!

**Susan.** You are afraid you would be happier with Christy, aren't you? The percentage of your happiness with me would be lower, right? Let's calculate! Let's divide a sheet of paper into two parts. The first one will include the calculations with Susan, another one – with Christy. You will have a chance to choose. If you're so afraid of being unhappy!

**Paul.** I'm not afraid of this. I'm afraid of making you unhappy! You're so silly.

**Susan.** You have already done it, idiot!

## **DIARY. DAY 70**

*Paul switches on the video. Susan sits next to Paul. Susan appears on the screen.*

*She is crying.*

**Paul (to the video).** I can't go on living like this. Let's do away with it.

**Susan (to Paul).** It'd be better fast-forward it...

**Susan (video).** I'm not "heads". I'm either "tails" or "the edge" because they are everywhere – in the ridge, the lungs, the trachea, and the heart. It's called "invasion". In simple terms, it's an attack of foreign cells. Every organ in the human body functions in accordance with certain rules. An organ grows as much as necessary not to impede the proper work of other organs. But these ones grow as long as they want. Wherever they want! Most importantly, they are immortal. They will live as long as ... I live. Bloody metastases!

**Susan (to Paul).** I am serious, fast-forward it to the end!

**Susan** (*video*). My key question, my main choice is whether to flounder in this ocean or to take it for granted.

**Paul** (*to the video*). What did you do, Susan?

**Susan** (*video*). They say that cancer is the plague of the 21st century. In fact, people are cancer for the planet. We go straight ahead and don't realize the limits, and we will live as long as our planet exists. So how do we differ from cancer? Am I allowed to grumble at the disease at the time when the other living beings die every day because of me?

**Paul** (*to the video*). Yes, you are!

**Susan** (*video*). Maybe your George is alone because of me.

**Paul** (*to the video*). It's more complicated than you think... And it's surely not because of you!

*Paul turns off the video.*

**Susan** (*to Paul*). I told you to fast-forward it. It's not her speaking, but the medication! It destroys your nervous system, so that you become a depressed whiner. It's temporary.

## **EPISODE 5. "I WILL JUST PICK UP MY THINGS"**

### **Scene 1. Heads.**

**Paul**. I will just pick up my things.

**Susan**. Look in the corner. I have put everything there.

**Paul**. Thanks. How is Alex?

**Susan**. Who? Alex? Perfect! Right. Everything is fine with us.

**Paul**. Are you still dating?

**Susan**. Yes, we are. Check the things out. I'm in a bit of a hurry.

**Paul**. Do you meet in the hospital? Or somewhere else?

**Susan.** No. Not only. Today, for example, we are going to a restaurant.

**Paul.** To a restaurant? I see. Well, why do people lie...

**Susan.** I'm really in a hurry.

**Paul.** One thing is to hide betrayal and another is to lie that it happened if it didn't. That's what I can't understand.

**Susan.** Listen, I really need to go.

**Paul.** I know everything about you and Alex. I talked to him. He told me about your illness. And that you're not lovers.

**Susan.** He lied. We are lovers.

**Paul.** Why does he need to lie?

**Susan.** Because he is married.

**Paul.** He showed me your medical card, Susan! You lied to save me. But I'm ready to go through this with you. Why don't you understand this?

**Susan.** I lied because ... I don't want to be with you!

## **Scene 2. Tails.**

**Paul.** I will just pick up my things.

**Susan.** Do you want coffee or tea?

**Paul.** I'm in a hurry. Is everything here?

**Susan.** I need to talk to you.

**Paul.** Why?

**Susan.** I didn't sleep with him! With Alex. This, of course, no longer matters. But I want you to know. You're a good person, and I don't want us to be like this ... I don't want to end our relationship with a scandal, you know?

**Paul.** I see.

**Susan.** Do you believe me?

**Paul.** Listen ...

**Susan** (*interrupting*). We saw each other often because of different tests and then when he told me that we would see each other more often ...

**Paul.** Do we have to discuss this?

**Susan.** Yes, we do!

**Paul.** Listen, I moved to Christy's. I don't love her, she doesn't love me, but we decided to give it a chance, because living alone is a kind of torture.

**Susan.** I see. Congratulations!

**Paul.** So don't repeat this, okay? I'm doing great.

### **Scene 3: The Edge**

**Paul.** I will just pick up my things.

**Susan.** How is Christy?

**Paul.** So far so good, maybe. I do not know.

**Susan.** Aren't you a couple?

**Paul.** Why should we be a couple?

**Susan.** For some reason I thought that you ... How are your turtles?

**Paul.** They did not hatch. Gene mutation.

**Susan.** It's a pity.

**Paul.** Here is how it goes.

**Susan.** Will you continue your search?

**Paul.** Listen! I'm so tired.

**Susan.** Because of work?

**Paul.** Of these probabilities of yours. I feel like I'm at the most important exam in my life with you. And every word, gesture or movement of mine can radically change everything.

**Susan.** Don't make it up.

**Paul.** As soon as I saw you in Mary's house, I immediately realized that you are mine. So why is everything so difficult with you and me? Some kind of world wide web of probabilities! It seems that there are a million of them, and if you start checking - everywhere, from all sides, there is only a blank wall.

**Susan** (*aloof*). Check things out.

**Paul.** Do you love me?

**Susan** (*turning away*). It's time for you to go.

**Paul.** Why can't you admit that?

**Susan.** Do you really want to know?

**Paul.** Yes, I do.

**Susan.** I'm dying, Paul. This is a hereditary disease. Genetic mutation. Both my sister and I were doomed from birth. And now, please take your things and go.

**Paul.** Do you love me?

**Susan.** No!

**Paul.** I see. You do. I am staying.

**Susan.** No!

**Paul.** It's not your decision.

**Susan.** How come?

**Paul.** It's simple. In this situation, I am taking a decision! Let me take part in our relationship just one time!

**Susan.** I do not want this.

**Paul.** No, you do!

**Susan.** I'm not asking you for anything.

**Paul.** But I am asking! Not for me. This is my life. I said I'm staying, so I'm staying.

**Susan.** Do what you want!

**Paul.** Finally!

**Susan.** Unpack the things on your own, I have been packing them for the whole day!

**Paul.** You've packed them, so unpack them now!

**Susan.** I threw away your toothbrush because it was old! You need to buy a new one!

**Paul.** What do we need to buy apart from a brush?

**Susan.** Milk, bread and coffee!

**Paul.** Okay, I will be back soon!

### **DAIRY. DAY 105.**

*Paul switches on the video. Susan sits next to Paul.*

**Susan (video).** Today is the 105th day of my diary. This is my last recording. I've been thinking a lot about math, about you and George. We all miss something, mistakenly perceiving life and ourselves in it.

**Susan (to Paul).** I am not explaining well here, so just look at the aquarium.

**Susan (video).** Limiting ourselves to physical laws in one space, we forget that they only work here, in this space. Only here the coin falls either on one of the sides, or



stands on the edge. But if we imagine that all this happens in water or zero gravity, then the probabilities calculated in our space will not coincide.

**Paul** (*lowering his head*). My poor Susan.

**Susan** (*video*). George needs to change his search area to increase his chances, do you understand? You may try to find a female for him as long as you want to revive his endangered species, but you will never do a better job than George himself. Your brain is limited by notions of space. The choices we make in real life are all irrational. The best thing you can do for George is to let him go. The best thing you can do for me is ... to let me go. I also need to find the space for myself where only the “heads” will come out.

**Paul** (*without raising his head*). My poor crazy Susan.

*In the video, Susan covers the aquarium with a black cloth.*

**Susan** (*to Paul*). Got it? Look at the aquarium!

**Susan** (*video*). This is my chance, you know? I’m sending you an envelope. I hope you will receive it by mail before I leave. So ... I’m not saying goodbye. See you, Paul. I love you.

**Susan** (*Paul*). I love you too.

*Paul takes the envelope from his pocket and opens it.*

## EPISODE 6. “WHAT IS THIS?”

### Scene 1. Heads.

**Paul** (*holding a letter*). What is this?

**Susan**. This is my confession.

**Paul**. You lied to me, Susan. How could you even...

**Susan**. Forgive me.

**Paul.** You stood in front of me, looked straight into my eyes and lied that you were sleeping with this damned Alex.

**Susan.** I didn't want to burden you with my problems.

**Paul.** You killed me, Susan. That's what you did. What do you want from me now? Do you want me to pity you?

**Susan.** To forgive.

**Paul.** You broke my heart! Do you think it can be fixed with this pathetic, sloppy writing? Screw you!

*Paul throws out the letter.*

## **Scene 2. Tails.**

**Paul** (*holding a letter*). What is it?

**Susan.** This is a copy of the will. When it comes into force,... The papers are ready, so ... I have no one left to leave it all.

**Paul.** I see. How long has it been since you learnt that you have ... That you are sick?

**Susan.** I learnt about it right after my sister's death.

**Paul.** So, there was no Alex?

**Susan.** There was Alex, but only as a doctor.

**Paul.** When are you going to the hospital?

**Susan.** This is not a hospital ... I have to leave tomorrow.

**Paul.** Do you need help?

**Susan.** No. Thanks.

**Paul.** What do they promise?

**Susan** (*with a smile*). They promise it will rain tomorrow.

**Paul.** I'm not talking about that ... I can arrange a funeral when it's all ...Devil!

**Susan.** No. Thanks.

**Paul.** I'm sorry, I don't know what to say in such cases.

**Susan.** Thank you. I was happy. Not for long, but ...

**Paul.** I was so mad at you, I hated you so much. What am I going to do now?

**Susan.** I hope you will find a perfect female for George. And they will have a lot of cute turtles.

**Paul.** George died.

**Susan.** How?

**Paul.** He got out of the nursery, crawled to the ocean and swam away. Turtles always do this when they feel the death is near. So...

**Susan.** Maybe it's quite the opposite? Maybe he finally felt the closeness of life?

**Paul.** Susan, stop it! Why are you doing this? George is dead! Full stop. George is dead, you are dying. The world is going to rack and ruin! What should I do? Should there be any options? This is life, which means that there is something to choose from. Devil!

**Susan.** You have Christy.

**Paul.** I don't have any Christie. I lied about getting together to make you angry.

### **Scene 3. The Edge.**

**Paul.** (*holding a letter*). What is it??

**Susan.** These are the calculations. Statistics on probability of getting heads, tails or the edge on a single toss. Can you see the smiley icons everywhere? That's because I got how miserable those definitions and pseudo calculations are. Because there are not three, but four options.

**Paul.** It's very... I don't get it.

**Susan.** We play with a coin, we toss it on the floor and we get 'heads', 'tails' or 'the edge'. Seems like three, right?

**Paul.** Seems so...

**Susan.** No! There is a probability number 4, which I haven't looked into before. That's when a coin rolls under the sofa so far that it loses its appeal to the players and it stays there forever. Thus, the players take a new coin and start over, forgetting the old one. And nobody knows what has happened to the one under the sofa.

**Paul.** Why is that so important? It's Sunday morning!

**Susan.** It's critically important! What is on that coin? Heads, tails or edge? Until we take a look under the sofa, the three are possible at once.

**Paul.** Why is that important right now?

**Susan.** In case you cannot get heads here, it doesn't mean we can't get it under the sofa. If I have no chance here.., I have to look for it somewhere else.

**Paul.** You... I don't get it. What the hell are the chances? Are you leaving?

**Susan.** Let's say so.

**Paul.** Where?

**Susan.** Listen, I have just explained everything.

**Paul.** You will have to repeat, because the only thing I got is 'I'm leaving'.

**Susan.** We are under the sofa! We are under a black box and we can give no predictions on life, because the rules of the game are still covered. And the box is still on! That's what I'm saying! When the laws of life take the chances from us, we suffer. We can't let that happen. We need to find the space where we can make the chances happen.

**Paul.** Wait... I don't get it. Are you leaving me?

**Susan.** Ok, I will make it clear. I am George.

**Paul.** George died, Susan. All turtles which escape to the ocean do that because they feel the death coming.

**Susan.** No evidence. Have you found George? Anything: the shell or remnants?

**Paul.** No.

**Susan.** So, why do you think he's dead?

**Paul.** Because the other turtles did this.

**Susan.** That is it! The other! What if he is an exception? A coin rolled under the sofa.

**Paul.** Good. And where do you want to 'roll' to?

**Susan.** Where I have a future.

**Paul.** Okay. And what is his name? Your future...

**Susan** (*points to the letter*). Everything is written here.

**Paul.** You know, I don't give a shit. I fall asleep next to you and I'm sure everything is fine with us. And in the morning I find an envelope with the name of a man who is your future. And do you really expect that I will open it?

**Susan.** I am an optimist.

**Paul.** You are a fool. Nobody is ever going to love you more than I do.

### **EPISODE 7. "A COIN UNDER THE SOFA"**

*Susan leaves. Paul sits down on the sofa, opens the envelope, finds a coin in the envelope.*

*Paul tosses a coin several times.*

**Paul.** Heads. Tails. Tails. Tails.

*Paul tosses a coin, the coin rolls under the sofa.*

*Paul tries to get it, the sofa rises, and under it, he sees a hole where the light flows.*

*Paul looks inside.*

*The screen turns on and we see the face of Paul, looking into the room where Susan sits.*

**Susan** (*video*). We are in a box and do not know the rules of the game. It just seems that we can predict and calculate probabilities. But that's bullshit. There are so many

ways to recover. You just have to find a way. It's like weightlessness. It is necessary to reset... to become a complete zero. But now I'm not in space. I am in all spaces at the same time. I can be here, next to you and at the same time in the past and present. I'm in such a place ... Now you will understand.

*Susan appears on the screen. George swims near her.*

**Susan** (*video*). I'm in such a place where the coin always comes up "heads". We have not discovered this space yet, because we are too concerned with calculating the probabilities of happiness where it is not guaranteed at all. But once... everything can change. We just need to open the box... and look under the sofa, where the coin rolled.

*Paul takes a step under the sofa that covers him.*

*Susan, George and Paul appear on the screen swimming in the water together.*

**THE END**