

DEE DEE IS PREGNANT

A PLAY IN THREE PARTS

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***Juggernaut** [(jug -uhr-nawt)] A deity in Hinduism, considered a deliverer from sin. His image is carried on a large wagon in an annual procession in India, and according to legend the wagon crushed worshipers who threw themselves under it. A force, an idea, or a system of beliefs that overcomes opposition — especially if it does so ruthlessly — is called a “juggernaut.”*

PART 1

ABE: DEE DEE is pregnant. and it isn't my baby.
and we have to get out of this store
and i have to quit calling DEE DEE a whore

DEE DEE: my side hurts

ABE: around here [ABE FEELS AROUND]

DEE DEE: that's it, right there. don't stop. i like that

ABE: hmm yes yes

DEE DEE: my feet. no. no.
[LOOKING OUT TO FRONT OF STORE]
who's there

ABE: watch out watch out (eye eye)
(eye eye) watch out. yes. yes.
sometimes. no. yes. (eye eye) watch out.
formally, in the future. her seals
she's made from this.

DEE DEE: yes right there.
i'm scared. say something ABE.

ABE: what do you want me to say

DEE DEE: never mind.
[UNDER HER BREATH]
i'm leaving the first chance i get
he never talks about reality

ABE: when we go

DEE DEE: i'm pregnant

ABE: everything in me hurts

DEE DEE: i'm the one who's pregnant and you're telling me everything in
you hurts?

ABE: i wish i was the pregnant one

DEE DEE: no you don't. you're just unhappy when it's someone other than
yourself
who's the center of attention.

[PAUSE]

it's OK. it's OK. failure is its own end. we will see what
happens.

ABE: after we leave you mean.

DEE DEE: oh no
[SPEAKING TO HER BABY]
why does he keep saying we
i was turned
hmm?
what's that?
hmm?
i want to be here
yes

ABE: [SINGING]
she wants to fall in love
with the dream
she wants to fall in love
with the magic
can you help her
can you help her

i send you flowers
i kiss you at odd hours
i figure us with special powers

DEE DEE: are you, don't try and fool me ABE, are you
bargain shopper ABE are you
if you are and you know you are then just say you are
this thing has all this power because it's a secret
i'm not a fucking bargain ABE. get that in your head ABE

ABE: (stay away!) (stay away!)
we're talking! can't you see that?
we're talking! we're talking! we're talking!
for the last time we're talking!

[SINGING]
hey DEE DEE do you DO DO
she ran off with an African Knight
she's never been the same since
now she's carrying his baby
she ran off with an African Knight
hey DEE DEE do you DO DO

DEE DEE: intelligence is what i see and listen to
the mind impregnated me
his mind

ABE: her mind
her face
her broad face
if you have to walk away from me now
walk away from me now (if you have to)
i want you to stay, but what do i know

[TIME PASSES]

please get up

DEE DEE: i'm lazy

ABE: chicken noodle soup bitch

DEE DEE: i love this place tonight Rufus love me Rufus love me

ABE: OK (why is she calling me Rufus?)

is Rufus her baby's daddy? i'm so jealous
let me go to a thousand and beg you
i promise i want to to beg you

DEE DEE: [TALKING TO HERSELF]
pretty toes are you wise
pretty toes is in a disguise
i'm so full now, all i've done is eat today

ABE: it's OK.
when you're pregnant you're eating for two

DEE DEE: are there two of us or three of us

ABE: i don't want to answer that

DEE DEE: we said we wanted to speak about the real

ABE: when did we say that

DEE DEE: darling of course
of course it's death, but i am not afraid anymore
with you with you
i'm not afraid anymore

[DEE DEE AND THE MYSTERY MAN (ABE) SOFT SPOT IN THE WHITE ROOM]
[SINGING]

mystery man i am wide open
mystery man i am wide open
she is a catfish who has splintered
that is all i know
DEE DEE
DEE DEE
DEE DEE do ya DO DO
DEE DEE
DEE DEE
nobody will know
not while we're here
this is a safe spot
a soft spot in the white room
anything else you need to know, we can talk about it
hold on

ABE: no no. i'm not sleeping
this they want

this
to close this down
to close us down

DEE DEE: we are closed down

ABE: are you speaking of you and I
or are you speaking about the store
be clear
this is not the moment to start speaking in riddles

[SINGING]

i'll buy you gowns DEE DEE!
acres of land DEE DEE!
festive holy waters! serpentine bastoon!
a bastoon for DEE DEE!

DEE DEE: stop! you are always singing about what you will do for me
and i haven't seen it. the song isn't enough now that i am with
baby. [RUBBING HER BELLY] i can't just think of myself anymore
ABE, i have to think more clearly about the future. how to
prepare for it. not just dicking around here in this stinking
storefront with you singing about fairy tales and bastoons and
shit. i can't do it anymore
[SCREAMS]
i can't do it anymore!
i need something more substantial.
i crave consequential action.

ABE: [SINGING]
DEE DEE do you DO DO
DEE DEE do you DO DO
DO DO DEE DEE

DEE DEE: precocious fuck!
[ENRAGED]
[DEE DEE SCREAMS]
stop screaming!
lay on the floor and let time pass, together
everything is beautiful...and mystery and new beginning
[WHISPERING TO HER BABY IN HER BELLY]
a bedrock of what? huh? darling? love or madness or some great
tomb?
what is your foundation? what is your bedrock? what are you
standing on?

she knew that this was true
all was going away (that she knew)
but the spell she was under was very strong

[SINGING]

DEE DEE do you DO DO
DEE DEE do you DO DO
ya boys sing it again
this is a cracker box
a wild shift
yes wind
finally wind

[TIME PASSES]

this is about sin justified
in our hearts sin
how things ended up here
what happened to my life
are the dreams of my childhood the cruelest dreams of all
i am dancing, there is no other (we) we are pointing to
look here (in) i invite you (in) as closely as you can come (in)
right here. look at this. what is this
my God the same my God eventually
but for now it must run
for now we are here

ABE: oh honey

DEE DEE: it is about giving us a chance to see each other
are you scared
are you cold
where do your thoughts go when you are by yourself
where do they go

ABE: she wouldn't do what i asked her to do
i'm not crazy
this isn't like that
i'm in love with this woman
i have never hurt this woman
i have never intentionally hurt this woman
i regret hurting this woman
making this woman you love do what you want her to do
why am i always standing by the mirror

DEE DEE: look at me, not yourself, for once
i exist
i'm in pain
i don't know what to do
i've never known
always helpless and trying to make up for lost time

ABE: this is not about being in here
this is about being out there
i want to be out there together
being in here together is one thing
but being out there together is an entirely different thing

DEE DEE: OK but i'm not the same girl anymore
i'm a woman now
women need men when they are out there

ABE: i could really use your love on me
i could really use your love on me
i got to get out of here
i got to get out of this place

DEE DEE: where would you go

ABE: anywhere [PAUSE] if you'll go with me
i could go anywhere

DEE DEE: why don't you just leave

ABE: it's not that easy, that's the thing
leaving is not easy, i don't know if it's possible anymore
not in a real way
[TIME PASSES]

DEE DEE: throw me the frisbee

ABE: what?

DEE DEE: the frisbee. in the corner. throw it to me
[ABE AND DEE DEE PLAY FRISBEE FOR A LONG TIME]

ABE: this thing is like a psyche-ward thing

DEE DEE: no it isn't

ABE: yes it is

DEE DEE: no it isn't
 this is about you and me
 ABE and DEE DEE

[PAUSE]

and my baby
[LOOKING TO HER BELLY]

ABE: ya ya
 it's you i love
 it's you i love
 ya ya
 you're leaving and i'm not
 to where
 to where

[TIME PASSES]

[AT FULL PITCH]
ROBO COP DIANA!
ROBO COP DIANA!
ROBO COP DIANA!
ROBO COP DIANA!

[TIME PASSES]

PART 2

ABE: people think i'm not being straight when i tell them my story but i am, i am straight. it wasn't long ago that we were living rather differently around here

i met DEE DEE from an ad in a magazine. she was living in a shoe box apartment by the canal and working nights in club. like a Sam Fuller movie except this is not a fucking movie asshole this is the real shit. Fuck Sam Fuller. he's dead. his time is done who gives a fuck he carried a gun.

the ad said "roses are red violets are blue my name is DEE DEE who are you"

"i'm looking for a friend and maybe more write me a note that i can adore"

"tempt with sumptuous delights i like candy and Bruce Springsteen"

wow a girl that likes Bruce and has a sweet tooth. talk about hitting the bull's eye

[ABE SINGS SOME BRUCE MAYBE WITH A TAPE PLAYER OF ACTUAL BRUCE]

when i was a kid one time i asked my mom between Clint, Burt, and Robert what her choice would be. she said, without skipping a beat. Clint. that tells you all you need to know about me and my family. we should all turn off the fucking lights now and go home. what do you think about that? ah fuck that. Clint said "there's room enough for everybody." I don't know what happened. I built this structure [POINTING] with my bare hands. now look at it. it's falling apart and i am falling apart. there ain't nothing special about this story so let's just lower the lights and get to it.

[GESTURING] "hey DEE DEE ya DEE DEE hey babe you soften things around here a bit"

this song is a little bit sad, but that's OK, we're still going to warm it up a bit. turning to vinegar. my own mouth. tasting myself turning sour.

my daddy was the baby of 14. he was raised by his brothers. only memory he has of his daddy is him sleeping in the soft chair in the main room after supper. his brothers raised him. he took the train out west all by himself with his momma smack in the middle of the great wars. so young was my daddy and so many years between them, 4 brothers of his were serving in different

campaigns around the world at the time of that train ride. there
he was a little boy, six or seven, riding the rail with his momma
and coming out west. nothing but the sound of the train and the
black sky and dreams of his brothers Bill and Bob and Russell and
Jack and Momma reading from the great book with her fingers
always moving crocheting a blanket or leafing through for the
next passage and a sweet hum on her lips.

[TIME PASSES]

so much build up

DEE DEE: when you say build up, you mean fucking up, right

ABE: misguided action. i not blaming. i want things to be different.
for real different

[TIME PASSES]

give me a girl with something to hold on to
would you
give me a girl with something to hold on to
would you

DEE DEE: lazy boy floyd
lazy boy floyd (was an android)
lazy boy floyd

ABE: i am living my dream

DEE DEE: pig Latin
Lucy's teeth
chocolate ice cream with a wooden-spoon
my escalator a hot dog stick girl
it's all about the dark and that little tunnel we make

ABE: Clint Eastwood was a pig farmer in that movie
all mucked up sloppin the pigs
hey Clint i'm "workin on my own game"
pig farmer Clint got drunk and killed a bunch of fucking people
Clint got drunk
pigs pigs pig fuck in the white room

DEE DEE: leaving the pig farm fuck white room

ABE: which is what this place has become

DEE DEE: and getting the fuck out

ABE: even if it means the death of you

DEE DEE: and going on an adventure

ABE: to defend the honor of whores

DEE DEE: pig whores
[A CACOPHONY OF PIG SOUNDS]

ABE: DEE DEE come back
who are you?
you're not DEE DEE

DEE DEE: i am DEE DEE
but i am another DEE DEE
DEE DEE is another woman

ABE: i think a woman will save the world

[TIME PASSES]

the rest happened as stones roll down a hill
inevitably. it's really about an exit
a story about leaving. trying to leave anyway
about giving up. i'm always doing so. every minute i give up
this is the inevitability
your stars
the lights in the heavens
our hearts
this is the desperation play
chased around a corner
when the man turns around
what fills his eyes
his face
god i am going to throw out all that fucking candy and sugar
a template
this is the grid within which we move
our beings move
our hearts move
space moves in relation to us
Christ is up there in space

[TIME PASSES]

DEE DEE: i want you to look in my eyes

ABE: in them

DEE DEE: the basic questions
are you lonely
do you need somebody
is there something i can do to make things better

ABE: the point of talking about my father was that i am a cowboy

DEE DEE: i know that

ABE: and i'm here

DEE DEE: ya

ABE: i'm out of place

DEE DEE: i'm out of place

ABE: i'm trying to leave. finally

DEE DEE: i'm trying to leave. finally

ABE: i'm not suited to these environs

DEE DEE: i'm not suited to these environs

ABE: we have a lot in common

DEE DEE: maybe

ABE: walls make me nervous. all i need is a bed roll and my boots

[PAUSE]

when the story stops being about her
about DEE DEE
what will i speak of
kids, politics, the future

DEE DEE: ABE stop ABE
fuck ABE fuck

no i can't no no
wait. are people watching me. wait wait
what do people see ABE in me
ABE in me
what do people see
wait ABE wait ABE wait ABE

[PAUSE]

ABE: my GOD
 DEE DEE
 DEE DEE

DEE DEE: i not going to keep paying for your mistakes

ABE: here we go again

DEE DEE: i'm trying to change
 i'm not trying to hurt you

ABE: is that what carrying some black knight's baby is all about
 change

DEE DEE: [SCREAMING]
 candy and sugar are poisoning me
 something has poisoned me
 i'm dying and i don't want my baby to die too
 my father, i have two fathers too
 this isn't mommy's piece
 it's my piece. a piece of DEE DEE. DEE DEE rhymes with candy.
 sort of.
 DEE DEE's piece. when a man finally knows love has killed him, he
 wants to speak about his father. so long as a man is living in
 soapy delusions, he talks about his mother, all soaped up. but
 the father, to look into the eyes of the father

ABE: i can lie to my mother, she only loves me

DEE DEE: but the father is a Juggernaut
 [MUMBLING UNDER HER BREATH]
 judgment retribution just returns camaraderie belonging to a
 place only the father gives one a sense of place. rooted

 i'm going to hire myself (4) black attendants with shiny skin
 go on a trip to the south again

extra butter, a big budget, small town girls
(heretics) lousy with a capital-A (assholes)
bad pizza
pick-up sticks German pricks

i don't want to live this way anymore

[TIME PASSES]

my father's teeth and eyes went into the dirt (soil soil)
my father tells me that i belong
if you lie to your father you turn yourself out
turned out (mother fucker)

[PAUSE]

you cast yourself out to the whim of women
it's not my fault ABE that i also sink my teeth into you

ABE: just love me silly, I'll sing
love me June girl. we're going to be married
you know you've dreamed of our marriage DEE DEE

DEE DEE: you said April not June

ABE: so what

DEE DEE: the date matters

ABE: can't we not argue
we have to leave. we have to be on the road for a while
and i can't have you nipping at my ears every spare moment about
April or June
and when we are going to tie the knot. it will be tied
and why are you so anxious now, all of a sudden
why now

DEE DEE: you know the reason. and stop acting like some tough guy
you're not a tough guy

ABE: the money

DEE DEE: ya the money [PAUSE] honey

ABE: at least you're honest

DEE DEE: i'm honest

ABE: if it weren't for the money you wouldn't marry me
what if i was a killer, or i had snakes
or i loved more than one woman (not just you)
DEE DEE you've got a hold of my mind

[PAUSE]

ABE: i feel i

DEE DEE: you know you

ABE: he but he

DEE DEE: she but she [PAUSE] somewhere great somewhere

ABE: standing here standing

DEE DEE: with you with

A & D [Choral]: is somewhere is

ABE: just in case someone asks
and we don't make it
i'm OK
are you OK DEE DEE
DEE DEE
if we drift off
there's a risk of us being stranded

PART 3

DEE DEE: this is work about action
[ACTION SEQUENCE]
your energy is what i love

ABE: this is not an un-limited resource

DEE DEE: our love is un-limited

ABE: our love is un-limited

DEE DEE: death to limits. we are in each other's arms
we are praying

ABE: our prayers are like light raindrops into a little babe's face

DEE DEE: the babe is a black babe

ABE: you are a genius DEE DEE
but are you sure the baby is black
[PAUSE]
don't answer that

DEE DEE: at the pit of the world
the bottom of the sea
our eyes

ABE: Sheba your cape

DEE DEE: dressed in white my little dreams to myself
falling asleep
because the mind won't let me wake up
i have to say what i am thinking
you're drunk

ABE: so what

DEE DEE: i don't like you drinking

ABE: oh, now you are a mother and pregnant, so you get to start making
rules and telling people what to do?

DEE DEE: save the poor me crap bullshit for somebody who cares

ABE: you don't care DEE

DEE DEE: DEE cares. you know DEE cares

ABE: DEE cares
DEE cares
my mind's gone. this is the end.
i passed out, nearly fainted last night on the platform
where were you then you pregnant Sheba
everything is becoming blurry
help me
mother is dead and i'm in love with DEE DEE
and she's pregnant and on drugs and she's fucking
other men
i'm a cowboy misplaced in the east
in the northeast
and i'm from the south (i am a southern man)
who comes from out west (the southwest)
that's who i am
that's who i am
that's who i am
love me love me for who i am
love me love me for who i am

DEE DEE: you want love you better give love

ABE: I'll give it to you

DEE DEE: maybe

ABE: what's that mean

DEE DEE: i'm undecided

ABE: you have other options

DEE DEE: maybe

ABE: oh
yes

DEE DEE: maybe

ABE: darling

DEE DEE: yes

ABE: are you
never mind

DEE DEE: say it

ABE: are you

DEE DEE: say it

[ABE AND DEE DEE KISS]

[TIME PASSES]

[IN AND OUT OF THE ROOMS]

[A PROLONGED INTERLUDE]

ABE: maybe i'll walk tonight for 35 blocks and try and forget you

DEE DEE: what if i say i'm coming

ABE: we leave together

DEE DEE: swan song sing along

ABE: we earned it

[PAUSE]

so what's the story

DEE DEE: you and i are the story

ABE: bleed for me

DEE DEE: bleed for me.

[PAUSE]

I keep thinking about not being here
entire chapters of books have men doing these things, meeting
each other
it's a meeting place

ABE: you and i are at the meeting place

DEE DEE: so what

ABE: why so what

DEE DEE: so what
so what
so what
why are you demanding me

ABE: that you be here
you don't want to be here

DEE DEE: get a hold of yourself

ABE: no more no

DEE DEE: if you knew how many times i've done this before
you wouldn't say that, you wouldn't demand anything of me
stop pulling me, i'm not quitting, i defer
if things (don't start) to crumble
disintegrating in your eyes
then it's not real

ABE: get a grip of yourself

DEE DEE: i'm not beautiful in that way

ABE: you might be

DEE DEE: beautiful. but i am not

ABE: yes i can see that

DEE DEE: do you want to touch me

ABE: do you want me to touch you

DEE DEE: i'm not trying to be ironic

ABE: why are you so angry

DEE DEE: why are you so angry

ABE: your father, what's he like

DEE DEE: do we have to talk

[PAUSE]

must we talk

[PAUSE]

what is the movement

ABE: the movement is you and i

[ABE AND DEE DEE GO SILENT AND DANCE AND SCREAM] [THEY ADJUST THE LIGHTS]

[THEY ARE IN AND OUT OF THE ROOMS] [THIS IS PROLONGED] [EVENTUALLY THERE IS STILLNESS]

THE END

[NOTES]