

VERSHININ. I dream sometimes that this life is just—a *dress* rehearsal...

Becomes lost in thought.

I have a wife. And two little girls.

OLGA, MASHA, IRINA, AND TUZENBACH. We know.

VERSHININ. And my wife is...

Laughs, darkly.

Well, let's just say that if this life really were just a dress rehearsal? In my next life, I would want—simply a room. Like this. With flowers. And light. And...

Near tears.

Oh, my god—I would *never* get married.

Kulygin enters. He has a spring in his step and a tragic mustache.

KULYGIN. Amo amas amat!

MASHA. UGGGHHH!!!

KULYGIN. Hi Mash-Mash.

MASHA. Don't call me / that.

KULYGIN. In honor of your birthday, dear Irina, I have brought you a gift.

Hands her a gift.

It's a BOOK.

IRINA. Um.

KULYGIN. It's just a short book I wrote—

To the group.

—merely sixty-five pages!—

Back to Irina.

—on the history of our school. Where I *teach*. LATIN.

To the rest of the group.

I teach LATIN.

MASHA. WE / KNOW.

KULYGIN. I just wrote this book in my free time. Not a big deal.

To Chebutykin and Tuzenbach.
 Hey guys—sorry, not sure if I said hey.
Back to Irina.
 I just wrote it because—
Registers Vershinin.
 —Whoa!
 VERSHININ. Hello.
 KULYGIN. Sorry. So rude.
Extends his hand.
 Kulygin. I'm a teacher at the high school. I teach / Latin.
 MASHA. *(Ripping hair out.)* AHHHHHHHHHH.
 KULYGIN. *(Putting arm around Masha.)* I am also Masha's husband.
 Again, *not* a big deal—just the luckiest guy in the world!
Wetly kisses Masha's cheek.
 MWAH.
 MASHA. BLEGH.
 VERSHININ. It is a / pleasure to—
 KULYGIN. *(Proudly; oblivious.) Feci quod potui, faciant meliora potentes.*
 IRINA. You gave me this book already.
 KULYGIN. No I didn't.
 IRINA. You one thousand percent did, last Easter you gave me literally this exact same thing.
A beat. Then—Kulygin snatches the book out of Irina's hand.
 KULYGIN. *(To Vershinin.)* Want it?
 VERSHININ. Um.
 KULYGIN. It's a book I wrote. I teach / LATIN.
 MASHA. HELP ME / GOD.
 KULYGIN. You can read it when you're bored. When you're lonely. Whenever on the toilet whenever on the beach I don't care.
Vershinin takes the book, reluctantly.
 VERSHININ. Thanks.