

Extras

by Jacinto Lucas Pires

translation by Martin Earl

[The names of the characters are the names of the actors. The slashes indicate the moment when the next speaker begins to speak in cases when there is an overlapping of voices; / for the voice which follows immediately upon the prior, // for the next one, etc.]

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A group of people, JOÃO, EMÍLIA, NUNO, MICAELA, ANTÓNIO, LUÍSA & PEDRO. JOÃO, a slender man, is about to say something but doesn't say it.

EMÍLIA What?

JOÃO I didn't say anything.

ANTÓNIO What?

pause

JOÃO Damn, these lights are strong.

ANTÓNIO They are. Artificial lights / , you know how it is.

PEDRO I know they're artificial lights.

NUNO Ah. *(smile)*

PEDRO Everyone knows they're artificial lights.

MICAELA They're ugly.

PEDRO That's obvious.

pause

MICAELA Don't you think, they're as ugly as all get out, they're so...?

NUNO Yeah, yeah.

JOÃO Yes, I think I understand what / you mean.

ANTÓNIO I, on the other hand...

MICAELA What? Did you say something?

LUÍSA Can you hear something / outside?

ANTÓNIO ...Hum. *(breaking off)*

pause

JOÃO A little while ago I didn't say anything.

EMÍLIA What? When I asked you...?

JOÃO Right.

PEDRO What?

JOÃO But I was thinking about... something... very specific. Quite specific. It was like – this happens sometimes, don't you think – as though I'd put so much effort into thinking something, so much clarity, so much, how do you say it?...

NUNO “So much clarity”.

JOÃO ...That these, these thoughts... well, that you would see them.

EMÍLIA I don't know if I can see what you mean.

JOÃO In the sense of being “detected”.

LUÍSA Yes, yes.

JOÃO Like when we have... thoughts, let's call them thoughts –

LUÍSA For lack of a better term.

JOÃO Right. Thoughts – for lack of a better term – that really stick out, that are like, I don't know, more defined than normal, with actual words – when we really

remember the words, when the words are totally important. That is, the fact that they're those words and not others.

PEDRO But there you have it, we can always ask: what is “normal”?

pause

JOÃO But they also have other things.

EMÍLIA These thoughts.

JOÃO Yes.

LUÍSA For example.

JOÃO I don't know, things that aren't words, things that are...

NUNO Ah. (*smile*)

JOÃO Sort of small visions.

NUNO Images.

JOÃO Images, yes.

MICAELA Or, a little different?

JOÃO Images and a little different, because they're images that only we see and we see them inside our heads, or whatever, some times this –

LUÍSA Try to be meticulous.

JOÃO You're right.

ANTÓNIO Come on, come on, don't get angry.

JOÃO Perhaps visions would be the most suitable term.

LUÍSA I wasn't saying this just to be mean.

PEDRO I once had a vision.

JOÃO "Visions" gives the idea of "seeing" and the idea of "inside".

ANTÓNIO It gives an idea of "inside"?

PEDRO Huh?

ANTÓNIO Ha, ha, I was just kidding... / ah. *(laugh, breaks off)*

JOÃO And that too, these visions, we call them that –

LUÍSA For lack of –

EMÍLIA Right.

JOÃO They're utterly... perfect, perfect. It's not that they're perfect in... they're clear. Not perfect in what they show. But perfectly clear. Perfect in that it seems we're seeing a dream or... and the words, if there are words in these, say, these thoughts, then they're important because it's exactly them, just them and not others, if we remember what they were. That is, exactly.

pause

EMÍLIA And what is it you were thinking?

ANTÓNIO Me?

JOÃO I don't remember.

ANTÓNIO ...Hum. *(breaks off)*

MICAELA As well as that, they seem to be aimed at the wrong places.

NUNO You think so?

LUÍSA Huh?

PEDRO What? What?

MICAELA And there's one that goes zz-zz zz-zz. Don't you hear it?

NUNO A little something way in the background?

MICAELA You can hear it really well.

PEDRO "Zz-zz zz-zz".

MICAELA You hear it, don't you?

PEDRO To tell you the truth, I was trying to imitate you. Ah. *(smile)*

ANTÓNIO Ha-ha, that's a good one... *(laugh)*

MICAELA Hum. *(irritated)*

pause

NUNO Ah, yeah. I'm hearing it. I'm hearing it. Yes. Zz-zz, like that, right?

MICAELA It's perfectly audible, isn't it?

ANTÓNIO Especially after you know it's there.

NUNO Right. Or rather...

JOÃO I only recall a hand. A dark hand, with big veins, the kind that stand out, like small cables between the knuckles and the bones. Perhaps it's not a brilliant analogy, but...

PEDRO Ah, I know what that's like.

LUÍSA "Between the knuckles and the bones."

JOÃO A hand that's dark with veins reaches into a square. And doesn't leave any money, neither a fiver nor any coins, not as you'd suspect, as always happens. It doesn't leave any money, as probabilities would –

ANTÓNIO You're referring to the law of probabilities?

JOÃO Rather, it turns over and faces upwards. Suddenly, like that, facing upwards.

LUÍSA This really happened?

EMÍLIA Is it a thought?

JOÃO Surprisingly so white, the palm facing upwards, and with hardly any lines, asking, asking what.

NUNO Ah. (*smile*)

PEDRO Hum?

LUISA Shh.

JOÃO Or not asking, telling, affirming, exclaiming, shouting. Without a single word, making a real effort.

NUNO "Such clarity".

EMÍLIA Was it a woman's hand?

LUÍSA Right.

JOÃO Only a hand. A hand, all by itself, reaching into the square. As though there were nothing else, and that happening too much, as much as possible. But – correct me if I'm wrong – perhaps "possible" is not the most suitable term. A / hand that was not // expected. A dark hand that turned light, everything turning inside this, well, square.

EMÍLIA Intense.

LUÍSA Irreversible.

LUÍSA For lack of a better term.

EMÍLIA "Right".