

MECKEL. Even Whodoyoucallher.

HETCHMAN. Oh.

MECKEL. Is just 'cause you never say how you love her, is all.

HETCHMAN. Whatchu mean by that?

I tell her I love her. I tell her –

(HETCHMAN stops, tries to remember an instance.

MECKEL falls asleep.)

HETCHMAN. ...long time ago.

(HETCHMAN turns back to MECKEL.)

HETCHMAN. Meckel? Meckel?

(HETCHMAN sees that MECKEL is asleep, too.

HETCHMAN takes out a paper and a pen. He begins to write.)

WALL. HETCHMAN THINK FONDLY OF WIFE?

(HETCHMAN sees the wall, nods.)

HETCHMAN THINK FONDLY OF WIFE

Side A - Start

Scene

(The train)

VOICE. "And that same night, hours later and still more towns over, Hetchman's Wife found herself once again on the train –"

(The hat sits on the train. HETCHMAN'S WIFE returns to her seat on the train.)

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. How you doing, hat?

You cold?

Is getting cold, uh?

Is good thing we are not still waiting outside fifth-best hatmaker's shop. Would be lousy thing to wait there, in the dark, dark cold.

(beat) The conductor, he tells me tomorrow, we will pass by the water.

What do you think it will look like, uh? The water.

They tell me it is blue.

Me? I am not so sure.

(beat) What does it sound like, the music?

(The hat says nothing.)

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. Is okay.

Is hard to say what you hold inside of you.

What it is I cannot hear.

Ey, hat.

Hat?

You asleep?

Okay, you sleep.

(HETCHMAN'S WIFE sits and waits. She hears the rumbling noise in the distance. She listens to it, calm.)

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. It will be soon.

(HETCHMAN'S WIFE *pats the sleeping hat, then realizes that there is an envelope next to/beneath it.*)

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. (*struck*) Mail.

Is for you?

(HETCHMAN'S WIFE *reads the label. Awestruck -*)

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. Is for me.

End

Scene

(*Living room*)

VOICE. "And after all the living returned from the cemetery, Meckel tiptoed into Hetchman's home."

(*An empty living room. A click at the front door. MECKEL enters. As quietly as possible, he examines the jars. He picks up one jar, quietly opens it. From inside the jar, he hears HETCHMAN.*)

HETCHMAN'S VOICE. - Merry Hatmas to me -

- Merry Hatmas to me -

(*MECKEL picks up another jar, opens -*)

HETCHMAN'S VOICE. Good Meckel

HETCHMAN'S WIFE'S VOICE. Kind MECKEL

HETCHMAN'S VOICE. Best-looking favorite Meckel!

(*MECKEL keeps searching, finds a MECKEL-colored jar. MECKEL knocks into the jar, making a loud noise. Before MECKEL can hide, the GOLEM bounds in, sees MECKEL. The GOLEM tackles MECKEL.*)

MECKEL. What the hat - !

(*The lights turn on. HETCHMAN enters from the bedroom.*)

HETCHMAN. Ey, is fri and not food!

(*The GOLEM backs off from MECKEL.*)

(*Then HETCHMAN sees the jar in MECKEL's hand.*)

HETCHMAN. What is that?

MECKEL. Oh, is jar, I don't know.

(*The GOLEM moans.*)

HETCHMAN. Golem say you are late night sneak.

You are late night sneak, Meckel?

MECKEL. What?! No.

You would take crap golem's side over me?

Side B - Start

(HETCHMAN in the same position. He has a terrible itch in his crotch/thigh region. He considers reaching into his pants to scratch himself. Can anyone see from the window? More importantly, does it matter? He digs into his pants, scratches the itch. Ahh.)

"Next day - "

(HETCHMAN in the same position. He hocks the phlegm in his throat, spits into a tissue. He ineffectually tosses the tissue towards a nearby trashcan. He considers retrieving the tissue, but does not.)

"Next day - "

(HETCHMAN in the same position. Something is not quite right. He reaches up to his head, feels around. He does not feel a hat. Where is his hat?!)

HETCHMAN. Ey. Ey, wife!

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. (offstage) What!

HETCHMAN. I said, ey, wife!

(HETCHMAN'S WIFE enters with the laundry.)

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. I said, what?

HETCHMAN. You see my hat?

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. What hat?

HETCHMAN. My hat, I always wear.

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. That old hat? No, I don't see it lately.

HETCHMAN. Whatchu mean you don't see it lately? I wear it every day.

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. You think I look at you every day or something?

HETCHMAN. Whatchu be looking at instead, uh?

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. Maybe you get up, you do a little housework, and maybe THEN you find hat.

HETCHMAN. Is good thinking!

You start first, okay? Okay.

VOICE. "Next day - "

HETCHMAN. You think maybe you wash it?

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. Wash what?

HETCHMAN. My hat.

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. Why I wash a hat for, uh?

VOICE. "Next day - "

HETCHMAN. You look in bedroom?

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. There is no hat in bedroom!

HETCHMAN. You look then?

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. If there is hat in bedroom, I will see it, okay?

HETCHMAN. Okay.

You should look, though. I am thinking maybe it is in there.

VOICE. "Next day - "

HETCHMAN. You see it now?

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. No.

VOICE. "Next day - "

HETCHMAN. How 'bout now?

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. No!

VOICE. "Next day - "

HETCHMAN. You see it now, right?

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. Hetchman: I don't see it today. I don't see it yesterday. I am thinking MAYBE: you lose hat.

HETCHMAN. How I lose hat?

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. Maybe hat it walk away.

HETCHMAN. But hat does not have legs.

HETCHMAN'S WIFE. You want to find hat?

You look for hat. Yourself.

(HETCHMAN'S WIFE exits.)

VOICE. "More and more, thoughts of the hat consumed Hetchman.

He changed the channel"

HETCHMAN. - to hat-related program.

End