

Kjerstin Norén

For Ever

To Ryszard Cieslak

I would like to tell you something about my life-experience, and about my relation to Mr. Cieslak. But I do not want to tell you the truth, the whole truth, no way.

My name is Kjerstin Norén, I am Swedish, I was born in June 1945. I am a colleague and friend of Institutet för Scenkonst, Grenland Friteater and Théâtre Beliashe. I have two main working-fields: that of writer and that of stage artist. I write lyrical prose and I organise and define my work for the stage by what I, since the beginning of the nineties, call the Teaterstudio B.

The text below was originally created as a task given by Ryszard Cieslak in a working process called *The Labyrinth* in Århus, Denmark, fourteen years ago. We were supposed to imagine something: what might be the most awful thing which could happen during a wedding?

I suggested it should not be the "no" - the everlasting banality surrounding any marriage - but just leaving, an unexplainable disappearance because of pure fantasy - the same kind of fantasy that years later eats love to create apathy in what was supposed to be presence.

In this way I would like to tell you something about my life-experience, and about my relation to Mr. Cieslak. But I do not want to tell you the truth, the whole truth, no way.

FOR EVER

(from my book *The Suffering and Joy of Anna-Klara Larsson*, 1990)

A young man and a young woman fell in love. He asked her to marry him, and she answered yes.

During the ceremony she was seized with a sudden, almost painful sensation of lust. Several hours later, during the very same celebration she glanced at a man of extraordinary beauty standing at some distance from the others. After a moment of hesitation she left her chair and followed him. When his door slammed behind them she turned around and in agony she saw that he had changed completely. More than anything else he now looked like a disgusting dwarf and everything around him scared her and filled her with loathing. From the bottom of her heart she asked for his permission to leave, so as to return hastily to

her wedding. He released her, but on one condition: that she would stand by her husband for the rest of her life.

Safely returned she found the guests gone and her husband alone, covered by a thick coat of ice. She immediately began to melt the ice, using all her force, all her reason, all her time.

It was to take all her life, so that when he was again alive she had grown old and - as she had remained unloved - ugly, so that he did not recognise her. He fell in love with a young woman and when he asked her to marry him, she answered yes.

During the ceremony he was seized with a sudden, almost painful sensation of lust. Several hours later, during the very same celebration, he glanced at a woman of

extraordinary beauty standing at some distance from the others.

After a moment of hesitation he left his chair and followed her ...

KJERSTIN NORÉN

(Denmark) is a writer and stage artist. She started her work and education at Lilla Teatern in Lund, Sweden, continued in Berlin, Paris and Rome. In the eighties she worked as full time drama critic at the daily newspaper *Information*, Copenhagen. Since 1992 she has been the artistic leader of Teaterstudio B (Copenhagen/Skarkall). Her last production was: *Emigranten* by Gunner Ekelöf.



Kjerstin Norén in *Emigranten*. Photo: Stefano Lanzardo