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FUDDY MEERS CHARACTERS

(Fuddy Meers is a farcical dark comedy that features suggestions of domestic abuse and addiction.)

→ **Claire:** 30's-40's, working class, married to Richard. Claire suffers from psychogenic amnesia. Each morning, she wakes up with her memories wiped clean. Claire is thoughtful, kind, and a bit overly trusting, but is capable of surprising herself and others with moments of surprising strength and clarity.

Richard: 30's-40's, working class, married to Claire. Hospital worker, overly cheerful and somewhat clueless man with good intentions. Richard is a former addict who has gotten his life together, even if he has occasional bouts of poor judgement. He truly loves Claire and cares for her to the best of his abilities.

Limping Man: 30's 40's, working class. Recently escaped from prison, Limping Man is posing as Claire's dead brother, he is actually Claire's abusive ex-husband. He speaks with an exaggerated lisp, is blind in one eye deaf in one ear, and has a pronounced limp. He seems very calm, reasonable and kind, but is capable of explosive and alarming bouts of temper and violence.

Millet: 30's 40's, working class. Crony to Limping Man. A very confused, very disturbed and very large man who wears a dirty sock puppet on his hand. Binky, the puppet, has become a bizarre aspect of Millet's personality, and Millet actually believes Binky is alive. Because of all of this, Millet is very easy to manipulate and control, which Limping Man does effectively. Despite all this, Millet has a very strong moral compass, and even though his thoughts are confused and surreal, he has a genuine sense of right and wrong.

→ **Gertie:** 50's-60's, working class. Claire's mother. Gertie suffered a serious stroke a few years ago and suffers from a kind of aphasia which makes her speech garbled and indecipherable. Despite this, she is incredibly clear-headed and even though others have terrible difficulty understanding her, her thoughts, intentions, objectives and actions are crystal clear and she is incredibly keen and strong-willed.

Kenny: 17. Claire's son. Kenny is a very large 17-year-old who is still in 8th grade. He is the son of Limping Man, and was witness to Limping Man's daily physical abuse of his mother, Claire. He has a budding drug problem, is angry at the world, and doesn't know how to express any of it very well.

Heidi: 30's, 40's. Prison lunch-lady posing as a cop. She is Limping Man's girlfriend and accomplice. She has been misled into participating in Claire's abduction by Limping Man.

The Clowns: Only seen by Claire, The Clowns are silent but persistent reflections of Claire's confused memories and the day she lost them. They spend most of the show moving the set around, lurking in shadows and being generally weird and unsettling,

(throws bacon out the window)
You know I don't like bacon, Gertie.

CLAIRE

(pause)
I think you should apologize. You scared Mama.

LIMPING MAN

I'm thorry, I don't... like... bacon.

GERTIE

I j ez hava fiftty oh da balcony cuz ya foddah lie dit so mooc, I j ez goddah hadoo oh keeboo da-roun ada te.

CLAIRE

Hmmm. That's a very good story, Mama.

LIMPING MAN

You have a hack-thaw, Mom?

GERTIE

Hack?

LIMPING MAN

Yeah, I have thomeething to do.

GERTIE

Ina la.

LIMPING MAN

What?

GERTIE

La.

LIMPING MAN

La?

CLAIRE

In the cellar, she said. Daddy's workbench is against the back

Wall. And there are some saws hanging to the left. There's a back-saw with a red handle.

LIMPING MAN

(beat)
Thankth, Claire.
(exits into basement)

START

CLAIRE

This house is so nice, Mama. I know things about it. It's good for me, right?

GERTIE

Clay...

CLAIRE

Did they tell you I lose my memory every day? That must be a very rare thing.

(inhales deeply)

Oh I think I can still smell Daddy's cologne. It must've seeped into the wallpaper.

GERTIE

I doan tink toe, Clay.

(checks that LIMPING MAN'S out of earshot)

CLAIRE

(straining to remember)

Yes, I think I can picture him. Did he wear a yellow cap?

GERTIE

Clay, lessco fo wuh, kay?

CLAIRE

Hold on. There used to be cages out back weren't there? With dogs in them. And Daddy would feed them in the morning.

GERTIE

Isso my ow sigh, lessco fo wuh.

