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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.

His name is Philip.

KENNY

CLAIRE

Right. He's Philip pretending to be Zack, who fell out of the tree. Sorry. It's so hard to keep it all straight.

Look at my back. Can you thitch it up?

LIMPING MAN

CLAIRE

Oh sure. I've seen much worse than that. God knows I don't know *whete*.
(*moves to KENNY*)

No stitches for you, Kenny. Just a nice clean bandage.

(*pause as she looks at him*)
I wasn't really a bad mother, was I? What the lady just said, is it true?

KENNY

No. She doesn't know you. You were a good mother.

CLAIRE

Oh good.

(*remembers*)

Six pounds, fourteen ounces.

(*beats*)

That's how much you weighed at birth.

KENNY

(*wants to tell her*)

Mom...

CLAIRE

Yes?

KENNY

(*looks over at LIMPING MAN*)

Never mind.

(*Lights out on them. The echoey dog barking transitions us into—*)

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Scene Two

STAR (Lights up in the basement. MILLET stands guard over RICHARD and GERTIE.)

MILLET

Nobody better try anything 'cause I've been tricked too many times today.

GERTIE

Dash biggo yoo-zo doopy.

MILLET

Don't talk jibberish. I'm sure you just said something very mean about me.

(*as puppet*)

So... much... pain...

(*normal*)

And look what you did to Hinky Binky.

(*puppet*)

Everything's going dark.

(*normal*)

Hang in there, Bink.

(*puppet*)

Millet, is that you?

(*normal*)

I'm here. Be brave little puppet.

RICHARD

Damn. You're crazy.

MILLET

You got a sewing kit in this dungeon?

GERTIE

Yah. Maybe ova nose bachus.

MILLET

Well, go get it. I gotta fix my friend.

CERTIE
Uh . . . Odaw. Aybee ride bag.

(CERTIE goes off into other part of the basement.)

MILLET
I'm watching you, old lady, so don't get funny.

(off)
Nuddin fuddy heah.

RICHARD
Look, I don't know what you people have in mind, but it's not worth wrecking your life. Believe me, I know.

MILLET
I'm not talking to you. Talk gets me in trouble. My lip is zipped, Sporto.

RICHARD
I know where your head is right now. You're probably strung out, don't whatever you can to scrounge up the next fix.

MILLET
What?

RICHARD
Sure, I look like an upright guy, nice family, good job at the hospital, but I've been right where you're standing, buddy-boy.

MILLET
(calls off)
Certe, my Binky is dying!

CERTIE
(off)
Ahm dill loodn!

RICHARD
She said she's still looking.

MILLET
I know what she said.

CERTIE
(crosses with a photo album)
I tink iss up in da clickin.
(exits upstairs)

MILLET
Hey! She's a slippery one, isn't she?

RICHARD
You gotta open your eyes, my friend. You are mixed up with a very bad crowd.

MILLET
(weak puppet)
I can't feel my toes.

RICHARD
I was in deep, just like you. And I got out.

MILLET
(weak puppet)
Are you a doctor?

RICHARD
(beat)
No. I work at the hospital, but I'm just a technician. I run the MRIs. That's how I met Claire.

MILLET
(weak puppet)
So, you can't help me . . . MRI guy?

RICHARD
I'm sorry, puppet. I can't.