

## I DO

CHARACTERS:

KATHY  
SCOTT

(ENTER: KATHY, dressed in business-like attire. SHE enters an elevator. SCOTT is already in there. KATHY trips and falls, then tries to stand. SCOTT helps her up. Pause. KATHY starts crying.)

SCOTT

Oh, Kathy. You've always been so *clumsy*.

(SCOTT presses a button and elevator-noise can be heard. HE takes out a handkerchief and hands it to her. SHE accepts it, and dabs her forehead.)

KATHY

Thanks (Sobbing). I don't know what happened.

SCOTT

I hope that helps.

KATHY

(In pain) Yeah, it does.

SCOTT

Little ice might help if it starts to swell.

KATHY

No, this is fine. Thanks, though.

SCOTT

You're welcome. (Pause) Did the bump on the head jog anything?

(KATHY hits the stop button on the elevator. Silence.)

KATHY

God Scott, you're such an asshole! I can't *believe* you!

(KATHY starts crying.)

SCOTT

What, what did I do?

KATHY

You know what you did!

SCOTT

C'mon Kathy, you can't keep doing this.

KATHY

You know what you did.

(SHE takes a swing at him. HE dodges the punch.)

You *know* what you did, you asshole.

SCOTT

Kathy, I love it when you're feisty- that always worked for us, didn't it? (Pause) You didn't cut yourself did you, when you fell, did you?

(HE grabs her handkerchief and examines it.)

No, I don't see any blood here, and none on your hands either.

KATHY

Stop it. Just stop it!

(SHE hits the stop button and the elevator starts moving. The elevator-noise continues.)

You know what? I don't have to deal with this anymore.

SCOTT

(Laughing) You mean you don't have to deal with *me* anymore, don't you? Isn't that what you mean?

KATHY

Oh, shut up.

SCOTT

But that's up to you of course. Like you have a choice, right? It's not too soon, it never is.

KATHY

Look- I said *shut up*. I never asked for you to be here. I don't-

SCOTT

Sure you did.

(KATHY takes a wary step away from

SCOTT.)

Asked me to be here, I mean.

(SCOTT hits the stop button on the elevator.  
Silence.)

(Thinking) Remember when we were in that bar in Chicago, and I started tap dancing?

KATHY

You looked like a fool...yes, I remember...you looked like a-

SCOTT

A fool, I know. You even told me that, even then. (Whining voice) "Scott, you look like an idiot, stop that. You can't dance! For God's sakes, stop it. You're embarrassing me!"

KATHY

But, but...Look, I didn't mean to-

SCOTT

And then some guy out of nowhere comes up to me and started dancing like me. Sure it was goofy, but I know I had fun, anyway.

KATHY

Scott, I thought he was making fun of you. I thought he was making fun of you and I didn't think that-

SCOTT

Then we all hung out at the bar later and had a good time. Remember that?

KATHY

(Chuckles) We started spinning around on those old bar stools, and that guy knocked over a table...cocktail sauce went everywhere. God, we were crazy then.

SCOTT

But, we had a good time. I'm glad you remember.

(SCOTT hits the stop button and the elevator  
starts moving. More elevator-noise.)

SCOTT

Almost there.

KATHY

(Pause) I miss you Scott, I really do. I miss, I miss those times.

(SCOTT gives her back the handkerchief.  
KATHY takes it and wipes her eyes.)

SCOTT

That's my girl!

(KATHY vehemently hits the stop button.  
Silence.)

KATHY

Okay, hotshot- tell me something- tell me what you *want*.

SCOTT

(Thinking) You'll be nice about it?

KATHY

I'll be "nice."

SCOTT

Well, you hit me earlier. I have to be wary of your wrath.

KATHY

I took a swing at you. I didn't hit you.

SCOTT

Okay, you took a swing at me. Anyway, you're mad at me.

(KATHY stuffs the handkerchief into a pocket.)

KATHY:

I really shouldn't have been. (Pause) No, I shouldn't have been mad. I just forgot myself.

SCOTT

You're forgetting a lot now and days, Kathy. That worries me. (Pause) How about when we lived next to the lake, and I wanted to act like Thoreau, and you wanted to be Anaise Nin?

KATHY

God...yeah. That was something. We were so young.

SCOTT

We ate up two years doing that, didn't we?

KATHY

Something like that.

SCOTT

I was married then. Remember?

KATHY

Scott, I'm not an idiot. How could I forget that? (Pause) *we* were married on that little white dock, looked like it would fall apart. The whole thing was ready to collapse under us, the wood was so rotted. Yes, I remember that!

SCOTT

(Nervously) Umm- what about the time we had Suzanne?

KATHY

(Pause) Yes, that was-

SCOTT

That was all your doing, really. I loved you so much then, I really did.

KATHY

I know. I remember. At least parts of it. I remember parts of it-

SCOTT

And we had Suzanne right about the time you got this promotion. Remember?

KATHY

(Sobbing, touching her head) But the promotion didn't matter, really. You know that don't you Scott? You really know that don't you? I mean, I can't just sit here and pretend you don't know it, can I? Scott- you know that, right? I mean, see...you know it, right?

(SCOTT hits the stop button and the elevator starts moving. More elevator-noise.)

SCOTT

Almost there.

KATHY

(Pleading) Scott, answer me. This isn't fair. You can't do this.

SCOTT

I'm not the one doing this. You are, Kathy. I'm only here because of you.

KATHY

No. I'm not going to listen to you anymore. I'm simply not going to.

SCOTT

But you have to. Stop regretting everything Kathy-

KATHY

Shut up. I don't have to lis-

SCOTT

Look, quit telling me to shut up, okay?

KATHY

(Pause) God, this reminds me of one of our old conversations...I'm just so sick of those.

SCOTT

One of our old *arguments* you mean, not *conversations*. I was the one driving that day because of an *argument*. I wasn't driving because of a *conversation*.

KATHY

Don't say that, don't even think it!

SCOTT

I'm not the one thinking it, Kathy- you're the one thinking it, and you're making all of this *real*!

KATHY

It's not my fault. What happened to us wasn't not my fault. (Pause) It was icy, the whole town was covered with this, this *ice*. We couldn't (Pause) How *dare* you!

(KATHY hits the stop button. Silence.)

I know what you're doing. I know what your *doing*, and believe me it won't work. Yeah, you can't manipulate me, or trick me into believing something, something that- (Pointing) You can just go to hell, you can just go there and...and...I hate you!

(SCOTT hugs her.)

SCOTT

I know you do, and that's okay.

(KATHY pushes SCOTT away.)

KATHY

Don't touch me! You can't touch me anymore...Just shut up-

SCOTT

Problem is, you won't let me shut up.

KATHY

(Frustrated) God, why were we ever together?

(KATHY hits the stop button and the elevator moves. Elevator-noise.)

SCOTT

Almost there.

KATHY

(Sighing) I know.

SCOTT

Kathy, we're almost there. It's almost over for today. Tomorrow, though-

KATHY

(Worried) Tomorrow what? What about tomorrow?

SCOTT

Well, tomorrow I may not be here.

KATHY

Scott, don't say that. Don't talk like that. You're just-

SCOTT

Kathy, you *know*. Kathy just try to...to deal with all this. You're killing yourself.

KATHY

(Pause) If you just wouldn't have driven that day, if we wouldn't have fought, you wouldn't have-

SCOTT

It's about time you shut up, Kathy. This has gone on long enough. It's not your fault, and it never was. But-

KATHY

But all I thought about was my promotion, is that what you're trying to say? Is that your biggest gripe, that that I had get to work on time?

SCOTT

Almost there.

(KATHY hits the stop button. Long silence, they stare at each other. SCOTT delicately approaches KATHY.)

SCOTT

And when Suzanne was born you held her like piece of cotton, like a dandelion, so delicate. It was so delicate how you did that. So gentle.

KATHY

I remember that too, I remember that more than anything.

SCOTT

I loved you then, I really did.

KATHY

(Turning to him, crying) Oh baby- I know you did- I never meant to, I never would have thought that we. I loved you, too. I really did. (Painfully) I *really did*.

(KATHY cups SCOTT'S chin with both hands.)

We lost Suzanne, didn't we? I mean, we really lost her didn't we? (Pause) We did, didn't we? (Pause) Answer me!

(SCOTT hits the stop button. The elevator

moves. More elevator-noise.)

SCOTT

Yes. Kathy, you did. You lost us. I don't know what else to say.

KATHY

And I see you here everyday.

SCOTT

(Pause) Everywhere everyday. Yes, for some reason, you do.

KATHY

I know, Scott, I know. (Pause) I do.

(Elevator door opens. It is empty except for KATHY. HER hands are held in empty air as if she is holding someone's chin. KATHY looks around, composes herself, and abruptly walks out of the elevator. SHE approaches an office door, turns toward the elevator and rubs her head. EXIT KATHY through the office door. In the gloom beyond the doorway, glimpsed in the office, is SCOTT. SHE closes the office door behind her.)

END