

BEFORE YOU FALL ASLEEP

(Prima che tu dorma)

Full length play in three acts by Marco Calvani

“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth:
I came not to send peace, but a sword.
For I am come to set a man at variance against his father,
and the daughter against her mother,
and the daughter in law against her mother in law.
And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.”
(*Matthew, 10:34-36*)

Characters:

ROSE, a woman about thirty-five years old
BON, a man about twenty-five years old
LINDA, a woman about fifty years old
TINA, a woman about seventy-five years old
LULU, a woman about thirty years old
NICO, a man about forty-five years old
DAVID, a man about forty years old

Plot and author’s note:

Bon returns to his hometown for the imminent death of his father. Heralding his arrival after so many years, are the familiar faces of his past: his sister Rosa who continues to adhere to a convenient truth and to a life that she did not choose; Tina, his elderly grandmother, a victim of memories and fear; Linda, the second wife of his father with a tattoo of sadness inked on her heart; Nico, his brother in law, disillusioned and violent; and his old friends, Lulu and David, still searching for their *lieux* in the world. The personal lives of the characters intertwine breathlessly in a maze of secrets creating a ruthless maelstrom from which it will be difficult for any of them to escape unscathed.

Play commissioned by the Todi Arte Festival 2004, artistic director Patrick Rossi Gastaldi.

Originally written in Italian
Available also in English, Spanish and French