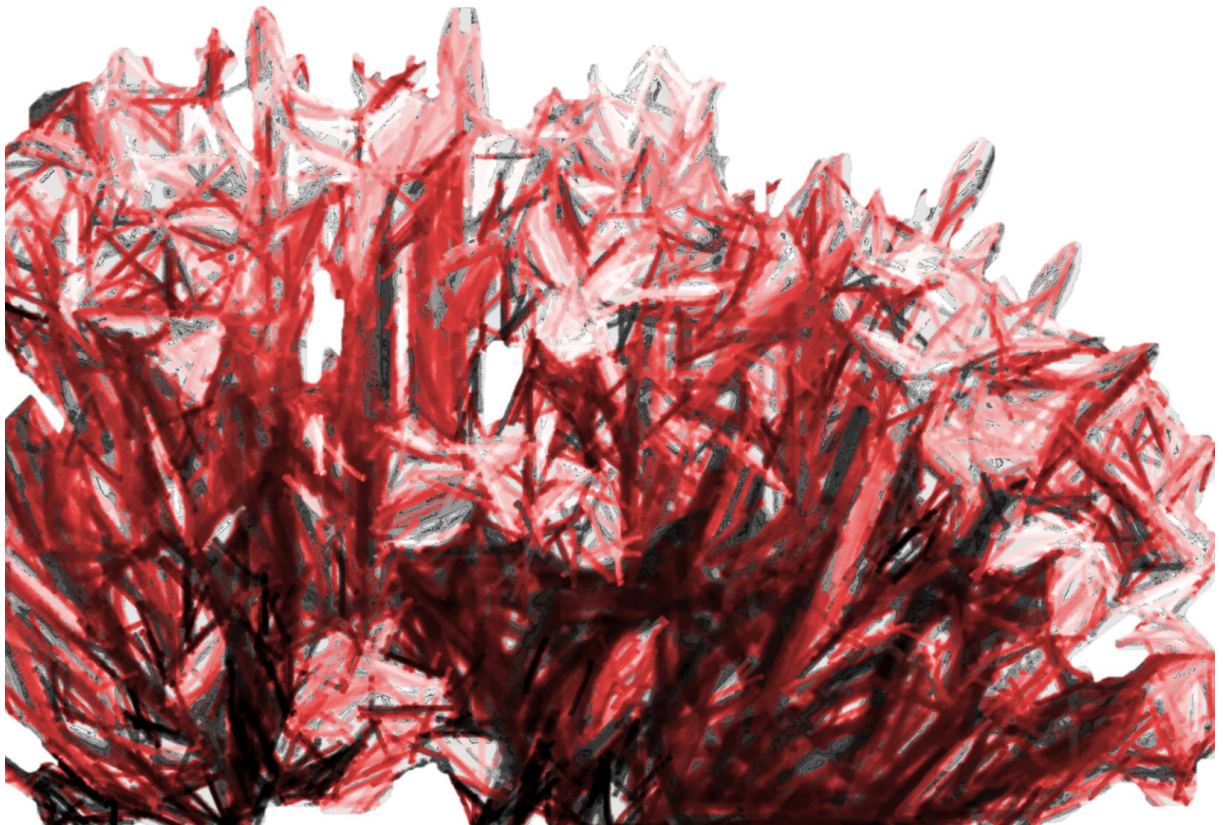


Ash Crestfelt

The  
Wilting Press



# *The Wilting Press*

By Ash Crestfelt

A one-act play in 20 minutes

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

- WANDERER A mysterious and chatty adult who sits on a bench in a park. Can be male or female.
- STRANGER #1 A middle-aged man who just got divorced.
- STRANGER #2 A teenager attempting to run away from home. Can be male or female.
- STRANGER #3 A teenager or adult who does not know what they want to do with their life. Can be male or female.
- STRANGER #4 Makes a brief appearance at the end of the play. Can be a male or female of any age.

# ACT I

## SCENE ONE

*WANDERER is seated on a bench. STRANGER #1 anxiously enters and sits on the bench next to WANDERER. They are both silent.*

WANDERER: You seem worried. Care to share your troubles?

STRANGER #1: No, it's nothing...I just have a lot going on and I need some time to clear my mind.

WANDERER: And that's why you're here?

STRANGER #1: Yeah.

WANDERER: Hmm...

*There is a silence.*

STRANGER #1: Um...actually, my wife just divorced me.

WANDERER: Oh my.

STRANGER #1: We were married for 10 years and then she left me for someone else.

WANDERER: Sad.

STRANGER #1: But I kind of saw it coming, you know? Her behavior was changing and we both lost interest in each other. Now that it's actually happened, I don't really know what to do...

WANDERER: Why don't you try enjoying it?

STRANGER #1: Pardon me?

WANDERER: You're single now, right? Why don't you indulge in the merits of it?

STRANGER #1: Isn't it too soon?

WANDERER: Not at all. You two shared a mutual feeling of disinterest, so why should you continue to suffer?

STRANGER #1: You're not wrong...

WANDERER: Do something.

STRANGER #1: Like what?

WANDERER: Anything.

STRANGER #1: Anything?

WANDERER: Anything that let's you get out there and taste the world. Right now, your mind is up in the clouds. Come back down to earth, my friend, and you'll see things differently.

STRANGER #1: I mean, yeah, I've been feeling like I should just get out of my head and do things in real life lately...Maybe that's what I'll actually do. Hey, thanks for the advice!

WANDERER: My pleasure. By the way, could you do me a favor?

STRANGER #1: What is it?

WANDERER: Would you please pass me a flower from over there?

STRANGER #1: Uh sure.

*STRANGER #1 picks up a flower and gives it to WANDERER.*

STRANGER #1: Here.

WANDERER: Thank you.

*WANDERER produces a flower press book and puts the flower in it.*

WANDERER: And fini!

*STRANGER #1 gets up from the bench. WANDERER closes the flower press book and puts it away.*

STRANGER #1: You're an odd one.

WANDERER: I take pride in that.

STRANGER #1: Anyways, thanks for the help.

WANDERER: Anytime. Take care.

*STRANGER #1 exits. STRANGER #2 enters with a backpack and sits on the bench next to WANDERER. They are both silent.*

WANDERER: You seem worried. Care to share your troubles?

STRANGER #2: No, it's nothing...I just have a lot going on and I need some time to clear my mind.

WANDERER: And that's why you're here?

STRANGER #2: Yeah.

WANDERER: Hmm...

*There is a silence.*

STRANGER #2: Honestly, my parents grounded me.

WANDERER: Why is that?

STRANGER #2: I flunked my math test because I was playing video games the night before.

WANDERER: Oh?

STRANGER #2: It's just so unfair. Why do they get to do what they want? I mean, sometimes they mess up, but then they just brush it under the rug. And every time I act out, they just have to do something stupid! It's like there's no winning for me. I feel useless...

WANDERER: Because you're dependent on them?

STRANGER #2: Yeah, it's like that. They do what they want, they determine my future, and they make me do their things – I just can't stand it!

WANDERER: And you feel like running away?

STRANGER #2: How did you know?

WANDERER (*points at the backpack*): Because of that.

STRANGER #2: Is it that obvious?

WANDERER: Not really, I could assume you were going to school.

STRANGER #2: Figures.

WANDERER: So, are you really going to try?

STRANGER #2: Yeah.

WANDERER: You know your parents will be worried sick.

STRANGER #2: No, they won't be. They don't care.

WANDERER: And the police might find you and send you back...