

(Graveyard. ILSE
 plays with dead leaves.
 MORITZ enters; sees ILSE over
 his shoulder; he can't believe
 it; he sits, trying to forget
 it. She waves. He approaches
 her, and, inches away, slowly
 touches her face.)

MORITZ
 My Ilse?

ILSE
 My Moritz?

(ILSE touches MORITZ. He freaks
 out; hugs her.)

MORITZ
 My Ilse!

ILSE
 Moritz! Let's talk--catch up!

MORITZ
 Okay.

ILSE
 It's been forever.

MORITZ
 Almost exactly a month.

ILSE
 Yeah.
 How are you?

MORITZ
 How are you, uh...

ILSE
 Still dead.

MORITZ
 Right.
 Where have you been?

ILSE
 I asked you first. How have you been?

MORITZ
 I'm fine.

ILSE
Moritz.

MORITZ
I'm feeling better...now.

ILSE
You...do know that I'm dead, right?

MORITZ
You make me happy.

ILSE
Moritz.

MORITZ
Well...you're in front of me.

ILSE
For now. I mean, sort of.

MORITZ
But you're here with me, right?

ILSE
Do you remember when we played house?

(MORITZ and ILSE play house.)

MORITZ
I'm lonely.

ILSE
I'm lonely too.

MORITZ
It's because of my father.

ILSE
I can't blame anyone.

MORITZ
Because you're dead.

ILSE
That's probably one of the main reasons, yeah.

MORITZ
And you. I wish you were here.

ILSE
I am, sort of.

MORITZ
Sort of.

(Beat.)

We were happy.

ILSE
But it ended.

MORITZ
But not /

ILSE
Yes, before.

MORITZ
No.

ILSE
Why didn't you talk to me?

MORITZ
Why didn't you ever just say what you meant?

ILSE
At least it was something.

MORITZ
I didn't want to love too hard, to drive you away.

ILSE
But you didn't love me hard enough to feel it, so...
Why didn't you ever talk?

MORITZ
I just wanted to listen to you. I didn't want to go
missing any small part of you. Now I really miss you.

ILSE
And here we are.

MORITZ
Yes.

ILSE
You know what I want?

MORITZ
(Hopefully.)
Ilse?

ILSE
Coffee--strong coffee.

MORITZ

I had coffee with breakfast.

ILSE

You're too young to drink coffee.

MORITZ

I like the taste.

Should I make you some? You don't have to drink it, obviously, but I can just set it there, next to you, and I can drink some too. What do you think?

ILSE

I don't think that would make things better.

MORITZ

Maybe it was just a misunderstanding. Maybe we were never meant to be in love.

ILSE

Don't say that.

MORITZ

I just did, though.

ILSE

Well you shouldn't have.

MORITZ

What went wrong?

ILSE

We were too busy feeling lonely, I guess.

MORITZ

But I wasn't.

ILSE

Neither was I, at the time.

MORITZ

Then what?

ILSE

I suppose neither of us told the other that we weren't.

MORITZ

Do you think it could've worked, eventually?, we would've worked things out?

ILSE

I'd rather not think about it.

(Small pause.)

MORITZ

(Erupts.)

How can I see you?!

ILSE

Because you're special, to me!

(Small pause, with tears.)

MORITZ

Have you ever heard of someone taking their own life?

ILSE

Take it where?

MORITZ

Take it away.

ILSE

Why would you want to take something away from yourself?

MORITZ

Maybe because I don't deserve it.
Did it hurt? I mean, dying.

ILSE

Yes.

MORITZ

More than it hurts already?

ILSE

Yes, but it doesn't hurt now.

MORITZ

What does it feel like?

(Beat.)

ILSE

Do you want to die?

(Beat.)

MORITZ

I felt so alone after you left.

ILSE

I'm sorry. I didn't mean for that to happen.

MORITZ

Can I come visit?

ILSE

You can't come to where I am for just a visit

MORITZ

Can't I be alone with you?

ILSE

If you're sure. Because it's for good, you know.

(MORITZ nods; fiddles with his
gun)

MORITZ

Yes.

What's it like when you die? Are you alone?

ILSE

More lonely than you could ever feel alive.

MORITZ

I've stopped believing in feeling.

ILSE

Except loneliness, obviously.

(Beat.)

MORITZ

Right. Except loneliness.
I brought this with me, out here.

ILSE

I thought you'd've been stronger.

MORITZ

I did too. I did, really.
If my father could see me now...he'd kill me.

ILSE

Goodbye.

MORITZ

Goodbye.

(MORITZ pushes the gun to his
head.)