

# ***Long Ago in May***

By Roland Schimmelpfennig  
Translation by Melanie Dreyer  
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Eighty one short scenes for the stage.

Men with bicycles  
Women  
Women with suitcases  
Women with brooms  
Couples

Noises  
Music

1

*The whir of a bicycle generator.  
A spotlight.*

A man on a bicycle. He rides repeatedly in wide circles on the empty stage. He circles and circles. He stops. Looks fixedly at the opposite wall, gets a running start and races toward it.

*Blackout.*

*Sound of impact.*

2

She: Do you...do you still have the bike? Your bike?

He: The bike? Yes, the bike – I don't know. I still have the bike.

She: Are things going well?

He: Yes.

3

*Light.*

A woman in a Rococo dress. She comes carefully onto the stage through a concealed door, hesitates, hurries to the middle, stops, listens, listens to the room for a long time, inhales and then disappears.

*Blackout.*

4

She: You still have the old bike, you said.

He: Yes, yes. I think so, I believe so – I don't know.

5

*The whir of a bicycle generator.*

*A spotlight.*

A man on a bicycle. He rides in a large circle around the empty stage. He doesn't ride fast. He stops. He stares at the opposite wall, as though seeing it for the first time. Then he gets a running start and races toward it.

*Blackout.*

*Sound of impact.*

6

She: You still have the bike?

He: The bike! Yes, the bike...

7

*Light.*

A woman in a Rococo dress. She comes carefully and quietly through a concealed door, hesitates, considers whether she should keep going. Something appears to be holding her back, then she hurries to the middle, pauses for a long time, disappears.

*Blackout.*

8

He: What was in the suitcase?

She: What was in the suitcase? Why are you asking about the suitcase?

He: I'd like to know.

She: Is that right?

9

*Light.*

Two lovers: he walks ahead, she overtakes him. They stand very still, kiss, and look at one another before they continue on.

When they're gone, the stage remains empty.

10

She: You don't say much about the bike.

He: You don't say much about the suitcase.

She: I asked first. What about the bike?

11

A woman with a suitcase rushes across the stage. She falls down, but the suitcase doesn't open. She doesn't have much on.

*Blackout.*

12

He: What was in the suitcase?

She: In the suitcase, what was in the suitcase--

He: In the suitcase, yes—

13

*Light.*

A concealed door opens almost imperceptibly. A woman in a Rococo dress appears. First her head appears through the crack of the door. She comes onto the stage with tentative steps, hesitates, hurries to the center where she stays and pauses before she later disappears. She doesn't exit the way she came.

*Blackout.*

14

He: Do you remember?

She: Yes, of course. How could I not remember?

He: And your friend? How's she doing?

She: I don't know.

15

*Light.*

A woman rushes across the stage. She doesn't have much on. She is carrying a suitcase. She falls down but the suitcase remains latched. She stands up and keeps going.

After she's gone, the stage remains empty.

16

He: How is your friend doing?

She: My friend? I don't know.

He: And what was in the suitcase?

She: Why are you asking about her? Why are you asking about the suitcase?

He: Why did you ask me about the bicycle?

She: Did I?

17

*Blackout.*

*The whir of a bicycle generator.*

*A spotlight.*

A man rides a bicycle. He rides repeatedly in circles on the stage.  
After a while he stops. He looks at the opposite wall, gets a running  
start and races toward it.

*Blackout.*

*Sound of impact.*

18

She: What about the bicycle?

He: Ah, the bicycle...

She: You don't want to talk about the bicycle, do you? Then tell me  
how you're doing.

He: I'm doing fine.

She: Yeah?

He: Yeah, I'm fine. And you? What are you doing? How are you?