

Scene 5

Pietas

Maze. A GIRL exits and enters from different paths. She is searching.

GIRL: Stop messing about now! *(Exits through one path and disappears.)* Do you mind telling me where you are? *(Enters from the opposite side.)* That's enough now! I'm not laughing any more. *(Looks at her watch.)* I'm going to be late. *(Walks in the opposite direction.)* Please... I've got to go... *(Silence.)* Fine, you'll soon get bored; I'm not budging from here. *(There is a sound of a twig snapping. The GIRL smiles and turns stealthily towards the source of the noise.)* Stop playing around! *(The BOY enters from his hiding place. The GIRL screams quietly and takes a few steps backwards.)*

BOY: *(Smiling.)* Ssh, it's OK.

GIRL: Have... Have you seen my friends? It frightened me... *(Louder.)* You're around here somewhere! *(Looks sidelong at the BOY.)* Come on, come out now! *(Silence.)*

BOY: They've deserted you.

GIRL: No. They're right here. They're playing hide and seek; it's not the first time. *(Louder again.)* Come on! That's enough now, I'm starting to get annoyed! I'm going! *(Heads off to one side.)*

BOY: It's not that way. *(She turns to the opposite side.)* Not that way either. *(She stops, some distance away.)* I know this maze really well; I've been playing here since I was little. There's only one exit, or one entrance, whatever you prefer. We're right in the middle.

GIRL: *(Looks at her watch.)* I'm going to be late. *(Retraces her steps.)*

BOY: I just said it's not that way, there's no way out.

GIRL: I've lost my way.

BOY: It's OK.

GIRL: If I don't catch the next night bus I'll have to wait another hour.

BOY: What time is it?

GIRL: A quarter to three; the next one comes at three.

BOY: *(Looking at his watch.)* You won't catch it now. It's at least half an hour to the bus stop.

GIRL: Goodness!

BOY: It's alright.

GIRL: They're going to kill me. *(Moves from side to side.)* My parents will kill me.

BOY: Tonight's a special night. *(Offers her a cigarette.)* Do you smoke?

GIRL: No, thank you. *(Covers her face with her hands. Cries.)*

BOY: You're crying! *(Laughs.)* There's nothing you can do. You can only wait.

GIRL: I don't know how to get there.

BOY: I'll come with you.

GIRL: Which path do I take?

BOY: Where do you want to go?

GIRL: (*Confused, she stares at the BOY.*) To the way out. (*Silence.*) I bet they're already at the bus stop. (*Breaks into tears.*)

BOY: Don't cry. I just said I'll take you there.

GIRL: Thank you. Shall we go?

BOY: You won't catch it now. There's time until the next one. Will you let me smoke a cigarette? We've plenty of time. (*Sits on the ground.*) Come on, sit down; come on. Have you seen that Moon? (*She remains standing.*) Look, look at this plaque, here are the four cardinal points: (*Goes over the plaque with his finger.*) North... South... East... And West... See the drawing of the maze? We're just... Here, in the centre; the way out's over there... (*Point to the horizon.*) But if you got there you wouldn't know where to go next and you'd get lost again. This labyrinth is enormous.

GIRL: Smoke your cigarette. (*The BOY takes out the pack of cigarettes and the lighter.*)

BOY: Sure you don't want one? They're really mild.

GIRL: No thanks, no.

BOY: At least sit down for a bit.

(*She sits down next to him. He smiles and lights his cigarette. Gives her the lighter.*) Look. (*She takes it.*)

GIRL: It's very pretty.

BOY: A present.

GIRL: With your initials.

BOY: What?

GIRL: It's got your initials engraved on it. (*Shows him.*)

BOY: Yeah... My initials. (*Smokes.*) You really like it?

GIRL: A lot, it's very pretty.

BOY: You can have it.

GIRL: No... (*Smiles at him.*) Thank you...

BOY: So that on moonless nights you can light your way and not get scared.

GIRL: I'm never scared.

BOY: Good for you.