

IS THIS  
THE  
END?

The idea is  
to die young  
as late as  
possible.

Sorry...  
**NO GAS  
TODAY**

**FINISH**



THE FAMILY BUSINESS  
David Gordon, Ain Gordon and Valda Setterfield

I THINK A LOTTA ABOUT PAULINE COOPER - AUNTY PAULIE  
- AIN & I WRITE & PERFORM THE FAMILY BUSINESS -  
PLAY ABOUT PAULINE - I PLAY PAULIE - AIN PLAYS ME -  
VALDA PLAYS THE WOMAN WHO TAKES CARE OF US ALL

say  
G'bye

G'bye!

G'BYE

- I SEE COUSINS - david sez - @ MY SISTER'S 70<sup>TH</sup> B'DAY -  
KIDSA MY OTHER AUNTS - MY MOTHER'S OTHER SISTERS -  
YETTA/IRENE/RUTH - MAYBE THOSE WERE ALSO G'BYTES?

BUH BYE

WAVE  
G'BYE

Last Words

IT IS  
WHAT  
IT IS

NEVER  
AGAIN!

NEVER  
AGAIN!!

NEVER  
AGAIN  
WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

NEVER  
AGAIN

NEVER AGAIN  
MEANS NEVER  
AGAIN FOR  
EVERYONE!



valda's Aunt Vera plans her funeral - she wants *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* - but the good organist - vera giggles - will be on holiday - vicar's wife - will play in that awful velvet dress with a shiny seat she sez. A black plumed horse is led by a man in black tailcoat n'top hat - & we - the family - follow vera's coffin on foot & in silence - through the streets of Westgate-on-sea - lined on each side by towns people.

After the church service & the cremation - bouquets are arranged outside - w/cards from friends - ladies in hats'n gloves stop to admire - yours are lovely dear - & it's the right time of year for those flowers - isn't that lucky. Smoked salmon and cucumber sandwiches - are served - on thin brown bread - the guests chatter & laugh & drink champagne & toast vera - It is a proper send off - the guests say - for good old vera. David's family funeral experiences have been rather more operatic performances.



**In my family - David sez - funeral behavior ain't restrained.**



Men pace & glare in dark suits they never otherwise wear - smell of camphor or mildew - yamulkes slide dangerously around on newly greased combed hair - or balding heads. Red-eyed women weep'n howl'n rock - in old blk veiled hats reserved for funerals - or - bitsa blk pinned to hair they woke up with - ya not supposeta look like ya prepared - old animosities abide - no one talks to no one they don't talk to - everyone sez everyone cries too much - or not enuf - she has her nerve! She carries on! Did she do? Did she come? Did she call? Who's she fooling? Oh my God!

**1940s - 141 Ludlow Street - Nieberg & Sons Funeral Home - between Rivington & Stanton Streets**

Mourners don't see each other fa so long. How long? Oh my God, I didn't see you since I don't know when. You put on a coupla pounds - don't say no. C'mere'n gimme a hug. Ya call that a hug? I gotta sit down - mourners hafta sit - where's a chair? Hafta stand - Can't sit no more - I gotta headache.





Sorry  
WE'RE  
**OUTTA HERE**

I'M  
**OUTTA  
HERE!**

**OUTTA HERE  
OUTTA HERE  
OUTTA HERE  
OUTTA HERE**

outta here.

GOING  
OUT OF  
BUSINESS  
EVERYTHING MUST GO!

GET  
**OUTTA  
HERE**

Get me **OUT of here**



valda & me - david sez - go to say g'bye to jimmy waring -  
in our old 1<sup>st</sup> apartment - 131 avenue a - where jimmy lives & dies -  
jimmy's inna living room - in fronta our old cork wall - David sez -  
he holds a mug in his fine fingers n'coughs gently - spits bitsa phlegm -  
sniffs the old sniff - David babbles on quietly'n self consciously -  
about art'n artists they both know'n knew - who's doing upcoming what -  
no mention is made of jimmy's illness - David sez. Then we say goodbye.  
i don't say g'bye like it's g'bye david sez - but it is - we go back after he dies -once  
before city confiscates alla jimmy's belongings. we gather'n pack up -  
David sez - old postcards - antique ribbons'n beaded'n handsewn objets d'art -  
jimmy waring elegant costume'n collage paraphernalia - everything we can -  
take it all to Charles Street where we live - David sez'n I lock the bathroom door -  
& climb inna shower where nobody can hear me - I cry and cry.

THE  
ENDING,

**ANOTHER  
ENDING**

HAPPY  
ENDING

**DEAD ENDING**





It's summer – Valda & me rent Montauk house – I'm inna city for a day –





phone rings – witty lyricist & playwright Arnold Weinstein's girlfriend calls  
– he's in a hospice – does hospice mean beginning of the end? I don't ask –  
Arnold is my good friend – ask about visiting hours – David sez – I'll go now.  
Arnold's asleep – well – he's unconscious – 1 arm & hand are swollen –  
sign near the bed sez – don't feed him – he has a special diet.

Lunch arrives – his special diet is a cheeseburger – ya hungry Arnold?  
I hafta tear it into pieces & put it in his mouth. He's hungry & eats it all.

Nobody else visits – I call Valda – I'll stay inna city tonight –  
if Arnold has no other visitors I will feed him dinner – uh oh – he wets his bed –  
I call a nurse – we pull the wet sheets out from under heavy get naked Arnold –  
nurse makes a face – I hear myself say – “many women have loved this man”.  
I wanna say I love him too. I want the hospice nurse to love him too.

I come back from Montauk for Arnold's memorial service.





DAVID VAUGHAN DIES - 2017 - OCTOBER?

VALDA'S BEST BRITISH FRIEND -

WE TALK ONNA PHONE - HELLO DAVID HE SEZ - IT'S DAVID

- HOW ARE YOU DAVID SEZ - FINE DAVID LAUGHS.

YA WANNA TALK W/VALDA? DAVID SEZ -

YES PLEASE DAVID SEZ.

DAVID ACTS IN 1 PLAYA AIN'S - & HE'S THE POPE ON FILM -

IN DAVID'S AUDIENCE W/THE POPE -

DAVID RECORDS VOICEOVER OF POPE LECTURE -

WRITTEN BY DAVID - DAVID SEZ.



DAVID VAUGHAN DIES -

AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS -

W/HOME HOSPICE CARE -

& VALDA VISITS - BUT DAVID DON'T -

DAVID GOES W'VALDA TO LASTA DAVID'S DANCE LECTURES

@ PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY -

& HUGS HIM G'BYE - & LOOKS BACK 1 MORE TIME -

BEFORE HE GOES - N'SEZ G'BYE DAVID - 1 MORE TIME -

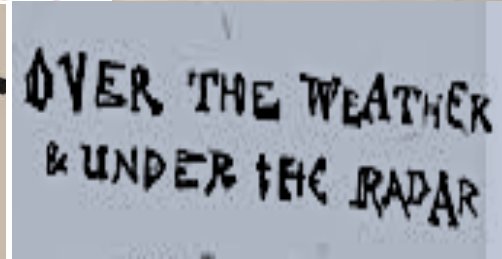
& EMAILS FOR AWHILE - N'DAVID ANSWERS TILL HE DON'T -

N/DAVID SENDS MESSAGES W/VALDA - N'VALDA TELL'S 'EM TO DAVID WHEN HE'S AWAKE -

& TELLS DAVID WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE VISITS DAVID BUT DAVID DON'T VISIT DAVID AGAIN.







1950'S/HELEN SEITELMAN & ME - DAVID SEZ - ARE HIGH SCHOOL BOYFRIEND & GIRLFRIEND - EACH OTHER'S 1<sup>ST</sup> - WE STAY FRIENDS IN BKLYN COLLEGE - BUT - SHE GROWS UP FASTER -. SHE MARRIES N'I GO TO HER WEDDING - SHE DIVORCES & WE PLAY CATCH UP - BUT NO - SHE'S A WOMAN & I'M A BOY - SHE MEETS 2ND HUSBAND TO BE - N'HAS AN ABORTION - OR THINKS SHE DOES - NO - I GO TO THE HOSPITAL - HELEN'S DYING - SHE HAS CANCER. - SHE'S IN TERRIBLE PAIN - I SIT AT HER SIDE'N HOLD HER HAND & WATCH HER SLEEP - I GO'N GO AGAIN EVERY DAY. NOBODY WARNS ME THE DAY I GO - & HER BED IS EMPTY. MY FATHER & MOTHER GO W/ME TO HER FUNERAL - DRIVE IN BAD TRAFFIC - GONNA BE LATE. I JUMP OUTTA THE CAR'N RUN CRYING ONNA HIGHWAY'N UP A HILL TO THE CEMETERY. I STAND AT THE BACK. HER FATHER READS HELEN'S POETRY ALOUD AT HER GRAVESIDE. I KNOW 1 OF THOSE POEMS. SHE WROTE IT TO ME WHEN WE WERE GIRLFRIEND & BOYFRIEND. MY SON AIN IS NAMED AFTER ANNA - MY FATHER'S MOTHER - & HELLER - FOR HELEN - & BERN - FOR VALDA'S UNCLE BERNARD - REMEMBER - JEWS NAME KIDS FOR DEAD PEOPLE.