

Mother kills the Giant

Radio script by Mădălin Cristescu, after
the homonymous short story by Ema Stere

Characters:

The Old man

The Old man as child

Mother

Grandmother

Grandfather

The Giant

Cast:

The Old man - Florin Zamfirescu

Mother- Laura Vasiliu

Grandmother- Virginia Rogin

Grandfather- Ion Arcudeanu

The Giant- Attila Vizauer

And the Kid Alexandru Ivaşcu

Asistență tehnică - Robert Vasiliță

Production assistant - Janina Dicu

Sound design - Mădălin Cristescu

Editor- Oana Cristea Grigorescu

Directed by Attila Vizauer

Duration: 6min 58sec.

Radio Romaina, 2019

Synopsis

Mum kills the Giant explores the mechanisms of memory triggered by tuning in to the famous Krapp's Last Tape by Samuel Beckett, on the kitchen radio. The character, who is old by now, rememorates a dramatic childhood episode, perceived with a child's innocent eye and with a fantastic fairy tale aura. Mother and child walk back home at night, crossing a city wrapped in darkness. On their way they meet an aggressor, a giant that the mother desperately tackles. The child perceives the fight as a struggle with a frightening giant ultimately defeated by his mother, under his own eyes.

SFX Early in the morning, in the kitchen. Old man's steps along the corridor, he opens the door.

Old Man (grunting): It's so dark...

SFX: Old man steps into the kitchen, turns on the radio, the light and the stove. Sound of tea kettle being filled with water. He is fumbling with his medicines, he drops them onto the table. He pours water into a glass, then swallows the tablets.

Voices on the radio : This is Cristian Bâchin wishing you a good morning. Today's headlines...He tunes in to a different frequency, „Krapp's Last Tape” is broadcast here.

Krapp: Box . . . three . . . spool . . . five. Spool! Box . . . three . . . three . . . four . . . nine! Seven . . . ah! the little rascal! Box three. Spool . . . five five . . . five . . . ah! the little scoundrel! Box three, spool five. Let us see the entry in the

ledger. Ah! Mother... Mother at rest at last
... Hm ... The black ball ... Black ball .
..

Meanwhile, in the kitchen, the old man is stirring his cup of tea. The sound of his teaspoon makes junction with high heels walking sound in the street.

Old Man: She was definitely wearing a spotted dress

Child: I love her so much.

Mother: Are you afraid?

Child: No.

Old Man: I am never afraid...

Child: ...neither during the day,

Old Man: ...nor at night.

Child: Granddaddy wondered too:

SFX: Kids playing in the park.

Granddaddy: You are never afraid!

Child: ...and it's true./

Old Man: /...and it's true.

*SFX: Inside grandparents' house,
grandfather clock can be heard in the
background.*

Old Man: Granny said...

**Granny: The kid should be have been
asleep by now, he shouldn't be roaming
the streets at night.**

**Mother: Ok, we will soon be back
home, it's not so far. I'll put him to bed
when we get there.**

*SFX: In the street, Mother quickens her
steps.*

Mother: Are you afraid?

Old Man: I need to pee.

Child: But I'm not saying it out loud.

**Mother (murmurs): My sweet baby!
(she stops, cuddles him in her arms).**

Child: I'm too ashamed to tell her. I can hold my pee till we are home.

SFX: Steps are getting closer, sound of broken glass, sardonic laughter, sounds of commotion, gasping cries, giant brought down, then mother and child fleeing the scene.

SFX: Back in the kitchen, broadcast of radio drama „Krapp's last tape”, inserted in between the Old Man's lines.

Krapp:
Now the day is over, / Night is drawing nigh-igh, / Shadows of the evening / Steal across the sky.

Old Man : She was definitely wearing a spotted dress...

Krapp's voice on the radio:

Krapp: The clear blue skies will come together.

Old Man ...the Tv set, since we didn't have a TV set.

SFX: Tv broadcast in the background, a woman's voice is singing „You're so young, tra, la, la la, la”.

Mother: Are you afraid? My sweet baby...! (she kisses him).

SFX: Sound of steps, giant is treading heavily, glass bottle rattling sound as he stumbles on it, getting closer.

Old Man: The giant.

SFX: Sound of Giant approaching.

Old Man: Darkness, almost darkness. Bulbs are not working.

Child: I'm not afraid.

Old Man: We have stopped. I can feel her thin fingers growing cold, her hand is clenching.

Child: My hand hurts.

Old Man: Her bony elbow is kicking the crown of my head.

SFX: Giant is laughing, he is looming over us.

Child: Shall I tell her I need to pee?

Old Man: I asked my Granddaddy, how does it feel when you can't see a thing?

SFX: Kids playing in the park.

Granddaddy: Heaven forbid!

Old Man: Heaven forbid is the answer to many questions.

Child: What does it mean?

SFX: Steps in the street.

Old Man: I didn't know that.

Child: Heaven forbid. Heaven forbid. Heaven forbid... Heaven... forbid

SFX: Giant is laughing, he is looming over us.

Old Man:I know what hit me on the forehead, and I don't need to ask.

Child:... the bag.

Old Man: Her white, fragrant, tote bag.

Child:If you touch it with your tongue, it feels cold and a little bitter.

Old Man: ... and a little bitter.

SFX: Mother is violently confronting the giant.

Child: I can't see a thing.

Child: I'm not saying a thing.

Old Man: Hot wet pee is running down my shorts, down my legs, reaching my socks.

SFX:Mother is fumbling about in her handbag and precipitately taking out her keys.

Child: Oh, the keys! I am familiar with their small teeth. I am familiar with their taste...

Old Man: The keys in her handbag.

Child: ...a bit salty.

SFX: In the kitchen once again, the radio drama is still on.

Krapp's voice on the radio:

Krapp: Just been listening to that stupid bastard. .. /

Old Man : /She was definitely wearing a spotted dress.

SFX: Their own steps in the street. Voice behind the window over Tv set singing heartily „ You are so young, tra la, la, la”

Mother (cuddling the child in her arms): Oh, my sweet baby!

SFX: Their own steps in the street, then sounds of commotion when mother confronts the giant.

Old Man: A finger, a key, a finger, a key. „You’ve dropped your handbag!”, that’s what I’d like to yell.

Child: But I don’t say a thing.

SFX: Woman’s voice screaming, while confronting the giant.

Old Man: I wet myself again...

Child: I really don’t know how...

SFX: Giant’s menacing laughter, the fight, their hurried steps.

Old Man: I take a step back.I can see her hand... I can see it charge... How come I can see it? I don’t know.

Child: Darkness.

Old Man:I don’t know where the giant is...

Child: ...I don’t know if he is still there.

Old Man: I can feel a soft lap on my face.

Child: It's the spotted dress...

Mother: Come on!

SFX: Steps hurriedly going away.

SFX: Inside the kitchen. „Krapp's last tape” is broadcast on the radio.

Krapp: Perhaps my best years are gone. When there was a chance of happiness.

Mother: Are you afraid?

SFX: On the radio: You have listened to „Krapp's last tape ”...

Old Man: I was proud of her. My own mother.

*SFX: ..radio script by Samuel Beckett.
Romanian version by Alexandru Baciu.*

SFX: New programme on the radio. He turns off the set. He empties his tea cup.

The End