

# PICKLES/SONIA

~~The one Vanya calls The Professor—that's my father. "Dear Old Dad". He left when I was seven. Before my mom got sick, but still... He and his third wife, Ella, have been here for a few days now. My mother was his first wife...~~

~~I guess their kind of visiting. He tends to show up maybe once a year or so. Which is fine. He can be a lot of fun, actually. Or used to be. But this time around it all feels a little tense. Family, right? It's like everyone is hard-wired to totally upset everyone else. [PICKLES enters and listens...] Like, at breakfast yesterday I started imagining everyone had these buttons on their backs... like on an old blender, those solid push buttons. Blend, Whip, Spindle, Mutilate, whatever. But these were like... Annoy... Provoke... Poke-At Painful Old Wound. Things like that. [Learning in...] The things is~~

↓ START

1.6

REPUDIATE

- PICK Do you think love lasts forever?
- SONIA I'm sorry...?
- PICK Do you think love is *real*? A force. A real, actual, substantial thing in the world... like a rock... or selfishness... or do you think it's just an artificial man-made construct like religion... or football?
- SONIA Oh, man, *really*?
- PICK Yes, really. I'm just diggin' here, you know? Just diggin' around...
- SONIA I think it's real. Like a rock. [Discovering this idea more fully as she goes...] Exactly like rock, actually. Solid... weighty... hard... and painful in a variety of awful and humiliating ways...
- PICK That's what I think!
- SONIA Well, okay then....
- PICK [Abruptly] Did you know that this play is called LIFE SUCKS?
- SONIA [This is getting awkward...] Ummm... yes.
- PICK Do you think that's right?
- SONIA Oh Pickles...

PICK Do you think life sucks? Do you think that that's... *accurate*?

SONIA Pickles we're not even at the end of Act 1

PICK 'Cause I don't. [*Including us...*] I don't think that title is right and I just want you to know that I didn't choose it... and furthermore, that I *repudiate* it.

SONIA But---

PICK That sounds funny. Repudiate. Repudiate. Repudiate. Repudiate. *Repudiate. Repudiate. Repudiate.* Is that even a word?

SONIA Yes.

PICK Does it mean... to deny. To reverse. To... erase?

SONIA I think so. [*To us*] Does it? [*Hopefully the audience answers positively...*]

PICK Okay, good. Well, then, I *repudiate* that title. Sure, life is hard, life is tricky. And it can be really unfair and frustrating and, you know... *deeply problematic* sometimes. Right? Right?

SONIA Right.

PICK But life does not *suck*. I just wanted to get that on the record. Not that there's a record or whatever, I know that, but I wanted to get that on the record anyway. Life does not suck. *Life does not suck. Life does not suck.*

SONIA End of Act I.

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↑END

~~[There is probably a song here as we transition from act 1 to act 2]~~

~~END ACT I~~