

MOTHER

I have no desire to  
breathe  
eat  
sleep

WOMEN

you are as weary as a tree  
after a gale

MOTHER

that was a month ago  
the day of his birth  
I fixed a dinner  
his favourite shellfish salad  
and white wine  
I waited all evening  
he never said he wouldn't be coming  
I called  
he didn't answer  
I was afraid something had happened

he'd never returned so late  
he came home at one twenty-three  
I asked him where he'd been  
I'm not telling  
he replied  
he didn't eat his dinner  
he didn't wash  
he went to bed  
without kissing me good-night  
there used to be no secrets between us  
I tossed the salad in the bin  
poured the wine down the drain  
I rifled through his jacket pockets  
and found a receipt  
two plates of shellfish salad  
a bottle of white wine  
he'd taken someone to dinner  
I tossed and turned till morning

WOMEN

the tears etched grooves in your face

MOTHER

he'd never wasted time on dates  
he was writing a PhD  
I was reading over the chapters  
bringing him books  
organising his notes  
he has no need for girls  
he said  
only you  
yesterday when he returned  
from his engagement  
I asked him to sit down  
to talk to me  
he turned on his heel  
and went to his room

I wanted to come in  
but he'd locked the door tight  
I hammered with my fists  
but he wouldn't let me in

WOMEN

she fell asleep by his door  
like a faithful dog  
and in her dreams  
her son brought her a handful of tears

MOTHER

he opens the door

Excerpt translated by Soren Gauger



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**TOMASZ MAN**

**Born 1968**

***Sex machine i inne [Sex Machine and Other Ones]***

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**Plays staged (selection)**

*Złoto dziadka*, 2015

*Mytarstwa*, 2013

*Moja ABBA*, 2011

*Bóg i Proch*, 2010

*Sex machine*, 2010

*Świat jest skandalem*, 2009

*C(r)ash Europe*, 2007

*Dobrze*, 2006

*3x2*, 2006

*III*, 2004

*Historia pewnej miłości*, 2001

*Katarantka. Requiem. Nieszczęście w dwóch aktach*, 1998

Man is also the author of several adaptations, radio plays and plays for children.

**Foreign language translations**

Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and Russia (in anthologies).  
Man's plays have been staged in Germany as well.

**Selected awards**

Honorary Award, Two Theatres Festival in Sopot (2010)

Best original screenplay, Two Theatres Festival in Sopot (2005)