SECRETS

(*BLACKOUT, Cast into position around the stage – 3 voices from the auditorium.*
*Irregularly spaced – slowly moving: varying planes. Matches illuminate faces on first lines.**
The following takes place in BLACK – starting low and building)
FX 1
45
ORLA* Letting the secret out of the box.
5
LIZ* I hope she's there for me…
2
GWEN* And there she was.
5
SUSAN* Don't you see it?
2
ORLA Letting the secret out of the box.
7
PC&* I am a woman. I will be free
ANNE* There was a chain and a padlock upon the gate.
0
ORLA& Letting the secret out of the box..
MAGGIE Letting the secret out
5
SUSAN I remember.
1
GWEN And there she was.
And / there / she / was…..
5

PC Arms like roses ….
1
SUSAN& Don't you hear it?
ANNE

*(REPEAT FROM ** to ** 3 times)*
**
LIZ I hope she's there for me
5 3 1
SUSAN Don't you hear it?
4 2 1
PC& Arms like roses...
SUSAN Don't you hear it?
1
MAGGIE Daughters of Zeus
4 2 1
ANNE There was a chain and padlock upon the gate.
3 2 1
GWEN And there she was.
2 1 1
SUSAN Don't you see it?
1 *(Following simultaneously)*
PC& I am a woman..
ANNE There was a chain and a padlock upon the gate..
ORLA Can you feel it?
SUSAN Don' you hear it coming?
LIZ I hope she's there for me..
GWEN And there she was
**
END FX 1

(VOCAL WATERFALL
Liz Anne Orla Susan Gwen Maggie)

ALL Don't you hear it coming?

ORLA Letting the secret out of the box.

(BODY PERCUSSION AS ALL TO STAGE.
Text chanted- building)

ANNE ONE!
ALL For Sorrow!
ANNE TWO!
ALL For Joy!
ANNE THREE!
ALL For a Girl!
ANNE FOUR!
ALL For a Boy!
ANNE FIVE!
ALL For Silver!
ANNE SIX!
ALL For Gold –

(FREEZE)

LIZ Seven for a secret
Never to be told.

Ring a ring a rosie

(INTO TABLEAU for following piece – Accoustic/Tonal nusery rhyme scape)

PC A Little Girl curled up in a ball
With a single teardrop in her eye
So fragile, so pale
If only someone could see her sweet heart
Crying out to be held
Wishing for someone to wipe away her tears
Inside, she is screaming, shouting
Wishing someone could hear
But no-one is listening to her tears.

(End Soundscape)

LIZ& ORLA Seven for a secret never to be told..
Letting the secret out.

MAGGIE To Pandora the world into which she came was all fresh, all new, quite full of unexpected joys and delightful surprises. It was a world of mystery.

Slow down

LIZ When she saw the coffer which was never opened, what then was more natural than that she ask what it contained. But the contents were known only to the Gods.

PC Day by day the curiosity of Pandora increased.

ORLA To her the Gods had never given anything but good. Surely there must be here gifts more precious still. What if the Olympians had destined her to be the one to open the casket…

SUSAN (*enthusiasm fading – gathering speed)* And had sent her to earth in order that she might bestow on this dear world, happiness and blessings which only the minds of the Gods could have conceived ..

PC Thus did come a day when…

MAGGIE ….Pandora, unconscious instrument in the hands of a vengeful Olympian, in all faith….

GWEN … and with the courage that is born of faith, and of love; Opened the lid …

Liz - STOP _ singing !

ANNE *(building a la PREACHER)*
And the long imprisoned evils rushed forth upon the fair earth and on the human beings who lived on it !
Malignant, ruthless!! Fierce treachherous and cruel…

singing

SUSAN Poisoning! Slaying! DEVOURING !!

starry cram
robe cram
starry cram
sister
mothers
sinners

GWEN Plague! Pestilence and MURDER!!

LIZ ENVY and MALICE!!

PC An Ugly wolf pack indeed was that one let loose by Pandora!!!

STOP singing

ANNE STOP!!! - Gesture
Women run with wolves….

LIZ Stop!
Enough already,
Stop.
Full stop.
In this place. This space.
A very poetic opening – but it seems to me, to be, an oportune moment to …. STOP!
The moment is ripe the debate is opened.
North South East or West?

ORLA Forward backwards over or under

Searching

SUSAN What are they talking about?

GWEN Search me.

ANNE Keep on the main track-
PC The main drag-
LIZ The straight and narrow –

ORLA Or….

MAGGIE Take a different tack -

ANNE The scenic route.

LIZ (Priestly!)
The well worn path of sadness and sorrow.
Discrimination and Inequality.
Oppression and Disempowerment

Song

ALL OR !!?

SUSAN& A celebration of the love of women?
LIZ

LIZ I move!
FX 3 HALLELUJAH CHORUS ?

SUSAN We should maybe drop breadcrumbs-

MAGGIE& *(singing)* 'Once I had a secret love!'
GWEN

ANNE *(Chase)* I've got something to tell you!

GWEN How do you know?
PC Are you sure?
MAGGIE Did she know?
LIZ I would never have known.
SUSAN I knew.
ORLA Are you sure?

ORLA I remember!

(FREEZE)

ORLA I remember.
How she looked
How she smelled
How she sounded How she tasted
How she felt.

(TABLEAU)

ORLA It was such a precious secret
Recalling it
Is sweet
Keeping it secret , to give it time
Time to wallow in it
Immerse myself in it roll around in it.
Explore
Believe that it was true.

It was such a precious secret.

shh to people

ANNE The secret is –

ALL *(low and building, as cast move into auditorium)*
Lesbians are everywhere!
confetti
(Repeated ad lib; interaction with audience)

ORLA We're everywhere!
(All move back OS)
Your grandmother! My aunt !

GWEN My daughter. Her sister…

SUSAN Joan of Arc. Martina Navratilova. Jeanette Winterson.

MAGGIE My cousin's nextdoor neighbour -
GWEN Jodie Foster.
PC ~~Billie Jean King~~ K D Laing + Ellen
LIZ Collette Simone de Beauvoir Nina Simone
ANNE Florence Nightingale
MAGGIE Ruth and Naomi St Theresa of Avila Greta Garbo Queen Christina.

GWEN Jodie Foster ?

SUSAN Melissa Etheridge Bet- from Coronation St.

LIZ Virginia Woolf Vita Sackville West Radclyffe Hall Natalie Barney

ANNE Moll Flanders ~~Vera~~ Alma – from Coronation St.

GWEN Jodie FOSTER.

MAGGIE Rosa Bon heur Frida Kahlo Christina Rosetti

LIZ Marlene Tallulah Mercedes de Acosta Isadora Clara Bow Bessie Smith

GWEN And JODIE FOSTER !

(ALL STOP)

ORLA Grandmothers. Mothers.Aunts. Sisters.Daughters.

(Each of the folowing is met with growing hilarity by all)

ANNE Perverts!

LIZ Inverts!

GWEN Sapphist!

~~SUSAN~~ ~~Not as other women~~! deviants

Orla -start 2 hysterics

(*The hysteria transforms into mime. All collapse to the floor)*

MAGGIE I tell my secret? No indeed ,not I.
Perhaps some day who knows?

You want to hear it? Well
Only: my secrets mine, and I won't tell.

GWEN Strangers bound by a line
Of string
Tied at centre point
Connected
In the moment.

(Maggie raises each to feet – giving each a line 'mantra')

to
SUSAN I knew how you would feel.
to
ORLA That night they were not divided.
to
PC Arms like roses, daughters of Zeus.
to
ANNE You are so beautiful to me.
to
LIZ A spark, a fire, my personal flame.
to
~~GWEN For us, I prayed the night would last twice as long.~~

(SPIRAL DANCE with mantras.)

GWEN Strangers bound
Connected in the moment.

(Movement transforms onto grid with mantras becoming-

~~ALL I'm a lesbian – I am now, always was and always will be.~~

LIZ leave no stone unturned

GWEN Who cares!

PC I was, I am now and always will be.

ORLA Yes, please!

MAGGIE Will I, won't I; ~~will I won't I; won't you join the dance?~~ could do

ANNE I was it, I was, I am

SUSAN I am a lesbian – I am now, always was and always will be!

ALL Amen !

LIZ Is it a girl or is it a boy?

ALL No she's a lesbian!!!

SUSAN It started with my birth, but it *really* started when my best friend brought me to….
My Initiation Ceremony!

(*Choreographed Ritual)*
My long dark hair – a number one back and sides
Hippy skirts – white T- shirt, ripped 501's, Docs and second hand biker jacket.
(Ritual ends)
For real authenticity – I was the business.
I hit the women only night ready to make my mark on 'the scene'.
(FREEZE Dyke parade!)

(chanted →

FX 4 , Sisters are doin' it for themselves!

ALL (singing)
'Sisters are doin' it for themselves.'
FX ENDS *into* ½ into line

(*Following rap/round with body percussion)*

GWEN Quick on the draw
Not from the hand
Not from the hip
but from the jaw

Quick on the draw
From the jaw
To the cheek

An equilibrium
of body
of mind
energy.

(After round)
'tis the definitive smile.

GWEN (Watches Anne)
Watching, every move,
With deep blue eyed stare,
A stare not of intrigue
But a stare – letting you know I'm there.

ANNE Female, 25, great personality, really tall, good-looking; seeks good-looking girl for fun…(three piece suite, rug and dog – to go)

LIZ *(interrupting)*
Female, 25, great personality, really tall, good looking; seeks good looking girl for fun…

ANNE *(interrupting)*
Must be our secret. Box No. 3124.

(FREEZE –CHANGE)

LIZ I will no longer play my part in shame
I choose to love women, I choose my life

It's a spark,a fire, my personal flame.

My love is no secret, it has no hidden shame
I do love women, sometimes on the sly
It's a spark a fire, my personal flame

I make no excuse, there is no reason why
I choose to love women that spark my personal flame
I have no fear of love – though sometimes on the sly
I make my choices – it brings no shame.
I give my heart to those I love and cry:
I love women, that spark, that fire, no blame.

ORLA I remember.
I remember….
How she *looked
How she * smelled
How she *sounded
How she *tasted
How she felt…
(CHANGE)

ANNE *(To audience)* Where were you when Princess Diana died?

PC Princess who?

GWEN I was - breaking up….

ORLA You're not taking care of business, sister;
And that's a sin – cardinal.
It's a very thin line I'm treading
(You're treading)
She's treading.

Only now she has nothing to lose
I have everything to lose –
And you don't know, won't know
What you've got
'til it's gone

They paved paradise, put up a parking lot.

LIZ You're too nice for me –

ORLA We're not going anywhere –

ANNE I'm sleeping with your best friend –

SUSAN I'm in love with your mother –

MAGGIE I never said forever –

PC You deserve someone better –

GWEN I really like you but –

LIZ Monogamy wasn't the deal –

ORLA I never meant to hurt you .
(*CHANGE)*

GWEN Sorry.

PC Sorry I'm a disappointment to you.

MAGGIE Sorry I never saw it coming.

ORLA Sorry I don't fit the mould.

LIZ Sorry for living –

SUSAN Sorry for breathing

ANNE Sorry I ever met your sorry ass!

LIZ (*shouted*) Sorry! I can't do this anymore.
Sorry I can't do this anymore.
I was face down in his crotch.

SUSAN (I always did give great head.)

LIZ When the thought hit me –

GWEN Like being whapped round the head –

PC - with a shovel!

ANNE I raised my head

MAGGIE Looked into his eyes, and said:

LIZ "I'm sorry love – I can't do this anymore.
I've just realised – I'm a lesbian.

ALL *(with irony ! Sharp intake of breath)*
UHH !

LIZ & ORLA "That's ok – but could you not wait 'til -

ALL - it's finished!!"

really

LIZ I loved that guy.

(Women in pairs – Split Focus. Anne/Liz. Gwen/Susan. Mag/Orla & PC)

ANNE ACTION!

LIZ Are you on your own?

GWEN Waiting for someone –

SUSAN Breathe- for godsake breathe!
Stuttering, slurring. Stupidity.

LIZ She still leaves me speechless.

MAGGIE Stupid stammering. Senseless.

SUSAN You look gorgeous.

GWEN Living here, working around the corner.

ANNE Working in the city –

LIZ Don't react. I'm reacting. Reactive.

GWEN Just round the corner –

MAGGIE& I love to listen to you

ORLA Just passing through

SUSAN You know, I'd really like to have sex with you sometime.

ANNE Hi! How are you?
I mean – what're you doing here ?

GWEN Breathless – she still takes my breathe away.

LIZ Oh my god! What are the chances?

SUSAN You can tell a lot about a woman from what's in her basket.

GWEN I find you very sexy.

PC Let me tell you a story-

GWEN Thanks.

ORLA Can I buy *you a drink?
MAGGIE *just passing through.

PC Hi, how are you doing?
ANNE Instant. Uncontrollable. Knee jerk reaction.

LIZ You look gorgeous.
ANNE Inside the stammering, simpering eggshell there's
A cool fascinating, funny, beautiful –
GWEN JODIE FOSTER!
ANNE - WOMAN!

ORLA I bet you have really gorgeous eyes under those glasses –
MAGGIE - but I won't be able to see your intentions.

(Following vocal cascade : Orla, Anne, Susan, PC, Gwen, Maggie) Liz
ORLA I remember it,
The first time *Feeling the whole of my hand
Pushing into your cunt –
Fingers curling into a fist
Knuckles slipping in
In up to my wrist.

It's not all soft and sweet you know
ORLA *(after the cascade)*

I remember it,
The first time Feeling the whole of my hand
Pushing into your cunt-
Fingers curling into a fist
Knuckles slipping in
In up to my wrist.

SUSAN I remember - how she sounds
Maggie -sliding, slipping, sucking sounds.

ANNE (Fuck you – (*sounds) like echoing promises)

LIZ Growling softly, with pleasure.
Breathing quickened and ragged.

MAGGIE Voice heavy with sex.

SUSAN How she tastes –

LIZ When you came, you were like red wine and honey;
And the taste of you burnt my mouth, with it's sweetness.

GWEN Fuck you – (*tastes) like bile from my stomach.

ANNE Licking the sweat from her back -

SUSAN How she smelled –

ORLA Fuck you – (smells) like something going bad.

ANNE Every –

LIZ - and she means every

ANNE - woman different smell, scent, perfume.

GWEN Water off a mountain

PC Sweet and warm.

GWEN – like vanilla.

SUSAN& ANNE Mmmmm…

ANNE I curl my fingers under my nose

LIZ Baking bread
SUSAN hot biscuits
MAGGIE Baked potatoes.

LIZ Then there's the sharp, tangy pungent animalistic scent.

GWEN Following the scent

ANNE The trail

PC The long and winding yellow brick road.

MAGGIE There's no place like home
There's no place like home
There's no pla…..

SUSAN How she looked

LIZ Her thighs

ORLA Her short, shorn grey hair.

ANNE Arms stretched out on either side of me

LIZ& ORLA + SUSAN Her hands gripped mine –

ORLA&
SUSAN

PC Her belly

SUSAN Lingering in the hollow of her throat –

GWEN Shoulder blades

MAGGIE Wings of desire.

ANNE How she felt.

LIZ You are ice and fire.
The touch of you burns my hands, like snow.

LIZ Fuck you (sounds like) echoing promises.
Fuck you (feels like) controlling ways
Fuck you (tastes like) bile from my stomach
Fuck you (smells like) something going bad

Looks like the beginning of the end –
Not the end of the beginning.

ANNE STOP!!
Enough already.
Stop.
Full stop.
In this place. This Space.
STOP!

SUSAN& PC& GWEN A ~~celebration~~ for the love of women.

LIZ No Dead Lesbians !

ANN Not even any that are a bit poorly?

LIZ No –

ANN One with a slight headache ?

ALL NO!

PC& MAG GWEN Lesbians are everywhere

SUSAN Bet from Coronation Street?

ORLA Grandmothers. Mothers. Aunts. Sisters Daughters.

GWEN AND –

ALL JODIE FOSTER !

PC How dare you assume that I'm heterosexual !

MAG Perhaps someday, who knows……

LIZ We're everywhere!

SUSAN Anywhere -

GWEN Anyone -

LIZ Get used to it !

ORLA Forwards, backwards, over or under ? - into line

ANNE North, South, East or West ?

GWEN And with the courage that is born of faith and of love –
Opened the lid.

SUSAN - sent her to earth in order that she might bestow on this dear world, happiness and blessings which only the minds of the Goddesses could have conceived.

MAG It is a world of mystery.

LIZ Seven for *the secret never to be told.
ORLA Opening the* box
ANN *Letting the secret out.

(FX – as opening Cast into opening positions)

From Page 1 & 2

LIZ I hope she's there for me.

GWEN And there she was.

SUSAN Don't you see it?

ORLA Letting the secret out of the box.

PC& I am a woman, and I will be free.
ANN There was a chain and padlock upon the gate.

ORLA& Letting the secret out of the box.

Vocal Cascade: Liz, Anne, Orla, Susan, Gwen, PC, Maggie

My words may only be * of air
but they will
Always give pleasure

Ann: I tell you in time to come

Orla: Some will remember us

MAG Letting the secret out.

SUSAN I remember.

GWEN And there she was.
And there she was ....
PC Arms like roses..

SUSAN& Don't you hear it ?
ANN

LIZ I hope she's there for me.
SUSAN Don't you hear it?

PC& Arms like roses..

SUSAN Don't you hear it ?

MAG Daughters of Zeus

ANN There was a chain and padlock upon the gate.

GWEN And there she was.

SUSAN Don't you see it ?

PC& I am a woman and I will be free.
ANN There was a chain and padlock upon the gate.
ORLA Can you feel it?
SUSAN Don't you hear it coming?
LIZ I hope she's there for me.
GWEN And there she was.