

Sophie Calle

Double Game

With the participation of Paul Auster

Violette Editions / D. A. P.

1980

- Walt Disney Productions paper tablecloth
- Four velvet-covered cardboard horses with moveable heads
- Gold plastic belt
- Eyeshadow compact: Miss Helen Harmonie 5
- Silver and copper handbag
- Box of Viennese "Mozart" chocolates
- Book by Villiers de L'isle Adam: *L'Amour suprême* (Editions L'Ange du bizarre)
- Set of seven Polaroid photographs by Gertrude O'Byrne
- Twelve plastic hairslides in the shape of hands
- Personal diary (September 27–October 8, 1980) entitled *Pour Sophie*, signed Catherine Weinzaepflen
- Textile collage made by Natalie Mei
- Black box entitled *Petit matériel mystérieux pour jolie détective privée*, containing various tubes and archaic electrical components
- Bouquet of flowers
- Wrought-iron sculpture wrapped in a multi-colored scarf
- Bouquet of silk flowers
- Photograph by Wilfrid Rouff, entitled *It's time to eat*
- US 100-dollar bill, dated 1934
- 1000 French francs
- Telegram: *Impossible venir...*
Jean-Marc Bustamante

Remarks

Only one of the twenty-seven guests did not turn up. Not counting joint presents, two people came empty-handed. The stranger brought flowers. Pique getting the better of professional conscience, I tore up the telegram.



- Bouquet of flowers
- Book by Mario Vargas Llosa:
La maison verte (Editions NRF Gallimard)
- Construction by David Rochline (mirror, gilded wood, marsh-mallows, chocolates, candies, and plastic doll)
- Jean-Charles Brosseau cream-colored knitted-cotton gloves
- Bottle of *eau de vie*, labelled *Pour les 28 ans de Sophie Calle*
- Compass
- Book by Henry Miller: *Insomnia ou le diable en liberté* (Editions Stock)
- Red satin mini-dress, decorated with black plastic grapes, and a red mask
- Miniature chair in blue Formica
- Vedette washing machine
- Black mask
- Twenty-eight fruit-flavored lollipops
- Photograph by Manuel Alvarez Bravo, entitled *Le rêve éveillé*
- Bottle of Moët & Chandon champagne
- Book by Maurice Achard and Anne-Marie Métaillé:
Les années soixante en noir et blanc (Editions Amm)
- Beige umbrella with a handle in the shape of a dog's head
- Petal-shaped ashtray that can be disassembled
- Twenty-eight drawing pads
- Twenty-eight earrings
- Book by Henri-Alexis Baatsch:
Roman polonais (Editions Pierre Bordas et Fils)
- Book by Marie José Parra-Aledo: *Images fugitives* (Editions Pierre Bordas et Fils)
- Four white buttons

Remarks

All twenty-eight guests appeared. The stranger gave me the black mask. Because of its irresistible utility, the washing machine is represented by a manufacturer's warranty (by giving me this present, my clever mother managed to subvert the ritual).



1982

- Rosières cooker
- Oil painting, undated, unsigned

Remarks

First break in the ritual. I was away so it was impossible to organize a birthday meal in accordance with the rules of the game. My father gave me the painting, my mother the cooker. Because of its irresistible utility, the latter is represented by the manufacturer's warranty.



- Photograph of dancer Anna Duncan (photographer unidentified)
- 19th-C Ambrotype portrait
- Book by Jean Clair: *Duchamp et la photographie* (Editions du Chêne)
- Red and white polka dot teacup and saucer, and one red nylon scarf with the words *Pour Sophie, David* hand-painted in white
- Jute bag with leather handles and closures
- Wooden dildo, African provenance, twenty-four centimeters long, wrapped in a poster for the news-paper *Libération* and accompanied by a bouquet of flowers
- Prehistoric silex arrowhead, enveloped in a chunk of plastic, on which a red heart is drawn, stapled to a visiting card of Jacques Ohayon
- Pair of yellow plastic sunglasses
- Twelve bottles of Graves red wine, bottled by the Coste family for L'Ecluse, 1981
- Collage entitled *Assomption*, made from various etchings
- Book by Jean Echenoz: *Cherokee* (Editions de Minuit), with page numbers from page thirty-one onwards punched out and stored in a small transparent plastic box
- Jean-Charles Brosseau leopard-print beret
- Work by Annette Messager; text embroidered with red thread on white cotton reading, *Qui a bonne voisine a bonne mine, la voisine a 30 ans, on est tous content, mais aime ta voisine sans ôter la hâte de l'usine, sonnons les matines, mangeons les tartines (quel régal chez la Calle),*
- *Vive la voisine.*
- Cardboard mobile by David Rochline, comprising five elements, each representing a pastry (an éclair, a mini angelfood cake, a slice of cherry tart, a chocolate cake, and an unidentifiable cake)
- Color drawing encrusted with stones, made by Pasquale Lafay
- Thirty-page notebook made by Pascaline Cuvelier, reproducing on tracing paper my project entitled *Le carnet d'adresses* (*The Address Book*), published in *Libération* in 1983
- Box containing twelve starched detachable collars
- Second-hand Marantz turntable
- Lipstick: Chanel Rouge Comédie n° 77
- Green jade bracelet
- Two books: *How to Become a More Popular Hostess* and *How to Give Successful Parties* (Bonomo Handy Pocket Manuals, nos. 11 and 35)
- Book by Delia Ephron: *Comment faire l'enfant, 17 leçons pour ne pas grandir* (Inédit Virgule, Editions du Seuil)
- Request made by Léon Hugghe for a papal blessing: *In articulo mortis*, dated February 28, 1948
- Three stereograms, entitled *The Wedding Breakfast, Dear Santa Claus Send Me a New Doll, Some New Games ...* and *Fallen Asleep Just Like Papa*
- Work in plaster by Luc Lauras
- Box containing a medal with the initials AJ, dated May 24, 1906
- A fake diamond and a cheap watch
- Succulent plant
- *Eau de toilette: Guerlain Shalimar*
- Electric radiator

Remarks

I also received this letter (here translated from the French):
 "Cannes, 10.4.83. My dear Sophie:
 Best wishes for your birthday. I understand that I'm not to talk to you about marriage any more, but if I would be happy if you found a good companion so that you won't always be on your own. I send you all my love and my best wishes for your health. I enclose a little check for the cinema. Your grandmother." It was a check for 1000 francs. Out of necessity, I cashed it.

The thirty guests all appeared. The lipstick was given to me by the stranger. Temptation was too strong and eleven of the bottles of wine were drunk, leaving only one. Because of its irresistible utility, the radiator is represented by the manufacturer's warranty.



- Promissory note for a trip to the mountains (in Valloire)
- Drawing by Martial Raysse, signed on the back, in a pearl-beaded frame
- Book by Marguerite Duras: *L'Amant* (Editions de Minuit)
- Bottle of Roi David champagne
- Bouquet of twenty roses
- Ex-voto, on a wood panel, dated August 13, 1811
- Nilfisk vacuum cleaner
- Pair of silk panties with the embroidered initials SC
- 8 mm Parad 117 flare pistol, wrapped in a dishtowel along with the instruction manual and a box of nine cartridges
- Black nylon kimono
- Blue plastic drying rack with clothespegs
- Thirteen peacock feathers
- Menu from Le Malakoff, 6 place du Trocadero, Paris, 16ème
- Sarong
- Box of chocolates made by Sprüngli, Zürich
- Book by the Marquis de Sade

- with 60 etchings: *Histoire de Juliette ou les prospérités du vice* (publisher not given; printed in Switzerland)
- Book: *Le tour du monde en 80 plats ... et 200 recettes succulentes* (Editions Marabout Flash)
- Hand warmer with a dozen refill packets
- Tube containing ten 15 mm flares
- Silver-plate hammered metal flask
- Metal flask in a leather sheath
- Eiffel Tower-shaped mirror
- Four boxes each containing fifty waterproof matches and one brass matchbox
- Plastic fold-a-cup for camping, hiking, hunting and fishing
- Disposable hand warmer
- Image of St Theresa of Lisieux in a frame inlaid with oystershells, a St Theresa of Lisieux candle, a St Theresa of Lisieux lighter
- Box containing thirty-one Eiffel Tower keyrings and brooches, with an instruction to distribute them on the Trans-Siberian railway
- Bracelet of rubber balls

Remarks

The thirty-one guests all appeared. Two of them, including the stranger, did not bring a present. The promissory note for a trip to the mountains was honored in 1985. I couldn't resist opening the box of chocolates, so five are missing.



- Pink nylon *Dallas* outfit with matching earrings, a *Divin Olé* skirt with matching earrings and Christian Dior underwear, all accompanied by directions for use
- Two bottles of perfume: Christian Dior Poison and Guerlain Mitsouko
- Request made by Marie Marcelle Vincent and family for a papal blessing: *In articulo mortis*, dated September 28, 1929
- Work by Christian Boltanski (battery and cut-out figure in bark)
- Work by Annette Messager (Hieronymus Bosch postcard with a painting on canvas, inscribed on the back: *Pour Sophie, pour son amour des cartes postales "de maîtres", pour son amour de l'Espagne etc ... la voisine*)
- Satin case containing religious medals
- Ink drawing by Roland Topor inscribed: *Pour Sophie. Bon anniversaire, Roland*
- Victorinox Swiss army knife
- Miniature by Pasquale Lafayette representing the Nativity, inside a matchbox
- Pen and ink depiction of Christ dated December 30, 1881, signature illegible
- Jean-Charles Brosseau navy-blue hat
- Pair of mother-of-pearl and silver salad servers
- Fragment of a porcelain mortuary plaque with the still legible words: *Martial décédé le 16... à l'âge... and inscribed on the back: Dérobé à Oradour pour Sophie*
- Book by Emmanuel Bove: *Un homme qui savait* (Editions La Table Ronde)
- Book by Ernesto Sabato: *Le Tunnel* (Editions Point)
- Six boxes of Kodak Tri-X Pan black-and-white film, 400 ASA, twenty exposures, expiry date December 1986
- Book by Patricia Bosworth: *Diane Arbus: A Biography* (Alfred A Knopf)
- Boxed set of three records of Bizet's *Carmen*, conducted by Georges Prêtre, with Maria Callas as Carmen
- Pair of leather boots
- Mini-telephone in the form of a rabbit
- Metro pass for the month of November 1985
- Book by Dominique Aubier: *Guerre à la tristesse* (Editions Robert Delpire)
- French-language dictionary and one dictionary of proper names from the Petit Robert collection
- Horshair handbag
- Bottle of champagne, Delafon, Reims
- Cassette tape of different styles of music all connected with Spain, recorded especially for me
- Six drinking glasses picturing bathing beauties with the instruction: *Un glaçon et elles se déshabillent*
- Blue plastic belt
- Christian Dior bodysuit, size 2
- Fragment of rusted railroad track
- Blank notebook, dedicated: *En espérant que tu le ressortiras du carton 32, pour quelques annotations fameuses ... Baisers et Bon anni, comme on dit chez nous ... Virginie, on la repêchée du 32ième!!!*
- Spanish poster mounted on cloth for a bullfighting festival at the Puerto arena on Sunday, April 1, 1962

Remarks

The thirty-two guests all appeared. The stranger brought the two bottles of perfume, Poison and Mitsouko. I couldn't resist the temptation to listen to *Carmen* and to wear—seventy-two times—the boots. As a result, they deteriorated and sides one and two of the record are scratched.



- Case (imitation Louis Vuitton) containing two wrist-watches (imitation Rolex and imitation Baume & Mercier)
- Comic book: *The Three Stooges*, with 3-D spectacles
- Box containing thirty-three individually wrapped objects
- Two pairs of castanets
- New York City subway map
- Two small plastic frames with ID photos of Trey Speegle
- Two ink-stamps, each representing an eye with, on one, the inscription *For Sophie an eye....*, and on the other *Looking out at 33 years*
- Pair of Evan Picone socks
- Thirty-three-page autograph book, each page filled in by one of my thirty-three guests
- Text work by Lawrence Weiner: *In lieu of twilight rising sun. Inscribed: For Sophie on her trip Down Under. Lawrence Weiner. New York. Happy Birthday 33. 16 Oct. 1986*
- Book by Claudio Edinger: *Chelsea Hotel* (Abbeville Press)
- Kaleidoscope
- Revolver-shaped lighter
- Receipt entitled *To Sophie from Walter*, with calculations showing thirty-three years in days: 12 045; in hours: 289 080; in minutes: 17 344 800; in seconds: 1 040 688 000
- Fragment of a rosary (6cm in length)
- Pink plastic rose
- Red notebook containing fifty index cards
- Wrist-watch with the American flag decorating the dial
- Book by Danielle Duval: *Pages from Maria Kozic's Book* (Art Criticism Monograph Series)
- Comic book: *The Legend of Wonder Woman*
- Pair of Window Pane seamless fishnet stockings
- Univex Supra Bakelite camera
- Three boxes containing a total of thirty-three Mongol lead pencils
- Record of Ezra Pound reading his translation of the Confucian Odes
- Record entitled *Anthology of Negro Poets in the USA, 200 years*
- Booklet by Hugh Morris: *How to Make Love: The Secret of Wooing and Winning the One You Love* (Padell Books), with numerous precepts such as "Without love we would not have marriage"
- Packet containing a pair of stockings with embroidered panties
- Pencil sharpener in the form of a globe
- Certificate confirming that Miss Sophie Calle flew on Concorde, on May 27, 1987, between Paris and New York, for her thirty-third birthday

Remarks

For any particularly attentive readers who may have noticed that the Concorde flight certificate as well as a number of pages in the autograph book are dated May 27, 1987, I must admit that, since I was unable to organize my birthday meal on October 9, 1986, and in order not to keep breaking the rule I had set myself, I preferred to postpone the ritual to a later date. I chose May 27, and so I pretended that was the day I was born. As for Lawrence Weiner, who dated his drawing October 16, he knew about the trick but still got the date wrong. The meal was given in New York and there were thirty-three guests. The stranger brought the plastic rosebud.



1987

- Photograph by Ralph Gibson, entitled *The Magician's Daughter*, dated 1973, edition no. 1/25
- Philips video cassette recorder

Remarks

Second break in the ritual. I was away so it was impossible to organize a birthday meal in accordance with the rules of the game. My father gave me the photograph, my mother the vcr. Unable to resist the temptation, I used it temporarily.



1988

- Oil painting representing a closed door, undated and with an illegible signature
- Grundig color television
- Desk calendar set at October 9

Remarks

Third break in the ritual. I was away so it was impossible to organize a birthday meal in accordance with the rules of the game. My father gave me the painting, my mother the television. Unable to resist the temptation, I used it temporarily.



1989

- Photograph by Roberto Martinez, entitled *Sainte-Véronique*
- Book entitled *Funéraires* (Editions du Chêne)
- Medallion containing braids of hair forming the initials GM
- Souleiado silk scarf
- Second-hand Sony cassette tape recorder
- Work by Jean-Michel Othoniel (book and postcard), entitled *Les casse-tête de face d'ange*
- Matador's sword sheath formerly owned by Simon Casas
- Work by Jean-Michel Othoniel (book and sulfur), entitled *Une étincelle suffit*
- Collage on paper, anonymous
- Drawing pad and a box of twelve Toison d'or coloring pencils
- Work by Annette Messenger (blonde hair, framed)

Remarks

As I was too far away to organize a birthday meal in keeping with the rules of the game, and rather than break the ritual once again, I opted for limited numbers. The meal was given in Aigues-Mortes with twelve guests and no stranger.

