

THE HOLD

Script for a live performance by Susie Green

Produced in response to Huguette Caland exhibition at Tate St Ives (May - September 2019)

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PART ONE - BEHOLD!

I put this on to feel good tonight
The real deal

So smooooooth
Liquid
Liquid

The Boss

Firm
Serious
Sexy
Sexy x 2

We own this!
We own this, tonight
Tonight, don't worry!
We own this

You are alllllllll very sexy tonight

No worries
No way x 4

Our heads held high
Heads
Held
High

No worries
No way
Heads held high

No worries
Liquid, liquid

Behold!

This is part one, its called Behold

Tonight there is Five sections, this was part one

PART TWO - HOLD ME NOW

Do what we want
We pleeease ourselves
Do what we want (whisper)
Please yourself

I'll take care of you x 3

Let me take care of you?

Let me take care of you x 4 (whisper)

I want to make a home with you / but still be free
Be held when we both need it

Do you need it?

Our hearts beat so fast
Ripe
Fit. To. Burst.

Within our skin we flow alone, but, tidal together

Like those waves. It is true!

Your hair, the sky
They cut into each other
I like to run my fingers through them both

How do we come together?
In a perfect world

How do we come together?

Like a puzzle
Fit. To. Burst.

PART THREE - IN THE HOLD

Pressed down
Zipped in
As close as very close can be

Floating, in this space

From one start to one finish
Right now

Hands in the air
Put your feet where the picture of the feet is

A position like your under arrest

The screen glides over us looking for the BAD THINGS
Sometimes it picks up what it thinks are the BAD THINGS
Like if you wear an Marks and Spencer's underwired bra

I recently caused alarm
As I walked through
Someone whispered to their colleague
A special, secret code
'M&S'

I asked: 'Is it because of the wires in my bra?'
They said, 'yes'

I cracked their special, secret code

Does this airport ever close?
Does this looping ever stop?

On this plane, either side are strangers
Kim often meets people on planes
Just say hi Susie, just say hi

With our arms and legs at right angles
We plug in our ears.
We fill up our heads

You have a child
Now it is resting on me
Gently asleep on my shoulder

I experience a mix of understanding and irritation
'Could you take your child off my shoulder, please?
You gave it lots of crisps and chocolates and now it's sleeping on me
You took 2 sandwiches saying one was for your child but I think you will eat them both'.

I would do the same
If I had a child
Do I want one
If I do, I should have one sooooooonishhhhhhhh

How would we care for it?
My income is low

But it feels so good when I have one in my arms
Like holding my old cat

I watched a video about how you can put it's arms in a position across it's chest to soothe it
(Much like a brace position, if this plane crashes)

Limbs folded close to other limbs
Swaddled
The baby feels safe

PART FOUR - HAND HELD

A comfortable nesting
Loose in my grip

Ah yeah, I remember to look up the thing
That thing I was telling you about, I'll look up that thing

Oh but then, I find the other things
Clustered

The first thing, I've forgotten

I installed the app that tells you how long you've been looking at your phone

But it was too horrid. I had to delete it

Pulling down
On pictures

I've forgotten that thing
The thing
I've forgotten!

Scrolling / Suspended / Pulling / Checking
Updating / Touching / Looking / Feeling
Scrolling / Pulling / Checking / Updating
Touching / Looking / Feeling / Suspended
Scrolling / Checking

Our beds are the perfect place for this
Here we can be all alone but all together

Squeezed into the palm of our hands

I like to hold you in the palm of my hand

Eye to eye / thumb to thumb / heart to heart / thumb to heart
'LIKE' x 4
Put it down!
I can't put it down (whisper)
I can't put it down (whisper)

Stop looking at it!
I was taught to look (whisper)

Be in this room now!
Ok, we're here now (whisper)

Where are you?
I only see you behind the glass

I miss you x 4

PART FIVE - HOLD ON

Fully formed
Fully framed
Held tight
Together

Fully formed
Fully framed
Held tight
Held tight
Together
Tonight

Our hearts beat inside our body
Surrounded
We like to be submerged

The pool
A warm bath
That sea
A film, sat in the dark

The limbs of the people in the pool
Seem weightless

The water, turquoise
The tiles yellow, green, red

My body sat weightless, I feel so glad

The little girl with the magenta swimsuit and orange floats on her arms
I was held by it all

I felt so glad I started to cry
Everybody needs to be held

What a pleasure this all is
What a pleasure this all is

END