

A MID-SCHOOL NIGHT'S DREAM

By Kamron Klitgaard

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CHARACTERS

- THERESA THACKER (F)** The principal of the high school: She represents authority in the play but she is also a target of laughter because of her desperate urgency for someone to love her.
- REGIS (M)** The vice-principal of the school and father to Harmony. He is an overbearing father who insists that his daughter go to the school dance with the boy he has chosen. He musters no sympathy for he would send his daughter to military school rather than see her go to the dance with a boy he disapproves of. He represents the stern, uncompromising, letter of the law type of school administrator.
- PHYLLIS STRAIGHT or PHILIP STRAIGHT (M/F)** An English Teacher in charge of the school dance. The administration has decided that because it is Shakespeare week at the school that there should be some sort of Shakespearean entertainment provided at the dance. Straight is the teacher who must arrange the entertainment. Although, she thinks that the drama clubs play is too stupid to perform at the dance it is the best of the auditions. She is quit unexcitable.
- HENRY HIPPO (M)** Another English Teacher at the school who Theseus has been perusing embarrassingly and to who she is now engaged. This love represents the rational love which seems to elude all the others. Henry was also in the National Guard.
- LYNUS (M)** The boy Harmony has fallen head over heels for and wants to go to the dance with. Regis believes that Lynus cannot be trusted to take his daughter to the dance, that he is faking his love just to take advantage of her. And besides that, he doesn't play sports. But in reality, Lynus loves Harmony deeply. He is romantic, intelligent, and respects her. Wears a school officer's sweater.
- DEMETRI (M)** He is the boy Regis has chosen to take Harmony to the dance. He is the Captain of the football team and comes from a rich family. He used to love and go out with Helen but he has grown tired of her and is now interested in Harmony, most likely for the reason REGIS fears most of Lynus. Even though he may not have the most honorable intentions with Harmony, he is still a likeable guy. Wears a school jersey.

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- HARMONY (F) Daughter of Regis and in love with Lynus. She has sparkling eyes and a lovely voice. She is charming yet has a vicious temper. Her deep devotion and love for Lynus has made her blind in the eyes of her father. Although her nasty temper is dominate, she does have a softer side.
- HELEN (F) In love with Demetri. At first she seems to have a passive personality but this is purely superficial. Her calm and passive love for Demetri is really fierce and fiery for nothing can dissuade her that their love is hopeless.
- PATTY or PAT (F/M) President of the drama club. She is very patient and tolerant of her friend Jack Heiny's nervous energy.
- JACK HEINY (M) He is a master at improvisation and wit. He has a love of life and seems almost hyperactive at times. He is definitely starved for attention and wants to be the star of the show.
- FRANCES (M) Does not want to play the part given him in Patty's play. He does, however, admire Heiny as an actor and quick thinker.
- TANYA (F) Visually the most comical character in the play because of the costume she must wear during the dance's play.
- BUG (F) We never know Bug's real name. She is assigned only one line in the play but is worried that she will not be able to remember it because of her bad memory.
- ROBIN (F) Very shy. Forgets her lines.
- CAMERON (M) King of the phantoms who haunts the school. Although he is the reigning ghost of the school his emotions are very mortal. He is envious and jealous and often plans revenge to satisfy his great moods of anger. His main haunting location is the school's theatre. His name is pronounced like Shakespeare's "Oberon." Cam-er-on.
- TEETASHA (F) Queen of the phantoms. She is a pleasant ghost, who is concerned with beauty and sweetness. Cameron is constantly testing her good nature. She shows complete devotion to the ghosts in her servitude and she shows how deep her devotion will go with her comical devotion to Jack Heiny. She is very charming and perhaps the loveliest creature to ever grace the school's theatre.

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| PECK (M) | Cameron's ghostly jester. He is the ghost of mischief. He is capable of doing the right thing but he prefers playing practical jokes. Love is a joke to him. But, ironically he is very lovable himself. |
| ATTNEDANT (F) | Teetasha's first ghostly attendant. There is something about Peck that attracts her. |
| PEARBLOSSOM (F) | A ghost in Teetasha's court. |
| SPIDERWEB (F) | A ghost in Teetasha's court. |
| MABEL (F) | A ghost in Teetasha's court. |
| POPPYSEED (F) | A ghost in Teetasha's court. |
| POCAMPO (M) | The new Ghost. |
| TRESPASSER 1 (M/F) | Sneaks into the theatre. |
| TRESPASSER 2 (M/F) | Sneaks into the theatre. |
| EXTRA GHOSTS (M/F) | Ghosts in either court. |
| STUDENT DANCERS (M/F) | Students who go to the school dance. |

SET

An Empty Stage.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The floating hammer can be simply lowered down from above by a string. The sting can be attached to a light or an electric and ran to one of the wings where it can be lowered from off stage. A toy plastic hammer could be used if there is worry about it falling. The floating needn't look realistic as the obvious string adds to the humor.

Teetasha's spider web blanket could be made from material with a spider web pattern or a normal blanket with a spider web Halloween decoration stretched across it.

Dropping the spider venom in the eyes is simple done by hold the spider over their eyes and shaking it to simulate the venom falling into each eye.

Jack Heiny's "mule head" can be any kind of mule head costume piece so long as his mouth is not covered for audibility. It would also be best if the audience can still see his face. Perhaps just Mule Ears and a short snout is all that is needed.

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The chain link fence costume is just a piece of six foot high and four to five foot wide chain link fence. The actress wraps it around her and then it is wired closed. She can stick her hand through a hole where the chain link can be bent where it is wired together. It is okay that she has trouble maneuvering in it; that makes it all the more humorous.

The "Grip of Death" move is done with a prop heart. This can be a plastic Halloween prop or a heart made from Play-Doh or even a cardboard cut out heart. It must be a physical heart so that Frances can pantomime his part when he can't find his heart.

NOTES

The Shakespeare Company from Cedar City came to our school and performed "A Mid-Summer Night's Dream" and half my class really enjoyed and understood it. But the other half had a hard time following it. I wrote this play to help everyone understand Shakespeare's great work. It is a modern version of the classic story entwined with a twisted sense of humor. After reading, performing or seeing this play the Shakespeare Classic will come to life for anyone.

PROP LIST

- Several Posters advertising Shakespeare week
- Several Posters advertising the Shakespeare dance
- Scripts for the Drama Club members
- Note pad and pencil
- A hammer with string
- Two fake tarantula sized spiders
- A spider web blanket
- Acting Blocks or something for the actors to sit on
- Mule head
- Pink powder
- Smoke machine smoke
- Crown of dead flowers
- Sugar cube

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Red Ribbons

Four to Five feet of 6' Chain link fence

Cardboard moon

Two Goblets

A straw

Dress fabric

Bolt cutters

Fake looking plastic heart

Do Not Copy

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ACT I – SCENE 1

CHARACTERS: *Straight, Theresa, Henry, Regis, Harmony, Demitri, Lynus, Helen*

SETTING: An empty stage.

AT RISE: *PHYLLIS STRAIGHT is hanging a sign at the back of the theatre which reads “Shakespeare Week March 14th thru the 18th School Dance March 18th” Enter THERESA THACKER carrying several posters.*

THERESA: Ah, there you are, Phyllis. (*Looking at the sign*) Good, very good.

STRAIGHT: Hello, Theresa. You know, the theatre is probably not the best place to hang this sign. Only the drama kids will see it.

THERESA: Don't worry. I have five more signs for you to hang in other parts of the school.

STRAIGHT: (*Not excited*) You're the principal.

THERESA: Yes, and I am going to make sure that the school dance is educational.

STRAIGHT: Well, I think that's great, but it may cut back on ticket sales.

THERESA: Nonsense. Not only will it be educational but it will be fun as well.

And the students are going to learn that learning can be fun. And there's no better way to do that than by combining the school dance with Shakespeare week.

STRAIGHT: Whatever.

THERESA: The theme of the dance will be famous couples from Shakespeare.

The students will have to dress up like one of Shakespeare's famous couples. Look! (*Holds up a poster advertising the Shakespeare dance*)

STRAIGHT: Isn't that kind of limiting?

THERESA: Not at all, there are plenty of famous couples. Like uh ... well, uh ... Romeo and Juliet. There's a great couple!

STRAIGHT: We'd have to poison the punch.

THERESA: Or they could dress up as, uh, you know, that one couple in that one play.

STRAIGHT: Why do I get the feeling that everyone will dress up as Romeo and Juliet?

THERESA: Well, I just can't remember their names. But, you see, that's the point. They'll have to do research to find out what couple they want to be.

And thus, it will be educational. And are you ready for the best part?

STRAIGHT: Hold on a second. (*Looks at THERESA*) Okay, I'm ready.

THERESA: What is it that Shakespeare always says?

STRAIGHT: Is this a dagger I see before me?

THERESA: No, “All the world's a stage!” So that's where we're gonna hold the dance.

STRAIGHT: On a globe?

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THERESA: No, right here, on the stage!

STRAIGHT: You're gonna have a dance on the stage?

THERESA: Brilliant, isn't it?

STRAIGHT: Almost beyond belief.

THERESA: Now here's the best part of all. About half way through the dance I want there to be some Shakespearean entertainment.

STRAIGHT: Entertainment?

THERESA: Shakespearean entertainment. We'll stop the dance for a few minutes and watch some scenes from a Shakespeare play. You know, some of the students can act out something from, uh, Romeo and Juliet, or, uh, another Shakespeare play.

STRAIGHT: Uh huh.

THERESA: And I want you to be in charge.

STRAIGHT: What?

THERESA: Hold auditions and find some good Shakespeare stuff.

STRAIGHT: Me? Don't you think the drama teacher would be more qualified to hold auditions?

THERESA: Nonsense. You're an English teacher aren't you?

STRAIGHT: Yes.

THERESA: You teach Shakespeare in your classes don't you?

STRAIGHT: Yes.

THERESA: You make your students read Shakespeare don't you?

STRAIGHT: Yes, but ...

THERESA: Well then, that makes you an expert. The drama teacher doesn't know anything about Shakespeare.

STRAIGHT: Actually ...

THERESA: Look, did Shakespeare write his plays with the intent to be performed or to be studied as literature?

STRAIGHT: Actually ...

THERESA: Good, then it's settled. Besides, my fiancée, Henry, says he thinks you should be in charge.

STRAIGHT: (*With contempt*) Did he?

THERESA: Yes, and as you know we will be married the morning of the dance so I expect some spectacular Shakespearean entertainment. Remember, my fiancée is an English teacher too.

STRAIGHT: You're gonna come to the school dance on your wedding night?

THERESA: Yes. That's why I want some great entertainment.

STRAIGHT: But won't you be leaving for your honeymoon?

THERESA: We're leaving right after the dance. I sort of think of this dance as a wedding party ... for me! (*Hangs her poster directly under the sign STRAIGHT is hanging*) Now, make sure those other signs get hung.

HENRY: (*Enters*) Theresa, I'm going to be a little late tonight, I have to swing by the base and clean out my locker.

THERESA: (*Gushing*) Oh, here he is, my little poopsie woopsie.

(*STRAIGHT just stands there watching and is disgusted over her sickening sweetness.*)

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HENRY: Yes ... so we should probably cancel the dinner reservations and make other plans.

THERESA: *(Embracing him)* Whatever you say, my little schmucky wucky.

HENRY: *(Embarrassed)* Theresa, not in front of other people.

THERESA: But I'm just so proud of you, receiving an honorable discharge from the Marines.

HENRY: National Guard.

THERESA: And an honorable discharge, when can I see the medal?

HENRY: There is no medal, Theresa. I served my time in the Guard and now I'm done. It's just a normal discharge.

THERESA: *(Singing)* With honors!

HENRY: Anyway, can you cancel those reservations?

THERESA: Sure, shmooky ears.

STRAIGHT: Shmooky ears?

THERESA: Doesn't he have the most mushy earlobes? I just have to mush them. *(Squeezing his earlobes.)* Mush! Mush! Mush! Muuuush!

HENRY: Ha, ha. Okay thanks, sweetheart.

THERESA: One more. Mush!

(Enter REGIS and HARMONY with angry energy. THERESA and HENRY break their embrace.)

REGIS: Theresa, there you are! I have a problem. I want you to help settle this.

THERESA: Regis, we are in the middle of trying to get this dance off the ground.

REGIS: Well, that's what this is about.

(HARMONY folds her arms in anger.)

THERESA: Okay, what's the problem?

REGIS: My daughter, Harmony.

THERESA: Hello, Harmony.

HARMONY: Hmph.

REGIS: She wants to go to this dance with Lynus.

THERESA: Oh good, I like Lynus.

REGIS: No, bad! She will go to this dance with Demitri.

HARMONY: I will not!

REGIS: You will too.

HARMONY: Just because you're the vice-principal doesn't mean you can make decisions as to who I will date!

REGIS: I'm not making this decision as the vice-principal, I'm making it as your father!

HARMONY: If you weren't the vice-principal you wouldn't even know who Demitri is!

THERESA: So, if I understand this correctly, Harmony, you want to go to the Shakespeare dance with Lynus, but your father wants you to go with Demitri.

HARMONY: Yes.

REGIS: *(Calling off Left)* Demitri!

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(DEMITRI enters from Left.)

Demitri is an upstanding student at this school. He gets good grades, he comes from a good family, he's handsome, and he's the captain of the football team.

HARMONY: That's what it's really about, isn't it? The football team!

THERESA: Well, which one of them asked her to the dance first?

REGIS: He did!

DEMITRI: *(With REGIS)* I did!

LYNUS: *(Enters from Right)* That's not true.

REGIS: What is he doing here?!

DEMITRI: It is true. I asked Harmony to the dance first. Ask her.

THERESA: Harmony?

HARMONY: Technically, Demitri asked me first.

THERESA: Technically?

LYNUS: I decorated her locker inside and out with long stem roses and a big sign asking her to the dance. Demitri saw it and ran to intercept her before she could get to her locker. All he did was say, "Hey Harmony, wanna go to the dance?" He didn't even put any effort into it.

REGIS: He still asked first.

HARMONY: And I said no.

REGIS: Harmony, I am your father and I know what's best for you! And Lynus is not best for you! He's just a teenager, for crying out loud! And as I said, Demitri is on the football team! He reminds me of me when I was in High School.

HARMONY: Eiouw.

LYNUS: Sir, I assure you, I love your daughter. And I only have the most honorable and best intentions for her.

REGIS: Like I said, you're a teenage boy. You don't even know what love is.

HARMONY: What about Demitri? He's a teenage boy!

REGIS: Demitri is ... different. *(Puts his arm around him)*

HARMONY: Ooo!

THERESA: Well, it's only a dance. I don't think it's really that big of a deal.

REGIS: You know as well as I, Theresa, that we eventually marry the type of people we date.

THERESA: That's true. And I'm marrying a big handsome mushy! *(Squishing HENRY's earlobes again)* Mush!

(EVERYONE just stares. SHE realizes that EVERYONE is staring and stops.)

Well, what do you think, Henry?

HENRY: Well, I think in the long run whoever Harmony goes to the dance with it is not going to have any lasting effects on anyone's life. It's not like it's a matter of national security. But it is miserable to go out with someone when you'd rather be with someone else. Then again, it is important to obey your parents.

HARMONY: So now I'm getting love advice from my English Teacher. I won't do it.

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REGIS: Harmony, Lynus has stolen your heart with poems and serenades and ... sweetmeats! He has flattered you to the point that you can not see what's best for you.

HARMONY: Do you know what Demitri did to Helen?

LYNUS: He asked her to the last dance the same way he asked Harmony. He wooed her. He flirted with her. He promised her. And then he dumped her.

DEMITRI: I got tired of her.

LYNUS: And this is what you want for your daughter? I love your daughter and would never hurt her. *(To DEMETRI)* You obviously have her father's love. Let me have Harmony's. He really is quite taken with you. So why don't you go to the dance with him?

HARMONY: It doesn't matter what you say, dad, I won't go to the dance with Demitri.

REGIS: Harmony, I will not tolerate this defiance. If you will not go to the dance with Demitri then I have no choice but to enroll you in the Hypolita military school for girls.

HARMONY: You can't do that!

THESEUS: He is your father.

HENRY: It's actually a pretty good school.

HARMONY: I don't care, I don't want to go there. It would take me away from Lynus.

REGIS: Then you have a choice to make: Demitri or military school. You have until the dance to make up your mind. Come on Demitri.

(HE stomps out. DEMITRI follows.)

THERESA: Well, good luck, Harmony.

HENRY: Yes, I don't envy you.

(THERESA and HENRY exit. STRAIGHT is just standing there looking at HARMONY and LYNUS. THEY look back.)

STRAIGHT: Whatever. *(Exits)*

(LYNUS and HARMONY are alone. THEY come together and embrace.)

LYNUS: The course of true love never did run smoothly.

HARMONY: Not for anyone?

LYNUS: There's always something to test true love. The truer the love, the bigger the test.

HARMONY: Then ours is truer than true. What are we going to do?

LYNUS: I have an idea; a way that you can avoid your father's punishment and still go to the dance with me.

HARMONY: What is it? Tell me!

LYNUS: You will pretend to give in and go to the dance with Demitri. Let him pick you up and take you there. I will be hiding somewhere in the theatre, dressed exactly like him. Of course, your costumes will have to be ones with masks.

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HARMONY: And then during the course of the dance you will take his place and my father will be none the wiser. But what will we do with Demitri?

LYNUS: I don't have it all worked out yet. *(To himself)* Maybe sleeping pills.

HARMONY: Alright, we'll meet here later and work out the details.

LYNUS: Why later?

HARMONY: Because we're late.

LYNUS: For what?

HARMONY: Class!

LYNUS: Oh yeah.

(Just as THEY are about to leave HELEN enters. SHE sees HARMONY and begins to cry.)

HARMONY: Helen ... *(Puts her arm around HELEN)* I'm so sorry.

HELEN: What's wrong with me? Why am I not good enough for him?

HARMONY: There's nothing wrong with you. Demitri's a fool for not wanting to go to the dance with you.

HELEN: He's completely infatuated with you!

HARMONY: Helen, I promise you, I have no interest in going to the dance with Demitri. I want to go with Lynus, you know that. The more I try to push Demitri away, the more he comes at me, with the help and encouragement of my father, I might add. It's like he thrives on my hatred for him.

HELEN: What is it that he sees in you? Maybe if I dressed more like you ... Or did my eye shadow like yours!

HARMONY: Oh, now you're just being irrational. Believe me, Helen, I wish that you could reacquire his love more than anything. Then Lynus and I would be free to go to the dance on our own.

LYNUS: Hey, instead of sleeping pills, maybe she's what we could do with him.

HARMONY: Shhh!

HELEN: What are you talking about?

HARMONY: Nothing.

LYNUS: Let's tell her, Harm.

HELEN: Tell me what?

LYNUS: She can help us, and if it works then Demitri will finally see that we will go to any lengths to be together and he'll stop perusing you, which will leave the door wide open for Helen.

HELEN: If what works?

HARMONY: Alright, listen. I will go to the dance with Demitri. We will be dressed up as, I dunno, Romeo and Juliet, when they go to the masquerade ball and wear the masks. You and Lynus will go to the dance together dressed exactly the same. During the dance you and I will switch places. Then, by the end of the dance, Demitri will have had such a good time that when you take off your mask he'll realize his mistake and come back to you. And Lynus and I will be free to go out undisturbed.

HELEN: *(With hope)* Do you think it could work?

LYNUS: It has to work. I'm not going to the dance without Harmony.

HARMONY: And I'm not going to Hypolita's Military School for Girls.

HELEN: Alright, I'm in.

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HARMONY: Alright. If this is going to work we'll have to iron out all the details. Let's meet in here after school and go over the plan step by step. Right now, we better get going.

LYNUS: Where?

HARMONY: Class!

LYNUS: Oh yeah.

(LYNUS and HARMONY exit leaving HELEN alone on the stage.)

HELEN: Harmony is such a good friend. But this is the dumbest plan I've ever heard of. As soon as we switch places Demitri will know. Harmony and I look nothing alike. We're different heights, different body shapes, and when he touches my hands to dance he'll know I'm not Harmony. She doesn't even use lotion. *(Pause)* We could wear gloves, I suppose. No! It will never work. What about our voices? Am I not supposed to talk the entire night? But maybe she has it worked out. I haven't heard all the details yet. No, it is impossible. *(Pause. An idea)* But, what if I were to tell Demitri of their plan? Perhaps I would gain favor in his eyes for revealing their treachery. And surely he would come here to confront them. And I could be with him. The two victims stand together. Oh, yes, this is what I will do. At least I will be with him during the confrontation, even if it be only for a short while. O, spite! O, snap! *(Exits.)*

ACT I – SCENE 2

CHARACTERS: Patty, Frances, Tanya, Bug, Robin, and Jack.

Enter PATTY, FRANCES, TANYA, BUG, ROBIN, and JACK HEINY. THEY are ALL excited and gather around to hear PATTY's big announcement. THEY bring out blocks to sit on.

PATTY: Alright, alright everyone take a seat and I'll tell you the big news.

(THEY ALL sit around PATTY.)

Okay, here it is. We have a new project!

(SHE jumps up and down clapping. The OTHERS just stare at her.)

A play! We get to put on another play!

OTHERS: Oh, a play! Great! How exciting! Fantastic!

PATTY: You see, as drama club president, I've been privileged to some top secret information that the upcoming dance is going to be a ...

TANYA: Shakespeare themed dance?

PATTY: *(Her thunder is stolen.)* Yeah.

FRANCES: And everyone dresses up as famous Shakespeare couples?

PATTY: Yeah.

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BUG: And there's going to be auditions for the best Shakespeare play to be performed at the dance?

PATTY: Yeah, how did you guys know?

ROBIN: It's on that poster over there.

PATTY: Oh, man! Well, what you don't know is that I have written a play for us to perform at this dance.

TANYA: I thought it was supposed to be a Shakespeare play.

PATTY: It is. I wrote it about Shakespeare's life; his love life to be exact.

ALL: Ooo!

JACK: Fantastic! Then let's get started. I propose that you tell us the part and then tell us which actor will play those parts.

ROBIN: Yeah, that sounds good. Just tell us what part we play.

TANYA: I hope I get a really dramatic part, something with beautiful lines and majestic body language.

BUG: I hope I get a small part.

ROBIN: I hope ... uh ... I can't remember.

PATTY: Okay, here we go. The first part is obviously the part of Shakespeare.

JACK: (*Quickly and enthusiastically*) I can play Shakespeare! Watch this! (*Super dramatically*) "Is this a dagger I see before me?!" (*To TANYA*) "You are call'd plain Kate, and bonny Kate, and sometimes Kate the curst." (*To ROBIN*) "I know we shall have reveling tonight. I will assume thy part in some disguise and tell fair Hero I am Claudio, And in her bosom I'll unclasp my heart." And my personal favorite, (*To BUG*) "If we shadows have offended, think but this and all is mended ..."

BUG: Uh, how is that playing the part of Shakespeare? Those are just lines from Shakespeare's plays.

JACK: (*Doesn't know what to say until HE comes up with ...*) Exactly!

PATTY: Okay, yes, yes, the part of Shakespeare will be played by Mr. Jack Heiny.

(*THEY ALL clap for JACK as HE takes a super dramatic stance, perched for his next line.*)

JACK: A part, a part, my kingdom for a part. Oh, I will make such a ferocious Shakespeare. I will rule with an iron fist and my fury shall reign supreme throughout every corner of the stage!

ROBIN: Uh, Jack, he's a play write, not a tyrant.

JACK: (*Spinning around ferociously.*) Call me Will.

PATTY: Alright, so the next part is the part of Shakespeare's girlfriend and eventually his wife.

FRANCES: What's her name?

PATTY: Uh ... Mrs. Shakespeare.

BUG: You could've done some research.

TANYA: Yeah, what are we supposed to do, call her Mrs. Shakespeare before they even get married?

PATTY: Don't worry; I'll give her a name.

BUG: You better look it up. We want it to be accurate.

TANYA: (*Expecting the part.*) And who is going to play this part?

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JACK: (*Jumping up with all enthusiasm.*) I can play Mrs. Shakespeare!!! Watch this! (*In a falsetto voice*) "Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" (*Back to normal voice*) Yes, I will be the most beautiful woman, a female rot with such womanly charms I will make everyman in the audience fall in love with me.

TANYA: You're already Shakespeare!

JACK: I can play both parts! Watch this! (*HE acts out his own little play. Deep male voice*) Bring me my ale, Wench! (*Falsetto*) Yes, Mr. Shakespeare. (*Spills it.*) Ooops! (*Male Voice*) You've spilled it! Of all the clumsy ... (*Falsetto*) I'm terribly sorry Master William. (*Grabs himself by the collar. Male voice*) You will be! (*Starts slapping himself*) (*Falsetto*) Ouch, ouch, ouch! (*Male voice*) Enough of this courting! Will you marry me, Mrs. Shakespeare? (*Falsetto*) Yes! (*HE embraces and kisses himself.*)

PATTY: Thank you, Jack! That was very good but we do need to have someone physically there when you propose, so one of the other actors will be playing opposite you.

TANYA: (*Expecting the part.*) So who is going to play Mrs. Shakespeare?

PATTY: The part of Mrs. Shakespeare will be played by ... Frances!

TANYA: (*Protesting*) But he's a guy.

PATTY: (*Excited*) I know! See, I wanted to keep in the tradition and spirit of Shakespeare and in Shakespeare's day all the parts of the women were played by men.

FRANCES: But I was just starting to grow a goatee.

ROBIN: You can just wipe it off with a warm wash clothe.

FRANCES: (*Disappointed*) Thanks a lot.

ROBIN: Anne!

BUG: What?

ROBIN: Anne Hathaway, I just remembered. That's Shakespeare's wife's name. Anne Hathaway.

PATTY: Oh, good. So Frances, you'll be playing Anne.

FRANCES: (*Twirls his finger*) Yippee.

TANYA: Well, all we have are females left and if the parts of both males and females are played by guys, what are we going to do?

PATTY: Funny you should ask. The next part is for neither male nor female. It is the part of the ferocious beast.

JACK: I can play the beast! What sort of beast? A lion perhaps? (*HE builds*) I shall roar to cause fear in the hearts of men. A roar so powerful to make children flee, women hide their faces and men quiver at the very sound! I am lion, hear me roar! ROOOAAARRRRR!

PATTY: Yes, very good, Jack, but the part of the ferocious beast will be played by Bug.

BUG: Okay. Does it have many lines? I'm not very good at memorizing.

PATTY: Only one.

BUG: (*Nervous*) Oh, oh, gee. Please tell me now, what's my line, so I can start memorizing it.

PATTY: Jack?

JACK: ROOOAAARRRRR!

BUG: Oh. That's not too bad. Do you think I can get a copy of the script so I can start going over it tonight. I really am slow of study.

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PATTY: Don't worry, Bug. I've got a copy of the script for everyone. But, instead of a ferocious roar as Jack demonstrated, it's more like a growl.

ROBIN: Just what kind of ferocious beast is it?

PATTY: This is the best part. Where is Shakespeare from?

FRANCES: England.

PATTY: Yes ... and more specifically?

TANYA: Stratford.

PATTY: Uh, yes ... but what I ...

BUG: Henley Street! He lived on Henley Street in Stratford, England.

PATTY: Yes, but what I mean is where did he move to after that and where did he live as an Actor and Playwright?

JACK: London.

PATTY: Yes! Now, what famous beast comes from London?

(THEY ALL just stare at her.)

Remember the movie? There was a famous movie made about a ferocious beast in London?

(Silence.)

There were two American boys visiting England and they get bit by it and later one turns into the beast?

(Silence.)

Lycanthropy? And then, as the beast, he stalks the streets of London?

BUG: Oh! An American Werewolf in Paris!

PATTY: That's the sequel.

ROBIN: An American Werewolf in London!

PATTY: Yes!

BUG: So I get to play a werewolf?

PATTY: Yes!

TANYA: So there were werewolves in Shakespeare's day?

JACK: *(Taking the stage)* Excuse me, Bug. When I demonstrated the roar, I was under the mistaken impression that you would be playing a lion, which does in fact roar, and if it were a lion that you were to play I would do just that, however, with this new information as to your part not being so much as a feline but a canine rather, then more of a growl would be in order. Allow me to demonstrate. *(HE growls a ferocious growl sounding exactly like his previous roar.)* ROOOAAARRRRR!

BUG: Thank you, Jack. Could you right that down for me? I have a hard time memorizing things.

JACK: Sure thing.

TANYA: Can we get back to the rest of the casting?

PATTY: Yes, yes! Let's cast the rest of the play.

TANYA: What's the next part that's not a woman or a man or beast?

PATTY: Oh, I'm really excited about this part! It's your part Tanya.

TANYA: Well, what is it?

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PATTY: It is the part of Fence?

TANYA: (*Disgusted*) A fence?

PATTY: Yes, you see, in the play there is a fence that divides the Shakespeare property and the uh ... Hathaway property. And each night, young William and Anne meet and speak to each other through the fence.

JACK: Let me play the fence! (*Acts out everything HE is saying*) I shall be the most glorious fence. I can be wood, or barbed wire, or picket, or ...

TANYA: Will you shut up! Isn't the lead enough for you? You can't play every part! There're other actors in this club and each of us gets a part! This is my part! I get to play the fence! So back off!

(*JACK has backed off.*)

Now, what kind of fence am I?

PATTY: Chain link.

TANYA: Great. Fantastic. I'm a chain link fence.

PATTY: Yes, you see, you would stand down here. (*Moves TANYA Down Center*) And then Anne would come to this spot. (*Moves FRANCES Down just Right of TANYA*) And Will would be right here. (*Moves JACK Down and just Left of TANYA*) There, then they talk to each other through you.

JACK: Like this. (*Super dramatic*) Good evening my love. Parting is such sweet sorrow.

FRANCES: We just got here.

JACK: We have to talk through a link.

FRANCES: A what?

JACK: A link, a link! It's a chain link fence. Hey fence, make a link.

(*TANYA reluctantly holds her hands out forming a circle with her fingers for them to talk through. JACK talks through it.*)

Good evening my love. Parting is such sweet sorrow.

FRANCES: (*Through the link*) We just got here.

PATTY: Oh, this is gonna be such a good play.

ROBIN: I'm the only one with out a part.

PATTY: Oh, I haven't forgotten you.

ROBIN: Well, what am I?

PATTY: You are the part of Moonshine!

ROBIN: Moonshine? What's that?

PATTY: You are what the two lovers drink when they meet.

ROBIN: I'm a drink?

PATTY: That's not all! They must be able to see each other when they meet so you will also represent light in some way.

BUG: Like a candle?

PATTY: I was thinking that but we're not allowed to have a lit candle on stage because of the fire code. Everyone think. What kind of light could we have?

JACK: I've got it. It's very simple. Her name is Moonshine right?

PATTY: Yes.

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JACK: (*Acts out what HE is saying*) Then she comes out, and says something to the effect of, "I am Moonshine" or, "I represent moonshine" or rather "I represent the delicious liquid refreshment known as Moonshine." And in one hand she holds a mug containing the moonshine and in the other hand she holds a flashlight and she could say, "I am also a candle." Or "I am also a lit candle" Or rather, "Because of the fire code I also represent a lit candle by which the lovers can see to drink of their moonshine." And thus she gets to play two parts in one. Perhaps I should play moonshine.

PATTY: This is Robin's part.

ROBIN: I get to play two parts?!

JACK: Wait! Or perhaps she should say, holding up the mug, "I represent the delicious liquid refreshment known as moonshine." Then holding up the flashlight she says, "And by the power of this unlit candle I represent the release of shining rays of light, by which the lovers drink of their moonshine, emitted not from a fiery flame of wax and wick but from the astrological phenomenon produced by lunar cosmology also known as moonshine." Thus in two ways she plays moonshine yet combined into one part only, making it fair for the rest of us.

ROBIN: What part am I?

PATTY: You are the part of moonshine. And here is your script. (*Hands out scripts to EVERYONE*) Here is a script for everyone. We'll meet here after school and start rehearsals. This is so exciting. I'm really nervous.

JACK: Not to worry my good lady. We shall do your play justice and the good name of William Shakespeare will be preserved for all time.

PATTY: Okay, see you after school.

(*THEY ALL exit, taking their blocks with them.*)

ACT II – SCENE 1

CHARACTERS: *Student Trespasser 1, Student Trespasser 2, Peck, Attendant, Pearblossom, Spiderweb, Mabel, Poppyseed, Pocampo, Cameron, Teetasha, Demetri, Helen, Ghost Extras.*

Lights dim. A beat. STUDENT TRESPASSER 1[ST1] and STUDENT TRESPASSER 2 [ST2] enter. ST1 carries a note pad and pencil.

ST1: I changed my mind; I don't wanna go in here.

ST2: What, are you chicken?

ST1: Yes. It's creepy in here.

ST2: You were just in here last week for an assembly.

ST1: Yeah. But the lights were on and the place was filled with people.

ST2: Look, we gotta come in here when there are no people.

ST1: Why?

ST2: You wanna get a good story for the school newspaper don't ya?

ST1: Yeah, but I don't see ...

ST2: Well, this is it; a story about the ghost who haunts this theatre.

ST1: A ghost?

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ST2: A ghost.

ST1: You mean this place is haunted?

ST2: Definitely.

ST1: How do you know?

ST2: One time I was in here, sluffin' class, and I was walking across this very stage when I heard this noise.

ST1: A noise?

ST2: Yeah, like pounding. I turned around and it stopped. But it was coming from the stage floor.

ST1: What do you think it was?

ST2: It was him.

ST1: Him?

ST2: Come on, man. Haven't you heard the story?

ST1: What story?

ST2: Alright listen, I'm going to tell you, but I want you to understand that every word of this story is the absolute truth.

ST1: Okay.

ST2: This place was built a long time ago, probably like a hundred years ago. When they were building it, there was this homeless guy who was looking for work and the contractor hired him on. Then one day when they were putting in the stage floor there was an accident and the homeless guy fell from one of those beams up there and died. Everyone but the contractor was at lunch. So he decided to just board up his body under the stage.

ST1: Why?

ST2: Because he was paying him under the table and so he didn't have any insurance and would've lost his license. Anyway, when the others got back from lunch he told them that the homeless guy had quit. Little did they know that they were working right over his body.

ST1: But wouldn't they eventually smell the decomposition?

ST2: That very same day they put the sealant on the floor. The odor, the body, any evidence, was sealed up permanently right under this floor.

ST1: Then how do you know about it?

ST2: Several years later the theatre was infested with termites and they had to drill into the floor to fumigate. And that's when they found him. That's when the whole story came out. Oh, and when they pulled his body out, he was still clutching his hammer.

ST1: Wow. A story like that's got to be true. This is gonna make a great article.

ST2: That's why when you're in here alone and it's all still and quiet, you hear things, like creaking ... and knocking.

ST1: Knocking?

ST2: Yeah, like a hammer knocking on the underside of the stage.

ST1: I need to write this stuff down. *(Starts writing. All is quiet. A beat.)*

(A creaking sfx.)

ST1: What was that?

ST2: Shhh.

(Slow light knocking sfx.)

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ST1: (*Scared*) Do you hear that?

ST2: Shhh!

(*The KNOCKING gets louder. A hammer floats down from above to hover right between them. THEY look at the hammer and then at each other and then scream. THEY run out the way THEY came in with all speed. The hammer hovers there on the stage. PECK enters from Left, laughing. HE goes to the hammer and grabs it.*)

PECK: Oh that was good. That story gets better every time I hear it. (*Quoting*) "When they pulled his body out, he was still clutching his hammer." (*Laughs*) Look, a floating hammer. (*Moving the hammer around mystically*) Mortals are so gullible. Imagine, a construction accident. (*Calling after them*) It wasn't a construction accident! I died in a ... (*Thinking*) Well, how do you like that? I can't remember how I died. Oh well. (*Releases the hammer and it floats away*) That was so much more fun than moaning and rattling chains.

(*ATTENDANT, PEARBLOSSOM, SPIDERWEB, POPPYSEED and MABEL enter from Right. THEY wisp around in a ghostly manner, making stereotypical ghost noises. PECK just watches them.*)

Oh man, you guys really need a hobby.

ATTENDANT: (*Approaching PECK*) Hey, you! Are there any mortals about?

PECK: No, they're gone. It's just me.

ATTENDANT: They're gone.

(*The GHOSTS ALL stop flitting around.*)

SPIDERWEB: Thank goodness, I hate doing that.

PEARBLOSSOM: Me too, it's so juvenile.

MABEL: Then why do we even do it?

ATTENDANT: Standing orders from the Ghost Queen: All entrances must be ghostly.

POPPYSEED: I think its fun.

(*The OTHERS give her a look and then take up bored positions around the stage.*)

PECK: Don't you guys usually haunt down by the gym?

ATTENDANT: Yes, but we venture out now and again. In fact, we are preparing the way for Teetasha, Queen of the Dead.

PECK: (*A bit apprehensive*) What do you mean "preparing the way?"

ATTENDANT: Teetasha is on her way here right now. She's bored and wants to explore the dark spaces of the school.

PECK: That's a bad idea, a very bad idea. My master, Cameron ...

ATTENDANT: Cameron!?

PECK: Yes, Cameron, King of the Dead? He wants to use this place for his revels. I'm sure he's on his way right now.

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ATTENDANT: So?

PECK: So, you've got to keep Teetasha away from here.

ATTENDANT: Why?

PECK: They're not exactly on speaking terms. And if the Queen of the Dead meets the King of the Dead right here, right now, there's going to be an explosion of the Dead.

ATTENDANT: What do you mean? They're gonna fight? Argue? Quarrel?

PECK: Exactly.

ATTENDANT: Big deal, they're married.

PECK: No, you don't understand. King Cameron is furious with her.

SPIDERWEB: Why?

PECK: Have you or have you not, of late, been joined by a new comer just recently deceased?

PEARBLOSSOM: A new ghost? Yeah, we got a new ghost.

MABEL: It's a boy ghost too.

POPPYSEED: (*Approaches PECK flirtatiously*) I like boy ghosts.

PECK: Of course you do.

(*THEY ALL start closing around PECK.*)

MABEL: Me and Spiderweb here were just talking about how nice it is to have someone of the lesser gender around.

PECK: I'm sure you were. But the fact remains, my master, Cameron wants this gentleman apparition in his own entourage.

SPIDERWEB: Oh, our mistress will never let him go.

PEARBLOSSOM: She promised his dead grandmother that she would take care of him.

PECK: Well, the King is furious about it.

POPPYSEED: Maybe we should keep them apart.

PECK: Duh!

ATTENDANT: ... wait a minute. I know you! You're Robert Fineguy, the one they call Peck! Admit it!

PECK: (*Bowing*) With pride! Although Fineguy was my mortal name!

ATTENDANT: (*To the OTHERS*) It was Peck who curdled the milk in the cafeteria and caused the lunchroom riot of 04.

PECK: Yes, yes, thank you.

ATTENDANT: He's the one who sets off the fire alarm when there is no fire!

He's the one that causes lockers to get jammed! He's the one who steals students' homework before they can turn it in!

PECK: Yes, yes. I am that clever wanderer of the night.

ATTENDANT: He's also the one who got three different paranormal investigators on our trail. You go too far Peck!

(*THEY ALL surround PECK aggressively.*)

SPIDERWEB: Yeah, Pearblossom and I almost go sucked up into one of their makeshift Ghostbuster machines.

PECK: It was all in good fun.

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(Suddenly CAMERON enters from Left. THEY ALL turn to look at him. Then TEETASHA enters from Right with POCAMPO slightly behind her. THEY ALL turn to look at her. Note: if there are GHOST EXTRAS they come in following their masters. GIRL GHOSTS with the QUEEN and BOY GHOST with the KING.)

CAMERON: Teetasha!

(THEY ALL turn and look at CAMERON.)

TEETASHA: Cameron!

(THEY ALL turn and look at TEETASHA.)

PECK: This is gonna be ugly.

(THEY bow and back away.)

CAMERON: *(Advancing)* How dare you come here, in my place of haunting!

TEETASHA: *(Advancing)* Your place?! I don't see your name on it!

CAMERON: *(Advancing more and speaking majestically)* My name is engraved through out this place; in the dust and the cobwebs, in the dark corners, in the ropes, and the curtains, it all bares witness of my greatness and of my name, Cameron, King of the Dead!

TEETASHA: *(Advancing more and speaking just as majestically)* Yes indeed.

But each of those ropes and curtains, cobwebs and dark corners, also bares witness of my greatness and of my name; Teetasha, Queen of the Dead!

(The TWO are now face to face Center Stage, seething.)

CAMERON: You just basically copied what I said.

TEETASHA: What?

CAMERON: You just repeated all the things I said. You can't even come up with anything original. You're a copy cat.

TEETASHA: No I'm not.

CAMERON: Yes you are.

TEETASHA: No I'm not.

CAMERON: Yes you are.

TEETASHA: No I'm not.

CAMERON: Yes you are.

PECK: You see? I told you there would be a ferocious argument.

TEETASHA: Cameron, have you met Pocampo?

CAMERON: Who?

TEETASHA: Come to me, Pocampo.

POCAMPO: *(Rushing over to TEETASHA)* Yes, my lady?

TEETASHA: I want you to meet someone. This is Cameron, King of the Dead.

He's very jealous. Cameron, this is Pocampo, the newest addition to my court.

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CAMERON: *(Taken back)* So, this is the one who has recently joined us. *(Grabs POCAMPO by the arm and gently leads him past TEETASHA)* Allow, me to welcome you to the Realm of the Dead, I am Cameron, your King.

TEETASHA: *(Grabbing POCAMPO's other arm)* Not so fast, Cameron. You know he has already been spoken for.

CAMERON: *(Pulling POCAMPO to his side)* Perhaps you would like to see what real haunting is like.

TEETASHA: *(Pulling POCAMPO back)* He can experience real haunting perfectly well, with me!

CAMERON: *(Violently pulling POCAMPO back)* We have a lot more fun!

TEETASHA: *(Violently pulling POCAMPO back)* Fun is in the eye of the beholder!

CAMERON: *(Violently pulling POCAMPO back again)* Beauty! Beauty is in the eye of the beholder! Not fun!

TEETASHA: *(Violently pulling POCAMPO back again)* What would you know about Beauty?!

CAMERON: *(Violently pulling POCAMPO back again and looks directly into TEETASHA's face)* I know I'm not beholding any right now!

(At this, ALL the OTHER GHOSTS gasp and pull back. Even CAMERON is a bit shocked by his own insult. ALL is still. TEETASHA slowly steps towards CAMERON. Suddenly SHE stomps on his foot, causing him to release his grip on POCAMPO and considerable pain. TEETASHA pulls POCAMPO away from CAMERON and then gets right in the KING's face.)

TEETASHA: *(Meticulously)* Listen to me very carefully, Cameron, and I'll use tiny words so you'll be sure to understand. I shall never relinquish him to you. I claimed him first so you have no power or authority in this case. He is mine. So you better get used to the idea. Come, Pocampo. *(With that, turns and heads Off Right)*

POCAMPO: Nice to meet you, sir.

(HE bows and follows TEETASHA Off. PEARBLOSSOM, SPIDERWEB, MABEL, and POPPYSEED make their stereotypical ghost noises and wisp Off after TEETASHA. ATTENDANT also wisps around but SHE is the last to leave.)

ATTENDANT: Goodbye, merry wanderer of the night! *(Waves flirtatiously)*

PECK: Please, call me Peck.

ATTENDANT: Goodbye, Peck.

(SHE giggles and wisps Off. PECK watches her leave. CAMERON and PECK are now alone.)

CAMERON: Can you believe her?

PECK: The nerve! "Relinquish" is not a tiny word!

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CAMERON: I have an Idea. Last year, I was observing one of the mortals' rhythmic ceremonial rituals in the gymnasium when suddenly I saw Cupid descending from the ceiling with his bow and an arrow cocked ready to fire. He was aiming at some beautiful young sophomore when suddenly his bow jolted as if it had been knocked back by something.

PECK: Oh yes, I remember that.

(CAMERON gives him a look.)

I mean, I remember that the mortals had a stomp in the gym.

CAMERON: The arrow shot, but not in the direction of the school girl. It fell ineffectually into a spider's web high up in the rafters.

PECK: Then the spider would, no doubt, be infected.

CAMERON: Yes, one drop of this spider's venom placed in the eyes of a sleeping mortal or immortal would cause the inoculated to fall deeply in love with the first living creature he or she sees upon awakening.

PECK: I see where you're going with this.

CAMERON: (Grabbing PECK's shoulders) Robert Fineguy, I have an errand for you. I want you to bring me this spider. For when my wife sleeps I will place the venom in her eyes, and when she awakens she will fall in love with the first living creature that she sees.

PECK: A mortal, my master?

CAMERON: Yes. No! An ugly, hideous, disgusting creature.

PECK: A math teacher?

CAMERON: Worse.

PECK: Nothing's worse than a math teacher.

CAMERON: A beast. A filthy beast. A swine perhaps.

PECK: Pigs don't normally come on to the school grounds, Your Highness.

CAMERON: What about one of the animals in one of the science classrooms?

PECK: I think there's a frog.

CAMERON: No, she might kiss it and turn it into a prince.

PECK: A snake. I think they have a snake down there.

CAMERON: You see to it. Just make sure she sees some kind of creature when she awakens. Then she will fall deeply in love with it.

PECK: To what end, Sire?

CAMERON: I will have her right where I want her. I will not release her from the venomous spell until she relinquishes her hold on Pocampo. Only when the young specter is in my servitude shall I release her. Now, go Peck, find me this spider.

PECK: Yes, my master. I will find it and return it here to you immediately with all speed. It will not be a problem for me, for I can circle the whole school in four minutes.

CAMERON: Yes, Peck! Off with you my nonsensical apparition.

(PECK wisps off Right. CAMERON stands center and ponders.)

Teetasha will be sorry. She will be made the fool and I shall have my revenge.

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(Suddenly DEMETRI rushes in from Right. HE runs right up close to CAMERON and looks as though HE is looking at him directly in the face. Then HE turns to look behind him.)

CAMERON: *(To Audience)* It is a good thing that we ghosts can become invisible.

(DEMETRI looks back and through CAMERON. HE is trying to avoid HELEN. HELEN enters from Right. SHE has been chasing DEMETRI. SHE runs to him. CAMERON stands between them and watches their quarrel.)

DEMETRI: Oh, man! Will you please leave me alone?!

HELEN: Please, Demetri, please!

DEMETRI: How did you find me in here, Helen?!

HELEN: Just listen to me for a second!

DEMETRI: Oh, never mind!

(DEMETRI starts Off Left, but HELEN grabs his arm.)

HELEN: Why have you stopped loving me?

DEMETRI: Let go! *(Trying to pry her off)*

HELEN: What's changed? Have I done something?

DEMETRI: I just don't like you anymore. I like Harmony!

(HE pries her off his arm, but immediately SHE grabs onto his leg.)

HELEN: Why? There must be a reason! And whatever it is I can correct it!

DEMETRI: Helen, I may have to hurt you.

HELEN: You are hurting me by running away!

DEMETRI: *(Heads Left, dragging HELEN)* Will you get off of me? I need to find Lynus!

HELEN: Lynus? Whatever for?

DEMETRI: *(Stops walking)* So that I can beat the snot out of him! Then I can take Harmony to the dance and be rid of you forever!

HELEN: Please don't say such hurtful things! Please, Demetri, tell me what it is that I do that causes you to hate me and I will stop doing it.

DEMETRI: *(Looking down at her)* Do you promise?

HELEN: I swear.

DEMETRI: Alright, first, I hate it when you hang on my leg like that.

(HELEN thinks for a second and then releases his leg and pushes herself up into a kneeling position. DEMETRI looks at her and then bolts away Off Left.)

HELEN: Hey! You tricked me! *(To herself)* Why has this happened? Harmony already has Lynus, why does she have to take my Demetri too? I am just as good as Harmony! And as she has the love of Lynus, I promise that I will make Demetri mine again! *(Calling Off to DEMETRI)* What else is there?! *(Runs after him)* Please, tell me!

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(CAMERON is left alone.)

CAMERON: Interesting; with two couples you can form a square. *(Traces a square in the air with his fingers)* But if one leaves his couple and tries to join the other then the square is gone and only a triangle remains. *(Traces a triangle in the air)* And this leaves one dot left all alone. *(Makes a dot with one finger in the air away from the triangle, then grabs the dot out of the air and holds it in his hand)* I feel sorry for this ... Helen. I should conjure up some ghostly magic and reverse these circumstances. Then this Helen would be running from this boy and he would be infatuated with her.

(PECK rushes on from Right. Holding something behind his back.)

CAMERON: Peck! You've returned!

PECK: Yes! With all speed!

CAMERON: And did you find the web in witch the infected spider lays.

PECK: Yes. And cupid's arrow still caught with in it. But, when I lifted up the web to see the sum, to my surprise, two infected spiders, not one. *(Brings them out from behind his back and holds them out for CAMERON to see. Tarantula sized Halloween spider decorations will do)*

CAMERON: Two infected spiders, you say? How delightful! This gives me an idea.

PECK: How so, Master?

CAMERON: *(Taking one of the spiders)* Give me one of the spiders and you retain the other.

PECK: What shall I do with it?

CAMERON: While you were gone, in came a boy who has abandoned his love for another.

PECK: How do you know this?

CAMERON: Because his ex-love chases him around hoping to make amends.

PECK: Pathetic.

CAMERON: Yes, quite. But I pity her. So when he comes this way again I want you to use your ghostly powers and cause him to fall asleep. Then anoint his eyes with this spider's venom. The girl will then find him and awaken him and ...

PECK: ... and then she will be the first thing he sees when he wakes up and fall back into love with her. I got it.

CAMERON: Yes, very good. You understand then? You will know him by his clothes. He wears the school colors.

PECK: Leave it to me, Your Excellency.

CAMERON: Alright, you are off with your spider to find the boy and I am off with my spider to find Teetasha.

(CAMERON exits Right and PECK exits Left.)

ACT II – SCENE 2

CHARACTERS: *Teetasha, Attendant, Pocampo, Pearblossom, Mabel, Poppyseed, Spiderweb, Cameron, Peck, Lynus, Harmony, Helen, Demetri, Ghost extras*

Enter TEETASHA from Right. ALL of her GHOSTLY ENTOURAGE enters from all sides. Ghostly music is heard as the GHOSTS do an eerie dance around TEETASHA in the center. The dance ends and TEETASHA addresses her subjects.

TEETASHA: And now my loyal spirits, it is time for me to sleep. I want you to prepare things for the bewitching hour when I will awaken. But first sing me a lullaby so that I may rest in peace.

(The GHOSTS sing a ghostly song to her and as THEY do SHE lies on the ground Upstage. The GHOSTS pull out a blanket made of spider webs and lay it over her. THEY tuck her in and SHE falls asleep. ATTENDANT then takes over.)

ATTENDANT: We must go about Our Ladies business while she sleeps. You, Spiderweb,

(SPIDERWEB approaches.)

find any flowers in the school. Wilt them and give them cankers. And don't forget to check the councilors' office.

SPIDERWEB: Yes, My Lady. *(Wisps Off)*

ATTENDANT: Poppyseed,

(POPPYSEED approaches.)

the custodians are close to finding the bats nest and exterminating them.

Go to them and protect them from harm.

POPPYSEED: Happy to, Miss. *(Wisps Off)*

ATTENDANT: Pearblossom, open windows and doors to let in beetles, newts, and centipedes.

PEARBLOSSOM: Right away, Madame. *(Wisps Off)*

ATTENDANT: Mabel, I want you to go up onto the roof and practice your dying scene. Try to recreate your fall exactly the way it happened.

MABEL: Right away, Miss. *(Wisps Off)*

ATTENDANT: Pocampo,

(POCAMPO approaches.)

Hey what kind of name is Pocampo anyway?

POCAMPO: Comanche Indian.

ATTENDANT: Are you part Indian?

POCAMPO: No, why?

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ATTENDANT: Never mind. This is your first assignment, Pocampo. You are to guard the queen while she sleeps.

POCAMPO: What if someone comes?

ATTENDANT: Don't worry. You and the queen will remain invisible to mortal eyes. And stand a ways off. You don't want to disturb her slumber.

POCAMPO: Yes, I will do my best.

(ATTENDANT wisps Off. POCAMPO begins his post by marching back and forth in front of the QUEEN. CAMERON enters from Right. HE sees POCAMPO and ducks back behind the curtain. Then when POCAMPO is facing away from him HE comes back on and waves his hand at the other side of the stage. A noise is heard Off Left.)

What was that?! *(Exits Left to investigate)*

(CAMERON approaches the sleeping QUEEN. HE kneels down by her and holds the spider over her face. HE shakes one drop of venom onto each eyelid. Then puts the spider under his robes. HE chants a spell.)

CAMERON: Sleep on my slumbering Queen,
You know not where this spider has been.
One drop of venom from its fang
Will cause your heart to beat and bang.
You sleep now but when you wake
You'll love the very first sight you take
Now you'll sleep through laughter and tear
And will not wake 'til some vile thing is near.

(CAMERON laughs and exits Off Right. TEETASHA is left alone, asleep. HARMONY and LYNUS enter from Left. LYNUS has obviously been tickle/flirting with her on the way to the theatre.)

HARMONY: *(Playfully)* Would you stop?!

LYNUS: Never! *(HE chases her to Center where HE catches her hand, stops her, and pulls her to him)* Now I have you!

HARMONY: So now what are you going to do with me?

LYNUS: I'm going to wreak havoc on you.

HARMONY: I've never been wreaked havoc on before.

LYNUS: It'll be a first for both of us.

(HE leans in to kiss her but SHE puts her hand up blocking his lips.)

HARMONY: No, no. Helen will be here any second. We've got to discuss the details of our plan for the dance.

LYNUS: Ah, yes, the dance. I hope this going to work.

HARMONY: Come on, let's sit down. *(SHE leads him Down Center where THEY sit on the edge of the stage.)* We need to figure out where we are going to trade places, so think.

LYNUS: I'm thinking.

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(A beat. LYNUS reaches out and squeezes her knee, tickling her. SHE quickly knocks his hand away. A beat. HE does it again. SHE grabs his hand.)

HARMONY: Would you stop!

LYNUS: I can't help my self.

(HARMONY takes his arm and puts it around her so HE can't get to her knee.)

HARMONY: There. Now, where should we make the exchange?

LYNUS: How about right ... *(Tickles her in the ribs)* ... here!

HARMONY: *(Screams playfully)* Cut it out!

LYNUS: The devil made me do it.

HARMONY: *(Placing his hands in his own lap)* Keep your hands to yourself!

(SHE lets go of them and HE immediately raises them to tickle her. SHE grabs them and puts them back into his lap.)

That's it! Listen, we need to make sure this plan works. We've got to focus and Helen needs to see that we are serious about it. Now keep your hands to yourself.

LYNUS: Alright.

HARMONY: No, promise me.

LYNUS: Okay. I promise I'll keep my hands to my self.

HARMONY: *(Letting go of his hands)* Good. Now think.

(A beat. THEY are thinking. Then LYNUS slowly looks over at HARMONY. Then HE slowly bends toward her and suddenly but playfully tickles her neck with his elbows. SHE screams and jumps away.)

You're incorrigible!

LYNUS: I kept my hands to myself.

HARMONY: *(Standing behind him)* That does it. Give me your hands.

(HE lifts his hands and SHE grabs them.)

I just can't trust you. *(Drags him to Stage Right and releases him)* You sit here ... *(Walks to Stage Left)* ... and I'll sit here. *(Sits)*

LYNUS: Alright. *(Puts his hands behind his head, clasps his fingers, and lies back)* Do you think this plan can really work? I mean, what about your voices. Helen doesn't sound much like you.

HARMONY: I know, but I figure that if we wear the masks then our voices will sound all distorted anyway. *(Pause)* Maybe we can get the masks and start practicing together. And you could listen to us and tell us if we sound right. What do you think?

(No answer)

I said, what do you think?

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(Still no answer)

Hey, Lynus!

(LYNUS emits a snoring noise. SHE rolls her eyes.)

It figures. This isn't math class, you know! *(Lies down)* If you can't beat 'em ... *(Closes her eyes)*

(A beat. PECK Enters from Left. HE sees HARMONY and LYNUS and goes to LYNUS.)

PECK: What's this? Could this be the young man Cameron sent me in search of? Yes he wears the school colors. But he is already asleep. *(Looks over to HARMONY and goes to her)* And also a girl. Puzzling. *(A beat)* Unless this is the girl who is hated by that boy. He must have been so tired from running from her that he lied down to rest and fell asleep right here. But when she caught him, he pushed her away and she, being too tired from the chase, also lied down and here they both slumber. *(Goes to LYNUS and pulls out the spider)* Cameron will be happy I found him so quickly. *(Shakes the spider's venom into LYNUS' eyes. Then recites his own poetic spell)*

Falling venom from above,
make this boy fall in love.

The girl you see when you awake,
that will be the love you take.

I love my job. *(Hides the spider within his robes and heads Off Left. As HE passes HARMONY, HE bends down to her and whispers)* You're welcome. *(HE is Off)*

(A beat. Enter DEMETRI from Right in a run. HE pauses Center to look behind him and then continues Off Left. HELEN comes running on.)

HELEN: Wait, Demetri, Please wait! *(Stops Center)* I'm too tired to chase you anymore. *(Notices LYNUS and HARMONY asleep on the stage)* Oh, they must have got tired of waiting for me. *(Goes to LYNUS and gives him a nudge)* Lynus.

(HE jumps and sits up startled.)

LYNUS: I didn't do anything!

HELEN: Lynus, it's me, Helen. You fell asleep.

(HE looks at HER. Then rubs his eyes. Then looks back at her with his enchanted eyes. HE is now in uncontrollable love with her.)

LYNUS: Helen.

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