

## The Dark Path Home

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## SYNOPSIS:

Four kids sneak into a condemned old theatre and stir up the ghosts of those who died in a fire and restart the play that was in performance when the fire started. The teens must complete the play in order to free the ghosts and make it out of the theatre before day break or be trapped there forever.

## TIME/PLACE

The past and the present.

## CHARACTERS

13+ actors

DANNY- Male ages 12-15

LEXIE- Female ages 12-15

KYLIE- Female \*Black ages 12-15

JOEY- Male ages 10-14

BONNY- Female \*Black ages 12-15

BEN- Male \*Black ages 8-12

JASON- Male Ages 14-17

FOUR FACELESS FIGURES Any age. They never speak but provide the magic.

CHARON/HADES- Any age. Masked

PAPA - Male Older. \*Black. A

SPHINX/SIREN/ PERSEPHONE- Any Age. Masked

\* Alternate casting is possible see notes at end of script for line changes.

## SETTING

A theatre. A few props lying about a primarily empty stage. The set can be as simple or elaborate as you have the ability to make it. Simple light along with good sound effects, can be as powerful as a full set.

*The Orpheum Theatre, a little after midnight. Once upon a time it was an old stage house. It closed down after a fire that killed dozens of people and has sat empty since. The audience seating area can be decorated to feel like an abandoned theatre with cobwebs and suitable decor to add to the atmosphere. On the stage there are a few ropes and set pieces scattered about including a closed trunk, a small boat with metal sides big enough for four people to sit in and an electrical box with several levers. Halfway back on the stage is a large box structure with what appears to be solid sides.. There is a ladder leaning against one side and is sturdy enough to climb and stand on top of the box. There is a single light bulb that illuminates the stage dimly (the GHOST LIGHT.) Flashlight beams move around in the darkness of the audience and then LEXIE, DANNY, KYLIE, and JOEY enter. The characters can enter through a side exit or some place that is unexpected. Each of them are carrying flashlights. They make their way down an audience aisle towards the stage.*

JOEY

This place gives me the creeps. Look at all these empty seats. I bet most of the people who used to sit here are dead by now.

KYLIE

I've seen pictures of people who used to come here all dressed up like some fancy party.

JOEY

People used to dress up to go to see movies?

KYLIE

Not movies, plays. They used to dress up to go to the store, too.

DANNY

Weird. *(Looks around excited.)* Didn't I tell you guys! This is the perfect place to be at midnight on Halloween!

JOEY

The only reason I'm here is because Lexie took that stupid dare and my parents told her she had to watch me while they were out at a party. *(To Lexie.)* Mom and Dad would kill us if they knew we were here.

LEXIE

*(To Joey.)* Mom and Dad will never know. Right little, brother? *(Looking at the burning light bulb.)* I can't believe this place still has power.

KYLIE

It's a ghost light. The community theatre my mom volunteers at has one. It's so people don't fall off the stage in the dark.

DANNY

*(DANNY uses his arms to pretend to float like a ghost.)* It's to keep the ghosts company.

*They all stare at the audience.*

JOEY

Feels like people are looking at us.

LEXIE

I knew this place burned in a fire but it's kinda weird seeing it in person.

DANNY

*(Looks at the stage.)* Doesn't look like everything burned.

LEXIE

*(LEXIE shines a light above the audience's heads.)* Look up there at the balcony. That must be where most of the fire burned. It's all black and those big chunks have fallen on those seats back there.

KYLIE

Lots of people died in the fire. The guy who owns the place didn't have enough money to rebuild so it just sat here.

LEXIE

My mom said that some famous singer came through town and looked at buying it to fix up for concerts.

DANNY

That's just rumors from people who don't want to tear it down.

JOEY

I thought the city bought it.

KYLIE

They took it over after the owner died, but nobody has the money to fix it up so it just sits.

*LEXIE shines her flashlight straight up to look above the stage.*

LEXIE

Whoa! Look up there. There's stuff hanging up there. Lights and big painted drops. What's that above the lights?

JOEY

Looks like some kind of wooden slats.

LEXIE

How cool would it be to go up there and look down here.

DANNY

Look! There are ladder rungs in the wall that go all the way up.

JOEY

Are you crazy? That's probably all rotted by now. We shouldn't even be standing underneath this stuff.

DANNY

*(Looking at a row of levers.)* Wonder what these were used for?

*KYLIE walks to a different part of the stage while DANNY investigates a large console filled with levers.*

DANNY

This is so cool. Look at all these levers. Like some old Frankenstein movie. I bet these controlled all the lights. Do you think any of them still work?

KYLIE

The ghost light still works.

*DANNY flips a lever and we hear a noise like a set of gears moving above their heads.*

JOEY

It looks like one of those pipes above us is moving.

*Suddenly shadows of bats fly down from above. ALL SCREAM. We hear the SOUND of BATS everywhere. After a moment DANNY shines his flashlight around and comes to rest on JOEY who is revealed on his knees curled up in ball with his arms protecting his head with his fingers making the sign of a cross to keep away vampires. LEXIE starts to laugh and then DANNY and KYLIE start to laugh as well.*

JOEY

It's not funny! Those could have been vampire bats!

*LEXIE puts her hands up behind the ghost light and uses her hands to make a shadow puppet of a bird and makes HAWK sounds.*

LEXIE

There that should scare away any bats. Vampire or otherwise!

KYLIE

Where did you learn to do that?

LEXIE

The street light outside my bedroom window shines in at night. Its a distraction.

JOEY

When mom and dad fight.

*DANNY tries another lever and a spotlight shines on an old trunk.*

KYLIE

Look over here.

*KYLIE goes over to the large steamer trunk, setting on its end.*

It looks like my grandma's old trunk in her attic. Maybe there are costumes inside?

*THEY ALL walk over to join KYLIE at the trunk putting down their flashlights.*

JOEY

Maybe there are spiders in it!

DANNY

*(To Joey.)* Scared?

JOEY

No I'm not.

LEXIE

Don't let him get to you, Joey.

*KYLIE opens the trunk and begins to investigate. There is a tag hanging from inside the trunk.*

KYLIE

Look at this. *(Reading the tag.)* Act Two costumes and props. They're amazing!

*KYLIE takes a costume bracelet and puts it on. JOEY detects a strong smell from the trunk.*

JOEY

It smells like my grandma's closet.

KYLIE

That's mothballs. It kept them from falling apart all these years.

DANNY

How do you know all this stuff?

KYLIE

I read books. You should try it some time.

DANNY

I've got better things to do than clutter my brain with old facts.

KYLIE

*(Laughs.)* You are impossible.

LEXIE

*(Exploring the trunk.)* You two enjoy taunting each other far too much! Woo, look at all this wild stuff.

*KYLIE pulls out some pages. DANNY pulls out a tunic with a pattern on it which he puts on. LEXIE takes out a Greek robe and slips it over her head.*

KYLIE  
Hey, look at this. It's a script.

LEXIE  
*(To Kylie.)* How do I look?

KYLIE  
Like one of those Greek goddesses.

DANNY  
You look like a ghost to me.

LEXIE  
*(Ghostly moans.)* Ohhhhhhhhhhhhh.

JOEY  
I don't think we should be messing with any of this stuff.

DANNY  
Joey's afraid of ghosts?

JOEY  
I'm not afraid of anything!

DANNY  
You're afraid of everything.

JOEY  
No, I'm not.

DANNY  
Oh yeah. *(Points at Joey's shoulder.)* Like that big spider.

JOEY  
*(Jumping around brushing himself off everywhere.)* Get it off! Get it off!



*DANNY laughs at JOEY.*

KYLIE

*(Indicating DANNY.)* Don't let him get to you Joey. Everyone's afraid of something.

DANNY

Not me.

LEXIE

What about your brother?

DANNY

*(Suddenly defensive.)* Who said I was afraid of him?

LEXIE

Every time he comes around you get jumpy.

DANNY

*(Getting angry.)* No, I don't!

KYLIE

We understand. Your brother's scary. He hangs out with all those creeps from the riverfront. All they do is smoke and steal stuff.

JOEY

You told me he burned your arm with a cigarette just for fun.

DANNY

Can we stop talking about my brother?!

LEXIE & KYLIE

Okay, fine. Sorry.

*DANNY grabs a lyre with a carrying strap. HE strums the lyre and it plays a beautiful chord. LEXIE climbs a ladder built onto the side of the large box and stands on the top to look around while KYLIE is looking at the pages of the script and JOEY tries to read over her shoulder.*

JOEY

Let me see. *(Sounding it out.)* Orp-hes.

DANNY

*(Laughs.)* Sounds like someone throwing up.

KYLIE

I think that's Orpheus.

JOEY

Sounds like Orpheum.

LEXIE

*(Stands on the top of the box.)* Maybe the theatre was named after that guy.

*DANNY slings the lyre over his head so it's now strapped on his back and begins looking at the bank of levers and finds one marked with a sign that reads, "Special Effect."*

DANNY

Special Effect. Let's see what this does.

*HE moves the lever and suddenly everything goes black and LEXIE screams.*

KYLIE

*(Screams at DANNY.)* What did you do?

DANNY

I just flipped the lever.

KYLIE

Flip it back.

*DANNY flips it back and the lights come back on. LEXIE has vanished.*

KYLIE

She's gone!

JOEY

I told you! I told you we shouldn't mess with stuff!

KYLIE

*(Yelling.)* Lexie? Lexie?

*LEXIE moans from inside the box. KYLIE stuffs the script into her pocket.*

KYLIE

She's inside the box!

*KYLIE climbs the ladder to look where LEXIE had been standing.*

DANNY

*(To Joey.)* It's not my fault! How was I supposed to know it would do that?

JOEY

We shouldn't be in here at all!

KYLIE

It looks like some kind of trap door in the top of this box.

JOEY

Don't stand on it!

KYLIE

I'm not stupid.

DANNY

Where did she go?

KYLIE

She must have fallen inside.

DANNY

*(Points at the lever.)* All I did was flip this lever.

KYLIE

Hand me my flashlight.

*DANNY hands KYLIE her flashlight and she climbs the ladder onto the box and inspects the top.*

Flip the lever again and let's see if the top opens.

DANNY

Ok. I'm flipping it. *(He does.)*

*The lights go back out again. KYLIE's light shines into the top of the open trap door.*

KYLIE

*(Describing.)* The top opened!

*DANNY flips the lever back on and the lights come up again.*

KYLIE

Now it's closed again. We need to find something to wedge it open.

*JOEY and DANNY search around until DANNY finds the paddle for the boat. He hands it to KYLIE and she tries her best to wedge it open again.*

DANNY

*(Starts to climb the box.)* Let me try.

KYLIE

No wait! Go back to the lever. When I say, "Now!" you flip that lever again and I'll jam this paddle in to keep it open.

DANNY

Okay.

KYLIE

Ready? Now!

*DANNY flips the switch and KYLIE jams the board into the trap door.*

Got it.

*DANNY flips the lever back and the lights come back on.*

*(Looks down.)* I see her!

KYLIE

We need to get her out.

*KYLIE climbs into the trap and goes out of sight.*

JOEY

Is she okay?

KYLIE

*(From inside the box.)* I can't tell. *(Pauses.)* It looks like there's a handle on the wall inside here that opens the box.

*The face of the box opens up a little.*

It won't open all the way. Try pulling it from your side.

*DANNY and JOEY go and pull on the panels to open them revealing KYLIE with LEXIE lying on the floor.*

KYLIE

*(Bending over LEXIE.)* She's still breathing.

JOEY

Ahhh. I cut my hand on the wall. The blood keeps oozing out.

*DANNY grabs a piece of fabric from the floor inside the box and hands it to JOEY.*

DANNY

Here. Wrap your hand in this.

KYLIE

*(Bending over LEXIE and gently touching her shoulder.)* Lexie? Lexie, wake up.

JOEY

It's filthy!

DANNY

Okay, then bleed to death. Your choice. *(To Kylie.)* Is she okay?

*JOEY takes the fabric and wraps his hand.*

KYLIE

*(Spots blood.)* There's a little bit of blood on the back of her head. She must have hit her head on something when she fell.

JOEY

We're all going to die if we don't get out of here.

KYLIE

We have got to get some help! Call 911!

*DANNY and JOEY take out their cell phones.*

DANNY

There's no service in here.

KYLIE

Go! I'll stay with Lexie while you get help.

*DANNY and JOEY run down the audience aisle.*

JOEY (O.S.)

The door won't open!

DANNY

It's wedged shut!

*DANNY and JOEY return.*

DANNY

It won't open. We've got to find another way out.

*The lights suddenly go out and there is a strange SOUND of something scraping.*

JOEY

What happened to the lights?

KYLIE

What was that sound?

*DANNY turns on his flashlight and goes to the bank of levers.*

DANNY

I don't know. Let me see if I can get them back on.

JOEY

Don't flip any more...

*DANNY flips the lever and the lights come back on but start a rhythm of fading up and then fading down to blackness.*

KYLIE

Stop messing with the lights!

DANNY

I'm not touching anything. Something else is controlling them.

KYLIE

*(Points.)* Look. I think there's a door over there.

JOEY

*(Moving to the door.)* There's no door knob.

*JOEY bangs on the door.*

Help! Somebody help us!

DANNY

*(Banging his flashlight with his hand.)* Why won't this flashlight work?

KYLIE

Mine doesn't work either!

JOEY

I'm scared!

*During a dark moment BONNY and BEN move into place against the inside wall of the box. They are dressed in similar colors to the wall they stand in front of. The lights come back up.*

JOEY

Can you flip the switch to make them stay on?

DANNY

You told me not to flip anymore switches! *(He tries the lever again.)* It doesn't seem to do anything now.

KYLIE

We need to find a way to get that door open. Try that paddle!

*DANNY and JOEY try the paddle but it won't budge.*

DANNY

It won't budge! Look for something else.

*KYLIE looks around as the lights go out again. then discovers LEXIE's gone.*

Where did Lexie go?

DANNY

She was right there just a second ago!

*The lights go back out again.*

JOEY

Lexie! Lexie!

KYLIE

She's got to be here somewhere!

*DANNY and KYLIE'S flashlights comes on in their hands. They begin to search the room calling out for Lexie. DANNY points his flashlight at the inside wall of the box and suddenly sees BONNY and BEN standing there.*

DANNY

Guys?

KYLIE

What?

DANNY

Look!



JOEY

What?

*Their flashlights go dark again and the two children disappear.*

I wish it would stop getting dark.

*The lights come back on.*

DANNY

Where did they go?

KYLIE

Who?

DANNY

There were two kids standing by the wall just now.

JOEY

Me and Kylie?

DANNY

No. There were two kids against the wall.

KYLIE

Stop playing around and look for a way out.

*The lights fade again to complete darkness. In the darkness we hear LEXIE.*

LEXIE (O.S.)

Let me go.

DANNY

Did you hear that?

*Lights slowly fade back on.*

JOEY

Can you make the lights stop doing that?

DANNY

I don't know how. There has to be some other door or some way out of here.

*Lights slowly fade back out.*

KYLIE

Use your flashlight.

*DANNY tries the flashlight but it doesn't work.*

DANNY

It's doesn't work again!

*The lights fade back on again. KYLIE moves to DANNY. JOEY stays by the wall.*

KYLIE

*(To DANNY.)* We need to find Lexie.

*The lights fade back out and the two ghost children get in place standing on either side of JOEY.*

JOEY

I wish we never came here!

KYLIE

Hurry up, Danny!

DANNY

*(He is hitting the light with his hand.)* I'm trying, I'm trying.

*Lights go back out. During this time the two ghost children disappear along with JOEY.*

JOEY

Something's got my arm.....

*JOEY's voice is cut off mid-word as he disappears.*

KYLIE

Joey?

*Light fades back up again as DANNY hits his flashlight and gets it to come back on.*

DANNY

Okay, now it works.

*DANNY turns and sees an empty wall.*

Where did Joey go?

KYLIE

Joey! Joey!?! Joey!

*DANNY and KYLIE search the wall.*

Why did you let him disappear?

KYLIE

I didn't let him do anything!

DANNY

He was standing right next to you.

KYLIE

If you hadn't dared us to come here none of this would have happened!

DANNY

We need to stop arguing and find them. Let's stick together. Here. Grab my hand.

*They grab hands. They each start to head to opposite sides of the room and are yanked back.*

DANNY

Stop pulling!

KYLIE

This is stupid.

*KYLIE lets go of DANNY'S hand.*

DANNY

Okay. But we have to keep talking so we stay connected.

KYLIE

Joey was talking and then he wasn't here.

*DANNY looks around the room but sees no other doors.*

DANNY

It's no use.

KYLE

What are we going to do?

DANNY

There has got to be some kind of secret door. Lexie and Joey couldn't have just disappeared.

*The SCRAPING SOUND is heard again of the metal part of a boat scraping against rocks.*

KYLIE

Did you hear that?

DANNY

Keep searching!

*KYLIE and DANNY start feeling along the walls as the lights dim again. When the lights fade back up again the two ghost children have appeared again. The lights continue to fade up and down during the next dialogue.*

KYLIE

I really hate when these lights go out. Bad things always seem to...

*KYLIE spots the two children while DANNY'S back is turned away.*

Danny! Look!

DANNY

*(He turns around.)* Those are the kids I saw!

BONNY

You have to come with us.

BEN

Before he comes.

DANNY

Who are you?

BONNY

Hurry!

Where are Lexie and Joey? KYLIE

They're safe. BEN

Safe from what? DANNY

Safe from the scary man. BEN

Scary man? KYLIE

The one who took everyone away. BONNY

Away? DANNY

*(Scared.)* We have to go! BEN

*(To Bonny.)* Who did he take? KYLIE

People from the fire. BONNY

The fire? DANNY

We hid so he couldn't find us. BEN

You've been here since the fire? KYLIE

That's not possible. DANNY

*DANNY pulls KYLIE aside.*

Are we talking to....ghosts? DANNY

KYLIE

Look at how they're dressed. They must have died in the fire.

*Metallic sound is closer.*

BEN

*(Urgent and scared.)* We need to go before he shows up!

KYLIE

We want our friends back.

DANNY

Bring them back.

BONNY

Are you sure?

DANNY

Just bring our friends back now!

*The SCRAPING METALLIC SOUND is heard louder which startles them. Suddenly the lights begin to swirl and go out. In the darkness JOEY and LEXIE return. JOEY is wrapping a piece of the cloth around LEXIE'S head.*

LEXIE

Ow, that's too tight.

JOEY

It needs to have pressure to stop the bleeding.

LEXIE

*(Looking at DANNY and KYLIE.)* What's going on?

DANNY

*(To Ben.)* How did you do that?

KYLIE

You were gone and now you're back.

BEN

I don't hear him.

Who? What's going on? LEXIE

We have to find a way out. DANNY

You can't leave. BONNY

Why? KYLIE

He won't let us escape. BONNY

What? JOEY

Who are you? DANNY

I'm Bonny, this is my brother, Ben. BONNY

Where did you come from? LEXIE

*(Pointing to the balcony.)* Up there. BEN

The balcony? JOEY

When the fire happened most of the people couldn't get out. BONNY

My papa dropped us down as far as he could and we jumped the rest of the way. Papa told us to wait for him, and he went back to get our mama. Then part of the ceiling fell and we couldn't see them anymore. BEN

Everyone was running and screaming. BONNY

BEN

*\*(Optional Line available).*

We'd never been in this part before.

KYLIE

This part?

BONNY

*\* (Optional line available.)*

The Whites Only part. We were scared. The next thing we knew the man from the play appeared.

BEN

Then he started taking people.

LEXIE

What people?

BEN

The screaming people.

JOEY

Who took them? A fireman?

BEN

No, the scary man.

DANNY

What did he look like?

BONNY

Like the man in the play.

KYLIE

*(Grabs the script from her pocket.)* The script, Orpheus!

BEN

You're wearing his robe.

*They suddenly remember the costumes they are wearing from the trunk.*

BONNY

And carrying his lyre.



JOEY

His what?

BONNY

*(To Joey.)* It's like a harp.

KYLIE

*(She looks at the script.)* This script must have been the play they were doing when the fire happened.

JOEY

*(To Bonny and Ben.)* So how come you never left?

BEN

Every time we tried, we couldn't get out.

*The SCRAPING SOUND is heard again.  
Everyone reacts.*

DANNY

*(Stepping towards the sound.)* It sounds like it's coming from this direction.

BONNY

We can't stay!

*The lights go out and BONNY and BEN have  
disappeared when the lights come back on.*

JOEY

They're gone again.

DANNY

We gotta get out here! Come on!

*DANNY moves toward a door. As it opens there  
is a blinding light and standing there is a  
shadow figure of CHARON. There is a LOUD  
METALLIC SOUND coming from him. ALL  
THE KIDS SCREAM and drop their flashlights.  
CHARON is wearing a Greek mask that distorts  
his features.*

DANNY

*(Backing away.)* What? Who are you?

CHARON'S VOICE

I am Charon. (*Pronounced Kye-ron.*) I'm here for you.

JOEY

For us?

CHARON'S VOICE

It is time.

LEXIE

Time for what?

CHARON'S VOICE

Those who are called will come.

KYLIE

We haven't been called.

CHARON'S VOICE

(*Pointing at LEXIE and JOEY.*) You both bleed. You will come.

DANNY

No! Wait!

CHARON'S VOICE

It is not your time, Orpheus.

*CHARON moves his hand and the lights suddenly turn green. Entranced LEXIE and JOEY move toward CHARON as if pulled by a magnetic force. The others try to move but are unable.*

KYLIE

I can't move.

DANNY

No! You can't take them!

*LEXIE and JOEY exit and CHARON turns and closes the door blocking their path as he exits. The lights return to normal. DANNY and KYLIE run to the door but cannot open it. If there is no door they are stopped by some force.*

DANNY

No! Come back!

*DANNY and KYLIE pound on the door or yell to no avail.*

No!

*THEY slump on the floor.*

KYLIE

*(Trying to remember.)* What did he call you...

DANNY

What?

KYLIE

He looked at you and called you something?

DANNY

Orpheus.

*KYLIE looks at the script.*

KYLIE

Wait a minute. *(Searches pages.)* Yes. *(Reading.)* Orpheus, a musician, who played beautiful music. Charon, the boatman, who takes the dead across the river Styx to the underworld.

DANNY

Takes the dead? But Lexie and Joey aren't dead.

KYLIE

He said something about blood and then he took them.

DANNY

But they aren't dead!

KYLIE

These pages say Orpheus was so overcome with grief over the loss of his wife Eurydice *(pronounced Ur-RID-eh-see)* that he convinced Charon to take him to the throne of Hades to plead for her life. Lexie was wearing Eurydice's costume.

DANNY

Hades? You mean hell?

KYLIE

No. Hades was the ruler of the underworld. In Greek mythology, it's where the dead go after life.

DANNY

Are you telling me that some random Greek guy has kidnapped Lexie and Joey?

KYLIE

Not a random guy. A character from the play! *(Suddenly hit by a thought.)* Wait! What if...

DANNY

If...

KYLIE

What if the fire brought the real Charon not only to get Eurydice but the people who also died in the fires?

DANNY

Who?

*The lights fade out and back up as BONNY and BEN reappear.*

BEN

Is he gone?

KYLIE

He took our friends.

BONNY

I'm sorry.

DANNY

Bonny what happened in the play before the fire?

BONNY

Charon-

BEN

-the scary man-

BONNY

-took the dead lady away in a boat.

BEN

*(Pointing at it.)* They got into that boat. Suddenly there was a big flame from one of the lights in the balcony

BONNY

-then the drapes on the exit up there caught on fire-

BEN

-at first we thought it was part of the play-

BONNY

-but then people started screaming and running and -

DANNY

What has this got to do with Lexie and Joey? They had nothing to do with the play or the fire that happened.

KYLIE

No. But what if in some weird way the play never got to finish and...it's still going on.

DANNY

Still going on? That's crazy!

KYLIE

*(Points at Bonnie and Ben.)* They said he kept looking for them.

*KYLIE searches the script and finds the page.*

It says here that Orpheus asked Charon to take him to the land of the dead to rescue Eurydice.

DANNY

So this guy comes back looking for dead...

*KYLIE and DANNY look at BONNIE and BEN.*

BONNY

We're not dead. We can't be.

KYLIE

*(To Bonnie.)* How long have you been here?

*She doesn't answer.*

BEN

We're waiting for our papa to come get us.

BONNY

He told us to wait here for him and he would come get us.

KYLIE

What if your papa couldn't come get you? What if...Charon was sent to take you to your papa.

BEN

*(Begins to cry.)* I don't want him to take me. I want Papa.

KYLIE

*(Looking at the script.)* Orpheus needs to ask Charon to take him to Hades to see Eurydice. *(To Danny.)* You need to ask him.

DANNY

Me?

KYLIE

And we need Bonny and Ben to help us.

BEN

No! I don't want him to come back.

*BEN starts to shrink back scared.*

DANNY

*(To Ben.)* We need you to help us find our friends.

*BEN starts to whimper.*

DANNY

*(To Ben.)* You want to know a secret?

BEN

What?

DANNY

Whenever I get scared of someone, I make myself angry so it feels like I have a suit of armor around me that doesn't let the scary thoughts in.

KYLIE

*(To Bonny.)* We have to go.

BEN

But isn't that where bad people go?

KYLIE

Hades is a person. Maybe when your papa told you to wait for him he meant to wait someplace else. (*Looks around.*) Some place better than a locked-up, cold, dark old theatre.

BONNY

You really think that's true?

DANNY

It's been a long time since the fire. Maybe Kylie is right. Maybe he's waiting for you some place else.

BONNY

But we tried to get out and we couldn't. Why couldn't we get the doors to open?

KYLIE

I don't know. (*Looks around and stops when her eyes rest on the boat.*) Maybe because you have to leave the way they did in the play. By boat.

DANNY

Boat?

KYLIE

If I remember right, we have to cross the river Styx.

DANNY

Why do you need a boat if the river's made of sticks?

KYLIE

S-t-y-x. It's the river's name.

DANNY

Oh. (*Looks around.*) But there's no water here.

BEN

If the play is still going, then we have to travel like they did.

DANNY

How?

BEN

We have to pretend.

KYLIE

Yeah. Let's just get in the boat and see what happens.

*DANNY starts to take off his costume robe and the lyre.*

KYLIE

NO!

DANNY

What?

KYLIE

If we are part of the play you need to keep that stuff on. You need to be Orpheus.

DANNY

*(Sarcastic.)* Terrific.

*KYLIE and DANNY drag the boat from the side of the stage and place it center. They get in the boat. BONNY starts to get into the boat but BEN hesitates. BONNY takes his hand and they get in. Everyone is seated.*

DANNY

Now what happens?

KYLIE

I guess we wait.

*THEY all wait. They all look around scared.*

DANNY

This feels stupid.

BONNY

Are you sure the boat will ferry us?

KYLIE

*(Thinks for a minute then stand and shouts.)* The fare!

Everyone is startled.



DANNY

Don't do that!

KYLIE

I just remembered!

*KYLIE hops out of the boat and runs to the prop trunk. She grabs some coins.*

We have to have drachma for the fare to cross the river.

*KYLIE gets back in the boat and sits. Everyone waits looking around scared. After few moments.*

BONNY

Nothing is happening.

KYLIE

I don't get it.

BEN

Maybe you have to throw the money into the river.

DANNY

Wait we forgot our flash-

*Just as DANNY says his part KYLIE throws the drachmas onto the stage. Suddenly the lighting changes and the stage is filled with OTHER WORLDLY SOUNDS. The stage has transformed into a river. The prop trunk and other stage pieces are removed by a group of four actors all dressed in black with black face coverings. The shadowy figure CHARON appears in a mystical way.*

CHARON'S VOICE

You have paid for passage. Do you wish to continue?

DANNY

We want...

KYLIE

*(Softly to Danny.)* To see Eurydice.

DANNY

*(To Charon.)* To see Eurydice.

CHARON'S VOICE

There is no turning back.

*Sound and light create the sense of movement as the faceless figures move the boat about the stage. Actors synchronize movement from side to side as if they are in the rapids. Eventually, the boat comes to a rest as the faceless figures disappear. The lights take on an eerie glow.*

DANNY

Are we here?

KYLIE

I guess so.

TO READ THE REST OF THE PLAY CONTACT MICHAEL COCHRAN  
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