

The Dark Path Home

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A full-length play

By Michael Cochran

Contact:  
Michael Cochran  
708 Woodland Dr  
270-210-6355  
Michmht@bellsouth.net

## CHARACTERS

Young actors ages 10-13

DANNY- A boy about 13 years old. Athletic and confident but sometimes it's a brave front.

LEXIE- A girl about 13 years old. More worldly than her peers. Adventurous and unafraid to express emotion.

KYLIE- A girl about 12 years old. Loves books, learning and tries to figure out how things work.

JOEY- A boy about 12 years old who is the opposite of his friend, Danny. He is hesitant and afraid of the unknown.

BONNY- A girl about 13 years old. African American. She was born in 1940. She is brave yet cautious. She is a ghost.

BEN- A boy about 10 years old. African American born in 1943. Bonny's younger brother. Loyal to his sister and wants to be like his papa. He is a ghost.

Any Age

FOUR FACELESS FIGURES who never speak and help with transportation to and from various parts of the underworld.

Adults

CHARON/HADES/ PAPA-These characters can be played by the same actor. Charon is the son of Nyx (Night), whose duty is to ferry the souls of the deceased over the Rivers Styx. Hades is the Greek god of the underworld. Both characters wear Greek tragedy masks. These characters are shadow figures who speak directly or they can be figures who someone offstage voices their part. The role of Papa is the largest speaking role but is only present as a formless voice.

ORACLE/SIREN/ PERSEPHONE- All these characters can be played by the same actor. The Oracle and Siren are female voices and are never seen. Persephone is a shadow figure who wears a Greek mask so her identity is hidden. She can speak directly or be a figure voiced by someone offstage.

## SCENE ONE

The basement of a house. It is a creepy old space rarely used that is full of cobwebs. A large box in the center acts as a table and four smaller boxes are around it like chairs. As the play opens, there is total darkness on the stage.

JOEY

(Scared) What was that?!

(Striking a match) Chicken?  
LEXIE

DANNY turns on a small pocket flashlight.

Where did you get the flashlight?  
JOEY

I always carry it with me.  
DANNY

LEXIE lights the candle in the middle of the table. DANNY turns off his flashlight and puts it back in his pocket. Around the table sit DANNY, LEXIE, KYLIE, and JOEY. JOEY AND KYLIE are standing, staring into the darkness. On the table each of them has a bottle of soda and a pile of Goldfish crackers. They are playing black jack.

Who blew out the candle?  
KYLIE

(Teasing) Maybe it's a ghost. Oooooo...  
LEXIE

Don't do that. It gives me the creeps.  
JOEY

I read a book about ghosts.  
KYLIE

You spend way too much time at that library.  
LEXIE

It's better than being at home.  
KYLIE

Want scary? Try listening to my parents fight about money.  
LEXIE

I'm not afraid of ghosts.  
JOEY

DANNY  
You're afraid of everything.

JOEY  
No I'm not.

DANNY  
Then I guess you're not afraid of that spider on your shoulder.

JOEY  
What! Get it off! Get it off!

DANNY  
(Knocks it off Joey's shoulder) Calm down.

JOEY  
I hate spiders!

DANNY  
What you should be afraid of is getting stuck in this town for the rest of your life.

LEXIE  
You got that right.

KYLIE  
I'm gonna be a biologist.

JOEY  
I hate science. Dissecting frogs and all that gross stuff.

DANNY  
Are we gonna play or talk?

JOEY  
Why do we have to play here?

LEXIE  
You're the only one with a creepy basement.

KYLIE  
(To Lexie) When you said we would do something fun I didn't picture sitting in the dark under Joey's house.

Shhh! My parents will hear us. JOEY

They won't hear us. DANNY

It's after eleven. LEXIE

I can hear them moving around up there. My dad just got home from work. JOEY

(Points to his cards) Hit me. DANNY

You already have 17 showing. KYLIE

It's his funeral. JOEY

LEXIE deals him another card.

Six of spades. Busted. LEXIE

(To Kylie) Your turn. DANNY throws his cards in.

Stay. LEXIE

The lady stays. Joey? LEXIE

JOEY looks at his hole card and then looks at cards already played, then looks at his hole card again.

We don't have all night. KYLIE

I'm thinking, okay? JOEY

LEXIE  
What's it gonna be?

JOEY  
Alright, alright. Hit me.

LEXIE deals.

LEXIE  
Two of hearts.

JOEY  
Stay! Stay! (waves his hand) STAY!

LEXIE  
(Looks at her own hand) Dealer has a king of clubs showing. (Looks at Kylie's and Joey's hands) Kylie has a queen showing so I'm betting she has another face card in the hole. Joey has a seven and a two showing and I bet he has a face card in the hole, too. Dealer takes another card. (Deals herself a card). Two of spades. Okay, now I've got twelve showing. (Pushes all of her Goldfish to the center of the pile) I'm betting it all.

KYLIE looks at ther hand again.

KYLIE  
Too rich for me. (Turns over cards) I fold.

LEXIE  
Bet's to you, Joey.

JOEY pushes all his Goldfish crackers to the center of the table.

JOEY  
I call.

LEXIE  
He's feeling good. But I'm feeling better. Think I'll take another card.

DANNY  
Are you crazy?

LEXIE  
(Deals herself a card) An ace.

LEXIE flips her hole card over and its an eight.

That's twenty-one.

KYLIE

You took a card when you already had twenty?

JOEY

(Flipping his cards over). How do you always win?

DANNY

She was born lucky.

LEXIE

(Laughs) If I was born lucky I woulda grown up on the west end of town.

DANNY

A country club kid...hanging out by the pool all day while daddy's on the golf course.

LEXIE

Like you've ever been there. You're just jealous.

DANNY

Jay, caddies on weekends. Once he took me with him 'cause golfers are always losing these expensive balls. If I could find 'em, we could sell them. I would follow Jay around the course hiding in the woods. This old guy spotted me and came charging over. He thought I had picked up his ball.

JOEY

Bet this doesn't end well.

DANNY

Called me a thief and wanted to call the cops. Jay told the guy he would take care of it.

JOEY

So what happened.

DANNY

He pretended to call the cops on me and then I snuck out.

KYLIE

Your brother is the one who should have gotten in trouble.

DANNY

(Changing the subject) I'm hungry.

DANNY takes one of the Goldfish and eats it.

LEXIE

Hey, that's my Goldfish!

DANNY

You want it back.

He sticks his tongue out with the half-eaten Goldfish on it.

KYLIE

That's just gross!

DANNY laughs.

JOEY

Shhh, keep it down!

LEXIE

Live a little.

JOEY

Now what are we gonna do?

KYLIE

I say we go home. I've got to get up early to study.

DANNY

Nobody leaves. This is an all-nighter!

LEXIE absentmindedly begins to make shadow puppets. She makes a bird.

KYLIE

Lexie, where did you learn to make shadow puppets?

LEXIE

I make them on the wall of my bedroom. There's a streetlight that shines in my window.

DANNY

What's that one?



LEXIE

It's a hawk. (She makes hawk sounds.)

JOEY

That sounds like a real hawk.

LEXIE

(Stops making the shadow puppets) So what else can we play?

JOEY

I've got some board games. How about Monopoly?

LEXIE

Monopoly? We all snuck out, we're in a dark place and you want to play Monopoly? Don't you have anything like a Ouija board?

JOEY

Nope. My folks won't let me have stuff like that. They say people who play with Ouija boards are going to hell. How about Crazy Eights?

LEXIE

That's for little kids. We need to play something we can bet on.

KYLIE

You've got all the Goldfish so what's left to bet?

DANNY

We could play strip poker.

KYLIE

No way!

JOEY

I'm out.

DANNY drains the last of his drink and burps loudly.

KYLIE

(Sarcastic) Nice. Don't you have any manners?

DANNY

Nope. I'm feeling lucky!

LEXIE

That's a laugh. You haven't won anything all night!

DANNY

Your lucky streak is all used up.

LEXIE

It's not luck, it's skill. I could beat you at anything.

DANNY

Anything?

LEXIE

You name it.

KYLIE

Lexie?

DANNY

Anything?

JOEY

Wait a minute.

LEXIE

Go ahead. Name it and we'll play.

DANNY

Well, if I get to name the game--then Truth or Dare.

KYLIE

I'm not playing that.

JOEY

I'm with Kylie

DANNY

(Ignoring Kylie and Joey) Afraid you might have to tell your secrets, Lexie?

LEXIE

I'm not afraid of you. (Looks at the others) But...everyone has to play or no deal.

KYLIE

Why do I have to play?

JOEY

Yeah, why do we have to play?

LEXIE

So I'm not the only one sticking my neck out.

DANNY

Then it's settled. Joey will play.

JOEY

No, I won't.

DANNY

If you don't play, I'll start yelling and your parents will hear us.

JOEY

That's not fair!

LEXIE

Kylie'll play, too.

KYLIE

What?

LEXIE

Or I'll tell everyone who you have a crush on.

KYLIE

Lexie! That's not fair at all! You can't tell that!

DANNY

Now we really have to play!

LEXIE

Kylie?

KYLIE

Oh, all right. But I know I'm gonna regret this.

DANNY

Good, we're all in.

JOEY

Who goes first?

LEXIE

Let's draw cards. High card gets to ask the question. Low card has to answer or take a dare.

DANNY

Okay.

DANNY shuffles the cards. They draw cards from the shuffled deck. LEXIE gets the high card and Joey gets the low card. KYLIE sighs with relief.

LEXIE

(To Joey) Truth or Dare?

JOEY

Truth.

LEXIE

Tell us your most embarrassing dream.

Joey squirms a bit as he doesn't really want to answer this.

LEXIE

Answer the question.

JOEY

I'm...I'm...at the school and I'm walking home. I have this giant water balloon. The balloon breaks, soaking me and it looks like....like I peed my pants. Suddenly everyone is looking at me and my clothes are gone and I'm naked and have to run from bush to bush to get home without being seen.

DANNY

(To Joey) That's lame. Okay, next.

LEXIE shuffles the cards. Everyone draws. This time JOEY has the high card and KYLIE has the low card.

JOEY

Truth or Dare?

Truth.  
KYLIE

JOEY  
What is the worst thing you've ever done in your life?

KYLIE  
(She hesitates as if deciding whether to say something or not, then, finally) Once I stole money from my mom's purse so I could go to the movies.

LEXIE  
Did she ever find out?

KYLIE  
No, I blamed it on my brother who always did stuff like that. He got grounded for a week.

DANNY  
Definitely headed for juvie! (He laughs). Time to shuffle.

JOEY shuffles the cards and LEXIE gets the high card and DANNY gets the low card.

LEXIE  
Afraid?

DANNY  
I'm not afraid of anything.

KYLIE  
Everybody has something they're afraid of.

LEXIE  
Okay mister hero, Truth or Dare?

DANNY  
Truth.

LEXIE  
Who do you have a crush on?

DANNY  
Can I change to Dare?

LEXIE

Look who's afraid now! Nope! Answer the question.

DANNY

I plead the 4th ammendment.

JOEY

The what?

DANNY

You know the thing people who are arrested say when they don't want to talk.

KYLIE

That's the 5th Amendment. The 4th Amendment is about search and seizure.

DANNY

I take the 4th and the 5th then. You can't search, seize or force me to talk.

LEXIE

You can't take any amendment in Truth or Dare. If you play that way, game's over.

KYLIE and JOEY agree.

DANNY

Okay! Okay! On the first day of kindergarden I met this girl. She walked straight up to me and told me she liked my shoes. I've had a crush on her ever since.

LEXIE

Stop screwing around. Who is it?

DANNY

I told you who. It's another question to ask her name.

KYLIE

I don't know if that's exactly fair. It's part of the same question.

DANNY

You just have to learn how to ask the questions better. Shut up and shuffle the cards.

LEXIE

(To KYLIE) He's just too scared to answer.

DANNY

I'm not scared.

KYLIE shuffles the cards. This time DANNY gets the high card and LEXIE gets the low card.

DANNY

Yes sir! Truth or Dare?

LEXIE looks at DANNY for a long moment trying to gauge what he is going to ask.

LEXIE

Dare.

DANNY

I dare you to go into the old Orpheum theatre tonight.

JOEY & KYLIE

What?

KYLIE

It's all boarded up. There's no way in there.

DANNY

Yes, there is. I have a key.

JOEY

How?

DANNY

Jay is an intern for the city and he got the key to write a report about the place. He says they're finally gonna tear it down.

JOEY

I heard that place is haunted!

KYLIE

It closed in the 1950s after a fire killed a bunch of people. They planned to tear it down a bunch of times, but it never happened.

DANNY

The Orpheum tonight.

KYLIE

Are you crazy?

DANNY

Now who's afraid of ghosts?

LEXIE

I'm not scared of anything. But I'm not going unless everyone else goes, too.

JOEY

I'm not going. That wasn't my dare!

DANNY

Oh, yes you are. You don't go and I'll tell everyone at school you pee your pants when you get scared. We can make that nightmare a reality.

JOEY

I do not! That's not true!

DANNY

Doesn't have to be true for me to say it!

JOEY

You wouldn't!

DANNY

Try me.

JOEY

(Angry) Fine.

LEXE

Kylie's gonna be there, too, or I'll tell your mom about the money.

KYLIE

Lexie!

LEXIE

So we have a deal.

DANNY

Deal!

We hear the SOUND of a DOOR.

MALE ADULT VOICE

Who's down there!

JOEY

Oh crap! Quick, grab the stuff.



MALE ADULT VOICE

I'm getting my baseball bat, and I'm coming down there.

They start to panic!

DANNY

(Whispers frantically) Use the cellar door!

THEY all grab stuff and rush to the door.

DANNY stops LEXIE as the others exit.

DANNY

Orpheum Theatre. Unless you're too afraid.

LEXIE

I'm not the one who's afraid of saying who you have a crush on.

LEXIE exits.

JOEY (O.S.)

Come on! He's coming!

DANNY blows out the candle and runs out.

BLACK OUT.

SCENE TWO

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. There are a few ropes and set pieces scattered about the stage 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. Half way back on the stage is a large box structure with what appears to be a solid sides. There is a ladder leaned against one side and is sturdy enough to climb and stand on at the top of.

Flashlight beams move around in the darkness and then LEXIE, DANNY, KYLIE, and JOEY enter. Each of them are carrying large flashlights. They enter down an audience aisle making their way towards the stage.

JOEY

This place gives me the creeps. Look at all these empty seats. I wonder where all those people who sat there are now? My dad told me he used to come here when he was a little kid.

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.

They all stare at the audience.

JOEY

Feels like people are looking at us.

LEXIE

I thought this place burned in a fire.

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. It's all burned.

KYLIE

I read that almost a hundred people died in the fire.

DANNY

Why do you read when you can watch tv?

KYLIE

I like history. There used to be a rooftop garden on this place. I saw a picture of all the people holding champagne glasses after one of the plays getting autographs from the actors.

DANNY

(Laughs) That's just dumb.

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

LEXIE

Whoaa! Look up there. There's stuff hanging up there. Lights and big painted sheets. 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?

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!

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

LEXIE

I can't believe this place still has power.

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 ghosts in it!

DANNY

(To Joey) Scared?

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.

DANNY

Get a load of this.

DANNY pulls out a tunic with a pattern on it which he puts on. LEXIE spots a Greek robe and takes it out.

LEXIE

This is me!

LEXIE takes the flowing robe and slips it over her head.

LEXIE

How do I look?

KYLIE

Like one of those Greek goddesses.

DANNY

You look like a ghost to me.

LEXIE

(Ghostly moans). Ohhhhhhhhhhhh.

JOEY

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

DANNY grabs a lyre with a carrying strap.

DANNY

Hey, Get a load of this. (He strums it and it plays a beautiful chord)

LEXIE climbs a ladder built onto the side of the platform and stands on the top to look around while KYLIE continues to investigate the trunk with JOEY.

DANNY

How is this thing still in tune? I can't keep my guitar in tune for a week and this thing has been here for years.

KYLIE pulls out some pages.

KYLIE

Look at this script.

JOEY

Let me see. (Sounding it out) Or-fas.

KYLIE

I think that's Orpheus.

JOEY

Sounds like Orpheum.

LEXIE

Maybe the theatre was named after this 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 stuffs the script into her pocket and climbs the ladder to look where LEXIE had been standing.

KYLIE

She's gone!

JOEY

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

KYLIE

(Yelling) Lexie! Lexie!

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 wall.

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 on the platform 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.

(Describing) The top opened!

KYLIE

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

Now it's closed again.

KYLIE

JOEY

Did you see Lexie?

KYLIE

No. 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 board in to keep it open.

DANNY

Okay.

KYLIE

Ready? Now!

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

Now flip it back!

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

JOEY

Did you get it?



KYLIE

I got it. (Looks down). I see her!

DANNY

(Climbs the ladder and looks into the open trap) We need to get to her out.

DANNY takes KYLIE'S flashlight and climbs into the trap and goes out of sight.

KYLIE

Is she okay?

DANNY

I can't tell. It looks like there's a handle on the wall inside here. Stand back.

The face of the platform opens up a little.  
It won't open all the way. Try pulling it from your side.

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

KYLIE

(Bending over LEXIE) She's still breathing.

JOEY

Ahhh. I cut my hand on the wall. It's bleeding pretty bad.

DANNY grabs a piece of fabric from the floor inside the platform 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 die if we don't get out of here.

KYLIE

We have got to get some help! I'll stay with Lexie while you get help.

DANNY and JOEY run down the audience aisle.

JOEY (O.S.)

It 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

What's going on?

JOEY

Stop flipping switches! The last time it almost killed Lexie!

DANNY

Who cares! At least there some light.

KYLIE

Who cares! At least it's not pitch black anymore.

DANNY

(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!

During a dark moment BONNY and BEN move into place against the wall. They are dressed in similar colors to the wall they stand in front of. LEXIE disappears. The lights come back up. DANNY, JOEY, and KYLIE do not see the new strangers.

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 the door open. Look for something we can open it with.

DANNY

We need to find something to pry with.

THEY search the stage. KYLIE then looks back and discovers LEXIE's gone.

Where did Lexie go?

DANNY

She was right there just a second ago!

JOEY

Why does she keep disappearing?

KYLIE

She's got to be here somewhere!

THEY begin to search the room calling out for LEXIE. DANNY suddenly notices the kids against the wall.

Guys?

KYLIE

What?

JOEY

What?

The lights go dark 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 my flashlight.

DANNY tries the flashlight but it doesn't work.

DANNY

Why doesn't this work? It was fine just a few seconds ago.

KYLIE moves to DANNY. JOEY stays by the wall. Lights fade back on. .

KYLIE

(To DANNY) Hurry up. I don't like this.

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

JOEY

You don't like this? I said we should never have come 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.

KYLIE

Is that you moving around, Joey?

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

DANNY

Okay, I've got it.

DANNY turns and sees an empty wall.

Where did Joey go?

KYLIE

Joey! Joey!? Joey!

DANNY

He couldn't have gotten out of the room.

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 wanted to play this stupid game none of this would have happened!

DANNY

We need to stop arguing and find them. Let's stick together.

DANNY finds a small piece of rope on the floor.

Here. Tie this around you. I'll do the same. This way we can't be separated.

They tie the ropes on themselves.

KYLIE

Now what? See if there's something in here we can use to get that door opened.

They each start to head to opposite sides of the room and are yanked back by the rope.

DANNY

Stop pulling!

KYLIE

This is stupid. We can only look in one place if we're tied together like this. I'm untying the rope.

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?

Keep searching!

DANNY

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

Danny! Look!

DANNY

Where.....

BONNY

You have to come with us.

BEN

Before he comes.

DANNY

Who are you?

BONNY

We must hurry!

KYLIE

Where are Lexie and Joey?

BEN

They're safe.

DANNY

Safe from what?

BEN

Safe from the scary man.

KYLIE

Scary man?



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

Look at how they're dressed. They must have died in the fire and somehow they got stuck here.

KYLIE

Metallic sound is closer.

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

BEN

We want our friends back.

KYLIE

Bring them back.  
DANNY

Are you sure?  
BONNY

Just bring our friends back now!  
DANNY

The SCRAPING METALIC 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.

Ow, that's too tight.  
LEXIE

It needs to have pressure to stop the bleeding.  
JOEY

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

(To Ben) How did you do that?  
DANNY

You were gone and now you're back.  
KYLIE

I don't hear him.  
BEN

Who? What's going on?  
LEXIE

We have to find a way out.  
DANNY

You can't leave.  
BONNY

Why?  
KYLIE

BONNY  
He won't let us escape.

JOEY  
What?

DANNY  
Who are you?

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

LEXIE  
Where did you come from?

BEN  
(Pointing to the balcony) Up there.

JOEY  
The balcony?

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

BEN  
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.

BONNY  
Everyone was running and screaming.

BEN  
We'd never been in this part before.

KYLIE  
This part?

BONNY  
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  
What play?

BONNY  
The one they were doing on the stage.

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

Everytime 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  
figure CHARON. There is a LOUD METALIC  
SOUND coming from him. ALL THE KIDS  
SCREAM. CHARON is wearing some kind of  
a Greek mask that distorts and masks 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.

Time for what? LEXIE

Those who are called will come. CHARON'S VOICE

We haven't been called. KYLIE

(Pointing at LEXIE and JOEY). You both bleed. You will come. CHARON'S VOICE

No! Wait! DANNY

It is not your time, Orpheus. CHARON'S VOICE

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.

I can't move. KYLIE

No! You can't take them! DANNY

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.

No! Come back! DANNY

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

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.

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

How do you know this stuff.

KYLIE

Unlike some people I read books.

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 Charon was here for people who died in the fire.

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.

KYLIE

Bonny what happened in the play before the fire?

BONNY

Charon-

BEN

-the scary guy-

BONNY

-took the wounded away in a boat. Then Orpheus asked Charon to take him across the river to rescue them.

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 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 Bonny and Ben) They said he kept looking for them. What if this Charon guy keeps coming back from the underworld, for the dead, until Orpheus goes to rescue Eurydice.

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.

DANNY

(Kneels to talk to Ben) He took our friends, and we have to find them.

KYLIE

(To Bonny) We need Charon-

BEN

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

BEN starts to shrink back scared.

DANNY

( To Ben) We need your help.

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

We have to go to Hades.

BEN

But isn't that where bad people go?

KYLIE

Hades is a person.

KYLIE

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.

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 the 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

But there's no...

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. CHARON appears in a mystical way.

CHARON'S VOICE

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

DANNY

We want our friends back.

CHARON'S VOICE

Do you wish to continue?

DANNY

(Looks at the others) Yes.

CHARON'S VOICE

There is no turning back.

Sound and light create the sense of movement as the actors synchronously move their bodies from side to side as if they are in the rapids as the faceless figures move the boat up and down on the stage. Eventually, the boat comes to a rest as the faceless figures disappear. The lights take on an erie glow.

DANNY

Are we here?

KYLIE

I guess so.

They slowly get out of the boat and KYLIE and DANNY push it back off to the side.

BONNY

So what do we do now?

CHARON'S VOICE

Follow the path.

They all look around.

BEN

What path?

The lights come up on a part of the stage and they move towards it. They then start a journey single file that leads them around the stage and through the audience. They become aware of the audience as if they are souls, floating.

KYLIE

(Looking at audience) Do you see them?

DANNY

They look like little floating lights.

KYLIE

They must be the souls of the people who got lost on the path and never made it.

DANNY

Maybe they're the audience who watched the play and never got to see the end.

They look strange.

BEN

I hope I never end up like that.

BONNY

DANNY and KYLIE look at each other.

Yeah, let's hope not.

DANNY

Do you think all of these people were bad so they didn't go to heaven?

BEN

No, I think they just got stuck in the middle.

KYLIE

A small light appears on the stage.

Look at that light.

BONNY

The light grows into a pool of light and begins to pulse brighter and dimmer.

It feels like it's calling. It wants us to step in it.

BEN

I don't know if that's a good idea.

KYLIE

THEY walk up on the stage. BONNY reaches out and puts her hand in the pool of light.

It's warm.

BONNY

A voice is suddenly heard, softly at first but gets louder.

Bonny?

PAPA'S VOICE

How does it know you?

DANNY

PAPA'S VOICE  
Bonny, honey? It's me.

BONNY  
Papa?

PAPA'S VOICE  
Yes, baby. It's me.

BEN  
(Runs into the pool of light) Papa?

PAPA'S VOICE  
My little man? Ben?

BONNY  
It's us, Papa. We're here to find you. We waited for you to come but you never came back.

PAPA'S VOICE  
I tried. Charon took me over the river and then I couldn't get back to you.

BEN  
Papa we missed you so much! We were so scared.

PAPA'S VOICE  
You were very brave.

BONNY  
I want to see you. Where are you?

PAPA'S VOICE  
I'm right here in the light.

BEN  
Danny and Kylie are trying to help us.

PAPA'S VOICE  
That's good.

DANNY  
(To the voice) Do you know where our friends Lexie and Joey are?

PAPA'S VOICE  
No. I'm sorry.



We need to find them. Let's go.

KYLIE

I'm staying with Papa.

BEN

I'm staying, too.

BONNY

The pool of light begins to fade.

BONNY

What's happening?

PAPA'S VOICE

I can't seem to hold on to you.

BEN

Don't go, Papa!

PAPA'S VOICE

Find a way back to me....

The LIGHT fades away.

BEN

No!

The voice and light are now completely gone.

DANNY

How are we supposed to find Lexie and Joey?

KYLIE

We need to find Hades.

They all start to walk. We hear the sound of and unidentified WHISPERS. DANNY whirls around looking for the source.

DANNY

Who's there?

Danny? Are you okay?

KYLIE

Did you hear that?

DANNY

Hear what?

KYLIE

(Hiding something) Never mind. It's just my imagination. Sorry. (He starts walking)  
Let's go.

DANNY

They begin to travel around the stage.

According to the books the underworld is set up like a maze.

KYLIE

What if we get lost?

BONNY

Then we find our way back to the start and begin again.

DANNY

They start walking as the lights fade.

### SCENE THREE

As the lights come up fog begins to fill the stage. DANNY, KYLIE, BONNY and BEN enter. A figure appears in the mist. Its voice seems to come from nowhere and everywhere. The figure is wearing a king's Greek tragedy mask that obscures part of his face.

Orpheus. Why have you come?

HADES VOICE

KYLIE pushes DANNY towards the front of the group.

DANNY

We...we are here for our friends Lexie and Joey-

KYLIE

(Indicating Bonny and Ben) - and to help Bonny and Ben.

HADES VOICE

(Roars) Do you think I am a genie? That you can rub a magic lamp and I will grant your wishes?

DANNY

We only want to/ help our-

HADES VOICE

/Silence! Your requests are denied.

BEN hides behind BONNY.

BONNY

Denied? But you haven't even heard our request. Please!

HADES VOICE

This is a place of the dead, not the living. Your journey here forfeits your life. You must join with the other dead.

DANNY

We don't want to join the other dead.

HADES VOICE

Then you may forever stay with the lost souls at the edge of the river. We are at an end.

DANNY

I'll do whatever it takes.

HADES VOICE

(Laughs) Whatever it takes? (Laughs) Very well, if you can find your way through the maze, get past the Oracle and my guardians, then I will listen to your plea.

DANNY

The Oracle? What is that?

HADES VOICE

The Oracle sees all and knows all.

KYLIE

How do we find this Oracle?

HADES VOICE

Before dawn you must return to the land of the living or your request is denied..

The figure, lights and the voice disappear.

BONNY

I don't like this.

BEN

Maybe we should just go back and search for Papa and take him back in the boat.

KYLIE

Charon said there was no return.

BONNY

What do we do now?

DANNY

We need to find the Oracle.

They begin to search the stage.

KYLIE

What are we looking for?

DANNY

An entrance to the maze and maybe some kind of weapon.

BEN

Here's a stick.

DANNY

Good work!

KYLIE

What now?

The SOUND OF WIND BLOWING.

DANNY

(Stops and puts his hand up). Do you feel that? It feels like a wind coming from this direction. That could be where the maze starts.

They begin to walk single file in a line in a pattern across the stage.

The lighting limits their vision of what they can see to just a pool of light where they walk.

After they have walked for a few moments they come to an obstacle. (These can be real objects placed in the path by the four faceless beings or shapes created by the four beings.) They crawl under the obstacle one-by-one and then get back on their feet.

DANNY

Let's rest for a minute.

KYLIE

It's getting hotter.

DANNY

What does that mean?

KYLIE

It means we are getting closer to the center of the earth.

DANNY

What?

KYLIE

Didn't you pay any attention in science when we studied the earth's core.

DANNY

I never thought I would actually need to know any of that stuff.

KYLIE

In Greek mythology the monsters usually come from under the earth. The hero has to confront them to slay them.

DANNY

What if I don't want to be the hero?

KYLIE

Not you, stupid! All of us. We're the hero.

DANNY

Great we've got a girl with her nose in books all the time, a couple of ghost kids, and me. All I know about heros is from comic books.

BONNY  
Kylie? Can I ask you a question?

KYLIE  
Sure.

BONNY  
Why were we still at the theatre?

KYLIE  
You were waiting.

BONNY  
What happened to us... that we became (looks at her arms)... like this?

KYLIE  
Maybe your feelings for your papa were too strong so you couldn't leave.

BONNY  
But what happened to our... real bodies?

KYLIE  
I don't know.

BONNY  
Are we really... haints?

KYLIE  
Haints?

BONNY  
Ghosts. I thought ghosts would be all...see-through and not solid.

KYLIE  
I've never seen a ghost before so I don't know.

BONNY  
(Looks at Kylie) You're different.

KYLIE  
Why?

BONNY  
I've never known a white girl like you.

KYLIE

Why?

BONNY

We weren't allowed in white schools or churches. When we came to see plays we had to sit in the colored balcony with all the other colored folks. I always wanted to sit in the front row, down close, to see the actors' faces.

DANNY

That must have sucked.

BONNY

Sucked?

KYLIE

He means it was bad.

BONNY

I would beg our mama and papa to take us to the theatre. We could sit in the dark and my skin color didn't matter. It was like waving a magic wand. I would watch all those stories and I could be anyone: a king or a queen or fall in love with whoever I wanted for those couple of hours. My papa used to love Greek plays the most. He had this old book and would read some of the stories to us at night before bed.

BEN

When the plays were over Bonny would get sad.

BONNY

We had to go back to following all the rules for coloreds. Papa would get angry when I asked him about it. I sometimes I think he was scared, too.

BEN

Danny said he gets angry when he gets scared.

DANNY

That's different.

BEN

Why?

DANNY

Because if I get angry then I can fight back.

A circle appears in the middle of the stage.

What's that?  
KYLIE

I don't know.  
DANNY

EVERYONE approaches it cautiously and steps inside the ring. The lights on the rest of the stage begin to narrow down towards the center.

What's going on?  
BONNY

I don't know.  
KYLIE

KYLIE steps out of the light and suddenly can't breathe.

It's like all the air is gone outside of the light.  
KYLIE

She steps back into the light. DANNY steps outside it and has the same effect. The pool of light continues to shrink. Everyone starts backing up towards the center of the circle.

Do you wish to enter?  
ORACLE VOICE

Enter?  
DANNY

To resume your journey. You must answer before the circle is extinguished.  
ORACLE VOICE

The pool of light continues to slowly shrink.

Answer?  
KYLIE

There is a house. One enters it blind and comes out seeing. What is it?  
ORACLE VOICE



DANNY  
I don't get it? A house?

BONNY  
It's a riddle.

KYLIE  
...enters it blind and comes out seeing..

BEN  
Hurry! It's getting smaller.

The circle continues to close as they all continue  
to back up towards each other in the center.

DANNY  
An eye doctor!

ORACLE VOICE  
That is incorrect. You have two chances left.

DANNY  
A dark room?

ORACLE VOICE  
That is incorrect. You have one chance left.

The circle is now very small and all of them are  
back to back inside it.

KYLIE  
Stop shouting out stuff ! You're wasting our chances!

DANNY  
I don't hear you coming up with any answers.

BONNY  
A school!

The lights suddenly expands and the circle is  
gone.

ORACLE VOICE  
Continue your journey.

They all take deep breaths of air.

KYLIE

(To Bonny) How did you know that?

BONNY

My papa used to tell us riddles all the time.

DANNY

Let's get moving before the Oracle asks us another question.

They all begin to walk in a single file.

BEN

(To Kylie) I know another riddle.

KYLIE

Tell me.

BEN

What walks on four legs in the morning, two legs at noon, and three legs in the evening?

BONNY

That's too easy.

BEN

(Laughs) A man. He crawls when he's little, walks on two legs when he's grown up and uses a cane when he's old.

KYLIE

That was a good riddle.

BEN

Here is another one...

Suddenly three sets of glowing eyes appear in front of them. The four faceless black figures help manipulate a giant, three-headed dog beast. It lunges and roars.

DANNY

Look out!

DANNY takes the stick he has been carrying and holds it out in front of him.

DANNY

(Yelling at the creature) Stay back.

DANNY thrusts his stick at the monster. It dodges the stick and tries to attack him with its three heads. They battle back and forth. DANNY makes a lunge at the BEAST and misses which allows the monster to fling him to the side. DANNY cries out in pain. DANNY gets back up and continues to fight the BEAST. Suddenly the BEAST is able to wrest the stick away from DANNY. DANNY falls to the ground and just as the BEAST is about to lunge at him again, he grabs the lyre from his back to use as a shield. The lyre makes a sound. The BEAST hesitates.

KYLIE

Wait! Wait!

DANNY

What?

KYLIE

Play it?

DANNY

Play what?

KYLIE

The harp! Play it!

DANNY

This thing is going to eat us all and you want me to play music?

KYLIE

Just do it!

Danny grabs the lyre and strums it. The BEAST looks up and around as if confused for a moment and then slowly lowers its head and backs away out of sight.

BONNY

It worked! Your music made it go away!

BEN

How did you know how to play that?

DANNY

I didn't. I just touched the strings and it made the music all by itself. (To Kylie) How did you know it would do that?

KYLIE

I remembered music was used to overpower many of the monsters in the Greek stories.

LEXIE (O.S.)

Kylie? Danny?

DANNY

That's Lexie! We're over here.

JOEY runs on.

JOEY

I thought we were lost forever!

LEXIE runs to Kylie and they hug.

LEXIE

I can't believe you found us.

DANNY sinks to the ground in exhaustion and relief. KYLIE goes to him.

KYLIE

Are you okay?

DANNY

Yeah.

JOEY

We were kidnapped and then stuck in a dark cave. Where have you been.

DANNY

Mostly walking around in the dark. (To LEXIE) Are you okay?

LEXIE

I'm alright. My head still hurts a little. I can't believe you found us.

DANNY

We couldn't just leave you.

JOEY

I need to get back to a place where there's some light.

LEXIE

I'm with you on that.

DANNY

Let's see if we can find our way back.

They all begin to walk to try to retrace their steps. A SIREN sings softly at first, then her volume increases. There are no words, just a lilting melody.

JOEY

Do you hear that? It's beautiful..

LEXIE

It sounds like singing.

BONNY

I don't feel good about this.

JOEY

Maybe it's the way out?

KYLIE

It's so beautiful.

KYLIE, JOEY, and DANNY sit down.

LEXIE

I don't like this.

KYLIE

It feels so peaceful.

DANNY

It makes me sleepy.

All except BEN, BONNY, and LEXIE sit and slowly start to lay down and close their eyes.

JOEY

I think we should just take a little nap for a while and then we can find the way out later.

BEN

Come on. Please! (He puts his fingers in his ears)

LEXIE tears off two pieces of cloth from her head bandage and stuffs them into her ears.

LEXIE

We need to block out the sound.

Suddenly a RUSTLING SOUND is heard along with the singing.

BEN

What is that?

From above wispy nets fall like giant spiderwebs hanging through the space. The lighting makes them appear to be moving, slightly.

BONNY

Look up (pointing at the spiderwebs) Spiders. There must be thousands of them all running this way.

The lighting makes it appear that little moving objects are all crawling down and even, if possible, towards the audience.

BEN

I'm scared of spiders.

BONNY

(To Ben) Don't look at them.

LEXIE

Help me.

LEXIE, BEN and BONNY pull on the others but they won't budge. Fog begins to fill the stage and the FOUR FACELESS FIGURES from earlier creep out of the corners of the stage and begin to cover JOEY, KYLIE, and DANNY in gauzy fabrics as the voice continues to sing.

BONNY

(Lifting Danny by the arms) Danny! Danny! Don't fall asleep.

The VOICE CONTINUES TO SING but gradually changes into a frightening sound with raspy noises and clicking sounds.

BEN

I can't wake them up.

BONNY

We need to do something!

LEXIE runs over to DANNY and gets the flashlight out of his pocket. She starts to make the hawk shadow puppet.

BEN

What are you doing?

LEXIE

Spiders are afraid of birds. Maybe this will scare them away.

LEXIE begins to make the HAWK SOUND. The spiders stop moving and begin to retreat as the noises fade away.

BEN

Bonny! It's working.

The others begin to awake. BONNY and BEN set to work unwrapping the others.

KYLIE

What happened?

DANNY

All I wanted to do was to sleep.

JOEY

I was having the strangest dream. It was so warm and soft, (tries to lay back down) like being covered with a cloud.

BONNY

It was a giant spider was singing you to sleep so she could eat you. (Points at Lexie) She made a shadow bird and scared them away.

JOEY

A spider?

DANNY

You saved our lives.

KYLIE

How long were we asleep?

LEXIE

Just a few minutes why?

JOEY

(Looks at his watch) My watch says it's almost 5 am.

KYLIE

That's about an hour until dawn.

DANNY

We gotta go quickly before sunrise or we're all stuck here.

LEXIE

Wait a minute! What do you mean?

JOEY

Why do we only have until dawn?

KYLIE

We're finishing the play.

LEXIE

What play?



KYLIE pulls the script pages out of her pocket and points at it.

KYLIE

This play.

LEXIE

I don't get it.

KYLIE

You were taken because that's what happened in the play.

LEXIE

I wasn't in the play.

KYLIE

(Points to her Greek dress) You're wearing Eurydice's costume. In the play Eurydice dies and goes to the underworld. Orpheus (Points at DANNY) risks his life to go to Hades, the King of the underworld, to plead for her return to the land of the living.

JOEY

Then what?

KYLIE

I don't know.

DANNY

What do you mean you don't know. I thought you knew all about this Greek stuff.

KYLIE

That doesn't mean I know every story!

LEXIE

What does the script say happens?

KYLIE looks at the last page and then flips a few pages before it.

KYLIE

The final pages are gone.

JOEY

Gone?

KYLIE  
It doesn't say how it ends.

DANNY  
Do they get back?

BONNY  
What about my brother and me?

KYLIE  
I don't know.

LEXIE  
Let me see that script.

KYLIE hands LEXIE the script. LEXIE begins to search through it.

BEN  
I don't want to stay here any more.

LEXIE  
(Looking at the script turns to Danny) So you're Orpheus?

DANNY  
(Looks at the costume he is wearing). Yeah. I guess.

LEXIE  
And I'm your beloved?

DANNY  
(Looks at LEXIE). Well, the play says... yes, you are.

LEXIE  
Am I the little girl in kindergarden?

DANNY  
...maybe...

LEXIE  
So you came to rescue me because...

(Beat)

JOEY

Not to break up your little love moment but we want to go back home! How does Danny, I mean Orpheus, rescue all of us and not just his girlfriend?

LEXIE

I'm not his girlfriend.

KYLIE

We're wasting time. The script says Hades lets Orpheus go. That's the only clue we have.

DANNY

So we need to see Hades again, and we have to do it before dawn. Come on.

The lights transition as they walk around the stage to journey back. An arch is placed by the FOUR FACELESS FIGURES and begins to glow red. DANNY steps into the arch and is immediately in pain and steps back.

DANNY

Oww!

KYLIE

What is it?

KYLIE walks up and reaches out into the arch and immediately pulls her hand back in pain.

KYLIE

Oww! When you reach through it burns.

LEXIE

There must be some way around it.

JOEY

Maybe we should go back the way we came and see if there's/ another

DANNY and KYLIE turn around as JOEY suddenly walks into an invisible barrier.

JOEY

/Hey, there's some kind of wall here.

That's crazy.

LEXIE

LEXIE walks into the invisible barrier.

Oww.

LEXIE

What did I tell you!

JOEY

But we just came this way.

BONNY

JOEY and LEXIE begin to mime exploring along the invisible wall. BEN walks up to arch putting his hand out and feels nothing. He slowly keeps walking through the arch.

(Turning to see Ben) Ben!

BONNY

They all look at BEN.

How did you do that?

DANNY

It doesn't hurt.

BEN

Let me try.

LEXIE

LEXIE tries to walk through the arch and is repelled by the pain.

Oww!

LEXIE

BONNY walks up and carefully puts her hand into the archway . She then slowly passes through the arch.

DANNY

Come back to this side and try walking through it again.

BEN and BONNY slowly walks back through  
the arch.

LEXIE

How can they walk through and we can't.

KYLIE

(Hesitates to say it) Maybe because they're...

BONNY

Ghosts?

KYLIE

They can walk through walls just like... Wait a minute! Back at the theatre. Remember how you pulled us out of the basement when Charon was coming.

JOEY

I remember that, too!

DANNY

Maybe you could do the same thing you did there and get us past this wall.

BEN

We could try.

DANNY

What do we need to do?

BONNY

I have to separate the darkness and the light and pull you with me to the place I want to go.

KYLIE

Can you think of Hades and see if you can take us to him?

BONNY

I don't know? I can try. Give me your hands.

They all grab hands with BONNY and BEN.  
Suddenly little points of light start spinning  
across the stage in a mirror ball type effect as all  
the lights go out. The effect is darkness and light  
mixed together in swirling lights. The archway  
disappears and the lights come up. Everyone is  
no longer trapped.

LEXIE

(To Bonny and Ben) You did it!

JOEY

We made it through!

KYLIE

Thank you both!

DANNY

(To Bonny and Ben) You saved us.

Suddenly smoke fills the stage as a hazy figure  
appears. HADES voices comes from nowhere  
and everywhere.

HADES VOICE

I see you've returned.

HADES enters, wearing a Greek Tragedy mask.

DANNY

You said if we made it back you would reconsider.

HADES VOICE

You must have been very smart to get past the Oracle.

DANNY

We made it through all your tests.

HADES VOICE

Not quite. (To Danny) Fate and luck were with you. You'll have to do more than that to  
convince me to let you leave.

KYLIE

(Whispers to Danny). Play the lyre.

DANNY

What?

KYLIE

Play it.

DANNY takes the lyre from his back and begins to play. It makes beautiful music.

HADES VOICE

What is that music?

DANNY continues to play the lyre. The lighting slowly changes colors to make beautiful patterns. We then hear music like a summer morning with birds.

HADES VOICE

This music reminds me of Persephone who I love without end. I am only granted her presence for 6 months of each year.

DANNY stops playing.

HADES VOICE

I will grant your request. Charon will carry you and Eurydice back to the world of the living.

DANNY

What about the others?

HADES VOICE

I will only grant passage for two. The rest will remain here.

DANNY

What if I played another song?

HADES VOICE

You interest me. There is a darkness that surrounds you. If you wish to save the others, you will have to make a sacrifice.

DANNY

Is this another riddle?

KYLIE, JOEY, BONNY, BEN

You can't do that! That's not fair!

HADES VOICE

That is my decree! Charon will leave at dawn. You will either be on his boat or you will remain here forever. If you leave you must never look back or your beloved will remain here forever.

DANNY

But what-

HADES VOICE

Our conversation is ended.

HADES exits.

JOEY

(Sits) I can't believe we made it all this way only to fail.

BEN

(He begins to cry) We'll never see Papa again.

BONNY goes to comfort her little brother.

KYLIE

(To Bonny and Ben) Don't cry. We'll figure this out (looks at Danny) won't we?

DANNY absent-mindedly picks up the lyre and begins to play again. This time it is a sadder tune. He drops his head in thought as a light floats across the stage.

PAPA'S VOICE

Ben? Bonny?

BONNY

Papa? Is that you?

DANNY stops playing.

PAPA'S VOICE

I heard the music and suddenly I was drawn to it.

BEN

Hades said we couldn't go back.



PAPA'S VOICE

Go back?

BONNY

To the theatre.

PAPA'S VOICE

He's right. We can't go back to the land of the living. But we can go on to where your mama is.

BEN

Mama?

PAPA'S VOICE

When your mama and I got here she wanted to wait for you but I convinced her to go on ahead. I promised I would bring you later.

BEN

Is she... in heaven?

PAPA'S VOICE

I imagine it's a place filled with light unlike this world. She's there waiting for us.

BONNY

How do we get there?

PAPA'S VOICE

I don't really know. A light appeared. She looked up into it and I stepped away from it. Then she was gone. I went back to the shore to wait for you. Maybe if you think about the light it might be enough to call it to you. We must do it quickly. I'm already being drawn back to the shore.

BONNY

(Turns to the others) Will you help us?

DANNY

(DANNY takes LEXIE'S hand) We're here for you, whatever you need.

KYLIE

(KYLIE takes LEXIE'S hand) We'll form a circle around you and think about the light too.

KYLIE takes JOEY'S hand and completes a circle around BONNY and BEN.

JOEY

I'm glad that you found your papa.

BONNY

(To Ben) Are you ready?

BEN

Yes.

PAPA'S VOICE

Let's go home, children.

KYLIE

Wait!

BONNY

What?

KYLIE

I understand what Hades meant. The four of us can't look at the light when it comes for you or we can never leave. That's what he meant by you can't look back.

JOEY

But will we turn into the same thing their papa did?

PAPA'S VOICE

I don't think so because you're still alive. You should be safe.

They turn their backs on BONNY and BEN still holding hands in a circle and then close their eyes.

BONNY

(To Ben) Here we go.

BONNY and BEN hug and the light that was their papa joins with them. Suddenly a shaft of light comes down on the two children as the rest of the stage goes dark.

BEN

It's too bright.

PAPA'S VOICE

It won't hurt. I promise.

Swirling colors of light add to the shaft of light.  
The color of the light in the shaft changes to a  
golden color and then the lights black out.  
When the lights come back on BONNY and  
BEN are gone. The others turn around slowly  
almost afraid to look.

KYLIE

They made it!

LEXIE

At least someone made it home.

DANNY

I'm not ready to give up just yet. Come on.

JOEY

Where are we going?

DANNY

To the river bank to find Charon and the boat.

JOEY

But he'll only take two.

DANNY

Come on! We only have a few minutes before dawn and we better hurry to the river.

They begin to walk. As they move the lights  
shift as the FOUR FACELESS FIGURES move  
the boat into place and then stand silently at the  
edges of the stage.

KYLIE

Here's the boat!

JOEY

Maybe we can take it back without Charon.

CHARON's voice is heard

CHARON (O.S.)

There is passage for two.

DANNY

Everyone get in the boat.

KYLIE

But--

DANNY

Just get in the boat. Don't argue.

KYLIE, LEXIE, and JOEY get in the boat and sit. DANNY does not get in the boat.

DANNY

I'm staying.

LEXIE

(Stands) We aren't going without you.

DANNY

No. Push off

KYLIE

We can't go back without you.

DANNY

It's obvious. Hades said everyone can't go home unless I make a sacrifice and the sacrifice is that I stay.

JOEY

But that's not everyone.

DANNY

(Angry) I've made up my mind.

The FOUR FACELESS FIGURES move to the boat.

DANNY

(To the others) Leave! Go!

LEXIE

We are not leaving you here to die!

LEXIE gets out of the boat.

DANNY

Get back in the boat!

LEXIE

I'm sorry Danny but you don't get to sacrifice yourself for me.

KYLIE

(Gets out of the boat) Or me.

JOEY

(Feeling self conscious, gets out of the boat) Or me.

DANNY

Why are you doing this? You all get to go home and live the rest of your lives.

LEXIE

What kind of life would that be knowing you gave up yours for us.

A WOMAN'S FORM appears in the shadows  
but her face is covered by a mask. Her voice  
seems to come from everywhere.

PERSEPHONE'S VOICE

You have shown great love for each other.

LEXIE

Who are you?

PERSEPHONE'S VOICE

I am Persephone. The beloved of Demeter. My beloved, Demeter has shown his love for me so that I might live part of the year with him and part of the year with Hades. To give your life so another can live is the greatest sacrifice you can give. You are released from your bondage and may return to the land of the living.

DANNY

All of us?

## PERSEPHONE'S VOICE

Yes. Take your loves and go quickly.

LEXIE walks up and takes DANNY's hand.

LEXIE

Let's go home.

JOEY

But I don't have a love?

LEXIE

Remember Kylie's secret I threatened to tell.

KYLIE

Just take my hand (Taking JOEY's hand) and let's go.

LEXIE, DANNY, JOEY, and KYLIE get in the boat. The FOUR FACELESS FIGURES appear and begin to turn the boat as the lights fade out.

## SCENE FOUR

We are now back in the theatre. DANNY and LEXIE are climbing out of the boat on the stage.

JOEY

(Looks around) I never thought I would be so happy to be in a deserted old theater.

KYLIE

Me, too. (Looks behind the audience)

JOEY

I don't know about you guys but I'm starving. We can have breakfast at my house.

LEXIE starts to go and sees DANNY hasn't moved. She moves back to him. The lighting begins to brighten into a shaft of colors on the LEXIE and DANNY.

LEXIE

Look up there. (Points up) That must be the dawn coming through that little section of stained glass in that window.

DANNY

We made it back just in time before sunrise.

LEXIE

You were so brave.

DANNY

I wouldn't have known that if it hadn't been for all of you.

They both stand side by side in the glow of the stained glass light.

LEXIE

Still, you risked your life for me.

DANNY

Joey, too. He may be a wimp sometimes but he is my friend.

JOEY

What do you mean a wimp?

We hear the SOUND OF A BAT and JOEY drops to his knees with his fingers forming a cross shape to ward off vampires. They all LAUGH.

LEXIE

I know this all started as a dare to see who would chicken out, but you really were a hero... and just so you know (looks at his feet) I still like your shoes.

JOEY

(Giggles) Oooh.

KYLIE

Shut up Joey!

DANNY

(Embarrassed) I guess we should take off this stuff before we leave.

KYLIE

You're right. This stuff should stay here.

They begin removing the robes and costume pieces that they had put on back at the beginning. KYLIE goes to put the script back and picks up two pages.

KYLIE

Hey! Here's the last two pages. I wonder how it ends.

LEXIE

I think we already know.

JOEY

You think they'll really tear this place down?

DANNY

Everytime they tried something always happened to stop it.

KYLIE

I wonder if that was Bonny and Ben's doing?

LEXIE

Maybe they were just waiting for us to come along and finish the play.

DANNY

(Holding on to the lyre) I hate to let go of this.

LEXIE

Doesn't seem right to take it with us.

DANNY puts the lyre back in the trunk

DANNY

You think anyone will ever believe what happened to us tonight.

LEXIE

No.

THEY start to go but KYLIE stops them.

KYLIE

Wait.

JOEY

What now?



KYLIE

This place still feels full of spirits.

JOEY

Do you mean other ghosts?

KYLIE

No, I meant out in the audience.

DANNY

Like they're waiting for something.

LEXIE

Whatever it is I'm not sticking around for it.

JOEY

Me neither! Let's go.

They exit the stage.

**THE LIGHTS FADE OUT**