

# ENFANT TERRIBLE

By Allie Speas

## Characters

**Lux:** 17 years old, curious, skeptical, and lonely

**Young Lux:** 7 years old, curious, optimistic, sweet

**Lux's Mother:** 45 years old, stressed, unhappy

**Jared:** 18 years old, Lux's friend, a troublemaker

**Voices:** an amalgamation of a bunch of voices, from all ages, all volume levels, and varying pitches, prerecorded before the show

**Unsettling Man:** Not actually a human, looks scarily perfect, intense, always scheming, might be the devil

## Setting

A small town that has train tracks that run straight through the center. A quiet place where everyone knows everyone.

## Scene 1

*(It is late at night. There is a room that is clearly made for a child. The room is filled with comfortable furniture and the walls are brightly colored. There is a window above the dresser that is next to a bed. Outside there are train tracks visible. On the bed is a young Lux, who is completely covered by the blankets. Lux's Mother walks in from a door at stage right.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Walks over to the bed.)*

Hi sweetheart, are you ready to go to bed?

*(After a minute of silence, she sighs.)*

Oh dear... Now where could my sweet boy have gone? Hmm...

*(Under the covers, giggles can be heard. The covers are also shaking as Lux laughs.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

Well, is there's no Lux to sleep in this bed... I guess I will have to!

*(She suddenly collapses on top of Lux. He starts to screech.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

My, this bed is quite lumpy! And it's super noisy!

LUX

*(Whining.)*

Mommy... I'm not a bed! No bed. No bed!!

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Laughs.)*

Who said that? Well, I guess I better get up to see.

*(Gets up.)*

LUX

*(Pulls down covers.)*

Tada! Here I am Momma! I didn't disappear!

LUX'S MOTHER

There's my wonderful boy! Are you ready to hear your nightly story?

LUX

Yeah! Yeah!

*(Starts to shimmy in excitement.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

Alright, alright. Settle down sweetheart or you'll be too wired to sleep. And you know what happens to little boys who don't sleep... They get taken by the mean Tickle Monster who lives by the train tracks!

*(Starts to tickle Lux.)*

LUX

*(Giggles.)*

Mommy, no! No Tickle Monster! Tickle Monster bad!!

*(He starts to twitch and try to escape her hands.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

*(She finally releases him after a few seconds.)*

You better hope that you start to become tired then.

*(A moment passes.)*

LUX

Does the Tickle Monster really live near the train tracks?

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Sighs.)*

Why do you ask, dear?

LUX

Well... A lot of the kids in my class say that it's not the Tickle Monster that lives there, but a demon.

*(Tilts head in confusion.)*

What's a demon?

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Curses under her breath.)*

Who told you that?

LUX

Jared Smith did! He said that his older brother told him that a weird red guy lives there and that he'll eat you!

LUX'S MOTHER

That boy is such a troublemaker, I swear! I wish you wouldn't talk to him.

LUX

But he's cool! He has dinosaur shoes that light up when he stomps!

LUX'S MOTHER

You should still try to meet some other kids. I think that you'll find some even cooler kids!

LUX

Like who?

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Fumbling slightly.)*

What about Billy? You two used to play all the time at the park!

LUX

He's weird. He bites other kids and eats crayons!

LUX'S MOTHER

Lux! That's not very nice! You know his family is going through a rough time. And I didn't raise you to treat others like that.

LUX

*(Sheepishly looks away.)*

Sorry, Momma.

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Sighs.)*

Sweetheart... You know that I don't like scolding you...

*(Lux says nothing and starts to sniffle.)*

Honey... I'm sorry. How would you feel if someone else said something like that about you?

LUX

*(Mumbles.)*

Not great...

LUX'S MOTHER

Exactly. You're a sweet boy, but I honestly think that Jared isn't the right friend for you.

LUX

Okay Mommy.

*(She ruffles his hair.)*

But Momma, you never answered about the demon man?

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Aside.)*

I love that he's naturally curious... but sometimes it's too much.

*(Sits on the side of the bed.)*

You're a little too young to be talking about demons.

LUX

But I'm big boy now!

LUX'S MOTHER

Okay...If you're sure... I'm worried that you'll get nightmares.

LUX

I am sure!

LUX'S MOTHER

There's a reason why people will warn newcomers not to go to the train tracks at night.

*(Pauses.)*

Especially at 3:00 am. Demons are evil beings who will not stop at anything to get your soul. They're the stuff that nightmares are made of. It's not just a demon though. It's the... Devil, himself. He is the worst out of all the demons.

*(Lux hides into the cover.)*

He's so charming, and many people have fallen and will fall due to his tricks. He will make it seem like you are winning, but he is the only one who will win. And once he takes your soul, it's over. He will drag your soul into the fiery depths of hell, and you can never escape from hell.

*(Puts hand on Lux's shoulder.)*

You must promise me something- never walk the train tracks alone at night.

*(Lux is shaking and fully under the covers at this point. Lux's mother looks near tears.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

Do you promise?

LUX

Yes Momma.

LUX'S MOTHER

Good. I love you so much more than you'll ever know.

*(Awkward silence. Lux starts to fidget under the blankets.)*

...But do you know what, Sweetheart? The Devil can't hurt you if you have love in your heart. So as long as you love someone, and know that they love you too, you'll be protected. He can't touch anything that has love in it.

*(She pulls down the covers and kisses his forehead. Lux seems to feel more reassured.)*

Goodnight, baby. Come get me if you need anything, alright?

*(She turns off the light and switches a nightlight on. She cracks the door as she leaves.)*

## Scene 2

*(10 years have passed. It is early morning. There is a living room that has stairs that lead to a second floor. The room is filled with comfortable second-hand furniture. There is a window above the couch. Outside there are train tracks visible. Lux's Mother walks in from stage right.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Walks to the bottom of the stairs and yells.)*

LUX? SWEETHEART, ARE YOU AWAKE? LUX...?

*(After a minute of silence, she sighs.)*

LUX, DON'T MAKE ME COME UP THERE. YOU HAVE TO GET READY FOR SCHOOL!

*(There is a loud bang followed by equally loud cursing. Lux comes rushing down the stairs with one shoe on and a bag slung haphazardly across his shoulder.)*

LUX

Alright! Alright! Mom, chill out. School's not going anywhere.

LUX'S MOTHER

No, but the school bus is, young man. And I can't miss work to drive you there because you couldn't wake up on time.

LUX

*(Rolls eyes.)*

I know, how tragic. Your son is an insomniac and physically can't wake up. What a lazy son.

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Sighs exasperated.)*

That's not what I meant, and you know it, young ma-

LUX

Yes, mother I know.

*(Smirks.)*

You were thinking it though.

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Frowns at him.)*

I think your goal in life is to make me have grey hairs before I'm fifty! And where is your other shoe?

LUX

It's right here.

*(Gestures to hoodie pocket and pulls out the other shoe.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

...Why was it in your- you know what, no. I don't want to know. Just go put it on and get ready to catch the bus.

*(Leaves stage right.)*

LUX

*(Mockingly.)*

"I don't want to know. Mi mi mi mi mi."

*(Shoves shoe onto foot, nearly falls and catches himself on the couch.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

*(From offstage.)*

I heard that!

LUX

Good! You were supposed to!

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Enters through the same door that she previously left, carrying a plate of toast and a glass of chocolate milk in her hands.)*

Here, I made you some toast to eat before the bus comes.

*(Lux grabs the plate and glass. He takes a bite of the toast.)*

Did you study for your math test? You can't afford to not pass this test.

LUX

Oh shi-

LUX'S MOTHER

You forgot, didn't you.

LUX

*(Tries to act nonchalant.)*

Of course, I studied for the math test Mom. What kind of boy do you think I am? A hooligan? You dare accuse your own son of such a crime!

*(Dramatically.)*

Your own flesh and blood. I see how it is! The audacity...

LUX'S MOTHER

You definitely are your father's child. Good heavens.

LUX

But you are the who raised me, dear mother. You're looking at the consequences of your own actions.

LUX'S MOTHER

You cheeky little shit! Finish your breakfast. And see if you can study on the school bus, okay? I don't want to see you in summer school again.

*(Exists stage right.)*

LUX

Aye aye captain.

*(From outside there is a bus horn.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Offstage.)*

Is that the bus?

LUX

*(Sighs and shoves the last bite of toast into his mouth.)*

Yeah mom. I will see you later.

*(Starts towards the door at stage left.)*

Oh, by the way, I will be home late! Jared and I have a school project. Bye!

*(Exits and the door slams.)*

LUX'S MOTHER

*(Enters quickly from stage right saying)*

A school project? How late- And he's gone. Great.

*(Shakes her head and goes up the stairs.)*

### Scene 3

*(It's now mid-afternoon. There is a faint chatter of voices in the background. Lux and Jared enter from stage left, weaving through the bookshelves and towards a table in the back right corner.)*

JARED

Have you heard about the whole Mary fiasco? With Jake?

LUX

*(Raises eyebrow.)*

No...? Am I supposed to know what you're talking about?

JARED

How do you not know? It's literally been the talk of the school all day!

LUX

*(Pointedly.)*

Some of us were trying not to fail the math test that we had today.

JARED

Only you would be worried about something as lame as a math test. Jesus Christ dude. You need to loosen up.

LUX

I relax all of the time. In fact, I would argue that I relax too much and end up damning myself by procrastination.

JARED

*(Scoffs.)*

Right, and I'm the class president. I'm serious though! All you talk about is school.

LUX

*(Sarcastically.)*

It's almost like we're going to graduate this year or something...

JARED

All the more reason to goof off! College is going to be twenty times more difficult, so you might as well enjoy high school while you can.

LUX

And I know that. However, my idea of fun is not learning about whatever fucked up drama is happening between our classmates. It's dull and pointless.

JARED

*(Mockingly.)*

Ah yes, I forgot that you have a stick up your ass. Shall we talk business then, your majesty?

LUX

*(Rolls eyes.)*

Smart ass!

*(Pauses.)*

But we should get started on this history project. It is due next week, so-

JARED

See, there you go again!! Always work and no play.

LUX

You do realize that the whole reason we're meeting this afternoon is so that we can work on this project, right?

*(Jared is silent.)*

Bruh. Are you serious?

JARED

*(Pouts.)*

Don't yell at me! I thought you just wanted to hang! How was I supposed to know that you actually wanted to work on the project?!?



LUX

Because I told you when I asked to meet you today?

JARED

Oh... I'm going to be honest. I sort of tuned out after you asked to meet.

LUX

Of course, you would do tha-

JARED

IN my defense, the Mary and Jake drama is incredibly juicy.

LUX

And to mine, I don't really care about any drama. I'd much rath-

JARED

*(Interrupts.)*

Do you want to hear what I going to do tonight?

LUX

Dude!

JARED

*(Stays silent)*

LUX

*(Suspiciously and a bit ticked off.)*

Alright! What are you going to do?

JARED

You know the train tracks that run through town?

LUX

Of course, I know the train tracks, dumbass. Everyone knows about them.

JARED

Right. Well, I'm going there tonight to figure out the whole demon thing.

LUX

What do you mean? There is no demon. It's probably just some wives' tale that's used to frighten children. It's purely so they don't play out on the tracks and get hit. That's all.

JARED

Yeah, you're probably right...

LUX

I am right. It's foolish to believe that demons and ghosts exist.

JARED

So, you don't believe in the supernatural?

LUX

God no! Until there's scientific proof of the supernatural, I won't believe in it. It's bullshit, plain and simple.

JARED

Then you should go with me!

LUX

Now why would I do that? We have school tomorrow, and my mother will actually kill me if she finds out that we went there.

JARED

But if you don't believe in anything, you should be fine. I mean, it's not like we'll be in any actual danger. Besides... I got some weed that we could smoke! It'll be the perfect way for you to decompress.

LUX

I don't know man... That seems like asking for the cops to be called on us. You know as well as I do that the neighborhood crime watch would report us so fast.

JARED

No, they wouldn't. No one likes looking at the train tracks at night. Hell, people here don't even like being awake past midnight.

*(Lux is silent and seems worried about Jared's plans. Jared rolls his eyes at how scared Lux looks.)*

JARED

Come on. Don't tell me you're scared? What happened to the big man who doesn't believe in ghosts?

LUX

*(Narrows his eyes.)*

Screw you! He's still here. However, my mom will literally go insane, and I will probably be grounded for the rest of foreseeable future.

JARED

That's okay dude. Just say you're scared of your mommy and go.

LUX

... I really hate you sometimes.

JARED

Does this mean you'll go with me!

LUX

*(Sighs.)*

Yes. BUT... you are helping me either sneak out or come up with an excuse as to why I'm not home.

JARED

That is easy, my man. Just tell your mom that you're staying over at my place to finish the project. Duh.

LUX

You are aware that my mother thinks that you're a bad influence, right?

JARED

Yeah, but what is she going to do? It's not like she can forbid you for coming over, we're working on a project. And I know how your mother is with your schooling.

LUX

Alright... but if it doesn't work, it's on you.

JARED

Deal!

#### **Scene 4**

*(It's around 11:30 in the evening. There is a train that is stopped at the tracks and a forest which surrounds it at the very end of town. It's at the back of the stage. It is quiet with the low hum of cicadas. The occasional crow squawk will sound. The two boys enter from stage right. They are comically tiptoeing across the stage and somehow manage to not see the train.)*

JARED

Man... this place gives me the creeps...

LUX

Oh, come on. Don't tell me you're chickening out already? YOU were the one who wanted to go here tonight.

JARED

*(Scoffs and stumbles over his words.)*

I am not a chicken! You're the one who is a chicken, asshole.

LUX

*(Chuckles.)*

Don't tell me you're actually afraid?

JARED

Of course, I'm afraid! I'm not a robot like you!

LUX

*(Sighs.)*

Maybe I'd be frightened if there was actually a reason to be.

JARED

You're freaking nuts, dude.

LUX

*(Laughs mockingly.)*

You're an idiot. It's not real! None of this stupid devil train bullshit is real!

*(Rolling his eyes.)*

The only thing you should be afraid of is getting arrested, you moron!

JARED

Whatever man. You'll change your mind when we get closer.

*(The boys poke around the trees and bushes. They slowly drift from one another, with Lux going towards the train and Jared going towards stage left. They can't see each other due to the greenery. Lux is hidden amongst the bushes from the Audience and Jared. Suddenly, there is a rustling in the bush next to Jared.)*

JARED

*(Shrieks and then groans.)*

Nice trick, Lux. What are we, five?

*(No response. Jared waits for a moment.)*

Lux?

*(The bush starts to furiously shake and a voice that sound like Lux's calls out.)*

UNKNOWN

Come find me!

JARED

*(Clearly annoyed.)*

Alright, whatever man! Whenever you decide to grow up, I'll be over there.

*(Gestures to the center.)*

Idiot!

*(Jared meanders back to center stage. He waits for a few moments before he pulls out a phone from his pocket. Right as he begins to dial the phone, Lux emerges from the back of the stage. Jared looks unnerved.)*

LUX

Hey man! You're not going to belie-

JARED

What the hell!

LUX

What...? Why do you look as if you've seen a ghost?

JARED

...That's not funny.

LUX

*(Confused.)*

What? What are you on about?

JARED

I just heard your voice over there. I'm not stupid, Luxie.

*(Lux just stares at him with his head cocked.)*

I consider us to be equal. You got me back for making you lie to your mom, congrats. However, I'll get you back tenfold if you do that again.

LUX

Dude... I haven't been near you this entire time.

JARED

Oh, give it a rest!

LUX

I'm serious!! I literally have not seen you since we got here. Not to mention the fact that I wouldn't scare you when I know you're already frightened. I'm not you...

JARED

*(Suspicion.)*

One, what were you doing, then? Two, rude but you didn't have to say it.

LUX

*(Concerned.)*

...Are you okay? We can go home if you want to

JARED

No! Screw off! I'm fine!

LUX

You're clearly not-

JARED

*(Rolls eyes.)*

Just tell me where you were.

LUX

Alright...if you're sure.

*(Lux pauses and stares at Jared. Jared exaggeratedly nods his head with a scoff.)*

Well, I was just messing around and walking along the train tracks... but I found something unusual...

JARED

Like what?

LUX

*(Hesitates.)*

I don't want you to get alarmed... but there may be a train on the tracks right now.

JARED

What are you talking about? I don't hear a train.

LUX

That's the thing... It wasn't moving.

JARED

Bullshit.

LUX

*(Serious.)*

I'm not messing around Jared.

JARED

*(Gulps and nods.)*

Okay. Show me.

*(The two boys go towards upstage. The lights go out.)*

### **Scene 5**

*(The lights go up but are dimmer than the last scene. The train is now center stage. The two boys are slightly stage right. The train has smoke escaping the cracks of the windows and doors. The smoke is a glowing neon green color, similar to the color of green uranium dishware. It should smell sour.)*

LUX

... So... Here it is.

JARED

*(Frightened.)*

I don't think that trains are supposed to be spewing toxic gas...

LUX

*(Nods in agreement.)*  
Yeah, I can't say that I have seen this before.

JARED

*(A pause. Suddenly.)*  
Hey, do you have a bad feeling when you look at it?

LUX

*(Raises an eyebrow.)*  
A bad feeling? What is this? Star Wars?  
*(Mockingly.)*  
"I have a bad feeling about this."

JARED

*(Punches Lux in the arm.)*  
Now's not the time for jokes. I think that we should go back. What time is it?

LUX

Are you serious? You were the one who wanted to come here in the first place!

JARED

I know! I think it was a mistake!

LUX

*(Pulls out phone.)*  
...

JARED

What?

LUX

It's 2:50.

JARED

You're lying! Let me see!  
*(He grabs the phone from Lux's hand, and gasps in shock.)*  
What the hell... we just got here, righ-  
*(He pauses. Lux starts to question him but is shushed.)*  
Did you hear that?

LUX

*(Grabs his phone back.)*  
Hear what?

JARED

SHHH!

*(It's silent. Jared starts to look around. He begins to look terrified as a deep murmuring starts to happen. It's unlike any human language. Lux doesn't hear it. Jared starts to cry, and bolts off stage left.)*

LUX

JARED?!? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

*(Looks dumbfounded for a few seconds. Eyes widen.)*

I see... he probably thinks that he can get me back for my "so-called" prank. Although, he did look...horrified... in a way I've never seen before.

*(He looks around wearily. He starts to walk towards stage left.)*

Alright, I'm just gonna...go, I think. Yeah, I am definitely leaving.

*(The doors to the train open with a loud hiss. Green smoke flows out from the opening. All background ambient sounds stop. All of a sudden, what sounds like millions of people begin to speak at once from the train. There isn't one set pitch or volume, some are whispering, and others are screaming. All are chanting.)*

VOICES

Follow, follow! Hurry! You must follow our voices! We have something to show you!

*(Lux, in a trance-like state, drifts to the doors slowly. The voices continue to chant a simple "follow, follow," that progressively get louder the closer Lux gets to the train. Right as he gets near the train door, he seems to snap out of the trance.)*

LUX

W-wait-!

*(A shadowy figure appears in the door of the train. It reaches out and pulls Lux into the train. He screams. The stage goes dark.)*

### Scene 6

*(The lighting is now green tinted with green fog spread around the room. There are three booth pairs on the back wall with a table in between the pairs. The booth seats are brown with a red checkered tablecloth. Lux is center stage on the floor. The figure, the unsettling man, who grabbed him is hidden in the shadows.)*

UNSETTLING MAN

Hello Lux. I've been expecting you.

LUX

Who are you? Where am I?

UNSETTLING MAN

Well to answer your first question, I am fear itself.

*(The man steps into the light. He is tall, dark, and handsome. Too handsome. He looks unreal. He's wearing a luxury suit that's a dark burgundy. He's smile looks unsettling due to his sharp teeth.)*

And you, my dear boy, are on a train.



LUX

*(Sarcastically.)*

Huh... never would have guessed that I was on a train. Unbelievable.

*(The lighting gets darker around the man. There is a shadow projected behind him that only the audience can see. There are two horns on top of his head.)*

UNSETTLING MAN

Watch your mouth, boy. I'd be careful if I were you. You never know the actions of your consequences.

*(He snaps his fingers and candelabras that on the table light instantly. A bunch of figures, all terribly frightening and contorted, emerge from stage left and right. Some of them are crawling, and others are walking. Some even run around. The ones who crawl are crawling backwards. None of their faces are visible, whether that's through hair or covered by fabric. Growling and guttural voices speaking an unknown language can be heard.)*

LUX

*(Scrambles back into the man with a screech.)*

WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?!?

UNSETTLING MAN

*(Chuckles lowly.)*

Those are what nightmares are made of. I'm sure you're wondering why you're here.

LUX

*(Leaps away from the man.)*

What do you even want from me? Why are you doing this?

UNSETTLING MAN

Simple. I want what makes you, you. I want the very essence of your being... everything you are and everything you ever will be.

*(Dramatic pause.)*

I want you.

LUX

...what...?

UNSETTLING MAN

I want your soul.

LUX

WHAT THE FU-?!?

UNSETTLING MAN

*(Puts his finger up to his lips.)*  
Shhh. You don't want to agitate them, darling. They aren't very lovely when angered.

LUX

*(Shrinks into himself.)*  
You can't have my soul!! Are you on drugs? Am I on drugs?  
*(Aside.)*

Did Jared drug me? He probably would.  
*(Clears throat.)*

You're clearly crazy if you think that you can take my soul, or that humans even have a soul! I would like to leave now.

*(Tries to go to the door, but the creatures rush to the door before Lux can make it.)*

UNSETTLING MAN

*(Smirks.)*  
I'm afraid that won't be possible.

LUX

Why in the ever-loving hell not?

UNSETTLING MAN

Well, you can't leave...not without making a deal with me.  
*(Pulls out a paper and begins to read from it.)*

"All living creatures, who find themselves on the Pandemonium express, must make a deal with the conductor to leave,"

*(Puts paper back into his suit jacket pocket.)*

LUX

The conductor? I haven't met a conductor.

UNSETTLING MAN

Of course, you've met the conductor! Foolish boy!

LUX

What? No, I haven't met any con-

*(Lux cuts himself off as the man winks at him while pointing at himself.)*

You. You're the devil?

UNSETTLING MAN

Indeed, I am. I probably don't live to the expectations that your mother set when you were a child.

LUX

*(Looks shellshocked.)*

No... no, you fit perfectly... oh my god... the Devil is real?

UNSETTLING MAN

As real as you are, my dear boy. Now, let's get into business, shall we.

*(He gestures towards the table and leads Lux to the on in the middle. He then pulls out a thick packet of paper and gives it to Lux.)*

So, you have three options. I am going to list them in an order that benefits you the most. If I were you, I would take the first option. Option one, you want your freedom, right?

*(Lux goes to interrupt, but the man snaps before he can. Lux then tries to talk but realizes that he can't talk.)*

That's better. I would like to get through this without any useless tirades. I've done this far too many times, and it gets a bit dull. Anyways, with option one you get your freedom. You get to leave the train and go back to your little life. You can get married, have children, and die like a normal human. Except you won't have a soul.

*(Lux hits the table in anger, shaking his head while he does it. The man just breezes past him.)*

It's not too bad, not having a soul. The only downside, besides being sentenced to eternal damnation, is that you won't be able to feel anything. Not a terrible deal if you ask me. Emotions are too complicated and lead to nothing but ruin.

*(He pauses.)*

Option two, you sell your soul and become a demon. There are a lot of health benefits, and you have quite a few days to take for personal use. Better than America anyways. Of course, you won't be able to see any of your loved ones ever again and will turn into something like them.

*(Points at one of the creatures.)*

As you can see, they definitely know how to do their jobs.

*(He pauses yet again. A hiss begins to sound softly with a slow crescendo.)*

Option three, the worst one for you, is that you don't sell your soul. If you pick this option, you'll be trapped here forever. You can't get off the train. All you will have for company is me and my lovely employees. But fear not, as we are very convincible, and I am sure your will to live will break sooner, rather than later.

*(Motions to the packet of paper.)*

All you must do is sign your name and check the box for what option you want to go with.

*(The man drums his fingers on the table while Lux cries.)*

Oh! Silly me, you need a pen!

*(Pulls a pen from his sleeve.)*

There you go, dear. Now, chose carefully.

*(Tableau. Lights go off. End of show.)*