

Chasing Stones

A dramatic-comedy, One-act Play

Setting:

An old country house in England. the country house has a pond nearby, this is crucial for the ending. It would be preferred that the pond is off stage or just hidden from view. The time is not current day, no cellphones, no internet, no major electronic developments. Story takes place in different places including their greenhouse, outdoors, and in different rooms of the house. all stage directions will be written in either parentheses or italics depending on whether or not they are needed or are considered suggestions

Characters: (in order of importance)

Hudson Traichel- A male. Father of Rosalee and the dead husband of his widow, Emily. He is dead when the play begins and is looking on from the afterlife. It would be preferred that he wears only blue to show that he is in the afterlife. No one can hear him. His mission is to save his daughter from his wife's new husband who married her for her money. Character is very gruff.

Nixie- A water sprite earning his wings in hopes of becoming an angel in the afterlife. Can be male or female, though male is preferred. silly and lighthearted. Immature, has the best intentions, but is easily distracted and mischievous. Odd-looking. Has tiny blue fairy wings and large antennae. It would be preferred that the antenna can be controlled and moved around

Rosalee Traichel- Affectionately referred to as Rosie. Young and innocent girl who is intelligent, sensitive, and wise upon her years. In love with Jacob.

Edmund White- Step-father to Rosalee and second husband to Emily. He is an evil man who marries Emily for her dead husband's money. Has an evil scheme with his mistress, Lucretia. He figures out that Hudson's ghost is around and turns to black magic.

Emily Traichel- Widow of Hudson. loving but naive.

Jacob Hasslinger- The farmboy who is deeply in love with Rosalee. Hudson does not approve of her dating a servant boy, but their love remains a secret.

Lucretia Von Shultz- Edmund's mistress. A beautiful woman who is always adorned in the finest of jewelry and clothing. Seductive and a gold-digger.

Officer- A police officer.

Satan- Wears a long dark cloak. Face is not seen. Is covered in cloak. Very comedic. Think grim reaper.

Scene 1: The Awakening

The stage is bare with a dark backdrop. Hudson is laying in the middle of the stage. The scene starts with a Blue Light Shining down on him.

Nixie Enters.

Upon seeing that Hudson is asleep, Nixie tries to wake him up. He starts out gently and turns to desperate measures.

Nixie- *announces loudly:* Hudson Traichel, You have been summoned to fulfill your duties and report to the afterlife!

Upon seeing that Hudson is still asleep.

Um, Hudson? Shakes him Hudson! Screams at the top of his/her lungs HUDSON!

Nixie stands around thinking for a bit, then seems to come up with an idea. He runs off stage and comes back with a box. In the box he has a Drum which he bangs loudly. Does not work. He pulls out a gong and bangs that several times. Does not Work. He grabs a trumpet and plays a loud little song on it. Does not work. Nixie stands around scratching his head. He leans down to take a close look at Hudson.

Oh! What's this?

Hudson- *Waking up suddenly* Don't touch that!

Nixie- *Falls onto his bottom with legs splayed out. Well It took ya long enough! Smiles widely*
Mornin.

Hudson- Wh-who are you? Where am I?

Nixie- *laughing* HOO HOO HOO! You're DEEEEAAD.

Hudson- I am not.

Nixie- Dead as a doorknob! Deady dead dead!

Hudson- Stop that!

Nixie- *Stands up.* Allow me to introduce myself. I am Nixie. I am a water sprite. I'm your
Guardian Fairy!

Hudson- Guardian Fairy.

Nixie- Ho! Ho! Ho! I sure am, You may have heard of angels? Well, they are dead sprites. Dead
sprites who *does karate chop moves to show his point* PROVE THEIR WORTH, STOP EVIL,
HELP OTHERS AND ARE GOOD SPRITES, by following our guidelines. *Nixie gathers his*
instruments and puts them in the box, he kicks them off stage and we hear an actor off stage
scream in pain. Whoops!

Hudson- So God decided to send me a fairy in the afterlife. Wonderful. *sarcastically.*

Nixie- SPRITE. And oh no! this isn't the afterlife. We're in purgatory!

Hudson- You have got to be kidding me.

Nixie- I'll say! You're an idiot! Purgatory is where we put the people who we don't know what
to do with. Evil fairies, known as demons, wanna bring you to the underworld. I wanna bring
you to the afterlife. It's a great great GREAT place. Let's GOOO! *Nixie flutters over to Hudson*
and pushes him toward the, now-lit, stage right.

Hudson- Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Hold on. How do I know you're good, And if this is purgatory, where are all of the other people who aren't strictly good or bad?

Nixie- Well to be quite honest, most of them either go back to earth to haunt, or they go straight to the underworld. *Smiles at Hudson and gets nose to nose with him* But I think YOU'RE GOOD. Now Come on! We gotta go! Rosalee and Emily are in trouble but you can't help them so the best thing to do is to die peacefully.

Hudson- *stops suddenly, face stone-cold, suddenly angry he grabs Nixie.* What did you do to my daughter and my wife? *spoken through gritted teeth.*

Nixie- Uh-oh...

Hudson- YOU HELP ME FIND MY WIFE AND MY GIRL OR I WILL-

Nixie- *grabs Hudson's face and pushes it away.* Relax. Now listen Bud. It is my duty as a fairy to earn my wings by shoving you into that light and making sure you stay there. I have to do that to 5000 people and you are my last one. I have shoved 4999 people over into the light thingy and you are BY FAR the most stubborn one. I've been trying to wake you up for two years! I've been trying to shove you into that goshdarn light for two LONG years. Now get your BUTT into that GOSH DARN LIGHT.

Hudson- No! I've got to go back to earth and help my wife.

Nixie- UGGGGGH! Okay. Here's the thing. The whole "let's go haunt some people" thing. Yeah, that does nothing for me. LOOK AT ME. I have been walking around purgatory for 350 years to try and get these wings, and you are NOT GOING TO BE THE THING THAT KEEPS ME HERE FOR ANOTHER 350 MORE!

Hudson- Alright Alright! Let's make a deal. You and I will work together to save my wife and my daughter from this "trouble" you say they are in, and then I will go into that light. You will have your wings, and I'll have my peace. Alright?

Nixie- OOOOOOO! That's gonna be a toughy. Y'see, in order to save your family, well, it's going to be hard. The situation is, your wife has remarried, not out of love, but out of need.

Hudson- *hurt* She's remarried?

Nixie- We're in England here! In this day and age if she doesn't remarry someone will try and rob her! Although... it seems as if her husband is a little crazy. No one can find your will and without it... everything goes straight to him. He wants to leave her, but in order to save his reputation he's going to kill off your entire family. Starting with Rosalee! I was planning on seeing them here pretty soon.

Hudson- What! Come on! We gotta go warn Emily and my daughter!

Nixie- Wait! it's not that easy. Hudson, you're dead. You can't DO anything. If you go back to earth all you can do is watch.

Hudson- Nixie- I

Nixie- You need to humanize yourself, but there are only three ways to do that. You either need to apply to The highest power, in your case, God, for a reason to humanize yourself again, but he's only ever allowed that once, and it was with his son Jesus, so I doubt that would work. You could turn to Satan and sell your soul to him, but you promised me you would cross that light! So you can't do that either or you'll end up in the underworld forever! Or, and this is the tough part, you must collect 100 important things from the love of your life and that will humanize you, but you will only be humanized for 30 seconds.

Hudson- Thirty Seconds!

Nixie- So you gotta make this work out in your favor and you gotta work quickly.

Hudson- So what all do I need to collect from my wife?

Nixie- Your wife?

Hudson- You did say the love of my life.

Nixie- Well, yes but people don't always marry their soul-mate.

Hudson- I did.

Nixie- Good for you but love is more complicated than you think and-

Hudson- What do I need to get?

Nixie- Here's a list! *pulls a long paper out of his/ her shirt.*

Hudson- You just carry stuff around with you like that? You think you'd get a bag or something...

Nixie- Well it's better than where I keep the keys to my house. *Nixie points to his bottom. He's referring to his pocket, but Hudson takes it the wrong way.*

Hudson- *Roles his eyes.* Get a move on! We've got to get to earth before my wife and daughter are murdered.

Nixie: Oh come now! I meant my back pocket. *winks at audience and walks off.*
blue light goes out. Curtain.

Scene 2 Forbidden love

Setting: Stage is a house in old england with items like a grandfather's clock, etc. Make sure there is nice chair in the room.

Hudson and Nixie Enter. Hudson is Exhausted.

Hudson- Oh my- *(prepares to say God)*

Nixie- You really shouldn't say that. People get extremely offended by that kind of thing.
Besides this isn't that kind of show.

Hudson: What?

Nixie: *looks out toward audience*, um... nothing.

Hudson- Wait, so this whole God thing is real?

Nixie- Eh, it's complicated. Everyone is right as long as they coexist.

Hudson- That makes no sense.

Nixie- It does if you don't think about it.

Hudson- Speaking of thinking, if you're so tied up in earning your wings, why don't you just use the ones you already have.

Nixie- You can't FLY with these bad boys, only flutter.

Hudson- What's the difference?

Nixie- I'll show you.

Nixie runs around yelling WHOOSH WHOOSH

That's flying

Nixie jumps up and down three times.

This. Is. Fluttering.

Hudson- mmhmm.

Hudson walks over to the nice chair in the room

Ah, I've missed my old chair.

Hudson goes to sit down and misses the chair falling straight down onto the ground.

Ouch! Hey what happened?

Nixie- You're a spector! You're a ghost that can see everything, but until you're humanized, no touchy touchy. You can look, but don't touch. Unlike me, I'm a water sprite, invisible to the human eye, but living in your world.

Hudson- How am I supposed to collect the items if I can't interfere with anything?

Nixie- Well, you can touch those. Remember as a human how things would mysteriously move out of place.

Hudson- Sure. It happened all the time in my study.

Nixie- It was probably a spirit trying to get through to you. Most give up unless there's some urgent news.

Rosalee and Jacob enter.

Rosalee- You don't need to be quiet; mother and Edmund went out into the town for a little bit,

Nixie- Who's that?

Hudson- My daughter, Rosalee, who else?

Nixie- No, I mean the boy.

Hudson- That's Jacob. He's the farmboy. He helps out around the house. Why is he in the house?

Jacob leans in and kisses Rosalee on the cheek.

Hudson- I never approved of that boy. What is this nonsense?

Nixie- OOOO. She's pretty.

Nixie sits down in Hudson's chair as Hudson picks himself up grumbling to himself.

Jacob- Won't you sit down, Rosie?

Rosie sits down on top of Nixie in her father's old chair.

Rosalee- Oh, I don't recall this seat being quite so lumpy and hard, especially in this particular area.

Rosalee gestures to Nixie as she says this and Nixie grins.

Hudson- *in a hurry pulls Nixie out from under Rosalee.* Get out of there!

Rosalee tumbles onto the ground and shrieks.

Jacob- Are you okay! *helping her up*

Rosalee- Yes, I- I think so, Perhaps I am not quite ready to sit in my father's chair just yet.

Jacob- It's been two years, Rose.

Rosalee- I know it's just...

Jacob- I know I don't like him, either.

Nixie- Who?

Rosalee- Something's wrong with him? He doesn't love my mother, I know he doesn't.

Nixie- Who?

Jacob- I've seen him sneaking out at night. It's completely crazy.

Nixie- WHO!

Rosalee- Maybe Edmund is just busy with his job. His clients are very demanding.

Nixie- OOOH!

Hudson- *grumbling* Edmund.

Jacob- Lucretia Von Shultz seems just a little too suspicious of a character to just be a "needy client."

Hudson- Who?

Nixie- SHHHHH!

Rosalee- I want to believe that he's okay. I want to believe that he is the wonderful man my mother wants him to be, but I- I...

Jacob- Don't trust him? I don't either, I have an idea..

Rosalee- What do you suggest?

Jacob- Run away with me.

Hudson- What?

Rosalee- What?

Nixie- Whaaaaaat?

Jacob- I'm worried he'll hurt you. I can't stand it. Come with me, we don't have to stay here.

Hudson- That's crazy!

Rosalee- That's crazy!

Nixie- Oh my- (prepares to say God)

Hudson- I thought we weren't supposed to say that!

Nixie- SHH!

Rosalee- I don't think that's a good idea. We have nowhere to go. I'll become a servant girl, you'll be a farmboy, or maybe you won't find a job at all.

Jacob- We'd be safe.

Rosalee- No, we can't runaway from this,

Jacob- What are you suggesting>

Rosalee- We'll follow Edmund the next time he sneaks out.

Jacob- To find out what he's up to.

Hudson- I don't like this.

Nixie- Yeah? Well what are you gonna do about it big guy? You haven't even started searching for the stuff on the list.

Hudson hits Nixie.

Oof!

sound effect of a door slamming.

Rosalee- Someone's coming. Hide!

Rosalee and Jacob hide behind the furniture.

Emily and Edmund enter stage left.

Emily- What a lovely ride around town.

Edmund grunts in response

Hudson- Son of a-

Nixie- Hey Hey Hey! You can't say that or you can't get into the afterlife and YOU OWE ME A CROSSOVER.

Hudson- alright! alright! sh.

Edmund- I gotta make a business call, Emily

Emily- Oh... alright, well, I'll go make dinner. *emily kisses edmund on the cheek and exits stage right*

Edmund- *picks up the phone and dials* Hey. It's me.

Yeah.

You need to understand my predicament.

Soon I promise.

Tonight?

Okay.

Tonight.

Edmund hangs up and exits stage right.

Rosalee and Jacob get out of their hiding spot

Rosalee- We leave tonight. Where shall we meet?

Jacob- I'll have two horses ready outside your window.

Rosalee- But my window is on the second floor, how are we going to-

Jacob- Have a little faith, Rosie. *Leans in and kisses Rosie on the cheek.* I'll meet you in the dark. Oh! Before we go! *Jacob removes a stone from his pocket and hands it to Rosalee.*

For you collection.

Rosalee- *smiles and kisses Jacob.* Til tonight.

Rosie exits stage right and Jacob exits stage left.

Hudson- I don't like that boy.

Nixie- We have bigger problems than just that boy. We need to go find a hundred objects for the love of your life and we clearly can't waste any time. That Edmund character's up to no good.

Hudson- I know. Okay. What's the first thing on the list?

Nixie- The wilted roses of the past.

Hudson- Whatever that means.

Nixie- Where do you suggest we search first?

Hudson- Well, I suppose the farmboy often deadheads the roses in our greenhouse, perhaps there.

Nixie- Good plan.

Both prepare to exit stage left.

Hudson- Say, how will I know if the item is, right?

Nixie- Trust me sir, you'll just know.

Both prepare to exit again, but Hudson Stops and opens the grandfather clock to reveal a box of buttons.

Nixie- What's that?

Hudson- It appears to be a button collection. It just, I don't know, I was tempted to grab it.

Nixie- *pulls out the list.* Whoa. fifteen items are crossed off of my list.

Hudson- One for each button.

Nixie- We're making record time! Put that in my satchel, we have objects to find! C'mon. let's go get that wilted rose.

Both rush off stage left.

Scene 3: The Greenhouse

Setting: outdoors. It's night. In a greenhouse. Plants, dirt and rocks are everywhere.

Hudson- So you're telling me that every religion is correct... what about the agnostics or the atheists.

Nixie- *exasperated* It varies from person to person. Most become worm food or turn into nothing. Some are still a little hopeful about the afterlife and join us in the light, but without a "God."

Hudson- They become nothing! What are they insane? That sounds like a nightmare.

Nixie- For some people it's a dream come true.

Hudson- What?

Nixie- Religion is different for everyone. Religious wars are fought for nothing. Religion is what gives you peace and makes you feel like a good person. For some that is fasting from meat, for

others it's for finding salvation in another, and for some it's that fact that they only have to live once.

Hudson- Don't they want to live forever?

Nixie- Forever is a long time. Some people live lives of fear and injustice. They prefer to live on their own, and then to find peace and tranquility in being nothing. Accept them. The only way we can move along with our lives is to coexist.

Hudson Shivers

Hudson- The nights are colder than I remember them to be.

Nixie- That's because at night you are more powerful than you are during the day. It gets cold so that when you conduct the power of love you don't overheat and die.

Hudson- But I'm already dead.

Nixie- No like, die die.

Hudson- I don't want to know. Listen we need to find the items. Where were we on that list?

Nixie- Says here you need a shoelace, a wilted rose, and fifty rocks.

Hudson- What kind of items are these?

Nixie- I don't know. It's YOUR wife.

Hudson- What's that noise?

Leaves rustle and Edmund walks on.

Edmund- Who are you?

Hudson- He can see me!

Nixie- Oh yeah I forgot about that. Your enemies can see you at night.

Hudson- My ene-

Edmund- I said who are you!

Nixie- Perhaps you should hide. Slowly fall to your knees. You'll look like a shadow to him.

Hudson- Okay! okay.

Hudson does as Nixie says.

Edmund- *stage whisper.* They were right. Hudson's back.

Nixie- Who's they?

Hudson- How should I know! I've been dead for two years.

Edmund- *Removes a box of sage from his coat and lights it on fire. (fake fire, orange light, etc. can be used)* Be gone Hudson! By the power of the- oh no.

Hudson- I don't get it.

Nixie- *In shock.* It's black magic.

Hudson- What!?!

Nixie- I read about it. That is how someone expels a ghost. It only works during the day because that's when humans have the light needed to expel you. Hudson, he's trying to kill you.

Edmund- *Scared and in a hurry* Come daybreak I'll be back for you, Hudson. *Runs off stage.*

Nixie- Ha! Wimp.

Hudson- C'mon Nixie. I think he dropped something.

Picks up a pink shoelace.

Hudson- This looks so familiar.

Nixie- *grabbing the shoelace.* It's the shoelace from the list!

Hudson- It reminds me of when I first taught Rosie to tie her shoes *Smiles lightly.*

Nixie- What's that noise?

Horses neigh in the distance.

Jacob- *walks on. sage whispers to something off stage.* Quiet Juniper. I need to get Rosalee.

Jacob is carrying a ladder and stops.

Nixie- That's strange.

Hudson- What?

Nixie- You said you don't like him?

Hudson- I don't.

Nixie cocks his head while Jacob picks up a rock from the ground and pulls a Rose out of the garden.

Nixie- Well, he can't see you.

Hudson- So?

Nixie- That means he's not an enemy.

Jacob walks off stage.

Hudson- Hey... He's holding two of the objects we need.

Nixie- How do you know?

Hudson- I just know, okay! Come on! We've got to follow him.

Both follow Jacob off stage right.

Scene 4: A Rose for Rosie.

Scene includes a balcony in which Rosalee is waiting for Jacob to come to to pick her up. Jacob

will bring the ladder to get Rosalee down. Make sure it is secured as actors will use this ladder.

Jacob enters and whistles a tune. Rosalee sees him and smiles.

Jacob secures the ladder to the balcony and climbs up. He hops over the edge of the balcony and

is face to face with Rosalee.

He holds out his Rose

Jacob: A rose for Rosie.

Rosalee: My dad used to say the same thing. I love wilted roses.

Hudson and Nixie stumble onto the stage.

Nixie: Well that's lovely. Rosalee has your object.

Hudson: What about that stone? I need that stone.

Nixie: Wait for her to set it down. We'll grab it later.

Jacob: And a stone for you collection.

Rosalee: *laughingly* Always chasing stones for me, aren't you?

Jacob: But I only bring you my favorites.

Rosalee: Let me put it away, and then we'll head out.

Rosalee reveals a box and puts the stone in the box. She then sets the Rose in a small vase which is also full of wilted flowers.

Jacob: We must go. Edmund was heading south on the road. He's meeting someone.

Rosalee: Alright.

Jacob and Rosalee climb down.

Rosalee: The horses?

Jacob: This way. *Jacob grabs Rosalee's hand and they run off stage hand in hand to the horses.*

Galloping is heard in the distance as they run off.

Hudson: They're gone. Let's go.

Nixie: *Runs up the ladder grabs the rose and the box and brings them both down. He removes the list and his mouth is agape.*

Hudson: The entire box and its contents is on our list... and the flowers.

Nixie: I'm confused.

Hudson: How so

Nixie: These are supposed to be your wife's things.

Hudson: My wife's always adored Rosalee's collections.

Nixie: There's only one more item on the list.

Hudson: And what's that?

Nixie: A diamond ring.

Hudson: That must be her wedding ring. We should check in her room.

Nixie: I don't know Hudson. I've got a bad feeling about Rosalee and Jacob going off alone after Edmund.

Hudson: Hm. I thought I was the only one.

Nixie: Should we go after them or the ring first?

Hudson: If we get the ring we can hummanize me and I can fix this. We've just got to hurry.

Nixie: Okay. Hey Hudson?

They begin to walk off stage left.

Hudson: Yeah, Nixie?

Nixie: I skipped the course on human anatomy at Sprite School-

Hudson: *Already offstage.*

No.

Nixie: But!

Hudson: NO!

Scene 5: The Mistress

Setting is a bare alleyway. Lucretia waits, leaning against an object in a long overcoat. Her jewelry glimmers in the dim light and (if possible in the setting) smokes a fake cigarette. (The kind that looks like Cruella De Vil's)

Edmund enters.

Edmund: *Approaches Lucretia and gets down on one knee to kiss her hand.* Lucretia Von Shultz. It is an honor.

Lucretia: *(Her voice should be high and nasally, and sound very stuck up and full of herself.*

Think of Jeannie from the musical Nice Work if You Can Get It) The pleasures all mine. Did you bring the stuffs?

Edmund: Not as much as last time, I don't need Emily noticing anything fishy.

Jacob and Rosalee wander on and hide behind two barrels near stage right.

Edmund hands Lucretia a large diamond necklace and a few other pieces of jewelry.

Rosalee: Hey! That's my mother's!

Jacob: Sh! We don't need them to hear us.

Lucretia: fishy smishy! All YOU need to worry about is finishing off that "family" of your's and coming away with me.

Edmund: Eh, we have a slight problem with that idea. Hudson's back and I don't know for how long.

Lucretia: What do you mean he's back, I thought you said he was dead.

Edmund: He is, but his spirit's back. I read about it in my-

Lucretia: Oh here you go again READING. Ain't 'cha never heard the saying don't believe everything you read. Your little black magic fairy tales are filling your head with the fuzzies. I mean just look at me, even in the schools my mama told me don't 'cha never pick up a book, Lucretia, you're a fine woman of *(gesticulates to her body)* BEAUTIFUL breeding. You ain't never gonna need to read no books because you're too glamorous to fill your head with such nonsense, and my dearest Edmund you are, too! Trust me here, Edmund, you ain't never gonna

need no books where WE'RE going. With all the money we's gonna get we ain't gonna need no nonsense from no books to help us find our way out there.

Edmund: Yeah well maybe you aren't, but *I* know what I'm doing right now. Mind you.

Lucretia: Oh, Edmund, Ya gotta stop taking everything so seriously. You CERTAINLY don't take ME to seriously, now, do ya?

Edmund smiles and they kiss.

Rosalee gasps.

Edmund: (*breaking away*) What was that?

Jacob: Let's get out of here.

Jacob makes it off stage, but Rosalee trips and is caught by Edmund. He grabs her wrist.

Rosalee stares in horror

Edmund: You little-

Nixie yells from offstage

Nixie: This isn't that kind of show! Keep it PG.

Rosalee and Edmund freeze and look offstage, puzzled.

Edmund suddenly enraged again.

Edmund: This means you're first.

Rosalee: If you off me now they'll know it's a murder, my mother will push you away, and you'll never get the property because she'll know it's you.

Edmund: Oh yeah? How!

Rosalee: I didn't come alone, and my partner got away.

Edmund: Lucretia! Go find whoever came with her.

Lucretia: In THESE shoes?

Edmund: LUCRETIA!

Lucretia: Alright Alright. *slowly wanders offstage.* I don't see no one, sweetpea.

Wanders back on. Looks like her little partner in crime got away.

Rosalee: You're the criminal here, Lucretia.

Edmund: *Pushes Rosalee toward stage right.* I'm taking you home, now! We'll discuss this in the morning. No funny business.

Lucretia: When will I see you next?

Edmund: *Looking Rosalee in the eye.* Once this is ALL OVER.

Lucretia: Call me! *walks off stage left.*

Edmund: *To Rosalee* Go.

Scene 6 Finding the ring.

Setting: It's just Hudon and Nixie on stage with Emily sleeping in her bed. They're in Emily's room searching for the objects/

Hudson: We've been searching this room for hours! Where's my wife's wedding ring!

Nixie: I found her wedding ring an hour ago, I thought we were looking for a key ring.

Hudson: Give me that! *Rips ring out of Nixie's hands*

The ring falls straight to the ground

Nixie: You can't grab it... that means-

Hudson: It's not an object...

Hudson holds his head in his hands clearly distressed and Nixie teeters from foot to foot.

Hudson: Nixie, I don't have time for this. God only knows when Edmund will strike and I can't let my family be taken advantage of like this. I need to keep them alive.

Nixie: Why? They'll still go to heaven like you, won't they?

Hudson: But they won't be at peace and-

Nixie: They'll become spectators and turn into nothing

Hudson: *looking up and shocked.* What?

Nixie: Spectators are "ghosts." They stick around to try and find justice and finish their unfinished business, but if they don't succeed-

Hudson: No.

Cringes and is deeply troubled.

NO!

Nixie: Hudson stop! *he is serious. Like a kid talking to his dad.* We'll take care of this, Hudson. I promise on my wings.

Hudson: *sighs.* Okay. Let's keep looking.

Hudson looks out a window.

What's that? It's... glowing and... blue.

Nixie: I don't see anything. I just see Jacob outside... Why is he alone?

Both look at each other at the same time.

Nixie and Hudson: *Simultaneously.* ROSALEE!

Both exit stage right. black out.

Scene 7: Rosalee's return.

Setting: Jacob is outside his small servant's quarters style house. Outside will be scary, dark and nighttime. The main house that Rosalee, Emily and Edmund live in should be visible in the distance whether it is with the backdrop or offstage.

Jacob: *running onstage from stage right. Rosalee come on. Let's get inside my- turns and sees Rosalee is not behind him. Rose? Ro-rose? ROSE! Oh no. Oh no! Rose! he pulls a ring in a box out of his pocket. he shakes his head and stuffs it back in his pocket.*

Clamoring is heard in the background.

Edmund: Off!

Rosalee screams. Rosalee can be heard being thrown off her horse and a horse neighs and galloping is heard as it runs off. Jacob crouches down and hides.

Edmund and Rosalee wander on from stage right. Rosalee cowers as Edmund beats her. It goes on for a little while. He uses a belt. She has visible bruises and blood on her body. He taunts her and ad libs of a plan and how he hates her. No swearing but he says horrible things. He then gives her one last kick and walks off stage.

Jacob jumps up. Rosalee sits up but remains hunched on the ground. Her face is blank and her eyes stare off into the distance. Jacob grabs her and between kisses and hugs says:

Jacob: Oh God, Rose. I'm sorry! Rose I love you. I thought you were behind me. I'm sorry please I just-

Hudson and nixie enter silently but they rush in.

Rosalee: Shhhh. *Calm but defeated.*

Jacob: Rose?

Hudson: *Broken Rose!*

Nixie: *hushing him Sh.*

Rosalee begins to cry.

Jacob: *on his knees* I didn't want to say it like this, but Rose, marry me.

Rose Continues to cry

Run away with me and I'll protect you. *He pulls out the ring.* Please, I love you.

Hudson: Go, Rose.

Nixie: *shocked.* Hudson?

Hudson: *A yellow light falls on Hudson as he has all of the objects. He has humanized and is now visible to everyone in the scene, but he does not realize it.* Please, Rose! Go with him! You have my blessing! I love you and he will take care of you. I trust that boy, and-

Nixie: *Speaks very rushed.* Hudson! You've humanized! She can see you! Now's your chance! Rose was the love of your life! You love Rosalee!

Hudson: I'm sorry, Rose I wasn't as good to you as I thought I was, but I've spent so long chasing buttons, roses and stones just for you! To find you and tell you that I love you! I'm so sorry. I should never have doubted you. I should have listened to you I'm so-

Nixie: You don't have much time! thirty seconds. Tell her everything! Go!

Hudson: *Upon realizing:* Rose! Edmund wants to kill you and, mom. Find the will. It's under your-

Hudson turns blue and he is not visible to anyone, but Nixie, again.

Rosalee: Where?

Jacob: Rose.

Rosalee: Where, dad? Where!

She bursts into tears and sobs for her dad.

Jacob: Rose! He's gone...*He grabs her by the shoulders* We have to find that will.

Rosalee: What!

Jacob: We have a hint! Under and your! It's under something of your's! Come on we don't have much time. Let's get to your room. It has to be somewhere in there.

Rosalee: Okay. Let's go.

Rosalee and Jacob run off stage left.

Nixie: YES!

Hudson: NO!

Nixie: What?

Hudson: I told them to run. They need to. Ugh- Come on! They have to find this.

Nixie: No way, Jose! It's time you went to the afterlife. I materialized you and now it's over.

Hudson: Nixie! You promised on your wings that we'd take care of this.

Nixie: *Looks down.* They won't let me into the afterlife if I break a promise. *turns both hands into fists. Looks up.* Alright, Let's do this.

Both begin to exit stage left.

Nixie: Wait... Hudson? Can I ask a question?

Hudson: *sighing.* Yes?

Nixie: Why did you apologize to Rosalee?

Hudson: She warned me I'd die the way I did, but I didn't listen. I should have listened to her.

Hudson exits stage left.

Nixie: Wait, but how'd you die? You never told me how-... wait a second. *Nixie pulls out a scroll from his loose clothing. He opens it.* I forgot I had Hudson's biography with me. *He looks to the end of it. He reads aloud:* Cause of death: Heart attack. *Nixie looks up towards where Hudson exited.* Oh, Hudson... *Nixie then runs off stage left.*

Scene 8: Heartbreak.

Rosalee and Jacob are searching Rosalee's room. Scene takes place in a room with a desk and a chair for it, a small bed, and a rug on the ground. It should be daylight now and time has passed

since the last scene. Should be midday. Hudson and Nixie sit on the bed. Nixie has his face resting in his hands and he continually sighs loudly. Hudson sits, annoyed, and every time he speaks he talks in a deadpan voice until he is fully frustrated and annoyed.

Rosalee: Jacob, We've been searching for hours.

Hudson: *deadpan voice* It's under the floorboards by the rug.

Jacob: We've searched every nook and cranny of your room.

Hudson: *voice deadpan* Except under the floorboards by your rug.

Rosalee: Part of me wants to tear apart this room and all of its walls.

Nixie: Great idea! DO THAT! *serious voice.*

Jacob: That's ridiculous! What did he hide it under the floorboards!?

Hudson and Nixie: *unison* YES!

Rosalee: Well, where else would it be. I doubt he'd put it in the garden because it could deteriorate. He said "your"...

Jacob: Maybe he meant your house.

Rosalee: You do have a point.

Hudson: *stands up* NO HE DOESN'T

Jacob: If we don't find it by tomorrow we should run.

Hudson: Why don't you run, now? Excellent idea. Just pack your things and leave. Move far away and then he won't KILL YOU!

Nixie: Hudson-

Edmund enters from stage right.

Edmund: Ah, Rosie! So nice to see you, again. Jacob? Haven't you work to be doing.

Jacob: Rosalee requested that I finish it early this morning. It was all done by dawn.

Edmund: Rose?

Rosalee: *bitterly.* Just didn't want to be alone, is all. I thought he could keep me company. Isn't he lovely company? Strong. Loyal. A WITNESS to SO much of my life.

Edmund: I'm afraid he might not be for very much longer. Your mother and I have decided to send you to a boarding school for a higher education.

Emily enters stage right.

Emily: Oh, Edmund. You told her without me? I was hoping to see how happy she was when she heard the news. Edmund is making so much money at work since he got his new raise and he decided to spend it on you. Isn't that lovely, Rose?

Rosalee: *Sullen.* It is. Thank you, Edmund.

Edmund: My pleasure, Rosalee. Emily? Would you mind starting lunch for us? You may need to make an extra plate. Jacob will be eating with us, today.

Emily: Oh, Jacob! Good to hear. I'll get that started for you.

Jacob: Thank you, Ms. Traichel.

Emily: Of course, dear.

Edmund kisses Emily's forehead and she exits stage right.

Rosalee: Well?

Edmund: I'll deal with you when you come back on Holiday. Your train leaves tomorrow at dawn. Your mother, well, there's not much you can do for her, now. As for your father. *Edmund removes the sage from his coat.*

Nixie: Hudson. It's daylight and he wants to get rid of you. Run!

Hudson: What?

Nixie: Remember? In the greenhouse? He'll turn you into nothing. Go. Now! RUN!

Hudson: What about Rosie!

Nixie: We'll split up. Come back when it's safe. Go NOW! I'm going to fake your DEATH death.

Hudson: How?

Nixie: GO!

Hudson runs off stage right.

Edmund lights the sage.

Edmund: *Edmund begins to chant. It is the director's choice what he says because this does not totally impact the show, but it should seem dark, like he is using black magic. He can read it out of a book if that is preferred. Fake fire is used in this scene to light the sage. Preferably the same way as it was in the Greenhouse scene.*

Nixie: ... Oh. OW! Ow! I'm dying. Nothingness death!.

Edmund: I can't hear anything it's not working.

Nixie: Uh... *cups his hands over his mouth and screams and moans and rolls all over the stage. He throws items from the room all over the place.*

Edmund: Yes! It's working!.

Rosalee: Daddy! No!

Jacob: Edmund, stop!

Nixie: *slowly stops screaming and throwing items and his screams get quieter and quieter until they cease.*

Edmund smiles.

Edmund: It's over.

Rosalee: What did you do?

Edmund: Your father is nothing. He's gone.

Jacob: You monster!

Edmund: Enough. We leave at dawn, Rosalee. Have your things packed.

Edmund exits stage right.

Rosalee sobs.

Jacob: We should go.

Rosalee: Jacob. It's over.

Jacob: Rose-

Rosalee: I'm sorry. *She kisses his cheek.* You should go.

Jacob: I love you.

Rosalee: Go.

Jacob slowly exits stage right.

Nixie: Oh, Rose.

Scene 9: Edmund betrays Emily.

Emily is in the kitchen and so is Hudson. She cleans and cooks while Hudson leans over her ear and continually whispers his love for her and tries to tell her that she needs to run. Time has passed since the last scene and she is cleaning up dinner. It is nighttime. The setting is an empty stage with one old wooden table in the middle. Hudson is ad libbing in Emily's ear about how she should run away.

Edmund enters stage left. Edmund has a knife but keeps it hidden behind his back

Hudson: Emily, please listen to me. You need to leave, now. Edmund wants to kill you.

Edmund: Hello, Emily. Is something the matter? You seem troubled.

Emily: I'm not sure, Edmund. I feel like my worries have been whispering in my ear all night.

Edmund: Ah, you must be worried about Rosalee heading off to school. We can still write to her every day. It's what's best for her, Emily.

Emily: It's not that... I'm just worried if I can-

Edmund: Can what?

Emily: It's nothing.

Edmund: trust me?

Emily: How did you-

Edmund: I tell you Emily, how much longer do I have to keep proving myself to you. I send your daughter to a great school, I work to pay the bills I-

Emily: It's just that you're never here and Lucretia-

Hudson: Emily, please. Leave.

Edmund: Lucretia? My client? Of all of the people, Emily. Lucretia!

Emily: I'm sorry, Edmund. You're right. I should never have questioned you.

Hudson: Don't apologize to him. He doesn't mean it. You're right!

Edmund: It's alright, Emily. Don't do it, again.

He hugs her from behind as she works at the wooden table.

You should be careful with that knife, Emily.

Emily: What knife?

Edmund: *tightens his grip around her waist and moves on arm to her mouth to muffle her screams.* This one.

Hudson: No.

Emily's eyes widen and she begins to struggle and scream in terror. Edmund slices her wrist in a long jagged fashion.

Edmund: It's a shame you were such a clutz, Emily. The police will have no one to prosecute. You only have yourself to blame for this one.

Hudson: Stop!

Fake blood leaks down Emily's arm as she struggles against Edmund.

It's too bad the towels and first aid you needed were- *turns her toward stage right* all the way over there. Just out of reach aren't they?

Hudson: She didn't cut herself! You're lying! Let go of her! Please, don't turn my wife into a spector!

Emily grows weak and falls to the ground.

I had better call the cops. I just walked in to find my wife dead, next to a dirty knife she was cleaning. What a tragic accident.

Emily dies and Edmund let's go.

Edmund: A tragedy.

You are now stuck here, a spector.

Edmund begins to clean up the blood and continues to during the next part of the scene.

Black out.

A red light lights up the stage as Hudson gets enraged. He begins to scream and Nixie runs on from stage right.

Nixie: Hudson! Hudson! What? *He sees Emily's body on the floor.*

Oh no-

Hudson: *begins to cry in pain.* I'm sorry, Nixie. I'm so sorry.

Nixie: Why are you sorry? There was nothing you could have done.

Hudson: I'm selling my soul to the devil, Nixie. I'm saving my daughter.

Nixie: Hudson! No! You promised!

Hudson: Yeah? Well I'm going to the underworld anyways so I guess keeping my promises don't matter anymore, anyways.

Nixie: You don't even know how to.

Hudson: I do, though. I really do.

Turns out toward the audience:

Take me now! I will do your will! Take my soul and give me one last bit of life. I will be yours after I have saved my family.

A wind can be heard and the stage fills with fake smoke.

The lights on stage go out, flicker, and come back on red.

Hudson falls to his knees.

Stage is now all red.

Nixie: Hudson! We're both visible, now! No!

Edmund: *looks up shocked* Hudson?

Hudson: It's time I ended this.

turns to Edmund

YOU!

Edmund: I killed you.

Hudson: I faked my death, something you can't do.

Edmund: *smiles.* I can still kill you. You're hummanized.

Hudson: Not possible. I sold my soul. Now, I'm ridding this world of your's.

Edmund grows scared and removes the sage from his pocket.

YOU THINK THAT IS GOING TO HELP YOU NOW? IT'S NIGHTTIME AND I HAVE NO SOUL. *Hudson grows quiet and slightly crazed.*

You're a dead man, Edmund.

Hudson grabs the knife and Lucretia enters.

Lucretia: *screams.*

Nixie: Wow, she's beautiful.

Lucretia: *To Nixie.* Paws off, sweetie. My Edmund's rich and we're moving far away from here once we're done with this family. Who's this funny looking guy?

Edmund: Hudson.

Lucretia: Oh my- *she gets ready to say God.*

Nixie: You REALLY shouldn't say that, right now.

Lucretia: Kill him, Edmund!

Edmund: That's kind of impossible, Lucretia.

Lucretia: *To nixie:*

Oh fairy-thing

Nixie: Sprite!

Lucretia: Oh whatever you are! DO SOMETHING. I'll do anything!

Nixie: *smiles mischievously.*

Anything? Promise?

Lucretia: Yeah!

Nixie: Hudson!

Hudson turns to him and everyone freezes.

You've done your deed. Finish him.

Nixie runs off stage left

Hudson continues to pursue Edmund.

Edmund: You little-

Hudson: Shhhhhhh. Remember? It's not that kind of show.

Edmund and Hudson wander off stage and Lucretia is all who remains.

Lucretia: No.

Black out.

Scene 10: framing a frame.

Scene is Rosalee's balcony. She stands on it looking out with Jacob holds her.

Rosalee: It's so eerily quiet tonight.

Jacob: The garden is mourning the loss of our presence.

Rosalee: Everything's packed. I just can't imagine leaving, now.

Jacob: I know. We'll stay til Edmund comes for you. The horses are waiting over there. *points to stage right.*

Edmund and Hudson run on stage right. Hudson chases him.

Rosalee: Daddy?

Jacob: It can't be.

Rosalee: It's him!

Edmund: Listen, Hudson. I'll leave if you let me survive. I'll take Lucretia, I'll return it all.

Hudson: I don't trust a man who sold his soul to the devil for anything other than his family.

Edmund: So you're going to kill me? I can be a spector.

Hudson: No, Edmund. I brought the sage. I'll kill you, and then I'll turn you into nothing.

Edmund's eyes widen.

Rosalee: Daddy!

Hudson turns and Edmund lunges at him.

Jacob hops off the balcony and to Hudson's aid.

fighting goes on for a while but Jacob ends up with the knife to Edmund's throat.

Hudson: Give me the knife, Jacob.

Jacob: We could just kill him off, now!

Hudson: No. We have to play his game better than him. We have to frame and framing.

Jacob: *handing him the knife.* Take it.

Hudson: Another thing, Jacob. Don't you dare end up in hell with me. I want you taking care of Rosalee.

Rosalee hops off the balcony and kicks Edmund.

Rosalee: I can take care of myself, thank you.

Hudson: I'm serious, now. I'm giving everything up for you guys right now- I'm... I'll be back. STAY OUT! I'm not involving you two in this.

Rosalee: Please don't kill him. Just let him be, dad.

Jacob: Report him to the police. It'll be okay.

Hudson: That's what I intend to do. Go on up to your room. I don't need you to be a part of this.

Jacob: Mr. Traichel-

Hudson: Take care of Rosalee, my boy. *Pats him on the back.* You're a good kid. Now go on!

I've got something I need to finish.

Rosalee kisses her father's cheek and takes Jacob's hand and they walk off, into the balcony and off stage.

Edmund: Lying to your family?

Hudson: Takes a liar to know one.

Edmund: What are you really going to do, Hudson?

Hudson: You'll see. It won't be long, now. Get up!

Hudson pushes Edmund. Edmund runs off stage and tries to make a run for it. Sound effects of water splashing. Struggling. And a loud noise. Then everything is silent.

Scene 10: Death won't do us part.

setting is Rosalee's room.

Hudson enters in a blue light.

Rosalee is sitting down with an officer explaining what happened. She's in tears.

Rosalee: I was asleep all night. I didn't know that he- he.

Jacob: He must have murdered Emily in the dead of night. It was for his mistress. I knew he had one because I would see him sneak off in the night.

Officer: I don't understand how Edmund died after that. It looks like an accident.

Jacob: I heard his horse late last night.

Officer: The horse must have bucked him off near the pond. I saw some hoofprints, but it looked like multiple steps. Like two horses, not one.

Rosalee: *quickly.* It must have stumbled. - The- the horse must have stumbled about before bucking.

Officer: *writing on his notepad.* I see. Edmund had a big ol' bump on his head.

Jacob: Did he hit a rock in the pond?

Officer: I guess that's probable. I'll have my officers in and around to investigate at a later time.

Jacob: Thank you, officer. *Shakes officer's hand and officer exits stage right.*

Hudson: Rosalee, please hear me. I know, I've finished everything I came here to do, but I need you to find the will. It's the one thing I want, right now.

Satan enters.

Hudson: I'm not ready to go, yet. I know I promised to leave after I saved my family, but I need to help them find the will.

Nixie enters. He is in chains.

Hudson: Nixie?

Emily enters as a spector, in blue light like Hudson.

Hudson: Emily-

Nixie: I've taken your spot, Hudson.

Hudson: No, Nixie.

Nixie: Just cross into the light, and bring your wife. I'll have earned my wings. They may be used for bad purposes, but I want those wings... and I promised I'd make things right. I promised, Hudson.

Hudson: Ah, Nixie! How am I supposed to get Emily across.

Nixie: Women aren't as stupid as men! They forgive and forget. There are very few female spectors. She's just here to get you across to that light.

Hudson: Emily?

Emily: Hudson, I've said it time and time, again. Holding a grudge is like drinking the poison and expecting the other person to die.

Hudson: Thank you Nixie, for everything.

A bright light shines off stage left.

Emily: Come along now, Hudson.

Hudson: What about the will.

Nixie: Where is it, again.

Hudson: IT IS RIGHT THERE!

Nixie sits around and contemplates for a second.

Nixie: I'm not really supposed to interact with the human world, but

kicks rug aside and Rosalee and Jacob gasp and point.

I don't really care anymore!

He picks up the will and hands it to Rosalee.

Rosalee takes the will.

Rosalee: It's dad's will.... Daddy?

Hudson and Emily smile and wave.

Lucretia enters. She is a crying mess.

Lucretia: I have no one! Edmund is gone and that cute little Nixie character is nowhere in sight!

Rosalee and Jacob: Nixie?

Nixie: me!?

Emily and Hudson: Cute?

Nixie: Sir devil sir... Can I be visible. Just for a second?

Satan shrugs and pushes him forward.

Nixie: Hey! I'm right here.

Lucretia: Oh, Nixie! I love you. How can I become closer with you!

Nixie: We're in a bit of a jam right now. The bottom line is if you want me, you need to become a good person.

Lucretia: I'LL BECOME A NUN!

Nixie: *shrugs* okay! I'll see ya when you die. meet me at the gates of the underworld and bring me to the Light, would ya?

Lucretia: Oh YES YES YES! I love you, Nixie.

Lucretia kisses Nixie and runs off.

Nixie: Okay then. Hi Rosalee. Hi Jacob. I'm your dad's guardian Sprite. Everything's okay. now. Bye!

Rosalee and Jacob wave and give each other a confused look.

Nixie's wings suddenly begin to flutter.

Nixie: Hey... My wings are working. I've received my wings.

Emily: You changed someone for the better, and you did a selfless move by taking Hudson's spot.

Nixie: So I don't have to go to the underworld?

Satan throws his arms in the air and grudgingly walks off stage right.

Hudson: Well, until we all meet, again. Let's get to the light.

Nixie, Emily, And Hudson exit into the light on stage left and the light goes out.

Roslee: Do you still have that ring?

Jacob: Of course.

Rosalee: *grins.* It's time for our new life to begin, but promise me one thing.

Jacob: Yes?

Rosalee: Not even death may do us part.

Jacob: *grins.* I promise.

Black out.

Word Count: 8427

