

Night Night, Roger Roger
(Draft 4.1)

written by

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CHARACTERS

Robin - F, Freddie's neighbor and friend, can't sleep, a kid
Freddie - F, Robin's neighbor and friend, likes to find things, a kid

The Moony - M/F, Freddie's monster in the closet, looking over her, a protector of dreams and thoughts, a mother figure with a big personality and a New York accent

Augustus Gustav - M/F, Game Show Host of the hit series "Midnight Snack", has an Australian accent, has a weird distinct act, eccentric, Gus Gus Jr. and Auggie's father.

Andy - M/F, a contestant on Midnight Snack

Vee - M/F, a contestant of Midnight Snack, Nolan's cousin, Nana's granddaughter, overly dramatic in a fun way

Wren - M, a teenager just trying to impress his girlfriend, Alice

Madison - F, young, bubbly, awkward in a cute way, really likes Benny.

Nolan - M/F, works as a security guard at the history museum with Zach, Vee's cousin, does the bare minimum for her night shifts

Zach - M, works as a security guard at the history museum with Nolan, a mess but a nice one

Benny - M, a new vampire, young, shy, sweet, loves flowers and peaches and sunlight, VERY rosy cheeks, wears a dinosaur head mask

Mercy - M/F, a nice vampire, has a Transylvanian meets valley girl accent.

Ivy - M/F, a mean vampire, has a Transylvanian meets valley girl accent.

Dawn - M/F, a mean vampire, has a Transylvanian meets valley girl accent.

William - M/F, a nice vampire, has a Transylvanian meets valley girl accent.

Vladimir - M/F, a mean vampire, has a strong Transylvanian meets valley girl accent

Gus Gus (Jr.) - M/F, Augustus Gustav's son, a light sleeper

Auggie - Gus Gus's brother, sings a little, in college

Mae - M/F, a light sleeper, lives in an apartment building

Kayden - M/F, a night person, gets very emotional over fictional characters

Michael - M/F, has a deviated septum

Ian the Landlord - M/F, the building's landlord, the amount he puts up with on a daily basis is truly amazing

Mabel - F, a vampire, has a love for academia, specifically literature, Benny's older sister

Alice - F, Mabel's human best friend, Wren's girlfriend, a little self centered, but not a bad person

Nana - F, 87 and three quarters, lives for adventure

TIME

It's midnight

SETTING

A small suburban town.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

A word with a "-" means the sentence is getting cut off
// means overlap

In the script, The Owl is listed as a character but is not in the character list. This is on purpose. I would personally use a sound instead of casting someone as The Owl.

Please enjoy some peaches while reading this.

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SCENES

1. Roger Roger Part One
Robin, Freddie
2. The Monster
The Moony
3. Midnight Snack
Augustus Gustav, Andy, Vee, Wren, Nolan
4. The Adventures of Peach Boy and Lima Bean
Madison, Ian the Landlord, The Owl
5. Security!
Zach, Nolan
6. Roger Roger Part Two
Robin, Freddie

INTERMISSION

7. The Club
Benny, Vladamir, William, Ivy, Dawn, Mercy
8. The Song
Gus Gus, Auggie, Augustus Gustav
9. Sharing a Wall
Mae, Michael, Andy, Kayden, Ian the Landlord, The Owl
10. Hiding in Flowers
Mabel, Alice
11. Nana
Nana
12. Roger Roger Part Three
Robin, Freddie, The Owl, The Moony

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE: ROGER ROGER PART ONE

It's nighttime, midnight to be exact.

Robin sits in her bedroom inside a tent she fashioned out of a bed sheet, some string, and a flashlight.

She's in her pajamas clutching onto a tin can with a string that goes out of the window.

ROBIN

(into the can)

Pshht - Roger Roger.

...

Pshht...

Roger?

No response.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

(into the can)

Pshht - Roger Roger.

PshhhhttttttRogeeeeeeeerrrrrrrrrrrr.

...

ROBIN (CONT'D)

PSSSHHTTT R-O-G-E-R.

FREDDIE

(answering from her can, not seen)

What?

ROBIN

What roger?

FREDDIE

Sorry roger, what roger?

ROBIN

Oh good, you're up, over.

FREDDIE

I am now. What do you want.

ROBIN

I can't sleep, over.

FREDDIE

So you're taking it out on me?

ROBIN

I just keep thinking and I can't sleep.

FREDDIE

About?

ROBIN

I-97 is constantly jammed, the big man upstairs is riding me for next year's projections, we're out of Folgers

FREDDIE

Nescafe is better anyway

ROBIN

Copy that.

FREDDIE

Have you counted your sheep?

ROBIN

Yup. Still only 12.

FREDDIE

12?

ROBIN

(pointing to her head)

Yeah. I guess that's all this field can handle.

FREDDIE

Get some warm milk.

ROBIN

Is that what you did?

FREDDIE

No, I wasn't having trouble sleeping-

ROBIN

I hate milk. Straight milk, blUCK.

FREDDIE

Put cinnamon in it.

ROBIN

I'm lactose intolerant.

FREDDIE

Forget the milk.

ROBIN

It might help me fall asleep but pretty soon we're gonna have a different problem.

FREDDIE
Forget the milk, Robin.

ROBIN
I do like cinnamon though.

FREDDIE
Robin.

ROBIN
Forget the milk. Roger that. Over and out.

...

ROBIN (CONT'D)
What are you thinking about?

FREDDIE
I'm thinking I wish I was asleep.

ROBIN
Oh, yeah.

FREDDIE
Yeah.

ROBIN
Sorry.

...

ROBIN (CONT'D)
Freddie?

FREDDIE
Yes?

ROBIN
Do you miss me?

FREDDIE
What?

ROBIN
Do you miss me?

FREDDIE
Yeah, sure, I miss you.

ROBIN
Sure?

FREDDIE
Sure.

ROBIN
Okay.

Okay.

...

ROBIN (CONT'D)
Tomorrow we should do something.

FREDDIE
I have chores tomorrow.

ROBIN
Oh. Okay.

...

FREDDIE
I'm sorry.

ROBIN
No, you don't have to be sorry.

FREDDIE
Maybe I can ask my mom if we can hang out in the yard after chores.

ROBIN
Really?

FREDDIE
I mean, yeah, it's not like it's far. She doesn't let me go out after dark but since it's just in the yard maybe that's okay.

ROBIN
And I can be in my yard.

FREDDIE
Yeah.

ROBIN
Yeah.

...

FREDDIE
Still can't sleep?

ROBIN
I don't know.
Been thinking a lot.
And Wren is being kind of loud.

Oh. FREDDIE

Yeah. ROBIN

Do you want to talk about it? FREDDIE

No, it's okay. You're tired. ROBIN

I'm up now. FREDDIE

Sorry. ROBIN

It's okay. FREDDIE

Okay. ROBIN

...

So...? FREDDIE

Were you dreaming about anything? ROBIN

I can't remember. FREDDIE

That's okay. Do you think it was happy? ROBIN

I hope so. FREDDIE

Freddie gets up and grabs a flash light and turns it on.

Freddie opens her blinds, it's still dark outside.

Your window is open. FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah, it was hot. Is hot. ROBIN

FREDDIE
Check this out-

*Freddie runs to her desk and grabs a laser pointer.
She points it out the window.*

ROBIN
(with a laser going in her
eye)

Ow!

FREDDIE
Cool right?

ROBIN
When did you get that?

FREDDIE
I can't tell you.

ROBIN
Why not?

FREDDIE
I stole it.

ROBIN
You stole it??

FREDDIE
I didn't steal it. I found it.

ROBIN
Where'd you find it?

FREDDIE
The sidewalk. Wren was on the phone, I think with his
girlfriend, it sounded gushy and lovey. But he dropped it.
And I found it.

ROBIN
You stole my brother's laser pointer?

FREDDIE
Yeah.

ROBIN
Nice.

Robin laughs.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
I like Alice.

FREDDIE
His girlfriend?

ROBIN
Yeah, she's really nice. She's really smart. Like really super smart.

FREDDIE
And pretty.

ROBIN
Yeah, she's really pretty.

...

WREN YELLING, GAME SHOW MUSIC plays faintly

FREDDIE
What is that?

ROBIN
It sounded like Wren screaming.

FREDDIE
I could hear it from my house.

ROBIN
He's a loud screamer.

FREDDIE
He screams a lot.

ROBIN
He's moody.

FREDDIE
Yeah. He's moody.

Footsteps coming toward's Robin's room.

Her door opens.

She sits on her can to muffle it.

ROBIN
(to the door)
I didn't scream, Wren was- yeah, I'm sorry.
I couldn't sleep.
I know, I'll try now.
I'm sorry.
Yeah.
Love you.
Night night.

The door closes.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
(into the can)

Busted.

FREDDIE
Did your dad catch you?

ROBIN
Yup.

FREDDIE
It's not that late.

ROBIN
It's past midnight.

FREDDIE
Oh.

ROBIN
Sorry I woke you up.

FREDDIE
It's okay.

ROBIN
I'll talk to you tomorrow?

FREDDIE
Night, Roger.

ROBIN
Night night, Roger.

Lights out.

SCENE TWO: THE MONSTER

It's midnight.

The Moony is in hiding in Freddie's closet, as all good monsters should.

THE MOONY

I hate teenagers.

I really do.

All they do is criminalize creatures like me.

They twist up these creepy stories about how we stalk children, how we wait just for the right moment to pop out from their closets and under their beds to scare the beggies out of them-

What kind of sick minded thing would do that?? Who even thinks up that stuff?

And they're the ones who calls us **monsters**- oh, excuse me, pardon my french.

...

It's just such poor representation for what we actually do. I blame the media. Hollywood has made a ton off of criminalizing us Moonys.

If people knew what we're actually doing, if they weren't scared by even the concept of us, maybe we wouldn't have to hide in the crooks of our kid's rooms. Ever think of that Stephen King?

...

After I had my training, I was assigned Freddie.

She's the coolest kid in the world.

She's the only kid I've had so far, but still, I know it's true.

I even almost talked to her once. She was technically sleeping, it was mostly gibberish, the only word I could make out was "flags". I said "Flags? Which flags, baby" and she said "flags" again ever so softly, but backhanded almost. It was like she was trying to get the word out of her mouth, as if it had a foul taste. "Flags." Bluck.

I realized, Freddie was having a bad dream, so I had to step in, that's my job. She had dropped Bluie, that was her favorite stuffed animal at the time, now I think it's Raxy - besides the point, she dropped Bluie and I could tell, we can always tell when our kids are having bad dreams, that night's dreams were especially scary.

The air begins to smell like peaches. Once the sweet thoughts leave their heads, the scent is soon to follow. It's basic science.

So anyway, I smell peaches and I see her twitching and moving her head a bit, so I did what every good Moony should do. I gathered up all the peaches I could and slowly poured them back into her ears. That's the quickest way to push out the onions, nightmares I think the creatures call them. In one ear and out the other.

Some will say the fastest way through the mouth but that's only because they're too focused on the scent. I try to tell them no no no that goes to the stomach, you wanna get in the thought zones, that's how you push the onions out. Anyway, after I sprung into action, the peaches smell faded quickly and I smelt the onions. It was the best aroma the room had ever had. I was so relieved she was okay.

...
 The worst is when the onions are stuck. Because of their hard exterior they can really lodge in there. The worst, and I mean the WORST is when there's so many onions you just have to wait for them to cook out. Those are the hardest nights. On those nights, I just hold her ears shut to keep in as many peaches as I can. I know this also keeps the onions in, but sometimes, you just gotta wait them out. They'll cook out eventually. Hopefully.

As long as you hold tight to your peaches, thought zones will balance themselves. Onions are strong, but every Moony will tell you peaches are stronger. That is until they become teenagers anyway. But that's a different story. I hope that never happens to Freddie.

...
 I've been smelling peaches too much recently. Like, nearly teenager levels. It's a lot for a creature her age. I get as many as I can, but it's getting harder for me to breathe. Who can breathe in a room full of peaches? I keep telling myself, push through it, this is what you were born to do.

...
 She's gonna be okay, just as long as she stops growing up.

...
 Oh!
 Oh, she's awake, shh, shh, shh, okay Moony shh...
 Funny, she isn't usually up this late.
 No need to worry, I'll push more peaches back in once she's asleep again.
 I've been saving them up.
 I've got 12 locked and loaded hidden in here.
 Because I'm a good Moony.
 All good Freddie's deserve all the peaches lodged into their thought zones.

Lights out.

SCENE THREE: MIDNIGHT SNACK

It's midnight.

In a kitchen.

GAME SHOW MUSIC PLAYS

Augustus Gustav pops up wearing a beautiful matching silk pajama set including a bow tie and head cap. He is holding a fake baby.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Welcome Night Owls of the world to your new favorite game show "Midnight Snack," I'm your host, Augustus Gustav.

Clapping, and audience roaring

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

AhhaAhhaAhha hush now, Hush!!! Keep it down, Gus Gus Jr. is trying sleep!

Husssshhhh

Augustus Gustav pats the baby's back.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

On this show, we're going to YOU, that's right. You the watchers are the contestants! We've selected three random fans to compete in tonight's competition and to join the live stream from their very own homes! These are not paid actors, these losers are doing it for free! Ahhaahhaahha let's welcome them!

More roaring followed by AG's hush.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

First up, please welcome Andy Walsh! Andy, how the heck are ya!

Andy's screen pops into view.

ANDY

Hi there, hi, I'm good hello hi!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

How the heck did you get so lucky as to get picked for MIDNIGHT SNACK!

ANDY

It's actually really easy you just go on the website and sign up- all I needed was my credit card and my social-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 AhHaAhHa this guy! Andy how would you like to answer a super
 secret bonus question?

OOOhhhh!

ANDY
 Oh boy!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 What is-

GAME SHOW MUSIC INTENSIFIES

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)
 Your mother's maiden name?

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

Andy begins to sweat- UHHHH???

ANDY
 Umm, I'm gonna go with...Gunawardena??

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 Is that your final answer?

ANDY
 Yes. Yes it is.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 And for the win...IT IS GUNA War- Guna- wardenia- guna- YOU
 GOT IT!

WOOO!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)
 (w/o accent, under his breath
 and to the side)
 Did you get that? No? Hold on-

(turning back)

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)
 (performing w/ accent)
 Could you spell that for us?

ANDY
 I don't know if-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 Come on Andy, for your fans!

WOOOOO!

ANDY
 (his cheeks turning red)
 Oh, okay, heh- G- U-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 Actually why don't you just send us an email with that, not waste our precious time, right folks! AhHaAhHa!

ANDY
 Wait why do you need my-

*Augustus Gustav snaps for him,
 The audience follows, lots of snapping.*

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 Next up we have Vee Adams! Vee!//Am I saying that right?
 Veeeee?

Vee appears on the screen.

VEE
 //Hi-hi am I on? Yes?// Yes, hi Vee as in Valentine

Vee makes a V shape with her hands.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 Oh, yes, live long and prosper to you too. Man, we've got some real weirdos tonight huh folks! Ah ha ah ha!

ANDY
 Who is she, I just won!-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 That was more of a pregame show game show Andy! Don't try to go spoiling all the fun here AhHaAhHaAhHa!

LAUGHTER.

VEE
 I wanna play!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 What a GREAT idea, Vee!

OOhhhHH!!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)
 Vee, for the WIN- what was the name of the street you grew up on?

ANDY
 Oh a stumper!

VEE

I KNOW THIS ONE!!

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK-

VEE (CONT'D)

Moonbeam Avenue!

Augustus going to the side, asking for a thumbs up.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

CONGRATS VEE! You're tonight's big winner!

ANDY

I thought I was the big winner!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

You're both winners! AhHaAhHaAhHA!

WOOO!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Last up, we have our final contestant for tonight's episode Wren Meyers! Let's welcome this little birdie!

SNAPPING.

Wren pops onto screen, wearing his best pajamas. His hair is scruffed up in a methodical way.

WREN

Hi! - uh, hmhuch - sup.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Conrad! My favorite little birdie! Ah ha! How are you tonight?

WREN

(confused)

It's Wren?

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Kids- don't know what the heck's wrong with 'em today ahh! Is there a story behind your name?

WREN

Uh, my parents like birds- my sister's name is Robin.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

You're mom's just a WEIRDO huh folks! Ah ha ah ha ah ha

LAUGHTER

WREN

And your name is Augustus Gustav?

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

(smiling, only with his
mouth)

That's ENOUGH ahhaahhaaha.

Let's get to the show shall we?

VEE

Does Wren get a special question?

ANDY

Yeah!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

But of course! Sparrow, to be named tonight's big winner on the pregame show game show, you have to answer one simple question: what was the name of your first pet?

WREN

I thought this was a cooking show-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

I bet it was a bird, right folks? AhHaAhHaAhHa

WREN

Dog actually. His name is Franklin John.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

AhHaAhHaAhHa- So your parents gave your pet a kid name and their kids pet names?? What a weirdo! Right folks!

AHHA AHHA AHHA

WREN

What do I win?

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Hm?

WREN

I answered, what's the prize.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

You win, a, you get to participate in tonight's show MIDNIGHT SNACK!

WREN

I was already picked-

Augustus glares at Wren. He snaps back to the audience.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Tonight, Andy, Vee, and Finch will be competing to see who can create the BEST midnight snack out of whatever they have in their kitchens.

Look, I know what you're thinking- what if they go out shopping that day? Isn't that cheating? I'll let you in on a little secret- we don't tell them their on the show until 11:30pm! Giving these losers just half an hour to confirm their slots and to fix up whatever kind of mess they're in ahhaahhaaha.

Doesn't sound too hard right?

WRONG!

Patricia was trying to get Gus Gus Jr. down for the night, but he just couldn't fall asleep! He cried and cried, and the only think that could calm him down was the conditional love of his father.

Awwww

Precious, I know-. Since I've got baby Gus Gus Jr. here, this means our contestants have to stay quiet enough to keep from waking him.

OOOhhhh

Oh! I almost forget the best part, the winner gets a 15% off coupon at Bath and Body Works! Isn't that terrific? Patricia, please put 3 minutes on the clock!

A 3 minute timer appears.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Are you ready folks?!

VEE

Yeah!!

ANDY

Yuparooni!

...

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Are you ready, Toucan?

WREN

What? Oh, it's Wren.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Three...two...one...GO!

And they're off.

Frantically looking around, what to make what to make?!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Watch them now, each contestant rushing around quiet as they can to make their midnight snacks- the question is, can they be quiet enough?

All three contestants are running around making things and throwing food around.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Oh lookie here! Vee is spilling everywhere! Ahhaahhaaha!

Vee is very scattered.

Andy is lost - throwing whatever he can in a bowl.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Ahhaahhaaha! Wow would you look at these weirdos! Right folks?!

Wren is slow and careful, trying to pass off that he doesn't care.

Time passes, they continue

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

If any of these contestants want to be named winner on Midnight Snack they're gonna have to pick up the pace!! Ahhaahhaaha!!

Andy grunts, Vee is making weird noises as well.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Contestants, remember, if you're too loud and wake Gus Gus Jr., you're out!

From Andy's side there is a lot of background nonsense going on.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

It seems like Andy is having some trouble staying quiet!

Andy shakes his head no voraciously.

Vee grabs a towel and puts it in her mouth to silence any noise.

Wren bites his tongue.

They continue.

THUMP - A noise from above Andy's apartment is heard

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Hush now Andy-

THUMP

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Gus Gus Jr. is gonna get fussy soon if you don't knock it off!

...

THUMP

ANDY

(to the ceiling)

WOULD YOU STOP IT I'M TRYING TO WIN A GAME SHOW!

BABY CRYING

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Andy! You woke the baby! You're outta here!!

ANDY

But my dino nuggets turned out perfect! Ugh.

He bites into his creation in defeat. Not bad.

Andy leaves.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

It's down to the final two. Who's it gonna be? Vee as in Valentine or Owl?

The competition gets more fierce...maybe Wren is getting into it finally...

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Only fifteen seconds left- can they do it?

pAnIC!!!

Vee is rushing to put everything together. She is dropping things and attempting to plate.

Wren is steady, calm, cool, and collected.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3

2

1!

You're done! Snacks down folks! Bring them over to the camera and show us what the heck you've made!

WOOHOOO

HUUSSSH

Our favorite *Treck-Vee*

(pausing for a reaction he
doesn't get-)

Why don't you step up first. Okay, Vee, before you tell us what you've made, tell us, what would winning this competition mean to you?

VEE

Well Augustus, this competition-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Augustus Gustav.

VEE

Right, excuse me, Augustus Gustav, to me, this competition is everything. I just, I have such a passion for midnight snacks and I'm really proud of what I've done here.

Vee begins to get teary eyed

VEE (CONT'D)

It's been a hard year, you know? And I've really been trying to just hang in there. We lost my Nana in a roller skating accident this year.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

I'm so sorry to hear that.

VEE

My cousin and I, we both got additional part time jobs to you know, cover all the costs of everything. The flyers, candles, stuff like that. It all adds up you know? And I just think this prize, it could do a lot for us.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

I'm sure it can. I wish you all the luck in the world.

VEE

I just wish we had taught Nana how to brake before we let go. Some say she was seen twirling on Lombard Street, others say she's near Canton Avenue.

Vee reaches for her phone.

VEE (CONT'D)

Here, it's ringing, my cousin can tell you-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Oh that's really not necessary-

VEE

Nolan? Nolan! Hey Cuz! You're on speaker. Tell everyone about Nana!

NOLAN

(on the phone)

I'm dealing with something at work right now-

VEE

Just tell them how much you miss our dear old Nana!

NOLAN

I do- we'll find her soon though- who am I talking to?

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Hi there, I'm Augustus Gustav, host of MIDNIGHT SNACK, your cousin, Vee, was just telling me about the recent death in the family.

NOLAN

Did you tell them she's dead?

VEE

No, I said we LOST her-

NOLAN

You have to phrase this better I keep getting phone calls-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Wait, Nana isn't *dead*?

DUN DUN DUNNNN

VEE

I never said she was dead!

NOLAN

She was in a home and had finished reading all the Harry Potter books and didn't anything else to do, she was bored- she said if we didn't take her roller skating she'd take us out of the will.

VEE

We took her skating, just in the parking lot. We were teaching her how to stand and holding onto her-

NOLAN

The second we looked away she bolted off.

VEE
 (sobbing)
 We never taught her the how to brake!

...

NOLAN
 Okay, can I go? I'm gonna go, bye.

Nolan hangs up.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 Well...that was...something...Why don't you tell us what you made?

Vee snaps out of crying and back into her bubbly self.

VEE
 Okay, well, I made kind of a fun dish - very much a sweet and savory thing going on. I have kind of a deconstructed BLT, it's a Oscar Mayer Deli Fresh Honey Ham skewered on some toothpick umbrellas garnished with Gherkin pickles paired with a Nestle sipping chocolate. Really just a funderdome of flavor.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 And you said it's a BLT?

VEE
 A deconstructed BLT, yes.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 Interesting, it doesn't actually contain any of the ingredients of a BLT, BLT stands for Bacon, Lettuce, and Tomato, can you tell us about that?

VEE
 Yes Chef, it's deconstructed.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
 I see.

Vee bows her head.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)
 Go ahead, try it, tell us how it is.

Vee takes a bite.

VEE
 MMMmm, so moist-
 You know what might be fun? If we just get the ham to take a swim in the Nestle-

She does so.

VEE (CONT'D)

(without swallowing)

Oh, yeah, that's, moist.

Augustus pretends to eat something, it looks more like a banana split though.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Oh, yes, absolutely delicious Vee.

VEE

Thank you chef.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Okay...rate this midnight snack from 1-10, 1 being the lowest, 10 being the highest.

VEE

(still chewing)

Well, you know, I, I'm gonna be honest. The Nestle really creates this, this symphonyous pool and this gliding train down my esophagus and with the salt from the Gherkins and the flimsibility of the Oscar Mayer Deli Fresh Honey Ham, really, the perfect midnight snack if you ask me. A solid 12. 12/10.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Wow, high praise from Vee for her deconstructed BLT. Let's move onto our little bird. Crow, how're you feeling after seeing Vee? 12/10, pretty hard to beat.

WREN

I made something I think you're gonna like.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

First, why don't you tell us what winning Midnight Snack would mean to you.

WREN

My girlfriend, Alice, said she's running out of this lotion she likes so the 15% off could really come in handy.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Wow, do you hear that folks? If this boy wins, his plan is just give it up for the girl - there's nothing more noble than that. How long have you love birds been together?

WREN

Uhm, 3 or 4ish-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

4 weeks at your age?! WOWZA! Quite an accomplishment.

WREN

Months.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Sure, sure you have.

WREN

Yeah I guess. Anyway, yeah, she likes that peach lotion.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Pretty as a Peach, yes I'm very familiar, she has good taste.

WREN

Um. Yeah.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Alrighty then, show us what you got.

WREN

Well I made a butterfly chicken with an onion sage relish-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Foul, did you say chicken?

WREN

Yeah, with this amazing onion-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

A chicken is a kind of bird innit?

WREN

I guess, yeah, but the relish-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Unfortunately we do not support cannibalism on this show Penguin! Ah ha ah ha ah ha. That's just too bad- tell Alice she's gonna be paying full price for her Pretty as a Peach lotion because tonight's winner of Midnight Snack is Vee Adams!

VEE

I won!?

WREN

WHAT?

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

Tell your cousin to quit her job because YOU are walking away with 15% off at Bath and Body Works! We here at Midnight Snack hope this can help with the recent loss of Nana.

VEE

(crying)

Thank you, I cannot tell you how much this means to me. Thank you, thank you thank you.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

And to our contestants, please remember to submit those bonus pregame show game show answers to Patricia!

WREN

This was RIGGED- AHFFF!!

Wren chucks his chicken and yells out of anger. He leaves the kitchen.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

It seems we've ruffled some of Turkey's feathers here tonight but that's what happens when you play

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV/VEE/AUDIENCE (CONT'D)

MIDNIGHT SNACK!

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV (CONT'D)

Hushhhhh!

Lights out.

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SCENE FOUR: THE ADVENTURES OF PEACH BOY AND LIMA BEAN

It's midnight.

Madison is standing outside an apartment building.

She's giddy.

Madison keeps jumping, like she's trying to see inside a window.

She can't quite get there. After a little bit, she gives up and sits in the grass.

MADISON

Ooof!

THE OWL

Hoo.

MADISON

Hi Owl, it's nice to see you again.
We haven't spoken in a while, we should catch up. You first.
...

THE OWL

Hoo. Hoo.

MADISON

And the kids? They're good?

THE OWL

Hoo.

MADISON

Wonderful, just wonderful to hear.
Okay my turn
12 months ago- a FULL YEAR ago, I saw this boy.
He would sit here in the grass and he would admire the
flowers and enjoy the sun.
He ate a peach, every single day.
I bet he has good teeth because of that. No scurvy for him.
Everyday, he would sit here, and I wanted to talk to him.
I tried, he was always so so nice, but I never had a reason
for being outside.
He would say "hi there" and I wouldn't know how to answer! A
simple hello would have sufficed.
A fool!
That's me.
So then I decided I should walk the dog so I would have a
real reason for going out.
Only problem- I don't have a dog.
I went from neighbor to neighbor BEGGING them to let me walk
their dogs, cats, fish, anything!

We live in an apartment building and we apparently "don't allow pets."

So I went to some of the houses a few blocks down and started begging them.

Eventually some nice old man named Ron said his dog could use a good walk.

He said "why not, my kids sure won't"

This dog was older than his owner, I think.

His bones were brittle and his fur was kind of chunky and fell off in puffs at a time.

Franklin John, that was the dog's name, was so slow that by the time I had gotten back to see the boy, he was already gone.

That's when I geniusly thought hey I should just pick him up and run back to the Peach Boy.

That worked for a while.

I would be out of breath by the time I got back to him, and he would say hello and I would say

- - - h - - -i ---.

He would politely nod and head back inside. And I did that for a while too.

An out of breath greeting met with a gentle smile.

That was until Franklin John decided that all the being carried while I ran business gave him motion sickness...

I had to stop running with Franklin John. I told Ron that my dog walking business had to go in a different direction.

I then just tried going outside when I saw him, but I again, tried not to be too eager.

While he ate his peach, I would eat a can or two.

He looked at me funny for doing it, but he never said anything mean.

That only happened the first time though.

The second time I went out with my legumes, he looked at me and picked a flower up from off the sidewalk.

I think someone had accidentally kicked it or stepped on it, but it was still very beautiful.

It was this lovely shade of red.

They almost matched the roses in his cheeks.

He took the flower and stuck it behind my ear and said "I'm Benjamin"

I tried to respond by my mouth was full of beans.

But what he said next was perfect.

"You deserve each of these flowers, but if we pick them out, they'll stop growing, and everything you deserve will die" and he walked away.

Maybe I'm paraphrasing, but that's what he meant, I know that for sure. I melted into the soil when he said those magical words.

After that, I didn't see him too much.

Which is really too bad, I finally had a name - but I don't know why he stopped.

It was like the world had run out of peaches or something.

I thought everything was over and I was just oh so sad when one day I had forgotten to take the trash out, so I had to do it real quick at night before my mom noticed.

And that's when I saw him.

He was sitting by the flowers reading a rhyming dictionary.

I remember thinking I thought it was funny that someone would read something like that for pleasure, but I'm sure he had his reasons.

So I asked him.

"Hi Benny"

"Hi Lima Bean."

Lima Bean, isn't that just so sweet?

I asked him, what's with the dictionary and he said he was trying to get better at it.

...

I tried to get closer, to see if I could smell him, he always smells like flowers- but when I got closer, he became frozen for a moment. An ice sculpture that boy.

As he began to thaw, he reached for my hand.

I reached for his.

Our hands turned into slow motion magnets, once together they felt stuck.

He seemed skittish but some how calm- he looked at me and I looked at him - I didn't know what to do, I never thought I would ever be this close to the Peach Boy, so I did the wave.

You know, like this-

and when it got to him he did it too.

We laughed for a moment, then he stepped closer and I started to sway a little, he swayed too. It was nice - but I didn't know what after to do after the dance thing so I started to do the robot but then, I don't know, his smile faded- he ran back inside.

I think I scared him.

Maybe I was moving too fast, that's okay, good to know, we can take our time. Or maybe he's just not a fan of the robot

...

The next day I begged my mom to take me to the bookstore.

I spent every last penny I had to buy all the Whitman, Dickinson, and Seuss I could afford.

The next night I tried to sneak out to see him and impress him with all of my new found knowledge on couplets and limericks but my mom wouldn't let me leave the house.

A devastating blow!

Love being torn apart by the evil dictatorship that is parenthood. But tonight she fell asleep watching the cooking channel, so I snuck out and I've been waiting ever since.

I'll wait and I'll keep waiting.

It's just you and me for now Owl.

You'll be the first one to witness our blossoming love, just you wait.

Then you can write poems about us.

"The Adventures of Peach Boy and Lima Bean."
 A best selling book by the Owl. I know I would buy it.
 Wait- I hear something- Shh shh- maybe it's him, maybe it's
 him! Oh- oh.
 It's just Ian the Landlord.

IAN THE LANDLORD

Madison does your mother know you're out here this late?

MADISON

Of course Mr. Ian the Landlord.

IAN THE LANDLORD

Just Ian is fine.

MADISON

Mr. Just Ian the Landlord, I like it.

IAN THE LANDLORD

If I were to go upstairs right now, your mother wouldn't be
 surprised that you're gone?

MADISON

She loves when I get fresh air.

IAN THE LANDLORD

It's past midnight, I'm tired.

MADISON

I'm okay out here.

IAN THE LANDLORD

Madison.

MADISON

Fine. Fine.

IAN THE LANDLORD

Thank you.

*Madison begins to leave. But first, she leaves a copy
 of "Love Poems" by Emily Dickinson in the flowers.*

MADISON

Owl, please be sure Benny The Peach Boy gets this. Say hi to
 the wife and kids for me. Goodnight Owl.

THE OWL

Hoo.

Lights out.

SCENE FIVE: SECURITY!

It's midnight.

Nolan is sitting at her desk in a small security office. Behind her are monitors and doodads.

Zach rushes into his office, which also has monitors and doodads, he slams the door shut and is hiding something behind his back.

Zach is bug-eyed and is trying his best to sit normally. It's not going well.

Zach leans into a mic on his desk, presses a button and speaks into it.

ZACH
Hey Nolan, back from my ten.

NOLAN
Thanks.

A nervous beat.

ZACH
When uh, when do you think you'll take yours?

NOLAN
Probably soon. I finally got into a cozy spot in my chair, but I'm getting hungry. A race against time.

ZACH
Okay.
...
How much longer?

NOLAN
Uh, I dunno, I wasn't really thinking about it till you asked-

ZACH
Just take your time.
...
Yupp just take your sweet ol' time
This works ya know, like maybe we should just stay put for the night.

NOLAN
What?

ZACH
I said maybe we should just stay put for the night.

NOLAN

We have to make our rounds, you know that.

ZACH

We have screens.

NOLAN

It's part of the job.

ZACH

I mean, we can see everything.

NOLAN

Why don't you want me to make my rounds?

ZACH

Why? Why? Uh, that's, that is such a great question...

NOLAN

It's a little hard to understand you, I'll just go over to your office-

ZACH

NO- DON'T!

NOLAN

...is everything okay?

ZACH

Uhm- yup! Yup everything is FINE everything is just so dandy over here no complaints nope absolutely no reason to leave your office just sit back and relaaaaax.

NOLAN

Okay...I'm actually gonna go on my ten and grab something from the vending machine.

ZACH

STOP!

NOLAN

What's going on??

ZACH

I uh- there's a robber. That's right, I saw a grave robber. On my ten. And they looked big and scary, much uh- much bigger than either of us.

NOLAN

Grave robbers?

ZACH

Yup.

NOLAN

This is a history museum, we don't have any graves.

ZACH

But we have BONES, they LOVE bones it just takes away the dirt and stuff which I'm sure is annoying to deal with anyway not that I'm like a, not that I've ever been a grave robber or anything I don't rob graves we have bones here. NOT THAT I WOULD STEAL OUR BONES- Just that if I were going to I would look here first so I wouldn't have to dig or anything- again I don't STEAL bones like- ahhkwblvkjo-

NOLAN

There are people here though??

ZACH

Um yeah and they look scary so maybe-

NOLAN

I don't see anyone, here I'll check your quadrant since I only have the east side-

ZACH

IT'S MY SIDE!

NOLAN

If there's someone here we can't just leave it-

ZACH

They looked scary!

NOLAN

WE'RE THE SECURITY OFFICERS THIS IS LITERALLY OUR ONLY JOB!

Nolan's phone rings.

NOLAN (CONT'D)

Give me a sec, my cousin is calling.

ZACH

No rush.

NOLAN

(on the phone)

I'm dealing with something at work right now-

...

I do- we'll find her soon though- who am I talking to?

...

Did you tell them she's dead?

ZACH

Who's dead?

NOLAN
(on the phone)

...
You have to phrase this better I keep getting phone calls-

ZACH
We haven't had a single call all night-

NOLAN
She was in a home and had finished reading all the Harry Potter books and didn't anything else to do, she was bored- she said if we didn't take her roller skating she'd take us out of the will.

ZACH
I mean it's her will-

NOLAN
The second we looked away she bolted off.

ZACH
Wait I thought she was dead??

NOLAN
...
Okay, can I go? I'm gonna go, bye.

ZACH
Who died?

NOLAN
No one.

ZACH
You had to tell someone someone died am I the someone or am I going to be the someone oh my god am I going to be the someone

NOLAN
No one is dead! Not yet anyway- how'd you-

ZACH
You never took your finger off the button.

NOLAN
Can we get back to the robbers??

ZACH
(getting bashful)
It's like you wanted me to hear.

NOLAN
Where are they, Zach?

ZACH
You know, I really wish we were closer-

NOLAN
ZACH-

Zach screams into the mic.

NOLAN (CONT'D)
Was that necessary?

ZACH
You're scary when you're mad.

NOLAN
I'm going to go do my job.

ZACH
Don't go out there, you could get killed!

NOLAN
I'm not gonna get killed I'm just gonna scare them a little bit and tell them to leave.

ZACH
They're dangerous!

NOLAN
Okay, then I'm calling the police.

ZACH
You absolutely cannot call the police.

NOLAN
If they're so dangerous, we need to call them.

ZACH
I- oh god. This is embarrassing.

NOLAN
We're losing time Zach-

ZACH
I'm wanted by them.

...

NOLAN
You're...wanted...? By the police...??

ZACH
Yes :/

Nolan slowly grabs her phone and is about to dial 911 when she stops for one last question.

NOLAN

...what did you do...

ZACH

I uhm...

NOLAN

I have to call-

ZACH

NO- sorry I'll tell you!

NOLAN

Wait why wouldn't they look where you work? That doesn't make any sense-

ZACH

Not that kind of wanted.

NOLAN

...?

ZACH

I uh...I...I promised to help with the police ball, you know, set up decorations, put up balloons, spruce up the place. And I, well I really had intended to do that I swear I did, but well, I got...distracted.

I was at the grocery store buying Sour Cream and Onion chips and a 12 pack of that tropical fruit punch stuff, you know the one with that surfer guy on the label, FOR THE PARTY might I add, and this lady in front of me in the check out line she looked at me and pinched my face and she went "oh you look just like husband" and I was like "aw thank you I'm sure he's a handsome little man"

and she went "he's dead but you'll do for now"

and I went "oh no like ah that really sucks"

and she went "you'd take a little time to help a little old lady right?"

and I said "oh, yeah, yeah of COURSE I would!" and she said "good! Let's go!" And I swear, I didn't even know what was happening, she left her cart just there in the middle of the check out lane and she grabbed me and started skating!

I had to sprint just to try to match speed-

I, because of the ruckus, ended up leaving my cart too, all those chips and that little surfer guy just STRANDED among all the Kit Kat Bars and Life magazines, and I swear to you, never have I ever seen a little 80 something year old lady go so fast I couldn't keep up!

We ran and ran and finally I said "look lady, I gotta go to the police ball!"

I promised to help" and she said, well I'm not gonna tell you what she said because we're in a work place and it's not very professional, but basically she said

"we gotta keep going"

and I said "no I have to leave!"

and she said "oh, you're tired are you?" and she, I kid you not, PICKS. ME. UP. OFF OF THE GROUND and starts going FASTER!

I mean, hey she quickly lost her speed but I'm a grown man and there was a hill, I was impressed either way you know? And we went right past the police station, where I had INTENDED on being, and down a few more blocks and we got to an old folks home.

She set me down, very gently, like a kitten testing bath water, and brought me inside.

She took us to her room and she laid down in her bed.

Poor lady was pooped.

She handed me a book and I spent the next hour and a half reading Harry Potter's Deadliest Hollows to her and she fell asleep right there. Little angel, just sleepin away her troubles.

After that, I kissed her head and tucked her in and began to walk back to the grocery store where I had left my cart unattended.

By the time I got back it was way too late for the ball, it would have been long over by then.

So, I just, went home. You know, she really, she awoke something in me. I can't describe it- she was so old, so close to the end of her life, but still so young, so spry so...beautiful- I wonder if I could see her again-

NOLAN

Wait, so the police are after you, because a crazy old woman saw you at a grocery store, picked you up, and made you read to her?

ZACH

Noooo, they're after me because I didn't help out like I said I would.

NOLAN

Yeah. Yeah okay, I'm gonna call the police.

ZACH

Wait, can't you just, just check it out I'm sure the gold diggers are gone by now.

NOLAN

I thought they were grave robbers?

ZACH

Um, yes, both, actually, they're both here.

NOLAN
Okay...okay...I'm gonna check it out...

ZACH
Okay, I'll watch from in here- take your walkie-

Nolan tests her walkie. It doesn't work.

NOLAN
You didn't charge them.

ZACH
I was supposed to do that?

NOLAN
Just Facetime me.

ZACH
I don't have your number.

NOLAN
(annoyed)
I'll text you.

ZACH
(getting bashful)
Only if you want.

NOLAN
You will not abuse this number.

ZACH
I knew you wanted to get closer, but wow, so fast-

They start the call.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Watch out for the gold digger especially- she looked uh, hungry.

Nolan leaves the room with her walkie and Zach watches, sweat pours from his scalp.

ZACH (CONT'D)
See anything?

NOLAN
Not yet.

Zach is paying close attention to where Nolan is going.

ZACH
WAIT!

NOLAN
 What??

ZACH
 Don't go that way! They're uh, they're the other way.

NOLAN
 You see them??

ZACH
 YES! Okay, turn left- NOT THAT WAY

NOLAN
 You said left!

ZACH
 My left!

NOLAN
 I don't know what direction you're facing Zach-

ZACH
 Just go the other way!

He continues to watch, she searches-

NOLAN
 I don't see anyone, I don't hear anything. Are you sure they're here?

ZACH
 They're just in the next room! GO GO GO!
 YOU ALMOST GOT THEM JUST TURN THE CORNER
 OH OH
 YOU JUST MISSED THEM
 KEEP GOING

NOLAN
 (out of breath)
 WHY IS THIS MUSEUM SO BIG

ZACH
 YOU GOT THIS NOLAN KEEP GOING

NOLAN
 WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP ME

ZACH
 I gotta stay in here and watch!

NOLAN
 BUT ZACH-

ZACH
YOU'RE LOSING THEM!

NOLAN
GAHHHHH!!

ZACH
AND AND AND-
Ohh, oh, they're gone. They're gone.
Bones and all.

NOLAN
I'm...calling...the...police

ZACH
BUT-

NOLAN
(completely out of breath)
No, your story was ridiculous and they're getting away, we're
gonna get fired.

ZACH
Wait, no, don't do that.

NOLAN
You're killing me.

ZACH
Just...just head back to your office.

NOLAN
You have to tell me what's going on.

ZACH
Okay, fine. Fine. Fine. I uh. I was on my ten. And I noticed
the Gallimimus exhibit, well, he looked sad, and I, I just, I
wanted to. Never mind. It's stupid.

NOLAN
Please. For the love of all that is holy, please.

Zach sighs.

ZACH
I wanted to dance with it.

NOLAN
What?

ZACH
I wanted to dance with the Gallimimus. It's been a dream of
mine since I was a kid. It's actually um, why I applied here.

I've always really been drawn to old things, like fossils and stuff you know? Like once you have a taste for the Geriatric, you want the Jurassic. They're so...beautiful. Wow. -

(shaking out of it)

So on my ten, I went to the Gallimimus and we started to tango. And on the dip, it's hand snapped.

NOLAN

...like the bone?

ZACH

Yeah. But that's never happened before I swear. The T-Rex and the stegosaurus, solid as rocks.

NOLAN

Where is it?

ZACH

...

Zach pulls the dinosaur hand out from behind him and looks at it.

NOLAN

Do you have the Gallimimus' hand?

ZACH

...

NOLAN

Zach?

ZACH

...

NOLAN

Zach do you have the dinosaur hand?

ZACH

...yes.

NOLAN

Okay.

ZACH

Okay what?

NOLAN

Okay, I'm gonna go.

ZACH

Where?

NOLAN

I'm taking my ten.

Lights out.

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SCENE SIX: ROGER ROGER PART TWO

It's past midnight.

Robin is asleep.

Freddie is awake.

FREDDIE
(into the can)

Pshht roger

...

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Pshhhht roger over

...

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Roger Roger pshht pshht

...

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Robin wake up.
This isn't fair you woke me up.
Robinnnn.

*Freddie gets up and finds things around her room...she
grabs a handful of small plastic dinosaur figurines
and takes chunks off.*

*Freddie goes to the window and throws a some at
Robin's window.*

She tries this a few times.

Chunk

Chunk

Chunk

Robin wakes up

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

We said we would never turn our cans off

ROBIN

It's on, it's been on

FREDDIE

I said roger like twelve hundred times.

I fell asleep on top of it ROBIN

Well don't FREDDIE

I didn't mean to ROBIN

Okay FREDDIE

I'm sorry ROBIN

It's okay. FREDDIE

What's wrong? ROBIN

I can't sleep. FREDDIE

Why not? ROBIN

You woke me up. FREDDIE

Like twelve hundred hours ago. ROBIN

Still. FREDDIE

...

Were you dreaming? FREDDIE (CONT'D)

I think so. ROBIN

You think so? FREDDIE

Yeah. ROBIN

Was it happy? FREDDIE

I don't know. ROBIN

Okay. FREDDIE

...

I bet your dad is asleep now. FREDDIE (CONT'D)

I bet he is. ROBIN

Is Wren? FREDDIE

Probably. ROBIN

That's cool. FREDDIE

I bet no ones awake. ROBIN

Really? FREDDIE

I mean, maybe people in Australia ROBIN

Yeah, they wake up early FREDDIE

They also live in a different time zone. ROBIN

Yeah but I heard they also wake up early. FREDDIE

So it's just us? ROBIN

Us and the Australians. FREDDIE

The universe belongs to us right now. Just for now. ROBIN

Australia is far. FREDDIE

ROBIN
I don't mind sharing with them.

FREDDIE
Me neither.

ROBIN
They're nice.

FREDDIE
They're nice.

...

ROBIN
What should we do?

FREDDIE
There's a lot of places we could go, a lot of things we could do.

ROBIN
Everything is closed.

FREDDIE
The universe is ours, we can bring it in here.
You can stay in bed.

ROBIN
I'm not in my bed.

FREDDIE
Where are you?

ROBIN
I'm in Australia.

FREDDIE
Can you get out?

ROBIN
Where do you want to go?

FREDDIE
To Venus.

ROBIN
Leaving Australia.

FREDDIE
Jupiter is where the boys are. Mars has a rover. Uranus...I don't think we could stop laughing there.

ROBIN
We can't go to a planet to laugh at it.

FREDDIE
That's mean.

ROBIN
That's mean.
I hear it's hot on Venus.

FREDDIE
We'll open a window.

ROBIN
That helps.

FREDDIE
I brought some peaches.

ROBIN
I have lotion, in case our skin gets dry.

FREDDIE
You're smart.

ROBIN
You're smart too.

...

ROBIN (CONT'D)
How will we keep track of time? Our parents will wake soon.
They'll take the universe away.

FREDDIE
We found it. No take backs.

ROBIN
I'm not strong enough to hold onto the whole universe.

FREDDIE
I'm holding on too.

...

ROBIN
Let's enjoy it for now. We feel them pull, we let go, and
give the universe back.

FREDDIE
What if I don't want to?

ROBIN

It's not fair to steal it. Other people need the universe too.

FREDDIE

We'll borrow it.

ROBIN

Just for now.

FREDDIE

Do you think we can get it back?

ROBIN

Someday.

...

Lights out.

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END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE SEVEN: THE CLUB

It's midnight.

6 members of the undead, each in their own coffins.

All of them wear dark hoods with matching makeup - all but one: Benny - he wears a dinosaur head.

Each coffin is lit with candles.

Each one is dark and gloomy, except Benny's. He has flowers and a few books in his coffin - some Seuss and Love Poems by Emily Dickinson.

Benny is dozing off to into space, Vladamir clears his throat, Benny snaps back into it.

Benny begins to pat a bongo

this next whole section is rhythmic and fast paced

Hush	DAWN
Hush	WILLIAM
HUSH	IVY
HUSH	VLADAMIR
HUSH HUSH HUSH HUSH	MERCY
HUSH	ALL
Our clock hath struck	DAWN
Oh gee, what luck	WILLIAM
Each night we rise	IVY
Till sun does spies	VLADAMIR

MERCY

The sun, the sun, we spit on the sun

BENNY

Not AT it though-

MERCY

Don't break the rhyme, you'll ruin the fun

BENNY

(trying his best)

The sun the sun the sun the sun

DAWN

We hate the light

WILLIAM

We love to bite

IVY

We feast on blood

VLADAMIR

We eat, we bud

MERCY

We bud we bud we bloom we bud

BENNY

Aw I get it- we're beautiful. Like the flowers! So we bud.
Aw. I like it.

VLADAMIR

(pulling his hood off,
breaking his accent)

Dang it Benny!

DAWN

(turning on a real light)

Every time.

MERCY

(rolling her head, stretching
a bit)

Lighten up we were almost done anyway.

VLADAMIR

Yeah, but now the melody is unfinished and it's making my
head feel funny

BENNY

I'm sorry guys- I just, I liked the flower thing-

WILLIAM

Don't worry about it Benny, you'll get em next full moon.

IVY

Why do we keep inviting him? He's only capable of mistakes.

MERCY

He's still learning, you weren't great a couple hundred years ago yourself, Ivy.

VLADAMIR

Yeah, but we all learned quicker that him- and what's with the dinosaur mask??

BENNY

It's a gallimimus-

WILLIAM

Don't mind him he's just grumpy cuz he's running out of glitter

VLADAMIR

I do NOT- how many times do I have to tell you William, this is NATURAL-

WILLIAM

Explain the Sephora bottle behind you.

VLADAMIR

(panickly looks around)

I do NOT- I did- NO!

IVY

We only get one shot a month to thank the Moon!

DAWN

Without her we have no life, we must thank her.

BENNY

I want to thank it too, I swear-

VLADAMIR

"IT"?

BENNY

Her, sorry she!

DAWN

You're gonna ruin this for all of us.

BENNY

I'm new, I'm trying my best

DAWN

Your best isn't good enough

IVY

We're the ones who will suffer for your idiocy.

VLADAMIR

If we don't thank the Moon, she might disappear.

MERCY

She loves us too much

IVY

She must feel loved too.

WILLIAM

She knows he's trying.

VLADAMIR

We don't know that.

BENNY

I didn't thank the Sun when I was human

IVY

You dare compare the Moon to the Sun?

DAWN

Villanous!

VLADAMIR

Feind!

IVY

Humans don't die by seeing the Moon

DAWN

The Moon protects us

VLADAMIR

She let's us stay undead!

BENNY

I miss being human.

...

DAWN

What...did you just say?

BENNY

I miss sitting in the light.

IVY

Keep your voice down!

BENNY

I miss the look of it peaking through the clouds-

DAWN

The Moon might hear you!

BENNY

I miss eating peaches, getting sunburns, peeling the skin, waiting outside for the lima bean girl- you know, looking at flowers I miss seeing the world beyond the moonlight.

VLADAMIR

(scoffing)

This is about a girl-

BENNY

No, yes, I mean no, I just- I didn't ask for this.

IVY

That's it, he's out.

DAWN

OUT OUT OUT!

MERCY

Stop it guys, cut it out he doesn't know!

IVY

He's DONE!

WILLIAM

Give the kid a chance!

DAWN

This kid will never learn- his head is always stuck in that stupid mask.

IVY

Stupid mask!

VLADAMIR

Stupid mask!

DAWN/IVY/VLADAMIR (CONT'D)

STUPID MASK STUPID MASK STUPID MASK

DAWN (CONT'D)

A simple task

IVY

Just lose the mask

Not going to ask
 Hey lose the mask
 Hey lose the mask
 HEY LOSE THE MASK
 Oh won't you stop! See his tear drop, his heart you broke,
 he's just rewoke
 He soft, kind folk
 His soul was pure
 Though quite unsure
 Because the hate
 You all translate
 Please stop the rhymes, I can't keep up,
 I must back up
 It's a wallop
 My head, does spin,
 it's fine, you win,
 I will lose it,
 I am unfit
 I'm the misfit.
 I know, I'll go!
 I'll go I'll go I'll leave I'll go

He rips off the mask.

...

*His face is soft, sweet, his cheeks are rosy. Really,
 a fresh vampire.*

They all just stop and look at him for a moment.

...What?

VLADAMIR

DAWN

IVY

DAWN/IVY/VLADAMIR (CONT'D)

MERCY

WILLIAM

MERCY

WILLIAM

MERCY

WILLIAM

BENNY

BENNY (CONT'D)

IVY

Woah, he really is new.

VLADAMIR

His cheeks are still peachy-

DAWN

Like he has a crush.

BENNY

I'm sorry, I know- it, it takes a while from for the pink to fade, that's what Mabel told me.

DAWN

Mabel?

BENNY

Yeah, my sister. She said she was a late bloomer too- she's actually the one who told me about this group.

MERCY

Her rhymes were a little above our skill level

IVY

A little? I remember Vladamir didn't wake for the 3 years she was with us because he doesn't understand slant rhymes

VLADAMIR

What's wrong with using an AA BB CC pattern? Why complicate it?

BENNY

She studied closely with Dickinson.

IVY

Funny, most undead don't pursue life in the human world after death

MERCY

She could not stop for death.

...
You know, she was new once too.

WILLIAM

It took me a while, the rebirth.

BENNY

I was just embarrassed...I see all of you, so undead looking, so beautiful, I just, um, I-

DAWN

We understand.

IVY

Yeah, I'm, we're sorry.

BENNY

(embarrassed)

That and um, my, the sparkles, they haven't come in yet.

VLADAMIR

Give it 10-12 business days.

DAWN

You'll get there kid, don't worry about it.

MERCY

You wanna chant us out?

BENNY

Me? Oh I can't I'm not good enough yet.

WILLIAM

Practice makes perfect

IVY

Give it a shot

BENNY

Um...can I...um-

MERCY

Yes, you can put the mask back on Benny.

BENNY

YES!

Benny puts the mask on proudly.

He pats his bongo and does a happy dance.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Hush

DAWN

Hush

WILLIAM

Hush

IVY

HUSH

VLADAMIR

HUSH

SCENE EIGHT: THE SONG

It's midnight.

Gus Gus is trying to sleep.

His dad's midnight game show in the other room is preventing this from happening.

Gus Gus tosses and turns and tosses and turns

He cannot sleep.

He gets up and goes to his desk. He grabs his tablet and begins Facetiming his brother.

Hi Auggie. GUS GUS

Hi Gus Gus. AUGGIE

Hi. GUS GUS

Is everything okay? AUGGIE

Yeah. GUS GUS

Are you sure? Kinda late for you to be calling me. AUGGIE

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV
(faintly in the background)

AH HA AH HA AH HA

Oh AUGGIE

Yeah. GUS GUS

Isn't the whole point of that show not to wake you. AUGGIE

It's a bad show. GUS GUS

"Don't wake the baby!" AUGGIE

GUS GUS
He yells at his contestants for being loud and then cackles
waking the whole neighborhood.

AUGGIE
He's a passionate guy.

GUS GUS
Passionate.

AUGGIE
Gotta love him.

GUS GUS
He's a con man.

AUGGIE
All he needs is a funny hat.

GUS GUS
(in his best Australian
accent)
"To win a big prize, tell me, what is the name of the town
you were born in?"

AUGGIE
"What elementary school did you attend?"

GUS GUS
"What's your mother's maiden name?"

AUGGIE
I wish I knew that one.

GUS GUS
At least you got to meet her.

AUGGIE
Has he ever given anyone a prize?

GUS GUS
Just mom's expired coupons.

AUGGIE
Waste not want not I guess.

GAME SHOW MUSIC PLAYS

AUGGIE (CONT'D)
I'll drive down this weekend and give you my noise cancelling
headphones.

GUS GUS
What about your roommate?

AUGGIE

I've got plenty, it came in like a 12 pack. Besides, he got a night job. He's been leaving like a little before 10 so his sleep talking hasn't been an issue.

GUS GUS

No more singing either then

AUGGIE

Hah- yeah, man who hums Santa Maria in their sleep? He's insane.

GUS GUS

He's a passionate guy.

BABY CRYING

AUGGIE

Aw you sound cranky.

GUS GUS

Someone was louder than dad I guess.

AUGGIE

An accomplishment if you ask me.

...

GUS GUS

Did I wake you up?

AUGGIE

Nah, I'm in college. I get to be crazy and stay up too late. It's part of being a teenager.

GUS GUS

I want to be a teenager.

AUGGIE

Teenagers are overrated.

GUS GUS

Maybe.

AUGGIE

You'll see.

GUS GUS

Can you help me sleep?

AUGGIE

I have neighbors-

GUS GUS

Zach is at work.

AUGGIE

Uh, I don't, I still share a wall-

GUS GUS

Go to the bathroom?

AUGGIE

Gus Gus-

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

IT IS GUNA WAR- GUNA - WARDENIA- GINA- YOU GOT IT!

Auggie sighs a bit.

AUGGIE

Give me a second.

Auggie goes to the bathroom.

AUGGIE (CONT'D)

Just one song okay?

GUS GUS

The one mom wrote?

Auggie holds a tight breath, he nods.

Auggie begins to play a song

AUGGIE

HAVE YOU SEEN THE MOON SINCE YESTERDAY
HE'S CHANGED HIS FACE
HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE STARS
THEY'VE MADE A PLACE
JUST FOR YOU

LOOK AROUND
THEY'RE NOT PUSHING ANYTHING
YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND
YOU CAN RELEASE YOUR BREATH

YOU'RE MY LIGHT
LIGHT
LIGHT
YOU SHINE BRIGHT
BRIGHT
BRIGHT
YOU ARE, OH YOU ARE, MY LIGHT
...

Auggie stops.

Go to bed Gus Gus. AUGGIE (CONT'D)

Dad's still being loud- GUS GUS

Play some music off your phone. AUGGIE

That wasn't a full song. GUS GUS

I can't finish it. AUGGIE

Gus Gus sits up.

GUS GUS
LET'S GO TO OUTER SPACE
WE'LL LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND
WE'LL LEAVE THIS NOISY PLACE
IT'LL BE JUST YOU AND ME

WE LAND ON JUPITER
THAT'S WHERE BOYS TEND TO GROW OH
THIS WHOLE WORLD WILL BE A BLUR
AND NO ONE CAN TELL US NO OH OH

LOOK AROUND
THEY'RE NOT PUSHING ANYTHING
YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND
YOU CAN RELEASE YOUR BREATH

GUS GUS/AUGGIE (CONT'D)
YOU'RE MY LIGHT
LIGHT
LIGHT
YOU SHINE BRIGHT
BRIGHT
BRIGHT
YOU ARE, OH YOU ARE, MY LIGHT

You're my light Auggie. GUS GUS (CONT'D)

You're mine too. AUGGIE

Each other's lights. GUS GUS

Goodnight, light. AUGGIE

GUS GUS

Goodnight, light.

A softness.

AUGUSTUS GUSTAV

AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLAY-

Lights out.

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SCENE NINE: SHARING A WALL

It's midnight.

Michael and Mae share a wall; they're both lying in their own beds in their own rooms.

Mae is tossing and turning, not able to find that cozy spot

Michael, on the other hand, found this spot a while ago and is sleeping soundly.

Mae keeps tossing- eventually she stops and gives in. She stops moving and takes a deep breath and starts to fall asleep.

This is working- until-

THE OWL

Hoo. Hoo.

...

THE OWL (CONT'D)

Hoo.

...
Hoo.

Mae gets up and shuts her window.

She goes back to her bed and starts to drift.

...

MICHAEL

SNORE

Mae ignores this.

...

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

snore...*snore*...*snore*

Mae contemplates getting up- but Michael stops, so she relaxes.

...

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

SNOORREEE

Mae sighs loudly.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 (groggy shouting)
 Hey keep it down in there-

MAE
 (shouting back)
 Your snoring could make a car alarm go off.

MICHAEL
 (still groggy shouting)
 You try living with a deviated septum!

Michael goes back to sleep.

Mae smoothes out her pillow and lays back down.

Silence.

The man living in the apartment under Mae's turns on his light, he is getting ready for something.

Andy is primping and prepping.

He begins talking to his computer.

ANDY
 Hi there, hi, I'm good hello hi!

Mae's eyes widen.

ANDY (CONT'D)
 It's actually really easy you just go on the website and sign up- all I needed was my credit card and my social-

Mae pulls her pillow around her head and goes into the fetal position

MAE
 Oh no-

ANDY
 Oh boy!

MAE
 Son of a-

MICHAEL
 SNOORREE

ANDY
 Umm, I'm gonna go with...Gunawardena??

Mae throws something onto the floor in an attempt to shut him up. Unfortunately she chose a stuffed dinosaur, so there wasn't much of a sound.

Andy stops talking though.

Good.

Phew.

MAE

Oh thank you, it's okay, thank you.

ANDY

Yes. Yes it is.

The woman who lives next to Andy is reading something on her phone.

Kayden reads something sad - she starts to cry.

Kayden is crying.

At first, it's just a sniffle.

Then, it escalates.

Kayden is now ugly crying, sobbing- it can be heard from any part of the building.

Mae herself starts to tear up out of sheer frustration.

Kayden calls someone to comfort her.

KAYDEN

Hi Shay, I know you're asleep, but I could really use someone right now. A friend. I just need to talk to someone. Call me when you get this.

Kayden continues to cry.

MAE

Do any of you have literally ANY respect for any of your neighbors??

ANDY

I don't know if-

MICHAEL

SNORE

ANDY

(his cheeks turning red)

Oh, okay, heh- G- U-...

Mae goes to her closet and grabs a handful of blankets, sweaters, and pants. This takes a few trips.

MAE

I just need your respect, any of it, please, just-

ANDY

Wait why do you need my-

After they're all on her bed, she climbs under in order to dim the sound.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Who is she, I just won!-

...

It's working

...

...

KAYDEN

SOBBING

ANDY

Oh a stumper!

Mae dives deeper.

She dives too far - she has to come up for air.

Kayden is calling someone else.

KAYDEN

Hi Naomi - I know you're asleep, but I could really use someone right now. A friend. I just need to talk to someone. Call me when you get this.

ANDY

I thought I was the big winner!

MAE

Oh you're a big something alright.

Mae gets socks and stuffs them into her ears.

MICHAEL

SNORE SNORE SNORE

Andy is cooking, making weird sounds of panic and pastry.

MAE

gAHH

MICHAEL

SNNOOOOORRRREEEEE

KAYDEN

Oh my gosh, Jaz, you're up, hi, hi- I just, yeah. No, I'm okay-

Kayden sobs even louder.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

Why did he have to die?? He was too good for this world.

MICHAEL

SNORE SNORE SNORE

Mae bangs on Michael's wall

MAE

PLEASE MICHAEL PLEASE GO TO THE DOCTOR, MOVE OUT, I DON'T CARE JUST LET ME SLEEP

A moment of silence-

A sigh of relief-

MICHAEL

(sharply)

snORE!

MAE

I'm gonna kill him.

KAYDEN

I mean he sacrificed his life, he was a free elf, but when the Harry and the kids needed his help he was there for him, it's just not fair, why would she write something like this?

Mae starts jumping up and down.

THUMP

...

THUMP

...

THUMP

ANDY
 (to the ceiling)
 WOULD YOU STOP IT I'M TRYING TO WIN A GAME SHOW!

KAYDEN
 SOBBING

ANDY
 But my dino nuggets turned out perfect! Ugh.

MAE
 IT'S 12:08! I HAVE TO LEAVE FOR WORK IN 5 AND A HALF HOURS!
 PLEASE LET ME SLEEP PLEASE LET ME SLEEP PLEASE LET ME SLEEP!

Mae begins to cry.

There's a knock on Mae's door. She put on her robe and answers it.

MAE (CONT'D)
 WHAT?

IAN THE LANDLORD
 Mae, we're getting complaints from everyone in the building. You're gonna have to either get it together or I can escort you out to the street. Which will it be?

MAE
 But they're the ones who- the snoring, the crying, the game show-

IAN THE LANDLORD
 Just try to be quieter okay?

MAE
 Sorry, Ian.

Ian leaves.

It's quieter now. Kayden has calmed down, Andy has gone to bed, and Michael...well he's still Michael.

Mae scoops all of the things on her bed onto the floor.

She grabs her dinosaur and cuddles with it.

...

THE OWL
 (faintly)
 Hoo. Hoo.

MAE

Goodnight, Owl.

She falls asleep.

...

MAE (CONT'D)

SNORE

A car alarm goes off.

Lights out.

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SCENE TEN: HIDING IN FLOWERS

It's midnight.

Alice and Mabel are Skyping.

*Mabel is cleaning her mess some might call a room,
it's an organized chaos.*

Alice is studying.

ALICE

"I hide myself within my flower, That, fading from your vase,
You, unsuspecting, feel for me Almost a loneliness. That I
did always love, I bring thee proof: That till I loved I did
not love enough. That I shall love always, I offer thee
That love is life, And life hath immortality."

MABEL

I'm not sure that can count as one quote.

ALICE

It's a little long but I think it works.

MABEL

That's just the whole poem.

ALICE

I didn't tell her to write such short poems.

MABEL

A poem doesn't have to be long to be beautiful-

ALICE

I'm not saying saying it's not beautiful-

MABEL

Pick a line.

ALICE

"I hide myself within my flower,/ That, fading from your
vase"

MABEL

Now just explain what it means.

ALICE

You're better at this stuff.

MABEL

Dickinson isn't pretentious, she doesn't hide much, okay, so
we already know Emily thinks of herself being a feminine love
interest as a "flower" right? So she's hiding in that.

"I hide myself within my flower" and she's not getting the attention from whomever she's trying to right? Hence the "fading from your vase."
It's not like Whitman where you really have to dig in there.

ALICE

Wait can you say that again but slower?

MABEL

When do you have to turn this in?

ALICE

Midnight.

MABEL

It's 12:03.

ALICE

I'll just say my wifi was slow. I just have to finish this paragraph.

MABEL

And then the conclusion.

ALICE

Already done.

MABEL

How?

ALICE

I did it after I did the intro.

MABEL

We're working on the body paragraphs-

ALICE

It's easier this way.

MABEL

Your essay.

Mabel grabs a box goodies from Bath and Body Works

MABEL (CONT'D)

Do you want any of these?

ALICE

Ugh, no thanks. Wren gets me lotion and perfume like every month. "Babe can you believe we've been together for three months? Babe here's a token of my love- LOTION!" Blah.

MABEL

You smell that bad?

ALICE

Do you know how many bottles of Pretty as a Peach I own? 12. I own 12 bottles of Pretty as a Peach. The worst part is I'm allergic to peaches. I used to correct him on it, he's just forgetful. At this point I just tell him I ran out because I wore it so much.

MABEL

It's nice that he gets you things though.

ALICE

He's the sweetest. Just a bad gift giver. Boys.

MABEL

Yeah, boys.

Beat.

MABEL (CONT'D)

How's the essay?

ALICE

It's a tad under the minimum page length.

MABEL

You could expand on a quote maybe? Or redo your conclusion?

ALICE

I'm changing the font size in the commas and periods to 13.

MABEL

The public education system amazes me.

Beat.

MABEL (CONT'D)

What do you think of this?

Mabel hold up a nice dress.

ALICE

Give me a sec-

Alice goes to her closet and gets a dress of her own.

ALICE (CONT'D)

What about this?

MABEL

I'm kinda steering away from dresses.

Alice digs around more.

ALICE

This?

She hold up a green bomber jacket.

MABEL

Would that fit me?

Alice squints at the jacket then at Mabel

ALICE

Definitely.

MABEL

Done.

ALICE

I have shoes that go with it.

MABEL

You don't want them?

ALICE

Gift from Wren.

MABEL

I like Wren's clothes.

ALICE

Hence the trade.

MABEL

I don't have anything to trade you. I just had the dress.

ALICE

You helped me with my essay.
Why don't you want that dress? It's cute.

MABEL

I don't look great in it.

ALICE

Show me.

Mabel pulls the dress on over her pajamas.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Oh my god.

MABEL

I already know I don't want to keep it

ALICE
 (laughing)
 You look ridiculous

MABEL
 It's not a good fit

ALICE
 You're so stubborn.

MABEL
 Tell me I'm wrong

ALICE
 Mabel just-

Alice laughs.

Mabel begins to do goofy poses, Alice laughs more.

CLICK

Alice takes a screenshot on her laptop.

Mabel freezes - she dives onto the floor.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 Are you okay??

MABEL
 What did you just do?

ALICE
 Nothing what are you okay?

MABEL
 Did you take a picture of me?

ALICE
 Yeah I did why

MABEL
 Delete it

ALICE
 Why-

MABEL
 Delete it delete it now don't look at it just delete it-

ALICE
 It's just a picture-

MABEL

No Alice, to you it's just a picture. To you it's just a funny memory with a friend but to me it could mean exposure.

ALICE

I wasn't planning on sharing-

MABEL

I've told you I've told you so many times that I don't want pictures taken of me

ALICE

Look I'm sorry-

MABEL

You're just forgetful, I know.

Beat.

ALICE

I deleted it.

MABEL

Thank you.

Beat.

ALICE

Okay, but what the heck.

MABEL

I can't tell you.

ALICE

That's not true, you can tell me anything.

MABEL

This isn't a matter of me not wanting to tell you.

ALICE

You don't tell me anything.

MABEL

I tell you everything.

ALICE

That's not true - you just listen to me and say things like "oh that sounds nice" or "I don't like that." The only time I feel like I ever get you to share your actual opinion on something is when you're helping me with a paper for English or your share a poem with me but even then I don't understand, I don't get you, but I want to, Mabel. I want to.

MABEL

You can't know everything.

ALICE

I'm not asking to know everything, I'm asking to know you.

MABEL

I don't...this isn't something I can just share.

ALICE

Fine.

...
Keep the dress.
Goodbye Mabel.

MABEL

Wait-

ALICE

Yes?

MABEL

You can't tell anyone.

ALICE

Obviously.

MABEL

...
I'm not alive.

ALICE

I know some doctors who might beg to differ.

MABEL

I'm not dead either.

ALICE

I would say you have a stronger case for that one.

MABEL

Alice.

ALICE

Sorry, not dead but not alive, go on.

MABEL

I've been um, undead, for a while now.

ALICE

How long?

MABEL

You promise you won't tell? Or won't freak out?

Cool as a cucumber. ALICE

I was reborn in 1848. MABEL

Hm? ALICE

The first time I was born, that was in 1830. MABEL

Okay...I'm not sure I follow. ALICE

Basically, I was originally born- MABEL

1848 ALICE

No that was the second time- MABEL

Right, second birth. ALICE

The first time, like I was brought into existence in 1830. MABEL
But then in 1848 I was, uh- I was changed, so now I'm kinda stuck at this age.

Your growth is stunted. ALICE

In a way, I guess? MABEL

Mom smoke too many cigarettes? ALICE

With me so far? MABEL

As much as I can be. ALICE

So basically, since I'm, stunted, I can't take pictures of MABEL
myself because the picture would have a date and if someone sees that photo of 18 year old me still being 18 in like 60 years that's gonna look a little suspicious you know what I mean?

ALICE

Understood.

MABEL

I can't have any pictures of me.

ALICE

That's sad.

MABEL

I don't think so.

ALICE

No memories to save.

MABEL

I have a box.

Mabel dives into her messy room and grabs a Merry Go Round shoe box.

ALICE

If you're looking to not put a date on yourself, get a shoe box of a brand that's been around in the past 20 years.

MABEL

Hush.
Okay, this is my box.

ALICE

Can I see what's in it?

Trinkets from the past century or so are in there.

MABEL

So this is a fossil, cool right? My mom stole it while working with Mary Anning.

ALICE

Is that a hand?

MABEL

Oh this, this is a newspaper cutting of an article about Alan Turning - I just thought it was cool.

ALICE

Historical. Very fitting.

MABEL

And this- oh.

Mabel picks up an old book and smiles, then gets sad.

ALICE
What is it?

MABEL
It's a book.

ALICE
What kind of book is that?

MABEL
I had this friend a while back. She was a writer. A really beautiful one. She was a homebody of sorts, kinda isolated but by choice

ALICE
I know the type.

MABEL
Anyway, she had this book of poems she was getting published, but she wanted me to look at it and give her feedback. She said she could trust one person in the world, and it sure wasn't herself.

...
I miss her.

ALICE
That must be hard.

MABEL
It was. It is. It's the worst part about it if I'm honest. She was one of those people I wanted to keep with me by my side for the long haul.

ALICE
She didn't want to?

MABEL
She always begged me. She said "everyday you don't change me is a day my hair gets grayer and the longer you wait the more obvious it will be." I told her I couldn't. I said your poems are going to change the world. She didn't believe me, but here we are. 130 something years later, ask anyone, they know her name. Just like they should.

Emily.

ALICE
She's alive in that way.

Mabel smiles.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Can I ask something?

MABEL
I guess so yeah why not right?

ALICE
Are you like, uh,

Alice makes zombie-esk motions.

MABEL
(laughing)
No, no, no. I'm uh- like- ah-

Mabel makes a biting notion.

Alice pretends she's being bitten on the neck.

ALICE
(in a mild fake panic)
Ahhh!

MABEL
Hah yeah.

ALICE
Cool cool.

MABEL
Yup.

ALICE
So. My best friend is a vampire.
Cool cool.
Explains why you're hard to get a hold of in the day. So that's cool.

MABEL
I'm you're best friend?

ALICE
Duh.

MABEL
You're just like her. Stubborn, a little mean sometimes, always asking me for help on your latest endeavor.

ALICE
You can be stubborn too.
Who knew vampires could be stubborn?

MABEL
We actually don't like that term.

ALICE
Oh? Oh, I'm sorry how should I like, refer to you?

MABEL
Stephanie Meyers kinda poisoned that label for a lot of us.

ALICE
Understanably.

MABEL
Undead is good.

ALICE
Undead, got it.

MABEL
So does this mean you think of me super differently now?

ALICE
If anything it makes me understand why you know more about literature and history than any of my teachers.

MABEL
That tends to be the case.

ALICE
And your fashion taste, good god.

MABEL
Vintage is cool.

ALICE
Get with the times, Grandma.

Mabel laughs.

ALICE (CONT'D)
It's getting late.

MABEL
Very.

ALICE
Not for you though, right?

MABEL
Nope.

ALICE
I should head to bed.

MABEL
Yeah.

ALICE
You won't though I suppose.

Nah. MABEL

Okay. Then goodnight Mabel. ALICE

Goodnight Alice. MABEL

Beat.

Mabel? ALICE

Yes, Alice? MABEL

Thank you. For telling me. ALICE

Thank you. For listening. And for not- um, yeah. MABEL

Yeah. ALICE

...

I'm sure she misses you too. ALICE (CONT'D)

Thank you. MABEL

I know I would. ALICE

Alice smiles and waves goodbye. She logs off.

MABEL
 Emily, hi. I saw your smile tonight. I heard your laugh. I felt you resisting the help you asked for. So stubborn. So stubborn. I hope you continue coming out from your flower. I got new water, I can't help with the whole sunlight thing, but, maybe she can? Maybe she can.

Lights out.

SCENE ELEVEN: NANA

It's midnight.

Nana is outside.

NANA

Nothing quite like quiet night in Sydney.

It's a little colder "down unda".

That's what the locals call it here.

You might be asking yourself, what is a Nana doing all alone in the middle of the night far far from home? I'll tell you.

I was trapped. I really was. My girls, love them to death, but all they do is keep me locked up in a home.

Can you believe it?

Me, sure, I'm 87 and three quarters, but I'm spry as a spring in a pen.

They're just looking after me, I know, I know, they mean well, blah blah blah, but to be honest, I think they put me in the home because they can't keep up. Honest, honest.

"Hey girls, you wanna go on a hike?"

"No, Nana, you'll break a hip"

"How about a bike ride?"

"No, Nana, you're a dinosaur, you wouldn't understand how to navigate the big rocks"

"I'm going to check the mail."

"No, Nana, if you get a paper cut and your blood doesn't clot, you're gonzo. Is that really how you want to go?

Pricking your finger on a Life Magazine?"

Maybe it is.

Maybe it is, girls did you ever think about that? What's my life worth sitting on the Laziest Boy watching my soaps while a nurse brings me a BLT and blood pressure medication?

That's no life.

That's no life at all.

Not for me anyway.

I need adventure.

Beat.

I used to have adventure.

Jacob, he was my adventure.

He would take me rock climbing, we would go on road trips on a moment's notice. We even went sky diving once. That's true.

That's true.

I didn't break a hip then.

Beat.

Jacob taught me to not stay in my box.

He would say "the universe is yours for the taking. You just have to be willing to grab it."

He would always grab it when he could.

I was lucky enough to be by his side for most of it. A pretty good view if you ask me.

Beat.

Even when he got sick, he was begging me, "please please can we go out, I'm dying in here." and I would say "dear, you'll be dying faster out there" and he would look at me and say "it's my turn for the universe."

Beat.

He passed just after his 75th birthday.
There's extra universe just floating around now.
I have to grab on, right?

Beat.

Our first date, we were 12 years old.
Can you believe that? 12 years old.
He took me roller skating.
Teacher dismissed us from class and he took my hand.
He looked at me and said "Vivian Adams, we are going on a date."
I looked at him funny. I said "Jacob, my last name is Pierce." And, I will never forget this, he looked me square in the eye and said "not for long it isn't."
He was right about that.
He snuck into a near by yard and stole a peach from the tree.
I thought he was going to get caught, but he was prepared.
He brought a treat for the Schnauzer standing guard. He cut it open with his pocket knife and split it down the middle.
Whenever I think of him, I can still taste that peach.
It was a little gushy on the side, it wasn't pleasant at the time, things change.
We stayed out till dark.
He took my hand and we danced.
We danced in the street.
All night long.
A night of peaches and dancing.
While we were dancing, I slipped and got a Boxer's fracture, right here. I still can't move my pinky the same.
He freaked out of course, but I didn't care, it didn't hurt too bad either. Because he was there, he was there to take care of me. He rushed me home and woke my folks to tell them the news.
My father wasn't too pleased about that.
He wasn't too mad either though. I think even he knew, this was right.
Whenever I feel any pain in my hand, I think about the panic in his voice, him racing me home, the beating of our hearts, faster and faster as we ran and ran- I hope my heart can beat like that again some day.
Now days he gives me a little sting there every time he wants to say hello.

Beat.

My memory may be getting a little foggy, my hair may be falling out, but never will I ever forget that.

Beat.

Jacob, I will continue to take my turn with the universe, and when I crash my skates, or ride a bike by a big rock, or get a paper cut on a Life magazine, I'll be with you and we'll take the universe together again. This dinosaur will dance with her universe.

Lights out.

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SCENE TWELVE: ROGER ROGER PART THREE

*A little bit past when it was a little bit past
midnight*

Robin and Freddie are on Venus

How much time left? ROBIN

Don't think, just jump. FREDDIE

Jumping. ROBIN

They jump

We jump higher on Venus- FREDDIE

Longer too. ROBIN

Robin? FREDDIE

Freddie? ROBIN

I don't want to go back. FREDDIE

Don't think. ROBIN

Just jump. FREDDIE

They jump more

We don't have a flag. ROBIN

Should we? FREDDIE

Adults have flags. ROBIN

Flags at school- FREDDIE

Flags on mountains- ROBIN

Flags on the moon- FREDDIE

We should have a flag. ROBIN

But adults have flags. FREDDIE

Flags are everywhere. ROBIN

I don't want one. FREDDIE

Me neither. ROBIN

We're borrowing the universe. FREDDIE

We don't own Venus. ROBIN

We don't own the moon. FREDDIE

No flag then. ROBIN

No flag. FREDDIE

We could leave something. ROBIN

Like what? FREDDIE

Our names. ROBIN

We don't own it- FREDDIE

Just borrowing. ROBIN

"We were here"- FREDDIE

"We are here". ROBIN

I have an idea. FREDDIE

I'm watching. ROBIN

Freddie grabs the laser pointer and carves into the ground

R + F. FREDDIE

I like it. ROBIN

Robin FREDDIE

And Freddie ROBIN

Borrowers of Venus FREDDIE

But we'll give it back. ROBIN

Oh.

Hoo. Hoo. THE OWL

...

We have to give it back ROBIN

Okay. FREDDIE

We should soon. ROBIN

My eyes hurt- FREDDIE

I'm sweaty- ROBIN

My skin is dry- FREDDIE

Will we get it back? ROBIN

Someday. FREDDIE

I want to stay. ROBIN

It's not ours to keep. FREDDIE

Australia needs Venus. ROBIN

Bye Venus. FREDDIE

Say hello to Australians for us. ROBIN

Home safe. FREDDIE

I'm home too. ROBIN

I miss Venus. FREDDIE

We'll go back soon. ROBIN

Robin? FREDDIE

Freddie? ROBIN

Do you miss me? FREDDIE

Yes. ROBIN

I miss you. FREDDIE

Okay. ROBIN

Okay. FREDDIE

We lost the universe. ROBIN

We gave it back. FREDDIE

We gave it back. ROBIN

My eyes still hurt. FREDDIE

Then dream. ROBIN

I did. FREDDIE

Was it happy? ROBIN

Yes Robin. FREDDIE

What if I can't sleep? ROBIN

Don't drink any milk. FREDDIE

I wish I had cinnamon. ROBIN

Count to 12- FREDDIE

1 ROBIN

2 FREDDIE

3 ROBIN

4 FREDDIE

5 ROBIN

6 FREDDIE

ROBIN

7

FREDDIE

8

...

8

...

Robin is asleep.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

9

10

11

12

The Moony checks in with Freddie after she falls asleep.

The Moony sniffs the air.

THE MOONY

Ah- onions.

The Moony goes back into the closet for the night.

The clock strikes 1am.

They sleep.

They dream.

Their heads are full of peaches.

Their dreams are happy.

Lights out.

For now.

END OF PLAY