

They Shall Return

BY

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CHARACTERS

LOUIE

21. Senior in college. Nonchalant man that wears his heart on his sleeve. Has a rough time handling his breakup but matures as the play goes on.

LISA

20. Senior in college. She breaks up with Louie. Straightforward woman. Isn't afraid of confrontation. Is for the most part, an understanding person.

KELVAS

A soul summoner that hopes to become a guardian angel. He is deliberate yet takes more of a laissez faire approach when it comes to his work. Wears a pea coat and always carries a newspaper to read.

GREGORY

22. A senior in college. The ex of Lisa. He gets back with Lisa months after she breaks up with Louie. He used to be a very toxic person, but has since made strides to grow.

LOUIE'S MOM

49. Very wise. Can be invasive. However, she looks out for the best interest of everyone she comes into contact with.

HAROLD

27. The man Lisa is interested in years after college. He's a good looking intellectual that initially lacks charisma. However, after a mysterious chain of events, Lisa is head over heels for him.

CARROLL

20. A mutual friend of Lisa and Gregory. She's lax and upbeat all at the same time. She doesn't really keep her thoughts to herself.

LISA'S DAD

55. Very direct. Wants his daughter to reach the full potential that he knows she's capable of.

SETTING

Areas of a college campus such as, a seating area with two benches, the bus stop and the

rooms of Louie and Lisa.

A Coffee shop in the city.

Lisa's living room.

The home of Louie's mom.

ACT ISCENE I

Lisa sits on a bench.

Kelvas sits on the other bench, reading his newspaper.

Lisa sits at an angle in the middle of the bench, slightly dejected.

Louie nonchalantly enters. He walks down towards Lisa on the bench.

As Louie walks past him, Kelvas takes his eyes off of his newspaper and tracks Louie. Once Louie casually sits down next to Lisa, Kelvas' eyes return to his newspaper.

Louie is relaxed and calm as he takes a glance at Lisa for a moment. She doesn't look his way. Louie looks away from her.

As he looks away, Lisa looks at him with anticipation.

BEAT.

LISA

Hey.

LOUIE

Hey. How was your day?

LISA

It was good. How was yours?

LOUIE

It was, pretty good to say the least, I mean..could've been better but good nonetheless.

LISA

That's good...You're good...I'm good.

LOUIE

Heh. Yeah.

LISA

But everything's not good with us.

LOUIE

What do you mean? We took a break remember.

LISA

Don't act like nothing's wrong. I gave you space for a reason-

LOUIE

You didn't "give" me anything. It was a mutual agreement. One we both respected.

LISA

Well it didn't solve anything.

LOUIE

What didn't it solve?

LISA

I'm still mad at you Louie!

LOUIE

I think you're making things out to be more than they are. You're really still mad at that?

LISA

Yes!

LOUIE

You can't be serious-

LISA

Come on, use your sense for once! Don't you think I would've met you somewhere more intimate if I wasn't mad anymore?!

LOUIE

I mean we could've met in your room, it's kinda cold out here.

LISA

I can't-

LOUIE

You can't what?

BEAT.

LISA

I can't say I feel comfortable with you in my private spaces anymore.

LOUIE

What the fuck..You act like I hit you or something!

LISA

Your words...Your words have been like fists on my heart. They leave bruises and swelling, that you can't ease with ice...Look how you're disregarding everything. Telling me I can't be serious?! What kind of shit is that to say to someone you've hurt. Especially when they're someone you love.

LOUIE

I'm not disregarding. I'm just saying it's not that deep. Yes, I complimented someone I used to fuck. I'll admit it did come off as a little flirtatious, but we've accepted that's in my nature, according to the, alignment of the stars, zodiac signs and all that shit.

Kelvas flips a page in his newspaper.

LISA

I know what the problem is.

LOUIE

What?

LISA

The problem is you're just not mature enough. You don't take this serious enough. You don't take me serious enough. You really think flirting with someone you used to fuck while you have a girlfriend is okay?! You think that's something I can just look past so easily!

LOUIE

Alright calm down. Calm down. I mean, I did apologize for it-

LISA

And I accepted it.

LOUIE

Okay then.

LISA

But that doesn't mean I forgave you.

LOUIE

Isn't that what you do when you accept an apology though?!

LISA

No!

LOUIE

How does that make sense!

LISA

When I accept an apology, I acknowledge you're willing to hold yourself accountable for what you did. When I forgive, I approve of your growth from what you did. "Apology accepted" and " I forgive you" do not mean the same thing...And I'm sorry, but, I don't feel that you've grown beyond the person that hurt me.

LOUIE

Then what was this space for then?

LISA

Honestly. Me.

Kelvas slowly folds his newspaper as he peers over at Louie and Lisa.

LISA

I needed to ween myself off of you.

LOUIE

I thought we were soulmates though. This was meant to be. Remember. "Match made in Heaven."

Kelvas stands up, tucks his newspaper under his arm. He takes another look at the two. Then walks off.

LISA

I'm not feeling like that at all right now.

BEAT.

LOUIE

So we take some more space then. I always respect your wishes, you know that. It's nothing for me to go another month. It'll all be worth it in the end you know. It'll be tough but hey, you know what they say, no growth ever came from a place of comfort. Not like we-

LISA

Louie.

LOUIE

I mean that's something we can both agree on right? We agreed on it before and it didn't work, so that just means it wasn't enough time, we'll both work on ourselves and get back to-

LISA

Stop!

LOUIE

People never notice the sun when it's up so long as it comes up everyday. They only notice...The one day it doesn't rise.

LISA

Are you saying, I'm only holding onto the bad?

LOUIE

How can you not see that? That's what it looks like.

LISA

All you need to see is that...THIS. THIS doesn't work for me anymore. That's my stance. I don't even need you to respect that, all I need is for you to accept it.

LOUIE

What is all of this?! You seemed so happy to meet up when you texted me and now you hit me with this! UGGH! This is so frustrating!

LISA

You're only frustrated when you don't get what you expect. Now, I'm sorry if I caused you to expect anything from me, but I never intended to. I just asked you to see me and talk. You can't keep doing that Louie-

LOUIE

Doing what?!

LISA

Assuming! I never said things would return to normal after this break. I never said I wanted to get back together. But let me guess. That's why you're here right? You and your assumptions always end in you disregarding my feelings.

LOUIE

Well...I can change.

LISA

You can. I'm sure you will. Just not for me.

LOUIE

For who then?

LISA

For you. Change for you. The change you make for you will make someone very happy one day. That person just isn't me.

LOUIE

I just want you to be happy.

LISA

And I don't have to be with you for that.

Louie drops his head. Lisa rests her hand on his back and caresses him.

Louie raises his head and slowly turns his face to look at Lisa.

LOUIE

So this is it?

LISA

Yeah.

LOUIE

No getting back together?

LISA

No.

Lisa leans in and kisses Louie on the cheek.

LISA

I love you.

LOUIE

I love you too...I always will.

LISA

I know.

LOUIE

Can I ask you something?

LISA
Ask away.

LOUIE
Is there anyone else?

BEAT.

LISA
There's a reason you're out in the cold instead of
back in my room.

*Louie closes his eyes for a moment, lightly nods
his head and then opens his eyes to look at
Lisa.*

They both look at each other for a moment.

Louie looks away into the distance.

*Lisa takes her phone out of her pocket and
checks it and then puts it back in her pocket.*

LISA
I have to go. Are you going to be okay?

LOUIE
Yeah. I just uh..would like to sit here and be to
myself for awhile.

LISA
Okay. I'll leave you here.

Lisa walks off.

*Louie sits in silence looking straight ahead in
disbelief as he rests his hands on his face.*

SCENE II

*The stage is crosscut between Louie's room on
the right and Lisa's room on the left.*

*Lisa enters her room and paces throughout it,
running her fingers through her hair and wiping
her face in a stressful manner.*

*She trudges to her bed and sits down. She
exhales and starts to calm down. Then, she opens
her laptop and puts on music.*

Louie enters his room. He slightly bends over, resting his hands on his thighs.

Lisa lays down, opens her phone and begins texting on it.

Louie walks to his bed, picks up a picture frame of him and Lisa, sits down and then lays back. He takes a long look at the photo, then lays it on his chest as he stares into the air.

After an observation of what she texted, Lisa lays it on her chest and stares into the air

SCENE III

The stage remains crosscut between Louie and Lisas's rooms.

Louie is in gym clothes, on the floor doing exercises.

When he finishes, he exits the room.

Lisa enters her room and drops her bag on a chair.

Soon after, the sound of a shower is heard in the distance.

Lisa opens the drawer of her desk, pulls out a notebook and grabs a pen from the top of the desk.

Lisa paces around her room while observing the cover of it until she stops at her chair. She sits and begins writing in the book.

Louie returns to his room in a new pair of gym shorts with a towel on his shoulder.

He sits down on his bed and grabs a book from his nightstand and begins reading.

A light comes on inside Louie's room, unveiling Kelvas leaning against his wall, holding his newspaper in his arm fold.

Louie is unaware of his presence as he continues to read. He stops and begins to ponder.

Kelvas searches the pockets of his coat.

Lisa picks up her phone and begins typing what she wrote in her notebook.

Louie becomes frustrated and tosses the book to the side and finishes getting dressed.

Kelvas walks over and stands beside Louie.

Still, Louie is unaware of his presence. Suddenly, Louie kneels down in front of his bed and begins to pray.

Kelvas goes to place his hand on Louie's shoulder but, stops himself. Instead, he lifts his hand to check his watch and then walks out of the room.

SCENE IV

The stage is still crosscut but only shows Louie's room.

Louie is sitting at his desk on his laptop with his shirt off.

His bed has a myriad of unfolded clothes on it.

His desk is messy with food containers and papers scattered across it

A knock at the door is heard.

Louie is startled by it. He slowly walks to the door.

LOUIE

Who is it?

LOUIE'S MOM

Louie, it's your mother!

LOUIE

Oh sh-

Louie snatches a shirt from his bed and rushes to put it on as he scrambles to open the door.

His mother enters, holding a box.

Kelvas enters behind her, with his newspaper in hand.

He walks past Louie, takes a seat on the bed and begins to read his newspaper.

Neither Louie nor his mom notice his presence.

LOUIE'S MOM

After all of those years living under my roof, you don't recognize my knock?

LOUIE

Well I-

LOUIE'S MOM

I know this campus might've removed you from some things you're used to back home...

She glances around his room.

LOUIE'S MOM

Like cleaning.

LOUIE

It's been tough on me Ma.

LOUIE'S MOM

I can see that. Well, let your mother help you since I'm here.

LOUIE

It's alright Ma, I was gonna get to that.

LOUIE'S MOM

No no, you just sit there and relax. That's what you need to do right now. You know, I've been getting feelings in my spirit about you lately. I also brought you some food here for you to cook and snacks to have in between.

Louie's Mom places the box on the floor near his bed and begins folding his clothes.

Louie returns to his desk.

Suddenly, he turns towards his mom.

LOUIE

Speaking of which Ma, what kind of feelings have you been receiving? I feel like I've been getting some

strong feelings in my spirit as well in these past four months.

LOUIE'S MOM

Oh honey. They're strong feelings. Sometimes so powerful, I have to send a prayer out for you. You know, a mother's spirit is never wrong.

Kelvas flips a page of his notebook and nods his head in accordance with Louie's mom.

LOUIE

No, I'm not talking about that motherly stuff.

LOUIE'S MOM

Well what are you talking about?

LOUIE

I don't know...It's like a presence around me sometimes that ISN'T there...But feels like it's SUPPOSED to be there.

LOUIE'S MOM

Oh I know exactly what that is. You're not over the breakup as much as you think you are. The mind likes to lie to itself a lot and the body doesn't always take it well..as the state of your room shows.

Louie shakes his head.

LOUIE

Hehe. You always have that pick me up sense of humor for me Ma.

LOUIE'S MOM

Well, the laughs always create smiles and smiles help you get out of this isolation. Are you gonna face the world or cry?

LOUIE

Haha! Both.

LOUIE'S MOM

How are you two though? Bitter strangers, platonic friends, rekindling lovers maybe?

LOUIE

Too soon to say. It feels like she doesn't want any of that since it would involve a bond between me and her.

LOUIE'S MOM

So the first.

LOUIE

Ma, I'm serious.

LOUIE'S MOM

I am too. But what makes you think that?

LOUIE

I don't know. But it isn't coming from empty speculation. It's not like we haven't seen each other Ma.

LOUIE'S MOM

In those times, has she stopped and talked to you or has it just been a hi and bye?

LOUIE

More of a hi and bye bu-

LOUIE'S MOM

There's your answer right there. Son, a person that cares for you will build the mirror for you. It's up to you to care enough to look into it and do the reflecting.

LOUIE

...

LOUIE'S MOM

When she wants to talk to you she'll let you know. From what it seems, she's not the most comfortable with that right now.

LOUIE

I mean, I would've assumed she's moved on from it all. It's not like there's any ill will between us. We can still acknowledge each other in passing, even when she's with her boyfriend.

LOUIE'S MOM

So there's someone else?

LOUIE

Yeah.

LOUIE'S MOM

Is he someone you know?

LOUIE

I can't say that I know him, all I know is what she's told me about him and how they were in the past-

LOUIE'S MOM

So it's someone she has a history with?

LOUIE

Yeah. What are you getting at Ma?

LOUIE'S MOM

Look, from my experience, that can mean a lot of things. Was it a good or bad history between them?

LOUIE

Well, when we started dating it had been a year or so since she and him last were on good terms.

Kelvas flips a page in his newspaper.

LOUIE'S MOM

I'm going to be frank with you. You must've done a number on her heart for her to return to him then.

LOUIE

Why do you say that?

LOUIE'S MOM

There's the devil you know vs the devil you don't know. Sometimes, the devil you don't know wins that battle. There's an excitement about the unknown. But then there's the devil you don't wanna know. The devil you know always wins that battle.

Kelvas angrily snaps his newspaper close and gives Louie's mom a scornful look as he folds the newspaper.

LOUIE'S MOM

How does that make you feel?

LOUIE

Truthfully, a month ago, it would've ruined my entire week. Right now, I'm very much at peace with it all.

Kelvas gets up, tucks the folded newspaper under his arm and exits the room.

LOUIE'S MOM

You sure about that?

LOUIE

...Yeah. I trust that she knows how to make the right choice when it comes to her happiness. Plus, it's been 4 months since we broke up and nearly two years since he and her last did anything. I suppose, he's showed her significant growth in himself. When I see them together, she's honestly the happiest I've ever seen her. That makes me so happy. That woman has the world's most beautiful smile. Like little pockets of sunshine in those burning cheeks of hers. She could light up a coal mine. That brings such a joy to me. I'm just happy to see her happy...Even when it's not me that's bringing the happiness to her.

BEAT.

LOUIE'S MOM

You know. I am so. Proud of you Louie. Come here. You make me so happy just the same.

Louie's mom walks over to him and the two embrace each other.

Louie's room becomes hidden.

Lisa's room is unveiled.

She enters her room jovially in Gregory's arms.

The two clumsily fall onto the bed, laying beside each other.

LISA

You're too much.

GREGORY

How can I be too much. For the love of my life, hm?

LISA

You're too sweet.

GREGORY

Mhmm.

LISA

Too funny.

GREGORY

Haha. What else?

LISA
Too...Damn!

Gregory is alarmed and rises up over Lisa.

GREGORY
What?

LISA
...Too damn cute!

Lisa rolls Gregory over on his back and kneels over him.

GREGORY
Oh! You got me good that time.

LISA
I did right?

GREGORY
Yes you did. But you also did something wrong.

LISA
What?

GREGORY
You um..Left the door open.

Lisa looks back and sees the door is still wide open.

LISA
Oh shit!

She raises up off of Gregory to run and close the door.

As she gets a foot on the floor, Gregory grabs her arm and pulls her back to him gracefully.

GREGORY
No kiss?

LISA
I'm going right there.

GREGORY
I know but, it's always hard to see you leave.

LISA

Awwee. Okay. Come here.

Lisa leans in to kiss Gregory.

As Gregory leans in, he lets go off Lisa.

Lisa then slips away to close the door.

GREGORY

Ah! You got me again.

Lisa struts back towards Gregory sitting up on the bed.

LISA

Yeah, but now I can give you all of me without interruption. You know. They say. Patience. Is. A virtue.

Lisa gets on the bed and sits up on Gregory.

Lisa's phone gets a text notification.

Lisa gets up and goes to check it.

GREGORY

Where you going. That can wait

LISA

I'm right here.

GREGORY

If it was urgent they would've called you, don't let a little text disrupt the mood.

LISA

Hold on.

Lisa picks up her phone and begins laughing at the message.

GREGORY

What's so funny? I wanna laugh.

LISA

N-nothing. It's just-

Lisa laughs heavier.

GREGORY

Who is it?

LISA

It's nobody. Just Louie

GREGORY

Louie?

LISA

Yeah.

GREGORY

I thought you blocked his number?

LISA

Yeah. But then I unblocked it.

GREGORY

Why?

BEAT.

LISA

...What do you mean why?

GREGORY

What do you mean, "what do I mean?" What did I say?

LISA

I had him blocked after we broke up. It's been over 6 months since then, he's grown past it and so have I. So, I unblocked his number. He's still a friend.

GREGORY

But why?

LISA

Look, I don't owe you an explanation on that. He texted me something that was funny. That's all.

GREGORY

I understand that, but why didn't you tell me you two were texting again?

LISA

I don't have to tell you everything that goes on in my life. You've been with me when me and him have waved at each other in passing. You were perfectly fine with our casual greetings then.

GREGORY

What made you think that?

LISA

You never said anything about it.

GREGORY

Just because I don't say anything, doesn't mean I'm okay with it all. Silence doesn't mean content.

LISA

Well don't you think that had you communicated your..discontent, I would've taken your feelings into account!

GREGORY

I didn't think you'd do something like this!

LISA

Like what! Text a friend of mine!

GREGORY

An ex! He is not a friend of yours. He is an ex of yours. Don't act like things between you two began as or have always been strictly platonic.

LISA

What are you trying to say.

GREGORY

Look, I-I'm not-

LISA

Are you accusing me of gaining feelings for him again?

GREGORY

I never said that.

LISA

You never said you were unhappy with me and Louie being cool again, but apparently you are, so..

GREGORY

All I'm saying is...I'd rather you not speak to him. It makes me uncomfortable.

LISA

Tell me. Why does it make you uncomfortable?

GREGORY

You know what. Never mind. Have it your way.

LISA

No, you can't do that! You can't demand I explain myself and when the shoe is on the other foot, you walk away from it.

GREGORY

It's not like I'm gonna be able to change your mind.

LISA

Wow...

BEAT.

Gregory gets up and heads to the door.

GREGORY

You know what. I'm gonna leave. I'll see you later.

LISA

Wow. Okay.

Gregory leaves the room.

Lisa sits down on her bed. She exhales and starts texting.

SCENE V

Louie stands at the bus stop.

Kelvas is sitting relaxed in the seat at the bus stop. He's reading his newspaper.

Gregory, wearing a book bag, graciously approaches Louie.

GREGORY

Hey wassup man!

Louie is startled but maintains his cool.

LOUIE

Wassup. Gregory right?

GREGORY

Yeah and you're Louie.

LOUIE

Yeah. How's it going?

GREGORY

Alright. I was passing by and saw you, thought I'd say wassup.

LOUIE

I don't got a problem with that, nothing wrong with some company while you wait for the bus.

GREGORY

Yeah, this bus is never on schedule.

LOUIE

Ahh man. Tell me about it.

GREGORY

Haha, shit I could turn it into a TED talk.

LOUIE

Haha, for real man.

BEAT.

LOUIE

How have you and Lisa been?

Kelvas slowly turns the page in his newspaper and whistles as he does so.

GREGORY

What was that-

LOUIE

How have you and Lisa been?

GREGORY

We've been alright. Things are going fine.

LOUIE

Yeah, did she let you know we're on speaking terms again? I don't want to intrude by any means you know, some things everyone's not comfortable with.

GREGORY

Oh no no, don't worry. I know. I'm all good with it. Just as long as you guys aren't talking past friends.

Kelvas turns another page in his newspaper, still whistling.

LOUIE

Oh don't worry about that from me.

BEAT.

LOUIE

Damn man, where's this bus.

GREGORY

You said, don't worry about that from you.

LOUIE

What-

GREGORY

In regards to you and her talking past friends. You said, "from me". Why didn't say "from us" instead?

Kelvas checks his watch, squinting at it closely.

LOUIE

Well, you were asking me. Neither of us do it, nor do we plan on it. That's what I meant by that.

GREGORY

Oh. I hope you didn't take that the wrong way. I was just seeing if she was saying anything to you that made you uncomfortable.

Kelvas gets up and looks to see if the bus is nearby. Then, he starts to tap his watch earnestly.

LOUIE

No, I know how it gets. She doesn't tell me anything that makes me uncomfortable. Some things are surprising but not uncomfortable.

GREGORY

Yeah that's Lisa. Full of surprises!

LOUIE

Yeah...Surprises she's full of.

GREGORY

Well um, I gotta go, hopefully your bus comes soon.

LOUIE

Hey man, no problem and hopefully it does. Enjoy your day man.

Gregory and Louie shake hands.

Gregory walks off.

Kelvas checks his watch again and nods his head, confirming that it works again.

He goes back to the bench, sits down and returns to reading his newspaper.

SCENE VI

Carroll is sitting on the head of the bench.

Gregory is walking and recognizes her.

GREGORY

Wassup Carroll.

CARROLL

Hey Greg, where you headed to?

GREGORY

My Journalism class. What you doing here?

CARROLL

Nothing. Just getting a smoke in while it's still nice out. I just came back from downtown not too long ago.

GREGORY

What did you do there?

CARROLL

Get some clothes. And these cigs.

GREGORY

Hah. Well, I won't hold you up then.

Gregory begins to walk off.

CARROLL

Oh Greg!

Gregory spins back around to Carroll.

GREGORY

What's up?

CARROLL

I saw Lisa with Louie. Just thought you should know.

BEAT.

GREGORY

Oh...I-I already knew about that. Thanks though. I'll see you around.

Gregory walks off.

SCENE VII

Lisa and Louie enter her room with shopping bags.

LISA

Excuse the mess.

LOUIE

I don't mind it.

Lisa makes up her bed.

LISA

Yeah you can put those over by the desk. I'll get to them later.

Louie places the bags at the foot of the desk.

LISA

Yeah, thanks a lot for helping me. I know it was so last minute.

LOUIE

Yeah, but I was free. I was just mad the bus wasn't on schedule and I would've gotten down there earlier.

LISA

No, it's no need to apologize. You know that bus is always late.

LOUIE

You're right.

LISA

And thanks again for not blowing up our spot to Gregory.

LOUIE

Oh, I know how to keep a secret.

LISA

Yeah, to his credit, he knows how to put things

together well. Had you let him know we were meeting, it would've put everything in jeopardy.

LOUIE

Yeah no problem. That's good, y'all are throwing him a surprise party for his birthday tonight. I'm sure he could use it.

LISA

Yeah. You know you can come by if you want to.

LOUIE

Nah, I think that'll be overstepping my boundaries.

LISA

No no, he's really grown so much. I'm sure he'll be cool with it. He told you he's cool with us talking when you saw him right?

LOUIE

Yeah, that's what he said when he saw me.

LISA

Plus, once I tell him you helped me pick out his gifts, you might just win him over if you haven't already.

LOUIE

Good point.

LISA

So just come by. Never know, you might have the time of your life.

A light comes up over Lisa's room unveiling Kelvas standing against the wall in her room. His newspaper is tucked underneath his arm.

Kelvas pulls out a cigar and puts it into his mouth. He pulls out a lighter from his coat pocket and leans in to light the cigar.

LOUIE

You know what? Why not? I haven't been out much lately. Might as well go. You only live once right?

Kelvas, with the cigar still unlit in his mouth, raises his head up slowly and stares at Louie.

LISA

Yeah, so I'll see you there later tonight?

LOUIE
 Alright. See ya Lisa.

LISA
 Bye Louie.

As Louie exits, Kelvas eyes tracks him.

Scene VIII

Louie is walks towards the bench area.

GREGORY
 Louieeee!

Louie turns around and is elated to see Gregory walking towards him

LOUIE
 Gregory! Wassup man!

GREGORY
 Where you headed?!

LOUIE
 Nowhere really. Was just gonna get something to eat.

GREGORY
 Is that right?

LOUIE
 Yeah, gotta get my three square meals a day right.

Louie takes a quick step to leave.

Gregory slyly steps in his path

Kelvas strolls in and sets down at the bench. His presence goes unnoticed by Gregory and Louie.

GREGORY
 Oh yeah. Not making any stops between now and then are you?

LOUIE
 Not as far as I know.

GREGORY
 Don't lie to me!

LOUIE

Aye! What you trying to get at with me man?

GREGORY

You lied to me when I saw you. You were with Lisa weren't you?

LOUIE

No I was with you the last time you saw me.

GREGORY

Do I look like I'm fucking playing right now?

LOUIE

Look. I don't know what you're thinking but I didn't see Lisa that day. I'm not going to see her or anything. I'm just going to get something to eat.

Kelvas checks his watch. he drops his newspaper and starts tapping at his watch. He looks up at Louie and Gregory's confrontation and back down at his watch.

GREGORY

Carroll told me she saw you with her downtown. That was right after I left you at the bus stop!

LOUIE

You gonna believe Carroll?! She's of the most conniving people on campus! And I'm gonna tell her about herself too.

GREGORY

Carroll has no reason to lie to me. What would she gain from that!

Gregory shoves Louie.

Louie catches himself.

BEAT.

LOUIE

Hmph. I've been out of the loop for the last 6 months. But I'm no fool. No matter how much you've shown that you changed, we can't ignore what you've come from. Who you used to be. A dealer. As toxic as you were to Lisa..Was nothing compared to you selling those damn pills to Carroll. You thought that was honorable?! She had so much potential before you got a hold of her. Now she'd do anything to feed her

addiction. One that you enabled! It's a shame you won't even help her too. Knowing damn well you're the only one she'd accept help from.

Louie marches to Gregory's face.

LOUIE

What's even more shameful...Is how you take advantage of that hold you have on her. The same kind of hold you have over Lisa...And to think, she sees the light in you. That's the ONLY reason I choose to be cordial with you. And this is how you come at me?! This is how you handle your relationship after she gave you another chance?! She's a gem man. And I'd give so much to be in your shoes..And what do you do? Bring your possessiveness to it. You got it all wrong man.

GREGORY

Look..Man to man, I'd respect it if you didn't see her.

LOUIE

...Have you told her about that?

GREGORY

I don't need to run anything by her.

LOUIE

Oh, you don't?...Well, respectfully, I think you should run that by her first. After that, if she tells me she respects your wishes, I'll accept it. Until then, you should go home and calm down. Hopefully, next time I see you, things will go better. Peace man.

Louie turns around to walk off.

Kelvas checks his watch and nods at it. He holds his wrist firmly and stares at Louie contently.

Gregory, now furious, pulls out a knife and runs up behind Louie.

He grabs Louie on the shoulder and stabs him in the back. He holds the blade in Louie for a moment and slowly pulls it out.

Louie falls on all fours. As he rests his hand on his back, he drops flat on the ground.

Gregory stands in shock, holding the knife

shakily.

BEAT.

Gregory drops the knife and runs off.

Louie hyperventilates heavily and his breathing becomes more labored.

Kelvas strolls over to Louie's body.

The closer he gets to Louie, the less breathes Louie takes.

As Louie takes his final breath. Kelvas kneels down beside him. And rests his hand on Louie's body.

Louie takes one last breath.

ACT IISCENE I

Louie lays unconscious on the bench.

Kelvas sits up relaxed on the other end of the bench, flipping through his newspaper.

Louie gasps deeply as he wakes up. He's in shock, holding his chest with his eyes wide open as looking around. He briefly calms down .

Immediately after, he frantically checks his body, rubbing around and clutching his back.

Louie is mesmerized that he doesn't have any wounds.

He looks around and pauses once he sees Kelvas. They look at each other for a moment.

Louie gradually expresses himself in a celebratory mood.

LOUIE

WOOH! OH MY GOD! THAT WAS...TOO REAL!!

Kelvas isn't bothered at all by Louie's celebration.

Louie raises his head into the sky and locks his fingers together and makes a gesture of gratitude.

After seeing this, Kelvas scoffs and shakes his head.

Louie slowly turns his attention to Kelvas.

LOUIE

I'm sorry about that. You know- Well you wouldn't know actually. Oh man! I really gotta-

Louie pauses abruptly.

Kelvas sits calmly reading his newspaper as if Louie isn't there speaking to him.

LOUIE

...Do I know you?

KELVAS

What was that?

LOUIE

Have we met before?

KELVAS

What makes you think that?

Louie looks away from Kelvas.

LOUIE

It's weird...I've known a ton of people in my lifetime.

Kelvas motions to say something to Louie but stops himself

LOUIE

Some very very closely. But none. Have ever had an energy that feels as familiar to me...

Louie slowly turns his attention back over to Kelvas.

LOUIE

As yours does.

KELVAS

That...Makes a lot of sense.

Louie stands up and looks down at Kelvas.

LOUIE

But see it doesn't. And that's why it's weird.

KELVAS

Well, wouldn't that be what makes weird things weird. Because they don't necessarily make sense?

LOUIE

No. No! What makes it weird is, I know for a fact! That I've never met you a day in my LIFE!

Kelvas lifts his finger in an attempt to say something to Louie but stops himself again.

Louie begins to stress out. He paces around and runs his hands through his hair.

LOUIE

Oh no...Man what the fuck is going on right now? This feels crazy. Wait wait...Is this...

KELVAS

Dea-

LOUIE

A LUCID DREAM!

Kelvas drops his head after seeing Louie try to make sense of his situation.

He puts his newspaper down, gets up and walks over and places his hand on Louie's shoulder to get his attention.

LOUIE

Damn! I knew I became spiritually aware but shit this is awesome!

KELVAS

Kid-

LOUIE

I can't wait to go to sleep again!

KELVAS

Kid-

LOUIE

A dream within a dream. This is fucking epic!

KELVAS

KID!

Kelvas, with both hands on Louie's shoulders now, turns him around to face him.

LOUIE

What?!

KELVAS

Look! This is very entertaining to me. But even I have discretion.

LOUIE

What are you talking about?

KELVAS

Yes. We have come across each other.

Louie breaks away from Kelvas.

LOUIE

...See! I knew I wasn't going crazy. Yeah see I knew I knew you!

KELVAS

Yes you know me because...This isn't a dream!

LOUIE

...

KELVAS

Yeah kid. Not a dream nor a nightmare.

LOUIE

What are you saying? Matter fact..Who are you?!

KELVAS

Well, first things first, I'm Kelvas.

LOUIE

Okay...Now what are you talking about, this isn't a dream?

KELVAS

It's not. Everything you remember as a dream was in fact, reality. Your former reality, might I add.

LOUIE

What the fuck...

KELVAS

You remember being here with Gregory?

Louie swings around and points at Kelvas with both hands enthusiastically.

LOUIE

Yes! Yes! I-It was here! It was right here! We got into that argument and I remember him grabbing me and stabbi-

Louie touches his back and pauses. He feels for a stab wound and is mesmerized as he looks up at Kelvas.

Kelvas looks at Louie and nods his head.

Louie begins to back away from Kelvas.

LOUIE

Woah...Woah!... WHAT. THE FUCK. ARE YOU?!

KELVAS

I told you already.

LOUIE

I-I-I remember everything now! I was stabbed. Definitely. I felt that shit! I felt it!

Louie trembles as he stands in one spot. He gradually begins to cry as he recounts his stabbing.

LOUIE

I felt the...blade go through my back. I felt him grab my shoulder. I felt a strange fear cause my body to tense up. I fel- I felt...His breath on the back of my neck. I felt the goosebumps rise on my skin. I FELT THAT. The pull of the blade out of me...Taking all of my breath with it...I felt this same concrete ground I'm standing on! I felt my body fight for .EVERY. SINGLE. Breath it could fight for! I felt my body get colder! And colder! And colder! Until finally...I felt...

BEAT.

KELVAS

Death.

Louie looks back over at Kelvas.

LOUIE

...Yes. I felt death...I felt death's coldness. I felt death's abandonment...When I was going through it. After my breakup and all. There were times I felt dead inside. Times where I felt I really wanted to be dead. But that feeling compared nothing to what I felt as I laid on that ground...my life fading from me. It felt so... SURE. Out of all the things I've ever felt before, nothing ever felt more assuring...Than that feeling of death. And I'm standing here, with you. A person I've never seen before but for some strange reason recognize your presence as if you've lived with me all my life. Standing here, with the surety of my fate, but with no signs of it. And you're seemingly ensuring me that you had something to do with that.

KELVAS

Yes.

LOUIE

...So, you saved me?

KELVAS

Well...If you ended up here with me. Some people would say you were...Saved.

LOUIE

So that means I'm still alive right...

KELVAS

Louie...You're dead.

LOUIE

I'm actually dead?

KELVAS

Yes.

LOUIE

Ohhh no. Ohhh no this can't be real...

Louie falls to his knees, crying into his hands.

Kelvas walks over to Louie and picks him up.

KELVAS

Louie. I know it's tough. I've been there-

LOUIE

But you don't understand, I had so much to do. I was going to graduate, I was- Oh no. Lisa.

Louie hangs his head and cries heavier.

KELVAS

Right...Lisa.

BEAT.

Louie breaks away from Kelvas.

LOUIE

You know Lisa?

KELVAS

Yeah.

LOUIE

How do you know Lisa?

KELVAS

I know Lisa, I mean...I only know her in regards to you or when you two were around each other, but I can say yes, I know Lisa.

LOUIE

So you've been around when me and Lisa were dating too?!

KELVAS

Yes.

Louie crouches and drops his head.

LOUIE

You- Oh my God...

KELVAS

What...

LOUIE

You're my guardian angel?! You couldn't help change me. I lost the love of my life no thanks to you!

KELVAS

You're right, no thanks to me. And I'm not your guardian angel. I'm not a guardian angel to begin with.

LOUIE

Then what are you here for?!

KELVAS

Louie, you've always been pretty wise. Very stupid at times. But wise. Put two and two together. You said you felt my presence before, I know about you and Lisa, I was there when Gregory stabbed you-

Louie takes a moments to think to himself.

LOUIE

You had me killed?!

KELVAS

I wouldn't say tha-

LOUIE

You bastard you! Why would you do that!

KELVAS

Louie-

LOUIE

I had dreams. I had high hopes! I had my mother to live for! You took me away from her! What did I ever do to you! I made amends for all the hurt I did. I had just gotten myself back!

KELVAS

Louie I didn't do anything to you that you hadn't asked for.

LOUIE

I didn't ask for this!

KELVAS

You kinda did.

LOUIE

I may have felt like I was dying inside. I never asked to-

KELVAS

It doesn't work like that.

LOUIE

Wha-

KELVAS

It has nothing to do with wanting to die or feeling like dying. You were a good man Louie with a pure soul. You were at peace with all in your life-

LOUIE

Then why am I dead when I had so much more good to do-

KELVAS

Have you ever heard the phrase "Only the good die young"?!

Louie stands still in complete silence.

KELVAS

I'm a soul summoner Louie.

LOUIE

What is this you're talking about...This isn't helping at all. Can you bring me back to life?

KELVAS

I'm a soul summoner Louie.

LOUIE

This is too much right now. What is a soul summoner?

Louie sits on the bench, slumped slightly.

KELVAS

So, you're not gonna try to use any of your common sense...

LOUIE

I can't make much sense of anything right now, let alone use any.

KELVAS

I'm a soul summoner Louie-

LOUIE

So the grim reaper basically.

KELVAS

No! We are nothing alike!

LOUIE

My head. Is going. To explode.

KELVAS

I am a soul summoner-

LOUIE

I GET IT! YOU'RE A SOUL SUMMONER! NOW FOR THE LOVE OF GOD! CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT THAT MEANS?!

KELVAS

Wow. You know it'd be nice if something was done for the love of us soul summoners. At least you get to meet us.

LOUIE

If you say that you're a soul summoner again without explaining it, I swear-

KELVAS

Calm down kiddo. Look, I'm no grim reaper. They work with the bad souls. We only work with the good ones.

LOUIE

Work? What do you mean work?

KELVAS

Yeah, I have to work with you, can't just summon your soul and that be all.

LOUIE

Talk about being worked to death.

KELVAS

Hey! There's no rest for the weary either.

LOUIE

And what exactly are YOU weary of?

KELVAS

I may carry myself in a facetious manner but this isn't simple.

LOUIE

It could be...If you can just explain to me what exactly this work is we have to do.

Kelvas goes to take a seat next to Louie and exhales deeply as he's about give him important information.

KELVAS

Alright. You were a pure soul. No gripes. No grudges. No bitterness. As soon as we feel the pure souls are truly at peace, we summon them to the afterlife.

LOUIE

That's fucked...

KELVAS

That's life.

LOUIE

Can't say I can relate anymore now can I...

The two look at each other for a moment, then return to looking away from each other.

KELVAS

You're dead Louie. Yes. But there's still greater good for you to do in THIS life.

LOUIE

How...Am I a GOD?

KELVAS

No.

LOUIE

Am I a guardian angel?

KELVAS

No.

LOUIE

Am I a soul summoner like you Kelvas?

KELVAS

Heh, definitely not.

Louie becomes extremely gloomy.

Beat.

LOUIE

I'm just dead.

KELVAS

Yes. But you are not obsolete. You are still a pure soul. And you are needed in the physical realm.

LOUIE

I'm sure I am.

KELVAS

Yeah but let me tell you how.

LOUIE

Please do.

KELVAS

...Lisa.

Louie jumps up and immediately becomes pensive.

LOUIE

What about her!

KELVAS

Calm down. I'll tell you.

LOUIE

It better be good too.

KELVAS

Hold on. First, pick up that newspaper and read the date.

Louie goes to the bench and snatches the

newspaper up. He reads the date and is shocked at what he sees.

LOUIE

What the fuck? It's been five years?!

KELVAS

Tsk. Uhh yeah...You also died five years ago.

LOUIE

And you're just now letting me know!

KELVAS

Well it's not my fault nobody needed you until now. I hate to break it to you but, when you die...Life still goes on. People eventually gain closure and learn to live with it.

LOUIE

Wow.

Louie paces away.

KELVAS

But some people don't.

Louie stops dead in his tracks.

LOUIE

...Lisa.

KELVAS

Yeah see whereas I deal in the department of death. Some of my colleagues deal in the department of love. See sometimes, this soul summoning thing doesn't always go smoothly.

LOUIE

So you're telling me, she's still affected by it all?

KELVAS

Ex-actly.

LOUIE

So what do I do?

KELVAS

Do whatever you would've done if you were still there with her. Physically that is.

LOUIE

So what, I'm gonna be a ghost?!

KELVAS

You're gonna be whatever you have to be.

LOUIE

Look. I just sorta figured you out. You're gonna have to be clearer.

Kelvas stands up and walks over to Louie.

KELVAS

Look, I'm not your conscience. I can't think, act, or feel for you. You're gonna have to get used to it.

LOUIE

Man I'm not used to this death shit! I've never been dead before.

KELVAS

It does take some time to get used to. But we have no time to waste.

A light appears.

LOUIE

What's that?

KELVAS

That's your chance. If you want to make Lisa happy again...It's all on other side of that light.

Louie takes a deep breath and hesitates to take a step.

Then, Louie walks towards the light. Kelvas stays behind.

Louie realizes Kelvas isn't with him and stops.

LOUIE

Are you not coming with me?

KELVAS

I'm a soul summoner Louie.

LOUIE

Heh.

KELVAS

I have other work to do. Don't worry, I'll stop by and check on you.

LOUIE

Alright. Well...here goes nothing.

Louie walks to the light and exits.

SCENE II

There is now a coffee shop. It only has a counter in the center and two tables. Harold sits at a table alone.

A woman is behind the counter preparing a cup of coffee.

Louie enters. Nobody acknowledges his entrance.

Carroll comes from behind the counter and places the cup of coffee on the man's table.

HAROLD

Thank you Carroll.

LOUIE

Carroll...

CARROLL

It's no biggie. You order a regular all the time.

LOUIE

Carroll...

Carroll heads back behind the counter and passes by Louie.

Louie follows her behind the counter.

Carroll begins cleaning the counter.

LOUIE

Carroll! Hey! It's me Louie! I would've never thought I'd see you. You look great. I see you're running your own shop now. By the way, apologize for calling you conniving that one time, well about that actually. I was wondering and....You don't even know I'm here...

Louie walks from behind the counter to sit at

one of the tables.

LOUIE

You're a ghost Louie. Get used to it. Nobody can hear you, see you or feel you. I don't even know why I'm here. Just gonna torture myself trying.

CARROLL

Don't you think your monotony can be a little too much at times Harold?

HAROLD

Well, simplicity is key.

CARROLL

To be monotonous isn't the most simple thing. Yes, it's repetitive but do you know how complex you have to be, to do the same exact thing in the same exact manner time and time again. Add some spontaneity sometimes. Like I run a coffee shop, that doesn't play coffee shop music. Like my new playlist on Pandora?

LOUIE

Pandora? Damn they're still around?

HAROLD

Yeah, I like it. But, I don't know if that's something I'm capable of.

CARROLL

Sure you are. As a woman, I'd say if you really want to impress that date of yours, you're gonna have to surprise her or at least show her something you wouldn't normally show people. That's the key to impression.

HAROLD

So you mean, I have to not be myself.

CARROLL

No! Never be dishonest ever. That's why most guys hurt those close to them. They feel they have to lie about their insecurities or hide things. What they fail to realize is, everyone has demons and flaws. That's what makes us human. Just sucks too many of them are worried about being something other than human. Be you. But be you with some spirit in you! Don't be so...dull.

HAROLD

You're right.

CARROLL

Be funny. Who doesn't love to laugh.

HAROLD

So I tell her a joke every now and then.

LOUIE

Oh my. There is absolutely no hope for this guy.

CARROLL

No, that seems wayyy too rehearsed, let it flow.
Relax. Be natural. Just-

The door chimes ring as Lisa enters the coffee shop.

Everyone turns their attention to her.

Louie stands up out of his seat and slowly walks toward her.

BEAT.

LOUIE

Lisa.

CARROLL

Lisa?!

LISA

Carroll?!

Carroll runs from behind the counter and hugs Lisa.

Louie feels slighted by Carroll ruining his moment with Lisa.

CARROLL

Oh my God! Harold you didn't tell me who she was!

HAROLD

You know each other?

CARROLL

Yes. We went to college together some 4 or 5 years ago. It's been a while. So you're still in the city.

LISA

Yeah, I work at a law firm across from the library
Harold works at.

CARROLL

Wow! It feels so good.

LISA

I know, small world right. So this is your shop?

CARROLL

Yeah. I've only had it a year but, it's mine. Well.
Let me not ruin your day, I'll let you two catch up.

HAROLD

N-no you have some time. I-I have to go to the
bathroom really quick.

*Harold gets up and nervously walks to the
bathroom.*

Carroll and Lisa stroll to the table.

Louie storms behind Harold.

*Inside the bathroom is a mirror on the wall and
a single stall. Harold goes into the stall and
is hidden behind the door.*

Louie stands in front of the stall angrily.

LOUIE

You?! Lisa likes you?! Come onnn! Don't screw this
up. Stop being so nervous. And yeah, stop being so
dull! Have some charisma. She's already interested
enough to go on a date with you. Make it worth her
time man. Oh right! I forgot Louie, he can't hear
you! Lisa man! LISA! If I were you I'd-

*Louie puts his hands up in frustration and goes
into the stall to take it out on Harold.*

There is suddenly a silence.

BEAT.

*Harold walks out of the stall slowly, looking at
his hands and his clothes in deep confusion.*

HAROLD

What the fu-

Harold looks in the mirror and screams in shock.

Lisa and Carroll are both startled by Harold's scream.

HAROLD

AWWWHHHH! WHAT THE FUCK! Oh no. What have I done.
Louie you really fucked up big time. Ooooh shit!.

CARROLL

Is everything alright in there?

HAROLD

Yeah! Uh-It's alllll right! Okay. Get. It. Together
Harold. I mean Louie. I mean- Oh fuck. Okay... Just
play it cool and walk out like nothing happened.

Louie walks out of the bathroom.

HAROLD

You know what happened...I just forgot I had to make
a phone call. I'll be right back.

LISA

O...Kay.

*Harold rushes out of the coffee shop and stands
outside.*

HAROLD

Kelvas Kelvas Kelvas Kelvas please please please come
help me.

*Kelvas enters and walks up to Harold, eating
bubblegum and chewing it obnoxiously. He holds a
small case in his other hand.*

HAROLD

Oh shit! Boy am I glad to see you.

KELVAS

Oh now you love me.

HAROLD

As you can see, I messed up big time.

Kelvas hands the small case to Harold.

KELVAS

Here. Put those in your ears.

LOUIE

What are these?

KELVAS

What else do they look like? Air Pods.

HAROLD

What for? Is this some sorta facetious token of your appreciation? Hello! I just possessed a man.

KELVAS

You know Freddie Mercury uses those same lyrics except for the hello part. You know-

Harold gives Kelvas a cold stare.

KELVAS

I would assume...That it was uh...Pretty scary.

HAROLD

Scary is a major understatement. And what are these for?Is it to make me look more human than I already am?!

Lisa proceeds to exit the coffee shop to approach Harold.

KELVAS

Well,since you're so curious, these are one of our most proud creations. You know, that damn Sissle is a slick bastard getting to be the Summoner of Steve Jobs.

HAROLD

What!

Lisa is startled by Harold's outburst.

Harold is dazed and confused by Lisa's presence.

HAROLD

I-I'm sooo sorry. I know what it looks like, see I have this condition and I have to take...

Kelvas motions at Louie to put the Air Pods into his ear.

Harold puts one Air Pod in his ear.

HAROLD

This call! You know..That's why I'm out here. I have

to take this call. It's my doctor.

LISA

Well, okay...You sure everything's alright?

HAROLD

Oh Yes! One Hundred percent sure. I'll be in there no time.

Lisa goes back into the coffee shop.

HAROLD

Goddamn you can really be no help at all sometimes! Why didn't you tell me she was right behind me??

KELVAS

Hey! I'm not your damn bodyguard. Besides, you're technically alive again, isn't that part of being human. Being aware of your surroundings...

HAROLD

...You know what. You are ab-SO-lutely right! Please explain. Explain everything why don't you. Air Pods, being more aware of my surroundings. While you're at it, why don't you tell me who's idea was it to summon MLK but let Reagan become president. Do tell. Do tell.

KELVAS

As you already know. We soul summoners aren't necessarily guardian angels, we're just the ones that decide when and how you transfer to the afterlife. However, we can send you back for one more mission if need be. Ohhh, kinda like the one you're on now. In my co-summoner Sissle's case, they were the soul summoner of Steve Jobs, they sent him back to help Apple create one more great technological advancement.

LOUIE

And that advancement was...Wireless. Earphones. Some out of this world advancement.

KELVAS

Wasn't just any old advancement. I hate to say it but, Sissle gets credit for one of the greatest soul return accomplishments of all time. You see, now, when a Soul is sent on a mission and possesses a body- Ohhh, kinda like what you just did. We can give them these and guess what? No one would ever suspect that they're talking to one of us.

Carroll comes to Lisa's table and takes her order.

Once shhe notices Harold outside talking, she takes a seat at the table and talks to Lisa.

HAROLD

Ohh... Well I guess you did get the short end of the stick with me.

KELVAS

Yes! Yes I did.

HAROLD

I didn't mean that literally.

KELVAS

Anyways...Sissle, who once ranked far below me, is now one step closer to becoming a guardian angel before yours truly...

HAROLD

Wait wait wait..So, you're telling me that you only chose me so you can boost your rank in your "summoner guild"?!

KELVAS

That's a pretty good name for our group. I'm gonna propose that in our next meeting.

LOUIE

Answer the question.

KELVAS

To an extent...Yes. The most high took it as a favor. Said if I take you, they'd have someone special for me.

HAROLD

That's fucked-

KELVAS

But! You were also the best available soul to give me the proper skills I needed once I became a guardian angel. This is all warranting that we complete the mission.

BEAT.

HAROLD

So you can...Become a guardian angel...

KELVAS

Yes.

HAROLD

What is it...Your soul too bad?

KELVAS

Just because I technically kill people doesn't mean I'm bad.

HAROLD

Umm...Yes. That's exactly what would make you bad.

KELVAS

That would make me a bad person. I am neither man nor beast. Person nor child. I am above what is considered moral. I am of the spiritual realm, where death and soul summoning is seen as merely just a transfer to the next stage.

HAROLD

I never took you for logic. I'm beginning to like you. But I'm beginning to run impatient, help me with this.

KELVAS

You're right. We better make this fast. She's already ordering.

HAROLD

Damn! Well finish explaining how we're gonna do this.

KELVAS

Okay. I kinda wish we had more time but I have to drop the bomb on you.

HAROLD

What?

KELVAS

You can't complete this mission in reality or the physical realm.

HAROLD

Say what now?

KELVAS

You see, this stage is to develop a comfort with her, for she was once your soul mate. Hence you being sent here instead of a relative or a-

HAROLD

Yeah yeah yeah. Get to the point.

KELVAS

You're gonna have to enter a conduit realm to her soul.

HAROLD

What's all this shit about realms?!

KELVAS

Well, there's the Somnus realm or dream world as you know it. Have you ever felt a way about something and then woke up feeling over it or not as bothered by it anymore?

HAROLD

Oh have I? I mean one time I didn't even wake up!

KELVAS

Real funny. Well, that means you were visited in the Somnus realm and the energy that bothered you was done away with. How do you think people one day can't get over a tragedy and then after a while, can all of a sudden cope with it?

HAROLD

Ohhhh. That makes sense.

KELVAS

There's that euphemism of "Put God First". That sounds nice but, that's just putting your mind at the ease we need it to be once it enters the somnus realm. That's what all this is for. You. As Harold or whoever's body you decide to possess next, must help her with all that she's battled with since your death.

HAROLD

Okay. That sounds difficult. But that's all this has been! Difficult, confusing. I mean...

Harold points at himself

HAROLD

What the fuck!

KELVAS

Look, I can't really help you with that, but maybe my friends in the possessions department could help.

HAROLD

Oh you mean the IRS.

KELVAS

Look, you have time. Get comfortable with her. Work to put her mind at ease and her soul at peace. But be careful, if mind and soul are not where they need to be, you can do more harm than you intend to. Where do you think nightmares, sleep paralysis, and in-SOM-NIA come from?

HAROLD

Yeah that helps...helps a lot.

KELVAS

But for now, you have a date. Hurry back, she's almost done with her latte.

Kelvas begins to walk off.

HAROLD

Where are you going this time?

KELVAS

The most high figured if I'm going to get my guardian angel wings, I might as well visit the city of Angels. Told me there's a prime soul to summon for me. He's from your time. Some Ermias guy. Heard he was called Nipsey Hussle. See you soon though.

Kelvas exits

Harold turns to go back to the coffee shop but halts

HAROLD

Wait! How do I enter the somnus realm?

Harold hangs his head and goes back into the coffee shop.

Back in the coffee shop, Harold sits at Lisa's table.

LISA

Call go bad?

HAROLD

Huh?

LISA
The phone call you had to take outside...Just now.

HAROLD
OHHH! Y-Yeah yeah! Everything went fine. My doctor was telling me about an investment in Apple that payed off big time.

LISA
That's an interesting conversation to have with your doctor.

Lisa's undivided attention shifts to her coffee as she slowly stirs it.

HAROLD
...

LISA
...

HAROLD
Caffe macchiato. That's definitely you.

LISA
What? What do you mean by that?

HAROLD
It just...It fits you.

LISA
Hmph. Something about that, it's just such a relief to hear...

HAROLD
Really?

LISA
Yeah. I usually take compliments like horoscopes.

HAROLD
I've never heard that before, enlighten me if you will.

LISA
I take both as assessments of people based solely on a predisposition of theirs. So they're really just, assumptions about somebody based on things they don't necessarily control.

HAROLD

I think I'm following...

LISA

What's your sign?

HAROLD

I'm a...

Harold scans his body and goes into his coat and pulls out his wallet to check his I.D.

HAROLD

Scorpio.

LISA

You needed to check your I.D. to make sure of that?

HAROLD

I was actually making sure I had money to cover the coffee.

LISA

Ahh a gentleman I see. Some would say that's very Libra of you.

HAROLD

Hehe I was born on the cusp.

LISA

And suggesting payment without my consideration. That's...Initiative.

HAROLD

Well what can I say, initiative...guess that's the scorpio in me.

LISA

Scorpios are also said to be inherently clairvoyant. Are you clairvoyant?

HAROLD

Well no, but I am very close to someone that is-

LISA

But are you?

HAROLD

No.

LISA

Are you feeling clairvoyant at all today?

HAROLD

As a matter of fact. I am feeling the exact opposite right now.

LISA

Then how can I say that's your nature? It's in a Lion's nature to hunt. It's in a tornado's nature to lay waste to what's in its path. Only we create this narrative of what's "natural" for us to give us excuses to be prejudice, toxic, and ignorant.

HAROLD

I take it that you don't accept my compliment nor believe in astrology.

LISA

No, I loved your compliment actually. Because you didn't necessarily assume or say it as if you knew beforehand.

Louie coughs.

LISA

You sure everything's alright?

HAROLD

Y-Yeah. And I figured you chose the Caffe Machiatto because you liked it. Most people play it safe their first time at a cafe or restaurant. Choose what makes them feel good all the time. Wouldn't you say something that makes someone feel good all the time fits them?

LISA

Can anything make someone feel good all the time?

HAROLD

Why can't it? I mean...Take this coffee here.

LISA

Yes that coffee of yours there. What about it?

HAROLD

It burns my mouth sometimes.

LISA

I'm sure it has many times before and that's never a good feeling.

HAROLD

In the moment? No. But when you realize it's something that is served hot, you learn that you must be cautious and careful with it, or else it will hurt you. Eventually it will cool off, and still be as enjoyable but no longer able to burn you.

LISA

Sounds like you're a connoisseur of coffee or analogies. Or maybe both.

HAROLD

Heh. Yeah. At the end of the day, its intentions aren't to burn you. What it came from just made it that way, but as you see. Once it leaves that Keurig and enters the right hands...

LISA

That was sweet. What's gotten into you Harold?

HAROLD

Hunh? W-Wh..What's gotten into me?

LISA

Yeah, this isn't the same timid Harold from the library. Was that a ploy of yours? Reel me in with your shy masque and then woo me with your true charm?

HAROLD

Nnnoooo...

LISA

Well, if this is the true Harold. I like him just as much if not more.

HAROLD

Yeah, I like him too.

LISA

Well, this was wonderful. I'm still shocked that you know Carroll. And I'll definitely be more careful with my macchiattos. We should do this again sometime. I have to get going to work now. See you around Harold.

Carroll takes a bill out of her purse, puts it on the table and proceeds to exit.

LISA

And though I love initiative, in the future be careful initiating payment for people. There is a

thin line between chivalry and chauvinism. Nice seeing you Carroll.

CARROLL

Likewise Lisa! Have a nice day!

Carroll rushes over to Harold's table.

CARROLL

I didn't know you had that in you Harold. Was it really all just a front? That was well played, you even had me fooled. I was thinking to myself, wow this won't go as well as this guy may think it will, he has a lot of work to do. Then I saw and couldn't help but get-

HAROLD

Carroll. Calm down. I just I don't know. I guess, something has come over me. Something has...Gotten into me. And I'm liking this new guy that I am. I like him a lot.

CARROLL

She may not show it but I think she likes you.

HAROLD

Yeah. I think she does too.

ACT IIISCENE I

Harold and Lisa sit at a park bench facing each other.

LISA

You know, these past few weeks have been so breathtaking. And it's all thanks to you.

HAROLD

Oh don't put it on me. You had to be willing enough to take a chance on me. Or rather give me a chance.

LISA

No I really mean it. For the past few years I've been holding myself back from the joys of the world. The things that bring happiness. You've been like a wonder that was sent to me. You know I've began to think about you every night before I go to sleep and it's turned my restless nights into dream lands.

HAROLD

...

Lisa leans in and places her hands on Harold's face and they share a kiss.

LISA

I've been wanting one of those for the past 5 years.

HAROLD

Initiative. I see why you like it so much.

LISA

I like this even more.

HAROLD

So do I.

LISA

I have to go back to work. Can we do this again tomorrow?

HAROLD

I'll be here waiting.

LISA

Oh you rascal you. See you tomorrow.

Lisa strides off.

Kelvas struts in.

KELVAS

(In the style of "Louie Louie" by Richard Berry)

Duh duh duh

Duh duh

Duh duh duh

Duh duh

Louie Louie, we gotta go

Kelvas walks over and sits down next to Harold.

KELVAS

So it's been a few weeks and some very successful dates might I add. How's the progress?

HAROLD

It's going-

Harold puts his air pods in

HAROLD

It's going a little better than I planned for it to

Kelvas elatedly nudges Harold.

KELVAS

Well that's always great news. So how'd this date go?

HAROLD

It-It was all that I needed it to be.

KELVAS

What do you mean by that?

HAROLD

She's still the wonderful soul I've always known her to be.

KELVAS

That's why we're here. To preserve that...Soooo....

HAROLD

She's beginning to fall in love with me.

KELVAS

Perfect!

HAROLD

And I'm still in love with her.

KELVAS

What do you mean you're in love with her?! We can't afford that to happen.

HAROLD

What do you mean we can't afford that to happen?!

Kelvas drops his face into his hands in disappointment.

KELVAS

Ugh man. This can't happen.

HAROLD

What can't happen? Look Kelvas. You have to stop speaking so vaguely with me.

KELVAS

Well can you stop being so foolish?!

HAROLD

Yeah no thanks to help from you! You just threw me in the water. How could you expect me to do everything with ease?!

KELVAS

I never said it would be easy.

HAROLD

Yeah but you said it had to be done. Done for who Kelvas?...For you? For me? For Lisa? Who Kelvas?

KELVAS

Don't run that cliché movie conflict on me. You can't develop any strong feelings for her. That was never in the plan. It's not for you to be in love with her. This is just for her to be in love again! What happens when it's time for you to leave?

HAROLD

No! I don't have to leave. She's in love again. We did it!

KELVAS

If we were done, I wouldn't be here. Hmph. You're

returning.

HAROLD

Returning to what?!

KELVAS

To those same selfish ways of yours when you met Lisa. Those same selfish ways that lost her.

HAROLD

...

KELVAS

This isn't for you. Me. Or her as much as it for the world. Why must it be so hard for man to understand that. It's not about you. It never is. It's about the grand scheme of things. The larger picture. All of your conflicts, dilemmas, achievements...Are just small paintings in the mosaic of life. The lack of understanding in that, is why families split, music groups break up. Why nothing collaborative seems to last anymore. Ego. Pride. Narcissism All selfish traits essentially. Oddly enough, they're instilled in you to provide a sense of individuality. Not for you to shelter yourself. Their purpose is to make you think of yourself first but not only of yourself. To take your feelings as well as the feelings of those close to you into account instead of, running away from accountability or refusing to better yourself. But the latter is all that ever seems to happen now. Remember, I told you, there are those like myself that deal in the department of death and those that deal in the department of love. For this world of yours to spin, people must move on. Whether it be from a relationship or to the afterlife. Why do you think you can't spell revolve without evolve? As you know, death needs to happen in this world. No one dies without closure. That's why you're here.

HAROLD

I never meant to be selfish. I just fell in love.

KELVAS

Look. Just like in the physical realm so goes in the spiritual realm...Being possessive of people is never good.

HAROLD

I didn't do this on purpose. But it does work for our mission here.

KELVAS

It doesn't.

HAROLD

Why doesn't it?

KELVAS

Possessing someone and falling in love while doing it, is the same as being possessive while in love. And love is not possession.

HAROLD

So I've learned...

KELVAS

Yeah. When you possess a body, you put the soul of that body in limbo. That's a whole other thing I don't want to get into. So now there's bad news and there's bad news.

HAROLD

What's the bad news?

KELVAS

The bad news is we can't possess this body for much longer because if you do, it will be disastrous for you and I can't help you.

HAROLD

And the other bad news?

KELVAS

The other bad news is now, to prevent that from happening, you must get this done by tomorrow's sunrise.

HAROLD

That's not enough time!

KELVAS

Sure it is. We would never give you something you could never handle. It only seems like a short time because you don't want to leave Lisa. You have to know, that once this is over. There is no coming back. You're gonna have to summon all of your will and...Let go.

HAROLD

...

KELVAS

Look. She's already going for you- Harold I mean. She just needed to be shown that love was worth it again. As for Harold, he always had that confidence of yours in him, we just needed you to spark it. Now we didn't expect you to do it via possession but at least when his soul returns, the remnants of your energy will instantly bring it out of him. So things will be like you never left.

HAROLD

It's gonna be hard to leave though.

KELVAS

It always is. Ultimately, you do want her to be happy right?

HAROLD

Yeah.

KELVAS

We do this right and Harold will make sure of that.

HAROLD

So what can you do to help me?

KELVAS

I gave you the best advice I could've ever given you before you even came here.

Kelvas rises to his feet.

KELVAS

Do whatever you would've done if you were still there with her.

Kelvas scans his hand up and down at Harold.

KELVAS

Physically, that is. When you figure that out, just call out for me...I'll handle the Somnus realm for you. I could use the extra assignment. Not like I was the most diligent guide for you.

Kelvas opens his newspaper and strolls off reading it.

SCENE II

Lisa sits on the couch of her living room in night clothes, writing in a notebook.

She has a glass of water on the table next to the couch.

BEAT.

Lisa takes a moment away from writing to massage her temples. Then, she begins to run her hands over her face and sits in silence. Thinking.

Beat.

Lisa returns to writing.

LISA'S DAD

You're up.

Lisa is startled by the voice.

LISA

Hunh.

After looking over and realizing that the voice is from her dad, Lisa calms down.

Lisa's dad walks into the living room in nightclothes, holding a glass of water.

LISA'S DAD

You're up.

LISA

Yeah. Just writing.

LISA'S DAD

Anything interesting?

LISA

...

The two share a look briefly.

Lisa's dad exhales sharply.

LISA

You can come and let me tell you...If it's not too late.

Lisa's dad walks over and sits at the sofa next to Lisa.

LISA

What has you up this late at night dad?

LISA'S DAD

I got thirsty. I suppose the same for you.

Lisa's dad gestures towards her glass of water.

LISA

No. I've just been having these dreams and felt I needed to start writing them down.

LISA'S DAD

What kind of dreams?

LISA

Strange ones. But they feel like dreams to remember. Most of the time they don't make sense, but they seem to be so clear.

LISA'S DAD

Hmph. Well can you tell me about the one that you had tonight?

Lisa holds open her notebook and attempts to read from it.

She pauses.

Then, shuts the notebook out of frustration and places it down.

LISA

I was in high school again. I was late and I started rushing up the stairs to the top floor but...the stairs felt bigger. The flights felt longer. I remember the top floor being the 3rd, but here it felt like I made it to the 3rd floor at least 4 times before I was at the top. And I did all of that just for there to be nobody on the floor when I got there. I stand in the doorway of an empty classroom and suddenly, Maya Angelou walks right past me. She walks by me as if she's supposed to be there. As if nothing's wrong. Then, I get some random urge to look down and I'm wearing my "I know why the caged bird sings" T-Shirt. Like I said, it didn't make sense. But it was clear.

LISA'S DAD

You loved that shirt as a little girl.

LISA

I hadn't thought about that shirt in years.

LISA'S DAD

Did you go after Maya? In the dream, to see if she could explain anything.

LISA

No.

LISA'S DAD

You remember the house fire?

LISA

Of course I do.

LISA'S DAD

It was such a fight keeping you from running in there heheh. All for that shirt too.

LISA

Yeah, thankfully you were able to.

LISA'S DAD

Yeah. I'm happy to see these dreams have you writing again.

LISA

Dad. I still write.

LISA'S DAD

Well, you know what I mean. You used to love writing. Whether it was poetry, short stories, novels. After all, that's what you went to college for. You got a degree and all for creative writing.

LISA

I know. It's still framed up the wall.

LISA'S DAD

I'm proud of you graduating law school but why'd you end up going with that?

LISA

Because I like law.

LISA'S DAD

...

Lisa's dad rubs her knee and leans in towards her.

LISA'S DAD

What happened to those other dreams you used to have?
What happened to my fire-girl?

LISA

Dad. I don't like that name. I'm not a girl anymore.
And I don't try to go running into burning buildings.

Lisa's dad sits back and exhales.

Beat.

Lisa's dad stands up.

LISA'S DAD

Just think about why you stopped dreaming about
writing and started writing about dreams. Goodnight
Lisa.

Lisa's dad strolls out of the living room.

*Lisa watches him exit. Afterwards, she returns
to writing.*

SCENE III

The benches are empty.

*Gregory shuffles in. He is in a prison uniform.
He's confused and surveys the area trying to
come to terms with where he is.*

*Gregory freezes when he sets his eyes on the
bench.*

*Kelvas marches in slowly with his hands behind
his back.*

KELVAS

It's scary isn't it.

Gregory stays frozen in shock.

Kelvas approaches Gregory.

KELVAS

We all must return, must we not?

Kelvas scans Gregory as he circles him.

KELVAS

I know it's in human nature to run away from destiny but, whether it's to an old vice. A personality trait. Or to the creator, we must return to something. And most times, our former selves will resist what we end up returning to. Tsk... You never thought you'd see this bench again did you?..Yeah. 20 years away from the world would make anyone think so. But there's no escaping the return. We must face the world we build. Oh selfish, fearful man. Haha. If only they'd accept that you suffer less, taking a collision head on than when you run away and it catches you.

Kelvas stands face to face with Gregory for a moment. He shakes his head and proceeds to sit down.

Once seated, Kelvas pulls his newspaper from inside his coat, and begins reading.

Gregory turns away from Kelvas slowly. He's in oblivion to everything still.

KELVAS

Do you believe in free will? Do you even believe that you're in control of your decisions?

GREGORY

I don't know what to believe right now.

KELVAS

Well, I'll tell you my job is done. At this point, I'm just offering you a taste of freedom that you're capable of giving yourself, but haven't decided to yet.

GREGORY

Freedom?

KELVAS

Yeah yeah. Freedom. It's not tangible you know.

GREGORY

I've been a prisoner for the last 5 years...There's no freedom for me.

KELVAS

Hmph. I guess you don't believe in free will.

Gregory looks back at Kelvas.

GREGORY
What?

KELVAS
You wanna know why man makes so many mistakes that they don't learn from? Because subconsciously, they all believe that free will is nonexistent. No need to take accountability for something you had no control over right? How does it go? Written in the stars. Hmph. If only you knew.

Gregory steps towards Kelvas

Kelvas continues reading his newspaper, not even acknowledging Gregory coming towards him

GREGORY
What's there to know? No need for me to care about free will or destiny. My life is over.

KELVAS
There's a mutual friend of ours that begs to differ.

GREGORY
What are you talking about?

KELVAS
You still have life. You can still live and you can still learn. It starts with facing your actions. You got used to those walls real quick. But facing what you feel inside about what got you here isn't so easy isn't it?

Gregory takes a step back as if guarding himself from what's to come from Kelvas

KELVAS
I figured you'd do that.

GREGORY
What is all of this about?

KELVAS
If you can face what you're running from, you can gain closure. If you gain closure from it, you learn from it and from there you can efficiently teach others how to do the same for themselves. But first you must. Stop.

Kelvas folds his newspaper close and looks directly at Gregory

KELVAS

Running away.

Kelvas stands up and steps towards Gregory.

KELVAS

This life you live. Is like hmm... It's like those "Choose your adventure" books. Yeah the options and outcomes may be predetermined, but it's up to you on which decision you make. Now I'm laying out your options for you. You can either run away and return to the world you're confined to. Or.

Kelvas directs his hand towards the bench.

KELVAS

Return and face the world you built and all that came from it.

BEAT.

Gregory falls to his knees and hangs his head. Kelvas looks down at him.

Gregory raises his head. His eyes are closed and he looks very desperate.

Kelvas walks off. Gregory doesn't notice.

Gregory attempts to stand up but stops once knelt. He looks down for a moment. He struggles to prepare himself to look back at the bench.

Gregory looks ahead and takes a deep breath, closing his eyes as if trying to stop tears from falling. Suddenly, he drops to a crawl position.

Reluctantly, while on all fours, Gregory turns around to face the bench. Once he lifts his head and looks at it, he breaks down into tears.

BEAT.

The lights go out.

The lights return. The bench is gone and a pen and paper are on the ground next to Gregory. He sees the items and begins writing.

SCENE IV

The stage is crosscut between Lisa's living room and the living room of Louie's mom's home.

*Lisa sits in an arm chair, reading a book.
Louie's mom sits on a stool, painting on a large canvas and sipping wine.*

Lisa puts her book down, pulls out her phone and sends out a call.

When her phone begins to ring, Louie's mom picks it up and answers.

LOUIE'S MOM
Hello!

LISA
Ms. King! It's Lisa!

LOUIE'S MOM
What a surprise! How are you?!

LISA
I've been doing okay. I know it's been a while since we last talked...Well about 4 years.

LOUIE'S MOM
Oh no need to worry about that. You've never given me a reason to believe you have anything against me, so I never took it personal. But I do have to ask, what made you call?

LISA
I'm in dire need of some advice.

LOUIE'S MOM
What kind of advice darling?

LISA
There's this man I've been seeing and he has such a great spirit, he's stable, insightful and has a newfound charm that has overwhelmed me. I'm really going for him.

LOUIE'S MOM
So what's stopping you from going after him? Is it that he hasn't shown you enough to feel comfortable that he won't make a fool of you?

LISA

No, I feel confident in him. It's just...I haven't truly felt like this about someone since I first met Louie...I haven't truly loved someone since I loved Louie.

BEAT.

LOUIE'S MOM

I see. You know your heart must go on Lisa. You shouldn't block your soul from its intuition. They go hand in hand. If those two aren't on the same accord, it will hurt you deeply in the long run. I know it's not easy being reminded of Louie in that light. But I have a question. Are you looking for Louie in him? Because seeking another person in someone isn't just unfair to you, it's very unfair to them and you can cause a lot damage that way. You're better than that Lisa.

LISA

I know and this may sound very strange but...It's almost as if...It's almost as if I see Louie in him.

LOUIE'S MOM

Is that why you're falling for him?

LISA

It's actually what's holding me back.

LOUIE'S MOM

Well maybe it isn't that something has a hold on you. Maybe it's what you're holding onto. Go back and unpack everything surrounding you and Louie. After that, you will be able to let go and allow your heart be free.

LISA

Thank you. That was really what I needed.

LOUIE'S MOM

Always remember, as long as I'm here, you always have someone to talk to in times like these.

LISA

Yes. Thanks again Ms.King

A knock is heard at Ms. King's door.

LOUIE'S MOM

Oh there's a knock at the door.

LISA
Okay Ms.King. Bye!

LOUIE'S MOM
Bye baby.

When Lisa hangs up, she glares around her living room.

Louie's mom walks to the door. She opens it and Harold stands in the frame.

LOUIE'S MOM
Hello sir, how may I help you.

Harold just stands there in a state of shock for a moment.

Lisa pulls out a notebook and pen from the drawer in the table beside her chair.

The lights go out over Lisa's living room.

LOUIE'S MOM
Son, is everything alright?

HAROLD
...

LOUIE'S MOM
Son?

Harold chokes up and holds back tears.

HAROLD
I...I-I a friend of Louie's.

LOUIE'S MOM
Oh that's wonderful to hear. It's funny, I was just talking to a friend of his a second ago. Do you want to come in?

HAROLD
I uhh...I don't have much time and I know this is weird and all, with me being a stranger at your front door.

LOUIE'S MOM
Don't bother yourself with that. You speak your peace.

HAROLD

I remember back in college, there was a woman I was courting and just couldn't find the right thing to do to win her over and Louie would always say, he couldn't give me the answer but, that his mother could. Well, me and her fell out some time back but now she's willing to let me back in. She's my soulmate and I never felt so sure about anything before in my life before. I just need to know how to make her see the same thing.

LOUIE'S MOM

Don't make her do anything. The fact that she left on her own and came back tells you enough. Just keep doing what you're doing. You're doing just fine for her to come back to you. Don't change. You wait here, I have something you'll love.

Louie's mom goes offstage.

The lights return over Lisa's room. She clicks her pen and folds the paper.

Harold begins to feel a pain in his body and the light flickers over him.

HAROLD

Aghhh, what the fuck...

Louie's mom returns with a pin. She hands it to Harold and he examines it.

LOUIE'S MOM

Here you go sir. It's a pin Louie made in middle school. It was such the sweetest thing. It's two souls merging with the words "I dream you even when I'm not sleeping" written over it. I feel you should wear it on your next date with this woman. She'd love it.

Lisa opens an envelope but abruptly places it on the table and pulls out her phone and begins to dial. She waits before calling.

HAROLD

Thank you so much ma.

LOUIE'S MOM

What was that?

HAROLD

S-Sorry, I meant to say ma'am. Thank you so much ma'am.

LOUIE'S MOM

Son, what's your name?

HAROLD

Harold.

LOUIE'S MOM

She'll love you Harold.

HAROLD

May I hug you?

LOUIE'S MOM

Of course you m-

Harold immediately pulls Louie's mom in for a hug and squeezes tight as he closes his eyes to keep tears from falling. They hold for a moment.

After they let go, Harold exits.

Louie's mom's home becomes hidden.

Lisa calls Harold.

LISA

Hello Harold. I couldn't stop thinking of you tonight. I have to do something important and want you to be there with me when I do...You'll be there! Perfect...I also have something to tell you when I see you...Great. So just meet me at the corner of Clay street and Sidewinder avenue. Where the mailbox is. Cool. See you there.

SCENE V

Louie is standing by the mailbox.

Kelvas enters and walks rushes towards Louie.

KELVAS

Alright, so you called on me, did you do it?

HAROLD

About that. I don't need to anymore.

KELVAS

What are you talking about?

HAROLD

She told me she couldn't stop thinking about me. And she even wanted me to be here for something important she has to do. On top of that, she has something to tell me. Must be special if she wanted to tell me in person.

KELVAS

That's not how this is supposed to go Louie! Everything is already in place. I visited Gregory and everything.

HAROLD

What?! You didn't tell me you'd do that!

KELVAS

It was for the better.

HAROLD

Anyways. Kelvas, I realized something. You've only given people closure when it comes to grief. With grief, you need help to gain closure. But when it comes to the things we love, not romance but love, only you can give yourself that closure. I think that's what Lisa realized. She always been inclined to love a guy like Harold, because she's always been a loving person. The Lisa I knew was passionate about people and things she held close to her. She just had to realize why it was all worth it again. There wasn't anything I could do to help or hurt that really.

KELVAS

Wow. You're right. Hmph. We all must return. I never thought about it that way. Well, I'll have to let you know, things are about to change drastically then.

HAROLD

What do you mean by that?

KELVAS

Once she gains the closure needed to confess her love for Harold as you claim, you won't be needed anymore.

HAROLD

So I'll return to the spiritual realm...

KELVAS

Yeah. Let me guess, around the time of her call, did you feel a shift in your spirit?

HAROLD

Yes!

KELVAS

My buddies in the possession department let me know, that's your soul preparing to leave the vessel of Harold.

HAROLD

So, this will be the last time I'll get to be here with Lisa?

KELVAS

Yes.

HAROLD

I should let her know then.

KELVAS

No need for that. She never stopped loving you Louie. In her mind and heart, you never left. So just cherish these eternal moments with her.

Lisa walks up behind Harold and hugs him tight.

The light flashes over Harold and he shouts from the shock sent through him.

HAROLD

Ahh!

LISA

Oh I'm sorry did I hurt you?

HAROLD

No no. You just...frightened me is all. What's that in your hand?

LISA

It's a letter. That's what I have to tell you about. When I was in college-

HAROLD

I know about that already.

BEAT.

LISA

You know?

HAROLD

Carroll told me a few days ago once she saw we were going kinda serious.

LISA

Do you think anything of me because of that?

HAROLD

No. I always loved you regardless.

LISA

Awwee Harold. I love you too.

HAROLD

What's the letter for?

LISA

It's for Gregory. I want to send it to him. To let him know that I forgive him. This letter is long overdue.

HAROLD

No. It's right on time.

Lisa turns to drop the letter in the mailbox.

The light flickers over Kelvas and he begins to whimper and break down in pain. He stumbles to the floor.

KELVAS

Ahhhh, what's going on?

Harold is alerted and looks at Kelvas.

Lisa grabs Harold and gives him a big kiss.

A large light flashes over everyone and the lights go out right after.

The lights return.

Lisa and Harold walk off arm in hand.

Louie is laying on the floor. He struggles to get up.

Once on his feet, he watches Lisa and Harold

walk away.

He turns around to see Kelvas without his coat on.

BEAT.

LOUIE

So that's it isn't it?

KELVAS

Yes.

LOUIE

Why the new clothes?

Kelvas begins to cry into a grin.

KELVAS

Because Louie, I'm a-

LOUIE

I know!...You're a soul summoner.

KELVAS

No. I'm a guardian angel.

Kelvas open his arms wide and Louie walks into his embrace.

Louie picks up Kelvas' newspaper

LOUIE

Guess you won't be needing this anymore hunh?

KELVAS

Haha I guess not.

The two beging walking off with each other.

KELVAS

You know I saw you try to read that one time in your room.

LOUIE

Where else did you spy on me?

KELVAS

I wouldn't call it spying but I saw you in Lisa's room, when your mom came to visit...

THE END.

