

# THE THOUSAND-YEAR ROSE

## By Peter Fenton

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# THE THOUSAND-YEAR ROSE

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*When the gales thrash the ocean  
And the rolling thunder leers—  
E'en so, a garden grows in the cave  
While the rose waits a thousand years.*

**SYNOPSIS:** Long ago, the city of Hanenbough, Ireland, was a beautiful city home to only the wealthiest Irish. During the fall of the city to thieves, one mysterious man salvaged what riches he could find and buried it all in a cave, sealing the treasure with a thousand-year rose that is said will only bloom for the pure of heart. A thousand years later, a trio of witches, lacking anything pure, set out to find the fabled treasure and decide to kidnap somebody with a pure heart. Meanwhile, one sharp-witted and sassy Kimmi Larkin ventures to Hanenbough as a research intern and the witches take notice of her – they believe her to have a pure heart. If treasure hunting with unabashed gusto is your thing, this show is an awesome family adventure!

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(7-8 females, 3 males, 3-8 either, 5+ extras)*

GARDENER (f/m)..... The gardener. *(15 lines)*  
 ABIGAIL (f)..... The wicked witch. *(156 lines)*  
 CIERA (f)..... The stupid witch. *(42 lines)*  
 VIVIAN (f)..... The doormat witch. *(100 lines)*  
 PROFESSOR DAVIS (m)..... The passionate professor. *(99 lines)*  
 ELIZABETH PEACHES (f)..... An average student. *(9 lines)*  
 KIMMI LARKIN (f)..... The adventurous intern. *(234 lines)*  
 JEWELER (f/m)..... Jeweler. *(14 lines)*  
 DIANA MARIE BAILEY (f)..... The dignified actress. *(63 lines)*  
 PAREZCO (f/m)..... A master impressionist. *(17 lines)*  
 STAGE MOM (f)..... Stage mom. *(3 lines)*  
 CHILD ACTOR (f/m)..... Child actor. *(3 lines)*  
 MARYANN FOLEY (f)..... The widowed grandmother. *(23 lines)*  
 SCOTT FOLEY (m)..... The insecure teenager. *(78 lines)*  
 DIRECTOR (f/m)..... Director. *(14 lines)*

CAPTAIN BOGGS (m).....The eccentric sailor. (39 lines)  
KATHLEEN/KENNETH (f/m).....Housekeeper. (4 lines)  
CONDUCTOR (f/m).....Train conductor. (12 lines)  
PASSERBY (f/m).....Passerby. (1 line)

### **EXTRAS:**

At least five extras to fill various roles as students, tourists, townspeople, actors, and cave plants.

### **DOUBLING OPTIONS**

GARDENER may double as JEWELER, DIRECTOR, and CONDUCTOR.  
ELIZABETH may double as STAGE MOM and KATHLEEN.  
PAREZCO may double as PASSERBY.

### **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

#### **ACT ONE**

##### **SCENE 1: Planter's Warts**

A flower garden inside a sea cave. At the center, there is a large stone pot indicating a rose will grow there

##### **SCENE 2: Dank Mythology**

A college classroom with a lectern and clock. There is a book on the lectern.

##### **SCENE 3: The Pure of Heart**

A market in the town square with several different stands, including a baker and a jeweler.

##### **SCENE 4: Forsaking Duty and Jet Lag**

A dark alley in daylight not far from the town square.

##### **SCENE 5: Stage Fright**

Part 1: Played in front of curtain. There is a sign indicating auditions.

Part 2: Inside the theatre, on the stage. The stage is bare, with only a chair for the casting director.

##### **SCENE 6: To Begin a Witch Hunt**

The market featured in Act One, Scene 3.

##### **SCENE 7: The Good Kind of Betrayal**

**Part 1:** An area in the forest with many trees. Off in the distance is a clearing where the ruins of a church sit. **Part 2:** Played in front of curtain

*INTERMISSION***ACT TWO****SCENE 1: White Lies**

The market featured in Act One, Scene 3.

**SCENE 2: Reading the Map**

A sitting room in a house. There is a couch and a coffee table.

**SCENE 3: Six Minutes**

The platform of an open-air train station. The train is offstage.

**SCENE 4: Platform Peril**

There are two distinct settings of this scene:

1. A path outside the cave leading to the flower garden featured in Act One, Scene 1.
2. A train car. There are four seats. The wall of the train car is blown up over the course of the scene. Options: The explosion could appear to occur offstage or a crew member could easily hang on behind the flats to rip it off when Vivian creates the explosion.

**SCENE 5: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

A flower garden inside a sea cave. At the center, there is a large stone pot indicating a rose will grow there. The rose grows in this scene. For directors with a limited budget, the Gardener could keep the rose on his person and then create a sleight-of-hand trick with him reaching down and making the rose appear in front of everyone. For directors with a more elaborate budget, the crew could create a mound as a set piece and stage a crew member under the mound and have them “push” the rose up to full height. They both will work beautifully.

**COSTUME SUGGESTIONS**

**KIMMI LARKIN** – Practical but stylish – experimental, but not wacky. Very little makeup, if any, and she wears a bright-colored flannel shirt and jeans. Small purse and necklace (which she trades for the locket in Act One, Scene 3).

**ABIGAIL** – Very little makeup, if any, and she wears a ragged dress (or weathered, dark-colored flannel shirt and jeans). She has a locket, which she ditches in Act One, Scene 3. Optional accessories: pointy witch hat, glasses, tattoos, flask.

- CIERA – More makeup than Abigail and Vivian. Ragged dress (or bright, weathered top and an impractical skirt). Optional accessories: pointy witch hat, big earrings, bracelets.
- VIVIAN – Very little makeup, if any, and she wears a ragged dress (or well-kept old top and jeans) with a bandanna tied around the wrist (which she ditches in Act One, Scene 7) – no other jewelry. Optional accessories: pointy witch hat
- PROFESSOR DAVIS – A grandfatherly bookworm style with a tweed jacket, khaki pants, sensible dress shirt, worn-out shoes, and glasses. Optional accessories: pipe, watch, pens in pocket.
- SCOTT FOLEY – Closet nerd on the brink of being popular. Wears a graphic t-shirt, zip-up hoodie, khaki shorts (or athletic shorts), and sneakers. Optional accessory: snapback baseball cap
- DIANA MARIE BAILEY – Classy and grand aesthetic. Dramatic make-up, elegant dress or skirt suit, purse, portable hair dryer, and high heels. Optional accessories: scarf or mink stole, necklace, brooch, big earrings, rings.
- CAPTAIN BOGGS – An Irish Navy Captain who called his retirement too soon. Black captain's jacket, white dress shirt, black tie, black pants, black shoes, and black gloves. Optional accessory: flask.
- MARYANN FOLEY – Physically fit Grandma who wears a conservative summer dress and comfortable sneakers. Optional accessories: scarf, glasses, earrings.
- THE GARDENER – Mysterious, surprisingly youthful look and feel. Large brown robe with a hood covers most of his body. Barefoot.
- PAREZCO – Audacious Bohemian bandit who wears a long-sleeved t-shirt, jeans, and expensive shoes. One ridiculous accessory worn proudly – examples include: slap bracelet, belt with a large decorative buckle, a silly hat, or perhaps a clock around his neck like Flavor Flav. Optional accessories: expensive watch, rings.
- ELIZABETH PEACHES – Traditional, professional style. Nicely pressed shirt, business skirt or slacks and noticeable makeup.

**SOUND EFFECTS**

- Crickets chirping
- Powerful magic sound
- Thunder
- Explosion
- Celtic undertones
- Gust of cold wind

**PROPS****ACT ONE****SCENE 1**

- Shovel (Gardener)
- Locket (Abigail)
- Treasure map (Abigail)
- Paper (Ciera)
- Bandanna (Vivian)

**SCENE 2**

- Graded exams
- History book
- Gold coins (Townsperson)
- Rose (Townsperson)
- Plants
- Cell phone (Kimmi)

**SCENE 3**

- Baguette
- Assorted jewelry (Jeweler)
- Locket (Abigail–Jeweler–Kimmi)
- Bandanna (Vivian)
- 30 Euros (Jeweler)
- Jewelry box (Jeweler)
- Change buckets (Diana, Parezco, Stage Mom)
- Coins (Townsperson)
- Kimmi's luggage (Boggs)

**SCENE 4**

- Locket (Kimmi)

**SCENE 5**

- Knights of the Square Table* poster
- Clipboard, pen (Director)
- Latte (Director)
- Audition scripts
- Cell phone (Diana)
- Treasure map (Vivian)
- Cloth (Diana)
- Locket (Kimmi)

**SCENE 6**

- Newspaper (Townsperson)
- Locket (Kimmi)

**SCENE 7**

- Apple (Vivian)
- Locket (Kimmi)
- Bandanna (Vivian)
- Rock (Kimmi)
- Treasure map (Vivian)
- Party horn (Ciera)

*INTERMISSION***ACT TWO****SCENE 1**

- Locket/Treasure map (Kimmi)
- Paper (Kimmi)
- Business card (Parezco–Abigail)

**SCENE 2**

- Root beer float (Davis)
- Crossword puzzle (Davis)
- 2 Root beer floats (Housekeeper)
- Locket (Vivian–Kimmi)
- Treasure map (Kimmi)

**SCENE 3**

- Luggage (Stage Mom)
- Peppermint Patty (Diana)
- Locket/Treasure Map (Kimmi)

**SCENE 4**

- Locket/Treasure map (Kimmi)
- Dagger (Abigail)

**SCENE 5**

- Shovel (Gardener)
- Dagger (Abigail)
- Locket/Treasure map (Kimmi)
- Cell phone (Kimmi)
- Contents of purse (Kimmi)
- Ice pack (Davis)
- Rose
- Treasure chest

**PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

Hanenbough: Ha-none-bough

Desrosier: Deh-rose-ee-yea (French for “of the rosebush”)

Parezco: Pa-race-ko\* (Spanish for “I look like”)

*\*If one cannot roll their Rs, pronouncing Parezco as “Pa-dace-ko” will suffice.*

## AUTHOR NOTES

It was my intention in *The Thousand-Year Rose* to write a stand-alone adventure comedy with strong women leading the show. The leading actresses playing Kimmi, Abigail, Ciera, and Vivian should be strong women both onstage and offstage.

The audition material provided in Act One, Scene 5 may be swapped out for any other audition material of a production's choosing, so long as it contains a scene with just three characters. The default provided in the script – *Knights of the Square Table* – is another play written by Peter Fenton and is also available through Heuer Publishing.

If a production deems it necessary, Parezco may be portrayed as female and referred to as Parezca (pa-race-ka). These are the official changes to the script to accommodate that change:

1. Abigail, as she does not bother to learn Parezca's name, can call her "Bozo" as she does in the original script, or alternatively, "Harley Quinn."
2. Parezca calls Diana "mommy dearest" to the latter's annoyance throughout the play in place of "sweetheart."
3. Diana's line in response in Act Two, Scene 5: "Please do not call me that. You are not the Princess yet and I'll hate to be your Queen."

Actors are always encouraged to improvise lines in addition to the script to milk the comedic moment or to wink at production limitations.

Don't be intimidated by the special effects and variety of scene locations! Productions of any budget can produce *The Thousand-Year Rose*. Most of the larger hurdles can be put off stage and the idea of the different settings can be conveyed with just a few set pieces and backdrops. The world premiere was produced with no set at all and was a huge success. This was accomplished by using backdrops to convey basic settings and only the essential props and set pieces were put on stage. Sound effects, however, are a must. Productions with less means are advised to use ambient music and sound effects to help create the illusion.

**PREMIERE PRODUCTION**

*The Thousand-Year Rose* had its world premiere on October 28-29, 2016 at Wheaton College Jukebox Theater (IL).

*Directed by Peter Fenton*

GARDENER.....	Aaron Hanes
ABIGAIL .....	Maggie Auffarth
CIERA.....	Sophia Smith
VIVIAN.....	Taylor Schaible
PROFESSOR FRANK DAVIS.....	Iain Robins
ELIZABETH PEACHES .....	Rachel Hand
KIMMI LARKIN .....	Piper Curda
CAPTAIN SEAMUS BOGGS .....	Calvin Graham
MARYANN FOLEY .....	Maddie Johnson
SCOTT FOLEY .....	Caleb Conner
PAREZCO <sup>1</sup> .....	Yari Medina
DIANA MARIE BAILEY.....	Katy Humnick
R.J. FOLEY <sup>2</sup> .....	Michael Melter

Townspeople: Grace Brazell, Peter Fenton, Rachel Hand, Suzanna Hersey, Mary Neeley, Phoebe Silva

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<sup>1</sup>Parezco was portrayed in the world premiere as female and was referred to as Parezca.

<sup>2</sup>This role does not appear in the final edition of *The Thousand-Year Rose*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 1**  
*PLANTER'S WARTS*

**SETTING:** *A flower garden in what appears to be a cave. At center stage, there is a raised stone pot filled with soil. An elegant rose is carved or painted on the side of the pot.*

**AT RISE:** *Nighttime. Crickets chirp, lights are dim. A hooded GARDENER meanders the garden, humming a tune in a minor key to himself, as he plants seeds methodically. It appears he has done this for a thousand years... because he has. HE stops humming after a couple of moments. HE continues making his rounds through the garden as he speaks to nobody in particular.*

**GARDENER:** On this night, a heart is shattered  
For all things good had disappeared.  
E'en so, a garden grows in the cave –  
While the rose waits a thousand years.

*ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN enter stumbling, cackling with delight. ABIGAIL has a locket around her neck and a treasure map in her hands. GARDENER ignores them.*

**ABIGAIL:** We found it! I can see the treasure now – and it's all going to be mine!

**VIVIAN:** *(Smiling.)* I don't exactly see treasure here, so much as I see... Flowers.

**ABIGAIL:** It's a figure of speech, Vivian. Control yourself.

*VIVIAN'S smile disappears.*

**VIVIAN:** *(Mumbled.)* Sorry, Abi.

**ABIGAIL:** What was that?

**VIVIAN:** Sorry, Abi.

**ABIGAIL:** Good. It's about time you treated your big sister with respect.

*VIVIAN tugs at a bandanna tied around her wrist.*

**VIVIAN:** I'm 27—

**ABIGAIL:** But you're the youngest.

**CIERA:** How horrid! Vivian ruined our day again!

**ABIGAIL:** Oh, Ciera, honey, I won't let a little disrespect from Vivian spoil our day of getting the legendary treasure and taking over the world. At least not today. Now, Vivian, make yourself useful for once – hand me the plans—

*VIVIAN was never given the plans. Meanwhile, CIERA loses interest.*

**VIVIAN:** What?

**ABIGAIL:** That “what” makes it sound like you don't have them. Did you lose my plans, Vivian? *(Looks around on her person for the plans – because she knows she lost them.)*

**VIVIAN:** You told me it was too important for me to keep, so you—

**ABIGAIL:** Silence! Ciera—

**CIERA:** *(Now paying attention.)* What?

**ABIGAIL:** Vivian lost the plans.

**CIERA:** Oh. Is that bad?

**ABIGAIL:** Absolutely.

**VIVIAN:** Abi, you said you'd give them—

**ABIGAIL:** I don't want to hear your excuses, Vivian, I gave you one chance—

**VIVIAN:** Will you let me finish?

**ABIGAIL:** One chance! To prove to me that you're ready – and you failed!

**VIVIAN:** *(Hastily.)* You said you'd give the plans to Ciera.

*ABIGAIL glares at CIERA. CIERA'S eyes light up. She pulls out a piece of paper folded in her belt.*

**CIERA:** Oh! You mean these plans?

**ABIGAIL:** No mind. I found the plans.

**VIVIAN:** See! I never had them—

**ABIGAIL:** (*Interrupting.*) “The Three Witches of Hanenbough’s Plan to Find the Treasure of The Thousand-Year Rose and Take Over the World, Step One: Follow the mysterious treasure map we got from that old man to find the secret garden in the underground cave on the northwestern side of the city where the treasure is fabled to be buried.”

**VIVIAN:** Check.

**ABIGAIL:** Vivian. Could you not?

**VIVIAN:** S-sorry, Abi.

**ABIGAIL:** Good. I sense a genuine submission to my authority. You’re getting better already. “Step Two: Steal a man’s shovel and start digging.” Now where do we find this... Man?

**VIVIAN:** There’s a man over there—

*VIVIAN begins to approach GARDENER, but ABIGAIL intercepts, approaching him with intensity. GARDENER makes no eye contact with the witches.*

**ABIGAIL:** Hello. My name is Abigail. I am a witch – and my sisters are also witches. We’re going to take your shovel now.

*GARDENER says nothing, still working.*

**ABIGAIL:** Sir, perhaps you do not comprehend. I am a witch, and my sisters are also witches. We can end you if we wanted to, but we just want your shovel.

*GARDENER continues to say nothing. ABIGAIL raises her eyebrows at CIERA and VIVIAN; they extend their arms toward GARDENER intending to strike with magic.*

**ABIGAIL:** Now!

*They push forward. SFX: Powerful magical sound effects are abruptly cut off because GARDENER, without looking away from his work, waves his hand. The earth shakes and the WITCHES fall over.*

**ABIGAIL:** (*Standing herself up.*) You – you’re a wizard.

**GARDENER:** I am a humble gardener. *(Pause.)* You seek the lost treasure of Desrosier, sealed by the Thousand-Year Rose.

**VIVIAN:** Yes!

**ABIGAIL:** Vivian – this is where I talk. So where do we start digging?

**GARDENER:** On this night, a heart is shattered

For all things good had disappeared.

E'en so, a garden grows in the cave—

While the rose waits a thousand years.

**ABIGAIL:** Wonderful. He speaks in riddles. Thanks for nothing, humble gardener.

**VIVIAN:** I mean, we did all the work of finding this place – we should at least look for the treasure.

**ABIGAIL:** *(Insincerely.)* Gee, thanks! What would I ever do you without you?

**VIVIAN:** That was uncalled for.

**ABIGAIL:** You were uncalled for.

*CIERA has wandered over to the front of the stone pot. Evidently, there is an X marking a spot.*

**CIERA:** Wonder what this X means...

*CIERA steps onto the X, triggering a SFX: Violent crack of thunder and flashes of crimson lightning. GARDENER jerks his body up supernaturally, with eyes locked on CIERA. The WITCHES look horrified.*

**GARDENER:** Someone sets their feet before the Thousand-Year Rose. *(Wags a finger at CIERA from where he stands.)* It will not bloom for you.

*As if nothing happened at all, GARDENER resumes his work. The WITCHES are confused.*

**ABIGAIL:** Uh... *(Laughing nervously.)* What?

*While GARDENER is indeed responding, his communication remains asynchronous.*

**GARDENER:** At dawn, the rose shall bloom  
When the pure of heart draw near  
The wicked may seek its beauty,  
But the treasure they'll ne'er find here.

**ABIGAIL:** Can't he just tell us what the deal is? None of this poetry garbage...

**VIVIAN:** (*Somewhat to herself.*) The pure heart... He says the rose will bloom for a pure heart.

**ABIGAIL:** What are you mumbling about, Vivian?

**VIVIAN:** Oh – uh, nothing, Abi.

**ABIGAIL:** Vivian—

**VIVIAN:** It's pretty simple, I think. He says one day at dawn, the rose will bloom, when the pure of heart draw near... So I think...

**ABIGAIL:** Let me think here... (*Pause.*) I know! Ladies, come with me. We're heading into town!

**CIERA:** What are we doing?

**ABIGAIL:** Humble gardener over here says we need someone with a pure heart to make this stupid flower bloom. So we're going into the city to find someone with a pure heart. And then we kidnap them. The rose will bloom, we'll get the treasure, leave Vivian in the dust, and take over the world!

**VIVIAN:** Leave me in the what now?

**ABIGAIL:** Pull yourself together, Vivian. I'm kidding. Let's go.

*ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN start walking out of the garden.*

**CIERA:** Wait – but the rose didn't bloom for me.

**ABIGAIL:** Yes.

**CIERA:** But... I have a pure heart, don't I?

**ABIGAIL:** We're witches, Ciera. Do I really need to answer that question?

*ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN exit. GARDENER continues his work, now reciting his poem in full.*

**GARDENER:** On this night, a heart is shattered  
For all things good had disappeared.  
E'en so, a garden grows in the cave –  
While the rose waits a thousand years.  
At dawn, the rose shall bloom  
When the pure of heart draw near  
The wicked may seek its beauty,  
But the treasure they'll ne'er find here.  
For the treasure is a beating heart  
Held fast in grips of fear.  
When the gales thrash the ocean  
And the rolling thunder leers –  
E'en so, a garden grows in the cave  
While the rose waits a thousand years.

*GARDENER resumes humming his minor key tune as the lights fade out.*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 2**  
*DANK MYTHOLOGY*

**AT START:** *It's nearly the end of a European Folklore class at a liberal arts college in Chicago. PROFESSOR DAVIS stands at a lectern, frequently checking a clock behind him. KIMMI, ELIZABETH and STUDENT EXTRAS sit in the classroom.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** That's all the time we've got for today – don't go yet! I graded your midterms in record time. *(Takes a stack of graded papers and hands them back to students.)* Pass that down to Mr. Schultz – Ms. Spradlin – *(Crosses to KIMMI and hands her an essay.)* Excellent work, Ms. Larkin—

*KIMMI surveys her exam, satisfied. ELIZABETH leans over to see what she got.*

**ELIZABETH:** Ninety-seven? Geez, Kimmi, you sure you're not the archaeology major here?

**KIMMI:** Calm down. I just got lucky again.

**ELIZABETH:** (*Grinning at KIMMI.*) Well, that's a lie.

**KIMMI:** (*Grins, laughs.*) Yeah, it is.

*PROFESSOR DAVIS returns a paper to ELIZABETH.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Ms. Peaches—

*ELIZABETH takes the paper and sets it in front of her.*

**KIMMI:** Not good?

*ELIZABETH flicks her exam over to KIMMI.*

**ELIZABETH:** It's not... terrible, but I'm an archaeology **major**. You're what? English?

**KIMMI:** Communication.

**ELIZABETH:** (*Shrugging.*) Talking good. Writing good. It's all the same.

*KIMMI rolls her eyes. They've had this conversation before.*

**ELIZABETH:** OK, maybe you're more diligent or studious or whatever you wanna call it, but this is my turf, y'know? I should've just studied theater.

**KIMMI:** You still could, right? We're only ... juniors. OK, maybe you don't have time anymore.

**ELIZABETH:** Ughhh, and I can't think of **anything** you're not good at.

**KIMMI:** I'm a terrible liar.

**ELIZABETH:** OK, besides that.

**KIMMI:** Water polo.

**ELIZABETH:** Funny.

**KIMMI:** Hey, you're going to be a great archaeologist – someday. I know it. Don't sweat it, life's so not about papers. It's about doing things. I just happen to be good at the papers.

*ELIZABETH is not amused by KIMMI'S attempt at a life lesson. By this point, PROFESSOR DAVIS has passed out all the papers and has returned to the front of the classroom.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** See you all on Monday! Have a great weekend!

*ELIZABETH and KIMMI start to exit.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Ms. Larkin! A word?

*KIMMI turns to ELIZABETH, who is pressed for time.*

**ELIZABETH:** See ya later.

**KIMMI:** Yeah, see ya!

*ELIZABETH exits. KIMMI turns to her professor.*

**KIMMI:** Yeah, what's up... Doc?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** I've been thinking... I know you're a communication major, but I need a research intern this summer and I believe you would be the perfect fit.

**KIMMI:** Oh?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** What are you doing this summer, Ms. Larkin?

**KIMMI:** Just the usual — *(Sarcastically.)* A little spelunking, a little babysitting or **maybe** if I'm lucky. I'll return to my sick gig in the **vibrant** casual dining scene of the Boston suburbs.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Sick... gig...?

**KIMMI:** A seating hostess. At Chili's.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** *(Chuckling.)* You'll have to forgive me, Ms. Larkin. I suppose I spend so much time with dank mythology I don't quite know what young people are saying these days.

**KIMMI:** Well, we **are** saying dank, so there's that.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Dank?

**KIMMI:** When something's really cool. It's dank. Like... this research internship is gonna be super dank, yo.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** *(Chuckling.)* I could really use your help. It pays... Not a whole lot, but it's a job. What do you think?

**KIMMI:** Omigosh, what about Liz?!

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Hmm?

**KIMMI:** You should ask Elizabeth. I know she's looking for a summer job.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** No, no, Ms. Larkin, your take on human nature is exactly what I need for this opportunity. It's an offer for Kimberly Larkin.

**KIMMI:** You can just call me Kimmi, Doc.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** ... "Kimmi".

**KIMMI:** Actually – you can stick with Ms. Larkin. But this internship sounds super interesting. So, like, what are you doing?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** I trust you've heard of Hanenbough? It's in Ireland.

**KIMMI:** Uh... No?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** And how?

**KIMMI:** I went to American public school?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Do you have a minute?

*Assuming a "yes" in response as he asks the question, PROFESSOR DAVIS pulls a book off the lectern and turns to KIMMI.*

**KIMMI:** I'm all ears, Doc.

*PROFESSOR DAVIS holds the book, but doesn't really read out of it. He has a lot of practice telling the story, freely talking with his hands. Celtic undertones accompany PROFESSOR DAVIS as he tells the legend. Optional fog filters into the scene.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Once upon a time, Hanenbough was the crown jewel of the western coast of Ireland. It was like a holiday every single day in this port city: people of all nations flocked to see the beautiful sights and to meet the lovely people. Not a single person lacked anything in food, clothing, or spirit. The people of Hanenbough were always happy to share.

*PROFESSOR DAVIS could simply tell the story of Hanenbough or EXTRAS could create the scene PROFESSOR DAVIS describes in detail. Rich medieval TOWNSPEOPLE enter and some poor TOURISTS enter from the other side.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** But certain as life itself – no things are meant to last. Thieves and vandals invaded from the south. They destroyed the city, robbed every man, woman, and child of what was rightfully theirs, killing anyone who stood against them. The massacre of the city and its people took place just over forty days before anything began to change.

*THIEVES enter and attack the TOWNSPEOPLE and the TOURISTS, striking them dead and stealing most of their gold. A few remain alive, and those that remain are terrified.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** In the thousandth hour, one man gained the courage to save what was left of the city. This young man was a recent immigrant to Hanenbough from France by the name Desrosier.

*GARDENER appears, without his hood. He is a young Frenchman.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** He snuck from house to burning house, scavenging treasures from his fellow people of Hanenbough that the thieves would never have found. He acquired an enormous hoard of treasure.

*GARDENER helps the TOWNSPEOPLE and TOURISTS up and puts their coins into a sack. Each person exits as he helps him or her up. The final TOWNSPERSON he saves gifts him with a rose. He tucks it into his robe.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Desrosier searched the coast for a place to bury the treasure and trekked deep within one of the sea caves. They say he was a wizard, that he cast an enchantment on the entire cave to grow a hospitable garden – in a place that had never seen a ray of the sun!

*GARDENER casts a spell. EXTRAS enter as plants and surround GARDENER. He pulls out the rose and places a spell on it with a perfectly timed flourish of the hand.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** He planted a single rose next to the buried treasure and bewitched it with a powerful spell: the rose would wait to bloom for a thousand years—

**KIMMI:** That seems a little excessive.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** —thereby sealing the treasure completely until there came the right type of person.

*GARDENER exits, along with all of the EXTRAS. Celtic undertones quit playing.*

**KIMMI:** The “right type of person”?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Precisely! The rose would only bloom when somebody with a pure heart stands in front of the rose. Only then would the seal be broken and the treasure could be found. Desrosier drew a map to the treasure, hid the map inside a locket, and left the locket somewhere in plain sight in Hanenbough. He returned to the cave and never left.

**KIMMI:** So there’s some French dude’s skeleton just chillin’ down there with the treasure?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** There’s a number of theories, but legend has it that Desrosier walks the garden to this day, waiting for the thousandth year when the pure of heart returns and the rose shall thence bloom.

**KIMMI:** Huh. Cool story. So “thence” ... What does this have to do with me?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Years ago, I traveled to Hanenbough. After weeks of searching, I found the mysterious locket and I followed the map deep into a cave. I saw everything, Ms. Larkin. This treasure is real.

**KIMMI:** Wow... that’s insane! Wait! Did you already find the treasure?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Unfortunately, no. It was not quite the thousandth year when I discovered the garden. That same night, a pack of thieves attacked me and stole the locket. After further research, I have deduced with a high degree of certitude that the thousandth year is – of course, this year.

**KIMMI:** Huh. So you want me to come with you this summer—

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** So this summer, I hope to recover the map and then the map will guide us to the treasure. What do you think?

**KIMMI:** But you've already been to the cave and seen it, right?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Last I was there was – oh, I don't know, it was years ago. I don't know if I recall exactly where the rose is. But what do you think?

**KIMMI:** I think I'm late to class, but I'll definitely think about it!

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Sorry I made you late – please, get to class. Take the weekend and think it over. Let me know what you decide.

**KIMMI:** Yeah, I'll think about it. See ya, Doc!

*PROFESSOR DAVIS exits. KIMMI pulls out her cell phone and makes a call as she begins to leave the classroom.*

**KIMMI:** Hey, Dad. I'm good, how are you? Dad, have you ever heard of Hanenbough? It's in Ireland.

**ACT ONE, SCENE 3**  
*PURE OF HEART*

**SETTING:** *We are in a bustling, open-air market in Hanenbough. There are several little shops or stalls set up including a baker's stand. One shop in the center sells rare jewelry.*

**AT START:** *Various EXTRAS as shoppers and townspeople walk through the market. ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN prowl through the market. ABIGAIL casually shoplifts a baguette from the baker's stand.*

**ABIGAIL:** This is getting ridiculous.

**CIERA:** Are there any good people out here?

**ABIGAIL:** There are good people out there somewhere. And we're going to find them.

*ABIGAIL scans the CROWD as she eats her baguette.*

**ABIGAIL:** It's hopeless. All these people are dreadful. We're getting coffee.

*ABIGAIL and CIERA walk away. VIVIAN stops at the jeweler's stand.*

**VIVIAN:** ...Now what do we have here?

**JEWELER:** Rare jewelry – I've bought, traded, sold, and discovered all these items from China to Chile. Feel free to look around; I'll answer any of your questions. And if you've got any jewelry to sell or trade... I'm always interested.

**VIVIAN:** Thank you.

*VIVIAN takes a look at the JEWELER'S inventory. She picks up a necklace. ABIGAIL turns around and sees that VIVIAN is not with her.*

**ABIGAIL:** What do you think you're doing, Vivian?

*VIVIAN puts the necklace back as ABIGAIL makes a beeline for her.*

**VIVIAN:** Uh... it's nothing—

**ABIGAIL:** You know we can't afford any of this! Come on, Ciera's probably lost by now.

**CIERA:** Nope! Not yet!

**JEWELER:** *(Clears throat.)* If you have anything you would like to sell or trade – I'm always interested.

*VIVIAN glances at the bandanna tied around her wrist before abruptly hiding it. ABIGAIL unhooks the locket from her neck. She shoves it in the JEWELER'S face.*

**ABIGAIL:** Here. Whaddiya want for it? Fifty? A hundred?

**JEWELER:** May I?

*JEWELER inspects the locket.*

**JEWELER:** I could give you thirty.

**ABIGAIL:** Thirty?

**JEWELER:** Look, it doesn't shine. It just looks like a rock on a chain. There's an ugly flower etched onto the side of it. I'll take it, but it's no more than thirty.

**VIVIAN:** Abigail, I don't think this is a good idea. We might need it for—

**ABIGAIL:** Shut up. Just give me thirty and take the locket.

*JEWELER hands ABIGAIL thirty euros and places the locket inside a box. ABIGAIL and VIVIAN meet up with CIERA and exit. DIANA, PAREZCO, STAGE MOM, CHILD ACTOR and extras as ACTORS from the local theater enter the market carrying buckets of change.*

**DIANA:** Support the arts!! Save the Suzanne!! Get us a new roof! Save the Suzanne!!

*PAREZCO approaches a TOWNSPERSON.*

**PAREZCO:** You there! You look like an appreciator of the arts!

**DIANA:** Let's keep the Suzanne alive now, shall we? Support the theater! Give some change!

*TOWNSPERSON puts money into PAREZCO'S bucket. While the TOWNSPERSON is distracted, PAREZCO pickpockets them.*

**PAREZCO:** No, my dear – thank you. I am... the master of impressions. I am... Parezco!!

**DIANA:** Spare us some change!! Save the Suzanne!!

**STAGE MOM:** My boy needs a place to learn the craft!! Save my beautiful boy!!

**CHILD ACTOR:** Mom, stop.

*PAREZCO approaches DIANA. PROFESSOR DAVIS enters and approaches JEWELER'S stand.*

**DIANA:** Save the Suzanne!!

**PAREZCO:** We done yet, "sweetheart"?

**DIANA:** Nope. Boss-man said we're not done until noon. Now, come on! We're going to Fifth Street. Save the Suzanne!!

*DIANA leads PAREZCO, STAGE MOM, and CHILD ACTOR offstage.*

**JEWELER:** Well, if you have any questions... just speak up.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Thank you.

*PROFESSOR DAVIS* thoroughly examines the *JEWELER'S* collection. *KIMMI* enters with *CAPTAIN SEAMUS BOGGS* who carries her multiple suitcases.

**KIMMI:** Oh, thank you so much – you really didn't have to carry my bags for me. Really.

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** Don't mind a bit, Kimmi. I just worry about seein' a girl like you comin' to a town alone like – err, like this'un.

**KIMMI:** Oh please, what's wrong with the town?

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** Good ol' Hanenbough's got a bit of a... reputation.

**KIMMI:** Well that doesn't mean it's bad. It could have a reputation for chocolate covered pretzels for all we know.

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** Funny y'say that – Bonnie's on Main Street – ask fer the whisky flavored ones. They're to die for's all I'm sayin'.

**KIMMI:** Really now...?

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** But I'm jus'surprised yer comin' to Hanenbough what with all the thieves –

**KIMMI:** (*Clarifying, due to his accent.*) Thieves?

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** Thieves. You've heard the legend, haven'cha? They teach Americans that'un?

**KIMMI:** (*Laughing insecurely.*) Yeah, they totally teach Americans that one... Hanenbough was a beautiful city full of beautiful people and then the bad people burned it to the ground but then some French guy saved some treasure and planted a garden.

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** Yep, the beautiful days of Hanenbough... they're ancient hist'ry.

**KIMMI:** I'd hardly call a thousand years ancient history.

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** Poor Hanenbough never recovered and nobody's cared to recover it. Nobody comes on holiday to Hanenbough's all I'm sayin'. Anywho... who ya stayin' with?

**KIMMI:** My professor – Frank Davis.

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** (*Face lights up.*) Frankie?

**KIMMI:** Uh, yeah –

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** Oh Frankie an' I go **way** back. He's stayin' this summer, set up a little study in my upstairs apartment – I'm his lan'lord!

**KIMMI:** That's super weird.

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** Two bedroom, free wi-fi, full workin' toaster – she's a beaut'.

**KIMMI:** Oh, perfect! How am I supposed to get there? I mean, I've got an address, but it (*Chuckles.*) literally means nothing to me.

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** (*Notices PROFESSOR DAVIS.*) Hardly think that'll be necessary.

**KIMMI:** Oh, Doc! Thank you, Captain.

**CAPTAIN BOGGS:** Seamus Boggs! Good day to you, Kimmi Larkin! (*Shouting.*) Twelve fifteen ferry down t'airstrip - leavin' ten minutes!

*CAPTAIN BOGGS exits.*

**KIMMI:** (*Shouting from afar.*) Doc!

*KIMMI runs over to PROFESSOR DAVIS, who looks up from a piece of jewelry.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Ms. Larkin!

*KIMMI and PROFESSOR DAVIS exchange a brief hug.*

**KIMMI:** I'd say it's been too long but I guess you just gave me my final a week ago.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** And what a week it's been! How was your flight?

**KIMMI:** Bumpy takeoff, crying baby, therapy pig on the seat next to me... you know, you win some, you lose some. I'm just happy I made it. Oh! I just met your landlord – Seamus Boggs.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Yes! We will head to his house at once—

**JEWELER:** Pardon me, miss – I love your necklace.

**KIMMI:** Oh, really? Thanks.

**JEWELER:** (*Eying it closer.*) I really like it. Would you make a trade for it?

**KIMMI:** I'd love to. (*To PROFESSOR DAVIS.*) Mind if I—?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Go ahead. We're in no rush.

*KIMMI combs over a couple pieces of jewelry. ABIGAIL enters. CIERA and VIVIAN follow closely behind.*

**ABIGAIL:** Fine, OK? You want the stupid locket back. Let's take it.

**VIVIAN:** Maybe we don't need it, I don't know. *(Points at KIMMI.)*  
Besides, there's someone there right now—

**ABIGAIL:** Vivian— *(Sticking her finger in VIVIAN'S face.)* it is not polite to point. Now, you mean her? *(Points at KIMMI.)* She's no threat. *(ABIGAIL takes a closer look at KIMMI.)* But... she could be pure of heart. Creep with me.

*ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN creep a little closer to eavesdrop.*

**KIMMI:** Hey, this might be a long shot, but... do you have anything from around here?

**JEWELER:** Do you mean Ireland – or Hanenbough?

**KIMMI:** Hanenbough, if you have it.

**JEWELER:** *(Digging around in a box.)* Mmm... you probably don't want this... I just made the trade a couple minutes ago. This here... *(Pulls out the locket.)* Locket...

*KIMMI and PROFESSOR DAVIS lock eyes when they hear "locket."*

**KIMMI and PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Locket?

**JEWELER:** It's really old and weathered; it's got an ugly rose etched onto it...

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** I'll have a look at it.

**JEWELER:** Really?

*JEWELER hands the locket to PROFESSOR DAVIS, who inspects it closely. He smiles, as if having solved a puzzle.*

**KIMMI:** Whaddiya think, Doc?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** I think you want this locket, Ms. Larkin.

**KIMMI:** I'll take it.

**JEWELER:** I'm surprised. That thing's so ugly. Gosh, I'd feel really bad taking your necklace over that.

**KIMMI:** *(Removing her necklace and handing it to JEWELER.)* No thanks – I really like the locket. Pleasure doing business.

**JEWELER:** *(Shrugs.)* Your funeral.

*KIMMI takes the locket. When she picks it up, there is a flash of red lightning and **SFX**: A violent roar of thunder.*

**KIMMI**: Omigosh!

**PROFESSOR DAVIS**: Bizarre. Ms. Larkin – somehow, by some miracle – this is the locket! The map should be inside.

*KIMMI pops the locket open and there is no map.*

**KIMMI**: Doc, there's nothing in here.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS**: Really?

*PROFESSOR DAVIS inspects the inside of the locket.*

**KIMMI**: How do you know this is the locket, and not just – y'know, someone's ugly locket?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS**: I owned it once, Ms. Larkin. This is the locket – legend says it can only be opened by the pure of heart.

**KIMMI**: Again – seems a little excessive of this Desrosier guy (*Pops open the locket again.*) See, I mean, I got it open.

*KIMMI puts the locket around her neck. The PROFESSOR and KIMMI ad-lib and start to gather her suitcases. ABIGAIL eagerly hits CIERA and VIVIAN in excitement.*

**CIERA**: Ow!

**ABIGAIL**: Didya see that? Didya see that? Look – the old coot over there says the locket can only be opened by a pure heart – and that girl right there just opened it like it was nothing! I could never get that thing open! Ladies, these things don't just happen – it's a sign! We're going to kidnap her.

**CIERA**: OK, great! When?

**ABIGAIL**: Now!

*ABIGAIL runs toward KIMMI and PROFESSOR DAVIS, cackling. CIERA and VIVIAN follow her. KIMMI whips her head around and sees the witches approaching.*

**KIMMI:** What the— (*Panicked.*) Doc?!?

As PROFESSOR DAVIS tries to collect KIMMI'S belongings, ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN grab KIMMI and run her offstage, cackling. It takes PROFESSOR DAVIS a moment to fully process what just happened.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Hold on, Ms. Larkin! ... I'm coming!!

PROFESSOR DAVIS runs after the WITCHES. KIMMI'S luggage is left onstage as MARKET SHOPPERS eye it up and encircle it like vultures. The lights dim and the curtain closes.

## ACT ONE, SCENE 4

### FORSAKING DUTY AND JET LAG

**SETTING:** A street in Hanenbough.

**AT START:** EXTRAS as townspeople mill around the dilapidated street, mostly in transit across the stage. ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN continue from right where we left off in the previous scene, abducting KIMMI and cackling sinisterly. As they make it to center stage, KIMMI pushes the witches away and breaks free.

**KIMMI:** HELP!!!

**ABIGAIL:** (*Cackling.*) You'll never be helped here. It's Hanenbough, the city of thieves.

**KIMMI:** Oh, so you want to like rob me or something? I'm probably the **worst** person in this city to rob – I have nothing. Literally nothing. I'm a college student.

**ABIGAIL:** OK – we can calm this down a touch. An ambush and abduction is far from a proper greeting, I get that. But you, my dear lass, have something we need. (*Puts her arm around KIMMI'S shoulder.*) Let's have a civil conversation, you and I –

MARYANN and SCOTT enter to see KIMMI push ABIGAIL'S arm off her shoulder and back away.

**KIMMI:** N-no – get away from me, you freak! I'll scream – again!

**ABIGAIL:** It would certainly do you or I no good if you were to meet an untimely demise, here on the city streets in front of all these people...

*MARYANN crosses to ABIGAIL and KIMMI, speaking up.*

**MARYANN:** Now, what on earth – ?

**KIMMI:** Grandma!

*KIMMI runs over to MARYANN and hugs her. MARYANN is thoroughly confused, instinctively whipping out a quick move of self-defense.*

**CIERA:** Aw, she has a grandma.

**MARYANN:** Who are you—?

**KIMMI:** *(Whispered quickly.)* Go with it. *(Speaking loud enough that the WITCHES hear.)* I'm so glad I am now reunited with my grandmother, who is a Krav Maga instructor.

**ABIGAIL:** *(Snapping her fingers.)* Huddle!

*CIERA and VIVIAN form a huddle with ABIGAIL.*

**ABIGAIL:** Krav Maga. OK Krav Maga, that's scary.

**VIVIAN:** There is no way that lady teaches Krav Maga. None. She's obviously lying—

**ABIGAIL:** *(Cutting her off.)* We can't chance that, Vivian. We'll keep an eye on her, wait till granny's gone, then we attack. Plan?

**VIVIAN:** *(Begrudgingly.)* Plan.

**CIERA:** Plan!

**ABIGAIL:** OK, break!

*VIVIAN and CIERA break the huddle as ABIGAIL addresses KIMMI.*

**ABIGAIL:** I'll get you, my pretty.

*ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN cackle as they exit stage together. KIMMI hugs MARYANN again.*

**KIMMI:** Phew! Thank you, thank you! That was so scary.

**MARYANN:** Who was that?

**KIMMI:** I don't know. But I'm so glad I'm rid of them, y'know? My name's Kimmi – wow – Kimmi. Kimmi Larkin. That's what I call myself. Sorry, I'm a little – (*overwhelmed noise*), y'know.

**MARYANN:** Don't worry about that for a second, Kimmi. I'm Maryann Foley and this is my grandson, Scott.

**KIMMI:** Hi.

*KIMMI and SCOTT briefly shake hands.*

**SCOTT:** (*Flatly.*) Hi.

*PROFESSOR DAVIS enters, exhausted.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Ms. Larkin... I ran as fast... as I... could...

*PROFESSOR DAVIS collapses. KIMMI rushes to his side.*

**KIMMI:** Doc, Doc, I'm fine. This is fine. Everything is fine. Ten minutes in Ireland and I have no luggage, three strange women want to hurt me, and my professor thinks he's Michael Phelps on land. (*Please update "Michael Phelps" reference as needed. She feels for her locket.*) And, I still have the locket!

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** How did you break away from the thieves?

**KIMMI:** Just a little quick thinking on my feet and I even made a few friends. Internship's off to a **great** start.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Well thank God you're all right. OK, my apartment is just this w– (*Aborts his thought midsentence when he makes eye contact with MARYANN.*) – well hello! Who is **this**?

*MARYANN and PROFESSOR DAVIS are immediately smitten with each other and it's hilarious because they do not waste any time.*

**MARYANN:** I'm Maryann Foley. And what's your name there, tall dark, Michael Phelps on land?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** (*Beaming.*) Frank Davis. Professor Frank Davis.

**MARYANN:** My, my! A professor! Oh lordy. I want to know what brought an academic like you to this dusty old town.

**SCOTT:** This is gross.

**KIMMI:** And like, kinda sweet.

**SCOTT:** But mostly gross.

*KIMMI and SCOTT nod in agreement.*

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Well – I’d love to tell you about it if you – if you have a minute.

**MARYANN:** I have all the minutes left in my life, professor.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Care to take a walk?

**MARYANN:** I know a place with the **best** chocolate-covered pretzels in Ireland.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** I only ask that you take me there! Ms. Larkin – I’ll see you to the apartment – later.

**KIMMI:** OK – you do your thing!

*PROFESSOR DAVIS didn’t really hear KIMMI, but that doesn’t matter. PROFESSOR DAVIS and MARYANN take each other’s arms and exit. KIMMI and SCOTT are left alone with each other in an awkward silence. They feel like they shouldn’t leave each other and KIMMI has literally no idea where the apartment is. KIMMI finally decides to break the ice.*

**KIMMI:** So... Scott Foley?

**SCOTT:** That’s my name.

**KIMMI:** Tell me about yourself, Scott Foley.

**SCOTT:** Uh... I’m in eighth grade. I like... video games. And... soccer, I guess.

**KIMMI:** Oh! That’s cool! I played soccer in high school. I was a forward – no, it was field hockey. I definitely played field hockey.

**SCOTT:** Those are, uh, two really different sports.

**KIMMI:** I mean, when you get down to it – there’s a ball, there’s a netted goal. You try to get the ball into the netted goal. Lacrosse is the same way. (*Pause.*) Basketball, too...

**SCOTT:** Heh – yeah.

*They go back into an uncomfortable silence. After another moment, KIMMI speaks up again.*

**KIMMI:** Well, Scott Foley, do you know anything about the legend of the Thousand-Year Rose?

**SCOTT:** *(Feigning disinterest.)* Are you kidding me? That story's been told to me since I've been in diapers.

**KIMMI:** Which was how long ago?

**SCOTT:** *(Snapping indignantly.)* I'm fourteen. *(Realizes his abrasiveness.)* Sorry. Uh, so, some French guy planted a seed in a cave, buried the treasure, and hid the treasure map in a locket. It's all made-up.

**KIMMI:** Good. So, my professor and I are spending the summer looking for the treasure map. We've already found the locket.

**SCOTT:** *(Breaking his feign.)* Wait! So you mean...?

**KIMMI:** Yep! The legend is real. I have the locket right here.

*KIMMI unhooks the locket and gives it to SCOTT. SCOTT opens the locket.*

**SCOTT:** Hey, uh – there's something written inside it.

*SCOTT gives the locket back to KIMMI.*

**KIMMI:** Oh really? Whoa, this is crazy! It's got some ancient mystical language going on here on the inside – get a look at this, Scott!

**SCOTT:** *(Taking the paper from KIMMI.)* This isn't some ancient language, Kimmi, it's French!

**KIMMI:** You read French?

**SCOTT:** *(Proudly.)* Je parle aussi.

**KIMMI:** There's a little more to you than meets the eye, Scott Foley. Anyway... what's it say?

**SCOTT:** It's a little hard to read... but I think it says something about a theater.

**KIMMI:** Maybe that's where the map is!

**SCOTT:** How can you be sure?

**KIMMI:** I don't know for sure, but how will we know unless we go find out? C'mon! We're going to a theater!

*KIMMI exits. She immediately re-enters.*

**KIMMI:** Where is the theater?

**SCOTT:** It's just two blocks that way, (*Pointing offstage.*) but – uh – shouldn't we wait for the... responsible adults?

**KIMMI:** Please. Let's go!

*KIMMI and SCOTT run offstage. Well after their exit, ABIGAIL, VIVIAN, and CIERA enter.*

**ABIGAIL:** (*Offstage.*) ...Now!

*ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN burst onto the scene, cackling and encircling where they think KIMMI should be – until ABIGAIL stops. She raises her finger and VIVIAN and CIERA come to a halt.*

**ABIGAIL:** She's not here!

**VIVIAN:** Well maybe we should've hid where we could still see her instead of just—

**ABIGAIL:** Oh hush will you!

**VIVIAN:** Yeesh.

**CIERA:** Hey – I see a girl running for her life—

**ABIGAIL:** After her!

*ABIGAIL springs into a running motion, cackling, with CIERA and VIVIAN trailing, cackling as well.*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 5****STAGE FRIGHT**

**AT START:** *KIMMI and SCOTT arrive in front of the curtain before the scene officially begins.*

**KIMMI:** All right, here we are! The Grand Suzanne Theater of Hanenbough... So how do we... Where do we...?

**SCOTT:** It's the only theater in town and the Suzanne's been around forever. It was built around the ruins of a Roman amphitheater.

**KIMMI:** Neat. So how do we get in? Do we just – sneak in?

**SCOTT:** Yeah, I don't have money for a ticket.

**KIMMI:** I don't either.

**SCOTT:** Which is a problem.

**KIMMI:** Which is a problem!

**SCOTT:** *(Looks at a poster.)* Yeah... huh. Looks like they're holding auditions for... their next show.

*DIRECTOR enters with a clipboard in one hand and latte in the other, He addresses KIMMI and SCOTT.*

**DIRECTOR:** You guys are lost, go on around back. First door on the left.

**KIMMI:** What?

**DIRECTOR:** Didn't your agent tell you anything?? Auditions are through the back door.

**KIMMI:** *(Flattered.)* So you think I'm an actress?

**DIRECTOR:** *(Eyeball.)* Yes, you have the music in you. Head around back, first door on the left. *(Mutters.)* Actors.

*DIRECTOR exits. As the DIRECTOR exits, he drops something small – like a pen.*

**KIMMI:** OK, new plan – Scott, you low-key look for the map in the theater, and I'll cover by auditioning for the play. *(Takes cell phone out, hands it to SCOTT.)* Actually – take pictures of me. Send them all to Elizabeth Peaches.

**SCOTT:** OK.

**KIMMI:** Let's go!

*KIMMI and SCOTT exit. ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN enter, somewhat running after them.*

**ABIGAIL:** There! She's auditioning for the play!

**CIERA:** Oh wow, she's an actress.

**ABIGAIL:** It's not even a good show that's coming up... *Knights of the Square Table*. Just plain terrible.

**VIVIAN:** Have you even seen it? I enjoyed it when I saw it in Glasgow.

**ABIGAIL:** No, Vivian, I haven't seen it. I have more important things to do with my life than frolic through Scotland like you did for three years.

**VIVIAN:** I was going to college.

**ABIGAIL:** A waste of time – and look! I'm still in charge of you. But at least you learned your math. What's ten plus three?

**VIVIAN:** Thirteen.

**CIERA:** I sure wish we were actresses.

**ABIGAIL:** Oh, Ciera, honey, anyone can be an actress.

*DIRECTOR returns to pick up the small item he dropped. DIRECTOR doesn't really make eye contact with the witches.*

**ABIGAIL:** Excuse me, Mr. Director, sir. Where do two beautiful actresses and one Vivian go to audition for the play?

**DIRECTOR:** Are you sure you're an actress? How old are you?

**ABIGAIL:** Perhaps you do not comprehend: I am a witch. My sisters are also witches. We could end you right now, but all we want is an audition for the play.

**DIRECTOR:** *(Nodding. Annoyed.)* I see. Witches. Suuuuuure. Go around back, first door on the left. *(Muttering.)* Actors.

*DIRECTOR exits.*

**CIERA:** How old are you, Abigail?

**VIVIAN:** She's forty-s –

**ABIGAIL:** Vivian, your sock's untied. Let's go inside now, OK? *(Snaps her fingers twice.)* Cackle.

*ABIGAIL leads CIERA and VIVIAN offstage as they cackle. The curtain opens, revealing a group of actors and actresses. As the curtain rises, the DIRECTOR sits to one side of the stage at a table. DIANA, PAREZCO, and ACTRESS 1 have stepped forward, auditioning for the roles of the queen, the king, and the princess respectively, with scripts in hand.*

**DIRECTOR:** *(Waving hands.)* And scene. Who's next?

**PAREZCO:** Would you like me to read for the Queen? I do impressions, you know. I can impersonate anyone.

**DIRECTOR:** I'm aware, Parezco, master impressionist, how about you wait in the wings with everyone else?

*DIANA exits. PAREZCO returns to the group of actors. KIMMI and SCOTT enter with ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN close behind. They are each given scripts.*

**KIMMI:** Here we are!

**DIRECTOR:** OK, names?

**KIMMI:** Kimmi Larkin.

**SCOTT:** Scott Foley.

**DIRECTOR:** OK. Kimmi Larkin, read the part of Princess Jacqueline.

Scott Foley – read for the King. *(Looking down, making a very imprecise choice.)* And, uh... you back there...

**ABIGAIL:** Me?

**DIRECTOR:** *(Not looking up.)* You read the Queen. Page 89. Bottom of the page.

*DIRECTOR sits back and sips some coffee. KIMMI, SCOTT, and ABIGAIL get into place. SCOTT studies his lines intently as KIMMI looks up and makes eye contact with ABIGAIL. ABIGAIL cackles softly as she creepily waves to KIMMI.*

**KIMMI:** *(Very quickly, whispering out of the corner of her mouth.)* Scott, those thieves are here. Abort. Abort. Abort.

**DIRECTOR:** What are you waiting for? I haven't got all day. King, go.

**SCOTT:** OK! I'm ready.

**KIMMI:** Scott!

**SCOTT:** *(As King.)* My dearest Princess Jacqueline, why are you acting so suspicious? Please, enjoy the day.

**KIMMI:** No – Scott, we need to –

**DIRECTOR:** Read the scene!!

**KIMMI:** Um... OK. *(Clears throat.)*

*KIMMI'S inflection and body language suggests they are in grave danger, but SCOTT continues to earnestly audition for the role. ABIGAIL uses this time to taunt KIMMI and SCOTT. Hilarity ensues.*

**KIMMI:** *(As Princess.)* I think you and mother are hiding something from me.

**SCOTT:** *(As King.)* And why on earth would you think that?

**KIMMI:** *(As Princess.)* Father, I know something's up. What's going on?

**ABIGAIL:** *(As Queen.)* Dear, your father and I are planning a big surprise for you very soon!

**KIMMI:** *(As Princess.)* Really? I mean, I am quite accustomed to what we do for my birthday most years, but a surprise would be most exciting!

**ABIGAIL:** *(As Queen.)* It will be a marvelous surprise. I have been planning it for ages.

**SCOTT:** *(As King.)* Then let's get on with it. We haven't got all day.

**ABIGAIL:** *(As Queen.)* Lovely, my dear. Just you wait and see!

*ABIGAIL tosses her script aside and cackles. SCOTT turns and sees who she is.*

**SCOTT:** Run!

*KIMMI and SCOTT begin to move quickly out of the way. DIRECTOR is not having any of this.*

**DIRECTOR:** *(Rising, frustrated.)* Stay on book!! All of you!

**ABIGAIL:** Freeze!!

*ABIGAIL spins around with a wave of her hand. SFX: A powerful gust of cold wind. DIRECTOR and EVERY ACTOR currently onstage freezes. VIVIAN and CIERA push KIMMI and SCOTT back to center stage as the witches surround them, cackling. DIANA, STAGE MOM, and CHILD ACTOR enter.*

**ABIGAIL:** Marvel and be amazed at us!

**CIERA:** The three—

**VIVIAN:** Lost witches of Hanenbough!

*DIANA sneaks offstage, holding a cell phone to her ear.*

**ABIGAIL: Lost?** Seriously, Vivian, that's what you came up with? You've gotta have more finesse with these things! That just sounds like we're some lousy hitchhikers.

**STAGE MOM:** *(Panicking.)* What do you want with us? Take my boy – I just want to live –

**CHILD ACTOR:** Moooooommmmm, stop.

*ABIGAIL throws her hand in the direction of STAGE MOM and CHILD ACTOR. They both freeze. SFX: Powerful gust of cold wind.*

**ABIGAIL:** That was annoying. Now, I have no intentions of ending any of your lives today.

**KIMMI:** Great. Alright then, we'll be on our merry way. It's been wonderful to meet you all and it was nice having you try to rob me for an afternoon –

**ABIGAIL:** Rob you? This was never about robbing you. I'm sure you know all about Desrosier's treasure, and you certainly may know how a person may get the lost treasure.

**KIMMI:** Well, if it exists –

**ABIGAIL:** It absolutely exists. Vivian, show our new friends what you have.

*VIVIAN unfolds the map.*

**KIMMI:** Desrosier's map...

**ABIGAIL:** My sisters and I have been inside the cave of the Thousand-Year Rose. We met a man with a shovel. He speaks in riddles.

**KIMMI:** That's oddly specific.

**ABIGAIL:** And now that I know where the treasure is –

**VIVIAN:** “We” know.

**ABIGAIL:** –and now that I know where the treasure is and that you're the pure of heart, you're the only thing standing between me and the treasure.

**VIVIAN:** Us. She's the only thing between us and the treasure.

**ABIGAIL:** Vivian – please. So (*Over-emphasizes.*) **we** will drag you to that rose and you will make that thing bloom which will make the treasure appear and then I take over the world.

**VIVIAN:** (*Softly.*) We.

**KIMMI:** And then what do you plan do with me?

**ABIGAIL:** Hence why I said I won't kill you today.

*ABIGAIL, VIVIAN, and CIERA cackle as DIANA enters, dramatically hanging up her cell phone.*

**DIANA:** (*Boldly.*) I have a question!

*The cackling stops as DIANA crosses elegantly to ABIGAIL.*

**DIANA:** Do you hear what I hear?

**ABIGAIL:** You... called the police?

**DIANA:** Well, I never permit a felony to unfold before my eyes if I can do something about it. I am not a criminal – I'm an actress!

**VIVIAN:** I told you this would happen if you said the plan out loud!

**ABIGAIL:** Not now, Vivian!!

**SFX:** *European police sirens blare.*

**DIANA:** Daresay we let them in? Oh, what a sight to behold!

*ABIGAIL and DIANA make cunning eye contact with each other as the sirens continue to blare.*

**ABIGAIL:** Oh, what fun is life without a little police chase? This isn't the last you've seen of us, Kimmi Larkin. Mark my words. Ciera! Vivian! We move!

*ABIGAIL, CIERA, and VIVIAN run offstage, cackling. ALL ACTORS unfreeze.*

**DIANA:** And the witches ran away. All is well for now.

**DIRECTOR:** Yeah, OK. Everyone take twenty.

*DIRECTOR, PAREZCO, and EVERYONE ELSE exit.*

**DIANA:** The name's Diana Marie Bailey, by the way... Though you may have heard the name before. I'm a bit of a local celebrity here at the Suzanne.

**KIMMI:** Sorry, I haven't. I just got to town today.

**SCOTT:** M-my grandma's a big fan.

**DIANA:** Marvelous! And you are... ?

**SCOTT:** Scott. Scott Reed Foley.

**DIANA:** It's nice to meet you Scott Reed Foley, but I don't believe you two arrived at the Suzanne by chance today. What's your story?

**KIMMI:** I'm doing a research internship in Hanenbough this summer for my archaeology professor – we're researching Desrosier and the Thousand-Year Rose.

**DIANA:** Yes, I'm all too familiar with the legend of the rose. It's a load of horse feathers.

**KIMMI:** Yes! I thought so, too, but then my professor and I found Desrosier's locket and now I have witches chasing me down.

**DIANA:** Dearest me! May I see it?

*KIMMI unhooks the locket and passes it to DIANA. DIANA opens it effortlessly. SFX: A soft rumble of thunder is heard.*

I say! This certainly looks like the real thing.

**KIMMI:** So then, we opened the locket and followed the inscription to the Suzanne. Do you think the Suzanne has any connection to the legend?

**DIANA:** Not off the top of my head. The Suzanne is old, but she hasn't been around forever.

**KIMMI:** It was a thought. Anyway, Diana – we can't thank you enough for calling the police and all.

**DIANA:** Well – this is a clever little trick of mine, but I'm dear friends with the stage manager – and I know just where the sound effects are kept.

**SCOTT:** That's awesome.

**KIMMI:** So – I guess we're on our way now. Thank you, Diana.

**DIANA:** Leave now? Alone? I live for adventure, the thrill and romance of it all, but traveling Hanenbough is dangerous let alone with witches placing a bounty on your head. There is safety in numbers, my dears. That's it – I'm coming with you!

**KIMMI:** Uh... aren't there more rounds of auditions today?

**DIANA:** Nonsense. I cannot stand idly by when I see a girl who could be my daughter put in danger. You need a mother's protection – both of you. I'll not have a bar of the treasure!

**SCOTT:** *(Attempted whisper.)* She says that now but that might change when we actually find the treasure.

**KIMMI:** *(Sidebar.)* That was very loud, Scott. *(To DIANA.)* We'll figure that out when we find it. We should get on the move!

**SCOTT:** Let's go find that professor, then – yeah?

**DIANA:** Masterful!

*KIMMI, SCOTT, and DIANA exit.*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 6

### TO BEGIN A WITCH HUNT

**AT START:** *We have returned to the marketplace which includes a park bench. ABIGAIL and CIERA enter, running. VIVIAN enters, having fallen behind.*

**CIERA:** That was wicked!

**ABIGAIL:** Oh, I haven't had that much fun in years!

**VIVIAN:** Where are you going? We can probably catch them if we just wait outside the theatre. They'll be right behind us!

**ABIGAIL:** Were you even paying attention, Vivian? The police are right behind us, you **numbskull**.

**VIVIAN:** It just seems counterintuitive when we know where they –

**CIERA:** Save yourself!!

*CIERA and ABIGAIL exit, running.*

**VIVIAN:** (*Agitated.*) Fine! I guess I'll just do this myself.

*PROFESSOR DAVIS and MARYANN enter hand-in-hand. They sit on a park bench. VIVIAN sees them out of the corner of her eye and panics.*

**VIVIAN:** No I can't!

*VIVIAN dives into hiding somewhere on stage. KIMMI, SCOTT, and DIANA enter.*

**KIMMI:** Yo! Doc! Nice to run into you here, things have gotten super weird.

*VIVIAN pokes her head out when she hears KIMMI'S voice and ducks back into hiding. SHE crouches to get a better position to eavesdrop. KIMMI crosses to PROFESSOR DAVIS.*

**KIMMI:** Did you know that witches, are, like, a thing? And they're looking for the treasure too? Doc? Doc? Hello—

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Ah! Ms. Larkin! I thought you'd be fighting jet lag back at the apartment.

**KIMMI:** Well... that was, y'know, the plan, but then you never actually showed me to the apartment and so Scott and I started looking for the map, we auditioned for roles at the community theatre, scared some witches, and now here we are.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Wonderful! I'll leave you to it.

**KIMMI:** But – Doc – I mean, c'mon Doc, don't you want to know what we did?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Ms. Larkin, I will resume work tomorrow.

*PROFESSOR DAVIS goes back to MARYANN, neither hearing nor paying attention to KIMMI'S sarcastic remarks. KIMMI tries to get his attention as he pays her none.*

**MARYANN:** So you've never been married?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** I married my work – and at my age, retirement would be the death of me.

**KIMMI:** *(Snide.)* Hello?

**MARYANN:** Must get awful lonely in that big office... all those books...

**KIMMI:** Doc?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** The books are nice. But there's something... missing.

**KIMMI:** It's the map. We don't have the map.

**MARYANN:** Well you **do** have all your teeth.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** Brand-new pair of dentures!

**MARYANN:** I'd have never guessed!

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** I find that... agreeable.

**MARYANN:** Well – I find you agreeable.

**KIMMI:** C'mon Doc – this is your life's work I'm doing here! Treasure, rose, map, locket, Cocoa Puffs, anything?!?

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** If you want to keep working today – please do, keep searching for the treasure. I want you to learn to lead and discover things for yourself. And besides, Ms. Larkin, for the first time *(Turns to MARYANN, squeezes her hand.)* I feel closer to the treasure than I've ever been.

*MARYANN melts.*

**KIMMI:** *(To herself. Her line trails off.)* Fine. Fine. We fly all the way to Hanenbough for what. For love. To fall in love. Of course.

**PROFESSOR DAVIS:** I'm entrusting the hunt to you for the day, Ms. Larkin. We will discuss this tomorrow. Now – Ms. Maryann – shall I take you to my apartment? I make a mean root beer float.

**MARYANN:** Root beer floats are my **favorite**.

*PROFESSOR DAVIS and MARYANN exit. KIMMI shakes her head, rejoining SCOTT and DIANA.*

**SCOTT:** Alright, Kimmi, Diana – what’s the plan?

**KIMMI:** We need the map to get anywhere.

**DIANA:** And those horrid witches have it.

**KIMMI:** So we need to find the witches.

**SCOTT:** Are you crazy?

**KIMMI:** Depends on who you ask.

**DIANA:** Mmmm... if I were a horrid witch... where might I go to draw up my next plans?

**KIMMI:** The forest?

**SCOTT:** Maybe in that creepy old church ...

*Upon hearing this, VIVIAN comically bolts offstage in the direction of the forest.*

**KIMMI:** Creepy old church. Lovely. So where on earth is that?

**DIANA:** A creepy church in the forest?? Call me daft, but I know exactly where that is!!

**SCOTT:** Well OK... let’s go!

*KIMMI, SCOTT and DIANA exit.*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 7

### THE GOOD KIND OF BETRAYAL

**AT START:** *We are in the forest. The scene includes a tree. A cathedral overtaken by nature is seen in the background. VIVIAN is at center stage, holding an apple.*

**VIVIAN:** OK – this is fine, Vivian. No, it’s perfect: I’ll get Kimmi myself and so Abigail can have what she wants and then nobody else has to get hurt. And maybe – just maybe – Abigail will get off my case for a bit. Maybe she’ll even be nice to – no. She’d never. But I have to do this. This is my shot. I have to get Kimmi. She’ll be here any minute – so all I need is a plan. Now how should I go about this...? A bear trap. No, she’ll lose a leg. That’d be bad. *(Picks up an apple from her dress, looks at it.)* Maybe I’ll just make her fall asleep... That feels a little more humane. *(Begins a motion to bewitch the*

*apple with her hand, but stops herself.)* Well – gosh, I don't know. That just doesn't feel right either...

*VIVIAN hears distant voices.*

**VIVIAN:** Hmm?

**KIMMI:** *(Offstage.)* No kidding – that is one creepy old church!

**VIVIAN:** *(Panics.)* Kimmi's here!

*VIVIAN dives behind a tree as KIMMI, SCOTT, DIANA, and enter.*

**DIANA:** OK, fearless leader – how shall we go about finding these witches?

**VIVIAN:** This is a witch-hunt. Oh goodness, this is a witch-hunt.

**KIMMI:** So I say we just split up... but nobody go out of sight. We wouldn't want any of these witches to take us without a fair fight.

Let's start with these trees, I guess. Then we'll head into the church.

**SCOTT:** When should we meet if we – if we don't find them?

**KIMMI:** I don't know, like five minutes?

**DIANA:** Five minutes sounds masterful!

**KIMMI:** All right... break!

*KIMMI, DIANA, and SCOTT go in different directions of the stage, looking for the witches. VIVIAN sneezes. KIMMI, DIANA, and SCOTT each joltingly make eye contact.*

**DIANA:** Did we just hear something?

**SCOTT:** I didn't.

**KIMMI:** Yeah, I don't think so.

*DIANA crosses to tree. VIVIAN runs around tree in a circle to evade.*

**DIANA:** Mmm... I must be imagining things.

**SCOTT:** So... what's our plan? Say we find the witches here in the forest... then what?

**KIMMI:** I don't really know. I guess we'll improvise some kinda action movie fight sequence maybe.

**VIVIAN:** *(To herself.)* Oh god.

**SCOTT:** With what?

**KIMMI:** I went to a kick boxing class once.

**DIANA:** (*Gestures to purse.*) I have a portable hair dryer in here.

*KIMMI shoots DIANA an incredulous look as they both laugh.*

**SCOTT:** You two are, uh, really chill about – fighting witches. Actual witches. Who want to kill you.

**KIMMI:** Hey – (*Crosses to SCOTT.*) what's up, dude? You feel OK?

*VIVIAN smiles softly.*

**SCOTT:** You're just – good at everything. And not afraid of anything. Which is cool, but I don't get it. All of this is terrifying.

**KIMMI:** Look, today has been bonkers. (*Laughs.*) of course this is scary! Witches are hunting us. We're hunting witches. My professor fell in love with your grandma! That's not related, but it's still super weird. But what I sorta think – when something scary is happening: you can hide. You can attack. Or you can face it. And what I've found – hiding solves nothing. Attacking works only sometimes. You have to pick your battles and not hurt something or someone that didn't need to be hurt. But when something scary happens – and you face it for exactly what it is, with a level head and an open mind and you do good in the face of your fear – you'll be surprised what can happen.

**VIVIAN:** She's just... so kind.

**DIANA:** She's right, you know. And Kimmi and I will look out for you every step of the way.

**VIVIAN:** They all are...

**KIMMI:** (*Looking over at tree.*) Omigosh, what is that?

**DIANA:** Witches?

*KIMMI crosses to the tree. She picks up a rock.*

**KIMMI:** Nah – (*Laughing to herself.*) Just a cool rock. It's like kinda – flask shaped

**SCOTT:** Flask... shaped?

**KIMMI:** Yeah, don'tcha see it? It's like – round. And curvy.

**DIANA:** Round and curvy... *(Playfully.)* Voluptuous, huh?

*KIMMI, DIANA, and SCOTT laugh.*

**SCOTT:** What does that mean?

*DIANA whispers in SCOTT'S ear. KIMMI laughs as she watches.*

**VIVIAN:** Why do I even do what I do? *(Mocking tone.)* "It's because we're witches, Vivian." Abi, she's just... so mean to me, and Ciera's just... nothing. What's wrong with me? Why can't I just kidnap her like I came here to do? I just wish there was some other way to... *(In frustration.)* Ugggghhhhh

*KIMMI, SCOTT, and DIANA hear this. THEY dart over to VIVIAN'S side of the tree.*

**DIANA:** That's one of the witches!

*DIANA draws a portable hair dryer from her purse like a handgun and points it at VIVIAN. KIMMI readies herself from battle – removing earrings, setting her purse down, striking a fighter pose.*

**DIANA:** Where are the others?

**SCOTT:** Kimmi, what are you doing?

**KIMMI:** *(To VIVIAN.)* I will fight you myself. You don't need to hurt any of these people here, they have nothing to do with –

**VIVIAN:** *(Calmly, but kind of shouting.)* I can explain!

*Everyone is taken aback. KIMMI, SCOTT, and DIANA all lock attention on VIVIAN.*

**VIVIAN:** Look. None of you trust me. I get that. But please, please just listen to me.

**KIMMI:** Fine. You get two seconds—

**VIVIAN:** My name is Vivian and I am a witch. I'm here alone. My sisters want to take you, Kimmi, down to the secret garden so that you with your pure heart can make the rose bloom – which will make the treasure appear. And then they plan to kill you.

**KIMMI:** Yeah, we already covered that. So we–

**VIVIAN:** (*Shielding face.*) Please don't hurt me!

**KIMMI:** (*Taken aback.*) Vivian... uh, just woman to woman here: Is everything going OK?

**VIVIAN:** No, of course not. My sisters are horrible to me and I was planning to kidnap you out of blind loyalty but then –

**KIMMI:** (*Cocks head.*) “Was planning”?

**VIVIAN:** I know I don't actually want to. So I won't. This is probably the first time I can remember anyone's ever been nice to me.

**SCOTT:** The first time anyone has been nice to you is when Kimmi... chose to not beat you senseless?

**KIMMI:** Scott!!

**VIVIAN:** It's crazy, I know. But seeing you all... decent people... makes me know I want you to find the treasure, and not my sisters. I'd even want to come with you. To be a better person.

**SCOTT:** Ooh. No way.

**DIANA:** That sounds like a lovely story, my dear, but you must understand how hard it would be for you to earn our trust. How on earth could you possibly?

**VIVIAN:** I have two reasons. I- I... No, you're right. This is pathetic, you'll never trust me, I'm a worthless, evil witch. (*Walks away.*)

**KIMMI:** Vivian, no, come back. You're not worthless. You might be a witch 'cause you're, y'know, a woman who can do magic, but I can tell you're not evil. You have reasons we can trust you?

**VIVIAN:** Two. (*Pulls out the apple.*) This apple... I started to poison it with magic, but... I just didn't.

**KIMMI:** (*Slight laugh.*) A witch with a poisoned apple?

**DIANA:** I say!

**VIVIAN:** I know. It wasn't – it wasn't the best plotting I've ever done. Anyway, I could've cursed it if I wanted to... but I won't. In fact... (*VIVIAN chucks the apple offstage.*) I don't have it. I'm not using magic. I will never attack you.

**DIANA:** We still don't trust you. Especially if you had the nerve to attack Ms. Kimberly with a cliché!

**KIMMI:** Diana –

**VIVIAN:** It's fair. Sorry. That's not a great reason to trust me. But I think for my second reason... you might. Kimmi, I believe this belongs to your professor –

*VIVIAN pulls out the map, others are in shock.*

**VIVIAN:** I know this map leads straight to the treasure, I've been there. I've seen the cave already. But I think the person to find the treasure should be someone who deserves it... a pure heart. So... you take this, Kimmi. P-please find the treasure.

*VIVIAN hands KIMMI the map.*

**VIVIAN:** You can trust me. I'm on your side from now on. There's no going back.

**KIMMI:** Wow, Vivian. I don't know how to thank you –

**VIVIAN:** We can head straight to the cave now! I can lead you there, I got there once before and I can certainly help you get there, too!

**KIMMI:** Vivian – this just – this means so much that you'd do this for all of us.

**VIVIAN:** It's really nothing. I've been afraid to break away from my sisters my whole life. I just didn't know I needed to face that until... now. It's just three minus one. Which is two.

**DIANA:** *(Taken aback.)* Huh.

**SCOTT:** She's pretty good at math.

**VIVIAN:** *(Smiling.)* So I've been told. Let's head down to the cave now?

**KIMMI:** We can't yet! If we're literally going to find the treasure today – we have to get Doc! He won't want to miss this!!

**DIANA:** Here we go, my dears! I'll lead the way!!

*CURTAIN CLOSES. ABIGAIL and CIERA enter in front of the curtain, cackling.*

**ABIGAIL:** Now normally if Vivian disappeared like this, I'd be happy about it... but we haven't seen her in hours.

**CIERA:** Yeah, where did she go?

**ABIGAIL:** I don't know. It's not like her to run off like this. She better come back soon – as useless as she is, we need her.

**CIERA:** So what are we going to do?

**ABIGAIL:** We've got to pretend we've lost Vivian forever.

**CIERA:** Hooray!! (*Blows a limp party horn.*)

**ABIGAIL:** No. We need to find Kimmi Larkin and get her down to the garden ourselves. This is gonna get ugly.

**CIERA:** (*Yawning.*) I'm kinda tired...

**ABIGAIL:** I like the way you think. OK – new plan: Take naps now, get ugly later. We go.

**CIERA:** Hooray!! (*Blows party horn.*)

*ABIGAIL and CIERA exit, cackling as the house lights come on.*

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