

CHOICES OF THE DAMNED

By Karla Olivo

CHARACTERS

DESMOND/BODY Englishman, distrustful, delusional, regretful, bored of his existence.
VOICE Loud, foolish, protective. (Changes moods from time to time.)
WOMAN Powerful, sarcastic, rightful, honest.
DOCTOR 1
DOCTOR 2

Choices of The Damned, a dark, deep, yet comedic piece that incorporates sounds. Takes place in limbo, a hellish world.

SCENE 1

(Hallway)

(Desmond walks towards the hallway full of doors, seeking for his ride, the train back to the world.)

DESMOND

(Shouts)

This is ridiculous. So many doors for just one destination.

(Tries to open a door; jiggles the handle slightly)

Bloody hell.

(Goes to another door, jiggles the handle a bit harder)

Damned door!

(Door unlocks, Desmond enters)

You must be joking right now (laughing)

Hello, beasts! Where's my ride! (Echoes)

VOICE

Please follow the lighted pathway. *(Pauses)*

Please follow the lighted pathway. *(Pauses)*

Please follow the lighted pathway.

DESMOND

Okay! Okay! I get it! I walk.

VOICE

Please follow /

DESMOND

YES, YES. "Follow the darn lighted pathway" I got it. I have already heard your voice; you don't have to pretend anymore.

VOICE

Please follow—

DESMOND

OH, GO TO HELL! (shouting)

VOICE

HA, we're already here!

Just shittin' with ya. Ya know Desmond, I have a good sense of humor to be just a voice. I mean, we do.

DESMOND

What do you mean "we"?

VOICE

Well you see, I am you. I am your... Do you recall, you always used to think that you were crazy because you somehow managed to "speak" inside your head, not even moving your lips? You always wondered if it was God's voice helping you with your decisions and 'errrthing. It was me actually. I mean, It was you. Us! It was Us.

DESMOND

Prove it. What am I thinking?

VOICE

Oh Desmond, Always so skeptical! Well ya see, down here I can't really read your mind because we are not really one being anymore. I have obtained freedom here. I'm trying to help you.

DESMOND
(Arrogantly)

You have obtained freedom in HERE?! I certainly didn't expect- do you know what they tell us up there?

(Points up)

(Sighs, pauses, and continues walking in the long hallway)

VOICE

How dare you believe such cock-and-bull stories and not me?

But, Desmond (pause) Wait a second. Are you sure?

DESMOND

Sure of?

VOICE

Leaving.

DESMOND

I'd kill to be out of here.

VOICE

No, Desmond. Really, are you sure? There are many symptoms and rooms that you have to go through to- to actually get back up there. It's a sacrifice, another regret to the list.

DESMOND

It can't be worse than this.

VOICE

Desmond...in those rooms, there's...anything and everything. And all the feelings you avoided, you will feel them. Hard.

DESMOND

Screw me!!

(Laughs sarcastically)

VOICE

I-

DESMOND

And screw you too!!!

VOICE

I warned you. Good luck.

DESMOND

I don't need it mate! Have fun torturing, or yelling, whatever your job is.

(Sound of Dial-Up Internet)

(Desmond enters portal)

(Blackout)

SCENE 2

(The Gates of Hell)

VOICE

Abandon all hope, ye who enters.

(Water drop sound, followed by a pause)

(Water drop sound, followed by a pause)

(Water drop sound, followed by a pause)

DESMOND

(Scared)

(Heavy breathing)

(Heavy breathing)

(Heavy breathing)

WOMAN

Does it hurt you, seeing me like this?

Who am I?

Why does it matter?

You have met me and forgotten me a thousand times.

(Desmond is unable to speak.)

(Heavy breathing)

(Heavy breathing intensifies)

(Heavy breathing intensifies even more)

WOMAN

But I haven't forgotten.

(Affirms)

(Desmond breathes heavily)

(Water drop sound)

(Water drop sound)

WOMAN

Don't look so shocked. What? You think rape is wrong? Why do you think rape is wrong, tell me? Rape is wrong because a woman loses her honor? (chuckles)

(Pauses)

So this means a prostitute cannot get raped, right? RIGHT? Because only those who aren't pure enough for you can get raped, RIGHT? The two-finger test—to indicate purity. If two fingers slide in easily, that means she's been going around anyway, because that is what she is looking for isn't it, that is what she wants? So she would enjoy it, right?

SEX TAKES CONSENT OF TWO. If two individuals are present, but only one is “in the mood” then, you aren't making love, don't fool yourself, that... is rape. Don't rape me, because a woman is your mother, your sister, your daughter.

(Pauses)

Basically, your concern isn't that your mother, sister, or daughter lose their honor (pauses). Your concern is that YOU will lose YOUR honor. Rape should be avoided to protect YOUR honor (pauses) because your honor matters, Right?

(Voice fades away)

DOCTOR #1

He's not conscious!

DOCTOR #2

Heartbeat dropping!
Not breathing!

DOCTOR #1

Applying direct electrical current to the heart!

(Electric shock sound)

(Pause)

(Electric shock sound)

BODY

(Touches himself)

Am I dead?

VOICE

(Sarcastic laugh)

Depends on what *dead* means to you. Welcome to the destination of the gloomy, lonely, and rebel mind! Be it a man or woman...neither can escape it. Here live the lustful, the greedy, the violence, the ones who lacked prudence and love, the damned!!

(Laughs)

This is the city of non-stop tears, no-stop, confusion, non-stop hunger.
Here live the carnivores, ready to eat raw meat.
Human meat if we're being specific.
You see, there were ways to be saved from the city of pain.
Yet we chose to take the other path.

BODY

I feel n-nauseous

VOICE

Oh, that's not nausea you are feeling. It's that strong, even fierce, yet pure sensation of being lonely among many. You are drowning into water's depth towards fear.

(Water drop sound)

(Water drop sound)

Desmond, right now, at this very moment, you find yourself in the nothingness of the world.
Nothingness.
Nothing. Nowhere.
No time. No choice.
No reason. No identity.
No knowledge. No action.
No extremity.
Emptiness.
I know it's hard to digest. A realization is as good as it gets.

(Water drop sound)

(Water drop sound)

(Electric shock sound)

(Fast paced, different people, moving around)

Please follow the lighted pathway.
Please follow the lighted pathway.
Please follow the lighted pathway.

(Pause)

(Music plays)

♪ “Boy, you gotta carry that weight
Carry that weight a long time.
Boy, you gonna carry that weight,
Carry that weight a long time.” ♪