

## THE WAY TO HEAVEN

By Kazanna Sutherland

### CHARACTERS

GRACE

JAYSON

JONATHAN

LILLIAN

MARK

OSCAR

QUINCE

SAJE

### SCENE 1

OSCAR

This world... This life was written in urban legends. Everything that we do is meaningless, why live if life itself gives up on us? Even before this world was created there was a God, he too was a selfish bastard. He was there, sitting on his throne and he wanted servants to obey and worship him. So he created the human race, no wonder we are so fucked up. We believe that there is some old guy in the sky judging our every move and reward us for our actions. People tell us about the goodness of God (voice lightens) and how he changes their life around. The old me is gone, and the new me is here. (Voice darkens) But let me tell you something—there is no God, there just

shitty people that judge—and judge—and complain. People control our way of thinking. But I Oscar Mason Charles (places hand on his heart) vow on thysel that I won't be corrupted.

(Blackout)

(Lights up. The scene starts with Oscar sitting in his comfy chair, reading the newspaper. The house is in terrible condition; the only source of light is Oscar's reading lamp, and the only other furniture is a couch and television. Saje, his granddaughter, is in the living room drawing or doing whatever five-year-olds do.)

OSCAR

Why don't you play outside like a normal five-year-old?

SAJE

Madre said "The world is a dangerous place, and the world is yet to come to an end. Why should you go outside when-

OSCAR

Quite the adventurer are we? (Beat) Do you have any friends that you can play with?

SAJE

(Beat)

What are friends, Papa Mas?

OSCAR

Friends... Friends... Friends are individuals that think your life is meaningful, mutual love, a bond. Someone who is there for you in time of need. Friends are things that we need in this world, too bad there are few of them

(Sighs)

(Beat)

SAJE

Papa Mas, do you love me?

OSCAR

You are the ointment to my arthritis.

SAJE

If you love me, Pops Mas, can we be friends?

OSCAR

It all depends on the mood I'm in to be your friend, Saje.

SAJE

Why Papa Mas?

OSCAR

'Cause you are a weird child, Saje.

(Beat)

SAJE

Papa Mas, are you a bad man?

OSCAR

People think I'm a bad person. That I do bad things. That I'm corrupted, and they pity me. The only way to please them is to become one of "them." Therefore they spent their time judging me, and I judge them back. Why do you ask?

SAJE

Madre said "Oscar is an unholy man and God will punish him for all the bad deeds he has done. Saje, make sure not to entertain him, or create small talk when you are there, don't ask a lot of questions like you normally do. Are you listening to me? Remember Oscar is a sinner because he doesn't serve the Lord. If you want to go to heaven, don't talk to him.

OSCAR

When did she say this?

SAJE

When she was talking on the phone to Papa before she left to pick him up from work.

(Beat)

OSCAR

(Voice darkens)

A sinner... A sinner... A sinner she calls me. (Beat) Am I a sinner because I believe that people should have their own way of thinking? Am I a sinner because I refuse to look for answers to a supernatural being that doesn't exist?

How can you—she call me a sinner-

(Grace and Quince come into the house wearing black trench coats, red pants, and black hats, Grace turns to Quince and talks about Oscar. Oscar doesn't know that they came into the house.)

QUINCE

Grace, I know you're heated at the moment-

GRACE

(Angrily talks to Quince)

So you're telling me you couldn't find anyone else to babysit Saje. I know he's her grandfather, but you know the type of influence he has on her.

QUINCE

Nope, you have to book them three months in advance, plus you now that Oscar loves to look after Saje...

GRACE

(Sighs)

Quince.

QUINCE

Look. He needs some company in his life after the war ended he has grown so bitter and stop believing in God, (Oscar impersonation) “Why should I believe in something that doesn't exist. It doesn't matter what happens to our first breath and our last, the only thing that matters are last breath.”. (Beat) And just look at how much he loves Saje. He needs a change after ten years of guns going off, soldiers marching outside, and dead bodies lying around.

GRACE

Maybe you are right, maybe you are wrong. But if Saje-

(Grace gets startled when she meets Oscar's angry eyes)

(Beat)

OSCAR

Oh talking behind my back again Grace.

GRACE

Oh please, Oscar, we weren't even talking about you not even in your wildest dreams, we were just talking about...

Um, the... The-

OSCAR

You see Quince, I don't know why you married that girl. She's a bad liar. Do you know three things that really upset me?

QUINCE

A bad liar...

OSCAR

A bad liar

(Oscar looks at Grace)

QUINCE

Someone who wrongfully judges others...

OSCAR

Someone who wrongfully judges others

(Oscar looks at Grace again)

QUINCE

And someone who gossips without knowing the truth...

OSCAR

Someone who gossips without knowing the truth (looks at Grace)

GRACE

No, I-

QUINCE and OSCAR

Yes, you do.

GRACE

But-

QUINCE

No offense honey, but you do you gossip all the time.

OSCAR

That's something I can agree on.

GRACE

Name one time that I gossiped.

QUINCE

Remember when you overheard Mr. Andes and Ms. Andes arguing.

GRACE

I prefer eavesdropping.

QUINCE

And you assumed that they were getting a divorce and practically told the entire town. No wonder they moved to Leodol Hills.

OSCAR

Or that time when you assumed that Anna was pregnant last month, but she really had a stomach tumor and got kicked out of that fancy private school. (Shakes head) Poor girl cried for weeks.

(Beat)

QUINCE

Wait, she wasn't pregnant?

OSCAR

No.

QUINCE

Are you sure?

OSCAR

Positive.

QUINCE

I heard that she had given birth last week to a baby boy.

OSCAR

And where did you hear that from?

QUINCE

From... (Looks at Grace) never mind.

GRACE

Maybe I tend to gossip, but not all the time. Most of my time I spend gardening and sewing... and sometimes crocheting.

(Oscar and Quince both look at each other and burst out laughing)

OSCAR

(Laughs)

Gardening, what kind of plants do you flower? Lilies... Roses.

QUINCE

(Laughs as well)

When did you start sewing? The last time I checked, you can't even thread a needle.

(They both stop laughing)

QUINCE

No offense Grace.

GRACE

None taken.

(Beat)

SAJE

(Looks up at the clock)

Papa, it's almost 12:30.

(Everyone is startled at the sound of Saje's voice)

QUINCE

When did you get here, Saje?

SAJE

I've been here the whole time you just didn't notice me. (Sighs) Like always.

QUINCE

Did you just say it's 12:30?

SAJE

12:28 to be exact.

(Saje and Grace go upstairs, but Quince stays behind to talk to Oscar)

QUINCE

Aren't you going to join us?

OSCAR

(Laughs)

You know I'm not into that... stuff.

QUINCE

What stuff?

OSCAR

You know that stuff...

QUINCE

(Sighs)

You mean the daily prayer that me, Grace, and Saje do every morning, afternoon and night?

OSCAR

What else would I be talking about?

QUINCE

(Sighs)

Sometimes I feel bad for you.

OSCAR

Well, you don't have to.

(Quince heads upstairs to join Grace and Saje)

OSCAR

I feel like religion is childish- meaning being told what to do or following the rules from a book that was written before I was even born. How I should look a particular way, how I should act a certain way, and the most terrifying thing of all I should be subject to speak a certain way as well. Why would anyone believe in a book full of stories about how people live? And that's.... Terrifying.

(Quince walks down the stairs; Grace and Saje follow behind him)

QUINCE

Look Oscar- father I don't want to get a pay cut... again, so, please... please.

OSCAR

Fine, I'll play your little game.

QUINCE

Father, it's not a game, it's a lifestyle.

OSCAR

Game, lifestyle—same difference!

QUINCE

Father don't speak so loudly they might hear you.

OSCAR

Who is going to hear me?

QUINCE

"Them."

OSCAR

They're the most simple-minded group of people I've ever known. (beat) You know, scientists say that the universe is made up of neutrons, protons, and electrons. They forgot to mention morons.

QUINCE

(Whispers)

Shhh, they're watching.

OSCAR

(Whispers in mockery)

Where could they possibly watch and hear us from?

QUINCE

(Whispers)

From the statue of Jesus that wasn't built too long ago.

OSCAR

But guess what?

QUINCE

(Sighs)

You don't give a damn.

OSCAR

I don't give- yes finally you got it.

(Beat)

QUINCE

You will not be accounted for this prayer session. I'm going straight to "them" that you have stopped—no let me correct myself that you never prayed not even once.

(He puts on his jacket in a rush, almost losing what was inside of it)

I'm going to headquarters and tell them about the crime that you made.

OSCAR

(Mocking Quince)

I know you won't go to the headquarters; you are just trying to scare me, and it's not working. As a matter of fact, "them" never scared me not even the slightest bit. I'm afraid that nothing scares me anymore. Plus if I go to jail for eight years I can finally see-

QUINCE

(Stops and looks at his father)

Don't you dare say that name in my house.

OSCAR

Your house!?! (walks over to Quince) The last time I checked this was my house. And no one- no one is going to disrespect me in my house. Stand up straight and look at me when I'm talking to you.

(Quince straightens himself out and looks Oscar directly into his eyes)

OSCAR

You got that boy?

QUINCE

Yes, Oscar.

OSCAR

Try it again.

QUINCE

Yes... father.

(Beat)

QUINCE

Saje, it's time for afternoon classes, you don't want to be late, do you?

(Saje jumps up in excitement and walks over to Oscar and hands him the picture she was drawing. It's of Oscar and her in a mythical forest birdwatching; they spotted a Barbet)

SAJE

No father. Farewell Papa Mas (waves to him) and don't forget to put my drawing in your study. Yesterday you said that "Life's too short to waste on communicating with people. Therefore we write stories instead. We put our work on paper to share our ideas and point of view to the world so they can experience our pain, sadness, grief, or even happiness. Therefore I'm happy that you have given me this drawing, it is unique and will hold a place in my heart." But when I went into your study my picture wasn't on the wall but a calendar instead, So please remember this time.

OSCAR

I won't forget.

QUINCE

Let's go Saje.

(Saje and Quince exit)

GRACE

Well, that was tense.

OSCAR

You tell me.

GRACE

What did Saje draw for you?

(Moves next to Oscar to see the picture better)

OSCAR

Just me and her birdwatching.

GRACE

A Barbet, huh?

OSCAR

I guess so.

GRACE

That's Saje's spirit animal... The Barbet, she draws it all the time. She says the bird gives her motivation.

OSCAR

Well, she's surely a unique child, but how does it motivate her?

GRACE

She said the bird gives her ideas for a cultural and religious revolution.

OSCAR

That's my girl.

(Beat)

GRACE

I don't appreciate you making him angry like that; you should apologize.

OSCAR

Who me!?

GRACE

Yes you—that might boost up your relationship.

OSCAR

Fine, I will. But first I need to run some errands.

(Beat)

OSCAR

By the way... Grace?

GRACE

Yes, Oscar?

OSCAR

Has everything been set up for the party tonight?

GRACE

Yes, my mother just needs to bring the cake, and we're all set.

OSCAR

It's been so long since I saw that little rascal.

GRACE

Well, he isn't little anymore.

OSCAR

I can't believe he's coming home.

GRACE

He'll be so happy to see your face again.

OSCAR

Jail isn't a place for him he's just so... sensitive. I hope he hasn't changed.

GRACE

Yeah....

(Beat)

OSCAR

(Exhales)

Well, I'll be off. (Walks over to the coat rack and get his coat, walks over to the door, and turns to Grace) Thank you for organizing this party, I appreciate it.

GRACE

That's the first time you ever thanked me for something.

OSCAR

Don't get used to it...

(Heads towards the door and exits)

GRACE

Don't worry, I won't.

SCENE 2

(Lillian, Grace's mother walks in carrying her purse and a cake box. She is wearing a heavy black coat, red pants, and sunglasses, even though it's very cold outside.)

GRACE

What took you so long? (Beat) Is that the cake?

LILLIAN

(Struggles to put coat on the coat hanger)

No, it's a fucking bidet. (Beat) Are you going to take this thing or what? The damn box is heavy!

(Grace takes the box into the kitchen and puts it on the table, and Lillian follows her)

GRACE

Thank you, did you forget where I live?

LILLIAN

How can I forget? You just follow the trail of bums and randos straight to your door.

GRACE

(Gasps)

That's not very nice, mother!

LILLIAN

(Laughs)

Sorry.

GRACE

We're doing the best we can around here.

LILLIAN

I can tell. (Looks up) Just look at the hole in the ceiling.

GRACE

(Looks up)

I told Quince to fix that last week.

LILLIAN

Speaking of Quince, how is he?

GRACE

Quince recently got a promotion.

LILLIAN

Isn't that great! They oughta give him a raise—the boy works too damn hard. (Pause) So where's the little bugger?

GRACE

You need to stop calling her that mother.

LILLIAN

I know, but the child is a little you know.... How can I say this without being rude.... Um slow.

GRACE

She ain't slow she's perfect in her way.

LILLIAN

(Crosses her arms behind her back)

Why are you so stubborn! If only you'll listen to me instead of putting such a burden.... on yourself.

(Grace steps closer to Lillian until their noses are touching each other)

GRACE

Now you listen to me, mother; I will never give Saje up. She has something-

LILLIAN

You mean schizophrenia.

GRACE

Not just schizophrenia but paranoid schizophrenia.

LILLIAN

She's schizophrenic... she probably writes with her left hand.

GRACE

As a matter of fact, she's left-handed.

LILLIAN

(Gasps)

Our family never had a left-handed person, and I mean no one.

GRACE

Well, she's the first.

LILLIAN

Ugh! What a tragedy! Do you know what the bible says about left-handed people?

GRACE

But, Ehud was left-handed.

LILLIAN

But the child isn't part of the Israeli army trying to get rid of their oppressors.

GRACE

Why is it that every time that you come here, you have to say something about Saje?

LILLIAN

And why is it that every time that I come, that girl is talking to her friends? That we never get to see. Just the other day I was on the way to my spa treatment when I saw that girl on a swing set talking to an empty swing.

(Beat)

LILLIAN

Look at me, Grace.

(Grace slowly looks at her mother)

LILLIAN

Do what's right and get rid of the child. There are people who can take care of her. Are you tired of being looked down upon? Being shunned from parents and their kids because of your daughter?

(Beat)

You know this is what you get for having a child young.

GRACE

I can't believe you tried to force me into an abortion.

LILLIAN

I only did it for your best interest.

GRACE

You never loved me... I can't believe it took me this long to realize that.

LILLIAN

Of course, I love you, dear, I just didn't want you to be embarrassed at having a kid so young.

GRACE

You mean so you won't be embarrassed having to raise a teenage daughter and a grandchild. That you had to lie to your rich fake friends that your daughter is no longer fencing, visiting charities with her father. But changing diapers instead.

LILLIAN

Grace dear-

GRACE

That's the truth isn't it mother?

LILLIAN

Yes, yes it is.

(Grace is lost for words)

GRACE

I can't believe you.

LILLIAN

I could take care of both of you. I hid you in the pool house, but once I figure out that child was...different, I just had to kick you out, I couldn't have my friends know that your daughter is... mentally ill. If they were to know, I would be a social outcast and that, of course, would be... social suicide.

GRACE

Get out!

LILLIAN

Grace dear-

GRACE

If you can't accept the fact that Saje is like everyone else-

LILLIAN

But she's different.

GRACE

She's not different!

LILLIAN

Grace dear you tone of voice.

GRACE

Don't tell me how my tone of voice should be in my house! If you can't accept that Saje is your grandchild, then leave and never come back!

LILLIAN

Well, Grace dear... if you want it that way, then I can't stop you from not wanting me in your house. But you should know that I am right, and sooner or later you will come to your senses.

GRACE

What kind of mother wants their daughter to give up on their disabled child?

LILLIAN

Grace, I'm just trying to look out for you.

(Lillian caress Grace's wet cheek)

GRACE

Just go, mother.

(Lillian takes the cake box and exits, Grace sits in the middle of the floor and cries. The telephone rings. Grace straightens herself out and answers it.)

GRACE

Uh hello... Ms. White, how are you today? No, I haven't been crying I-I just. . . just have a sore throat that's all...

Yes, I am taking medicine for that (Grace rolls her eyes at the last comment) Did Saje do something or.... (exhales)

Why am I not surprised? I'll be down there.... Thank you, Ms. White.... no problem.... Bye.

(Grace hangs up the phone)

GRACE

Why today of all days, Saje? Why?

(Grace exits)

SCENE 3

(Lights up. Grace and Saje enter the living room.)

GRACE

I'm so disappointed in you Saje.

SAJE

Sorry, Madre.

GRACE

Why did you bite him?

SAJE

He was bothering me.

GRACE

Well, if he was bothering you, just tell Ms. White.

SAJE

Yes, Madre.

GRACE

(sighs)

Well if you need me I'll be downstairs doing laundry.

(Grace exits the living room and does the laundry. Saje exits and re-enters the living room. She has her family's bible and a book on "How To Summon a Ghost" in one hand, and a mixture of apple, orange, and pineapple juice in another. She spreads everything on the floor and sits down.)

SAJE

I hope this works.

(Inhales and exhales and drinks the mixture of apple, orange, and pineapple juice and opens the book on "How to Summon a Ghost")

Tell the water to flow below the valley, where the mountain and the bridge between sanity and insanity meet. As pure as the rain and as dirty as sin they both drown out the sound of the imperfection of humanity. Let the spirit come front and tell me the truth!

(A gust of wind fills the living room, and a man in a top hat appears before Saje)

JONATHAN

Who is't hast did summon me?

(Saje bows at Jonathan)

SAJE

It was me, great one.

JONATHAN

Oh receiveth up, I des'rv'd not thy kindness.

SAJE

You talk funny.

JONATHAN

How so?

(Saje stands up)

SAJE

Well, you speak like from the play Romeo and Juliet.

JONATHAN

Ah ha! So thee has't did notice mine own plaited tongue.

SAJE

Why do you speak like that?

JONATHAN

Wherefore didst thee did summon me?

SAJE

(sighs)

You're just going to laugh or be angry at me.

JONATHAN

I promiseth I wonneth't beest chuckle 'r beest fell at thee.

SAJE

Promise?

JONATHAN

Promiseth

SAJE

Pinky swear?

JONATHAN

Pinky swear.

(Saje and Jonathan did a pinky swear.)

SAJE

Ok. Well, I went on a field trip with my school to see a museum. Ms. White, my favorite teacher in the whole wide world, told us that we can buy something from the souvenir store. So I bought I book on how to summon a ghost.

JONATHAN

Yond wast fartuous of thee.

SAJE

I'm sorry.

(Beat)

JONATHAN

I did wish to speaketh liketh this.

SAJE

What?

JONATHAN

The questioneth yond thee hath asked bef're "why doth thee speaketh liketh yond?" well I hath chosen to speaketh this way.

JONATHAN

(sighs)

T' wast mine own first wisheth.

SAJE

Your first-

JONATHAN

At which hour we kicketh the bucket our souls shall wend to heaven, believeth t 'r not there's a god and that gent grant us three wishes. But only valorous people get three wishes, and if 't be true thy a sinn'r thy shall wend hell without an appeal.

SAJE

What were your three wishes?

JONATHAN

One. I asketh for all mine love ones to forget about me no matter how difficult twas for those folk. Two. Wast to help anyone in mine family but, don't reveal mine identity to those folk. Three wast to speaketh in a language that people won't beest able to understandeth.

SAJE

That sounded like a tough decision to make.

JONATHAN

T'wast forsooth.

SAJE

I have been meaning to ask you something.

JONATHAN

What is't?

SAJE

How did you die?

JONATHAN

I wast did shoot in the back and chest 10 times.

SAJE

Did it hurt?

JONATHAN

Well, t didn't feeleth liketh been hitteth by a pillow.

SAJE

Oh.

JONATHAN

But I didn't kicketh the bucket in vain.

SAJE

What do you mean?

JONATHAN

I risketh mine own life f'r mine own broth'rs.

SAJE

Who were they?

JONATHAN

Their names nev'r hath left mine own heart since I kicked the bucket th're names art, Markham, and Quince.

SAJE

Quince? That's my papa's name.

JONATHAN

Aye tis, th'ref're thy mine own-

SAJE

You're my uncle! That makes me your niece. I have to tell Madre!

(Saje runs to the stairs the leads to the basement and brings Grace back  
down with her into the living room )

SAJE

Madre, look!

GRACE

What am I looking at Saje?

SAJE

My uncle.

(Grace scans the room but doesn't see anyone.)

GRACE

Saje, sweetheart you don't have an uncle.

SAJE

Yes, I do.

GRACE

No, you don't.

SAJE

Yes, I do, and his name is-

GRACE

Saje, please stop.

SAJE

But I do have an uncle, and his name is-

(Saje looks over towards Jonathan.)

JONATHAN

Jonathan.

(Saje looks at Grace.)

SAJE

Jonathan.

(Grace is startled when Saje said the name "Jonathan")

GRACE

How do you know about Jonathan?

SAJE

Because he's standing right next to you.

JONATHAN

Tis fine Saje, the lady can't seeth 'r heareth me.

(Saje face deflates)

GRACE

Saje?

SAJE

It's nothing, Madre, forget that I said anything.

(Grace bends and meets Saje at eye level)

GRACE

Saje I'm going to ask you one more time, how do you know Jonathan?

SAJE

I was talking to him.

GRACE

Like how you talk to God?

SAJE

Yeah.... Sort of.

GRACE

But how....? (Exhales.) Saje, you-

(Saje shows Grace the family's bible)

GRACE

Oh, where did you get that?

SAJE

I got it in Papa Mas' study.

GRACE

Saje, you can't enter there without permission.

SAJE

I know, I'm sorry. I just wanted to know about my family.

GRACE

I understand (pats Saje on the head). Just when you're done with it, put it back.

SAJE

Yes, Madre.

GRACE

If you need me, I'll be doing the laundry.... Saje?

SAJE

Yes, Madre?

GRACE

Did you take your candy this morning?

SAJE

No.

GRACE

Why is that?

SAJE

They make me feel drowsy.

GRACE

They're supposed to make you feel that way.

SAJE

But why-

GRACE

Just do as I say Saje... please.

SAJE

Ok, I'll take it right now.

(Saje goes into the kitchen and gets a bottle of water from the fridge, and grabs small orange container with a white lid and head back into the living room where Grace is)

(Saje twists the lid of the container and pops a pill in her mouth and drinks the water)

GRACE

Good girl.

(Grace kisses Saje on the cheek and exits)

SAJE

(Sighs)

Jonathan- Jonathan where are you?

JONATHAN

Saje t's timeth f'r me to wend.

SAJE

Please don't go, why are do you keep disappearing? I still have a lot of questions.

JONATHAN

We shall saveth yond f'r anoth'r timeth.

SAJE

Ok.

JONATHAN

May thee prithee sendeth me backeth.

(Saje opens up the book on "How to Summon a Ghost")

SAJE

Let life and liberty combine as one, let the way to heaven be everlasting and joyous filled with peace and content.

Spirit I have sent you back.

(A gush of wind enters the living room taking Jonathan)

SCENE 4

(Lights up. The scene starts with Oscar in the living room sitting in an old worn out green chair reading the newspaper. Grace is in the kitchen cooking for Mark's welcome home party)

OSCAR

You know, no one interesting dies anymore.

GRACE

What!?

OSCAR

Come look at this

(Grace walks into the living room and stands over Oscar)

OSCAR

(Reading)

"John-Paul Smith died of a stroke, retired at 63, married for 19 years." Let's be real here, the family could at least have added a dirty secret.

GRACE

Like what?

OSCAR

He collected toenails for a living, I don't know.

GRACE

You're really something Oscar.

OSCAR

Just make sure when I die—make it interesting, don't leave out the juicy parts.

(Beat)

OSCAR

Is everything set for the party?

GRACE

Yes, now will you stop being a worry hog?

OSCAR

Fine. I'm just so happy that he's coming home, can't a father be happy to see his son?

GRACE

Now I didn't say that you couldn't be happy.

OSCAR

Do you smell something burning?

(Grace sniffs the air)

GRACE

My pasta!

(Grace runs into the kitchen)

OSCAR

(Yelling)

Saje can you come down here for a moment!

(Saje runs out of her bedroom to where Oscar is)

SAJE

Yes, Papa Mas.

OSCAR

If I were to die, how would you feel?

SAJE

I'll be very sad.

OSCAR

What would you do on the day of my funeral?

SAJE

I probably wouldn't attend.

OSCAR

Why is that?

SAJE

When a person dies, their spirit has to wander the earth to say goodbye to their loved ones in little ways. Whether it is knocking down a lamp or misplacing their shoe. They have to do this in a short time frame, the time limit depends on how good or evil they were in their lifetime. So if you died Papa Mas, I want you to visit me. I will be sitting in your comfy chair and will show you a drawing of me, and you snuggled up next to the fireplace while you read my favorite book.

OSCAR

"Because of Winn Dixie" by Kate Dicamillo, is that correct?

SAJE

Yes, I've always wanted a dog with patches.

OSCAR

But, how would you know it's me and not some other ghost?

SAJE

By your smell.

OSCAR

And what do I smell like?

(Saje steps closer to Oscar and inhales his scent)

SAJE

Like peppermint and cigars.

(Beat)

OSCAR

Would you mind grabbing that pen and paper over there?

(Saje walks over to coffee table and picks up a pen)

OSCAR

When you're done can you come here for a second?

(Saje walks over to Oscar)

OSCAR

Can you read this sentence?

(Saje looks at the newspaper article intensely)

SAJE

(Reading)

“John-Paul Smith died of a stroke; retired at 63; married for 19 years.” Such a boring person.

OSCAR

(Talks in a knightly voice.)

Saje Alma Charles, can I trust you with an important assignment

SAJE

Yes, you can.

OSCAR

When my life is close to an end, I want you to write all the things that I stood for. Don't leave the bad things about me out and include the juicy details. Or I'll end up like John-Paul Smith.

SAJE

What to write?

OSCAR

Write this: Time is inevitable. Humans have evolved into monstrous creatures that have one specific goal, to conquer and destroy everything in their path. Every year the world is in awe of its emptiness and void, everything and everyone was made in order to misinterpret and rust away. But a wise man once said, "Day by day, darkness will soon become light." This man is Oscar Mason Charles, a person who believes that people have their own way of things, and not to be controlled by their superior. Now that's an interesting story

SAJE

Papa Mas?

OSCAR

Yes?

SAJE

How do you spell inevitable?

OSCAR

(Sighs)

Just-

(Quince enters into the house not addressing Oscar nor Saje and walks straight into the kitchen where Grace is)

OSCAR

Did he just walk into the house without saying “good evening”?

SAJE

Yes, yes he did.

(In the kitchen, Grace is cooking for the party that is taking place that evening, but Quince has no clue about this event.)

QUINCE

(Wraps arms around Grace from the back)

What ya doing?

GRACE

Just cooking.

QUINCE

(Takes a step back)

Just Cooking?

GRACE

Yeah.

QUINCE

Whatcha cooking?

GRACE

Vegetarian lasagna, baked potato, and a roasted chicken.

QUINCE

Sounds delicious.

GRACE

Did you and Oscar make up?

QUINCE

In all honesty, sometimes he can be an asshole.

OSCAR

(Yells from the living room)

If I'm an asshole, then what does that make you!?

QUINCE

Sometimes I just want to move out and get our own home. Just you, me, and Saje.

(Oscar yells from the living room)

OSCAR

What's holding you here? I always wanted to live alone.

QUINCE

(Sighs)

Lord, please give me the strength, so I won't say what really on my mind to that man.

GRACE

Don't say the Lord's name in vain, Quince.

QUINCE

I know I sorry.

GRACE

Can you get me something?

QUINCE

Yes, what is it?

GRACE

Can you go by Jayson's and get me a bouquet-

(A smile spreads across Quince's face)

QUINCE

Of course, I can!

GRACE

Are you sure?

QUINCE

Yeah- sure, of course, I can get you some flower at Jayson's.

GRACE

Thank you so much.

QUINCE

Anything for you love.

GRACE

And don't take too long last time you spend 30 minutes just to get white roses.

QUINCE

(Nervous laugh)

Don't worry I won't.

GRACE

Oh! And say hi to Jayson for me.

QUINCE

Well, I should get you those flowers before the shop closes.

(Quince gingerly kisses Grace on the cheek, exits the kitchen, and walks  
into the living room)

QUINCE

Father.

OSCAR

Quince.

QUINCE

Oh, Saje I didn't see you there.

(Kisses her on the cheek and moves closer to the exit)

SAJE

We have been here the whole time you just didn't notice me (sighs) like always.

(Quince exits)

SCENE 5

(Quince walks into the flower shop and checks out some flowers)

JAYSON

Welcome to Jayson Flower's bouquet, how may I help you?

(His eyes land on the person he wants to see and his face lights up)

JAYSON

Something you needed?

QUINCE

No, I'm good.

JAYSON

I wasn't questioning your character.

QUINCE

What?

JAYSON

Looking for something special?

QUINCE

Grace wants a bouquet of flowers.

JAYSON

She already placed an order.

QUINCE

Oh... (Looks at the bouquet of Amaryllis ) do you have anything stronger?

JAYSON

Like what? A cactus.

QUINCE

How about...

(Quince circles the store, and Jayson follows him)

QUINCE

This.

(Holds up a flower pot)

JAYSON

Those will be dead by the morning.

(Jayson kisses Quince on the cheek)

QUINCE

Stop! Someone might see.

JAYSON

Sorry, it's just that you left so quickly I thought that I scared you away. Plus... It's just us.

(Jayson gives Quince a quick kiss on the lips)

QUINCE

Jay stop! Someone might walk in.

JAYSON

Don't worry we close in five minutes.

QUINCE

How come? (Checks the time) Doesn't the store close at 5:00, not 4:30?

JAYSON

It does, it just so happens that I have a hot date tonight...

(Reaches out and grab Quince's hands and looks at Quince lustfully.)

Well, I hope I still do.

QUINCE

I can't make it tonight.

JAYSON

Why not (pouts) don't you miss me?

QUINCE

Believe me, when I say this, I really do miss you. And I I-

JAYSON

You love me? (Claps his hands) Well, it's about time that you said you love me, we've been dating for 3 months now and-

QUINCE

Jay?

JAYSON

Yes, lover boy.

QUINCE

I didn't say I love you.

JAYSON

What did you say then?

QUINCE

I said that I enjoy your company.

JAYSON

Oh really.

QUINCE

Yeah, I'm infatuated with you.

JAYSON

You're in love with the idea of being in love?

QUINCE

Yeah.

JAYSON

Well- I call that bullshit, I think that you're scared of being in love with me.

QUINCE

Being in love? I'm in love with my wife; you're just a fling- that's all.

(Beat)

JAYSON

I have a theory, do you want to hear my theory?

QUINCE

Not really.

JAYSON

My the theory is that you're deeply in love with me, but something is holding you back.

QUINCE

Have you tested out this theory?

JAYSON

Oh, honey- sweetie- baby, more times that you could count. Like today when it was your lunch break, and you so happened to stop by to catch up.

QUINCE

I really wanted to know how you were doing.

JAYSON

I'm doing great now that you're here.

(Winks at Quince)

QUINCE

Look (sighs) I not gay, I'm just experimenting. I just want to know how it feels to be with a man.

JAYSON

Oh really!?

QUINCE

Yeah, I'm 100% sure that I'm not gay.

JAYSON

Are you sure?

QUINCE

Maybe 10 percent

(Jayson looks at Quince intensely)

QUINCE

OK... ok, maybe 30 percent gay.

JAYSON

Give or take I'll say your 45 percent gay.

(Quince nods his head)

JAYSON

So what's holding you back(beat) and please be honest, I know you have the family thing going on, with Grace and Saje, just tell me what's really going on.

(Takes a step closer)

QUINCE

(Sighs)

I-I just don't want to get caught.

JAYSON

Frankly, I don't care what they do to me -to us.

(Jayson grabs Quince's hand)

QUINCE

But we can be hanged if we show any sort of romance between us.

JAYSON

And that's the risk I'm willing to take for you.

QUINCE

But-

JAYSON

Look, Quince, I know that you're scared, so am I but this is what we choose. We are both Christian men who have feelings towards one another. And I want this to work- whatever this is I want it to work. I don't want no federal official or stupid rules to stop us.

QUINCE

And that another thing I believe in God, and I can't have any complications right now.

JAYSON

Is that what I am to you!? A complication.

QUINCE

Yes, I'm so sorry that I led you on for so long, but I can't be with you like this anymore. Maybe in another lifetime, but not now.

(Quince turns to leave, but Jayson grabs his hand)

JAYSON

Just tell me one thing before you leave.

QUINCE

What Jay?

JAYSON

Do you love me? I don't care if you lie to me I just want to hear those words come out of those sweet lips of yours.

QUINCE

(Beat)

To be honest, I don't know.

JAYSON

Do you still want the flowers that Grace wanted?

QUINCE

Yeah.

JAYSON

The Amaryllis is on the counter.

(Quince goes to the counter and picks up the Amaryllis and meets Jayson  
at the cashier. Jayson check him out)

QUINCE

Are you mad at me?

JAYSON

(Sighs)

You know that I can't stay mad at you.

QUINCE

I'm sorry.

JAYSON

You're forgiven.

QUINCE

(Exhales)

JAYSON

Only on one condition.

QUINCE

(Exhales)

What is it?

JAYSON

You have to kiss me.

QUINCE

Jay, I can't.

JAYSON

Why not?

QUINCE

Do you want to know why?

JAYSON

Yes.

QUINCE

Do you really want to know?

JAYSON

Now I might be scared of what you have to say.

QUINCE

I have a family Jayson. I have a beautiful family, and I love them very very much. I have a beautiful daughter that is so smart for her age and a wife. Even though we may have drifted apart in the last few months, she's still my wife, and I chose to marry her. And I can't risk them both on a relationship that won't last. I'm sorry that I have led you on for so long, but I thought that I wanted a change. I thought that something was missing, but all I really wanted was to bond with my family.

JAYSON

Are you serious Quince?

QUINCE

Yes, now if you'll excuse me I have a dinner to get to.

(Quince grabs the flowers that Grace ordered and place the money on the table)

QUINCE

By the way, keep the change.

(Quince exits)

JAYSON

He'll come back to me I just know he will.

SCENE 6

(Lights up. Saje is setting the table for dinner while Oscar is waiting patiently wait for Grace to finish cooking in the kitchen)

(Oscar sits down)

SAJE

You can't sit yet.

(Oscar stands up)

OSCAR

Why not?

SAJE

Because.

OSCAR

Because of what?

SAJE

Because I said so.

(Saje puts a spoon, a knife, and a fork at each plate)

OSCAR

Please let me sit.

SAJE

No! Not until the table is set and the special guest has arrived.

OSCAR

And who might this “special guest” be?

SAJE

I don’t know Madre won’t tell me.

OSCAR

Well, that’s quite unfair.

SAJE

Quite unfair indeed

(Pouts and folds arms)

OSCAR

How about this my lovely granddaughter? If you let me sit down, I’ll tell you who the special guest is.

(Saje thinks about it for a moment)

SAJE

OK!

(Oscar sits down)

OSCAR

Aren’t you also going to sit?

SAJE

Nope, I like standing.

OSCAR

OK, suit yourself.

OSCAR

(Beat)

Well, the special guest is-

(Just then Grace yells from the kitchen)

GRACE

Oscar!

OSCAR

What!

GRACE

Have you seen the cutting board!?

OSCAR

No!

GRACE

Are you sure!?

OSCAR

(Sighs)

Why would I use a cutting board if I don't know how to cook?

(Grace walks into the dining room)

GRACE

You do have a point.

OSCAR

Don't I always.

SAJE

Madre?

GRACE

Yes, love?

SAJE

I can't find the napkins.

(Grace sighs and bends down and meets Saje face-to-face)

GRACE

Did you check the living room cabinets?

SAJE

No.

(Saje goes to the living room to check for the napkins, and Grace checks  
the clock)

GRACE

Quince should've been back by now.

OSCAR

What time does Jayson's usually close?

GRACE

Around 5, why?

OSCAR

Nothing, just asking.

GRACE

Just asking? What's in that big brain of yours?

OSCAR

Ok, here's my theory

GRACE

I'm listening.

(Oscar stands up)

OSCAR

You know how Quince comes home late recently.

GRACE

That's because he's working overtime.

OSCAR

If so, why does he come home smelling like flowers?

GRACE

Well-

OSCAR

Why was he so eager to get you these flowers?

GRACE

Because he-

OSCAR

Why is he taking so long at Jayson's flower shop, Happy Petals? When it's not that far of a walk?

(Grace face falls in disbelief)

OSCAR

Why does he-

GRACE

Ok, Oscar, I get your point.

OSCAR

Listen, I didn't say those things to question your marriage.

GRACE

No, everything you said made sense.

(Oscar gets up and walks up to Grace)

OSCAR

I just want you to be careful, ok?

GRACE

Quince can't be, I mean... Jayson has been his best friend since grade school. Couldn't be something more, right?

OSCAR

That's up to you to decide.

(Oscar pats Grace on the shoulder and the doorbell rings)

GRACE

Who can that be?

OSCAR

Quince has his keys.

GRACE

You don't think it's.

(Beat)

(Both Oscar and Grace are filled with excitement and straighten themselves out)

GRACE

I'll get the chicken out of the oven.

OSCAR

I'll get the door.

(Oscar goes into the living room and opens the front door, and there stands a man wearing baggy clothes and worn out shoes)

OSCAR

Mark is that you!?

MARK

You haven't seen your son in ten years, and you're just going to stand there?

(Oscar pulls Mark into a hug)

OSCAR

My boy, boy it's been so long!

MARK

I know Dad I know.

OSCAR

Why don't you come in?

MARK

Gladly.

(Mark and Oscar walks into the living room)

MARK

And who is this?

OSCAR

This is Saje, my granddaughter... and your niece.

MARK

My niece!?

SAJE

How do you do?

(Saje extends her hand, and Mark shakes it)

MARK

How do you do?

SAJE

So you're my uncle?

MARK

I guess so.

SAJE

Cool!

MARK

Well, I guess I'm the cool uncle for now.

(Saje stares at Mark inquisitively and steps closer to Mark)

SAJE

Do I have any more uncles?

MARK

Yes, there was Jonathan-

OSCAR

That's enough Mark, you can get to know all about Saje later.

SAJE

Aww... I wanna know more!

(Grace enters the living room)

GRACE

Oscar is that Quince or-

(Mark face lights up and walks over to Grace)

MARK

Grace, it's so good to see you after so many years.

(Mark give Grace a little too friendly of a hug. Grace removes Mark's hands from her waist)

GRACE

You too, Markham.

MARK

Please call me Mark.

(Mark grabs and kisses Grace's hand)

GRACE

Mark...

MARK

You know Grace you don't look a day over seventeen.

GRACE

Uhh... thank you, Mark.

(Grace pulls her hand out of Mark's grab)

GRACE

Why doesn't everyone come to the dining room? The food is set and ready.

(Everyone enters the dining room except Grace and Oscar. Grace looks at the clock)

GRACE

He'll be here I know he will.

(Oscar gives Grace a wry smile and pats her on the shoulder as he enters the dining room and Grace follows him. Everyone takes a seat)

(Beat)

MARK

So Grace... Are you single?

SAJE

(Gasps)

So bold!

OSCAR

Indeed!

GRACE

(Sighs)

No, I'm not single, I'm married.

SAJE

Rejected.

OSCAR

Damn.

GRACE

Saje.

SAJE

Sorry, Madre.

MARK

Soo... ah.... who's the lucky guy?

(Quince walks into the house and walks straight into the dining room)

QUINCE

Sorry, I'm late Grace; I got your Amaryllis.

(Quince eyes wanders to Mark, and he is filled with rage)

QUINCE

What the hell is he doing here!?

(Mark stands up with open arms)

MARK

Aren't you going to give your younger brother a hug Quincy?

QUINCE

Fuck you.

(Grace covers Saje's ears)

GRACE

Language Quince!

SAJE

Don't worry Madre, I know all the curse words.

QUINCE

Why is he in my house, isn't he supposed to be in prison!?

OSCAR

This is my home Quince; I still pay the mortgage here.

GRACE

Um... he kinda got released.

QUINCE

Well, this just ruined my whole fucking mood.

MARK

(Stands up)

Maybe I should leave.

QUINCE

Yeah, maybe you should!

SAJE

But I like Uncle Mark, and you should stay, plus we didn't say grace yet.

(Quince turns towards Saje)

QUINCE

Saje let's make one thing clear, as long as you live in my house your opinion isn't valid. Got it?

SAJE

If you will excuse me.

(Saje runs upstairs with tears in her eyes)

GRACE

Saje...

OSCAR

I'll go after her.

(Oscar goes after Saje)

GRACE

What's wrong with you!

QUINCE

She'll get over it.

GRACE

You know how sensitive she can be.

MARK

I'll just leave.

QUINCE

Just go!

MARK

Before I go, why do you hate me so much?

QUINCE

Why... you want to know why (laughs) because you're a traitor, sellout, and liar.

MARK

I'm sorry Quincy-

QUINCE

Don't call me that like we're the best of friends.

MARK

Look, dude, I'm really sorry.

QUINCE

Well fuck your apology and just go!

(Mark exits)

GRACE

I can't believe you said that to Saje.

(Grace exits)

QUINCE

(Sighs)

Why am I always the bad guy?

(Oscar comes down the stairs and slaps Quince across the face)

OSCAR How fucking dare you!

(Quince holds his cheek)

QUINCE

What the fuck did I do!

OSCAR

You have some nerve thinking you can control things around here.

QUINCE

How could you let him inside here after what he did?

OSCAR

You think it wasn't hard for me to accept that he was the one responsible for killing Jonathan? You think it wasn't hard for me to accept that he had put your life and other lives in danger? I'd welcome him into my home without having a second thought because he's my son... my son. I know what he did still hurts, Quince. But you think I don't feel or angry that Jonathan is gone!?

(tears start to roll down Quince's and Oscar's faces)

Every second of the day, not a thought in my mind goes without thinking “How would Jonathan handle this situation?” or “what would Jonathan do?” I’m his father he should've been burying me, not the other way around.

QUINCE

I’m sorry I didn’t know that’s how you feel.

OSCAR

Do you know the last thing we talked about?

QUINCE

No, what was your last conversation?

OSCAR

We talked about our annual camping trip, and the different campsites we could go after the war ended.... But after Jonathan died, I sold all my camping gear and refuse to be stuck in the past. Maybe you should do the same thing, Quince.

(Oscar pats Quince on the shoulder and exits)

SCENE 7

(Lights up in a cold dark basement and the only sense of light is a light bulb swinging back and front. Younger versions of Mark, Quince, and Jonathan are chained to the wall inches apart from each other)

QUINCE

You ever thought about killing yourselves?

JONATHAN

Last Thursday, why?

QUINCE (laughs)

That's funny, I stopped keeping count of the day we been down here.

MARK

How do you know, Johnny?

JONATHAN

Well, I-

QUINCE

Shut up, Mark.

MARK

Frankly, I wasn't talking to you Quincy.

QUINCE

First of all don't ever, ever, ever call me that like we're the best of friends. Second, we wouldn't be here in the first place if it wasn't for you!

JONATHAN

Quince, my dear brother, you shouldn't be so hard on him, he's just a boy.

QUINCE

Oh really, who told his ass to run away from home and lie about his age just to join the army? (Turns to Mark) You know that Mom and Dad are probably looking for you; you know how mom is, she probably has posters on every block, going door to door asking where's her son is.

JONATHAN

Dude that's was about six months ago, and you can't blame him for that.

MARK

Yeah, I already apologized.

QUINCE

Well, news flash-

JONATHAN

So much negativity in the air, let's just turn it into positivity.

(Beat)

MARK

Dude.

JONATHAN

What.

QUINCE

Shut the hell up already.

MARK

Leave him alone, Quince.

JONATHAN

I don't know why he's so mean to me.

MARK

He's mean to everyone.

JONATHAN

I know, right?

MARK

It might be contagious

JONATHAN

Hey, Quincy.

QUINCE

Yeah.

MARK

How come he gets to call you Quincy, and I don't?

QUINCE

Because I don't like you, Mark.

JONATHAN

Whoa, whoa, whoa, what did I say about the negativity?

QUINCE

You're such a hippie.

JONATHAN

Yeah, yeah.

(beat)

Remember every Christmas Dad would gather us around the fireplace and tell us about his army stories?

QUINCE

I like the one when got stabbed twice in the arm and took out the blade and stabbed his enemy in the eye.

MARK

I like the one when he got shot in the leg and continued moving forward until he reached the love of his life and proposed to her.

JONATHAN

You know that Oscar Mason Charles never gives up.

MARK

Mom said she was about to faint when Dad reached her.

QUINCE

Too bad we can't see them.

MARK

Yeah...

JONATHAN

Yeah...

(Quince stares directly at Mark)

QUINCE

I wonder whose fault that is?

MARK

I said I was sorry.

QUINCE Yeah you did, but you didn't say what for.

MARK

Excuse me?

QUINCE

You heard me.

MARK

(Sighs)

I'm sorry about triggering the alarm.

QUINCE

And....

MARK

Making our whole troop get caught by the enemy and get shipped to different parts of the country.

QUINCE

Keep going.

MARK

And coming up with the idea to escape, but it only led us to get imprisoned.

QUINCE

And.

MARK

And that's it.

QUINCE

Oh, I don't think so little bro.

MARK

I already apologized for everything that I did.

QUINCE

There's one more thing that you need to apologize for.

JONATHAN

Oh, not this argument again.

QUINCE

You ate my franks and beans!

MARK

For the last time, I didn't touch your franks and beans!

QUINCE

Yes, you did!

MARK

No, I didn't!

QUINCE

Yes, you did!

MARK

No, I didn't!

QUINCE

I saw you!

MARK

No, you didn't!

QUINCE

Yes, I did!

JONATHAN

How can you see him when we're always in the dark?

QUINCE

Because!.... Because when the sinners came down to feed us, I was already fast asleep, but then I felt you roll, and

I woke because I am a light sleeper and I saw you eat my franks and beans.

JONATHAN

Come on Quince, it's just franks and beans.

QUINCE

Just franks and beans.... Just franks and beans, it's not just franks and beans, but it's the only meal we have a day

the only time that we're unchained and get to roam around in this hell hole!

MARK

You're so immature sometimes I can... ugh!

QUINCE

Sometimes you can do what Mark? Well, guess what? You can't do anything while you're chained up to the wall.

MARK

(Mumbles to himself)

That's what you think.

(Footsteps can be heard at the top of the stairs)

JONATHAN

(Whispers)

Hey, can both of you shut the hell up! You don't want them to come downstairs, do you?

MARK

(Whispers)

Sorry.

QUINCE

(Whispers)

Quiet Mark!

JONATHAN

(Whispers)

I remember the last time they came down here... they almost killed me and Quince.

MARK

(Mumbles)

Maybe that was supposed to happen.

QUINCE

(Whispers)

What?

MARK

(Whispers)

Nothing.

(The footsteps disappears)

JONATHAN

(Exhales)

Thank God they're gone.

JONATHAN

Shhh... can you hear that?

QUINCE

Hear what?

(Footsteps approach the basement door)

JONATHAN

That!

QUINCE

You think it might be the sinners again?

JONATHAN

I told you guys to be quiet.

MARK

They're not sinners.

QUINCE

What?

MARK

Their names are Calvin Jameson and Susan Jameson and their my.... friends.

JONATHAN

What do you mean by "friends"?

QUINCE

Yeah, what do you mean by friends?

MARK

I mean that... Um well-

JONATHAN

Forget it. He's probably hallucinating from a lack of sleep or water; let's just get some sleep and talk about this some other time.

QUINCE

Fine, but this conversation isn't over Mark, you hear me?

MARK

Yeah.

SCENE 8

(Present day, three days after Mark's welcome home party. It's the middle of the afternoon, and Oscar had taken Saje to the park. Grace walks into the living room with grocery bags in her hands. Soft moans can be heard from the Grace's and Quince bedroom.)

GRACE

(Yells)

Quince are you home?

(The sounds coming from the bedroom continue, and Grace sets her bag on the kitchen counter and follows the noise, going up the stairs)

GRACE

(Yells)

Quince!

(The sounds from the bedroom become clearer—Quince's and Jayson's voices. Grace puts her ear to the bedroom door)

QUINCE

You like that don't you?

JAYSON

(Moans)

Yeah, do me harder.

QUINCE

Beg for it.

JAYSON

(Moans)

Please.

QUINCE

Huh? I couldn't hear you.

JAYSON

(Moans)

Please do me harder big daddy.

QUINCE

Fuck. I think I'm going to-

(Grace bursts through the door and catches Quince and Jayson in bed together)

GRACE

(Astonished by what she sees)

Quince!?

(Quince looks up at Grace and is shocked when he meets her eyes)

QUINCE

Grace!?

(Jayson also meet Grace's eyes and is also shocked)

JAYSON

Uh.... um.... Hi, Grace. Nice weather we're having, (nervous laugh) am I right, am I right!?

QUINCE

Now isn't the time to make wisecracks, Jayson.

GRACE

What the actual fuck-

(Jayson sits on the bed and turn to Quince)

JAYSON

Well, you oughta be ashamed of yourself to lead this poor woman on.

GRACE

Quince-

QUINCE

Oh, I should be ashamed of myself!? At least I don't seduce married men!

GRACE

Quince-

JAYSON

Well, at least I don't hide that I'm gay from my wife!

GRACE

Quince-

QUINCE

Well, at least I don't-

GRACE

Quince!

(Both Quince and turn to Grace. Grace steps towards Quince)

GRACE

Quince, how can you do this to me?... to us?

QUINCE

Grace... I-I don't know what to say.

(Tears fills Grace's eyes)

GRACE

Then tell me why.

QUINCE

I-I don't know where to begin.

JAYSON

Grace all I can say is that I'm sorry.

GRACE

(Turns to Jayson)

You're sorry.... you're sorry!? I thought you were my friend, the times I spend in your flower shop laughing, talking, and catching up with life was all fake-

JAYSON

No no no Grace that was all real and I am your friend.

GRACE

Well if you were my friend you wouldn't sleep with my husband.

JAYSON

Look, Grace-

GRACE

Just go, Jayson.

JAYSON

Grace I-

GRACE

Just leave Jayson don't ever....ever talk to me, don't even call my name out while walk on the sidewalk and don't expect me to order another bouquet of flowers from you. Our friendship is over.

JAYSON

Grace, please.....

GRACE

Just go Jayson.... Just go.

(Jayson grabs a sheet and wraps it around his waist and exits)

(Beat)

GRACE

So how long?

QUINCE

How long....?

GRACE

How long have you and Jayson been a.... thing?

QUINCE

Grace, I don't want to get into that.

GRACE

How long?

QUINCE

Grace I-

GRACE

How long!

QUINCE

Almost 3 months.

(Grace inhales and exhales)

GRACE

Did you use a condom?

QUINCE

What?

GRACE

Did you or did you not use a condom while you were with Jayson?

(Quince looks down at the floor then, meets Grace's angry eyes)

QUINCE

Almost never.

(Filled with rage, Grace starts to throw stuff at Quince)

GRACE

I can't believe you!

(She throws a book at Quince)

QUINCE

I'm so sorry Grace, you don't know how sorry I am for hurting you.

GRACE

Am I not attractive to you anymore!?

QUINCE

It's not that you're not a very, very beautiful woman, it's just that things changed.... I changed.

GRACE

If I caught you with a woman than I can change myself for you I can get plastic surgery, do my hair, lose a couple of pounds. But a man.... I can't compete with that, I can't give what Jayson has.

(Quince wraps a sheet around his waist and walks towards Grace)

QUINCE

But we can get through this... together.

GRACE

No, we can't. I don't want to stand in so I'm leaving.

QUINCE

What do you-

GRACE

I'm done, Quince.

QUINCE

What?

GRACE

You don't have to hide that your gay from me anymore.

QUINCE

Grace, sweetheart-

GRACE

Don't call me that!

QUINCE

I'm not gay.

GRACE

Oh really, well you could've fooled me.

(Grace turns to leave, but Quince grabs her hand)

GRACE

Don't touch me.

QUINCE

Where are you going Grace?

GRACE

None of your business.

(Grace makes her way down to the living room, and Quince follows her)

QUINCE

Grace... Stop. Please, Grace, hear out what I gotta say.

GRACE

And what exactly do you have to say? That you're sorry!? That it was only a fling and it will never happen again!?

That you love me more than anything!?

(Quince is at a loss for words and stares at Grace for a moment then looks  
at the ground)

GRACE

Goodbye Quince... forever.

(Grace exits)

(Quince looks up at the ceiling)

QUINCE

Dear Lord, what have I done?

END OF ACT ONE