

The Supernatural Intervention of Callow Burrows Twins
Kimberlee Stone

CHARACTERS

EVELYN BURROWS...CHARLIE'S twin sister and MIMI's partner (of three years), pragmatic, with a rough tough exterior, but sometimes sentimental and picks up on tiny details quickly. She harbors resentment for her brother for the way he handled (or didn't handle) their parent's sudden passing.

CHARLIE BURROWS...EVELYN'S twin brother and COLTON partner (of six years), overdramatic, flashy, and prone to fits of hysteria (at his own whimsy), but currently harboring a lot of guilt about his parent's passing (that was in direct relation to a surprise he never got to reveal or reveal in because of it.)

MIMI (also plays RICHARD BURROWS) ...is EVELYN partner (of three years). Misses her friendship with COLTON and CHARLIE. Wants peace. RICHARD...is the ghost of WREN'S and CHARLIE'S late father, in a younger ghostly form, who is extremely loquacious in speech, and seemingly prim and proper but accepting; give bird pet names to all.

COLTON (also plays HELENA BURROWS) CHARLIE'S partner (of six years) and was once a huge social butterfly but has since been confined to an office job and in desperate need of time with MIMI; devises the initial plan. HELENA...the ghost of EVELYN and CHARLIE'S late mother, but in younger form; extremely nurturing and doting of her loved ones; completely in love and in service of RICHARD.

MADAME NORVINA.... the host of the paranormal therapy session. Has called upon RICHARD and HELENA to aid in mending fences that will allow them to cross over, but only gives three chances to do it.

SETTING:

EVELYN/CHARLIE'S APARTMENTS (Scene 1,2) – Mostly indicated by lights and props.

MADAME NORVINA'S ABODE (mortal world) - Large two-story Victorian style home with lots of knickknacks and witchy unusals.

MADAME NORVINA'S ABODE (in the veil) –the same, look-wise, but everything feels untethered and muted (can be achieved with just lights if need be).

SCENE 1: Obligations

*Split stage. CHARLIE and COLTON's room/MIMI and WREN'S living room.
Lights shift back and forth between the two spaces.*

CHARLIE is in his closet, COLTON lounging outside of the closet – getting ready.

MIMI is flitting about the living room, tidying up to leave for the night, while a be-speckled and serious WREN, in work mode, tries to ignore her partner while on her laptop.

CHARLIE/EVELYN

Nooooooo.....

COLTON

You're two.

MIMI

Legs up, please.
And down. Thank you.
And we're going.

CHARLIE

This is the absolute worst thing you could've sprung on me.

COLTON

Sprung? Charlie, I told you two weeks ago.

CHARLIE

Yes, and two weeks ago was two weeks ago. I thought you may have changed your mind by *now*. Come to your sense, realized how utterly how traumatic such a fete would be.

COLTON

Now, now Barbara...there are no TONYs to be won with that attitude tonight.

CHARLIE

Cole, we've tried this before, and it went TERRIBLY. I just don't see the point.

MIMI

(sing-songy)

Lynnnnn....Lynnnnnnnnnnnnn.....

EVELYN

(working avidly on her laptop, barely looking up)

You rang?

MIMI

I sang, actually.

EVELYN

Well do re mi, so fa-uck all the way off and good night

MIMI

Nice, very clever. You're not getting out of this.

EVELYN

I am not the one who got us into this either. I've got a mountain of work to do and am, quite frankly, not in the mood for these shenanigans.

COLTON/MIMI

It's just dinner with you sister/brother.

COLTON

You two used to be as thick as thieves.

CHARLIE

Thick as thieves?

COLTON

Would you prefer bosom buddies?

CHARLIE

I would prefer that we conveniently forget this little affair you and Mimi arranged.

EVELYN

Mimi, my darling, my love.

Now is simply not the time, nor will it ever be.

Between work and the world...
being constantly on fire

I don't see how we have the time.

CHARLIE

We're just terribly busy. I don't see....

I don't see how we'll possibly find the time.

MIMI

See? You're already channeling that *fantastic* New England, old money charm! The aloofness, the drama, you're basically ready.

EVELYN

No.

COLTON

Perhaps I should've called you Lupone instead?

MIMI

Lyn.

EVELYN

Mimi, I love you ardently,

MIMI

She loves me ardently she says.

EVELYN

MOST ardently, but we've already been down this road.

MIMI

Yes, and you stormed out.

EVELYN

Rightfully so.

MIMI

We're going.

CHARLIE

The diva doesn't matter Frankie, I'm not leaving this flat.

COLTON

Oh, so we're British now. How *fetching*. So, would you like to wear a cravat or beret with your dramatic air of whimsy tonight?

CHARLIE

How you limit me.

COLTON

We must remember Chanel, my love.

CHARLIE

Must we? Wasn't she kind of a Nazi?

COLTON

Keep the saying, forget the woman? And as the saying goes...

COLTON/CHARLIE

Always remove one thing before leaving the house.

MIMI

Okay, honesty time. Look, Lyn, Cole and I have been talking.

EVELYN

Yes, I've gathered as much.

MIMI

Cole and I have been talking for *awhile*

EVELYN

(peering up from her work)

Awhile? How long is *awhile*?

MIMI

Unimportant.

EVELYN

Very important. Because it sounds like you two were having quite an affair.

MIMI

Now you're *really* channeling your brother.

EVELYN

Well if you two have been speaking, in under the cover of night, when we all agreed --

MIMI

No, no. *YOU* agreed, for the four of us. And Cole and I both felt completely shanghaied!

EVELYN

Why you insist on bringing up the past when you know it upsets the both of us.

EVELYN returns to her work, MIMI closes her laptop and forces her to look her in the face.

MIMI

Regardless, of this tantrum AND the circumstances. Cole and I both agree that this little fight of yours has gone on too long.

EVELYN
(opening her laptop again)

Not for you two to decide.

MIMI
(closes the laptop)

It is when we are the ones that have to live with the likes of the two of you.

EVELYN

I beg your pardon.

MIMI

For the past year and a half, you've done nothing but bristle and bemoan your brother's name. Anytime anyone ever mentions him.

EVELYN rolls her eyes and strolls over to the drink cart, pours herself a stiff whiskey.

EVELYN

Would you like something?

MIMI strolls behind her and closes the bottle leisurely, takes her drink from her hand, sets it down, and turns her around, to face her – her arms around her neck playfully.

MIMI

Evie...

EVELYN

Lyn.

MIMI

Lyn. You've been so busy at work, and been working ultra-hard, as have I. I want to go to the fancy dinner. Can we please go to the fancy dinner?

EVELYN

Can we just not go ourselves? Without unwanted company or distractions?

MIMI

I know you miss him...

COLTON

...I know you miss her.

CHARLIE/EVELYN

I DO NOT.

COLTON

Regardless, I miss her AND Mimi. And I want to have a nice evening of leisure with them.

CHARLIE

Can we do that? For me? Can't we meet other girls?

COLTON

No darling because you can never quite put your claws away long enough to meet other girls.

CHARLIE

That only happens if they are prettier than me.

COLTON

Which you feel they always are even though it shouldn't be about competition.

CHARLIE

Yet, it always is.

COLTON

3rd Wave Feminism is truly dead.

CHARLIE

It never had a chance, darling.

EVELYN

Mimi, my sweet, I'll do whatever you want, just don't make me go.

MIMI

This is what I want.

EVELYN

Want something else.

MIMI

No, I miss Colton and Frank and I want to see them. The reservation is for four, we're keeping it for four, and that's that.

COLTON

No buts – we're ending this feud. Tonight.

MIMI/COLTON

Be ready in thirty.

A simultaneous groan comes from both siblings while shoes come flying from CHARLIE'S closet, as COLTON still casually waits outside. EVELYN retrieves her drink and scoops up her laptop as MIMI, hands her clothing. Everything freezes.

SCENE 2: Rooting Out the Issue

A mysterious figure (MADAME NORVINA) enters, sauntering across the stage. She stops at the edge of the playing space and smiles wryly.

A ringing of phone is heard.

She snaps her fingers, COLTON animates and “floats” towards her and freezes again. She produces a phone receiver from her bag.

The ringing is heard again. She snaps once more, bringing MIMI forward, before MIMI freezes again.

The ringing occurs once more. She “picks up,” turning to COLTON, who animates once more. (The following scene is in reverse order of how it occurred in “reality”)

MADAME NORVINA

You know what you're getting everyone into, dear boy?

COLTON

I want to fix everything. I want things to move forward.

MADAME NORVINA snaps her fingers again, fast forwarding the conversation from that same night. COLTON pulls out a laptop, scrolls for a few beats, and squeals in delight.

COLTON

Perfect.

He dials.

Hi, can I speak to a Madame Norvina, please?

MADAME NORVINA snaps her fingers. Everything rewinds, MIMI is animated. COLTON is holding a small blue box while the two talk to each other, while MADAME NORVINA watches on.

MIMI

We don't want to start our own personal Cold Wars?

COLTON

Right. We definitely don't want that, but we want more than just these happenstance rendezvous when we have the time right? So what if we speed this process along?

MIMI

Meaning?

COLTON

What if we "arranged" something that requires all of our participation.

MIMI

Like a...

COLTON

I have an idea. Do you trust me.

MIMI

Does this mean I get to actually *see* you?

COLTON

Yes.

MIMI

Then I'm in.

MADAME NORVINA snaps again, unsatisfied with the information, everything rewinds again. COLTON picks up a coat and something drops from the pocket.

COLTON

One second Meems, I dropped something.

He picks up the object, only to find a small, blue velveteen box. Curious, he opens it and lets out a tiny gasp.

(to himself)

Oh my god. Oh my god. Oh my god.

MIMI

Cole? Are you okay?

He quickly squirrels the box away in the jacket he found it and tries to regain composure.

COLTON

Sorry, yes, sorry, where were we?

She snaps. They freeze. She encircles them.

MADAME NORVINA

Interesting...very interesting. But not quite enough information.

She snaps. They rewind once more. She snaps, they begin.

MIMI

God, hasn't this gone on long enough?

COLTON

You mean *our* separation or theirs?

MIMI

Both, but you remember last time...

COLTON

I thought that being in a *public* place might curb their behavior.

MIMI

The waiter who had that escargot dumped all over him would disagree.

COLTON

Clearly, we're not "welcome" back there. So, we're destined to just meet clandestinely or in secret, then?

MIMI

I miss you.

COLTON

I miss *you*.

She snaps, they freeze.

MADAME NORVINA

Cute...but how about...one (*snap, rewind*)

COLTON

Hey.

MIMI

Heyyyy.

COLTON

Oh my god, that's what your voice sounds like?

MIMI

Wow, rude.

COLTON

No no no no. I mean I *missed* it. I've only heard your voicemail and that just wasn't enough.

MADAME NORVINA

More (*snap, fast forward*)

COLTON

Tell me about it. I had to basically do covert ops to try to sneak this call in.

MIMI

Charlie being insane again?

COLTON

Isn't he always? Gotta assert that BIG DIVA energy.

MIMI

Like brother, like sister.

MADAME NORVINA

Time (*snap, fast forward.*)

MIMI

Ever since their falling out, Evelyn has been so up and down and up and down and OH SO VERY UP and like the lowest and angriest I've ever seen her and I never know which one I'm gonna get.

MADAME NORVINA snaps once more, finally seeing what she wants.

MADANE NORVINA

There.

She snaps for a final time, and watches. She pulls out the phone. A ringing of phone sounds, sending MIMI offstage, COLTON remains.

Yes, dear boy, I think I understand exactly what you may need.

Lights go down. Scene shifts to exterior of NORVINA's home.

SCENE 3: LOOP #1

Wind chimes are heard. Outside of MADAME NORVINA's abode. EVELYN and MIMI enter.

EVELYN

What am I wearing?

MIMI

A very pretty, vintage, *expensive* dress.

EVELYN

You said all of my favorite words, but I don't know that I like their order. What are you wearing?

MIMI

A suit of similar quality and vintage, but with pizzazz.

EVELYN

Why am I wearing this?

MIMI

Colton requested our presence in our finest "eleganza" vintage attire.

EVELYN

That man needs to stop watching Drag Race. It's a show not a personality.

MIMI

We're in fine form tonight.

EVELYN

Mimi, you already know that I do not want to be here. But here I am, dressed to the all out nines, which took way longer than I wanted it to, but I did it *for* you. I am here *for* you. About to brave a night with my --

(gags)
Brother for you.

MIMI gently her gently, resting her forehead against hers.

EVELYN
You always know how to reel me in.

MIMI
Stay reeled in, Lyn. For me?

EVELYN
Anything and everything for you.

MIMI
Let's do this thing.

*EVELYN nods. MIMI goes to ring the doorbell. As the door opens, they step inside and "disappear."
COLTON and CHARLIE enter – both decked out in their best as well.*

CHARLIE
I hate turtlenecks.

COLTON
Because you think your neck looks fat in them?

CHARLIE
Are you going to make a sport of my insecurities tonight?

COLTON
Only if I have to, darling.

CHARLIE
This is weird. This is a weird thing you're making us do.

COLTON
Not weird – quirky. And spooky! You like spooky.

CHARLIE

I like the *idea* of macabre and the *aesthetic* of macabre. Real life macabre? Not so much?

COLTON

This will be fun, I promise. Plus, you look amazing.

COLTON twirls him around and kisses his cheek. CHARLIE is flattered, but still rolls his eyes.

CHARLIE

Ugh. You know what flattery does to me.

COLTON

It gets me everywhere. You will be nice tonight, won't you?

CHARLIE

I am not the problem.

COLTON

You're part of the equation.

CHARLIE

I will be on my angel's best behavior.

COLTON

Thank you.

CHARLIE

You know it's not too late to...

COLTON

I'm ringing the doorbell now.

CHARLIE

Once more unto the breach, as they say.

COLTON

Put the Bard away and put on a smile please.

CHARLIE turns to him and flashes a cheesy smile. As the doorbell rings, the door opens once more. They share a look, but step inside anyway and “disappear.” The scene shifts around them revealing -- MADAME NORVINA’s abode – Interior.

As the door closes, the scene shifts around EVEYLN, CHARLIE, MIMI, and COLTON.

EVEYLN and CHARLIE are now in a heated staring contest and MIMI and COLTON are embracing -- all are frozen in time. A squeal from MIMI and COLTON.

MIMI

Oh my god, your face!

COLTON

Oh my god YOUR face!

CHARLIE and EVELYN say nothing. COLTON and MIMI break a part. They go to greet/embrace the opposite partner.

COLTON

Hey Lyn.

MIMI

Sup Charlie.

EVELYN

CHARLIE

Hello Cole.

Hello Mimi.

Silence.

The sound of an ancient grandfather clock chimes, causing CHARLIE and EVELYN to cling to one another – out of instinct.

MIMI and COLTON share a look. CHARLIE and EVELYN separate like shrapnel. Everyone couples with their partner. MIMI and COLTON share a look.

COLTON

Too spooky babe?

CHARLIE

(slightly higher pitch)

No... *(clears throat)* no. Of course not.

EVELYN

Release your hold of me.

CHARLIE

Don't play coy, that was clearly not *just* me.

EVELYN

You've always been such a child.

CHARLIE

As if you weren't clinging to me like I was the last piece of driftwood on the Titanic

EVELYN

Come off it, Charles.

CHARLES

Ladies, first Evie...

*A crack of thunder. Everyone couples with their partner.
MIMI clears her throat.*

MIMI

Well.... shall we?

*Just as the quartet begins to make their way deeper into the house, a shadow
appears at the top of the stairs – causing everyone to be taken aback.*

MADAME NORVINA

Welcome, welcome To Madame Norvina's Abode.

*MADAME NORVINA advances from the shadows, walking straight up to
COLTON. She extends her hand.*

MADAME NORVINA

Colton Murdoch?

COLTON

M-Madame Norvina.

*He takes her hand and kisses it. MIMI, CHARLIE, and EVELYN all share a look
of confusion.*

MADAME NORVINA

Charlie and Evelyn, I presume?

CHARLIE
Yes, charmed I'm sure. (*extending his hand*)

EVELYN
Yes.

MADAME NORVINA chuckles, swatting his hand away and extending her own. He balks, only to catch her gaze, mesmerized. He takes her hand and bows. She turns to face EVELYN, extending her hand, which she takes without question. She turns to MIMI.

MADAME NORVINA
Mimi Marquez...you wanted to go (*singing*) ouuuuutttt tonight. Did you not?

MIMI
It's not...Marqu-

MADAME NORVINA
I know, honey, it was merely some humor to lighten the mood.

MADAME NORVINA extends her hand; they lock eyes, she takes her hand robotically and bows to it as well.

MADAME NORVINA
It seems as though you are all unaware of your whereabouts tonight? You were misinformed? Misled?

COLTON
Madame Norvina, I told them only –

MADAME NORVINA
You told them nothing. I can sense that. It's very palpable energy of confusion that's in this abode this evening, but no matter – I assume it was for *the best*.

MIMI
Colton, where are we?

EVELYN
Yeah, and when will we dine?

CHARLIE
Thinking with our stomach again?

EVELYN

Better my stomach than with my --
Hey
Why are we saying --

MADAME NORVINA

Better the gut than with the --
Hey.
Why are we saying --

MADAME NORVINA raises her finger to her lips, prompting EVELYN to do the same. EVELYN goes to remove her finger, only to replace the finger with her full hand. MADAME NORVINA pats her on the head. NINA tries to remove her hand, but find she cannot, she begins to panic, as does everyone else – but COLTON, who stands in bemusement.

MADAME NORVINA

Better to keep those thoughts to yourself – for now – dear girl. It'll all come out in time. But as for dinner? It awaits.

MADAME NORVINA beckons with two fingers for EVELYN and CHARLIE to follow. MIMI and COLTON stop dead cold, as if they are stuck in place. A foghorn is heard. Putting both in a trance.

MADAME NORVINA

(Voice Over)

Not you two. Not yet.

MADAME NORVINA appears on the balcony above them, unbeknownst to the pair, smirking.

MADAME NORVINA

(whispers)

Just past the veil we all must step. To seek a deeper truth. Past the veil we all must step, to regain vestiges of our youth. The two must step into the vessels here to regain what a feud has verily rebuked.

As MADAME NORVINA fades into the background a foghorn. MIMI straightens her demeanor into a formal stance, and suddenly grabs his hand and pulls him into her. Causing COLTON to “yelp” in surprise. Once she has, the foghorn sounds again and fills the room. He takes a deep breath in – and with that breath his demeanor changes too – regal and flowy, and melts into her embrace.

MIMI *(as RICHARD)*

It's been awhile since we've danced. I've sincerely missed you my somber little dove.

COTLON (*as HELENA*)

Oh, Richard!

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

In this life or the other, we always find each other.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)
(*Chuckles*)

It feels like forever since we've seen each other.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

I believe it was only this morning.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Feels like much, much longer than that.

He rests his head on her shoulder, they continue to dance. MADAME NORVINA appears on balcony.

MADAME NORVINA

Immortal love is always bittersweet.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

What in the dickens!

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Oh, my heaven!

MADAME NORVINA

Hello, chickens, come to roost?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

W-who are you? I request clearance.

MADAME NORVINA

Oh sweet, Dick.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

I do not prefer that nomenclature.

MADAME NORVINA

We haven't the time for preferences, the floor show is about to begin.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Floor show?

MADAME NORVINA

Yes sweet, chicks. You are needed in the dining room for the main attraction.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Main attraction? Dining room? Where are we?

MADAME NORVINA

All will be revealed, but the mortals await.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Mortals? But that would imply?

MADAME NORVINA

Darling, Lena, you must already know. You're dead and needed in the mortal realm for a spell. Now, pip pip. And act natural. The mortals don't know what's coming.

MADAME NORVINA disappears from the balcony. They are able to see inhabiting.

COLTON (as HELENA)

We're dead?

MIMI (as RICHARD)

And now we must act? Natural? Whatever that means.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Richard, love, have you spotted what you're sporting?

MIMI (as RICHARD) looks down and is immediately aghast.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

OH! I see. I guess I get to see how the other half lives?

COLTON (as HELENA)

As do I.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Regardless, you look quite dashing darling.

COLTON (as HELENA)

And you look dapper as ever.

They embrace and share a kiss. Mid-kiss, MADAME NORVINA appears again.

MADAME NORVINA

Since you two can't hurry it up in this form yet.

A foghorn sounds. The two return to form as MIMI and COLTON.

MIMI COLTON
What the – fuck... THE FUCK?!

COLTON
Were we just kissing?

MIMI
And in a seemingly firm embrace no less.

MIMI/COLTON
We never speak of this again.

Dinner bell sounds. The two tidy themselves up as the furniture shifts to reveal the dining room. Dinner is in progress, and tense. They are all seated around a circular table. The seating arrangements are as follows: MADAME NORVINA in the center spot, EVELYN and CHARLIE on either side with MIMI's empty chair on EVELYN's left and COLTON's empty chair on CHARLIE's right.

MADAME NORVINA
How kind of the two of you two join us.

MIMI and COLTON take their seats, almost simultaneously.

EVELYN (to MIMI)	CHARLIE (to COLTON)	MIMI (to EVELYN)	COLTON (to CHARLIE)
Did you find the washroom fine?	Colton, dear, where the hell were you?	Washroom? (MIMI and COLTON share look MIMI mouths BATHROOM)	The bathroom! There was a bit of a line, sorry.
It's fine...? Just don't leave me alone. This place is quite strange.	Alright? I was just alone. The woman is peculiar	I'm sorry, love.	Oh, is she?

The clinking of a metal on glass.

MADAME NORVINA
Now that we've all found our way back to the festivities. Let's begin.

EVELYN

Begin? What, pray tell, are we starting that hasn't already occurred?

CHARLIE

Yes, do tell what other madness might possibly incur.

The pair chortle. A low chuckle emanates from MADAME NORVINA, she snaps. A foghorn sounds. Smoke starts to fill the room, and lights are all a flutter. MIMI and COLTON share a look, are immediately affected and resume their postures as RICHARD and HELENA. EVELYN and CHARLIE immediately make a break for the exit, MADAME NORVINA snaps again, the sounds of doors being slammed and locked are heard. MADAME NORVINA snaps, bringing the pair back to their seats, and facing her. MIMI AND COLTON on either side of her, all peering down at the twins.

CHARLIE

Colton, what fresh hell is this?

EVELYN

Mimi, I demand we leave at once.

MADAME NORVINA

Sorry, chickadees. You're here, until this is resolved.

EVELYN

Mimi?

CHARLIE

Colton...

MADAME NORVINA

Are not currently present but may return once everything is resolved.

EVELYN

You keep speaking of resolution when there is nothing.

MADAME NORVINA puts her finger to lips, prompting EVELYN to do the same once more.

MADAME NORVINA

Always speaking out of turn, but never what is fully true. That'll be enough from you for now.

CHARLIE

Thank heavens.

MADAME NORVINA turns to CHARLIE and does the same gesture, silencing him as well.

MADAME NORVINA

You have been lured here under false pretenses. Or mostly false pretenses, and now it's time to make those wrongs right, and get the therapy you most definitely deserve. These companions are no longer your own, but you might recognize them in due time, with proper care and attention paid. They will your key, as you are to them. But the rest of this process will be done in their world, on their terms, not yours. And be mindful, chickadees. Every wrongful outburst will result in a redo, but with less knowledge than you have now. And you only get three tries to right the wrongs of the past two years. I will be in my chambers...keeping time as it were. Ta-ta for now.

She "disappears."

EVELYN

I beg your pardon? Norvina? NORVINA.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

You can try to shout her down, lark, but she might not obey. She has her own rules.

CHARLIE

Ridiculous. This is ridiculous.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Now, now. Mustn't get too mused. Keep that head on the straight and narrow and we'll sort this out.

EVELYN

"Mustn't get too mused?" We're in a literal crazy woman's "abode" against our will and good sense, given extremely cryptic "rules" and basically been told to figure it out ourselves or else?

CHARLIE

Yes, the or else has to me too. Or else what?

COLTON (as HELENA)

Well, you see, we're dead.

CHARLIE

No, you're Colton.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Helena, actually.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

And I'm Richard.

COLTON (as HELENA)/MIMI (as RICHARD)

And we're...

MADAME NORVINA appears on the balcony.

MADAME NORVINA

Tut tut, pets that's that not the game.

EVELYN

The game?

MIMI (as RICHARD)

What's fair is fair, applies in the afterlife, I suppose.

EVELYN

No. Absolutely not.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Are you having some sort of fit, darling?

EVELYN bursts out in hysterical laughter.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Well, I'll take as a yes. Darling, have a seat. Take a breath. Maybe have some water.

EVELYN

No, absolutely not. I will not be doing any of those things. And I'll tell you why.

CHARLIE

Evelyn...

EVELYN

Charles. Enough. I *indulged* this...charade for one person and one person only. Mimi. I told you *very* plainly a year and half ago that I had no interest in being in the same room as you, breathing the same air as you, and if I had the choice, I would ensure we not planetarily connected if at all possible.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

That's a concerning sentiment lark.

EVELYN

I understand that. I understand that it doesn't feel or seem rational, but I don't care to be rational in this situation. You know what you did, or rather what you didn't do, and you refuse to own up to it. You're dead to me.

CHARLIE

Evelyn, you don't mean that.

COLTON (as HELENA)

You certainly *can't* mean that.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Those words hold an incredible weight, lark.

EVELYN

And why do *you* keep calling me "lark?" Only one person has ever called me that and I never mentioned it to you Mimi.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Again, I am not...

EVELYN

I don't *care*. Okay? This is all insane, and I refuse to participate, and I want out. I'm done. Norvina? NORVINA. I want out.

CHARLIE

Evie, you can't possibly mean what you're saying. I know I screwed up, I know it was a lot for you to handle, but you also shut me out.

EVELYN

I made a vow to myself to disconnect from toxic, succubus like yourself.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Darling, please. Temper your words.

EVELYN

No, he always gets to throw the tantrums. He's always had his way. No more. I want out of this house, and this life. I WANT OUT.

MADAME NORVINA appears on the balcony. She snaps her fingers, EVELYN and CHARLIE freeze.

MADAME NORVINA

You raised a stubborn brood. Haven't you?

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Headstrong.

MADAME NORVINA

Whatever the case, you failed.

COLTON (as HELENA)

You saw her, she was beginning to make connections.

MADAME NORVINA

Let's hope more synapses fire this next cycle. Only this time, a twist.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

A twist? What could be more twisted than having us see our children and not be able to connect with them?

A low chuckle. She snaps. A chime sounds. The entire scene rewinds to the moment before the reveal. Lights shift.

SCENE 4: LOOP #2

Everyone is back at the circular table in their original configuration: NORVINA center, EVELYN to her left, CHARLIE to her right, MIMI on the outer edge next to EVELYN and COLTON on the outer edge next to CHARLIE.

MADAME NORVINA

Now that we've all found our way back to the festivities. Let's begin.

A foghorn sounds. Smoke starts to fill the room, and lights are all a flutter. MIMI and COLTON share a look, are immediately affected, and resume their postures as RICHARD and HELENA. EVELYN and CHARLIE immediately make a break for the exit, MADAME NORVINA snaps again, the sounds of doors being slammed and locked are heard. MADAME NORVINA snaps, bringing the pair back to their seats, and facing her. MIMI AND COLTON on either side of her, all peering down at the twins.

MADAME NORVINA

Be mindful, chickadees. Every wrongful outburst will result in a redo, but with less knowledge than you have now. And you only get three tries to right the wrongs of the past two years. I will be in my chambers...keeping time as it were. Ta-ta for now.

This time, the twins faint.

COLTON (as HELENA)

What do we *do* with them?

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Did they behave this way before?

MADAME NORVINA

They were a tad more vivacious last time.

EVELYN starts to rouse awake.

MADAME NORVINA

Ahh...they are starting to come to. You know where I'll be.

She "disappears"

COLTON (as HELENA)

How convenient it must be for her to be able to appear and reappear at her own whim while we're stuck on a loop sorting through this mess.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Whatever it takes to remain forever yours, and in your embrace.

They kiss right as EVELYN fully wakes up.

EVELYN

What the...fuck?

COLTON and MIMI immediately separate.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Good morning.

EVELYN

Good morning? I see my partner and my brother's partner locked in a passionate kiss and when they're caught, they say "good morning" as if it were normal? Is this why you two wanted us to meet up again so badly? So, you could have a secret, salacious rendezvous right under our noses?

CHARLIE stirs awake, more abruptly than EVELYN.

CHARLIE

I'm awake. I am awake.

EVELYN

Brilliant, join us, will you. While our partners explain why they were canoodling.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

First things, first. We do not know of the *partners* of which you speak of, but we're Richard and Helena, pleasure to meet you.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Charmed, we're sure.

They each extend a hand to both CHARLIE and EVELYN who stare at their hand in front of them blankly.

EVELYN

Are we a part of some form of immersive, elaborate theatre performance?

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Pardon?

EVELYN

A prank show, perhaps? That seems likely. Where the hidden cameras?

She starts looking around the room in fever pitch.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Prank show? What is that?

CHARLIE

An attempt at shock humor made famous in the early 2000s, but rather than completely digress, you are –

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Richard and Helena.

CHARLIE

Not Mimi and Colton?

EVELYN

Charles, this is ridiculous, some sort of distraction to get off the real topic of INFIDELITY.

COLTON (as HELENA)

I beg your pardon, have been a devoted pair for roughly 25 years.

EVELYN

(directly to MIMI)

Mimi, this is an awful way to tell a person you want to break up.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

There's that name again. Mimi. Who is Mimi?

EVELYN

You. You are Mimi

MIMI (as RICHARD)

No, dear lark, I am Richard, and you have now evaded my question.

EVELYN

She's my...partner.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Your best friend?

EVELYN

No, my *partner*. My companion? My girlfriend?

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Well...how modern of you.

EVELYN

Funny...my father said something very...similar when I first told him. He said --

EVELYN/MIMI (as RICHARD)

I suppose I can understand the appeal of the gentle caress of a woman's hand.

EVELYN

Yes...ex-exactly that...

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Great minds think alike.

CHARLIE

Your name is Richard?

COLTON (as HELENA)

My word, dear boy, yes our names are Helena and Richard Bur-

The twins share a look between each other. And then look back towards MIMI and COLTON.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Well you're both looking completely peaked. Thoroughly unwell. As though you've most definitely seen a ghost.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Dove, they most certainly have.

CHARLIE begins frantically pacing and looking for ways to break free.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Oh, you're right! Then your pallor makes sense, I suppose. Do you suppose you're going to faint again?

EVELYN

No....I don't think....actually I'm not sure.

Looking MIMI dead in the eyes.

Are you sure you're not playing a cruel joke on me, Mimi?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

No, darling, I most certainly am not.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Why do you think your...? partners? Did I use that term correctly?

She nods or show some form of confirmation.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Very well, why did your partners insist on this particular meeting so ardently?

EVELYN

Well...it's been awhile since we all got together.

CHARLIE stops pacing for a second.

CHARLIE

Grudges run deep in this family.

EVELYN

A well-earned grudge, *Charles*.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

A deep-seeded disdain! That must be it.

CHARLIE

I am lost.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Allow me, dove?

COLTON (as HELENA)

By all means, my aviator.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Being that we are ghosts, we are obviously “unresolved” beings, caught between two worlds and because of that we are called upon to help resolve that tension so that we can join the afterlife together.

CHARLIE

You’re separated?

COLTON (as HELENA)

Tragically, yes.

CHARLIE

This is a lot. This is a lot. This is A LOT.

EVELYN

You are not ghosts. This is not real. You played an excellent trick, but it’s done now.

CHARLIE

Evie...

EVELYN

Charles. Don’t even start. You know what why we’re estranged. Why there is a grudge and a tension, and this is dramatic and unnecessary and not my exact problem.

CHARLIE

Evelyn. We’re *here*. We’re meeting these ghosts. Who feel really familiar, for some odd reason, and they are dependent on our resolution to achieve theirs?

EVELYN

It was a pleasure to meet you, truly it was, but this isn’t about all of us, just the two of us. And I will not be held responsible for things that do not directly involve the two of us. So, with all due respect, fuck this.

A snap is heard. EVELYN and CHARLIE freeze. MADAME NORVINA appears looming on the balcony.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Hang on, crone! We were clearly getting there.

MADAME NORVINA

But not fast enough. I am bored and growing impatient.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Norvina this is inhumane.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

We apologize that our immense pain and their intense confusion is not fodder that is entertaining you to the fullest, but how can you expect us to get anywhere without any sort of indication of who we are to them.

MADAME NORVINA

The inhumane part of this situation, my dear Dick, is this perpetual display of callow, immaturity displayed by your dearest twins.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Norvina, I've asked you plainly --

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Richard, please.

Beat.

They don't know what they are fighting *for*, this game is rigged against them. Against *us*. Allow us some reprieve.

MADAME NORVINA

A reprieve, you say? In the form of what?

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

In the last two cycles you've allowed them to know our first names, why not first and last?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Yes! It may fill in the gaps sooner and get a result – desired or nay.

MADAME NORVINA

This will come with consequences, you know...

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

What might those be?

MADAME NORVINA

How long do you think you can fancy these current human suits for?

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

I fear to answer to that question.

MADAME NORVINA

If you fail to get a reconciliation. Not only will not return to the afterlife together but you will remain in these forms, only to reunite once every year – your wedding anniversary – for one hour.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Norvina...that's cruel, even for you.

MADAME NORVINA

Everything has its price. This the price the price of this *favor*. Do you accept?

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

(Stifling a cry)

Oh Richard...

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Now, now my sweet dove. We must have faith in them, mustn't we?

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

It's just the thought of...

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Now, now. Chin up. Tears brushed away. *(He brushes a tear from her cheek and kisses her forehead.)* Even if all of this.... does fail.... My love for you reaches from the moon into eternity.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

From the moon to eternity and back again. We must believe in them.

Turns to MADAME NORVINA.

We'll take the offer.

MADAME NORVINA snaps and everything rewinds to the moment after the revelation of the ghosts. Chimes sound. A flicker of lights and sound occur.

SCENE 5: LOOP #3

MADAME NORVINA

Remember.... final chance...

As she says this, she "fades" into the background.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Ahh, yes. She's coming to now.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Oh, op. There, there sport. He's come around too!

EVELYN

M-m-mi-Mimi?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Not quite.

CHARLIE

Cole?

COLTON (*as HELENA*)
(*chuckles*)

Not presently.

EVELYN

Who are you then?

CHARLIE

And what have you done with our partners?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

One question at time, too many details all at once may harm, more than help – we've learned. We're Richard and Helena Burrows, pleasure to meet you.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Charmed, we're sure.

They each extend a hand to both CHARLIE and EVELYN who take their corresponding hand blankly.

MIMI (as RICHARD) moves a chair closer which EVELYN stumbles into. CHARLIE begins to laugh uncontrollably and frantically. COLTON (as HELENA) goes to comfort him.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Well, this one looks absolutely peaked. Thoroughly unwell. As though you've most definitely seen a ghost.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Dove, they most certainly have.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)
(*giggles*)

Oh, you're right! Then their pallor makes sense, I suppose. Are you alright dear? It's always best to share with the class.

EVELYN bursts out in uncontrollable laughter.

EVELYN

No, absolutely. You're play a cruel joke on me, Mimi.

As she continues to laugh, COLTON (as HELENA) and MIMI (as RICHARD) have come together in a waltz and have begun to "levitate" whilst dancing. The pair returns to the ground.

EVELYN

M-m-Mimi?

CHARLIE

Liza, I don't think we're at the Ritz anymore.

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Moving forward, for our edification, who is this Mimi of whom you speak?

EVELYN

My partner...

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Your best friend?

EVELYN

No, my *partner*. My companion? My girlfriend?

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Well...how modern of you.

EVELYN

Funny...my father said something very...similar when I first told him. He said --

EVELYN/MIMI (as RICHARD)

(going off on a tangent)

I suppose I can understand the appeal of the gentle caress of a woman's hand.

EVELYN

Yes...ex-exactly that...

MIMI (as RICHARD)

Great minds think alike.

CHARLIE

What did you say your name was?

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Why do you think your...? Partners? Did I use that term correctly?

They both nod or show some form of confirmation.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Very well, why did your partners insist on this particular meeting so ardently?

EVELYN

Well...it's been a while since we all got together.

CHARLIE

Grudges run deep in this family.

EVELYN

A well-earned grudge, *Charles*.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Grudges between family members. A deep-seeded disdain! That must be it.

EVELYN

That must be *what* exactly?

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Well since we are, as we've well established by now, are ghosts and we're consorting with humans, that must mean that *we* have some unfinished business with each other.

EVELYN

No no no, our grudge is *our* problem, his problem actually. I don't see how it affects *you*.

CHARLIE

It's your problem, more like it.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

ENOUGH.

A chime sounds – as if from a grandfather clock. Smoke fills the room and MADAME NORVINA appears on the balcony.

MADAME NORVINA

You haven't much time for petty bickering, darlings. Precious Dick and Darling Lena's eternal matrimony and the fate of your partners' souls rest on you working through your issues.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

For the last and final time. It is *RICHARD* not Dick.

MADAME NORVINA

Like father, like daughter.

EVELYN

I beg your pardon?

MADAME NORVINA

One hour remains...

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Well, that was more indelicate than normal.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Yes, well she's clearly tired. As are we all.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Now resuming our previous clip and before this predictably ends in another brawl, I must ask...why did you come to Madame Norvina?

CHARLIE

EVELYN

Colton.

Mimi.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Right, your partners.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

We're moving on now dear.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Right so your partners are the reason you're here, now what did they tell you about tonight or even Norvina specifically?

EVELYN

Norvina is behind this?

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Well, she's the only reason we can think of that we'd be able to be here. But what did your partners tell you?

EVELYN

CHARLIE

All Mimi told me was that
We were going to hang out with

Colton was extremely vague, but he basically
INSISTED that we had to go out and meet up with

Colton and that one Mimi and *her*, because we hadn't hung out in awhile
And told me to get dressed up And we owed it to them to try to hang out.
In this fancy dress

And that there would be food.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

So, your partners...

EVELYN

You don't have to keep saying it if makes you feel uncomfortable.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

How else am I to normalize it and integrate it into my own vocabulary if I don't?

CHARLIE

Again...very similar to what our father said when we introduced the concept to him. What were your names? Your full names?

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Once again, we are Helena and Richard *Burrows*.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

While we are familiar with your faces, it as though we were a flock of wild geese on high and we were looking down at you from our –

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

I'm afraid you've gotten slightly off track, dear?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Ah yes, my apologies. Just the majesty and wonder of a flock of geese mid-migration...is enough to get anyone a bit misty-eyed and wistful.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Only you, darling. Any which way about it, we are not of this world anymore. We've moved past it.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

We're ghosts, or spirits if you'd like.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

And we've been caught in a bit of a loop...for ours and your partners' very souls, it seems.

CHARLIE/EVELYN

What the fu--

EVELYN

This absolutely cannot be happening.

CHARLIE

So, if you're ghosts, and your names are Richard and Helena Burrows.

EVELYN

That makes us your...

CHARLIE/EVELYN

Children.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Oh, Richard! They've got it! They've figured it out!

EVELYN

How can this be happening? And what does it have to do with our partners?

CHARLIE

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

It's bet it's something to do with.... oh... I'll bet it has something to do with the...oh

Oh, no I'm sorry...Daddy...Dad...Richard (*chuckles*)... I'm sorry, as you were saying?

CHARLIE

What is the least uncomfortable moniker to use at this time?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

To be frank, this is all quite strange no matter which way you slice it, seeing as this time around I found my way into your sister's partner's body.

CHARLIE

It does complicate things in quite the humorous manner.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

I would say so, goose.

CHARLIE

Wh-what did you just call me?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Oh, well...I'm sorry that kind of just slipped out, but I believe I called you...

CHARLIE/MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Goose.

COLTON intently and intensely fixes his gaze on MIMI (as RICHARD), as they share a tender moment, their conversation becomes a bit more distant and ambient like while EVELYN is sulking off the side. The focus shifts as COLTON (as HELENA) joins her side.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Come now darling, let them have their moment.

EVELYN

Can't possibly waste a moment without Charlie being in the direct spotlight.

EVELYN/COLTON (as HELENA)

An extra minute to savored in commitment to one another is time best served for all.

EVELYN

Mom?

COLTON (as HELENA)

Happy to see your eyes are open. Hello lovely bird.

EVELYN

(Getting lost in thought staring at COLTON)

I miss you so much.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Oh darling. It seems that in revelry of being dead...

EVELYN

Revelry? You've been reveling without us?

COLTON (as HELENA)

There's a certain peace, darling, that comes with death, and while we have yet to feel fully at peace for our entire duration...there is a peace.

EVELYN

I guess that makes sense, since you don't remember us at all... must be *very* peaceful without our shenanigans.

COLTON (as HELENA)

Sweetheart, no, this is a product of the loop. The longer we were gone, the further and further from the lives we lived got away from us as well. It's a terrible product, I must say, because

every time we've done this loop, *this* inevitably becomes more and more unbearable. But, sweet girl, you must know...

Before she gets to finish, MIMI (as RICHARD) and CHARLIE interject their presence.

Another grandfather clock chimes, and MADAME NORVINA appears once more.

MADAME NORVINA

What beautiful, touching tender moments you're all sharing – separately, but remember only together will you achieve eternal matrimony.

10 minutes remain.

MADAME NORVINA disappears once again.

EVELYN

I have grown to thoroughly dislike that woman.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Believe me that feeling is mutually held. Our apologies, we got caught in a loop of our own.

MIMI (as RICAHRD) chuckles.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

As you were saying?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Would you please, goose?

CHARLIE

Of course. So! On the matter of unfinished business, now that we've all identified that we are all indeed here because we blood related, the matter at hand is as follows – what can *we*, the living, do to help you *the dearly departed* to help finish your business and cross over?

EVELYN

But can we not forget that our partners' souls now are in this mix as well, although you still have yet to tell us how?

CHARLIE

How do our partners' souls play into this?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Since this is the final loop, we didn't want to take any chances. So we made a deal with Norvina.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

In exchange for the added information of our full name introductions at the top, we agreed that if you both don't resolve this tiff...not only won't we return to the afterlife, but your partners' souls will remain in our place with our souls only returning to ourselves once every year for one hour.

CHARLIE

So I'd be dating...mom.

EVELYN

And I'd be dating...dad.

CHARLIE

I don't think I was quite ready for that information dump.

EVELYN

So I would never see Mimi, as Mimi again?

Why? Why would you make such a horrible exchange? They never did anything to you?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Lark...I must ask you to look at this rationally –

EVELYN

RATIONALLY. In this most irrational state of affairs, you're asking me to be rational? You just told me that I might never see my lover, my other half of my soul, my best friend again, and want me to be rational?

CHARLIE

Who's the drama queen now?

EVELYN

How can you be so calm? Do you care that little about Colton that you're willing to entertain this madness?

CHARLIE

I'm willing to entertain this *madness* for the sake of our *family*, Evie. Something you clearly don't care enough about.

The twins continue to bicker while the focus shifts to MIMI (as RICHARD) and COLTON (as HELENA) panic starts to set in. A low chuckle and clock ticking can be heard distantly – signs of MADAME NORVINA'S presence.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Richard, darling. They are at it again....Norvina is going to...we're going to lose...

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

ENOUGH.

The twins immediately stop bickering, as though they were reprimanded children once again.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

We understand that our decision felt reckless, callous, even.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

But we went forth and accepted it with the best intentions and with love.

EVELYN

Love? Love for whom?

CHARLIE

For our family.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

And for each other...

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

We admit. our decision was hastily made. But we have had 45 miraculous years together. Triumphs. Tribulations. The existence of the both of you. It's hard to imagine and eternity without one another. So when the gauntlet was thrown down, we, with trepidation, continued forth.

EVELYN

Again, without considering us.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

I would like to turn your attention to the fact that we did not originally ask to be placed in the bodies of your partners. We did not ask to come back here at all.

EVELYN

You've made the revelry of the afterlife abundantly clear, thank you.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Good heavens, lark, you really are my offspring aren't you? (*chuckles*)

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

As selfish as our decision was, with a bit of hindsight in this moment, we also realize that this family and our line and our love cannot continue without the two of you.

EVELYN

While that's a beautiful sentiment...

CHARLIE

Evelyn...Evie...

EVELYN

I can't live without her.

CHARLIE

Nor I without Cole. So, let's save their souls and our parents' souls in fell swoop.

EVELYN

I'm not saying yes. I'm just not saying no, either.

She looks between MIMI (as RICHARD) and COLTON (as HELENA) and gives CHARLIE the floor.

CHARLIE

First things, first, where are we?

COLTON (as HELENA)

In the in the simplest terms, you're in the veil between worlds: Mortal and Dead. You're not dead, but we are. You're specifically here to help *us* cross over.

CHARLIE

So, we're in a loop in the veil and our objective is get you both beyond the veil... (*looking directly at EVELYN*) And *we* can help *you* because...

EVELYN

There's unfinished business between us that's barring their eternal love from flourishing, I get it. I'm here now.

CHARLIE

Finally.

EVELYN

Excuse me?

CHARLIE

Are you serious? *That* set you off? I know you have a massive chip on your shoulder the size of the empire state building, but you might want to let up, because you're clearing developing a premature hunch in your spine, don't want anyone to mistake you a crone.

EVELYN

You continually act as though you have no role to play in this, Charles. As if you were merely an innocent bystander and put upon by the world when the truth is far from the narrative you've concocted in your head.

CHARLIE

Oh Evie, tell us how you really feel.

EVELYN

With pleasure. I am so sick of how every single spotlight *must* shine on you and only you. I am sick you are sucking every last ounce of oxygen out of every room. I am sick of how your selfish tendencies have only become more PRONOUNCED since mom and dad died and ultimately drove us *here*.

CHARLIE

My selfish tendencies. And what, pray tell, are those?

EVELYN

Has your selective memory decided to obliterate everything since *that* night, too? SHOCKER.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

(*to COLTON (as HELENA)*) I think we're getting the "meat and potatoes" of the issue, as some might say. (*to EVELYN*) Lark, what night?

EVELYN

The night you...

CHARLIE

Died.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Elaborate.

CHARLIE

You were coming out to meet me and Colton the night you died. It was rainy, and slick, and the streetlamps were under repair and apparently....so they told us...they decided to flicker at the right moment, catching the glimpse of a passing animal.... missing the recently turned red light and swerving into oncoming traffic. You were both...killed on impact.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)/COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Oh...

EVELYN

All because you had to have a stupid party that you knew mom and dad would feel obligated to come to. You *knew* it was too rainy. You *knew* it was too slick.

CHARLIE

I don't control weather or animals, Evelyn. This was out of my control.

EVELYN

You know what was in control, *Charles*. The aftermath. The wake. The funeral preparations. All of it fell on me.

CHARLIE

Evelyn...*I couldn't*.

EVELYN

And you think I could? I had to sit in meeting after meeting. With person after person. Talking *at* me, about how "sorry they were for my loss" but "don't forget to sign this or this dotted line." "What kind of lining do you want for the caskets?" Casket-s, Charles. I had to bury both of my parents at the SAME TIME. I had to go to the mortuary. I had to pick out postmortem Mom's make-up, and Dad's postmortem suit and hair combo, floral arrangements, guest lists...

CHARLIE

I'm surprised, *Lynn*, the *Type A queen* wasn't simply languishing in it all?

EVELYN

I had to do it all BY MYSELF. While working my full-time job clerking for the law firm. And what were you doing?

CHARLIE

I was grieving.

EVELYN

Beautiful portraits of grief -- sprawled out on the beaches of the Cape. While I fielded every call about the funeral and beyond.

CHARLIE

What did you want me to do Evelyn?

EVELYN

Be *there*, for more than just the funeral and the reading of the will.

CHARLIE

I COULDN'T.

EVELYN

You absolutely could, you *chose* not to.

CHARLIE

Do you know how hard it was to know that you could've prevented your parent's death? DO YOU? Because I carry that with me every single day. Every day I have to carry the burden of knowledge that if I wasn't determined to share with them the most important moment of my life with them on that particular night they would still be here.

EVELYN

Most important moment of your life? Please Charles, you could've spared us the dramatics for the announcement of a puppy or something to that effect.

CHARLIE

I was going to propose to Cole that night. *That's* why I invited everyone to our place that night – including you and Mimi. I recently worked up the courage, bought the ring, and was all primed and ready for a farce of a soiree to propose to the love of my life.

EVELYN

What?

CHARLIE

I had gotten a ring and everything, secured the correct permissions, archaic but important to his family and it wasn't even meant to be a big soiree, just a get together with the family, which you would've known if you hadn't canceled at the last minute.

EVELYN

Charlie...I...it was a mess that night. The visibility was so poor, and you know I don't have the eyes for night driving.

CHARLIE

Yes, well, that was what the "big affair" was about. That's what got mom and dad out of the house that night.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Oh Goose, we would've been so proud.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Colton is a lovely man.

CHARLIE

How would you know? I thought you don't remember him or us.

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Any man that would choose to fly with you Goose, is a man worth your while.

CHARLIE

Yeah, well it's been almost two years, I don't know if he'll even be up for it anymore with all I put him through.

COLOTN (*as HELENA*)

Was this your family feud?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

Over us?

EVELYN

CHARLIE

Well...mostly

I guess it kind of was...

CHARLIE

Is our feud the reason you're unable to be together?

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

That seems to be the case.

CHARLIE

I really regret...I am really, deeply sorry, Evie.

EVELYN

I really needed you there, Charlie. Besides Mimi, you were my dearest, no, *best* friend...my only friend, actually.

CHARLIE

Same, Cole tells me all the time that it's a shame I can't play nice with other girls.

EVELYN

Well, what if they're pretty than you?

EVELYN/CHARLIE

Which they almost always are!

MIMI (*as RICHARD*)

What a ridiculous roost we've created, dove.

COLTON (*as HELENA*)

Oh, dear hearts....

As EVELYN and CHARLIE embrace, so too do MIMI (as RICHARD) and COLTON (as HELENA). Everyone is lost in the moment when a clap of thunder, a chime from the clock, and MADAME NORVINA appears above them once more.

*A mystical whirring noise – like vortex being opened.
A slow clap.*

MADAME NORVINA

Fi.na.lly. Congratulations, Burrows' you've successfully lifted your eternal forced separation and are free to join the afterlife together.

CHARLIE

So now they.... What happens now?

MADAME NORVINA

You've reconciled, no?

CHARLIE

It seems that way.

MADAME NORVINA

Perfect, now I simply remove the spirits from your parents' --

EVELYN/CHARLIE

WAIT!

MADAME NORVINA

Oh, you want to say goodbye once more?

EVELYN

If we can?

MADME NORVINA waves them on. They all try to decide who embraces who first, a dance of stops and starts, and reluctant goodbyes, before MIMI (as RICHARD) pulls everyone into a bear hug. As soon as touch – the vortex noise heightens, and MIMI and COLTON immediately react as through something is leaving their bodies before falling to the floor. EVELYN and CHARLIE are taken aback and physically separate just to watch their parents being sucked away, before returning to their partners' sides.

COLTON and MIMI sputter cough and reach as though they are breathing again for the first time as everything shifts back to the mortal world.

MADAME NORVINA

Thank you for attending Noncorporeal Spiritual Therapy. We have some favors on the way out, for your remembrance, please see yourselves out. Colton...Mimi...welcome back.

With that she disappears into darkness leaving everyone befuddled in her wake.

SCENE 6: Aftermath

Once MADAME NORVINA departs, each EVELYN rushes to MIMI's side and CHARLIE to COLTON's aiding them in their reentry. (Dialogue is meant to be frantic and fast-paced).

EVELYN	MIMI	CHARLIE	COLTON
Mimi, darling, are you...you?		Cole? Cole! Have you come back to me?	
	What happened?		Was I not here?
That's complicated to try to explain		Not entirely, love.	
	Try.		Oh?

The twins share a look and begin explaining at even more rapid fire.

Well, your body was you but you were not exactly you but rather you were my father, which may further complicate bedroom play from here on out since the pejorative “Daddy” and you definitely take on a whole new meaning of which I'm not quite sure I can ever fully face ever again, nor do I want to, but basically there was unfinished business for them which meant unfinished, business for us needed to be...		You were merely yourself in body but not in “spirit” in “spirit” you were my mother And you were elegant as all get out for which I will never full forgive you for but that not being either here, nor there at the moment, you were my mother and you were here by Norvina's bidding or our own, that that part is less clear, but we were meant to resolve our family indiscretion in order to restore their eternal matrimony and it was beautiful and weird and not completely dissimilar to Noel Coward but it was related to our unfinished business...	
	Did you resolve it then?		Is the feud done?

EVELYN	MIMI	CHARLIE	COLTON
			Can we get married now?
		Married?	
	Oh my gosh, are you proposing right now? That would be really cute,		

if all of this weren't so incredibly weird.

Cole....

What? I found the ring! So, sue me!

So, I'm behind, right?

Yes, darling.

Catch me up?

At home, I promise I will.

Oh my god.

Why is that an "Oh my god?" I knew we couldn't get married unless you two were buddy-buddy again, and I knew that this feud had gone on long enough.

Not for you to decide!

Not for you to decide!

But *it is* over isn't it?

Lynn?

It was a practical application of emotion in the moment

Evie?

We hugged. We cried. You said you forgave.

Yes, I did. *For them. For their souls, Charles.* I absolutely, did not want the fate of their eternal matrimony on my conscience for eternity!

So you, don't forgive me?

I—don't know. That period of time...

EVELYN

MIMI

CHARLIE

COLTON

was traumatic.

For me too.

And you shut me out.

You did too.

I just don't know...if...

one extremely weird night
of therapy fixes it.

COLTON

She has extended rates.

CHARLIE/EVELYN/MIMI

No.

CHARLIE

You haven't answered the question, Evie.

EVELYN

Charlie...I just don't know. I was willing to put on the brave face, and stiff upper lip for them, but for *us*. I'm not sure the Burrows twins pack the same punch as they used to.

MIMI

Lyn...this is your brother. The other half of your soul.

EVELYN

I know...I just need more time.

CHARLIE

I see...

EVELYN

Come on Mimi, let's go home.

She extends an elbow to MIMI, who somberly takes it. CHARLIE, near tears turns away to shield the tantrum, COLTON goes to console him when he abruptly turns around.

COLTON

May I propose a deal?

CHARLIE

Colton, stop.

COLTON

No, I realize that I may have overstepped the boundaries of this situation, but the Burrows twins are legendary and shouldn't be put aside forever. So, I propose...uh...a phone call! Every week. Same day. Same time. Every week for a year, until you're comfortable seeing a therapist in person...on your own time.

MIMI

You two are an undeniably epic duo.

CHARLIE

What do you say, Evie?

EVELYN

I'll give it...a try.

CHARLIE

How about next Wednesday at 3:00 pm? I know you have a lull in your schedule around then.

EVELYN

Have you been keeping tabs on me?

CHARLIE

Best to always know which way the storm may blow in.

EVELYN

So that the flock can fly with the airstream?

They both chuckle. MIMI and COLTON share a look.

EVELYN

Wednesday at 3:00 pm, then.

Her and MIMI stroll off exiting through the front door, MIMI takes one look over her shoulder in giddy excitement back at COLTON.

CHARLIE

You're sneaky.

COLTON

You love it.

CHARLIE

Ardently, I'm afraid, but I did not love *this*. We are never doing *this* again.

COTLON

Noted. But tell me, was I absolutely radiant as your mother?

CHARLIE

Cole, I'd really rather not think of you in such terms, truly ever again.

COLTON

Fair enough.

CHARLIE

We will get married someday. This I promise you.

COLTON

I guess I can resign myself to continue living in sin until then. But what would your mother say?

CHARLIE

Cole...

They continue to laugh and bicker as they exit through the front door. A faint ringing of a phone is heard, while the shadow of MADAME NORVINA appears on the balcony, a low cackle filling the space as the lights go down.

END OF PLAY.