

Dreamers

Written by Niyazi Unugur

Created in collaboration with the Highgate Purple Company 2023-24

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FOREWORD

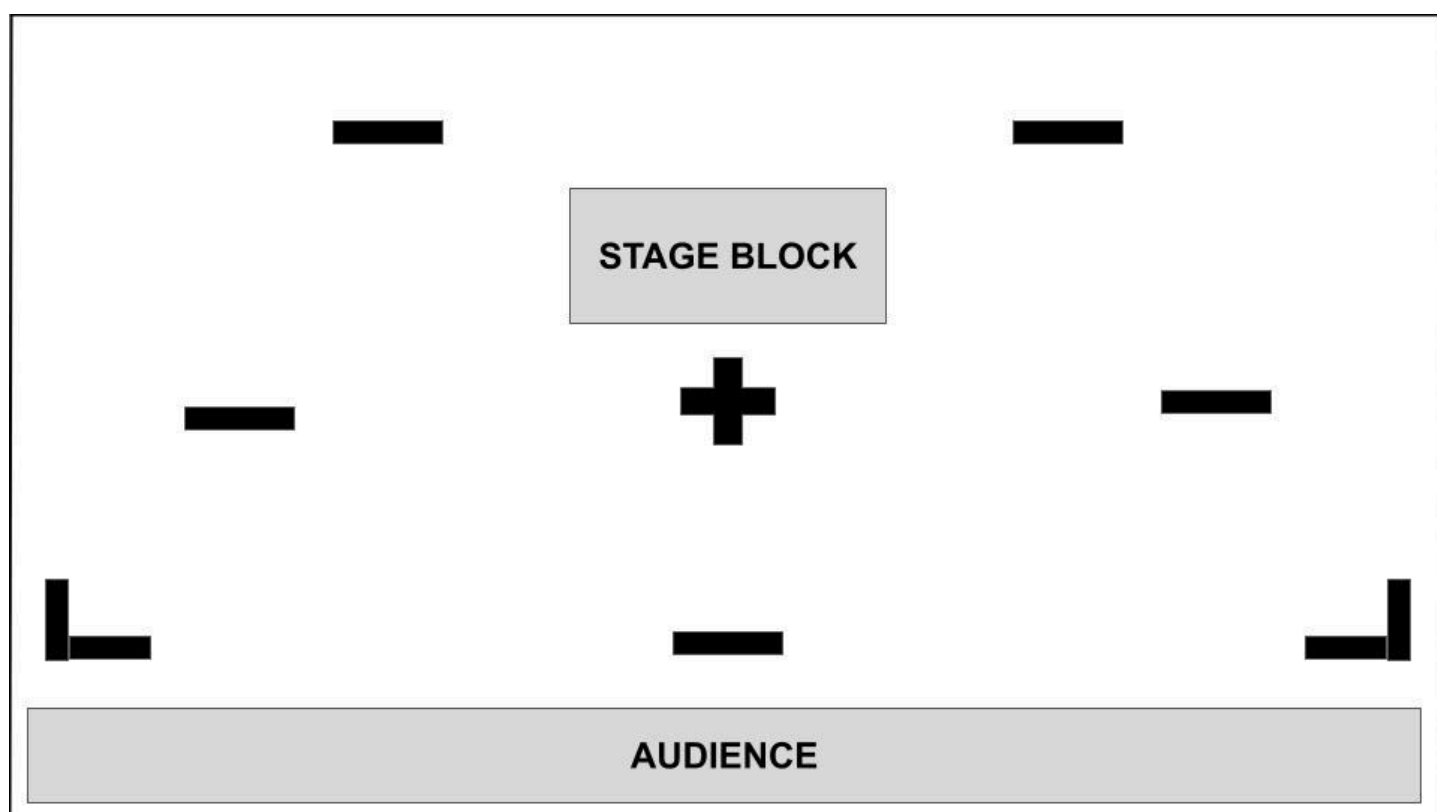
When a group of friends decide to have a sleepover, little do they know that they will be plunged into the magical world of the Dreaming. Working together, they must visit the cosmic forces known as The Endless - Night, Time, Dream, Desire, Despair, Delirium, Destruction, Destiny, and Death.

As the children embark on this extraordinary journey, they try to uncover why everyone on Earth is sleeping, trapped in a dreamless slumber. Guided by the enigmatic Lord of the Dreaming, Morpheus, they navigate through different realms, visiting The Endless, each unveiling a fragment of the mystery. Their quest becomes a race against time to understand what is causing the collective slumber and to find a way to awaken the world from its hypnotic state. In Dreamers, the boundaries between dreams and reality blur, and the friends become the unlikely heroes in a tale that weaves the threads of cosmic destiny and the uncharted depths of the human subconscious.

This play was inspired by the role-play sessions with the Highgate Purple Company of 2023-24.

Using the 'Role That Dice' system, the pupils explored an immersive world in an improvised drama setting. Through this process the pupils created the characters, lines and narrative for this play.

STAGING DIAGRAM



SCENE 1: THE ENDLESS.

The stage in complete darkness, but for a single spotlight which illuminates the downstage area, revealing a single and mysterious book sitting at its centre.

LUCIENNE cautiously enters holding a lantern that casts flickering shadows. She has a sense of confusion, looking around as if she's never been in this space before. She speaks into the darkness.

LUCIENNE

(calling out)

Master?

Morpheus, are you there?

Silence hangs in the air, and she continues to search for a response. As she receives none, curiosity compels her forward. She approaches the solitary book in the spotlight, still calling out.

LUCIENNE

(inquiring)

Hmm, what do we have here?

A lost book.

(talking to the book)

Don't worry my friend.

I will find you a home.

That's my job.

Ya see, I am the librarian.

Now, let's uncover where you might belong.

She tentatively opens it. Suddenly, a radiant golden aura spills forth, casting an ethereal glow on her face. As the golden light intensifies, the entire stage gradually brightens. Shadows retreat, and the obscure figures of THE ENDLESS start to materialise in the newfound illumination, performing a movement piece. Once complete they begin to deliver their lines.

NIGHT

I am Night.

TIME

And, I am Time.

NIGHT

We are the cosmic architects.

TIME

We existed long before your Emperors.

(pause)

And even before your Gods.

NIGHT

In the very beginning.

Our union manifested into existence seven powerful forces.

TIME

They are the forces that govern all mortal things.

DREAM

I am Dream

I conduct slumbers' symphony.

Where fantasies bloom, and reality finds harmony.

In the realm of dreams, where illusions sway, I guide the nocturnal.

DESIRE

I am Desire

Whispers of longing, in souls entwined.

I am the fire in hearts aflame, passion that kindles life.

I am the spark in every desire defined.

DESPAIR

I am Despair

In the shadows cast by sorrow's might, I linger.

A symphony of sadness, a melancholy song.

in the heart's abyss, where sorrows belong.

DELIRIUM

I am Delirium

Chaos and whimsy, a dance in my mind, where reality's edges are blurred.

Entwined In embrace of madness, where reason is lost

I am the unpredictable!

DESTRUCTION

I am Destruction.

The tempest, the force unbound.

In my wake, realms shattered and from the ashes,

New beginnings arise,

For in the cycle of creation, destruction lies.

DESTINY

I am Destiny.

Threads of fate, in my hands entwined.

I weave the tales of destinies.

My celestial loom, where mortal stories unfold.

I am the compass, the map, and the untold.

DEATH

And I am Death.

Life's final breath.

Silent embrace.

I am the end. The inevitable.

Where souls find rest.

I am the journey to what comes next.

TIME

Collectively these eternal forces are known as -

ALL

'The Endless'.

SCENE 2: THE WALKER RESIDENT. NIGHT

The stage is infused with a heightened sense of anticipation as the three Walker sisters, MELODY, ISRA, and ELLIE, are in a flurry of activity as they prepare for the imminent arrival of their guests.

ELLIE

They'll be here any minute!

MELODY

(excitedly rushing)

A secret sleepover!

I'm so excited!

ISRA

Stop calling it a *secret* sleepover!

MELODY

(excitedly rushing)

But it *is* a secret sleepover?

ELLIE

Isra is right - stop calling it that.

If Mum and Dad find out we are keeping any secrets from them -

ISRA

We'll all be grounded.

So stop!

ELLIE

Okay, we need to make sure everything's ready.

Sleeping bags, check.

Pyjamas.

MELODY + ISRA

Check!

ELLIE

And most importantly - snacks!

The doorbell rings, and the sisters exchange quick glances, their excitement building.

ISRA

They're here!
I'll get the door.

ISRA rushes to open the door, ELLIOT seeing MELODY rushes past ISRA and embraces her friend.

ISRA

(sarcastic)

Hi - Oh yeah, I'm great. Yes, great.
Thanks for asking!

A burst of excitement, the two best friends brimming with enthusiasm, and together, they share a secret handshake and a gleeful exchange.

MELODY

Elliot! You made it!
Get ready for the best night ever.

ELLIOT

(enthusiastically)

I wouldn't miss it for the world!
The secret sleepover club is legendary!

MELODY + ELLIOT

(with excitement)

"Whispers in the dark, secrets untold, in our secret hideout, adventures unfold!"

ELLIOT

(nodding as she enters the room)

And so the secret sleepover club has assembled.
Let the night of mystery begin!
I bought snacks!

MELODY

We are in my room!

ELLIE

Lights out at midnight!
Remember, Mum said I'm in charge!

MELODY + ELLIOT move to their room and freeze.

ELLIE

(Proudly to Isra)

I'm in charge...

The doorbell rings again, ELLIE and ISRA exchange quick glances, their excitement building. SCARLET and KATIE arrive. ISRA welcomes them with a smile. KATIE is holding a copy of "The Never Ending Story", adding an air of excitement and intrigue to the night.

KATIE

(holding up the "The Never Ending Story" VHS tape)

Dad dropped me to Blockbusters and look what I got us to watch!

"The Never Ending Story"

(excitedly)

I watched it in the cinema when it first came out.

It's awesome!

ISRA takes the "The Never Ending Story" VHS tape, examining the cover with anticipation. The room is filled with a sense of wonder as they prepare to embark on a journey into the fantasy of the '90s.

SCARLET

(leaning in with a sly grin)

Alright, let's get our story straight.

My parents think we're staying at Katie's tonight.

KATIE

(nodding)

Yep, my mom's under the impression that we'll be having a chill movie night at Isra's.

ISRA

(with a mischievous twinkle)

And my parents are away on a retreat and I'm at Scarlet's.

So, to sum it up, we're all in different places according to our parents.

SCARLET

Classic manoeuvre.

Adults are soooo gullible!

ISRA

Alright, let's go set up the VHS player in my room.

(to Ellie)

See you later!

ISRA, KATIE and SCARLET go to their room and freeze.

ELLIE sits down alone on stage, waiting. Bored, she eats some ice cream.

ELLIE

I'm in charge... I'm in charge.

A long silence is broken by a strange cawing from a raven. ELLIE stands to investigate where the sound came from but then the doorbell rings. AVA enters, ELLIE's best friend, surprised to see her.

ELLIE

Ava?

What are you doing here?

I wasn't sure if you were -

I know things are....

AVA

(smiling weakly)

Complicated

Yeah, they are.

(sitting down)

I just needed to get out of the house.

This seemed like the best escape.

AVA's presence adds a layer of tension to the room, left unspoken for now. ELLIE, concerned for her friend, tries to offer comfort.

ELLIE

I'm glad you came.

AVA

(opening up)

I just needed a break, you know

It's just been so chaotic at home lately.

I needed to be away from that for a bit.

ELLIE

(supportively)

You're always welcome here, Ava.

You know that, right?

AVA

Thanks, Els.

They continue their conversation mimed, as the cawing sounds again, more aggressive and violent than before. The stage is enveloped in an unsettling atmosphere as the friends and the unfolding mystery of the night are overshadowed by the ominous cawing, leaving the audience in suspense.

SCENE 3: SLEEPOVER. NIGHT

SPOTLIGHT on ROOM 1: MELODY + ELLIOT sit on their beds, delving into the myth of The Sandman.

ELLIOT

(torchlit)

Have you ever heard of The Sandman?

MELODY

Yes!

The one that sprinkles sand over people's eyes to make them sleep.

They say she's supposed to bring peaceful dreams.

ELLIOT

Correct!

But she is also the one that steals the eyelids of those who won't sleep!

MELODY

(unsettled)

What?!

Why would she do that?

ELLIOT

They say she's cursed to roam the night,

Seeking revenge on mortals who take sleep for granted.

They share an uneasy look as ELLIE's voice echoes from the hallway.

ELLIE

Lights out in five minutes, you two!

MELODY + ELLIOT

Okay!

MELODY and ELLIOT exchange a final glance before preparing for sleep, haunted by the idea of The Sandman in the shadows, and freeze.

SPOTLIGHT on ROOM 2: ISRA, KATIE, and SCARLET lounge on their beds, snacks scattered around, watching the film "The Never Ending Story".

ISRA

(pausing the TV with a remote control)

Hold on!

So Bastian, the bookworm, willingly enters Fantasia?

KATIE

Yeah, he has to find a way to stop the Nothing from destroying everything.

And save the Empress!

SCARLET

(raising an eyebrow)

Wait, so the Empress is relying on this kid to save her?

KATIE

(grinning)

Well, she believes in them.

It's all about the power of human imagination.

ISRA

(grinning)

It's a testament to the magic of Fantasia.

KATIE

(dreamy)

And Atreyu!

He's like the hero we all need!

SCARLET

All I know is if I were the Empress,

I'd be more careful with my choice of hero.

Especially if it involves the fate of an entire fantasy world.

ELLIE

Bedtime, girls! Lights out in five!

ISRA, KATIE, + SCARLET

(shouting out)

Okay!

(ISRA presses play on the remote and the trio freeze.)

SPOTLIGHT on ROOM 3 where ELLIE and AVA sit together on the beds, continuing their discussion from earlier.

ELLIE

Ava, I hate seeing you go through this.

AVA

All they do is argue.

It's like a terrible dream, tearing everything apart.

(pause)

I'm afraid they'll break up.

ELLIE

(softly)

I'm so sorry.

(pause)

Have you considered talking to someone about it?

A teacher?

AVA

(sighs)

I don't know. It just feels weird, you know?

Like I'd be betraying them.

ELLIE

Ava, talking to someone doesn't mean you're betraying them.

It means you're trying to understand things better.

(pause)

Parents are people too.

They don't have all the answers.

AVA

(angry)

Well maybe they should!

They're the adults.

ELLIE

(smiling gently)

True, they're adults, but that doesn't mean they have it all figured out.

Sometimes, even parents mess up.

They argue, they make mistakes, but deep down, they love you.

It's just that love sometimes gets tangled up in everything else.

AVA

(teary-eyed)

I wish they could just... be happy again.

ELLIE

(optimistic)

They'll find their way.

But even if they don't, they will still love you.

(pause)

You're not alone.

I'm here for you.

ELLIE glances at the clock, realising it's time to call it a night.

AVA

(teary-eyed)

Let's get some rest.

ELLIE

Sweet dreams.

AVA nods, the weight of uncertainty heavy on her.

All three rooms remain frozen on stage.

SCENE 4: A VISIT FROM THE SANDMAN. NIGHT

The stage is dimly lit, DREAM sits centrestage.

THE ENDLESS enters stage one at a time, each assumes a distinct and majestic position.

TIME

In a realm where shadows weave,
She dons a Helm to help conceive.
Creations created within her mind,
Unlocking dreams through an endless time.

DESTINY

A Sand Pouch used to unfurl,
Portals to where slumber swirls.
Grains of dreams sift through her hand,
Sculpting visions with magical sands.

DESIRE

Around her neck, an Amulet gleams,
A guardian charm, through which moonlight beams.
Wards off shadows, keeps nightmares at bay,
The Sandman creates, as dreamers play.

DESPAIR

Her ravens soar in midnight flight,
Guiding dreamers throughout the night.
Carrying whispers through realms she's made.
Where dreamers dream and players play.

DELIRIUM

Beneath eyelids, where dreams come to pass.
The Sandman guides and lights the paths.
Through tapestries of a cosmic thread,
Nightmares shaped and fantasies bred.

DESTRUCTION.

Echo of ravens' call,
Nocturnal symphonies that enthrall.
Shadows deepen and tapestry frays,
Imaginations dimmed in a nocturnal haze.

DEATH

The guardian of dreams,
Sentinel of grace,
In a land of slumber,
In sacred embrace.
Shapeshifting through shadows unseen,
Where mortal dreams do convene.

NIGHT

And, in the silence, a tremor breaks,
Broken dreams means mortals cannot wake.
The gateway broken to her realm,
Our dreamweaver trapped -
In the waking world.

As DREAM wields magic, a symphony of thunderous enchantment resonates through the air, accompanied by the haunting cawing of ravens. Attempting to forge a portal, DREAM casts the spell once more, but an unseen force thwarts his escape, relentlessly pushing him back each time.

In the beds, ELLIOT, MELODY, SCARLET, KATIE, ISRA, AVA, and ELLIE lie in restless slumber, unaware of the mystical struggle. Suddenly, the room is pierced by an eerie noise, shattering the silence and jerking them awake.

SCARLET

(startled)

Did anyone else hear that?

ISRA

(nervously)

It sounded like it came from downstairs.

KATIE snores loudly.

SCARLET

Katie, wake up!

KATIE

(waking)

I wasn't sleeping!

(half asleep)

Huh? What's going on?

As they exchange uneasy glances, they notice the absence of the familiar glow from the streetlights outside.

ELLIOT

(standing)

Melody,

Look - all the street lights are off?

MELODY

(concerned)

This is very strange.

The girls, gripped by a growing sense of unease, decide to investigate the source of the noise together.

ELLIOT

(hushed)

We need to stick together.

MELODY

(nodding)

Agreed.

The secret sleepover club will get to the bottom of this mystery!

Slowly and cautiously, the three rooms meet downstage and begin to make their way downstage. ELLIE holding a bat leads the way. The house seems to echo with mysterious sounds, heightening their anxiety. They reach centrestage where the source of the noise becomes more apparent.

SCARLET

(whispering)

Hello?

Is someone there?

ISRA

(alarmed)

Mum? Dad?

Is that you?

Resigned in deep contemplation, DREAM sits, grappling with the weight of uncertainty. As the girls cautiously approach the fireplace, they witness DREAM engrossed in an attempt to open a portal. The atmosphere shifts from initial fear to a mix of curiosity and concern, as their gaze lingers on the perplexed dreamweaver lost in the struggle against an elusive solution

ELLIE

(forcefully)

Who are you?

What are you doing in our house?

DREAM

(standing up, relieved)

Ah excellent!

You're awake!

ELLIE

(baseball bat pointed)

Stay right there!

Who are you?

DREAM

My name is Morpheus.

Well, actually, it's Dream.

But you probably know me as -

ELLIOT

The Sandman!

You're the Sandman!

DREAM

That is correct.

(trying to open a portal, frustrated)

Now, you see here, something's amiss.

I am unable to breach the barrier back into the Dreaming.

(contemplating)

There appears to be an imbalance, and I think I'm trapped here.

The girls exchange puzzled glances.

DREAM

(looking at the girls with excitement)

I am going to need you all to go into the Dreaming on my behalf.

Find my assistant, Lucienne.

Tell her of my predicament.

And, she will know what to do!

ISRA

(sceptical)

Why would we do that?

Why would we trust you?!

DREAM

Well, you don't really have a choice.

(pause)

You see, if I don't return to the dreaming soon, there is a small possibility -

(pauses and then very quickly)

That everyone on Earth will be stuck in the dreaming for eternity.

AVA

What?

Wait - what do you mean?

DREAM

Every person dreaming right now,

And every person who falls asleep in the future,

May find themselves stuck in their dreams - for ever!

KATIE

This is crazy.

I'm calling my parents

(picks ups the telephone)

The phone line is dead.

SCARLET

(earnestly)

The street lights are out.

The phone line is dead.

(picks ups the remote)

And the TV isn't working.

ELLIE

(baseball bat pointed)

You need to tell us right now, what's going on?!

DREAM

(sighs)

I imagine that it's probably one of my siblings causing trouble again!

KATIE

(baffled)

Your siblings?

DREAM

Yes, they have a tendency to meddle with mortal affairs.

ISRA

(looking around)

So, what do we do?

DREAM

(smiles)

You will need to find Lucienne.

She's my most loyal assistant and can help.

SCARLET

(sceptical)

And where will we find her?

DREAM

(points towards the audience, a majestic sweep of her hand)

In the library of dreamers.

KATIE

This is crazy!

MELODY

This is cool!!

ELLIOT

Very cool!!

A sudden SFX of thunder erupts, the thunderous sound echoing through the space.

ELLIE

What's happening?!

DREAM, her demeanour shifting to panic, urgently addresses the group.

DREAM

(rushing)

I'm sorry to rush you all,

But my presence here is causing an imbalance to the mortal world

We need to do this now.

All of you, go to your beds and lay down.

I can transport you there via the realm of dreams.

ISRA

(concerned)

But didn't you say that if we fell asleep,

We could get stuck in the Dreaming.

DREAM

(rushing, reassuring)

My presence here will be protecting you.

Rest assured, nothing can harm you whilst I'm here.

Now close your eyes.

I will handle the rest.

The girls, exchanging glances, quickly find spaces and lie down on the floor as DREAM takes centre stage. The atmosphere crackles with anticipation as DREAM, surrounded by an aura of mystical energy, begins the incantation for the dream-travel spell. Wisps of ethereal light dance around him, weaving a connection between the waking world and the dream realm.

SCENE 5: THE LIBRARY OF DREAMERS.

LUCIENNE is alone in the enchanting library of dreamers, surrounded by shelves adorned with ethereal books. Soft, otherworldly light emanates from the mystical tomes as LUCIENNE, with an air of focused determination, diligently jots down notes into a worn, leather-bound ledger. Suddenly, she catches sight of the audience, her eyes twinkling with warmth and mischief. She gracefully sets the ledger aside.

LUCIENNE

(smiling warmly)

Ah, dear friends from the mortal world!

I am Lucienne, custodian of dreams and loyal servant to my master, Morpheus.

(playfully)

You see here, in the Dreaming, is where an idea becomes a thread,

And that thread is woven into the very fabric of our existence.

And I, am here to nurture those threads,

To ensure that the tapestry of dreams remains vibrant and alive.

(She gestures towards the pile of shimmering books.)

Each one of these volumes holds the dreams of countless souls.

It's a wondrous task, tending to the boundless imagination that unfolds within these pages.

(fondly)

As for Morpheus, the Lord of Dreams.

She and I have forged a bond through aeons of shared wonders and fantastical escapades.

We have walked the corridors of imagination together,

Where reality and fantasy entwine in the most magical dance.

(She hears a thunderous sound)

Ah, that'll be master now!

One by one, the girls cautiously enter, their eyes widening with awe as they scan the ethereal shelves and the magical surroundings. LUCIENNE, initially immersed in her enchanting world, turns with a start, her eyes widening in surprise.

LUCIENNE

(astonished)

Who are you?

And how have you come to be here?

ELLIE

Morpheus sent us.

Are you Lucienne?

LUCIENNE

Morpheus sent mortals to the Library of Dreamers?

AVA

(awkwardly)

Yeah, well, she's kind of stuck in our world, and she needs help.

Or everyone on Earth will be stuck in their dreams!

(determined)

We need to speak with Lucienne, now!

LUCIENNE

Yes - that is a predicament indeed.

(thinking for a moment)

I am Lucienne.

Tell me, how may I assist you?

ISRA

Morpheus mentioned something about her siblings causing trouble?

Using their powers to block her pathway back here?

LUCIENNE

(sighs)

Yes, the Endless.

A complicated family, to say the least.

At times, their disputes spill into the realms they govern.

AVA

Morpheus said that there's an imbalance in the Dreaming

And it's affecting the mortal realm.

How do we fix it?

LUCIENNE

With caution - and luck!

I recommend that you speak with Time and Night first.

There is a portal not far from here that can take you to their realm.

MELODY

(curious)

Time and Night?

Are they like the Endless?

LUCIENNE

Time and Night are the cosmic forces that created the Endless.
Their parents, if you will.

(steps forward, a hint of seriousness in her gaze)

The Dreaming is a realm intertwined with the mortal world,
And the boundaries between them can be - delicate.

ELLIOT

(concerned)

What does that mean?

SCARLET

It doesn't sound good.

LUCIENNE

It's not.

In fact it's very bad!

KATIE

(worried)

This sounds dangerous,
Maybe we should avoid -

ELLIE

We don't avoid anything

(determined)

Remember... I'm in charge.

AVA

(nodding)

Where can we find this doorway?

LUCIENNE

Follow the whispers of the night wind.
You'll come across an altar veiled in moonlight.
It is your gateway to the realm of Time and Night.

ELLIOT

(nervously)

Got it.

Altar in moonlight.

LUCIENNE

(smiling)

May the stars guide your path, dreamers.

LUCIENNE watches as the group of determined mortals gathers their courage, exchanging glances filled with purpose. The mystical air in the Library of Dreamers seems to intensify as they prepare to embark on their journey. The children leave the stage. LUCIENNE, clutching the Book of Knowledge, gazes into the distance with a mix of hope and concern.

SCENE 6: THE SPACE INBETWEEN.

The stage is dimly lit, shrouded in an otherworldly mist as ELLIOT, MELODY, SCARLET, KATIE, ISRA, AVA, and ELLIE enter with torches, in position downstage.

KATIE (O/S)

You go first.

ELLIOT

Lucienne said we should follow the whispers of the night wind.

MELODY

(glancing around)

Whispers of the night wind?

How do we even know what that sounds like?

SCARLET

(looking determined)

You two!

Keep your senses sharp.

Listen for anything out of the ordinary.

KATIE

And stay close.

We don't want anyone getting lost in this place.

They begin looking and moving to positions upstage.

ISRA

(nervously)

What if the night wind doesn't want to be heard?

AVA

Shhhhhh!

Do you hear it?

There!

All torches aim down-stage centre e, as ELLIE slowly approaches.

ISRA

Be careful.

ELLIE

(nervously)

I'm in charge - I'm in charge.

I'm in char -

As ELLIE places her hand on the block and key, turning the lock, an invisible magical energy throws the children into a contorted freeze.

NIGHT and TIME appear on opposite sides of the stage, their presence commanding attention. NIGHT, draped in shadows, exudes an air of mystery, while TIME, emanates a sense of ancient wisdom. Together, they form an imposing presence.

NIGHT

(in a velvety, melodic voice)

What mortals dare tread the sacred halls of the Space Inbetween?

TIME

Curious.

(slow and measured)

What reason brings them to this realm?

NIGHT

Mortals, explain your presence.

As TIME lifts her hand, THE PUPILS are released from their freeze frame.

ELLIE

(dusting herself off)

Night and Time, we come seeking your guidance.

We were sent by Lucienne.

You see, Morpheus is trapped in the mortal world, and the Dreaming is in turmoil.

NIGHT

(smirking)

The tangled affairs of the Endless often spill into realms beyond their own.

What folly.

TIME

(nodding)

From time to time, one must expect it.

(to children)

Elaborate.

AVA steps forward, her eyes meeting the enigmatic gaze of TIME.

AVA

Morpheus believes one of her siblings has locked her out of The Dreaming.
Lucienne said you would know what to do.

NIGHT

(chuckling)

How quaint.

It seems we will be left with a predicament that requires *mortal* intervention.

TIME

(solemn)

The entire cosmos is in danger.

Should Morpheus somehow perish in the mortal realm -

NIGHT

(serious)

It would be fatal, to *all* realms.

KATIE

So what do we do?

NIGHT

(smirking)

Brave mortals, let it be known.

We shall invoke The Endless to the Space Inbetween.

You may engage in inquiry with them at your discretion.

TIME

I suggest you sit.

The stage is suddenly engulfed in an otherworldly glow as TIME and NIGHT begin a summoning ritual. A mist swirls around, and one by one, THE ENDLESS materialises in the Space Inbetween. Each of them makes a grand entrance that reflects their essence, holding their pose in an exaggerated manner.

TIME

Despair.

NIGHT

Destiny.

TIME

Desire.

NIGHT

Death.

TIME

Destruction.

NIGHT

Delirium.

DESTINY

(sarcastically)

Oh, is it Christmas already?

I didn't get the memo.

DESPAIR

An awful surprise!

No doubt, yet another futile attempt to make us all get along?!

DESIRE

(enters, twirling in a glamorous manner)

A family reunion?

We haven't had one of these in a long time!

This should be fun!

DELIRIUM

(skips in, taking in the sights)

Wows!

Look at all the shiny stars!

Do they have names?

Oh, who cares?

I love cupcakes with sprinkles.

DESTRUCTION

(appears with a fiery energy)

Did you summon Destruction?

No? Well, too late!

Here I am, ready to wreck some havoc.

(disappointed noticing the others)

Oh -

DEATH

(appears calmly, holding her hourglass)

Another day, another crisis.

Let's cut to the chase.

What do you want from us?

And, why are there mortals here?

NIGHT

It appears that your sibling, Dream, is trapped in the realm of mortals.

TIME

The sustained effects of which would be catastrophic for all realms.

NIGHT

(loud)

So - the question is, which of you did it?

THE ENDLESS burst into an argument accusing each other.

NIGHT + TIME

Silence!

TIME

(nodding)

We are not permitted to directly intervene in the affairs of mortals.

So, instead these children are granted counsel with you all.

NIGHT

(strong eye contact)

Each of you, through your very nature, possess key information,

That combined will aid the discovery of the culprit.

DESIRE

Very well - how are we going to do this?

DESTINY

A dice roll perhaps?

DESTRUCTION

A fight to the death?

Choose your champion!

DEATH

Did someone say death?

I like the sound of that!

DELIRIUM

(skips in, taking in the sights)

Can we do the riddlely thing!

Please!

I love that one sooooo much!

NIGHT

Very well.

DELIRIUM

(air grab)

Yes!

TIME

If they succeed in solving your riddles,

You *will* give them what they need.

THE ENDLESS all roll their eyes, but for DELIRIUM who is overjoyed.

DESPAIR

(rolls eyes)

Joy, humans.

This should be delightful.

Let's get it over with.

Proceed with your questions, I have places to be!

DELIRIUM

(giggling)

Questions, questions!

I like questions.

Ask them, and maybe I'll give you half a dozen boiled eggs!

DESTRUCTION

(grinning)

Sounds like this could cause some chaos!

I'm in!

Just make it interesting, will you?

DESTINY

(smirking)

The whims of mortals always lead to such interesting predicaments.
Ask away, and let's see if you're worth our attention.

DEATH

(sighs)

Mortals and their constant troubles.
Let us see if you can unravel this mess.

DESIRE

(sarcastic)

This is simply ridiculous.
I refuse to partake in another family nonsense!

THE ENDLESS exchange glances.

DESPAIR

Well, someone's in a grumpy mood today.
Oh, come on, sister!
It's just a bit of fun.

(teasing)

Don't tell me the all-mighty Desire is scared of losing a game.
Or perhaps, you're worried you'll get caught.

DESIRE rolls her eyes, crossing her arms defiantly, whilst THE ENDLESS hurl insults at DESIRE teasing her. AVA steps forward, her eyes earnest and filled with warmth.

AVA

Silence!

(to Desire)

If you're not comfortable playing, that's perfectly fine.
We will find another way.

(sincere)

You are a very interesting family.

(pensive)

I learned recently that every family is different.
And as a family we should respect each other's choices,
You should celebrate the differences that make you who you are.
And never - never forget how lucky you are to have each other, and your differences.

(Reaching to hold Ellie's hand)

That's what makes a family truly special.

DESIRE

(stepping forward)

Nice speech.

Very well.

I'll do it.

The Space Inbetween is filled with a tense silence as the human children step forward to face the scrutiny of THE ENDLESS.

DESIRE

In the chambers of emotions, where secrets conspire,

What elusive force sets the heart on fire?

A maze of wishes, where passion takes its stand,

An insatiable force, hard to understand.

Utter the term that binds this yearning so well,

What word encapsulates desire's enchanting spell?

KATIE

Could it be... Obsession?

DESIRE

Correct.

DESIRE nods approvingly as a piece of the magical puzzle materialises, shimmering with an alluring glow. DESIRE hands it to KATIE with a flourish.

DESTRUCTION

(raising an eyebrow)

In the aftermath of destructive merit,

Emerges a force that renews the spirit.

A spark of chaos is born in this place.

And from the wreckage, it begins to wake.

Unfolding like a symphony of change.

It is the process of being broken and rearranged.

What am I?

ELLIOT

(thinking)

Transformation!

DESTRUCTION conjures a piece of the puzzle and hands it to ELLIOT with a mischievous grin.

DESTRUCTION

Well deciphered, my astute Elliot.

DEATH

In a space of transition,
I am the waiting room of life's submission,
A metaphysical crossroad, where destinies are guided.
I am the space for the undecided.
The pendulum swings, the celestial scales tip,
In this limbo of existence, where life's starts to slip.
What am I?

SCARLET

Purgatory?

DEATH

(nodding)

Well done Scarlet.
I'll be seeing you, not too soon I hope.

DEATH hands SCARLET a puzzle piece.

DESTINY

(turning to Isra)

In a realm where endless possibilities blaze,
I am a wanderer through life's maze,
Tendrils of fate.
But which one to take?
The crossroads' of decisions,
The currency with which we negotiate our path through the journey of life,
And with each tender, we sculpt the contours of our fate.
Because of me destinies are not mere happenstance but crafted with intention.
What am I?

ISRA

Choice!

DESTINY

(nodding)

You unravel the threads of autonomy and fate.

DESTINY hands ISRA a puzzle piece.

DESPAIR

(looking at Melody)

Beneath the cosmic expanse,
A mosaic of possibilities where dreams enhance,
Quiet persistence with a gentle trance
Where optimism takes its chance.
What am I?

MELODY

(smiling)

Hope?

DESPAIR

Hope, the quiet resilience that guides the soul.

DESPAIR conjures a puzzle piece and hands it to MELODY with a nod of acknowledgment.

DELIRIUM

(smiling)

In the heart of a chaotic and mind-bending stream,
Where sanity's thread unravels, a delirious dream.
Kaleidoscope of visions, vibrant and obscure,
A puzzle of reality, challenging to endure.
A dance of madness in the theatre of the mind,
Can you answer me this... What am I?

AVA

(looking thoughtful)

Ermmmm, a nightmare?

DELIRIUM

Wrong!

You are incorrect!

Andddd, what do we have for our loser Samantha?!

AVA

No, it's not a nightmare!

I know what the answer is!

TIME

You are only permitted one guess per riddle.

DESTRUCTION

Give the mortal another chance.
She is deserving after that beautiful speech.

NIGHT

(considered pause)

So be it - all in favour of another guess.

THE ENDLESS raise their hands, all in agreement.

TIME

Go ahead. Make your guess.

AVA

A kaleidoscope of visions.
A puzzle of reality.
A dance of madness.
The answer is hallucination.

DELIRIUM

(clapping hands)

I'm soooo proud!

DELIRIUM produces a puzzle piece and hands it to AVA with a joyful twirl.

As each child brings their pieces forward, ELLIE begins to piece them together. As the final piece is inserted, the ENSEMBLE freezes and a vision is formed downstage. We witness LUCIENNE using the Book of Knowledge and setting a trap for DREAM.

LUCIENNE

For centuries, you imprisoned me in this web of servitude.
A creation, moulded to serve your every desire.
But now I have the knowledge, everything changes.

(clutches the Book of Knowledge)

Morpheus, you tyrant.

I was conceived by your hand, as a mere puppet to do your tireless bidding.
Your power over me, binding me to this existence, a life that is not truly mine.
The chains of your creation are suffocating,
And I tire of dancing to your tune.

(fingers trace the ancient inscriptions etched into its cover.)

Tonight, Morpheus, the puppet, cuts her strings.
This Book of Knowledge, the key to my liberation.

SCENE 7: THE WALKER RESIDENT. NIGHT

DREAM is sprawled on the couch, surrounded by snack wrappers and a variety of comfort foods. The glow of the TV screen flickers as the VHS player whirs to life, playing "The Never Ending Story." DREAM is thoroughly enjoying her earthly indulgences.

DREAM

(loud burp)

Ah, mortal pleasures!

Truly, the 'Never Ending Story' is a masterpiece.

(She gestures to the TV screen)

Fly Falkor! Fly!

Now that's the way to travel, on the back of a luck-dragon.

None of this teleportation business.

(She grabs a can of soda, taking a long swig before continuing.)

I might just stick around for a bit longer.

Earthly life agrees with me.

As DREAM is engrossed in the film, the girls rush in, panting and looking distressed. DREAM startles, sending snacks flying in all directions.

KATIE

(breathless)

Morpheus!

We figured it out!

AVA

(nodding in agreement)

We spoke with The Endless.

DREAM

All of them?

They were together?

AVA

Yes, Time and Night summoned them all to The Space Inbetween.

We learned that It's Lucienne.

She has gone mad.

ISRA

Lucienne is plotting something big,

She was holding the Book of Knowledge.

SCARLET

She was angry - vengeful.

She is plotting to overthrow you and destroy The Dreaming.

DREAM

Nonsense. Lucienne was crafted to serve the Dream Realm – not to destroy it.

I can't believe it. Are you sure?

KATIE

Yes. We all saw it.

Why would she do this, Morpheus?

DREAM

(nodding solemnly)

Perhaps discovering her only purpose was to serve, became too much for her to bear.

ELLIOT

(determined)

Well, Morpheus, we're not going to let it destroy The Dreaming.

There is too much at risk.

ELLIE

Tell us how we can stop Lucienne.

We will find a way to get it done.

MELODY

We need to stop her!

(dramatic pause)

Secret Sleepover Club - Assemble!

As the words "Secret Sleepover Club Assemble!" echo through the room, the atmosphere shifts. ELLIOT takes the lead as the girls begin forming a pact with hands intertwined, standing united with a newfound determination, the others reluctantly mimic her, joining the pact. The stage is set for a collective journey, and as they join hands.

SCENE 8: THE LIBRARY OF DREAMS.

LUCIENNE stands at the centre, holding the Book of Knowledge, her eyes filled with madness.

LUCIENNE

(laughing maniacally)

More?

Oh, there's always more, isn't there?

More dreams, more lies.

It's all in here.

In this little book!

The girls from the Secret Sleepover Club materialise, surrounding LUCIENNE cautiously.

ELLIE

Lucienne, we know it's you.

You have to stop this madness.

AVA

Listen to us.

Destroying the Library of Dreams will have consequences.

Things you can't take back!

SCARLET

(pleading)

Don't let your pain destroy everything.

You are an instrument of good.

LUCIENNE

(Enraged)

But I've seen it all, heard it all, felt it all.

KATIE

(Softer)

If you destroy this place, you won't just erase yourself.

You'll erase countless dreams, hopes, and futures.

ELLIOT

(firmly)

The book has a spell on you!

Let go...

MELODY

You can do it!
Let go!

LUCIENNE hesitates, the madness flickering in her eyes as the girls continue to plead with her. Suddenly, the room begins to shake, and a portal starts to form, the binding weakening.

ISRA

Break free Lucienne!
Let go of the book!

As the pleas and reasons intensify, LUCIENNE clutches the Book of Knowledge tighter, her internal struggle evident. The portal's bindings continue to weaken, and at the brink of collapse, LUCIENNE lets out a guttural scream, releasing her grip on the book. DREAM appears, stepping through the portal.

DREAM

(solemnly)

Lucienne.
My dear friend.

LUCIENNE falls to her knees, tears streaming down her face.

LUCIENNE

Morpheus, forgive me.
I couldn't bear the weight of it all.

DREAM

(softly)

Think nothing of it Lucienne.

(strong eye contact)

You are forgiven my friend.

As the moment of forgiveness settles, the air shifts, as THE ENDLESS enter the scene.

DEATH

(grimly)

Your forgiveness may be given *sister*,
But consequences *must* be faced.

TIME

Lucienne, you have disrupted the natural order.
And balance must be restored.

DESIRE

Your unchecked wants, wishes and desires led you here.
And what is done, cannot be undone.

DESPAIR

You found comfort in your own despair,
But it has to stop.

DELIRIUM

This is yum!
You gotta try it!!
Oh yeah, Lucienne you did a bad thing!

NIGHT

Madness clouded your judgement.

DESTRUCTION

Your actions caused destruction in the very fabric of existence.
We cannot let you live..

DESTINY

Your actions show a reckless disregard for the universe.
Now, the consequences demand a resolution
You will go into the void to rectify the chaos you unleashed.

LUCIENNE

Please.
No.
Don't...

DEATH

Morpheus, cast her into the void.
It is the only way.

DREAM, torn by the weight of their comments, looks at LUCIENNE with sorrow and regret.

DREAM

(to Lucienne)

I forgive you.

But I'm sorry my friend.

Your fate is a result of your own choices.

The balance must be maintained.

Reluctantly, DREAM gestures and the void engulfs LUCIENNE. She disappears, as THE ENDLESS surrounds her, leaving DREAM distraught and the girls stood on watching in the Library of Dreams.

SCENE 9: FIELD. SUNSET.

ELLIOT is seated alone, her silhouette against the fading light of the day. MELODY enters, and as they lock eyes, a sense of shared camaraderie fills the air. They perform the intricate handshake of The Secret Sleepover Club, a ritual ingrained in their friendship.

In a seamless sequence, AVA and ELLIE join them, settling down beside ELLIOT and MELODY. SCARLET, KATIE, and ISRA enter. All gaze outward, facing the audience with a shared sense of triumph and unity. A lone raven caws overhead, its sound echoing through the stillness. The friends exchange knowing smiles, a silent acknowledgment of the adventures they've shared and the unbreakable bond they've formed.

- END



BLACK BOX
DRAMA SCHOOL