

Act I: Remain and Rediscover

The stage is split into two levels. The back is higher: one long balcony. This is where Snow White, Prince Charming, and Boy Burn live. They scurry and pace. Below is darker. There is a bench stage right. A table is center. Angular behind the table is a bed by the bed: nightstand with three candles, photos, and snow globes. On the bed: soft sheets and dolls. There is a booth stage left (maybe a counter). They are three different locations, yet they blend. Here is where we live.

Prince Charming is writing:

Prince Charming

Dearest Snow White, I'm leaving you for another man. Don't think that I didn't love you. I love your dreams. I loved our time. I love. I love...

Mrs. Oliveson

You'll love it here, my dear.

Officer

Now, Mrs. Oliveson, your daughter wants you to remember that Elise does have medications she must take. There are certain stipulations to the agreement that we cannot forget.

Mrs. Oliveson

She'll be just fine. I remember quite well as to what I agreed to and I do not appreciate being talked to as if being elderly immediately means that incompetence is an automatic attribute.

Officer

Please, forgive me, Mrs. Oliveson. I meant absolutely nothing against you: I just wanted to remind you—

Mrs. Oliveson

What I agreed to. Yes, yes. Now, please, if you don't mind, I would like to spend some time with my granddaughter.

Officer

Have a nice day Mrs.—

Mrs. Oliveson

You too.

(closes door)

Elise. Elise, my dear. How are you. My, you have blossomed throughout the years. Look at you. So beautiful. Pale yet you are the furthest thing from tragic aren't you. Your dear mother--she means no harm. They just don't understand sometimes. Now do they? I must finish preparing our tea, because, as one of my many philosophies goes, a tranquil tea calms the mid-afternoon anxieties, so that the sunset can properly be enjoyed. Now, I've set some things up in the room I thought you might like. I gave you your mother's old room. The doll's were actually mine and the snow globes your aunt's. Your mother always had a more practical air about her, even from her earliest stages of youth. She also enjoyed much more of your grandfather's babble as opposed to mine, but, oh, more stories will come, with as much time as we have together. Why don't you go get settled.

Elise nods, has been smiling. Appreciating. Nickle glisten worth at least ten cents. She goes up the stairs. Rough wooden. The house is lit dimly to show the smiles of the past in dusty black and whites. She goes to the room with a door that is half-opened to the world of mystery: dolls, snowglobes, glass. Sheets white and windows wide open to the yard out back. Frame. Her eyes open. The small bag falls to the white rung at the foot of the bed. Soft dust rises. Her delicate smile. She looks out. Flowers. Over green earth. Magic undiscovered. Vines and wooden poles that have been antiqued to the trees and grown to nature. Pauses. Searches with eyes, eyes of cherished memories in slight frames given from behind dolls. An old record player with jazz assortment on table

black. Polish. Faded. She doesn't rest. Eyes of glee. The sun lights. Lights of sun and three candles at the end of the bed. She goes to look at these. Matches. Startled.

Mrs. Oliveson

The flame is lit to remember souls. Sometimes dead to the earth, sometimes dead to life: shouldn't be forgotten.

Look of confusion from Elise.

Mrs. Oliveson

Life. It should never be forgotten, than everything else is merely illusion. The tea is ready.

At the table.

Mrs. Oliveson

I still can't get over how beautiful you have become. Now, I know you probably think that the past is what is haunting this house, but it is life. I have discovered many things throughout the years: one being teas and the many new things to be used with them. This tea is one of the herbal blends that is suppose to directly infuse tranquility. Of course, I think most any tea would. Honey dear? Milk?

Elise shakes her head.

Mrs. Oliveson

I'm one for a dab of honey myself. Now, what was I saying? Yes, I believe any tea can produce tranquility, but I do enjoy the light flavor this one has to offer. Very refreshing. Slightly fruity, but only a hint. Sit my dear, or stand. Do what you wish here. I do not at all mind dreams here, but you must attend your weekly meeting with the doctor, just remember, sometimes the ability to pretend and play is the most important tool to be used in situations where the soul is being challenged. Do you think that the room will be to your liking?

Elise nods/smiles.

Mrs. Oliveson

It's the windows, isn't it?

Elise gives a divine smile.

Mrs. Oliveson

Oh, my garden! Right after your grandfather passed away, tending to the garden became a little too much for one such as I. I would much prefer watching nature taking a course according to its very nature rather than trimming and weeding.

Goes to window.

Mrs. Oliveson

I think that you should spend some time in the garden after tea. I really don't know what I'll make for dinner, but I'll whip something up. No meat. Right? That's what your mother tells me. I was never too big on meat myself. I've been vegetarian for decades now. Your grandfather thought it was just me trying to be hip, I just saw no need in the eating of animals. I mean, why should we? I just had no taste for it anyway. So, I'm thinking asparagus, but I can be—oh, look at me talking on and on, it's just so wonderful to have company.

Elise extends hand, smiles.

Mrs. Oliveson

Oh, well. Plenty of time to chatter. So beautiful. It's the eyes. You should go explore before it gets too late. I'll start cooking. Tomorrow school starts at eight o'clock. I know you had some problems at your last school, this one is just as small and there are the usual ruffians, but I don't think, at least I hope, it won't be as hard. No need to worry anyway, you go dream now while you can still find a path out there.

Elise goes out.

Boy Burn

Did you tell her?

Prince Charming

I left her a note.

Boy Burn

A note! You're leaving your wife for another man and you leave her a note. What did you say in it?

Prince Charming

Not much. Just—I'm leaving her for you and I did love her.

Boy Burn

You loved her. And love to you is?

Prince Charming

She was, she was Snow White. We sat up roasting apples and touching lips. We were bathed in red and she made me laugh.

Boy Burn

And you didn't want to touch her. You—

Prince Charming

I did! I did touch here. You just don't understand.

Boy Burn

Please. Prince Charming. You have to stop pretending that there were sparks. I've seen the smile, I've felt your pulse. Holding my hand was more excitement than you have felt in a long time.

Prince Charming

You weren't there! When we first met, there were sparks.

Boy Burn

Poof. Their gone after you discover with that first touch.

Prince Charming

I'm leaving her. Isn't that enough!

Boy Burn

Just don't lie to her. Don't lie to yourself.

He exits.

Prince Charming

Boy Burn! Boy Burn!

He exits.

Back porch beautiful. No way to know where to start. Light in shadow. She wanders out. Birds, flowers, emptying growth. She makes her way steadily, surely, hoping. Back to the end of the lot. Children heard playing in other yards.

She is startled.

Sam Wright

Shit, didn't mean to scare you. Sam Wright. You must be Mrs. Oliveson's granddaughter. She told my parents you'd be coming. I think that we're in some of the same classes. We live next door, but my father's not big on my smoking so I usually wander back to this great bench. Perfect place to watch the sun set.

Sips coffee.

Sam Wright

Cigarette?

She shakes head.

Didn't look like a smoker, but who knows. Need to be polite. Lack of respect lately. Quite sad. Would you like to watch the sun set with me? You should. It's colors are unimaginable some nights. Makes the river glow, plus the trains pass. That distant burst of escape.

She sits, watches him. He rambles. She smiles.

Sam Wright

So, you come from north of here?

She nods.

Sam Wright

I haven't been much further up myself. Wish I traveled more. God knows, I hate this place and every single inhabitant. Hate. I don't actually hate them. That word really shouldn't be thrown around. Frustrated! There we go. Oh. What was your name again?

Looks. Smiles. Reserved and understood.

Elise

Elise.

Sam Wright

Your grandmother's great. I tend to her yard in the spring and she always invites me in for some tea. Ah, look at these colors! Brilliant. (pauses at least one and a half minutes). So what are your plans after this final year of imprisonment?

Elise

Exploring.

Sam Wright

Me too! I'd like to write. My parents half-heartily agree with my plans, but I know that they love it. I refuse to give in to a lot and they play the parents bound by capitalist, yuppie agendas, but I know they felt freedom once.

Elise

The air is sweet.

Sam Wright

Fall is coming. The leaves falling give the air a subtle hint of sugar. Honey for the soul.

Elise

Pink.

Sam Wright

Ah, the crimson sky emerges. Listen. The train is coming, you have to give it a moment, but it will roar and pass us by.

Elise

Yes, I hear it. (smiles)

Sam Wright

Comfort.

The two smile. Soft train.

Sam Wright

Hard to speak after such consciousness.

Elise

Or unconsciousness.

Snow White

Leaving me! Another man! Oh, Boy Burn. I knew it! Shame. Oh, pain. Where's my medication. Oh, pills. Valium save me from this hell!

Picks up phone

Snow White

Happy, put Grumpy on the phone! You would not believe what just happened to me.

Prince Charming enters

Snow White

I'll call you back. You! You! You said you loved me! Love? You said—

Prince Charming

Snow White.

Snow White

Don't touch me! You ruffian! How could you?

Prince Charming

I do love you.

Snow White

If you love me, then, why, why are you leaving me? Just like that—gone. A note next to the coffee grinder. Grounds smearing the already fading text.

Prince Charming

I didn't know how to tell you the way that I should have.

Snow White

And how's that? That you like men? That you were daydreaming through sex. That you've been sleeping with our gardener! The gardener for Christ's sake! It's not like I haven't been through enough in my life to have this too. All alone, I get the queer prince. You can live in your demented little mind for as long as you like—just—go.

Prince Charming

I never meant to harm you. I just--

Snow White

Get out!

Prince Charming exits. Snow White cries.

Mrs. Oliveson

Elise! Are you still exploring, honey? Dinner is about to be served. Take your time, dear.

Sam Wright

Your grandmother's great. She used to teach me painting. I'm surprised that I've never met you before. You must not have come much to visit.

She shakes her head.

Sam Wright

My grandparent's, those alive, live fairly far away, so I don't get to see them often. Don't forget about them though.

Elise

I never forget.

Sam Wright

I usually remember things myself.

Elise gets up to go.

Sam Wright

Yeah, I guess it is time for you to get going. I guess I'll see you in school. If you ever need anything--I'm just a few steps away.

Elise

It was magical meeting you.

Sam Wright

Such a compliment. Well, it was magical meeting you to.

They leave. Her
grandmother is waiting.

Mrs. Oliveson

Isn't the dusk beautiful out there.

Elise nods.

Mrs. Oliveson

I made us some asparagus and some little biscuit-esque things. I haven't cooked for anyone in such a long time. It feels nice.

She smiles, they sit at a table.
Candle and two small plates.
Small teacups (demi-task).

Mrs. Oliveson

Well, aren't you hungry, dear? Dig in.

Elise

It's just so beautiful, grandmother.

Grandmother smiles. She speaks and this is love.

Mrs. Oliveson

Thank you, dear, but that's even more reason to eat it up. I think that we are in for some very precious moments, don't you?

Elise

Many.

They eat.

It is the girl's bedtime as the stage has darkened.

Mrs. Oliveson

If you need anything, I'm right down the hall.

Elise smiles/nods. She explores the sheets in pale light/white. Candles left unlit. The lights go out.

Boy Burn enters. Snow White is frantically packing.

Snow White

It's you! Get out before I call the cops.

Boy Burn

Look, I just think you need to let him go in peace.

Snow White

In peace! In peace! After the crap he has put me through you want me to let him go in peace.

Boy Burn

Let me tell you from experience, it is not his fault that he is gay.

Snow White

Please! I don't care one way or another about the tendencies that you people have and where they come from. I only care because there were vows. He took vows saying that he would always be in love with me. Now where is he? Holding the gardener at night.

Boy Burn
(softly) While you caress a bottle of whiskey.

Snow White
Was that a quip?

Boy Burn
No. Never.

Snow White
You schmuck.

Boy Burn
Look. I'm just saying—give him a chance to explain.

Snow White
He was just going to leave me a note and leave.

Boy Burn
Leave. He knew he would see you again, it was just to break it to you.

Snow White
You mean you aren't running off into the sunset together?

Boy Burn
Leave the area? Hell, no! We love it here. The taxes may suck, but the area is well worth it.

Snow White
You little shit!

Boy Burn
You wanted us just to leave, didn't you?

Snow White
Well, if he expected some faux friendship, I'm not taking it.

Boy Burn
You wanted us to leave so you could sit with your gang of dwarfs, gossip about us, drink your Starbucks, and play the wounded princess abandoned.

Snow White
Abandoned yet again.

Boy Burn

Well, it's not happening. We're staying and you cannot help but run into him so you might as well give him another chance to explain.

Snow White

There is nothing he can say. Love was never there. (pause) I have never been loved have I?

Boy Burn

For Christ's sake.

Snow White

Maybe my father loved me, but he is gone. Oh, treacherous life of pain.

Boy Burn

Go weep into you jug of Carlo Rossi. I can't stand the melodramatics.

He exits.

Snow White

(crying) I hate you! You took him! You took my one chance at—at... ohh.

Elise is walking. School is out. Speed and dream. Harsh and resistant. Head down. Shouts offstage: "Come on. Pretty face. Why don't you say something? Talk to me. You'll love it!"

Sam Wright

Elise! Elise!

She stops in hesitance.

Sam Wright

Don't let that world get to you. School invariably sucks the contentment out of you. The demented rise to the prime of their ego, but they're just the rejects of that world. Soon, they won't even notice you.

She is crying.

Sam Wright

Come on, I want to show you something.

She is resistant.

Sam Wright

If you don't want to, I understand. It's just a couple blocks down, though.

He smiles/she nods away
tears.

Sam Wright

It's an old diner. Most of the old-time locals go there. Not much business. The age is great. It has this faded glory—remains in high stools and marks you know were important.

They walk in silence.
Breezes. The doors: hinges
slow last picture show?
Where were the lies? Hidden
in the depths of booths that
smoked many cigarettes and
morality morose.

Sam Wright

Hey, Cindy!

Cindy

Hey Sammy! Coffee?

Sam Wright

Yep.

Sam Wright

Cindy, this is Elise, Mrs. Oliveson's granddaughter.

Cindy

Very nice to meet ya. How'dya take up with this ruffian? You'll probably catch cancer just from sittin' across from him.

Sam Wright

Cindy, my smoking pales in comparison to those that you scarf down at the counter.

Cindy

My days have owed me mine, yours have hardly begun.

Sam Wright

If only. My innocence broke years back.

Cindy

Honey. Mine's not even a memory. What can I get you hon?

Elise

Hot cocoa. (soft)

Cindy

Good choice. Few people come in say we've got the best hot cocoa around. It's in the milk and real chocolate, also gotta have the perrrfect amount of sugar. Too much or too little ruins the whole batch. Just enough to settle—to smooth. He prefers the black coffee. Ruffian.

Sam Wright

Bitter to the sweet.

Cindy

His cigarettes cut the bite.

Sam Wright

Speaking of which. Can we get an ashtray over in that booth.

Cindy

Here. Bring it over yourself.

She smiles—he repays.

Sam Wright

So, as far as I could tell, your day at school was as bad as mine. But we won't talk about that. Mr. Paradise, though, you'll love him. He's really the only friend that I have there.

Elise

He's magnetic.

Sam Wright

His personality can't be beat with a ten-foot pole.

She smiles. Kneels on bench.
Calm reserve. She gazes
about. Excitement.

Sam Wright

Isn't this place great?

Elise

A capsule.

Sam Wright

Time capsule. These pictures were put up by Mr. Spuns, the man who opened the place. Ran it for fifty-eight years. Just passed away last year. Eighty-two years old, he was with till the end. Cindy took it over. Went straight to her, he didn't have anything by the time he died, 'cept the pictures on the walls.

Elise

Rusty.

Sam Wright

Antiqued as hell. Cindy, your going keep this place going. Right?

Cindy

Don't know who'll be coming in after you leave, but I've got nothing else to do. One hot cocoa and one coffee.

Sam Wright

Cindy?

Cindy

Yep?

Sam Wright

You look great today.

Cindy

Flattery will get you no free coffee.

Sam Wright

Never has. So have you explored much of the world so far?

Elise

(shakes head) I've been stranded.

Sam Wright

Yeah. Born and raised in this town. I've seen a lot through it though. How's your hot cocoa?

Elise

Perfect.

Cindy

It's the sugar. Just the right amount.

Elise

It's wonderful.

Cindy

So how was the first day back?

Sam Wright

Hell.

Door opens. In walks a boy.
Eighteen? Nineteen?
Twenty? He wears his life.
Slung over his shoulders.
Satchel. It is garnished in
memorabilia. Each tear is
always a story. He is young,
aged older to fit formal
thought.

David Emerson

Can I get a cup of coffee?

Cindy

Sure, hon. Take a seat. You can sit anywhere. As you can see, I don't think that I've ever seen you around town.

David Emerson

Just passin' through.

Cindy

Don't hear that much nowadays. Just get in?

David Emerson

No. Came in last night.

Girl gazes suspicious.
Lovingly at the boy who sits
at the counter, he looks
unbroken and free. Some one
thing holds him to life. Sam
also proceeds to gaze.
Curious as we may all be in a
life so void as ours. In

knowing each other, we entertain ourselves and begin to understand the people that we are. Subtle comfort farming the eyes of others— knowing that such freedom is possible. In plausible notions of less forgiven sight, in touch of passion pursed in pliable pause. Pleasant. Salutations in notable form. Convenient protection knowing that fantasy is a guide. Blessed be the souls that didn't fall. Formal sight fades beneath tempting skies. And we dance.

Cindy

Cream? Sugar?

David Emerson

Black.

Cindy

You should talk to Sammy over there. He has a strong affection for the bitter cup as well.

Stranger looks over. Notices the two in the booth. He meets the eye of the girl. Grace is sparked. Glean. Mutual.

David Emerson

Hello

Sam Wright

Hello.

Elise nods/smiles. Grace in silence.

Sam Wright

Been travelin' long?

David Emerson

Yeah.

Elise calls him over with extended hand. Bewildered, he joins them. He nods/smiles. Sam extends hand.

Sam Wright.
Sam Wright

David.
David Emerson

Elise.
Elise

David Emerson
Nice to meet you. I wasn't expecting to find such color in such an environment. Do you both call this home?

Sam Wright
Yup, but it's still new to Elise. Only her second day in this backward town.

David Emerson
How do you enjoy it?

Elise
It's an experience.

Sam Wright
How long are you planning on staying?

David Emerson
No plans. I'm just here. I make a livin' traveling.

Sam Wright
Ah.

Elise
That sounds wonderful.

David Emerson
It has its ups and downs.

Sam Wright

Been all around?

David Emerson

Haven't broken America yet, haven't found it necessary.

Sam Wright

Neither have I.

Elise

Only in dreams.

David Emerson

More freeing.

Their eyes meet in a way that is only born of suspicious appeal. Adjoined dimensions. Who would call this booth vapid does not understand veiled destiny.

Sam Wright

Do you work on your travels?

David Emerson

Occasionally the masses need some help attending to the menial that they either feel is below them or beyond them, but that only comes from those that skipped the understanding of common sense only so their shoulders could be a little broader.

Sam Wright

Does everyone you work for fall into these categories?

David Emerson

Yep. Any who actually require the aid I do the work for free. They shouldn't be punished for inability. Usually it is age that is their great enemy, than they repay me with knowledge. Stories that are vast. Solved mysteries I never thought to ponder.

Sam Wright

Elise's grandmother probably bears many stories that you would find valuable. I know I learned from her wise words.

David Emerson

Is that who you are living with?

Elise

It's an old house down the road.

David Emerson
Has she lived there long?

Elise
Her whole life. Her parents before that.

David Emerson
You're only coming home now?

Elise
My mother left many years ago.

David Emerson
Left her history.

Prince Charming and Boy
Burn run in.

Boy Burn
Are you sure Grumpy wasn't just exaggerating?

Prince Charming
They all said that she was planning on doing it.

Boy Burn
She is one for the dramatics.

Prince Charming
And what better way for someone like her to go. I just want to make sure she is okay.

Boy Burn
You can't take care of her forever.

Prince Charming
I promised I would love her forever.

Boy Burn
And—

Prince Charming
I love you. This has nothing to do with us. Just let me make sure.

Offstage there are yells:
“Look in there boys! Local
fag and the new nymph.
Grown vocal chords yet! I
can put that pretty little
mouth of yours to good use.
New little friend with them.
Now there is a whole group
of fairies to dance in the
fields.”

They all shutter. Cringe. She
buries herself.

Cindy

Get the hell away from here. Go harass the patrons at the other diner. No one cares what
you have to say!

End Act I.

Act II: Display and Displacement

Mrs. Oliveson

Did you have a good day at school, dear?

Elise nods.

Mrs. Oliveson

Mrs. Wright tells me you have become acquainted with Sammy. He is a nice boy, isn't he?

Elise nods.

Mrs. Oliveson

He really is one of the nicest boys in town if you ask me. It is such a shame that he has had such a hard time here. So many people seem to look down on him. Really is a shame. Well, I hope you two have a good time together. Were you with him after school?

Elise

We went to the diner.

Mrs. Oliveson

Mr. Spuns old diner?

Elise nods and smiles.

Mrs. Oliveson

That is such a wonderful old haunt. Your grandfather and I used to go there every Sunday. We knew Mr. Spuns quite well. Your mother actually had a waitressing job there one summer. She was very dedicated to her jobs.

Elise begins to cry. She falls.

Mrs. Oliveson

Oh, my dear. Things are hard, aren't they? School will be over soon and—well. I hate to bring it up, but you must go to the doctor's tomorrow. Maybe he will be able to help. Although, I hardly believe he could. Oh, darling I know. I know.

Elise begins to leave.

Mrs. Oliveson

Remember, those that are lost in unconsciousness rarely wake long enough to see all that you have seen in a mere ten minutes. Now, go rest, take a nap. Tuck in tight because you don't want your dreams to be altered by the draft.

Sam is smoking on the bench.
The stage lights are dim, it is dark, small white light. He is startled by a snap.

Elise? Sam Wright

I didn't mean to scare you. David Emerson

Jesus Christ, man. What are you doing here? Sam Wright

Mind if I join you? David Emerson

Nah, might as well have some company while the day is still young. Sam Wright

It's almost over. David Emerson

Ah, you see, my day doesn't really begin until after dusk. Sam Wright

So this is your morning. David Emerson

Morning generally passes at sunset with the train. This is more mid-afternoon. Sam Wright

I see. Whiskey? David Emerson

You truly are prepared to be a wandering soul. Sam Wright

Takes a swig.

I'm not much of a soul. More of a wanderer. David Emerson

Sam Wright

So, you come to this town looking for nothing and now you are bumbling about the backyards of middle-America drunk on whiskey.

David Emerson

Me being here isn't as much of an exploration into society as much as following Elise back from the diner.

Sam Wright

Well, that is reassuring. Is this going to be a robbery or just a courting from the moon?

David Emerson

What exactly do you know about her?

Sam Wright

What exactly do you know about her?

David Emerson

I know enough from the eyes.

Sam Wright

Ahh, right.

David Emerson

Why is she staying with her grandmother? Was she orphaned?

Sam Wright

For the sake of romantics—sure.

David Emerson

There is a certain grace to her. I've never met anyone quite like her. And I have known people in my day.

Sam Wright

She seems as though she is a good one to know.

David Emerson

You know her well?

Sam Wright

We just met yesterday, but I know her well.

David Emerson

I know what you mean. (pause) So you just spend your nights out here thinking?

Sam Wright

Better than being many other places.

David Emerson

True.

Sam Wright

I figure one day I'll spend this down time writing.

David Emerson

Why not now?

Sam Wright

Haven't been inspired yet.

David Emerson

Whiskey?

Sam Wright

Sure. So you going to call to her balcony?

David Emerson

Soon. Not tonight. Tonight I'll just dream. (pause) So who lives in that huge house on the hill?

Sam Wright

Just a couple of eccentrics. Every once in a while they grace the peasants with their presence.

Lights up on eccentrics.

Prince Charming

What in the hell were you thinking?

Snow White

Sleeping Beauty got to sleep for years.

Prince Charming

Eighty valiums does not induce sleep unless your perception of sleep is six feet under in a dark casket.

Snow White

Red.

Prince Charming

What?

Snow White

Velvet red casket.

Prince Charming

Right. So that's your solution? Die now and have a beautiful casket and fancy funeral with an open bar.

Snow White

What do I have to live for? I guess I never really had anything though since you never even cared.

Prince Charming

Me rushing you to the hospital at three in the morning didn't prove that I cared about you.

Snow White

It was an act of obligation.

Prince Charming

I can't do this, Snow White, I have given this break-up so much energy and you refuse to see it any other way than an evil plot against you and your fabulous life where everything fits.

Snow White

Please. I am not blowing this nearly as out of proportion as I could and you just have no sympathy.

Prince Charming

No sympathy?

Snow White

None. And if you'll excuse me I have an appointment with my shrink.

Counselor

Now, Elise, to help this matter, you must be willing to express yourself.

Elise

Okay.

Counselor

People are very worried about you and I think that they have good reason to be. You must be more open to verbalizing thoughts in your mind. The longer you keep things repressed, the harder it will be to target any problems.

Snow White

So, then, he has the audacity to say that I am not being considerate of his situation. Can you believe that? Me! I have only been the one who has helped to support that asshole for the last five years of his life. And he just took it! Along with my gardener. Do you know how hard it is to find a good gardener no a days. Nearly impossible.

Counselor

Well, as the case may be you sometimes need to see things from other people's perspectives.

Elise

My parents are wonderful. They're cluttered, though.

Counselor

It's good to have distractions...

Snow White

And it isn't like I haven't been left out in the cold before, but I really thought that I had moved passed the rough section in my life. The tumult is over, I kept saying. I have dinnerware and nice curtains and a husband who loves me.

Counselor

Do you think that is all there is to life?

Elise

There is much, but it is all in the little things.

Counselor

Could it be that you just don't want to acknowledge the big things because it is too hard?

Snow White

I mean being gay is a major thing and all, but maybe it's just a thing for a little while. I didn't even pick up on it at all. I mean really, I kinda just feel like a moron because I never knew. I mean, he did help me pick out the flatware, and it was very nice flatware, but he never seemed to give too much attention to the interior design of the place. And I had to usually help him pick out clothes, I mean really, was I just missing the signs or was he just a really good actor?

Counselor

Do you think that we are all prone just to be actors?

Elise

Yes.

Counselor

Well, what can be done?

Snow White

Aren't you supposed to give me some advice? Tell me what I am doing wrong.

Counselor

I can help you see things differently.

Elise

Things are beautiful anyway.

Counselor

I'm here to help.

Snow White

Rip off if you ask me.

Counselor

There's a reason you are here.

Elise

They wanted me to come.

Counselor

Did you want to come?

Snow White

I mean really, the people at the hospital told me this would help.

Counselor

Do you feel that you're fine?

Elise nods.

Counselor

Then why did you do it?

Snow White and Elise

(pause) I was lonely.

David Emerson
Elise?
Elise
Hi.
David Emerson
You look upset.
Elise
Oh, no. I'm fine.
David Emerson
Can I walk you...
Elise
I'm just walking.
David Emerson
Well, could I –would you mind if I joined, or maybe we could go down to. You like the diner?
Elise smiles.
David Emerson
Maybe we—so would you? I think I saw Sam heading that way. We could catch up with him. I spent some time with him last night. He seems like a great...
Elise
Yes.
David Emerson
Well, would you like to go?
Elise nods.
They walk, slowly. Sam is in the diner smoking. Cindy is amusing herself. Usual banter directed at Sam. They are silent. All is silent.
David Emerson
I found this great lake today.

With ducks. Elise

You've been? David Emerson

No. Elise

Maybe we could go down later. I could show you. David Emerson

With bread. Elise

To picnic. Yeah, I like picnics. David Emerson

For the ducks. Elise

Of course. I'm sure they like picnics too. David Emerson

When are you leaving? Elise

Oh, do you want me to— David Emerson

No. Never. Elise

Well, I'll have to. David Emerson

In the blood. Elise

You could say that. Veins-- David Emerson

Paint great books. Elise

They smile. They are almost there.

David Emerson

Ah—

Elise

Shhh.

They listen. It is the train announcing the coming sunset.

Boy Burn and Prince Charming enter.

Boy Burn

I've spent my life running. If I have to leave someplace one more time, I don't know where my head will be.

Prince Charming

It is inevitable that I won't run into her. I just can't deal with it. I gave to her and she believes that it was all lies. Maybe it was all lies.

Boy Burn

It was one lie.

Prince Charming

It was big enough.

Boy Burn

Big enough to do what?

Prince Charming

To change it all. To affect the rest. To make mold me into the person that she expected. That everyone expected. I was married to Snow White. I had picked up the pieces once and she wanted me to keep on—being—that,

Boy Burn

You know what she wanted. She gave her SUV more attention than she gave to you.

Prince Charming

It is abandoning her.

Boy Burn

If you're right and the lie was big enough, then you're not abandoning her at all.

Prince Charming

But I am.

Boy Burn

You aren't. (pause) He is.

David Emerson and Elise
enter the diner.

Cindy

Well, if it isn't the drifter.

David Emerson

H'lo.

Sam Wright

Well, it seems you found each other.

Elise

We are going to feed the ducks.

Sam Wright

Down in the woods?

David Emerson

Would you like to join us?

Elise

An evening activity.

Sam Wright

Won't your grandmother miss you?

Elise

I told her I was going to play after my—I had to go out.

David Emerson

Come on Sam. Nothing like a journey into night—

Elise

In the bramble.

Cindy

The fresh air would do your lungs good.

Sam Wright

My lungs are perfectly happy, thank you.

Cindy

Right. Can I get you guys something?

Elise

We just came to kidnap him.

Cindy

Someone actually wants you around. I'd take advantage of it.

Sam Wright

Why not.

Elise

Miss?

Cindy looks endearingly at
the girl of meek words.

Elise

Could we have some bread?

David Emerson

For the ducks.

Cindy

Well, I don't see why not.

Cindy retrieves some bread.

Cindy

Here ya' go. Don't get too lost, now.

Elise

That's the fun.

Sam Wright

But we promise not to eat any suspicious apples.

Elise

Only the one's we pick ourselves.

David Emerson

Shall we heave ho, off we go?

Sam jumps up.

Sam Wright

Into the woods. See ya' Cindy.

Cindy

Bye, guys.

They wander out in smiles.
All smile and there is silence.
There is contentment.

Boy Burn and Prince
Charming enter.

Prince Charming

I suppose this is a new beginning.

Boy Burn

Are you sure you really want to do this?

Prince Charming

Neither of us have seen that much. We might as well step out now.

Boy Burn

We can't just scurry back when you miss home.

Prince Charming

My tail is not going to be between my legs when I can caress the scenes out there. All those places I have seen in books, they are all about to become memory—my memory.

Boy Burn

I think we would have been just as content here.

Prince Charming

I want to do this and I cannot do this without you. I love you and I want these steps to be ours.

Boy Burn

Be sure you know who you are doing this for.

Prince Charming

Us.

They kiss.

The three are now one level above. Their legs dangle off the side of the platform. They are on the right side. They are laughing, being.

Sam Wright

I can try to scare up the ducks for you.

Elise

No. I think that they are sleeping. Let them sleep.

David Emerson

It's so nice here.

Elise

It can be nice anywhere.

David Emerson

True.

Sam Wright

Okay, so what do you guys think? Is this a long winter coming?

David Emerson

Can't tell.

Sam Wright

They're always so long.

Elise

Fall is fleeting.

David Emerson

So is spring.

Sam Wright

That's probably why they're the nicest. We spend most of our time in the extreme.

David Emerson

So do you just spend every evening in the diner alone?

Sam Wright

Yep.

David Emerson

Don't you get lonely?

Sam Wright

Well, do you get lonely on your journeys?

David Emerson

Seems different.

Elise

There's always company.

Mrs. Oliveson shuffles out below and begins preparing tea. She will sit and read when she finishes. Cindy walks out and being "closing shop." She tidies the booth, when she finishes she will sit with coffee and cigarette and a notebook where she sketches. They will continue this activity in the dim light until the end of the act.

Sam Wright

It's true.

David Emerson

Daydreaming.

Sam Wright

One day, I know Prince Charming will come and rescue me. It's all about having the patience to make it to that point. I think I have trained myself considerably well. Waiting. Really, it's an art.

David Emerson

So's life.

Elise

Look! We must have woken him up.

Sam Wright

He's so cute.

Elise takes the bread out of her pocket.

David Emerson

Come here ducky.

Elise

He misses his momma.

Sam Wright

She must be a heavy sleeper. He's snuck out for a night out on the town. Toss him the bread.

Elise

Here ya' go, little guy. A snack to feed the adventure.

Elise tosses the bread. It lands on the kitchen table where her grandmother sits. Her grandmother does not notice the nourishment from her granddaughter.

David Emerson

So are you going to stay?

Elise

I love my grandmother.

Sam Wright

She is great.

Elise

I'm scared.

Elise places her head on David's shoulders. The three have known each other for such a brief period of time, yet they know. They have seen the glisten of tears.

Tears that sparked in a way
only they could understand.
In the corner of their eye, in
the case of fear, in the
labyrinth of present day
apathy, in what they have.
Sometimes the heartbeat can
murmur language only those
who touch can read.

Sam Wright
These spirits are falling quick, come on guys, enjoy this.

David Emerson and Elise
I am.

Sam Wright
Joke time.

David Emerson
(Groans).

Sam Wright
Say, why'd the chicken cross the road?

Elise
'Cause he couldn't fly?

David Emerson
Shot in the dark—to get to the other side?

Sam Wright
Nope.

Elise
Well...

Sam Wright
So he wouldn't be slaughtered.

Prince Charming is alone on
the left side of the second
level. He is packing a
backpack. Snow White
enters behind him. Their

tones start low and gradually increase. The height of the argument is overlapped.

Leaving?	Snow White
Someone had to.	Prince Charming
He's going with you?	Snow White
I feel something when we touch.	Prince Charming
That sweater's mine. I bought it for you.	Snow White
Take it!	Prince Charming
I gave you—	Snow White
You gave me—	Prince Charming
life! Try, I tried--	Snow White
nothing! The one time I needed—	Prince Charming
to be—	Snow White
someone! You let me—	Prince Charming
something! I had no parents, no—	Snow White
go into this whole new world,—	Prince Charming

Snow White
one to tell me it's all right. I was in the--

Prince Charming
new life in the—

Snow White and Prince Charming
Dark!

Snow White
I'm sorry.

Prince Charming
So am I. I never knew you.

Snow White
I never wanted to know you. I'm sorry. And, I'm going to be the one to leave.

Prince Charming
You—

Snow White
You have something here. I may not know you well, but I know that that much is true.
I'm leaving tonight. I'll hop a train.

Prince Charming
Snow Whi—

Snow White
Don't utter a name I don't even know. But I am—sorry.

She leaves.

They laugh.

Sam Wright
So that's where I'll end up, ya' know.

David Emerson
If only I could say where I would.

Elise
You could say.

Sam Wright

And never know. That's what I do.

David Emerson

It's true.

There is a crashing in the woods. It sounds as though it is a stampede of all the unhappy beasts. Beasts? Yes. Unhappy? They may never know.

Elise

What is that?

Sam Wright

That doesn't sound like nature.

Elise

(screams)

Lights out. The crashing increases, followed by shouts. They are male and of the slurred, drunken variety. They are from earlier in the lives of these children. They are menacing and too close to what is reality. They shout as the characters of our fairy tale shriek. "If it isn't the faggot and his fairy friends! Hey mute! What do you want stranger?! Coming into our town tryin' to protect the freaks! Havin' fun playin' in the woods, faggots?!"

David Emerson

Get away from them!

Mob

You'll get yours!

Grunts of all kinds. Moans.

One...last...blood...curdling
...scream...silence.

Bare light. There are three posts now on the second level. Furthest stage right hangs the limp body of David. Center hangs Elise. Furthest stage left hangs Sam. All limbs hang. It is as if they have been nailed through the neck. Maybe a worn shirt thrown on an old coat-rack. Maybe the souls of so many—worn. The image is present for at least a minute with no motion.

Lights.

End of Act II.

Act III: Biding Farewell

The lights come up: dim. The bodies still hang, but now Mrs. Oliveson and Cindy have left the stage. David Emerson soon begins to twitch as he comes back to life. He pulls himself slowly up and detaches himself. He falls to the ground and takes some time to get his bearings. He looks up to see the other portions of his soul hanging so heavily. And the last act begins. He goes to Elise and carefully begins to get her down. As her body falls into his arms he cuddles in the warmth and rocks back and forth. As he is taken in the roll of protector, Prince Charming, who had heard the scream, comes unbeknownst to David. Prince Charming stares up at Sam Wright, gently lowers him to the ground, gives a kiss on the cheek, and exits into the dark.

David Emerson

Elise? Elise?

She moans lightly and clings onto him. Sam begins to twitch and come to his senses.

Sam Wright

Elise? David?

David is so confused by the incident that Sam no being lowered does not seem unreasonable or curious in any way.

David Emerson

Sam? Over here.

Sam slowly crawls over to the other two.

David Emerson

This place sure knows how to liven up a life.

Sam Wright

Is she going to be all right?

David Emerson

Yeah. More shock than anything. We got the majority of the bating.

Sam Wright

Coming out of war, we got a few good hits in.

David Emerson
Protected her until the end. Elise?

Elise
Grandma?

Sam Wright
We should get her home.

David Emerson
Yeah.

Sam Wright
Can you carry her okay?

David Emerson
Yeah, my body has seen worse trauma.

Snow White comes out of the dark and descends carrying luggage. She sits on the bench and awaits the chance to leave, or start, or whatever this may be. David carries Elise who murmurs and shakes and Sam follows closely behind, a slight limp apparent. They go center stage where they lay her on the kitchen table. She begins to come to as Mrs. Oliveson enters.

Mrs. Oliveson
My dears! Oh, what has happened?

Sam Wright
We were out in the woods when the local ruffians decided to have a little fun by attacking us.

Mrs. Oliveson
Oh, dears!

She hurries about to retrieve whatever it may be that

grandmothers use to cure.
Elise sits up.

Elise

Grandma.

Mrs. Oliveson

Elise. Are you okay?

Elise

This is David. He and Sam protected me as best they could.

Mrs. Oliveson

I'm so sorry this happened my dear. My dear, Elise.

Elise

We fed the duck. The pond was beautiful tonight.

Mrs. Oliveson

I'll make some tea.

Mrs. Oliveson leaves to make
her usual tea to calm the
anxiety.

David Emerson

I was so afraid that you weren't coming back to us.

Elise

I couldn't leave you yet.

Sam Wright

I swear this town doesn't seem to be healthy for any of us.

David Emerson

I don't think you guys should stay here.

Sam Wright

Where would we go? We can't just run away.

David Emerson

You could—

Mrs. Oliveson enters crying.
She sets the tea down at the
table. The others now stand

off to the side of the table, so it is apparent that when she speaks, she is speaking to memory.

Mrs. Oliveson

Now, Betsy how many times have I told you, you can't keep hurting yourself like that. I know you don't like talking to me about what's going on

The three watch as Mrs. Oliveson becomes lost in photos.

Mrs. Oliveson

Now, why can't I help you? Why must you always run to your father? Well, if you must go, then go. Your mama is here to help you and you would rather go. There's a big world out there. Isn't there. (laughs softly) I suppose I never noticed, with your grandfather here. Send me a postcard.

Elise

Grandma?

Mrs. Oliveson

Now, I hope you have a nice time.

Elise

Grandma!

Mrs. Oliveson breaks into consciousness.

Mrs. Oliveson

Now, here dear. This should help. I'm sorry that they are stopping you from play, Elise. I'm sorry that it is raining out there. I guess escaping your mother was a naïve notion on all our parts. Gentleman, would you like some honey in your tea?

Sam Wright

No, thank you, Mrs. Oliveson. Here, let me take care of it. Why don't you do rest. We'll be fine.

Mrs. Oliveson

Oh, no. I feel that I should enjoy taking care of people for as long as I can. (pause) Thank you very much for saving my granddaughter—

David Emerson

David.

Mrs. Oliveson

David, yes. What a nice name. How long will you be staying with us?

David Emerson

Actually, I'm just passing through.

Mrs. Oliveson

A traveler. How nice.

David Emerson

I really can't stay much longer with winter coming. I have to follow the seasons.

Mrs. Oliveson

Follow the heat?

David Emerson

And harvests.

Mrs. Oliveson

Oh, Elise dear. I don't think that you should get up.

Elise

Oh, no. I'm feeling much better.

Mrs. Oliveson

I think Sam may have been right. I think I am going to lie down—for just a couple of minutes. Sam maybe you should go tell your parents you're all right. You haven't been home all night.

Sam Wright

Will do, Mrs. Oliveson, but I doubt they even noticed I was gone.

Elise

I think I will make some pancakes.

Mrs. Oliveson

Oh, Elise! (In complete disbelief) You've had a very rough night.

Elise

And I'm all the happier to be here right now.

Mrs. Oliveson

(smiles) All the ingredients are around. Help yourself David to anything you would like.

David Emerson

Thank you.

Sam Wright

I'll be back by in a bit.

Sam Wright and Mrs.
Oliveson exit. Elise and
David stare at each other.
Lights low above.

Boy Burn

Hey, Kiddo. You okay?

Prince Charming

Yeah. Last night I was thinking about how it was to be young and scared. Thought I was bound to forever be an actor. Be a character I created.

Boy Burn

I shouldn't—

Prince Charming

Sshh. I remembered how it was to believe in masks. It was constantly Halloween. I was the only person that was scared to death of his own mask when I looked in the mirror.

Elise and David begin
making pancakes and
laughing below.

Prince Charming

You were right about the sparks, but when you live so long in delusion, you can make yourself jump out of simply having something. I think that I ran out of energy, though, some time back and when I met you I realized what it was to have such innocent passion. I realized what it was to glow in excitement of what may come.

Boy Burn

So,

Prince Charming

So.

They kiss. Exit.

David Emerson

Maybe a little sugar for good measure.

Elise

In pancakes?

David Emerson

Yeah. Why not?

Elise

And a little honey.

David Emerson

Honey?

Elise

For my grandmother.

David Emerson

So, what should we put in for Sam? Coffee?

Elise

Why not?

They laugh. And begin stirring their concoction.

David Emerson

These are going to taste.

Elise

Great. They are going to be the best damn pancakes.

David looks surprised.

Elise

What?

David Emerson

So what now?

Elise

Cook them.

David Emerson

Yes, but about. I mean, what are you going to do?

Elise

They'll be so upset at Grandma if they find out what happened. They think any little thing like that pushes me further away.

David Emerson

What happened?

Elise

I was lonely and I never smiled. My parents kept pushing me away. They found other parents for me.

David Emerson

Where?

Elise

Oh, they just paid for them. I didn't take a liking to any of them. So the doctors decided it was time I took an extended vacation. My mother didn't think that it would look good for the family if I went where they wanted me to go, so I came here.

David Emerson

Has it helped?

Elise

I've smiled haven't I?

David Emerson

I'm leaving soon.

Elise

I know.

David Emerson

Elise. (pause) I've been smiling too.

Elise

Must get lonely out there.

David Emerson

It's my home. After awhile, you learn to appreciate the bare company of yourself. I must admit, though, I wouldn't mind having a companion. Out there are people, places, and tastes you never knew existed. It's kinda like a tangible dream. Why don't you come with me?

Elise

They'd probably just think I threw myself into the river.

David Emerson

What about your grandmother?

Elise

She knows. I would send her beautiful postcards and she would pin them onto the refrigerator. And every fall we could visit.

David Emerson

Sam could come with us.

Elise

Pancakes are done.

David Emerson

Should I do tell Sam our plans?

Elise

I'll have breakfast with my grandma. I'll meet you down by the tracks.

David exits. Blows her a light kiss.

Elise

Grandma. Breakfast is ready.

Mrs. Oliveson enters.

Mrs. Oliveson

I'll make us some tea. Where did David go?

Elise

He's getting ready to go.

Mrs. Oliveson

So soon?

Elise

Grandma, I think that I am going to—

Mrs. Oliveson

Shh, my dear. I expected it. Let us have our tea. And some of these wonderful pancakes. You know I never told you, but I used to make the best breakfasts this end of America. I would invite Mr. Spuns over sometimes and he and your grandfather and I would sit out in the garden and feast all morning. It was when your grandfather still tended everyday to the ivies. Your mother rarely joined us, but sometimes, she would come down and dance around in my clothes. That was when she was very young. She would parade around pretended to be a princess. Even then, all she wanted was a handsome man to take her away and shower her in riches. Then, though, it was so playful. She would dance around in my costume jewelry and sing these songs she would

make up for us. Your grandfather would throw flowers at her as we ate our fruit and biscuits. The biscuits at Mr. Spuns' diner are actually my recipe, couldn't be beat, ya' know. Those times were so very enjoyable. Your grandfather was all I really needed in those days. Gave me someone to sit with when the nights got long we always had the company of someone else. Someone else who catches you when you've stopped smiling and pulls you outside to revel in the glory of what we have in just being. Well, I think that you should be going soon.

Elise

Your stories are so nice.

Mrs. Oliveson

Yes, but they are my own. Elise, one last thing before you go.

Elise

Yes, grandma.

Mrs. Oliveson

Never let them get to you. Never let your eyes be glassed by riches.

Elise

I promise I won't grandma.

Mrs. Oliveson

I'll see you soon, my dear.

Elise

I'll send strawberries.

Elise embraces her grandmother and makes her way to the bench by the tracks where she is startled to see Snow White.

Elise

Hello.

Snow White does not turn around.

Snow White

Where are you going?

Elise

Away.

As am I. Snow White

Momma? Elise

Yes. Snow White

What are you doing here? Elise

Snow White
I was going to go home, than I realized I never had one. There was nothing left for me. So I am on my way, somewhere else.

Elise
There was never anything for you anywhere. You always just ran.

Snow White
If this has anything to do with where I was raised. I was saved when I left there. That woman wasn't even really my mother.

Elise
Yes she was.

Snow White
She would spend her life staring into that mirror.

Elise
They were photos.

There is a long pause.

Snow White
Did you think you could get my attention by slitting your wrists?

Elise
You never much noticed me anyway.

Snow White
You should thank me, I was giving you space. I don't think you know wh—

Elise

I think I do know. I know you sacrificed nothing except for carrying me in your womb for nine months. After that, I was the little girl that looked nice, gave you an air of sensitivity.

Snow White

Please, you never wanted anything from me. Look at you, you are a child. You pretend to have some romanticized life. You would much rather be an orphan, anyway. (pause) I shouldn't let you go. I have responsibilities.

Elise

No. I'm freeing you from your responsibilities. You freed yourself, almost completely, years ago, but I think some guilt lingers. I'm freeing you of it. I just died. That's all you have to say.

Snow White

Fine. Stay with your grandmother hidden away as long as you like.

Elise

Grandma is quite content. I am leaving with a friend.

Snow White

A boy?

Elise

Just a boy.

Snow White

(laughs) And then it starts.

Elise

For you, it never did.

Snow White

I refuse to have you attempt to relate to my problems, my life. You have yet to begin living.

Elise

I know your life. I listened all alone in the room next door while you yelled and cursed and set the table over and over again. Directing your attention to the flatware and never to the truth, or anything that meant more than problems invented out of your own boredom.

Snow White

I won't ever look at you again! Maybe if your dolls talked back, then I could believe that you had some validity in what you were saying, but you just hid.

Elise

So did you.

Snow White

He'll break your heart.

Elise

Maybe.

Snow White

One day he will want something that you just can't give him.

Elise

I don't think so.

Snow White

(laughs) You'll learn.

Elise

We never had a chance to lie.

Snow White

You just met him. Didn't you? I am sure—

Elise

I am sure that I understand why I have the blood to give. I know that when I cut and I see the reality of—red—I know why it is red and not blue. When I see the photos of myself, I can tell how my heart was beating and why I was moving. We watched the sunset together and I wasn't faking when I laughed. I didn't have to force the moment, nothing was glazed. Afterwards--you never really remember anyway. Do you? You don't remember if you were well pressed—or, maybe, you do. And I am sorry. But I refuse to be sorry for not playing games. It is fun to play dress up once in a while. To dawn the fabrics of another life and sing the phantom songs of someone you'll never be, but I understand when it is costume jewelry.

Snow White

It's nice to hear you speak.

Elise

You could have, if you had just listened.

Snow White

Well, goodbye. I can see I was mistaken, I have never heard your voice before, think you must have the wrong mother. Well, I think that's my train.

Elise

Good luck, miss. (pause) Maybe a little of your girl remains.

Snow White

If she does, I'll smile back at you.

Snow White exits.

Elise sits where Snow White sat and waits. She digs out an old black and white photo. What is on it cannot be seen but she sighs and lightly, "Smile" is heard. David and Sam enter.

Elise

I'm ready.

David Emerson

Sam isn't coming.

Sam Wright

I just came to say goodbye, wish you luck.

Elise

Sam. Why stay?

Sam Wright

I can deal with the ignorance. Maybe I'm just a living portrait of what they hate, but maybe that helps a little. Gotta believe you're doing something. Plus, what would Cindy do without me.

Elise

Maybe next time will be worse.

Sam Wright

Maybe that's what the world needs. You guys have each other. I am content to put in the rest of my sentence. You found each other out of fate. I am quite happy to find my fate as it may come. But, thank you. Watching you has opened me up to dreams. Now, I can throw on a tuxedo and be content in waiting for Prince Charming up on my bench.

Elise

We won't forget about you.

Sam Wright

Well, it's mutual. I think that the day is passing quickly toward sunset.

David Emerson

So, really, your day is only about to begin.

Sam Wright

Yep, a new day.

Elise

Here. (She rips off part of her skirt) We'll be back. But until then.

David Emerson

Until then.

Sam Wright

Until.

David Emerson

Here, have some whiskey. You take care of yourself. Need someone to sit with when we come back.

Sam Wright

Your train's coming.

The sound of a train is heard
in the distant.

Sam Wright

You better hurry.

Elise hugs him

Elise

Thank you.

They leave. Sam sits on the bench and takes a swig of whiskey. He sits back and reaches into his back pocket. The lights go down on stage except for a dim light by the bench. It is a journal and a pen that he holds in his hand. The train gets closer. He smiles as the sound comes and goes. The light turns a

light red. Sunset. Sam
Wright begins to write.

Sam Wright

Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful girl. She met a boy...

He continues to write as the
lights go down and the last
sounds of the train are heard.

Curtains.