

THE INNOCENT AND THE THUNDERBOLT

by

JOSHUA ELLIOTT

"If the scourge slay suddenly, he will laugh at the trial of
the innocent" (Job 9:23)

Cast of Characters

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <u>JUDE REED (m):</u> | a 3204 year old muse, mid to late 20s in appearance |
| <u>PATTI BLEWITT (f):</u> | another 3204 year old muse, mid to late 20s in appearance |
| <u>ROSIE HUGHES (f):</u> | a 22-year-old law graduate |
| <u>INDIGO COWARD (f):</u> | a (for the most part deceased) indie rock star |
| <u>HERMES/ NURSE (m):</u> | the childlike Messenger God/ a nurse at a Care Home for the Elderly |
| <u>APHRODITE (f):</u> | the Goddess of Love working as a speed-dating hostess in London, aka 'Rebecca' |
| <u>HADES/ HOODIE/ MADISON (m):</u> | the disinterested God of the Underworld/ hooded youth/ a watercolour and shark enthusiast from Australia, mid to late 20s |
| <u>GAEA/ SHONIQUA (f):</u> | an aging Mother Nature/ a middle-aged woman new to London |
| <u>ARES/ TRAMP (m/f):</u> | the God of War/ a tramp with no legs |
| <u>ZEUS/ DAD (m):</u> | the middle-aged God of Gods/ a stay-at-home dad |
| <u>CRONUS/ CAMERON (m):</u> | Zeus'cannibal father/ a businessman |
| <u>POSEIDON/ FISHERMAN (m):</u> | the middle-aged God of the Sea/ a fisherman |

(MORE)

Cast of Characters (cont'd)

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <u>URANUS/ YURI (m):</u> | an aging God of the Sky/ an Eastern European immigrant |
| <u>THE NEW GOD (v/o):</u> | voiced by the actors playing Cronus, Poseidon and Uranus |
| <u>RADIO VOICES (v/o):</u> | comprising Dan D. Shades, Tony Tangelo and Kathy Brown - voiced by the actors playing Cronus, Poseidon and Uranus |
| <u>ROSIE'S DAD (v/o):</u> | Rosie's father, voiced by the actor playing Zeus |
| <u>ROSIE'S MUM (v/o):</u> | Rosie's mother, voiced by the actor playing Gaea |

Scene

Somewhere outside of time and space/ A present day London, constantly under renovation

ACT I

Scene 1

Somewhere outside of time and space.

ZEUS

Let there be light!

Lights up on the ensemble as The Gods. With the exception of Hermes, they are all still.

HERMES

(to Aphrodite)

Psst...

APHRODITE

What do you want?

GAEA

Aphrodite, you are not going out in that shell.

APHRODITE

Granny!

Hermes sniggers, Ares breaks from the freeze

ARES

(in an unnaturally high voice)

Hermes. Shut up.

Hermes sniggers again

ARES

Hermes! Shut. Up.

Hermes sniggers all the more, Aphrodite cackles

ARES

(adjusting his voice)

Hermes! Phro! I am the God of War. SHUT. UP.

Gaea breaks from the freeze

GAEA

Now settle down you three -

HERMES

(mimicking Ares)

I am the God of War!

Aphrodite cackles again, Gaea tuts

(CONTINUED)

Zeus breaks from the freeze

ZEUS

Silence!
 - obey the Father, father of men,
 Father of Persephone, father of
 Athena, Apollo and Artemis,
 Of King Minos and Dionysus,
 Helen, Heracles, Hebe, Hephaestus,
 Perseus the Gorgon-Slayer
 And you two thorns in my side - silence!
 Zeus, Deus, the god of all gods,
 Lord of Thunder and Lightning and Sky
 The Bull, The Eagle, The Oak,
 The Great Olympian Jupiter, Tinia,
 This and all this and all -- silence:
 He speaks - that is to say - I speak,
 That is to say - let there be silence
 And let me speak. Let me speak - please...

Pause

HERMES

Dad?

APHRODITE

Zee?

ARES

Dad, are you alright?

GAEA

Hush, little ones -

ZEUS

Gaea, Mother of All here, I summon
 From so long ago, Your first beloved Son,
 The Son that ate Sons and Daughters and Stone:
 Cronus! Cronus! Cronus! I set you free!
 Once amongst the First now amongst the Last
 Cronus! Cronus! Cronus! I set you free
 From the abysm, the chasm, Tartarus,
 Free!

Cronus breaks from the freeze

CRONUS

With scythe in hand here Saturn stands.

GAEA

Cronus?

CRONUS

He.

GAEA

You've grown -

ZEUS

To the sickle add the trident. I call,
 From depths deeper still, The Great Earth-Shaker
 The Master of Waters, of shipwreck and
 Horses. Poseidon! Brother! Neptune!
 Ocean-Lord, answer My call!

Poseidon breaks from the freeze

POSEIDON

(provincial)

He that fathered giants
 And mermen, answers You. The seas are Yours.

ZEUS

Gaea, Wife to none but One, seek Him now,
 Him born from Chaos, Him that spawned Titans,
 Cyclopes and Hecaton, the Great Castrate
 King of Sky, of Light, of Air, of Day and Night -

GAEA

Caelus! Caelus -!

Uranus breaks from the freeze

URANUS

I prefer, Uranus.

Hermes sniggers

APHRODITE

Sh!

URANUS

Thank you Dumpling.

HERMES

Daddy's girl -

ZEUS

Last.
 Last of the Last of the Ever-Lasting,
 The Ever-Unseen God of the Dead, The
 Underworld: The Invisible Hades,
 Hot-headed, cold-hearted brother Pluto,
 Enriched by the sighs and tears of living
 Men and ruler of their dear departed.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZEUS (cont'd)

The Last. The Last of Every-Thing. Pluto!
From the rivers of sorrow and lamentation,
The rivers of fire, forgetting
And hate - rise, Pluto -! Rise!

Pause

ZEUS

Hades?

Hades breaks from the freeze

HADES

Yeah yeah, whatever.

Ares starts a slow clap

ZEUS

Gods!
Brothers, sisters, elders, friends, I call You
Here to this desolate place on this
Desperate day to tell You of Your End.
Our time as the masters of the sea, sky,
Land, beasts and human passion is over.
Of the many Gods there are now only
Us. And even we Nine are dying, just
As the beast-headed Gods of the
Nile-dwellers and the jewel-studded Lords
Of the Rainforresters before Us, Our
End is nigh -

CRONUS

How long have we got?

ZEUS

Millennia at most -

Concerned, inaudible chatter amongst The Gods

POSEIDON

But how will the
Clay-things cope without us? Who will hold
Back the tsunami? Who will quench their thirst
And feed them -?

ZEUS

A new God is set to
Usurp us -

HERMES, APHRODITE, ARES & GAEA

Who?

Lights change -

Scene 2

The Parnassus offices, present day.

The ensemble may remain on stage, but the focus must be on Jude and Patti in mid-conversation with 'a new God'. The ensemble members playing Cronus, Poseidon and Uranus speak in unison - onstage or off - to create the voice of The New God. Jude and Patti face out and up into the audience.

PATTI BLEWITT
Start again.

THE NEW GOD
(impossibly loud and American)
In the beginning -

PATTI BLEWITT
Keep it brief.

THE NEW GOD
You said -!

PATTI BLEWITT
Not *the* beginning. The beginning of your...

JUDE REED
Client dissatisfaction?

PATTI BLEWITT
Exactly. Thank you, Jude.

THE NEW GOD
I came to you two - Muses - to ensure my ongoing popularity and posterity...

JUDE REED
Quite.

THE NEW GOD
In short, I came to you to ensure I be remembered -

JUDE REED
And we *have* ensured it -

PATTI BLEWITT
We established a three step plan -

THE NEW GOD
I -

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED

We told you to diversify -

PATTI BLEWITT

Establish a fan base including more than just a chosen people -

THE NEW GOD

I -

JUDE REED

Thanks to us you retain three, major cult followings -

PATTI BLEWITT

Christianity, Judaism, Islam -

THE NEW GOD

I -

JUDE REED

Not to mention the various spin-offs -

PATTI BLEWITT

Hell, when you came to us you were a burning bush. What was that about?

THE NEW GOD

I was going through a phase...

JUDE REED

Step 1. Show the public your human side -

PATTI BLEWITT

Which you did.

JUDE REED

Step 2. Create a strong, simple - marketable - logo -

PATTI BLEWITT

(indicating a crucifix)
I still wear the jewellery -

JUDE REED

Step 3. Adopt and assimilate the more favourable aspects of your predecessors' -

PATTI BLEWITT

All for thirty pieces of silver -

JUDE REED

Saying nothing of the slander thrown my way. I wasn't a traitor, I was following the plan -

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT

And all the while us, whispering words of encouragement into the ears of artists, writers, musicians...

JUDE REED

An influx of songs of praise, of prayers, paintings -

PATTI BLEWITT

Jewellery -

JUDE REED

Your book's sold more copies than JK Rowling.

PATTI BLEWITT

So at what point, El Shaddai, did you become dissatisfied?

THE NEW GOD

The people are beginning to forget.

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT

Well I hope you realise that's entirely your fault.

JUDE REED

Patti -

THE NEW GOD

My fault?

PATTI BLEWITT

Of course. Everything's your fault. You're God -

JUDE REED

What Patti's trying to say is that you've spread yourself too thin. There's only one of you - in spite of this three-in-one thing you're rocking.

PATTI BLEWITT

Which means the buck stops with you. Every time. War, storms, floods - all you. We get it, honestly. Being your own boss - having a Sabbath whenever you please -

JUDE REED

But people only ever forget because they want to. They want to forget you -

THE NEW GOD

I - I - I -

JUDE REED

We've stayed true to this contract for - what? A Millennium now?

PATTI BLEWITT

Two. More -

JUDE REED

And I know we talked about a second coming, but that was before *Lord of the Rings* -

PATTI BLEWITT

And *The Matrix* -

JUDE REED

Trilogies don't go down well these days.

PATTI BLEWITT

A reboot, maybe. But how many times can we recreate the creation myth?

THE NEW GOD

I - I - I -

PATTI BLEWITT

Lord -

JUDE REED

God -

PATTI BLEWITT

Etc, etc...

JUDE REED

We're only telling you what we told Sir Paul McCartney. The party's over -

PATTI BLEWITT

We're done here.

JUDE REED

Look, take our advice - retire. Make yourself a nice little human form, buy a bungalow and a couple of cats. See what the world has to offer and...

THE NEW GOD

And?

JUDE REED

Well, when your body starts to fail you there's a lovely care home we use. You can sleep out the rest of eternity in comfort. The weight of the world off your shoulders -

(CONTINUED)

THE NEW GOD

That... That does sound nice -

PATTI BLEWITT

They have Sky plus. And bingo every Thursday -

JUDE REED

What do you say?

PATTI BLEWITT

Can I get an Amen?

Pause

THE NEW GOD

Amen.

Jude and Patti high-five, as their hands touch the lights change back -

Scene 3

The Gods again. As with the Gods in Scene 2, Patti and Jude may remain onstage - but the focus must now be on The Gods, continuing on from Scene 1. These beginning scenes must suggest a collision between past and present, as if the then still has an effect on the now.

CRONUS

Now. Quick. Kill them all. Send a plague. Claim their First borns and dash them against the ground. You should have done away with them when They got their hands on our fire. Humans -!

ZEUS

Cronus -!

POSEIDON

I agree -

ZEUS

Poseidon, brother -!

POSEIDON

Send a flood. Wash them away, wipe the world clean. You should have done it the moment Pandora Opened that box. Rain down on them from on high! Quick. Now. Kill them all. The human disg-race -!

HADES

Pandora. The box... We did give it to her -

(CONTINUED)

URANUS

Quiet Hades. I say let the sky fall shut
Denying them passage to the Heavens
Until they have lived out impossible
Lives free of sin and full of guilt -

ZEUS

Gods, brothers, sisters, elders, friends;
These are all options open to Our Successor.
In the meantime, be silent.

Hermes starts sobbing

GAEA

There, there love. Zeus -

ZEUS

Gods, please understand, were we to dash, drown
And damn the human race what would
Be the point in Us?

HERMES

Who would We play with?

APHRODITE

Who would love Us?

ARES

Dash. Dash. Dash -

GAEA

Ares!

CRONUS

Dash.

POSIDON

Drown.

URANUS

Damn.

HADES

No.

CRONUS

No?

The God of the Dead refusing more subjects?

HADES

Um, yeah. Quite apart from the workload, we need them
alive -

(CONTINUED)

ZEUS

Hades is wise, Hades knows death.
We die because their belief in Us dies.
If We are to have any hope of returning
They must remember Us -

HADES

We kill them, We kill Ourselves -

ZEUS

Perhaps sweet Hermes, Aphrodite, they are
Our playthings no longer. Leave them to it.
The humans will tend to the earth, the sea,
The sky. Those things are theirs. We must ensure
We are remembered -

CRONUS, POSEIDON & URANUS

How?

ZEUS

I -

HADES

We. Have a plan.

Hades claps his hands together, lights change -

Scene 4

The Parnassus offices again. The ensemble, as before, may remain on stage, but the focus must be on Jude and Patti following on from Scene 2.

PATTI BLEWITT

Let's never, ever high five again -

JUDE REED

No -

PATTI BLEWITT

Muses shouldn't high five -

JUDE REED

No -

PATTI BLEWITT

It's just not very -

JUDE REED

Us? So that's another one for the care home. I'll have to pop round after lunch and give them a heads up -

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT

And then we're going to have to find a new contractor -

JUDE REED

Yes, but - after lunch. All of it, after lunch - I'm starving.

PATTI BLEWITT

You're always starving.

JUDE REED

Also, we did just bring down a God. We should take the afternoon off. Have a leisurely lunch and then go to the National and look for paintings we're in. Don't you love doing that?

PATTI BLEWITT

Indigo's taking me for lunch, and there's a lawyer waiting in the lobby -

JUDE REED

A what and a what?

PATTI BLEWITT

A lawyer -

JUDE REED

Dull!

PATTI BLEWITT

And Indigo Coward, greatest selling singer-songwriter of her generation -

JUDE REED

Singer-songwriter?

PATTI BLEWITT

Yes. My client -

JUDE REED

God -

PATTI BLEWITT

Not yet.

JUDE REED

Gay?

PATTI BLEWITT

Straight.

JUDE REED
Guy?

PATTI BLEWITT
Girl.

JUDE REED
Damn.

PATTI BLEWITT
So if I take her -

JUDE REED
I take the lawyer.

PATTI BLEWITT
It's just an interview -

JUDE REED
Lawyers are boring.

PATTI BLEWITT
She's new. She sounded nice on the phone. We've been getting through them like hell and -

JUDE REED
Dull!

PATTI BLEWITT
It's an interview, not inspiration. It's not like you have to snog her -

JUDE REED
You're really selling this -

PATTI BLEWITT
She's a lawyer, not... Talented -

JUDE REED
That's why they're boring.

PATTI BLEWITT
Jude!

JUDE REED
I'll do it, I'll do it! But lunch is on you

PATTI BLEWITT
I told you. I'm having lunch with Indigo, it's Valentine's Day

JUDE REED

Wait. Valentine's Day? Why was that important?

PATTI BLEWITT

Love, probably.

JUDE REED

But we put it there. Didn't we? We made it up. It wasn't a whim -

PATTI BLEWITT

It's the same every year -

JUDE REED

Yes but it was all in aid of this year. A reminder. Of something, something big -

PATTI BLEWITT

Google it -

JUDE REED

Patti -

PATTI BLEWITT

I don't remember -

JUDE REED

Patti -! Ow.

Jude clutches his head

PATTI BLEWITT

How's the hangover?

JUDE REED

Like death -

PATTI BLEWITT

Like you'll ever know.

Lights change -

Scene 5

The Gods again, continuing from Scene 3

ZEUS

We will leave nine planets in the Heavens -

HADES

And nine people on the Earth -

(CONTINUED)

ZEUS

A reminder of Us.
Made of lightning. Closer to Our image
Than the clay-things -

HADES

Living for ever -

ZEUS

Inspiring in man and woman some
Thing akin to godly beauty. We will
Live on through Art and words -

HADES

And music -

ZEUS

Whilst we sleep out the millennia in comfort
In human form. The weight of the world off
Our shoulders. And when the time comes we will rise.
Our powers restored.

GAEA

What will we call them?

HADES

M-

ZEUS

Muses. And they will be more beautiful
Than anything that has come before...

Pleased, inaudible chatter amongst The Gods

APHRODITE

Whoa now.

ARES

Aphrodite -!

APHRODITE

Quiet Ares.

ZEUS

Is there... A problem?

APHRODITE

Yeah. Yeah there's a problem... "More beautiful than
anything that has come before?" That includes Me I
assume?

HADES

Well, yeah -

APHRODITE

Nu-uh. Not again. This is like Helen all over again. A face that launched a thousand ships? Have you seen *this*?

URANUS

Dumpling -

APHRODITE

I'm serious. I am not okay with this.

HADES

What if... What if they never fall in love?

APHRODITE

What?

HADES

If they fall in love... They die.

Pause

APHRODITE

Fine.

CRONUS

That's ridiculous -

ZEUS

Fine.

From the chasm of potential, from lightning
And breath, I call into existence
The Muses Nine. Calliope, Clio,
Melpomene, Polyhymnia, Thalia,
Euterpe and Erata, Urania
And Derek. Remember Us.
Let songs of Us reach the Heavens -
Let Our names echo through time -
Let our image last for ever
Through you -
My Will be done.

*Sound of thunder and lightning**Pause**Hades coughs*

ARES

That was cool...

*Lights down, The Gods exit*Scene 6*Continuing from Scene 5, the lobby of the Parnassus offices. Enter Rosie Hughes and Indigo Coward from either side of the space. Rosie shakes off a wet umbrella, Indigo wears sunglasses.*

ROSIE HUGHES

(to Indigo, distressed)

Excuse me. Is this Parnassus Ltd? I -

Indigo removes the sunglasses

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh my goodness. You're... Indigo Coward.

INDIGO COWARD

Yes, yes. That's right. I'm her.

ROSIE HUGHES

But you're -

INDIGO COWARD

The biggest selling singer-songwriter of our generation?

ROSIE HUGHES

Not as tall as I expected...

Enter Patti and Jude from either side of the space

INDIGO COWARD

I -

PATTI BLEWITT

(performing for Indigo)

Indigo! Sweetie!

INDIGO COWARD

Patti!

Patti and Indigo kiss

PATTI BLEWITT

I don't think you've met my colleague, Jude Reed.

(CONTINUED)

INDIGO COWARD
Mr. Reed.

Jude and Indigo shake hands

JUDE REED
(to Patti)
She looks about twelve -

PATTI BLEWITT
Indigo. Where are we going for lunch?

INDIGO COWARD
I -

PATTI BLEWITT
(mocking)
Bye Jude. Happy Valentine's Day!

Patti and Indigo leave, Patti leading

JUDE REED
(equally mocking, the 'blahs' spelling
out 'Happy Valentine's Day')
Blah-blah blah-blah-blah blah!

Pause

ROSIE HUGHES
Ahem.

Jude turns to Rosie

JUDE REED
Who are you?

ROSIE HUGHES
Rosie.

JUDE REED
Rosie who?

ROSIE HUGHES
Hughes.

JUDE REED
What -?

ROSIE HUGHES
You're... A Muse.

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED

And you're -?

ROSIE HUGHES

Here for the interview!

JUDE REED

Oh. We're not interviewing today -

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh -

JUDE REED

We don't - recruit - as such you see. You sort of have to be chosen -

ROSIE HUGHES

I'm a lawyer.

JUDE REED

Oh -

ROSIE HUGHES

I'm sorry. I'm not doing this very well. I'm Rosie Hughes. I'm a lawyer and I've come for the...

JUDE REED

Are you alright?

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes. I'm sorry. I'm just a little shaken...

JUDE REED

Nervous?

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes, but - also. It's raining -

JUDE REED

True -

ROSIE HUGHES

And there were builders -

JUDE REED

Yes. They're -

ROSIE HUGHES

They're whistling -

JUDE REED

I was going to say rennovating -

ROSIE HUGHES

They were whistling at me. I don't know why but I didn't like it - and there was a tramp in the rain with no legs.

JUDE REED

Oh I see -

ROSIE HUGHES

Well, isn't that terrible? Isn't that awful? Everyone walking past him and not noticing. It was raining!

JUDE REED

Yes, we keep asking him to move along but - well - no legs -

ROSIE HUGHES

And then I meet Indigo Coward. The singer. Looking like this. Soaked and shaken and whistled at.

JUDE REED

That's London for you.

ROSIE HUGHES

What is?

JUDE REED

All of it.

ROSIE HUGHES

I'm from Botolph Claydon.

JUDE REED

On the Northern Line?

ROSIE HUGHES

No, it's a village. Buckinghamshire.

JUDE REED

Fascinating. Do you want a towel or tea or lunch or something?

ROSIE HUGHES

No. No thank you.

JUDE REED

Right. Well. This is Parnassus Ltd. Named after a hill we used to hang out on. People ski on it now, I -

Rosie's staring

JUDE REED
What?

ROSIE HUGHES
You're a Muse...

JUDE REED
Yes. Yes I am. As is Patti. She left with -

ROSIE HUGHES
Indigo Coward. The singer.

JUDE REED
Yes. Yes she did - have you seen the *Panorama*?

ROSIE HUGHES
No. But me Dad used to tell me stories. The Muses.
Inspiring painters and poets for years and years -

JUDE REED
Good. Probably best you didn't see the *Panorama*.

ROSIE HUGHES
Is it just you and Patti?

JUDE REED
Yes.

ROSIE HUGHES
But I though there were nine? I remember all the names:
(counting off on her fingers)
Calliope, Clio, Melpomene, Polyhymnia, Thalia, Euterpe
and Erata, Urania and... And... Um...

JUDE REED
Derek. There were. I'm Erata, Jude now. Patti used to
be called Euterpe. Silly names -

ROSIE HUGHES
What happened?

JUDE REED
We changed them.

ROSIE HUGHES
No. To the others?

JUDE REED
They got old, got boring, got dying. One after the
other - they... Didn't have the heart for it, they...
There are three perks to being a Muse, Rosie. 1, you
live forever. 2, you get to eat as much as you like
without getting fat - and 3 -

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES

A Muse must never, ever fall in love.

JUDE REED

You know an awful lot about us.

ROSIE HUGHES

My Dad used to read me the stories. At bedtime. I thought you were a fairytale -

JUDE REED

(offended)

I am most certainly not a fairytale -

ROSIE HUGHES

I'm sorry -

JUDE REED

Well -

ROSIE HUGHES

Really sorry -

JUDE REED

Shakespeare -

ROSIE HUGHES

Sorry -?

JUDE REED

Where art thou, Muse? That was me. One-hundred.

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh. Well... Well done!

JUDE REED

You're failing to grasp the immensity of the situation.

ROSIE HUGHES

I am?

JUDE REED

Yes... You are. I've. Shagged. Shakespeare.

ROSIE HUGHES

I studied him for A Level -

JUDE REED

The Kama Sutra - me. *Don Juan*, *Don Quixote*, *Don Giovanni* - *The Big Bad Wolf* -

ROSIE HUGHES
A curry?

JUDE REED
What?

ROSIE HUGHES
A curry -? Kama Sutra - that's a curry isn't it?

Pause

JUDE REED
You thought *I* was a fairytale?

ROSIE HUGHES
Kama... Sutra... What is it really?

JUDE REED
Google it. You did pass, didn't you?

ROSIE HUGHES
What?

JUDE REED
The law degree that you took. To become a lawyer -

ROSIE HUGHES
Oh! Yes -

JUDE REED
Well there you are then. Hired.

ROSIE HUGHES
Just like that?

JUDE REED
Just like that -

Clicks fingers

ROSIE HUGHES
Oh.

JUDE REED
My name's Jude Reed, I'm a three-thousand two-hundred and four years old. Patti and me, we're Muses, and I'm very, very hungry. Welcome to the company Miss...?

ROSIE HUGHES
Hughes.

JUDE REED

Miss Hughes. The work we do requires particularly understanding lawyers - imagine that, understanding lawyers -? I hope you do us proud -

ROSIE HUGHES

I will. I - I do have more questions.

JUDE REED

Rosie. You thought *The Kama Sutra* was a curry. I don't doubt it. Now, I was just on my way to an old people's home via lunch. It's raining, and you have an umbrella.

ROSIE HUGHES

I bought it today!

Scene 7

Rosie and Rebecca's flat, present day. Rebecca is Aphrodite in disguise and stands listening to an answerphone message play out. Rosie may stay on stage for this scene, or the message can be prerecorded or voiced from offstage. Rosie's Mum and Dad are voiced by the ensemble.

ROSIE HUGHES

Hello! This is Rosie's annnd - oh - I thought you were going to say your name? Oh - Oh! Rebecca's! Rosie and Rebecca's. Neither of us are in right now but please leave a message after the beep. Bye!!!

Beep.

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

Hello dumpling! It's daddy here. We haven't been able to get a hold of you lately -

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

You're probably having too much fun -!

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

Well, not *too* much fun, that was your mother -

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

Hush. She knows that. Though she's probably forgotten all about us!

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

Botloph Claydon's lovely and misses you -

ROSIE'S MUM

As do the cats -

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

We should really feed them -

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

As do we -

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

But what we really wanted to say was -

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

Happy Valentine's Day! Oh - sorry, did you want to say that -?

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

We love you very much -

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

She's probably got on a date -

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

Just give us a bell, Rosebud. This isn't like you at all...

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

No.

Pause

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

But anyway, take care!

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

Take care Rosie -

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

Love you -!

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

Love you -!

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

Bye -!

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

Tra-la -!

ROSIE'S DAD (OFF)

Bye! Bye -

Rosie's Dad breaks into a coughing fit

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

Sh-sh-sh. Oh. How do I -?

*Sound of a phone cutting off**Pause*

HERMES (OFF)

(to Aphrodite)

Psst...

APHRODITE

What do you want?

Scene 8*The Gods seated at the Care Home and sound asleep. There are heart shaped balloons and other Valentine's Day decorations one chair is conspicuously empty.**Enter Jude and Rosie*

JUDE REED

Rosie. Did your Dad ever tell you stories about the Gods?

ROSIE HUGHES

I don't remember. Why?

JUDE REED

And that's exactly why we don't want to wake them. Before the Muses, there were Gods. This is what's left of them. The last nine. Hermes, Aphrodite, Ares, Mother Nature, Zeus, Cronus, Poseidon, Uranus and Hades. Bless... Sleeping out eternity in comfort, waiting to get their strength back.

ROSIE HUGHES

Why can't we wake them?

JUDE REED

This job used to be more... Vocational. We were working for them while they slept. But - well - we forgot. We wanted to forget. We were having so much fun and everyone seemed so much more interested in us. If they ever do wake up they're going to be - oh.

ROSIE HUGHES

Mr. Reed -

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED
Valentine's Day -

ROSIE HUGHES
You said there were nine... But there are only seven.

Enter a Nurse

NURSE
Ah, Mr. Reed. You got our message.

JUDE REED
Sorry. Message?

NURSE
Yes. We didn't have a number for you so we rang your sister, Patti -

ROSIE HUGHES
Sister?

JUDE REED
(to Rosie)
She's not - it's the only way they'd agree to have them. If we said the Gods were our -

NURSE
We were waiting for you to come by before we contacted the police.

JUDE REED
The police? What's happened?

NURSE
Oh, you don't know? One of your grandparents has ... Well, run away. Are they really - all - your grandparents?

JUDE REED
Yes.

ROSIE HUGHES
Really?

JUDE REED
(to Rosie)
No.

NURSE
All nine of them?

JUDE REED

Yes, well - there's seven now and I think that's a more pressing matter, don't you?

NURSE

Yes - yes. Sorry Mr. Reed.

JUDE REED

Which inmates escaped?

NURSE

Well, we don't use the term 'escaped' - or even, 'inmate' -

JUDE REED

But which ones?

NURSE

You can't tell?

JUDE REED

They all kind of look the same. Old. Wrinkly. Even girls have moustaches. Grim -

NURSE

It was Mr. Herman, I believe. Herman was that it -?

JUDE REED

Hermes.

NURSE

Oh. We've been calling him Herman.

JUDE REED

But that's the one. What about the other?

NURSE

What other?

JUDE REED

There were nine grandparents. What about the other Houdini?

NURSE

I'm sorry Mr. Reed. I'm lost - there were only ever eight.

JUDE REED

What?

ROSIE HUGHES

Mr. Reed, what's happening?

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED

(to Rosie)

Phone.

ROSIE HUGHES

What?

JUDE REED

Pass me your phone, I don't have one.

NURSE

Mr. Reed, are you alright?

Rosie passes Jude her phone

JUDE REED

Yeah. Sure. Do you have any biscuits?

NURSE

Biscuits?

JUDE REED

I skipped lunch. Lots. And tea. Two cups please. Rosie, what'll you have?

ROSIE HUGHES

I -

NURSE

Before I do that, can we just -

JUDE REED

What?

NURSE

Figure out how Mr. Herman esca- ahem - got away?

JUDE REED

Oh, I don't know. He probably flew. He has these nifty sandals you see. With wings. A hat too.

NURSE

Hat? Flew?

JUDE REED

Okay, if Hermes is up and about - great. He's my favourite, but the others... Bourbons and tea. Earl Grey if you have it. No milk. Two cups - or three. Yes, three and whatever Rosie wants. This is a thinker.

ROSIE HUGHES

I'm okay actually.

(CONTINUED)

NURSE

Right.

JUDE REED

Sorry Nurse. This is stressful, you're being human -
I'm sorry. Old people kind of freak me out.

(to Rosie)

You too.

ROSIE HUGHES

I didn't say anything!

JUDE REED

Exactly. Human. Won't say anything without
encouragement -

NURSE

Um -

JUDE REED

It's fine.

NURSE

I probably should phone the police -

Zeus stirs

JUDE REED

Oh there's no need.

(to Rosie)

Valentine's Day. I remember why it's important now.

ZEUS

Zeus, Deus, the god of all gods,
Lord of Thunder and Lightning and Sky
The Bull, The Eagle, The Oak,
The Great Olympian Jupiter, Tinia,
This and all this and all -- silence:
He speaks - that is to say - I speak:
The Long Sleep of the Gods is over,
Today is the day we reclaim this world.

Pause

JUDE REED

Zee, this is Rosie, my lawyer. Um, you're going to have
to excuse me - I've. I've got a thing -

NURSE

Wait. Hold on. He hasn't spoken in - well, ever -

Gaea stirs

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED

I know! You don't need to tell me! I can see - I can hear! That's what I'm worried about -

GAEA

Erata... Erata is that you -? My how you've grown...

*A babble of noise - speech, yawns and stretches -
from all seven Gods*

JUDE REED

The Gods are waking up.

(into the phone)

Hi. Patti - oh - what beep? Oh - that beep. Patti, when you're done with this speed-dating business call me... Valentine's Day. I remember why we put it there... The 14th of February. It's the day they wake up. Patti - we may have a little bit of an ish.

Exit Jude

NURSE & ROSIE HUGHES

Mr. Reed!

Exit, following Jude

The Gods rise...

Scene 9

...with a little trouble.

ARES

Ow -!

GAEA

Ow -!

ZEUS

Ow -!

CRONUS

Ow -!

POSEIDON

Ow -!

URANUS

Ow -!

ARES

Dad -?

(CONTINUED)

GAEA

Darling -?

CRONUS, POSEIDON & URANUS

Zeus?

ARES

What's going on?

CRONUS

I feel powerless -

POSEIDON

I couldn't fill a glass of water -

URANUS

I can't move my neck up -

Hades yawns

GAEA

Look! I made an earthquake!

CRONUS

No you didn't.

GAEA

Yes, look.

URANUS

Gaea darling, you're the only one quaking...

GAEA

Oh.

HADES

Zeus, why don't you give something a go?

POSEIDON

You tend to have more power than the rest of us -

HADES

God of Gods -

POSEIDON

King of Kings -

ZEUS

Desist, brothers. I am saving the little power I have to make a storm.

(CONTINUED)

HADES

Err, why?

ZEUS

Because.

HADES

Because why?

ZEUS

Because whatever outcome faces Us
Whether this is The Final End or a
New Beginning, the occasion must be
Heralded by Heaven with Noise and Light.

HADES

Mm -

ZEUS

It is written -

HADES

Yeah but, really - why?

ZEUS

Scripture says -

HADES

What?

ZEUS

It - it would make me happy.

HADES

There we go.

ZEUS

Where's Hermes?

Enter Hermes

HERMES

You called - oh. Oh hello. You're all still kind of
decrepit -

ALL (EXCEPT HADES)

We know!

HERMES

Right -

(CONTINUED)

ARES

Why aren't you?

HERMES

Well... I don't really know - but. It might have something to do with the internet.

ARES

The what?

HERMES

The internet. Oh and money. They've got mass communication and commerce down to a T and, well. Those were my things, I guess -

ARES

And what of war -?

GAEA

The earth -?

ZEUS

And climate -?

POSEIDON

Sea -?

URANUS

And sky -?

HERMES

Yeah they're - well. They're all kind of bugged. All of those things. Truly bugged -

HADES

I'm feeling pretty good actually - I just didn't want to show off. Yeah. Bit of a cough, but - yeah, I'm fine -

HERMES

People are still dying fine -

CRONUS, POSEIDON & URANUS

Zeus!

Pause

ZEUS

The plan has failed -

A groan from all but Hermes and Hades

ZEUS

We are still dying -

HERMES

I'm fine actually -

HADES

Me too. Can I go -?

ARES

And where are the Muses -?

HADES

There's probably a shit load of work waiting for me in hell -

URANUS

And Aphrodite -?

HADES

Because - well. It's hell -

GAEA

Erata was here wasn't he?

ZEUS

Yes.

CRONUS

And?

GAEA

Cronus, be nice -

POSEIDON & URANUS

And?

ZEUS

He said...

CRONUS

Yes?

ZEUS

He said he had a thing.

Pause

ZEUS

And he left.

Pause

ZEUS

He had a -

CRONUS

Thing?

ZEUS

Yes.

CRONUS

Hermes! Seek Erata and the Other Muses.
Find out exactly what's going on here -

HERMES

Woah -!

ZEUS

Tell him there will be a storm -

CRONUS

Whatever -

HERMES

Easy now -!

ZEUS

When I'm ready -

CRONUS

Tell them I will swallow every one of
Them whole, power or no power if They
Have dared disobey the intent of the
Gods -

HERMES

Excepting Erata and Euterpe. They're all dead.

ALL (EXCEPT HADES)

What?

HADES

If you'd let me go, I'd probably have been able to tell
you that -

HERMES

Don't shoot the messenger - !

ZEUS

Calliope, Clio, Melpomene, Polyhymnia, Thalia, Urania
and Derek?

HERMES

Dead. All dead -

ZEUS

How?

HERMES

You have one new message.

CRONUS

Who from?

HERMES

Message one.

URANUS

Let's hear it.

HERMES

(speaking as Aphrodite)

Wakey wakey Olympians. Aphrodite here, sending you all the Love in the world. Remember me? Turns out the clay-things do. They still believe in love, and guess what? For once I got up early... "More beautiful than anything that has come before?" Ha! I've been working very, very hard to make sure all your pretty, precious Muses felt the wrath of Aphrodite. Remember that clause? If they fall in love they die. Seven down - two to go. Better rest up old timers, there's nothing to wake up for... Love and hugs! Mwah! Mwah!

(as himself)

End of message - I hate it when she does that -

URANUS

Balls.

Concerned, inaudible chatter ensues

ACT IIScene 1

Lights up on Patti's flat, Jude is pacing.

Enter Patti

JUDE REED

Where have you been? This is an emergency!

PATTI BLEWITT

I have had the best day with Indigo. We kissed in the rain, she told me she'd die for me and I told her to prove it. You should have seen her face. Heartbroken. Utterly heartbroken. We'll get an album out of that - at least. They're so much fun, aren't they -?

JUDE REED

Patti -

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude - why are you in my flat? Why are you always in my flat?

JUDE REED

Don't turn this on me! You should've answered your phone.

PATTI BLEWITT

The battery ran out.

JUDE REED

We should've visited more.

PATTI BLEWITT

Who?

JUDE REED

The Care Home!

PATTI BLEWITT

Ew, why?

JUDE REED

Because then we'd have been ready. Your battery! Whatever happened to messengers? Or telegraphs even? Telegraphs were brilliant. You got to speak in capital letters and write out your punctuation.

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude.

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED

OH COMMA AND YOU LEFT THE MILK OUT AGAIN STOP AND THE
EGGS STOP AND YOU SHOULD REALLY COMMA REALLY STOP DOING
THAT STOP IT IS REALLY COMMA REALLY NOT OH STOP KAY ST-

PATTI BLEWITT

Eggs don't need to be in the fridge and this is my
flat. I can do what I want - and stop talking like a
telegraph.

JUDE REED

But stop -

PATTI BLEWITT

Fine.

JUDE REED

Stop.

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude!

A toilet flushes

Pause

Enter Rosie

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh hello. We emailed.

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude, who's this?

JUDE REED

Your fault.

ROSIE HUGHES

I'm Rosie.

PATTI BLEWITT

Rosie who?

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes.

PATTI BLEWITT

What?

JUDE REED

She's a lawyer.

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT

This is an emergency -

JUDE REED

The lawyer.

PATTI BLEWITT

Oh! The new one?

(to Rosie)

Welcome to P-

JUDE REED

Yes, yes. I did that bit.

(to Rosie)

Rosie, would you mind running over to the pub we passed on the way over and getting me a bottle of wine?

PATTI BLEWITT

That's a twenty minute walk, there's the Co-op across -

JUDE REED

'The Stagger Inn.' I think it was called -

ROSIE HUGHES

I thought this was an emergency?

JUDE REED

It is.

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh. Okay then.

JUDE REED

Thank you.

ROSIE HUGHES

(to Patti)

Nice to properly meet you.

PATTI BLEWITT

You too, Josie.

Exit Rosie

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude. What -?

JUDE REED

She's been on my back all day. All. Your. Fault -

PATTI BLEWITT

What's the emergency?

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED

Valentine's Day.

PATTI BLEWITT

Did no-one send you a card?

JUDE REED

No. Patti it's - *the* Day.

PATTI BLEWITT

The day?

JUDE REED

Yes.

PATTI BLEWITT

The day of -?

JUDE REED

Yes -

PATTI BLEWITT

The jackal?

JUDE REED

No. It's the day the Gods wake up.

PATTI BLEWITT

Oh -

JUDE REED

Yup -

PATTI BLEWITT

Oh!

JUDE REED

And Hermes flew away.

PATTI BLEWITT

Oh well that's just wizard -

JUDE REED

And Aphrodite was never *in* the care home -

PATTI BLEWITT

Ah -

JUDE REED

And I've spent the best part of the day with a girl who thinks a blow job's a setting on a hairdryer -

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT

Oh yeah, Valentine's Day. I remember why we started that now... So we'd - well... Remember.

JUDE REED

We're useless.

Pause

JUDE REED

There is wine in the flat isn't there?

PATTI BLEWITT

Of course. There's a bottle in the kitchen...

Exit Jude

JUDE REED (OFF)

Good. So, Indigo sounds promising?

PATTI BLEWITT

Yeah. I reckon she'll break any day now... Which is why we need that lawyer.

JUDE REED (OFF)

She's a bit...

PATTI BLEWITT

What?

JUDE REED

Where's the -? Oh... Odd.

Sound of a wine bottle being opened and poured into glasses

PATTI BLEWITT

But - Parnassus - do you think we could carry on as we have been? What does it mean for us?

Re-enter Jude with two glasses of wine

JUDE REED

I expect it means we're fucked. It's not like anyone remembers that lot. Most people think they're planets - I might order pizza.

The doorbell rings

PATTI BLEWITT

I'm not getting it.

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED
It's your flat.

PATTI BLEWITT
It's your lawyer.

Ding Dong!

JUDE REED
My lawyer? She's your lawyer if anything.

PATTI BLEWITT
I'm *not* getting it.

JUDE REED
Fine.

Jude exits with his glass, grumbling

Pause

Patti changes out of her dress and into a robe

The sound of breaking glass, re-enter Jude

JUDE REED
Hi.

PATTI BLEWITT
Hi?

JUDE REED
Err, do you have a dustpan and brush?

PATTI BLEWITT
Yes - over there - but, why? And who is it?

JUDE REED
The glass broke.

PATTI BLEWITT
Yes - okay, but Jude - who is at the door?

HERMES (OFF)

(impossibly loud)

The Great Messenger of the Gods, guide to
The Underworld, Patron of travellers
And boundaries, of shepherds, thieves and cowherds,
Of wit, literature, invention and
Athletics. The Almighty All-rounder,
The Great Trickster, The Master Masturbator,
Divine Deviser of the lyre,
Of racing, wrestling, boxing and fire.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HERMES (OFF) (cont'd)

Olympian carrier of the
Caduceus and Immortal Son of
Zeus, Deus, god of gods and men. Hermes,
Mercury, The Arcadian
Native, He that begot Pan and Eros,
He, it is He that is at the door and
The bell shall herald His entry.

Ding Dong!

Pause

HERMES

That's kind of cool actually...

Ding Dong!

PATTI BLEWITT

Well you'd better let him in then.

JUDE REED

Yup.

Blackout.

Scene 2

*Rosie at The Stagger Inn, which happens to be
hosting a speed-dating event. Aphrodite plays the
hostess, with the ensemble playing Londoners
relating to their Gods.*

APHRODITE

'Let there be love -!'

Lights

APHRODITE

To quote musician Indigo Coward,
And London is the place to find it. It's
Your oyster ladies and gentlemen, and
Gentlemen and ladies, you are the pearls.
But it's a big place, how are you going
To find The One in all this noise? Buses?
The tube? Of course not. You want to chat don't
You? You want a relaxed atmosphere and
Most of all you want choice. And you don't want
It to take up too much time; none of us
Are getting any younger! Speed-dating
Works. First impressions are everything. Right?
That's what this offers. Once you've paid you get
More than a dozen first impressions, each

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

APHRODITE (cont'd)

Lasting no more than three minutes. That's
Plenty of time to get to know someone well.
The bell will ring when your time is up -

The bell rings

APHRODITE

Thank you Mo - and if you like what you've seen
You can see them again in your own time,
And that's absolutely free! But don't make
Your mind up straight away; there are plenty
More fish in the sea you see, and lots
Are in this room. Ladies and gentlemen,
Your time - starts - now -

Dinggg!

CAMERON

Hey, I'm Cameron.

ROSIE HUGHES

I only came in here for a bottle of wine.

CAMERON

Cute.

ROSIE HUGHES

Is it?

CAMERON

Listen, do you know if we get fed here?

ROSIE HUGHES

Um, I'm not sure -

CAMERON

A tenner this cost -

ROSIE HUGHES

It does?!

CAMERON

Oh yeah. You'd think they'd throw in a buffet or
something.

ROSIE HUGHES

There are breadsticks -

CAMERON

I could eat a baby right about now.

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES

Don't you mean horse?

CAMERON

What?

ROSIE HUGHES

Aren't you so hungry you could eat a... Horse?

CAMERON

That's disgusting.

Dinggg!

DAD

I'm a stay-at-home dad, actually. It's great. Just great. Would you like to see them? My kids I mean.

ROSIE HUGHES

Did you bring them?

DAD

No - photos.

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh. Yes.

DAD

They're great, great kids... That's Paula... That's Alia, Arthur and Alice... That's little Minty and Derek... Hermione, Harper, Henry and Hamilton... Oh and that's Parker, the menace, and these are Herman and Aaron. My youngest. Twins. Great, great kids.

ROSIE HUGHES

How old are they now?

DAD

The oldest is twenty-two.

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh. Same.

Dinggg!

FISHERMAN

Excuse the smell, I've been fishing.

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh?

FISHERMAN

Sea bass. I'm really into fishing.

ROSIE HUGHES

Really?

FISHERMAN

Oh yeah. Fishing's fantastic. It's just as well really.

ROSIE HUGHES

Is it?

FISHERMAN

Yes. I'm a fisherman. I fish for a living.

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh.

FISHERMAN

What about you?

ROSIE HUGHES

I'm a lawyer.

FISHERMAN

Oh.

Dinggg!

YURI

My name Yuri, Yuri Gorski.

ROSIE HUGHES

Mine's Rosie, Rosie Hughes.

YURI

Pleased meet you Rosie Hughes. My friend call me Sky.

ROSIE HUGHES

Why?

YURI

Because I'm a pilot, if you know what I mean...

ROSIE HUGHES

I'm a lawyer.

YURI

I fly high.

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh. That's nice.

(CONTINUED)

YURI

Like, an angel.

ROSIE HUGHES

Well done.

YURI

Did it hurt?

ROSIE HUGHES

Did what hurt?

YURI

When I hit you.

ROSIE HUGHES

What?!

YURI

With the plane...

ROSIE HUGHES

I don't understand?

YURI

Because you're an angel, and I hit you with plane because angels fly and so that's how you fell to Earth because you're pretty like, like an angel - know what I mean?

ROSIE HUGHES

No?

Dinggg!

SHONIQUEA

So when my husband left me I was heartbroken. Utterly heartbroken. I told Su all about it - Susan, she's my friend - and she said, well, it's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life - Su's a big Michael Buble fan - and it took me time but, eventually, I thought, you know what - she's right. And so is Michael Buble. So I sold the house, came to London, changed my name to Shoniqua and moved on. Just like that -

ROSIE HUGHES

Mrs. Sh -

SHONIQUEA

Shoniqua. Sometimes I feel - well - sometimes I feel, you know? I just feel. And my husband never made me feel. He was this miserable sort of presence. He had a bad aura. I could see it. Sort of yellow. And it made

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHONIQUEA (cont'd)

me think. It made me think about what did make me feel.
I thought - well - Susan makes me feel. But she's got
her Ian -

ROSIE HUGHES

Shoniqua, I -

SHONIQUEA

I was thinking, it's a new life for me. It's a new life
for Shoniqua. So I paid my tenner and thought - well -
it's worth a try isn't it? And here I am chatting to
you - and it's lovely, isn't it?

ROSIE HUGHES

Shoniqua, are you... Are you a lesbian?

Dinggg!

Long, uncomfortable pause

HOODIE

I'm really into death.

Dinggg!

APHRODITE

Rosie!

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh! Rebecca?

APHRODITE

What are you doing here?

ROSIE HUGHES

I came in to get a bottle of wine for my boss...

APHRODITE

Oh, so we're both working...

ROSIE HUGHES

I think I might go home -

APHRODITE

Not on the boss's time, surely?

ROSIE HUGHES

I don't know... It's... It's not what I thought it was.

APHRODITE

Rosie...

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES

I just want to go home. I'm sorry Rebecca. You've been so kind, so lovely, but - this isn't for me. I - wasn't born here. I - miss -

APHRODITE

Oh, look at you. So soft, so sweet. So many things You've yet to learn, so many ways you've yet To love and live.

Comforting her now

APHRODITE

(hypnotic)

Rebecca will show you
How. Rebecca will show you how to love
And live. She will show you all the right ways.
Ways of the world, of a lovely, soft world
And not the harsh, hard one you've learnt to bear.
It was hard wasn't it? School? University?

ROSIE HUGHES

I -

APHRODITE

All those demands on your mind and body.
So hard for someone so soft and lovely.
London - lost in the forest - everyone pushing
You. Silly thing, flinching if someone so much as
Shook your hand. It needn't be hard
anymore. You needn't be afraid. Your skin
Needn't go hungry any longer. Feed
It. Touch it. Trust it. My sweet, lovely thing.

Dinggg! Madison attempts to take Aphrodite's place

MADISON GREENE

(Australian accent, to Aphrodite)

Hey - you're not playing by the rules.

APHRODITE

(to Madison)

Babes. I make the rules.

Madison grumbles inaudibly

APHRODITE

Just do this one little thing for me: love.
Go back to that odd little flat, to Jude. He is
A magical man and made of lightning,
And he must learn to love. He is quite mad,
But Rebecca has every faith in you.
I know that someone so innocent, so

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

APHRODITE (cont'd)

Perfect and pretty and lovely and light
Will teach him. Just as I've taught you, Rosie.
Sweet, soft Rosie - my sacrifice -
Our time is running out. Do me proud.

Dinggg!

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh! Rebecca? I only came in here to get a bottle of
wine for my boss -

APHRODITE

Well you'd better go and get it then hadn't you?

Scene 3

Back at Patti's flat. They are all drunk.

HERMES

...and then I turned her to stone!

All three burst out laughing

PATTI BLEWITT

That's nothing. Did you hear what he did to
Shakespeare?

JUDE REED

Shhh...

HERMES

Who?

JUDE REED

Oh yeah. You've been vegetatatatative. A playwright.
You'd've loved him.

PATTI BLEWITT

You're not letting me tell the story -

JUDE REED

Wine!

HERMES

Wine!

JUDE REED & HERMES

Wine!

Both look at Patti expectantly

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT
We're all out.

JUDE REED
Do we have water?

PATTI BLEWITT
On tap.

JUDE REED
Well then. Hermes. Hermeees. Do the thing.

HERMES
What thing?

JUDE REED
The. Thing. Turn the water into wine.

HERMES
No. No. That's not me. Stone. I do stone.

PATTI BLEWITT
Useless.

HERMES
You want Dionysus...

JUDE REED
(to Patti)
Co-op?

PATTI BLEWITT
Shut.

JUDE REED
Whywassatime?

Patti looks at her phone

HERMES
What's that?

PATTI BLEWITT
(to Jude)
Battery.

JUDE REED
Off-licence?

HERMES
What is it?

PATTI BLEWITT
Schlep.

JUDE REED

(to Hermes)
It's like a - like a messenger, or - a telegraph...

*The landline telephone rings, Patti and Jude look
at her mobile*

JUDE REED
Battery?

PATTI BLEWITT
Yeah.

HERMES

(as Zeus)
Bells! They herald the end!

*Patti holds her mobile up to her ear, the landline
continues to ring*

PATTI BLEWITT
Hello?

HERMES

They toll for a
Nearing conclusion! The time of Muses
Is reaching its last hour -!

JUDE REED
Try the other one.

PATTI BLEWITT
What other one?

The landline continues to ring

HERMES

Ring in the
New Age! The Innocent approaches, the
Lady of Cythera and Cyprus sends
Her forth and the final Heavenly Seven
Wake to a New World -!

PATTI BLEWITT
Oh!

Patti exits to answer the phone, Jude collapses

HERMES

She sends forth
 A storm to destroy The Last Thunderbolt,
 The once loved One of Nine! The Immortal
 Is nearing the end of His days! The End
 Begins when the Purpled Singer dies!

*The phone is answered, the ringing stops - as does
 Hermes*

HERMES

(as himself)
 I hate it when they do that.

The doorbell rings

HERMES

(as Zeus)
 The Great Messenger has been summoned, he
 Must depart. Farewell, sweet Muse...
 (as himself)
 I'm coming, I'm coming...

Exit Hermes clumsily

The doorbell rings again, Jude exits to answer it

Enter Patti

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude? Hermes?

Sober, Patti hurriedly begins tidying

Enter Jude and Rosie, kissing

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude -

They continue to kiss

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude!

They break

JUDE REED

Patti! Look who I found -

ROSIE HUGHES

I - I'm sorry... I -

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude. It's Indigo. She must've tried calling me - but the battery - she's - she's killed herself. Indigo Coward is dead.

Rosie gasps

Jude staggers caught between the two women

JUDE REED

I hate it when they do that -

Jude falls to the floor, unconscious

Lights change -

Scene 4

Hades alone in The Underworld. Patti and Rosie exit either side of the space, Jude may remain but the focus must be on Hades and later Indigo.

HADES

(to audience)

Hello, hello, hello - ! No. Don't get up. Sorry everyone, I slept in... Earth's looking great though, I love what you've done with the place so - err - thanks for that. Listen, there's a stack of paperwork to get through and we're having a bit of trouble back on Earth, so let me explain this as quickly as I can... Welcome, firstly, to the Land of the Dead - it's not as bad as it sounds. Honestly.

Basically, there are two ways to go from here. For the good guys, there's the Elysian Fields. Lovely place - unless you have hay fever - but for all you bad-to-the-bone types, I'm afraid you're damned... There's this pit. It's big, kind of bottomless. It has a flaming river and three sets of walls. It is as bad as it sounds. There's a guy with a whip and a monster and the monster does this thing with its heads and... Eurgh. But yes... I'm supposed to decide who goes where but I really don't have that kind of time. Would you mind terribly judging yourselves?

No? Good. Good. Goodies - fields, baddies - pit. Be honest, OK...? Now, the plan was to get Carl Orff in as a bit of background music to proceedings but there's this singer just dead that Persephone really likes so if you'll allow me to present - I can't believe I'm doing this - the innnncomparable - (*cough*) - innnnimitable - (*cough*) - Innndigo Coward (*cough*)...

(CONTINUED)

Hades exits revealing Indigo on guitar -

INDIGO COWARD

Ahem -

Indigo is cut off by the scene change -

Scene 5

Indigo remains on stage.

The next day, Patti's flat. Jude lies unconscious on the floor.

Patti enters the space dressed in a towel. She carries a remote control and points it up and out into the audience and presses a button.

RADIO VOICE #1 (OFF)

- hhhhhhhshhhhhsssstssssshhh -

Patti presses the button again

RADIO VOICE #2 (OFF)

- d - d - d - d - gd - gd - gd -

and again

RADIO VOICE #3 (OFF)

(as radio DJ Dan D. Shades)

- gooooooood morning London! It's your regular afternoon hosts here: Der-der-der-der-Dannnn Deeee Shades and Tonyyyy Tangeloooo -

RADIO VOICE #2 (OFF)

(as co-host Tony Tangelo)

Hello, hello -!

DAN D. SHADES (OFF)

Bringing you your daily over-dosage of stirring melodies and banging tunes. Annnnd speaking of over-dosages -

Exit Patti

TONY TANGELO (OFF)

For the last two hours we've been celebrating the life of the innnncomparable -

DAN D. SHADES (OFF)

Innnnimitable -

(CONTINUED)

TONY TANGELO (OFF)

Innnndigo Coward who sadly passed away last night.
You've been ringing in, signing on and tweeting for
your favourite Indigo song -

DAN D. SHADES (OFF)

We've heard requests for everything from her debut solo
to the controversial reworking of Beatles classic 'Hey
Jude' -

Jude stirs

*Re-enter Patti, now dressed, carrying a glass of
water, a piece of toast and an apple*

DAN D. SHADES (OFF)

And in just a moment we'll be hearing tributes from
Mercury Music listeners across the capital -

TONY TANGELO (OFF)

But right now the weather from that early morning muse
to many: Kathy Browwwwn -!

*Patti pours the glass of water over Jude's head
and bites the toast. He sits up immediately,
dripping as the weather report continues...*

RADIO VOICE #1

(as weather-girl Kathy Brown)

A wet start to the day today as we get the tale end of
that Valentine's Day storm. Keep your jacket to hand as
highest temperatures creep to just above five degrees
with gales expected as the afternoon draws to a close -

DAN D. SHADES (OFF)

Thank you Kathy, you're sunshine enough! And now, as
promised, your shock at the death of Indigo Coward -

*Lighting change. We see or hear the opinions of
the London public. The focus, however, remains on
Patti and Jude, frozen.*

FISHERMAN

We even got her out at sea - I fish, see - on the
radio. She's soothing. Sweet voice. Sounds like home. I
try to catch her in concert whenever I'm on shore -

SHONIQUA

Well it's like my Su - Susan, my friend - says, she was
incomparable -

(CONTINUED)

FISHERMAN

Inimitable!

SHONIQUA

So wise. So, so wise. More of a poet than a musician. When I spoke to Su she was in tears. Floods! Couldn't believe it. They're crowding around her old apartment, leaving flowers. Camping -

YURI

She was the reason I come to this country. She was everything to me. I am everything I am because of her. I am overturned. Overturned. Confused. Broken. She was an angel. Inimitable -*Yuri wails*

CAMERON

I don't really get it. The music. Seems - whiney - to me. The lyrics? Ridiculous. But that stuff sells. It really sells. Some buddies of mine made a mint. It's incomparable -

DAD

My younger daughters have gone into mourning. They think she's great. A real role model. Their room's covered in her posters. I might have to take them down it's upsetting them so much -

CAMERON

It's a fantastic business, nothing like it. Jesus - if I could get hold of a guitar player in a tea dress... I'd be on to a fortune -

Lights return to normal, Indigo's song about Patti resumes over the dialogue. We're in Patti's flat once more.

JUDE REED

I smell toast. Did you make toast - ?

PATTI BLEWITT

Sh. It's Indigo.

The song ends

JUDE REED

I really fancy toast. Or a bagel -

TONY TANGELO (OFF)

And that was Indigo Coward with her last hit, The Patti Blues.

(CONTINUED)

DAN D. SHADES (OFF)

Later we'll be we'll be talking exclusively to the inspiration for the singer-songwriter's last, unique album: Patti Blewitt.

PATTI BLEWITT

Enough.

The Radio Voices are silent

JUDE REED

Or a croissant -

PATTI BLEWITT

Whiney, isn't it?

JUDE REED

Well it is about you.

PATTI BLEWITT

What was the last song you inspired, Jude?

JUDE REED

Alright, don't get smug -

PATTI BLEWITT

Carly Simon - 'You're So Vain.'

JUDE REED

I knew you were going to bring that up.

PATTI BLEWITT

Tell me, why are there clowns in her coffee?

JUDE REED

What?

Patti sings the offending lines, wrongly

PATTI BLEWITT

(singing)

I had some dreams there were clowns in my coffee/
Clowns in my coffee/ and/ You're so v-

JUDE REED

I had some dreams there were *clouds* in my coffee.

PATTI BLEWITT

Well why were here *clouds* in her coffee?

JUDE REED

In-joke. Coffee? And real coffee. Not instant -

(CONTINUED)

The doorbell rings

JUDE REED
I'm not getting it.

Patti starts putting on a shoe

PATTI BLEWITT
It's your lawyer.

JUDE REED
My lawyer? What's she doing here?

Ding Dong!

PATTI BLEWITT
She stayed here. I asked her to get us coffee.

JUDE REED
What?

PATTI BLEWITT
You let her in!

Ding Dong!

PATTI BLEWITT
Jude, get it. I need to get ready -

JUDE REED
For what?

PATTI BLEWITT
An artist's asked me to model for him -

JUDE REED
Any good?

PATTI BLEWITT
Australian.

JUDE REED
Girl?

PATTI BLEWITT
Guy.

JUDE REED
Gay?

PATTI BLEWITT
Straight.

JUDE REED
Damn -

Ding Dong!

Ding Dong!

JUDE REED
Persistent isn't she?

PATTI BLEWITT
Go get it you loser.

Jude exits grumbling, Patti moves on to the other shoe

PATTI BLEWITT
(affecting an Australian accent)
And then I'd better dodge skippy on the blacktop.
(in her own voice)
Whatever that means...

Scene 6

Patti remains sitting as the lighting and set changes to indicate Madison's studio.

Enter Madison, Patti removes a shoe

MADISON GREENE
So this is the studio.

PATTI BLEWITT
Really? Fascinating.

MADISON GREENE
It's not much but it's a start.

PATTI BLEWITT
And you specialize in -

MADISON GREENE
Watercolours mainly.

PATTI BLEWITT
Oh. Watercolours -?

MADISON GREENE
Yeah I started getting really in to them after I saw a bloke get eaten by sharks.

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT
Sharks?

MADISON GREENE
Yeah. The way all the water turned red so quickly -

PATTI BLEWITT
That's. Fascinating.

MADISON GREENE
To be that close to death as well. It was sort of...
Gorgeous.

PATTI BLEWITT
Fascinating... Apple?

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT
Eating apples together. That's always the first step.

Pause

MADISON GREENE
Thank you.

PATTI BLEWITT
So do I get to see any of these shark-inspired pieces
-?

MADISON GREENE
Oh they're not all shark-inspired -

PATTI BLEWITT
Oh -

MADISON GREENE
No, I'm not some kind of freak -

PATTI BLEWITT
Well of course not -

MADISON GREENE
In fact, I want to start moving away from sharks -

PATTI BLEWITT
Jaws isn't doing it for you anymore -?

MADISON GREENE
(obnoxious laugh)
No -

PATTI BLEWITT

In need of a new muse -?

MADISON GREENE

Ha!

Pause

MADISON GREENE

Um. Drink? There's beer or some plonk. Tea?

PATTI BLEWITT

Tea, please. A little milk, no sugar.

MADISON GREENE

Righty.

Exit Madison

Patti removes her dress quickly in a businesslike manner

Re-enter Madison, with tea

MADISON GREENE

Hooley dooley!

PATTI BLEWITT

I'm sorry -?

MADISON GREENE

What -?

PATTI BLEWITT

I was modelling for you wasn't I -?

She begins to remove her bra - Madison stops her

MADISON GREENE

No, no no. That - that! - that's fine.

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT

You do know what I do, don't you? What the muses do -

MADISON GREENE

Sort of -

PATTI BLEWITT

We're the little voice at the back of your head saying
"do it, just do it - I dare you."

(CONTINUED)

MADISON GREENE
Ha!

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT
(businesslike again)
Do you have any mental health problems? Or a family
history of any? An eccentric uncle, perhaps - ?

MADISON GREENE
No, I -

PATTI BLEWITT
Pity. What's your surname, Madison?

MADISON GREENE
Ngyuen.

PATTI BLEWITT
I'm sorry?

MADISON GREENE
Ngyuen.

PATTI BLEWITT
N...?

MADISON GREENE
G, Y, U, E, N.

PATTI BLEWITT
You should change it.

MADISON GREENE
I should?

PATTI BLEWITT
Definitely. It needs to be both spellable and sellable
if you want to succeed in the Arts. I've changed my
name dozens of times -

MADISON GREENE
Spellable and sellable.

PATTI BLEWITT
You know what you're lacking, Madison?

MADISON GREENE
A surname -?

PATTI BLEWITT

Apart from that. Inspiration.

MADISON GREENE

Oh?

PATTI BLEWITT

I mean full-blooded, lusty, idolatry inspiration. The sort of inspiration that leaves you half-mad and gasping and gurgling so the only way you can express yourself is through -

MADISON GREENE

Watercolours?

PATTI BLEWITT

Me.

MADISON GREENE

I -

PATTI BLEWITT

The only thing you can bring to art is yourself, Madison - but some people are just boring -

MADISON GREENE

I just want to paint -

PATTI BLEWITT

I'm sorry?

MADISON GREENE

I just want to paint -

PATTI BLEWITT

No.

MADISON GREENE

No?

PATTI BLEWITT

People don't like sharks. They're nasty. They don't want a picture of a shark hanging in their living rooms. That would be weird Madison. People don't like weird artists anymore. You don't want to be a weird artist do you?

MADISON GREENE

No?

PATTI BLEWITT

No, you want to be a successful one. What's your favourite colour?

MADISON GREENE
Red.

PATTI BLEWITT
Try again.

MADISON GREENE
Green?

PATTI BLEWITT
Excellent. Green's very in right now.

MADISON GREENE
Madison Green -

PATTI BLEWITT
With an E -

MADISON GREENE
Madison Greene.

PATTI BLEWITT
I don't really like the lighting in here, do you?

MADISON GREENE
The wh-

PATTI BLEWITT
Should we try the bedroom?

Scene 7

The lighting and set change again, placing us back in Patti's flat. Enter Jude and Rosie - Rosie carries a box of instant coffee.

JUDE REED
Hi.

ROSIE HUGHES
Hi.

Pause

JUDE REED
Look -

ROSIE HUGHES
Listen -

JUDE REED
I was wondering if you
wanted to maybe go on
a date - ?

ROSIE HUGHES
I think maybe I'm
going to have to quit
Parnassus -

JUDE REED
I - what?

ROSIE HUGHES
Sorry?

JUDE REED
Why would you quit - we've been having a whale of a
time?

ROSIE HUGHES
It's Indigo - I'm just. She's dead.

JUDE REED
Yeah, so?

ROSIE HUGHES
She died because of Patti -

JUDE REED
No he didn't!

ROSIE HUGHES
She did. Patti was her Muse and Indigo died because of
her -

JUDE REED
No - no - no. She died because she was in love. We
drive men and women to do what they do. Inspire them,
push them - sometimes we push too hard -

ROSIE HUGHES
So suicide's a side-effect -?

JUDE REED
Sometimes -!

ROSIE HUGHES
It's immoral -

JUDE REED
Beautiful things - they - they demand a sacrifice.
Indigo died, yes, too soon, maybe... So did Van Gogh.
They're immortalised now -

ROSIE HUGHES
Says the immortal.

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED

Can we drop this? I haven't had coffee -

ROSIE HUGHES

A date?

JUDE REED

Yes. If it means getting a coffee -

ROSIE HUGHES

I have instant -!

JUDE REED

No, coffee. Seriously though. We could have... Coffee -

ROSIE HUGHES

Why?

JUDE REED

Well given where the conversation was heading earlier -

ROSIE HUGHES

No, I mean - why a date. With me?

JUDE REED

Because you seem to know everything about me and I know absolutely nothing about you. Where do you live again?
I forgot -

ROSIE HUGHES

Botolph Claydon.

JUDE REED

See. I'd never heard of it. I've gone millenia without hearing about Bottled Claydon -

ROSIE HUGHES

It's very green -

JUDE REED

Good. It's very in right now. Rosie - this is what I mean... You've inspired me - what else am I missing?

Scene 8

Rosie and Rebecca's flat, as before. Aphrodite stands listening to an answerphone message play out. Rosie may be on stage for this scene or the message can be prerecorded or voiced from offstage.

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES

Hello! This is Rosie's annnd - oh - I thought you were going to say your name? Oh - Oh! Rebecca's! Rosie and Rebecca's. Neither of us are in right now but please leave a message after the beep. Bye!!!

Beep.

ROSIE'S MUM (OFF)

Rosie, it's mummy. Your dad's really gotten worse. Don't panic about anything, it's fine, it's under control - but we've had to take him to hospital. I'm there now. I know you're very busy and that you're having the time of your life out there in the big city - but. Come home. Just - just for a bit. He keeps asking for his dumpling, his rosebud. We all miss you. Especially the cats - but anyway, take care. Love you. See you soon. Bye. Bye -

Sound of a phone cutting off, Aphrodite turns to exit -

Enter Hermes

HERMES

Psst -

Aphrodite turns back, Hermes clicks - the pair freeze...

Scene 9

...Hermes and Aphrodite remain frozen, classical statues in The Museum -

Enter Rosie and Jude

ROSIE HUGHES

Why have you brought me here?

JUDE REED

Because I fancied a museum - and they do surprisingly good coffee.

ROSIE HUGHES

I -!

JUDE REED

Instant.

ROSIE HUGHES

Oh! (seeing Aphrodite)

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED
What?

ROSIE HUGHES
This is -

JUDE REED
A statue of Aphrodite.

ROSIE HUGHES
It is?

JUDE REED
Oh and there's Hermes -

ROSIE HUGHES
But -

JUDE REED
It's actually quite a good likeness. Both of them. Odd.
Patti's about half a dozen Aphrodites -

His attention turns out into the audience

ROSIE HUGHES
Jude -

JUDE REED
(noticing a statue of himself)
Oh look! It's me!

ROSIE HUGHES
Oh!

JUDE REED
You like?

ROSIE HUGHES
You're naked.

JUDE REED
Yup.

ROSIE HUGHES
It's very big.

JUDE REED
It's actually much bigger, it's a perspective thing -

ROSIE HUGHES
And old -

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED

Oh, you mean the statue. Yes. Very.

ROSIE HUGHES

Too old -

JUDE REED

What?

ROSIE HUGHES

You kissed me!

JUDE REED

So that's what this is about -

ROSIE HUGHES

You're three-thousand two-hundred and four years old
and you kissed me -

JUDE REED

If it helps, I don't remember -

ROSIE HUGHES

I thought you were a fairytale -

JUDE REED

Look, I'm sorry - if I'm meant to be - about kissing
you -

ROSIE HUGHES

Nobody's ever kissed me before...

JUDE REED

It doesn't count if you don't remember it -

ROSIE HUGHES

I do!

JUDE REED

Oh -

ROSIE HUGHES

Do you really not remember?

JUDE REED

No. Sorry.

ROSIE HUGHES

You c - you could. You could kiss me again if you like?

JUDE REED

Would you like?

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes. I think so -

JUDE REED

Or you could kiss me this time...?

ROSIE HUGHES

I - I can't.

JUDE REED

Okay. That's okay...

ROSIE HUGHES

I'm sorry.

JUDE REED

We're both sorry. Let's make it up to each other -

ROSIE HUGHES

How?

JUDE REED

Let's both say something nice about one another. You start -

ROSIE HUGHES

I -

JUDE REED

Please.

Pause

ROSIE HUGHES

You... You have nice hair.

JUDE REED

That was crap -

ROSIE HUGHES

I didn't grow up in London -

JUDE REED

What's that got to do with anything?

ROSIE HUGHES

I don't know. It made more sense in my head.

JUDE REED

I didn't either -

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES

What -?

JUDE REED

Grow up in London. Athens actually, and I was born in Troy.

(upset)

I saw it all fall down.

Rosie takes his hand

JUDE REED

I haven't thought about Troy in a very long time...
This is nice -

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes -

JUDE REED

New -

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes -

JUDE REED

(clasping her hand tighter)

I am three thousand two hundred and four years old.
It's hard to find new things -

ROSIE HUGHES

Jude - ?

JUDE REED

I hadn't had cheesecake until 1997. Somehow it had passed me by.

ROSIE HUGHES

Jude, are you alright -?

JUDE REED

That was nice. And new -

ROSIE HUGHES

Jude - you're hurting me -

JUDE REED

New - and. Thing is, Rosie, I found out I was lactose intolerant -

Jude falls

ROSIE HUGHES
Jude!

JUDE REED
I suddenly feel very old.

ROSIE HUGHES
Jude, what's wrong?

JUDE REED
All these new things in a museum. Who'd have thought -

ROSIE HUGHES
New what? You're not making any sense. Should I get
help -?

*Jude struggles to rise, Rosie struggles to help
him*

JUDE REED
New feelings.

ROSIE HUGHES
I don't understand -

JUDE REED
Rule 3, Rosie...

ROSIE HUGHES
A Muse must never, ever fall in love -

JUDE REED
This is one hell of a hangover -

ROSIE HUGHES
I thought that was a fairytale -

JUDE REED
It's okay, I can stand -

ROSIE HUGHES
I'm sorry -

JUDE REED
It's okay. Just... Take me to Patti's.

They exit...

ACT IIIScene 1

...Hermes and Aphrodite reanimate.

APHRODITE

You turned me to stone you knob -!

HERMES

(impossibly loud, his voiced added to by
the ensemble from offstage - all Gods
talking in unison through Hermes)

And not for the last time -
The Lady of Cythera and Cyprus,
Spawned from the beaten Sea and fallen Sky
Two-Faced Goddess of Love - your end is nigh.

APHRODITE

Oh Zee -

HERMES

We Heavenly Seven have watched the chaos
You have wrought whilst We've slept. It ends today
The cruelty of your reign over the hearts of men -

APHRODITE

This isn't cruelty, this is love -

HERMES

By order of the Heavenly Seven you will stop -

APHRODITE

Stop? I didn't do anything? Did you miss that little
exchange feather-foot? They did it all themselves. I
just pushed her in the right direction, riding on the
wave of the fairytales her father told her. I've got to
hand it to you Zee, your plan worked -

HERMES

The Muses of Parnassus have failed -

APHRODITE

Failed? They're how I did what I did. I was Rosie's
imaginary friend. Her whole life I kept whispering to
her. Any time a boy approached I convinced her she was
ugly. Dull. Until now... Whisked away to London and let
her loose -

HERMES

The Muses of Parnassus have failed -

(CONTINUED)

APHRODITE

No! You just didn't realise what I've known my entire existence. Love's the only thing worth singing about - I just made sure it was the right love -

HERMES

The Lady of Cythera and Cyprus,
Two-Faced Goddess of Love -
(as himself alone)
All this because the Muses were prettier?

APHRODITE

(livid)
Patti next -!

HERMES

No -!

APHRODITE

I'm thinking tall, dark, handsome -!

HERMES

No -!

Sound of thunder and lightning

Blackout

Scene 2

The doorbell rings, still in black

A shuffling is heard, and giggling. Two figures on the floor just visible in the darkness.

Ding Dong!

MADISON GREENE

Ignore it -

PATTI BLEWITT

It could be important -

ZEUS(OFF)

(impossibly loud)
Zeus, Deus, the god of all gods,
Lord of Thunder and Lightning and Sky
The Bull, The Eagle, The Oak,
The Great Olympian Jupiter, Tinia,
Great Jove. The Father, father of men,
Father of Persephone, father of
Athena, Apollo and Artemis,
Of King Minos and Dionysus,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZEUS(OFF) (cont'd)
 Helen, Heracles, Hebe, Hephaestus,
 Perseus the Gorgon-Slayer
 Hermes of thieves and Ares of war.
 He and his Pantheon, Last of the
 Everlasting. We. Olympians.
 We demand entry and damn those
 That abide her should they refuse.

Ding Dong!

*One of the figures rises, grumpily, wraps herself
 in a robe and exits*

Pause

HERMES (OFF)
 We tried you at the office -

Enter Hermes, Patti and Zeus -

PATTI BLEWITT
 Jude's not in -

*Lights - Patti's flat. Madison's sprawled out,
 naked under a sheet on the floor.*

HERMES
 I know. Why do you even have offices?

PATTI BLEWITT
 It's an insurance thing. Hermes, Madison -
 watercolourist, Madison. Hermes - Messenger of the
 Gods... And Zeus, my... Grandfather.

ZEUS
 Greetings.

MADISON GREENE
 G'day.

PATTI BLEWITT
 Madison, darling. Do you mind waiting in the bedroom?
 This is business. I won't be long.

MADISON GREENE
 Not a problem...

ZEUS
 May I summon the others?

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT

Sure. Summon. Whatever -

HERMES

Patti -

ZEUS

Olympians!

*The Gods start filing in: Aphrodite, Uranus,
Poseidon, Cronus, Gaea and Ares - Hades is absent.*

APHRODITE

Patti Blewitt.

PATTI BLEWITT

Aphrodite. Considered modernising?

APHRODITE

What do you mean?

PATTI BLEWITT

Like, I don't know... Miss Aphrodite? Or Aph - like
Cher.

APHRODITE

I'd use Venus more, but -

PATTI BLEWITT

Tennis player?

APHRODITE

Razorblade -

PATTI BLEWITT

Yeah. My idea -

APHRODITE

Yoy b-

GAEA

Girls!

ARES

Gran -

ZEUS

Euterpe -

PATTI BLEWITT

Zee -

CRONUS

You dare address the God of Gods in such a manner?

PATTI BLEWITT

Oh I dare -

HERMES

Patti -

PATTI BLEWITT

I'd offer you tea but you're leaving pretty sharpish.

ZEUS

Euterpe -

PATTI BLEWITT

Zee. Why did you bother waking up? All of you - any of you - why did you bother -?

CRONUS

Silence -!

PATTI BLEWITT

Um, no. Seriously. If you had to get up - if it was pre-ordained, written, divine right - whatever - why didn't you go right back to bed -?

APHRODITE

(to Zeus)

I told you this was a bad idea -

PATTI BLEWITT

Once upon a time - you lot. You created men and monsters, gods and demigods - like that (clicks) - and you thought it good. I do that now. I do it faster. Better.

Today's the day you lot realise that we - your children, whether dull as clay or bright as lightning, are smarter than you. It happens to lots of parents. Deal with it. Yeah, from the looks of things we may still need looking after - but we sure as hell don't want it. You're older, not wiser. We're as damned now without you as we were with you. You squabble, you're old, your lazy - you're fired. Dismissed. Damned if you'd prefer, but either way - done with.

I'm going solo -

APHRODITE

How right you are -

PATTI BLEWITT

We'd have been such friends, you and I. If you weren't so bloody insecure -

APHRODITE

I am n -

PATTI BLEWITT

Anyway. There's a twenty-something Ozzie watercolourist asleep in my bedroom. A client. Business. See yourselves out

Exit Patti

Pause

CRONUS

Well -

ZEUS

Cronus -

CRONUS

Well. Well. Well, well, well -

ZEUS

Cronus. Shut. Up.

Pause

HERMES

So, I'm going to get going -

POSEIDON

Zeus -

URANUS

Deus. What do we do now?

Pause

ZEUS

We die.

ARES

Uh-oh.

ZEUS

Or...

POSEIDON

Or?

ZEUS

Silence! Hermes, you have your powers.
The stone thing -

APHRODITE

Whoa now. I am not spending the rest of eternity as a
bloody st-

Hermes clicks, Aphrodite freezes

HERMES

Yes.

CRONUS

This is ridiculous -

ZEUS

Would you rather die?

Pause

ZEUS

(to Hermes)

When each of Us are done.
When each of Us are silent and stone,
Gaea, Ares, Cronus, Poseidon, Uranus and Zeus -
You'll join Us? Won't you?

Pause

HERMES

'Course I will! Yeah. Yeah. Stone's great. Yeah. I've
always wanted to be a rock star. Yeah.

Pause

Hermes clicks...

Enter Hades, coughing

HADES

Hey, sorry I'm late. Traffic was hell -

Pause

HADES

Oh.

Hermes clicks...

Scene 3

...as the lights change The Gods leave, Hermes remains. Rosie and Rebecca's flat.

Enter Rosie

ROSIE HUGHES
Rebecca?

HERMES
Hi.

ROSIE HUGHES
Oh. Hello - wh - who are you?

HERMES
I'm a relative of Rebecca's. Mister... Herman.

ROSIE HUGHES
Mr. Herman.

HERMES
Yes. You must be Rosie Hughes?

ROSIE HUGHES
Yes, I -

HERMES
Rebecca's flatmate -

ROSIE HUGHES
Where is -?

HERMES
She - she's stone -d. Stoned.

ROSIE HUGHES
Oh -

HERMES
Drugs. That should explain anything strange and out of the ordinary or unusual she might've said or done...

ROSIE HUGHES
Oh completely! Do you think - do you think she might've been drugging me?

HERMES
It's possible, it's possible... But we've put her in a rehabilitation place that she'll never, ever come out from. She won't bother you any longer, she's gone.

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES

Well, I hope she'll be alright.

HERMES

She'll be fine.

ROSIE HUGHES

Should I be tested?

HERMES

On what?

ROSIE HUGHES

For drugs?

HERMES

No - oh, and. As for Jude -

ROSIE HUGHES

You're Jude's friend too -?

HERMES

Relative, yes. Sort of -

ROSIE HUGHES

My Dad used to say - when I was little - that I'd grow up. Go to University. Marry Prince Charming, have children and that would be it. It felt safe -

HERMES

You don't have to believe in fairytales any longer. The rules have changed. You might not ever have children, or marry. You don't have to do uni - you don't even have to grow up -

ROSIE HUGHES

But -

HERMES

This world of yours - and it is yours - is so so much weirder than that, and wonderful. Forget the fairytales Rosie Hughes.

ROSIE HUGHES

And Jude?

HERMES

Jude... Jude's had his time. He's scared - he's going to get older. Faster. His hair will grey and his skin will crease. His bones will fail him and his memory will get fuzzy. Er. Fuzzier -

ROSIE HUGHES

Because of me -

HERMES

Because even at three thousand two hundred and four you still have growing up to do -

ROSIE HUGHES

He fired me.

HERMES

He was angry.

ROSIE HUGHES

I like him, but -

HERMES

He's sorry.

ROSIE HUGHES

Me too.

HERMES

He might need someone to hold his hand every now and again. That doesn't mean marry him, that doesn't mean love him - just be there.

ROSIE HUGHES

Okay.

HERMES

It's been nice meeting you at last - oh, and your Mum rang. You should call her back.

Exit Hermes, followed by Rosie

Scene 4

The lighting and set change again, placing us back in Patti's flat. Jude's already there.

Enter Patti

JUDE REED

Hi.

PATTI BLEWITT

Hi.

JUDE REED

Hi.

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude - why are you in my flat? Why are you always in my flat?

JUDE REED

How are you?

PATTI BLEWITT

Fine.

JUDE REED

Good -

PATTI BLEWITT

How are you?

JUDE REED

Fine.

PATTI BLEWITT

Right. And Rosie?

JUDE REED

Fine.

PATTI BLEWITT

I do hope she can at least draw or something -

JUDE REED

Fired.

PATTI BLEWITT

Oh.

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT

Why?

JUDE REED

Because I am the Gods' gift. Their breath - thunder and lightning made flesh. I am the Overruling Infinite, the Eternal Trickster, the Invisible Harlequin. I am Manfred. I am the Wandering Jew. I am Dorian Gray. Muse. Everlasting and forever and I was very, very pissed off. I - God I'm a dick.

PATTI BLEWITT

Yeah well we knew that.

JUDE REED

She -

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT

She what, Jude?

JUDE REED

I think I might start collecting.

PATTI BLEWITT

What?

JUDE REED

Books and pictures and things.

PATTI BLEWITT

I don't understand -

JUDE REED

Stuff -

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude.

JUDE REED

Stuff about me Patti. All of it. As much as has survived, all that's priceless and beautiful. All that I never was and will never be worth - hung up for all time for all to see -

PATTI BLEWITT

I saw the Gods this morning.

JUDE REED

Oh?

PATTI BLEWITT

They're not looking good -

JUDE REED

Well, that's Gods for you. Obsessed with making themselves human. They want to see what it's like. Just for a bit. See what humans have that they don't. Greedy. So they remake themselves in our image. Fuck us. Fuck with us - word made flesh. Look where it's got them. Look at what's left. Decaying flesh once the words ran out.

PATTI BLEWITT

Anyway, I had to let them go.

JUDE REED

Let them go?

PATTI BLEWITT

Yes, I fired them.

JUDE REED

What?

PATTI BLEWITT

I fired them.

JUDE REED

Oh. Bad day to work for us...

PATTI BLEWITT

You don't seem quite yourself, but the performance as a crotchety old man is Oscar-worthy...

JUDE REED

We've been surrounded by people busy doing things and never done anything of our own.

PATTI BLEWITT

And granddaddy Jude is back. Is that a grey hair?

JUDE REED

We've seen hundreds of races, civilisations, governments - form and fall. We've seen thousands of wars and causes fought for, lost and won. We've seen a few, real masterpieces created and destroyed and all around us. All the time -

PATTI BLEWITT

Jude. Get a grip -

JUDE REED

People were living briefly and more fully than I was ever allowed to. Byron, Hemmingway, Indigo -

PATTI BLEWITT

That is a grey hair isn't it?

JUDE REED

No. I -

PATTI BLEWITT

It is. I was joking before but it is. And that wrinkle. That crease in your forehead. That wasn't there before. You're ageing, Jude -

JUDE REED

No -

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT
You've fallen in love.

JUDE REED
Yeah.

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT
Jude. We can fix this. We can - undo it. Hermes -

JUDE REED
It's too late.

PATTI BLEWITT
No -

JUDE REED
Yes. Honestly. I loved her for a moment. The damage is done.

PATTI BLEWITT
Shit.

JUDE REED
Yup.

PATTI BLEWITT
Shit shit shit. Jude - it's just me. I c-
I'll miss you. Shit. Who - ? Who could you possibly
have fallen in love - oh. Oh, not the lawyer Jude.
She's so -

JUDE REED
Sweet?

PATTI BLEWITT
Frigid. Did she really think Kama Sutra was a curry?

JUDE REED
Yup.

PATTI BLEWITT
Did she Google it?

JUDE REED
Yup.

PATTI BLEWITT
I'd have loved to've seen her face -

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED
I'm sorry Patti.

PATTI BLEWITT
S'okay.

JUDE REED
Is it?

PATTI BLEWITT
Yeah -

JUDE REED
Really -

PATTI BLEWITT
I'll carry on -

JUDE REED
Okay.

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT
You had fun though didn't you -?

JUDE REED
Three thousand two hundred and four years. Plenty -

PATTI BLEWITT
I meant with me. I meant us. I meant - we had fun,
didn't we?

JUDE REED
So much.

PATTI BLEWITT
Filling in the other half of people's phone
conversations on the train... Being each other's wing-
person when out on the pull... The fall of Carthage -

JUDE REED
You're the best Patti. My best friend. Yes. I had fun.

PATTI BLEWITT
Good.

JUDE REED
And I'll remember.

PATTI BLEWITT
You never remember -

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED

It's different now.

PATTI BLEWITT

Good.

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT

I was thinking... Italy. Another Renaissance. Haven't had one of those in a while.

Scene 5

One year later: The Care Home. There are heart shaped balloons and other Valentine's Day decorations. Jude is in a wheelchair and noticeably older, a package on his lap. Hermes is hidden from both the audience and Rosie.

ROSIE HUGHES

So how are we today?

JUDE REED

Old. So are the others.

ROSIE HUGHES

Jude -

JUDE REED

What? They are! It's kind of disgusting. I don't like it here -

ROSIE HUGHES

My dad's sick.

JUDE REED

I'm sorry.

ROSIE HUGHES

He's dying.

JUDE REED

I'm sorry.

ROSIE HUGHES

It's okay. It's been a long time coming.

JUDE REED

But still. I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES

I don't think he'll make it to the wedding -

JUDE REED

I've started remembering things. More than I used to.
Everything -

(indicating the passage)

This is for you. I haven't looked back until now -

Rosie opens the package

ROSIE HUGHES

'Little Red Riding Hood -'

JUDE REED

One of my earliest. It's weird, looking back. Not sure I like it - why do we do it? It's not like we can - the Earth's spherical. You look up and it's second-hand starlight. Old. Some of them are dead by the time they reach us - I saw it on TV -

ROSIE HUGHES

Jude -

JUDE REED

I got a postcard from Patti today. From Italy -

ROSIE HUGHES

You got that six weeks ago Jude -

JUDE REED

She wished you -

ROSIE HUGHES

She's not in Italy anymore -

JUDE REED

Shall I read it to you?

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes. Go on.

JUDE REED

Okay.

(reading)

Hi Jude - in Pisa today. Revolting. Absolutely revolting. Hundreds of people milling around the biggest erectile dysfunction in architecture. Florence tomorrow! Firenze - or Friorenza as Dante called it -

(looking up)

she asks if I remember Dante...

(continuing)

I bet it's awash with uninspired arty types. Love and baci, Patti. X. X. X. X. There's lots of x's...

(CONTINUED)

(stop reading, pause)
Oh. She didn't wish you -

ROSIE HUGHES
No. She didn't.

JUDE REED
I miss her.

ROSIE HUGHES
Of course you do -

JUDE REED
She was the best. My best -

ROSIE HUGHES
I think she knows.

JUDE REED
She won't visit.

ROSIE HUGHES
She might -

JUDE REED
She won't. I wouldn't.

ROSIE HUGHES
Jude, I can -

JUDE REED
Wedding?

ROSIE HUGHES
What?

JUDE REED
You said 'wedding' earlier...

ROSIE HUGHES
Yes. Yes, I'm getting married.

JUDE REED
You're getting - a wedding?

ROSIE HUGHES
Yes. That's why I wanted to see you - well. Not just that -

JUDE REED
Who?

ROSIE HUGHES

Madison Greene. He's a painter.

JUDE REED

I -

ROSIE HUGHES

Well, we've been sort of - seeing each other -

Jude laughs

ROSIE HUGHES

What?

JUDE REED

The idea of you 'seeing' anyone -

ROSIE HUGHES

We've been seeing each other for nearly a year now and thought we'd... Make a go of it.

Jude laughs again

ROSIE HUGHES

I love him Jude.

JUDE REED

Are you sure?

ROSIE HUGHES

Of course not.

JUDE REED

Well.

ROSIE HUGHES

Jude -

JUDE REED

Well. Well. Well, well, well.

Pause

ROSIE HUGHES

What?

JUDE REED

You haven't learned a thing -

ROSIE HUGHES

What -?

JUDE REED
When?

ROSIE HUGHES
Three weeks.

JUDE REED
Well...

ROSIE HUGHES
I was going to ask you - if you'd like to... Give me
away?

JUDE REED
To whom?

ROSIE HUGHES
Madison.

JUDE REED
Wait. What? Give you away. Like... Like your Dad?

ROSIE HUGHES
Yes. Except, he's too sick. He'll be there afterwards.
Hopefully, but -

JUDE REED
Madison Greene

ROSIE HUGHES
Yes.

JUDE REED
You can't be called Rosie Greene -

ROSIE HUGHES
Jude -

JUDE REED
Or do people not do that sort of thing anymore -?

ROSIE HUGHES
Jude -

JUDE REED
Rosie - it'd be my honour. To give you away -

ROSIE HUGHES
Really?

JUDE REED
Yes.

ROSIE HUGHES

No, but really?

JUDE REED

Yes. Absolutely.

ROSIE HUGHES

Thank you.

JUDE REED

You've been sweet. Very sweet. Looking out for me and...

ROSIE HUGHES

There was another thing.

JUDE REED

Another?

Pause

ROSIE HUGHES

It can wait -

JUDE REED

No, say -

ROSIE HUGHES

No. It's okay.

JUDE REED

You sure?

ROSIE HUGHES

I should probably get going. I have to see a friend.

JUDE REED

Which friend -?

ROSIE HUGHES

(almost too quickly)
Shoniqua.

JUDE REED

Okay.

ROSIE HUGHES

Okay?

JUDE REED

Yup.

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES
See you soon?

JUDE REED
Please.

ROSIE HUGHES
I'll come by next weekend if you like? We could go to
the Museum...

JUDE REED
That'd be lovely.

ROSIE HUGHES
Okay. Bye...

Rosie turns to leave -

JUDE REED
Bye Rosie.

ROSIE HUGHES
(turning back)
'Hey Jude' -

JUDE REED
Yeah?

ROSIE HUGHES
The Beatles song.

JUDE REED
Oh.

ROSIE HUGHES
Was that you?

JUDE REED
Yeah. Worst advice ever.

Pause

JUDE REED
Bye Rosie.

ROSIE HUGHES
Bye. Sorry.

Exit Rosie

JUDE REED
Oh, Hermes...

HERMES

I wasn't sure you could see me -

JUDE REED

I wish I'd met her later. When she was done growing up. Now, even
- no. No, probably not now. Not like this. All
shrivelled up.

HERMES

Forget about it.

JUDE REED

That's new. For a god. So. Come to lead me to the
Underworld?

HERMES

Actually, Jude. No. I'm afraid it's all rage, rage against the d
of the light from here on in -

JUDE REED

Oh -

HERMES

Look. If I could have it my way I'd let you -

JUDE REED

Skip to the end?

HERMES

Exactly. But -

JUDE REED

You're the last left, why can't you?

HERMES

Well that's precisely why. Hades left the afterlife in a right m
have ended up in hell...
Lord Byron's in the Elysian fields -

JUDE REED

How is Georgie?

HERMES

Good, but definitely not where he should be. It's going to take
a while to sort out.

JUDE REED

Ah.

(CONTINUED)

HERMES

You're going to have to wait it out. Do the aging thing.

JUDE REED

Sure.

HERMES

Anywhere else though! I can take you anywhere else. My car's outside.

JUDE REED

A car? You can fly.

HERMES

Cars are more fun.

JUDE REED

I don't know. I've been everywhere and seen everything.

HERMES

The Museum? There's a new collection -

JUDE REED

Rosie was taking me.

HERMES

You can go again. Honestly, you'll love it.

Pause

JUDE REED

Okay.

HERMES

You sure?

JUDE REED

Yup.

HERMES

Okay.

Hermes takes hold of Jude's wheelchair

HERMES

So, tell me the Shakespeare story...

Scene 6

Jude is wheeled off, the tramp is wheeled on - Patti and a Tramp on a public bench. They've both been there some time. Patti is waiting, agitated. The tramp practices chords on a guitar.

PATTI BLEWITT

You have no legs.

TRAMP

You have sharp eyes.

PATTI BLEWITT

Why don't you have legs?

TRAMP

Sharks.

PATTI BLEWITT

Sharks?

TRAMP

Yes.

PATTI BLEWITT

Sharks?

TRAMP

Yes.

PATTI BLEWITT

Can you stop playing that for a moment - sharks?

TRAMP

No. And yes.

PATTI BLEWITT

How can you play with no legs?

TRAMP

I use my hands.

PATTI BLEWITT

No I mean - how on Earth can you play music after losing your legs to...

TRAMP

Sharks.

PATTI BLEWITT

Apparently.

(CONTINUED)

TRAMP

Well I play for lots of reasons. Because it makes me happy. Because I get bored selling magazines - *Big Issue?*

PATTI BLEWITT

No thank you -

TRAMP

Because I'm hungry. Because I have plenty to be happy about and plenty to be sad about. Because I lost my legs. Because I lost my job. Because it might make me rich and famous... Do you have to have a reason?

PATTI BLEWITT

Yes.

TRAMP

Well perhaps I don't.

PATTI BLEWITT

You write your own songs?

TRAMP

Sometimes.

PATTI BLEWITT

About what?

TRAMP

Sharks, sometimes. And losing my legs to sharks.

PATTI BLEWITT

Why would anyone want to hear a song about that?

TRAMP

Well, being someone who's lost his legs to sharks - I'd like to.

PATTI BLEWITT

Eurgh. Why?

TRAMP

It's healing.

PATTI BLEWITT

They're not growing back -

TRAMP

For the soul.

(CONTINUED)

PATTI BLEWITT

Maybe, if you want the rich and famous thing, you should write about something more commercial. Something everyone's been through -

TRAMP

Like what?

PATTI BLEWITT

Love, maybe?

TRAMP

I've never been in love.

PATTI BLEWITT

Never?

TRAMP

Nope.

PATTI BLEWITT

And no legs?

TRAMP

None at all.

PATTI BLEWITT

Sharks?

TRAMP

Yeah.

PATTI BLEWITT

And you still sing. Your own stuff?

TRAMP

Sometimes. Sometimes Dylan. Leonard Cohen. Indigo C-

PATTI BLEWITT

Stop.

TRAMP

Do you not like his-?

PATTI BLEWITT

No.

TRAMP

Why not?

PATTI BLEWITT

Because he was whiney and weak and too Indie to live.

(CONTINUED)

TRAMP

Oh.

PATTI BLEWITT

He wrote about love though -

TRAMP

Look, I'm not saying the right girl won't come along
I'm just saying she hasn't -*Enter Rosie*

TRAMP

Love isn't everything. There's a lot more to life,
contrary to what Lennon and McCartney would have you
believe -

PATTI BLEWITT

(noticing Rosie)

Oh thank the gods.

ROSIE HUGHES

Hello Patti.

TRAMP

Hello love.

PATTI BLEWITT

You know each other?

ROSIE HUGHES

We met the same day I came to Parnassus -

TRAMP

She's bought the *Big Issue* every day since -

PATTI BLEWITT

I would ask him to move along but -

ROSIE HUGHES

That would be rude.

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT

So...

ROSIE HUGHES

So.

Beat

(CONTINUED)

TRAMP

This is awkward -

ROSIE HUGHES

Madison says hello.

PATTI BLEWITT

How is he -?

ROSIE HUGHES

Fine.

PATTI BLEWITT

Does he talk about me -?

ROSIE HUGHES

No.

PATTI BLEWITT

Well... No.

TRAMP

Pretty bloody awkward.

PATTI BLEWITT

(to the Tramp)

Why don't you play or something?

TRAMP

Any requests?

PATTI BLEWITT

No.

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes.

TRAMP

Oh?

ROSIE HUGHES

Indigo Coward.

PATTI BLEWITT

Great.

TRAMP

By all means.

The tramp begins playing

PATTI BLEWITT
Just great.

ROSIE HUGHES
Madison and I are going to have this at our wedding -

PATTI BLEWITT
Why?

ROSIE HUGHES
It's sort of become our song -

PATTI BLEWITT
It's not your song. It is anything but your song. It's
my song if anything -

ROSIE HUGHES
And not Indigo's?

PATTI BLEWITT
Wait - wedding?

ROSIE HUGHES
Yes.

PATTI BLEWITT
You're getting - a wedding?

ROSIE HUGHES
Yes.

PATTI BLEWITT
Wait. With Madison?

Patti laughs

PATTI BLEWITT
(to the Tramp)
I'm sorry, I don't know if you know but my f-
acquaintance here is very conservative - not literally
conservative. That'd be obscene - you're not, literally
conservative - are you?

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT
Bloody hell -

She laughs again

ROSIE HUGHES
Why does everyone have that reaction?

PATTI BLEWITT

Because... Who's everyone?

ROSIE HUGHES

My parents, Jude, my friend Shoniqua...

Pause

ROSIE HUGHES

Jude says th-

PATTI BLEWITT

How is he?

ROSIE HUGHES

Fine.

PATTI BLEWITT

But how does he look? Old?

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes.

PATTI BLEWITT

But you look after him -?

ROSIE HUGHES

Yes, but -

PATTI BLEWITT

But what?

ROSIE HUGHES

Madison and I. We were thinking of moving after the wedding -

PATTI BLEWITT

Where?

ROSIE HUGHES

Back to Australia. Madison's always wanted to go back so -

PATTI BLEWITT

I've never been.

ROSIE HUGHES

I thought you two had been everywhere.

PATTI BLEWITT

Almost, but not there. There's no culture. Just animals that want to eat you -

(CONTINUED)

TRAMP

Like sharks.

ROSIE HUGHES

It's what we want -

PATTI BLEWITT

To be eaten?

ROSIE HUGHES

No. To move.

PATTI BLEWITT

And what about Jude?

ROSIE HUGHES

You -

PATTI BLEWITT

No.

ROSIE HUGHES

The nurses do all the work. He just needs someone to hold his ha -

PATTI BLEWITT

No -

ROSIE HUGHES

He misses you -

PATTI BLEWITT

No. I can't. Not as he is now. Not like that.

ROSIE HUGHES

He's still Jude -

PATTI BLEWITT

No. Not how I want to remember... We visited Athens last summer. They'd burnt the banks, the Acropolis was in scaffolding. I cried. I actually cried. It'd be like that - but. Worse.

ROSIE HUGHES

Patti, he needs you -

PATTI BLEWITT

I can't. Look. It's not like I don't care. Old people freak me out and he shouldn't even be old. Not in that way. I've sent Hermes -

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE HUGHES

Who?

PATTI BLEWITT

It doesn't matter.

ROSIE HUGHES

Whoever he is, he's not you. Visit at least -

PATTI BLEWITT

No -

ROSIE HUGHES

Just a visit -

PATTI BLEWITT

No. End of. No.

ROSIE HUGHES

Alright

PATTI BLEWITT

Okay.

ROSIE HUGHES

Well I should go. I have to catch a train to Botolph.
I'm taking Madison. Showing him -

PATTI BLEWITT

Okay.

ROSIE HUGHES

You know where he is if you change your mind -

PATTI BLEWITT

Bye Rosie.

ROSIE HUGHES

Bye.

(to the Tramp)

Bye Steven.

TRAMP

Bye love.

Exit Rosie

TRAMP

I'm sorry if I got in the way a bit there, I -

PATTI BLEWITT

It's fine.

(CONTINUED)

TRAMP

You should probably go visit your friend though. From the sounds of -

PATTI BLEWITT

You know what you're lacking -

TRAMP

Um, legs -?

PATTI BLEWITT

Apart from that. Inspiration.

TRAMP

Oh?

PATTI BLEWITT

I mean full-blooded, lusty, idolatry inspiration. The sort of inspiration that leaves you half-mad and gasping and gurgling so the only way you can express yourself is through -

TRAMP

Music?

PATTI BLEWITT

Me.

TRAMP

I -

PATTI BLEWITT

Apple?

Pause

PATTI BLEWITT

Eating apples together. That's always the first step.

Pause

TRAMP

Thank you.

Blackout

Scene 7

HERMES

Lights!

Lights - the Museum from Act II. The Gods, now statues, stand frozen.

(CONTINUED)

HERMES

This is it. The Mr. Herman Collection.

JUDE REED

And it's really them?

HERMES

Yep.

JUDE REED

Can they hear?

HERMES

They hear and see everything. They're still conscious, just stone. They'll live forever provided no-one goes smashing them into pieces.

JUDE REED

Let's hope no-one does that. I want them to listen.

HERMES

They'll be fine. They're protected now, by the Museum.

A phone rings

HERMES

Oh, look look look - I got an iPhone! Like Patti's!

Hermes takes out the phone with pride

JUDE REED

You'd better answer that.

HERMES

Oh, right - yeah of course. Are you okay on your own for a sec?

JUDE REED

I'm not going to run away -

HERMES

D'you need helping up, or...

Jude gives Hermes a withering look

HERMES

Cool. Okay, well - one sec.

Exit Hermes

With some difficulty, slowly, Jude rises from his wheelchair. Long pause. Eventually, he speaks:

JUDE REED

Aphrodite. What the fuck?
 What was she? Rosie? Why did you send that sweet girl
 anywhere near me. Why not Patti? If you were so intent
 we Muses fall in love why not with each other? At least
 I liked Patti! Or would that have been too easy? Too
 simple? Would it not have been fun for You to watch?

All of You. I hope You watch now. Now you're still and
 silent forever. Watch. That's all you should ever have
 been allowed to do. Watch and watch and watch all
 You've created fade and decay. I've watched. I've
 watched your cities fall, your people die. Watch the
 ugliness you bring -

Lights change, Jude freezes

HERMES

(entering)

Jude Reed died alone, an old, bitter man prone to
 delusions of grandeur and bouts of silence. The only
 friend he had in the world - a sweet, dull girl named
 Rosie Greene - was on the other side of the world when
 he passed -

APHRODITE

(breaking freeze)

She was able to smoothe things over with the Care Home,
 who for a time refused to relinquish the body owing to
 the lack of a valid birth certificate -

Enter Rosie

ROSIE HUGHES

I am a lawyer after all -

HERMES

She even arranged a burial -

Lights change -

JUDE REED

(not noticing Rosie he turns from her to
 round on Zeus)

Hey Zee - Zee! You think you're special don't You?
 You're not. Never were. Been loads like You. Great,
 bearded buggers living in clouds. They all die
 eventually. There's nothing special about a God.
 Nothing.

I hope you had a happy ending you fairytale fucks.
 That's what you deny us with old age. A happy ending.
 An old client of mine said he'd 'rather die on his feet

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED (cont'd)

than live on his knees' but You give us no choice. You make our knees crumble. We fall. It hurts. Everything turns sour. Beauty dies. You watch yourself fold in - rot from the inside out. What's left, if not a vegetable, then haunted by memory -

Lights change -

GAEA

(breaking freeze)

His death was marked by a modest funeral outside the little known hamlet of Botolph Claydon in Buckinghamshire. Rosie and her husband -

ROSIE HUGHES

A watercolourist from Australia -

GAEA

Were the only two in attendance -

ARES

(breaking freeze)

The infamous Patti Blewitt declined her invitation -

Enter Patti

PATTI BLEWITT

I was...

ZEUS

(breaking freeze)

Busy -

CRONUS

(breaking freeze)

Requests that his ashes be scattered in Greece were ignored. Nobody was alive that remembered him saying it. He'd said it a very long time ago and in jest -

PATTI BLEWITT

He'd never expected to die at all -

CRONUS

He was very quickly forgotten -

Lights change -

JUDE REED

(not noticing Patti)

Remember? Remember you? Forgetting's the only gift you give us. It blots out all the other crap. It's like hope, forgetting. That's what words are that's what

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JUDE REED (cont'd)

music is that's what art's for. That's how it starts. They do it to forget. It's polishing the turd you named the Earth and then it changes. It corrupts and decays. It's not enough. They want to be remembered, like You. They want to be famous and powerful and loved - like You. Immortal and dead. Because they're made in your image and you in theirs.

And me? Lightning not clay. It means I can't be shaped. It means I've stayed the same, all this time, up until now. I fell in love. I had such a desire to sing but only quotes and paraphrasing came out. That's a Muse for you. That's immortality for You. I couldn't say a thing that hadn't been said, sung, written down and sold to a thousand others before -

POSEIDON

(breaking freeze)

The incomparable -

URANUS

(breaking freeze)

Inimitable

POSEIDON

Indigo Coward -

URANUS

Enjoyed something of a renaissance the following year -

POSEIDON

"Love Love Love" becoming the Christmas number one as covered by Steven White -

URANUS

Winner of a televised UK talent show -

HADES

(breaking freeze)

Whose own story, of how he lost his legs to sharks -

HERMES

Lived destitute on the streets of London -

APHRODITE

And all the time retained his passion for -

ALL (EXCEPT JUDE)

Music -

(CONTINUED)

APHRODITE

Won him the hearts and minds of the country -

HERMES

That is - until his own, premature, self-inflicted death was announced by Mercury Music on Boxing Day -

HADES

He was found with a lipstick stain on his chin and a postcard of Botticelli's Birth of Venus in pieces all around him. It was a far, far better story than the one he'd had before and was retold by every radio station eager to profit from it -

Lights change -

JUDE REED

Well thank You. I hope you thought it good. I hope when You laid down Your brush, Your pen, Your thunderbolt, Your whatever it was you used to carve Yourself out a purpose in the void - I hope You thought it good. Amen. I'm done.

GAEA

Pretty soon, he too was forgotten -

ZEUS

As was Jude -

CRONUS

And as time passed -

ARES

As cities fell and rose upon the Thames and other rivers -

ALL (EXCEPT JUDE)

So were we...

End of play.