

A
MOURNING
HOLLOW

an anthologized play

by

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Polychoron Press

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A MOURNING HOLLOW was first produced in St. Louis, Missouri at the Tesseract Theatre Company. It opened October 30th, 2015. The performance was directed by Taylor Gruenloh and Brittanie Gunn with the following cast:

DANIEL.....Maurice Walters II
MICHELLE..... Bre Love
RANDY.....Michael McPartland
MARTY.....Mikayla Sherfy
CLAIRE.....Katie Palazzola
BYRON.....Kelvin Urday
GRACEY.....Jackie Zigler
CAMERON.....Kelvin Urday
MELANIE.....Bre Love
RAYRAY.....Michael McPartland
SOLOMON.....Maurice Walters II
ELIZABETH.....Lily Dodenhoff
MRS. HUMPHREYS.....Mary Palazzola
OFFICER GODSON.....Bre Love
TESSA.....Jackie Zigler
SOPHIE.....Mikayla Sherfy
NINA.....Lily Dodenhoff
ROGER.....Christopher Null

Scenes

CREPUSCULAR RAYS

By Taylor Gruenloh

Setting: Outside of the local Vet's office

TURTLE SEANCE

By Caitlin McCommis

Setting: Plains Hollow Park

YOU, ME, AND ALICE

By Anne G'Fellers Mason

Setting: Plains Hollow Cemetery

GRACEY & CAMERON: A STORY OF KRYPTONITE

By Eric Eidson

Setting: A bench in the park

THE HALLOWEEN DANCE

By Laura King

Setting: Melanie's front porch

FINDING NINA

By Liesl Ehmke

Setting: Haunted Hollow's Haunted House

HOMEBOODY

By Kevin D. Ferguson

Setting: Mrs. Humphrey's living room

ON THE INSIDE

By Wendy-Marie Martin

Setting: High school house party

EVERYBODY HURTS

By Shane Stawbridge

Setting: Mellanie's front porch

CHARACTERS

CREPUSCULAR RAYS

Michelle – the local cat lady, socially awkward

Daniel – new vet in town, charming

TURTLE SEANCE

Randy – Marty’s ex-boyfriend

Marty – over it

YOU, ME, AND ALICE

Claire – High school English teacher, Bryon’s wife

Byron – High school Science teacher, Claire’s husband

GRACEY & CAMERON: A STORY OF KRYPTONITE

Gracey – A lovable, quirky, comic nerd

Cameron – An awkward, insecure, comic nerd

THE HALLOWEEN DANCE

Melanie – janitor at Plains Hollow High School

RayRay – new student at Plains Hollow High School

FINDING NINA

Solomon – workaholic

Elizabeth – a local pet psychic

HOMEBOY

MRS. HUMPHREYS – older woman in town

OFFICER GODSON – new officer in town

ON THE INSIDE

TESSA – a shy, young woman

SOPHIE – an exotic, young woman

EVERYBODY HURTS

NINA – Solomon’s ex-girlfriend

ROGER – Melanie’s ex-husband

"Best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up."
- Mark Twain

"The nice part about living in a small town, when you don't know what you are doing someone else does."
- Immanuel Kant

ACT ONE

Scene One: Crepuscular Rays

(Daniel is walking out of the Vet's office. He's dressed nicely.)

(All of a sudden Michelle enters with a dolly and a series of animal crates. The kind you'd transport a cat in. She has five of them. Strapped to the dolly.)

MICHELLE

Excuse me. I need to get by.

DANIEL

Ms. Gallund?

MICHELLE

I asked you to please move so I can get by.

DANIEL

Right. Sorry, I didn't know if you were actually coming. I waited for a while and I just locked back up.

MICHELLE

Where's Dr. Behlman?

DANIEL

Dr. Behlman couldn't make it.

MICHELLE

I was told the doctor would be here.

DANIEL

Well. It's Halloween night. He's got a few children that still trick or treat.

MICHELLE

I called the emergency line.

DANIEL

You called one of our volunteers at their home. Tessa. And she called me.

MICHELLE

I told her I wanted Dr. Behlman.

DANIEL

And I told her that Dr. Behlman has kids he should be out with tonight and that I would take care of the emergency.

MICHELLE

That's not what I wanted.

DANIEL

I also assured Tessa that you wouldn't call her at her house again. Is that okay?

MICHELLE

That's not...

(The animal crates shake violently. Michelle kneels down to them.)

MICHELLE

(to the crates) Oh, it's okay, guys. I'll fix this. Just remember what

we've been working on. Breathe. Just breathe. That's it, Kevin.
Good boy.

DANIEL

What seems to be the problem?

MICHELLE

(shoots up) That I wasn't respected enough to actually be given what I asked for. I asked for Dr. Behlman. I got you. That's the problem.

DANIEL

Whoa. Let's take it easy.

MICHELLE

I will not take it easy!

(The crates shake again.)

MICHELLE

(to the crates) It's okay. It's okay. Mommy's not upset. No, no, no. We've talked about this. Mommy just needs to be assertive once in a while. Don't give me that look, Catherine. Okay. We take a deep breath in... and we let a long breath out... good.

DANIEL

Is one of your cats having health problems?

MICHELLE

This. This is why I get upset. No one listens to me. Did the emergency line tell you nothing about my call?

DANIEL

Ms. Gallund, you didn't call an emergency line. You called Tessa. At her parent's house. And you started yelling at her.

MICHELLE

I wasn't yelling.

DANIEL
She got scared.

(The crates shake again.)

MICHELLE
(to the crates) Mommy doesn't yell. She's been working on that, that's right. Brittany, you quick sucking on your tail right now. We had this talk last week.

DANIEL
Okay. Lets start over. What exactly is the emergency? And before you start talking assertively, please know that nothing can be done about Dr. Belhman. He's not coming tonight. I'm here. Like it or not.

MICHELLE
Fine. And I know when I'm being talked down to. I know when I'm being made fun of. So stop it.

DANIEL
I'm sorry. What's the problem with your cats?

MICHELLE
These are not cats. They are my ferrets.

DANIEL
Oh.

MICHELLE
And Phillip is sick.

DANIEL
Okay. Which one is Phillip?

(Daniel walks towards the crates.)

MICHELLE
What are you doing?

DANIEL
Taking a look.

MICHELLE
Please don't go near them.

DANIEL
How am I supposed to exam them if I can't go near them?

MICHELLE
I haven't made up my mind if I'm going to let you exam them.

DANIEL
Oh. Okay. You'd have to wait until Monday for Dr. Behlman then.

MICHELLE
He comes in on weekends all the time.

DANIEL
And that's why I was hired. To be on call nights and weekends.
Let him spend more time with his family.

MICHELLE
That's not fair!

(The crates shake.)

MICHELLE
(to the crates) Well, I'm sorry! Mommy gets cranky sometimes! If you all would prefer to suffer out there, in the cold world, fending for yourselves, being lonely, and having no one take care of you, you just let me know, we'll arrange it, okay!?

DANIEL
Ms. Gallund...

MICHELLE
Michelle. My name is Michelle. I don't like being called *Miss*.

DANIEL

My name's Daniel. I might be new to town, but I'm not new at caring for animals.

MICHELLE

I come see Dr. Behlman because he's a specialist.

DANIEL

Dr. Behlman's a ferret specialist?

MICHELLE

Yes. He wrote his thesis paper on ferret breeding.

DANIEL

Well... I think I can sum that paper up for you in a few sentences.

MICHELLE

Now you're making fun of your new boss.

DANIEL

I'm making fun of this situation.

MICHELLE

You think I'm being difficult.

DANIEL

Michelle. Why don't we take your business inside?

MICHELLE

My *business*? Is that what this is to you? *Business*? This is my *family*!

DANIEL

I meant your group of ferrets. A group of ferrets is called a business. I thought you'd know that.

MICHELLE

I knew that. I just forgot. I'm upset right now.

DANIEL

I'm not here to upset you. I'm here to help your sick animals.

MICHELLE

Animal. It's just one that's sick. Philip.

DANIEL

But you brought the whole gang?

MICHELLE

I never separate them.

DANIEL

Never?

MICHELLE

No. Why would I? I know I'm protective. I know that. People make fun of me for being protective. But I'm only protective of lives that can't take care of themselves. These animals. They all came from owners that weren't protective. Actually, they were the exact opposite of protective. They were neglectful and irresponsible. These animals came to me for a reason. They found me. And I'm their mother. And I don't let just anyone near them. And I don't know you.

DANIEL

Well... My name's Daniel. You know that already... Just moved here two weeks ago. From Kansas City, so this whole small town thing is kind of a freak out. I've been a vet for six years. I know that's not as long as Dr. Behlman -- and I didn't write a thesis on the mating habits of ferrets -- but I like to think I'm good at my job. Funny enough, I've been told -- over and over again -- that the only thing I'm any good at *is* my job.

MICHELLE

Who told you that?

DANIEL

Someone who didn't want to keep reminding me of it. I, umm... I

got hired here because I have a reputation for not saying “no” to calls on nights and weekends. Even when plans were made.

MICHELLE

I see. Did you have plans tonight?

DANIEL

Oh. No. I don’t know anyone here yet, really. A married couple brought their terrier in earlier, though. Said I would enjoy the Haunted Hollow festival. Even gave me a brochure for a cemetery tour. This town really celebrates Halloween doesn’t it?

MICHELLE

I guess.

DANIEL

What exactly is Haunted Hollow?

(Michelle lets down her guard without knowing it and gets slightly excited about the idea of Haunted Hollow.)

MICHELLE

It starts with a parade down Main Street. Then everyone goes to Hill Field. Lot’s of kids running around, games, costume contests... I think. I’ve never been.

DANIEL

How come?

MICHELLE

They don’t allow pets.

(The crates start to shake.)

MICHELLE

It’s okay. It’s okay. I would never leave you for some stupid festival. Do I look like somebody who goes to hay mazes and ghost houses? (to Daniel) Mr. Franklin has a bit of a sassy attitude