

# **MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAIN**

**By Jacob Justice**

## MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAIN

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# MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAIN

*For my family, who taught me how to tell stories*

*and*

*For the students who reminded me of the beauty and  
power of theatre and helped me remember to believe*

## MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAIN

*Magic in the Mountain* was originally produced as a competition piece by Bryan High School in the Spring of 2020. It was directed by Jacob Justice and Bailey Robert, and they were assisted by Charles Jacoby and Beth Lowry.

Theo	Trey Weltens
Roscoe	Deion Johnson/ Miguel Hernandez
Wayland	Jake Bennett
Gus	Cameron Hull
Herbert	Caleb Price
Tess	Aaliyah Carter
Will	Steven Thornhill
Romie	Evan Pope
Foster	Trace Levens
Bernice	Taylor Speier
Mary	Gianna South
Massey	Sarah Stuart
Aradia	Courtney Coker
Cordelia	Madison Bailey
Evanora	Abigail Martin
Cassandra	Alyssa Kubesch
Alternates	Sarah Forester, Madison Glade, Morgan Kelbly
Tech	Grace Gutierrez, Maya Richards, Maggie Sebesta, Kieran Wylie

- ACTOR's 1 – 8 in should not be given to ROMIE or BERNICE.
- Hint of Appalachian or Southern accent should be used.
- Music should add to the play, not distract, please rely on the strength of your company to integrate it in the show. Songs can be chanted.
- If presenting with intermission, break between Scene 9 and 10.
- Director is encouraged to use live Foley effects for mining sounds and live or canned music to build the world of the play.

CAST:16 - 4 M, 4F, 8N - Witch and Miners can be played either M or F.

Setting: Mount Socrates, WV; a mythological, southern, pre-industrial, mining town

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## PROLOGUE

*Performed dimly lit in a tableau onstage. Drumbeat is heard. ACTORS walk on stage as “Magic in the Mountain” song begins. Scenes transition without blackout.*

**CAST.** HmMMM MmMMM/ HmMMM MmMMM

There is Magic in the Mountain Boy/ Magic is waiting for you (*Drumbeat continues under narration, cast can continue humming the tune under the dialogue. Romie and Bernice pantomime as Eros and Psyche*) HmMMM MmMMM

**ACTOR 1.** Once there was a god named Eros,

**ACTOR 2.** His job was to stop men’s desire for Psyche,

**ACTOR 6.** The most beautiful girl that ever lived.

**ACTOR 3.** But he fell in love with her.

**ACTOR 4.** Torn because it was forbidden for a god to love a human.

**ACTOR 6.** Eros came up with a plan...

**ACTOR 8.** He would have her each night,

**ACTOR 3.** in the cloak of darkness.

**ACTOR 5.** If she swore never to look at his face... (*Drumbeat begins to build as Psyche “betrays” Eros*)

**ACTOR 7.** And so she did.

**ACTOR 1.** All was well.

**ACTOR 4.** ‘Til one night.

**ACTOR 2.** She lit a lamp and looked into the eyes of a god. (*Beat. Regular drum pattern begins again*)

**ACTOR 8.** Eros's heart, once full of love,

**ACTOR 7.** Now burned with betrayal.

**ACTOR 8.** So he buried his heart in a mountain.

**ACTOR 1.** Guarded by four witches,

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**ACTOR 2.** The heart of the mountain burns,  
**ACTOR 3.** With pain and deception,  
**ACTOR 4.** With brokenness and agony...  
**ACTOR 5.** And to satisfy the needs of the heart,  
**ACTOR 6.** The witches find those who are full of love,  
**ACTOR 7.** And guide them to the mountain,  
**ACTOR 2.** To sacrifice that which they love,  
**ACTOR 8.** Or become the sacrifice themselves.  
**ACTOR 1.** This story is a tragedy,  
**ACTOR 3.** Of love,  
**ACTOR 8.** Of doom,  
**ACTOR 5.** Does love conquer all?  
**ACTOR 6.** And if it doesn't,  
**ACTOR 7.** Is it still worth the fall?  
**CAST.** There is Magic in the Mountain Boy/ Magic is waiting for you  
HmMMM MmMMM

### SCENE 1

*The sound of the mine transitions into the scene. MINERS are “in the mine” as THEO is speaking from “the Gatehouse.” Lights indicate when Theo is addressing the audience. Miners wear gloves when working in the mine, careful not to touch the stones.*

**THEO.** *(to audience)* Good evenin' to y'all!

**ROSCOE.** Just like clockwork, works endin' for the day.

**WAYLAND.** Another day in Mount Socrates.

**THEO.** *(to audience)* That's our town. It's a quiet place, long as everyone does what they should and minds well. We settled here about twenty years ago, when Eros gave us the gift of his heart buried in this mountain, now we mine it....

**GUS.** Surrounded by the magic.

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**THEO.** *(to audience)* Some people call it magic, others a curse, but the stones of this mountain are enchanted by the heart of a god. We can look at 'em, but best not touch it or the witches'll come...

**HERBERT.** We mine it, we don't keep it.

**WAYLAND.** No, no, no... it belongs to Mama Massey.

**ALL.** *(raise a hand in mock toast)* To Mama Massey!

**THEO.** *(to audience)* Massey was chosen to lead us by Eros. She was once my friend, we grew up together...now we all serve her, and the mountain.

**GUS.** *(exiting mine)* Same time tomorrow?

**ROSCOE.** Same, day in and day out. *(exiting mine, entering gatehouse where Theo and TESS are working.)*

**GUS.** Clockin' out!

**ROSCOE.** Clockin' out!

**HERBERT.** Clockin' out!

**WAYLAND.** Clockin' out!

**THEO.** *(to miners)* Good Evenin', boys!

**WAYLAND.** Good Evenin' Theo! Evenin' Tess! *(hugging Tess)*

**TESS.** *(laughing while pushing away, playfully)* Evenin' boys!

**THEO.** Tess, serve a round to our patrons!

**MINERS.** Aye! Yeah! Beard of the gods!, etc... *(Tess delivers drinks to the men as Theo takes his place behind the bar, WILL enters)*

**GUS.** *(grabs cup)* A toast!

**TESS.** And what are we toasting to?

**HERBERT.** To the heart of Eros,

**MINERS.** Whose flame burns eternal!

**WILL.** And to my father, who gave himself for us!

**THEO.** *(to audience)* Now that there is Mama Massey's son Will. His father, Jameson Massey, is who led our people to find the mountain, and sadly, became the first sacrifice... of many. The heart of Eros demands it.

**HERBERT.** *(lifts glass)* To Jameson Massey!

**MINERS.** To Jameson Massey! Here, Here! Aye! Etc... *(As the miner's drink and toast, FOSTER and ROMIE enter playfully interrupting the toast of the miners and go to Theo at the bar.)*

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**THEO.** *(to audience)* We all live here under the laws of Massey, but she does allow for some outsiders to join us here at the gatehouse, folks call ‘em the outliers. They don’t work for Massey, but their folks did. In walking now is Romie, I’ve known that boy his whole life. His parents, *(looks up)* they were two of the best, it’s been hard without ‘em, for Romie...for all of us.

**ROMIE.** Theo! *(embraces Theo)*

**THEO.** Romie! How’s life today?

**ROMIE.** Life’s good, ‘cause I’ve still got one.

**TESS.** I don’t see how, seems like you two are always finding trouble.

**FOSTER.** *(mocks offense)* I’m offended.

**TESS.** That so, Foster?

**FOSTER.** It’s trouble that finds us.

**THEO.** *(amused)* Alright now, *(to Tess)* can you get these boys a drink?

**TESS.** *(joking)* Oh I can’t get ‘em something.

**THEO.** *(laughing, to Audience)* Trouble did find those two...often.

**ROMIE.** *(interrupts)* Theo, can we get something to eat?

**THEO.** Yes, yes in a minute. Just take a seat. *(to audience)* Romie was the kind of kid that had a story that shoulda’ crushed him into pieces, and yet, he had hope... And Foster, *(Foster has put Romie in a headlock playfully)* well, he had Romie.

**WILL.** What do we got here? The sons of none found a way in. Still serving outliers?

**THEO.** *(back to work)* I help who I can, Master Will.

**WILL.** Can we talk for a minute?

**THEO.** Sure thing. *(walks over to Will and the miners)*

**WILL.** Times are hard, and I’m not sure we can keep helping *them*.

**THEO.** Well, we always have made sure to give a little to those in need.

**WILL.** I know, I know...I’d just hate if there wasn’t enough for *our* people *(motions to miners)* cause you’re helping those people.

**MINERS.** *(adlibbing, under their breath)* Yeah. That doesn’t seem right. Let ‘em help themselves, etc...

**WILL.** *(lines delivered like a politician “for the people” with a smile)* Now calm down everyone, no need to get worked up, I’m sure Theo is doing the best he can.

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**THEO.** Well, yes, see I'm just tryin' to take care...

**WILL.** I feel for you, I truly do ...but just to keep things fair, I'm gonna need to raise your tax.

**THEO.** I already pay a tax.

**WILL.** To make sure we're *all* taken care of, a new outlier tax must be paid.

**ROMIE.** You can't do that! (*Miners rise in defense*)

**WILL.** (*doesn't break gaze with Theo and still with a smile and a wink*) Doesn't concern you, boy. (*slyly*) Now everyone sit down. See Theo, that boy is already causin' trouble. (*Pulls Theo downstage*) Listen, you pay, or make them pay...I don't care. What matters is that you give a little bit more, so that the town keeps going. (*with a smile*) How's that sound?

**THEO.** (*nods head*) Yeah, will do.

**WILL.** Good, good...Tess, how 'bout another round?

**MINERS.** (*ad lib*) Yeah, yeah...okay...sounds good... (*Will goes to Tess and hugs her around the waist and twirling her as she is bringing more drinks, BERNICE, reading, and MARY enter. Mary, the lightheaded younger sister, sees Will and stops. Bernice, the older and more sensible of the two, bumps into Mary and drops her book.*)

**TESS.** (*Pulling away from Will*) Would you look what the wind blew in? (*Romie, seeing the book drop, picks it up and hands it to Bernice*)

**MARY.** (*Bernice locked in a gaze with Romie*) Bernice, there's Will, let's go sit with him. (*Mary pulls Bernice away to sit. Will is clearly focused more on Bernice than Mary.*)

**THEO.** (*Romie is frozen, looking at Bernice*) Boys, see something you like?

**FOSTER.** Romie does, he's been staring at Bernice for weeks now.

**ROMIE.** I haven't. (*breaking, embarrassed*)

**THEO.** Well don't stare too hard, Master Will has his eye on that girl.

**WILL.** (*from across the room*) Theo, send something over for my friends.

**THEO.** Coming right up! (*Theo stacks a tray*)

**FOSTER.** Why don't you talk to her?

**ROMIE.** I can't do that man.

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**FOSTER.** You just need more practice. Stand up, here, I'll be her and you be you. (*Foster "acts" as Bernice, pantomiming the encounter they just had with sound effects, and attempts to get Romie to flirt with him*)

**THEO.** (*interrupting*) I'm going to take this over, then I'll help you two out.

**ROMIE.** (*Romie takes tray*) Here, let me.

**THEO.** Don't do anything rash. (*Casts sings "Across the Room", lights change*)

**CAST.** HmMMM MmMMM

**THEO.** (*to audience*) It's always hard to tell where a story begins...

**ROMIE.** Oooo/Oooo/Ooo

**THEO.** ...but to witness two souls collide...

**BERNICE.** Ooooo/Oooo

**THEO.** ...is something you'll never forget. (*Romie walks over with tray, sets it on table, while locking eyes with Bernice*)

**ROMIE.** (*music stops, ignoring Will*) I'm Romie. (*extending hand*)

**BERNICE.** (*looks up at him, shakes his hand, quietly*) Hi, I'm Bernice. (*she smiles*)

**WILL.** (*realizing something is happening between Bernice and Romie, slams his hands on table and rises. Cast stops singing*) I don't want anything that's been touched by an outlier. Take it back...(*Romie still locked eyes with Bernice*) Now! (*breaks stare*)

**ROMIE.** (*takes tray, faces Bernice*) Nice to meet you. (*turns to talk away but Will trips and pushes him, tray with food goes crashing. Will, Miners, and Mary all laugh*)

**FOSTER.** Of all the jerk things to do...(*miners all stand up around Will*)

**THEO.** Calm down. I'll get this cleaned up.

**WILL.** No! I want him to clean it. (*Will stares at Romie, Romie takes a towel from Theo and gets down to begin cleaning, all laugh, everyone relaxes back to their tables, Bernice goes to help him*)

**BERNICE.** Sorry about that.

**ROMIE.** It's fine.

**BERNICE.** Let me. (*sits her book down*)

**ROMIE.** Accidents happen. (*smile*) Thanks.

**BERNICE.** I don't mind.

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**ROMIE.** That's kind of you. (*picks up book*) So, you like to read?

**BERNICE.** Yeah, it's by Homer...

**ROMIE.** Poetry?

**BERNICE.** (*eyes meet*) Yeah. (*they smile, quickly cut off*)

**WILL.** (*goes to Bernice*) Here, you shouldn't have... (*Will pulls her to her feet.*)

**BERNICE.** It's fine, I want to.

**WILL.** He needs all the help he can get.

**FOSTER.** Lay off him.

**THEO.** (*trying to diffuse*) Boys, I have some extra food for you to take back, better hurry, the gate is closing soon.

**WILL.** Yeah, go get your scraps, boys... (*Romie and Foster go to the bar*)

**BERNICE.** (*calmly reprimanding*) Will...

**WILL.** (*Accusingly*) Yes?

**BERNICE.** (*meek*) Sometimes I...it's nothing. (*Bernice goes to the bar*)

**TESS.** (*speaking to the boys*) I put this together for you myself, y'all take care.

**BERNICE.** Romie.

**ROMIE.** Yeah?

**BERNICE.** It was great getting to talk to you today.

**ROMIE.** Yeah? (*he stares*) I mean, I liked talking to you, too...

**WILL.** (*breaking the moment, addresses the patrons as a showman*) My fellow citizens of Mount Socrates, out of the kindness of my heart, I want to offer you a chance to set your eyes on something, truly spectacular. (*pulls out a magic stone covered in a cloth, everything on stage stops*)

**MARY.** Can I hold it?

**WILL.** (*dismissive*) No, a touch of this on human flesh will leave you cursed...always wanting but never satisfied, entranced by the mountain and imprisoned to the heart of Eros. (*walks to Bernice*) What do you think? (*MASSEY enters unseen*)

**BERNICE.** It's... (*distaste*) beautiful Will.

**MASSEY.** It is beautiful isn't it, the eternal flame of Eros. (*All, except Will, drop to one knee, Romie and Foster follow suit. Will bows his head and avoids making eye contact.*)

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**THEO.** *(to audience)* Mama Massey was the most powerful and most feared woman in town. Once she had love in her heart, but when Jameson was sacrificed, her love turned to something else...

**MASSEY.** What have I told you about playing with those?

**WILL.** That magic is for the gods and the witches

**MASSEY.** The gods, the witches and...

**WILL.** And you.

**MASSEY.** That's right. Now bring it here. *(Will brings her the stone. She chastises him as she addresses the crowd)* Every stone has power. To treat the heart of Eros as a child by entertaining the commoners is shameful.

**WILL.** *(embarrassed)* I was just showing them...*(quietly, trying to appease)* It didn't cause no harm. *(Massey turns her head and locks eyes with Will, he relents)* Yes mam.

**THEO.** Mama Massey, what brings you down here?

**MASSEY.** Woefully, I come with an announcement, of sacrifice. *(all rise)* A sacrifice has been made to the mountain. We Honor Alainia, daughter of Anthony.

**ALL.** *(Romie and Foster do not join in)* To Alainia!

**WAYLAND.** To Mount Socrates!

**ALL.** To Mount Socrates!

**GUS.** And to the one who leads, to Mama Massey!

**ALL.** To Mama Massey!

**MASSEY.** Thank you all for your willingness to devote yourself to the mountain. *(turns to Will)* Will, head straight home.

**WILL.** Yes ma'am.

**MASSEY.** *(looks and notices Romie and Foster)* And Theo?

**THEO.** Yes?

**MASSEY.** Outliers?

**FOSTER.** We were just leaving.

**WILL.** Better head back to wherever it is you come from.

**ROMIE.** We intend to. *(grabs food from bar)* Thanks Theo. *(they start to exit)*

**MASSEY.** Rejecting our town's hospitality only to show up and beg...*(tempting)* but you could be part of our city and work in the mine...

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**ROMIE.** (*Continues to leave*) After the mountain took away my father, I'd rather take my chances outside of Mount Socrates.

**MASSEY.** (*Massey, goes towards Romie, he stops*) The mountain demands sacrifice, but your father wasn't taken. He went willingly, as so many have. Their deaths allow us to live here with the magic of Eros. To say anything else is slander. (*Romie stares at Massey*)

**THEO.** He's just a foolish boy, forget about it.

**MASSEY.** The foolishness of children will be the damnation of us all if left unchecked. (*to Romie*) To break one law is to break all, tread carefully. (*to crowd*) Good night, go forth in the path of the gods. (*exits, miners began exiting one by one, Tess clears the tables*)

**BERNICE.** We need to head home.

**MARY.** Will, would you like to walk us?

**WILL.** You and Bernice? It would be my pleasure. (*they start to exit*)

**BERNICE.** (*starts to leave, then comes back to Romie*) Bye, Romie.

**ROMIE.** (*watches her leave*) Bye!

**WILL.** I'll catch up with you. (*girls exit, to Romie*) I see how you're looking at her.

**FOSTER.** Come off it Will...

**WILL.** Enough! Everyone knows Bernice is mine. She just feels sorry for you... because, what have you got? (*Romie stares at him, beat*) Stay away from her.

**MARY.** (*pops back in*) You coming?

**WILL.** Yes, just clearing up a misunderstanding. (*starts to exit*) Bye...son of none. (*Will and Mary exit, Mary grabs his arm as they leave*)

**FOSTER.** I'm so tired of being treated like we're garbage.

**ROMIE.** Let's just get our food and go.

**FOSTER.** (*grabs bag from Romie*) This? This is just the crumbs left from the Massey's table.

**TESS.** Stop with all that.

**ROMIE.** I'm sorry Tess. We appreciate all you do. (*pulls Foster*) Let's go.

**FOSTER.** You saw that rock Will had.

**ROMIE.** Yeah?

**FOSTER.** What if we could get our hands on one?

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**THEO.** Out of the question! You can't go near the mountain.

**TESS.** (*overhearing*) The mountain?

**FOSTER.** It's fine, we were just dreamin'.

**TESS.** You go after the magic, the witches'll get ya.

**FOSTER.** What if we could grab it before they did?

**TESS.** Boys clear your head, got the nightmares of fools these two.

**THEO.** Dreams like that could get you killed or worse...

**FOSTER.** What's worse than death?

**THEO.** When a man can close his eyes and take his last breath, there's something noble about that. But a man who goes after the magic, it's like he dies with his eyes open, moving around and talking, but he ain't there no more. That's what happens when the witches take you.

**ROMIE.** We were just talkin'...

**THEO.** Well, stop with all that nonsense, get it out of your head and move on! (*Theo turns, angry at the boys, angry at his own reaction*)

**TESS.** It's getting' late boys and Theo's got to close the gate, time for you all to head out.

**FOSTER.** Will do. Let's go.

**ROMIE.** Thanks Theo. (*Foster and Romie exit, Tess exits*)

## SCENE 2

*Outside of Bernice and Mary's home, Bernice enters and sits reading.*

**THEO.** (*to audience*) Romie and Bernice. Couldn't be more different, but their paths were destined to come together.

**BERNICE.** (*Bernice is sitting center stage, reading from The Odyssey*)  
"Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns driven time and again off course, once he had plundered the hallowed heights of Troy. Many cities of men he saw and learned their minds, many pains he suffered, heartsick on the open sea, fighting to save his life and bring his comrades home. But he could not save them from disaster, hard as he strove—the recklessness of their own ways destroyed them all..." (*Mary*

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*and Will enter, Mary is flirting with Will, Will is amusing her but has his eye on Bernice. Bernice sees them and turns away.)*

**MARY.** Oh Will, stop...*(laughing)* Bernice, you'll never guess what Will was telling me. Bernice? *(Bernice continues reading quietly to herself, Mary is annoyed with Bernice.)* Can you put your book down and say hi?

**WILL.** It's fine Mary. *(Will goes to Bernice)*

**BERNICE.** *(closing her book)* Thanks for walking Mary home.

**WILL.** It was just a little bit out of my way. *(he sits, bragging)* But it was the honorable thing to do. I was trying to catch up to you. *(she continues to read)* What are you reading? *(takes book)*

**BERNICE.** *(surprised, reaches)* Please give that back... *(gets close to Will, he enjoys it, she retreats)*

**MARY.** *(with a hint of jealousy)* Calm down, he can look at your book if he wants.

**WILL.** I mean no disrespect, just wanted to see what's so captivating *(opens book, finds a passage)* "...There is the heat of Love, the pulsing rush of Longing, the lover's whisper, irresistible—magic to make the sanest man go mad." *(entertained)* I think I could get use to reading. *(closing book)* You know, if you really want to see the magic, all you have to do is ask.

**MARY.** *(hopeful)* I'd love to see the magic up close.

**WILL.** *(dismissing her)* Mary, it's getting late, maybe you should head in.

**MARY.** *(dejected)* Okay, good night. *(starts to exit)* Bernice, you coming?

**BERNICE.** Yes, good night Will...*(reaches for book)*

**WILL.** *(holds book away from Bernice)* She'll be right in. *(Mary wants to stay, exits)*

**BERNICE.** Can I help you with something else?

**WILL.** I'm just a little confused.

**BERNICE.** About what?

**WILL.** About your conversation, with the *outlier*.

**BERNICE.** Romie?

**WILL.** It's not good for you to talk to them in public.

**BERNICE.** *(slowly begins, softly)* But...

**WILL.** *(continues)* They're not like us.

**BERNICE.** *(wants to say something, but...)* Of course not.

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**WILL.** They don't serve the mountain, and they have no respect for my family.

**BERNICE.** *(innocent)* I don't think you have anything to worry about...

**WILL.** *(forceful)* I worry about you! I'd just hate for you to get involved with them, and something happen to you...and your sister.

**BERNICE.** He wouldn't do... *(Will's gaze cuts her off, she retreats)* No, you're right. It was foolish of me to speak to them.

**WILL.** Good. *(smiles)* Glad we cleared that up. I look forward to seeing you again. *(takes her hand and kisses it)* Good night! *(hands book to her)*

**BERNICE.** Good night Will. *(closes book and exits)*

### SCENE 3

*Lights up on Foster and Romie on opposite side of stage. Romie is asleep, Foster is tossing and turning.*

**FOSTER.** Romie? *(no answer)* Romie? *(no answer)* Romie!?

**ROMIE.** What, what? *(waking up, alarmed)* Everything okay?

**FOSTER.** Oh good, you're up.

**ROMIE.** I am now. What's wrong?

**FOSTER.** Nothing, just can't sleep. Keep thinking about that stone.

**ROMIE.** Theo told us we need to forget about 'em.

**FOSTER.** He says a lot of things... Remember that time he told us not to eat the red berries?

**ROMIE.** Yeah...

**FOSTER.** And what did we do?

**ROMIE.** We ate 'em.

**FOSTER.** And they were delicious.

**ROMIE.** But we broke out in hives and threw up for three days!

**FOSTER.** That's not my point...

**ROMIE.** Also, there was the time he told us to not eat the wild mushrooms...you remember what happened?

**FOSTER.** *(quietly)* We ate 'em.

**ROMIE.** And...

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**FOSTER.** (*dejected*) And we broke out in hives and puked for three days.

**ROMIE.** So maybe we should listen to Theo?

**FOSTER.** Or maybe we shouldn't eat so much random stuff?

**ROMIE.** I'm going back to sleep.

**FOSTER.** Wait.

**ROMIE.** (*annoyed*) What?

**FOSTER.** Can you tell me a story? One like your dad used to tell us?

**ROMIE.** Maybe tomorrow?

**FOSTER.** Come on, just a quick one, about what it's going to be like when we're in the Kingdom of Kronos?

**ROMIE.** If I do this, will you go to sleep?

**FOSTER.** Mmmhmm.

**ROMIE.** Alright, fine, (*quickly*) once upon a time Kronos left this world for a better kingdom in Elysium where he will one day bring us. The end. Good night (*lays down*)

**FOSTER.** No, that wasn't it.

**ROMIE.** It was, now go to sleep.

**FOSTER.** That's not how your dad told it.

**ROMIE.** Foster...

**FOSTER.** Come on, you left out the, uh, *ambiance* (*pronounced "ahm-bee-ance"*) You didn't even do none of the sound effects. (*Romie stares at him*) Like your dad? (*makes a wind sound, and moves his hands in a wavy pattern in the air*) The wind...

**ROMIE.** You ain't gonna go to sleep until I...

**FOSTER.** Nope.

**ROMIE.** Alright, I'll do it with the (*makes similar wind noise and movement as Foster, Romie tells this story with a sense of remembering and honoring the way his dad would have told it*) The wind, blowing through the trees, is the same air that's moved through our world from the beginning. Born of Heaven and Earth was their youngest son, Kronos. He was a Titan and ruled the whole world, providing food without labor and death without pain.

**FOSTER.** Can you imagine the power he had? Stronger than Zeus, stronger than Eros...definitely wouldn't have to worry about the Massey's...

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**ROMIE.** Just close your eyes and listen.

**FOSTER.** Okay, okay...

**ROMIE.** Even though he's gone now, we have a chance to join him on the shores of Elysium where he now rules. For those who are righteous and heroic in this world, Kronos will choose us to go beyond the river Styx.

**FOSTER.** I want to be chosen Romie. I hope the gods see all we are going through.

**ROMIE.** They do, they have too. But, like dad used to say, you wanna be chosen by the gods...

**ROMIE & FOSTER.** Make a good choice today. *(They laugh, reminiscing)*

**ROMIE.** Now let's go to bed. *(Romie lays down)* Good night, Foster.

**FOSTER.** 'Night Romie. *(Foster lays down, tosses and turns for a few seconds, lights begin to fade. Begins to hear "The Witch's Song" far away)* What is that? *(stands up)* Romie you hear that?

**ROMIE.** It's just the wind, go to sleep.

**FOSTER.** No, I'm gonna check it out. *(he exits)*

**ROMIE.** Foster, *(sits up and sees he's gone)* Foster, get back here! *(he exits)*

### SCENE 4

*Will enters, Mama Massey is waiting for him with a leather strap, he sees her and his demeanor changes from confidence to one getting caught.*

**MASSEY.** Didn't I tell you to head straight home?

**WILL.** Yes ma'am.

**MASSEY.** So why were you out so late?

**WILL.** I, uh, just had to walk Bernice home.

**MASSEY.** Had to?

**WILL.** *(pause)* Well, I wanted to...

**MASSEY.** You can't trust that girl.

**WILL.** Mama, she's fine.

## MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAIN

**MASSEY.** She just wants what we have, what I have, the power of Eros, but it ain't for her. It ain't for any of them.

**WILL.** *(timidly)* I think it could be, Bernice is smart mama. I think she might make a good wife.

**MASSEY.** *(disbelief)* You are smitten with her, a commoner... *(stares at him, shakes head)* Is that why were you at the Gatehouse again?

**WILL.** That and I, just thought, it would be good to be with the miners...they knew dad when he was...

**MASSEY.** Don't speak of your *father!*

**WILL.** Yes ma'am.

**MASSEY.** Listen to me carefully, Those commoners are all waiting to see your weakness so they can take all that I've built. Don't forget who you are.

**WILL.** Yes ma'am.

**MASSEY.** *(grabs his arm)* And don't forget who I am. *(beat)* Now why did you steal a stone of Eros?

**WILL.** Mom you're hurting me.

**MASSEY.** Good! Maybe that will help you remember, we don't play with the magic. We don't have to show it off for the praise of men. We use it, it is our power, and with it we rule. Do you understand?

**WILL.** *(shakes head, quietly)* Yes.

**MASSEY.** Do you?!?

**WILL.** Yes, ma'am.

**MASSEY.** *(releases him)* Good. *(takes a small leather strap out)* Now... *(holds out leather strap. Will stares at her, she looks sternly at him. He takes it.)* Good. Don't be long. *(she exits. Will looks at the strap, looks back at her and exits as we hear the smack of the leather on his skin.)*

### SCENE 5

*Stage is dimly lit. We hear the sounds of the mine.*

**FOSTER.** *(entering with Romie)* Come on.

**ROMIE.** We're not supposed to be out. It's against the law.

## MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAIN

**FOSTER.** Their law, not ours. I heard something this way, maybe it's the gods calling out to us? Don't you want to see?

**ROMIE.** No. Let's head back.

**FOSTER.** We've come this far, we need to get closer. (*"Witch's Song" begins offstage, the song is soft and alluring, but becomes terrifying throughout the play*)

**ROMIE.** (*hearing song*) What is that?

**FOSTER.** (*almost in a trance*) That's the song! It's beautiful.

**ROMIE.** (*alarmed, WITCHES enter*) Witches!

**ARADIA.** What have we here?

**CORDEILA.** Children? Delicious!

**EVANORA.** Ooooo, I want one.

**ROMIE.** We shouldn't be here. (*pulling at Foster*)

**FOSTER.** Don't be rude. Besides, look! (*indicates magic stones*)

**CASSANDRA.** So, you're the boy whose been enticed by the stones?

**CORDEILA.** Touched by the magic is what you are!

**EVANORA.** I'd like to be touched by him. (*giggles with CORDEILA*)

**ARADIA.** Boys, why did you sneak out after dark?

**CORDEILA.** Didn't you hear we bite?

**EVANORA.** Some men think it's worth the risk.

**ROMIE.** We never should have snuck out. We're going to head home...

**FOSTER.** (*to witches*) That's a stone of Eros...(*reaches for it*)

**CASSANDRA.** Oh, you want to touch it?

**EVANORA.** Hold it?

**ARADIA.** Squeeze it? (*Romie pulls Foster away*)

**ROMIE.** No, don't...

**FOSTER.** I need this.

**ARADIA.** Come with us boy.

**CORDEILA.** We'll show you what it is to be a man.

**EVANORA.** And to find the magic in it all. (*Foster starts towards the witches*)

**ROMIE.** No! Stop, you don't want this.

**FOSTER.** It's all I have! (*Romie watches as the witches guide Foster offstage*)

**ROMIE.** Come back, you're all I've got.

## MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAIN

**CORDEILA.** (*mimicking*) You're all I've got.

**CASSANDRA.** Poor little stray.

**ARADIA.** He doesn't have to go alone...

**CORDEILA.** You could come this way too.

**EVANORA.** Just like your old man...

**ROMIE.** My father, you knew my father?

**CORDEILA.** More like he knew us. (*they laugh*)

**ARADIA.** Come on boy, no one out there wants you...

**EVANORA.** You're meant to come with us. (*touches his hand*)

**ROMIE.** (*he pulls away*) No, bring Foster back so we can go.

**ARADIA.** Foster is ours now.

**CORDEILA.** But he's not the one we want.

**EVANORA.** We can give you more than you dream.

**ROMIE.** No, I don't need...(*Will, whip still in hand, enters unseen by Romie.*)

**CASSANDRA.** Oh, but you do, the mountain...

**ARADIA.** ...and the magic in it is for you boy.

**CORDEILA.** Take it.

**EVANORA.** Take it.

**ROMIE.** No! Stop No!

**CASSANDRA.** Listen Romie, son of none. Your father ...

**CORDEILA.** ...and now your best friend,

**EVANORA.** ... have succumbed to the mountains power...

**ARADIA.** ...It will not be long until you, too, fall victim as its prey.

**ROMIE.** Never!

**ARADIA.** The mountain chooses

**CORDEILA.** The mountain calls.

**CASSANDRA.** Deny the mountain,

**EVANORA.** and it will destroy all you love...

**ROMIE.** No, stop. Please! (*he falls to the ground*)

**WITCHES.** Ahhhh! Ahhh!/ Ahhhh! Ahhh! (*They begin to exit*)

**WILL.** (*stepping out to Romie*) You're not supposed to be here.

**ROMIE.** What? (*looks around*) where'd they go?

**WILL.** Where'd who go? There ain't no one here but us.

**ROMIE.** Foster...did you see where the witches took Foster?

## MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAIN

**WILL.** We're the only ones here. *(looks around, grips leather strap)* Did you sneak back in to see Bernice?

**ROMIE.** What?

**WILL.** 'Cause I already told you to stay away from her.

**ROMIE.** I gotta find Foster. *(tries to push past Will, but Will stops him)*

**WILL.** Maybe you don't understand outlier, but you better leave our town now or *(holding leather strap)* how about I give you a public lashing. *(yells at him)* Now get out! *(Romie exits)*

### SCENE 6

*Will crosses stage back to Massey's home*

**WILL.** Mama!

**MASSEY.** *(entering)* What's all the commotion? I don't like being disturbed at night.

**WILL.** I know, I'm sorry. I wouldn't have unless it was important.

**MASSEY.** Well?

**WILL.** Mama the outlier was in our town.

**MASSEY.** Which one?

**WILL.** Romie.

**MASSEY.** When?

**WILL.** Tonight.

**MASSEY.** Where?

**WILL.** In the field where those weird flowers grow.

**MASSEY.** The lilacs?

**WILL.** Yes, that one.

**MASSEY.** Why would he be there?

**WILL.** Probably cause he was trying to get a look at Bernice, the little...

**MASSEY.** Just tell me what happened.

**WILL.** *(pause)* Okay. *(remembering)* When I came up, he was shouting like a mad man, acting like he was talking to someone, but there wasn't nobody there, *(laughing)* then he balled up on the ground like a baby...looking ridiculous...

## MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAIN

**MASSEY.** Did he say who he was talking to?

**WILL.** Wasn't no one around.

**MASSEY.** No one you could see...but who was he talking to...did he say a name?

**WILL.** Foster...and witches?

**MASSEY.** Witches? He said witches?

**WILL.** Yeah, I think...

**MASSEY.** Why would they talk to him?

**WILL.** I thought the witches were just stories.

**MASSEY.** Just stories? And you assume Eros is just a man? And the power of the mountain is just a figment of our imagination? Your ignorance is disgraceful.

**WILL.** Sorry. I didn't mean...

**MASSEY.** No matter. I trust you handled the boy.

**WILL.** I did.

**MASSEY.** Good. So *we* won't be bothered by him anymore?

**WILL.** Not if he knows what's good for him.

**MASSEY.** The witches, this town, all want to take what I have, and they'll even use an outlier to do it. And if he gets it...

**WILL.** That won't happen, I'll go after him and do what I have to.

**MASSEY.** In due time, for now we wait. He's foolish enough to find his own demise. (*Will begins to exit*). And Will, (*he stops*) you did good tonight. (*He smiles, they exit*)

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