

## The Nightmare

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A scene

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## Characters

VENESSA, a sleeping woman

DRUCK, an alp, with ashen skin, pointed ears and a long, beak-like nose

MARA, a nightmare, with the ears of a horse and a long face (if possible, pure-white eyes).

MARA's voice is lower in pitch than DRUCK's

## Setting

Venessa's bedroom, as she sleeps.

## SCENE 1

VANESSA is in a relatively extravagant bed in center stage, asleep.

DRUCK approaches slowly from stage right, hunched over, moving cautiously. MARA follows behind, slow but far less furtive.

DRUCK comes up to the side of VANESSA's bed, stretching up to see over the side. He pulls back, looking at MARA.

DRUCK  
(in hushed tones)

She's asleep?

MARA  
I don't know, is she?

DRUCK  
(exasperated)  
I don't know!

DRUCK moves back to the bed, looking at VANESSA for a few more seconds.

DRUCK  
Yeah.

MARA  
Yeah?

DRUCK  
Yeah! ~~Why, do you~~ What, you don't think she's still awake, do you?

MARA  
I don't think anything.

DRUCK  
Heh. You know, like... nevermind.

MARA is silent. There is a pause.

DRUCK

Okay, ~~she's~~ but what if she wakes up?

MARA

I thought ~~you thought~~ she was asleep.

DRUCK

She is *now*! But what if she doesn't *stay* asleep!

MARA

Then what?

DRUCK

I don't know! There are a lot of things I don't know!

MARA

And I don't think anything.

DRUCK

(beat, then poutily)

You're doing that on purpose...

MARA

Doing what?

DRUCK ignores the question, once again  
looking at VANESSA.

DRUCK

~~Okay, so~~ Fine, I'll do it.

MARA

You'll do it?

DRUCK

Yeah! You don't think I'll do it?

MARA

I don't—

DRUCK cuts MARA off, waving his hand dismissively.

DRUCK

Yeah, yeah.

DRUCK glances back at VANESSA, then takes several steps away from the bed, beginning to pace.

MARA

Do you need help?

DRUCK

No! Yes!

(beat)

What kind of help?

MARA

What help do you need?

DRUCK

I don't know!

MARA

...Instruction?

DRUCK

You can't bewitch people!

MARA

I can't.

VANESSA slowly opens her eyes, then sits up in bed. She looks over at DRUCK and MARA. MARA turns their head to look at her, then looks back at DRUCK. DRUCK does not notice, continuing to pace.

MARA

What's so hard about it?

DRUCK

What do you mean what's so hard?! You can't even do it!

MARA

I can't.

DRUCK

So... it's hard! I don't know what *part*; I haven't done it yet!

MARA

Then do it.

DRUCK

But what if it goes wrong! What if she—

DRUCK turns around to look at MARA and VANESSA. DRUCK sees VANESSA sitting up and freezes.

DRUCK

Oh no. She's awake.

MARA

She is.

DRUCK

She's awake! Shoot, uh... don't panic! She can't ~~see~~ hear us!

MARA

Yes she can.

DRUCK

She can?! But she still can't see us, can she?

MARA

She can.

DRUCK looks between MARA and VANESSA, then scrambles off, exiting stage right. MARA walks calmly after him. VANESSA stares after both of them as lights fade.