

Setsuna

List of Settings:

UCR Campus Outside

2 Chairs

placed center stage, middle front to back

Backpacks

NSU Classroom + Outside Classroom

Several Chairs

placed inside the classroom (the left half of the stage)

Facing left, toward the front of the classroom

Imaginary Door

Outside needs no props

Special Lighting

Light the classroom half when being used (left 2/3 of stage)

Light the outside half when being used (right 1/3 of stage)

Restaurant

2 Tables

Placed back left of stage and back right of stage

4 chairs

2 placed behind each table

Walking Path

Headphones (provided)

Lulu's House + Outside House

Piano

Placed on right side of house

Table

Placed inside house (right 2/3 of stage)

4 chairs

Placed at table, 2 behind, 1 on each side

Apples to Apples (provided)

Cooking supplies for one scene (provided)

Imaginary Door

Outside needs no props

Graveyard

Bamboo plant (provided)

Song List

CURTAIN IS CLOSED, STAGE LIGHTS ARE OFF

SHOW START

STAGE LIGHTS TURN ON

Presidents will give a welcome speech.

Culture Night Chair will give an opening speech.

Everyone clears the stage.

STAGE LIGHTS TURN OFF

ACT I

ACT I, SCENE I

Summary: Introduce Hero and his friend. Collin suggests to Brandon to join this club he's been in, NSU, to meet some people, and tells Brandon that seclusion from everyone is not healthy.

Setting: UCR Campus Outside, Thursday Late Afternoon

Characters: Brandon, Collin

Props Needed: Two chairs (unused in this scene, placed center stage)

Wardrobe: Casual

STAGE LIGHTS TURN ON AND CURTAINS OPEN

Brandon and Collin enter from stage right (in that order).

[Brandon]

(Stressed, tense) Collin **(sighs)**, how many times do I have to tell you. I don't want to go to your Japanese clubbing thing.

[Collin]

And how many times do I have to tell *you*. It's not a clubbing thing. Brandon, *please* **(Grabs Brandon's shoulder, and both stop)**. Just hear me out for two minutes.

[Brandon]

(Sighs) Okay, fine. I'm listening.

[Collin]

Alright. I want you to know that I understand why you don't want to go.

[Brandon]

(Expectant, tense) Do you?

[Collin]

Yes. I do. But I think that it'd be good for you. At least for one meeting.

[Brandon]

I don't get it. Why are you so bent on making me go to your dumb NSU club?

[Collin]

(Smiles) Oh, so you actually *do* remember what it's called. Okay, well, let me ask you this. When's the last time you went out?

[Brandon]

Uh, we went to Denny's like, two days, ago, dude.

[Collin]

(Sighs) Okay, when's the last time you went out with someone not named Collin? I mean, what do you even do when you're not doing schoolwork?

[Brandon]

Well, I do... I, um... **(Drifts off in speech and in movements)**

[Collin]

(Puts arm around Brandon) Just one meeting. I promise it's not as bad as you think.

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, CURTAINS CLOSE, AND [Viva La Vida (Sungha Jung)] PLAYS.

Brandon and Collin exit to stage left.

ACT I, SCENE II

Summary: Brandon goes to an NSU meeting, but has an outburst. Brandon seems to be angry because it seems like the people in NSU don't really care about culture, but only about having fun. Brandon and Lulu have a conversation about the real reason Brandon got so angry.

Setting: NSU club meeting (classroom), and outside the classroom (separated by barrier),
Thursday Evening (the same day as the previous scene)

Characters: Lulu, Collin, Brandon, NSU Culture Person, NSU President, Other NSU members

Props needed: Several Chairs
Placed inside the classroom (the left half of the stage)
Facing left, toward the front of the classroom

Wardrobe: Casual

SONG [Viva La Vida (Sungha Jung)] STOPS.

POOL LIGHTS ON LEFT 2/3 OF STAGE ARE ON WHERE THE CLASSROOM IS, AND THE RIGHT 1/3 OF THE STAGE IS DARKER

CAN ALSO HAVE MINOR SECONDARY LIGHTING SO AS TO NOT CAST SHADOWS ON THE ACTORS FACES

CURTAINS OPEN

Students are already seated and talking amongst themselves. Lulu is already seated as Brandon walks in behind Collin from stage right. Lulu is talking with another student, and Collin takes an empty seat behind Lulu, and Brandon behind Collin. Collin and Lulu begin talking while Brandon keeps to himself until Collin eventually introduces Brandon to Lulu. However, Brandon is uninterested.

The meeting starts and the room settles down as Lulu introduces herself and then introduces Lisa to start off with a culture segment. Lisa begins her culture segment and the room starts to get a little noisy again after Lisa starts talking.

[Lisa]

Orihime, the daughter of the celestial emperor, lived happily on the banks of the milky way. She was a celestial maiden who wove the most beautiful cloth. However after she married Hikoboshi the cow herder, she stopped weaving to while away her

days with her new love. Her father was furious and separated the star-crossed lovers. Orihime and Hikoboshi were kept from each other by the milky way, and were only able to meet up once a year, on Tanabata. But if fate makes it rain on July 7th, then they won't be able to be together that year.

A student next to Brandon is on his phone during the culture segment and laughing and fooling around instead of paying attention. Brandon loses his patience and interrupts the culture segment.

[Brandon]
Can you shut up?

[Student]
What's your problem, dude?

[Brandon]
My problem is I'm trying to listen to the culture segment, and I can't because you won't be quiet.

[Student]
What's the big deal? No one cares about the culture segment anyway.

[Brandon]
What? If you don't care about the culture, why are you even in this club? I thought that was the whole point of this NSU.

[Student]
Chill man, we're just here to have fun.

[Brandon]
Are you serious?

[Lulu]
Um... hey guys, no need to be upset. Why don't we step outside and talk it out?

[Brandon]
Nah, don't worry about it. I'm outta here.

[Collin]
Brandon, wait!

[Brandon]
Look, don't let me ruin this for you Collin, you should just stay here.
(Walks out of the meeting to outside, which is towards stage right).

[Collin]
I'm sorry about Brandon, he's been going through some stuff lately, I'll go talk to him...

[Lulu]
Don't worry about it Collin, why don't you let me try to talk to him?

[Collin]
Oh, yeah, go ahead! I mean... I haven't been able to get through to him, so...

[Lulu]
Ok, go ahead and finish the culture segment Lisa.

Lulu walks out towards Brandon.

[Lisa]

Okay... well, I guess I'll just finish off with a question for you all... Hypothetically speaking, if year after year after year, it keeps raining on the 7th of July, and something keeps getting in the way of Orihime and Hikoboshi being able to unite and re-affirm their love for each other, how long do you think it would take before they forget the other person completely?

POOL LIGHTS SWITCH FROM LEFT 2/3 TO RIGHT 1/3 (FROM CLASSROOM TO OUTSIDE)

[Brandon]

(Facing away from Lulu) Collin, I told you, you don't have to—**(Turns around)**
Oh, you're not Collin.

[Lulu]

Nope! Just me! I wanted to check on you.

[Brandon]

I'm fine, don't worry about me, you should just go back to the meeting.

[Lulu]

Are you sure? You seemed pretty upset back there. I admire that you take Japanese culture so seriously, but you've got to let people have their fun too.

[Brandon]

... Yeah, you're right.

[Lulu]

But... maybe that wasn't the real reason you were angry? Collin said you're going through some things.

[Brandon]

Yeah? Well, Collin talks too much.

[Lulu]

He's just trying to help you, you know? It's not always best to keep things bottled up.

(Pause).

Well, I guess I'll go back inside then.

[Brandon]

The reason I got so upset... is because Japanese culture used to be really important to me and my parents.

[Lulu]

Used to?

[Brandon]

They passed away a few months ago... *(quietly)* There was an accident...

[Lulu]

Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that...

[Brandon]

Some of my favorite memories were of them teaching me about Japanese traditions... we had so much fun together... *(choked up)* and I just...

[Lulu]

It's alright... you don't have to say anymore. Instead of going back inside, why don't we just go for a walk.

[Brandon]

(Nodding, sniffing, and wiping eyes).

That sounds good.

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, CURTAINS CLOSE, AND [Luv Letter (DJ Okawari)] PLAYS.

Characters exit stage. Brandon and Lulu exit to stage left.

Brandon and Lulu should begin changing into nice clothes for their date scene. Collin should begin changing into a different set of casual clothing.

ACT I, SCENE III

Summary: Date scene, Brandon and Lulu getting closer. Brandon has some trouble getting comfortable with getting close to someone again, but Lulu is really nice and understanding to his struggles. Then, Lulu says she's moving to Japan at the end of the school year.

Setting: Restaurant, Saturday Afternoon (the same week as the previous scene)

Characters: Brandon, Lulu, Singers, 2 Extras?

Props needed: 2 Tables (Placed back left of stage and back right of stage), 4 chairs (2 placed behind each table)

Wardrobe: Nice clothes for a date

LIGHTS GRADUALLY TURN BACK ON AND [Luv Letter (DJ Okawari)] STOPS.

CURTAINS OPEN

Brandon is sitting alone at the left table texting on his phone. Extras sitting and talking at the right table.

Lulu walks in from stage left and sits down with Brandon.

[Brandon]

(upbeat) Hey! You showed up.

[Lulu]

(smiling) Yeah, I said I would come, didn't I? Why'd you wanna meet?

[Brandon]

You'll see... Just listen...

LIGHTS DIM AND ENABLE POOL LIGHTS CENTER STAGE

Singers enter stage.

Singers perform a song.

Singers exit stage.

POOL LIGHTS OFF, NORMAL LIGHTING ENABLED

[Brandon]

I used to come here with my parents a lot. I think of pretty cool how people come out here to perform. The truth is... I didn't really have a good reason for asking you to come here... I sort of just wanted to share one of my favorite places with you. I hope I didn't waste your time...

[Lulu]

No, Brandon, I really enjoyed it here. I'll definitely remember this place when I move to Japan.

[Brandon]

(surprised) Huh? When are you moving to Japan?

[Lulu]

In a couple months or so... I'm not sure when yet, though.

[Brandon]

Oh.... You know what? It's getting kind of late, so I should get going. **(Exits stage)**

[Lulu]

Oh... okay then.

LIGHTS DIM AND ENABLE POOL LIGHTS CENTER STAGE

Singers enter stage.

Singers perform [This Love (Maroon 5)].

Singers exit stage.

POOL LIGHTS OFF, NORMAL LIGHTING ENABLED

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, AND CURTAINS CLOSE

Characters exit stage.

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, CURTAINS CLOSE, AND [Don't Know Why (James Bartholemew)] PLAYS.

Brandon and Lulu should begin changing into casual clothes.

ACT II

ACT II, SCENE I

Summary: Brandon pushes away Lulu, what's the point of being friends, she's leaving (internal conflict)

Setting: UCR Campus Outside, Thursday Late Afternoon (one week after the first scene)

Characters: Brandon, Collin

Props Needed: Two chairs (placed center stage)

Wardrobe: Casual

LIGHTS GRADUALLY TURN BACK ON AND [Don't Know Why (James Bartholemew)] STOPS.

CURTAINS OPEN

Brandon is walking and Collin randomly sees him, and runs to catch up to him from stage right.

[Collin]

Hey, Brandon, what's up? Tough classes today?

Brandon and Collin continue walking slowly towards stage left.

[Brandon]

They were okay.

[Collin]

Hey, aren't you going to NSU today? Because you're going the wrong way! **(Laughs)**

[Brandon]

Nah, I don't think I'm gonna go to NSU anymore.

[Collin]

Wait, why? Are you still mad about the culture thing? I thought we agreed that we could learn about culture and have fun, too.

[Brandon]

It's not that, I just... don't want to go anymore, okay? There isn't anyone there I get along with anyway.

[Collin]

What do you mean, you have me! **(punches arm playfully)**
And I thought you were getting along with Lulu. Did something happen?

[Brandon]

Nothing happened. I'm going home.

Collin stops and Brandon begins to walk away from him towards stage left.

[Collin]

Wait!
(exasperated) Don't be like this, Brandon.

[Brandon]

(Stops and turns to face Collin)
Be like what, Collin? I'm not doing anything!

[Collin]

You're avoiding your problems.

[Brandon]

What are you talking about? I'm just going home!

[Collin]

I've seen you with Lulu. I haven't seen you genuinely happy like that in a long time. Not since... you know. So if you don't want to see her then something must've happened. So talk to me about it.

[Brandon]

(Sighs)

Okay, you're right. Something did happen. Lulu told me she's moving to Japan.

[Collin]

Oh, yeah.

[Brandon]

You knew?

[Collin]

Wait... you didn't know?

[Brandon]

How could I have known?

[Collin]

Remember? We talked about it when I introduced you guys at your first NSU meeting.

[Brandon]

Was I supposed to pay attention to that?

(Takes his backpack off then sits down and lies back while sighing, then throws his hands above his head and yells)

Ahhh! I'm so dumb!

[Collin]

Yeah...

[Brandon]

Thanks, Collin.

Awkward silence. Then, Collin takes his backpack off and sits down next to Brandon.

[Collin]

So, uh... you must really like Lulu then, huh?

[Brandon]

Yeah... I mean, I guess... I don't know... we just met...

[Collin]

For sure, for sure...

(another silence)

Um, what do you like about her?

[Brandon]

Well... uh, she's nice...?

[Collin]

Oh, that's good.

[Brandon]

Yeah...

[Collin]

(awkward silence)

What else do you like about her?

[Brandon]

Well I guess... She's really understanding about what happened with my parents, and she's really appreciative of Japanese culture... Ahh, what's the point? She's leaving anyway.

[Collin]

(pause)

Well, if it makes you that sad to see her now, I won't make you go to NSU anymore.

(teasingly) Either way, I'm still here for you buddy.

Brandon and Collin stand up and begin putting on their backpacks as they talk. Then they begin walking offstage towards stage left.

[Brandon]

(sarcastically) THAT definitely makes me feel a LOT better.

[Collin]

Hey, if you think about it, Lulu and I are pretty similar. We both like you, after all. So once she's gone, I'll be your Lulu.

[Brandon]

Uh... I'm gonna have to pass on that.

[Collin]

C'mon, what's she got that I don't?

[Brandon]

It's more about what you DO have.

[Collin]

(putting his arm around Brandon) You've gotta have an open mind, Brandon.

[Brandon]

(breaks free from Collin and begins running offstage towards stage left) Ahh, get away from me!

[Collin]

(chasing Brandon offstage) Relax! I was just kidding!

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, CURTAINS CLOSE, AND [Living With Determination -Iwatodai Station Arrange- (Shoji Meguro)] PLAYS.

Brandon and Collin should begin changing into another set of casual clothes.

ACT II, SCENE II

Summary: What if she was dying instead, then wouldn't you value time?

Setting: UCR Campus Outside, Friday Midday (eight days since the previous scene)

Characters: Brandon, Lulu

It's in the middle of the school day at UCR between classes.

Props needed: 2 chairs (center stage)

Wardrobe: Casual

LIGHTS GRADUALLY TURN BACK ON AND [Living With Determination -Iwatodai Station Arrange- (Shoji Meguro)] STOPS.

CURTAINS OPEN

Lulu happens to see Brandon as they are walking in between class. Brandon walks from stage left and Lulu walks from stage right.

[Lulu]

(Stops when she sees Brandon)

(Waves and smiles to Brandon) Hey, Brandon!

[Brandon]

(Stops walking)

Oh. Hey, Lulu.

[Lulu]

I haven't seen you in a while.

[Brandon]

Yeah...sorry for leaving you so suddenly last time.

[Lulu]

It's fine. I noticed you missed the last two NSU meetings.

[Brandon]

Oh, yeah....I did.

[Lulu]

Is something wrong...?

[Brandon]

Here we go again....

[Lulu]

What do you mean?

[Brandon]

(Chuckles) Nothing, I guess you two are pretty similar after all.

[Lulu]

Who? Listen, if you don't want to talk about it, it's fine...

[Brandon]

No, it's better if we do talk about it. Actually, do you have time right now?

[Lulu]

Oh, yeah, my next class isn't for half an hour.

[Brandon]

So...um.. the last time we met, you told me you were moving to Japan.

[Lulu]

What about it?

[Brandon]

Well, it kinda feels like, if you're moving away in a few months, then what's the point of getting close to you?

[Lulu]

...

[Brandon]

I'm sorry, Lulu. It's harsh, but I'm not wrong, am I?

[Lulu]

Would you say the same thing about your parents?

[Brandon]

What do my parents have to do with this?

[Lulu]

You loved your parents, didn't you?

[Brandon]

Of course I loved them! I told you we were really close.

[Lulu]

But now they're gone.

[Brandon]

I know that! What's your point?

[Lulu]

Would you say that your relationship with them was pointless?

[Brandon]

Of course not!

[Lulu]

Then why am I pointless?

[Brandon]

It's different.

[Lulu]

Why is it different?

[Brandon]

Because you're just moving away. My parents died!

[Lulu]

(pauses) What if... what if I was dying?

[Brandon]

Huh? How could you say that? This isn't a joke, Lulu.

[Lulu]

Just imagine. Imagine that I'm not actually going to Japan, and I'm dying instead.

[Brandon]

That's terrible...

[Lulu]

But if that were the case, what would you do?

[Brandon]

I'd do everything I can to save you!

[Lulu]

You can't save me. Once I go to Japan, we might never see each other again.

[Brandon]

Well... we could still keep in contact, we could text, and do phone calls, or skype...

[Lulu]

Brandon...

[Brandon]

... **(quiet sigh)**

[Lulu]

People go in and out of our lives all the time. No one stays in our life forever. Whether it's graduating, moving away, a breakup, or even death. That's how life is.

[Brandon]

You can't compare dying and moving away, they aren't the same things.

[Lulu]

Maybe... but there are similarities. Whether people in our lives move away or pass away, it's unlikely you'll ever see them again.

[Brandon]

Lulu, you don't understand. When people die, it isn't just unlikely you'll never see them again. You will never see them again. And death takes away the people who are supposed to stay in our lives forever. Our closest friends, our family, the people we love!

[Lulu]

... You're right... death is sad--

[Brandon]

Sad barely begins to describe it.

[Lulu]

If it were a few months ago, and you knew your parents were going to die, wouldn't you want to spend every last moment with them?

[Brandon]

But I didn't know... Death is sudden... Just like that, they were...

[Lulu]

I know... But now, with me, you will know when I'm leaving. This summer, I'm moving away. So, let's cherish the time we do have.

[Brandon]
... Alright, I'll try.

[Lulu]
(long pause) So are we okay, now? You'll start coming to NSU again?

[Brandon]
Yeah, of course.

[Lulu]
Good. Then there's one more aaaa I want to ask you.

[Brandon]
Anything, what's up? .

[Lulu]
Do you wanna come over to my house this weekend? I have board games. . .and Netflix!

[Brandon]
Oh really? I actually need to catch up on Grey's Anatomy.

[Lulu]
Great! I'll see you then!

[Brandon]
Okay, bye! I'll text you.

Lulu exits the stage and Brandon looks happy.

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, CURTAINS CLOSE, AND [Gun's & Roses (Paradise Lunch)] PLAYS.

Characters exit stage.

Brandon and Lulu should begin changing into another set of casual clothes.

ACT II, SCENE III

Summary: Brandon finds out Lulu is dying.

Setting: Lulu's House, Saturday Midday (the day after the previous scene)

Characters: Brandon, Lulu, Jun, Taka

Props needed: Table: Placed inside house (right 2/3 of stage), 4 chairs: Placed at table, 2 behind, 1 on each side,
Apples to Apples, Piano: Placed on right side of house, Flower

Wardrobe: Casual (Brandon a little nicer)

LIGHTS GRADUALLY TURN BACK ON AND [Gun's & Roses (Paradise Lunch)] STOPS.

CURTAINS OPEN

Brandon walks to Lulu's door with flowers from stage left. He knocks. Then, he awkwardly poses holding out the flowers. After a delay, the door is answered by Jun.

[Brandon]
(Lowering the flowers) Oh, uh, he... hello!

[Jun]
Oh, what's that? A flower? For me?

[Brandon]
Oh, I, uh... Sorry, I think I have the wrong house.

[Jun]
Oh, what a shame. Good bye then.
(Begins to shut the door)

[Taka]
Oh, Jun. Stop teasing him. You're looking for Lulu, aren't you? You must be Brandon.

[Brandon]
Er, yeah, I am. But who are you guys?

[Taka]
Isn't it obvious? We're Lulu's parents!

[Brandon]
But... you're both... guys.

[Jun]
Is that a problem?

[Brandon]
No no, of course not! I was just surprised is all.

[Taka]
Don't worry about Jun, he's just messing with you. I'll go get Lulu, she's told us so much about you.
(Walking out) Lulu! Your boyfriend's here!

[Jun & Brandon]
Boyfriend!?

[Brandon]
L-look there's some kind of misunderstanding here...

[Jun]
(Crosses arms) Oh, I understand everything perfectly.

Taka and Lulu walk in.

[Lulu]
Brandon! Glad you could make it! Oh, what's this? A flower? Thanks! **(Hugs)**

Jun gives the two fingers to eyes “I’m watching you” hand gesture to Brandon as they hug. Lulu cannot see this because she is facing away from her father.

[Lulu]

You’ve met my parents? I thought it would be fun if we could all do something together!

[Brandon]

Oh... that sounds... great!

[Lulu]

Let’s play Apples to Apples then!

Everyone takes a seat and Lulu passes out the cards.

[Lulu]

You know how to play, right Brandon?

[Brandon]

Remind me?

[Lulu]

The green card is an adjective and then you pick the noun in your hand that best matches the adjective. I’ll be the first judge. The adjective is... **(flips green card)** Stinky.

Everyone except Lulu places their cards then Lulu takes them, shuffles them, and flips them over.

[Lulu]

Let’s see... the cards are... Hans... Braeton... and Adrian... Huh. These cards are weird, I’ve never heard of any of these people before. I guess I’ll just choose... Adrian!

[Brandon]

That’s my card!

[Jun]

Hmph, you got lucky that time.

[Taka]

Or maybe he’s just better than you, Jun.

[Jun]

Heeh??

[Lulu]

I’m gonna go to the bathroom, play nice everyone.

Lulu leaves and there’s a pause.

[Jun]

(Sets cards down) Brandon...

[Brandon]

(Jumps a bit) Yes?

[Jun]

I'm gonna be serious with you for a second. You seem like a nice kid, and this is tough for us because we want nothing more than to see our daughter happy, and you make her happy but...

[Brandon]

But what?

[Jun]

We think it's best if you don't get too close to Lulu.

[Brandon]

What, because you guys are moving to Japan? Don't worry, I've learned to accept it. And maybe one day we'll be able to see each other again.

[Taka]

No, we're not moving away...

[Brandon]

But then why would Lulu tell me that? And why can't I be close to her?

Jun and Taka look at each other.

[Taka]

Lulu's dying, Brandon.

[Brandon]

What?

[Taka]

We've taken her to multiple doctors, but they all say the same thing. There's nothing they can do. We don't know how long she has left exactly, but they say it's probably no more than a few months. That's probably why she told you she's moving away sometime this summer. She didn't want you to worry.

[Brandon]

(Stands up from the table) No...

[Taka]

We're sorry, Brandon...

[Jun]

So you see why we think it's for your own good if you don't get too close to our daughter.

Lulu skips back in.

[Lulu]

I'm back! Sorry I took so long! I hope you guys didn't have too much fun without me.

[Jun]

We're having lots of fun, sweetie! Isn't that right, Brandon?

[Brandon]

(Begins to back away) I, uh... forgot... I have to, uh... go do... um... there's something I have to do.

What?

[Lulu]

I have to go. **(Runs offstage to stage left)**

[Brandon]

(Reaches out) Brandon, wait!

[Lulu]

Lulu gets up as if to chase after Brandon. Jun holds her arm back.

Just let him go.

[Jun]

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, AND CURTAINS CLOSE.

Characters exit stage.

LIGHTS TURN BACK ON FOR PIANIST

CURTAINS OPEN

Pianist performs a song.

LIGHTS TURN BACK OFF AND CURTAINS CLOSE

Begin Intermission.

PLAY [Nocturne] FROM BEGINNING TO END

NSU Modern should be dressed for their appearance.

PLAY [Blues in Velvet Room] FROM BEGINNING TO END

End Intermission.

NORMAL LIGHTING FOR DANCERS

OPEN CURTAINS

PLAY [MIX FOR TAMAWA]

Dancers perform.

CLOSE CURTAINS AND PLAY [Sail (Awolnation)]

ACT III

ACT III, SCENE I

Summary: Brandon likes Lulu for selfish reasons. Brandon walks in late to an NSU meeting, and the audience is able to see Brandon's internal emotions and issues with Lulu leaving, his seclusion, and himself. It is subtly conveyed that Brandon "likes" Lulu for selfish reasons. After the NSU meeting, Brandon stays behind while everyone else goes to an after-event.

Setting: NSU club meeting (classroom), Thursday evening (after the Saturday of the previous scene)

Characters: Brandon, Collin, Lisa, NSU members, Taka (voice)

Props needed: Several Chairs

Placed inside the classroom (the left half of the stage)

Facing left, toward the front of the classroom

POOL LIGHTS ON LEFT 2/3 OF STAGE ARE ON WHERE THE CLASSROOM IS, AND THE RIGHT 1/3 OF THE STAGE IS DARKER

CAN ALSO HAVE MINOR SECONDARY LIGHTING SO AS TO NOT CAST SHADOWS ON THE ACTORS FACES

CURTAINS OPEN

At a NSU meeting, Collin is speaking about a future event to the members.

[Lisa]

Hello, everyone! If you remember a few weeks ago, I talked about the history of Tanabata. Well, it's May 25th today, so it's only a bit over a month from now until Tanabata. As part of our summer program, we might be going to a Tanabata festival, so there's just one more thing I wanted to mention. At Tanabata festivals, people hang up pieces of paper called tanzakus on bamboo. You write a wish on the tanzaku, and the closer to the heavens you hang your tanzaku, the more likely your wish is to come true. So before Tanabata comes, make sure to think of a wish so we can all put up our wishes together!

Enter Brandon, who looks dazed and distraught, from stage right.

THE SOUND OF [Clock] BEGINS PLAYING SOFTLY.

Collin looks disapprovingly at Brandon before speaking. Brandon slides slowly to a chair isolated from everyone else, and keeps his head down in the chair.

THE SOUND OF [Clock] BECOMES LOUDER AND LOUDER, BUT COLLIN CAN STILL BE HEARD.

[Collin]

As for other events, the spam musubi fundraiser is going to be next Tuesday near the Belltower from 11 to 2. If you want to help out, feel free to talk to me after the meeting is over. Also, to celebrate the beginning of classes, there's going to be a party at my house this Saturday.

Everyone cheers.

THE [Clock] CONTINUES GETTING LOUDER, BEGINNING TO DROWN OUT COLLIN.

[Collin]

(Grinning) It's BYOB so, you can bring big books, small books, textbooks, reading books, whatever books you like-

Collin's cuts out,

AND THE [Clock] STOPS.

ALL OF THE LIGHTS TURN OFF AND THERE IS SILENCE FOR SEVERAL SECONDS.

Then, the sound of Brandon distressed can be heard.

SUDDENLY, THE POOL LIGHTS TURN ON (ONTO LULU, WHO IS ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE STAGE).

Everything and everyone else is still.

ANOTHER SET OF POOL LIGHTS TURN ON ON BRANDON ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE STAGE.

Brandon stands up and acts distressed (sighs).

[Brandon]

Why me? What did I do to deserve this? This shitshow? First, I lost my parents. Then, I lost myself. And now (**Motioning towards Lulu**).... And now, I'm going to lose you, too?

While he speaks, Brandon paces around his chair

[Brandon]

(**Facing Lulu, breathing heavily**) I like you, Lulu. I really do. You give me purpose. You make me feel like myself again. Like instead of living not to be hurt again, I can live to actually live.

Brandon relaxes and turns around

[Brandon]

(**Looking towards his chair and sighing**): But I don't understand why you would do this to me. What's the point, Lulu, of even meeting you when all that's going to be left behind is another hole in my heart?

[Brandon]

(*Disappointed*) I thought you were like me,. You reminded me of what I used to be like; optimistic, outgoing, hopeful. But you lied to me. I guess, maybe, maybe...you're not who I thought you were.

Brandon sits back in his seat.

THE POOL LIGHTS TURN OFF. THEN, AND THE NORMAL LIGHTS GRADUALLY TURN BACK ON.

[Collin]

And that concludes our meeting. For those of you that want to come, a couple of us are gonna be heading to T-Pops now to grab some dinner. Otherwise, I guess we'll see you next week.

Everyone starts moving off the stage. Collin is the last to leave, and notices Brandon still sitting by himself while he is at the door.

[Collin]

(*Worried*) Brandon, are you alright?

[Brandon]

(**Without looking up**) Yeah, I'm fine. My head hurts a little. I'll just stay here for a couple more minutes and leave.

[Collin]

(**Leaving**) Okay. Call me if you need anything. A janitor's gonna come by soon to lock the door. I'm gonna dim the lights so he doesn't think the meeting's still going on. Try not to scare him too much (**Laughs**).

[Brandon]

Alright, thanks.

THE LIGHTS DIM TO BLACK.

As Brandon lowers his head more and more, eventually putting his hands on his head.

BRANDON'S CELL PHONE RINGS (LIGHTS ARE STILL OFF).

[Brandon]

(**Answering his cell phone**) He-Hello.. ?

[Taka]

Brandon! Do you have any plans for dinner? We accidentally made extra so we thought maybe you could come over.

[Brandon]

(*Hesitant*) I don't know... I'm not really- (Interrupted) hungry.

[Taka]

Just one bowl!!! I promise you'll like my cooking. Oh, I need to go. Jun's calling me. See you soon!

Brandon sighs and gets up to leave. Before he leaves, he gets his backpack and looks back at the isolated chair.

CURTAINS CLOSE AND PLAY [The Name of Life]

ACT III, SCENE II

Summary: Taka tries to get Brandon to let Lulu go.

Setting: NSU clubroom (same day as previous scene), outside

Characters: Brandon, Taka

Props needed: headphones

[The Name of Life] GRADUALLY STOPS AND THE LIGHTS GRADUALLY TURN BACK ON.

CURTAINS OPEN

Brandon enters from stage left, walking with his headphones in and staring at the ground. Taka runs in from stage right meeting Brandon at the left side of the stage.

[Taka]

Brandon!

[Brandon]

(Takes his headphones out) *(Startled)* Ta-Taka! What are you doing here?

[Taka]

(Laughing) Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you. But I wanted to talk to you about Lulu.

[Brandon]

(Still rattled) You couldn't wait until I got to your house?

[Taka]

With Lulu and Jun around? Brandon, I may be an old man, but I still know what I'm doing. **(Starts walking to stage right, looks back, and motions to Brandon to come)** Come on, we can talk while we're walking to my house.

Brandon runs to catch up and the two of them start walking and talking across the stage slowly (using hand motions, etc.).

THE LIGHTS START TO DIM (BUT THE TWO CAN STILL BE SEEN WALKING AND TALKING), AND [The Scientist (James Bartholemew)] PLAYS UNTIL BRANDON AND TAKA REACH THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE STAGE (~20 SECONDS).

Brandon and Taka reach the right side of the stage.

MUSIC STOPS AND LIGHTS TURN BACK ON.

[Brandon]

I still don't understand. How can you be so lighthearted about the whole thing? When....when my parents died, it changed me. **(Sighs, and hangs his head down)** To me, their death wasn't just theirs.

[Taka]

Oh, we're already here. **(Turns around to face Brandon, looks at him, and squeezes his arms firmly).**

[Brandon]

W-what are you doing?

[Taka]

(Releases his grip) Brandon, before we go inside, let me ask you something... Are you familiar with the Shinto beliefs of death?

[Brandon]

Yeah, of course. Inside every human is a soul, and that soul goes to heaven or hell after the human dies, right?

[Taka]

Yes, takama-ga-hara and yomi. And let me ask you this; where do you think Lulu will go?

[Brandon]

(Resolute) Takama-ga-hara.

[Taka]

Where do you think your parents went?

[Brandon]

(Wavering, surprised) Ta-Takama-ga-hara

[Taka]

If you really believe that, then you should understand that when people die, they're not gone.. For Lulu and your parents, if this life is a stepping stone into the next one, whatever that might be, then you shouldn't try to keep them here.

[Brandon]

Y-yeah, I guess.. But that's so much easier said than done....

[Taka]

(Sighs, puts hand on Brandon's shoulder) Trust me, Brandon. I know... **(pause)** But that's part of why I invited you here tonight. I think that it might help if you *see* what I'm talking about. Come on, let's go inside.

THE LIGHTS DIM TO BLACK AND THE CURTAINS CLOSE. [tartarus_0d06 (Shoji Meguro)] PLAYS

ACT III, SCENE III

Summary: Brandon's journey to falling in love with Lulu.

Setting: Outside of Lulu's house, inside of Lulu's house.

Characters: Brandon, Taka, Jun, Lulu

Props needed: Table: Placed inside house (right 2/3 of stage), 4 chairs: Placed at table, 2 behind, 1 on each side, Apples to Apples, Piano: Placed on right side of house

LIGHTS GRADUALLY TURN ON AND [tartarus_0d06 (Shoji Meguro)] STOPS.

CURTAINS OPEN

Brandon and Taka are both standing off the the side. The sound of Jun and Lulu playing can be heard. Lulu is running around while Jun is chasing her and laughing.

[Lulu]

Ahhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!! Noooooo!! I don't want the rice touch!

[Jun]

(Laughs) Well you better run faster, then!

Taka and Brandon look at each other, weirded out. Brandon and Taka talk walk Jun keeps chasing Lulu around in funny ways.

[Brandon]

Errr.... What's the rice touch?

[Taka]

Honestly Brandon.. I've learned with Jun that sometimes it's better not to ask. Hey! We have a guest!

Lulu and Jun both notice and stop.

[Jun]

Taka!... And Boyfriend..

[Lulu]

Brandon!

[Taka]

Brandon's going to be eating with us tonight. I cooked extra food on accident, and you know how I am about leftovers.

[Jun]

Huh? But you're making tonkatsu tonight, right? If there's an extra mouth... That means I only get... **(Starts counting on hand)** 50 pieces! Nooo!!!! Ahh!! **(Goes off on a rant to the side)**

[Brandon]

Uhh.... 50 pieces?

[Lulu]

(Laughs) Yeah, it's his favorite dish. What else are we eating, Dad?

Jun stops ranting and both Taka and Jun look up.

[Taka]

I'm making curry rice, tonjiru, and saba misoni. I might cook okonomiyaki and tempura too, if we have enough eggs.

[Brandon]

Wow, that sounds so good!

[Jun]

(Wags finger at Brandon) I'm watching you, boyfriend. You better not touch any of my tonkatsu or saba misoni.

[Brandon]

(Sheepish) Oh, uh..

Lulu walks next to Brandon and puts her arm around him (during Brandon's line).

[Lulu]

(Laughs) Dad, come on. Stop teasing him.

Taka starts leaving for the kitchen

[Taka]

Okay guys, it'll take around half an hour to finish cooking, so just hang tight until then! **(leaves the room, goes to the background in stage right)**

[Lulu]

Okay, do you guys want to play some more Apples to Apples until the food's ready? **(Starts sitting down, looks at Brandon and Jun)**

[Brandon]

Oh, sure!

[Jun]

(Uncertain, joking) Alright Boyfriend, but you better not cheat this time

LIGHTS DIM AND POOL LIGHTS ON WHERE THE TABLE IS BUT NOT ON TAKA.

Lulu pulls out Apples to Apples

[Lulu]

Dad, do you want to be the first judge?

Jun grabs and deals cards.

[Jun]

Yeah, you know it! Gimme dem cards baby! **(Flips over green card)** The first word is... beautiful.

Lulu puts her card in.

[Brandon]

Hmm.. okay.. **(Puts card in)**

[Jun]

Okay, let's see.. The first card is.. **(Flips over card)** Grey's Anatomy... that's pretty lame. And the second card is.. **(Flips over second card)** Kanpai! By Tsuyoshi Nagabuchi! That's my favorite song. Okay, definitely this one. **(Looks at Lulu)** You chose Kanpai right, Lulu?

[Lulu]

(Laughs) No, of course not. Kanpai's great, but it's definitely not more beautiful than Grey's Anatomy.

[Jun]

(Faces Brandon) Wait, then, it was you..? Why do you like this song?

[Brandon]

(Uncertain) Oh.. My parents used to sing it around the house a lot when I was younger. It reminds me of them, so I still play it whenever I'm having a rough time. **(Looks down)**

[Jun]

(Looking down) Oh.. **(Looks up, puts hand on Brandon's shoulder, Smiles; Brandon looks up)** Me too, Brandon.

[Lulu]

Oh, really, Dad...? I never knew...

[Brandon]

(Smiles, laughs to brighten energy) Plus, my parents used to hold a lot of house parties, so I loved saying "kanpai" whenever my parents would let me drink with our relatives.

Lulu and Jun both laugh.

[Jun]

(Conclusive) Ohhhh, really? What's your favorite drink then, Brandon?

[Lulu]

(Grabs Brandon's arm tightly, laughs) Think carefully before you answer

[Brandon]

Uhh.... I don't know.. We didn't drink that often, so probably just the cheap plum wine... ? **(Lulu squeezes Brandon's arm; Brandon exclaims, pulls back arm)** Okay, okay, fine! My favorite's probably Yokaichi Mugi, it's super sweet and crisp, and the herbal finish is really subtle and nice.

[Lulu]

Oh my god... You sound exactly like Dad.

POOL LIGHTS OFF AND NORMAL LIGHTS ON.

[Jun]

(Starts getting up). Oh my god.. We found him. (Starts going towards the kitchen) Taka, we found him! The perfect boy!

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, AND CURTAINS CLOSE.

LIGHTS TURN BACK ON FOR PIANIST

CURTAINS OPEN

Pianist performs a song.

LIGHTS TURN BACK OFF AND CURTAINS CLOSE

LIGHTS TURN BACK ON FOR TAIKO

CURTAINS OPEN

Tako performs.

LIGHTS TURN BACK OFF AND CURTAINS CLOSE. [I'm Yours (Sungha Jung)] PLAYS

FINAL ACT

FINAL ACT, SCENE I

Summary: Confrontation between Brandon and Lulu about the truth of her dying and their feelings about each other.

Setting: Restaurant

Characters: Brandon, Lulu

Props needed: 2 Tables (Placed back left of stage and back right of stage), 4 chairs (2 placed behind each table)

LIGHTS GRADUALLY TURN ON. [I'm Yours (Sungha Jung)] STOPS

CURTAINS OPEN

[Brandon]

Lulu, I went to your house but you weren't there. Your parents told me you'd be here. But why are you here?

[Lulu]

This is a special place for you and your parents, right? I thought I'd like to see it one more time.

[Brandon]

Oh.

[Lulu]

And maybe, when you come here after I'm gone, you'll think of me too.

[Brandon]

I wish you wouldn't say things like that.

[Lulu]

Hey, don't be sad, I'm the one who gets to be sad, I'm the dying one.

[Brandon]

Then how are you so happy all the time? Aren't you scared or anything?

[Lulu]

No, I'm not afraid of death.

[Brandon]

So you're just fine with dying then?

[Lulu]

That's not true either. I am sad. But what saddens me the most is not death itself. It's that I never got the chance to really fall in love. Giving love... receiving love... even losing love. One of the greatest gifts in life and I'll never be able to truly experience it. And to think that there's so many out there just like me, who will die without even getting to try. And even worse, think of all the people who have their entire lives ahead of them, but will be too afraid to love. Never being with that person, who just lifts that weight off your shoulders that you didn't even know was there. That person who, you'd devote your life for, to see their smile.

[Brandon]

For me, you're that person, Lulu.

[Lulu]

But how can you say that? I might not be around much longer.

[Brandon]

That doesn't matter.

[Lulu]

We haven't even known each other that long. How can you be so sure?

[Brandon]

No matter what happens, you'll always hold a special place in my heart. You picked me up at my lowest point, reminded me how to be happy, and gave my life meaning again. You showed me that death doesn't have to be so sad if we treasure the memories we have together. I'll always remember you. And we still have time left.

[Lulu]

That means everything to me, Brandon. I just wish... we had more time.

(pause)

LIGHTS DIM AND ENABLE POOL LIGHTS CENTER STAGE

Singers enter stage.

Singers perform a song.

Singers exit stage.

POOL LIGHTS OFF, NORMAL LIGHTING ENABLED

[Brandon]

(Stands up and begins walking around the table to Lulu) You know what... I'm not giving up on you yet.

[Lulu]

What do you mean?

[Brandon]

You're gonna live. I know you will.

[Lulu]

Brandon, the doctors said...

[Brandon]

I don't care what the doctor said. You're gonna make it. **(Holds his hand out to Lulu)**

[Lulu]

Brandon... **(Takes his hand and stands up)**

Both continue talking while slowly walking toward center stage.

[Brandon]

You know what next week is right?

[Lulu]

Next week?

[Brandon]

July 7th, it's Tanabata.

[Lulu]

Oh, yeah, it is!

[Brandon]

Then let's make a promise.

[Lulu]

What kind of promise?

[Brandon]

We're gonna go to Tanabata together, and we're gonna put our tanzaku as high as we can, and we're gonna wish for you to live!

(pause)

What? Why are you staring at me like that?

[Lulu]

(laughs) Okay, Brandon. Let's do it. If I'm with you, maybe I'm not ready to die after all.

[Brandon]

You have to pinky promise.

[Lulu]

(does the pinky promise song)

[Brandon]

What was that?

[Lulu]

It's how Japanese do pinky promises. I definitely can't break it now. I'm surprised you didn't know.

[Brandon]

Oh. Well, you're always teaching me something new. That's one of the things I love about you.

Lulu gets embarrassed and giggles.

[Lulu]

So it's a promise then. We'll make a wish on Tanabata together. But now I have a promise for you.

[Brandon]

Okay, what is it?

[Lulu]

Let's wait to see each other until Tanabata comes. We can be just like Orihime and Hikoboshi!

[Brandon]

Hmm, that means after this year, we have to spend every Tanabata together and make more wishes!

[Lulu]

You read my mind!

[Brandon]

Alright then, it's a promise.

[Lulu]

I have to get going then, I can't see you until Tanabata!

[Brandon]

Okay, I'll see you later.

[Lulu]

See you later! **(walking away)** ... Oh, I almost forgot. **(runs and hugs Brandon)** Bye Brandon!

[Brandon]

Bye Lulu!

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, CURTAINS CLOSE, AND [If You Still Believe (Dennis Martin)] PLAYS FOR AT LEAST 2 MINUTES.

FINAL ACT, FINAL SCENE

Summary: Epilogue
Setting: Graveyard
Characters: Not Lulu ;(

Props needed: Bamboo plant

LIGHTS GRADUALLY TURN ON AND [If You Still Believe (Dennis Martin)] STOPS.

CURTAINS OPEN

Brandon is walking toward the bamboo plant, with Collin following behind him. Brandon kneels down and places a tanzaku on the bamboo plant that is Lulu's grave.

[Collin]
What's that?

[Brandon]
Oh, it's just... a promise that Lulu and I made.

[Collin]
What kind of promise?

[Brandon]
We promised we'd meet every Tanabata and make a wish on a tanzaku together. But since she can't go to the festival anymore, I brought her this little bamboo plant here so we could keep our promise.

[Collin]
Wait.. today's Tanabata? I can't believe it's been so long.

[Brandon]
Almost a year since she passed... and more than a year now since my parents...

[Collin]
Are you okay?

[Brandon]
Yeah. I'm not so sad about it anymore like I used to be. It's all thanks to her.

[Collin]
Can I ask you... How come a year ago... you didn't go to her funeral?

[Brandon]
The last time I saw her... she was happy. I wanted to remember the Lulu with a smile on her face, the one I'd made so many memories with.

[Collin]
I see.

[Brandon]
Besides, she's here with us today. It's Tanabata.

[Collin]
You mean like, you think she's here with us now?

[Brandon]

I know she is. We made a promise, after all.

Saburo Nakano es

STAGE FADES TO BLACK, AND SONG [Always With Me/Itsumo Nando Demo] PLAYS.

WAIT 3 SECONDS AFTER LIGHTS OFF BEFORE CLOSING CURTAINS

CURTAINS CLOSE VERY SLOWLY WHILE MUSIC CONTINUES TO PLAY

Play ends.

Characters exit stage.

Music stops playing.

Closing Ceremony

LIGHTS ARE ON

CURTAINS OPEN & PLAY [Senpai Gone Love It] FROM BEGINNING TO END

PLAY [Ending] FROM BEGINNING TO END

Performers come back on stage in sections and bow for applause.

Crew.

NSU Modern.

Amanda.

Taiko.

Actors.

Keelan and Lisa.

Braeton and Adrian.

Hans and Ashley.

Closing speech from Braeton.

PLAY [Silver Scrapes] FROM BEGINNING TO END

Cy@!