

NIGHT

The New Musical By

Drew Lane

ACT ONE

Scene One

[The world we see is stark and black. People are hiding behind objects which represent buildings and homes, but there is no decoration. Everything is formless and without character. Cue song 1: The Night.]

ENSEMBLE

IN THE DARKNESS IS OUR HOME
IT IS ALL WE'VE EVER KNOWN
AND THE WHISPER OF THE ONE IN OUR DREAMS
AND IN DARKNESS WE MUST HIDE
THERE'S NO FRIENDS WE CAN CONFIDE
JUST THE VOICE THAT SPEAKS INSIDE OUR SOUL

SAYING ...

DON'T WONDER
DON'T WISH AND
DON'T LOOK FOR ANY COMFORT
DON'T QUESTION
DON'T TRY AND FIGHT
YOUR WAY OUT OF THE NIGHT

IN THE DARKNESS WE WERE BORN
SCREAMING OUT INTO A STORM
THAT IS RINGING IN OUR EARS
UNHEARD
AND IN DARKNESS WE ALL LIVE
FRIGHTENED TO REACH OUT, TO GIVE
ANYTHING THAT TURNS HIS EYES OUR WAY

REMEMBER ...

DON'T WONDER
DON'T WISH AND
DON'T LOOK FOR ANY COMFORT
DON'T QUESTION
DON'T TRY AND FIGHT

YOUR WAY OUT OF THE...

DON'T HOPE AND
DON'T TREASURE
YOU'RE HELD IN HERE FOREVER
YOUR LIFE IS
NEVER A RIGHT
IT'S JUST PART OF THE NIGHT

THERE'S NO HOPE, IT'S GONE
THERE'S NO FAITH, IT'S GONE
THERE'S NO LOVE, IT'S GONE FROM HERE AND
THERE'S NO DREAMS, THEY'RE GONE
THERE'S NO STRENGTH, IT'S
GONE FROM US
THAT'S ALL WE KNOW
AND THIS THE SONG OF THOSE BELOW

DON'T WONDER
DON'T WISH AND
DON'T LOOK FOR ANY COMFORT
DON'T QUESTION
DON'T TRY AND FIGHT
YOUR WAY OUT OF THE...

DON'T HOPE AND
DON'T TREASURE
YOU'RE HELD IN HERE FOREVER
YOUR LIFE IS
NEVER A RIGHT
IT'S JUST PART OF THE NIGHT

[The people drift back into the night. Cara and Lelena run on stage, playing hide and seek amongst the buildings.]

CARA

Lelena, 'tis your turn to be counting. I'll hide. You hunt.

LELENA

Very well, Cara. Let's begin.

[Cara runs off to hide, while Lelena begins to count.]

LELENA

One, two, buckle my shoe. Three, four, knock at the door. Five, six, pick up sticks. Seven, eight, make them...

[We begin to hear an argument between Lelena's parents.]

BETHANY

I cannot keep this secret any longer!

FINLAY

Perhaps there is no secret to keep.

BETHANY

You know that there is.

FINLAY

It hasn't called to her yet. Consider that it is not to come for her.

BETHANY

It comes for all the first females. I, my mother, her mother; it is our lineage. Our curse.

CARA

Come on, Lelena! What's taking you so long?

LELENA

Be quiet, my friend. I'm listening.

CARA

To whom?

LELENA

I said, hush!

[Cara runs over to Lelena and listens with her.]

BETHANY

I must find her.

[Bethany and Finlay enter, and Lelena grabs Cara and they hide.]

FINLAY

Bethany, I forbid it.

BETHANY

You forbid it, Finlay? Lelena is one element of my blood, and one element of yours. You cannot forbid me to do anything when concerns our joint flesh.

FINLAY

Bethany, remember that I was the one who...

BETHANY

[Cooly.] How dare you bring up the ghosts of our before. You promised me ... We made a vow - a solemn oath.

FINLAY

That we did, Bethany. And thus, I shall not be denied the right to speak what is best for the child.

[Cue Song 2: This Kin Of Ours.]

BETHANY

Finlay, it is my ancestral duty to give ill speirins to the daughter that shares our bygane. She needs to be warned, lest she fall victim to its call.

THIS KIN OF OURS
THIS CHILD THAT WAS BORNE FOR US
IS THE HOLDER
THIS KIN OF OURS
THE BLOOD OF OUR BLOOD, OUR CRUX
IS THE KEEPER
OF HIDDEN TRUTHS FROM OTHER DAYS
WHICH HAVE NO PLACE FOR NOUT
THIS KIN OF OURS
MUST NEVER LET IT OUT

FINLAY

You must listen to me, Bethany.

THIS KIN OF OURS
HAS GIFTS OF ANOTHER WORLD
IN HER RULING
THIS KIN OF OURS
IS NOT TO BE FEARED BUT UNFURLED
THERE'S NO FOOLING
SHE IS WISE BEYOND HER YOUTH
IN WAYS NONE COMPREHEND
THIS KIN OF OURS
COULD BE THE START OF THE END

BETHANY

THE END OF WHAT WE KNOW

FINLAY

NONE CAN SAY WHAT CHANGE WILL COME
WHAT IF IT'S RIGHT TO SET IT FREE
WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE?

BETHANY

WE CANNOT TAKE THE RISK
SHE WILL NOT BE BRANDED A WITCH!
WE MUST PROTECT THE ONES WE LOVE
FROM HE WHO IS ABOVE!

THIS KIN OF OURS
MUST STAY BY OUR SIDE FOR NOW
TIL IT'S OVER
THIS KIN OF OURS
MUST BE HIDDEN AWAY SOMEHOW
AND MOREOVER

THIS KIN OF OURS MUST NEVER SEE
WHAT COMES BEYOND THE DIM
THIS KIN OUR OURS
MUST ALWAYS STAY WITHIN
SHE MUST ALWAYS STAY WITHIN

BETHANY

Finlay, you are my consort, and I will respect your decision. But you must know that I carry the weight of my ancestors. I do not speak out of fear, but of knowledge.

[Finlay pauses to think.]

FINLAY

Then it must be you Bethany. You carry it. You must reveal its dangers to her. But do not let it be seen by anyone else, lest the curse fall on our family.

BETHANY

You are wise, dear Finlay. We must fetch her immediately.

[Finlay and Bethany exit. Cara and Lelena come out of hiding.]

CARA

What do you believe they were referring to?

LELENA

Me. They are my blood. I am the only one of theirs.

CARA

I know they were speaking of you. But what were they speaking of?

LELENA

I don't know. However, it is a concern to see them worry so.

CARA

Do you believe you have wronged them?

LELENA

Never. They are my protectors and my guides. And people who hold those alms are rare. Plus, I wouldn't dare. They have known the darkness for longer than I, and its dangers. But...

CARA

But?

[Lelena pauses and Cara waits.]

LELENA

Are you always this patient?

CARA

Yes. I have to be with you.

LELENA

You are a friend of truth.

CARA

Indeed. But you are evading my question.

LELENA

And a friend of persistence. Very well. Cara, do you ever entertain the possibility that there is more than darkness?

CARA

I do not understand. The darkness is all around us, like the air.

LELENA

Yes, it is, but do you believe that there may be more?

CARA

More what?

LELENA

More something.

[Cue song 3: More Than This.]

CARA

You are not making any sense, Lelena. This is what we have. It's what we were born into. There is nought that is improper.

LELENA

I dinna say "improper". I said "more". Listen to me, my friend.

I'VE BEEN WONDER'ING WHY
THERE'S NOUGHT THAT IS IN THE SKY
AND HOW LIFE HAS COME TO BE
THIS WAY

HOMES OF SCRUNT, OF THEEK AND TWILL
ABIDING AGAINST THE WILL
OF HEARTBEATS, REDUCED TO "AYE"
AND "NAY".

WHERE IS THE HOPE?
WHERE IS THE DREAM?
WHERE IS THE FIGHT OF SELF-ESTEEM?
HOW CAN IT BE
THERE HERE IN THE MIRK WE'LL FIND OUR WAY?

THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN THIS
THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN NIGHT
THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN CLUTCHING TO THE PLIGHT
OF PEOPLE WHO CANNOT SEE
OF PEOPLE WHO CANNOT BE WHAT THEY WERE BORN TO BE
THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN THIS

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE WE
ARE ABLE TO OPENLY
DISCOVER THE DESTINY
WE HAVE

WHEN I'M ASLEEP
I GAIN A PEEK
OF A LIFE BEYOND THE DARK
BUT THEN I AWAKE
AND MY SPIRIT ACHES FOR JUST A SPARK

THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN THIS
THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN NIGHT
THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN CLUTCHING TO THE PLIGHT
OF PEOPLE WHO CANNOT SEE
OF PEOPLE WHO CANNOT BE WHAT THEY WERE BORN TO BE

THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN THIS
THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN BLACK
THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN WATCHING FOR OUR BACKS
FROM SOMETHING WE CANNOT NAME
AND SOMETHING WE CANNOT EVEN TRY TO PASS THE BLAME

THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN THIS
THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN THIS
THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE
THAN THIS

BETHANY

[Off.] Lelena!

CARA

I'd better leave.

LELENA

Yes. See you after.