

The Waiting

Written By: Ella Hite and Nicholas Gilomen
Directed By: Annaliese Bauer and Shannon Liza

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

DEATH: Played by Autumn. She is a loving, ethereal being. She is calm, cool, and collected, but she does not kindly to those who commit actions that are inherently evil in themselves (i.e. murder, rape, torture).

BAL: Played by Colm. God of Light. Major Crack-Head energy. Flamboyant. Caring to those making their transition to the bright eternity.

SHIN: Played by Jackson. Helper of the Underworld. Only speaks when necessary for his job. Mysterious. Secretly loves to see people pay for their actions, good or bad.

BIANCA: Played by Aijsa. Your typical girl next door. Kind, polite, and caring. Wishes people noticed her more. Is in love with her friend named Taylor, who passed away. Died of a broken heart.

BRADY: Played by Noah. Loves his key chain, and it represents trust and independence for him. Hopeful. Grounded in reality. Wishes his parents trusted him. Died in a car crash.

FAYE: Played by Danielle. Loyal. Loves her friends. Generous. Understanding. Funny and Sarcastic. Died from pushing her friend out of the way of a semi-truck that lost control.

DECLAN: Played by Devin. Jaded. Mature. Serious. Wary. Resourceful. Is an orphan because his parents gave him up. Died from getting electrocuted by a subway track after falling onto it while on his way to work.

ELI: Played by Shane. Arrogant and judgmental but not obvious at first glance. His sister was killed a couple of years ago, and he hasn't gotten over it. Wants to see her again. Died from a murder-suicide.

SETTING

There are two rooms but no clear defined doors. Except for one on far SL. In one room, there are the waiting. They are sandwiched between the door and the helpers' room. Bianca is closest to the helpers' room while Eli is close to the mysterious door. Declan, Brady, and Faye can be anywhere else. In the helpers' room is Death, Bal, and Shin

- The Waiting -

(Bal guides Bianca into the helpers' room.)

DEATH

Pure, innocent Bianca.

(Bianca sits down with Death.)

DEATH

Do you know why you're here?

(Bianca nods)

And do you know who I am?

(Bianca shakes her head)

I'm Death.

BIANCA

I thought you-you looked different.

DEATH

Ah, yes. The dark hooded figure with the scythe. For the record, I own none of those things. You've already met Bal.

(Bal waves vigorously.)

And this is Shin.

(Shin stands still while Bal tries to get him to wave.)

Bal, can you hand me the file.

(Bal hands Death a white file folder. Death begins to skim through it.)

You have a clean file.

BIANCA

Then why am I still here?

DEATH

Does Taylor ring a bell?

BIANCA

(a beat)

Yes.

DEATH

And from the intel we've gathered on you, we noticed that you craved attention. You wished people would see and appreciate you. But Taylor-

BIANCA

Taylor saw me for who I was. He made me feel good. And when he passed, I was lost.

DEATH

I have a deal for you. You could return to the land of the living and gain the respect, attention, and luxury you crave from others.

(While Death says this Shin tries to tempt her to take the offer through movement.)

But there's no guarantee you'll ever see Taylor again, or you can pass on with the guarantee that you will spend the rest of eternity with Taylor.

BIANCA

(Bianca pauses)

Taylor. I choose Taylor. While that would be a nice life, I can't imagine living without him.

DEATH

Bal, lead the way.

BAL

You have to introduce me to Taylor. I saw a glimpse of him in the file and-you have to introduce me! He seems amazing!

BIANCA

He's more perfect than words can describe.

(They exit off SR.)

FAYE

I didn't hear screaming, so I'm assuming that's the right way to go.

BRADY

She wasn't in there that long, so it must be easy.

ELI

Then that means I'll get to see my sister again!

BAL

(skips in with a guitar and strums a chord)

Brady! Get on in here man!

BRADY

See? Easy?

(They enter the room.)

You're Death?

DEATH

Yes, have a seat.

(Brady sits, and Bal hands Death a blue file.)

A lot of good things in here.

BAL

Alright!

(Bal strums vigorously on the guitar. Shin stops him by any means necessary without breaking the guitar. Death shakes her head.)

DEATH

Anyway, I'm seeing something here that intrigues me.

(Death pulls out a ring of keys.)

Do these look familiar to you?

BRADY

Those are my keys!

DEATH

(Death hands them to Shin.)

But there was always one you could never have. You had one for your car.

(Shin takes that key off the ring and drops it into an overturned box.)

And for your apartment.

(Shin drops that key.)

One for your girlfriend's apartment.

(Shin drops that key.)

But never one for your parents' home.

(Shin drops the key ring.)

BRADY

I just wanted their trust. But I never got it. I should have just been thankful for what I had...And I am. It doesn't matter that I never got that key. I had a good life.

(Death pulls out a key and hands it to Brady.)

DEATH

Bal, lead the way.

BAL

That key is so cool! Can I hold it?

(Brady clutches the key tightly and shakes his head.)

We don't have any locks here cause...you know?

(They exit off SR.)

DECLAN

What do you think they talk about in there?

FAYE

I have no idea. Maybe they count out how many times you killed a bug or something and give you a score.

ELI

Well I hope I have a good score. It's been two years since I've seen my sister.

BAL

(twirls into the room)

Faye let's go girl! Eternity awaits you!

DEATH

Ah Loyal Faye! Have a seat.

FAYE

So what's my score.

DEATH

There's no score, but we will be reviewing your time on Earth.

FAYE

That somehow feels worse...

DEATH

You had a lot of friends that could rely on you.

FAYE

Yeah they were all such great messes. I have no idea how they're gonna survive without me. Anyway I can haunt them?

DEATH

(giggles)

Your devotion to them is sweet, but that's not how this is going to work

(Death hands photos to Shin. He begins to rip them one by one.)

FAYE

No! Please! Those photos are when we were our happiest! I'm so afraid I'll forget what they look like.

DEATH

But the experiences you had will never fade from you.

FAYE

(Beat)

You're right. They'll always be with me even without the photos. I'm sure they got things covered back there.

DEATH

Bal, lead the way.

BAL

I have so many people over here I would absolutely love to introduce you to!

FAYE

Bring it on!

(They exit SR)

DECLAN

If we use her logic, no screams means she's ok.

ELI

So far, everyone has made it. We are for sure going to see our loved ones.

BAL

(glides in)

Batter up Declan!

DECLAN

(mumbling)

I hate baseball.

DEATH

Declan the miracle man. It's a pleasure.

(Bal hands her the yellow file. She reviews it.)

DECLAN

Is that what The Big Man calls me?

DEATH

No, but he should. You've lived a hard life. No mom, no dad, and somehow you managed. Where others would have sunk, you swam. *(Beat)* I suspect you hold some resentment.

DECLAN

It wasn't fair. I never had a childhood because of them. I didn't...what is he holding?

(He points at the white mask Shin is holding. Shin puts it on)

DEATH

Be warned, we won't be able to see what you see.

BAL

Yeah, I just see a stupid white mask.

(Shin turns his head slowly towards Bal in disapproval)

Sorry...

DECLAN

(notices a change in the mask only visible to him)

Who is this? Is that my Dad?

(Seeing a new face on the mask)

And is that my Mom? *(Beat)* I had a speech ready my entire life, and I dreamed of the day I could tell them off. But now? The only thing I want is to be with them.

DEATH

Bal, lead the way.

(Bal runs on with Blue Ball)

BAL

I figured you and your dad could play catch, so I found the coolest ball I could find...besides me.

(Bal throws the Blue Ball to Declan. He catches it and is filled with happiness. They exit SR, but this time Bal doesn't return for the rest of the show)

ELI

This is it! I'm one step closer to be reunited with her.

(Shin walks toward Eli)

Oh, hey. Where's the other guy? *(Beat)* Oh is it my turn?

(Shin nods and guides Eli into the room)

DEATH

Sit down.

ELI

So how long is this gonna take? I really want to see my sister.

DEATH

That will all depend on what you choose.

ELI

What do you mean? I've been good!

DEATH

You call killing a man good?

ELI

(Beat)

That man killed my sister.

DEATH

You knew this man yet you were so quick to judge him.

ELI

You didn't know Christian like I did. He was no good for my sister. I know he did it.

DEATH

Christian didn't kill your sister.

(Eli let's that sink in)

I'm going to give you a deal. I can send you back to the land of the living before you killed Christian, but you must promise to live your life free of making Death's judgements. If you do this, I guarantee you will see your sister, or you can accept your fate as it is.

ELI

I choose to go back *(Beat)* and this time I'll get the right bastard.

DEATH

(stands for the first time)

Shin, lead Eli away.

ELI

Wait what?! I thought we had a deal!

DEATH

It is not your place to be making my judgements no matter what that person has done.

ELI

Am I going to see my sister? *(Beat)* Am I going to see my sister? *(Beat)* AM I GOING TO SEE MY SISTER?!

(Eli is screaming and about to go berserk when Shin grabs him)

SHIN

You are not going to see her.

(Shin places Eli in a trance, and Eli walks himself to the door SL. He exits.)

END OF PLAY