

Scene Five

(**DAPHNE** and **DIONYSUS** are working on the play. **DAPHNE** is typing. They're both worked up with the excitement of creation – and the pace and tone of the scene are red hot.)

DIONYSUS. We're close to the end!

DAPHNE. Oh Lord Apollo, I love this.

DIONYSUS. All right, the monster's dead and the chains are broken.

DAPHNE. And Perseus and Andromeda are alone. So what does she say?

DIONYSUS. She says, she says –

DAPHNE. "My days on earth were not complete – were not Fulfilled until at last your hand reached out And touched my cheek."

DIONYSUS. Oooh, that's good! Keep going, keep going. Think of Andromeda when the monster comes. He needs a name. We'll call him Fred. Fred the Monster. Ooh, that's good. She sees him and cries, "Woe. O woe is me!" I hope you're getting this. "Get back you slimy beast!" Then Perseus appears in the sky. He's wearing those sandals with the little wings. "I come from the heavens, heavens, heavens, heavens. To save you, save you, save you!" And down he swoops to fight the filthy beast of Death. "Take *that* and *that* and now some of *that*, you beast!" And he plunges his sword into Fred's neck and he dies in agony! "Gyyyyyaaaaaaaaa! Fred, not Perseus. "Gryyyyyaaaaaaaa! Glug."

DAPHNE. Done.

(**DAPHNE** jumps ups and pulls the paper from the typewriter. She has used carbons so they both have copies of what she's written. She hands him one.)

Here, let's read it. See what you think. You read Perseus.

(They read the typescript – and they read it with absolute passion – the passion of Romeo and Juliet at the height of their discovery and ecstasy. The scene gets hotter and hotter and their sexual temperatures get higher and higher as they throw themselves into it. By the end, **DAPHNE**'s final cry of "Perseus!" is sheer orgasm.)

START:

"My days on earth were not complete, were not Fulfilled until at last your hand reached out And touched my cheek."

DIONYSUS. "I raced through time and spirit to unite our souls.

And though I hold you now, your head is filled With nightmares of the beast,"

DAPHNE. "O when it first appeared, my blood was cold, And in my fear, I looked to heaven,"

DIONYSUS. "and there

You saw a speck on the sun, a puzzlement,"

DAPHNE. "And then it grew and came to life."

DIONYSUS. "And from high above, I heard your voice, And I sprang to action,"

DAPHNE. "And you came!"

DIONYSUS. "I did!"

DAPHNE. (Rising to a pitch of excitement.) "And then I cried out to the Sun itself: 'O Chariot Of the Sky, I beg you to hasten and race To the West and bring me NIGHT and BED and LOVE, O bring me PERSEUS!'"

(And she grabs him and kisses him passionately.)

DIONYSUS. No. No, no. Bad idea. I would take advantage of you.

DAPHNE. (Kissing his neck and his chest.) Take advantage.

DIONYSUS. Stop it!

DAPHNE. I can't help myself.

DIONYSUS. Of course not, I'm a god.

DAPHNE. Ohhhhh...

DIONYSUS. Look, you're very attractive. You're-you're-you're a flower –

DAPHNE. Then pluck me. Please! I want a life! I want experience! And not only that, it's in your instructions.

DIONYSUS. How do you know?

DAPHNE. Because I have the scroll.

(She pulls out the scroll. DIONYSUS is shocked. He feels his pockets.)

DIONYSUS. Hey, give that back!

DAPHNE. It says right here: "She needs an *adventure* and a *happy ending*."

DIONYSUS. *(Tussling for it.)* Would you just – just –

DAPHNE. Don't you understand, I'm made of marble and I want to live! *So carve me. Chisel me. Take me this instant and make something new!*

(She lets her blouse down from her shoulders, and from the back she looks like a nude Greek statue in marble. From the front, which only DIONYSUS can see, she's naked.)

DIONYSUS. *NO!* Put that back on, young lady! You need some serious help.

DAPHNE. *(Desperate.)* I do need help. I am so stressed out! *(She cries.)*

DIONYSUS. Stressed out?

DAPHNE. "Full of anxiety, nervous, uneasy."

(They look at each other...and her tears stop and they both burst into laughter. All the anxiety and stress about the book and DAPHNE's identity are released, and they scream with laughter. DIONYSUS imitates DAPHNE flashing him -.)

DIONYSUS. Whoop!

(And they laugh all the harder. Then:)

DAPHNE. It's not funny! You were supposed to help me find the play and I don't even know how I lost it! I mean I was sitting there reading *Medea*, then Aleksi came in, we chatted for a minute, he said he'd come back and I went downstairs and then Aleksi – ...

(Suddenly she sees the light and gasps.)

Aleksi. That's it. Yes! Yes! That's it! I need his phone number! I'll be right back! Oh *Aleks!*

(She runs off.)

(At which moment, THALIA hurries in.)

(She looks like THALIA again – and she's not, of course, wearing the DEAN's costume. She's back in her Greek clothes, and she's wearing her glasses and carries the book from the vault.)

THALIA. Di.

DIONYSUS. Thalia! Quick!

THALIA. What is it?

DIONYSUS. It's Daphne! She's going off the rails. She took off her blouse.

THALIA. Di, that always happens. It's what we do. We're like *Spring Awakening*.

DIONYSUS. I know, but she's just so innocent and-and-and vulnerable.

THALIA. Yeah, Ralph is like that. Only I'm keepin' him.

DIONYSUS. Oh you are not. You always say that.

THALIA. I am!

DIONYSUS. You're not. He's mortal.

THALIA. So what? I could be mortal.

DIONYSUS. Oh sure. That would last about ten minutes. "My nails, my nails!"

END: