

RESTORATION

by

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Cast:

Gary Davenport..... Male,19.

Cassie Davenport ..... Female, 40s. Gary's mother.

Adam Biersch..... Female, 40s. Gary's mother.

Time:

The Present

Place:

The kitchen in the Davenport home.

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(Lights up on a kitchen. Cassie is on the phone)

CASSIE

Oh my God...But, but, it's can't be today...But...don't "Cassie!" me...sorry...He's in the other room...How will I know if it's him...OK...But...you can't be serious..."Pineapple Juice"... "Pineapple Juice", damn it!...I'm sorry...I'll do it...Thank you, for everything.

(Hangs up phone)

Gary!

GARY

(From offstage)

What?

CASSIE

I need to speak with you. Right away.

GARY

Just a minute!

CASSIE

Now, Gary! Right now!

GARY

(Enters, with three tennis balls)

Mom, I'm on my way to out to dinner. What is it?

CASSIE

Listen to me...you need to leave.

GARY

Excuse me?

CASSIE

You're in terrible danger!

GARY

Again?

(Cassie turns away to compose herself. Gary starts to juggle the three tennis balls)

CASSIE

This time it's different. I should have told you...a long time ago.

GARY  
Told me what?

CASSIE  
But I thought I had more time.  
(Beat)  
Gary...?  
(She turns around and notices Gary juggling)  
What are you doing?! Stop it!

GARY  
I have to practice.

CASSIE  
Stop!

GARY  
(Stops)  
Okay, Mom. I've had enough. Good night.

CASSIE  
Gary! Please...where did you learn that?

GARY  
I needed to learn it for a part.

CASSIE  
A part?

GARY  
Yeah. I...I am going to act. In a play.

CASSIE  
What?!

GARY  
That's right. A play.

CASSIE  
No, you're not.

GARY  
Mom, I'm 19. I can make my own decisions. It goes for the summer. It will be done before I go back to school.

CASSIE  
I suppose you're drinking, too.

GARY  
Whatever. I haven't eaten all day. I'm famished. I'll see you later.

CASSIE  
Please don't!

GARY  
I'll be back tonight.

CASSIE  
It's not safe.

GARY  
You always say that.

CASSIE  
But today...

GARY  
What?

CASSIE  
There's a car coming to take you to a safehouse.

GARY  
A...what?

CASSIE  
A safehouse. Where they can't find you.

GARY  
What? Who can't find me?

CASSIE  
Don't ask questions. When Adam gets here in a couple of minutes, he'll drive you there.

GARY  
What? No!

CASSIE  
After a couple of days, we'll transfer you—

Mom... GARY

To some place out of state. CASSIE

I'm not going anywhere. GARY

You have to! CASSIE

Why? GARY

Adam will explain in the car. CASSIE

Fine. GARY  
(Starts juggling)

Gary! CASSIE

I'm going to keep doing this until you tell me what's going on. GARY

Gary, please stop. CASSIE

No. GARY

Gary! CASSIE

Not until you explain! GARY

(Adam enters from right, carrying a backpack)

Oh my God. He's juggling! ADAM



You're Adam? GARY

Password! CASSIE

Sorry. "Pineapple Juice". ADAM

Thank God you're here. He's asking questions. CASSIE

The Vaudevillians will be here in five minutes. We don't have time. ADAM

The what?! GARY  
(Stops juggling)

He doesn't know anything. CASSIE

Nothing?! ADAM

The who?! GARY

No. CASSIE

Gary, listen to me. The Vaudevillians are basically...a cult. They believe that you are the incarnation of the Greek god Bacchus. Or that you will be. ADAM

That's crazy. GARY

I agree. ADAM

It's real. CASSIE

Vaudevillians as in...Vaudeville? GARY

ADAM  
Yes.

CASSIE  
It was a project. Vaudeville was a 50 year project to bring Bacchus back to Earth.

ADAM  
Cassie...

CASSIE  
Prohibition was an effort to stop it. And then Hollywood destroyed Vaudeville for good. Or so we thought.

ADAM  
Cassie! Please. You're not helping.

GARY  
I'm going to leave now. Not with you.

ADAM  
Gary! Don't! Look, it doesn't matter if it's true. What matters is that they believe it.

GARY  
These... Vaudeville people.

ADAM  
Yes. And they're coming. Now. Just let me get you someplace safe.

GARY  
And who are you?

ADAM  
I'm with an anti-cult organization—

CASSIE  
Attached to the Motion Picture Association of America!

ADAM  
Cassie... we've been working with your mother for a while now. Look, I know this is difficult. I know you think this is crazy, but—

GARY  
Why me?

Gary... CASSIE

You've never told him? ADAM

It's the shame of the family. CASSIE

What is? GARY

(Beat)

If it's about uncle Phil and the way he go into the forest and dresses up like a—

No! It's...it's... CASSIE

Your great-grandfather. ADAM

The one who died in the War? GARY

No...your great-grandfather...your real great-grandfather...I never told you. He was member of Vaudeville. Drank heavily. Perfect vessel for Bacchus. CASSIE

I did the genealogy stuff. None of our family were actors. GARY

It was an accident. An illegitimate birth. We covered it up, but...they found out. I don't know how, but they found out. CASSIE

And what was his name? GARY

Fields. W.C. Fields. ADAM

Oh come on. Oh come on! GARY

It's true. CASSIE

No it is not!

GARY

Gary! Do you know how he got his start in performing?

ADAM

How?

GARY

As a juggler.

ADAM

Oh.

GARY

You see?

CASSIE

But...but...

GARY

Have you started drinking martinis yet?

CASSIE

How did you...that's what he drank, isn't it?

GARY

(A loud knock is heard from offstage left)

ADAM

It's them. Gary, I need a decision.

GARY

Mom, do you trust Adam?

CASSIE

Yes.

GARY

All right. I'll go.

CASSIE

Thank you!

GARY

But only if we can get some dinner along the way.

ADAM  
I've got food at the safehouse.  
(Louder pounding at the door)  
Cassie, you hold them off. Distract them. For just a minute. We'll get going.

CASSIE  
But—

ADAM  
Please!

CASSIE  
You take care of my son!

ADAM  
I will.

CASSIE  
(To Gary)  
I love you!

GARY  
I love you, too.  
(They hug briefly, then Cassie exits, left)

ADAM  
Come on. Oh, here, have one of these.  
(Hands Gary a juice can out of his backpack)  
It'll help tide you over.

GARY  
Thanks. What is it?

ADAM  
Just pineapple juice.

GARY  
Thanks.  
(Opens the can and drinks)

ADAM  
You're welcome.

GARY  
Tastes funny.

ADAM

That's because it has gin in it.

GARY

Gin?! Why would you have gin in...in...

ADAM

Because my Lord cannot enter the mind of a sober man.

GARY

(Possessed by Bacchus)

Thank you.

ADAM

It is an honor, my Lord.

GARY

Let us go. We have a world to build.

(They exit. Lights down)

THE END