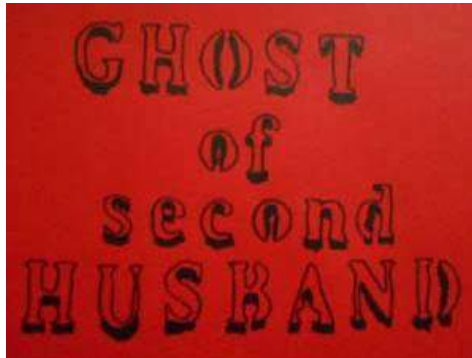


Kate Aksonova. Ghost of second husband.



Characters:

Jacqueline Frost
Nathaniel Brand
Roger Bleed – detective
Cecelia Mood – sergeant
Wendy, Gwendolyn Brand – Nathaniel's widow
Stanley Brand - Nathaniel's brother
Earl Morel – Nathaniel's co-worker
Gregory Cunningham – Jacqueline's boyfriend

Scene 1.



Home office, all walls with book's shelves. Table near window. On sofa sits Jacqueline, reads papers aloud. Glasses, red pen is in the hand.



JACQUELINE: "It was midnight. Till dawn were several hours. Birds still sleep, wait for morning." You could write just "Midnight". Everything else is repetition. "Skinny Margerry feels cold of night". Midnight I will also delete. "Cold fingers of man touched her cold skin". Cold, cold. Did you put your story in a fridge? How she could feel cold, when she froze before? Writers, worse could be only aspiring writers. "His cold fingers touched her neck, her skin, her hair. She knew, it was him, for him she waited." Where is a scream? It's a vampire, my dear, not your best friend.

I am exhausted. Any social life, at weekend I read drafts.

(Puts away her glasses).



With Nathaniel everything was different. He showed how to live, no matter that he is a bit classic crazy professor. For him I left boring Freddy and even few times cheated Greg.

Nathaniel, bastard, why you wanted to marry Gwendolyn?

Scene 2.



Enters Nathaniel, he is very pale, he is ghost.

NATHANIEL: I believed it was love.

JACQUELINE: Oh my God, never do it again. I beg you never. Put keys on table and forget way to that house, Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL: Jacqueline, I'm impressed that you didn't scare. I am pleased that chose you.

JACQUELINE: What are you talking about? Came to my house, mystery is my second name, in the middle of the night.

NATHANIEL: Dear, if you didn't mind, put your glasses on.

JACQUELINE: What will vary? And don't call me dear, you have a wife, remember, another wife. (puts on glasses)



NATHANIEL: What do you notice?

JACQUELINE: You look pale. New clothes? Something happened?

NATHANIEL: To notify the truth, yes.

JACQUELINE: I'm listening.

NATHANIEL: I'm dead.

JACQUELINE: Quirky jest.

NATHANIEL: Believe me, in few minutes police will call you.

JACQUELINE: It's still not witty.

NATHANIEL: I realize. I just didn't change the name to whom call in case of my death, accident or..

JACQUELINE: Shut up.

NATHANIEL: You can touch me, or better not. I could predict it will be not pleasant experience.

JACQUELINE: You insist that you are dead.

NATHANIEL: I'm sure.

JACQUELINE: It's your last goodbye.

NATHANIEL: It seems so.

JACQUELINE: Bye, Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL: That's all.

JACQUELINE: Did you come for my tears?

NATHANIEL: I didn't convince you.

JACQUELINE: Bingo.

NATHANIEL: On your way of thinking, if I become dead I can't on my own wish visit you.

JACQUELINE: But you dropped by.

NATHANIEL: Because I was poisoned.

JACQUELINE: You selected me, because believe, that I couldn't murder you!

NATHANIEL: Was such idea. You will solve that case, like in story with purse.

JACQUELINE: I'm editor of mystery novels. Now it's also vampires love stories, novels, awful. Few books about magic. I don't rely on yours narrative.

NATHANIEL: Time for phone call. Three, two, one.

Door bell rings.

JACQUELINE: Phone call. Ghost, you are helpless.

Jacqueline exits from the room.



Nathaniel sits on chair, he is in despair.



NATHANIEL: She didn't trust my words. Was it poison from the game? Which one? I hadn't time to solve the game.

Scene 3.



Enter Jacqueline and two police officers.

BLEED: Sorry, to disturb you in the middle of the night. Are you Jacqueline Frost, Dark Road, 12?

JACQUELINE: Yes, I am, officers. And you find shortest way here. What I could do for you?

BLEED: Detective Roger Bleed and sergeant Cecilia Mood. We are here to tell you that Nathaniel Brand, your first husband is dead.

JACQUELINE: Second husband.

MOOD: Sorry, second husband. We are sorry.

JACQUELINE: Sergeant Mood, did you kill him?

MOOD: Why me?

JACQUELINE: Why you are sorry?

BLEED: Do you need some water?

JACQUELINE: Why I have to accept that's true?

MOOD: We are from police.

JACQUELINE: It could be Nathaniel's bad joke.



BLEED: Was it usual for him, such behaviour.

JACQUELINE: No. But after death he could change, couldn't he?

MOOD: Jacqueline, ought we call someone who will be with you, or our therapist will support you.

JACQUELINE: I'm fine. If I could be in order. Why me?

MOOD: Sorry, Mrs Frost. What why you?

JACQUELINE: If Nathaniel is dead, you have to be near his wife, Gwendolyn, not in my house.

BLEED: Few of our people are there.

JACQUELINE: I need one phone call, sorry.

Jacqueline quickly makes a phone call.

JACQUELINE: Stanley, yes it's me. Police is here. Yes. It's true. I know. I'll call you later.

BLEED: His brother, Stanley Brand, was already informed. We usually don't inform ex-wives, but in Nathaniel's documents was mention...

JACQUELINE: In case of death notify... So, it's not pretending. Officer, can you open window, here is too hot.

Jacqueline sits on sofa, near her sits sergeant Mood. Bleed opens window.



MOOD: Some water.

JACQUELINE: On the table, in bottle, I'm lazy to bring cup every time.

Jacqueline drinks water.

Nathaniel stays near her.

JACQUELINE: So, it's definitely...

Nathaniel shrugs shoulders.

JACQUELINE: Officers, you have questions to me. Sorry for my response. I was revising a novel about vampire, ghost of ex-husband, who returns to his wife and possibly I felt asleep. Than you came, I... It was like nightmare with "to be continued". When and how died Nathaniel?

BLEED: We used to different behaviour, yours was calm example. Mr Brand died in his office.

JACQUELINE: Home office?

MOOD: Yes. His wife worried that he too long stayed with papers. She found him.

JACQUELINE: Case of death?

BLEED: We can't say nothing at that moment.

JACQUELINE: Nothing suspicious?

MOOD: Why you ask?

JACQUELINE: Police came in the middle of the night. I revise drafts of mystery novels for fifteen years. I recognize some usual procedures.

BLEED: Are you interested in magic and esoteric?

Bleed takes cards from the shelf.

JACQUELINE: I...

Nathaniel starts to nod.



JACQUELINE: I don't like to discuss. Yes.

BLEED: Hobby!

JACQUELINE: Experience of enlightenment.

BLEED: Gripping, I was in Tibet.

MOOD: Sir.

JACQUELINE: El Castillo, Chicken Itza, Temple of Kukulcan, Mexica.

BLEED: Extraordinary.

MOOD: When was last time when you saw your husband?

JACQUELINE: Freddy, on funeral of his aunt Lizzy, lovely woman, I frequently visited her in hospital.

MOOD: Madam.

JACQUELINE: Husband, I haven't a husband. Greg? Month ago, before he went back to Mexico. There was a problem in hotel. He needed to stay there.

MOOD: Nathaniel Brand.

JACQUELINE: Of course. If don't count today... When you told me about his death. Two, three month, I will check in my papers, exhibition of modern art, I suppose. Before that more regularly. He wasn't depressed, anything unusual and he didn't complain about mortal danger.

BLEED: Why you said all that?

JACQUELINE: Answered all questions which you want to ask.

MOOD: Thank you, it was informative. We will visit you later, when it will be necessary.

BLEED: Mayan, how atypical.

MOOD: If you memorize something else.

JACQUELINE: Offbeat or significant, I will call you.



Mood and Bleed exit.

Scene 4.

NATHANIEL: If nothing changed... Milton "Lost Paradise".

JACQUELINE: Third shelf in left bookcase. Can you touch items and bring them?

NATHANIEL: We'll find out now.

Nathaniel comes to the shelf and quickly reaches the book.

JACQUELINE: Amazing.

NATHANIEL: Oh, yes. With quality to enter through walls.

JACQUELINE: You could use keys.

NATHANIEL: Now I experienced that.

Nathaniel opens book, inside it is flask, he opens a flask, pours liquid in the cover and proposes to Jacqueline.

JACQUELINE: Thank you. You are cold, just inform.



NATHANIEL: Should be.

JACQUELINE: You accidentally not became a vampire or something like that.

NATHANIEL: I had to be beaten by vampire, if I'm right.

JACQUELINE: You are dead, you could forget.

NATHANIEL: Believe me, such thing I could remember, even without my notebook. By the way, why you are so calm. Not a scream, nothing.

JACQUELINE: It all will pass in the morning.

NATHANIEL: What?

JACQUELINE: I have a terrible flue, Greg advised me new strong medicine. Not common from plastic surgeon, but I tried. I feel better, but became numb of emotions. Inside I want to scream and run away from you.

NATHANIEL: Could be, but I think it's also because you always liked me, even dead.

JACQUELINE: Shut up. Give me more whisky.

NATHANIEL: And with that medicine. Where is prescription? I created them all my life, I know what to look for.



JACQUELINE: Somewhere on the table. All my life. Chemistry teacher, than you creating medicine on daily basic, Greg with his plastic surgery. Don't you think that I am predictable, Nathaniel?

NATHANIEL: I am sure you are drank, alcohol was strictly prohibited. Go to sleep.

JACQUELINE: You wait for my help.

NATHANIEL: I'll postpone.

Jacqueline lays on sofa.

Nathaniel sits near her feet.



JACQUELINE: Promise me that tomorrow you'll disappear. Fine?

NATHANIEL: I can't guarantee.

Blackout.

Scene 5.

Morning light through window.



Jacqueline wakes up.

JACQUELINE: Such terrible headache. What was yesterday? "Cold fingers touched her skin". It was a novel. Than Nathaniel. Oh God, he is dead. Police. Where it is?

Jacqueline searches in the pocket, stares at visiting card.

JACQUELINE: Here it is. Phone of police. But Nathaniel was here as ghost. I imagine... Flask is on the table.

Oh, no! Nathaniel! Nathaniel!

Scene 6.

Enters Nathaniel with coffee tray on which is also a newspaper.



NATHANIEL: You called me.

JACQUELINE: You didn't vanish.

NATHANIEL: One we could admit. (Nathaniel puts coffee tray on table) I'm not a vampire. Day light is not fatal for me. I could make coffee. Open and read newspaper. If Greg absence is difficult to you, we could check another abilities which I had when was alive.

JACQUELINE: Even death didn't make you different.

NATHANIEL: Were precedents, you know.

JACQUELINE: "Dona Flor and her two husbands" by Jorge Amado.

NATHANIEL: I'm glad that you follow instantly. And?

JACQUELINE: You have your wife. Or now, widow, Gwendolyn, Wendy, to check it.

NATHANIEL: Even at that moment you will reproach me for my mistakes.

JACQUELINE: Maybe I need more excuses than your death.

NATHANIEL: I'm glad that you didn't scream or want to run.

JACQUELINE: I agree, it will be more suitable. But if it's my destiny to had ghost in my life, I would prefer ghost which is familiar to me. Whom I could blackmail about past.

NATHANIEL: I never had such experience with Wendy.

JACQUELINE: It suppose to sound like music to my ears, I pretend that it is. Why are you not with her?

NATHANIEL: It's complicated. You don't understand and I can't explain.

JACQUELINE: You suspect that you were murdered.

NATHANIEL: It happens all the time.

JACQUELINE: What will receive Gwendolyn after your death?

NATHANIEL: Everything.

JACQUELINE: It's a lot. They didn't suspect me.

NATHANIEL: I didn't figure it out.

JACQUELINE: I could be assassin. You are here, you know it wasn't me. Why I have to kill you?

NATHANIEL: For you will be more suitable end of next year.

JACQUELINE: What?

NATHANIEL: Why Greg is in Mexica?

JACQUELINE: You heard, when I explain to police. Problems with business which he had there, cheap plastic surgery.

NATHANIEL: Phones often.

JACQUELINE: Are you a talkative ghost?

NATHANIEL: Excuse me?

JACQUELINE: Do you know another ghost to whom you could tell a secrets?

NATHANIEL: As far as I know, I am alone. At least, here.

JACQUELINE: Gregory became mad.

NATHANIEL: Old news.

JACQUELINE: You never liked him.

NATHANIEL: And you became best friends with Wendy.

JACQUELINE: It's incompatible.

NATHANIEL: Since when?

JACQUELINE: All money from business Greg spends on researches.

NATHANIEL: To find new medicine which was secretly left in Mayan's temples.

JACQUELINE: How did you realize?

NATHANIEL: Before death he came to me.

JACQUELINE: Greg is alive!

NATHANIEL: My death. Calm down. Greg loaned money for research.

JACQUELINE: Did you donate?

NATHANIEL: A little.

JACQUELINE: Nathaniel!

NATHANIEL: Enough.

JACQUELINE: What for?

NATHANIEL: My new medicine, which will help as vitamins. It will enter market on the end of next year. It was my plan. It's lot of money. I was in good humour and because of him I did it.

JACQUELINE: What did you do?

NATHANIEL: You are successor of that project and it will be fortune. Not now, but soon will be.

JACQUELINE: Police will return to me.

NATHANIEL: You was unaware.

JACQUELINE: Now I am. You insist that was murdered.

NATHANIEL: I think, poisoned.

JACQUELINE: You didn't come to Gwendolyn, you suspect her.



NATHANIEL: She had no idea that I left you something. It's huge money, even before market opens.

JACQUELINE: Who else?

NATHANIEL: Stanley was at home.

JACQUELINE: At your home?

NATHANIEL: Water, neighbours or electricity. Neighbours. I didn't listen to him. Ask Wendy.

JACQUELINE: Do you suspect your brother?

NATHANIEL: He slept with Gwendolyn.

JACQUELINE: Did he know it?

NATHANIEL: I think so, he was conscious.

JACQUELINE: Did he find out that you know about them?

NATHANIEL: She was his girlfriend five years ago, but they broke up before I connected with Wendy.

JACQUELINE: Maybe, you'll add me to list of suspects and left me alone.

NATHANIEL: Nice try. Also was Earl Morel, you know him well, he is still in love with you. He was in our house last night.
JACQUELINE: When you opened a hotel?
NATHANIEL: He felt sick at evening. Doctor said nothing serious.
JACQUELINE: Doctor also spend that night at your house.
NATHANIEL: No, he returned home. Why you ask?
JACQUELINE: I count suspects. Why it's important to Earl?
NATHANIEL: When I'm dead, he will put his name first at unfinished projects.
JACQUELINE: Or finish them in your honour.
NATHANIEL: You listened to me when I told you.
JACQUELINE: Attentively, I waited when you'll shut up.
NATHANIEL: Important things I taught you. It's time to came to my house.



JACQUELINE: Are you serious? What I will do there?
NATHANIEL: Find my murderer.
JACQUELINE: How?
NATHANIEL: You'll pretend that you could read future and said to everyone: "You are the killer".
JACQUELINE: Past.
NATHANIEL: What past?
JACQUELINE: If you are dead, it's past, not future.
NATHANIEL: Clairvoyance, reading cards. I saw that detective Bleed was impressed about your enlightening.
JACQUELINE: And who will kill me, will be your killer. Than we together became a pair of ghosts.
NATHANIEL: I see it differently. But scaring people... From whom you'll start?
JACQUELINE: If you are already dead?
NATHANIEL: I'm glad that we observe this situation in the same way. Go. We need to find my killer. Who could predict for how long I'll exist in such state?
JACQUELINE: It's stupid, irrational.
NATHANIEL: Agree. Instead of this dangerous journey, we could stay and check my abilities...



JACQUELINE: Go. Need I tell condolences to Wendy?

NATHANIEL: On your taste, my dear.



Jacqueline and Nathaniel exit.



Blackout.

Jacqueline and Nathaniel return.



JACQUELINE: Why you remembered about that only in car?

NATHANIEL: I'm stressed, I'm dead. Be respectful.

JACQUELINE: What I have to take?

NATHANIEL: Greg brought a lot of souvenirs. Even to me made a gift of Kukulkan statue.

JACQUELINE: It won't work.

NATHANIEL: Palm reading.

JACQUELINE: Shut up for a moment. Mayan Tarot.

NATHANIEL: Are you confident in the meaning?

JACQUELINE: I revised book about them.

NATHANIEL: Now we could start an investigation.

Nathaniel and Jacqueline exit.

Blackout.

Scene 7.



Living room of lavish Nathaniel's house.



Enter Jacqueline with Stanley.

STANLEY: I'm glad that you came.

JACQUELINE: I convince myself that I should.

STANLEY: It's terrible.

JACQUELINE: I still shivering. When police came to me. I didn't trust the news, I firstly phoned to you. I supposed it was misunderstanding.

STANLEY: Wendy, Gwendolyn, found him. Why police disturb you?

JACQUELINE: He didn't change person to whom call in case of his death.

STANLEY: Was it necessary if he died at home?

JACQUELINE: I have no idea. True. When they visit it was after midnight, I didn't muse about it.

STANLEY: They declared nothing, but... they suspect murder.

JACQUELINE: Of Nathaniel?!

STANLEY: I'm afraid so.

JACQUELINE: How is Gwendolyn?

STANLEY: Not bad.

JACQUELINE: Not bad?

STANLEY: You know she is historian, like me. She suggested it will be reasonable to organize bachelor and hen party on 13th, Friday, Inquisition style. And you observe how it ended.

JACQUELINE: I presumed it was about fire and Tampliers. Nathaniel described that would be more like in Maurice Druon's "The Accursed Kings" style.

STANLEY: Bad luck for Nathaniel. For us.

JACQUELINE: For us?

STANLEY: I didn't tell a lot of people, but I made a research. Our family, possibly, I am almost sure, are descendants of Tampliers.

Scene 8.

Enters Nathaniel.



NATHANIEL: For God's sake. In day of my death, could you forget that nonsense.

JACQUELINE: Oh, no.

STANLEY: Jacqueline, you also felt that wind of cold death.

JACQUELINE: More than you could imagine.

STANLEY: Gwendolyn made fun of everything.

JACQUELINE: I heard about you and Wendy, before Nathaniel.

STANLEY: Thank you. I always was on your side. I was against divorce.

NATHANIEL: Now he will tell that you are like sister to him.

STANLEY: I felt like older brother to you. I tried to stop Nathaniel.

JACQUELINE: Did police bring body back?

NATHANIEL: Back?

STANLEY: Not jet, because of that I think they behaviour is suspicious. They also grabbed with them Earl.

JACQUELINE: What for?

STANLEY: To check what happened with him. Why you are here?

JACQUELINE: To talk with Gwendolyn.

STANLEY: Why?

JACQUELINE: Because of...

STANLEY: Of what?

NATHANIEL: Me. Stupid block. Me.

JACQUELINE: Can I trust to you like to no one else?

STANLEY: Yes, you can.

JACQUELINE: Promise that Wendy didn't find out about that.

NATHANIEL: What are you doing? Hold on.

STANLEY: You can trust me.

JACQUELINE: When I was in Mexico, I became enlightened.

NATHANIEL: Good girl. I could die another time, really.

JACQUELINE: And now I could see things, which can't notice before.

STANLEY: I can't get it. What about?

JACQUELINE: After police went away, I opened card desk, now I see it and it was there.

STANLEY: What?

JACQUELINE: "You must overcome all your fears and transform yourself into a plumed serpent and hatch from the egg". It was it. Do you understand?

STANLEY: Not clear, Jacqueline.

JACQUELINE: Serpent, egg, you see. Nathaniel was poisoned by food.

NATHANIEL: If I was still alive, I would marry you again, my smartest woman.

STANLEY: I have no idea, how you found out it. But police took examples of all food in the house.

NATHANIEL: Why?

JACQUELINE: I could be right.

STANLEY: What else did you see?

NATHANIEL: Imagine something.

JACQUELINE: I could open cards here, in house where he was dead and will see. I ask Nathaniel's soul to give me answers.

NATHANIEL: I will do what is possible.

STANLEY: I am waiting.

Jacqueline starts to put cards on table.



JACQUELINE: 2. The Priestess of Ixchel. 7 Lances. 1 Suns Ace.

STANLEY: What does it mean?

NATHANIEL: We are in deep trouble.

JACQUELINE: First card it's woman, introvert.

STANLEY: Wendy, Gwendolyn. She closed in room, alone. She didn't cry, nothing, not a scream.

NATHANIEL: What I did wrong, if women didn't cry about me?

JACQUELINE: Second card is about entering "the secret temple to understand its secrets."

NATHANIEL: My office, where I died.

STANLEY: It could be Nathaniel's office. But police closed it.

JACQUELINE: Third card. Ace of suns "prosperity that leads to victory".

NATHANIEL: I was killed because of money.

STANLEY: Nathaniel was killed because had everything.

JACQUELINE: Anyone and everywhere. Why at home? Could I rest a little?

STANLEY: These talent is difficult for you, but one more card, who is the killer?

NATHANIEL: Don't do that! It's dangerous. Forget what I proposed to you.



JACQUELINE: 11 Torches. "A true friend, sincere and honest."

NATHANIEL: It can't be.

STANLEY: Nathaniel never could chose proper friends. Relax, Jacqueline, I will bring you something to drink. It's such predictable for him.



Stanley exits.

Scene 9.



NATHANIEL: I can't. I am shocked, "sincere friend". Who? Who it could be?

JACQUELINE: Hey, ghost, stop. You don't rely on all that, I just open cards. I can't see future or past.

NATHANIEL: Maybe you didn't know your abilities.

JACQUELINE: I haven't a gift, enlightening or magic power.

NATHANIEL: You see me.

JACQUELINE: I never could predict that death will make you such superstitious person.

NATHANIEL: Now I have an irrational dimension, I have to satisfy the requirements. Don't you think that Stanley insisted on card of murderer?

JACQUELINE: It was his idea. I agree.

NATHANIEL: And later he became relaxed, when you told about friend.

JACQUELINE: You imagined all.

NATHANIEL: Listen, if police suspects Earl, it could be him. Or it could be

Stanley. I will check how he prepares tea for you. Now we have to be alert. He could try to kill you.

JACQUELINE: Better you'd worried about yourself before, my dear, but now it's too late.

NATHANIEL: Could you stop remind me about that? I just check.



Nathaniel exits.

Scene 10.

Enters Earl.



EARL: Jacqueline, what a surprise? I'm so sorry.

JACQUELINE: Heartbreaking news.

EARL: How are you?

JACQUELINE: Police was at night. I have no idea. How is Wendy?

EARL: Not a tear, she will be fine.

JACQUELINE: How do you know?

EARL: I fell asleep in police car. They discussed it. Like Wendy and Stanley didn't upset.

JACQUELINE: It could be shock.

EARL: They had such explanation. You know that I like you.

JACQUELINE: At every party you proposed to me.

EARL: Nothing changed. They proved that body was moved.

JACQUELINE: Moved?

EARL: Someone searched for something.

JACQUELINE: Did they find?

EARL: I have no idea. But police checked my fingerprints. Nothing matched. The same with poison. They are different.



JACQUELINE: Nathaniel was poisoned?

EARL: Wendy didn't tell you?

JACQUELINE: I was talking to Stanley. Why you was in police station, Earl?

EARL: My awful long tongue.

JACQUELINE: Earl?

EARL: When they checked fingerprints. I said, that if I killed Nathaniel, I'd choose gloves, which are always in my pocket.

JACQUELINE: They didn't agree it was proper joke.

Scene 11.

Enters Nathaniel.



NATHANIEL: How could you talk to him? He could be my murderer.

JACQUELINE: Where is your gloves now?

EARL: In pocket, like usual.

Earl shows.

EARL: New. They returned them to me.

JACQUELINE: Gloves.

EARL: Nathaniel has the same habit.

JACQUELINE: Worse. Gloves in every pocket.

EARL: You remember.

NATHANIEL: It wasn't such bad. Handkerchiefs are everywhere, not the same with gloves.

Scene 12.



Enters Stanley.

STANLEY: Police is back.

EARL: They didn't go.

STANLEY: What are you mumbling?

EARL: They bring me back and wait till I came here.

JACQUELINE: Why?

EARL: Waited that you will be ready for next round.

STANLEY: Of what?

EARL: Of investigation.

Scene 13.



Enters Bleed and Mood.

BLEED: Sorry to disturb you in such day.

MOOD: Mrs Frost, you are already here.

JACQUELINE: Gwendolyn needs support.

BLEED: Could Mrs Brand join us?

NATHANIEL: She is already here. Are you blind?

STANLEY: I will go and tell her.

NATHANIEL: Oh, yes. Another one.



Stanley exits.

Scene 14.



JACQUELINE: Such trivial.

MOOD: Pardon, madam.

JACQUELINE: In every end of mystery stories, all suspects gathered in one room. Before anyone will find out who is a killer, writer with pleasure tell about all dark secrets of everyone. And all suspects will want to kill detective with same rage as killer.

EARL: Dear, I agree with you. It's like jury, but in averse. Everyone is guilty and killer relaxed that he is not worst from them.

BLEED: We are here not because of this dramatic action.

JACQUELINE: Earl, your turn.

EARL: Yes, darling. They gathered us all to say something what they found out when examine Nathaniel's body and will wait for our first reaction.

MOOD: It's not exactly the same, we just need to tell you that, what we will tell. And you all in one place.

NATHANIEL: Jacqueline, it's after my death, or she is really boring.

JACQUELINE: They do their job.

BLEED: Yes, we do and we wait cooperation from your side.

NATHANIEL: Cooperation. I had to know everything, I don't know who killed me. If they knew, they'll have a murderer.

EARL: Nathaniel will be disappointed.



NATHANIEL: Me?

MOOD: Victim?

EARL: Yes. He will be upset of your slow work. If he could tell us, he knew his killer. It would be such easy. Just give us a clue.

NATHANIEL: Earl, you believe in me too much. I'm depressed ghost. Without evidences.

BLEED: But if he really could talk?



NATHANIEL: Officer, do you see me?

JACQUELINE: What are you talking about?

BLEED: Mrs Frost, I saw cards in your house. Your enlightenment. It could help.

NATHANIEL: Jacqueline, bad idea.

MOOD: It's not the methods we use in our work.

BLEED: It could add another insight in our work.

NATHANIEL: You'll have a trouble!

JACQUELINE: One card.

BLEED: I knew that you brought cards here. In that place still is emotion of death, soul is near.



NATHANIEL: Behind your left shoulder.

JACQUELINE: Nathaniel, who do you suspect in your poisoning? Torches 14 King.



MOOD: You are murder, Mrs Frost.

NATHANIEL: What?

JACQUELINE: Why?

MOOD: You said that Nathaniel Brand was poisoned, we didn't tell that.

EARL: I said.



BLEED: What did you said Mr Morel?

EARL: That my poisoning didn't match with poison by which was murdered Nathaniel.

MOOD: Oh no. Who else know about that?

EARL: I said to Stanley. Now he is with Gwendolyn. Everyone!

BLEED: "The great King of Tikal prospers thanks to his own wisdom and capabilities, but also thanks to his serenity."

NATHANIEL: Tikal?

JACQUELINE: You are good in Mayan tarot.

BLEED: It helps to concentrate. We know a lot about our killer, now.

EARL: What?

BLEED: Analyse the card. King, older man. Clever, prefer...

Scene 15.

Enter Wendy and Stanley.



WENDY: Who poisoned my husband?

MOOD: Everyone notified.

WENDY: Jacqueline, why you are here?

NATHANIEL: I asked her, Wendy.

BLEED: Police think that all people involved have to be at one place.

WENDY: All involved?

MOOD: Everyone who had deep connection with the victim.

JACQUELINE: I will go away any moment.

BLEED: It will police decide.

MOOD: Mrs Brand, could I speak with you first?

WENDY: I explained everything.

STANLEY: It's procedure.



NATHANIEL: I will go with her, I need to know what happened, she is main witness. Jacqueline, don't you think it's strange that she can't see me and you can.

JACQUELINE: I should go.

BLEED: Mrs Frost, could you be the first with whom I'll speak?

STANLEY: Take your time, officer. Earl, did you have breakfast?

EARL: No.

STANLEY: You'll find us in the kitchen, detective.

Everyone, except Jacqueline and Bleed exit.

Scene 16.



JACQUELINE: Do you smoke, officer?

BLEED: No. But if it's suitable for you, you could. I don't mind.

JACQUELINE: Never had such bad habit and today it's first time when I feel regret about that.

BLEED: Gwendolyn didn't like you.

JACQUELINE: You are a good observer, mister Bleed.

BLEED: You could call me Roger, it's more friendly.

JACQUELINE: Fine, Roger, you know that I'm a Jacqueline. Yes, wife... widow of my ex-husband doesn't like me, but should be contrary.

BLEED: If you could explain it to me, Jacqueline.

JACQUELINE: She destroyed my marriage, not I her.

BLEED: You didn't forgive Nathaniel.

JACQUELINE: Karma.

BLEED: Better with more details.

JACQUELINE: Roger, I was married before. I left my first husband, Freddy, to be with Nathaniel. And than Nathaniel left me for another woman. Karma, I broke one heart, he broke mine.

BLEED: He had an affair. Are you sure?

JACQUELINE: He slept with me, about that I'm sure.

BLEED: You were married, it's normal.

JACQUELINE: Later. When Nathaniel was with Gwendolyn. Greg usually had long trips. I'm not saint. I loved this man and still do.

BLEED: Such connection of love can't be destroyed by death.

JACQUELINE: Murder. By the way. Gloves.

BLEED: Gloves. Pen-name, secret code.

JACQUELINE: Nathaniel has obsession, which he called a habit.

BLEED: All attention.

JACQUELINE: In every pocket of clothes he had a pair of gloves. He worked in chemical industry all his life. He said that handkerchief you'll find, not the gloves.

BLEED: In his pockets were gloves. It's important?

JACQUELINE: You have to check their quantity and it have to be missed one pair.

BLEED: Are you sure?

JACQUELINE: Killer had to be sure, that won't be marks, like Earl said to you.

BLEED: And instead of have own, he...

JACQUELINE: Or she...

BLEED: You also didn't like Gwendolyn.

JACQUELINE: Just used them to finish work.

BLEED: And where murderer put it later?

JACQUELINE: Nathaniel has a big box for them in office. It was in such way during our marriage.

BLEED: Which DNA we should search?

JACQUELINE: Not Nathaniel's.

BLEED: Reasonable. Don't you want to ask more questions from cards?

JACQUELINE: You would not allow me to see an office.

BLEED: I'm afraid not.

JACQUELINE: I'll go. Sorry.

Jacqueline takes cards, one dropped.



BLEED: May I?

JACQUELINE: It's not necessary.

BLEED: 2 Torches. "The wise men share the same hearth stone, thereby forming alliances and attaining balance."

JACQUELINE: I will phone, if remember anything crucial.

Scene 17.

Enters Nathaniel.



NATHANIEL: Not even a drop of tear. "I found him. I checked why he was late. I came to an office." She is made of stone. Before that I believed that she was made from ice. We are leaving, I need fresh air.

BLEED: Do you want to add something, Jacqueline?

NATHANIEL: I wasn't there for five minutes. Now he called you by name. Police officer? What about chemistry related men addiction?

JACQUELINE: I just, it's such grief. I was thinking, that it isn't my house, in another case it could be very upsetting, when good and bad memories connected, Roger.

NATHANIEL: He knows your phone number. Go. We need to talk, Jacqueline.

JACQUELINE: If you didn't mind, I'll return to my home.

BLEED: Of course. I know your number.

NATHANIEL: When he shuts up?

Nathaniel and Jacqueline exit.



Blackout.

Scene 18.

Jacqueline's house.

Enter Jacqueline and Nathaniel.

Greg searches through papers on table.



JACQUELINE: Greg, when you returned?

GREG: I wanted to make a surprise to you.

NATHANIEL: Good job. You made a surprise. I need attention.

JACQUELINE: What are you looking for? Could I help?

GREG: I just tried to figure out where you could be and meet you there.

NATHANIEL: You could use a phone.

JACQUELINE: You could call me.

GREG: I heard about Nathaniel. I didn't predict how you will accept that.

JACQUELINE: Shocked. Like always when victim was one of your close people.

GREG: Yes, it was difficult for you.

JACQUELINE: Where are you hurry? What's wrong?

NATHANIEL: He should be surprised to hear about murder.



GREG: I need to do something. I will call you later.

JACQUELINE: Greg, what's going on?

NATHANIEL: Does he always behave in such crazy style?

JACQUELINE: Greg.

GREG: It's not your problem and you don't need to know it. In this situation you could tell that know nothing and it will be true.

JACQUELINE: What happened?

NATHANIEL: He could be my killer, he is mad. We found new suspect.

JACQUELINE: Don't be an idiot. Greg, when you returned from Mexico?

GREG: Few days ago.

JACQUELINE: Why you didn't come to me?

GREG: I was busy. Not everything was good. Money, which gave me Nathaniel. It was wrong way, I made a mistake. My researches...

JACQUELINE: When you learned about Nathaniel's death?

NATHANIEL: Hurray. You also start to suspect him. Common sense. I hoped that you are clever.

GREG: Someone told me.

JACQUELINE: You came here today.

GREG: Jacqueline. I beg you - stop asking.

NATHANIEL: It was a confession, wasn't it?

Door bell rings.

GREG: No matter what, Jacqueline, don't open the door.



Jacqueline exits.

Scene 19.



NATHANIEL: Why you killed me? All was about money?

GREG: It just happened. He was already dead. Only at extreme case. Don't be afraid, I'll protect you.

NATHANIEL: I don't like him. Gave him money it was risk. "Risk helps you feel a life". Such inappropriate for her, but favourite Wendy's phrase.

GREG: I could explain, couldn't I?

Scene 20.



Enter Jacqueline, Bleed and Mood.

BLEED: Gregory Cunningham?

GREG: I'm afraid, it's me.

MOOD: You will go with us.

JACQUELINE: What happened?

BLEED: We did what you suggested to us, Jacqueline, with gloves. Before you suggested to be exact, now results are ready.

JACQUELINE: And?

MOOD: One pair matched DNA of Gregory Cunningham.

JACQUELINE: Greg?

GREG: He was already dead, I swear. I used gloves to search.

MOOD: What for?

NATHANIEL: Contract about returning money on expedition.

JACQUELINE: Contract of expedition.

GREG: Huge amount of money gave me Nathaniel. I have nothing to return.

BLEED: Because of that you killed him. Debt.

GREG: I will never. He was already dead, when I came.

MOOD: And you didn't call a police?

GREG: You'll suspect me. How I could? I just wanted to destroy papers.

JACQUELINE: What did you search, Greg?

GREG: Contract, as I told.

JACQUELINE: In my room, now.

MOOD: It could wait. Gregory Cunningham you are under arrest as suspect of murder of Nathaniel Brand.



Bleed, Mood, Greg exit.

Scene 21.



NATHANIEL: I didn't expect such final. What do you think, Jacqueline?

JACQUELINE: Greg lied to me. What he searched?

NATHANIEL: Jacqueline, you didn't see me any more?

JACQUELINE: See and hear. Greg inspected my house.

NATHANIEL: And killed me for money. I'm disappointed.

JACQUELINE: If he didn't search. If he add something.

NATHANIEL: You don't sound too good, dear, you know.

JACQUELINE: It have to be somewhere. Yes!

Jacqueline shows keys to Nathaniel.



NATHANIEL: Keys from my house. Why you are so happy? I don't need them. Where from they are at your house?

JACQUELINE: You could think clear! It will be obviously. No one will ask, when they will came with search to me, but before that we have time. Go.

NATHANIEL: No. I need to hear what do you plan. Murderer is found, why hurry?

JACQUELINE: Who opened door to Greg?

NATHANIEL: Sorry. Don't look at me.

JACQUELINE: You didn't forget such detail, did you?

NATHANIEL: I expect so. To open door to killer, it's awful.

JACQUELINE: They won't ask. Clever. Greg or your adviser?

NATHANIEL: What is going on?

JACQUELINE: I believe that Greg didn't kill you.

NATHANIEL: On whose side you are?

JACQUELINE: Greg came here not to find something, but left keys. When police came, they will find them. Not such surprise, they know that time to time we were lovers.

NATHANIEL: How you could confess that!

JACQUELINE: You are dead, nothing hurts your reputation. They will find keys from my home at your house and keys of yours in mine.

NATHANIEL: I never gave them to you. You lived alone. Not counting Greg. My new house you didn't adore and it will be difficult with Wendy mainly at home.

JACQUELINE: But looks like it was true. And no one will ask, who opened door to Greg at night of your murder.

NATHANIEL: We go to my home!

JACQUELINE: I already insisted on that. I will call Earl, hope he waits there for me.

Jacqueline and Nathaniel exit.



Blackout.

Scene 22.

Nathaniel's house.



Jacqueline and Nathaniel enter.

JACQUELINE: Key was perfect for door.

NATHANIEL: What you expected?

JACQUELINE: I don't know. I was wrong and Greg can be a suspect.

NATHANIEL: He did it for money.

JACQUELINE: When you planned to return them back?

NATHANIEL: In two years.

JACQUELINE: Why he did it now?

NATHANIEL: It was my fault.

JACQUELINE: You forget to tell me something, aren't you?

NATHANIEL: He had to fire a gun, which I brought myself.

JACQUELINE: Can you be clear now!

NATHANIEL: It just. I received few poisons, they are in my office.

JACQUELINE: Which poisons? You still play that stupid game.

NATHANIEL: It was after, pause with you. I don't know.

JACQUELINE: You forget mention poison.

NATHANIEL: No. It was game. This time were five participants in the final tour. We need to solve the mystery and wrote answers. Winner receives all money, like was before.

JACQUELINE: Are you serious? When you were with me, you never enter in final.

NATHANIEL: It's competition. Improvement from my side. But...

JACQUELINE: Who know about that?

NATHANIEL: All who were in house and Greg.

JACQUELINE: Why Greg?

NATHANIEL: He was in my office, when I received it and I...

JACQUELINE: Boasted.

NATHANIEL: I have no idea, that your boyfriend is potential killer.

JACQUELINE: You are right, I have real problem in personal life.

NATHANIEL: You noticed it only now.

JACQUELINE: You are a ghost, another one is suspect you in murder. Too many books changed my perception of reality.

NATHANIEL: Hope, self-pity moment is finished. Now, why you came here.

JACQUELINE: To find Greg's accessory.

NATHANIEL: You believe in him so much, that don't sure that he could made it on his own.

JACQUELINE: Someone opened door to him. Someone gave him the keys. I hadn't that keys before, remember.

NATHANIEL: We are at beginning, again.

Scene 23.

Enters Wendy.



WENDY: What are you doing here?

JACQUELINE: Keys.

NATHANIEL: You explained all, my congratulations.

WENDY: How?

JACQUELINE: Greg told everything.

WENDY: I knew that can't trust him.

Wendy starts to cry.

NATHANIEL: Wait a minute, what's going on?

JACQUELINE: You gave keys to him. Greg didn't need to tell that you opened door for him.

WENDY: He just wanted to talk with Nathaniel. He was already dead.

NATHANIEL: Come on!

JACQUELINE: When you learned about it?

WENDY: When show Greg way to office. We opened the door, he was on table, his face...

JACQUELINE: And Greg wanted to search papers to destroy them.

WENDY: For Nathaniel it wasn't important any more.

NATHANIEL: Why you do it with me?

JACQUELINE: Why you helped him, Gwendolyn?

WENDY: It was me...

NATHANIEL: You are my killer. Jacqueline, she confessed!

JACQUELINE: What you?

WENDY: I convinced Nathaniel to loan money to Greg.

JACQUELINE: Is it true?

NATHANIEL: She insisted.

WENDY: Yes. Greg told me his story, about research. His eyes were shining, I thought I could drown in their depth. He has beautiful eyes.

NATHANIEL: Especially left one.

JACQUELINE: I know this feeling.

NATHANIEL: Wives, are you mad?

WENDY: I liked him a little and...

JACQUELINE: Did you know about poison at Nathaniel's office?

WENDY: At breakfast and dinner, he daily told about that. Nathaniel waited, he

was excited.

JACQUELINE: I beg him to stop. Did everyone heard it?

WENDY: Everyone who was in the house. What do you suggest?

JACQUELINE: Someone killed Nathaniel, you heard police.

WENDY: I don't know who could do it.

NATHANIEL: You, my dear Gwendolyn.

WENDY: Are you think it's me? Do you?

JACQUELINE: You wanted to be with Stanley, again.

WENDY: And you with Nathaniel.

JACQUELINE: For that he will be more useful alive.

WENDY: I just once kissed Stanley, last month. Nathaniel didn't pay attention on me. I hoped that he will be jealous.

Scene 24.

Enters Stanley.



STANLEY: I hoped that you gave me a second chance, Gwendolyn.

JACQUELINE: Oh, no, like in bad film. You killed brother because of woman.

STANLEY: I didn't say that.

WENDY: You can tell me. You could trust me. I will keep your secret.

JACQUELINE: It's my stupid tongue.

NATHANIEL: You killed me, Stanley.

Stanley kneels near Nathaniel.



STANLEY: Brother, I'm sorry, that woman...

NATHANIEL: Do you see me?

STANLEY: It was her idea...

WENDY: What?

JACQUELINE: We could survive without meeting with the Ghost. For a moment I thought it will be scene which lacks Hamlet.

WENDY: Why you talk all the time?

JACQUELINE: To give Earl time to call the police.

WENDY: Earl, why Earl?

Scene 25.

Enters Earl.



EARL: They will be at any moment.

STANLEY: Why Earl?

JACQUELINE: Because he was poisoned first. You experimented on him. He also is good at chemistry. Earl is very suspicious, if stays at house with you both. And he was at place, when I phoned at morning.

WENDY: You have nothing, only your imagination.

JACQUELINE: Gwendolyn, it was smart to gave Greg an opportunity to search through Nathaniel's office. He choose gloves, you told him that.



STANLEY: Police never proves anything.

EARL: Perhaps. They will ask questions, a lot of questions, till your first mistake.

Scene 26.



Enter Mood and Bleed.

BLEED: Door was open. Is everything all right?

JACQUELINE: We have two suspects.

MOOD: Stanley Brand, your neighbours didn't destroy your flat. Why you stay in that house?

STANLEY: It's house of my brother, I don't need to give explanations.

MOOD: Gwendolyn Brand, when you learned that your husband thinking about divorce?

NATHANIEL: It's not true.

BLEED: We checked e-mails of Mr Brand, your husband asked about divorce agreement.

NATHANIEL: Never.

WENDY: I haven't an idea.

BLEED: We will take care about that. Both of you had access to poisons in office of Mr Brand, you're suspects.

STANLEY: Nathaniel all the time show us that poisons, he thought it was fun, not dangerous.

NATHANIEL: They were always in gloves.

BLEED: Have a nice day, Jacqueline, I will call you when have more free time.

JACQUELINE: I will wait impatiently.



Bleed, Mood, Wendy and Stanley exit.

Scene 27.



EARL: How about some drink, Jacqueline?

JACQUELINE: It was she who checked divorce situation.

EARL: Yes, from his computer, wise. But Nathaniel preferred talk about such things personally.

JACQUELINE: I remember about that.

EARL: I'm sorry, I didn't want to...

JACQUELINE: Nathaniel always had gloves.

EARL: Yes.

JACQUELINE: It wasn't there.

EARL: What, dear?

JACQUELINE: Gloves with Wendy's and Stanley's DNA.

EARL: They worked too clean. It also could be suspicious. For Nathaniel, greatest of all men, who I met.

NATHANIEL: Don't embarrass me, Earl. I thought you are my killer.

JACQUELINE: To Nathaniel, who will always be part of my life.

NATHANIEL: I'm still here. Earl, don't look at her like that.

EARL: Darling, what you think about marry me?

JACQUELINE: You already had three glasses of whisky.

EARL: Really. I didn't count. You are right. It's my usual norm before propose to you. What do you think?

JACQUELINE: I think between us always will be ghost of my second husband.

NATHANIEL: Yes, I will watch you.

EARL: I think it will pass.



Nathaniel stays between Earl and Jacqueline.

NATHANIEL: I am here, still.

JACQUELINE: We'll see.

CURTAIN.



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[mail: aksioma@neonet.ua](mailto:aksioma@neonet.ua)

[Main.](#)

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