

Preshow Check-In

Jackie (L)
 Peter (So)
 Celia (NE)
 Miles (SE)

Preshow Cues:
 So AA
 L .5

STAND-BY

Sound AA.5 thru A.6
 Lights 0.7 thru 5
 Abby B.

START TIMER

Places Call

So AA.3

H2H

L 0.7
 So AA.5

Blackout

L 1
 So AA.7

3 BEAT

Abby B.

Grandmother ENT

L 1.5

Grandmother raises staff (@ E pond)

L 2**So A****L 3****So A.3****SCENE ONE**

Grandmother staff hit

So A.5

A hot summer night. Moonlight. Tree canopy.

Alex kneels

L 4

ALEX is surrounded by ELK.

Alex jolts forwards

So A.6

He scratches his head while the elk speak to him.

He can only sort of understand.

1/2 BEAT

L 5**ELK QUEEN**

Our fundamental question dear human,
 is how your species managed to develop
 such a stubborn taste for the grotesque?

How did you make the wolf into a pug?
 How did you make the legs short?
 The noses squat?
 How did you fashion the howl
 into such a god-awful
 bark?

ELK PAGE

Start from the beginning, human?
 What was your first step?

ELK QUEEN

What if he is not a speaking human? Do they all speak?

ALEX scratches his head.
 He can't see very well.
 And it's very hot.

ELK QUEEN

You think it's hot for you.
 You're not even carrying around a pelt like ours.

Someone wet his brow. Someone go to the river.

ELK PAGE and ELK GRANDMOTHER move to the river to wet their hooves.
 ELK QUEEN gets close.

A pug looks nothing like a wolf.
 What did you do to make them so suspiciously friendly? x

L 6
 So D

Lights up on ROSA sitting on the hospital bench.
She looks at her watch. Her phone buzzes.
She reaches for it quickly and answers.

ROSA

First time in your life you left you phone off for an hour and it had to be...
Meditation does not work. Definitely not a legitimate reason to turn off your
phone.

Well it's dark and rainy is what it is. We don't know. He's still in the
emergency surgery. We won't know anything until the early morning. Okay,
I'll call you. Of course. Love you too.

Close-up on ROSA. Which means the elk approach and reveal the contents of her
pockets. She does not notice that they do.

L 7

So D.3

Elk move

ELK

The plastic wrapper
from a package of Kleenex.
Used Kleenex.
A Jet-blue boarding pass:
San Francisco to Duluth
Flight 262 seat 12B.
Ear-plugs.
A wrapper from a package
of Peanut M&M's.
A wrapper for
airport-sized advil.
A note:
University Hospital.
4600 University Drive.x

L 8

ELK return to ALEX and wipe down his brow with their wet elk hooves.

ELK QUEEN

Still no evidence that he is a speaking human.
Why this one, my Page?

ELK PAGE

We chose him after weeks of watching.
He was eminently engaged with our river. He swam in it each morning.
Every afternoon he would celebrate the dirt at its banks.

ELK QUEEN

At the very least he could explain the rain.x

L 9

So D.5

ALEX is distracted by something in the distance. MICHAEL is emerging from the river. He's half dressed, half wet, drying off in the sun. Gorgeous and majestic. He laughs. He reads an email to ALEX.

MICHAEL

Alex. Geez where do I start? Costa Rica's the shit. It's a fucking Disney movie around here. Every day I go swimming in literally the bluest water I have ever seen. I'm so glad I chose the coral reeves for my dissertation.

I'm glad you're kicking butt on that carbon sequestration thing. I knew you were on to something. Is it cold in Minnesota in the summer?

I've been thinking about your questions and I just think it's not a good idea to process our relationship from this distance. I know there's still a lot to talk about. I think it would be best if we find time in the fall when we're back at school. It will be easier when we're in the same place. Yeah? Sorry if that's hard to hear. I'm thinking of you lots.

Love always,

Michael.x

L 10
So D.7

Close-up on him. Which means the Elk approach and reveal the pile of objects he left at the bank of the river.

ELK

A clean canteen water bottle.

A spiral notebook.

A white t-shirt.

A blue fountain pen.

An envelope addressed to Michael Jones from Alex Lopez.

Inside there is only dirt.x

L 11

MICHAEL dries himself off, puts his shirt back on, makes a note in his notebook, and exits.

ELK QUEEN

Shall we return him?

ELK PAGE

Can we ask him more specific questions?

ELK QUEEN

Human do you understand about the howling symphonies?

The packs like cities?