

Marco Ciaramella



It's me



CAST:

Michaela: Lewis's wife

Lewis: Michaela's husband

Moriah: Lewis and Michaela's daughter

Shane: Friend of Moriah

Simon: Friend of Moriah

Vanessa: Housekeeper

Maria: Dressmaker

Alban: Shane's father

Lucile: Shane's mother

FIRST ACT

The scene takes place in the living room.

Michaela, Lewis and their daughter Moriah, sitting at the table, are getting ready to eat, but not before thanking God for the good food available to them.

Michaela: Moriah, did you wash your hands?

Moriah: Yes, mom, I did.

Michaela: Then we can start with the prayer of thanks.

Moriah: Why do we have to give thanks every day?

Michaela: Because not everyone has the privilege of this abundance and therefore it is our duty to pay homage.

Moriah raises her head to look up.

Michaela: *(Observing her daughter's behavior)* There is no need to cause a stiff neck on yourself, it is enough you do it with the heart.

Moriah: But in this way He sees me better!

Michaela: I assure you it isn't necessary. God is always present and sees everything, even in the dark, because he reads our hearts.

Moriah: Are spirits always among us too?

Michaela: What a strange question is this? Where does it come from?

Lewis: It is certainly due to Vanessa's influence.

Michaela: She'd better think more about cleaning the house instead of putting weird fantasies in my daughter's head!

Lewis: It is appropriate to say that our Moriah has been bewitched.

Moriah: I have not been bewitched, Vanessa is just a friend of mine. And, if you really want to know, when I ask her questions on this subject she always tries not to answer me.

Michaela: You shouldn't ask her these questions, but me!

Moriah: But I...

Lewis: Don't be rude, listen to your mother and don't reply!

Michaela: Now I will explain to you in two words how things stand, then, however, you will have to promise me that you will never go back to the subject.

Moriah: Why?

Michaela: Because it is a sin to talk about it.

Moriah: But Vanessa told me that she talks to spirits all the time.

Michaela: If she keeps talking to you about these things, I'll be forced to fire her.

Moriah: Mom, please don't do this!

Lewis: (*Turning to Michaela*) I told you, before hiring her, that she was a medium!

Michaela: I thought it was a temporary hobby. I had no idea it would last that long.

Lewis: The problem is, when I speak, you never listen! I warned you, but you completely ignored my warning.

Michaela: Do you want to pillory me for this?

Lewis: You would deserve it, since, in reverse, you would.

Michaela: Stop it! I don't want to talk about this in front of my daughter.

Lewis: Our daughter, please!

Michaela: Okay, our daughter. How meticulous you are!

Moriah: Mom, why don't you stop fighting with dad and tell me what these spirits really are?

Michaela: They are angels that God sends to protect us.

Moriah: If God sends them, why do you say it is a sin to talk about them?

Michaela: You must understand that it isn't convenient to cross certain boundaries. We have to accept the facts without asking too many questions. Knowing that they are there must be enough for you. We are not allowed to talk with them.

Moriah: But I want to do it.

Michaela: I, on the other hand, forbid you! Whoever exceeds certain limits can be damned for eternity. Don't you understand that your soul is at stake?

Moriah: But you said they are angels!

Michaela: You must know that evil entities in the service of the devil could also manifest in disguise. In this case it would be a real catastrophe for you and our family that would be damned forever.

Lewis: Now don't traumatize her! She is just asking legitimate questions, dictated by curiosity.

Michaela: I just want to spare her from perdition.

Lewis: Stop worrying, she is just a curious teenager. Furthermore, she is not an expert in communication systems with the afterlife so she can't take the risk you are talking about.

Michaela: But Vanessa could teach them to her.

Lewis: In any case, if I'm not mistaken, Vanessa has been practicing this "profession" for many years and it doesn't seem to me that she shows problems of imbalance or satanic possession.

Michaela: I don't trust her, so I decided: I'm going to fire her.

Lewis: She is a poor widow with two children. You can't do this wicked action.

Michaela: To protect my daughter, I would not hesitate.

Lewis: Would you even be willing to starve those two children?

Michaela: Their mother will feed them with the proceeds from séances.

Lewis: I remind you she only accepts offers. If she earned enough, she wouldn't be your scullery maid, given the little money you give her.

Michaela: For me it is too much!

Lewis: But isn't charity one of the foundations of religion?

Michaela: Yes and with this?

Lewis: If you ask me I think you have big gaps on the dictates of religion.

Michaela: The evil one must be opposed in all ways.

Lewis: First, however, we must love others more than ourselves. *(Sarcastically)* Do you remember who said that or do you just put into practice what is convenient for you?

Michaela: That's enough! The matter is closed. You *(Turning to Moriah)* do as I say and that's it! *(And she leaves the scene)*

Moriah: I don't understand why she gets so angry.

Lewis: Your mother is just a spoiled woman. Having never had financial problems, she doesn't realize that there are people in need. She thinks life is as easy for everyone as it was for her.

Moriah: But has mom always been rich?

Lewis: Yes and a lot too.

Moriah: And you?

Lewis: I come from a very humble family. I am not ashamed to say that I also suffered from hunger.

Moriah: So your parents were poor?

Lewis: Yes, they were simple peasants who made ends meet by breaking their backs every single day. While your maternal grandparents were very wealthy and consequently she grew up in the most unbridled luxury and with all possible and unimaginable comforts.

Moriah: So it's not her fault that she behaves this way?

Lewis: Those, like her, who have had everything in earthly life would like to maintain this state of privilege even in the beyond. She is terrified of death and doesn't want to compromise her eternal life in any way.

Moriah: But if she isn't selfless and generous, it will be exactly what will happen.

Lewis: Well said! I see that at least you have understood it. Your mother, only understands what is convenient for her.

Moriah: *(Hugging her father)* You'll see we can change her!

Lewis: *(Clasping her daughter in his arms)* Sure darling! The two of us together are a force. *(And he leaves the scene)*

The doorbell rings and Moriah goes to open the door. Vanessa enters the scene.

Vanessa: Hi Moriah! Are you alone?

Moriah: Mom and Dad are out right now.

Vanessa: Did they leave any directives for me?

Moriah: In addition to ironing, cleaning the floor and cooking, they are recommended that you teach me everything you know about spirits.

Vanessa: *(Gently touching Moriah's nose to point out the lie she just told)* You are really obsessed! Do you want your mother to fire me?

Moriah: No, I just want to be a medium like you.

Vanessa: *(Laughing)* Why? Do you want to starve?

Moriah: My mother is rich, so I will never take that risk.

Vanessa: But if you don't stop with this story, this is what will happen to me. Moriah, I can't afford to lose this job.

Moriah: What if I told you that I often feel intense shudders at the base of my neck?

Vanessa: *(Touching Moriah's neck)* Here?

Moriah: Right there.

Vanessa: *(With a worried air)* And they accompanied by a feeling of cold?

Moriah: I would say intense cold.

Vanessa: *(Dropping into a chair)* Then we're really in trouble!

Moriah: Why do you say we are? Does it happen to you too?

Vanessa: *(Desperate)* But you swear not to tell anyone!

Moriah: I will be silent as a fish, but only with my mother.

Vanessa: No, you don't have to tell anyone about it.

Moriah: It's too late! I have already organized a séance with my friends for today.

Vanessa: Are you crazy? I forbid you that!

Moriah: You are in no position to forbid it! Indeed, if you don't tell me how to do it, I could tell my mother...

Vanessa: Are you trying to blackmail me?

Moriah: *(Shamelessly)* Exactly!

Vanessa: I won't let you!

Moriah: *(She goes to the phone, picks up the receiver and looks at Vanessa)* Shall I call?

Vanessa: *(She runs towards her worriedly, takes the receiver from her hand and resignedly poses it)* You are a little viper!

Moriah: *(Satisfied)* I am all ears.

Vanessa: I'd gladly give you two slaps if I could!

Moriah: Your reaction is justified. But hurry up now, my friends will arrive soon and I don't want to make a bad impression on them.

Vanessa: Do you want to involve other people in this story?

Moriah: I know that it takes at least three people to make contact with the spirits of the dead. I couldn't ask my parents!

Vanessa: I correct myself: you aren't a viper but a rattlesnake.

The doorbell rings.

Moriah: The simile is perfect! So, if you don't want me to spit poison and you know with whom, you have about *(Looking at the clock)* ten seconds to explain what I want, then I'll have to go and open the door. If you don't... I'll call my mother.

Vanessa: Can you tell me how can I explain the whole procedure to you in ten seconds?

Moriah: I'm not interested in that, I have read hundreds of books on the subject and I know it by heart. I just want to know what to do after making contact.

Vanessa: *(Exasperated by the insistent ringing of the doorbell and cornered by the girl, she resigns herself to answer)* This is the simplest thing: it will be the spirit to guide you. *(Then she goes to the kitchen. Before opening the door, she turns around)* Don't forget, in the end, to send him in peace.

Moriah: Why don't you stay with us to help us?

Vanessa: *(Angry)* Not even if I were dead and I was the spirit, I would help you!

Moriah: As you want! I'll manage on my own.

Vanessa goes to the kitchen and Moriah goes to open the door. Enter Shane, Lucile and Alban.

Shane: Hi Moriah!

Moriah: Come in.

Lucile: Are you alone?

Moriah: Vanessa is in the kitchen and my parents will be here shortly, so we don't have much time.

Alban: Why? What do you have to do so quickly?

Moriah: We have to study a new rather difficult subject.

Lucile: And can't you do it if your parents are home?

Moriah: For certain things it takes absolute silence and they, when they start to argue, always tend to make a great confusion.

Alban: Teachers are introducing new subjects to make life difficult for students! Are the old and classic subjects not enough anymore? They have to find new and increasingly difficult ones.

Shane: It's true dad, instead of simplifying our life, they make it more and more complicated.

Lucile: But what would be the new subject?

Shane: The study of invisibility.

Lucile: This seems to me just nonsense.

Shane: A lot of studies have recently been done on the various ways of becoming invisible and being able to communicate at the same time.

Lucile: Then we leave you to your studies. *(And they leave the scene)*

Shane: Bye!

Moriah: The study on invisibility? But couldn't you think of anything more sensible?

Shane: In a way... I told the truth.

Someone knocks on the door.

Moriah: *(After opening the door)* Hi Simon, come in!

Simon: Hi!

Moriah: So, are you ready?

Simon: To tell you the truth, I wouldn't be.

Shane: Honestly me neither!

Simon: Sorry, but I'm dying of fright.

Moriah: What brave men I have chosen!

Simon: What if something happens to us?

Moriah: You watch too many horror movies! Don't worry, we're in good hands, over there *(Pointing to the kitchen)* is Vanessa.

Vanessa enters the scene.

Vanessa: I'm sorry but I have to go shopping, so you'll have to do without my help. *(Takes bag and coat and leaves the scene)*

Simon: Maybe it's better if we postpone this.

Moriah: No, let's get started and now! Stop wasting precious time!

Shane: The last one we have left.

Moriah: Don't talk nonsense! Come on, sit down! *(She goes to get the Ouija board and puts it on the table. All three sit down and the girl begins to invoke the spirit)*

Simon: And if my mother comes, what can I tell her?

Shane: What you want. In fact, I think it would be nice if that happened.

Simon: But she died giving birth to me, maybe she accuses me of being the cause of her demise.

Shane: I'm sure she would never tell you this, I think she loves you despite what happened.

Simon: Let's hope! Anyway I would be embarrassed, what could I talk to her about?

Moriah: You could talk to her about your father.

Simon: In fact, I could tell her that he, after all this time, he has not forgotten about her.

Moriah: But now be quiet! If I can't concentrate, nothing will happen.

Shane: That's what I hope.

Moriah: If you don't stop talking like this I'll kick you! *(Then changing tone of voice)* It's moving.

Simon: Mom are you there?

Moriah: Shut up a minute! It doesn't work on call, it isn't a mobile!

Simon: Sorry, I let myself be caught by the moment.

Moriah: Spirit, who are you?

Shane: I'm leaving.

Moriah: Sit down immediately and woe to you if you try again! Can't you see it's working?

Shane: It is precisely for this reason that I wanted to leave.

Moriah: He wrote that his name is Irvine. Irvine, tell us what we can do for you.

Simon: What a pity! This spirit isn't my mom.

Shane: *(Turning to Moriah)* Whatever he wants, I tell you right away that I don't kill anyone.

Moriah: Instead I'll do that if you don't stop with these nonsense!

Simon: In movies It always happens that the dead ask for revenge. *(Moriah glares him and the boy is silent)*

The planchette moves to the letters on the board.

Moriah: He is asking us to find a woman named Victoria.

Shane: But does he think we're a detective agency?

Simon: How do we find her? We don't even know the surname.

Moriah: *(Thoughtfully)* In fact, he didn't add anything else.

Simon: It's really late, I absolutely have to go. My father will already be looking for me. Maybe, when I get home, I can do a search on the internet to check how many people with that name live in our city.

Moriah: Okay! In the meantime, I will ask Vanessa for some advice.

Shane: She doesn't seem very willing to help you.

Moriah: Don't worry! I know how to convince her. You, on the other hand, have to do something else.

Shane: Should I lock myself in my room and not go out for a month so that the spirit doesn't find me and nothing happens to me?

Moriah: No, you will have to hide the Ouija board in your house.

Shane: I don't touch this, let alone if I hide it in my house!

Moriah: Are you telling me that from now on you won't need my help with your homework anymore?

Shane: This is a dirty blackmail!

Moriah: I see you understand!

Shane: And where should I hide it?

Simon: In the one place your parents would never look: under the mattress of your bed.

Shane: Are you dumb? I couldn't sleep anymore because of nightmares!

Moriah: You wouldn't sleep anymore even if you failed exams, so you have to choose the lesser of two evils.

Shane: I think I have no other choice. *(Resigned, barely touching the Ouija board with two fingers as if it were infected, he takes it and dejectedly approaches to the door. Before going out...)* If I die, you'll have me on your conscience. *(And he leaves the scene)*

Simon: Do you think that one day I will be able to talk to my mother?

Moriah: If we insist...

Simon: And we also overcome fear...

Moriah: Maybe your mother doesn't show up because she doesn't want to scare you.

Simon: Why are you not afraid?

Moriah: Because I want to know.

Simon: Someday I'd like to marry a brave girl like you.

Moriah: For the moment, settle for playing with her at the play station! Let's go to your house and play.

Simon: Tell me the truth: Do you want to come to me to play or why do you want to help me search for that woman?

Moriah: For both raisons, even playing with you, I don't mind.

Simon: Then let's go now! Otherwise there will be little time left for the game.

Moriah: Taking him by the arm) Come on, what are we waiting for? *(And they leave the scene)*

Vanessa enters the scene with shopping bags.

Vanessa: Luckily there is no one, it means that they have finished. Averted danger for today. I don't dare to think what would have happened to me if the owners caught them red-handed!

Lewis enters the scene.

Lewis: Hi Vanessa! How are you?

Vanessa: I'm fine sir, thanks.

Lewis: I'd like to ask you something.

Vanessa: Tell me, I am listening to you.

Lewis: It's personal, it's about your parallel profession.

Vanessa: *(Fearing that the man wants to accuse her of plagiarizing his daughter, she immediately gets on the defensive)* Believe me, I don't instigate your daughter, she wants to know.

Lewis: Don't worry! I know my daughter and I know that, to get what she wants, she is capable of anything!

Vanessa: Luckily at least you believe me.

Lewis: I want to ask you something else but I don't want my wife to find out, otherwise it would be a guaranteed divorce.

Vanessa: You're making me curious, come on tell me.

Lewis: *(Hesitant)* Listen... these your...

Vanessa: Are you referring to spirits?

Lewis: Exactly.

Vanessa: You can rest assured, they aren't dangerous for anyone, so not even for your daughter.

Lewis: This I imagined. Between you and me, I fear the living more than the dead.

Vanessa: So what do you want to know?

Lewis: (*Embarrassed*) I would like to know if, in addition to being good, they could also be... generous?

Vanessa: (*Laughing*) They never gave me anything as a present.

Lewis: I just wanted to ask you if you ever got anything from them.

Vanessa: (*Amazed*) I honestly never asked them to invite me to dinner and pay my bill.

Lewis: I didn't mean a concrete gift.

Vanessa: If you spoke more explicitly, maybe we would do sooner!

Lewis: Well, have you ever asked him about lucky numbers or not?

Vanessa: (*Laughing*) If I had, I wouldn't be your employee yet!

Lewis: Maybe because you've always had unnecessary scruples of conscience.

Vanessa: In fact...

Lewis: Well! Then, what are we waiting for to get rich?

Vanessa: Are you kidding me?

Lewis: Absolutely not!

Vanessa: But you are already rich.

Lewis: My wife is rich, not me. I don't have a penny of mine own.

Vanessa: And what is the problem?

Lewis: The problem is, I always have to ask for permission before doing anything.

Vanessa: And is this a drama?

Lewis: For me, yes, you don't know how much it weighs on me.

Vanessa: If it were enough for me to just ask to get, I wouldn't bother about it.

Lewis: Each of us has their own problems, more or less serious. But they could easily be resolved with a simple séance.

Vanessa: I don't think it would work.

Lewis: What does it cost us to try?

Vanessa: It goes against my ethics.

Lewis: Even if I propose a pay raise in return?

Vanessa: But I've never done such a thing.

Lewis: There is always a first time!

Vanessa: I have to think.

Lewis: As you think about it, I tell you that I will ask my wife to give you at least two hundred pounds increase.

Vanessa: (*Happy and amazed*) Two hundred?

Lewis: That's exactly what I said.

Vanessa: For me it would mean getting to the end of the month a little better.

Lewis: You are wrong.

Vanessa: I'm not wrong at all! You who live in luxury, what do you want to know?

Lewis: I didn't mean that two hundred pounds can't help you, just that if you get rich, that detail will become irrelevant. If the numbers came out you should no longer be forced to work, otherwise you would still have your desired increase. Regardless of how things go, you will win, what do you say?

Vanessa: (*Worried*) Doing what you ask me, however, we may cross borders that we may regret.

Lewis: Didn't you say spirits aren't dangerous? Why should anything change this time?

Vanessa: And would you be willing to take a risk, just not to have to depend on your wife anymore?

Lewis: Why not? So what have you decided?

Vanessa: The hell with it! You convinced me.

Lewis: Just to hell with it, we hope not.

Vanessa: It's so to say.

Lewis: In this case it is better to avoid.

Vanessa: Are you thinking about it back?

Lewis: No, I've never been more determined than now!

Vanessa: So go over to the kitchen and wait for me, I go home to get the necessary and then we start.

Lewis: Now? (*Worried*)

Vanessa: When something needs to be done, there's no point in waiting.

Lewis: *(Hesitant and a bit scared)* But just in our kitchen?

Vanessa: Yes, what's the problem?

Lewis: Do you think it's good for them too? *(Alluding to spirits)*

Vanessa: You can rest assured!

Lewis: Should I close the windows and turn off the light?

Vanessa: Absolutely not, neither darkness nor candles are needed to get in touch with the beyond.

Lewis: *(Reassured by the answer)* Thank goodness! The candles and the dark always have a certain effect on me. *(Both leave the scene, one goes to the kitchen and the other leaves the house)*

SECOND ACT

Same scenography as the first act.

Michaela: *(She is reading the newspaper when someone knocks on the door. Not seeing anyone go to open the door)* But where is Vanessa? *(And she stands up and goes to open)*

Alban and Lucile enter the scene.

Alban: Hi Michaela! Do you have a minute for us?

Michaela: Of course! *(After letting them in)* Take a seat. So tell me, what happened?

Lucile: It happened that our son changed. I don't know how to explain you, however he is different.

Michaela: He will be growing up.

Lucile: It is exactly the opposite.

Alban: Lucile means that he has become fearful and this is somewhat strange.

Michaela: Perhaps he is just a little scared, because he understands that he is entering the world of adults.

Lucile: I really hope you are right. But it all started when he began studying invisibility with your daughter.

Michaela: My daughter is studying invisibility?

Alban: Didn't Moriah tell you about it?

Michaela: Absolutely not.

Alban: I think Shane is afraid of becoming transparent.

Lucile: He often says: "Even if you can't see him, it doesn't mean he isn't there" and then adds that it's not his fault.

Alban: I think he wants to tell us not to be discouraged if one day we will no longer be able to see him.

Lucile: He is practically asking us not to abandon him if he becomes invisible.

Michaela: And what does my daughter have to do with this story?

Alban: We just wanted to know if Moriah behaves this way too.

Lucile: Or if you've seen them do some weird experiment.

Alban: Maybe you had seen them drink some magic potion to become invisible.

Michaela: Are you serious?

Lucile: Sure we are! We are desperate and we no longer know what to think. We find no other explanation for this sudden change in Shane.

Alban: You must know that now he sleeps only on the sofa. He says something could happen to him on his bed. And the only time he dozed off there, then he wanted to make his own bed.

Lucile: He forbade me to come near, saying it was better for me if I stayed away.

Michaela: Maybe he just feels more responsible for his own things.

Lucile: Since he was born, it has never occurred to him to do so... there's something underneath, I'll tell you!

Michaela: I understand, now calm down! I guarantee you I'll talk to Moriah and find out what those two are up to.

Lucile: Thanks! We knew we could count on your help.

Alban: Please, as soon as you have news about it, come and tell us immediately, at any time of day or night.

Michaela: I will do it! But you mustn't distress yourselves like this.

Lucile: *(Clasping Michaela's hands)* You are truly a friend! *(Then they leave the scene)*

Michaela: The potion to become invisible, those two are really crazy! *(And she goes to the kitchen)*

Lewis enters the scene with the lottery tickets in hand.

Lewis: *(Satisfied)* Now I just have to wait for the extraction. This time everything changes, my dear! *(Alluding to his wife)*

Michaela enters the scene.

Michaela: Did you call me?

Lewis: In a sense.

Michaela: Did you call me or not?

Lewis: In fact, I have to tell you something.

Michaela: Me too.

Lewis: I'll speak first. Mine is a hot topic.

Michaela: You say so because didn't you hear mine. Anyway talk!

Lewis: I promised Vanessa two hundred pounds a month raise.

Michaela: What have you done?

Lewis: Do you have hearing problems? We have to give our housekeeper a two-hundred-pound increase.

Michaela: Not on your life! How dare you promise my money, do it with yours!

Lewis: *(Indignant)* Okay, I'll do it!

Michaela: *(Suspicious)* And where would you find it?

Lewis: Don't worry! Somehow I will manage.

Michaela: Why do you care so much about giving her the raise? Ah! I understand: we are faced with the classic love affair between employer and housekeeper.

Lewis: I am not the owner even of the dog's kennel in this house so therefore I cannot be defined as the employer.

Michaela: This is another matter. However, the housekeeper inevitably yields to the flattery of the employer, by definition.

Lewis: Things aren't as you say, it's just that I have more heart than you.

Michaela: I believe instead that this heart beats for a younger woman.

Lewis: No, only for a person most in need.

Michaela: I'll check her financial situation and show you that that woman is heightening the gravity of her situation just to get what she wants.

Lewis: Do whatever you like!

Michaela: Instead of thinking about the housekeeper, you should worry about our daughter. Shane's parents claim that the boy has become weird since he started studying with Moriah.

Lewis: This seems absurd to me!

Michaela: According to what they say, Moriah and Shane are doing weird experiments.

Lewis: They will certainly be innocent teen games.

Michaela: Do you find the invisibility serum so innocent?

Lewis: What did you say?

Michaela: Do you want to tell me that you didn't know anything about it either?

Lewis: Absolutely!

Michaela: Yet you and your daughter are thick as thieves. Aren't you the one who favors her in everything?

Lewis: I certainly don't favor her in becoming invisible, if it is even possible!

Michaela: Anyway now you talk to her and find out what the heck those two are up to, because I want to know right away.

Lewis: I want to know too, not just you.

Michaela: *(Angry)* In the meantime, I'm going to look for her and if I find her...

Lewis: I come with you.

Michaela: You go on your own and stay away from me! *(And she leaves the scene)*

Lewis: My mother told me not to marry her! *(And he leaves the scene too).*

Vanessa enters the scene.

Vanessa: I was really a fool to let myself be persuaded. If those numbers aren't drawn, he'll think I'm a charlatan.

Moriah enters the scene.

Moriah: Hi Vanessa, I was looking for you!

Vanessa: I've been in great demand lately.

Moriah: What do you mean?

Vanessa: *(Digressing)* Nothing, forget it.

Moriah: So, look, during the séance a person who said his name was Irvine came to see us.

Vanessa: *(Amazed and thoughtful)* Irvine? Then...

Moriah: Is there anything you would like to tell me?

Vanessa: It would be complicated to explain to you. Sit down and tell me everything.

Moriah: *(Suspicious of this sudden availability of the woman)* Why were you reluctant to talk about the subject before and now you are interested? Tell me what has changed in the meantime, otherwise I won't tell you anything.

Vanessa: Okay. You must know that I did a séance with your father.

Moriah: Really?

Vanessa: Your father wanted a practical demonstration of how these séances take place and when we got in touch, he had the brilliant idea of asking the spirit who showed up for numbers to play in the lottery.

Moriah: But it's incredible!

Vanessa: Even more surprising is that he also got them.

Moriah: Are you telling me that the spirit that showed up gave him these numbers?

Vanessa: Yes, and do you know what his name was?

Moriah: Irvine?

Vanessa: Exactly! So, now tell me: what did he want from you?

Moriah: He asked us to look for a lady named Victoria.

Vanessa: *(Reflecting aloud)* In my opinion this spirit resides permanently within these walls.

Moriah: In fact, I often feel those strong chills at the base of my neck right when I'm home.

Vanessa: When the spirits make us feel their presence, it is because they have left something pending and cannot pass to the afterlife.

Moriah: Who could this spirit be?

Vanessa: To understand it we need to know who that woman is.

Moriah: What if we don't succeed?

Vanessa: It will be a big mess!

Moriah: Why?

Vanessa: The spirit has understood that through you he can communicate and now he will not leave you in peace until he has obtained what he wants.

Moriah: He will get tired sooner or later.

Vanessa: He has all eternity to try and instead we only have the time span of our short existence to satisfy him. It will be good to do it quickly, the sooner we do it, the sooner we get rid of him!

Moriah: But why would he also choose to give my father lucky numbers?

Vanessa: If they are lucky we still don't know, however we must also unravel this mystery. *(Hearing that someone is opening the door)* Someone is coming in, I'm going to the kitchen, if it's your mother it's better not to see us together. *(And she leaves the scene)*

Michaela: Finally you're back! I remind you that this house is not a hotel where you can come and go as you please. When you go out you have to say where you are going and above all with whom.

Moriah: I was with Shane studying at Simon's house.

Michaela: And what were you studying? Magic potions and serums for invisibility?

Moriah: *(Realizing that someone has told Michaela something)* We were doing a research on invisibility, but no magic potions, or anything like that, although I don't see what would be wrong with that.

Michaela: Absolutely nothing, except that your friend is literally terrified and that his parents think you are responsible for that.

Moriah: But I didn't do anything.

Michaela: We will see this! *(Then, looking at the watch)* Now I have to go to the dressmaker, but when I get back we will talk about it again.

Moriah: *(Resigned)* As you want. Although I assure you that I have nothing else to add.

Michaela: I hope for you that you are telling me the truth, otherwise no one can take away a severe punishment. *(And she leaves the scene)*

Moriah: That idiot is afraid even of his own shadow. *(The doorbell rings and Moriah goes to open the door. She looks through the peephole and sees Shane)* Come in, shadow man!

Shane enters the scene.

Shane: Where is he? Behind me?

Moriah: Who?

Shane: The shadow man.

Moriah: *(Sarcastically)* What a brave boy you are! There is absolutely no one, I was referring to you. However, if you don't stop with your paranoia, our parents will find out what we did.

Shane: You say that there is no one, but I am sure that someone is persecuting me.

Moriah: Who? Belfagor?

Shane: You are funny but strange phenomena happen in my house.

Moriah: I bet someone with a white sheet on is going for a walk around the house.

Shane: Stop teasing me! When I am alone in the house I often hear noises.

Moriah: Fear plays bad jokes!

Shane: But it also does damage. Since the noises are due to objects falling to the ground shattering into a thousand pieces, how can you explain this to me?

Moriah: *(Reflecting aloud)* Then it's true!

Shane: What is it true? Do you know something and do you keep us in the dark about it? Come on, talk otherwise I tell my parents everything.

Moriah: *(Grabbing him by the arm)* You won't do anything! I will take care of resolving this situation soon.

The doorbell rings and Moriah goes to open the door.

Simon: Help me, everything in my house is breaking up!

Shane: Do objects fall into your house too without anyone touching them?

Simon: Does it also happen in yours?

Shane: Yes, that's exactly what happens. And in yours? *(Turning to Moriah)*

Moriah: *(Embarrassed, she decides to lie)* Here too the same thing happens.

Shane: It's because of that damn séance. Now how do we get out of this situation?

Moriah: Complying with the request of that spirit: finding Victoria.

Simon: We will never succeed.

Moriah: Have you tried doing a thorough research?

Simon: No, I haven't.

Shane: Me neither.

Moriah: Maybe in this way the entity is demanding more effort from us.

Simon: He's pushing us because he sees our little interest.

Shane: If that's the way it is, we better get busy and fast too!

Simon: Let's go to my house, that's the only place where we have free internet access.

Shane: What are we waiting for? I don't want the spirit breaks the television set too.

Simon: It would be the second.

Shane: Why?

Simon: In my house he started with just that.

Shane: Oh my God! Let's go, my parents bought it new just yesterday! *(And they leave the scene)*

Lewis enters the scene simultaneously with Vanessa coming out of the kitchen.

Lewis: Ah, you are here!

Vanessa: And where was I supposed to be? Making lunch at Buckingham Palace?

Lewis: You are right!

Vanessa: Were the numbers drawn or not?

Lewis: *(Looking at the ticket)* 24 4 19 78. Not even one. He literally made fun of us.

Vanessa: I warned you that it wasn't sure those numbers would come out.

Lewis: Well! We tried.

Vanessa: Try playing them again.

Lewis: I think I will not, I am too disappointed.

Michaela enters the scene.

Michaela *(Turning to her husband)* So, did you settle the matter of the salary increase with her?

Lewis: Of course! Is it true? *(Turning to Vanessa)*

Vanessa: Sure!

Michaela: Very well! However, I want to see for myself next month as you deliver the extra two hundred pounds out of your own pocket to her.

Lewis: Why?

Michaela: Because you surely won't know how to get them.

Vanessa: If it's a problem, sir... it doesn't matter

Michaela: Instead it matters and a lot! When a person spends a word, he must be able to keep it. I'm really curious to see how he will do. And since we are talking about you, from now on, you won't have to talk about spirits when my daughter is present, did we understand each other?

Vanessa: But I'm not the one who enters the subject...

Michaela: I didn't tell you that you can reply, you just have to assert with a simple gesture of the head.

Vanessa: (*Embittered*) Yes, madam.

Michaela: Very well! Now you can go back to the kitchen to prepare lunch.

Vanessa: As you wish, madam. (*And she goes to the kitchen*)

Michaela: Where is Moriah?

Lewis: Don't you realize you're losing her too? (*Then he approaches the door with the intention of going out*)

Michaela: Stop you! Where are you going?

Lewis, without answering her, leaves the scene.

Michaela: All masters in this house! But I'll take care of making them toe the line! (*Then approaching the kitchen door*) Vanessa, I have to go to the dressmaker, but when I get back I want everything ready! (*And she leaves the scene*)

The doorbell rings and Vanessa leaves the kitchen to open the door.

Vanessa: (*After looking through the peephole, opens the door*) If you are looking for the hosts, I'll tell you right away that they are out, so you can come back later if you wish.

Lucile: We would prefer to wait here for their return. Maybe, in the meantime, we could take the opportunity to ask you some questions.

Vanessa: Would you like to ask me some questions?

Alban: Yes, if that's not a problem for you.

Vanessa: (*Thinking aloud*) It just became a trend!

Lucile: What did you say?

Vanessa: Don't pay attention to what I say! It's just that lately everyone seems to have something to ask me.

Alban: Then it won't be a problem if we do it too. We immediately get to the point.

Vanessa: I listen to you.

Lucile: *(Showing the Ouija board he initially kept hidden behind his back)* Do you know anything about this?

Vanessa: I know what it's for, but it's not mine.

Lucile: I know this, since the owner's signature is here. *(Pointing to Vanessa exactly where to look)*

Vanessa: *(With her eyes half open to focus)* In fact, a signature can be glimpsed...

Alban: This is Moriah's signature.

Vanessa: Excuse me, but without glasses I see badly, but even if it were, what do you want from me?

Alban: We just want to know why.

Vanessa: I honestly don't understand.

Lucile: We know this serves to ruin the brains of good guys. So can you tell us why you teach them certain things?

Vanessa: *(Trying to defend herself)* I've never taught anyone anything!

Alban: Moriah's signature is clear proof that this belongs to her. And how could she use it without the help of someone skilled in these things?

Vanessa: I assure you that I have never explained to her how to use it. In any case, this board cannot waste anyone's brain.

Lucile: Tell my son that he is convincing himself that he is going invisible!

Alban: You should know that because of this board, which we found hidden under his mattress, he prefers to sleep on an uncomfortable sofa rather than in bed.

Vanessa: *(Sarcastically)* I had no idea that a board used to communicate with spirits could make invisible!

Alban: Holy God! Is that board for this?

Vanessa: I don't want to repeat myself, but I assure you the guys organized everything by themselves and even your son agreed, so if you have to say something to someone...

Alban: If so, we owe you an apology.

Lucile: And we need you more than ever!

Alban: Why?

Lucile: Because our house is haunted.

Alban: So those weird noises and falling objects are due to this board?

Vanessa: They are not due to the Ouija board, but to a séance.

Alban: Who did they summon?

Lucile: If you help us resolve this situation, we will be eternally grateful to you.

Vanessa: But how can I help you?

Lucile: You have to disinfest the house.

Alban: It looks like she has to use an insecticide!

Vanessa: Don't worry! I understood what his wife meant. However, the only help I can give you is to tell you that the only ones who could put an end...

Lucile: *Interrupting her* Who else could be able to do that?

Alban: Don't interrupt her and let her talk!

Vanessa: The only people who can stop everything are the ones who summoned that spirit.

Lucile: How can they do it?

Vanessa: By satisfying the request made by him.

Lucile: And how do you know that there has been a request? Didn't you say you didn't know anything about it?

Vanessa: *(Embarrassed)* It always works like this, I know from experience.

Alban: *(Turning his wife)* You are the usual suspicious and intrusive! She knows this from experience.

Lucile: But how can we know what this request is?

Vanessa: Just ask your son.

Alban: Did you understand? Just ask our son.

Lucile: It is useless for you to repeat everything, I'm not idiot!

Alban: Excuse her but this story makes her nervous!

Lucile: That ghost broke a lot of things and also very expensive things that now I have to buy again, how can I be happy!

Vanessa: Now I really have to go back to work. I think by now you have understood what to do, so it is useless to add more.

Alban: But in case of need, can we turn to you again?

Vanessa: Of course! However I would prefer if we met somewhere else.

Lucile: Why?

Vanessa: Mrs. Edwards is not inclined to talk about this subject and I would prefer not to do it in her presence.

Lucile: Okay. For now, we thank you and when we meet Michaela we will speak so highly of you that she will be forced to give you a pay raise.

Vanessa: No, for heaven's sake! Where does Mr. Edwards find the money?

Alban: Mr. Edwards? We tell his wife.

Vanessa: It is a somewhat complicated story to explain. Thank you for your interest, but for the moment I'm okay.

Lucile: As you want! We just wanted to do you a kindness.

Vanessa: I'm sure of this, now excuse me but I really have to work.

Alban and Lucile: See you later! *(And they leave the scene)*

Vanessa: Just a territorial spirit with a question left unresolved we had to come across! *(And she drops into the chair)*

THIRD ACT

Same scenography as the other two acts.

Michaela: *(Intent on sewing)* Since I have been taking sewing lessons, I have really improved. When Maria arrives and sees this dress, she will be proud of her pupil.

Someone knocks on the door and Michaela goes to open the door.

Maria: May I?

Michaela: I was waiting for you. I couldn't wait to show you this. *(Showing the dress just finished)*

Maria: *(After examining it)* You're getting very good, but tell me: Does sewing relax you?

Michaela: Yes, it is very therapeutic for me.

Maria: Why? Are you nervous for some particular reason?

Michaela: I prefer not to talk about this.

Maria: *(Seraphic)* Sorry, I didn't want to be meddlesome.

Michaela: Excuse me, sometimes I get angry at nothing.

Maria: My dear, a person never gets angry for no reason.

Michaela: Maybe.

Maria: You just need to realize it. *(And she sits down and starts sewing too)*

Michaela: *(Looking at her, waiting for a question that doesn't arrive)* Don't you ask me the reason for my attitude?

Maria: No. Should I do it?

Michaela: People are usually curious and they do it.

Maria: But I am not. I just want to teach you this beautiful job and have some company. An old woman like me often feels alone.

Michaela: I assure you that even a young woman can feel alone.

Maria: I hope you're not alluding to yourself.

Michaela: Absolutely not! I have a daughter and a husband...

Maria: But I don't often find them here with you. I don't deny you that I'd like to meet them and chatting with them too!

Michaela: I am sure that sooner or later the opportunity will arise.

The doorbell rings and Michaela goes to open the door.

Moriah enters the scene.

Moriah: Hi mom, hello madam!

Maria: Hi Moriah!

Michaela: Go wash your hands now!

Moriah: Okay, I'm going.

Meanwhile, an object falls to the ground.

Michaela: How many times have I told you not to be careless! Come on, collect everything!

Moriah: Mom, it wasn't me.

Michaela: Don't be a liar! I'm cutting a bad figure with my guest because of you.

Maria: Don't worry. It is certainly not from this that one can see whether a daughter is well brought-up. *(Then she starts humming)*

Michaela: But she still hasn't understood that she shouldn't answer back when she is rebuked.

Maria: Ah! if it is so... *(And she starts humming again)*

Moriah: *(Picking up the object from the ground, turning to Maria)* Did you see it's not my fault that this fell to the floor?

Maria: I doubt it have fallen because of you, given where you were. *(Humming again)*

Michaela: So who was it that made it fall? The Holy Spirit?

Moriah: Maybe!

Michaela: What do you mean?

Moriah: Forget it! It's too complicated to explain and you wouldn't like it. *(And she leaves the scene)*

Michaela: Do you see? She answers in a strange and evasive way, sometimes I don't understand her.

Maria: And are you sure that she understands you instead?

Michaela: Of course! I am her mother.

Maria: Sometimes this is just a way of being called. *(And starts humming again)*

Michaela: I am a good mother and I love my daughter.

Maria: I don't doubt it! I wish I had been too, but I didn't have the opportunity, so I can't judge you. *(And she starts humming)*

Michaela: I assure you I'm flawless with her.

Maria: Very well! Now I have to go, maybe I'll come back later and help you with the finishing touches.

Moriah enters the scene but is not seen by her mother who has turned herself back.

Michaela: I'll wait for you, come back as soon as you can!

Maria: *(She greets Moriah with a nod and as she does so two objects fall)* Bye! *(And she leaves the stage humming)*

Michaela: *(Whirling around because of the noise she hears)* Haven't you done enough damage for today?

Moriah: Sorry mom, unfortunately today I'm really careless. I promise you I'll try to be more careful.

Michaela: I want to hope so! Where is your father rather?

Moriah: I don't know. I was looking for him too.

Michaela: I'm going to see if he's in the garden. *(And she leaves the scene)*

Moriah: *(Reflecting aloud)* Now he's starting to destroy this house too, I have to understand why.

Vanessa enters the scene.

Vanessa: Why did you sign the Ouija board?

Moriah: I wanted to make the spirit understand who was calling him among the three of us.

Vanessa: Spirits don't care who calls them, they simply take advantage of the communication channel of the moment. For them, one person is as good as another, the important thing is to be able to communicate with someone.

Moriah: Sorry, I didn't know.

Vanessa: You don't have to apologize to me, but to Shane who will surely be punished now because of you.

Moriah: How do you know that?

Vanessa: I talked to his parents and now they know everything that happened between you three, including the ghost. Guess who they think is responsible for everything?

Moriah: Me, because there is my signature on the board.

Vanessa: Exactly! But, then, right under the mattress you had to make him hide it?

Moriah: This was not my idea, but Simon's.

Vanessa: Does this change anything?

Moriah: Unfortunately not. Now if his parents tell my mom, I am in trouble!

Vanessa: For the moment this danger is not there, they will only do it if we do not find a way to solve the problem.

Moriah: With regard to this, a strange thing happened earlier. Objects began to fall here too without anyone having touched them.

Vanessa: Wait a moment! When did it happen?

Moriah: When Maria was present, the lady who always sings.

Vanessa: Are you referring to the dressmaker?

Moriah: Exactly! And the even more mysterious thing is that objects always fell when my mother looked another way, so then she accused me of what happened.

Vanessa: This means that the spirit does not want your mother to understand that he is here, but why?

Moriah: If this continues to behave like this, however, sooner or later she will notice.

Vanessa: You must know that spirits think differently from us.

Moriah: So what's going to happen now?

Vanessa: If I knew, I would have already solved the riddle!

Moriah: While you think about it, I go to the kitchen to study, otherwise my mother will scold me for that too. *(And she leaves the scene)*

Vanessa: *(Thinking aloud)* I need to find Lewis and ask him for the numbers Irvine recommended. I can't remember them, but I'm sure they have a meaning that could help us shed light on the story. *(As she is leaving, she finds Shane at the door)* What are you doing there, on the doorstep?

Shane: I wanted to ring the doorbell, but I didn't have the courage.

Vanessa: Why?

Shane: My parents forbade me to come here, but I wanted to see Moriah.

Vanessa: Come in! I won't tell anyone you came to her. She is over there in the kitchen, go ahead.

Shane: Are you sure I can go?

Vanessa: Of course, it won't be a spirit to curb a friendship!

Shane: Also because, fortunately, that one has stopped doing damage. It seems to have disappeared.

Vanessa: Really? Since when?

Shane: From today.

Vanessa: That is interesting.

The doorbell rings.

Shane: I hide in the kitchen, if they are my parents...

Vanessa: I'm sure it's not them. *(Then she goes to open the door)*

Simon: Excuse me madam, I should say something to Moriah and since I see Shane too, to him too.

Vanessa: From now on I want to know everything you tell each other.

Shane: So will you help us not to make him come back?

Simon: So he left your house too?

Shane: *(Exultant)* Fortunately, yes. We are finally free!

Moriah enters the scene.

Moriah: Who is making all this confusion?

Vanessa: *(Turning to the two boys)* I would wait to sing victory!

Moriah: Also because there are already enough people who sing who frequent this house!
(Suddenly many objects begin to fall on the ground)

Shane: Oh no, it starts all over again!

Simon: I just put everything in order in my house!

Michaela enters the scene.

Michaela: *(In a firm tone)* Ah, here you are all three! Very well, so I will speak once and for all.

Lewis enters the scene.

Lewis: *(Turning to his wife)* What happens? Your voice is heard from outside!

Michaela: You arrive at just the right time! So I also clarify with you.

Lewis: What do you still want from me? I have already explained to you what happened and I have apologized a thousand times. You should be satisfied, you won, what more do you want?

Moriah: Dad, you said that we could change her together, why are you giving up?

Lewis spreads his arms in surrender. The doorbell rings and Michaela goes to open the door.

Michaela: Hi Maria, come in.

Maria: Did I come at an inopportune time?

Lewis: Maybe you didn't arrive at the best time.

Maria: Then I'll come back later.

Michaela: Not at all! Stay here, I have no secrets, unlike others who plot behind my back.

Lewis: It was just a moment of weakness.

Michaela: Shut up, ungrateful corrupter of spirits. Asking for help from the dead to win the lottery it's a shameful thing!

Moriah: Father just tried his luck.

Michaela: And you, as a punishment, will not go out for two months, except to go to school!

Vanessa: It's not Moriah's fault, it's just that your daughter has a gift.

Michaela: You, say no more, you are fired!

Lewis: Please don't do this!

Michaela: You should thank me for that! By firing her, I take you away from the embarrassment of having to pay her the increase.

Lewis: *(Disconsolate goes to the door to go out. Approaching Maria, he hands her the lottery ticket)* Maybe these numbers will bring you more luck than they brought me! *(As he is about to leave he is stopped by Maria who grabs him by the arm)*

Maria: I really don't think these are my lucky numbers!

Lewis: Why do you say this?

Maria: These numbers form the exact date my husband died.

Lewis: Really?

Vanessa: Wait a moment! I'd like to ask you a question.

Michaela: But you'll have to do it somewhere else because you've just been fired, so get out!

Maria: Michaela, please allow me to answer her. *(Then turning to Vanessa)* Come on, tell me.

Vanessa: Was your husband called Irvine? *(Before the woman answers, many objects start falling on the ground)*

Michaela: What is going on?

Moriah: Do you see mom that's not me?

Michaela: Yes sure! But who is responsible for all that?

Moriah: It is the spirit who gave the numbers to daddy and who commissioned me to look for a lady named Victoria.

Maria: It isn't possible! For many years no one has called me that anymore.

Michaela: I thought your name was Maria.

Maria: Yes but my full name is Maria Victoria. Only an extraordinary man called me Victoria.

Michaela: And who was this man?

Maria: The person who still today, maybe doesn't forgive me for the mistake made many years ago.

Michaela: What mistake are you talking about?

Maria: It's better if I don't say anything and leave things as they are.

Michaela: I think it would do you good to talk about it.

Maria: I have a secret that I have kept hidden for many years.

Michaela: How many years?

Maria: Exactly the ones you have.

Michaela: I still don't understand what you mean.

Maria: I am your mom!

Michaela: Don't talk nonsense Maria! My parents are...

Maria: (*Interrupting her*) They're not your biological parents. They brought up you but I gave birth to you.

Michaela: I don't believe you!

Maria: I widowed and paralyzed right after giving birth, that's why I had to abandon you.

Michaela: Explain me better!

Maria: I was pregnant when there was that terrible car accident in which your father died. I was in a coma for several months and the doctors managed not only to keep me alive, but also to help me to give birth. After waking up from my coma, it took me eight months to fully recover. In the meantime, you were entrusted to the family you know and I didn't feel like taking you from their affection. Especially because I couldn't offer you the life of comfort and happiness that they could give you. I could hardly go on, given my financial straits. So I thought that if you gave up on you, you would have a better life.

Michaela: So why did you come to live near my house?

Maria: Because a mother is forever.

Michaela: Is it just for this? Don't you want my money?

Maria: No my dear, thank goodness, over time I have fixed my financial situation and I don't need the money. I only care about you. I dreamed of a life without deprivation and happy for you, but I see that it was not quite like that.

Michaela: I remind you that I have everything I want!

Maria: But you are missing the most important thing.

Michaela: What are you referring to?

Maria: I mean the love of your loved ones. The wealth you has hardened your heart, my daughter. It made you selfish and wary. This is the reason, with the excuse of sewing, why I tried to get close to you. I wanted to teach you to love.

Vanessa: It was not only you who approached her, but your husband too. Irvine wanted to reunite his family. Now we can say that those numbers were really lucky! In fact, they served to find again a lost affection. Definitely much more important than a lottery win!

Maria: I'm sure your father would have loved you very much.

Vanessa: I would say that he loves her! He wouldn't have made all this fuss, otherwise.

Moriah: (*Turning to Vanessa*) Now I understands why, when you said: "I would wait to sing Victory!", many objects started to fall.

Vanessa: Surely it was his way of making us understand that it was the Victoria singing the one we had to find.

Michaela: Who assures me that all this is true?

Maria: (*Takes a photo from her pocket*) Look at this photo! I always carry it with me. He was your father; you are as like as two peas.

Michaela: Good heavens, but then ...?

Maria: (*Interrupting her*) Then I'm sure she would tell you now to forgive everyone and love them differently than you are doing now.

Michaela: I don't know of another way.

Maria: If you want, we will teach you. After all, everyone can change. Imagine if, instead of being wealthy, you were poor and, like Vanessa, you were forced to suffer the oppression of an employer like you. What would you do?

Michaela: I would choke my employer!

Lewis: Then you thank God that she hasn't done it with you yet.

Michaela: What do you mean?

Moriah: He means that you need to be more generous to others.

Maria: You have to do this for your father, he would want this from you.

Michaela: I promise you that I will make an effort.

Lewis: Then start now! (*Looking at her and Vanessa*)

Michaela: I understand! (*And turning to Vanessa*) You're hired again.

Moriah: Don't you say anything to us? (*Looking at his two friends*)

Michaela: Okay, you can play together but no spirits, understand? (*A vase falls to the ground*)
What does he want now?

Vanessa: He just wants to tell us he's here.

Maria: And that will remain there forever to help you on your way.

Michaela: Okay, dad I promise I will change!

THE END