ACT I

SCENE 1

#1. “Come Find My Heart”

VOICES OF THE MAP
(Sung in a Fugue)

COME FIND MY HEART.
LOVE.
COME FIND MY HEART.

The interior of a one room colonial cottage in a deeply wooded area. The furnishings are sparse: a table, a couple chairs, and a fireplace. However, every spare nook has been used, filled with books and trinkets, paper, parchment, surveying tools, compasses, levels, chains, sundials, and writing utensils. A grandfather clock sits amidst the chaos and four other distinctly different clocks sit on the mantle. They all read different times.

Plastered over the walls are maps of every shape and size. String has been pinned to different points creating a confusing web of destinations.

A ladder leads to a hole in the ceiling and to what must be a loft.

The air is full of noise, the ticking of clocks and the crinkling paper dangerously close to the crackling fireplace.
A soft knock and the door creaks open as ANNA (20), a plain woman with a dirt-stained apron and a hopeful air diminished only by her overwhelming weariness, enters, shedding light into the dank, dark cottage.

ANNA

Hello?

ANNA steps further into the room cautiously, fearfully.

ANNA (CONT’D)

Simon?

The grandfather clock BONGS loudly, making ANNA jump. She becomes tangled in part of the web. She cannot move, let alone free herself.

SIMON (21), an unassuming man with tussled hair and an air of frenzy (spectacles askew, tunic untucked, and ink-stained hands) appears above. ANNA freezes, caught. SIMON excitedly bounds down the ladder.

SIMON

Wonderful!

ANNA releases the tension in her shoulders.

ANNA

It’s good to see you.

Completely unaware, SIMON goes from clock to clock, checking the time, and recording it in a ledger on the table.

SIMON

Four o’clock, six and a quarter, ten to... five—
ANNA
Simon.

SIMON thrusts a sundial out the window.

SIMON
And... half past. Interesting.

ANNA
Simon!

SIMON turns to the string/web disaster and his whole being goes limp with grief.

SIMON
What a horrific mess.

SIMON approaches the knot.

ANNA
(assuming he’ll free her)
Thank you.

Instead of untangling ANNA, he starts replacing pins.

ANNA (CONT’D)
Simon!

SIMON finally hears/sees ANNA.

SIMON
Anna? My— What are you doing here? I’ve never had— You came.

ANNA
What has become of you?

SIMON checks his appearance. He attempts to straighten up.

SIMON
I’m not certain I know what you mean...

ANNA
There have been many speculations since you left town, recluse, sorcerer—
"THE MAP" by Ariel Mitchell and Edison Hong

SIMON
Not sorcery. Science.

ANNA
(Not stopping)
But I never imagined... this.

SIMON
Ah. Well. Now you’ve seen the oddity. You could have spared my measurements.

SIMON returns to the knot.

ANNA
No please don’t— I need your help.  
(No response)
They say... They say you have magic.

SIMON

ANNA
They say that you can make a map to your true love’s heart.

SIMON stops working.

ANNA (CONT’D)
They are calling you The Cartographer.

SIMON
The Cartographer. Hm.

ANNA
So?

SIMON
What?

ANNA
Can you?

SIMON
I suppose you’re trying to win some handsome cad’s heart?

ANNA
I’m not. It’s... it’s Daniel.
SIMON
Of course. Daniel.

ANNA
Can you do as they say or not?

SIMON
Sounds like I am not the issue.

ANNA
Please. I don’t know... I don’t know what else to do.

#2. “How Did I Fall?”

HOW DID I FALL FOR A MAN I CAN’T PURSUE?
HOW CAN I KNOW THAT I’M THE ONE FOR HIM?
CAN’T I BELIEVE THE FAIRY TALES ARE TRUE,
FOR SOMEONE PLAIN LIKE ME?

BUT HOW CAN HE FALL WHEN HE WON’T EVEN GLANCE MY WAY?
HOW CAN HE KNOW THE BEAUTY HE WON’T LOOK TO SEE?
CAN I SHOW HIM THAT I HAVE THINGS TO SAY,
WHEN HE DOESN’T HEAR MY VOICE?

ALTHOUGH LOVE SEEMS LIKE A DREAM,
WHAT I FEEL, IT IS REAL.
SO TO CAPTURE THE MYSTERY,
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY WE,
CAN HAVE IT FOR OURSELVES.

WHY WOULD YOU LOCK YOURSELF IN THIS LONELY SHACK?
WHY WOULD YOU WASTE YOUR LIFE ON A STUPID GAME?
IF THERE’S NO WAY TO WIN THE LOVE YOU LACK,
WHY DON’T YOU QUIT?

SIMON
I can’t help you.

ANNA
Don’t you believe there’s some way to find
love, to contain, possess it for ourselves?

SIMON
I know there is.

ANNA
Then?
#3. “The Human Heart”

SIMON

THE HUMAN HEART IS A DANGEROUS PLACE.
THE TERRAIN IS CHALLENGING,
UNPREDICTABLE.
THE HUMAN HEART IS A DANGEROUS PLACE.
IF YOU ARE DISHONEST,
YOUR INTENTIONS AREN’T CORRECT,
THE WAY WILL CLOSE,
THE PATH WILL DISAPPEAR,
THE PENALTY IS QUITE SEVERE.
YOU MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE.
YOU MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE,
AGAIN.

This is, he is really what you want?

ANNA

More than anything.

SIMON searches ANNA’s eyes, then
in a moment of resignation, nods.

VOICES OF THE MAP
(In a Fugue, underscoring the following
exchange)

COME FIND MY HEART.
LOVE.

SIMON opens a drawer and pulls out
a new, crisp sheet of parchment
which he smooths out over a table.

ANNA

It’s blank.

SIMON

You think maps come ready-made? My job is to
locate our destination.

ANNA

How do we do that?
#4. “There Are No Words”

SIMON

STEP ONE:
START FROM SOMEWHERE WE KNOW,
THEN WE GO,
FROM THERE.
WE PRICK YOUR PALM WITH A PIN,

SIMON pricks ANNA’s finger and
squeezes some blood onto the
parchment.

ANNA

Ow!

SIMON

TO SHOW US WHERE TO BEGIN.
YOUR LONGING HEART WILL LEAD US TO OUR GOAL.
YOU KNOW YOU LOVE HIM,
SO SHARE WHAT YOU FEEL IN YOUR SOUL.

ANNA

THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE,
THE FEELINGS I FEEL FOR HIM.
I’D RISK MY LIFE OR LOSE A LIMB,
IF HE ASKED,
ANY TASK.
IF HE WOULD ONLY LOOK AND SEE,
EVERYTHING THAT MAKES ME ME,
THE LOVE I HAVE...
THERE ARE NO WORDS.

A point appears on the map.

ANNA (CONT’D)

It’s working! Look!

SIMON

STEP TWO:
PLOT TO SOMEWHERE THAT’S SURE,
A LOVE THAT’S PURE,
AND TRUE.
WE MEASURE THE DISTANCE OF,
THE POINT YOU MADE AND, SAY, OUR LOVE.

ANNA

Our—?
SIMON
OUR CONSTANT CARE IS SOMETHING THAT’S FIXED.
A PLACE WE CAN CHART TO,
WHERE ROMANTIC FEELINGS WON’T BE MIXED.

ANNA
Alright.

SIMON
THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE,
THE FEELINGS I FEEL FOR YOU.
THERE’S NO TELLING WHAT I WOULD DO,
IF YOU ASKED,
ANY TASK.
I’D FOLLOW YOU TO THE VERY END,
BE THE TRUEST, LOYAL FRIEND,
THE LOVE WE HAVE...
THERE ARE NO WORDS.

SIMON marks a point on the map.

STEP THREE:
WAIT FOR IT TO APPEAR.
THE PATH TO CLEAR,
OUR WAY.
REPEAT STEPS ONE AND TWO,
TO LEAD HIS HEART HERE TO YOU.
THE SCIENCE HERE IS NOT SO PRECISE.
WE’RE OPEN, HONEST,
THEN TRUST IN THE MAP AND ROLL THE DICE.

ANNA reaches out and touches
SIMON.

ANNA
THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE,
THE FEELINGS I FEEL FOR HIM.
I’D RISK MY LIFE OR LOSE A LIMB,
IF HE ASKED,
ANY TASK.
IF HE WOULD ONLY LOOK AND SEE,
EVERYTHING THAT MAKES ME ME,
THE LOVE I HAVE...
THERE ARE NO WORDS.

SIMON
THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE,
THE FEELINGS I FEEL FOR YOU.
THERE’S NO TELLING WHAT I WOULD DO,
IF YOU ASKED,
ANY TASK.
I’D FOLLOW YOU TO THE VERY END,
BE THE TRUEST, LOYAL FRIEND,
THE LOVE WE HAVE...
THERE ARE NO WORDS.
SIMON opens the cabin door.

VOICES OF THE MAP
(Fugue)
COME FIND MY HEART.
LOVE.
COME FIND MY HEART.

SIMON

We’re here.

ANNA

(Looking around)
But nothing has changed.

SIMON

It’s real. The Heart Forest! Hundreds of trees and each branch laden with——

ANNA

What are you talking about?

SIMON

Don’t you see it?

ANNA

All I see is the path to your cabin.

SIMON

Oh, Anna, it’s— Can’t you see the hearts?

SIMON picks up rocks and presents them to her.

ANNA

These are rocks.

SIMON

But they—

ANNA

You are mad.

SIMON

No I—!

SIMON picks up a rock which starts to glow in his hand.
ANNA
Witchcraft!

SIMON
(Slowly, carefully)
No, Anna, this is the answer, this is what you’ve been seeking! Each of our hearts lives here. All we have to do is find yours and once you offer it to, to your true love, he won’t be able to resist.

ANNA
(Drawing close to the glowing orb)
This is my heart?

VOICES OF THE MAP
(Stomp as the heartbeat)

SIMON
It is. If you’ll take it.

#5. “How Did I Fall?” Reprise
HOW DID I FALL WHEN I WASN’T MEANING TO?
HOW CAN I KNOW TO TRUST THIS PULL I FEEL?
WHY WOULD I WANT TO GIVE MY HEART TO YOU,
WHEN I’M SO CAREFUL WITH ITS CARE?

ANNA
But I— I love Daniel.

SIMON
I offered my heart. You shouldn’t be— You can’t resist.

ANNA
I’m sorry. I love him. I have to find my—

ANNA picks up a stone which begins to glow.

ANNA (CONT’D)
Heart.

SIMON
But you can’t—

ANNA
(Tears in her eyes)
You’ve made love possible for me.
ANNA turns to leave.

SIMON desperately grabs her heart.

ANNA stops abruptly. She clings to her chest.

ANNA (CONT’D)
(Out of breath)

What—?

ANNA she turns to SIMON.

SIMON
THE HUMAN HEART IS A DANGEROUS PLACE.

ANNA
Please. Don’t—

VOICES OF THE MAP
(Stomp as the heartbeat, Louder)

SIMON
THE HUMAN HEART IS A DANGEROUS PLACE.

ANNA
What have you done to me?

VOICES OF THE MAP
(In a Fugue)

COME FIND MY HEART.

SIMON
YOU MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE, AGAIN.

The Heart Forest appears. The hearts hanging from the trees glow an ominous crimson red.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 2

The gift shop of Lone Rock State Park in modern day Rock Town, Virginia.