SELECTION #2 – THE TIME BETWEEN I / NIGHT I

(The stage is dark, except for EVE, still staring at the front door. She checks if it’s locked. HOWARD enters, breaking the spell.)

HOWARD

Finally, some quiet.

(EVE is startled, she snaps out of her trance.)

EVE

Where are the kids?

HOWARD

I finally got them to calm down. Sonia is asleep, and the boys are watching a movie upstairs.

(Seeing how EVE’s eyes still trail to the door)

Are you okay?

EVE

What? Yes. I’m fine.

HOWARD

You must be tired after spending the day sorting through all this junk.

EVE

No, it was… interesting, actually. It’s not really junk at all. There are some amazing artifacts here, Howard. I never realized that my grandparents had this collection… and that library!

HOWARD

You’re not thinking of keeping all this stuff, are you?

EVE

No! No, of course not. But –

HOWARD

We agreed that we would just take the personal things, and Misty-Onic would buy the rest.

EVE

Miskatonic, Howard. And yes, yes, you’re right… but, it all kind of feels personal, you know, now that I’m here? When Armitage first called I could barely remember this place – you know how surprised I was – but now… it almost feels like it was waiting for me.
HOWARD
It feels like a mausoleum to me.

EVE
(After a beat, changing the subject)
How were the kids today?

HOWARD
(Sharply)
Didn’t you hear them fighting?

EVE
What?

HOWARD
Eve, you were right here. You can’t not have heard. I haven’t seen them go at it like that in a while, not since… not since we first got married, and Thomas and Phillip would scream for hours…

EVE
That was a long time ago.

HOWARD
Maybe. But tonight wasn’t the first shouting I heard today. Not that you would have noticed.

(EVE looks at him sharply, he backpedals)
I’m sorry, I didn’t mean… I’m just… worried about them.

(A beat)
I don’t know if we made the right decision.

EVE
What do you mean?

HOWARD
Coming here.

EVE
Howard, we only just got here. We need time to adjust, we’ll all be happier soon.

HOWARD
I’m not sure how much happy there is in this place.

EVE
It’s just a house, Howard. And yes, it’s far away, and it’s strange, but doesn’t every kid want a summer outside in the country?
EVE (cont’d)
SOMEBEFORE IN THIS PLACE IS AN ADVENTURE,
THEY NEVER FAIL AT FINDING THOSE.
SOMEBEFORE IN THIS PLACE IS AN ADVENTURE.

HOWARD
I don’t think the kids see it that way, Eve.

EVE
I’M SURE THAT THEY WILL SEE
THE GRASS IS SLOWLY TURNING GREEN.
I’M SURE THAT THEY WILL KNOW
THAT THIS IS JUST THE TIME BETWEEN.

HOWARD
If today was any indication… I don’t know.

EVE kisses him.

EVE
SOMEBEFORE IN THIS PLACE IS AN ADVENTURE
And we’re only here until the end of summer. Just give it a chance.

EVE + HOWARD
SOMEBEFORE IN THIS PLACE IS AN ADVENTURE,

EVE
I’M GLAD I GET TO FACE IT WITH YOU.

(Seamless transition into Night. The House in darkness.)

PHILLIP
DRIP DRIP DRIP JUST THE RAINNNNN…

SONIA
I CAN SEE IT…

PHILLIP
IT’S DARK’EH.

THOMAS
SO DARK’EH.
I HEARD A E’H.
EVE
CRACK!

HOWARD
CRACK! SOMETHING’S…

EVE
I HEAR… I HEAR… I HEAR… I HEAR… I HEAR… I HEAR…

ARMITAGE
HSSSS……..

SONIA
I CAN SEE IT, IT’S BEAUTIFUL.

(A figure walks through the darkness. SONIA is sleepwalking. She hums. The roof of the house disappears, suddenly SONIA is outside. She looks up into the sky, it is full of stars. The stars grow bigger and bigger, engulfing the stage. The humming gets louder and SONIA’s sleepwalking gets more and more violent, until it is clear that she’s having a nightmare. Suddenly, she is silent. Azif. Nocturnal sounds surrounding her, disembodied voices echoing in her head.

PHILLIP
Rats. Stop. No. Rats. Rats! NO! STOP!

THOMAS
I heard a cRacK. I heard a CRACK!

HOWARD
WHaT did YoU DO?

(EVE appears in the doorway, and rushes up to SONIA as she becomes more and more distraught. EVE grabs her by the arms and SONIA wakes up, breathing heavily.)