

Till Death Do Us Part

a short object theater piece by Cole Fetting, Jessica Nguyen, and Mason Arsenault
script written by Mason Arsenault with input from Cole Fetting, Jessica Nguyen and Mia Van Leeuwen

Characters

People - Death, Minion 1, Minion 2

Objects - Trinity, Christina, Matthew, The City Hierarchy, Small Death

A table center stage. The table should have different objects representing the characters Trinity as an adult, Christina, Matthew, the City Hierarchy, and a small Death when she enters in the story's world. The table should have a section made to resemble a forest (trees, vegetation, colourful) with another section made to resemble a city (buildings, industrial, a wall separating the city from the forest, grey). Behind the table should be a large sun on a stick and a large moon on another stick. To the side of the table should be a throne with an old book on it. The back of the set should be a curtain from which physical people enter and leave from. The table should also be covered with black cloth that reaches the floor to hide objects and for the object performers to hide their bodies with.

Death slowly walks out from behind the curtain, wearing a colourful suit. She stops center of the back of the table and snaps her fingers. Suddenly arises from behind the table are Minion 1 and Minion 2, dressed in all black and on both sides of Death.

Death: Good evening my friends, my colleagues and more
I'm here for a story you may have heard before
One of tragedy, of grief, and feelings despair
One you may recognize from a midnight's nightmare
And yet from it all rises a feeling of hope
Told from within a most shrunken sized scope
So enter with me to a land of shun and abhor
And see how the love of two souls persevered evermore

Death takes out cloth from her jacket pocket and unravels it to reveal baby Trinity

Death: This little one here was born unlike any other and for her crimes, her parents abandoned her in the woods where differences are forgotten.

Death sets baby Trinity in the forest section of the table and snaps her fingers again, causing Minion 1 to take hold of baby Trinity and Minion 2 to take hold of Matthew from behind the table. Death takes a seat on the throne and opens the book. The faint sounds of a baby crying are heard.

Death: She was sure to have had a visit from me, had not the blind hermit Matthew been out for his morning walk.

Matthew arises from behind the table, wanders over to Trinity, petting her with great care

Death: Though he could not see, he knew this was a child of God and so he took her in and named her Trinity. And he loved her. As years went by, the age of her body began to match the beauty of her soul and she became a most exceptional young woman.

Death waves her hand as if magic, and causes Minion 1 to switch the baby Trinity with the adult.

Death: The two went on to share many wonderful years together. But as with all poor souls, there came a time when Matthew had no more life to live.

Death closes the book and descends behind the table, bringing up small Death onto the table. Small Death touches Matthew, causing him to die and Minion 2 to descend behind the table. Death takes Matthew behind the table while Minion 2 rises back up to fix Matthew a gravesite before returning back behind. Death puts small Death back behind and stands up, returning to her throne and reopening the book.

Death: Poor Trinity. All she had ever known was in that forest and so she remained. Meanwhile, a young woman named Christina was desperate to leave behind her world of oppression. And so, one night, she snuck away into the forest, unaware of what would await her...

Minion 2 takes on Christina in the city section and slowly moves her into the forest as she sings a soft song. Trinity hears the song and begins to move towards it. As the two get close, they see each other and are initially shocked. They then slowly move closer to each other, taking the other in. They go into kiss, quickly breaking away. However, entranced by the other, they do so again. This time holding onto the kiss with passion.

Death: And at that moment, two lost souls suddenly felt as though they knew where they belonged. With each other.

The two minions leave their characters and stand back up; one holding the sun and one holding the moon. The two take up an end of the table and then the sun moves across to the other side, resulting in the moon doing the same. This repeats for four cycles in total.

Death (during cycle): Christina stayed with Trinity and life was perfect. Until, one day, Christina proposed a most consequential question...

Death snaps her fingers, causing both minions to stop and fall below the table. Minion 1 takes on Trinity and Christina while Minion 2 goes to the City Hierarchy.

Death: Christina asked for Trinity to return with her to the city. Trinity was hesitant, knowing nothing of that world. But the love for her partner was more than any fear could control her. And so they went. But what became of it...not even I could have seen it coming.

Death goes to the table and picks up small Death, standing her from behind the wall. Minion 1 moves Christina and Trinity to the city as they gaze up while Minion 2 as the City Hierarchy turns them away with the threat of death. The two begin to leave, but Christina stops in her tracks and turns around. Seeking justice, she acknowledges Trinity but returns back to confront the City Hierarchy. The City Hierarchy reaches down and kills Christina with small Death mimicking City Hierachy's actions. Minion 1 drop Christina and takes on Trinity. Trinity checks Christina before returning to the forest, utterly grieven. Small Death grabs Christina and puts her behind the table. Death arises and takes a seat once more. The two minions rise back with the sun and moon. They do one slow simultaneous movement across the table.

Death: Trinity, disturbed and distraught, returned once more to the only thing she had left; her home in the woods. From that day, the remainder of her time was sat outside, staring off into the distance. Until one day, many years later and Trinity had long-aged, it was her time to go.

The minions set the sun and moon down behind the table. Minion 2 takes on Trinity while Minion 1 sneaks behind the curtain with Christina. Death closes the book, walks to the table, and takes control of small Death. She slowly approaches Trinity before Trinity turns to her and acknowledges her, causing Death to halt in shock.

Trinity: Well...you're finally here. I've been waiting for you.

Death: Young one...in my eternity, no one has ever acknowledged me with such calm and patience. You paused your life for me. Why?

Trinity: *(pause)* My father always told me the cruelest trade that came with being blessed life was also being blessed with the knowledge that it had to come to an end. But you are not the cruelty that comes with life. You are the relief of it. As long as there is hate, nothing will be worse than life itself.

Death: Oh my child...you did not deserve any of this. But do not blame life nor should you praise me. We only bring you into this world and we take you out. The rest falls on human hands.

Trinity: So tell me then, what is there left for someone who has only known pain?

Death: I cannot give you back the life you lost. But what I can do is return to you something with the promise that you will never have to say goodbye again.

Death points to the curtain as Minion 1 walks out to reveal himself with Christina in his hands. Trinity becomes emotional. Death wraps her arm around Minion's arm. They each take their respective characters in their free hand and Death turns to the audience.

Death: Our story of life and death has come to its end
Whether you enjoyed it or not will likely depend
But now, from the heart, I have something to say
Something I hope will remain with you to stay
Live not of hate, of violence, and war
Life should not be such a bleak hurting sore
Live of love, of kindness, and deepened respect
Leave only to others a most positive of effect
And now, as I leave, live your life to the prime
For I shall see you all at least one final time

Death holding small Death and Minion 2 holding Trinity walk behind the curtain, joining Minion 1 and Christina.

END