Muse

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洛基·缪斯

主题剧本

Scene 1

Red Velvet (on phone)

Hello? Hi, Red Velvet Theatre. You're calling to see the show?

How many in your party? And the name, please?

You're all booked. See you soon.

(The audience waits at the entrance)

【Will's Opening】

Will

A Face.

A Smell.

A Fear.

An Illusion.

A Secret story.

A story born from fear.

And a Muse that never lets you wake.

【Grand opening】

Will

Good evening.

Is this the Red Velvet Theatre?

I'm the novelist you invited.

Red Velvet

Oh!

Mr. Will, is that you?

Will

Yes!

Red Velvet

Welcome to the Red Velvet Theatre.

Please, come in.

【End of grand opening】

(Audience follows the lighting cues to the front desk)

(Audio of a news)

Scene 2

Red Velvet (walks out holding a lamp):

Who's there?! Oh! It's you - my guests with the reservation~ Look at me, getting all worked up - I thought someone from the Grand Theatre next door had come to cause trouble. I'm so sorry~ Everyone, stand over here for a moment. Let me introduce myself. I'm the owner of this theatre, Maxine Crawford, though everyone calls me Red Velvet~

Judging by your clothes, are you visiting town?

(Photo on the table of a classic horror scene where someone bursts through a door)

What are you looking at? That's my favorite kind of horror-movie moment. There's something so captivating about someone bursting through a door - it's a classic.

Anyway, it's getting late. Let's get you checked in. Who called me earlier? Then could you come over and fill this out? It's lively tonight. Ever since the Grand Theatre opened on the east side of town last year, this place has practically become an antique museum.

But our Red Velvet Theatre is nothing like the Grand Theatre next door. Here... we don't take walk-ins. We only accept private bookings. Why? Because I don't think seeing a show should be the same for everyone. Every guest who comes here deserves a performance made just for them. Some people want thrills, some like suspense, and some... say, 'I'm not scared,' but the moment they hear the slightest sound, they can't help turning around. Every story you see tonight, every 'character' you meet, even every sound you hear - I've prepared all of it just for you. All right, enough of that. Let's finish checking you in.

(ominously)

I'm curious - why come to my theatre instead of the Grand Theatre next door? Haven't you heard that people have died here before? Well, the people who died were my parents. This picture was taken of them out front while they were alive, and that scarecrow beside them is still standing guard there. When there are no guests, I dance with the scarecrow. I also make perfumes. When you came in just now, did you notice that unusual scent? Then I really must introduce these perfumes. I blend them especially for the hotel. Come a little closer

and have a smell~

【MUSE HAND REACHES OUT】

Smell that? The perfume gets rid of the musty smell in the theatre, and it helps you settle in for the show. But this one is my favorite. It has a special name: Muse.

【MUSE ON TABLE】

Like it? Let me spray a little on your hand. My perfume is very calming.

Finished? Let me see... Oh! That fountain pen. We can't leave this lying around. It was a gift from a very famous writer, Mr. Will. Unfortunately, he left town on the 15th of last month to gather his horror inspiration. Otherwise, you might have met him. He did leave his novel manuscript behind when he left, though - Eyes in the Storage Room. He wrote it while he was here. So I suppose you could say I gave him the inspiration. By the way, how many of you are there tonight? ( )?

Then who's that behind you...

【MUSE BEHIND】

Maybe my eyes are playing tricks on me. All right, I'll take you to the lounge to wait.

(Looking at the table)

I almost forgot - my dear actor Tom asked me to bring him a letter. Would you mind coming in and watching the front desk for me?

【FRONT DESK SHOW】

1

(Red Velvet asks Will to sign the Check-in Sheet)

Will

Ms. Red Velvet, I'm super excited about our collaborations.

What should we write about?

Red Velvet

Wow, people always say they see a Mummy in my storage room,

Do you wanna go have a look?

2

Red Velvet

Mr. Will! I have prepared a space just for you to write

I'm sure more of your inspirations will pop up there!

Do you want to go check it out with me?

(Approach to the room)

3

Will

(Close a note book)

Right! Here is what we'll write,

A Face.

A Smell.

A Fear.

An Illusion.

A Secret story.

A story born from fear.

And a Muse that never lets you wake.

(Red Velvet kills him with an axe)

【End of the front desk show】

Red Velvet

Why is the curtain at the entrance down?

Don't tell me something really did~burst~through~the~door?

Everyone relax. First thing tomorrow, I'll ask Old Tom from the east side of town to come fix it properly.

All right, let's see today's rota. Oh dear, maybe because you arrived a little late, all the actors except Tom have gone home. And Tom is new - all he can do right now is odd jobs.

Tell you what: I'll show you around the theatre while we wait. I'll call the actors and ask them to come back.

Scene 3

(Leads the guests into the theatre)

Red Velvet

Come along. This is my storeroom, full of the props and costumes we use in our shows. But guests often tell me they've seen a monster in here with eyes all over its body.

(Brings the lamp close to the audience)

And some of the sillier guests mistake the scarecrows outside for ghosts. Come on. Here we are. This is the theatre itself. Since we only host private bookings, when I took over I divided the theatre into two sections with curtains. On the left is the actors' lounge and backstage; on the right is where you'll actually watch the show.

(The front-desk phone suddenly rings; audience explore the hotel following the lighting cues)

Red Velvet

What terrible timing. Looks like you'll have to look around on your own for a bit. I've left some lights on ahead. There are lots of antiques in here, so follow the lights and don't wander off!

【While exploring, players discover a flashback in the bathroom of Will staying here to write】

Will

Got it. I'll have the manuscript done within three months.

I promise!

【After the flashback, audience continue exploring and encounter MUSE jumpscare】

(After the jumpscare, Red Velvet calls to the players from the far end of the opposite corridor)

Red Velvet

My guests, where are you? Can you hear me? Did you get lost? I'm terribly sorry. I should have led you myself. Maybe the old lights didn't show the way properly.

Come on, I've gota lantern. I'll show you the rest of the theatre.

【MUSE AND RED VELVET SWITCH-PLACE JUMPSCARE】

What are you waiting for? Come on.

Scene 4

(A dog suddenly barks)

Red Velvet

Oh, those damned stray dogs. How did they get in again?

My little theatre hardly gets any business, and it's already old and run-down.

Every time those dogs get in, they chew up everything. If they tear the theatre apart, business will be even harder. I know you're all kind people, so you'll help me, won't you?

Please go chase them out.

(The actor playing Will appears as Tom and meets the players; change voice and posture)

Tom

Who are you? You're here for the show, right?

Listen - I'm new here. I've only been here three days.

Three days ago, the boss said she'd pay me well if I kept the storeroom tidy. But these last few days, I've seen a monster in there! Its body is covered in eyes!...

Shh, shh, shh - look! Quick, come with me! This way. Crouch down!

(The eye-monster shines its light across the storeroom)

You saw it, right? That's the thing. Every night it walks around shining a flashlight all over the place. I don't know what it's looking for. We can't let it see us. If it catches us, who knows what it'll do?

This place is too dangerous. We need to get out. I've got a car, but the engine is dead. There's a toolbox in the storeroom. See if you can find anything to fix the engine with,

and I'll get you out of here! Hold on to me. Come on! This is the storeroom I told you about... Hurry. Crouch by the door. Whatever you do, don't let that thing see you. I'll look for the tools...

【STORAGE ROOM SHOW】

(Players return to Red Velvet)

Red Velvet

My guests, why do you all look so flustered? Did you get rid of the dog?

By the way, have any of you seen my perfume?

【MUSE HIDES; RED VELVET'S LIGHT DIES; GHOST SCREAMS AND JUMPSCARES】

Scene 5

(After the jump scare, Red Velvet finds a bottle of perfume where MUSE was standing)

Red Velvet

There it is. I really shouldn't leave it lying around. I'm running out of Muse; I'll go mix up more. Back in a moment.

(After sound cue)

Will

When did I write this many characters? And this one looks··· sooo bad! Wait... that body heat... Are you real? Oh - sorry. Didn't scare you, did I?

I'm Will. I write horror novels. I'm looking for inspiration for a new character, so I bought all this stuff. I wanted to know what it feels like to play a psychotic killer. If I can get inside their head, I can write the character more convincingly.

Give me a second to put this down.

Come in. Red Velvet set aside a space just for me to work. And you are...? Fans of mine? Ah, I see. But this many of you showing up in the middle of the night, don't tell me you're here to chase me for the manuscript again?

(If players say no)

Thank God! You have no idea. Lately, all these calls asking about the manuscript have been driving me insane. But you came all this way, so I won't lie - I haven't even started the new novel. But I can explain!

(If players say yes)

I knew it! Every day, all I hear is, 'Where's the manuscript?' It never ends! I told you, give me a little longer, I'll have it soon. Why do you have to...

Here's what happened. I came here to find inspiration. I was completely blocked and couldn't write anything better. I was desperate. Then one day, Red Velvet invited me. She said this place could give me endless inspiration. I was like someone in the dark desperate for the first light of dawn. I came without a second thought.

(Smells the perfume on the players)

But... wait, what's that smell? I know it - Red Velvet's perfume, isn't it? The one called 'Muse'! That damned, wonderful Muse! But how much did you spray? It's so strong I can barely breathe...

【MUSE POSSESSION】

Can we get some air where I write?

That's better.

Listen, whenever Muse gets into my nose, those things appear. Last time I saw a man covered in eyes, rip down the cloth Red Velvet hung at the entrance! A scene like that, bursting right through the door... it was incredible!

Scene 6

(Red Velvet appears and interrupts Will's interaction)

Red Velvet

Bursting through a door - isn't that exactly the kind of horror scene I said I love? Mr. Will, impeccable timing. I just told my guests you'd left town, and then you turn up. Now you've made a liar out of me.

Will

Miss Red Velvet, what are you even talking about?

I've been here the whole time.

Red Velvet

Oh dear, you caught me. But if you shatter the fairy tale now, aren't you afraid you'll taste the taste of blood?

What are you guests doing in Will's space? Out. We can't have you ruining Mr. Will's inspiration!

Everyone, over here.

Mr. Will, come with me. I've had a new idea. Let's discuss it onstage.

【START CORRIDOR SHOW】

(After the corridor show, Red Velvet delivers a silhouette monologue)

Red Velvet

Mr. Will, what happened? How did you end up in such an undignified position? What an unfortunate ending... Looks like Muse has embraced him. Mm~ Muse is especially fragrant today. Can you smell it?

Scene 7

(Audience follow the lighting cues to the novelist's room)

Will

You? All of you, over here. Let me see. What's going on? Didn't you strangle yourselves to death at the end of the corridor? What are you talking about? How could I have killed myself? I'm standing right here...

Wait, did we see the same kind of thing? We each saw the other die?

How did I never think of that! I need to write this down!

Look at this. This whole thick notebook is filled with ideas I got in this hotel! There are so many stories. Let me tell you a few.

(Ghost-story sound effect)

There's a mother who lost her child and cries in the corridor every night; and a monster covered in eyes that sweeps a flashlight around the storeroom, searching for something. When it can't find it, it screams and sometimes cries in there... Red Velvet told me all of this. She keeps appearing while I'm writing to tell me strange stories from the theatre's past.

Now I get it - this run-down theatre and that strange perfume are the best horror material anyone could ask for!

This place is full of secrets. How about we find them together? Then I'll turn them into a novel. I've even got the title - The Landlady and Her Thousand and One Hapless Guests. It'll be a bestseller! Let's go downstairs. I'll take you to the actors' lounge.

Who knows what other creepy thing Red Velvet has been working on.

(Clown sound effect begins)

Will

Did you hear that? It's the same music Red Velvet played the last time she told me a story. What was that one again? Oh! The clown from the circus outside town! She said he used to stay here too. Look, that's his show poster, right here on the wall. But ever since the circus burned down, the clown...

(Clown peeks out)

So I used him as inspiration for a story. Have you ever seen a clown? Look, this is the manuscript. I wrote it in a rush of inspiration, then decided it was too bloody.

(Clown peeks out)

What are you talking about?! There's just a bunch of curtains behind me. There's no one there! Fine, you pull the curtain open. Let's see what's behind it.

Ah! That's actually the clown I wrote! Look - doesn't he look exactly the same?

Wait. He seems to be looking for something...

【CLOWN CHASE】

Oh my God, run!

(After the clown chase, regroup at the table)

Will

Over here! Hahahaha! Well? My clown is pretty intense, right? Fun, huh?

(While Will talks to the audience, the Clown interacts with them, trying to make the audience smile)

Will

Smile, and the Clown won't bother you!!!

(Stop the Clown)

Will

But this isn't the time. Staying alive comes first! Red Velvet is obviously doing something weird here; we must leave this place! I'll go get my suitcase, and let's get out of here!

(Sees the seats around the table)

Stay here. I'll be right back!

(Grab the Clown)

Come on, it's not the right time to scare people; let's go pack up.

Scene 8

(Meets Red Velvet at the door)

Red Velvet

Mr. Will, I love the clown you wrote. It's wonderful! A clown should hate faces that don't smile! As a child... I had a strange illness. My whole body stank and oozed pus... everyone... saw me, covered their noses, screamed, and backed away... Only the clown... he always smiled...

and held out a balloon...

Will

(Sounded fake)

Thank you, Red Velvet!

You know what,

I just had an extra idea for our story. I'll go to the room and write it down,

(Left with rush)

Red Velvet

I'll come in a moment!

(Approaches to the photo)

Today's perfume... still isn't enough to cover the smell of this rotting body...

Good thing those idiots can't smell it...

This rotten flesh of mine is all thanks to you!

Fifteen years ago... you locked me in the bathroom and performed that ridiculous exorcism, pouring holy water over my skin...

Do you know how much that hurt? All I could do was pray, over and over.

And you...

Until I smashed that bottle of hallucinogenic perfume... my... Muse...

【TABLE-SIDE SHOW】

Will

Did she leave? I found a newspaper

'Bloody Christmas Family Massacre.' It says what happened at this theatre... Just imagine - a fifteen-year-old girl actually...

(The phone rings; he leads the players to eavesdrop on Red Velvet's call)

Scene 9

Will

Shh. Come here. Follow me!

Red Velvet

(corridor) Listen, Mr. Gordon. I don't care how you do it. Three days from now, I want that datura extract waiting at my theatre door.

Who's there?!

Will

(Red Velvet's footsteps approach)

Run! She's coming!

You heard that, right? That was Red Velvet. She wants datura extract. I know what that is. Every part of the datura plant is poisonous; too much can cause powerful hallucinations. What does she need it for?

(Enter living room)

Will

Careful. There's a row of seats here. Wait here while I see if there's anything I missed before.

Red Velvet's diary! Let's see if it tells us what really happened on Christmas Eve.

I'll read it out:

(Read aloud in sync with audio)

“This cloying scent of perfume, is the poison my mother distilled from lies.

They said it was the wrath of God'

【BATHROOM SCARE】

(After the bathroom scare)

Will

Hey! What are you staring at? I've been calling you.

(Continues reading diary)

Father didn't call a doctor... he called a priest. They poured holy water onto my festering wounds and scraped away the rotten flesh with a silver knife...

So her parents thought it was a demonic curse, and that delayed treatment for her skin disease?

(Continues reading diary)

When I scared the neighbor's children with ghost stories, they finally stopped looking at me with disgust... Their screams were beautiful! So fear was the best medicine after all.

What the hell is wrong with her? She actually enjoys scaring people? But you guys are my readers. You've read plenty of my novels - what kind of person do you think she is? She killed her own parents, then pretended to be the victim. That's terrifying. This is a murder case. We can't deal with this ourselves. We need to call the police before she realizes we know. Come on - let's go report it!

Scene 10

Red Velvet

(blocks Will at the end of the corridor)

Mr. Will, I have to say, you're clever.

And yet, my secret··· has finally found its way into the light.

Can you smell it?

The fragrance lingering upon the pages of my diary···

Will

Fragrance? All I smell is the stink of rotting flesh!

It suits that twisted mind of yours perfectly!

Red Velvet

A stink? Hahahaha... When I was a child, whenever they changed my dressings... layer after layer of filthy cloth soaked in pus and blood... That smell! Up my nose, into my head!... I could never lose it! I didn't want people shunning me like the plague! I didn't want to be locked in that freezing attic! It was cold... It was dark...

Look at your faces now, full of disgust... I still prefer fear frozen on your faces... just like his a moment ago... Hahahahahaha! (suddenly touches someone's face)

But my horror stories stopped being enough... until I found you - a great writer with no inspiration left. So I invited you here, to use your words... to weave a better nightmare for me. But those idiots behind you tried to barge in and take you away!

Will

So you used the perfume to make them witness my death, and to make me see their disappearance. If we both believed the others were dead, no one would try to escape this perfect prison? Brilliant. That's a hundred times better than any of my half-finished novels!

Red Velvet

Just what I'd expect from a famous writer...

Will

The more terrified we get, the more you enjoy it... right?

Red Velvet

Yes! I want your fear to soothe this heart of mine, rotten long ago. That's the only way to keep the game fair, isn't it?

Will

Making other people suffer to heal yourself will only drag you deeper into darkness!

Red Velvet

Darkness... I haven't stepped out of it once...

Not since I was born...

A pleasure having a deal with you, Mr. Will!

【RED VELVET STARTS THE CORRIDOR CHASE】

Will

Go, go, go! Run! This way! Don't move! (Will leads the players until they are cornered) No... none of this is real. It's a hallucination! None of these things exist. It's all fake, all of it! What happened? Are we okay? I thought we were going to die here. Wait, where's my flashlight? Where did the monsters go? Gone? Just vanished? Damn it, how... I've got it! Red Velvet said she needed datura extract, remember? If she's putting datura in

the perfume, then 'Muse' is making us hallucinate - turning our fear into something we can actually see! If that's it... come on!

(Leads the players to sit beside the main-show stage)

Scene 11

Will

Everyone, sit down. Oh, and while Red Velvet wasn't looking, I stole the bottle of Muse she left at the front desk!!! Think about it. Every time Red Velvet feeds us an idea and pulls us into a hallucination, the scenes from the novel we see are things she described first. She says she loves someone bursting through a door, sprays me with the perfume, and the very next second the scene appears right in front of us!

(Audio)

She invited me here not because she needed new inspiration, but because she wanted to use my writing to turn this theatre into a living hell. The more frightening my stories, the more real her illusions become. I was just a tool she uses to create the perfect fear.

But she forgot: even a perfect trap has a weakness. If she can use my words to make us afraid, then why can't we do the same to her? Make her face the deepest, most rotten, most hidden thing inside herself! So what is she afraid of?

(Red Velvet claps and bursts into the novelist's room)

Red Velvet

Clever little mouse. Finally learned to bite the cat's tail?

Too late.

Will

You think an illusion can hold me?

I've written something worse than this!

Red Velvet

But can you face the fears you created?

Will

(trembling slightly but trying to stay calm)

Your tricks are getting old. Tell me - if I use my own words, together with this perfume, couldn't I create an illusion that frightens you?

Red Velvet

Don't you dare -

Will

What terrifies you most isn't death! It's the sharp, cruel laughter of the children you played with! It's the attic you could never escape! It's the face in the mirror, laughing over the bodies of your own family!

Red Velvet

Shut up!

(He steps forward instead of backing away)

Will

You enjoy it, don't you? Seeing people fall apart.

Now it's your turn to find out what it feels like to be swallowed by fear!

(Suddenly sprays the perfume at her)

Red Velvet

No! This isn't real!!! You!!!

Will

Welcome to your own devil.

【RED VELVET'S DREAM】

Scene 12

Red Velvet

Don't look at me in that face. My pain was real, and those screams were real.

Fear was the only thing that ever convinced me I was still alive.

Go on. I was an outcast, something you could never accept.

Kill me!

If I cannot be the master of the nightmare… then let the nightmare be the last thing I ever wake from

【CURTAIN CALL】