

SHOVELS AND HACKSAWS

---

By Jonathan Dorf

## Cast of Characters

CELESTE, a 269-year-old vampire in the body of a teenage girl.

WENDY, a teenage girl. Not a vampire.

ANDREW'S BODY, optional. Given that the body just lies there the entire time and should be facing away from the audience, this could be an actor of any gender, a dummy or anything else your production can rig.

## Production Notes

It's possible to do the play without Andrew's "body" on stage (though it could be an opportunity for some really fun stunt casting). If you don't use a body on stage, consider Andrew just offstage. In that case, you'll need to adjust Celeste's "Does he look alive to you?" to "Did he look alive to you?"

A park--by a bench. Shortly before midnight. CELESTE, teenage vampire, flustered, is there with WENDY, teenage girl of the nerdier variety who's dressed like she was sleeping fifteen minutes ago--perhaps because she was. Celeste looks like she's just eaten something very messy and red, and it's all over her mouth. On the ground, perhaps in front of the bench but facing upstage in any case so as not to be distracting, is a body.

CELESTE

I thought he was the one.

WENDY

(To herself:)

This is so bad. I shouldn't be here. I should've turned my phone off. Why didn't I turn my phone off?

CELESTE

Like "the" one.

WENDY

This is so so so bad.

CELESTE

And now I'm just so...disappointed.

WENDY

Disappointed?

CELESTE

Yes.

WENDY

You're disappointed?! You ate Andrew!

CELESTE

I didn't eat him. I'm not a praying mantis.

WENDY

You sucked hi--

CELESTE

Don't be gross.

WENDY

--sucked his life force out of his body.

CELESTE

I see why you get As in English.

(Beat.)

I didn't mean to. It just happened. He went like this,

She pushes her lips out as  
Andrew.

CELESTE

and I went like this,

She pushes her lips out as  
herself, a bit more sultry.

CELESTE

and it was about to be this perfect moment and then I--

She makes exaggerated vampire  
hissing sounds.

CELESTE

--and now...

(Realizing something's on her  
face:)

Why didn't you tell me I had him all over me?

Celeste goes rummaging in her  
pocketbook, fails to find what  
she's looking for--a wet nap--and  
ultimately wipes her face with  
her hand.

WENDY

(To herself while Celeste  
rummages:)

I am peace, I am calm, I float like a butterfly over my  
troubles. I turn obstacles into opportunities.

CELESTE

What's wrong with me?

WENDY

Wait--maybe he's just unconscious...or woozy. Maybe he's  
still alive!

CELESTE

Does he look alive to you?

(Beat.)

He was going to be the first person in his family to go to  
college. He was so deep. He wanted to major in astrophysics.  
I don't even know what that is, and I'm 369 years old.

WENDY

Did they have astrophysics during the Revolution?

CELESTE

We had muskets and horses and *outhouses*.

WENDY

I still can't believe that you met George Washington.

CELESTE

Could you possibly geek out later? We're in crisis mode.

WENDY

Geeking out is saving me from a nervous breakdown.

CELESTE

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin blah blah blah...

(Beat.)

I just don't know if I can ever date again.

WENDY

When I go to the farmers market, all the fruit and veggies look so beautiful. But if I have a big meal right before I go, I don't overbuy.

CELESTE

What are you talking about?

WENDY

As much. Of the time.

(Beat.)

I'm just saying you could eat something first. Before. Your date.

CELESTE

Andrew had such pretty green eyes.

WENDY

Or have you ever tried blood bags?

CELESTE

Do you remember after midterms when I was out for a week?

WENDY

You said you were on an emergency museum tour of Paris.

CELESTE

I broke out in hives. Here. In [name of your town].

WENDY

And that was...?

CELESTE

Blood bags.

WENDY

What about animals?

CELESTE

Do you eat dog food at *your* house?

WENDY

Dogs can eat human food.

CELESTE

That's not the point.

WENDY

Like coconut and salmon and plain yogurt as long as they're not lactose intolerant. Garvey McDoodles likes quinoa with salmon, which is actually really great for dogs as long as the salmon is fully cooked.

CELESTE

Wendy!

WENDY

Sorry.

(To herself:)

I am peace, I am calm--

CELESTE

Focus: We have to clean up Andrew. Before somebody finds him.

WENDY

I float like a butterfly over my troubles. I turn obstacl--

CELESTE

Yes. This was an obstacle, and we're turning it into an opportunity. To bury Andrew.

WENDY

How does nobody notice anyone's missing?

CELESTE

A public school that's reducing class sizes? You think anyone wants to rock *that* boat?

WENDY

It's not fair that every time this happens, I have to come and clean it up.

(Getting progressively more agitated:)

First Ethan, and then Carlos and Thrasher and now Andrew?!

CELESTE

(Takes Wendy's hand:)

You are peace, you are calm, you're a butterfly.

CELESTE (CONT'D)  
 (Making Wendy's hand  
 "float":)

Float. There you go. See? You're floating!

Beat. Wendy doesn't mind Celeste  
 having her hand. Not at all.

WENDY

Fine.

Beat. Wendy exits.

WENDY (OFF)

It's just that I can't be on call every time something...bad  
 happens.

CELESTE (CONT'D)

I know you have a really busy schedule with all that studying  
 for math--

WENDY (OFF)

AP Calculus.

CELESTE

--and science--

WENDY (OFF)

AP Physics and AP Chemistry.

CELESTE

and obsessing over *Game of Thrones* [or the show of the  
 moment].

WENDY (OFF)

I'm talking about being an accessory after the fact to  
 murder.

CELESTE

What about me? You're just cleaning up--I did it! Do you  
 realize how triggering this is for me? I'm reliving 366 other  
 dates.

WENDY (OFF)

366! You've done this 366 times?!

CELESTE

Andrew makes 367.

Enter Wendy carrying a shovel.  
 She's got dirt all over her  
 clothes.

WENDY

The dirt in the usual spot is hard.

CELESTE

That's less than one a year. I'm like a monk.

(Beat.)

We don't have to put them all in one place. Do you think there's something wrong with me?

WENDY

Seriously?!

CELESTE

What? It's not like I can help it.

WENDY

We need to talk about this.

CELESTE

Could we talk about it while you dig?

WENDY

Why do *I* have to dig?

CELESTE

Because you love it.

WENDY

What? I do not. Why would you say that?

CELESTE

Because you do. Secretly, you love that I need you.

WENDY

You need me?

CELESTE

See?

WENDY

No. This stops now.

CELESTE

OK.

WENDY

What do you mean OK?

CELESTE

OK.

WENDY

OK what?

CELESTE

OK you can go.



WENDY

What are you going to do about Andrew?

CELESTE

I don't know. Probably just leave him out. Maybe an animal will eat him. It's been a minute since there's been a mountain lion sighting around here, but keep hope alive. Or maybe a werewolf.

WENDY

There are werewolves?

CELESTE

There are vampires.

Beat.

WENDY

You can't just leave Andrew to be eaten. More eaten.

CELESTE

Why not?

WENDY

Because you can't.

CELESTE

It's my mess. So it's my problem. You're a butterfly, floating--

WENDY

I don't like how you're handling it.

CELESTE

You're no longer a part of it.

WENDY

I don't accept that.

CELESTE

You are so codependent.

WENDY

I am not.

CELESTE

You so are.

WENDY

Want to see codependent? I'll show you codependent. Leaving.

Wendy starts walking away.

CELESTE

You won't get ten feet. Fifteen. You won't get twenty-- [Feel free to adjust these numbers for the size of your stage, though it's also OK if Wendy gets a little offstage.]

Wendy shows no signs of stopping and may even exit.

CELESTE (CONT'D)

Wait!

Want to read the entire script? Hit the back button and follow the instructions for requesting a perusal!