

Still Life With Iris
By Stephen Dietz
Cut for UIL Competition
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Scene 1

Music of Mozart fills the theatre. Location signs appear as search is on for a mystery "someone" and the inhabitants of Nocturno go about their business.

Man(Mister Matternot) stands full back looking at a sign that says Welcome to Nocturno. Iris emerges from the hustle and bustle of the workers and searchers.

Iris: Are you curious or lost?

Man: Pardon me?

Iris: It's better to be curious than lost, don't you think? Which one are you?

Man: I'm new.

Iris: Yes, I know. I can tell by your coat. Why have you come?

Man: I'm looking for someone.

Iris: Well, at this time of night, everyone's at work. Whatever you see in the world by day, it's made here by night in Nocturno.

Elmer and Hazel enter

Elmer: Can you help us Iris? No one can find things like you can.

Iris: I'll help you as soon as I--(She turns to Man)

Man: Your name is Iris?

Iris: Yes. Why?

Memory Mender: (calls out across the distance) You there, sir-let me take a look at that coat!
Sir, did you hear me? (Man is gone)

Flower Painter: Elmer, Hazel--are you finished with your chores?

Hazel: We have a problem. (indicates the empty spots bag)

Iris: The spots are missing?

Elmer: I didn't take them.

Flower Painter: Did you talk to the spot maker?

Hazel: He sent them out, just like he always does.

Flower Painter: But, the world requires Ladybugs, and Ladybugs must have their spots-

Iris: Maybe you could paint them on.

Flower Painter: Out of the question. I'm a flower painter- nothing more. I wouldn't know the first thing about painting spots on bugs.

Elmer: I guess our chores are done--

Flower Painter: It's not that simple. Without us, the world would come to a standstill. You are Spotters and you must do your work.

Hazel: But we've looked everywhere-

Flower Painter: I'm sure Iris can find them. She's like her dad in that way. That man could find the moon on the blackest of nights.

Elmer: Then why has he never found his way back home?

Hazel: (reprimand) Elmer!

Elmer: He's been gone forever.

Flower Painter: No one knows why Elmer, and I think it's better left...

Iris: Would you tell me if you knew? I was only a baby, then. Even my mom won't tell me why he left.

Flower Painter: Because she doesn't know, Iris. No one does. It was the night of the Great Eclipse, and the moon was particularly hard to find. He went out to bring it in... and he's never returned.

Iris: There's an eclipse tomorrow.

Flower Painter: The first one since that night. I Doubt we'll get to enjoy it though--

The order just came in and it's big.... A storm

Elmer: Big?

Flower Painter: Huge. Now and again.

Elmer, Hazel and Iris: Now and again

Hazel: I'm sorry about my brother. He always says stupid things.

Iris: It's not stupid. I think about it all the time.

Elmer: ...a Stormwhat does that mean to people like you and me?

Iris: It means that somewhere in this town...right now.. Just waiting for us...is a big ..fresh..wet..batch of ..

Iris, Hazel, Elmer (a delicious whisper) ..rain (they run.... Into the memory mender)

Memory Mender: Careful, now- or you'll trip and rip your coats. And if you rip your coats I'll have to sew 'em back for you. And you know why, don't you?

Iris, Hazel, Elmer: Yes, we know why-

Memory Mender: Hazel, who are the rulers of Nocturno, our home?

Hazel: the Great Goods

Memory Mender: Iris, where do the Great Goods live?

Iris: Across the water on Great Island.

Memory Mender: And, Elmer, how deep is the water that surrounds Great Island?

Elmer: Umm-

Iris: I know-

Hazel: I know, too!

Elmer: So do I!

Memory Mender: Well?

Elmer: It's --umm--

Memory Mender: You knew it when I asked you last week. Let me see your coat. See there. (throughout the monologue, MM threads a needle, and repairs the rip- "doing" and ranting but the exposition is important so keep focus) A little rip in your coat and your memory is harmed. It makes me crazy. You've got to take care of your coat because your coat holds your past. Every stitch, every pocket, every button and sleeve--it's your whole life in there! Think you can just go out and get a past like you can get a glass of milk?! Think again. (finishes sewing) There we are. Now, Elmer, how deep is the water that surrounds Great Island?

Elmer: (touching the new stitches in his coat) Ninety-nine thousand and twenty-three feet.

Memory Mender: Exactly. Now, don't trip and get a rip. Iris, have your mom keep an eye on that button. It's getting loose.

Iris: I will

Memory Mender: (taking Iris aside) And one thing more: the fog lifter is retiring today. After all these years, she can still set the fog down in the morning--but she just can't lift it up anymore. She'd like you to take her place, Iris.

Iris: (honored) Thank you.

Memory Mender: Now and Again

Iris, Hazel, and Elmer: Now and Again

RAIN AND MUSIC *Transition to Iris' kitchen*
Scene 2

Iris: Hi, Mom

Mom: How was the rain? (she knows)

Iris: (Surprised that mom knows) What rain? Good. Cold. (Mom sets down the cocoa and smiles) Mom, they asked me to be the Fog Lifter.

Mom: I'm very proud of you, Iris.

Iris: And we saw all the thunder they're bottling up!

Mom: This storm means a lot of extra work for me. A lot of wind to be taught.

Iris: Why doesn't the wind remember how to whistle?

Mom: The wind has no memory. Just like us if we lost our PastCoats. So every storm, I've got to start from scratch and this being a big storm, I've got to teach not only whistling-but howling.

Iris: Did Dad used to help you? (thoughtful pause)

Mom: Yes, in fact, he did.

Iris: and did you ever help him?

Mom: Iris, I've told you, it's better forgotten, it's better not to think about-

Iris: Did he leave because of me? Because he didn't want to be my dad?

Mom: No

Iris: Why then?

Mom: I wish I knew. On the night of the great eclipse he went in search of the moon- but it was so dark, Iris. I'm afraid he lost his way and was captured by that black night.

Iris: I know you haven't forgotten him. I know he's still part of your coat. Please, Mom. Tell me about him.

Mom: Every night he roped the moon. And he pulled it down out of the sky. Then he'd give the signal (Palm open fingers spread arm extended she raises her hand slowly in front of her.) to raise the sun into place. That was his job. He was the Daybreaker! He left something to you, Iris. A leather pouch. He wore it every night while he worked.

Iris: Why haven't you given it to me?

Mom: I was afraid it would make you sad. All these years I've tried to protect you from that.

Iris: Please don't. Not anymore

Mom: You're right. It's time it was yours. (mom starts to exit as Iris lifts her cocoa from the table) Careful. That's hot.

Iris: Sometimes I get mad at him, Mom. Sometimes I wish I could find him and make him tell me why he left. I've waited so long for him to come home.

Mister Matternot: Your waiting is over, Iris. You've been selected.

Iris: Mom-?

Mister Matternot: You needn't call for your mother. You needn't think of your father, anymore-

Iris: You were lost--you were looking for someone---

Mister Matternot: And I've found her. You've been chosen.

Iris: Chosen by whom?

Mister Matternot: The rulers of Nocturno--the Great Goods.

Iris: Mom!

Mister Matternot: They have, you see, only the BEST of everything on the Great Island-- but, until this moment, they have never had a little girl. Now, they will have you.

Iris: I belong here with my...(Mom enters confused and without her coat) mom!...Make him go away! He's scaring me-- I don't want to go to the Great Island--please, Mom, make him go away!

Mom: Why is this girl calling for her mother?

Iris: What are you saying? What is---Mom. Where's your coat?

Mom: What's that?

Iris: (to Matternot) Her coat--where is it

Mom: What coat is she talking about?

Iris: She went in there to bring me a pouch--a leather pouch--and now she--

Mom: You must mean this. I found it in the next room. Is it yours?

Iris: Yes. (takes the pouch from Mom quickly)

Mister Matternot: Iris, listen to me, the Great Goods do not wish to cause you any pain. And so, to remove the heartache, we must remove the coats.

Iris: YOU'VE TAKEN AWAY HER COAT.. LOOK AT HER! SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHO I AM!

Mister Matternot: Listen to me. This is what's done. It's better to let me have your coat. Now... please.

Iris: But if you take my past, who will I be?

Mister Matternot: It's the only way, Iris, to make it not hurt.

Iris: Let me keep the pouch.

Mister Matternot. It will mean nothing to you once your coat is gone.

Iris: Please? Mom...?

After a moment Iris surrenders and Matternot removes her coat

Mister Matternot: Iris. Open your eyes. My name is Mister Matternot.

Iris: Hello.

Mister Matternot: And this is Miss Overlook.

Miss Overlook: Hello, Iris. It's a pleasure to meet you

Iris: Nice to meet you, too. Where are we?

Mister Matternot: A little girl and her mother once lived here. We came to visit them. But now we're on our way to Great Island. Everything on the island--every single thing-- is the BEST of its kind.

Iris: And what's this?

Miss Overlook: That's your pouch, Iris. It belongs to you.

Iris: Is that mine, too? (Pointing to the coat Mr. Matternot is holding)

Mister Matternot: It belonged to the little girl who lived here. Miss Overlook, I'll see you on Great Island.

Miss Overlook: Did you drop this button?

Iris: It must have fallen off that girl's coat.

Miss Overlook: Why don't you hold on to it. Maybe you'll find her in your travels.

Iris: I'll put it in my pouch.

Miss Overlook: I hope I see you again, Iris.

Transition to Great Island
Scene 3

Grotto Good: But, my fear is this, that I will handle it badly. I fear I don't know how to maintain a little girl. What do they do? What do they eat? And what will I do if she says something to me?

Mister Otherguy: I'm sure you'll handle it well, Master Good.

Gretta Good: I must tell you, a terrifying thing just happened to me.

Grotto Good: What was it, my dear?

Gretta Good: I found a second earring. It was just lying there, next to this one.

Grotto Good: My good, what did you do?

Gretta Good: I threw it away, instantly.

Grotto Good: Oh, thank good.

Gretta Good: It set me back, I must tell you. A shock like that.

Grotto Good: Don't think of it again. Now, Gretta dear, I've been assured by Mister Otherguy that I needn't be nervous about meeting a little girl.

Gretta Good: We'll be fine, Grotto dear. We've chosen the best of the best.

Grotto Good: But what do they do--these children? That's all I'd like to know. And what if she says something to me? Mister Otherguy? Oh, my good.

(Otherguy shrugs his shoulders)

Iris: Hello.

Grotto Good: My good, she said something to me. You are a girl.

Iris: Yes.

Grotto Good: And now you are here.

Iris: Yes, I am.

Grotto Good: And I am speaking to you.

Iris: Yes, you are.

Grotto Good: And now I am Finished. Gretta?

Gretta Good: You must forgive my husband. He's never spoken to a little girl before.

Iris: I see.

Gretta Good: But you are welcome here, Iris. More than welcome, you are treasured. Have you nothing to say?

Iris: Where's my other shoe?

Grotto Good: Oh, my.

Gretta Good: You are wearing the finest shoe under the sky.

Iris: It's beautiful--but, still, the one I'm wearing really hurts my foot. Is there another pair I could wear?

Grotto Good: Oh, my.

Gretta Good: Oh, my.

Gretta Good: There are no other shoes for you. We have only what's BEST on this island and to ensure the value and importance of each item, we have only one of everything.

Iris: One of everything- what do you mean?

Grotto Good: Look around, Iris! Everything here is unrivaled in its goodness. Like, for example, our Book, our Drape, our Chair.

Gretta Good: That is why you have only one shoe.

Iris: What happened to its mate?

Grotto Good: It is now in the Tunnel of the UnWanted.

Gretta Good: Now, Iris, we've heard you have a gift for finding things. Is that true?

Iris: I don't remember finding anything.

Grotto Good: You'll help us find PERFECT THINGS for the island, I'm sure.

Gretta Good: We are ever on the lookout for flaws. We mustn't let anything that is not the BEST invade Great Island. Like this for example. What is the meaning of this old pouch?

Grotto Good: And what's inside?

Iris: A button.

Gretta Good: Otherguy, show Iris her toybox.

Iris: (she removes a doll dressed just like her locked in a box) There's no one else to play with?

Gretta Good: We're still searching for a little boy.

Grotto Good: One who's perfect- Like you.

Iris: I'm not perfect.

Gretta Good: Really?

Grotto Good: Very well. Tell us something you've done that wasn't perfect. Something from your past, Iris.

Iris: I can't think of anything.

Grotto Good: You see! Enjoy your toys Iris!

Gretta Good: And if you find anything that is not the Best of its kind-

Grotto Good: We'll discard it and replace it immediately!

Music and lights

Time transition Iris looks at the doll dressed exactly like her she tries to open the box
Iris: How can I play with her if she's locked inside?

Sound of tick tocks and music- lights reveal Iris in various bored positions)

Scene 4

Mister Matternot: Hello, Iris.

Iris: How long have I been here?

Mister Matternot: One month- Is something wrong? Iris, the Goods have filled your toy box with the finest toys under the -

Iris: under the sky- Yes I know- and maybe you'd like to play with them. Would you like to play cards, well...here's the CARD...Or maybe you'd like to do a jigsaw puzzle.. Here's the PIECE.

Mister Matternot: What is it you want Iris?

Iris: The little girl whose coat you offered me? May I go see her?

Mister Matternot: She's gone Iris. Put it out of your mind.

Iris: I'll find her myself

Mister Matternot: I've told you: No one leaves the island without the permission of the Goods.

Iris devises a plan. BEAT

Iris: My toy box does not suit me. It has two handles. I want it replaced immediately.

Mister Matternot: (to Otherguy and Himtoo) Inform the Goods.

Iris: Mister Matternot?

Mister Matternot: Yes?

Iris: Why are there three of you?

Mister Matternot: What do you mean?

Iris: The Goods have only one of everything, How come they have three of you?

Mister Matternot: Because we're ordinary. We're not special in the least.

Iris: When I hold this button in my hand and close my eyes... I see a picture in my mind. Why would that happen? (holds button- still life appears)

Mister Matternot: May I see that button? (He removes his gloves and takes hold of the button- still life disappears music fades)

Iris: You have scars on your hand. Long red scars. Where did they come from? (Mister Matternot quickly gives Iris the button and returns his glove to his hand and exits)

Voices offstage- Grotto: Oh Iris! Gretta: We have your new toybox! Iris opens the toybox and steps inside closing the lid)

Grotto Good: Here we are!

Gretta Good: Iris?

Grotto Good: She must be with Mister Matternot. We'll leave it here and surprise her.

Gretta Good: I'm so proud of her, Grotto. She found fault with something! She's become a Good through and through.

Grotto Good: Look at that- it's an abomination! Away with it this instant!

Otherguy and Himtoo exit with the toybox while Mister Matternot enters

Grotto Good: In with the best, out with the rest

Gretta Good: Is Iris with you?

Mister Matternot: I left her here.

Gretta Good: That's impossible.

Grotto Good: Gretta

Gretta Good: What? (Grotto picks up Iris' shoe.) Oh my good.

Grotto Good: I fear she's escaped.

Grotto Good: Well, don't just stand there-

Gretta and Grotto Good: START SEARCHING!

Ocean Sound Transition to beach
Scene 5

Iris: HELLLLLLOOOO!

Echo: HELLLLLLOOO!

Iris: Where am I?????

Echo: Where am I?????

Iris: I??????

Echo: I??????

Iris: I

Echo: I

Iris: I????'m- Iris

Echo: I????'m- Annabel Lee!

Annabel Lee: An echo waiting to be free.

Iris: I'm lost.

Annabel Lee: we both seem to be

Iris: Really? Where do you live?

Annabel Lee appears

Annabel Lee: In a kingdom by the sea. Have you never seen an Annabel Lee?

Iris: Never. How did you--

Annabel Lee: For years I've been locked away- held against my will. But now you, Iris, will set me free.

Iris: How?

Annabel Lee: by loosing these chains that bind me to the sea.

Iris: But how did you get here?

Annabel Lee: Through your wishing, I assume. What else could it be?

Iris: I did wish for someone to play with. And I wished for someone to help me get across this water.

Annabel Lee: And I wished I would find my ship.

Iris: You have a ship?

Annabel Lee: It's what I'm searching for, and my ship is searching for me. I listen at night,
locked away in my kingdom by the sea
And the waves crash and fall
I can hear in the squall
My ship's voice calling to me-
I'm so close to finding it Iris- It's just out of reach

Iris: I see a picture like that, sometimes. A picture of a room. But I don't know where it is.

Annabel Lee: I'll find my ship and together we'll sail away.

Iris: It's locked shut..we need something long and narrow and flat. There must be something we can use-

Annabel Lee: C'mon, Iris. Your wishes will be our vessel. And the stars will be our map. And with courage and faith as our captain and mate, the ship I've lost and room you seek may fall into our lap(MUSIC)

Music Plays
Mozart's entrance

Mozart: Guten Tag! Bon jour! Good day! Or night. And how close are we to morning? Oh where are manners? I am Mozart. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, but you can call me Motes. Where are we?

Iris: On the shores of Great Island. I'm Iris and this is Annabel Lee.

Mozart: Are you a pirate?

Annabel Lee: My mother was.

Mozart: your mother was?

Annabel Lee: and my father was the sea

Mozart: and I thought my family was strange.

Annabel Lee: Why must you know when the night ends?

Mozart: I've been searching for something. Something that's just out of reach. It's a song. I work on it at night. I can't seem to finish it, because when the sun rises... the melody vanishes. If only I could stop time--if only I could find a way to make the sun wait just a few seconds more before rising-- I think the song would come to me.

Annabel Lee- I know that feeling. Something just out of reach, like my ship

Iris: (holds button, still life appears) There is a table. And on the table, a vase. And in the vase, an iris.

Mozart: Is it a memory?

Iris: I'm not sure. This button belonged to a little girl. If I can find her, maybe she'll tell me. (still life vanishes)

Annabel Lee: Is she on this island?

Iris: I've looked everywhere- and I've found a lot of things for the Great Goods and I found the two of you- but I can't find that little girl.

Mozart: She must be worth the search. Like a melody (He plays something on the piano keys)

Iris: That's it. (points to Motes' piano) May I? Just for a moment. - a key!

Annabel Lee: Thank you Iris! Thank you Motes! Now If we find my ship we can go in search of that little girl.

Voice of Mister Matternot: IRIS? IRIS, IS THAT YOU!

Mister Matternot: THE GOODS ARE VERY DISPLEASED WITH YOU, IRIS. If you don't let me bring you home, I'm afraid they'll punish you. They'll throw you into the Tunnel of the UnWanted and you'll never be found again.

Scene 6

Mister Matternot: The Goods will be with you in a moment. Please-- for your own safety---wait here until they're ready for you. Great Island can be a dangerous place to get lost.

Iris: We weren't lost, we were curious.

Mister Matternot: The Goods only allow the best of things to be seen. But, elsewhere on the island, hidden away in the Tunnel of the UnWanted, are all the OTHERS- all the angry,

forgotten, discarded things which are common and unremarkable. You must take care to avoid them.

Annabel Lee: All she wants to do is---

Mister Matternot: Are you her friend?

Annabel Lee: Yes, I am.

Mister Matternot: Then convince her of this: The Great Goods are willing to forgive you once. But after that, they may lock you up behind glass.

Iris: Like a decoration.

Mister Matternot: Wait here. (exits)

Mozart: I know the feeling, Iris. Everyone just stares at you all the time like you're perfect. I'm afraid I'll disappoint my father and never amount to anything and just be another guy in Vienna named Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. I miss Vienna. I miss the little streets. I miss the way my sister makes me hot cocoa. I adore hot cocoa, don't you?

Grotto Good: Well, here we are--gathered and assembled and brought together here in the very midst of each other- right now, presently, at this time. Gretta?

Gretta Good: The Shoe. We're glad to see it restored to your foot, Iris. And as for your clothes --a tailor is on his way to the island to sew you a new, best outfit.

Iris: Thank you.

Grotto Good: You, young man, will be staying with us.

Gretta Good: We've been looking for a little boy.

Grotto Good: We think you'll do nicely.

Gretta Good: And you won't be needing this-

Mozart: But that's my piano-

Grotto Good- From now on- THIS is your piano.

Mozart: May I play it?

Grotto Good: Not now, son.

Gretta Good: And as for you, Miss Lee, the numbers are not in your favor. For you see, we already have a girl on Great Island.

Grotto Good: You're superfluous and we're sorry.

Annabel Lee: But I'm helping Iris find her home--

Grotto Good: And you've succeeded. Now-- (claps hands- Himtoo begins to pull AL away)

Gretta Good: You'll be thrown into the Tunnel of the UnWanted.

Possible pirate action sequence with Himtoo and Otherguy

Annabel Lee: Don't worry, Iris--I'll find my ship and I'll--

Mister Matternot- Is this necessary, Master Good?

Grotto: Did you just speak to me without consent? Perhaps we can make room for you in the Tunnel!

Gretta Good: Off with you now!

Annabel Lee: Have courage and faith, Iris-

Iris: Please-don't do this!

Mozart: Let her stay!

Exit and Beat

Grotto Good: And now here we are, a FAMILY at last!

Gretta Good: What a special treat it is to welcome our new son!

Grotto Good: The newest of our Goods!

Gretta Good: The tailor will measure you for your new, best clothing and we shall employ the best piano teacher in the world to come and give you lessons.

Iris: Motes doesn't need a piano teacher. He's pretty good at it, already.

Gretta Good: He is not a “Pretty Good.” Nor are you, Iris, a “Pretty Good. “ We are- all of us- Great Goods and that must never be forgotten!

Mozart: May I play the piano?

Grotto Good: Not now, son.

Mozart: The song that I’m searching for can only be captured at night. So, please, Father Good--may I play? Would that be all right?

Grotto Good: Well-- I’m not sure if it is all right--I’ve never had a little boy--or a piano-- so, I don’t --YES-- Absolutely--that would be fine--I mean ---actually --in fact---NO--certainly not. Is that clear?

Iris: I want to see the Tunnel.

Grotto Good: That’s out of the question.

Iris: Mister Matternot told us about it. He said--

Gretta Good: Mister Matternot will be reprimanded.

Grotto Good: You don’t want to see the Tunnel, Iris, I assure you.

Iris: Why not?

Grotto Good: Because--(looking at Gretta)

Gretta Good: Because--(looking at Grotto)

Iris: Yes?

Grotto Good: Because..

Gretta Good: you’re afraid of the Tunnel.

Iris: I am?

Gretta and Grotto Good: Yes (beat Iris stares at them)

Iris: So, I’ve been there before?

Gretta Good: Yes. Many times- when you were younger.

Iris: I did?

Grotto Good: Yes

Iris: Why don't I remember that?

Mozart: Iris, ask them about the room.

Iris: Did we have a white table with three chairs? And on the table was there a --

Grotto Good: I think you know that three chairs would be out of the question.

Iris: Tell me things. Please. Tell me things that happened when I was little. Did we used to be happy?

Grotto Good: It's time to play the piano, son.

Gretta Good: A great good idea.

Grotto Good: You mustn't dawdle. You mustn't hesitate. You must do what you're asked when you are asked to do it.

Motes plays- the Goods are horrified

Grotto Good: Oh, my

Gretta Good: Oh, my good.

Grotto Good: Oh, good help us.

Iris: I told you he was pretty good!

Grotto and Gretta Good: STOP THIS INSTANT!

Iris: Why did you stop him?

Grotto Good: Quiet, Iris.

Gretta Good: You are very talented, my son. This talent gives you many choices.

Grotto Good: And so, you must make one.

Mozart: Make one what?

Gretta Good: Make one choice.

Grotto Good: You must pick the Greatest Note and play only it.

Mozart: One note?

Grotto and Gretta Good: Yes

Mozart: And only one? (they nod. Mozart smiles) Surely you're joking!

Grotto and Gretta Good: No

Gretta Good: Now, our great good son, we are ready.

Mozart: But that is not music. Music is the sound of many things coming together.

Gretta Good: We await your note. (hesitation from Motes) Choose.

Grotto Good: (whispers) Oh the expectation!!

After a solemn silence....Motes plays a perfect and beautiful low A-Flat

Gretta Good: Yes, that is it.....

Mozart: It's over.... I've failed .. I'm never going to find that song

Himtoo: Master Good, the tailor has arrived.

Memory Mender: Iris?

Iris: How do you know my name?

Gretta Good: Yes--that is in fact our daughter, Iris

Grotto Good: and beyond saying her name--you will say nothing more. Do you understand?

Gretta Good: There is a place for people who speak more than they should, Do you know of it? (memory mender nods) Splendid. We have an understanding.

Iris: May I look at your buttons? I'm looking for a girl who had a coat like yours. She lost this button. Do you know where I might find her?

Grotto Good: Of course he doesn't know! He's a common tailor for goods sake!

Iris: Why are you so afraid of him?!

Grotto Good: Afraid of him?

Gretta Good: Don't be silly-

Iris: He's a common tailor- or so you said-why won't you let him answer me?

Gretta Good: He will answer you.

Grotto Good: Carefully

Memory Mender: I know the girl of whom you speak. I made her this button myself.

Iris: You did?

Memory Mender: But... I don't know where she is now. She should be very nearby...but I'm afraid that that girl--as I knew her---is gone. (Goods smile relieved ..Memory mender leans in hands her the button) I will tell you this , though: If you find her coat...you will find her.

Grotto Good: Is your measuring complete?

Memory Mender: Well, yes, but I--

Gretta: We expect the garment to be the best of the best

Memory Mender: Good Luck Iris--

Grotto Good: Off we go, now--

Iris: Goodbye

Gretta Good: And now, son before supper, why don't you play us another note?

Transition Scene 7

Mister Matternot: Miss Overlook, the supplies for the island have arrived from Nocturno. You're an excellent worker, Miss Overlook.

Miss Overlook: Mister Matternot. You once told me that I'd always lived here and always done this work. Is that true?

Mister Matternot: That is the word of the Goods.

Miss Overlook: I'm not asking the Goods. I'm asking you. Is it true? Have I truly spent my life in this dark musty room. Have I never seen the sky, never felt the wind?

Mister Matternot: What sky are you speaking of? What wind do you remember?

Miss Overlook: None. None at all.

Mister Matternot: Then you have your answer.

Overlook: But I've dreamt of such things. A picture of a family, a house, a table set for three.

Mister Matternot: I am a worker, Miss Overlook. I do not dote on wishes and dreams. What are you doing here?

Iris: We were just

Mozart:looking

Mister Matternot: for what?

Iris: for the way to the Tunn

Mozart: Cocoa. The way to the cocoa.

Iris: Yes

Mozart: Is it through here?

Mister Matternot: I'll have Miss Overlook find you some cocoa.

Overlook: I'd be happy to. I met you once. You were looking for your mother.

Mister Matternot: The Goods are her parents.

Iris: You gave me this button. It had fallen off a little girl's coat. It's my oldest memory.

Overlook: I remember that as well. And you put the button in your pouch.

Iris: Yes--

Mister Matternot: It's time you gave me that, Iris. (He removes his glove to reach for the button)

Mozart: Iris. If we find that coat, we'll find her.

Mister Matternot: Who told you that?

Mozart: My tailor. If you must know. (Iris and Motes slip away)

Overlook: Your hands. There are long red scars on the palms of your hands. Why is that?

Mister Matternot: Excuse me, I need to--(she holds tightly to his hand not letting him leave)

Overlook: And these scars on your hands. Where did they come from?

Mister Matternot: I don't remember.

Overlook: It's terrible isn't it? To forget so much.

Scene 8
Transition to the tunnel

Iris: how much further?

Mozart: I wish I knew.

Iris: Annabel Lee!!

(sounds of the forgotten things respond)

Mozart: What are those noises

Iris: Angry, forgotten things, I guess

Mozart: Iris?

Iris: yes

Mozart: Here's your other shoe

Iris: Motes we've got to get---

(shopping cart entrance with the trio)

Captain Also: OUT OF HERE!!!! Is that what you started to say? Fat chance of that

Iris: who are you?

Captain Also: I'm Captain Also, the Dean of the discards, the chairman of the abhorred. I'm second best to all the rest. And this is Third String

Third String: Have a nice grey

Captain Also: Third string is not a winner and he's not a loser. He is undeniably average. So, I made him my CEO.

Third String: Chief Extra Officer.

Captain Also: We are the top of what's on the bottom, the most famous of the Forgotten. You want a toaster? We got millions of 'em. Hangers-plastic tubs-bride's maid dresses- everybody wanted them once-

Third String- and nobody wants them now.

Mozart: and who's that?

Third String: That's Ray

Captain Also: Ray used to work for the sun. Show'em Ray. (Ray reveals under coat like a flasher) Ever wonder what happened to the sun when you shade your eyes?

Third String: Who threw you out?

Iris: Nobody threw us out.

Mozart: We're searching for our friend.

Ray: If you are a friend--somebody wants you. There's no one like that down here.

Mozart: you see we were living with the Goods--

Captain Also: We've got a couple of Goods here! We've been waiting for this moment. Haven't we Ray?

Ray: since the day they turned me into shade

Third String: Tell us your story so we can devise your punishment.

Iris: I don't have one.

Third String: Everybody's got a story. Even Ray.

Ray: It all started on a sunny day in a-

Everyone except Iris and Motes: Shut up Ray!

(chase and action sequence begins)

Iris: All I have is a picture in my mind.

Captain Also: A picture of when you were wanted. A picture of your home?

Iris: I think so.

Captain Also: Well forget about it. The only way out of here is to be wanted.

(Motes and Iris are captured by Ray and Third String)

Annabel Lee: Unhand them this instant and prepare to set sail!

Mozart: Annabel Lee!! Iris: There she is! (simultaneously)

Annabel Lee: When the fog is lifted and the tide is high- We will sail our ship and bid the Goods goodbye! Now, unhand them and see to your duties!

Captain Also: We don't answer to you Miss Whoever You Are...

Annabel Lee: I am your captain..(tosses ship's wheel to Also

Third String: You mean....

Captain Also:you need us

Annabel Lee: I can't sail without you.

Third String: You mean....

Ray: you'll free us from the Tunnel?

Annabel Lee: If you'll unhand my friends and serve as my crew Your discarded days will vanish from view. Are you able, willing and sufficiently brave- To conquer the sea and make fear your slave?

Captain Also, Third String, Ray (saluting) We are!

Annabel Lee: Now to the ship

Iris: How did you find the ship in all that fog?

Annabell Lee: I was looking for parts of your picture-the table, the flower, the vase. So, I kept following the Tunnel, on and on. And I saw something shining in the distance--A shimmering patch of light--and when I reached it-- I found (she unwraps the vase from a past coat and hands the vase to Iris)

Iris: Just like the picture in my mind

Annabel Lee: When I lifted this vase, the light cut through the fog and there it was...my ship, awaiting me.

Iris: Motes, look. (realizes that she is also holding a past coat)

Mozart: Is that the coat you're looking for ? Is it missing a button?

Iris: No. And it's too big to be a little girl's.

Annabel Lee: There are hundreds of those coats, piled up at the far end of the tunnel.

Iris: We'll need to get **all** of them. Can you make it back there?

Annabel Lee: I found a shortcut.

Iris: Good. Take Motes with you.

(Annabel Lee and Motes exit one direction and Iris takes the vase wrapped in the past coat the opposite direction--Transition)

Scene 9

Iris:(entering breathlessly after a long run and desperately wanting answers) Miss Overlook--

Miss Overlook: Is Mozart with you? I have his cocoa for him. What do you have there?

Iris: Have you ever seen this before? (shows a coat- It is Matternot's torn and shredded coat)

Miss Overlook: one like it

Iris: It belonged to a little girl.

Miss Overlook: It belonged to you..... Mister Matternot took your coat from you- you were very upset--you were calling for your mother.

Iris: My mother?

Miss Overlook: Yes. But then, a moment later, he took your coat from you... and you were fine. He did it to protect you.

Iris: I don't want that. Not anymore. (she rushes out of the room and leaves the vase)

Miss Overlook: Iris--!

(transition)
Scene 10

Gretta Good: You were given a task, Mister Matternot. You were told to bring us a little girl and make certain that she felt at home.

Grotto Good: Your were to remove any vestige of her past. Iris, has grown curious about her Before-Good life.

Gretta Good: You have displeased us--

Mister Maternot: And Iris--What of her?

Grotto Good: It's no longer your concern.

Gretta Good: We've found a fine place for her.

Iris: Mister Matternot- The coat you showed me. It was mine wasn't it? Tell me the truth. It was mine and you took it from me.

Iris: You lied to me--

Mister Matternot: I was trying to save you-

Iris: But why would you take my coat?

Mister Matternot: It holds you past, Iris-- it holds the story of your life.

Grotto Good: Mister Matternot!!

Gretta Good: Your life is here with us, Iris.

Grotto Good: We've given you the BEST things in all the world-

Iris: You've given me everything but the thing I want most: the story of who I am. Even the common, forgotten things know where they came from---but I don't.

Himtoo, Otherguy and bring in the large glass case

Grotto Good: We have a greater place for you Iris!

Mister Matternot: What are you doing?

Iris: Let go of me--

Mister Matternot: You can't do this. You must tell her-you must tell her the truth!

Grotto Good: Her pain is your doing, Mister Matternot.

Matternot touches the glass and Iris reaches for his hand through the glass- BEAT

Annabel Lee: What have you done with her?! (Swashbuckling entrance)

Mozart: You've locked her up behind glass.

Mister Matternot: No, it was the Goods who-

Grotto Good :What are you doing here?! You were discarded!

Annabel Lee: Well, I'm back (tosses Coats to Matternot)

In the following scene, the action mimics a great sword fight sequence while the jackets are distributed and Otherguy and Himtoo regain their identities.

Mister Matternot: Now. I see what you've done!

Grotto Good and Gretta Good together: What!?

Mister Matternot: You've done this to all of us, haven't you?!

Grotto Good: Lock him away!

Mister Matternot: You've ripped the past from each and every one of us!

Gretta Good: You've been given an order, Mister Otherguy--

Mister Matternot: That's not your name. Your name was stolen from you by the Goods---

Grotto Good: Mister Himtoo--take that coat from him!

Mister Matternot: It's too late-- now they know the truth.

The Goods are captured by the now aware Otherguy and Himtoo

Grotto Good: This, Gretta, is a great good problem. You wouldn't dare!

Gretta Good: Grotto, dear, what will become of us?!

The Goods are left alone locked behind the glass --Transition
Scene 11

Mister Matternot: Miss Overlook? (She is not there. Matternot brings in Mom's coat and an iris and puts the iris in it in the vase)

Iris: (seeing the table, chair, vase, iris and cocoa) That's it.

Miss Overlook: (entering, seeing Iris sitting and reaching for the cocoa just like in the first scene with them) Careful. That's hot.

Iris:(remembering that moment in her mind she see's Ms. Overlook and recognizes her) Mom.

Miss Overlook: Yes, I know, Iris. I know you miss her. Whoever she is, wherever she's gone. Mister Matternot?

Mister Matternot: I'd like you to meet someone. (He places the coat on Miss Overlook)

Mom: Iris. Thank you, Mister Matternot. I'd like to see your hands, if I could. These scars on your hands. They belong to the man who roped the moon every night, and hauled it down out of the sky. And then he'd give the signal for the sun to rise..

Iris:...and the day to break. (Iris brings the worn out coat to Matternot and drapes it over him)

Mom: Do you remember us?

Dad: Yes. You were just a baby. And my coat is old and worn---

Iris: Don't worry, Dad--we'll be your coat. We'll tell you everything you missed.

Mozart: The coats have all been returned, Iris. (carrying Iris' coat)

Annabel Lee: We've given everyone back their Pasts. There's one coat left, Iris.

Iris: I hope you find your song, Motes. Annabel Lee, this is for you.

Annabel Lee: But this button--it's apart of your coat--

Iris: And now I'm part of yours. I'll lift the fog for you as soon as I get home.

Mozart: Hey, Iris--

Iris: What?

Mozart: Are you going to drink that cocoa?

Iris: Take it with you, Motes.

Annabel Lee: Good sailing, Iris.

Mozart: Adieu!

Iris: But how will we get home?

Dad: By remembering.

Mom: What do you see, Iris?

Iris: I see an iris in a vase. And the vase is on a table. And the table is in a house. And the house is--- in Nocturno, our home!

Elmer: Hazel, look--

Hazel: Iris!

Flower Painter: Here they are!

Memory Mender: The Day Breaker! Husband of Rose, father of Iris.

Dad: That's me.

Memory Mender: And you know, I had to rope the moon for you every night while you've been gone. It's awful hard on the hands--

Dad: Yes, it is.

Memory Mender: In fact, I just now put her away for the day.

Dad: Have you given the sun her signal to rise?

Memory Mender: Have at it.

Dad: Ready?

Music plays

Iris: Wait, Dad. Wait one... more..moment. Almost day.

Dad: Almost day, indeed. (Dad raises the sun lifting his hand, everyone in Nocturno shields their eyes as the lights brighten and then lights go to black)