

Everyone Dies At The End

A musical comedy of apocalyptic
proportions

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Dramatis Personae

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (All non-binary)

WAR (The Red Horse (Michael))

PESTILENCE (The White Horse (Morbus))

FAMINE (The Black Horse (3% Fat))

DEATH (The Pale Horse (Binky))

The Norse Gods

Odin (Allfather)

Thor (Son of Odin)

Loki (Adopted son of Odin)

Hel (Loki's daughter)

Jormungandr (Giant snake, also Loki's child)

Sleipnir (8-legged horse, also also Loki's child) (this is an 8-legged pantomime horse please)

Fenrir (Giant wolf, also also also Loki's child)

The Illuminati

Mary Berry (Secretly the Queen of England)

Elvis Presley (He was never *really* dead)

Tim Foyle (owner of the largest Tin Foil manufacturer on the planet)

Cambridge University Necrotic Technology Society

Professor Erica Velma Imogen Lampton

Dr Benjamin Alexander Dampfudel

Dr Norma Amanda Simone Thompson-Young

Simeon, the Test-Monkey

The Swiss Defence Ministry

Commandant Jean-Claude de Neutr  (maintains Switzerland's neutrality at all costs)

Divisionnaire Alis n l'Gris (enjoys cheese)

Divisionnaire Maxine M chant (wants to finally break Switzerland's neutrality)

Conspiracy Theorists and Monsters

Howard Awesome (Master Conspiracy Theorist)

Hugh Man (Definitely not an alien pretending to be human)

Fi Male (Also definitely not an alien pretending to be human)

Ester Gen (Definitely not a shapeshifter pretending to be an alien pretending to be human)

Samphire the Vampire (A Vampire)

Rolf the Werewolf (A Werewolf)
The Mummy (A Mummy)

Assistants and Helpers

Herald (the Queen's Herald)
Jessica (Pestilence's Assistant)
Olive (Famine's Assistant)
Victor (War's Assistant)
Mort (Death's Assistant)

*The Adversary, Destroyer of Kings, Angel of the Bottomless Pit, Great Beast that is
called Dragon, Prince of This World, Father of Lies*

Satan



Songs

Act 1

The Four Horsepeople Song (Opening Number)

The Four Horsepeople

Can't Go Breaking My Heart (because I don't have one)

Hel, DEATH

Romantic Duet. Ideally a Waltz.

The Moderately Obsolete Research Group of University Experts Song

C.U. Necrotic Technology Society

Act 2

The Ragnarock

Company

Rock Anthem. Ideally, electric guitar

Can't Go Breaking My Heart (reprise)

Hel, DEATH

Heartbreaking Romantic Duet. Ideally a Waltz.

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

We're Not Useless, Honest

Mary, Tim, Elvis, Famine(Speaking)

It's the End of the World as we Know It (and I feel oh no wait I'm on fire)

SATAN, Company.

Possibly replays themes from the Ragnarock and Four Horsepeople Song
(or even carries on the tune of 4H given Satan was meant to arrive then)

Summary

Act 1

Scene 1: In which the Four Horsemen decide to do the Apocalypse without Satan because they're tired of waiting.

Scene 2: Asgard - the gods hear that the Four Horsemen are starting the Apocalypse and decide to do Ragnarok

Scene 3: The Illuminati - ft. FAMINE

Scene 4: Where we meet some theorists and not any aliens.

Scene 5: War has a go at Death. Death meets Hel. DEATH x Hel

Scene 6: The Necrotic Society - ft. PESTILENCE

Scene 7: Who rules the Rooster - Asgard kicks Ragnarok into gear

Scene 8: There's monsters and more conspiracies.

Scene 9: Failed apocalypses - Everyone is useless.

Act 2

Scene 1: Everything's a bit on fire. 4H prove themselves ineffective against the Norse gods.

Scene 2: What if we enacted A PLAN

Scene 3: Aliens, monsters, conspiracies, oh my!

Scene 4: War calms down General Angry

Scene 5: DEATH boops Jormungandr. Hel is furious. They break up. DEATH refuses to boop Fenrir. Odin is eaten. Hel is even more furious.

Scene 6: In which we meet the Horsemen's assistants.

Scene 7: Illuminati + Famine take on Loki

Scene 8: PESTILENCE + Necrotic Society take on Fenrir

Scene 9: War convinces General angry to be angry again.

Scene 10: Everything's a bit on fire, but it's all going out. The day is saved and the world isn't ending. Then Satan shows up and the world ends.

Act 1

WAR (The Red Horse (Michael))
PESTILENCE (The White Horse (Morbus))
FAMINE (The Black Horse (3% Fat))
DEATH (The Pale Horse (Binky))

Scene 1 - Horsing Around

*Dramatic music, like some ominous chords or something on an organ. Dramatic light, like spotlights or dimmed stuff. Enter the **FOUR HORSEMEN**. They stand staring at the audience, hands behind their back. They are imposing (well as imposing as OULES gets). 4 assistants stand behind them.*

FAMINE

We are the Horseman of the Apocalypse.

PESTILENCE

We create misery and misdeed.

WAR

We bring disease and death.

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

DEATH

And we each ride a noble steed.

*(The **HORSEMEN** each reveal, from behind their backs, a hobby horse. Or their assistants hand them over, whichever is easier. The horsemen start singing. Yep, we're starting with a song.)*

FAMINE

We will bring down the world, we'll destroy all its people

PESTILENCE

We'll kill each and every one

WAR

It's the End of the World as all of you know it

DEATH

And boy, is it gonna be fun

HORSEMEN

We're bringing you the Apocalypse,
So bow down, don't run or hide
It not 2012, it's happening now
The Horsemen are ready to ride

FAMINE

(Holding out food their assistant follows with a wide mouth)

I will make you all hunger, you'll be empty inside.

You can't escape the Famine. *(Throws food offstage, assistant runs after)*

PESTILENCE

(Assistant starts coughing)

I am PESTILENCE, I've disease on my side

So just let the sickness in *(pats assistant on back, they run off hurling)*

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

WAR

(handing weapons to assistant)

Get ready to fight, bring each other down.

You can't escape the War. *(Assistant runs off with weapons)*

DEATH

I am DEATH *(pokes assistant, who drops to the ground).*

Need I say any more?

HORSEMEN

We're bringing you the Apocalypse,
So bow down, don't run or hide
It not 2012, it's happening now
The Horsemen are ready to ride

FAMINE

Now it's time to meet the true star of the show

PESTILENCE

Our boss, the true evil

WAR

He's fallen from God, now he's summoned the squad

DEATH

The one and only devil

HORSEMEN

Satan!!!!

*They all gesture upstage, maybe there's a spotlight. The music swells dramatically. Nothing happens. The **HORSEMEN** look at each other awkwardly. They gesture more dramatically, singing one last time.*

HORSEMEN

(in beautiful harmony)

Satan!!

OULES

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

*Nothing happens. Again. The **HORSEMEN** awkwardly shuffle.*

PESTILENCE

I...uh...I don't think he's coming.

WAR

He has to be coming. We said we were going to start the apocalypse. If we now do not start the apocalypse, we look like fools.

FAMINE

Well, it's not like it hasn't happened before.

DEATH

When?

PESTILENCE

There was time with the Hadron Collider.

DEATH

Please, if the world ends, we'll do it. Not scientists with no risk assessments.

FAMINE

And Y2K? The Millennium bug?

DEATH

We weren't going to leave the Hellish Minions New Year's Eve Party for work, that's just sad.

PESTILENCE

2012?!

DEATH

We had a contract with the London Olympic Committee, and you know fully well that the Olympic Committee brings enough revenue for Hell that we were never going to get away with cancelling the Olympics.

PESTILENCE

Yes, yes. Whatever. Either way, we've delayed the apocalypse for too long. We need to kill everyone, with or without Satan. So, ideas, how do we start the apocalypse without, you know, *Him*?

FAMINE

Well, starving them to extinction is easy enough, just tell them 'bricks are the new superfood' and job's done. WAR, going to try something new?

WAR

WAR. WAR never changes.

DEATH

We know, you've been wearing the same outfit for millennia, it stinks.

PESTILENCE

I am the embodiment of decay and disease and even I can't stand that outfit.

WAR

It is not like any of you wear different things. **FAMINE**, you've been wearing those robes since the Dark Ages!

FAMINE

No I haven't. I just happen to have several versions of the same outfit.

WAR

No matter. Making them fight to the death is simple, they even have things called "Weapons of Mass Destruction" now. Get one fool to press the wrong button and **THUS** apocalypse.

PESTILENCE

Exactly! Though I prefer a subtler approach. Someone designs a disease in a lab, that disease just so happens to get into the water supply. Much more elegant. What about you, **DEATH**? How are you going to depopulate the earth?

DEATH

(pokes dead assistant with foot, ideally causing them to fall off the stage) I think I'll be fine

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

WAR

So we are agreed: Let us start the apocalypse!

They all cheer but no one moves. They stare at each other, waiting for the others to go first

PESTILENCE

You know, we could just leave it another year.

WAR

Yeah, it would be a shame to destroy everything now. I've still got the new series of Bake Off to catch up on.

FAMINE

I don't understand how you can watch that show, all that food, doesn't it make you sick?

WAR

Maybe, but Mary Berry is just fantastic.

DEATH

You know Mary's not in the new series right?

WAR

What?

DEATH

They moved to channel 4, Mary didn't go to the other channel. Even *He* thought that was too far.

WAR

This is an outrage! Right, that is it! These fools will die for disrespecting Mary Berry!! I will bring fire and brimstone down upon them and they shall know fear. **WAR** rides forth!

(WAR rides off on their hobby horse. It's dramatic and epic)

FAMINE

We're not really going to let them go without us are we?



PESTILENCE

No way. Like I'd let you lot take all the glory. I'm starting the apocalypse before any of you can.

FAMINE

You're on!

FAMINE and PESTILENCE ride off. DEATH looks down at their assistant and pokes them again with their foot.

DEATH

Note to self: get new assistant.

Exit stage DEATH. Lights down.

OULES

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Scene 2 - Norsing Around

Lights up on ASGARD. It's resplendent in its golden beauty (or whatever we can afford).
Enter THOR, LOKI, and HEL.

THOR

And then I said, "These are not the hammer. The hammer is my—"

LOKI

Brother! My daughter is present! Could you please *moderate* your stories of drunken debauchery a little?

HEL

I'm millenia old, Dad, I know about sex.

LOKI

Astonished

Who told you? I strictly forbade everyone in Asgard from telling you until I had had *the talk* with you. The fool who told you will face a wrath more fiery than the depths of Muspelheim for disobeying my command.

HEL

It was Uncle Thor.

OXFORD
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

LOKI

Brother!

THOR

Oh come now, somebody had to tell her. Some of the giants were teasing her about not knowing why her family were so unusual and I had to explain.

LOKI

Watch your tongue: there's nothing unusual about my family.

THOR

I am Uncle to an enormous wolf—

LOKI

That was one time.

THOR

-a snake large enough to encircle the entire world-

LOKI

That was a very wild night out-

THOR

-an eight legged horse that you yourself gave birth to as a mare-

LOKI

I CAN EXPLAIN THAT ONE

THOR

-and the goddess of Death, guardian of the Underworld, she whose very hands bring ruin and end to all things.

HEL

What's so weird about that?

THOR

You're the normal one.

OULES

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Enter ODIN, he has an eyepatch on his left eye.

ODIN

What's all this commotion from my throne room? Move to the right, I can't see you!

THOR

Father, it's us! We were just discussing how weird Loki's children are.

LOKI

Brother!

ODIN

Raucous laughter

Oh yes, they're *so weird!* A horse with Eight Legs! Eight Legs!

LOKI

Father!

ODIN

Come now, my child, you can't give birth to a wolf, a giant snake, and a spider-horse without people labelling you as completely and utterly weird. It's just a fact of life.

LOKI

I only *gave birth* to the horse.

ODIN

Details, details. Now, Hel, I've been meaning to speak with you.

THOR

With her?

LOKI

With her?

HEL

With me?

ODIN

Yes with her, with her, with you. It's a matter of *great importance*.

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

HEL waits for ODIN to continue. THOR and LOKI do also.

ODIN

A matter of private great importance.

HEL waits for ODIN to continue. THOR and LOKI do also.

ODIN

That means just me and Hel.

THOR and LOKI grumble away, irritated and bicker in the background for the next bit.

HEL

What is it, Allgrandfather? You never want to speak to me unless you need something. And that something is usually someone who's dead being made undead. Like that time you wanted to talk to Elvis.

ODIN

Well of course, your powers of resurrecting the dead are unmatched!

HEL

Except if they're a god, or a giant, or a dwarf, or an elf, or a-

ODIN

Within *certain limitations* your powers of resurrecting the dead are unmatched! Anyway, I actually want to talk to you about *killing* people this time.

HEL

Killing people? What do you mean? Did the giants make fun of your eyepatch again?

ODIN

It's a perfectly good eyepatch! But no, *I've* heard that the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse are starting, well, the Apocalypse.

LOKI & THOR

What?!

OULES

ODIN

Never you mind! I said this was private.

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

LOKI and THOR turn away again.

ODIN

(Making no effort to be quieter)

Now as I was saying, the Four Horsemen are starting the apocalypse!

LOKI & THOR

What?!?!?!?

ODIN

Oh for my sake... LOOK, A SCANTILY CLAD GIANTESS OVER THERE SOMEWHERE.

THOR

Ooh!

THOR runs offstage. LOKI doesn't.

LOKI

I am not my brother, Father.

ODIN

LOOK, A SCANTILY CLAD HORSE!

LOKI

That was ONE TIME.

HEL

Grandallfather, this is getting silly. You can trust my Dad.

ODIN

Yes, I suppose no harm has ever come from trusting Loki. Very well. The Horsemen are starting the Apocalypse and they're doing it their way. Which will suck. They've no sense for style, and so I've decided we're going to enact *RAGNAROK*.

LOKI

Ragnarok? The Norse apocalypse during which the Nine worlds converge, hundreds of Gods are slain, all manner of horrible creature are released and do battle, Surtr the Fire Giant King blows everything up, and in which *I DIE??*

ODIN

Yes, that's the one.

LOKI

And you're fine with that?

ODIN

Well I do have two sons for a reason.

HEL

Isn't Uncle Thor also prophesied to be killed during Ragnarok?

ODIN

I can't be expected to remember everything on that damned prophecy, can I? Look, the point is we're going to do Ragnarok and I need you to start it. Fenrir's got the prophecy, so I'll let you look up exactly *how* to start it.

HEL

You can count on us!

LOKI

I'm going to die...

ODIN

That's the spirit! We're not going to let those Jumped-up Horse Jockeys beat us to the end of the world! Now, come, Sleipnir, we ride!

Enter SLEIPNIR. ODIN attempts to mount and fails.

SLEIPNIR

Have you put on weight?

ODIN

No. Maybe just a few extra... stone.

OULES

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

SLEIPNIR

Yeah, you're walking.

ODIN

But... but Sleipnir... we ride!

Exit ODIN and SLEIPNIR

LOKI

I should never have given your brother to my Father as a gift...

HEL

I'm still not sure that counts as a Father's Day present.

LOKI

I had to make up for the time I turned the throne into bees- look, are we really doing this?

Enter THOR

THOR

The giantess was nowhere to be seen, alas. What's going on?

HEL

We're doing Ragnarok.

THOR

Ragnarok? The Norse apocalypse during which the Nine worlds converge, hundreds of Gods are slain, all manner of horrible creature are released and do battle, Surtr the Fire Giant King blows everything up, and in which *I DIE??*

LOKI

Yes, brother, welcome to 5 minutes ago.

THOR

And you're both fine with that?

LOKI

No



HEL

Yes

LOKI

Daughter!

HEL

If I remember correctly, *I* do quite well out of Ragnarok. Armies of the dead roaming the worlds, and all that. Says so in the prophecy.

LOKI

Yes perhaps we should have another look at that *prophecy*. Fenrir! Come here boy!

Enter FENRIR, carrying a scroll.

LOKI

Who's a good child? You are, you are. Yes you are.

THOR

You're weird, brother.

HEL

Agreed.

FENRIR brings LOKI the scroll.

LOKI

GOOD SONNNN!!! You're going to get a treat later.

THOR

So very weird.

FENRIR

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS, FATHER.

THOR

It got weirder.

HEL

What does it say?

LOKI unrolls the scroll.

LOKI

About as we expected. I die, Thor dies, oh, yes, you get an army of zombies... Freya dies, Freyr dies, Friggr dies, half my children die... worlds converge... Odin dies...

THOR

Wait, Odin dies? How?

HEL reads over LOKI's shoulder



HEL

Odin, Allfather, is eaten by... *Fenrir?*

They all turn to look at FENRIR.

THOR

Fenrir?

FENRIR sits to attention.

FENRIR

I HAVE HEARD THE CALL OF MY NAME, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WISH?

THOR

The dog?

LOKI

Oh that's nonsense, Fenrir wouldn't hurt a fly. Would you son? No you wouldn't, you wouldn't would you, there's a good offspring...

FENRIR

I AM A GOOD BOY, YES.

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

HEL

Well I suppose every prophecy has to have a dud line or two. So how do we start this thing off?

THOR reads the Prophecy

THOR

It says here that we need one of the giant roosters to crow... three times.

HEL

Well that's easy enough. How hard can it be to find a rooster and squeeze a crow out of it?

THOR

It depends how large the crow is.

HEL

No, the noise not the bird... come on, let's get going.

Exit HEL. THOR is leaving but LOKI is still appreciating FENRIR.

LOKI

WHO'S A GOOD CHILD???

FENRIR

I AM A GOOD CHILD, I AM ACHIEVING YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

THOR

Brother!

LOKI

Oh, yes, coming!

Exeunt. Lights down.

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Scene 3 - The Illuminati

Lights up on TIM FOYLE and ELVIS, sat down. ELVIS is playing guitar and TIM is folding up a tin foil hat. Ideally there is a HUGE illuminati symbol in the background either physical or projected.

TIM

Hey, have you seen Mary?

ELVIS

(looking up) She's not you.

TIM

Yeah, buddy, I know. I'm just worried, she's never usually this late.

ELVIS

Are you lonesome tonight?

TIM

No, Elvis, I'm not lonesome, I'm just worried she's spilling our secrets, the Illuminati must be protected.

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

ELVIS

(Shaking his head) Suspicious minds...

TIM

I'm not suspicious, I just-

TIM is interrupted by a large fanfair. Trumpets and the like, all the works. Enter a HERALD (a Horseman's assistant maybe), holding a long scroll.

HERALD

Presenting her majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, Queen of this Realm and of Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

Enter QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, etc... HERALD bows dramatically, fanfair continues, though quieter. QUEEN ELIZABETH stands regally, doing the regal wave thing.

TIM

Hey Mary, you alright?

The fanfair comes to a stop, QUE- MARY BERRY (you've read the cast list surely) and the HERALD glaring at TIM.

MARY

Does one look like Mary Berry?

TIM

Well, yes. You are Mary Berry.

MARY

Young Timothy, I am Queen Elizabeth of England, do you not see my crown? Why would England's Monarch and Mary Berry be the same person?

TIM

Because we're the Illuminati? Strange confusing things is what we do? Besides, we work together Mary, I know you replaced the Queen after you accidentally poisoned her battenburg.

MARY

(snapping) Tim! Not in front of the herald! He's not supposed to know the secret's, he's too stupid!

ELVIS

Don't be cruel.

MARY looks at HERALD and shoos him away. HERALD bows dramatically and leaves. MARY turns to the others.

MARY

Right, now you've almost ruined my ruse, what did you call me here for?

TIM

Call, we didn't call you. I thought you called us? What's going on?

ELVIS

All shook up.

MARY

If you didn't call the meeting and I didn't, why exactly are we here?

The three look at each other, confused. Cue ORGAN MUSIC and enter FAMINE on hobby horse.

FAMINE

*(Dramatically, getting dramatical-er)*I, Famine, the embodiment of hunger and strife, have summoned you to join me in destroying the world. The Illuminati, who spread lies and mistrust, whose very existence starves the world of the truth! Together, we shall eradicate the population. We will bring... the Apocalypse!

Beat

ELVIS

You're the Devil in Disguise?

FAMINE

No, no, *He* didn't want to get involved. I have come to you because you are world renowned and yet no one knows who you are.



MARY

And you know who we are?

FAMINE

Well, I know who you are, of course, War never shuts up about you. Mary Berry, who successfully assassinated the reigning monarch and took her place, while still being a popular TV host, though I don't know how you can spend time around all the food. And then we have Elvis Presley, one of the world's most famous singers, alive but convincing everyone else he's dead, pure genius.

ELVIS

Thank you, thank you very much.

TIM

You made him say something that wasn't a song title. You deserve a hat for that.

TIM tries to put a tin foil hat on FAMINE who awkwardly dodges out of this.

FAMINE

What is this? You were not on my list.

TIM

Oh, that's nice. I'm Timothy Foyle, call me Tim, owner of the largest tin foil manufacturer on the planet.

FAMINE

Tin foil is an abomination, all the fatty food it helps make. Why are you here?

MARY

Tim managed to convince a huge chunk of the population that wearing tin foil on their heads would protect them from aliens.

FAMINE

But aliens don't exist.

TIM

Can you be sure about that?

OULES

FAMINE

...yes, I am an immensely powerful being from beyond your mortal plane of existence. I would know if there were aliens. For one, they'd show up in Hell when they died.

TIM

Unless they've made themselves, say, invisible to your brain by modifying your brainwaves. Would be a shame if that were to be happening... *(offers a Tim Foyle Tin Foil hat)*

FAMINE

(nearly takes the hat) No, no, I did not come here for hats, I came here to destroy the world! You are supposed to be the Illuminati, the terrifying secret organisation masterminding the fate of the entire planet, you shouldn't be handing out ugly, flimsy hats.

TIM

Wait, you don't like the hat?

ELVIS

Heartbreak hotel...

MARY

Oh, Elvis, do shush. Now, Mx Famine, you haven't actually told us what you want. Yes, we each have our own secrets but we're hardly the terror of the whole planet.

FAMINE

You're not? Who was it that faked the moon landing? Who killed JFK? Who runs every political and economical group on the planet?!

TIM

Not us...?

FAMINE

Wait, what?! But the internet said-

ELVIS

A fool such as I...

MARY

You can't believe everything you read on the internet. If we really did all those things, how on earth would it have gone unnoticed? No, we affect the world in smaller ways, making minor changes to inconvenience people, without them truly having anyone to blame.

FAMINE

Like what?

TIM

We changed the size of a £5 note so it wouldn't quite fit in people's wallets

MARY

We made it so the new Apple phones can't use a headphone and charger at the same time.

TIM

We increased the price of Freddos, slowly so that-

FAMINE

Okay, okay, I get the point. You've never really changed anything major and you can't help me destroy the world.

TIM

Well, why would we-

MARY

Wait. We're blamed for all these different things, but no one really believes it's us.

TIM

So?

MARY

So, if we do this, no one will believe it's us.

TIM

Yeah, because they'll all be dead.

MARY

That doesn't matter. We'll pull off the perfect con. And once we've done that, we can do anything.

TIM

Well, no, we'll be dead.

OULES

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

MARY

We're doing this. As Queen of England, and Head of the Illuminati, I say we are going to cause the apocalypse.

FAMINE

Fantastic!

ELVIS

It's Now or Never

TIM

Never! We're not going to-

FAMINE

Destroy the world! Illuminati, we ride!

FAMINE rides off stage on their hobby horse, over dramatically over course. The Illuminati look at each other, shrug, then follow FAMINE offstage.

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Scene 4 - It's All A Conspiracy

Lights up on HUGH, FI and ESTER. They're sat down, hunched together, you know, conspiratorially. Enter HOWARD.

HOWARD

Right, listen up! I have new evidence that proves everything!

HUGH

Really, everything?

HOWARD

Well, Hugh, I've yet to prove my theory that Mary Berry is secretly the Queen of England but everything else!

FI

So you've proven that the apocalypse is happening?

HOWARD

Oh yes.



ESTER

And that the government are completely ignoring it?

HOWARD

Yes.

HUGH

Because of an alien invasion?

HOWARD

Exactly! I have all the proof right here!

(He triumphantly pulls out a photograph of a blurry blob.)

HOWARD

A perfect photo of the alien's spaceship.

HUGH, FI & ESTER

Wow...

FI

So what do we do now?

HOWARD

Well, Fi, now that we have proof that it is alien's destroying the planet, we need to find them and stop them. The world is going to end and we're the only ones that can save it!

(Exit HOWARD with a flourish. Give it a beat then the other removes hats/jackets/something to show that they are aliens.)

HUGH

By the stars, how did he get a picture of our ship?



FI

Aldric must have been flying too low to the planet again, he's always getting spotted.

HUGH

Yes, we'll have to speak to him later. Right now we need to figure out what to do about the theorist.

ESTER

Do we have to do anything?

HUGH

Of course! The Great Xindorfian Empire has almost conquered this entire galaxy. We can't have a single human- brilliant though he may be- destroy all our plans!

FI

Wait a minute. We're not set to destroy this planet, are we?

HUGH

Well, no, we haven't been ordered to.

FI

But the world is still being destroyed. So there must be some separate group out to destroy the Earth against orders, going behind our back.

ESTER

You mean a...conspiracy?

HUGH

You're right! How could I have been so blind? But how could we possibly find these conspirators...?

HUGH & Fi

(Leaping up) HOWARD!!



FI

He's the best conspiracy theorist around!

ESTER

Um, guys?

HUGH

He'll collect all the evidence and solve the case!

ESTER

Guys.

FI

And we won't even have to keep things a secret! It's perfect!

ESTER

Guys!

HUGH

Let's go help him!

(Exit HUGH and FI)

ESTER

Not exactly what a conspiracy theorist does...

(Blackout.)

OULES
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Scene 5 - Death x Hel

Enter DEATH and two "extras". DEATH has a toy dog under their arm. The Extras are basically whoever can get out of costume in time (SLEIPNIR we're looking at you). The extras wander around, just talking. DEATH walks up behind them and boops one on the shoulder. They drop down, dead. The other splutters.

EXTRA

What the hell? What do you-

DEATH boops them in the chest. They die too.

DEATH

Heh heh. This apocalypse business is easy. Isn't it Mr Snuffles? *(He talks to the dog, getting high pitched.)* Yes it is, killing people is easy, it's fun, oh yes

Enter WAR. WAR stares at DEATH as they coo over the dog. WAR then spots the dead extras and glares at DEATH. Another extra enters from the other side. The extra walks over to DEATH, cooing over DEATH's dog with them. DEATH shakes their head and boops extra on the nose. Extra dies. WAR glares.

WAR

Seriously??

OXFORD
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

DEATH turns.

DEATH

Hey War. How goes the apocalypse? I've killed loads of people.

WAR

I noticed. I also noticed you are not playing fair.

DEATH

Fair? Isn't the aim to... kill loads of people.

WAR

Yes but, not like this. You are...you are cheating!

DEATH

Cheating? How have I been cheating?

WAR

We have been causing the apocalypse through plots and plans, schemes and subterfuge. You are just... you are just poking people!

DEATH

Booping people

WAR

What?

DEATH

They call it booping. It's like poking but more...

DEATH boops WAR

DEATH

Boop!



WAR

That is worse.

DEATH

Anyway, that's not all I've been doing.

WAR

(shocked) Really? What else have you done?

DEATH holds out their dog.

DEATH

I adopted a puppy. Isn't he the cutest? And he's so well behaved, he never barks or fusses.

It should become obvious at this point that Mr Snuffles is dead. Maybe he's got X's on his eyes. War gets very awkward about this.

WAR

Umm...yes, he is adorable. Um, Death, you know how you are...well Death...

DEATH

Yep.

WAR

And everything you touch...well...dies...

DEATH

Not everything. Mr Snuffles hasn't died. He loves me so he's still alive.

WAR

O...kay... I am going to go and continue to enact the apocalypse. If anything happens to Mr Snuffles, you know where to find me.

Exit WAR. Enter extra no. 4 followed by HEL at a distance. DEATH notices extra but not HEL.

DEATH

Cheating? I'm not cheating, just because I'm better at killing than they are. Besides, I don't need to do that, I can kill people without laying a finger on them. Why, I'll kill that guy now, I'll...I'll bore him to death. *(louder)* Hey, you, want to hear about the environment?

EXTRA

Um, no, not really.

DEATH

Of course you do. Now, the apocalypse is coming, so you know what we need to worry about. The giant panda.

EXTRA

(clearly bored) The what?

DEATH

The giant panda. Beautiful creatures but they're so close to extinction, we need to protect them, we- *(put their hand on extra's shoulder. Extra dies)* Oh dammit it.

HEL

Masterfully done.

Death jumps and turns.

HEL

Adding another undying soldier to my legions of the damned – and simply with your words.

DEATH

Well, actually I- hang on, “your legions of the damned”?

HEL

Oh, don’t you recognise me? I’m Hel, Norse Goddess of Death. You probably recognise me from all the woodcuttings.

DEATH

OH! You’re played by Cate Blanchett in that-

HEL

THAT FILM IS INACCURATE TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

DEATH

Okay... well, I can’t say this hasn’t been fun, but I need to join my colleagues in enacting the apocalypse so I’ll just be on my way.

HEL

I don’t think so. See, we’re doing Ragnarok and-

DEATH

As in the film?

HEL

No, *actual* Ragnarok, the Norse apocalypse-

DEATH & HEL

-during which the Nine worlds converge, hundreds of Gods die, all manner of horrible creatures are released and do battle, and in which *pretty much everyone dies*.

HEL

Oh, er, yes. That one.

DEATH

It's not as cool as ours.

HEL

Is too.

DEATH

Nuh uh, we're going to have GIANT RINGS OF EYES and FIRE HORSES and JESUS CHRIST-

HEL turns around, looking for whatever danger they've spotted.

DEATH

No, literally the son of god. We're the Revelation Apocalypse see.

HEL

Ah, got it. Well thanks for telling me your plans, I'll just go and tell my family and...

DEATH laughs

HEL

What's so funny?

DEATH

Oh you, you think you're going to go.

HEL

Yes, I'm just going to walk away and...

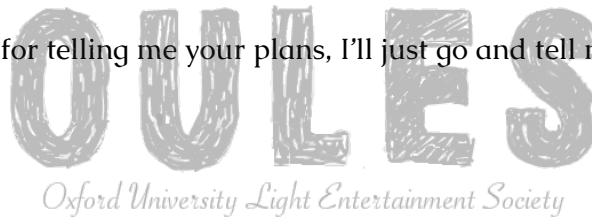
DEATH

No you're not. Say hello to whoever does my job but in your hell.

DEATH boops HEL

DEATH

Er...



DEATH boops HEL

DEATH

Um... sorry, this usually...

DEATH boops HEL

DEATH

This has never happened before, honest.

HEL

Performance anxiety?

DEATH

No, it's...

HEL

One in three men

DEATH

I'm not a man, look just maybe...

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DEATH goes slightly, er, red?

HEL

Look, let me show you...

HEL boops DEATH

HEL

Oh.

HEL boops DEATH a few more times.

HEL

Oh... um...

DEATH

See? I can touch you and... and you don't die.

DEATH puts their hand to HEL's face

HEL

And I can touch you and you don't...

HEL holds her hand to DEATH's

HEL

I...

DEATH

Um...

HEL

I expected you to be colder.

DEATH

I expected you to be too hot.

HEL

But you're...



DEATH

Just a bit...

HEL & DEATH

Clammy?

SONG: Can't Go Breaking My Heart (Because I don't have one)

A beautiful duet involving ballroom dancing in which DEATH and HEL fall in love united by their ability to not kill each other. It's adorable, it's romantic, and at the end they kiss or something. Because SOMEONE was having a moan about not enough stage kisses in OULES. I forget who. But SOMEONE. The dead Extras should probably dance, harmonise, and be part of this song, because CHOREOGRAPHY makes things better. This should be all this scene needs to finish.

Exeunt

Scene 6 - Who are these C.U.N.T.S?

Lights up on the Cambridge University Necrotic Technology Society. Let's be honest, we came up with the name of this group for the Acronym which they share with the Netball Team, but anyway, they're busy putting the finishing touches on a Dangerous Chemical so should probably be in some sort of Laboratory. Neither writer has ever been in a proper laboratory so I choose to assume this is some sort of Frankenstein or Yzma-esque affair.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

(Carefully pouring a chemical into a beaker)

57 units of Deoxyuridine monophosphate...

PROF LAMPTON

dUMP. Check.

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

(Carefully adding drops to the beaker)

4 units of polonium monoxide...

PROF LAMPTON

PoO. Check.

OULES

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

(Carefully stirring into the beaker)

69 units of sodium ethyl xanthate...

PROF LAMPTON

SEX. Check.

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

Now all we need to add is the super-sensitive and fragile secret chemical we got from that Iranian arms dealer and we should finally have it!

DR DAMPFNUDEL

The elixir of life itself!

PROF LAMPTON

Now now, don't count your mutated chickens until they've hatched from their genetically modified shells. Go and fetch chemical X.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Yes, Professor Lampton, right away Professor Lampton

DAMPFNUDEL fetches a large briefcase with a big red X on the side and brings it over, opening it up and using the tongs inside to hold the very fragile vial, shaking terribly.

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

Are you quite alright, Dr Dampfnudel?

DR DAMPFNUDEL

I'm sorry I'm just so nervous, I can barely hold it straight. What if I drop it, what if I-

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

Don't think about that, Dr Dampfnudel, just relax and take a deep breath.

DAMPFNUDEL takes a deep breath.

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

That's it, now breathe out.

DAMPFNUDEL breathes out

OULES

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DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

There we go, just remain calm, and gently move... that's it, don't rush, just take it nice and easy, everything's calm, everything's quiet, everything is ok-

Enter SIMEON, loudly and disruptively

SIMEON

Oop oop oop ACK ACK ACK eep eep CHEEEEEEE ACK ACK ACK OOP OOP AAAAACK!!!

Dramatic show of DAMPFNUDEL dropping the vial and PROF. LAMPTON catching it in the nick of time. THOMPSON-YOUNG should be trying to catch the monkey.

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

That was too close

DR DAMPFNUDEL

I'm sorry, that was my fault, I-

PROF. LAMPTON

It wasn't your fault, Dr Dampfndudel, it was Simeon running in here. Who let that bloody monkey out of its cage?

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

It wasn't me! I double checked that I locked it after we ran the brain probes at two.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

And it wasn't me! I triple checked that I locked it after we swapped his bananas for plutonium.

PROF. LAMPTON

Then who-?

PESTILENCE O/S

It was I!

Enter PESTILENCE in a cloud of pestilence

PESTILENCE

Cower before me, mortal humans, for I am Pestilence. I bring plague and disease to your world-

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PROF LAMPTON

Oh good, we've been running low on bubonic. Put the samples over there with the rest.

PESTILENCE

I'm not... do you think I am some sort of delivery boy?

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

Well obviously, dressed like that.

Gestures to PESTILENCE, taking in the horse.

PESTILENCE

You think delivery boys are dressed in the Robes of Rot and Decay and riding on the dread horse Morbius?

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Obviously.

PESTILENCE

I see... sorry I think I may be in the wrong place. This is Cambridge University, right?

PROF. LAMPTON

Cambridge's second best University, yes.

PESTILENCE

And this is the Cambridge University Necrotic Technology Society, right?

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Yes, we're the CUNTS. (*pronounce that Kyoonts*)

PESTILENCE

Well I was just expecting something a bit.... A bit more....

PROF LAMPTON

EEEEVVIIIIILLLL?

PESTILENCE

Well obviously.



DR DAMPFNUDEL

Oh but we are.

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

We're the people who are going to invent the greatest plague to unleash on humanity. A new plague to wipe the surface of the earth clean of the greatest scum!

ALL C.U.N.T.S

OXFORD STUDENTS!

SONG: The Moderately Obsolete Research Group of University Experts Song which explains who these guys are and what they're trying to do and why they're not very good at it.

PESTILENCE

So let me get this straight, you've only got this working *theoretically*.

PROF LAMPTON

Without theory we are nothing. If you can prove you can disassemble the human genome from first principles it's basically the same thing as actually disassembling the human genome.

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

Except, well, for the actual... disassembling of the human genome.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

We're going to need funding for that, aren't we?

ALL C.U.N.T.S

Ah.

Awkward rubbing of necks.

Blackout



Scene 7 - Who Rules the Rooster?

Enter HEL, LOKI and THOR, tiptoeing. HEL is carrying a big net. LOKI is dressed like a giant chicken.

HEL

Be very very quiet, we're hunting Roosters.

They tiptoe for a bit.

THOR

(Loudly)

I can't see a Rooster.

HEL and LOKI groan and stop tiptoeing.

HEL

Thanks, Uncle, you just blew our cover.

LOKI

Does the word 'subtlety' mean anything to you, brother dear?

THOR

Frankly, no. I don't see why we can't just ransack the Nine Worlds until we find this Rooster, pin it down and hit it with my hammer until it crows and be done with it already. Instead, we're sneaking around like a bunch of Lokis-

LOKI

I'm standing right here

THOR

As if we're doing something *wrong*. We're gods of Asgard, we're better than this!

HEL

Uncle, it's called *hunting*. You have to be sneaky otherwise the thing you're hunting runs away.

LOKI

And Roosters are notoriously easy to startle.

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THOR

Fine, fine, I'll be quiet.

They tiptoe around a bit, and eventually THOR gets bored again.

THOR

Are you *certain* I can't just LIGHTNING the beast from afar?

HEL and LOKI groan again and stop tiptoeing

LOKI

Brother can you not keep your mouth shut for five minutes??

THOR

I'm the god of Thunder, Loki! Thunder isn't quiet!

HEL

Yes, we're all aware, Uncle Thor.

To LOKI

Father, why did we have to bring him along again?

LOKI

He's useful to have in a fight, and he's... he's...

HEL

He's...

LOKI

He's... he's good in a fight.

THOR

Hark! A huuuuuge chicken!

LOKI

Also he's got good eyes.

Back to THOR

Where is it?

THOR

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Yonder!
(points offstage)

HEL
(Peering off)

Ah, yep, about 2 miles yonder to be exact. Right then, father, you're up.

LOKI
I'm still not sure I'm happy about this.

THOR
You're never happy. Remember that time you went on a date with Freyja, Goddess of Fertility and Beauty, and all you did was moan about it?

LOKI
That's because it transpired that Freyja, Goddess of Fertility and Beauty, of was *you in disguise*.

THOR
And did I not show you a good time?
Wiggling eyebrows



HEL
That is one mental image I do *not* need. And Uncle, didn't you think he'd *notice* that the person he was on a date with was not the slender beauty that is Freyja and in fact the hulking hairiness that is...
Gestures up and down
You.

THOR
Oh hush. It's not like you have any experience dating, niece.

LOKI
Now, brother, that's not fair. Just because she's a horrifying half-dead monster doesn't mean she can't get a date.

THOR
True. It's probably her personality.

LOKI

Brother!

HEL

Actually I *have* been on a date, I'll have you know.

THOR

...was it secretly your brother in disguise?

LOKI

Adopted brother!

HEL

No. Because all of my brothers are GIANT MONSTERS and I think I'd have noticed. No, they're a very nice... er... person, and definitely not someone in disguise.

THOR

How can you be certain?

HEL

Because they're a *skeleton*, Uncle, and even my father couldn't disguise himself as a skeleton.

Pause for a moment.

OULES
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THOR

So did you guys bone?

LOKI

ANYWAY, back to the point, I'm really not comfortable with this chicken thing.

HEL

We need someone to distract the Rooster so that I can sneak up behind it with the net. Father you agreed to do this.

LOKI

Only because your Uncle said he'd hit me with his hammer until I did.

HEL

That still counts. And Uncle Thor did say you're the best at this.

LOKI

At disguises and trickery?

HEL

Well, not quite that.

THOR

I said you're the best at seducing giant animals.

LOKI

I hate you so much.

THOR

Oh come now, brother, if you and the giant Rooster hit it off, perhaps you'll lay an egg with eight yolks, or become father to a giant Turkey with a shark for a head!

LOKI

How would that even work?!

HEL

We can discuss the exact physiology of my future half-sibling later, look Father, the Rooster's getting away, it's now or never.

LOKI

I choose never.

THOR

I choose now.

With the hammer, THOR punts LOKI offstage in the direction of the Rooster, screaming.

HEL

We should... probably catch up.

THOR raises his hammer

THOR

Want a lift?

HEL

...I think I'll walk.

Exit, pursuing Rooster

OULES
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Scene 8 - The Monster Mash

(Enter ESTER, still with her alien costume on. She stands awkwardly at the front of stage.)

ESTER

Um, hello? Where is everyone?

(Enter SAMPHIRE, ROLF and the MUMMY, menacing towards her slowly.)

SAMPHIRE

You shouldn't have come, alien.

ROLF

We're going to rip you limb from limb.

SAMPHIRE

Drain you of all your blood.

MUMMY

Raarrgh



(They get close enough to touch ESTER and she jumps away, pulling off her alien costume.)

ESTER

Guys, guys, it's me!

ROLF

Ester?

MUMMY

Ra-rugh?

ESTER

Yes, yes, me. Honestly Rolf, flea brained much?

ROLF

Hey, that's almost offensive. Werewolves don't have fleas, thank you very much.

ESTER

Just you then?

MUMMY

Rawwrr

(MUMMY lifts ESTER in a big hug.)

ESTER

Yes, yes, I missed you too, Mummy. Now let's-

SAMPHIRE

Wait, wait. Is anyone going to tell me what's happening?

ROLF

Oh, right. Sorry Samphire, forgot you hadn't met Ester. Samphire the Vampire, meet Ester the Shapeshifter.

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SAMPHIRE

A shapeshifter?

ESTER

Yep.

SAMPHIRE

Pretending to be one of the aliens?

ESTER

Yep.

SAMPHIRE

Which are pretending to be human?

ESTER

Yep.

SAMPHIRE

Okay, right. Why?

ROLF

Ester's been finding out if the aliens are destroying the world.

SAMPHIRE

And are they?

ESTER

No.

ROLF

Oh.

SAMPHIRE

Helpful.



MUMMY

Raaargh

ESTER

They think it's a rogue alien but I dunno. I still think it's some homegrown apocalypse. The Horsemen haven't been up to much recently, maybe they've decided to come out of the woodwork.

SAMPHIRE

They wouldn't do anything without their boss' permission and word is he's still in the cage.

ROLF

What about the Mayans?

ESTER

It was 2012 or bust for them. And they wasted 2012 watching the Avengers 500 times. Something about learning Thor's battle strategies?

MUMMY

Raaarrgh

SAMPHIRE

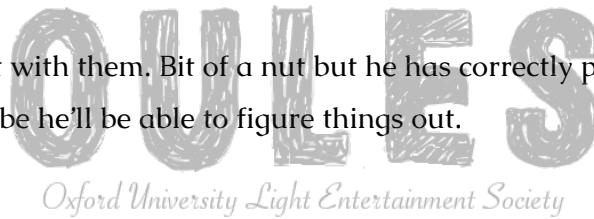
Good point, Mummy, it could be the Norse lot. But how on earth are we going to find out?

ROLF

Why don't we follow the aliens? Even if they think it's some rogue alien, we can still follow them and find out what they know.

ESTER

They've got this theorist with them. Bit of a nut but he has correctly predicted aliens and werewolves so far. Maybe he'll be able to figure things out.



SAMPHIRE

So, it's settled. You'll continue to trail the aliens and report back to us.

ESTER

And what exactly will you be doing?

(Brief moment of awkwardness as the others look at each other, trying to think of an answer.

Finally, the MUMMY pulls out a pack of cards.)

ESTER

Just sit here and do nothing?

ROLF

Yep.

SAMPHIRE

Yep.

MUMMY

Raaargh

(Exit ESTER, angrily. Give it a beat then the others look at each other.)

ROLF

Poker?

(Blackout.)

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Scene 9 - Failed Apocalypses

Lights up on SWISS DEFENCE MINISTRY sat down. WAR paces behind them.

WAR

Let me check I have understood you correctly. You are in possession of more weapons of mass destruction than any other country on the planet, yet you refuse to use them because you have an adherence to “neutrality”.

DE NEUTRÉ

(We demand your best Swiss, so basically worst French, accents (if you need help, ask Ben))

Well, of course. We are Swiss, we do not fight, we are peaceful.

L’GRIS

I like cheese.

WAR

But you could conquer the entire world! You could destroy it!

DE NEUTRÉ

Sacre bleu, why would we want to that? If we destroy le world, we destroy ourselves.

L’GRIS

(Solemnly) We destroy le cheese.

MÉCHANT

I mean, we don’t have to destroy the entire world. We could just destroy a couple countries, then people might take us seriously.

WAR

Exactly! One or two bombs in the right place and the whole world will bow down to the planet’s greatest superpower- Switzerland!

MÉCHANT

Yes, we won’t have to be neutral! We can demand respect, we can demand money-

L’GRIS

We can demand cheese!

Beat

DE NEUTRÉ

We need to speak about your love of cheese one day. It matters not, we are the great upholders of morality. We are respected, we are rich, we are... we are...

MÉCHANT

We are a joke. Light Entertainment societies across the world mock us every minute doing outrageous accents and making remarks about cheese!

L'GRIS

Mm... Cheese...

MÉCHANT

The world will roll over us one day and it'll be your fault.

L'GRIS

Cheese rolls...

WAR

(Standing between MÉCHANT and L'GRIS) Yes! Claim what you want, receive the boon you deserve! All it takes is to press one tiny little button and the world is ours!

DEATH

(O/S) Oh War!

WAR

Oh, please, no...

(Enter DEATH, slightly giddily, almost as if drunk. They have lipstick kisses on their face.)

DEATH

Oh War I'm so happy.

WAR

I really wish you were not. Why are you here?

DEATH

I am in love! I have fallen for a beautiful woman and she loves me!

WAR

Okay, well, that is nice but I am trying to start the Apocalypse here.

DEATH

Oh, yes, where are my manners?

(To the SWISS)

Death, Destroyer of Worlds, nice to meet you.

DE NEUTRÉ

AH, oui, mon ami, we are the Swiss Defence Ministry. Je suis Commandant Jean-Claude de Neutr , and these are my associates Divisionnaire Alis n l'Gris and Divisionnaire Maxine M chant.

DEATH

Oh, lovely, to meet you.

DEATH goes to shake hands with DE NEUTR . WAR tackles them away.

WAR

No! I was so close to convincing them to blow up the world. You are not going to take this away by killing them before they touch the button.

DEATH

Sighing, and stepping away from WAR, toward L'GRIS

Oh, but I'm in love! And I want everyone to see!

They spin L'GRIS around, and then dip them. L'GRIS then drops dead out of their arms.

WAR

Death! This is unfair, let me kill some people.

DEATH

It doesn't matter who you kill.

(Takes DE NEUTR  by the hand and waltzes with him)

My love will never die.

(Stops dancing, DE NEUTR  dies)

WAR

(To MÉCHANT)

Quickly, while they aren't looking, launch the weapons.

DEATH

Oh, War...

(Wraps arms around WAR and MÉCHANT. MÉCHANT dies.)

...I wish you could feel the joy that I feel.

WAR

You cretin, you have just killed my only chance at starting the apocalypse. And for what? Some little human you cannot even touch??

DEATH

Oh she's a *goddess*.

WAR

I feel you may be over exaggerating, my friend.

DEATH

No, she's literally a goddess. Hel, goddess of Death.

WAR

Tell me you have not gotten yourself involved with those *Norse* deities.

DEATH

And what if I have?

DEATH and WAR continue to silently bicker. From one side of the stage enter FAMINE and the ILLUMINATI and from the other PESTILENCE and the C.U.N.T.S (who are also being silent acting. It's a split stage effect :O)

FAMINE

Well that was a complete disaster.

MARY

I don't think so, thanks to me the blancmange was prepared to absolute perfection.

TIM coughs

MARY

Thanks to me *and* Tim's foil.

TIM

That's better.

FAMINE

Yes, but the blancmange was *supposed* to be toxic to everyone. You were *meant* to be poisoning the world!

ELVIS

One Night

MARY

Elvis is right, you can't kill everyone in one go in just one night - people would notice!

TIM

And then they'd know we exist, and we can't have that!

FAMINE

They wouldn't know *because they'd be dead*.

ELVIS

Don't.

FAMINE

Don't *what*, Elvis? You're meant to be the greatest schemers of the generation, instead you're... you're...

ELVIS

Teddy Bear?

FAMINE

YES! You're soft and fluffy and *useless* when it comes to causing global health epidemics.

MARY

OVULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Well *excuse me* for wanting to do things *properly*.

ELVIS

...Hard-Headed Woman

MARY

I beg your pardon!

Switch over to PESTILENCE

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

Dr Dampfnudel! You can't say that!

PROF LAMPTON

I quite agree with Dr Thompson-Young, Dr Dampfnudel you're simply not capable of saying "she sells sea shells on the seashore".

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Am too! (*Attempts.*)

PESTILENCE

(*Wearily*)

Can we please get back to the Doomsday Drug? Is it done yet?



DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

It will have to incubate for a few... days, but it should be ready for trialling then.

PESTILENCE

Days? Trialling? You're meant to be mad scientists capable of bringing ruin to the world.

You don't need *trials*.

PROF. LAMPTON

Well we would look awfully silly if we revealed the Drug and it turned out it didn't work. No, we'll need to trial it on smaller mammals first and then build up to sapiens and then...

PESTILENCE

Surely you must *know* if it's toxic?

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Actually we do!

PESTILENCE

Excellent! Finally, some good news!

DR DAMPFNUDEL

It's proven 100% fatal!

PESTILENCE

Good!

DR DAMPFNUDEL

To mice.

PESTILENCE

...

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

But theoretically it should work on dogs too.

PESTILENCE

You have a test monkey, can't you test it on that?

PROF LAMPTON

Absolutely not!

PESTILENCE

Why?

PROF LAMPTON

Simeon is already on 20 other drug trials at the moment, and that's the legal limit.

WAR, PESTILENCE, FAMINE

Why are you so *useless?!?*

Freeze all of the non-horsemen thing for a COOL THEATRE EFFECT.

DEATH

Hello!

OVULES
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WAR

You, shut it. You have just ruined my apocalypse.

PESTILENCE

Excuse me, I was going to start the apocalypse and these idiots were the one who ruined it.

FAMINE

Hey, my idiots are better idiots than yours, they ruined the apocalypse.

WAR

Wait, is that Mary Berry?

FAMINE

No, it's the Queen of England.

WAR

I will have none of your sarcasm. You got Mary Berry to help you?

FAMINE

Well, yes. Who are those people, Pestilence?

PESTILENCE

Oh, er, mad scientists.

DEATH

Ooh they've still got mad scientists? I thought those all got "modernised" and "legislated" into non-existence years ago.

PESTILENCE

Just goes to show.

WAR

Well I have... er... well I *had* the Swiss Military at my knees.

FAMINE

Ooh did you get any cheese?

OVULES
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WAR

They wouldn't share the cheese, but I did get some of the chocolate. Remarkable stuff. And also have you seen their KNIVES? They have invented knives that have smaller knives inside them! It is ingenious!

DEATH

I found a puppy!

Wistful / awkward silence

FAMINE

You know, I do quite like these humans.

PESTILENCE

Maybe we could... not do the Apocalypse.

WAR

Yes, perhaps we could put it off for another...

DEATH

Hundred...



FAMINE

Years?

PESTILENCE

That does sound quite nice. After all, they haven't finished Game of Thrones yet, and we *can't* finish it before we find out who sits on the Iron Throne at the end.

Nods and murmurs of agreement

WAR

Well, I guess we should just... get back home and forget about it then? Nothing else going on to worry about so-

O/S: COCK-A-DOODLE-DOOOOOOO

DEATH

Oh! Yes! I forgot to mention: my girlfriend Hel and her friends are causing *their* Apocalypse too.

O/S: BOOM

FAMINE

Bugger.

Blackout.

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Act 2

Scene 1 - Everything's on Fire

(Lights up on DEATH, MR SNUFFLES, FAMINE, the ILLUMINATI, PESTILENCE, the CAMBRIDGE UNTS and two of the SWISS DEFENCE, slumped over. Enter WAR, dragging last of SWISS DEFENCE with them. They all look like they've been apocalypted at a bit)

FAMINE

Eyeing the SWISS DEFENCE

Why did you bring *them* with you? They're dead.

WAR

Well, you have your Illuminati, Pestilence has their scientists, Death has their puppy. I look strange if I am stood here alone.

WAR props up SWISS DEFENCE, they lean on WAR, still slumped.

PESTILENCE

Riiiiight. Who are we waiting for again?

FAMINE

Death's girlfriend, apparently.

TIM

Death has a girlfriend?

ELVIS

Burning love.

PROF LAMPTON

Freezing, more likely, as she has no body heat. It was a bit difficult to tell for certain while she was riding atop an undead steed at the front of her undead legions of Doom.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Although, she was clearly still moving so basic biology may not apply-

PESTILENCE

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Dr Dampfnudel, do shut up. The Norse will be here any second and we want to look *respectable* at the very least.

(They are cut off as enter ODIN, THOR, LOKI, HEL, FENRIR and SLEIPNIR)

ODIN

And then *I* said Jormungandr? I hardly know 'er!

THOR, HEL, SLEIPNIR all laugh. LOKI is unimpressed.

LOKI

That's my child you're talking about remember.

THOR

Yes, brother, we all know about your giant snake.

HEL

Uncle, we're here to meet the Four Horsemen, we need to be professional.

DEATH

Pookie!

HEL

(Noticing DEATH) Snookums!

(They run together, being all romantic and stuff. Everyone else on stage looks awkward, as so they should.)

FAMINE

Death, get back here. You're embarrassing us.

ODIN

Granddaughter, care to introduce us?

(DEATH and HEL, still being sickeningly sweet, turn to their separate groups.)

HEL

Sorry, Allgrandfather, this is Death, one of the Horsemen.

DEATH

(Holding up puppy) And this is Mr Snuffles!

LOKI

Quite. And what, pray tell, makes you think you can date my daughter?

HEL

Dad!

SLEIPNIR

Yes, what are your intentions towards my little sister?

HEL

Sleipnir, I'm older than you!

DEATH

No, no, it's fine. Should have expected this reaction, never met a girlfriend's family before.

PESTILENCE

If you're quite done, shall we get back to the matter at hand?

ELVIS

Can't help falling in love

FAMINE

Yes, thank you Elvis. Death, get back here.

(DEATH and HEL separate, giggling slightly. The two groups stand glaring at each other. Like that bit in Anchorman)

WAR

So, you have plans to enact your Apocalypse?

ODIN

Not plans, we've already done it. Ragnarok is happening, the rooster has crowed and we are destroying this world.

TIM

Isn't that a bad thing for you though?

ODIN

What do you mean?

TIM

I mean, don't you all die during Ragnarok?

ODIN

Well, many of us do yes. But not all of us. I for one certainly won't be dying, I'd have heard about it by now.

THOR

Yes, father, exactly. Definitely not going to be killed by anything, especially not one of your own grandchildren.

ODIN

Exactly. I'll be fine.

MARY

But your children will die. And countless other Norse Gods.

LOKI

Yes, but you've forgotten one thing.

WAR

And what, exactly, is that?

SLEIPNIR

If we cause Ragnarok, you can't start your own apocalypse.

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

But we're so close to creating the virus!

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Just give us a few more months to run trials!

HEL

Months? You don't have months.



THOR

Ragnarok is happening now.

ODIN

Why don't we explain?

SONG: The Ragnarock. Epic rock number where the Norse Gods show everyone else who's boss. With electric guitar, if possible.

Finishes with: **ODIN**

Take our advice, Horsemen, and just give up.

(Exit ODIN, LOKI, THOR, FENRIR and SLEIPNIR. HEL moves over to DEATH.)

PESTILENCE

(Grumbles) I'll show them who's a jumped up wanna be jockey... Necrotic Society, we have work to do. We ride!

PROF LAMPTON

I'm sorry, but, what work exactly do we have to do?



WAR

Yes, perhaps now is time for a new strategy. We need to take stock and reassess the battlefield to-

PESTILENCE

We riiiiiiide!

(Exit PESTILENCE dramatically and C.U.N.T.S awkwardly behind them.)

FAMINE

Illuminati, let's go.

WAR

What, you too?

MARY

Aren't you going to say, 'we ride'?

TIM

Yeah, slightly lackluster.

FAMINE

Fine. *(Beat)* Illuminati, we shall reband, refocus and reinvigorate ourselves. We are going to starve out those Norse idiots and beat them at their own game! Now, Illuminati, we ride!

(ILLUMINATI and FAMINE cheer, running offstage. WAR is struggling to pull the SWISS offstage while HEL and DEATH flirt.)

WAR

We can at least re-evaluate our assets...

HEL

Sweetie, what is your friend doing?

DEATH

Oh, those are War's minions, snookums. I booped them *(mime finger across neck)* and now War's dragging them around out of loneliness.

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

HEL

Oh, pookie, that was very mean. *(To WAR)* Tell you what, I'll give you guys a fighting chance.

(HEL leans down and boops DE NEUTRÉ. He wakes, with a start, looking around.)

DE NEUTRÉ

Where am I? No matter. *(To HEL)* Lovely to meet you Mademoiselle, shall we draft a peace agreement.

DEATH

(Booping DE NEUTRÉ, who dies) No, not him, too obsessed with neutrality.

HEL

Okay. *(Boops L'GRIS)*

L'GRIS

Le cheese! Where is le cheese, I have not eaten le cheese in so long?

HEL

How long was she dead?

WAR

Approximately 15 minutes.

DEATH

Maybe not. *(Boops L'GRIS)*

HEL

Well, third time's the charm.

(HEL boops MÉCHANT. She sits up, sees the other SWISS dead and grins. She stands and faces WAR.)

MÉCHANT

Merci. Now, I have a big red button to press.

(Exit MÉCHANT. WAR stares after her, confused.)

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HEL

Well, I should get going. Places to go, people to kill. Goodbye darling.

DEATH

Goodbye my beloved, I love you.

HEL

I love you more

DEATH

No, I love you-

WAR

Yes, thank you, farewell, Lady Hel.

(Exit HEL. DEATH stares after her with heart eyes. WAR stares at DEATH, confused and concerned.)

DEATH

What?

WAR

You concern me.

DEATH

Thank you!

WAR

It is not a good thing, but our colleagues concern me more. We need to find them and stop them before they make matters worse.

DEATH

What matters? Worse how?

WAR

I shall explain later. Come, let us find our allies!

Blackout

OULES

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Scene 2 - We need a PLAN

Re-enter DEATH and WAR dragging PESTILENCE and FAMINE, possibly by their ears. PESTILENCE and FAMINE are very much complaining.

WAR

Aha! We have have found our allies!

FAMINE

Let me go! We almost had the world ended: the Illuminati were about to finalise the plans on another faked moon landing.

DEATH

How would that help us end the world?

FAMINE

While people were thinking we were landing on the moon, we'd actually be blowing it up!

PESTILENCE

Excuse me, my scientists were making good headway with trials! It now works on small mammals! We were going to destroy the world first!

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WAR

Enough! Neither of you were going to destroy the world because the Norse Gods were going to do it first! They have already started!

FAMINE

Well, we were going to finish first!

DEATH

No, we weren't. Hel's thought of everything, their apocalypse will be finished any day now.

PESTILENCE

(Mocking parody (come on, this is what we're good at)) Look at me, I'm Hel, I'm so clever and those horsemen could never outsmart me!

DEATH

What's that meant to be?

PESTILENCE

I'm pretending to be your girlfriend in order to mock you.

DEATH

You're not doing a very good job. She's taller than you and her breasts are a lot more-

WAR

FRIENDS. If we attempt to destroy the world, all our efforts will be for nothing.

PESTILENCE

Well, it's not like we can stop the Norse apocalypse.

FAMINE

That would mean we were saving the world.

DEATH

We can't save the world, we're the Horsemen, we End things.

WAR

Can we not? What if we Ended the End of the World?

OULES

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FAMINE

What.

PESTILENCE

Ended the End of the World?

WAR

Yes!

DEATH

No.

WAR

No?

DEATH

Yes.

WAR

Yes?

PESTILENCE & FAMINE

No!

DEATH

War, Friend, you may be new to this-

WAR

I am as old as civilisation!

FAMINE

Aww! Look at you only existing since humanity came into being! Diddums.

PESTILENCE

Pfft, you still needed complex organisms to exist. *I* only needed bacteria to-

DEATH

Yes, yes, we're all very old. My *point* was that our purpose isn't to end anything except the world. Think of what *He* would say if *He* found out we were ending *other* things.

WAR

But-

DEATH

Just look at your contract.

(DEATH unfurls a demonic contract which is very long and implausibly stored)

DEATH

There, right at the top, "WAR, employed as HORSEMAN to bring about THE END OF THE WORLD at the exact moment it is sanctioned by The Adversary, Destroyer of Kings, Angel of the Bottomless Pit, Great Beast that is called Dragon, Prince of This World, Father of Lies and NO SOONER."

FAMINE

Hang on, say that again.

DEATH

“WAR, employed as HORSEMAN to bring about THE END OF THE WORLD at the exact moment it is sanctioned by The Adversary, Destroyer of Kings, Angel of the Bottomless Pit, Great Beast that is called Dragon, Prince of This World, Father of Lies and NO SOONER.” Oh no.

WAR

No sooner?

PESTILENCE

Did none of us check the contract before we started this? *Really?*

FAMINE

The devil's in the detail...

PESTILENCE

So if we let the world end now, we'll be in violation of Contract with *Him*.

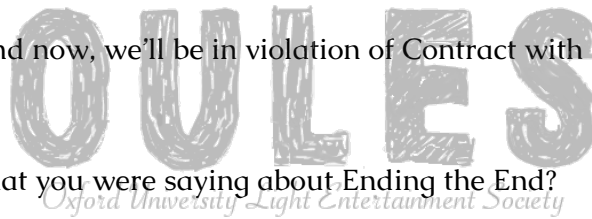
DEATH

...ah. War, what was that you were saying about Ending the End?

WAR

I shall explain on the way. WE RIDE.

Exeunt



Scene 3 - Sadly Myth-taken

(Lights up on HOWARD, HUGH, FI and ESTER.)

HOWARD

Right! I've scoured the internet, I've found every photo of spaceships and alien sightings, I've read every eyewitness report and I've come to only one conclusion!

FI

Which is?

HOWARD

Aliens... exist!

(Beat.)

ESTER

Umm...yes. We already knew that. Do you have a more specific conclusion?

HOWARD

Of course, I'm building the suspense. Aliens... exist... and they're right here!

(He points down at the ground and FI and HUGH crowd round, looking at where he's pointing.)

HUGH

I don't see the aliens.

FI

They must be really small!

HUGH

Or invisible!

FI

Or-!

OULES
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HOWARD

Or I was exaggerating and they're not here yet!

ESTER

No kidding.

HUGH

So, if they're not here now, where are they?

HOWARD

Well, they're... I don't know where are right now but they'll be here soon!

MUMMY

(O/S) Raaarrgghh

ESTER

Oh no.

OULES

HOWARD

Here they come, everyone **hide!** *Oxford University Light Entertainment Society*

(They press themselves against various bits of the stage. Enter SAMPHIRE, ROLF and the MUMMY.)

SAMPHIRE

This time, I'm doing the shuffling. You definitely cheated last time Rolf.

ROLF

I did not! You just suck at poker.

SAMPHIRE

Whatever, wolf boy, let's just play.

(They sit down, dealing cards. After a few seconds, HOWARD jumps forward.)

HOWARD

Give up, alien scum!

MUMMY

Raargh?

HUGH

(Shoving Howard out of the way.) You traitorous devils!

ROLF

What? Ester, what's going on?

FI

Ester, you're the traitorous devil?

HOWARD

You're the alien scum!

OULES

ESTER

No, no. I'm not a traitor and I'm not an alien. And neither are they.

SAMPHIRE

Maybe we should just go...

HOWARD, HUGH & FI

Nobody move!

FI

We should have known the traitor would be in our own ranks.

ESTER

I'm not a traitor!

HOWARD

Would someone please explain what is happening?

(FI reveals ESTER's alien costume and HOWARD gasps. ESTER removes alien costume and FI and HUGH gasp. Then ESTER reveals HUGH and FI's alien costume and SAMPHIRE and ROLF gasp. It'll work onstage.)

ROLF

I still don't get it.

HOWARD

You're not the aliens, they are! You're just regular humans.

SAMPHIRE

Yep. Definitely not a vampire, a werewolf and a mummy.

ESTER

Or a shapeshifter.

ROLF

Definitely not.



HOWARD

So if you're the aliens, you're the ones trying to destroy the earth.

HUGH

No, they are!

FI

We just had orders to observe. It must be them.

ESTER

Wait, wait. If you're not destroying the planet and we're not aliens, how did the evidence lead you here?

MUMMY

Because I planted it.

(The MUMMY pulls the wrapping off his face and takes out a badge. I know, it's stupid. Just go with it.)

MUMMY

FBI, you're all under arrest!

HOWARD

What?

HUGH

What?!

ROLF

I'm so confused.

MUMMY

I've been undercover for years and now I've got you. Two rogue, idiot aliens, three dangerous, suspicious monsters and one crazy, world threatening conspiracy theorists.

HOWARD

I'm going to take that as a compliment.

MUMMY

And I'm taking you in.

(They all start marching towards the exit.)

ROLF

I'm still confused.

SAMPHIRE

Everyone's confused Rolf.

(Exeunt.)

OULES
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Scene 4 - Calm Down General Angry

Lights up on MÉCHANT storming into the control room of the Swiss Nuclear Bunker.

MÉCHANT

(Shouting offstage) And tell the President of the United States that if he doesn't like it he can bite my incredibly secure sous-vêtements! One trillion dollars transferred to a Swiss Bank Account - non, THE Swiss Bank Account - within the hour or Manhattan is MELTED.

(Aside, to the audience) Of course, even when the money is transferred, we shall fire our nuclear weapons anyway! Too long has Switzerland been the butt of everyone else's jokes. Too long have we been known only for our cheese, our knives and our incredibly jumpable border fences. Too long has our flag been considered "the only plus" of our country! Non, from this day forward, Switzerland shall be known as DEATH: DESTROYER OF WORLDS.

(Enter WAR)

WAR

I hate to tell you this, but that name is already taken.

MÉCHANT

Ah! Cavalier War, your timing is perfect. I could use your help firing ALL OF OUR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

WAR

At whom?

MÉCHANT

At... well, EVERYONE - starting the GREATEST CONFLICT THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN. Since the last one.

WAR

Twitching with restraint

I am not sure... while that would be great....

MÉCHANT

Think of all the battles! The world's armies facing off against each other, the most powerful military technologies ever known brought to bear!

WAR

More restraint

As glorious as that would be to behold...

MÉCHANT

And SWITZERLAND standing tall above them all!

WAR

Look, er... General...

MÉCHANT

Divissionaire.

WAR

Divisioner.

MÉCHANT

Aire.

WAR

I do not care. You. Crazy nuke person. No. You must not start this war.

MÉCHANT

I beg your pardon?



WAR

The world is certainly a mess, and from a very specific highly subjective incredibly implausible white middle class Western European viewpoint, it could somehow be argued that Switzerland has been wronged by the global community...

MÉCHANT

As many of my friends on Facebook agree, oui.

WAR

As much as I hate to say it. And I really, really hate to say it. The solution is not to reduce everyone else to atoms.

MÉCHANT

But... but they will keep making jokes at our expense! They will keep mocking us in their student light entertainment shows!

WAR

You must persevere.

MÉCHANT

Bah! You don't know what it's like to be mocked day in day out. Ridiculed!

WAR

Actually... I do. I do not know if you have heard but people... people say... "WAR. WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?" They sing, "ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!" And... *(Tearing up a little)* That hurts, you know. Right here. Where my heart would be if I had one.

MÉCHANT

Does it not make you want to murder them all?

WAR

Yes! It does!

MÉCHANT

Then annihilate those who mock you! What are you waiting for?

WAR

PERMISSION FROM MY BOSS.

MÉCHANT

Eh?

WAR

Sorry, I mean... I learned patience?

MÉCHANT

Patience?

WAR

Yes. I learned to tolerate those who would mock me, and *imagine* their grizzly deaths instead. After all, I can *imagine* my enemies dying ten thousand different ways. Why would I want to limit myself to a reality with just one?

MÉCHANT



So you're saying... I should keep my rage pent up and let it simmer?

WAR

Yes?

MÉCHANT

And post angrily about it on Facebook?

WAR

Will you also go to an anger management class?

MÉCHANT

Perhaps.

WAR

Then sure. Now will you put the nukes down?

(Off-stage, disposable character)

Divisionnaire! We have word from America! They have transferred the money! Switzerland is one trillion US dollars richer! Who knew the threat of nuclear annihilation could be so effective?

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society
(MÉCHANT looks smugly at WAR)

WAR

YOU STILL SHOULD NOT NUKE ANYTHING.

Blackout

Scene 5 - Jormunganderrrr

*It is at this point that your humble writers realise we've yet to tell you about an important set piece. At the back of stage, heading out the entrance(s) should be something very long. This is a snake but you won't know it's a snake until this scene. *theatre**

Now you're up to speed on that, dim lights up as Jormungandr awakens and menaces the audience. Can we have a smoke machine please? Okay, but what would be REALLY cool is if over some sort of Audio system we can have a series of radio / news broadcasts talking frantically about the terrifying damage Jormungandr is doing, as the snake on stage rears its head and hisses at the front row of the audience. Ideally, this is an n-person pantomime snake that flows off the stage and round and back on and...

You get the idea. We are not sorry. At all.

Eventually, the snake should head up onto the stage again, lights going up a little as DEATH wanders on to face the snake and...

DEATH

Boop!

Lights up. Jormungandr dies and falls to the ground.

OVULES
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DEATH

Unfurling "Stop Apocalypse" checklist

Stop giant world snake... check!

Enter HEL and THOR from another direction, THOR dressed in battle armour. They don't notice the snake is dead yet.

HEL

Now, Uncle, the prophecy is very specific that you have to fight Jormungandr, and *both of you die* in the process, but we need Jormy to do as much damage as possible, so if you could make the fight take a while, that would be great.

THOR

Can't I just... you know, not die? Kill the snake and live?

HEL

What part of *prophecy* don't you get, Uncle? These things *will* come to pass. You *will* fight Jormungandr and both of you *will* die in the process.

THOR notices Jormungandr is dead.

THOR

Um... what if Jormungandr is already dead?

HEL

What do you mean what if Jormungandr is already dead?

THOR

I mean, Jormungandr is already dead. What happens now?

HEL

What?

HEL wheels around and takes stock of deadmungandr

HEL

Confusion

What?!

OULES

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DEATH waves

HEL

Cold rage

What.

THOR

This looks like it's going to be awkward...

THOR takes a prime seat. Ideally in or on the audience. He pulls out a bag of popcorn

HEL

SNOOKUMS. WHAT. DID. YOU. DO.

DEATH

I killed your giant snake.

HEL

That *giant snake*, sweetest, was *my baby brother*.

DEATH

There's not much resemblance, dear-

HEL

Don't you DEAR me, you girlfriend's-brother-murderer! How *could* you?!

DEATH

I booped him on the nose and he died. Honey, it's-

HEL

Don't HONEY me. You killed him in *cold blood*.

DEATH

He's a snake. He's already cold blooded. Also I have no blood. Darling I don't see what the problem is - you were going to have him fight your uncle to the death and both lose-

HEL

Yeah, but that's *his* Uncle, he gets to make that choice. And now the entire prophecy has gone out the window and, UGH, you stupid, stupid skeletal bony...

OVULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

DEATH

I'm sorry?

HEL

I can't believe I *trusted* you. It's true what they say: a Horseman can never really love a Norseman.

DEATH

Who says that?

THOR

I did!

HEL

We're through. Death. We part.

(Exit HEL)

SONG: Minor Reprise of Can't Go Breaking My Heart in which DEATH is sad about this turn of events and THOR is unhelpful.

(Enter ODIN)

ODIN

And then *I* said, "Honey, there's a reason they call it the *Bf*rost"

THOR

Father! Tell me more of this tale another time, but our friend- er, acquaintance? Er, spooky Death person, is grieving for the loss of their love.

ODIN

Oh balls, is Hel dead already? Is that even possible if she's half dead? I suppose she could become fully dead.

THOR

No, she just broke up with him. He killed Jormungandr.

ODIN

He killed Jormungandr? Oh bollocks. That was my favourite and most cataclysmically destructive grandchild. Ah well, at least I have my second favourite and second most cataclysmically destructive grandchild-

SLEIPNIR

I'm here for you, Allgrandfather!

ODIN

No, not you, spider-horse. Fenrir! Come to allgranddaddy!

THOR

Ah, I'm not sure that's a good-

Enter FENRIR

FENRIR

I AM HERE, ONE EYED BEARD MAN WHO GIVES ME TUMMY RUBS. DO YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE FETCHING PIECES OF DEAD TREE?

ODIN plays with FENRIR. Gosh this is weird.

ODIN

Oh who's a good grandchild? You are! You are! With your big sharp claws and killer jaw and overwhelming muscles!

FENRIR

I AM IN PEAK PHYSICAL CONDITION FOR MURDER.

THOR

Father, now's not a good time to... Father, Father please- ugh, I need help. Hel! Hel!

Exit THOR

ODIN

Alright, alright, enough boy. Now I'm afraid I have some bad news about your brother.

FENRIR

OH NO. WHAT HAS OCCURRED TO MY DEAREST CHILDHOOD COMPANION?

ODIN

Jormungandr... is dead.

OULES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

FENRIR

EGAD. I AM OVERCOME WITH EMOTION.

ODIN

Egad indeed, oh you're so cute even when you're in mourning.

DEATH

Who has been observing

It's okay, Mr Snuffles, you're still cuter.

ODIN

Ah, Death, was it? I hear you've had a heartbreak.

DEATH

Your granddaughter made me feel things I've never felt before.

ODIN

Yes, I remember my first time too. It was with fifty large bosomed Frost Giants, and fifty well endowed Fire Giants and-

DEATH

Agh, that's not what I meant! *(Covers Mr Snuffles's ears)* We don't want to hear that, nobody wants to hear that!

FENRIR

I WISH TO HEAR THE TALES OF YOUR SEXUAL ADVENTURES, GREAT FRIEND MAN.

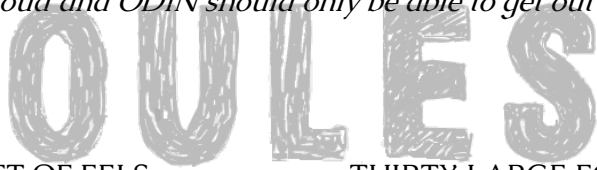
ODIN

Attaboy, Fenrir! So there I was, in the middle of Vanaheim, stripped ENTIRELY NAKED by a legion of-

DEATH

(Loudly) LA LA LA LA LA LA I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

This needs to be really loud and ODIN should only be able to get out snippets of what he's saying.



ODIN

... .. LARGE BUCKET OF EELS THIRTY LARGE EGGS
RUBBING MAYONNAISE INTO REPEATEDLY UNTIL THEY

SLEIPNIR

OH SO THAT'S WHAT TEABAGGING MEANS

ODIN

... .. WOKE UP WEARING NOTHING BUT A SLICE OF HAM.

FENRIR

WHAT A STORY, ALL GRANDFATHER.

DEATH

My poor ears...

FENRIR

TELL US ANOTHER

(Enter HEL and THOR, and we do that cool split stage effect)

HEL

Oh no, you were right, he's right there with Fenrir. He's going to rip Odin's head off at any moment, in accordance with the Ragnarok Prophecy!

THOR

Thank you, niece, for recapping exactly what I told you a few moments ago. Now how do we stop it? Can you kill Fenrir?

HEL

I can't.

THOR

But you're the goddess of Death

HEL

Only on humans. My powers don't work on gods, or giants, or elves, or dwarves, or large mammals or...

THOR

Or anything we actually could do with killing. Great. So what do we do?

HEL

I can't kill Fenrir-

THOR

Yes I got that.

HEL

I can't, but I know someone who can.

(Back to full stage)

ODIN

AND THEN I TOOK OUT MJOLNIR AND-

DEATH

YOU GAVE THAT TO YOUR SON

ODIN

Well of COURSE I did, it was my proudest moment! Well, excluding that time with the Elven Queen and-

DEATH

AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHH

ODIN continues boasting about his sex life but quietly enough that the rest of the scene can progress.

HEL

Psst!

DEATH doesn't notice.

HEL

Psssst!

DEATH still doesn't notice.



HEL

PSSSSSST!

DEATH still doesn't notice. HEL takes MJOLNIR from THOR.

THOR

Hey, you're not supposed to be worthy-

HEL throws MJOLNIR at DEATH anyway. DEATH notices, realises it's HEL and scurries over.

DEATH

You came back!?

HEL

Yes, I came back.

DEATH

Oh I'm overjoyed! I missed you so much, and was so worried about- oh, I sang a song and-

HEL

Yes, sure, fine, whatever, you see that dog? That's my brother and-

DEATH

Ah! Understood! Under no circumstances shall I kill that dog! I swear it!

HEL

Good. Wait, no! I need you to kill the dog!

DEATH

Ahhh, you're testing me. Clever! No, I won't do it, I won't kill the dog because it's your brother!

HEL

No! I need you to kill my brother!

DEATH

Double checking? Wise, wise. No, I swore it, I will not kill your brother and there's nothing you can say to make me. I'm a changed Demigod.

HEL

You're still an idiot. That dog - my brother - is going to rip off Odin's head unless *someone* kills him.

DEATH

If that's true then why don't you do it? See, I saw through your ruse! It's still a test!

HEL

What, no! My powers don't work on gods, or giants, or elves, or dwarves, or large mammals or...

DEATH

Well neither do mine.

OULES
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HEL

What?! You just killed a giant snake!

DEATH

Snakes aren't mammals, they're reptiles. Look, if I could kill dogs then Mr Snuffles would have died when I touched him.

DEATH waves a very very dead Mr Snuffles in front of HEL.

HEL

Mr Snuffles *is* dead!

She pulls the (very very loose) head off to prove it.

DEATH

MR SNUFFLES?! You... you... you POSSIBLY-EX-PARTNER-PET-MURDERER!! How could you!?

HEL

He was already dead!

OULES

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DEATH

He was not! You know what, you were right. We *are* through. Go find someone else to try to trick into murdering your brother! Come on, remains of Mr Snuffles, we ride!

(They ride.)

THOR

That went disastrously, niece, but perhaps there is another way.

HEL

Another way?

THOR

Well the prophecy is already broken by my not having died fighting Jormungandr, perhaps Fenrir won't eat Odin anyway?

(Across the stage, FENRIR eats ODIN)

THOR

Or never mind.

HEL

No! Fenrir! Bad brother! Spit him out! Spit out the Allfather!

(FENRIR spits out ODIN)

FENRIR

I APOLOGISE. I WAS OVERCOME BY A SUDDEN COLLISION OF THE FATES.

THOR

Father... Father, are you okay?

ODIN

No, I'm really not.

THOR

Come on, we can get you up and healed.

ODIN

No, I don't think so... Killer jaw on that dog, you should keep an eye on it.

THOR

Tis but a scratch!

ODIN

Hah, you always had good spirit, son. But no, I am not long for this world. I'll be with you, though, in here.

(Taps heart)

THOR

Father...

ODIN

And tell your brother. Tell Loki... I'll always be looking down on him. Because he's a piece of sh-....

OVLES

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THOR
FATHER!!!!

Blackout

OULES
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Scene 6 - Assistants Unite

(Lights up on MORT (DEATH's assistant), JESSICA (PESTILENCE's assistant), VICTOR (WAR's assistant) and OLIVE (FAMINE's assistant), sat on chairs. MORT is slumped. He is dead. OLIVE is eating constantly)

JESSICA

(Coughing throughout) Right, so, now the boss telling me I need to find this very specific piece of scientific equipment for their new pet humans. And it's only available in the black markets of Lebanon. I've never been to Lebanon!

VICTOR

(Angrily. He's always angry.) That is nothing. War had me sending threatening letters to every single country, demanding they hand over their weapons. I had to write them by hand! DO you have ANY idea how much your hand cramps after that much writing?!

OLIVE

I dunno. I know they're all being a bit fussy now, got weird requests but at least they're doing stuff. Famine used to just mope around, waiting for Him to give the order to destroy the world and now look at them! Running around with the Illuminati, fighting gods. It makes your heart feel full.

VICTOR

Like you ever feel full.

JESSICA

Let's not fight, it just makes things worse. Right Mort?

(She nudges MORT who slumps and falls off his chair.)

JESSICA

I'm counting that as agreement.

VICTOR

So, what do we do? Wait around for the next order?! The job has changed, I signed up to be the assistant of a Horseman of the Apocalypse! Not to be the assistant of a Horseman of the Saving-The-World-But-Only-Until-Our-Boss-Say-Otherwise!

JESSICA

Can't exactly complain about the pay.

OLIVE

(Holding up food) Or the benefits.

JESSICA

And if the world doesn't end, surely that's good? Means we don't die.

VICTOR

War would not kill me! They need me too much.

OLIVE

And what exactly do you do that is so important?

VICTOR

I...I record Bake Off for them.

OLIVE

Wow, so impressive.

VICTOR

Without me, War would be lost, struggling to find joy in this world, unable to go on!

JESSICA

Yes, yes, I'm sure you're very important.

(Enter HEL, slightly stropily.)

HEL

Kill my brother, I'll show them. You lot! Which one of you is Death's assistant?

(The three look at each other then point at MORT on the floor.)

OLIVE

Mort was.

HEL

Hmm. Well, I suppose if Death killed him, I'll just make them suffer by bringing him back.

(She pokes MORT and he wakes up. He pats himself briefly then jumps up.)

MORT

I'm alive! Oh my gosh, I'm alive and breathing and moving and everything! Victor, look, I'm alive!

VICTOR

Fantastic

(MORT goes running around the stage, bouncing about and being generally very happy.)

HEL

Now I've done that, Death will feel my fury. Mwahaha

(Exit HEL)

JESSICA

Should we tell her Death goes through 10 assistants a month?

OLIVE

I don't see how that will help.

OULES

MORT

(Running up to them.) Alive!! I'm alive! Oh, I need to tell the boss, they'll be so happy!!

(Exit MORT)

VICTOR

He's going straight to Death's office right?

OLIVE

Yep

JESSICA

He's going to die again right?

OLIVE

Yep

VICTOR

Oh, whatever. I need a drink.

(Blackout)

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Scene 7 - IlluMINAtION

(Lights up on ILLUMINATI and FAMINE. FAMINE is sat apart from the others, who surround an object covered by a cloth.) Since we're in stage directions currently, it's pronounced "Ban-oc-o-late"

MARY

I have finally completed it! With this new invention with we will save the world from hunger and strife! Those Norse will give up in shame once they see my...*(dramatically removes cloth)*
Banhocolate cake!

(beat)

TIM

Banhocolate? Is that just a banana and chocolate cake?

MARY

No, a banana and chocolate cake has two flavours mixed together. This is one flavour beautifully formed and filling the entire cake.

ELVIS

All shook up?

OULES
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MARY

Exactly! Wait, no, not like that...

FAMINE

How exactly will this help us defeat the Norse Gods?

MARY

Well, we distract them with this marvellous new invention then...well, then...

FAMINE

You just made a cake and don't actually have a plan do you?

MARY

That is correct, yes.

TIM

We've got nothing.

ELVIS

Surrender?

FAMINE

No, we're not going to surrender. If we surrender, the whole world ends and I am very likely to get fired. Where am I even suppose to find work, I've had one job for aeons, not exactly a versatile CV.

ELVIS

In the Ghetto?

FAMINE

Not helpful. Honestly, you lot are useless.

SONG: The 'We're Not Useless, Honest' Song Where the illuminati attempt to show Famine all the way's they're not useless and Famine being less than impressed.

FAMINE

If you're done, we still need to somehow defeat Loki, the Master of Lies, the God of Mischief and all we have is a cake!

TIM

Well, they've got a prophecy don't they? How does he die in Ragnarok?

FAMINE

I haven't exactly seen the prophecy, I don't even know where it is!

HEL

(o/s) I've got the prophecy here, father.

MARY

Hide!

(ILLUMINATI and FAMINE hide awkward, basically just pressing themselves against the back of the stage or hiding behind the pianist. Enter LOKI and HEL)

HEL

It says very clearly that you die killing Heimdall, alright. My idiot ex screwed up Uncle Thor's joint death with my giant-snake-brother so you better make this work.

LOKI

If Thor isn't dying, do I really have to?

HEL

Yes. Now, go find Heimdall and let him kill you.

LOKI

But-

HEL

GO.

(Exit HEL and LOKI, reluctantly. Others stop hiding)

FAMINE

Right, so we need Loki to die but he can't be killed by this Heimdall or that keeps Ragnarok going.

TIM

What if he thought it was Heimdall he was fighting and so let himself die?

FAMINE

(beat) Explain.

TIM

Well, we're great at pretending to be people we're not, no one's realised Mary's the Queen for years. And faking your death is easy, just look at Elvis. All we need to do is dress one of us up as this Heimdall, then Loki will let them kill him and the prophecy is averted.

FAMINE

So who are we dressing up?

TIM & MARY

Elvis.

ELVIS

A fool such as I?

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FAMINE

This is bound to go wrong but okay.

(TIM, MARY and FAMINE dress up ELVIS to look like he's wear Norse Armour, though still with his Elvis costume on. Mostly achieved through tin foil armour and sword.)

LOKI

(o/s) Heimdall! Come out and face me!

MARY

Good luck Elvis, don't let us down.

(TIM, MARY and FAMINE hide again. Enter LOKI.)

LOKI

Ah, Heimdall! The time had come for our epic duel to the death! Literally, we both have to die or Hel will bring me back and kill me so many times.

ELVIS

A Little Less Conversation.

LOKI

Of course. But don't you want to maybe wait, double check the prophecy? Someone might be lying to us.

ELVIS

Suspicious minds.

LOKI

Well, yes. Look, hear me out, what if instead of dying we *both* fake our deaths, then go somewhere nice, maybe the Bahamas, or, or I hear Europa is nice this time of year. There are no witnesses so if we just *disappear* nobody will know we flouted the prophecy!

ELVIS

This is our story.

LOKI

...I suppose. Oh fine, I suppose even gods must die eventually... I had a good run.

ELVIS



It's Now or Never

(LOKI and ELVIS fight. Improvise to your Elvis-knowledge heart's content. It's pretty pathetic and neither really know what they're doing. Eventually LOKI basically impales himself on ELVIS' sword)

LOKI

Wait, wait. You're meant to let me kill you too, it's the prophecy.

ELVIS

Fools Rush In

LOKI

What?

ELVIS

Fool

LOKI

WHAT???

ELVIS

Fool, Fool, Fool



LOKI

Yes, I get that bit-

FAMINE

(Appearing, dramatically) I'm afraid you've been fooled Loki. You and the other Norse idiots are going down.

ELVIS

Way down.

LOKI

Well that's... that's just not fair! I... You'll.... You'll pay for this... You'll...

ELVIS

End of the Road

LOKI

I never liked you anyway...

(Die LOKI)

FAMINE

Right, we did it, let's find the other Horsemen and tell them.

(Go to exit)

MARY

WAIT! *(Everyone freeze, look at MARY)* Don't you want some cake?

FAMINE

Oh, one *wafer thin* slice couldn't hurt.

(They surround the cake. Blackout)

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Scene 8 - C.U.N.T.S vs Wolf

Darkness

DR DAMPFNUDEL

IT'S ALIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIVE

KRAK-A-THOOM, then lights up

PROF LAMPTON

Yes, that's rather the problem, isn't it?

SIMEON

Dressed in lab coat

It is, rather isn't it?

PROF LAMPTON

Yes, quite, Dr Thompson-Young. We were meant t- *Double-Take* DR THOMPSON-YOUNG.

SIMEON

Yes, Professor?

OULES

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PROF LAMPTON

Why are you THE TEST MONKEY?

SIMEON

It's a long story, Professor

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG monkeys across backstage, ooping and acking with abandon

PROF LAMPTON

Were you playing with the up-to-now unmentioned experimental mind-swapping device when you should have been helping us synthesise an apocalyptic world-ending pandemic?

SIMEON

There's no good way I can answer that is there?

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Hey no fair, Professor Lampton, you said *I* could play with the Mind-Swappinator first

PROF LAMPTON

First, I did not. Second, you shouldn't be *playing* with highly experimental plot-altering technology. And *third* that machine belongs to the Maths Department, so there had better not be a scratch on it.

SIMEON

I solemnly swear

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

Oop oop ack!!

PROF LAMPTON

Right, so: Doom-Virus.

Enter PESTILENCE

PESTILENCE

Ah! C.U.N.T.S there you are! It took longer to find you than I thought it would - I found the Netball Team first...

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PROF LAMPTON

Ah, Mx Pestilence, um, we're, we're very very close to having a full working virus and it's nearly ready, I promise, we just need a little more time and- PLEASE DON'T KILL ME

PESTILENCE

The virus? No no no, stop work on that at once! We want the world saved not ended after all.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Sorry what?

PESTILENCE

Well we realised we don't have actual authority from *downstairs* so...

SIMEON

Ah, funding pulled? That's rough, we hear you. But at least that means we don't feel so bad that we only made the thing work on Dogs.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

And who would have an application for a virus that just kills dogs?

PESTILENCE has a lightbulb moment

PROF LAMPTON

Because really, who would want to kill a dog?

Enter HEL and DEATH, in the split stage effect. In the background, CUNTS and PESTILENCE form a plan and get some lab equipment together.

HEL

ALL I WANTED YOU TO DO WAS KILL THE DOG WAS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

DEATH

Well how was I meant to know you meant it this time? Last time I killed one of your relatives you were all “how dare you” and “eternal retribution”, so you can see why I was hesitant.

HEL

That was *different* - Jormy was meant to die fighting Thor, not by being poked by you. *Fenrir* on the other hand *killed my beloved Allgrandfather!!*

DEATH

Well you really should have a muzzle on that thing. Who knows who it could hurt next!

Enter FENRIR in background stage, and an exaggerated fight ensues in the background between the giant dog and the CUNTS.

HEL

Millions upon millions of people - that's the point of Ragnarok: the end of civilisation. I thought you were *on board* for that by the way.

DEATH

Er... well...

HEL

Look, either you want to kill all humans or you don't want to kill all humans. Now which side are you on?

DEATH

Um...

SWAP to CUNTS and DOG while DEATH mimes avoiding giving an answer

FENRIR

I AM A GOOD BOY. I AM SLAYING THE FOES OF MY CREATORS

PROF LAMPTON

No! Sit! Down!

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG sits obediently

PROF LAMPTON

Not you, Dr T- er, Monkey!

FENRIR

I SHALL GRIND YOUR BONES BETWEEN MY TEETH IN OBEDIENCE WITH MY RAPTUROUS PURPOSE AND IN THE HOPE OF TUMMY RUBS

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Is it bad that I kind of want to pet it-

SIMEON

I was just thinking th-

FENRIR destroys some scenery

SIMEON

Never mind!

FENRIR

DESTRUCTION! SCRITCHES! DOOM! WALKIES!

PESTILENCE

Perhaps instead of discussing *adopting* the beast you should work on ANNIHILATING IT???

SIMEON

Well, yes but it's a little bit more complicated than th-

Cut back

HEL

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT???

DEATH

Well technically speaking we're more like full time subcontractors and we've got a contract of the Damned that we really can't violate for fear of eternal torment, but in the meantime we are at liberty to use our ungodly powers for furthering the cause of-

HEL

You're telling me you couldn't save my allgranddad because of a *technicality*.

DEATH

Well, no, I couldn't save your granddad because you... look you're sending me really mixed messages here.

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HEL

I'm sending *you* mixed messages?

Cut back

PROF LAMPTON

Er, the Virus Distribution Scanner is giving me mixed messages here. It's not convinced that thing *is* a dog.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

What's it saying, let me look!

PROF LAMPTON

No no wait-

DR D snatches the scanner

DR DAMPFNUDEL

“Eyes - all the better for seeing you with... Ears - all the better for hearing you with... Teeth -”

FENRIR

ALL THE BETTER TO OMNOMNOM YOU WITH AND I’LL SEE YOU ALL IN HELHEIM

PESTILENCE

Who even programmed that as a readout?

SIMEON

I was bored!

PESTILENCE

Why is the Monkey answering the question?

FENRIR

I AM ALSO CONFUSED AT THIS

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Hang on, what if we used the Mind-Swappinator to swap the GIANT DOG’S mind with something more stable? Like the Monkey?

SIMEON

Hey!

PROF LAMPTON

No no, don’t disregard the theory until you’ve thought it through.

SIMEON

I have thought it through and I do *not* want to be inside a giant dog thank you very much.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

Well we don’t have many options

PESTILENCE

What about the human?

Pause. "DR THOMPSON-YOUNG" does something monkey-like

PROF LAMPTON

That could work.

CUT

DEATH

Look, all I'm saying is that I think we need to re-establish the foundation of our relationship. We've built all this on assumptions, but we need to get to know what's underneath.

HEL

I don't know... it just seems like we've got nothing in common. No common ground to start from. We're falling apart...

DEATH

What about Breakfast at Tiffany's?

HEL

What?

DEATH

I hate that film.



HEL

So do I.

DEATH

Well that's one thing we've got. And, and we can both kill things.

HEL

Well, I can only kill humans really. Which is *why* I couldn't kill Fenrir!

DEATH

OHHHHHH

CUT. Somehow they've gotten tin foil hats on Dr Thompson-Young and Fenrir

PROF LAMPTON

PULL THE LEVER, DR DAMPFNUDEL

BLACKOUT

PROF LAMPTON

Wrong lever!

UNBLACK OUT

PESTILENCE

Why do you even have that lever?

DR DAMPFNUDEL

It's the light-switch. Now, let's try again - activate: THE MIND SWAPPINATOR!!!

WOooOOoOooOooOOoO. Lots of cackling. Fenrir and Dr Thompson-Young swap bodies.

PESTILENCE

Did it work?

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

I AM NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THIS LIFE EXPERIENCE. I RATE IT ONLY ELEVEN OUT OF TEN.

MOULES
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FENRIR

Oop oop oop ACK ACK ACK!!!

SIMEON

I think it worked, Professor!

Cheering!

DR THOMPSON-YOUNG

YOUR DOOM WILL COME SWIFTLY. MUCH LIKE THE MAILMAN.

PESTILENCE

Damnit!

CUT, with DR THOMPSON-YOUNG trying to murder the CUNTS, to DEATH and HEL walking in proper

HEL

I guess I just feel a bit inferior, only being able to kill *people*?

DEATH

Hey, now, don't talk yourself down.

DEATH puts their hands on HEL's shoulders and looks her in the eyes

DEATH

You've got a *whole army of the undead* at your command, remember? Not many people get to say that!

HEL

You're sweet. But I do wish I could be as... as omnicidal as you.

DEATH

It's not really all it's cracked up to be, but look if it'll help you feel better, why don't you do a few murders? Look, here's some humans now!

OVULES

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HEL

Are you sure it won't *violate your contract* to do that?

DEATH

Nahhh, three humans won't even be a limb on the corpse-mountain. Go on!

HEL builds herself up, then pirouettes over and boops DR THOMPSON-YOUNG who dies immediately.

HEL

OOOH THAT FELT GOOD!

Bewilderment, terror from the CUNTS

PESTILENCE

You did it!!!

HEL

Hel yeah I did! And now for the next-

She reaches for DR DAMPFNUDEL, PESTILENCE jumps in the way

PESTILENCE

No! These are mine! They just helped kill Fenrir and helped save the world!

DEATH

OH PESTY! I didn't know you were here!

PESTILENCE

Call me that again and I will make flies infest your eye sockets for eternity.

HEL

What do you mean kill Fenrir, Fenrir's just there?

FENRIR makes monkey noises

DR DAMPFNUDEL

We swapped the minds, Fenrir was Dr Thompson-Young, Simeon was Fenrir and Dr Thompson-Young was Simeon the Monkey

SIMEON

Hi

DEATH

Where did you get a Mind Swapper?

C.U.N.T.S

The Maths Department

PESTILENCE

Anyway, long story short: that's Fenrir down, Jormungandr down, Odin down, and if the Illuminati have done their job that's Loki down too.

CUNTS confusion

HEL

You've... you've really done a number on our apocalypse, haven't you?

DEATH

Sorry, honey.

HEL glares

DEATH

Sorry, too soon for pet names, got it. But yes, sorry about your apocalypse but you know: business is business.

HEL

Yes... and, well I suppose I do like killing people, and if the world does end I can't really do that.

PESTILENCE

That's the spirit

HEL

So, yes: we've got no Odin, no giant snake, no giant dog, no... dad-

DEATH

Sorry, again



HEL

Ploughing on

So all that's left of Ragnarok is...

OFF-STAGE: AN EARTH-SHATTERING KABOOM AND FIRE-GIANT DEEP LAUGHTER

HEL

Oh, right: Surtr the Fire Giant King blows everything up and we all die.

SIMEON

Well bugger.

Blackout

Scene 9 - Nuke the Bastards

More News audio - everything's on fire. Everything. And it's a bit awful. All the nuclear arsenals of all the major nations have been destroyed. Only the Swiss arsenal remains intact, but its codes are under the lock and key of Supreme Neutral Commander Méchant

Lights up on Méchant in a room in a state of zen

WAR

Look, can you not spare just one little nuke?

MÉCHANT

I am at peace with the world. There shall be no need for violence.

WAR

But there *is* a need for violence - the world is literally being destroyed.

MÉCHANT

What is the world, really? Does it matter? Not in the grand scheme.

WAR

This *is* the grand scheme! The scheme cannot get any grander!

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MÉCHANT

That's just your opinion man.

WAR

I regret getting my recommendations for Anger Management Therapists from the nineteen sixties...

Enter FAMINE

FAMINE

Any luck?

WAR

The tiny-minded human still refuses to fight.

FAMINE

Have you tried threatening her with death?

WAR

Yes. Obviously.

FAMINE

Did it work?

WAR

No. Obviously.

Enter PESTILENCE

PESTILENCE

Any luck?

FAMINE & WAR

No. Obviously.

PESTILENCE

Have you tried threatening her with death?

WAR

Yes. Obviously.

PESTILENCE

Did it work?

WAR

No. Obviously.

Enter DEATH and HEL

DEATH

Any l-

WAR

NO. I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO THREATEN THE HUMAN AND IT HAS NOT CHANGED ITS MIND. I HAVE THREATENED ULTRA VIOLENCE BUT NOTHING. I HAVE THREATENED WAR AGAINST ITS SPECIES LIKE NONE IT HAS EVER SEEN AND NOTHING.



HEL

Honestly, War, what are you good for?

MÉCHANT

Inner peace... calm... I am an ocean...

FAMINE

An ocean that is literally boiling with the heat of the entire fire world of Muspellheim... bloody Norse Gods really know how to do a number on the planet. Hey! Hey you!

MÉCHANT

Sanctity of thought... security of mind...

FAMINE

Okay, screw this, she'll snap out of it if I make her starve.

FAMINE uses FAMINE POWERS on MÉCHANT

MÉCHANT

Hunger... a great hungering...

OULES
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FAMINE

See! Any second she'll get up to eat and then...

MÉCHANT pulls out a cheese-string and eats it

FAMINE

Oh for f-

PESTILENCE

Let me try! I learned zis one off Beelzebub himself!

PESTILENCE flies around MÉCHANT making buzzing noises. This persists for a while. Other entities should get more annoyed

WAR

Please stop that. It is driving me to murder.

PESTILENCE

I've never.... not seen that work.

FAMINE

What was *supposed* to happen?

PESTILENCE

It would... she would... it... oh never mind. Death, Hel, any ideas?

HEL

We could, you know, kill her?

DEATH nods enthusiastically

WAR

No... no... she is the only one capable of launching the nuclear arsenal we need to kill Surtr the Fire Giant King.

FAMINE

It will kill Surtr the Fire Giant King, won't it?

HEL

I mean, probably?



FAMINE

Good enough. But we still need her to snap out of *this*. Something to shock her into action-

Offstage

THOR

DID SOMEONE CALL FOR A SHOCK?

PESTILENCE

Oh Satan...

Enter THOR, spinning his hammer enthusiastically. Not like that you dirty minded person!

HEL

Uncle Thor! You're alive! Well, of course you are that actually makes a lot of sense but still *you're alive!*

THOR

Yes, I'm honestly not sure what to do with myself - the whole world-snake battle was meant to rather be a climactic finale for me, and now... well I'm here, and you called for a Shock, and where better to get your shock than the God of Thunder!

WAR

Allow me to get you up to speed. Out there-

They point

WAR

Is the gigantic Fire Giant King, Surtr, who is burning the world alive and the only way to kill him is-

THOR

Say no more, handsome friend, with my hammer and biceps I shall kill the fiend!

THOR leaves, there's an off-stage fight, and he comes back a lot crispier

THOR

He was a LOT bigger than I expected.

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HEL

Did you win?

THOR

No I did not win.

WAR

As I was saying, the only way to kill Surtr is with the Swiss Nuclear Arsenal and this one here is sitting on it.

MÉCHANT

Buzzwords... buzzkill... buzzsaws... buzz...

THOR

Aha! So you wish me to aid with retrieving this Nuclear Arsehole from beneath them? A mighty feat for the mighty Thor!

WAR

No that is not quite what I-

THOR walks over and picks up MÉCHANT and inspects their butt. (Casting note, cast someone small as MÉCHANT) ~~We could also have THOR just straight up pull their pants down for this joke to work but... No we can't.~~

THOR

Their arsehole is unremarkable!

MÉCHANT

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PUT ME DOWN AT ONCE OR-

WAR

Or?

MÉCHANT

OR

PESTILENCE

Orrr?



MÉCHANT

Struggling with pent up rage ORRRR

ALL EXCEPT MÉCHANT

OR?

MÉCHANT

OR I SHALL RAIN NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION DOWN FROM THE SKIES ON ALL YOU HOLD DEAR!! THE SKY WILL BE ECLIPSED WITH SMOKE AND THE GROUND WILL-

WAR

Okay yes we do not need all that, just prepare to fire your missiles. POINT AND SHOOT

MÉCHANT

I WOULD BUT BEEFCAKE HERE IS STILL HOLDING ME

HEL

Uncle Thor?

THOR lets MÉCHANT go, she runs over and starts typing in nuclear launch codes

MÉCHANT

They will pay at once for what they've done! Nobody puts Switzerland in a corner!

WAR

Oh, you know who really thinks you should be put in a corner?

FAMINE

Oh this big guy: fiery eyes, fiery body, fiery... everything

PESTILENCE

Maybe you should start with him?

MÉCHANT

OUI! FOR SWITZERLAND!

Nuclear launch noises. Blackout.

Surtr killed noises.

More blackout.

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Scene 10 - The End of the World

News audio about “giant hoax” and “publicity stunt for Avengers Endgame”

Lights up on HORSEMEN, ILLUMINATI, C.U.N.T.S, MÉCHANT, HEL, THOR and any other still living characters we’ve forgotten. Unless it wouldn’t be helpful to have them on stage.

DR DAMPFNUDEL

So, we *actually* saved the world and no one *believes* it even happened?

TIM

You’d be surprised how often that happens.

PROFESSOR LAMPTON

But the Norse Gods destroyed so much, how will that go unnoticed?

MARY

Ah, I’ve got the British government taking the blame for that.

WAR

And lest we forget, the Swiss Military were threatening to nuke half the world, so it is not a stretch to believe that they did.

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MÉCHANT

Oui, we have respect now without the very minor guilt of actually hurting people.

FAMINE

How goes anger management?

MÉCHANT

I am now totally calm. No desire to DESTROY AND KILL EVERYONE at all.

SIMEON (DR T-Y)

Yes, that’s believable.

PESTILENCE

The important thing is, the world hasn’t ended and we won’t be getting in any trouble.

THOR

Yes, we have done, acted as true heroes and saved the world from trouble.

HEL

I think they meant trouble with their boss, Uncle.

DEATH

That's exactly what we meant. Now, I'd like to say a few words. *(Steps forward)* We all prefer to End things but maybe what we End can actually be for the better. End sadness, End heartbreak, End loneliness.

General murmuring of agreement, "hear hear", etc

DEATH

And, hey, He's probably going to be locked up for a very long time so we've got ages to spend together, happy and friends and- and you know what, I feel a bit of a song coming on!

Start playing a song, it's interrupted by this:

(o/s) **SATAN**

SAAAAATAAAAAAN IS IIIIIIIIIIN THE BUILDING!!!

ELVIS

I like this guy!



WAR

Oh no.

PESTILENCE

He's out.

FAMINE

And we just saved the world.

DEATH

Quick, Satan's coming, everybody look busy!

(FAMINE, WAR AND PESTILENCE start awkwardly terrorising the humans while DEATH fake argues with the NORSE GODS. Enter SATAN, dramatically and awesome.)

SATAN

Horsemen!

(HORSEMEN jump to attention.)

FAMINE

Ah, hey boss, just terrorising these humans here.

(FAMINE nudges TIM)

TIM

Yep, completely terrorised here, so scared.

SATAN

That's the spirit, come on Horsemen, it's the end of the world - grab your horses for TONIGHT YOU RIDE!!!

Horsemen look a bit uncomfortable

SATAN

...have you been Ending the World without me?

Horsemen do a bit of a "no no no no" to "yes yes yes a bit"
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SATAN

Bloody contractors... well, in that case I guess I've got some catching up to do!

SATAN snaps his fingers.

SATAN

There, that should have killed the whole world backstage, so now just to finish the job here.

PESTILENCE

What? But that was our job?!

FAMINE

And, er, boss, you don't really want to kill *these* humans, do you?

SATAN

It's the *apocalypse*, Famine, everyone dies.

WAR

Every human?

SATAN

Everyone means everyone. Every human, animal, giant, god and horseman.

DEATH

Us? You can't kill us, we're the main characters! We've learned so much - I've only just found *true love*

HEL

I wouldn't say *love* quite yet but-

SATAN

Look, you can talk about this later. Well actually you can't on accounts of being dead, but I don't want to hear about it anyway. *(SATAN starts gathering people together, friendly-like)*

Look, it's the end of days and yes that's very sad and I'm sure there were many things you were hoping to do, but you know what they say, my dear dear friends? Everyone Dies at the End! *(SATAN shoves everyone aside, and we begin:)*

(Music starts up as offstage characters enter. Yes, we're mixing the final song, the run down and everyone dying. It'll be epic.)

SATAN (SINGING)

I know it's been a long time but I'm finally here my friends
And I'm here to finish your job, here to bring about the end
(THEORISTS and MONSTERS step forward and bow)

It's time to get a run down on this world that we all know
I'm back and I'm enacting the title of this show
(Bowing characters die)

It's the end of the world, and everything's on fire
Yes the end of the world, my blackened heart's desire
(Step forward SWISS and ASSISTANTS, bow)
Your efforts were quite noble, yes I'm sure you really tried
But tonight is the apocalypse and everybody dies
(SWISS die)

(Step forward C.U.N.T.S, bow)

You brought famine and you brought death, brought disease and brought rage

But I'm here to destroy all now I'm finally out my cage

(Die C.U.N.T.S, step forward ILLUMINATI and bow. FAMINE goes to join them but is stopped by SATAN)

Now everyone will get their turn to get their last hurrah

But as the only one left living, I will be the final star

(ILLUMINATI die)

It's the end of the world and it's all going so well

The end of the world, and I'll see you all in hell

(Step forward rest of NORSE and bow)

I'm destroying it all through all and any means

Yes, everyone is dying, even gods and even queens

(Die NORSE)

(Step forward PESTILENCE, bow)

It's the end of the world, and so illness is dead too

(Die PESTILENCE, WAR steps up and bows)

At the end of the world, no fighting will save you

(Die WAR, step forward FAMINE, bow)

You may hunger for a saviour, but you've got me instead

(FAMINE dies, DEATH steps forward and bows)

Cause at the end of the world, everyone dies, even Death!

(Die DEATH. SATAN bows then exits, laughing maniacally. Blackout.)

THE END

rapturous applause

Scene Guide

Character	Act 1	Act 2
War	1, 5, 9	1, 2, 4, 9, 10
Pestilence	1, 6, 9	1, 2, 8, 9, 10
Famine	1, 3, 9	1, 2, 7, 9, 10
Death	1, 5, 9	1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10
Odin	2,	1, 5,
Thor	2, 7,	1, 5, 9, 10
Loki	2, 7,	1, 7,
Hel	2, 5, 7,	1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Jormungandr		5
Sleipnir	2,	1, 5,
Fenrir	2,	1, 5, 7
Mary Berry	3, 9	1, 7, 10
Elvis Presley	3, 9	1, 7, 10
Tim Foyle	3, 9	1, 7, 10
Prof. Lampton	6, 9	1, 8, 10
Dr. Dampfnudel	6, 9	1, 8, 10
Dr. Thompson-Young	6, 9	1, 8,
Simeon, the Test Monkey	6,	8, 10
Commandant de Neutr�	9,	1,
Divisionnaire l'Gris	9,	1,
Divisionnaire M�chant	9,	1, 4, 9, 10
Satan		10

Howard	4,	3
Hugh Man	4,	3
Fi Male	4,	3
Ester Gen	4, 8,	3
Samphire the Vampire	8,	3
Rolf the Werewolf	8,	3
Mummy	8,	3
Herald	3	
Jessica	1	6
Olive	1	6
Victor	1	6
Mort	1	6



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