

“Blood Ties”

BLOOD TIES

Sheshatshiu Uassit

Sheshatshiu Innu School

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(Looks out at the audience.) That little baby, cursed before she was even born, came to be very important to me. I was there the night she arrived, during the worst storm these parts have ever seen. The walls of the cottage creaked under the screaming wind, and lightning lit up the small house just as the baby’s first cries filled the air. But oh, I’m getting sidetracked. Back to the story.

(Turns the page) The baby girl was a blessing to her mother and grandparents. Never was a child more loved or doted upon than little Destiny. She was a beautiful, charming child... and if she was a little rough with the family pets or the village children, nobody seemed to really mind. As she grew older, Destiny began to feel... different... than the other children. There was a hunger in her that couldn’t be satisfied. Or shall we say... a thirst.

(Lights go dark.)

Scene Two:

In this scene: Grandmother, Destiny

Cottage kitchen. Table, four chairs. The grandmother is sitting at the kitchen table, peeling potatoes.

Young Destiny enters and plops into a chair opposite her grandmother.

Grandmother: Destiny, dear, did you finish your chores? Young

Destiny: Yes, Gram. What’s for supper?

Grandmother: Jigg’s Dinner.

Young Destiny: You always cook that on Sundays. Hey Gram, can I ask you a question?

Grandmother: Of course.

Young Destiny: Francine said I don’t have a father. Do I? Everyone has a father, right? Where is he? Francine said that her mom said that he didn’t even know about me.

Grandmother: (flustered, cuts her hand) Oh child, look what you made me do.
Pass me that cloth there.

Young Destiny takes the cloth and tries to hold it to Grandmother’s hand. Seeming dazed, she holds her grandmother’s hand firmly and moves her mouth towards the cut.

Grandmother pushes her away sharply. Grandmother:

What are you doing, child?

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Young Destiny: But what -

Grandfather: Sit down.

Young Destiny, looking uncertainly from her mother to her grandparents, sits.

Grandmother: Destiny, we want to talk to you about the things that have been happening lately. We all feel it would be best for you to go stay with Auntie Grace for a while.

Young Destiny: But this is my home!

Grandmother: I know this is your home, child. But some folk ain't cut out for the isolation. It might do you good to get away from here for a while.

Young Destiny: Momma? (looks to her mother for help)

Valerie: I think she's right, baby. This will always be your home. You can come back once things have... settled down.

Young Destiny: It's about Francine, isn't it? Momma, I didn't mean to bite her. I don't know what happened to me. I can't stop. Something comes over me. It's like I lose control.

Grandmother: We're not blaming you, child. But it's not healthy for you to be here. It's this place. You're too isolated. You need more people your age to play with. Auntie Grace will take care of you.

Young Destiny: Please, Gram. I'll be good. I promise. I'll stop myself. I'll do all my chores. I'll do anything you tell me to do. Please, Gram. Please. Don't send me away. This is my home.

Valerie: Mom, maybe -

Grandfather: No, Val, it's decided. Destiny, we love you but it's not safe for you to be here. Grace is expecting you on Saturday. Gram will help you pack.

Young Destiny: Fine. I'll go. You don't even care about me. How is moving going to change anything, anyway? Maybe I'm just different. Did you ever think of that? Just ship me off and forget about me... that's sure to help.

Young Destiny starts to sob and walks offstage.

Grandmother and Valerie move to follow her, but Grandfather steps in front of them to stop them.

Grandfather: Don't... let her go. You'll just confuse her. Let her calm down and then you can help her pack. It's for the best.

Lights go down.

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with hopeful, shiny Grace And
nothing's changed Nothing's changed

Maybe it's him
The other half of my family tree Who holds
the answers
But why won't he come for me?

This emptiness is eating me alive
How am I supposed to keep this inside? (sobbing)

What's wrong with me? What's
wrong with me?

Lights go down.

Scene Seven (stage divided)

In this scene: Older Destiny, Valerie

An older Destiny, on one side, pacing; Valerie, on the other side, sitting on the edge of her chair. They are talking on the phone.

Destiny: Mom, something awful happened. I couldn't stop. It was like I was possessed. I could see myself going after her, but I couldn't stop myself -

Valerie: Destiny, slow down. What happened?

Destiny: I couldn't stop, Mom. She's in the hospital. Mr. Lacosta expelled me. Thank God he was there or I don't know what would have happened.

Valerie: Let me speak to Grace.

Destiny: She's not here. She had to go to the police station. They wanted to question her. They asked me so many questions. I don't know what happened. I really don't know. I just couldn't stop.

Valerie: We'll figure it out. You'll be okay.

Lights go down; Destiny and Valerie are still on the phone.

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with the police investigation and everything. Call Grace. We'll see if we can get her on the mission plan next weekend. Gerianne over at the clinic owes me a favour.

Scene Ten

In this scene: Destiny, Valerie, Grandmother, Father (Jamie)

Grandmother is pacing, and keeps looking offstage, searching for something.

Grandmother: Val! She's here! Quick!

Valerie enters.

Valerie: Where? Oh there she is! Look how big she's gotten!

Destiny comes into the room, carrying two suitcases. She lets them drop when she sees her family.

Destiny: Momma! Gram!

(They hug; tearful reunion)

Valerie: I'm gonna go get Gramps. He wanted to know when you got here.

Valerie exits.

James enters, stops before Destiny, and stares at her.

James: Is this her? Grandmother: Yes,

this is Destiny.

Destiny: (Looking from James to her grandmother) Gram? (to James) Who are you?

James: I'm James. Destiny... I'm your father. I just learned about you, or I would have come back long ago. Your mom and your grandparents welcomed me to stay so that I could finally meet you.

Destiny: What? Is this for real? Jamie: I

have so much to tell you.

Scene Eleven

In this scene: Narrator, Destiny