

***This play was written for As-If Theatre's 3rd annual "Kenmore Quickies" based on art by Sam Gentry. The play follows guidelines regarding available props, set pieces, and technical effects.**

The Tooth Dealer

by

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Based on "The Tooth Dealer" by Sam Gentry

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CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

- Helio – A tooth faerie. Wears a tiara.
- Sara Rosati – 55, lives alone.

SETTING

TIME: 1:44 AM. August 12th, 2023.

PLACE: Sara's bedroom. Kenmore, Washington.

Evening. SARA's room. SARA lies asleep on her bed HELIO enters. He uses a flashlight to see in the "dark" of SARA's room. He crosses to SARA's bed and begins searching for something. After a moment, he wakes SARA.

HELIO

Hey. Hey, wake up.

SARA wakes up.

HELIO

Where are your teeth?

SARA screams.

HELIO

Oh, no. Come on, please stop that.

SARA

Who- who are you?! What are you doing in my house?

HELIO

I'm Helio.

Silence.

SARA

Am I supposed to know what that means?

HELIO

It's my name.

SARA

Am I supposed to know what it means to me?!

HELIO

Ah. I see. Let me put it another way: I'm the tooth fairy!

Magical twinkle sound effect.

SARA

Nuh uh. You're an intruder in my home.

HELIO

No, really, I'm the tooth fairy! If I wasn't, could I do this?

Magical twinkle sound effect.

SARA

Do what?

HELIO

This!

Magical twinkle sound effect.

SARA

What, that "doodle doodle doo" thing?

HELIO

Yes.

SARA

That doesn't mean anything. I read a story about some creep who played recordings of cats meowing to lure women outside and then he'd abduct them. You could be trying to abduct me.

HELIO

It's- no, I'm not trying to abduct you- ooh! That's not the only thing I can do- I can fly!

SARA

Go ahead then.

HELIO

Well I can't do it when you're looking at me.

SARA

What are you talking about? Why wouldn't you be able to do it when I'm looking at you?

HELIO

That's the rule, it's how faerie magic works. Whenever a human looks at us, it shuts off. It's to keep the secrets of the faerie world hidden. Which, by the way, makes it very dicey to fly very high up. A human can take a look into the sky and accidentally take a faerie down like a goose in a jet engine.

Silence.

SARA

What are you doing in my house?

HELIO

Right to business, got it.

HELIO takes out a pen and notepad.

HELIO

Let me begin by saying that I am terribly sorry to bother you. I always hate to be an intrusion.

SARA

Somehow, I doubt that.

HELIO

I'm just going to verify your identity here, please bear with me. According to my records here, you are one Sara Rosati, born December 12th, 1967, correct?

SARA

Your records, right. The records that you got from stalking me?

HELIO

And I have your mother's maiden name as Baker?

SARA

That's just a matter of public record-

HELIO

Social security number 531-67-//

SARA

//Ahh, okay, no, that's okay, you can stop.

HELIO

And when you were in fifth grade, it looks like you hated peanuts so much that you pretended to be allergic to them, but one day your teacher saw you eating a snickers bar and rushed you to the nurse. You were so embarrassed by this that rather than admit you were lying about being allergic to peanuts, you let the nurse administer you a shot of epinephrine, which is how you discovered that you are actually allergic to epinephrine.

Silence.

SARA

I said you could stop.

HELIO

Right. Sorry. Well, little girl, it seems you've lost some teeth recently. I'm here to collect.

SARA

Little girl? You have my date of birth right there; you know I'm fifty-five.

HELIO

Relative to me, you're still a little girl.

SARA

How old are you?

HELIO

I don't know, like a thousand. Faeries are immortal unless something happens to us, like a human looking at us mid-flight. Birthdays are less meaningful, so they're not really celebrated all that much. Now, I have several more stops tonight, so I really must be getting on with it.

HELIO begins writing on the notepad.

HELIO

Unfortunately, due to the coin shortage, which is still going on by the way, I have nothing to leave for you tonight. But I'll be giving you... this-

HELIO rips a page of the notebook out and presents it to SARA.

HELIO

I owe you for the total amount. Now, please hand over your teeth and I'll be on my way.

SARA

I don't have my teeth.

HELIO

But... that's how this works. You give me your teeth and I give you a crisp I owe you for seventy-five cents.

SARA

Yes, I understand the concept of the tooth faerie, but I don't have any teeth for you.

HELIO

Ms. Rosati, did you or did you not get your wisdom teeth removed last week?

SARA

I did, but-

HELIO

Well, I have come here every night for the last week to collect, but much to my dismay, I have found no teeth!

SARA

I haven't put teeth out for the tooth fairy since I was twelve years old!

HELIO

You also probably haven't lost any teeth since you were twelve years old.

SARA

You've been here every night for a week? That's so... weird! Why didn't you wake me up before tonight?

HELIO

I have something of a problem when it comes to asserting myself. I don't like bothering or inconveniencing people unless it's completely necessary, which in this case I'd say that it is. So, I must insist that you go get your teeth, wherever they are, and hand them over. Once you do, I promise you I'll be gone. Out of your life forever. So long as you put your teeth in a more obvious place next time, that is.

SARA

You have a problem asserting yourself? Are you serious? You broke into my house! You woke me up and demanded my teeth! That's pretty assertive in my book!

HELIO

I told you, Ms. Rosati, I only assert myself when I absolutely must. And so, I assert to you: I need those teeth!

SARA

Okay, fine, I'm sorry. Is that what you want to hear? I'm sorry, I didn't put my wisdom teeth out for the tooth faerie. I'm well into adulthood and figured it would be okay to just let my oral surgeon keep them. I had no idea that I'd be stalked and harassed by a tiara-wearing apparition in the dead of night! So yes, I'm sorry. Now, will you please get the hell out of my house?

HELIO

Oh, no. No no no no no! Ordinarily I'd thank you for the apology, but it's not going to do us any good this time around. My boss is already on my case because it's taken me a week to get these teeth.

SARA

You have a boss?

HELIO

Of course I do. Imagine me, just a lone tooth faerie going around, collecting teeth, for what? My own little tooth museum?

SARA

So what do you actually use the teeth for?

HELIO

Oh, it's still a tooth museum. It's just not mine, per se. I do volunteer there though, I'm a docent-

There is a piercing tone that comes on strong and pulls back almost immediately, slowly fading away. HELIO screams and falls to the ground. SARA isn't affected.

SARA

What's wrong?

HELIO

I've taken too long. My boss is forcing communication with me. I need a portal through which I can talk to her. Otherwise my head's gonna explode.

SARA

Is that a literal explosion or a metaphorical explosion? It's just that- well, I got these carpets cleaned last week, and I'd hate to-

HELIO

Ahhh!

SARA

Okay, literal. I'm gonna go ahead and guess that it would be a literal explosion. Alright, a portal. What can you use?

HELIO

Do you have kids?

SARA

No. And even if I did, I wouldn't let you use them as a portal-

HELIO

No, no. We use things that you'd usually find in a kid's bedroom to communicate with each other. Like dolls, stuffed animals, children. That sort of thing.

Oh, hang on!

SARA

SARA exits and re-enters holding a giant stuffed elephant.

Why do you have that?

HELIO

SARA throws the elephant to HELIO.

SARA

It's a family heirloom, if you must know.

HELIO presses his forehead against the forehead of the elephant. He relaxes.

HELIO

Yes, hello, this is Helio. You paged?... Yes, I understand I'm late with the...well, actually, it's not entirely my fault. She doesn't have them anymore... The, uh, oral surgeon kept them... yes, I... no. No, it's not acceptable. Well, no, I guess if it's not acceptable, it wouldn't make sense for you to accept it as an excuse... no, I'm afraid I won't be doing that... I do, actually, understand what the alternative is. So then, you're going to... right. That's about what I thought. Yes. I'll see you shortly.

HELIO pulls his head away from the elephant.

SARA

...Well? That didn't seem that bad. And your head's in one piece!

HELIO

Well, for now. She'll be coming down here to terminate me.

SARA

You're getting fired over this? That's a bit extreme.

HELIO

No, actually, I'll be killed.

SARA

Killed!?

HELIO

Which, now that I think about it, is also probably a bit extreme.

SARA

Helio, that's... that's ridiculous! She's going to kill you because I didn't keep my teeth for you?

HELIO

Yup. It's a pretty hostile work environment if I'm being honest with you.

SARA

But there's no way! I can't have been the first one to not keep their teeth for you.

HELIO

Sara, I haven't been totally truthful with you. I'm not the tooth faerie. I'm a tooth faerie. There are hundreds of us, all over the world. And if a tooth faerie is unable to collect teeth, they're killed and replaced with a new recruit.

SARA

There has to be something we can do to stop this! I'll talk to her-

HELIO

There is one thing I can do. My boss doesn't care that I get your wisdom teeth. She just cares that I get four of your teeth. If a human defaults on their teeth, tooth faeries are known to just... take different teeth. You've heard those stories about people waking up and realizing they're missing teeth.

SARA

I absolutely haven't heard those stories.

HELIO

Well, it happens.

SARA

Okay, so... take them.

HELIO

What?

SARA

Take my teeth. It's my fault that you're in this mess, so just take some teeth. My bicuspid, people get those pulled all the time, take my bicuspid!

HELIO

Sara, you have no idea what that means to me. But I can't do that to you. It's not right. It's time for me to stand up for something. Anything! I've been a coward my whole life, Sara. I spend my nights sneaking into kids' rooms and taking their teeth. My days are spent volunteering at the tooth museum. And you know what? I don't even like teeth! They're boring! Stupid little white chiclets. But it was never about what I wanted. My father, the great Helio Sparkleshine senior just had to have a son in the tooth business. Nobody cared about my dreams. Not even me. It's time for me to take a stand and face my fate. If that means being killed because I didn't get your teeth, then so be it.

HELIO looks offstage from where he entered.

HELIO

There she is, coming down from the faerie realm. Just broke through the cloud cover. She'll be here soon.

SARA

Helio, I don't know what to say. I've known you for not even ten minutes and you're about to lay down your life for me. You're a thousand years old. And you have the ability to keep living for...ever. This isn't right.

HELIO

Perhaps what isn't right is how long I've been alive. In a thousand years, I've watched humanity grow into something truly wonderful. You are born with a limited time to achieve great things, but that doesn't seem to stop you. No, it motivates you. Meanwhile, I've seen generations upon generations of humanity pass, but I've done nothing remarkable myself. I keep saying that I have more time, but I've had a millennia. I can take your teeth. I can remain alive. But me being alive isn't really living. So now I abdicate my right to life. And in that way, I feel that I will have finally done something worth doing. Please, Sara. Allow me that in my final moments.

SARA

No.

HELIO

Pardon me?

SARA

I said no. Step away from the window.

SARA approaches the window and looks into the sky. Both she and HELIO watch something fall. There is a "thud" sound.

HELIO

Oh my god.

SARA
You deserve to live your life, Helio.

HELIO
...Thank you.

SARA
You are safe now, right?

HELIO
Well, for the moment, yes. They'll figure out what happened though. They'll come for me. I can't go back-

SARA
Then don't. Live here.

HELIO
You'd let me move in with you?

SARA
Oh, god, no. I meant live here. On Earth. Don't just watch generations of humanity pass anymore. Join them. You'll do great things.

HELIO removes his tiara.

HELIO
I think I will. Thank you.

HELIO gives his tiara to SARA. He begins to exit the way he entered.

SARA
Helio.

HELIO
Yes?

SARA
You should probably take the stairs.

HELIO exits in the opposite direction.

End of play.