

***BLOODSUCKERS of SUBURBIA,
OR
The Fates Stand in Line for Groceries***

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CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

CLOTHO: A mosquito. 15-16 years old. Female/femme. Any ethnicity. A classic teen. Entitled from a life of growing up “upper class”. In her wildest dreams, she is a TikTok influencer.

LACHESIS: A mosquito. Mid-40s. Female/femme. Any ethnicity. A mom just trying her best. Fortunately, she’s the type of mom that wears a lot of lululemon athleisure, looks great for her age, and shops exclusively organic.

ATROPOS: A mosquito. Mid-70s. Female/femme. Any ethnicity. One of those classy older ladies who wears a lot of monochromatic outfits and emphasizes at least one word in every sentence she speaks.

SETTING:

The waiting line outside of a modern-looking, Whole Foods-type, organic grocery store.

A NOTE TO THE READER:

A “/” indicates overlapping dialogue.

A “--” indicates a pause.

Though the characters in this play are all mosquitos, they should be treated as humans.

CLOTHO, LACHESIS, and ATROPOS stand in line waiting to get into a modern-looking, organic grocery store-type building. CLOTHO and LACHESIS stand together, six feet behind ATROPOS, who is knitting. They wear old fashioned Black Death plague masks (the kinds with the long beaks). Otherwise, they are well-dressed. CLOTHO talks on a smartphone.

CLOTHO

(On the phone)

I'm just saying

Like

Like the masks are kind of a *look*,
ya know?

--

Right?

--

Like this shit is is just like

So like

So *the moment*,

You know?

--

No I'm so serious

Like it could *seriously* be on like a *Vogue* cover as like

Like the new need-to-have thing.

And like not in the state-mandated way

Like in the oh-my-god-I'll-fucking-die-if-I-don't-have-one kind of way

--

ATROPOS

(Turning around)

Excuse me.

CLOTHO

No

No not like die from corona

--

Oh my god
 You get what I mean
 --

ATROPOS

clearing her throat
 EXCUSE ME.

LACHESIS

(Looking up from her own smartphone)
 Clo.

CLOTHO

Hold on

LACHESIS

Excuse me?

CLOTHO

Oh my god.

LACHESIS

CLO.

CLOTHO

No hold on, my mom wants something

--

(She giggles.)

Yeah just gimme a sec

--

(Looking to LACHESIS) What?

LACHESIS

First of all, you can drop that attitude with me.

And secondly, this nice woman would like to speak with you.

CLOTHO

(To ANTROPOS)

Yes?

ATROPOS

It's just very difficult for me to focus on my *knitting* with all of those very loud *swear* words coming out of your mouth.

CLOTHO

Ummmm.

LACHESIS

You heard her.

CLOTHO

Okay...

LACHESIS

(*To ATROPOS*) I'm sorry, she's not usually like this.

ATROPOS

(*Politely*) Of course.

LACHESIS

(*To CLOTHO*) Go ahead.
Apologize.

CLOTHO

Seriously?

LACHESIS

CLO.
NOW.

CLOTHO

(*On the phone*)

I'll call you back.

I have to...

Nevermind I'll just call you back in a bit.

--

Yeah.

--

Yeah
 Love ya.
 --
 Okay.
 Bye.

LACHESIS

Well?

CLOTHO

(To ATROPOS) I'm sorry.
(To LACHESIS) Okay? Is that enough?

ATROPOS

Thank you.

LACHESIS

I cannot believe you.

*CLOTHO returns to her phone and begins
 scrolling through Instagram.*

LACHESIS (CONT'D)

(To ATROPOS) I'm so sorry.

ANTROPOS

No, no.
 It's okay.
 I'm just *so* overwhelmed by this generation.
 When I was their age I certainly wasn't swearing, let alone swearing in the presence of my elders
 and *in /public*

LACHESIS

/Thank you.
 She gets it.

ATROPOS

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to imply bad parenting on your behalf, of *course*.

LACHESIS

Of course.

A brief, awkward pause. ATROPOS removes her mask to address LACHESIS, who takes an immediate step back.

ATROPOS

So.
How old is she?

LACHESIS

Just over 2 weeks.

ATROPOS

Goodness me.
The young ones look so *old* these days, don't you think?

LACHESIS

(Laughing politely) Yes, I do.
A month is the new two weeks.

ATROPOS

HA!
Well, I'm over a month and a half myself (if you can *believe* it)
And I'm just so *bewildered* by it all.

LACHESIS

Well.
Aren't we all?

ATROPOS

I've never seen *anything* like it.
More than a *month* and a *half* on this planet,
And I've never seen *anything* like it.

LACHESIS

It's absolutely surreal.
I mean.
She's having a pretty hard time with it.

CLOTHO

Mom.

LACHESIS

You know she was supposed to graduate a couple days ago?

I mean

Those kids have been together since they were eggs.

All those days together as larva and then all the way through pupal school, and now...

I mean, it's just absolutely devastating.

ATROPOS

I can't *imagine*.

CLOTHO

Yeah.

It sucks.

LACHESIS

At least she *just* missed online classes.

Those poor new moms all having to deal with that, I just...

I certainly couldn't.

ATROPOS

It's a new *world* we live in.

We went from such a promising spring to waiting in *line* just to get into the market.

Six inches between *all* of us *all* the time...

LACHESIS

It's the masks that really get to me.

ATROPOS

Oh my goodness, the *masks*!

Believe me when I say they make knitting almost *impossible*.

LACHESIS

(*Chuckling*) I'm sure.

ATROPOS

And it's so difficult to get enough *food*.
 I mean the people are so *scarce*!
 And the more stores are cutting back on their *hours*, the harder it *gets*.

LACHESIS

Honestly, the scariest thing for me is that we just don't even know!
 It's a gamble every time we step into the store.
 I made myself a promise that I would always raise my kids organic, but...
 I mean organic doesn't do much against infected *product* if you know what I mean.

ATROPOS

Oh I *know*.

LACHESIS

And it's only going to get worse.
 The human CDC is mandating higher restrictions by the day, but I just don't know how much good that does us.
 I just
 I mean as a mother, I just...
 Having to send my kid down for a bite, hoping that she's filling up on clean Type O, but...
 I mean for the ones not displaying symptoms,
 I just pray I'm not sending my kid to her death.

ATROPOS

Exactly.

LACHESIS

I can't wait until they start having to wear those badges.
 Did you see?
 On the news?
 They're releasing these "I've been tested negative for COVID-19" badges that people are going to have to start wearing on their clothes before they can head out of the house?
 I mean thank *god*.
 Finally, some identification so I know I can take in a long meal, suck and stock up while I can.

ATROPOS

Oh that's fantastic.

LACHESIS

Very responsible.

ATROPOS

I mean at least it feels like the humans *here* are pretty clean,
Most of them come over from that lovely *gated* community, you know?

But

I mean could you even *imagine* having to buy groceries in the *city*?

LACHESIS

(*Uncomfortably*) Well.

I mean yes, I acknowledge we are very fortunate to have been able to settle in Spring Valley.

ATROPOS

I mean it's *all* the older generation's fault.

Why on *earth* those mosquitos didn't migrate over to suburbia is beyond me.

Gated communities. The retired-with-a-vacation-home type, more *established* members of society.

Now *that's* the blood you want.

No, city bugs are just throwing their lives away. That's why so many of them die so *young*.

It's *all* about what you put in your body.

CLOTHO

That is like

I'm sorry but that is so fucked.

LACHESIS

CLOTHO.

CLOTHO

No this is actually so problematic.

This exact type of thinking is why the humans don't have more accessible and affordable healthcare.

LACHESIS

(*To ATROPOS*) I'm so sorry.

Clotho, /please

CLOTHO

/WHAT!

I cannot even believe you are defending her in this moment!
You are such a hypocrite.

ATROPOS

My goodness.
I always forget how young mosquitos are so *political* these days.

CLOTHO

YOU ARE NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE IN GROCERY STORES.
YOU ARE *OVER A MONTH AND A HALF OLD*.
YOU ARE AT RISK.
WHAT ABOUT THIS IS SO HARD FOR YOU ALL TO UNDERSTAND.

LACHESIS

Goodness gracious, Clotho!
(Whispering) There is no need to cause a scene.

CLOTHO

Me?!
I'm causing a scene?!

LACHESIS

Yes.
Now keep your voice down.

CLOTHO

Oh my god.
I cannot sit here and listen to this classist bullshit for another second.
Mom, I'll see you at home.

ATROPOS

My my.

CLOTHO

(To ATROPOS) AND KEEP YOUR *FUCKING* MASK ON!

*CLOTHO storms away, leaving LACHESIS
standing in a stunned silence behind
ATROPOS.*

ATROPOS

Well.

What an *independent* and *spirited* young lady.

LACHESIS

Okay, you know what? --

ATROPOS

(Seeing an employee waving her into the store ahead) Oh!

Would you *look* at that?

Well.

So nice meeting you.

I'll see you in there!

LACHESIS

(Painfully) Sure thing.

Stay safe.

ATROPOS exits the stage. LACHESIS remains. She takes a deep breath, then returns to her smartphone.

END OF PLAY.