

# The Storm

*By Sophia DeRise*

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## **DEDICATION**

*To Max Hunsicker*

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Mark, an eccentric scientist, is attempting to make things right with his cousins, Jason and Nina, after accidentally putting their parents into a coma the previous Thanksgiving. During their stay with him, he has taken them on fun adventures such as apple picking, swimming with sharks, and betting on turkey fights. But when he takes them piranha fishing, they decide to head back to Aunt Helen's house even if she's still healing from her hip surgery. Mark decides to create a storm to prevent his family from leaving, all while trying to hide a genetically mixed-up monster he created yesterday in his basement. However, Mark's plans to bond with his cousins are hindered when a pesky police officer and Aunt Helen become trapped in his house as well. About 40 minutes.

## **ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

Originally performed with the Baron Stage, Manheim, PA, in April of 2016 with the following cast: Blair Martin, Joshua Gray, Ligeia Stern, Taylor Marro, Andrea Guscott, Andrew Kerdeman and Olivia Stewart.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(4 m, 2 w, 1 flexible; genders flexible)*

**MARK** (m): An eccentric, crazy scientist hoping to make things right with his cousins. He often acts without regard for others but is well-meaning when it comes to his cousins.

**JASON** (m): Mark's level-headed cousin and Nina's brother. Realistic and down to earth, mid-teens.

**NINA** (f): Mark's cousin and Jason's sister. Nina is kind and sensitive, mid-teens.

**KEDWARDE** (m): Mark's butler. Calm, relaxed and loyal.

**MONSTER** (flex): Mark's newest creation. He is innocent and naïve but eager to learn and experience life.

**MAVERICK** (m): A less-than-impressive police officer suspicious of Mark. Sensitive and will cry easily despite his authoritative front.

**HELEN** (f): Jason and Nina's great aunt. She is old and surprisingly strong. Takes on anyone who gets on her nerves, especially Mark.

*Genders can be changed if desired.*

## **SET**

There is a living room, bedroom and a basement lab. The living room is center stage, with a door leading to the bedroom stage right and another door leading to outside. The basement is stage left. The living room has a couch, chair and small end table. The lab has a table and a chair.

## THE STORM

### Scene 1

*(AT RISE: A cheerful MARK is carrying a breakfast tray through the living room, vaguely humming a monster tune as he goes along. KEDWARDE enters.)*

**MARK:** Good morning, Kedwarde! Beautiful sunny day isn't it?

**KEDWARDE:** Sir, I am so sorry. I usually start breakfast at 7 o'clock.

*(KEDWARDE tries to take the tray, but MARK continues on.)*

**MARK:** No, no not today, my dear butler. I will be making breakfast today.

**KEDWARDE:** Are you sure, sir?

**MARK:** Yes, yes of course. You're an amazing butler, Kedwarde, but today is special!

**KEDWARDE:** Special, sir?

**MARK:** Very! Yesterday my DNA meshing experiment just went so well! And after so much trial and error!

**KEDWARDE:** Yes, sir, if only Dr. Frankenstein had been aware that the only thing needed to bring a monster to life was Fresca soda.

**MARK:** Yes! Truly a scientific breakthrough! Not only that, but I think my cousins, Jason and Nina, have finally started to take a liking to me!

**KEDWARDE:** Fantastic, sir!

**MARK:** Yes. Well, you know, ever since I accidentally poisoned their parents at Thanksgiving last year, things just haven't been the same.

**KEDWARDE:** Dreadfully unfortunate, sir.

**MARK:** Yes, but after fishing for piranha with them yesterday, I think things are really starting to turn around with us.

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*(MARK continues walking as LIGHTS dim in the living room and come up on JASON and NINA, trying to quietly pack in their bedroom.)*

**JASON:** Nina, we have to get out of here! Piranha fishing yesterday was the last straw! I can't handle any more of Mark and his crazy science...stuff.

**NINA:** I know, I know, but what are we going to tell him? Aunt Helen just got her hip replaced. She's supposed to be staying at the hospital for another week.

**JASON:** Right, uh, we could say there was a family emergency.

**NINA:** He is our family.

**JASON:** Oh, yeah. How about we tell him Aunt Helen recovered really quickly, and we need to get home to help her out?

**NINA:** No one would buy that!

**JASON:** Aw, come on, he's probably not even awake yet.

**NINA:** Right! So be quiet.

*(JASON and NINA creep towards the door as LIGHTS come up on the living room as well. MARK goes to the door, KEDWARDE close behind, and kicks it open.)*

**MARK:** Breakfast in bed!

*(As MARK bursts through the door, JASON falls to the ground and NINA backs away.)*

**MARK:** *(Cont'd.)* Surprise!!! *(Noticing JASON.)* Oh.

**NINA:** Mark!!

**JASON:** Ow! What are you doing?!

**MARK:** What are *you* doing? Are those... Are those all your things? Are you leaving me?!

**JASON:** No! We just...uh...we...

**NINA:** *(Panicking.)* Aunt Helen recovered remarkably early from her hip replacement surgery!

**JASON:** *(Aside, to NINA.)* You were right, there's no way he's gonna buy—

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**MARK:** *(Matter of fact, disappointed.)* I buy that. That does sound like Aunt Helen. The old hag.

**JASON:** *(Getting up.)* Mark, we've been over this. You have to stop calling her stuff like that.

**MARK:** Jason, you poor ignorant soul, I am almost positive that lady is a witch.

**NINA:** Mark!

**JASON:** Witch or not, she shouldn't be home alone after getting her hip replaced.

*(JASON and NINA grab their bags and start heading to the living room. MARK and KEDWARDE follow.)*

**NINA:** She shouldn't be alone ever. She's pretty much blind, and basically deaf... I'm surprised she's even still alive.

**JASON:** C'mon Nina.

*(JASON and NINA start to move towards the front door.)*

**MARK:** What?! No, you can't leave now! I had such a grand week planned, and we were having so much fun!

**NINA:** Bye, Mark!

**MARK:** *(Desperate.)* Wait!

*(JASON and NINA stop, annoyed.)*

**MARK:** *(Cont'd.)* Wait... Before you go, I have gifts. Kedwarde! The tea samplers and baked goods!

**KEDWARDE:** Yes, sir.

*(KEDWARDE exits and returns with a tray of teas and baked goods while MARK is speaking.)*

**MARK:** If you insist on leaving, I insist on imparting these treasures to you! I made everything myself you know, with ingredients from the garden out back!

**JASON:** You mean that box of weeds you think you have to water every day?

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**MARK:** I never concern myself with silly titles, Jason. Now, I have to attend to something in my lab quickly. Do excuse me. And don't leave without saying goodbye!

*(MARK exits. JASON and NINA poke around at the tray KEDWARDE is holding.)*

**JASON:** Is this peanut brittle? *(Yelling after Mark.)* Nina is allergic to peanuts!!

**NINA:** *(Also yelling after Mark.)* And I don't know what you're trying to pull with Arsenic tea, but I'm pretty sure everyone is allergic to that!

**JASON:** *(To KEDWARDE.)* You know we aren't going to take any of this home, right?

**KEDWARDE:** I understand completely, sir.

*(LIGHTS fade to black.)*

**Scene 2**

*(AT RISE: MARK is moving around in his lab, getting the storm ready, distracted. MONSTER is watching.)*

**MONSTER:** Hi, Mark. *(No response.)* Yeah, my day is going pretty well, how about you? *(No response.)* That's neat; it's really fun talking to you.

**MARK:** Not now, monster! I'm busy!

**MONSTER:** Yeah, I get it, I'm old news. Bring a monster to life one day, ignore him the next...

**MARK:** Monster, stop sulking! You're not doing anyone any good!

**MONSTER:** Yeah, yeah... Hey, maybe I could go upstairs! You know, meet some people, learn some things.

**MARK:** *(Stops working.)* No! We've been over this, you're highly illegal. If someone finds you, you'd be killed or locked up; what's worse is that I'd go to jail!

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