

Les Deux Soeurs

Characters

Clara : Older sister of Lanie. Protective of her sister. Largest role in the show.

Lanie : Younger sister of Clara. 13. Adventurous, but cautious. Trust people easily, very gullible.

Mom : Mom of Clara and Lanie. Loves her girls deeply. Comes back in the fantasy world as their mom as well.

Dad : Dad of Clara and Lanie. Middle age man. Could be played by a woman as a mother.

Dr. P : Doctor to Lanie. Delivers bad news at the beginning. Will double as ensemble/stagehand.

Daniel : Science student. Curious and almost brotherly to Clara and Lanie. Could be played by a woman.

Anna : Someone Clara and Lanie meet in Evergold. Doubles as Nurse to Dr. P at the beginning, and as a stagehand.

Death : Doesn't talk. Instead is a shadowy figure that dances around. Not evil, but nerve-wracking. Needs to be a good dancer/mover.

(Curtain open. A bed, door are on stage left. This is a house, and DR.P and LANIE sit on the bed. LANIE is coughing like crazy as DR. P uses a stethoscope to listen to her heart. MOM and DAD walk on stage left, nervously. MOM is seemingly more nervous, DAD tries to comfort her

DR. P exits through the door to the parents, with a stern looking face)

Dr. P : Things aren't looking good. I'm afraid that her scarlet fever went untreated for too long, developed into rheumatic fever that has damaged her heart. I'm sorry, but your daughter isn't ever going to fully recover. (*WOMAN* starts sobbing heavily. *MAN* supports her so she doesn't fall)

Mom : (through tears) How much longer does she have?

Dr. P : (sighs) It's hard to be sure - could be days, weeks or even months. But it's important to be with her and let her be happy, despite the circumstances. Make sure she rests, but also let her do as much as she can. There will be time later to make sure she's comfortable. I'm sorry there isn't anymore we can do.

Dad : You've done everything you could. Thank you

(*DR. P* nods, and walks over to stage right. *LANIE* sits on a bed. *MOM* enters through the door into *LANIE*'s room, followed by *DAD*)

Mom : Hey sweetie, how are you feeling?

Lanie : Fine. What did the doctor say?

(*MOM* and *DAD* look at each other, looking for what to say)

Mom : H-he said that you are recovering well.

Lanie : Really? (looks down) Do you think we could maybe take a trip next weekend to the cabin? It's been a while since we've been up there, as a family.

Mom : Of course honey, I'm sure we can manage that.

Lanie : *(throws her hands up)* Yes!

Mom : Now you rest, and maybe we can leave a few days early

(LANIE squirms excitedly. She lays down on the bed and starts to fall asleep)

Lanie : Where's Clara?

Mom : She's probably in her room, I'll go get her.

(WOMAN kisses LANIE on the head. WOMAN and MAN exit through the door to stage left, when MAN pulls WOMAN to stage right)

Dad : Why did you lie to her?

Mom : I just- I couldn't tell her right then and there.

Dad : Lying to our daughter isn't right, especially about this.

Mom : I know, but remember what the Doctor said? Let her be as happy as she can, for as long as she can, despite the circumstances.

Dad : Lanie has the right to know.

(Beat)

Mom : Alright. We'll tell her later this week. Just let her have a few more days of happiness.

(MOM hugs DAD, he holds her)

Dad : Fine, just... don't keep it from her for too long. And especially don't keep it from Clara.

Mom : Of course, I'll go get her now.

(DAD exits stage right)

Mom : *(yells of stage right)* Clara, can you come here for a second?

(CLARA enters stage right in her pajamas)

Clara : Mom? Why was the Doctor here? Is it Lanie?

Mom : Yes, dear. It's Lanie. He looked her over and-

(BEAT. MOM can't continue her sentence)

Clara : *(worried)* What... what's wrong?

Mom : It's Lanie's fever.

Clara : What about her fever? I thought she was getting better?

Mom : No, even though she looks a little better, the fever has damaged her heart and she continues to get weaker. The doctor doesn't think she will ever recover.

(CLARA is taken aback. She doesn't know what to say)

Clara : How- how much time does she have?

Mom : It's hard to say. But it won't be long.

(CLARA feels a jab in her heart)

Clara : Why- Why did this have to happen, she should have more time.

Mom : I know sweetie, but the best thing we can do right now is spend time with her, and make her final days the best she's ever had.

(BEAT)

Clara : Does Lanie know?

Mom : Not yet, please don't say anything. We're letting her have a few more days of peace.

(CLARA starts crying)

Mom : Hey, everything is going to be fine. She's been in pain for a long time and this... this will free her from it.

(MOM embraces CLARA. She strokes her hair)

Clara : Is there... Is there any chance she's gonna get better?

Mom : Clara-

Clara: She's just a little sick, that's all. She'll tough it out!

Mom : Clara... She is very sick.

Clara : M-mom... She's going to get better.

Mom : We can only hope, but it doesn't sound possible. Now, please go in there and be with her

(CLARA wipes her eyes before entering through the door stage left. MOM exits stage right.)

Lanie : Clara!

Clara : Hey Lanie, y-you wanted me in here

Lanie : Yeah well... Mom said that next weekend we're going up to the cabin, and I wanted to tell you!

(CLARA doesn't say anything. She doesn't know what to say)

Lanie : Doesn't that sound exciting?

Clara : *(break from her haze)* Yes, yes it does.

(LANIE jumps up on the bed)

Lanie : It's gonna be So. Much. Fun!

Clara : It will be *(trying to change the subject)*

(LANIE gets up from the bed to look at the bookshelf)

Lanie : Do you think we could read something tonight?

Clara : *(laughing)* Lanie, It's been years since I've read you a bedtime story.

Lanie : Please? I'm too excited to go to sleep.

Clara : Fine, *(Jokingly)* you're so childish sometimes.

Lanie : (throws a pillow at CLARA. She laughs) No I am not!

Clara : fine fine... What about, *(reading out loud)* “Les Deux Soeurs”?

Lanie : What's that one about?

Clara : Well the title means “the two sisters”, which is probably the dumbest book title I’ve ever heard. *(reading the back of the book)* It says it’s about “2 sisters who live together in a forest, but something isn't right. Something very bad is after them.”

Lanie : This sounds scary... Let's read it!

Clara : You sure? You’re not too scared. You know *(mockingly)* They could die.

Lanie : I am not scared.

Clara : Fine, Fine.

Clara : *(reading from the book)* Once upon a time, there were 2 sisters, as plain as butter. They had plain parents that lived in a plain house and they had relatively plain lives. Candice, is walking to collect flowers for their mother, followed quickly by Lillian, her little sister. “How much further is it?” whines Lillian. She was impatient most of the time but had a good heart in her. “Only a little further, I swear” Candice assures her. A few more steps and they enter a large meadow, covered in the fragrant milkweed and tiger lillies. “Here we are” Candice says, but Lillian is already running, toes first, through the brightly colored field- *(CLARA checks and LANIE is asleep)*

Clara : *(still talking as if LANIE is awake)* Lillian reminds me of you.

(CLARA puts the book down and lays down beside her)

Clara : *(Whisper)* Goodnight Lanie.

(BLACKOUT ALMOST)

(SOUND CUE)

(DANCER enters through stage right, holding a lantern, and dancing around the stage. LANIE wakes up and follows the dancer over to stage left)

Lanie : Clara, come quick!

Clara : (Waking up) What?

(CLARA looks up and sees the DANCER. She springs to her feet)

Clara : Lanie, get behind me.

Lanie : No! This is really cool.

Clara : Lanie this is a STRANGER in our BEDROOM.

(CLARA pushes LANIE behind her, to protect her. LANIE tries to get over to the thing)

Lanie : *(struggled)* C'mon move! This is really cool.

(DANCER stands there. CLARA moves so she's facing LANIE)

Clara : Would you stop for one second? We don't even know what this "thing" is.

Lanie : That "thing" is probably a person, who can tell us where we are.

Clara : Where are we? We're in our bedr-

(They are not in their bedroom. DANCER exits stage right)

Clara : Lanie, where are we?

Lanie : I don't know, but definitely not our bedroom.

Clara : (mockingly) Huh? Really? I didn't notice.

Lanie : Stop getting mad at me, I didn't do anything.

Clara : I never said you did! Just-

(CLARA and LANIE look around when MOM calls their names)

Mom : *(from the audience)* Lanie, Clara! Get up this instant!

(CLARA and LANIE are confused but walk down to the front of the stage to see who is there.

MOM in Renaissance-era attire stands up and walks towards the stage)

Mom : There you girls are, you've been asleep much too long, what's the matter?

Clara : Um... nothing? What's going on?

Mom : What is going on? I have a lot of things I need to get done! I'll need you and Lanie to go to the market to fetch some things for me.

Clara : But don't we have school?

(MOM looks confused but laughs it off)

Mom : School? You only have tutoring on Wednesdays, it's Saturday.

Lanie : We can go to the market, right Clara?

Clara : *(Still confused)* Okay, I don't know who did this or frankly... how they did this, but what's happening? Why aren't we home?

Mom : *(concerned)* What's wrong, are you coming down with something?

(MOM feels CLARA's face but CLARA pushes her off)

Mom : You look fine. Stop joking around. It'll be a short trip, just a few hours. I expect you back before sundown. Is that understood?

Lanie : Yes mom!

(CLARA glares at LANIE. LANIE shrugs)

Mom : Alright! Nothing like mamma's little helpers.

(MOM pets LANIE on the head. She passes a basket to CLARA, and a shopping list)

Mom : There's everything I need today on this list. The day is bright, so I think you may go alone, without one of the men to accompany you. (hands them a bag of coins) There should be enough in this purse to buy everything on the list.

Lanie : That sounds awesome! Let's go Clara!

Mom : You girls be good, you hear me! I'm planning a good meal for tonight.

(CLARA hesitantly follows LANIE. They walk off the stage)

(CLARA stops LANIE)

Clara : Lanie, what was that?

Lanie : What was what?

Clara : I mean - what was "that"? Do you know where we are right now? Why was mom acting so weird? And what market could she be talking about?

Lanie : I don't know. But why does it matter?

(LANIE continues walking. CLARA is mad now)

Clara : Why does it matter? WE'RE NOT IN OUR ROOM ANYMORE AND THAT WOMAN LOOKED LIKE OUR MOM BUT TOTALLY WASN'T.

Lanie : This probably isn't anything... Maybe it's one of those adventures Mom and Dad sent us on when we were younger, remember?

Clara : Yeah... I remember those...sorta.

Lanie : (gasps) Maybe it's so I can get better?

Clara : (trying to change the subject again) Let's keep walking. Our goal right now is to find out what's happening.

(SOUND CUE)

(CLARA and LANIE keep walking through the aisle and in front of the stage, and then climbing the stairs on stage left. DANIEL sits on the stage laying down)

Daniel : The difference between Meiosis and Mitosis is that Mitosis is used in growth and asexual reproduction and Meiosis produces four daughter cells, each of which are identical to the parent cell and to one another.

Clara : Hello?

(DANIEL Is scared. He doesn't usually meet people out here)

Daniel : Oh, hey.

Clara : Hello, I know we've just met but do you happen to know where the market is?

Daniel : Which market?

Clara : I don't know. Where is the *closest* market?

Daniel : Down that way a little, you shouldn't have to walk that far.

Lanie : What are you studying for?

Daniel : Oh um... An exam I have coming up. Basically if I get my degree or not.

Lanie : That is so cool! Are you gonna become like a scientist or something?

Daniel : Yeah... I suppose something close to that. Why are you girls in the forest alone this late in the day?

Clara : Late in the day? It was morning when we left.

Daniel : Oh um... I hadn't realized... Listen, maybe it's best if I accompany you to the nearest market. There's one in Evergold, just a few miles down, it shouldn't be too long. How does that sound?

Clara : Um... I don't kn-

Lanie : That sounds great!

(LANIE starts walking, and is followed by DANIEL and CLARA, hesitantly. This whole dialogue is done through the PAC)

Daniel : What brings you girls out here in the woods alone?

Lanie : Our mom sent us here! She needs things.

Daniel : That makes... sense.

(DANIEL moves back to CLARA)

Daniel : Listen, I'm really sorry if I came off as rude earlier.

Clara : *(awkwardly)* Oh it's fine... I'm just a little shaken up. You see, we're not where we're supposed to be. We were in our room last night and woke up and BAM. Here we are. Please be honest with me here. *(CLARA stops DANIEL. LANIE stops as well.)* Did someone put you up to this? You can tell me the truth, in fact I'd rather you tell me the truth.

Daniel : I can assure you...?

Clara : Clara.

Daniel : Clara, I can assure you no one put me up to anything. I just felt it was a gentlemanly thing to do to accompany you on such a long trip.

Clara : I guess.

(LANIE starts shivering)

Lanie : It's getting really cold out.

Daniel : Yes, it seems the cold is coming in unusually fast for this time of year.

Lanie : How close are we?

Daniel : Still a while to go, let's rest.

(They rest on the stairs leading up to the aisle.)

Daniel : Do you both wanna hear a story?

Lanie : Yes!

Clara : ...Sure

Daniel : Well, there's a legend that you can see the faces of those lost to the woods. They speak to some, but not to many.

Lanie : (points at a random audience member) Is this a face?

Daniel : Yeah... an ugly one at that.

Clara : How much longer do you think we have?

Daniel : Not too long, don't worry. I'd say another few meters and we'll be there. I'll get out my lamp- where is it?

(LANIE looks around when BEGGAR is entering through the aisle)

Lanie : (*scared*) um... who is that?

(DANIEL springs up and shields the girls)

Beggar : Who goes there?

Daniel : We ought to ask the same question.

Beggar : I am just trying to sell my services, and you happen to be where I sell them.

(CLARA looks at the bench and looks at her)

Daniel : Um... are you a pros-

Beggar : No I am not that. I am a fortune teller.

Lanie : Can you tell me my fortune!

Beggar : Not for free I won't.

(LANIE pouts at DANIEL. He sighs and gives the BEGGAR some money)

Beggar : Come here child.

(LANIE goes over to the BEGGAR and she puts her hand on hers. Suddenly the fortune teller is scared)

Beggar : I see... Bad things in your future. Something is coming for you, I must admit I felt something in the air but I didn't realize that...

Clara : What thing?

Beggar : I shouldn't say anymore. Be ready, as it's gonna be a long and perilous fight, possibly for your life.

(LANIE looks down, nervously)

Beggar : I really must be going (hands the coin to DANIEL) have the coin back, I don't need it, this is needed information.

(The BEGGAR starts walking stage left before being stopped by LANIE)

Lanie : Wait. Am I... going to die?

(The BEGGAR walks back over to LANIE and takes her hands)

Beggar : Your fate lies in your hands. Remember this, there is always a fight to be won. I must go on my way now.

(The BEGGAR exits stage left. Leaving LANIE, DANIEL, and CLARA alone on stage. CLARA realizes something and takes out the book)

Clara : Wait... This is what happens in the book.

Lanie : What?

Clara : "Les Deux Soeurs". This is literally what happens in the book.

Lanie : W-What does that mean?

Clara : This is probably just a nightmare or something. This isn't real and - and you're gonna be fine.

Lanie : Are you sure?

Clara : I'm positive, now- let's continue and sometime soon we're gonna have to wake up.

(LANIE wipes her eyes, visibly crying)

Lanie : O-okay.

(DANIEL, LANIE, and CLARA exit down the aisle but from the top pathway by the stage. They are in Evergold now)

Daniel : Well. This is Evergold.

Clara : Really? It's quiet... Evacuated.

Daniel : It's strange, this is usually a full city.

Lanie : Hello?

(ANNA enters stage right. She is holding a thing of flowers)

Anna : Hello? Who's there? (Beat) Oh thank God it's you Daniel, and... I'm sorry I don't believe we've met.

Lanie : I'm Lanie and-

Clara : I'm Clara.

Anna : Oh well, It's lovely to meet you both. I'm Anna. W-what are you doing out here?

Daniel : We were just coming into town for the market, but it doesn't look like anyone is here.

Anna : Yes, well... There's something terrible in the air, and no one really wants to be outside right now. (she laughs nervously)

(DANIEL leads ANNA over to stage left)

Daniel : It's Lanie. We-we met this fortune teller and she said something was coming after her, but they seem to believe this is all one big dream which is... ridiculous.

Anna : Oh god, we shouldn't be out here in the open much longer. They can come to my house and stay there for the night *(breaks from conversation and moves stage right)* Girls, come inside quickly, wouldn't want either of you catching it.

(big lighting thing I have yet to decide. DANCER is back)

Clara : Lanie, it's the thing from earlier.

Daniel : W-What do you want?

(The DANCER points at LANIE. LANIE covers her ears)

Clara : Lanie, this is. This is just a dream. All of this is a dream, you're going to be fine.

(THE DANCER continues to point at LANIE)

Clara : What do you want with her?

(The DANCER doesn't say anything)

Clara : Hello? Why can't you answer me?

(DANCER points at LANIE)

Clara : Do you... do you want her?

(DANCER nods)

Clara : No. No this is... This is just a dream, we're dreaming.

Lanie : Clara, I don't think we're dreaming.

(CLARA turns around and looks at LANIE)

Clara : What do you mean?

Lanie : If we were dreaming, why would we be dreaming the same thing?

Clara : *(defensive)* I-I don't know, maybe it's a dream sharing thing-

Lanie : And why can I... feel everything?

(suddenly CLARA moves into a motherly, caring role)

Clara : What can you feel?

(as if on cue, LANIE falls over, clutching her heart)

Lanie : *(terrified)* I can't breathe.

(CLARA holds LANIE in a cradle as she's clenching her heart. She looks up at the DANCER)

Clara : What are you doing to her?

(the DANCER moves their head to the side in a confused manner. CLARA turns her attention back to LANIE)

Clara : It's going to be okay? You're gonna wake up and- and we'll take you to the doctors in the morning okay? You're gonna be fine.

(ANNA walks over to CLARA and puts a hand on her shoulder in a comforting way)

Anna : Clara, she must go.

Clara : No... She can't. She can't yet. Her time hasn't come.

Anna : Clara please.

(ANNA tries and pulls CLARA, but CLARA throws her hands around)

Clara : *(crying)* N-no! This is just a dream and we'll get out of it and go home and everything is going to be fine. I just... I can't lose her yet. She-you have so much yet to live for, *(loudly)* God! Let it be me, it's my time right now, j-just take me and not her.

(DANCER shakes their head no)

Lanie : Clara.

(LANIE stands up weakly in front of the DANCER)

Clara : W-What are you doing?

Lanie : I'm facing my fears, like you did earlier.

Clara : Lanie, this isn't a fear, this is dying.

(LANIE walks weakly over to DANCER, but CLARA holds her hand back. LANIE pulls her hand away and faces CLARA)

Lanie : Clara. Stop. There's no point in trying to stop it because... You can't stop death, so there's no point in trying. I've lived a fulfilling life, and I've said goodbye to everyone I've wanted to say goodbye to.

Clara : No you haven't Lanie. You haven't lived a fulfilling life. You were supposed to go to high school, and meet a bunch of friends, and then graduate and go to college, meet a great person and marry them and have children and then grandchildren and *then* die. We were supposed to live life together but- but you're willing to give that up in the blink of an eye?

Lanie : What choice do I have?

(Beat. They don't know what to do next)

Lanie : I'm ready.

Clara : No... LANIE NO

(ANNA and DANIEL go over to CLARA and embrace her. Big change into back. Will explore if put into production)

TRANSITION to CLARA's HOUSE (table, chair)

(MOM and DAD enter stage right. They sit at the table, crying. CLARA is sleeping on the bed, with the book on her lap, when she wakes up. She looks beside her and LANIE isn't there. She is scared now)

Clara : Lanie? LANIE!

(MOM comes into their room and holds CLARA)

Mom : Hey, Hey... e-everything is going to be okay *(MOM starts crying)*

Clara : W-Where's Lanie?

Mom : She... *(choked up)* she didn't make it through the night.

(CLARA cries falling down. She is caught by MOM and DAD, and they cry with each other on the ground)

End of show