

THE GRIMSBY CURSE

ACT I

Scene 1

(Present. A small room with a bed barely sitting off the floor, an assortment of lighting fixtures and a small chest filled with clothes. There are some stools and a table. A small hallway leads to the bathroom and another leads to the rest of the mansion which is closed off and locked. The floor is littered with organized piles of old papers, newspaper clippings, certificates, letters, posters and photos. Theodore Grimsby the VIII, 20, enters, he may physically look like a man but still has his boyish frame from being locked away for years. He sits quietly arranging the piles of papers. He quietly mumbles to himself. One by one, characters from the past began to enter the scene; **Abraham**, an 1800's African American slave, dressed very nice then **Kewpie**, a 1890's circus girl followed by **Hascomb**, the 1900's man servant. They quietly watch Theodore. 1930's showgirl, **Heart Ballad** enters followed by **Lindy Rice Tubbs**, a 1950's housewife then **Jinx**, a 1970's hippie. Seconds later, **Syd**, a punked out 90's girl of 16 enters.)

SYD

Hey "T"!

(They start to call out to him, overlapping his name.)

HASCOMB

Master Grimsby.

KEWPIE

Theo bear.

ABRAHAM

Theodore.

JINX

Theo baby.

HEART BALLAD

Teddy.

LINDY RICE TUBBS

Ted.

(They continue to call out his name as he finishes reading the final page of his life. Theodore raises his hand for them to stop. He places the paper on the pile before him. He looks out into the darkness.)

THEODORE VIII

(Beaming like a happy child on his tired face.)

It's done. It's all finished. Everything is now inside my head; the letters, the photos, the newspapers, the births and even the deaths. Everything. All I have to do is fill my family tree to find out who I really am before I die.

ABRAHAM

And who are you?

THEODORE VIII

My name is Theodore and my family tree consists of only me.

KEWPIE

And what about the one that put you in this room?

THEODORE VIII

But we don't share the same last name.

(Picks out a certificate.)

My birth certificate says I'm Theodore Madison.

LINDY RICE TUBBS

You are much more than just a Madison.

THEODORE VIII

Am I? Yes, I am.

(Becomes a little confused.)

I don't know.

HEART BALLAD

What do you know, Teddy? I know I don't know a heck of a lot but I do know I've been here for a long time not knowing.

THEODORE VIII

I have so much in my head but I do know why you're here.

HASCOMB

Why master Grimsby?

THEODORE VIII

To help me. You are all a part of this as much as I am.

JINX

What do you want us to do Theo baby?

THEODORE VIII

Go back. We all go back.

LINDY RICE TUBBS
This sounds very reckless. You're only a boy.

THEODORE VIII
I'm almost twenty, ma'am and I'm not a boy.

LINDY RICE TUBBS
In here you are.

HASCOMB
Not quite a man when you've been locked in here for so long.

ABRAHAM
(Tapping his head.)
And in here.

SYD
You're a prisoner.

LINDY RICE TUBBS
We all are.

ABRAHAM
Then we'll help you, Theodore.

LINDY RICE TUBBS
(With hesitancy.)
Shouldn't we think about this some more?

SYD
There's no time to think. "T" needs our help.

KEWPIE
We're here for you Theo bear.

SYD
So how do we start?

THEODORE VIII
With me.

HEART BALLAD
And we can fill your family tree.

JINX
When do we stop?

HASCOMB
When we get to the end.

ABRAHAM
Or the beginning.