

Audience gathers at the foot of the stairs.

Guide - "Spectral Vows" is a tale of love, loss, and redemption that explores the timeless themes of loyalty, forgiveness, and the enduring power of love—even in the presence of otherworldly forces.

A bride comes out on the top landing of the stairs. She is wearing a black gown and veil.

Hello? Are you here for the wedding? I don't recognize you. You must be from Daniel's side of the family. My name is Emily. Daniel was my Fiance. I was a young and vibrant woman on that day as I prepared for my wedding. It was a beautiful spring day. The sun was out and the flowers were in bloom.

I heard the buzz while I was getting dressed. My girlfriends were stepping out of the room in turns and talking in hushed tones in the hallway. Their whispered voices sounded like honey bees buzzing around the Hyacinth, Peonies and Hellebore. I asked what was going on but everyone kept saying that it was nothing and just a small problem with the caterer. As the ceremony time grew near, I became more anxious and started asking if everything was ready. I could tell from the looks on their faces that something wasn't right. I kept asking what was wrong but everyone was just too afraid to speak the truth out loud. I finally raised my voice, demanding to know what was going on. Finally my mother pulled me aside and took my hands into hers. "We can't find Daniel sweetie." Couldn't find Daniel? What on earth could she mean? What do you mean you can't find Daniel? Is he okay? Did something happen to him?

My bridesmaid, Dorothy, said that she had called all the hospitals and there was no sign of him there. She also called all his friends and family and even all the bars in town. There just wasn't any sign of him. Well we just had to go look for him! He could have been in an accident. Driven off the road! He could be lying dead on the side of the road for all we knew! I started to make my way toward my car so I could go look for him but my mother grabbed my arm and pulled me

back. There's more, she said. More? I asked. What do you mean there's more. It's your sister Emily. We can't find her either.

My mind was reeling at this point. My younger sister Catherine? Missing? What do you mean? What are you trying to say? My mother looked me straight in the eyes and said what I feared most, "Emily, I think Catherine has run off with Daniel." I felt the room begin to spin and almost fainted. My mother rushed forward and held me up and started to walk me toward one of the chairs. I felt tears burning my eyes. How could this happen? Why hadn't I seen it? But I had seen it. I had just chosen to ignore all the signs. I knew what my mother was going to say before she said it. Suddenly a profound anger took over my mind. I pushed my mother away as I rushed out of the room and toward the altar. Ripping at my wedding gown as I made my way. Pushing away friends and family as they tried to embrace me and console me. Tearing at the swag and chaplet floral garland that decorated the pews. I wanted to destroy it all. Every last bit of it.