

INTRODUCTION: SOMETHING BAD HAS HAPPENED HERE

Ticking of a clock.

NATALIE-ADAM-CHARIS-

RENÉ STRIKE BELLS.

CHOIR

It's time to feed...

DESPINA

My sweet little fish...

CHOIR

Shhhh...

Ticking of a clock.

NATALIE-ADAM-CHARIS-

RENÉ STRIKE BELLS.

CHOIR

It's time to make...

DESPINA and CHOIR

My wish...

CHOIR

RAPIDUUS, MORTUS, EST!

THE, FISH, IS, DEAD!

DESPINA and CHOIR

DEEEEEEEAAAD!

DESPINA runs to FISH

BOWL.

CHOIR all drop mallets

and run to AQUARIUMS,

PRESSING FACES up

against them.

SCENE 1: THE MURDER

DESPINA starts tapping

FISH BOWL.

CHOIR starts tapping

AQUARIUMS.

NATALIE V.O.

Is it asleep?

DESPINA

It must be...

NATALIE V.O.

Is it still asleep?

DESPINA

It must be...

NATALIE V.O.

Isn't it awake?

DESPINA

It's almost noon...

NATALIE V.O.

Is it still not awake?

DESPINA

It's almost noon...

NATALIE V.O.

Why is it not moving?

DESPINA

No more wishes...

NATALIE V.O.

Why are its eyes sunken?

DESPINA

No more wishes...

NATALIE V.O.

Why is the skin so cracked and dry?

DESPINA

Wake up my sweet little fish... It's time to have dinner.

NATALIE V.O.

Why are its pupils so clouded?

DESPINA

Wake up my baby darling... It's time to make a wish.

NATALIE V.O.

Why won't it eat and why won't it swim?

NATALIE strikes BELL.

ALL

WAKE UP!

SCENE 2: THE MIRROR

QUICK tapping on glass
on pre-recorded track,
joined by DOUBLE BASS
and KAZOOS.

DESPINA

You didn't!

QUICK tapping on glass
on pre-recorded track,
joined by DOUBLE BASS
and KAZOOS.

DESPINA

You aren't!

QUICK tapping on glass
on pre-recorded track,
joined by DOUBLE BASS
and KAZOOS.

DESPINA

You cannot be so selfish!

CHOIR starts playing
kazoos into water.

DESPINA

After everything I ever did to you...
After all the love I ever gave you...

CHOIR goes over to
blowing into water.

DESPINA (Slaps water.)

Ugly little thing!

Short pause. CHOIR
blows into water.

DESPINA

How did you even do it?

DESPINA and CHOIR slap
water in FISH BOWL/
AQUARIUMS repeatedly.

CHOIR and DESPINA V.O.

(Jumbled whispering from BOXES, intercut with:)

I'll get a new fish...

The fish was sad...

Is my fish dead?

Is it normal to be sad?

She's dead...

CHOIR V.O.

Some fish sleep so strangely.

CHOIR sings into
water.

NATALIE V.O.

Don't you remember only up to ten seconds?

DESPINA

Do you remember anything at all?

NATALIE V.O.

Because somewhere in those ten seconds, or... somewhere in
between, you fell.

DESPINA

I don't believe it, or, I don't understand...

NATALIE V.O.

In all this water, in all this space.

NATALIE

It's you-

DESPINA

Who left me.

CHARIS

It's you-

DESPINA

Who left me.

NATALIE V.O.

Somewhere in those ten seconds...

DESPINA

Somewhere from one to ten...

NATALIE V.O.

In between those moments...

DESPINA

In between those walls...

RENÉ

You remembered to do it!

ADAM

Go look at yourself!

NATALIE

These eyes...

DESPINA

These eyes are not mine!

CHARIS

Red threads...

NATALIE

CHARIS

RENÉ

ADAM

This skin...

So tight...

These cheeks...

So ugly...

(REPEAT.)

DESPINA

Harder... thicker... has it always been like this?

CHOIR fades out and starts
singing into water again.

DESPINA

There must be something then, something that is mine,
something familiar... Maybe it's the angle, the curve of my
jaw, the way my lips close together...

(Whispers:)

How I wish...

CHOIR

(Whispered, on repeat until song.)

How I wish...

DESPINA (CHOIR humming along.)

It was the fish that said that I could, that I could wish for
whatever I wanted. Didn't it go like that? I could make three
wishes. Or four. Five. Five wishes. One for the fish. Could I
wish that I... could I wish that we... that...

SCENE 3: THE MADNESS

DISTORTED LAUGHTER
from pre-recorded
track.
CHOIR looks at each
other playfully,
starts moving around
in a circle, stirring
the water.

DESPINA (V.O./**LIVE**)

My lips are burning, **they're on fire, can you see it?**
And the tide is coming in, I feel it, **the water is rising.**
I have to hurry, be quick, make another wish, **make another**
wish.
My feet already in the water, and the fish, the fish, **where is**
the fish? The goldfish? My golden fish?

DESPINA V.O. (Distorted.)

My voice makes everything sound crazy.

Extended INHALATION on
pre-recorded track.
DESPINA falls from the
podium, CHOIR catching
her and placing her on
the ground.

NATALIE V.O.

Inhale. Exhale. Repeat.

CHOIR breathing in and
out.
DESPINA slowly waking
up on the ground,
crawling towards TOY
PIANO.

NATALIE V.O.

Inhale: My control over the content of my exhalation is
limited by me. Repeat: Only by me.

DESPINA starts playing
the TOY PIANO.
The CHOIR picks up
BELLS and starts
playing them, walking
around the stage in a
square.

DESPINA

When you wish upon a star...
Makes no difference who you are...
Your dreams come true...
If your heart is in your dreams...
No request is too extreme...
My dreams come true...