

NOSTRADAMUS 1

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SOMETHING ROTTEN!

START

SCENE 11: Soothsayer Alley

NOSTRADAMUS

I knew you'd be back.

NICK

Really?

NOSTRADAMUS

No. But it sounds impressive, doesn't it? How goes it with your *musical*?

NICK

Not great, actually. We're having a hard time figuring out what a musical should be about.

NOSTRADAMUS

Hair!

NICK

Hair?

NOSTRADAMUS

No, that would just be *weird*, wouldn't it? Wait!

(fingers to temples)

Little shop... of whores.

NICK

Really? That doesn't sound right.

NOSTRADAMUS

I know. Why is the shop little? ~~Or whores?~~

NICK

Look, the truth is...

(looking around)

I'm... I'm kind of desperate. I need an idea that is guaranteed to be a success. One that will have 'em lined up around the theater! So I want you to look into the future and tell me...

(looks around again)

What will Shakespeare's greatest play be?

NOSTRADAMUS

Oooh. Are you sure you want to cross that line? Wouldn't you rather just come up with an idea of your own?

STOP

NOSTRADAMUS 2

SCENE 2: The Theatre

NICK is alone with NOSTRADAMUS, furiously sifting through his various sheets of parchment.

START

NICK

Okay, so just to make sure I've got this all straight, we've got a Prince... eating a Danish... and he's visited by the ghost of his dead father?

NOSTRADAMUS

Not a ghost. The *phantom*! He's the former king who was murdered by the Prince's uncle... and the uncle's name is...

(fingers to temples)

Scar.

NICK

Scar.

(writing that down)

And he murdered the king. And the prince is in love, but she goes mad you say?

NOSTRADAMUS

Yes! And—how do you solve a problem like Ophelia?

NICK

Right. How do you?

NOSTRADAMUS

(fingers to temples, squinting)

The prince says "get thee to a nunnery!" And then the nuns hide her and all of the singing children—from the Nazis.

NICK

Uh huh. And these "Nazis"—are they good guys or bad?

NOSTRADAMUS

Not sure. But it feels important to get that one right.

The TROUPE enters, looking confused and bewildered as they review script pages.

NICK

Oh, they're back.

(pulls Nostradamus aside)

Okay, remember—stay over here and don't say anything.

SHYLOCK enters.

STOP