

## Shattered Shakespeare

Joshua Evans

### SCENE 1 - "Brainstorm"

*(Fade in on all of the IDEAS lounging on various pieces of furniture. Everyone is in a comfortable, lazy, or relaxed pose with not a care in the world. MINERVA rushes in)*

MINERVA: Wake up, Ideas! Wake up!

IDEA 1: Hey look, it's Nerve Cell, from the front of the Brain.

ALL IDEAS: Hi Nerve Cell!

MINERVA: *(Stopping dead in her tracks, fuming)* My name is not Nerve Cell. It's Minerva.

ALL IDEA: Hi Nerve Cell Minerva.

MINERVA: It's Minerva. Just Minerva!

IDEA 2: But I thought your name was Nerve Cell Minerva.

MINERVA: No! That's ridiculously long. Shorten it!

IDEA 3: *(Thinks about it, then)* Nervous?

ALL IDEAS: Hi Nervous.

MINERVA: *(Exasperated)* Of all the Ideas in this brain to get stuck with, and I end up with you all.

IDEA 4: *(Nodding her head)* You're very lucky.

MINERVA: Look, you all need to see this.

*(MINERVA pulls out a remote, and turns on a large TV)*

IDEA 1: Oh cool! A movie!

MINERVA: It's not a movie, you dumb-dumb. It's a Memory. This happened moments ago.

*(On the TV, SHAKESPEARE begins talking to himself)*

SHAKESPEARE: Oh! Woe is me!

I'm such a failure!

Shakespeare is a Failure!

I call myself a writer, and yet I can't come up with a single good idea.

I have no friends.

I have no life.

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And I haven't changed this shirt in weeks... *(sniffs himself)* Woo! I stink!  
Maybe I should do some shirt laundry.  
Wait...  
Where was I?  
Oh yes.  
*(Clears his throat, and gets back to being over dramatic)*  
I'm no writer!  
I have no talent!  
I should just give up.  
I should listen to my mother, and just become a dentist.  
Nay!  
Not Shakespeare!  
An amazing destiny lies before me... not dentistry!  
I must prove that I can be a brilliant writer!  
I must come up with a great idea.  
I MUST!  
Think, Shakespeare, think!  
ONE good idea can set me on the path to greatness...  
Just one good idea...  
Come on, Shakespeare!  
Think...  
Think...

*(SHAKESPEARE taps his forehead, trying to think, as MINERVA shuts off the TV)*

IDEA 2: Wow... that's bad. *(Pause)* Who was that guy?

MINERVA: That's Shakespeare!

ALL IDEAS: Who?

MINERVA: William Shakespeare! He's our Outer Body! We are *literally* inside of his head!

IDEA 3: Waaaaait... do you mean “literally” or “figuratively”?

MINERVA: **LITERALLY!** You... all of you... are the Ideas inside this man's head!

IDEA 4: We're “Ideas”?

IDEA 1: I didn't know that.

IDEA 3: Haha! You're a Dumb Idea.

MINERVA: Enough! I've called this Brainstorm together because we need a Brilliant Idea. And we need it fast. We're on a deadline here.

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IDEA 2: How long do we have?

MINERVA: We need to come up with something before bedtime... *tonight!*

IDEA 4: That's only in a few hours.

MINERVA: So let's get crackin! What've you got?

IDEA 1: A fat guy who eats books!

IDEA 2: A cat and a dog race around the world!

IDEA 3: Tap dancing ninjas!

MINERVA: *(Slapping her forehead)* We're doomed.

IDEA 3: I got it!

MINERVA: Please tell me you have something good.

IDEA 3: Hamlet!

MINERVA: We already wrote Hamlet. It was a great success. Very popular.

IDEA 3: But what about... Twilight Zone Hamlet?

IDEA 1: Oooooooooooooo...

IDEA 2: Oooooooooooooo...

IDEA 4: Oooooooooooooo...

MINERVA: That's... not a thing.

IDEA 3: *(Chanting)* Twilight Zone! Twilight Zone! Twilight Zone! Twilight Zone!

*(IDEA 1, 2, and 4 start singing the Twilight Zone theme song)*

IDEA 3: *(Straight to camera, in Twilight Zone host mode)* Imagine if you will, a prince. A prince whose life couldn't be better: A loving mother and father, a caring uncle, and a wonderful lady at his side. However, we all know that Time changes everything. But tonight we ask the question: What if Time changed... but nothing else did? Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to... The Twilight Zone.

*(Nothing happens. Everyone is staring at IDEA 3, frozen in host mode, waiting for the show to start. After a few moments, she keeps eye contact with the camera, but leans towards MINERVA and loud whispers out the side of her mouth)*

IDEA 3: Press. Play.

*(MINERVA rolls her eyes, but complies)*

MINERVA: This is ridiculous.

*(She presses Play, and we cut to Blackout with the real Twilight Zone music playing)*

**SCENE 2 - "Why Should Today Be Any Different"**

*(Fade in on HAMLET, about to walk in the front door of his house. He stops, turns to the camera, and begins talking to us)*

HAMLET: Things don't change at home. I wouldn't expect them to. I love the fact that I can always count on good old Denmark to always be the same. Just got into town last night, and headed straight for the castle... home sweet home.

*(HAMLET enters the house. There sits CLAUDIUS and GERTRUDE, his uncle and mother)*

HAMLET: Hey guys!

CLAUDIUS: Hamlet!

GERTRUDE: Hamlet! My sweet son, what are you doing home?

HAMLET: The school lets us out every now and then, Mom.

CLAUDIUS: You didn't come back for Thanksgiving.

HAMLET: I know. It's a long trip, just for a turkey, Uncle Claudius.

GERTRUDE: We're here too, you know.

HAMLET: I know, and I'm glad to see you.

CLAUDIUS: Well, sit down, have some coffee. We'll pretend things never changed.

HAMLET: *(Sitting down)* I'm pretty sure they don't.

CLAUDIUS: *(Calling off)* You majesty! Your son's here!

GERTRUDE: So, how do you like school?

HAMLET: It's great. I haven't picked a major yet. I just can't decide what... "To Be".

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GERTRUDE: Are you and Ophelia still together?

HAMLET: Yes, she's crazy about me. She said she'd probably show up.

*(OLD KING enters)*

OLD KING: Hamlet, you little rascal! Welcome home!

HAMLET: Dad! Great to see you!

OLD KING: I miss you, boy! When are we going to hang out properly?

HAMLET: Soon, Dad. Soon.

OLD KING: I'll hold you to that!

GERTRUDE: He sure will.

*(OPHELIA enters)*

CLAUDIUS: Ophelia! Hey!

OPHELIA: Hey guys! The whole family's hanging out again, huh?

GERTRUDE: Why should today be any different?

HAMLET: *(Jokingly)* Who organized this family reunion?

OLD KING: My brother, Cladius!

CLAUDIUS: Guilty!

OPHELIA: This family truly loves each other.

CLAUDIUS: You guys need to get home more often.

HAMLET: We know, but traveling is just so exhausting.

OPHELIA: Hamlet, we've actually got to go. My father wanted your help with something at his place.

HAMLET: Sure. I can take a stab at it.

GERTRUDE: Leaving so soon?

CLAUDIUS: But we love you so much.

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HAMLET: Love you too, Uncle. Hey, when we get back, I'll play you a round of "Kings and Peasants."

CLAUDIUS: I get to be King!

OPHELIA: It was great to see you. All of you.

GERTRUDE: Love you, both.

HAMLET: Love you guys.

CLAUDIUS: Gonna miss you, Little Buddy.

OLD KING: See you soon, Hamlet.

*(HAMLET exits, and we fade to black. In the darkness we hear a record playing backwards. Fade in on HAMLET, about to walk in the front door of his house. He stops, turns to the camera, and begins talking to us. It's exactly like before, but HAMLET is definitely wearing a different outfit)*

HAMLET: Things don't change at home. Yeah, right. Everything changes. A few months fly by, and my whole world is shattered. My father is mysteriously murdered, and my uncle marries my mom. Ew. Things are rotten in the state of Denmark.

*(HAMLET enters the house. There sits CLAUDIUS and GERTRUDE, exactly as before)*

HAMLET: Hey.

CLAUDIUS: Hamlet!

GERTRUDE: Hamlet! My sweet son, what are you doing home?

HAMLET: I needed some time away from school to deal with *(points at the two of them)* "this".

CLAUDIUS: You didn't come back for Thanksgiving.

HAMLET: Not much to be thankful for this year, "Dad".

GERTRUDE: We're here too, you know.

HAMLET: I know. And it's gross.

CLAUDIUS: Well, sit down, have some coffee. We'll pretend things never changed.

HAMLET: *(Sitting down)* Except that my uncle is now my dad.

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CLAUDIUS: *(Calling off)* You majesty! Your son's here!

HAMLET: That's not funny. You know that my dad was mysteriously murdered.

GERTRUDE: So, how do you like school?

HAMLET: It's okay, I guess. Things are tough right now.

GERTRUDE: Are you and Ophelia still together?

HAMLET: Well... It's kind of complicated.

*(OLD KING enters, but now he's a ghost)*

OLD KING: Hamlet, you little rascal! Welcome home!

HAMLET: *(Shocked)* Father!! Your ghost has returned to this ancient castle!

OLD KING: I miss you, boy! When are we going to hang out properly?

HAMLET: You want me to join you in the Afterlife? Oh, I'm so depressed, just say the word and I will!

OLD KING: I'll hold you to that!

GERTRUDE: He sure will.

HAMLET: Mother, you can see him too?!

*(OPHELIA enters)*

CLAUDIUS: Ophelia! Hey!

OPHELIA: Hey guys! The whole family's hanging out again, huh?

GERTRUDE: Why should today be any different?

HAMLET: Father, who killed you?

OLD KING: My brother, Claudius!

CLAUDIUS: Guilty!

OPHELIA: This family truly loves each other.

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CLAUDIUS: You guys need to get home more often.

HAMLET: So you can murder more of us, you devil of an uncle!

OPHELIA: Hamlet, we've actually got to go. My father wanted your help with something at his place.

HAMLET: Yes! Let us fly from this place, (*indicates CLAUDIUS*) and this wickedness.

GERTRUDE: Leaving so soon?

HAMLET: Don't worry, Mother, I'll be back soon... to kill you, oh Evil Uncle!

CLAUDIUS: But we love you so much.

HAMLET: You killed my father the King, and you've sent me, the rightful heir into hiding!

CLAUDIUS: I get to be King!

OPHELIA: It was great to see you. All of you.

GERTRUDE: Love you, both.

HAMLET: I hate you, Uncle.

CLAUDIUS: Gonna miss you, Little Buddy.

OLD KING: See you soon, Hamlet.

HAMLET: Um... That's creepy.

*(HAMLET exits, and we fade to black. In the darkness we hear a record playing backwards. Fade in on HAMLET, about to walk in the front door of his house. He stops, turns to the camera, and begins talking to us. It's exactly like before, but HAMLET is definitely wearing a different outfit)*

HAMLET: Things don't change at home?! Are you kidding me?! As soon as I leave the castle with Ophelia, she goes *crazy*... and tosses herself into the freezing river. My mother begs me to come back because she fears for her own safety!

*(HAMLET enters the house. CLAUDIUS is in his usual spot. GERTRUDE lies on the ground, dead)*

HAMLET: Mother! I came as quick as-- (*points to GERTRUDE*) what happened?! Is she dead?!

CLAUDIUS: Hamlet!

HAMLET: I leave the castle for five minutes.



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CLAUDIUS: You didn't come back for Thanksgiving.

HAMLET: Enough about Thanksgiving!!!!

CLAUDIUS: Well, sit down, have some coffee. We'll pretend things never changed.

HAMLET: You killed my Mother and my Father, and now you--

CLAUDIUS: *(Cuts him off, calling off)* Your majesty! Your son's here!

HAMLET: ...my father's dead! And joking that he's alive is just hurtful.

CLAUDIUS: Ophelia! Hey!

HAMLET: Stop it! Just stop it! They're all dead, and all you can do is tell bad jokes!!

CLAUDIUS: Guilty!

HAMLET: *(Drawing a sword)* Any last words, Villian?

CLAUDIUS: You guys need to get home more often.

HAMLET: Strange last words. Now I'm going to kill you.

CLAUDIUS: But we love you so much.

HAMLET: Then why did you kill my whole family?!

CLAUDIUS: I get to be King!

HAMLET: Thou art a villian! Die, Uncle, die!

*(HAMLET fatally stabs CLAUDIUS. CLAUDIUS falls to the ground)*

CLAUDIUS: *(Dying)* Gonna miss you, Little Buddy.

HAMLET: I come for you, Father.

*(HAMLET fatally stabs himself and dies. OLD KING peeks back in)*

OLD KING: See you soon, HAMLET.

*(We fade to Black, with the Twilight Zone music playing again. Fade in on MINERVA, and the rest of the IDEAS. Silence, as everyone tries to figure out what they just watched)*

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MINERVA: Ummmm...

IDEA 3: *(Eyes closed)* Shhhhhhh... it was beautiful.

*(IDEA 2 shoots her hand up to ask a question)*

IDEA 2: Oooo! Oooo! Oooo!

MINERVA: You don't have to raise your hand.

IDEA 2: *(Puts her hand down)* Then how will you know when I have a question?

MINERVA: You can just ask your question.

IDEA 2: Really? Wow...

*(Pause)*

MINERVA: Well...?

IDEA 2: Well what?

MINERVA: Are you going to ask your question?

IDEA 2: *(Shocked!)* How did you know I had a question?! I wasn't ever raising my hand!

MINERVA: *(Eyes closed, rubbing her temples)* Please ask your question before my head explodes.

IDEA 2: Has our Shakespeare dude gone crazy?

MINERVA: What?

IDEA 2: You know: mad, loco, nuts, cuckoo for Coco Puffs.

MINERVA: No, he's just got a little bit of writer's block.

IDEA 2: *(Nodding in agreement)* Mm-hmm. Yup. Okay. *(Slight pause)* Buuuuuuuuuut, he's also crazy, right?

MINERVA: No!

IDEA 2: Don't be embarrassed about it. I say we embrace it! Let's lean in to the craziness.

MINERVA: *(Disbelief)* Lean in to the craziness?

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IDEA 2: Great idea!! Let's go full on bonkers! Let's sing about it.

MINERVA: No. I do not sing.

IDEA 2: Lip sync?! Even better! Let's do this.

MINERVA: No--

IDEA 2: Too late. *(Calling out)* Hit it!

### **SCENE 4 – Music Video**

*(Insert Music Video Here)*

*(A crash and clatter is heard, as RANDOM comes stumbling on camera)*

IDEA 1: She's here!

MINERVA: Who is this?

RANDOM: *(Holding up a burrito)* I brought a burrito!

IDEA 1: I called for some extra help.

RANDOM: That's me!

IDEA 1: Our problems are solved.

RANDOM: *(Holding up a burrito)* Burrito!

IDEA 1: She's brilliant.

MINERVA: But who is she?

RANDOM: *(Looking at her burrito)* They have breakfast burritos, but not breakfast nachos... why are burritos so special?

IDEA 1: It's my cousin, Random Thought.

IDEA 2: *(Leaning in to whisper to MINERVA)* This lady is bad news.

IDEA 3: *(Also leaning in to whisper to MINERVA)* She's a black hole of ideas.

RANDOM: *(Examining her burrito)* It looks like a bullet. Ooo! I want a burrito gun.

MINERVA: Random Thought, it's time for you to go.

RANDOM: *(Holding her burrito like a gun)* Burrito Police, ma'am. What seems to be the problem?

MINERVA: We're very busy here. You need to leave.

RANDOM: I can help! *(Calling out)* Play my movie!

MINERVA: *(Looking around)* What? No, you can't just take over--

IDEA 2: She's a Random Thought. That's all she does: take over.

IDEA 3: And you better buckle up, Buckaroo, cuz it's gonna get wierd.

RANDOM: Yay! Watch my movie!

*(The large TV begins to play her movie)*

### **SCENE 3 - "Some Random Thoughts"**

*(STRAY, ERRATIC, LEFT FIELD, DAYDREAM, HAPHAZARD, and BETHANY are all waving at the camera)*

BETHANY: Role Call!

LEFT FIELD: *(Pointing to herself)* Left Field!

ERRATIC: *(Pointing to herself)* Erratic!

DAYDREAM: *(Pointing to herself)* Daydream!

STRAY: *(Pointing to herself)* Stray!

HAPHAZARD: *(Pointing to herself)* Haphazard!

BETHANY: *(Pointing to herself)* And Bethany Doodle-butt.

*(The other Random Thoughts giggle)*

BETHANY: It's a family name.

HAPHAZARD: *(To camera)* Prepare yourself...

STRAY: For the Best Idea...

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DAYDREAM: ...Ever!

HAPHAZARD: A play!

LEFT FIELD: A comedy.

ERRATIC: Or a tragedy?

LEFT FIELD: Oh! Both!

ERRATIC: A comedic tragedy!

LEFT FIELD: (*Scary*) Daaaark Huumoor...

DAYDREAM: Once upon a time, there was a guy.

STRAY: And a lady! And the guy liked the lady.

DAYDREAM: But the guy was dressed *like* a lady.

STRAY: And the lady was dressed like a guy.

DAYDREAM: Pretty guy!

STRAY: Handsome lady!

HAPHAZARD: Add more Rich People!

BETHANY: This story needs Rich People.

HAPHAZARD: (*Imitating snobby rich people*) Oh! I have so much money...

BETHANY: (*Also imitating snobby rich people*) ...And so much free time.

HAPHAZARD: Isn't Europe wonderful?

BETHANY: We should mess with people's heads!

HAPHAZARD: And--

BETHANY: They--

HAPHAZARD: Did.

BETHANY: (*Mind blowing gesture*) Boom.

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LEFT FIELD: Wait... they messed with the guy dressed like a lady?

ERRATIC: Or the lady dressed like a guy?

HAPHAZARD: Um... Yes!

DAYDREAM: Thunderstorm!

STRAY: There was a thunderstorm?

DAYDREAM: There was?

STRAY: Shipwreck!

DAYDREAM: Wait... we're on a ship now?

STRAY: What is happening here?

DAYDREAM: Magic fairies?

STRAY: Brilliant!

*(STRAY & DAYDREAM give two big thumbs up, and a huge grin)*

LEFT FIELD: Watch out! Now there's a sword fight!

ERRATIC: Between two families that hate each other!

LEFT FIELD: And then three witches try to stop the sword fight!

ERRATIC: Why?

LEFT FIELD: Why?

ERRATIC: Yeah, why?

LEFT FIELD: Because we just drank poison together.

ERRATIC: Oh no!

*(They both pretend to choke on poison and die)*

HAPHAZARD: Uh oh, here comes a bear.

BETHANY: A bear?

HAPHAZARD: A bear!

BETHANY: Our characters must exit!

HAPHAZARD: Exit stage left, *followed* by a bear.

*(BETHANY puts up her two hands, growls like a bear, and stops off, Camera Right)*

LEFT FIELD: Twins over here, twins over there.

ERRATIC: Fairy dust, fairy dust. Now you're a donkey.

DAYDREAM: Oh no! I almost married my sister.

STRAY: The bear is now the King of England.

LEFT FIELD: The end.

ERRATIC: You're welcome.

DAYDREAM: Mic drop.

*(They all exit. The TV is turned off, and we swivel back to MINERVA)*

MINERVA: Why was there a bear?

IDEA 1: That was my favorite part too!

MINERVA: No, seriously, why was there a bear?

IDEA 1: Picture this line: "Exit, pursued by a bear."

MINERVA: That would never work.

IDEA 1: You're absolutely right: I'm a Genius.

MINERVA: Wait... where did your cousin go?

IDEA 1: Beats me. But I'm sure we'll see her tonight.

MINERVA: What happens here at night?

IDEA 1: *(Gets super evil for a moment)* Extreme chaos.

MINERVA: *(Slightly taken aback)* What?

IDEA 1: *(Innocent)* What?

MINERVA: What did you just say?

IDEA 1: I dunno.

MINERVA: Did you...

IDEA 1: *(Looking at her thumbs)* Thumbs are weird.

**SCENE 6 - "Dream Party"**

MINERVA: You Ideas are no help at all!

IDEA 4: We gave you some awesome ideas, Nervous.

MINERVA: My name is not Nervous, it's Minerva. And you didn't suggest anything.

IDEA 4: I'm still thinking, Nervous.

MINERVA: Minerva! Now's your chance to contribute!

IDEA 4: *(Thinks real hard)* I really like that bear idea...

MINERVA: That would never work! And we're running out of time!!!

IDEA 4: Wow, you really need to calm down, Nervous.

MINERVA: ***MINERVA! MY NAME IS MINERVA.***

*(The lights begin to flicker, then return to normal)*

IDEA 2: *(Looking at the lights)* Whoa. When you get angry, you really get angry.

MINERVA: That wasn't me. Shakespeare must be falling asleep. We don't have much time!

IDEA 3: What're we gonna do?!

*(The lights flicker, and IDEA 3 falls asleep)*

IDEA 4: What happened to her?

MINERVA: We're losing Shakespeare! He's falling asleep, knocking us out one at a time!

IDEA 1: We better come up with an idea then.



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MINERVA: *(Clawing her own face off)* That's what I've been saying!

*(The lights flicker again, and IDEA 1 falls asleep)*

IDEA 2: We're running out of time!

MINERVA: *(Points to IDEA 2)* You! *(IDEA 2 points at herself)* What do you think?!

*(The lights flicker, and IDEA 2 falls asleep)*

MINERVA: Aaaaaahhh!!!!

IDEA 4: Aaaaaahhh!!

MINERVA: We're next!! What are we gonna do?!!

IDEA 4: Use the bear!

MINERVA: The bear?!

*(The lights flicker. IDEA 4 slowly start to go down)*

IDEA 4: *(Falling asleep)* The bear... from the Random Movie...

MINERVA: Why would a bear chase a character off stage?!

IDEA 4: *(Almost asleep)* ...the bear... it will work...

*(IDEA 4 falls asleep)*

MINERVA: Ah! I gotta get out of here!

*(The lights flicker again. MINERVA begins to find it difficult to walk and talk. She even starts to crawl)*

MINERVA: Must make it... must have Brilliant Idea... must... sleep.

*(MINERVA falls asleep. The lights slowly begin to fade to black. The instant they reach blackout, a mass of color and music hits the stage. Everyone [except MINERVA] jumps up and starts to dance and enjoy the rave party. RANDOM is DJ'ing the party)*

RANDOM: Yeah yeah yeah! Whaddup Ideas?! It's yer gurl, Random!

*(Cheers)*

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RANDOM: We'll be kicking this Dream Party for the next 7-8 hours. So buckle up, Buckaroos, cuz yer gurl Random has some crazy dreams for y'all!

IDEA 3: *(Dancing)* I love Dreams!!

IDEA 4: *(Dancing)* Dream Time is the best!!

IDEA 2: Look... Nervous fell asleep.

IDEA 1: I wonder which idea she eventually went with.

RANDOM: Whaddup Ideas?!! I've got a request from the Big Man upstairs. Our boy, Billy Shakespeare wants bears! Lots and lots of bears! Let's give him what he wants!!

IDEA 4: She went with my bears!!

IDEA 3: Bears? Do you think it'll work?

RANDOM: Who cares?! Dream Party!!

*(Everyone cheers! They all continue dancing and partying... like bears)*

*(Fade to blackout)*