

STAR SEARCH 2018
DRAMA MONOLOGUE LEVE FOUR

Last Night
by Justin Street

A Monologue for young adult actors (age 17-21)

The character is packing: folding clothes, sealing boxes, etc.. This can be mimed or done with minimal props.

I've always been a soldier. It's been my life for as long as I can remember. You see, they pick us out pretty young. The way they see it, it's no use wasting time trying to raise a lamb to be a wolf. Better to pick out the wolves early and train them. Make it their sole purpose for living: to be a good soldier.

Even back then, I was good. One of the things they look for is fearlessness, and I had that enough for two soldiers. There wasn't a wall or cliff I couldn't scale, there wasn't a desert I couldn't cross, there wasn't a depth I couldn't swim, there wasn't a foe I wouldn't face. No fear.

That is, until they give you one. There's only one fear that every good soldier is supposed to have, and that's the fear of disobeying an order.

If you do that, it's your life. Or worse, someone else's. And so that is the only fear I've known for most of my life. I disciplined myself so that it would never be a possibility, no matter what.

I've been with soldiers who didn't have that fear. They had others, but not that one. Funny how that works. Trust me, they are not the people you want to have your back. You usually don't have to worry too long about that, though. They don't tend to last long.

That's how it is. This is the might of Rome. We are the power of Rome.

Or were.

I don't feel very powerful now. And I'm leaving Rome.

I know what you're thinking. You can't leave Rome. Rome is everywhere. That's a fair point. It really is. Or is it? I'm not so sure anymore. Sure, they have their empire, and they have their money that we have to use, and they have their fees and taxes that we have to pay, and their rulers that we're supposed to honor. I could journey for days and days and still be in Rome. It's everywhere.

Or is it?

Are there places that Rome, or any empire for that matter, can't get to? Places that last. Places that won't get a new banner after a hundred years, or mint new coins, and won't be ground to dust by invading forces. Are there places that aren't won by swords and spears, but by something else?

Sorry. I've had a weird night. I was a soldier yesterday. Now, I don't know. I was on assignment. To be honest, it was a really strange post. I was part of a unit sent to guard a tomb. You have to understand, we were an elite group of soldiers, and here we were, guarding a dead guy.

They told us there could be trouble. But even then, I wasn't so sure. I mean, we'd gotten rid of lots of leaders before. Everyone thinks that their followers will come and try and take the body, but that never really happens. Once you take out the leader, the followers scatter. But - it's not in me to disobey orders, and there we were.

I would like to tell you what happened, but I'm afraid I'm not really sure. I can tell you that I woke up just as the sun was rising, laid out on the ground. I quickly woke up the rest of the unit, and that's when I saw that the tomb was open. My soldier's training took over and I ignored how my stomach dropped, and I ran to look inside. It was empty.

For the first time in my life, I failed a command. My greatest fear, come to life. We panicked, and left.

The rest of my unit ran to some connections they knew, and they were paid to tell a story other than what happened. I, on the other hand, went to see a friend of mine. Another soldier. He was a commander, and I don't know why, but he was the first person I thought of when we left the tomb.

He is a centurion, and I respect him. He also told me once, about the man who healed his servant just with his words. It just so happens that it's the man who ended up in that tomb that now sits empty. He told me that if I stayed here, I'd lose my life. That much I knew. But he also told me about some people I could seek out, who might help me find a new life. People who knew the healer, the one who is no longer dead.

I'm not sure what I'll do, but I think it's worth a try. I've just always been a soldier.

I don't know. Maybe I'll try fishing.