

THE BOOK OF SOULS...

by

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Book of Souls

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Characters: Cameron

Jason

Silvia

Life

Mom

Dad

Jenny

(The stage is set as a simple background. Cameron, Jason and Silvia are standing at centre stage.)

Cameron: I can't believe it. I just can't believe it!

Silvia: Is it true, Cameron? You found it?

Cameron: I have it here in my bag. **(Pulls out a large book from his bag.)** I've been searching for it for a long time.

Silvia: So, does it do what the internet says it does?

Jason: It doesn't look like much. It looks like any other book.

Cameron: It's the Book of Souls. This book brings back to life the person whose name you write in the book, but you have to have an image of the person's face in your mind.

Jason: Why don't you try it out?

Silvia: I don't think we should. I mean where could this book have come from? If it exists, imagine how terrifying the owner must be.

Jason: Don't listen to Silvia over here. We don't even know if this book does what you think it does.

Cameron: Okay, so how about a test run? We use it on someone that's dead, but someone we don't know.

Jason: We could bring back someone in history? How about Jesse Owens? I always loved him.

Silvia: Don't be silly. Why don't we bring back someone else like Nikola Tesla?

Cameron: Guys, there's hundreds of people we could bring back, this is just a test run.

(Writes a name in the book.)

(Rex enters stage right and runs around the stage barking.)

Cameron: Rex! You're back.

Jason: So, you had the power to bring back anyone in the world, anyone in history and you bring back a dog?

Cameron: I felt it was the safest thing to do. I mean, what if it went wrong? We don't want to see the evil of good people nor do we want to see the hatred of evil people. My dog was the safest option.

Silvia: It makes sense. But why him?

Cameron: Rex here was my dog when I was small. He died in the car accident. I loved him and it would have been nice to hug him one last time.

Life: **(Appears behind all of them.)** I see you've found my book!

Jason: Who the hell are you?

Life: I'm the owner of that book you're holding. You could call me the embodiment of Life.

Cameron: I've never heard of you.

Life: **(Sighs.)** Now that is not exactly my fault, is it? Everyone instead chooses to know my brother. Death, Death, Death! What's so important about him? Sure, he's mysterious and alluring, but so am I. I mean, when will stories be written about me and about what I can do?

Cameron: Isn't all you do is grant life?

Life: No. I can grant life to anyone I see fit. Well, I'll need my book for that.

Silvia: So, this is the Book of Souls?

Life: Yes. It is. I misplaced it a while ago so I had to go through many things just to find it here with you three.

Cameron: Are you going to take it back?

Life: It is my book. If you kept it now, then I'd have to do something to you three that I would like to otherwise avoid. Each second is precious. Right now, across the world, many babies, animals and plants are coming to life and each second you hold that book, my brother will be more inclined to act. The line between Life and Death is quite thin.

Jason: What can you do? Give us more life? Like that will change us anyway.

Life: You've got jokes, don't you, Jason?

Jason: H-how do you know my name?

Life: I gave you life. I know everyone's names like Cameron and Silvia here. Do you really think that's all I can do? Sure, my brother has the power to take your life. I can make your life quite painful though. Would you like to try it out? You're too young to understand this. But life can be more unfair than death.

Jason: I don't believe you. I think you're just all talk.

Silvia: I agree with Jason.

Life: **(Raises her hand.)** How about I torture your soul?

(Jason suddenly falls to the ground and yells in pain. Life begins to laugh.)

Life: I warned you, didn't I? Your soul comes from me. I can do whatever I want to do with it except remove it. That can be left to my silly brother. Do you want more?

Jason: N-no!

Cameron: That's enough. What do you want?

Life: **(Lowers her hand.)** Simple. I want my book. And, to show you I'm serious, I'll take the dog's soul now.

(Rex suddenly collapses to the ground.)

Silvia: You just said you can't take souls.

Life: Yes, that is true to a point. I should have said I can't take new souls. Souls that once were are my domain. Will you hand the book over now?

Cameron: **(Struggles to hand it over.)** I n-need it.

Life: Oh? And what is it you need it for?

Silvia: We all need it. It's why we came together in the first place. We all lost something and we...

Life: **(Makes crying noises.)** You think I care? I'm here for my book and I will have it.

Cameron: You don't have a heart, do you?

Life: No.

Silvia: Do you care for anyone, but yourself?

Life: **(Giggles.)** Heck to the no. All I do is my job same as everyone else in this nasty world.

My brother does his job. The others do theirs. So, if you don't mind, the book please?

Jason: Don't give it to her. We need it.

Life: Foolish boy, don't you learn?

Silvia: No matter what you do to us, we won't give it to you.

Cameron: What she said.

Life: Is that it? Is that the defence you've manage to muster?

Silvia: Just once? Please? All we're asking for is one use for each of us and you can take your book back.

Life: Who is it you all wish to bring back?

Cameron: My mother.

Jason: My dad.

Silvia: My sister.

(Life's phone rings and she answers.)

Life: Hello? Are you sure? They have? How could they have earned it that quickly? Fine.

(Ends the call.) It seems I have to allow it. Go ahead...

(Jason, Cameron and Silvia each take a turn to write the names. Jason's Dad enters stage right followed by Cameron's Mom and Jenny. They're all surprised and run to hug the person they've brought back.)

Mom: It's good to see you again, honey.

Dad: How's my star doing?

Jenny: Sis, how are you?

Cameron: Why? Why did you let us use the book?