

A Final Chance by Joseph Parker

Outline Report by Kieran Butcher

Premise

Suffering from a brain tumour, LOUISE is at death's door and is in a considerable amount of pain. She is concerned about dying without resolving an argument with her brother, MAX, over an accident that left him paralysed. THE GRIM REAPER grants LOUISE one pain free day to come to some resolution, she goes to visits MAX at his home. The argument is heated until LOUSIE's pain becomes too much. MAX relives the accident and realises he was to blame for the accident and forgives LOUISE moments before she dies.

Structure

The story follows a linear structure with the use of a single flashback, in which Max relives the accident that has left him paralysed (and he had previously blamed Louise). The whole story appears to take place over a singular day period, starting in what is presumed to be the morning and then finishing in the afternoon.

Character

The story follows the protagonist, Louise, and her desire to resolve an argument between herself and her brother Max. It is clear throughout what her needs are and what her wants are: She wants to die with a clear conscious and to have her brother back. In order to gain this she needs to resolve the argument and get Max to realise that she isn't to blame for the accident. Family is clearly important to Louise as well

as the fact that she is strong willed, this is shown as her dying day she is spent with her on a mission to resolve and make up with her brother. The relationship between her and her brother is clearly strained and has been put to the test. The only other relationship that Louise has is between her and the nurse, this isn't clearly developed as the nurse isn't mentioned much in being anything other than professional. The character of the nurse could be developed in order to establish the relationship between her and Louise.

Max is well rounded and clearly bitter and angry about the situation he is currently in (being paralysed). It is obvious that he doesn't want anything to do with Louise after the accident and blames her totally for the fact he can no longer work and is restricted to a wheelchair. At the end of the piece, Max shows his true self which is kind and caring, as he appears distraught to find out he was really to blame, but also that there has been this friction between him and his sister since the accident.

Tone

The tone is consistent throughout the piece, being one of an emotional one and creating a serious, dramatic atmosphere throughout the story. The tone relates back to the genre and is utilised well within the dramatic story.

General Feedback and Recommendations

It was shared that rather than just having the classic hooded figure represent The Grim Reaper, making him a funeral director was clever and certainly keeps the tone of a serious and dramatic story though-out and not lose off into a fantasy. The location that Louise is situated at the beginning of the

piece isn't clear, if she was in a hospital then surely she wouldn't be able to leave being so ill. However, it was discussed that if she was at home that there wouldn't be an issue with her leaving and would therefore still allow the story to work and be believable. The overall reveal of Max's realisation is good and defiantly a good use of a flashback as this is the easier and clearest way to display his realisation, etc. Overall, from reading the outline it appears that this could become dialogue heavy due to the lack of actions within the narrative. However if the dialogue is rich and well written it wouldn't be a problem within the context of this dramatic story. It is unclear in the outline as to whether the photograph is just simply of Max, which without explaining could lead the audience to confuse Louise and Max's relationship, believing them to be lovers rather than brother and sister. It could be an idea to have a family photo, parents and two children/teenagers, this would then stop any confusion regarding their relationship. A further idea is what if it is changed that the accident was actually Louise's fault and therefore Max is faced with the dilemma of forgiving his sister who's about to die or stay stubborn, this would certainly increase the drama of an already dramatic piece.