R5: Moondust

I've buried my love

In the moondust

4 Contestants Remaining

Everyone stands stunned, pure shock and rage overtaking them as they witness Esmeralda extinguish Thana and Amalthea in the matter of seconds. "Where did they go?!" someone shouts. Esme however does not answer. "It took you long enough to get here. I was beginning to worry you wouldn't show up," the woman takes a few steps forward. "I trust by now you've found my trinket box?" The Returns can't find anything to say. Esmeralda's gaze turns to Alexandria hiding away in a corner of the group. "Alex. You did a wonderful job bringing them to me." The Returns' attention turns to Alexandria who is trying to make herself invisible in a corner. Despite the attention, everyone watches as she walks up right next to Esmeralda. "Alexandria, you aren't serious.. Are you?" Khensu proclaims, astonishment in his voice. There's more than just a simple astonishment to his tone- there's agitation. Everyone attempts to confront Alex, but Esme quickly breaks the group apart and answers their demanding questions.

"I made her a promise," Esmeralda starts, "Bring the returns to me, and I'll give you back what you want most: A sane mind and Teresa." The amount of shame, pain, and sheer embarrassment in Alexandria's face is beyond visible.

A silence overtakes the group before Diana speaks out. "I don't understand why we are of importance to *you*. We have nothing you need." Esme answers, a look that indicates it should be obvious. But it certainly wasn't. "It isn't about what you had, *it's what you possessed.*" Esmeralda's figure transforms into one that is now Kida's. An uproar of absolute confusion and terror circulates through every Return.

"Let me introduce myself. I am Absinthe and my name was on a paper at my old cottage. But see, old man *Yensid*," the tone in her voice was filled with detest as she uttered his name, "crossed it out when I left his teachings. What a pity, right?" A slight moment of silence passes as she continues her monologuing.

"If I am correct, all of you possess a power you didn't have before in your actual time living. The only problem is your bodies are attached to those powers. So,… only when you all *finally* ***die***, can I obtain them." There's no lack of hesitation as the Returns immediately prepare to attack. They all recognize a threat when they hear and see one, there was no doubt about that. Absinthe chuckles. "I see I'm gonna have to take them from you based on your reactions… So how about we make this fun?"

In the blink of an eye, loved ones of the return's pasts appear out of a purple glow.

Nick.

Leila.

Lena.

Celeste.

Clarissa.

Emotions begin flowing through the remaining Returns faster than their blood can pump. Their reunion brings exclamations of joy but after one word, Absinthe snaps her fingers and the loved one's eyes turn purple. Some Returns keep attempting to talk to them or touch them, but the second they reach for their loved ones, they instantly recoil or attempt to attack them. Watching in amusement as the Returns fail time and time again to awaken their loved ones, Absinthe connects eyes with Kat. "I see you had no one in your past who loved you. *Let me show you my love"* Without hesitation, Kat disappears. Absinthe addresses the remaining returns. "I know who you're all really looking for. She's right here." The real Esmeralda appears, levitating and under a spell unconscious. "Your loved ones have a power just as you do, but it's their own. Cross them, and they *will* destroy you. Your lot can't defeat me. Only Esmerelda has that privilege. So give it up while you still can."

With that, the fight begins. You try to first pass your loved ones without killing them. You just need to find a way to hold them down and get to Esmerelda.

Jeff however can't bring himself to do it. Lena defeats him while she's under Absinthe's spell. Jeff falls and fades. His wedding ring falls to the ground. As the ring absorbs more magic and starts glowing, Absinthe quickly goes in to pick it up but Norbert stops her, exclaiming who it ***really*** belongs to.

Once all the returns defeat their loved ones, they reunite and decide to combine their powers. Hoping that will wake Esmeralda. When they do, time freezes, and all turns quiet.

Esmerelda comes back to consciousness and quickly regains her strength. Everyone is frozen by the return's combined power and Absinthe is in such a weakened state, she can no longer move. "All these years… After all those years of being kids together, practicing spells with each other,… being *sisters*." Esmerelda looks up at her rival, there's an indescribable pained look on her face that soon turns to an incomparable anger. "You do ***this***." Absinthe murmurs in weakness "Esme…" Esmeralda interrupts and shouts an incantation, "CONSUMMARE EIUS!" A bright white light illuminates the forest, far too bright to see past.

As the light diminishes, Absinthe disappears just as the fallen returns before did when they died. The returns stand in shock as she fades from existence. The purple fades from their loved one's eyes and they wake up. Returns can reunite with their loved ones as they see fit. As reunions envelop the field in love and overwhelming joy, the missing judges soon swarm in, their faces astonished and relieved to see the group alive and having reached Esmeralda. As the judges soon swarm her, a slightly weakened moan escapes from Esme. Khensu and Brianne help her up as she looks around at her many saviors. "Thank you everyone,… for everything. I tried to fight her control, but she simply was… too powerful."

Esmerelda looks around at the chaos, pain, and damage that Absinthe had caused, and can't help but feel responsible for the fallen returns' anguish and torture. "I'm sorry… for all the pain she caused." Returns may answer anyway that they'd like. Esmerelda utters after a moment, "Let me make up for it." In a second, the fallen returns all the way from the beginning are brought back. "As a reward, I can offer you your own path from here. You can choose to stay here with your past and present loved ones with a whole new life, or you can choose to go back to your present time before your death, so you may prevent it, or as a third choice, you may choose to finally rest peacefully in death."

The returns can choose whichever ending they'd like for themselves.

(ONE WINNER)

REQUIREMENTS:

- You must show the two character's deaths
- You must show Absinthe's reveal
- You must show your NPC appearing

- ➢ You must show your final decision

DEADLINE : July 14th, 2021 (2 week extensions available (1 each ask))

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- ➢ I know you must all have A LOT of questions, feel free to ask the judges if you're confused about anything in the plot!
- ➢ Anyone wanting to plot with judges can privately message them via discord.
- ➢ **Above *all* else, remember to have fun! Take breaks, stay healthy, and stay hydrated!**

FROM THE JUDGES

BETH - You guys seriously have gotten so far! I'm so glad I got to work with you all and I ***lived*** to watch you guys's rounds. Every time I saw one, it would bring me back to when I first saw that you all auditioned and I fangirled like a doofus. I can't thank you guys enough for your support and making this RP what it is, because I did absolutely nothing. You all are my best friends and I'm *never* deleting this server lol. You guys… Every. Single. One. Of. You… made this Roleplay what it is. I met so many wonderful people here and I have you all to thank for that. You guys make me laugh, make me cry, and I can't describe how thankful I am that you all took the chance and made it this far. You guys have shown me what it means to be an editor, a friend, and how to do better in every aspect of it. I'm SO proud of you guys, and I can't wait for your last rounds!

AFRICA -

JEN - Nothing in this Roleplay would be what it is without you guys. All your hard work, hours of banter in vc, and the joy of seeing your reactions to each twist were so worth it. You all worked together so well and put in such a huge effort to make this RP what it has been - a great experience and a chance to get to know wonderful editors and moreso, wonderful people. You all should be so proud of yourselves, because I certainly am.

JOZIE -

JOANNA - (she did leave back a few things about you guys I'm sure you'd like to hear) - Pulled from DM's - Honestly they were so amazing with their auditions, (and rightfully so) Also, I love the fact that they are all such good friends that easily with just a week of knowing each other lol. (Later) Me: There's endless memes on voice chat lol what are we supposed to do? Her: Well I mean at least they're having fun lol That's the whole point. (Later) EVERYONE DOES SO GOOD. Everytime I watch their rounds, I just have to tell them each detail that was amazing about it. And it's too hard hold back lol