

**HOUSE OF SOL**

by  
Kyoung H. Park

Kyoung H. Park  
248 McKibbin Street, 3H  
Brooklyn, New York 11206  
(917) 319-5147  
kyoungpark@hotmail.com

THE FAMILY

SOL	<i>18. The son. Mixed-race, not of one ethnicity. Heir to Microbits, the world's second largest computer technology corporation.</i>
VICTOR	<i>50. His father. South American. CEO of Microbits.</i>
CASSANDRA*	<i>45. His mother's ghost. North African, not African-American.</i>
HELENA*	<i>30. His step-mother. East Asian, CEO of Sunset, the world's third largest technology corporation.</i>
MARK	<i>22. His lover. West Coast American.</i>

ACT I: SCENE 1: THE MOTHER  
SCENE 2: THE PARENTS  
SCENE 3: THE LOVER

ACT II: SCENE 1: OLD ORDER  
SCENE 2: DISORDER  
SCENE 3: NEW ORDER

ACT III: SCENE 1: THE PLAGUE  
SCENE 2: THE VIRUS  
SCENE 3: Y2K

TIME AND PLACE

A 14<sup>th</sup> century gothic castle in White Waters, a fictitious Arctic town.  
December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1999.

The action takes place in one day.

*\*Note: As in ancient Greek tragedies, there should be no women on stage. Cassandra and Helena may be portrayed by transvestites or transgender male actors. Dance and song are favorable, melodrama not.*

**ACT I**

**THE MOTHER**

*At rise: CASSANDRA, (45) sits under a spotlight wearing a white nightgown. She has long gray hair and a pale face.*

**CASSANDRA**

Oh pain, I am in pain!

Fate has shut the doors of heaven from me,  
sending me back to this tormenting Earth  
with a most wretched plague as my vision,  
and to save the house of Sol as my mission.

Sol, born from my wounded womb,  
lives with a most relentless curse.  
And unless I obstruct the house's tragic fate,  
I will lose my only chance for eternal rest.

(Or rather, eternal doom  
for the wretched life I have prematurely left.)

Unearthed, I rise from death,  
to be lost in strict reality.  
Though not flesh and blood,  
I feel life finite once again.

Oh, what woe it is to live!  
To see, but know so little.  
Oh, what woe it is to breathe;  
to inhale air, so cold and bitter.

Sun, let there be light!  
Sol, illuminate our plight!

*As the lights fade, Cassandra disappears.*

THE PARENTS

*It is now morning. We are inside a 14<sup>th</sup> century gothic castle in White Waters, a fictitious town in Alaska. It is snowing outside.*

*There's a small wooden bar, a fireplace and a standing clock in the back. The living room is decorated with a minimal amount of wooden furniture. An elegant glass table rests in the middle.*

*SOL (18) and HELENA (30) enter.*

HELENA

White Waters is sick.  
The people are sick.  
This whole world is sick.

SOL

There's nothing we can do.

HELENA

But we must do something.

SOL

Give it time.

HELENA

How can they think the world is ending?  
And with a *virus* for crying out loud!  
A virus that will spread through all of our computers  
leaving us homeless, starving and poor.

SOL

We will know the truth tonight.

HELENA

Tonight is too late.  
Y2K  
is scaring all of our investors  
away.

SOL

Helena, we cannot heal other people's fear.

HELENA

But we *control* their computers.

SOL

*(Exiting.)* It doesn't matter.  
There's nothing we should do.

HELENA

*Wait!*  
I hope you understand.  
Why I've brought you here.  
Your father hasn't shed a tear  
since Cassandra passed away.  
He's been quiet,  
taking care of business,  
alone,  
afraid,  
angry.

SOL

*(Trying to leave.)* His anger doesn't concern me.

HELENA

I've told him we can help.  
Now the three of us are in it  
together.  
We are family—

SOL

*(Aside.)* Family was what I used to have  
before Mother decided to die.

HELENA

I mean, your father and I  
are very much in love—  
*and married.*

SOL

*(Aside.)* If only you knew,  
what choler stirs inside me.

HELENA

And I hope you can see  
I've had no life beyond my company—  
Sunset is, *was* my life.  
But now, I've got Victor and you.  
I'm sorry for your loss.

SOL

I don't want your pity.

HELENA

I always admired the way  
she put up with Victor  
There were times I thought  
he was simply  
going crazy.

SOL

If only he was crazy.

HELENA

But even at his worst,  
she was capable of stopping him.

SOL

But to stop him  
would take so much more.

HELENA

Oh, how she loved you, Sol!  
When she found out she was pregnant,  
she'd make sure everyone knew  
you were inside of her.

SOL

Now she's inside of me.

HELENA

And my only wish is that  
I can do the same  
when I have my own.  
I want to be able to love  
my children  
as much as Cassandra loved you.

SOL

I am not here to save you.

HELENA

What?

SOL

He's hurt you,  
hasn't he?

HELENA

We can change him.

SOL

That's what Mother used to say.

HELENA

You're his son,  
he will listen to you.

SOL

*(Exiting.)* Welcome to the family Helena.  
It's a pleasure to have you join us.

HELENA

Hey!

Look at what you've got.

My father abandoned my mother  
and four sisters and never looked back!  
And my mother...

One day, she saw me using a computer  
we had picked off the streets  
and the only thing she suggested  
was that I become a secretary,  
but I said no.

"I'm not going to work for a man.  
Serve coffee praying I don't get fired.  
I'm going to study these *computers*  
and be the boss."

That's what I said—  
when I was eight.

You should be thankful  
your Father and I expect  
even bigger things from you.

By your age, we were  
working out in the field—  
using cutting edge technology.

Bill Gates, Victor, me—  
we were all good friends.

But of course,  
only one of us thought of  
Windows...

SOL

I need to rest.

HELENA

You're lucky Sol.  
Your father's building bridges  
across this whole world for  
you.  
He's creating technology that  
you'll inherit  
to take command of everyone's lives.  
When he's gone,  
when we're gone,  
all that time we have put into our careers  
will not become our legacy, but  
yours.

SOL

So that makes us family?

HELENA

All I want is for  
you to talk to him.  
Tell Victor that he's trying too hard.  
He only thinks about  
your future,  
as if it was his own, and  
you've got to stand up against him.  
Grow up, be a man,  
and *get him to stop*,  
the way  
your mother did.

SOL

My mother's dead.

HELENA

Which is why now this is  
your responsibility.

SOL

Aren't you listening to me?  
*My mother's dead.*  
Figure out why.

*VICTOR (50) slams the doors open and  
marches in the castle carrying lumber and  
an ax.*

VICTOR

*God damn,*  
it's freezing out there.

HELENA

Surprise! I had him flown in  
from New York.

VICTOR

Well, what are you doing just  
standing there?  
Someone's got to chop the wood  
before it gets dark.

HELENA

Victor...

VICTOR

The temperature drops below zero  
at night!  
Tomorrow, the rescue rangers will  
find us frozen like icicles  
unless we keep the fire going.  
Right Sol?

SOL

Right.

VICTOR

Here, you know what to do.

*Victor hands an ax to Sol.*

A little frostbite now and then  
will make a man outta' you boy.

*Sol exits with the ax. Victor takes Helena in  
his arms content.*

Thank you dear.  
It's a wonderful surprise.

*He tries to kiss her. She turns away.*

Helena...

HELENA

You have to control your temper.

VICTOR  
It's this damned virus—

HELENA  
You know that it's not real.

VICTOR  
But our losses,  
they are.

HELENA  
Would you stop thinking  
about the money?

VICTOR  
If this was about the money,  
then I'd wish I didn't have any!

*She exits. He takes a lock of blonde hair from  
his pocket, tied together with a pink ribbon.*

Woman, I am not sorry.  
You don't know  
what it takes to be a man.

*Sol enters carrying chopped lumber.*

It's freezing out there,  
isn't it?

SOL  
(Feeding the fire.) Feels like New Years.

VICTOR  
Apparently (the)  
Apocalypse  
is coming.

SOL  
So I hear.

VICTOR  
I found this. It's her hair.  
What should we do with this?

SOL  
Bury it, for all I care.

Now listen...  
VICTOR

(Curt.) Yes?  
SOL

Don't be impossible.  
I just want to talk to you.  
Where have you been?  
VICTOR

Home.  
SOL

White Waters is your home.  
Why didn't you come to the funeral?  
Can't you even bury your own?  
What are you gonna' do with me when I die?  
Let my body rot all alone?  
VICTOR

I've been thinking.  
SOL

Well, while you've been  
lost in thought,  
Y2K has been jeopardizing  
our entire fortune.  
VICTOR

But you know  
nothing's going to happen.  
SOL

You tell that to them.  
VICTOR

There's no reason to be afraid.  
SOL

*Victor inflates his chest, as a predator,  
getting ready to fight.*

Your Father has no fear.  
I do nothing but love you.  
VICTOR

SOL

Like you love her!  
You started beating Helena,  
haven't you?

VICTOR

What did she say?

SOL

She's scared of you—  
scared for her life—

VICTOR

*That woman!*

SOL

It amazes me how love  
hurts so much.

VICTOR

You begin to sound like her.  
She was a selfish woman,  
your mother.  
(You know that?)  
You could never tell  
'cause she was the only person you loved.  
Everything was about her.  
What about me?

SOL

You  
are  
what  
I've  
been  
thinking  
about.

VICTOR

I've been working my ass off for you,  
to make you the man you are.

*Victor fakes a jab at Sol.*

VICTOR

Stand up for yourself boy,  
are you going to let me hit you,

just like that?  
Are you waiting for mother  
to come save you?

SOL

I don't want to fight you.

VICTOR

One day, when you become a father,  
you'll understand.  
Right Cassandra?

*He fakes another jab.*

SOL

She's not here.

VICTOR

Give him a sign.  
Tell him that he'll understand.

SOL

She's dead Father,  
gone.  
Leave her alone.

VICTOR

How can you say that?  
She's the one that left us  
alone!

HELENA (OFF-STAGE)

Car!

*Helena runs in.*

SOL

What?

HELENA

They found us!

VICTOR

What car?

HELENA

Over there.

*Victor and Sol look out a window.*

It's driving up here, isn't it?  
It's coming for us.

SOL

Who's coming for you?

HELENA

The papers!  
They found out we're married.  
They'll make *it* a scandal.  
Victor, you know they will.  
The Post loves makin' us look like  
shit.  
And the Herald.  
And the Globe.  
Jealous sons of bitches.  
Just because we've got money  
they think they can make  
clowns out of us.  
What if it's the paparazzi?

VICTOR

Helena, get back in the kitchen!

HELENA

"CEO of Microbits marries  
CEO of Sunset."  
You think that couldn't get in the news?  
Oh my God, that definitely is for us.  
Sol, you stop 'em.

SOL

*What?*

HELENA

Yes, stop them.  
If it's the press—

VICTOR

Tell them we're not here.

SOL

Deal with your own problems.

HELENA

Sol!

SOL

You sleep where you make your bed.

VICTOR

Just do it you little jerk.  
No one's after you.  
It's us they want.

HELENA

C'mon Victor, let's hide.

VICTOR

Son, don't mess this up.  
Listen to your mother.

*Helena and Victor exit.*

THE LOVER

*There's a knock at the door. Sol opens it  
and MARK (24) enters.*

MARK  
Ah, so here you are!

SOL  
Don't-how... What?

MARK  
Give me a kiss.

SOL  
You have to go back,  
go away,  
if my father sees you—

MARK  
Are you crazy? It took me  
twelve hours just to fly here, plus another  
two in the car.  
And look at the blizzard out there!  
It's cold,  
I'm tired, and  
I'm staying.

*Mark enters.*

SOL  
Mark  
you cannot stay here.

MARK  
Look, it's important.  
I bring news from civilization.

SOL  
About the virus?

MARK  
What?

SOL  
Tell me it's coming.  
Tell me it's real.

MARK

My love,  
my painful love.

SOL

Tell me that when the sun  
goes down,  
this will all come to an end.

MARK

Oh Sol...  
I'm so sorry!

SOL

Tell me Y2K will spread  
through our computers and  
destroy life as we know it.

MARK

Y2K? Y2K?  
Sol, if only you knew!

SOL

Be quiet.

MARK

Let me hold you—

SOL

Get your hands off me.

MARK

C'mon—

SOL

Mark!

MARK

I'm serious.  
I'm here for you.

SOL

I can't handle more information.  
They're here—both of them.  
She had me flown in from the city  
and she's expecting me to accept them  
like nothing has happened.

Like she had nothing to do with it...  
Like he didn't do anything...  
Like she wasn't dead...  
God, what am I going to do?

MARK

Come here...

*Sol leans on Mark's shoulder.*

Can you feel it?

SOL

Pervert.

MARK

You turn me on so much—

SOL

Aagh—

MARK

I love you Sol.

SOL

Mark...

MARK

Where's your room?

SOL

Don't do this to me.  
I must be tempered,  
not tempted.

MARK

Would you just listen to me?

*Cassandra descends from the skies.*

SOL

My heart's with my mother,  
dead from passion  
with no reason.

MARK

Listen, we have to talk!

SOL

But what good is it,  
when the past's not gone?  
When flame and fury  
are not so wrong?

CASSANDRA

Peace my child,  
I won't be long.

SOL

Everyone's afraid  
that Y2K  
will make life's logic,  
crumble down to nothing.  
But is there anything worthy  
left here Mark?  
This house is dead!

CASSANDRA

The clock is ticking.

MARK

Sol, I don't know how to say this.

CASSANDRA

There's so little time.

MARK

My head's soaring.

CASSANDRA

How to stop a plague?

MARK

My heart's sinking.

CASSANDRA

Why are we so afraid?

MARK

Oh, but I can't tell you...  
I can't!

CASSANDRA

We can stop this plague!

MARK

*(Crying.)* I love you Sol.  
I love you  
too much—

SOL

Shhh.  
Just kiss me.  
With your lips,  
let me feel warmth  
one last time...  
Tonight,  
frozen passion  
shall be my crime.

*They kiss. Lights fade to black.*

**END OF ACT I**