**Revenge of the Trickster**

CHARACTERS:

Robin G.: She/her/hers. Mid 30s. A little gangly. Sort of that classic villain in a Disney movie where they just look a little evil. Some accent that is different than Beauregard’s and Evangeline’s.

Beauregard Dumas: They/them/theirs. In late 20s, tall with a somewhat imposing stature if it weren’t for their nervousness and soft-spoken nature. Budding relationship with childhood friend Evangeline cut short due to secret deal with her father last summer.

Evangeline Miller: She/her/hers. Mid 20s. Beautiful with a sharp mind and strong will. Abrasive to some but really, it’s just because she’s a confident and self-assured woman. Hasn’t seen her long-time friend and crush Beauregard since last summer when they mysteriously left abruptly. Recently she’s found out it has something to do with her father unbeknownst to both Robin and Beauregard.

SCENE ONE

*Enter Robin except NOT onstage. She emerges from behind the audience and starts to set up a video camera and tripod in front of center stage.*

Robin: Aha! Excellent. (*to audience members*) Pardon me, pardon me. Important person coming through.

*Robin climbs on to stage and saunters over to be in front of the camera. Making sure her hair is in place and clothes look put together.*

Robin: Summer Revenge Chronicle Series Entry #1: Setting the Scene! (*claps hands together*) You have to make sure the audio is all synced up! Now (*clears throat*), you will often find that miscommunication-

*Enter Beauregard*

Beauregard: Robin! Robin! Hello!

Robin: (*to the crowd*) You’ve got to be fucking kidding me, not right now. This is far too early for everything.

*Robin gives a small wave to Beauregard shifting her attention away from the camera.*

Robin: Beauregard. Hello.

Beauregard: It’s been so long ho-

Robin: Well, whose fault is that?

Beauregard: I- how are you? You look well.

Robin: I am very well! I’m sure you’ve heard I’ve been staying with Evangeline and her family since the summer.

Beauregard: Yes, I have. I’m sure it’s been lovely. Her family are such- kind people.

Robin: Oh, absolutely! We’ve been getting along quite well actually.

Beauregard: Yes, I’ve heard. That’s… great.

Robin: It is isn’t it?

*The two exchange awkward stares and an even more awkward silence. Robin, growing bored, shatters it.*

Robin: So! You’ve come crawling back hm? Sneaking around old stomping grounds, showing up unannounced and such.

Beauregard: I- well this town is home. I’ve been dealing with quite a bit of stress lately it only felt right to come back here.

Robin: Right. I’m sure that’s it.

Beauregard: (*nervously*) What are you insinuating?

Robin: Ah, feigning ignorance. Is that the game you want to play?

Beauregard: I’m not sure I understand.

Robin: Your abrupt visit is simply a search for relaxation? It has absolutely nothing to do with Evangeline’s father falling ill? Are you perhaps worried about a death bed confession?

Beauregard: I- I can’t say I know what you’re talking about. You see there’s been a lot of commotion at the offices and I just needed-

Robin: Christ Beauregard, is it really so hard to be honest?

*Again, a bout of silence. This time Beauregard’s resolve breaks.*

Beauregard: There’s more to it than that.

Robin: I mean perhaps although honestly don't you think the longer you hide it the worse it becomes; I mean I'm not as close as you are with her as you are obviously. But, in the short time it was taking us to deeply acquaint ourselves she strikes me as somebody who doesn't like things hidden. And you've been a friend of hers for so long I can't imagine what it would do to her to find out what you’ve been keeping

Beauregard: I-I- she would understand!

Robin: She would? I have full faith that you know her better than I do I mean what you’ve been friends since you were kids. (*chuckles*) I remember she brought up one story from that trip to Marseille-

Beauregard: She told you that?

Robin: We have gotten rather close in your absence but as you know it wouldn't be the first time disappointing her is my point so why not just be honest? “Honesty is the best policy” Isn’t that what they always say?

Beauregard: I can't believe she told you that. She still thinks about it.

Robin: Um, not too often just a handful of time she's brought it up. I- *you* just up and leaving was quite um (pauses)well traumatic is pushing things it too far but it can be heartbreaking. But your return has brought on such excitement in her. Though I do think she is (*trails off*)

Beauregard: What? What were you going to say?

Robin: Oh, she’s just perhaps not as excited as you might hope. Hm, yes, I don't like to be the bearer of bad news not by any means, but I do think people fall into new routines. Especially when they’ve been hurt it's best to just try to move on.

Beauregard: Yes, I guess. I mean yes that that makes sense. (*starting to wring their hands*) Trying to get back on track and everything.

Robin: But you know her far better than I do! So, don't take my word for it I'm sure she'll be back in a little.

Beauregard: She’s not at home? It’s rather early to be out.

Robin: (*laughs*) Were you expecting her to waits? Apologies, yes, she's gone into town. I was just about to go meet her there. We agreed to do a little shopping I needed to make the usual run and she's always so happy to tag along.

Beauregard: She hates going into town. She’s probably just being too polite in accepting to go. It really does panic her to go there.

Robin: (*ignoring* Beauregard) I'm sure we'll be back this evening, not very late. Yes, you should come around before dinner since you’ll probably leave shortly after we eat.

Beauregard: I’ve actually allowed myself a break from my duties this first week I’m back so I’m able to stay rather late.

Robin: Oh. How exciting. Well, it could be quite a fun meal together. *Friends* reunited at last.

Beauregard: Yes, yes. I guess I should um, I guess I should go.

Robin: Don’t go running away again (*laughs*).

Beauregard: (*sternly*) I won’t. Listen Robin, you may know about the deal with Evangeline’s father, but you don’t know the first thing about what happened that summer! My character should not be judged and condemned on the basis of one act.

*Robin walks over to Beauregard and stands beside and half behind them with a hand on their shoulder*

Robin: Easy, easy Beauregard. I didn’t mean to strike a sore spot.

Beauregard: Right, yes of course. I'm- I'm sorry I don't know why I got so-

Robin: It's okay, it's okay. Go out! Enjoy being home!

*Robin starts to walk Beauregard over to stage right*

Robin: I’ll give you a call and let you know when we return. Or rather, I’ll send someone to go find you.

Beauregard: She's really not at home?

Robin: Yes, you see the last time she waited for you, you didn’t show. So why wait again? Hm?

Beauregard: There were- there are reasons for that. My father, the proposal and the deal-

Robin: Yes, yes, I'm sure. Listen, I'm on your side. I'm positive everything will work out as it should.

Beauregard: Yes, I hope so

*Robin starts to push Beauregard to go offstage*

Beauregard: Someone will come and find me, later right? I don’t want to be late.

Robin: Yes, yes. I’ll send Thomas or someone to get you don’t worry.

Beauregard: Okay. Okay. (*pauses*)Tell her I say hello when you see her? Please?

Robin: Yes, yes. I shall. Goodbye now.

*Robin lightly/not so lightly pushes them offstage*

Beauregard: (offstage) Goodbye!

Robin: (*to the audience*) Christ, I thought they’d never leave.

SCENE TWO

*Enter Evangeline*

Evangeline: Robin! Good morning!

Robin: (*surprised*)Good morning to you! It’s rather early isn’t it?

Evangeline: Not at all! Beau is finally back, and I want to be able to greet them as soon as possible!

Robin: Well, I’m afraid they won’t be coming by until the evening.

Evangeline: Oh. Really?

Robin: Yes, I wouldn’t worry about it too much. You know how they can get so wrapped up in themse- in things.

Evangeline: We haven’t seen each other in so long I just thought- that’s very unlike Beau.

Robin: True but, people change for worse or better. I mean, if I hadn't seen someone, I cared about in months I would jump at the earliest chance to see them. To each their own, I guess.

Evangeline: When Beau used to visit from university on breaks, they’d get here right as the sun came up even if they’d arrived late the night before. They’d always be here.

Robin: Things can come up you know.

Evangeline: Yes, I’m aware of that fact.

*Evangeline starts to pace the stage in a mix of frustration and nervousness*

Robin: What could be more important I can’t say. Usually when you truly care for someone you make the time, but you know life goes on and people often change. Or find other important things. And people. Beauregard has always been so… fickle.

*Evangeline stops pacing and whips around to face Robin*

Evangeline: You don't have to be so harsh you know.

Robin: I’m just to be hone-

Evangeline: And frankly you haven’t known Beau for as long or as well as I do! And it is totally inappropriate and unreasonable for you to judge their character.

Robin: (*stunned*) My apologies. I was just attempting to convey the reality of your situation. I didn’t mean to provoke such anger.

Evangeline: It’s alright. I’m sorry as well I shouldn’t have lost my temper like that.

Robin: I just don’t understand how you’re so willing to let someone like them back into your life. Especially after last summer.

Evangeline: Last summer was complicated.

Robin: (*to herself*)I’m sure it was.

Evangeline: What?

Robin: Oh nothing! I simply was thinking about how ominous my talk of this evening has been. It was not my intention to rile you up or worry you.

Evangeline: I’m sure it was.

Robin: (*tense*) Right, well. Tonight’s dinner should be fun. Reunions are so often full of peaceful joy. A dramatic reunion (*chuckles*) what a soon-to-be oxymoron.

*Robin walks over to Evangeline and places a hand on her shoulder*

Robin: You and I are going to take a trip into town.

Evangeline: Town?

*Robin ignores her and in a similar fashion to earlier starts to lead Evangeline towards stage left and off-stage*

Robin: Staying holed up in that big house of yours has left you irritable. I’ve arranged everything so no refusing me now. It’ll be wonderful. Now, go get yourself more put together.

Evangeline: They’re not just- I don’t know if I feel totally comfortable with this.

Robin: It was your father’s idea.

Evangeline: What?

Robin: Yes. You can take it up with him if you’re so keen to refuse. Though I can’t imagine any stress will do him good at the moment. With his failing health and all.

*Evangeline brushes Robin’s hand off. She stands up straight, there’s a noticeable shift in her demeanor.*

Evangeline: I’ll go get ready. Give me 15 minutes.

Robin: Excellent.

*Robin waves Evangeline as she leaves the stage.*

SCENE THREE

*Robin stops waving and lets out a sigh of disgust then checks her surroundings. She turns to address the camera and audience once more.*

Robin: Finally! You get rid of one just for another to pop right in. You’re still recording right? It’s always the worst when you go through a whole routine and rant just to find out nothing recorded, or your audio is completely unsalvageable.

*Robin straightens out her clothes and fidgets with her hair. Everything has to be in its proper place. It all has to look perfect.*

Robin: Now! Where was I? Right, miscommunication.

*Robin clears her throat and stands perfectly upright.*

Robin: You will often find that miscommunication is the crux of many a great story. I mean, for example, *Romeo and Juliet*! If the idiots would have waited just a few minutes longer to realize the other wasn’t actually dead maybe, we would’ve had a comedy on our hands! Of course, things are much easier said than done, as is the nature of this world. Now, while it may be ridiculous, it is a marvelous tool for revenge.

*Robin walks to the edge of the stage and crouches down to stare directly into the camera.*

Robin: You see while last summer was well, a bummer (*laughs*) for our little love birds it was quite *aggravating* for me. A simple deal was struck, between me, Beauregard and dear Mr. Miller Evangeline’s father. Beauregard after their father’s death inherited a grand trading company. In any port around the world, you will see the name Dumas on a ship or crate. Now if we navigate life by Austen’s teachings, we all know, ahem, “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife”. Pretty good, huh? So, my brilliant mind came up with a wonderful money-making plan. You see while drugs are illegal and do require quite a bit of secrecy, the reward is so worth the risk.

*Robin starts to pace the stage.*

Robin: There will be more on that later though! I need to capture how Beau recounts the tale first. The truth can be rather subjective. Regardless, the point is, while Mr. Miller allowed for this little friendship between Evangeline and Beau, he had decided long ago his daughter would go to noble blood. Not some merchant heir. And for the two to suddenly become lovers after being such close companions the change would surely ruin the family’s reputation I mean, what a scandal. I threatened Beauregard with revealing our little deal to Evangeline. You see I’d get the enjoyment of making money and watching two grand family names crumble. Make the name Goodfellow mean something in the process. But!

*Robin abruptly stops pacing. Anger taking over she starts making her way back over to the camera.*

Robin: Beauregard had to be the honorable fuckhead they are! While Mr. Miller and I spent the evening drinking champagne and toasting to a glorious future that “noble” bastard tricked us! They refused my proposal and cut ties with the Millers! They gave up thousands, they gave up riches and they fooled me! A dirty little trick, dirty little trickster they are. Escaping into the night without a word. Leaving us dumbstruck. Leaving me!

*Robin is now crouched at the edge of the stage staring directly into the camera*

Robin: I’m the trickster! I’m the one who wins! Me! No one else!

*Robin takes a deep breath and moves to sit with feet dangling off the stage. She once again collects herself.*

Robin: Thankfully the threat of ruining Evangeline was able to stop them from going to the authorities. (*disgusted*)I guess they really do love that girl. But I lost! Don’t you see how this can’t stand? So now it’s time for my trick. For *my* win. Of course, things are much easier said than done as is the nature of this world. But let’s see if I can ruin a lifelong friendship in 24 hours, hm? Actually, (*anger turning to giddiness*) let’s make it 12! Tack on the whole family while we’re at it. Yes, four entries over the course of this day. The girl is bit more confrontational or frankly bitchier than I anticipated. No matter. It’s all still going to plan. I’ll capture their words. Their lies! Insecure love is so easy to corrupt and break. They’ll pay. If my future plan was destroyed, so shall Beauregard’s. So shall Evangeline’s. See you soon.

*As Robin starts waving goodbye to the camera with a sinister smile and unsettling calmness, the lights go off.*

THE END.