

## THE EIGHTH VIGNETTE: 24 YEARS LATER...

*(Optional "Entr'acte" may play. After which, CHRISTOPHER appears.)*

**CHRISTOPHER:** Hello. I haven't introduced myself 'til now, because I wasn't part of the story 'til now. Music is a "language which the soul alone understands..." As you may have noticed, in this tale, I don't have a song – not of my own. And that is because I have no soul of my own.

Twenty-four years ago, my mother was not long for this Earth – her soul was not long for this Earth. But she was "saved." I was too was "saved," from what, I don't know. The universe likes balance. When I was born, an extra life came into this world, but not the accompanying soul. And I overcompensate for that imbalance.

When I was a kid, the woman next door would feed the neighborhood cats. Kept the rats away she said. There were six cats. Then there were five. Then four... 'til there were none. The hatchet was never found and ashes are all that were left of those cats.

People think they're entitled things. That they have a right to something. They don't. My father was no exception.

I've done some things in my life you may not like, you might think I think I oughta feel guilty for, but I can honestly say I'm guilty of nothing.

Jazz music is my guilty pleasure. I don't enjoy much, but jazz... don't understand it. Can't play it. Can't translate it. Can't capture it. But there's just something... If I did have a song of my own, it would be a jazz song.

Hello. My name is Christopher Faustus. The Axeman of New Orleans.

Welcome to Act II.

*(The rest of the cast appears. "24 Years" begins. The song is acted out while age makeup is also applied to FAUSTUS.)*

### **PAPA LEGBA**

Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo doo, Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo,  
Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo doo, Doo, doo-doo, doo doo, doo doo doo

### **ALL (except FAUSTUS)**

Let's all take a little journey, let's all take a little trip.  
Let's look at the past few years with Faustus; find out the doc has been.  
We left in nineteen-thirty, he just saved his wife and his kid.  
This is the start of miracle workin' – his whole life 'bout to begin:

**WAGNER**

He wants more. More...

**GRETCHEN**

Ain't we got the best life any can have?

**FAUSTUS**

Makes me laugh and smile, 'cause darlin', I'm so glad...

**GRETCHEN**

Oh yeah?

**FAUSTUS**

Oh yeah!

**ALL (except FAUSTUS)**

Oh yeah?! Well...

First he treated a lot of pneumonia, cancer which was also on the rise.

Heart disease, tuberculous and syphilis – just about anything he tried.

Nineteen thirty-four, bit of a turning point: his first case of Polio.

Ailment's really not that uncommon, but if there's a cure, seems no one knows.

**MAIRE LAVEAU**

There might be a way of which he can help...

**PAPA LEGBA**

Doctor Faustus, what have we here?

**ALL (except FAUSTUS)**

Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo doo, Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo,

Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo doo, Doo, doo-doo, doo doo, doo doo doo.

**(minus CHRISTOPHER)**

Let's not forget 'bout the son now, he seems just a little odd.

But what sort of boy don't give some grief and do 'few things that ain't allowed?

He kills a tiny kitten and starts to feel a little bit.

This is the start of his new addiction; blood running gives him a kick.

He wants more. More...

**GRETCHEN**

Right, we got the best life any can have?

**FAUSTUS**

Sorry, gotta run, hope that you're not too mad...

**GRETCHEN**

It's fine.

**FAUSTUS**

Okay.

**ALL (except FAUSTUS)**

Goodbye! Well...

Faustus has his magic and his medicine. Christopher seems never to be home.  
Blood gets on their hands through the forties while Gretchen is just left alone.  
Nineteen fifty-one, Chris is a murderer when he offs a lady friend.  
Turns out he's adverse to adulterers and he leads many to their end.

**PAPA LEGBA**

There might be a way of which he can help...

**GRETCHEN**

Life ain't easy.

I want  
more. More...

More... More...

**ALL (except F & G)**

Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo doo  
Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo,  
Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo doo,  
Doo, doo-doo, doo doo, doo doo

**WAGNER**

Ain't love a grand and wonderful thing?

**GRETCHEN**

Makes me wanna open up my heart and sing...

**WAGNER**

Gretchen?

**GRETCHEN**

Hello.

**PAPA LEBA, MARIE LAVEAU, & CHRISTOPHER**

That's right!

*Add* **GRETCHEN & WAGNER**

Now Gretchen, Wagner, they bed each other, which may not be that big a surprise.

Chris himself also becomes a lady-killer, mostly of the unfaithful kind.

Twenty-four years, they pass quickly for the doc who swiftly did rise.

And the means which led to his livelihood now point him to his demise.

Sing doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo doo, Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo,

Doo, doo, doo doo-doo doo doo, Doo, doo, doo, doo, doo.

**MARIE LAVEAU:** So now you're all caught up.

**PAPA LEGBA:** The Great Depression.

**GRETCHEN:** The Dust Bowl.

**WAGNER:** World War Two.

**CHRISTOPHER:** Hitler.

**MARIE LAVEAU:** The Third Reich.

**PAPA LEGBA:** The Atomic Bomb.

**WAGNER:** The Roswell Crash.

**GRETCHEN:** The world had come to see a lot of strange and terrible things. And during that time, John made a name for himself facilitating miracle.

**CHRISTOPHER:** Preferred a bit more anonymity, myself. I knew what I was growing up. Gave me no trouble. But when I started taking human garbage off the streets... well... that's when I realized what I was about.

**MARIE LAVEAU:** The eternal struggle between good and evil raged on, just as it always had, just as it always will. And we all were witness to the doctor's final act.

*(BLACKOUT.)*