

STORIES ON STAGE 2020-21

TEAM D

The Desire (Adapted from *The Pop-up*)

List of Characters and Roles

Kevin (a handsome 16-year-old student who is popular among his classmates)

Mei Ling (a 15-year-old student who enjoys reading)

Mr Wong (Mei Ling and Kevin's computer teacher who snuffles a lot)

Student A, Student B and Student C (classmates of Kevin and Mei Ling)

Mr Ling (Principal at Kevin and Mei Ling's school)

Genie (a magical being that grants wishes to people)

It is a hot summer day and the humidity is high. Heavy dark clouds looming over the horizon warn of an imminent storm. A day has finished in a local secondary school in Kowloon Tong. Most students have left the campus. It is quiet and the air is damp. A sudden gust of wind blows and a few doors slam, making banging noises that are especially loud and startling in the empty corridors. The sky grows darker as the leaves rustle in the wind. On the second floor, two students are finishing up their assignments in the computer room.

Scene 1: The Final Wish

Lights up centre stage.

In the computer room. Mei Ling is at her computer, stage left. Kevin is at his computer, stage right. Both student desks face the audience.

Mei Ling: *(to herself)* Should I use my last wish to bring Mr Wong back? *(types her last wish)* (SFX: typing - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z70MOUHQ3TI> (0:00-0:07))

Through the opaque glass, she sees a person coming towards the door. It is not standing up properly.

Mei Ling: *(trembling)* No way! *(sticks her head out from behind her computer)* Is that thing over there a zombie? Um... Mr Wong? *(sniffs)* What is that smell? *(sniffs again)* Sea... water...?

The handle of the door turns. Mei Ling dives forward to stop it from opening.

Mei Ling: Wait! No!

Mei Ling bolts for the door, slams it shut and locks it. Kevin runs to the door to help.

Kevin: *(to Mei Ling)* What's going on? What is that?

Mei Ling: *(shouting)* I don't know! But I'm not sure if it's here because of me...

Kevin: What do you mean?

Mei Ling: Yesterday, there was a pop-up on my computer and...

Kevin: *(surprised)* No way! Me too!

Mei Ling & Kevin: O...M...G! *(They look at each other in shock.)*

Mei Ling: This was how it happened ... *(voice fades out)*

(SFX: reverse sound effect - <https://youtu.be/g4Wazm3cJc>)

Blackout.

Scene 2: The Pop-up

Lights up centre stage.

Flashback: the day before. Students are going into the computer room for their computer lesson. Suddenly, Mei Ling bumps into Kevin, the most popular boy in her class.

Kevin: Watch it Mei Ling! What are you trying to do? Injure me? Let's go then! Fight me like a man...er... *(stares at her)* woman!

Mei Ling: Of course, loser! Prepare yourself for my "Deadly Scissor Legs"! *(puts down her books on the nearest desk, and does a karate pose)*

Kevin: Ha! Your chopstick legs can't do anything to me! Prepare for my "Fiery Tackle"!

Both: HYAAAA!

Kevin and Mei Ling are about to get into a physical battle when they are interrupted by snuffling.

Mr Wong: *(snuffles)* You two! Stop that! *(snuffles)* Return to your seats and log on to *(snuffles)* your computers.

Other students watch in amusement. Kevin and Mei Ling return to their seats beside each other. Mei Ling is at her computer, stage left, and Kevin is at his computer, stage right, both facing the audience.

Kevin: *(aside)* Mr Wong is so annoying. I wish I knew a way to get rid of him.

Mr Wong goes around the classroom to see if everyone has logged on yet.

Mr Wong: *(snuffles)* Mei Ling, have you logged on yet? *(snuffles)*

Mei Ling: Yes. *(snuffles, mocking Mr Wong)*

Mr Wong: Excuse me?

Mei Ling: *(in a more serious manner)* Yes, Mr Wong.

Kevin: (*chuckles*) Hahaha!

Mr Wong: (*sternly*) Mind your manners Kevin!

Sounds come from both Mei Ling and Kevin's computers. At the same time, Mei Ling and Kevin see a pop up of genie.com on their computer screens when they are doing their assignment. Both look up and around to see if anyone else got the same thing. Out of curiosity, Kevin and Mei Ling click the pop-up and the computers bring them to genie.com.

(*SFX: Magical sound - <https://youtu.be/1eQWJbwUOX0>*)

A Genie clad in Aladdin-style costume pops up behind Kevin and Mei Ling's desk. The class is frozen in time and both Kevin and Mei Ling are in a kind of magical trance obeying the Genie's commands.

Genie: (*in a British accent*) Welcome to genie.com! (*points at Mei Ling and Kevin*) I will grant you 3 wishes. Please type your wishes below. Use them wisely! (*Kevin freezes*)

Mei Ling: (*aside*) What do I want? No exams? Ten million dollars? I've got it! (*types in her first wish*) (*SFX: typing*) Who will be my soulmate? (*smiles, leans back and freezes*)

Kevin: (*astounded*) Is this fake? (*shrugs*) Whatever. I'll give it a try. Hmmm... (*SFX: typing*) I wonder who my soulmate is? (*looks around waiting for something to happen*) Should I just sit here and wait? (*The Genie sprinkles love dust on Kevin.*) (*SFX: Magical sound*) (*Kevin is suddenly inspired*) I know! I'll write a note and the first person who reads it will be my destiny. (*scribbles on a piece of paper and passes it to classmates. He waits to see who will open the note to read it.*) (*Mei Ling unfreezes*)

Mei Ling: What's this? Who's passed this note to me? Kevin? (*reads the note out quietly*) 'Want to watch a movie together tonight? Wink 3 times if yes!' (*disgusted*) What? No! He almost got in a fight with me a minute ago! Absolutely not!

Genie blows love dust on Mei Ling. (SFX: Magical sound) But he runs out of air and coughs. Mei Ling suddenly feels dizzy and closes her eyes. A few seconds later...

Mei Ling: (*feeling dizzy*) Whoa! What happened? A note? A date? With Kevin? I'm so excited! Kevin, my crush for months, passed a note to me! (*reads the note and winks three times at Kevin. She stares off dreamingly into space - freezes*)

Kevin: (*surprised when Mei Ling winks at him*) What? Mei Ling? That girl with the chopstick legs wants to go out with *me*? Of course not! This website is a fake! (*Genie tickles Kevin's nose with a feather.*) (*SFX: Magical sound*) (*Kevin sneezes loudly and snuffles*) I wonder who opened the note? Wait...Mei Ling? My God, I have liked her for years! Which movie should we see? I'm guessing that she would like *Forbidden Love*! (*Kevin starts daydreaming and freezes. Seconds later, Kevin and Mei Ling are brought back to reality by the booming voice of Mr Wong*)

Mr Wong: (*shouting*) Mei Ling and Kevin! Stop daydreaming and get back to work now!

Mei Ling: (*rolls eyes*) Mr Wong is the worst teacher ever. I wanna get rid of him!
(*types in her second wish*) (*SFX: typing*)

Kevin: Mr Wong is so strict! (*types the second wish*) (*SFX: typing*) I wish he would just die so I never have to see him again! (*proud of himself*) He'll probably die in front of us now! Hahahaha! (*voice echoes into the distance*)

Both Kevin and Mei Ling wait in anticipation. Nothing happens.

Both: (*aside*) The genie thing is probably fake then.

They both close their genie.com windows.

Blackout.

Scene 3: Death

Lights up centre stage.

Flashback: this morning. Students and teachers are in the school hall. Kevin and Mei Ling are standing apart from each other. Kevin stands downstage right, Mei Ling downstage left, Mr Ling downstage centre behind a lectern and other students upstage.

Student A: (*concerned*) What happened? Is someone leaving?

Student B: (*worried*) Maybe bad news?

Student C: (*in a playful tone*) Or perhaps a good-looking male teacher is going to teach our computer class?

Students, Mei Ling and Kevin laugh.

Mei Ling: (*to herself*) I wonder what's going on? (*nervously*) Are the teachers crying?

Mr Ling: (*taps mic*) Good afternoon... (*clears his throat*) students. I have some terrible news. I am deeply saddened to say that our beloved Mr Wong has died in a boating accident. He was a splendid teacher. We will not forget his contribution to the school. Let us now bow our heads in prayer. (*starts praying*) (*Spotlight on Kevin*)

Kevin: (*aside, excitedly*) Heck yeah! My wish came true! We will never have to look at that pig head and hear his pig snuffling ever again! (*looks proud and triumphant, and freezes*)

On the other side of the hall, Mei Ling's expression reveals she is in shock. Spotlight on Mei Ling.

Mei Ling: (*aside*) Oh no, was it because of the wish? OMG! I killed Mr Wong! I wished for it, but I didn't mean it *that* way. I only asked to get rid of him, not *kill* him! I didn't mean to. (*feeling guilty*) Should I apologise? Or donate money to the family for the funeral?

Blackout.

Scene 4: Karma

Lights up centre stage.

Fast forward to the present. (SFX: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbvBrH-WYBE>)

Computer room. Mei Ling and Kevin stand facing each other, centre stage.

Mei Ling: (*exasperated*) So it was you who wished him dead! You are the murderer! Not me! I'm innocent!

Kevin: (*defensively*) You wanted him gone too! What's the difference?

Genie, in disguise as a zombie with pale skin and its tongue sticking out, enters the classroom eyeing Mei Ling and Kevin, snuffling.

Mei Ling: (*disgusted*) Is that... Mr Wong? It must be - he's snuffling! I wished for his disappearance, not his death!

Genie: (*impersonating Mr Wong*) Kevin... You killed me... and I'm going to take revenge... today!

(SFX: Zombie -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dMIAz8WtAyCZjX1gLnRPHvZWbqApJh1P/view?usp=drivesdk>)

Kevin and Mei Ling retreat as the Genie walks towards them menacingly.

Kevin: Mr Wong! I'm sorry that I killed you! You were just so annoying, and I was angry with you for making me fail my computer test!

Mei Ling moves slowly in an attempt to leave the room, but Kevin grabs hold of her.

Kevin: (*desperately*) No! Please don't leave me alone here, Mei Ling. I'm sorry, ok? I'll even jump off a cliff or catch a grenade for ya!

Genie plays Bruno Mars' song, 'Grenade' on flute, but out of tune.

Mei Ling: If you hadn't wished him to die, the zombie wouldn't be here!

They begin arguing as the zombie transforms into the Genie.

Genie: (*yells*) Silence!

Kevin: Wow! You look like that genie in Aladdin!

Genie: For goodness' sake! Stop arguing! I granted you your wishes, but now you are here complaining! You made your wishes and now you are unhappy with them? You ungrateful brats!

(SFX: fade in monster roar and then fade out - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WN7bim7VEE> (0:15 - 0:23) (Lights dim and flicker)

Genie continues admonishing Kevin and Mei Ling, bellowing as his shadow grows larger and larger. Kevin and Mei Ling shrink, falling to the floor. Kevin and Mei Ling feel guilty about their wishes.

Lights up.

Mei Ling: *(looks down, feeling ashamed)* I'm sorry Genie.

Kevin: Is there a way to revive Mr Wong?

Genie: *(annoyed)* What's it going to be? First you want him dead. Now you want him alive again! *(rolls eyes)* Teenagers!

Mei Ling: *(crying softly)* We didn't mean to kill him!

Genie: Look, he never died! I cast a spell to make everyone in the school *think* that he died. If you two really are sorry, I'll remove the spell. *(Kevin and Mei Ling jump up in excitement)* By the way, do you guys remember how much you hated each other?

That day when you saw the pop-up, I sprinkled some love dust on you so you two would fall for each other. My other job besides granting wishes is to make hatred disappear in this world. *(shaking head)* Tough gig.

Kevin and Mei Ling, take a quick glance at each other and then look away in embarrassment.

Genie: You will be punished for complaining, and for trying to hurt Mr Wong!

Blackout.

Scene 5: The Genie

Lights up centre stage.

A few weeks later.

Mei Ling and Kevin are cleaning the computer room after school but are not working seriously. They splash water everywhere and throw towels at each other, laughing.

Genie: You two! Stop fooling around! *(walks away from Mei Ling and Kevin to downstage centre talking to the audience)* Life as a genie is so hard. Now that I've accomplished my assignments, I'm quitting this job. *(dreamily)* I'll become a caterpillar and live a nice relaxing life.

The Genie casts a spell and shapeshifts into a magical metallic green caterpillar lying on the floor. Mei Ling and Kevin freeze.

Genie: *(exhilarated and wiggling in excitement)* I'm so small! I bet I'm cute as heck - *(SFX: giant bird flapping - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NDZxrDchE4> (0:00 - 0:07))*

A magical bird with wings in technicolor swoops in and clamps Genie with its beak.

Genie: *(frightened)* WHOAA

(SFX: giant bird flapping - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NDZxrDchE4> (0:00 - 0:07))

Kevin and Mei Ling finish their work and high-five.

Genie: NOOOOO. *(his voice echoes into the distance)*

Blackout.

THE END

Production Notes:

Costumes:

Mei Ling: school uniform (ponytail with glasses)

Kevin: school uniform (unkempt, short spiky hair)

Mr Wong: a dull-coloured checkered shirt with black pants, a belt and a pair of old leather shoes (thick brown-rimmed eye-glasses)

Mr Ling: well-pressed starchy white shirt, tie, black straight trousers, a black suit jacket and polished leather shoes

Students: school uniform

Genie: turban, fake moustache, blue body paint, sandals, bangles

Zombie: disheveled hair (wig), zombie face mask, torn checkered shirt and black pants with dirt and tears

Caterpillar: a metallic green striped jumpsuit with add-on legs (stuffed up yellow gloves) on the sides, a headband with tentacles, yellow gloves (for hands)

Bird: a blue jumpsuit, oversized wings in various bright colors, a bird mask

Props:

Textbooks

A pen

Note paper

Genie's magical feather (metallic blue with sparkles)

A broom

A mop

Towels

A bucket