



2-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at yourstagepartners.com.

Persephone (a new myth for a hotter world) by Kristen Palmer

2F

Drama

When we left her at the end of Act I, the goddess Demeter refused to accept Zeus' ruling that her beloved daughter Persephone will spend half the year on in the underworld with Hades (despite Persephone's stated desire to stay with him). Jane, a mortal who was sacrificed to be a companion for Persephone, wasn't able to stop this from happening. As Act II begins, time passes in the mortal world so we are no longer in ancient times. Jane finds herself caught between the gods as Demeter calls on her to enact her plan to get Persephone back.

(JANE sleeps at a desk overflowing with plans and papers. She is professionally, if awkwardly, dressed in a style from the 1940s.

DEMETER enters with hands full of documents. She is haggard and unkempt.)

DEMETER: Jane! Jane!

JANE: What?

DEMETER: You need to explain this to me—what is this?

JANE: This? This is drills.

DEMETER: Wake up. Tell me.

JANE: Drills that go deep. That crack the earth. Thousands of little tiny cracks that are flooded with water—tons and tons of water, an ocean of water, and that pushes out the power.

DEMETER: And Hades will be—

JANE: Gone. Probably. Hydraulic fracturing. It's amazing. Before we were just getting to the easy stuff. That disturbed things down there but not in a permanent way—or so we thought.

DEMETER: Bringing spring.

JANE: Sooner every year.

DEMETER: Still, no festivals.

JANE: They don't even notice you now.

DEMETER: They'll remember. When Persephone is back—

JANE: Maybe—but, if we do this—if you give your power to this—if it works—it will be worse than the first time. That was cold, starvation. This will be eternal summer.

DEMETER: Like before he stole her—

JANE: No. No. Not like that. This will be unrestrained heat, rising seas, storms—

Pg. 1 of 3



2-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at yourstagepartners.com.

DEMETER: But she'll be here. And everything is new with her. They don't care for me anymore— but her. Her new, spring beauty will remind them—

JANE: But she's not only that now—

DEMETER: She will be. You say they want the power this drill thing unearths?

JANE: Yes. They do. Very much.

DEMETER: Of course they do. Why wouldn't they? They can see what she brings. To be fed, to be warm, to have more and more and more and now we can make it happen. You people, clever little beings.

JANE: We've had some time.

DEMETER: And look what you've done with it. There may not be festivals, not sacrifices and feasts, but there is money.

JANE: There is money.

DEMETER: Yes. Money, and if that's what matters now then that is how we will persist—

JANE: Maybe Zeus had the right idea.

DEMETER: Pah! He gave up. Proclaiming himself omniscient? Omnipotent? Hah! He's transformed himself into a frail ubiquity—

JANE: I don't think he'd share that view—

DEMETER: Petty fool. He likes to watch the monotheists fight over him—as if he is the only God. Arrogant ass.

JANE: Still.

DEMETER: No, I am done with his meager compromise. I will have my daughter back. I will sign. I will pay. I will toss the last scraps of my divinity to whatever outfit can build these drills and pull Hades apart and return Persephone to me. To us.

JANE: But—Demeter. The world still needs you—

DEMETER: Look around you Jane. There is no place for me. This world has grown past being thankful for the harvest, being grateful for my gifts. And yet, here I am. I am not gone. I am still longing, still craving, still missing my child.

JANE: But Demeter, remember, that longing gives way to spring when she returns. Etched deep into the memory of this world—

DEMETER: And now forgotten. And now these clever people can bring her back to me. This will set her free from that prison forever.

JANE: It's not a prison to her.



2-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at yourstagepartners.com.

DEMETER: Set it up Jane.

JANE: It will leave you powerless.

DEMETER: Now.

JANE: You've never been powerless. You don't know what it's like.

DEMETER: Imagine—Persephone here—praised again—the eternal, cherished girl—spotless and pure—with us forever. That's all that I wish for.

JANE: We could hope for more—

DEMETER: Everything will be glorious! And Jane, oh dear Jane I can't do it without you.

(DEMETER clasps JANE tightly.)

End of Scene.

PERSEPHONE (A NEW MYTH FOR A HOTTER WORLD) by Kristen Palmer

Length: 90 minutes

Cast Size: 6-20 actors (suggested casting: 6F, 6M)

Genre: Drama

Synopsis: The goddess Demeter refuses to be satisfied with winters without her daughter. Why should Persephone spend half her time in the underworld with Hades? She enlists Jane, a sacrificed human caught between the whims of gods, to drill down to the underworld. But what does Persephone herself want? What happens to the humans if their own technology destroys the balance between seasons? Who will be sacrificed next? The environmental becomes deeply personal in this lyrical, thrilling play.

Pg. 3 of 3