

**To Heal a Wilted Flower**

**By Maira Marta**

**The stage is divided into three parts: the inside of Ciya's head takes up half the stage (left), the inside of her room takes up one-fourth of the stage (middle), and the hallway outside of the room takes up the last-fourth of the stage (right). In the last scene, the bedroom is the hospital room.**

## **Scene I**

**Ciya is a 13-year-old girl who is kind but overthinking. Her mom is a modest woman who deeply cares about everyone. Ciya is at her desk in her room with her headphones on when her mom enters. Her mom taps Ciya's shoulder, she takes off her headphones, and looks at her mom.**

**CIYA**

Hey mom. What is it?

**MOM**

Did your dad tell you what's going to happen?

**CIYA**

No, what's going to happen?

**MOM**

(pauses) Your dad is getting an apartment in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**CIYA**

What do you mean? I thought that we weren't going to move to Cincinnati.

**MOM**

WE aren't, only your dad is.

**CIYA**

Wait... how is that going to happen?

**MOM**

Ciya, your dad wants a divorce.

**CIYA**

WHAT! SINCE WHEN!?

**MOM**

Volume Ciya, he's wanted a divorce since our vacation. He said it was all business and he thought that this was the easiest way to do it.

**CIYA**

What will happen to us now?

**MOM**

I don't know, but we'll all figure it out together...

**Scene II**

**In Ciya's mind, a flower garden with two sides, light and dark, is a part of her consciousness. The light side is brightly lit with small warm colored plants, while the dark side is dimly lit with small cool colored plants. Two caretakers, Ina and Zayn, care for the garden. Ina cares for the light side and is cheery most of the time. Zayn takes care of the dark side and has a gloom and doom mood but is warm every so often. Zayn is tending to a big purple flower with his back to Ina.**

**INA**

(walks over to him) That's a really big flower. What does it talk about?

**ZAYN**

(rolls his eyes) None of your business, don't you have your own garden to tend to?

**INA**

(she smirks) Yes, but I'm not gonna stop annoying you till you tell me what it says.

**ZAYN**

(he sighs annoyed and reads the petal out loud) 'Will things be the same after dad moves out?'

**INA**

(she comes to a sudden realization) Oh, that's the reason why flowers haven't been growing in my garden lately.

**ZAYN**

Huh, yeah, and it looks like I'm gonna be tending more flowers in the future.

**INA**

(she grabs his arm) Don't care for it. I don't want flowers like that here anymore.

**ZAYN**

(he takes her hand off him) One, don't touch me, two, you tend to your side and I'll tend to mine.

Both gardens are in balance with each other which means we can't mess with either one. Bad things happen all the time and there's no use of stopping them. So don't even try.

**INA**

(pauses) I guess we'll both agree to differ, but this will have an impact on the garden.

**Scene III**

**In Ciya's house again at midnight, her dad has already moved, and her mom goes to her room and sees her working at her desk with her headphones on.**

**MOM**

What are you doing out here?

**CIYA**

(takes off her headphones) What does it look like? I'm not done with my stuff for school.

**MOM**

(crosses her arms) How many assignments did you get?

**CIYA**

I got four, and I finished two but the other two are long.

**MOM**

So just put something in for those two you have left.

**CIYA**

(puts hands on her head) But I need to get this perfect or else I'll get a bad grade.

**MOM**

You'll be drained out when you wake up tomorrow.

**CIYA**

I don't care, I'm not going to go to sleep until I finish this.

**MOM**

(walks into the hallway) Just don't stay up too late, Ciya, please don't.

**CIYA**

(Spotlight on Ciya) Why do I feel like this all the time? (she puts her hand towards the drawer, pauses, then takes her hand away from there, puts on her headphones, and continues to work on her stuff humming to Maybe Man by AJR)

**MOM**

(Spotlight switches to Mom) Ciya, all I want is for you to look forward to the days ahead.

#### **Scene IV**

**In her consciousness, more flowers grow but the ones that stand out are a big dark blue flower growing on Zayn's side and a giant pink one on Ina's side. Zayn looks at Ina's pink flower every once in a while.**

**INA**

(sees him turn away and smirks) You want to know, don't you?

**ZAYN**

(sighs) Yeah, I guess.

**INA**

(reads excitedly) 'I have a boyfriend'

**ZAYN**

Huh, never thought that'd happen. (goes back to tending his garden)

**INA**

I notice you have a blue flower now, what does it say?

**ZAYN**

(doesn't make eye contact) An idea of how the gardens might change.

**INA**

What do you mean by how they might change?

**ZAYN**

It's a flower of doubt, that's all.

**INA**



See, it is starting to change! It'll change more in the future (points to the giant purple flower) if we don't stop that flower...

**ZAYN**

(Irritated) I told you once and I'm not saying it again, I'm not killing that flower. We aren't allowed to kill plants at all, because of the balance. I don't ask you to kill your flowers, so don't try that with me.

**INA**

(sighs) Okay, then at least be careful of dark brown or black plants. And one more thing, smile for once.

## **Scene V**

**Ciya is home and working on her stuff at 9:27 PM she listens and hums to a song with her headphones.**

**MOM**

(enters room) Are you done yet? I need some help with your sisters.

**CIYA**

(takes off her headphones and speaks rudely) I'm not done yet. I still have multiple assignments left to do.

**MOM**

Well, when are you going to be done?

**CIYA**

(irritated) I'll be done by the time you're done with those two.

**MOM**

Can you stop with this attitude? It's getting on my nerves.

**CIYA**

(sighs) Why should I care? I'm so tired all of the time now.

**MOM**

Why?

**CIYA**

Because I've been up and working till 12 or 1 o'clock.

**MOM**

Then do your stuff when you get back from your extracurricular.

**CIYA**

(frustrated) I come BACK AT 5, THAT BARELY GIVES ME ENOUGH TIME. I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE BABIES SO MUCH THAT I START WORKING AT 9. THAT'S WHY I WORK TILL 12 AND 1.

**MOM**

(sighs) That's it, I'm really done with you. (Exits room and stands in the hallway)

**CIYA**

Ugh, damn it, damn it damn it. (opens the drawer and grabs the utility knife from inside and marks her arm with it) Why? Why the hell do I feel like this all the time now? (uses tissue in the drawer to clean the blood on her arm and blade and puts both back in and works again.)

**MOM**

Ciya, I loved seeing you happier. What has happened since then? What has happened since you were my little girl?

**Scene VI**

**Ciya's consciousness, a little clear, black-tinted tree grows between the two gardens and the roots kill any plants that are near or touching them. Zayn and Ina walk over to see it.**

**INA**

What is that?

**ZAYN**

(unfazed) I don't know, it's definitely not a flower though.

**INA**

I told you something would happen! We need to stop it now, it's killing the gardens.

**ZAYN**

At least read the leaves first.

**INA**

(takes one of the leaves but then abruptly drops it) Ow!

**ZAYN**

(rushes to her) Ina! (looks at her hand that is swelled up and has a little blood on it and takes some bandages from his pocket and starts wrapping it around her hand) Are you okay? Your hand looks pretty swollen.

**INA**

Yeah, I don't think I can touch the tree's leaves though. I'm glad I only took one. Can you read the leaf?

**ZAYN**

'I can't stand it anymore'... Stand what?

**INA**

I don't know that, but I do know we need to stop the tree. Now.

**ZAYN**

We can't stop the tree. The intentions, they're too mixed to tell what's happening.

## **Scene VII**

**A hospital room where Ciya sits on a hospital bed in the room and her mom (enters the room) then hugs her.**

**MOM**

(lets go of her) What are you doing here? I got a call from your vice principal to meet you at the hospital, what's wrong?

**CIYA**

(sighs) Basically during period 7 I tried to make myself black out with my jacket.

**MOM**

Why did you do something like that?

**CIYA**

...I didn't want to live any more.

**MOM**

...Why?

**The setting of her consciousness and the hospital start to merge slowly. Ina and Zayn can only watch, being only in Ciya's head, looking at the tree and her, this being the first time something like this is happening. Ciya and her mom can't see them and continue talking.**

**CIYA**

(silently crying) I'm walking when I can fly, I'm crying when I can laugh. I don't know what to do anymore. It looks like everyone already knows who they are and who they trust. For me, I'm not sure anymore about who I trust or what I believe. I wanted to see if anyone would care besides you or dad? I know no one saw me, but if they did would they have cared and stopped me? I never felt this way till now because the world was hidden from me most of my life. Now I'm 13 I know this is only the beginning of it all. I'm afraid to know what'll happen in the future if I'm an adult, how deep will I get in knowing? I don't want to see the world turn into a living hell, I don't want to live to see that. Now I don't know how to let out my stress and I mark myself till I'm numb. I have all kinds of marks now all over me. I don't want to keep doing this forever. I don't feel like I can talk to you or dad because you tell me to believe in religion which should be unquestionable, right? I need to find another way to live because I don't feel like religion is my answer to my personal crisis right now.

**MOM**

You know what's going to happen to you in the afterlife, right?

**CIYA**

I know, but it's already too late for me, so might as well just speed up the process.

**MOM**

(holds her hands in hers) Ciya, it is never too late for you to change your way. You still have time in your life to right all your wrongs. There are some things that you can control. For example, roses, delicate, fragrant, but have thorns. You can control how and where the roses grow and be cautious around the thorns, but at some point you know you will bleed from them. There's no use trying to avoid them because they always come back. Life is always going to give you problems. Everyone has them, even the perfect people. Know this, now and forever, I love you, no matter what happens. Can you promise me that won't happen again?

**CIYA**

I... I can't promise it won't happen again. I'm sorry.

**MOM**

It's okay, we can work on it, all the way, together.

**INA**

(points at the tree) Zayn, look at the tree.

**White vines start to grow from the ground climbing up the tree and making it halfway up.**

**Ina and Zayn walk over to see the tree with the white vines part way up the tree.**

**ZAYN**

Ina, looks like we still have a long way to go from here.

**The End**