

# THE SUMMONING

By Jeff Dunne

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## CHARACTERS

ITCHINESS	The embodiment of ‘itchiness’, who (unfortunately for Jake) dresses pretty much the same as Death.
JAKE	An impulsive guy, lacking in the brains department.
RENEE	Jake’s notably-smarter girlfriend.
FELICITY	A witch (of sorts) who can summon things from beyond the world of the normal, but who is not quite as talented as she believes herself to be.

## SETTING

A high school roof.

### Note:

This script was written in response to a prompt by Green Buffalo Productions, asking for at least one of these lines of dialogue: "Mr. Jingles doesn't lie", "We're stuck like two pieces of Velcro", or "It's whatever." It was also required to use all of these props: a basketball, a jar of marinara sauce, and an elephant enamel pin. Lastly, it had to take place in either a high school rooftop, an observatory, or a library.

SCENE

*(It is the middle of the night on the roof of Middletown High School. A mysterious, hooded figure is waiting as three figures dressed in normal clothing look up from a recently-completed ritual.)*

ITCHINESS

Why have you summoned me?

JAKE

*(To Felicity)*

You did it! O! M! G! You actually did it!

RENEE

I told she was the real thing!

*(Felicity shrugs a “what can I say? I’m the real deal.”)*

JAKE

I just can’t believe yo—

ITCHINESS

Why have you summoned me?

FELICITY

Well, you two? You’re on.

RENEE

You can go first.

JAKE

No, it’s okay, babe. I can wait. You go.

RENEE

No, I don’t min—

ITCHINESS

Why have you summ—

FELICITY

*(Urgently...)*

One of you go.

RENEE

Okay. Mr. Death, I want to know... what comes after?

ITCHINESS

What comes after... what?

RENEE

You know. What comes after... you.

*(Itchiness pauses, a little surprised by the question, although the hesitation could be misinterpreted as dramatic pause.)*

ITCHINESS

Satisfaction. A sense of relief. Then the cycle usually starts again.

JAKE

I knew it. I *knew* it! Reincarnation, baby!

RENEE

Wait! Wait. You said, usually. So not always?

ITCHINESS

When the underlying purpose has been laid to rest, there is no need to return.

RENEE

That makes total sense.

JAKE

Totally.

RENEE

Alright, Jake. You're turn.

JAKE

Right. Okay. Umm... Damn. Alright, wait. I've got one. How can we avoid, you know, you? Nothing personal.

ITCHINESS

One question.

JAKE

*(Thinking that Itchiness wants to ask him a question.)*

Sure, go ahead.

FELICITY

No, Mr. Death means that you only get to ask one question—

JAKE

This is my first question!

FELICITY

*(Rolling her eyes and shaking her head...)*

Amateurs. *(She turns to Itchiness.)* Sorry about this. *(Back to Jake.)* You only get ask one question for free. That's why I said that you need to bring a sacrifice. Each sacrifice gets you another question.

JAKE

Okay. Okay. I can see that. Here. I brought something...

*(He pulls out a jar of marinara sauce.)*

Here.

ITCHINESS

What is that?

JAKE

It's spaghetti sauce.

*(He holds it out and Itchiness takes it, then considers it.)*

ITCHINESS

It says 'marinara sauce'. With garlic.

JAKE

Oh, man, I'm so sorry. Is garlic like, bad for you or something?

RENEE

He's Death, not a vampire!

ITCHINESS

You said it was spaghetti s—

JAKE

They're like the same thing, really.

ITCHINESS

Then why are there two names?

JAKE

'Cause... That's a great question, actually. *(Turning to Renee.)* Why are there two names. They're the same, right?

RENEE

I don't know.

*(Jake turns to Felicity. She just shakes her head in an "I don't know either" way. He turns back to Itchiness, and she rolls her eyes at his stupidity.)*

JAKE

I don't know. But it's... whatever.

ITCHINESS

This is your sacrifice?

JAKE

Yeah. *(They're all staring at him.)* What? It's good. It's a good sacrifice. I was gonna have it later with some mozzarella, and now I can't. That's a sacrifice. So? Are you gonna answer the question?

*(Itchiness looks at Felicity suspiciously, then holds up a finger. It takes out a small book, then steps back and flips through some pages while it searches for something. While that's happening, Renee leans towards Felicity to ask...)*

RENEE

What's that?

FELICITY

*(In awe...)*

I think that might be the Cognitotum Liboromnia! I... I've never seen it before!

RENEE

What?

FELICITY

It's the book that has... it's... like the rules. But for everything.

JAKE

No shit. (*He calls to Itchiness.*) Hey, can I see that?

*(Itchiness gives him a dirty look, then returns to the book.)*

FELICITY

You already asked a question.

JAKE

Well, I want to change it.

FELICITY

It doesn't work like that.

*(Itchiness has closed the book and stepped forward again.)*

JAKE

Well?

ITCHINESS

Your sacrifice is accepted.

JAKE

Awesome! Okay. How can I live longer?

ITCHINESS

Don't die as fast.

JAKE

What!?!

FELICITY

I think the quality of the answers you get depend on the value of the sacrifice.

JAKE

You didn't say that!

FELICITY

And you didn't tell me that you were planning on bringing a condiment as a sacrifice. Moron.

JAKE

*(Pulling out a basketball from his backpack and turning to Itchiness...)*

So I'm guessing this isn't going to get me much either?

*(Itchiness takes the ball.)*

ITCHINESS

Maybe. *(Turning to Felicity...)* Are there any other questions?

RENEE

Wait. I really want to know about what he asked. What about this?

*(She holds out a small, enameled elephant pin.)*

It's not, like, worth a lot of money, but my grandmother gave it to me before she died, and it's the only thing I really have from her.

*(Itchiness nods approvingly.)*

ITCHINESS

Ask your question.

RENEE

Is there any way to avoid death?

ITCHINESS

*(Considering the pin, then...)*

Are you certain you wish to ask this question of me?

RENEE

Yeah.

ITCHINESS

I can only tell you what I do...

RENEE

Okay... *(Confused now...)* what?



ITCHINESS

*(Mistaking her 'what?' as a request for an answer.)*

Make certain that Death shows up first to parties, then sit somewhere else.

*(There is a stunned silence as everyone tries to absorb this answer. Finally...)*

RENEE

What was that?

ITCHINESS

I said, make certain that Death—

RENEE

No, I... I heard you, I just didn't quite understand. Aren't *you* Death?

FELICITY

*(Whispering to Renee...)*

That's another question.

ITCHINESS

*(Waving it off, and holding up the pin...)*

It is fine. This is good enough to purchase a second answer. No. I am not. Death is taller.

JAKE

Then who the hell are you?

*(Itchiness just stares at him.)*

What?

FELICITY

That's a question.

JAKE

Fine.

*(He takes out a second jar of marinara sauce and holds it out.)*

Here.

ITCHINESS

I already have one.

JAKE

Shit. Umm... *(He thinks, and then takes off his shoes and holds them out.)* Here.

*(Itchiness takes them.)*

Now who are you?

ITCHINESS

Not Death.

JAKE

Hey! Those shoes cost over a hundred bucks!

FELICITY

*(To Renee...)*

I think he's missing the concept of sacrifice.

JAKE

Fine. Forget it! *(To Renee...)* Let's just get out of here.

*(Itchiness makes a gesture, and suddenly Jake spins back around.)*

JAKE

Actually, no. I wanna know. Who are you?!

*(Itchiness holds out a hand. Jake looks in his backpack, but it's empty now. Then he has an idea. He gives him the backpack.)*

*Who are you?*

ITCHINESS

Not Cheese.

JAKE

GAAHHHH!!!!

FELICITY

*(To Renee...)*

And you two are... really a couple?

RENEE

I wouldn't exactly say that we're stuck together like two pieces of Velcro.

*(Jake has had another idea, and holds out his watch.)*

JAKE

Timex! This baby cost me thirty-five bucks. Now who are you!?!

ITCHINESS

*(Taking the watch...)*

I grow where I am unwanted. I burrow where I am unreached. My silent call cannot be unheard. I am the bane of the bearded and the unclean.

JAKE

AAAaarrh. What does that mean?! You grow where you're unwanted? Burrow where... Wait wait wait! I think I know this! You said you burrow where... What?

ITCHINESS

I burrow where I am unreached.

JAKE

You're bamboo!!

*(A stunned silence all around, broken by...)*

RENEE

*(To Felicity...)*

I mean we've gone on a few dates, but that's really it.

JAKE

I'm right, right? I mean it fits. Bamboo grows where it's unwanted, and its roots are down where you can't reach.

FELICITY

And the part about its silent call can't be unheard, and being the bane of the unclean?

JAKE

I don't know what 'bane' means, and I'm running out of stuff to sacrifice for questions.

RENEE

Let's just go.

JAKE

No! I gotta know! This is gonna drive me crazy! Hey, wait. Renee. Can I borrow fifty bucks?

RENEE

You can't be serious?

JAKE

I have to know!

FELICITY

You really don't get the concept of sacrifice, do you?

JAKE

Please!!

RENEE

I can't believe I'm doing this...

*(She digs out some money as Jake says...)*

JAKE

Thank you thank you thank you!

*(He hands the money to Itchiness, and asks...)*

Who are you?

ITCHINESS

I am... a tuna fish.

JAKE

A tuna fish? Alright, let me think. Grows where he's unwanted. Maybe, I guess. Burrows where he can't be reached. Yeah, I can see that. He's got a silent call. *(Bobs his head in consideration.)* Yeah, okay, maybe. What was the last one?

FELICITY

The bane of the bearded and the unclean.

JAKE

And what does bane—

FELICITY

Something that makes you miserable or uncomfortable. (*Muttering...*) Like watching you act like—

JAKE

So that means that tuna makes you miserable if you're dirty or have a beard?

RENEE

(*To Itchiness...*)

Did you just lie to him?

ITCHINESS

Yes.

JAKE

Wait, what? You lied to me? You... you *lied* to me?! But I gave you fifty bucks!

(*Itchiness shrugs.*)

That's not fair! If you lied to me, then I want the money back.

ITCHINESS

Sorry. No returns or exchanges.

JAKE

But that's not fair! You lied to me, and... (*Something suddenly occurs to him.*) Wait a minute. You told her that you lied to me when she asked. How come you answered her but you won't answer me!?

RENEE

Work it out, Einstein.

JAKE

What's that supposed to mean?

RENEE

Just forget it.

JAKE

NO! You tell me, or I'm not paying you back.

(*She just shakes her head at him.*)

That's it. You can kiss that fifty bucks goodbye!

RENEE

Already did.

JAKE

Alright! Everybody just stop! (*Pause.*) I have to know who you are. It's driving me crazy. (*Turns to Itchiness.*) What's it gonna take to find out?

ITCHINESS

That's another question.

JAKE

AAARRRRGGGG!! (*Turns to Felicity.*) You summoned him! Who is he!?!

FELICITY

I thought it was Death.

JAKE

He said he isn't.

FELICITY

I was here. I heard.

JAKE

So then who is he?

FELICITY

Something that grows where it's unwanted, burrows where its unreached...

JAKE

You suck!

FELICITY

Maybe if you made an *actual* sacrifice instead—

JAKE

I DID make a sacrif—

FELICITY

...Instead of just trying to buy him off with random crap...

JAKE

Alright.

*(He starts emptying his pockets, taking out his car keys and handing them to Renee.)*

Hold these.

*(He continues to pat himself down, but then stops and stares at the keys in Renee's hand. He grabs them and thrusts them towards Itchiness.)*

Here. Take my car.

RENEE

Whoa, Jake! Slow down.

JAKE

You don't understand. I... HAVE... to know!

RENEE

How are we gonna get home?

JAKE

I don't care. *(To Itchiness.)* Here take them.

*(Itchiness reaches out and takes the keys.)*

Now tell me. Who are you?

ITCHINESS

I am that which must be scratched.

JAKE

You're... you're... what?

ITCHINESS

I am that which must be scratched.

JAKE

What the hell does that mean. You're what? An *itch?!?!*

ITCHINESS

It is nice to meet you.

*(Jake goes into a stunned state, just staring off into the distance in utter disbelief. It's clear that something's bothering Renee, and eventually she asks...)*

RENEE

If you're an itch...

ITCHINESS

Actually, I am itchiness in general.

RENEE

Okay... then how did you know what awaits us beyond death?

*(Itchiness turns to look at Renee.)*

You said that beyond death lies satisfaction and a sense of relief, and that the cycle starts again sometimes.

ITCHINESS

You asked what lies beyond me.

*(We can see that Renee is replaying this in her mind, and then she turns on Felicity, and is very not pleased.)*

RENEE

You... summoned...

FELICITY

Oh hey. Look at the time. I just remembered that I... have to... Bye!

*(Felicity runs offstage as Renee calls out...)*

RENEE

I gave up my grandmother's pin because of you! I'm gonna...

*(Renee rushes offstage after Felicity. There's a long pause as Itchiness and Jake stand there.)*



ITCHINESS

So...

*(Jake turns to look at Itchiness.)*

JAKE

So?

ITCHINESS

Do you want to play twenty questions?

*(Lights out.)*