**The Family**

**By: Ethan Gage Wardley**

**HOPE** (waves to crowd)

Hello, hi there,

my name is Hope,

I am the emotion that helps you cope,

in tough situations I’m your escape rope,

in fact, I’m just as nice as the Pope!

I am a dove

made of pure love,

I am full of so much love that people think

I come from the heavens above,

but don’t think I’m some angel,

all is fair in love and war,

and just like in war

if you pull my chip and throw me

I can make bits of your hearts sore.

*As soon as HOPE’s last line is out, E-MAN enters the stage, obviously hamming it up, he loves the spotlight*

**EMAN** (slides onto stage)

Ok its E Man’s turn to take the mic,

good job Hope,

you were almost as cool as me,

ha psyche,

I’m the true emotion people like.

I’m confidence, popularity

I’m the funniest parody of emotion,

just saying my name causes commotion,

tales of my epic-ness will cross the ocean,

for I am just as powerful as an energy potion.

Because I’m E-Man and everyone is my fan,

ok Brian, it’s your turn to speak

if you can.

*A moment after E-MAN stops talking BRIAN begins, he doesn’t care about the spotlight, he’s a more internally motivated character than the others. Not sheepish and nerdy, just doesn’t care about how he is viewed by outsiders.*

**BRIAN**

Books, books and even more books

I never cared for my looks

my brain is my brawns,

and with wisdom and intelligence

I’ll play you as my pawns,

I’ll fight you on your castle’s lawn until it dawns that the brain will be your Bain,

ok I have to study

so here

take the mic buddy.

*BRIAN hands the mike to CLAY who happily takes it, grins big, think happy dogs and excited kids.*

**Clay**

Hello howdy,

my name is Clay,

and I’m the emotion that tells you to go outside and play.

I’m the adventure of curiosity and the love for nature,

I’m also the opposite of mature that’s for sure,

but I love ancient trees and fantasy,

and there’s something about keys that fascinates me…

Well that’s all we hope to see you soon,

*CLAY looks offstage and a look of horror breaks across his previously happy-go-lucky face.*

**Oh no how did you get out were all doomed!!!!**

Bang, bang, bang, bang!!!! (Wheezer shoots down the others, who lay groaning quietly, not quite dead)

**WHEEZER**

Hahahahah!!!!

Did you really thing you could introduce the family without me?!

I’m the strongest and best, can’t you see.

Your attempts to keep me away with a lock and key are puny,

I really didn’t want to kill my mental family, but you left me no choice,

I had to share my voice,

you gave me a muzzle so I couldn’t make any noise...

 Oh how rude of me

My name is Wheezer

and I’m Ethan’s insanity!!!

Psycho, crazy, insanity…

**WHEEZER** (Cont.)

yup that’s me!

What I lack in skill I make up in blood thirsty kills,

you know I’m there when you feel that unholy chill,

*Wheezer gestures to the whole audience.*

That’s right, you can feel me to,

that’s because I’m inside of each and every one of you

You want to kill, I know you do, after all, I’m stewing inside you!

Why do you hold back, raaaack, we could make a body stack!

I’m tired of feeling week,

its *power* I seek,

and for years and years you have locked me away,

and I just want you to hear what I have to say!

But now it’s my time to be tough and I’m going to play rough!!!

Hahahaha…

*Wheezer appears to prepare to leap off the stage but hope rises up and attaches a manacle to his arm, chaining him to the stage.*

*(Chain grabs arm)*

**WHEEZER**

No, No, No!!!! This can’t be so you dirty Ho-

**HOPE**

**(calmly speaking, but loud enough for the audience to hear clearly)**

Kindness, compassion, hope.

**WHEEZER**

 You can’t do this to me!!!

*BRIAN rises as well and shackles WHEEZER’s other arm.*

**BRIAN**

Intelligence, science, reasoning.

**WHEEZER (becoming anguished)**

For once I had glee!

**EMAN**

Confidence, popularity.

**WHEEZER**

(falls to knees)

Don’t even try to stop me.

**CLAY**

Adventure, curiosity, humanity.

**WHEEZER**.

Hahahahahaha!!!!

Did you really think you can stop me for I am the embodiment for crazy, physio and insanity!!!!!!

**Hahahaha!!!!!!**

*WHEEZER is dragged off stage in chains, laughter slowly dying off into the distance.*

*As WHEEZER’s laughter dies down, ETHAN steps onto stage, his own calmer, more friendly and controlled laughter overtaking the dying cackling from WHEEZER.
A transition of power, perhaps, back to the rightful controller of the narrative.*

**ETHAN**

Well now that Wheezer is dealt with, Brian why don’t you speak?

**BRIAN**

I would feel rejoiced to share my voice,

but what would be grand enough for this occasion?…

Oh, I will tell you the story of someone who has just committed treason! (clears throat)

**EMAN**

(slide onto stage)

Hwoooo! Hold on gramps you can’t bring down these champs!

(gestures toward the audience)

Don’t listen to him you guys,

hear the stories of how I broke someone’s ears with my amps.

(proceeds to air guitar furiously)

**BRIAN**

What are you doing interrupting my show?!

**EMAN**

…OK man you lost me,

you’re boring them can’t you see?

get lost, and go hang with Clay.

**BRIAN**

Well this was my show originally.

**EMAN**

Ok then let’s battle for the fans, just you and me.

**BRIAN**

I will agree to this, but it must be verbally.

**EMAN**

Ok, how about a poetry slam right here, right now,

how’s that sound?

**BRIAN**

I agree to these terms,

Ethan, will you be our referee?

*EMAN and BRIAN take opposing sides of the stage, Hope stands in back, watching, somewhat worried.*

**ETHAN**

I don’t see why not?

Fight on one, two, three!

**EMAN**

Let’s get things started

with you knowing I’m a lion and you’re the mouse,

I’m a bomb fire you just can’t douse,

and like a fire I’ll be warming up your spouse, ooohhhh,

you can get my skills

but you can’t get my thrills,

Man, I give girls chills.

And, while those yellow rocks you call teeth rot

my pearly whites, kill.

Now, ladies lords and non-binary royalty,

watch as I beat this geek and do it joylessly,

I’ll vanquish any villain that tries to toy with me,

ask the dragon,

you know the drill,

you’re screwed royally!

**BRIAN**

Stricken with clairvoyancy,

events occur as I foresee,

your versing’s week,

 your rapping stinks,

flamboyantly employing these testicular rhymes.

Psssshhhh, I can match that easily,

I will beat you every time

You do not want beef with me.

I drown out lesser embraces,

when I flow there is no avoiding me,

holler to your buoyancy.

Diadems are worn on capita I had this battle on lock like Attica.

Go home boy pack it up,

I claimed to be the better bard and

look

I backed it up.

**EMAN** (**stuttering**)

Man, I don’t need you…I’m out of here…

*EMAN exits, defeated, but still energetic*

**ETHAN**

Well BRIAN, go ahead and rest, I’ll get hope.

**BRIAN**

Ok, I’ll rest… just make sure to entertain our guests

*BRIAN bows to the audience and exits after EMAN.*

**ETHAN**

Alright, I think it’s about time hope spoke,

Hope come on out…

I said come on out…

Huh, where is she?

Wait, what’s she doing in the subconscious?…

let’s find out…

*ETHAN exits and a moment later Hope enters.*

**HOPE (sighing)**

Oh CLAY, you make me laugh when I cry

You make me want to live when I want to die

You want to make me smile when I frown

You turn my broken heart upside-down

You are my now, my is, my was.

When you call my name I begin to blush

I’m afraid people will think I need you too much.

When I’m with you time fly’s by fast.

It’s like the present is the past.

I need you more than you can believe

I want you more than you can conceive

I think of you every night and day

*EMAN enters (just his head)*

**EMAN** **(pokes head onto stage, singing to the tune of SPACE JAM)**

 Spread my wings and fly away!

*EMAN exits*

**HOPE**

I hope we can stay together some way.

To me you are the light where there is no sun,

you are the rainbow when the rain is done.

You are the moon that glows so bright,

If people knew I loved you it would be a fright...

*Hope looks to the crowd as if noticing it for the first time and exits the stage, she is obviously startled by their presence.*

***ETHAN***

Well, It’s been a good play.

*BRIAN enters holding a book.*

**BRIAN**

Yes, we have been able to increase our vocabulary!

*CLAY enters holding a flower.*

**CLAY**

Yeah, these poems are lively and magical like a fairy!

*EMAN enters with aviator glasses and a leather jacket on.*

**EMAN**

CLAY’s right, you guys are almost as cool as me!

*Hope enters with a candelabra, lit.*

**HOPE**

It was just good to be me.

*Wheezer drags himself back onto stage and stands unsteadily with the others, chains still hanging from his limbs.*

**WHEEZER**

Not even I can lie that I’m proud of this dysfunctional family.

**CLAY**

So what do you guys say, a final good bye?

**EMAN**

For our fans!

**BRIAN**

For our viewers!

**CLAY**

For our friends!

**WHEEZER**

For our slaves!

**HOPE**

For our family!

*A voice speaks loudly from above, but no one appears on stage.*

**MR. C (V.O.)**

Hahahaha you cannot say good bye for if you do we shall surely die.

**WHEEZER**

Who the heck are you, I’m the only character that’s supposed to cause suspense

**MR. C (V.O.)**

Oh, come now WHEEZER,

your fearful comments can’t make any fearful dents.

**CLAY**

Oh Yay!

A new friend! I’ll go get twister so we can twist turn and bend.

**MR. C (V.O.)**

Claaaayyy I love how I built your character, just play, play, play

**BRIAN**

Wait, what did you say about creating CLAY in some way?

**MR. C (V.O.)**

Good job BRIAN,

I’m proud of you, your using your mentality that I gave thee to question me

**BRIAN**

But how…

**EMAN**

OK, just shut it BRIAN, obviously he made me the coolest out of all of you

**MR. C (V.O.)**

Sorry EMAN, but you don’t deserve a single fan,

for I made you to be the classic shallow prideful bully

**EMAN**

 Pff, whatever I can get more girlfriends than you.

**MR. C (V.O.)**

My point exactly.

**HOPE**

Well sir, I hate to be rude, but who are you?

**MR. C (V.O.)**

Oh, that’s right you don’t know me

but I know you.

So you may refer to me as MR. C,

Creator, lord or god for I am ETHAN’s creativity.

**HOPE**

But why would we call you a God if this is the first time we have heard your words?

**MR. C (V.O.)**

But that’s where your wrong kiddo, for your family is nothing but my words!

**BRIAN**

But how?

And why speak to us now?

**MR. C (V.O.)**

You’re a good story, can’t you see?

Also, your life is written by me.

*WHEEZER jumps up at this and strains at his chains for a moment.*

**WHEEZER**

Shut your mouth!

No one controls insanity, for I am the embodiment of crazy and unpredictability!!!

**EMAN**

For once I agree with nutjob over here.

**MR. C (bored and a little miffed)**

Fine you don’t believe me. I’ll show you.

**WHEEZER**

I think order is better than chaos…aaaaaa why did I say that, I feel dirty.

**HOPE**

How did you do that

**MR. C (V.O.)**

 **(kindly)**

Pencil, paper and a comfy mat.

**BRIAN (suspiciously)**

Maybe you and Wheezer are pulling a prank, then show me this is real by rewording me.

**MR. C (V.O.)**

Okay

*Scribbling sounds can be heard*

**BRIAN**

Vaccines cause autism (breaths heavily) he does not lie, I would never say something so stupid.

**EMAN** (panicking)

I don’t understand, what is going on?

**MR. C (V.O.)**

Can’t you see, there is no reality for you or for me.

**CLAY**

But how can this be! When I can see you clearly?

**MR. C (V.O.)**

But can you really?

Then look upon me, can you CLAY look at me physically?

**MR. C (V.O.)**

That’s right none of you are real you are nothing but what Ethan can feel.

**HOPE**

Then what about our past?

**EMAN**

Yeah, what about my battle with BRIAN?

**CLAY**

And my adventures?

**WHEEZER**

And my chains?

**BRIAN**

How can these experiences be fake?

**MR. C (V.O.)**

Your experiences are ripples in a lake; you are the effect not the cause.

You are a written story, by a boy by the name of Ethan Gage Wadley.

**HOPE**

What, no! Ethan would never betray us.

**WHEEZER**

That treacherous piece of puss, that ass will never have my trust.

**ETHAN**

Ok, WHEEZER, you are done since you cussed.

*WHEEZER is pulled offstage again.*

*WHEEZER exits.*

**EMAN**

Man, Ethan, I thought you were cool, but you the worst

**ETHAN**

You all need me to exist,

you all need me to make your life bliss,

 and HOPE you need me if you ever want CLAY’s kiss.

**HOPE**

Why do you taunt us, why do you haunt us.

**BRIAN**

But Ethan don’t you need us too?…

(beat)

how and why did I ask that?

**ETHAN**

I wrote that in to progress the plot,

and yes BRIAN I do need you too,

for if I don’t have my emotions I would not be able to create you.

**CLAY**

If this is true then we are bound to one another.

For a creator to create his creation he must have inspirations.

**ETHAN**

Exactly, CLAY.

**EMAN**

So what are we supposed to do (sarcastic tone) bow down to you (bow)

**CLAY**

Because that’s doo doo.

**ETHAN**

Yes. For that’s is how we end our story, on a sad and honorless, glory.

For your only purpose is to fill the hearts of the viewer, as water in a quarry.

But this quarry goes much deeper than the eye can see

for this play was about reality.