DREAMS IN THE WITCH HOUSE
A Lovecraftian Rock Opera

THE LIBRETTO
THE CONFESSION / ARKHAM OVERTURE

ELWOOD

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, bless me, Father for I have—

FATHER IWANICKI

Yes, my son. Go on. When was your last confession?

ELWOOD

Five weeks, Father. Thirty-seven days ago. That's eight hundred ninety one hours. My last confession was fifty-three thousand, four hundred sixty minutes ago. More or less.

FATHER IWANICKI

Alright. What do—

ELWOOD

Three million, two hundred seven thousand, six hundred seconds...

FATHER IWANICKI

It's alright, begin your confession.

ELWOOD

Father, I've seen evil. Evil incarnate.

FATHER IWANICKI

Men do terrible things my son.

ELWOOD

No, no, I'm not talking about men. I mean evil. Evil beyond you, me, mankind. Real evil. Supernatural evil. Malevolent and eternal. You understand what I mean?

FATHER IWANICKI

I do. “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.”

ELWOOD

No, no. I don't think so. Not this time, Father.

FATHER IWANICKI

This evil, tell me, where was it?

ELWOOD

Here. Right here, Father. All around us.

FATHER IWANICKI

Here?

ELWOOD

Here. In Arkham.

DREAMS IN THE WITCH HOUSE

ELWOOD

There's a haunted town full of whispered tales About a creaking house of mystery This brooding, moldy tomb Hides a devilish history

Behind its slanting walls, a lurking place Unbounded void transcending time and space Stay one night and leave no room for doubt You'll suffer fevered dreams in the Witch House

GILMAN

Centuries ago in a pious, fearful town

A witch stood trial for being godless Sentenced to be hung at dawn On the prison walls she'd drawn Lines and curves, then she vanished Her disappearance never was explained Be it Satan's work or sorceries attained Stay the night and soon you'll be aroused Some say she lingers still in the Witch House

ARKHAM CHOIR

Within these moldy dank walls, a newborn baby cries A wicked rat roams, it's the devil in disguise

ELWOOD

Behind these slanting walls, a lurking place

GILMAN

Behind these slanting walls, a lurking place

ELWOOD

Unbounded void transcending time and space

GILMAN - ELWOOD

Just stay the night, and soon you'll be aroused Some say she lingers still in the Witch House

WITCH

Behind these slanting walls, a lurking place Unbounded void transcending time and space Stay the night and leave no room for doubt You'll suffer fevered dreams in the Witch House

ELWOOD

He was a genius. Truly gifted.

FATHER IWANICKI

Who, my son?

ELWOOD

My friend, Walter Gilman. We were classmates at Miskatonic and rented rooms in the same house. They called it the Witch House.

FATHER IWANICKI

Ah yes. Legend has it the accused witch, Keziah Mason once lived there. Why would you choose such a place?

ELWOOD

Poor students can't afford to be picky.

FATHER IWANICKI

True.

ELWOOD

It was cheap, but Walter really wanted to live there because of its history.

FATHER IWANICKI

It's a dark history, unholy.

ELWOOD

Walter had no fear of that. The story of Keziah fascinated him. Soon after we moved in he began to hear strange noises there. He called it the endless cacophony. All I heard were the constant prayers of our neighbor, Mr. Mazurewicz.

GILMAN

The night, so fraught with sound It never subsides, nor goes away I strain to concentrate And find the answers which help equate Dimensions of reality There's got to be a way To step deliberately from earth To points beyond in space I will go higher I'll make it there, no time to spare I'm losin' self control I will go higher To comprehend, I must descend Might even sell my soul But I'll go high I'll go high

MAZUREWICZ

Holy Spirit, lead me to a better understanding of the Cross of Christ! The night so cursed, the Witch's Sabbath is near I kneel to pray Beware Walpurgis Night The slaves of Satan I keep at bay Brandishing this crucifix Of silver in my hand The ghosts which haunt my hallowed room Forever will be damned Fight fire with fire Transfixed upon this crucifix Until the break of dawn Fight fire with fire

GILMAN

I hear his prayers from down the stairs Why must he carry on? I will go higher!

MAZUREWICZ

Fight fire with fire Forsake evil deeds with rosary beads *Our Father, who art in heaven...*

GILMAN

In these walls I see beyond boundaries I will go higher! I'll make it there, no time to spare, I'm losing self control I will go higher!

ELWOOD

Between Mazurewicz's unrelenting prayers and Walter's fanatical devotion to his mathematical studies, he didn't get much rest. The longer we lived in the house, Father, the more obsessed he became. The strain on him was terrible. The doctor said he had some kind of "brain fever," but Walter swore it had something to do with the irregular shape of his garret room.

GILMAN

There's something 'bout these walls Geometric and so strangely mathematical Hypnotizing Mesmerizing I spend all night analyzing Angles and curves hide secrets so surprising Esoteric
Asymmetric
Disguising something epic
It’s slowly breaking me down!

BRIDGE TO THE STARS

FATHER IWANICKI
Your friend does sound troubled, my son.

ELWOOD
The worst of it was his strange, terrible dreams.

FATHER IWANICKI
An intelligent man studying both mathematics and occult folklore—no doubt it triggered his imagination.

ELWOOD
It wasn’t his imagination, Father. I think he made some kind of deal with the Devil. He’d gained abstract mathematical knowledge beyond human comprehension!

We were all astounded by it, especially our teacher, Professor Upham.

PROFESSOR UPHAM
So many questions
Science is a vast frontier
Of theory scrutinized
Deep exploration
Of concepts we hold dear
We equate and we describe

ELWOOD + GILMAN
Our calculations never end

GILMAN
I’ve insight you can’t comprehend
There’s a bridge to the stars
Dimensions near and far
I will go to a cosmos more immense
There’s a bridge to the stars

PROFESSOR UPHAM
Son, your notion’s quite bizarre

ELWOOD
Walter, you’re not making any sense

GILMAN
Just hold on!
Mankind’s perceptions are constricted by his fears
Blindness soothes your mind

PROFESSOR UPHAM
Bold speculation, but your theory thus implies
Flesh and blood of man survives
Such entry to another realm

ELWOOD
Bound creatures, we’d be overwhelmed

UPHAM + ELWOOD
On your bridge to the stars
Dimensions near and far

UPHAM
I’m impressed, but it’s just a metaphor

GILMAN
There’s a bridge to the stars
And places very far
It’s actual, and I can show you more

ELWOOD
Walter strode up to the blackboard and effortlessly solved numerous Riemannian equations, which seemed to demonstrate the possibility of man literally stepping from one dimension to others of infinite remoteness. Professor Upham was astonished. I was baffled at first, but soon I could see...

There’s a bridge to the stars
Dimensions near and far
We could walk where no man has walked before
There’s a bridge to the stars

ELWOOD + GILMAN
And places very far
Expand your mind, the world’s ours to explore

MISKATONIC STUDENT CHOIR
There’s a bridge to the stars
Dimensions near and far
We could walk where no man has walked before
There’s a bridge to the stars

UPHAM
Mister Gilman that’s quite intriguing

MISKATONIC STUDENT CHOIR
To explore

GILMAN
There’s a bridge to the stars!

ELWOOD
Other students whispered about Walter in the hallways. Even the faculty were concerned for him. The learning... he was coming unhinged.

FATHER IWANICKI
Perhaps Gilman ought not to have studied so hard.

ELWOOD
It wasn’t only that, Father. Walter lived in the very room where Keziah herself performed black magic.

FATHER IWANICKI
My son, witchcraft and science are two sides of the same coin. Man has always hungered for the unknowable, the divine.

ELWOOD
But Father, this isn’t divine at all. This knowledge was, I don’t know... profane? Unholy?

FATHER IWANICKI
Your friend Walter’s soul was in peril, my son. Yours too, perhaps. The Lord of Darkness is always present and can take many forms.

ELWOOD
Yes, Father. Walter heard strange, unearthly voices in the house. He said there was a creature, a horrible thing bound to the Witch.

FATHER IWANICKI
It is said witches had familiars, evil spirits in the form of animals.

ELWOOD
Yes! That’s it exactly! He saw it, in his dreams.

FATHER IWANICKI
Dreams can be a battlefield, where the holy and unholy wage war for the soul.

ELWOOD
Walter’s dreams were now becoming terrifying nightmares.

THE NIGHTMARE

GILMAN
In my dreams I see cubes and prisms
Idols shrieking cacophonous rhythms
Tentacles drag me deep into a labyrinth

Indescribably vile behaviors
Ravage me, oh Lord, where’s my savior?
Am I trapped in purgatory?
My God!

Atop, cyclopean spires
Rising, take me ever higher
Above, beyond infinity
Come on!

There’s my mind truly soars
Cognizance exposing every door

Geometrical, mathematical, I step deliberately
Fantastical, dimensional, through cryptic boundaries
Impossible, improbable, abyss I must transcend
Such frequency, a mystery too deep to comprehend...

BROWN JENKIN
Crawlin’ across the floor
Hellish beast men abhor
Lurkin’ insidiously
Mongrel monstrosity!

MAZUREWICZ
O bone et dulcisissime Iesu
Ante conspectum tuum genibus
Me provolv!

BROWN JENKIN
So here I come, you’ve seen me before
Prepare yourself for what’s in store!

BROWN JENKIN - RATS IN THE WALLS CHOIR
So blasphemous, calamitous, you’ve everything to fear
I’m merciless, nefarious, the screeching that you hear
So deafening, this reckoning

GILMAN
It’s driving me insane!

RATS IN THE WALLS CHOIR
Unsettling and menacing

BROWN JENKIN
These dreams destroy your brain!

MAZUREWICZ
O bone et dulcisissime Iesu
Ante conspectum tuum genibus

GILMAN
Ahhhhhhhhh!

NO TURNING BACK

GILMAN
The Lord is my rock
In him shall I trust?
Is he the shield and horn of my salvation?

WITCH
Don’t look away, the time has come
To abandon absolution
Your body shivers, the quest begun
Penetrate God’s grand delusion
I’m here, your fantasy

Oh there’s no turning back
From all your sensual discoveries
I can give you what you lack
We’ll consummate a new reality
You’ll see!

Why don’t you run?
Why do you feel like a prisoner in your own body?
These monstrous visions, so surreal
I find your passion sensuous and bawdy
I want you desperately
Oh, there’s no turning back
For now you’ve woken up an entity
Demonic giant, lean and black
From worlds beyond he crawls relentlessly towards you
There’s no turning back
From a luridious world of blasphemy
As your nightmare fades to black
Come with me, abandon sanity

WITCH - GILMAN
There’s no turning back!
There’s no turning back!

WITCH
No, there’s no turning back

SIGNUM CRUCIS

ELWOOD
The old witch had become so real to him father, I was afraid she might appear to me. It got worse as May Eve approached, and our superstitious neighbors worried about Walter’s strange behavior. He was sleepwalking, and there were screams at night, and that strange light that glowed from beneath his door.

FATHER IWANICKI
You saw a light?

ELWOOD
Not just me. We all saw it... a weird violet color.

FATHER IWANICKI
In nomine patris, et filii, et spiritus sancti

FATHER IWANICKI - MONKS
Throughout the ages
Virtuous sages
Spoke of a violet light
Waxing primeval
Casing upheaval
Come every Walpurgis Night

ELWOOD
Our neighbor, Desrochers, woke me. He had heard stranger than usual thumping coming from Walter’s room up above. I lit a candle, and we climbed the stairs following the eerie noises. We found Mr. Mazurewicz already listening outside Walter’s door.

MAZUREWICZ
In nomine patris, et filii, et spiritus sancti

MAZUREWICZ - ELWOOD
Cracks ‘round his doorway

MAZUREWICZ - DESROCHERS
Fatefully glowing

MAZUREWICZ - DESROCHERS - ELWOOD
Dreadful footsteps amplify

MAZUREWICZ
Ominous talkin’

DESROCHERS
Somnolent walkin’

FATHER IWANICKI - ELWOOD - MAZUREWICZ - DESROCHERS
There is a Devil inside
My God!

ELWOOD
There was something... a presence not of this world on the other side of that door, Father. We didn’t know what to do! Mazurewicz handed me a crucifix and prayed the rosary. His hands were shaking, Desrochers peeked through the keyhole and it was as if that strange violet light had burned his eye, for he fell back in utter terror.

FATHER IWANICKI
Did you enter the room, my son?

ELWOOD
Yes. By the power of God...

ELWOOD - DESROCHERS
...thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of...

DESROCHERS - MAZUREWICZ
Souls!

ELWOOD
A thing inside his room, we all saw it! A hideous creature like a huge rat, but with the face of a man. Walter’s nightmares had somehow become real!

BROWN JENKIN
Mankind fails to see the truth
Your faith poorly misconceived
Dare you step into the violet light
You’ll see that you’ve been deceived

NOTHING I CAN DO

ELWOOD
Then it vanished into the wall, Mazurewicz said the creature was Brown Jenkin, the Witch’s familiar, Can such things be, Father?

FATHER IWANICKI
The Devil assumes many shapes, my son.

ELWOOD
Walter wasn’t there. We found bloody footprints on the floor, but they stopped halfway across the room. It was as if he vanished before reaching the door! Was it witchcraft? The Devil? Where could he have gone?

GILMAN
Blistering, brilliantly
Glittering, gorgeously
Minarets and pinnacles, as far as eyes can see

High above, sky aflame
Vibrant hues, none the same
Far below, a city glows beyond the balustrade

Is this just a dream?
In terror, I scream
God on high
Hear my cry

Nothing I can do will cleanse my soul anew
Nothing I can say can keep the truth at bay

WITCH
Menacing minstrelsy
Swelling up rhythmically
From below, an overflow of piping symphonies

Maddening melodies
Rapturous rhapsodies
You took a vow, before you now
Three cosmic entities

BROWN JENKIN
This is more than dream
Nothing’s what it seems
Faith’s a lie
Fate draws nigh!

WITCH - BROWN JENKIN
Nothing you can do will cleanse your soul anew
Nothing you can say can keep the truth at bay

ELWOOD
Empty room, where did he go?

MAZUREWICZ
Through these walls the Witch Light glows

DESROCHERS
House of sorrow, house of woe

GILMAN
Nothing I can do will cleanse my soul anew

ELWOOD - BROWN JENKIN - MAZUREWICZ - DESROCHERS
Revelations he defends

WITCH - BROWN JENKIN
While faith condemns

BROWN JENKIN - WITCH
In the end we all descend

ELWOOD
The evil had engulfed him, Father. And I felt it was going to consume me as well. Walter went too far down the path. I want to turn back, but I’m afraid it might already be too late for me.

FATHER IWANICKI
It’s never too late to turn back to God, my son.

ELWOOD
I want to believe that,

ELWOOD
Nothing I can do, that’s why I turned to you
Nothing I can say, has faith led me astray?
In his quest to comprehend, mighty God did he offend?
Walter was my faithful friend.
ELWOOD
There's something about the house itself, Father. It's always been cursed.

FATHER IWANICKI
Do you believe in curses, my Son?

ELWOOD
I believe that there are forces that can corrupt even the most innocent. I imagine that the witch, Keziah Mason, was pulled into that trap herself. She wasn't born evil, was she?

LEGENDS & LORE

WITCH
Long ago light was elusive
Darkness brought me dreams intrusive with
Legends and lore
Legends and lore
Women then lived in God's shadow
Drawn by men into a hallowed holy war

And when my first born died
I was cruelly brought to trial
My innocence denied, I couldn't ignore
The legends and lore

JUDGE HATHORNE
In these times of superstition
Guilty by your own admission
Faith must be restored
You Devil's whore
Here you stand Keziah Mason
Our misfortunes you have hastened with your
Legends and lore

Now I shall sentence thee
As I've sentenced all the others
We can't show leniency
Faith must be restored
Amidst legends and lore

ELWOOD
Judge Hathorne and the others didn't understand
Keziah. She saw into the beyond, and they feared her.

FATHER IWANICKI
Fear has always driven men to desperate acts. Where fear comes, evil follows.

WITCH
And in the dark of night
While the frenzied town was sleeping
There came a violet light
Which opened a door
to legends and lore
Legends and lore
Legends and lore
Legends and lore

THE SLEEPWALKER

ELWOOD
Somehow Keziah escaped. They found mystical lines and curves on the walls of her empty cell.

FATHER IWANICKI
Lines and curves like the ones your friend Gilman studied?

ELWOOD
Exactly, Father! Maybe Walter learned her secret. Maybe he followed in her footsteps.

GILMAN
Am I dreaming?
Am I walking barefoot down the streets of Arkham?
Through these misty alleyways
Beguiled, my mind in disarray
The starlight beaming
Figure gleaming, here in my hand
Exotic and damned, God forsake me

BLESS THE FAITHFUL

ELWOOD
The neighbors knew Walter was in trouble. With May Eve approaching, they were all terrified of what might happen. We knew that supernatural forces were at work, and there was so much gossip in the town. In the morning, I visited Walter with Joe Mazurewicz and the landlord, Dombrowski.

DOMBROWSKI
We've heard you walking in your sleep

MAZUREWICZ
And seen that rat-faced creature too

ELWOOD
The dreams you've had have touched on something deep
And now it seems they're coming true

GILMAN
Help, what am I to do?

DOMBROWSKI
Blessed are the faithful
For Hell's on the horizon

MAZUREWICZ
The evil in this room afflicts us all
You should have this crucifix!

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ELWOOD
We talked about the Black Man, Father, the emissary of terrible powers.

FATHER IWANICKI
Speak of the devil, and he shall appear.

ELWOOD
And then we were both so tired. I was supposed to protect Walter, but I fell asleep.

FATHER IWANICKI
You're only human, my son.

ELWOOD
I failed him, and inhuman forces found Walter that night.

SLAVE CHOIR
Ia Nyarlathotep!
Sened Nyarlathotep!
Ia Nyarlathotep
Sened Nyarlathotep!
Ia Nyarlathotep
Ososur Nyarlathotep!

BROWN JENKIN
Our Lord is near
I must admit, you've conjured us quite brilliantly
You kneel in fear
And understand that we are the true Trinity
Yeah!
Mortal, sign the book of Azathoth

GILMAN
Ahhhhhhhh!

WITCH
And now you'll see
With your own eyes the power of Divinity
Awake, like me,
To his commands across gulfs of infinity

ELWOOD
The Black Man appeared to Walter that night, Father. Nyarlathotep! The Crawling Chaos himself! At his command Keziah and her familiar showed Walter the Book of Azathoth. They wanted him to sign it in his own blood!

FATHER IWANICKI
My God!

ELWOOD
He tried to resist...

GILMAN
Now that the truth is so clear
How do I get out of here?
I lost myself in temptation
Forever a sinner

WITCH
You must sign!
You must sign!

SLAVE CHOIR
Ia Nyarlathotep!
Sened Nyarlathotep!

BROWN JENKIN - WITCH
Bow to the Chaos before you
Vow, let his power restore you
Your world is lost in temptation
God's light, growing dimmer

GILMAN
My God, what have I done?

AZATHOTH

CRAWLING CHAOS
Bow before him, face the master of the night
Now behold the Daemon Sultan at his height
Here you shall revel
Succumb, pay homage, he is Prime
An ancient evil
That lurks beyond all space and time
Space and time
Azathoth!
All appalling truths revealed
Azathoth!
Writhing madness unconcealed
Azathoth!
At the throne of chaos, yield to Azathoth!
Azathoth!

GILMAN
I fear this book before me may be filled with lies
I hear the sound of terror in a baby's cries
I must awaken
But something holds me to this ground
I am forsaken
I signed the book, my soul is bound
It's bound
To Azathoth!
At the throne of chaos, yield
Azathoth!
Is this just a dream, surreal?
Azathoth!
Now in my own blood I kneel to Azathoth!
Azathoth!

ELWOOD
Walter awoke the entire house with his screaming, Father.

FATHER IWANICKI
He sounds like a tortured soul.

GILMAN
I see now it's madness
My heart fills with sadness
This evil consumes me
Forbidden knowledge only dooms me

WITCH
Don't forget you signed your soul away

GILMAN
And bring damnation!

ELWOOD
Gilman was horrified, Father. He saw the missing baby there on the witch's altar, a huge knife, a ritual bowl, and something in him finally snapped free.

FATHER IWANICKI
Thank God for that!

WITCH
Weaving through it means we must appeal to Azathoth
We followed lines and curves and now they've brought us here
To share his awesome might beyond the spheres

WITCH - BROWN JENKIN - REVELERS
Oh, oh, oh, whoa!

BROWN JENKIN
Walpurgis Night is here!
We bow in prostration

WITCH
Now before us lies a naked babe

BROWN JENKIN
The blood of innocence flows in his veins

WITCH
To know the truth we have to pay this price
He shall be our sacrifice

WITCH - BROWN JENKIN
The time has come

WALPURGIS REVELERS
Ia!

WITCH - BROWN JENKIN
This must be done

WALPURGIS REVELERS
Ia!

WITCH - BROWN JENKIN - REVELERS
We chant aloud in exultation
Our Lord is real

WALPURGIS REVELERS
Ia!

WITCH - BROWN JENKIN
To him we kneel

WALPURGIS REVELERS
Ia!

WITCH
I raise my knife

BROWN JENKIN - REVELERS
Fhtagn!

BROWN JENKIN
The fabric of the cosmos is a ragged cloth

THE SACRIFICE / NO TURNING BACK
(REPRISE)

WITCH
As night falls and day ends
The veil drops, our path bends
The stars turn, aligning
Here dream and truth are intertwining

BROWN JENKIN
You will sign!
And now you'll know extermination!
This must be done
The time has come
There's hell to pay, yeah!
Don't back away
GILMAN
the chain of the crucifix twisted around her neck!
witch's throat. Before she saw what he was doing he had
him he felt the chain of the crucifix grinding into his neck.
Jenkin fought back with tooth and nail, and as she choked
into some nether world within his dream. She and Brown
from the old woman's claws, sending it clattering away
chanting coming from Meadow Hill, he wrenched the knife
Walter?
Walter sacrificed himself, Father. Even as he heard the
chanting coming from Meadow Hill, he wrenched the knife
from the old woman's claws, sending it clattering away
into some nether world within his dream. She and Brown
Jenkin fought back with tooth and nail, and as she choked
him he felt the chain of the crucifix grinding into his neck.
He pulled it free and his own hands reached out for the
witch's throat. Before she saw what he was doing he had
the chain of the crucifix twisted around her neck!
MADNESS IS MY DESTINY

GILMAN

Now the night is dawn, darkness drifts away
Enlightenment shines, intervening
Life now conveyed, a mere masquerade
Cloudless, my mind seeks the meaning

Spirit now withdrawn, this figure fades away
Vanquished, my soul cries out screaming
Condemned to a plight to terrorize the night
As a violet light faintly gleaming

The most merciful thing in the world is blindness
towards reality
False perception, deep deception led to my insanity
Dreams eternal, life infernal
Madness is my destiny

And who was I to strive for more than men should know?
We're all oblivious souls in a cosmos that's all aglow
In an everlasting state, the world I contemplate
Fear's just of the flesh and it poisoned man long ago

The most purposeful shroud in the world, credence in the Trinity?
False perception, deep deception led to my insanity
Dreams eternal, life infernal
Madness is my destiny

BROWN JENKIN

Madness is your destiny!

GILMAN

False perception, deep deception led to my insanity
Dreams eternal, life infernal
Madness is my destiny
Madness is my destiny
In black seas of infinity!

DREAMS IN THE WITCH HOUSE
A Lovecraftian Rock Opera

Music by
Chris Laney  Anders Ringman  Lennart Östlund

Lyrics by
Mike Dalager  Andrew Leman

Book by
Sean Branney  Andrew Leman

Based on “The Dreams in the Witch House” by H. P. Lovecraft

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Mike Dalager

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