The Gate

Nursery Rhyme 1 ~Toryanse (Pass Through)~

2020 University of New Hampshire Version
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Songs by Makoto Honda
English Translation by Claire Tanaka

Cast¹

Magical Beasts
1. Three-legged Crow / Butler
2. Musical Accompanist Ah / Man with Card #4
3. Musical Accompanist Un / Man with Card #?
4. White Snake Makeup Artist
5. Fox of the Red Gate
6. Careless Rooster
7. Tanuki who controls the Wind
8. Guide Deer
9. Performing “Speak no Evil” Monkey / Gregory

People who Pass Through the Gate
10. Man with Card #1 / Age 40, used to be a schoolteacher
11. Woman with Card #2
12. Wild Card
13. Man with card #5 / Age 45
14. Flashback Boy / Age 10
15. Flashback Mom

¹ See the director’s notes for information on the magical beasts
16. Flashback Teen / Age 16
17. Person who passes through the gate
18. Person who passes through the gate
19. Person who passes through the gate
20. Person who passes through the gate
Preshow

This scene is happening as the audience comes into the theatre²

· The magical beasts are having a fair

There are booths like a ring-toss, balloon yo-yo fishing, a mask vendor, etc. and customers using the booths

· Children play old-fashioned games like “Toryanse” (this game is similar to London Bridge is Falling Down) and “Ushiro no Shomen Dare” (Kids stand in a circle with one blindfolded in the center. Outside people walk in a circle and sing a song. When the song ends, the person in the middle guesses who is standing directly behind them)

· Children fold airplanes and cranes out of origami paper

· The torii gate in the set is assembled like a giant origami, and the path to the shrine can be seen on the other side of it

· One of the magical beasts walks around handing out numbered cards to audience members

Hustle and bustle sound effects, sometimes a street band can be heard, a crow’s call, music played by Ah and Un

Showtime (start on time)

A single sound of two blocks of wood being tapped together (ki-no-ne)
Distant howling of a fox in response

Music: “Time to Open the Gate” Instrumental

· Each of the magical beasts pick up a lantern, and puts it in place.

· All the cast on stage (the Magical Beasts) readies their own spot in preparation for the opening of the gate

² See director’s notes for information on Shinto shrines, fairs, gates, etc.

Music: “Toryanse” (sung in Japanese)

Toryanse
Toryanse
Koko wa doko no hosomichi ja
Tenjin sama no hosomichi ja
Chotto toshite da shanse
Goyo no nai mono toshasenu
Kono ko no nanatsu no oiwai ni
Ofuda o osame ni mairimasu
Iki wa yoi yoi
Kaeri wa kowai
Kowai nagara mo
Toryanse
Toryanse

(At the end of the song, the other cast members leave the stage, and only the magical beasts remain.)
(They do the following while removing their masks)

   Welcome all ye corpses.
   The show you are about to see is “your” story.

5. Fox: Before the story begins, we must warn you.
   Is there anyone in the audience who still has a beating heart?
   …Of course not. Right?

7. Tanuki: I’m terribly sorry. Of course there’s no one of the sort.
   But in the unlikely event that there is someone who has a heart that still beats, don’t hold back. Raise your hand and let us know, and we’ll

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3 English translation in directors notes. There are recordings on YouTube if you want to check the pronunciation and melody etc.
take it for you.

8. Deer ... No one at all?
Oh? (To a single audience member) Oh that won't do.
(Then, the White Snake suddenly takes the heart from the audience member)

8. Deer Someone smuggled in this fresh heart!
Well, we will take good care of it for you.

1. Crow Now we're ready.

(Everyone faces towards the torii gate and does a clapping ritual.)

1. Crow Open The Gate

Music: “Welcome all ye corpses!”

Everyone Welcome all ye corpses!

1. Crow Everyone here today just came through that door and staggered to a seat. Didn't you? Am I right? Yes, of course. We see all.

7. Tanuki You, who got a handbill on the street and said “Why not? I've got no plans!”

9. Monkey You, who saw this magazine and thought, “Interesting!”

6. Rooster You, who aren't interested in theatre but came to please your date. Am I right?

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4 Presently all of the songs are just literal translations of the Japanese songs. We need to work on them so they are singable in English. Anyone wants to help work on that project, please get in touch.
6,7,9 Yes, of course. We see all.

Everyone Welcome all ye corpses!

4. White Snake And now, unfortunately, you have all become corpses.

Everyone Welcome all ye corpses!

5. Fox What? You don’t know what that means?
Life is like that. You may have lived your life carefully for many decades, but death comes suddenly. Yes. Without warning.

1. Crow What? You don’t believe it? Well, let’s find out. You there. How can you say for certain you are alive? Your body is warm? You’re breathing?
Yes, yes, yes. But, no!
That goes without saying.

6,7,9 You’re living now as a corpse, after all.

Everyone: Welcome all ye corpses!

4. White Snake Your pulse stops and your body grows cold, for but a moment. The moment you stepped through the door of this theatre, that’s where you died, and now your life as a corpse has begun.

5. Fox You haven’t said goodbye to your loved ones!? Too bad! But don’t take out your idiotic phone. It won’t do you any good here.
‘beep boop’ “Hey, darling? It seems I’ve died.”


5. Fox Right??

Everyone: Welcome all ye corpses!
4. White Snake  Now, all you corpses. Don’t worry. Here, you die. Then, before you go through that door again, you live again. Whether you are successfully reborn, or you get stuck here, that is all up to you.

5. Fox  Oh, us? We are here to lead the way. You might know us as, demons around the devil in hell? Fluffy angels with their bows and arrows in heaven? The boatmen on the River Styx?

You can think of us as being in that sort of work.

1. Crow  But it’s really not like that. What we really are is “that” which you met as a child.

Everyone:  
*Welcome all ye corpses!*  
*Welcome all ye corpses*  
*Try to remember*  
*The day you met us*  
*Playing hide and seek*  
*In the twilight at the shrine*

Music ends

5. Fox  Now, number one!

Number one!

Hm? Not paying attention?

You got one when you came in. A card!

There’s a number on it, so please double check.

Music 3 “Rules”

1.  
Your number is called.

6.  
You come up here.

7.  
We ask, “What are you?”

8.  
You answer.

9.  
We ask, “What do you want to be next?”

6.  
You answer.

7
7. You go through the gate.

5. Fox Simple, right?
Are you ready?
Now, number one!
Number one!

(searching through the audience... but can’t find #1)
(To the audience) The person with card number one...

5. Fox (While making gentle frustrated laughing noises) C’mon, stop zoning out. Focus! Focus on the situation at hand.
We don’t have much time today, so look, it’s on your ticket. A number! I’ll call your number so come up to the front. And make it quick! Look at all the people we have to get through today.

Now, number one!

(Doesn’t appear)
Number one! (doesn’t appear)

5. Fox Oh, it’s you! You!
(spotlight shines on a seat in the audience)

10: Huh? Me?
5. Fox Yes, look, see? It says one here.

8. Deer Now, Number One.
“What are you?”

10: What??

5. Fox Aw c’mon. You say “What” but that’s what I want to know!

10. Uh...
5. Don’t you know anything?
Are you OK? (Looks around at audience) We have a lot of amateurs here today. You’ve got to be better prepared for your death! Honestly!

8. Deer OK, I’ll explain. I’ll now ask two simple questions.
“What are you?”
Then you answer
“What you are.”
Next, I’ll ask, “What do you want to be?”
And you answer “What you want to be.”

(While this is happening, the Fox is changing 10’s costume and the White Snake is doing their makeup. But it’s only halfway done)
Then you go through that gate, and we’re done.
Simple, right? Here we go.
“What are you?”

10. Um… how to put it… I am? I was? A teacher...

5. Fox ??? Huh? That’s your occupation isn’t it?
(The Magical Beasts come together hurriedly for a discussion, looking very put out)

“What are you?” Just answer the question.

That’s enough!
Number one, I’ll come back to you later. Think about your answer.

8. Deer Number two!
Number two...

11 Um, it’s me.
5. Fox  You’re number two! Right this way.

(Fox invites 11 to the stage)

8. Deer  Here we go.
What are…

11  (Interrupting) Um, excuse me…

5. Fox  Again? Didn’t you hear the instructions?

11.  Yeah but, no but, yeah.
Uh, I did hear them.
B-but, when that guy, number one, said his job, you said,

5. Fox  That’s your occupation isn’t it?!

11.  Yeah, about that. I don’t uh, I don’t have one.

5. Fox  Unemployed?

11.  I ah, do have a few side gigs, but, yeah.

8. Deer  Yeah.

11.  What?

5. Fox  What?

11.  Well, it makes me think, “What am I, anyway?” And I don’t know the answer.

8. Deer  Yes.

11.  I’m a… human.
But that doesn’t seem right.
5. Fox You’re not human?

11. I am a human, but I’m also a mammal… a living organism, an earthling? Organic matter? Should I just say my name? Or just say, “I’m nobody special”? The more I think, the less sure I am…

    Indeed! What am I?!

5.8. Fox/Deer Hmm…?

11. Right?

5.8. Fox/Deer Right??

5. Fox This one’s a piece of work.

8. Deer Later!

11. Huh?

8. Deer We’ll get to you later. Go stand over there and think.

11. Uh, but.

5. Fox Stand. Over there.

11. Uh, OK.

(White Snake puts make up on 11)

8. Deer Next, number three.

Number three!
C’mon, surely you’re out there?
Everyone, please check your tickets.
We have a lot of people here today so we need to go quickly.
We got off to a slow start after all.

11. Um...

8. Deer Have you decided?
   What are...

11. I’m wondering about the “What do you want to be next” part...

5. “Next” is “Next.”
   What you think when you hear the word “next” and how you respond
   is completely up to you.

2. Excuse me...

5. Fox You are...?
   2. and 3 come forward, holding a briefcase.

2. Ah Um, I am (Holding out his number) Number four. I’m next, right?
   I’m not interested in farcical nonsense and I won’t tolerate it.
   Good-bye. (Starts to leave the theatre)

3. Un Wait! Who are you to come and go of your own accord?

2. Ah What!?

3. Un What!??

2. Ah I’m going this way.
   Don’t follow me.

3. Un Don’t decide on your own. You’re the one who shouldn’t follow me.

2. Ah “You” shouldn’t follow “me!”

3. Un We just happen to be going in the same direction.
2. Ah  I’m going because you’re following me.

3. Un  I’m not following you.

2. Ah  OK then, don’t.

3. Un  You’re holding my briefcase. That’s why it seems like I’m following you.

2. Ah  This is my briefcase!

3. Un  What are you saying? It’s my briefcase!

2. Ah  I want to know what you’re saying. This has been my briefcase since I was born!

3. Un  I want to know what you’re saying. This has been my briefcase since way before I was born.

2. Ah  Let go!

3. Un  I won’t. You let go.

2. Ah  You let go. I won’t!

3. Un  I won’t. You let go.

2. Ah  You let go. I won’t.

5. Fox  Um...

2.3 Ah/Un  What!

5. Fox  That briefcase...

2.3 Ah/Un  It’s mine!
8. Deer  This could take a while.

5. Fox  Yup.

2.3. Ah/Un  You let go! I won’t! You let go! I won’t! You let go! I won’t! (etc.)

5. Fox  Um, hello? Excuse me! Uh…Could you just…

2.3. Ah/Un  What!?

5. Fox  That briefcase. Whose is it…

2.3. Ah/Un  It’s mine!

5. Fox  Yes, of course it is. Then, why are you two connected? And what are you planning to do now?

2. Ah  Like I said. I want to leave this theatre!

3. Un  Well if you go, I’ll have to go too!

5. Fox  (to Un) Why not just let go?

3. Un  Why?

5. Fox  Why? Then you can both freely go where you please. You can go far and wide. At least I think so?

3. Un  Then this guy should let go.

5. Fox  Oh I see. Well, what if you (to Ah) let go?

2. Ah  Why?

5. Fox  Why? Then you can both freely go where you please. You can go far and wide. At least I think so?
2. Ah Then this guy should let go.

5. Fox I see. I’ve had enough.

7. Tanuki Let’s do this. We’ll cut the briefcase in half.

2.3 Ah/Un Aaah!

(They gather around Ah and Un)

2,3 Ah/Un Yay!

5.7 F/T Yay!

(Everyone cheers and does a little dance)

(As they’re doing their little dance, the briefcase gets stuck back together again.)

Ah, Un, Fox, Tanuki: Aaaaaaaaa!

2. Ah Just when I thought we’d finally separated.

7. Tanuki Let’s try again.

(They try to cut it with scissors but it can’t be cut.)

7. Tanuki What? Why?

(Fox and Tanuki each pull on one of Ah/Un)
(The briefcase stretches apart like it’s made of chewing gum.)

5.7. F/T Huh???
5. Fox Oh my, it’s gotten pulled out of shape.

8. Deer Let’s just leave it awhile.

5. Fox Good idea.

10: Um…
Why does that briefcase break apart, and stretch like that?

5.7. T/F Yes.

10. It’s not a yes or no question!

5. Fox Is it strange?

10. Yes, It’s strange.

4. White Snake If you make a wish, it’ll come true. Here in this place.

10. What? If I make a wish?

8. Deer I suppose someone wished for the briefcase to separate. So then it did.

10. Is that all?

5. Fox I think that’s it.

8. Deer So you can just wish. Yes, first of all, why not try putting out that candle?

10. What?

8. Deer Without touching, put out the candle in that lantern.

10. I can’t.
5. Fox

Put your hand over it and wish.

(10 tries, but it doesn’t go out.)

10. I told you I couldn’t.

4. White Snake

Put your hand over it and wish.

(White Snake comes and adds her hand.)
(They wish together.)
(The candle in the lantern goes out.)

10. It went out.

4. White Snake

If you wish, it will come true.
If you don’t wish, it won’t come.

10. To whom?

8. Deer

To someone.

(13 comes out from the audience)

5. Fox

Who are you?

13. If I wish, it’ll come true, right? Oh, this is me. (showing his ticket)
Number five.
(He awkwardly walks out, visible tension in his face, and takes a deep breath)
I’m dead, right? Yes, dead. I get that. Yes, when we die, it could very well be like this. After all, none of us have ever died before, so how do we know what it’s really like? So, I’ve accepted it. Yes, I have. I’ve died. Oh, but maybe I died yesterday, and I only noticed when I entered the theatre just now. I think that was when I went through the gate to heaven. I can accept that. But I’ve got a problem.
8. Deer  A problem?

I've got unfinished business. If I don't do it, I can't die. I mean, my soul can't rest…

5. Fox  Unfinished business? What would that be?

13.  I can't say it!

5. Fox  Huh?

13.  I can't say it. Absolutely not.

8. Deer  Oh no. If you've got important unfinished business, you have to stay here forever.

13.  Here? Forever?

8. Deer  If you can't accept that you'll never do it, you won't be able to move on.

13.  Yes. What? I can't do it? But you said if we make a wish it will come true, didn't you?

7. Tanuki  If you're alive, that is.

13.  But, just now, that was like magic!

4. White Snake  That's because this place is what it is.

13.  This happens all the time, right? You become a ghost and haunt the living, and if your wishes are granted you go to heaven.

8.5. Deer/Fox  Nope! Do not go to heaven, do not pass go, do not collect 200 dollars.
What? That’s not how the system works?

8. Deer  Not at all.
Think about it. How old are you now?

10.  I’m 40.

13.  What??

10.  What, something wrong with being 40?

13.  No, you just seem younger.

10.  How old are you?

13.  I’m 45.

10.  Aaaaa.

13.  Aaaa? What’s that supposed to mean?

10.  Sorry.

11.  Um, I’m 25.

13.  ... And?

8. Deer  Well, you’ve lived that long and you’ve still never heard of “pursue your dream” or “life is short” or “stay hungry stay foolish” or “instant karma’s gonna get you”?

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5 We used quotes from Steve Jobs and John Lennon but we would like some help coming up with some more current examples of “live life to the fullest” type inspirational quotes that would be funny for the audience.
I have.

Right?

Right, what?

You had all that time, and we gave you that advice, so it’s very strange that you’d have unfinished business!

What, you were giving that advice?

We did get the help of certain public figures like Steve Jobs and John Lennon.⁶

But, even if I hear slogans like “make hay while the sun shines” I’ve got so much to do every day, but if I’d known I’d die in advance, I would have rushed to do the things I wanted to do.

Again.

What??

Say it again. What you just said.

If I’d known I’d die in advance, I would have rushed to do what I wanted to do.

Right?

You knew. Humans all die sometime. And no one knows when it will happen. If it will be sooner or later...

But you knew. That humans die.

You too.

⁶ (see previous footnote)
Music: “You will die”

Humans die someday
Animals die someday too
Anything born must die

There's only one truth that is more certain than anything Nostradamus predicted

You will die
You will die
You will die

(17, 18, 19, 20 go through the gate)

6. Scared?

13. “There’s still so much I want to do.”

6. Don’t believe it?

10. “After all, I’m still so healthy.”

6. Feel bad?

11. “I still haven’t accomplished anything.”

4. White Snake Yes, if we knew about death in advance, we could prepare for it. Not everyone is so lucky. You know it from the news.

Humans die someday
Animals die someday too
The earth will die someday too
Anything born must die
There's only one truth that is more certain than anything Nostradamus predicted.

(As the song ends, 13 removes his trench coat)

Everyone !!!

13 is wearing a maid's uniform.

13. Here. (Holds out a piece of paper)


Everyone Huh?? What?? It’s not possible! I mean, is it??

13. I know what you're thinking. But I'm not a pervert, and I'm not playing dress-up either. I'm very serious about taking this interview.

Everyone Even more... whaat?

13. I mean I’m serious about dressing like a woman. No, that’s not quite it. I have a very good reason for wearing these clothes.

10. What reason is that?

13. Yes, Gregory Weston is a famous billionaire. And he doesn’t like people. He won't just meet with anyone. This interview is my only chance to meet with Mr. Weston.

10. Ah.

13. The reason why I'm wearing this to my interview is...

10. The reason is?

Knock! Knock! (Sound of knocking) ← Music intro starts here
5. Fox: Pardon me.

1. Butler: Go ahead, please tell me what sort of food you can make.

5. Fox: I can make fried eggs! I'd like very much to serve my delicious fried eggs to Mister Weston. Other than fried eggs, I can make... fried eggs.

1. Butler: Rejected!

13. Butler: The food he likes, the clothes he wears, what time he wakes up and goes to sleep. Even the order he takes his pills. There are rules for everything. And it's not easy to find a maid who can do it all.


1. Butler: Next!

(Knocking sound)

4. White Snake: ..... 

1. Butler: What are your skills?

(White Snake stares at the Butler's head and puts her hand over it)

1. Butler: Wha-what?

(The Butler's wig goes flying)

1. Butler: Eeek! Rejected!

13. Butler: I should be able to clear this interview and gain an audience with Mr. Weston.

10. Butler: Why?

(Knocking sound)
13. Pardon me.

1. Butler (Is surprised to see 13) !! Oh, this is an interview for a maid, and you seem to ... um... could you....

13. (All in one breath) His alarm is set for 7:10, but he gets up at 8:15. In the meantime I prepare milk tea and fruit. Strawberries and grapes on Mondays, that plus oranges on other days, and scones with cream on Sundays. After breakfast, he washes his face, does his hair, and puts a watch on his left wrist. The watch depends on the day. Rolex on Mondays, Audemars Piguet on Tuesdays...

1. Butler Wait a moment...
   You are...

13. Please let me see the master of the house.

1. Butler I can’t just...

13. I’ve studied everything about being a maid.

1. Butler How?

13. By watching Downton Abbey!

Everyone Downton Abbey?

(Music changes)

13. I learned how to hold teacups from Mrs. Hughes. How to polish silver from Mr. Barrow. I learned how to help people dress from Anna. I particularly learned a lot from... Miss O’Brien!

Please let me meet Mr. Weston.
9. Gregory  Oh! Who are you?

13. Please. Look at this face.
    Look at my clothing.
    I think you must remember.
    Don’t I look like someone?

9. Gregory  Someone?
    (13 and Gregory gaze at each other)

Everyone:  (stares intently, with some kind of audible “staring” sound)

9. Gregory  You’re...?!

13. Yes, I’m the child of Yoko, who worked in your home as a maid 50 years ago.

9. Gregory  Yoko!

13. My mother went back to her country when she got pregnant with me.

14. Hey, how come I don’t have a dad at home?

15. He’s far away.

14. I’d like to meet him someday.

15. I’d like to see him again too...

14. Then let’s go see him!

15. Yes. Someday. One day let’s go see him.

14. Where is my father?

15. In a far-away country. A free country. A beautiful place.
Many years passed and we never realized our dream of going to see my father. Life with just the two of us was tough, but we were very happy.

And now, my mother is gradually returning to those old days.

14, plus Magical Beasts 17, 18, 19, and 20 who play the game “Toryanse” (like London Bridge)

What, it’s already 8:15! Go to school! Do you have your lunch?

Mom, I’m an adult now. I don’t go to school.

Oh, that’s right. (looks at 13) Oh, pardon me, sir. I’ll bring your tea and scones right away.

Mom, do I look like someone else?

What are you talking about? You’re my treasure.
Ha-ha, hey, why the sad face?
Is someone picking on you?
Do you want me to go punch out a bully for you?

Mom...

As my mother slipped back and forth in time, the father I’d never met and I seemed to overlap more and more in her mind.

Why won’t you stay by my side?
Why do I have to be alone?
Why, why, why...

I could hear the loneliness in her voice.
(Facing the Magical Beasts)
I know my mother wanted to see my father again. My existence had taken away her freedom. I wanted to bring her here so she could be free of her burden. I think her wish is for me to meet the man she loved.

1. Is that really true?

13. Huh?

1. You don't suppose your mother's story might be a little different than your own?

13. My mother's story?

1. Lend me that Maid Wanted ad you showed me earlier.

13. This?

1. This is a letter.

13. Huh?

15. Dear you:
How are you doing?
Do you remember me?
I'm fine.
I've been thinking of you.
Inside my head, sometimes the memories get big, sometimes small.

I feel like this memory will disappear and go away, too.

That's why I'm writing this letter.
I want to keep this in my head to the very end.
A treasure that I want to keep to the very end.
This is my son.
This little treasure was born from half of me and half of you.
I’m sorry I kept our treasure to myself all this time.
You are disappearing from my mind. Please forgive me.
And before my son disappears from my mind,
I’m carving my son’s name on this spiral letter.⁷

Till we meet again
Till we meet again

I hope you’ll be born from me again.

Sound Effect: Heartbeat

Music: “The Gate”

14.  Hey, I saw it through your navel.
Your happy face.
I heard it through your navel.
Your jolly humming.

13.  Hey, I wanted to meet you,
I wanted to cry.
I wanted to say a proper goodbye.

Everyone:  You could be reborn
Even in grieving and sadness
Even weaklings who can’t get started
Go through the gate many times

You could be reborn
You could be reborn

Hey, go on ahead.
Hey, go on ahead.

⁷ The “spiral letter” is a reference to DNA
It’s easy to go,
It’s easy to live
It’s easy to be born
It’s easy to die

Now, come back here.

It’s scary to go home
It’s scary to return
It’s scary to go home
It’s scary to hatch
Pass through, pass through...

(13, 14, 15 go through the Gate)
(Music ends)

10.  …Yeah right!
That’s just a tall tale, isn’t it? I mean, this is all a play.

4.  Does it really matter if it’s true or not?

10.  What?

4. White Snake  Whether you believe it or not, it’s that person’s story.

10.  What do you mean?

6.  People need a reason when they pass through the Gate.

7.  There are a lot of truths even if there is only one fact.

9.  Something that is a truth for one person, may be different for another.

You said… you were a teacher, didn’t you?

Yes…..?

You must have a student you will always remember.

Ah, sure.

Tell us that story.

I was homeroom teacher to a class of high school sophomore students. I had a small, weak student, who always wrote poetry. One day, he showed me his notebook. Inside it said:

Dear you
I look for you
On clear days I pretend the wind blows me
On rainy days I pretend to look up at the heavy clouds
And finally, I look down
When you pass by

I thought it was a pretty amateur poem.

I was putting my heart on my sleeve.

I looked at the poem and casually remarked, “Oh, you’ve got a crush. You should say it in person.”

Yes, I just did.

What?

“You” is you, sir.

Oh. Wait. I’m a man for one thing. And your teacher. I can’t… How can I put this...
16. I just wanted to tell you.
    That’s all.

10. That’s all?
    I mean, you should be doing that stuff with a girl your own age…

16. …how could you.

10. Then, I knew I could never take it back. I’ll never forget his eyes. I’m sure he was disappointed in me. After all, I had always said,

16. “In your heart, you are free.”
    You rejected me, but I knew, that was part of being free.

10. I’m a horrible person.

16. I didn’t mean to bother you. I just wanted to tell you.

10.16. For me, this is a

    (the two say their next lines simultaneously, looking at one another)

10. Painful memory.
16. Beautiful memory.

(10 is surprised)

6.7.9. See?

10. …

5. Fox The story can be very different depending on who tells it.

    Music 5 “Story”
    Story
I think that your feelings when you pass through this gate determine what happens to you when you go.

What do you mean?

When people are asked “Who are you?” some may say “I’m someone’s child” and yet other people say “I’m someone’s parent.” Right?

Some may answer “perpetrator” while others might say “victim.”

Some might reply with their occupation, while others tell their dream.

Oh, I get it!
I mean, I understand how it would be hard to know how to respond.

And when people are asked “What do you want to be next?” Some people respond with a tribe or a race.

Others say a place or a role.

They might say a relationship with someone or a regret.

So you’re saying...?

They’re all... the right answer.

Huh?
3. I don’t really get it either, but they’re aaaall right!

5. Even we don’t know what comes after the Gate.

10.11. You don’t know??!!

8. Yes, but we know the Gate will always appear in front of those who need it.

10. Those who need it?

Suddenly, the sound of a siren (and a fox howls)

1. It has started!

10. What has?

1. Time!

(The Magical Beasts begin rushing around getting ready to go home)

11. W-wait. What is going on? (stops someone) What do you mean, time? (while running)

5. This theater is a strange place.

8. It’s the closest place in this world to the afterlife.

4. People die once, and are reborn before they leave.

6. And we must always be here.

2. We are actors,

3. And we are also corpses.
1. (Grabbing 10) If you stay around here too long, you'll become an actor too.

Music “Theater”
*There is a gap between this world and the next* 
*It’s a theater*
*Everyone on stage is a corpse*

11. I think I’ve begun to understand.
This gate could just be a prop. Just part of the set on the stage! “You’ve known that from the beginning?” Yes, yes of course. If this gate is just made-up, then what is the real gate?

10. I think that the entrance to the theater is the true gate. I know it. The door of the bus I rode today, the door of the bakery where I bought my bread. The door of the clinic I went to with a cold, the school gate. All the gates. Was I dying and being born over and over every time I went through a door?

*The gap between this world and the next*
*It’s a theater*
*Everyone on stage is a corpse,*
*In a theater*

10. On my way home, I’ll pass through a gate again. The gate of this building, the gate of the supermarket, the gate of the bar, then I’ll climb the stairs to the gate to my own apartment door.

(During the song, the actors put on fox masks, and 10 picks one up)

10. The corpses will become foxes, and they’ll invite you to the theater, over and over and over.

(10 puts on fox mask)
The gap between this world and the next
It’s a theater
Everyone on stage is a corpse

(Fin)
Curtain Call

Music “Kaso Jogi”

Nothing
Nothing
Floating in the deep blue
A ruler floats
One, two, three, four
Border between this world and the next

Born from a grave
Sleeping in a womb
Nothing
Nothing

Born from a grave
Sleeping in a womb
Nothing
Nothing

The name written on the ruler
Live
Die
Then come back here
Then come back here