

SKINLESS
by Liqing Xu

About the play (from the playwright's website):

SKINLESS re-imagines Chinese legend The White Snake as a queer, gender-bending fairy tale. A coming-of-age love story about the power of re-invention.

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MOGWAI—Non-binary, a thousand years old. A sneaky and mischievous demon.

GREEN—Non-binary, five hundred years old. A snake demon who cannot transform, but can possess others.

(Please choose one of the roles to read)

About the scene:

GREEN and MOGWAI, both demons, are disguised as humans inside a raucous night club. GREEN is trying to discover who they truly are, while MOGWAI is there to cause chaos.

MOGWAI

So, something about you makes me think we could have fun.

GREEN

Why is that?

MOGWAI

You're not one of them, are you?

GREEN

Don't know what you're talking about.

MOGWAI

Either way - I can't tell if you are man or woman.

GREEN

Nobody ever told me, and thus, I just exist.

MOGWAI

Would you like to come home with me?

GREEN

And do what?

MOGWAI

Do what humans do.

GREEN

I'm not sure I follow.

MOGWAI

I would like to rip that skin off of you and see what's underneath.

GREEN

Is that what humans do? Tell me more.

MOGWAI

Well... don't you want to feel what it's like to be desired? Feel the flash of possession in someone's eye, your body like a bait? To be torn apart limb from limb?

GREEN

You make it sound so thrilling, like I'd be eaten for dinner.

MOGWAI

Well. In a way.

GREEN

Who are you, exactly?

MOGWAI

I'm simply here to help you along your journey.

GREEN

Ha. Very kind of you, but there must be something in it for you.

MOGWAI

That's true. I suppose you'd have to just trust that what's in it for me isn't going to be a problem for what's in it for you.

GREEN

I don't know if I want to trust you.

MOGWAI

There's only one way to see – come with me.