



Scene 1: The Great Earthquake and Fires of 1906:
A Dramatic Remembrance

Parts:

Narrator

Ruth Allen (26-year-old mom)

James Allen (30-year-old dad)

Jack Allen (6-year-old son)

Scene 1

Narrator: Ruth, James, and Jack are all in one bed sleeping. The sun has come up, but it is still early in the morning. The room jolts suddenly. Ruth sits up in bed.

Ruth (*shouting urgently and shaking James and Jack*): James! Jack! Wake up! Wake up!

(*James and Jack wake up suddenly and sit up in bed*)

James: It's an earthquake and I think it's a bad one. Come on, get up quickly, both of you. We need to get to the doorway. The doorframe will protect us.

Narrator: All throw off the covers, get out of bed, and run for the doorway. The shaking is getting worse. Pictures are falling from the walls and the bed is moving across the room. Dad throws the door open and they all huddle in the doorway holding on desperately to the frame.

Jack (*looking up at Ruth*): Mom, I'm scared. I don't want to die.

Ruth (*grabs hold of Jack's free hand tightly*): It will be over soon, Jack. I promise. Keep a hold of my hand. Don't let it go.

James: Keep hold of the doorframe, both of you. Don't let it go.

Narrator: They all turn their heads as they hear a bloodcurdling scream and then silence from the room across the hallway. Ruth squeezes her eyes shut as if to block out the sound and Jack whimpers. The shaking intensifies and the building groans and creaks noisily around them. The floor suddenly tilts underneath their feet. Ruth screams and they all struggle to hold on.



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Ruth (*frantically trying to hold on to the doorframe and Jack's hand*): James, I'm losing my grip. I don't know how much longer I can hold on.

Jack (*screaming*): Mom!

James: Ruth, we can do this. It won't be much longer now.

Narrator: The ceiling in the bedroom in which they were sleeping falls through and a cloud of dust surrounds the family, making it difficult for them to see anything. Jack screams. As quickly as it started, the shaking stops.