

Hand of Jane

by

**Karen Lee Pickett
BFA, University of Victoria, 2006**

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

in the Department of Writing

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Supervisory Committee

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Joan MacLeod, (Department of Writing)
Supervisor

Maureen Bradley, (Department of Writing)
Departmental Member

Jan Wood, (Department of Theatre)
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Abstract

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An original full-length theatrical play in three parts, *Hand of Jane* deals with themes of faith, family and responsibility to the past, and examines human spiritual evolution through the story of a father and daughter, and Jane, a mystical guide loosely based on Jane Goodall.

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Dedication

In memory of
Jillian Raye Minton
1946 – 2008
theatre artist, colleague, friend

HAND OF JANE

by

Karen Lee Pickett

Setting: Quinneola, a small Texas town
Tanzania; Rhodesia

Set: On stage, there is a tree, and a high point upstage
(the 'Peak'). Downstage, indication of the backyard of
a small house, incorporating a glider.

Characters:

Rachel

Frank, Rachel's father

Lorraine, Rachel's childhood friend

Jane, apparition

Chorus, five actors who play:

Chimps

Congregation

Doctors

Assistants

Leaky

Evangelists

Mrs. Cratts

Nurse

*Rights to produce Hand of Jane in whole, or in part, in any
medium by any group, amateur or professional, are retained by the
author. Interested producers are requested to contact Karen Lee
Pickett at kaleepi@uvic.ca.*

AUTHOR'S NOTE

The action of the play is fluid, moving forward and backwards in time and in space. Flashbacks and changes in location should be incorporated seamlessly into the fabric of the action, with scenes flowing from one into the other without extensive scene changes or blackouts. The play is divided into three sections to support the dramatic structure; these parts are not acts, and no act break should be taken between them.

The fluidity of the action should be supported by a non-naturalistic set. The important set pieces – the tree and the glider – should serve in both present and past; i.e. the glider becomes Jane's boat, and a sofa in the care home. Other directorial and design decisions are at the discretion of the production team.

The character of Jane is inspired by Jane Goodall, but is not intended nor should be perceived to be a realistic portrayal of the actual person. The Jane in this play is filtered through Rachel's memory and perception, and is a spiritual guide as well as devil's advocate. Jane is able to control time and space, and the flashbacks should be instigated by her, through gesture and/or movement.

The Chorus should be on stage at all times. When they are not in the scene, they may be chimps, grooming and quietly interacting, or they may sit on stage and observe the action as the chorus. When not specified in the text, their action is at the director's discretion. Until the point in the text where Rachel, Jane, Frank and Lorraine emerge as distinct characters, they are also part of the chorus.

Lines for the Chorus have three configurations:

1. Split up into individually assigned lines (e.g., "CHORUS 1", "CHORUS 2")
2. When there is one heading of "CHORUS", the lines should be alternated between chorus members, and sometimes could be spoken all together, or in smaller groups. This is at the director's discretion.
3. Headed by "ALL CHORUS", the lines should be spoken together, as a choir would sing a song. Like a choir, the director is free to make choices about speed, pitch and harmony. When words or gestures must be synchronized, it is useful to cue on an inhalation of breath.

All sound effects and noises should be generated by the chorus whenever possible.

In the text, when a character interrupts the line before, the point where the second speech begins is marked with /.

PRELUDE

In the darkness, sounds of jungle at night - calls, hoots, insects. Sound gives way to silence.

The company of actors enters and comes downstage. They are themselves. They consider the audience. After a few moments, they start to very slowly transform. It shouldn't be obvious at first what they are becoming - the change starts with intermittent sounds, and progresses into specific body tension. On a signal, they all make a synchronized gesture, through which we understand that they are chimpanzees.

The chimps explore their environment. One chimp becomes isolated from the others.

The isolated chimp becomes Rachel. She comes downstage, held in an area of light. She is eight years old. The chimpanzees surround her and begin speaking. They crescendo into a scary nightmare. Rachel stares out and up, as if watching a preacher in the pulpit.

CHORUS

Sweetheart,
Sweet/heart
Sweetheart
you are going to hell.
You know what hell /is?
Sweetheart
It's like
being sent to the
principal's office,
but instead of /Mr. Suiter, it's
principal's office
the devil,
and instead of /giving you detention,
eternity
you get to spend
eternity
in a lake of fire.

ALL CHORUS

This could happen!

CHORUS

It's as real as
getting your house blown away in a
tornado,
blown away
or Riley Collins sticking pins in your leg at recess.

They turn into children, circling and mocking Rachel.

ALL CHORUS

PK! PK! PK!

Rachel runs away, and the Chorus retreats (chorus members playing Frank, Jane and Lorraine exit). Rachel is by herself, watching a television show about Jane Goodall. The murmured documentary voiceover is barely audible. Chorus repeats fragments of the voiceover.

CHORUS

Came into the jungle--
Fascinated by the--
Goodall observed their family units--
All the while, the one she called David Greybeard--
Instincts which seem almost human--
Chimpanzees, of the order of Pan Troglodytes--
Deep bush of the Tanzanian forest, they make their
nests in the topmost branches of--
Having Flo, the matriarch of the family, giving--
No idea that Goodall would discover the use of tools
among these animals--

During this, from the bright light of the television, Jane enters and sits next to Rachel. She wears a khaki safari vest with many pockets and her long hair is in a ponytail. Rachel doesn't notice her at first and continues to watch television. Jane pushes Rachel with her shoulder, teasing, until Rachel pays attention to her. Jane shows her a hand-clapping game. They play and chant a rhyme.

JANE & RACHEL

Jane Jane
In the rain
Climbing trees
Swatting bees
Waiting for the chimpanzees
Do they have a brain?
Do they have a brain?

They laugh together. Rachel repeats a presentation she did for school. Jane approves throughout.

RACHEL

In Africa, it's hot all the time, hotter than here.
There are deep jungles with trees pressed right up
against each other. That's where the chimpanzees hide.
They hide from all the people. Except Jane.

Frank enters. He approaches Rachel to take her through her catechism. Jane acts like a chimpanzee during this

exchange, trying to make Rachel laugh. Frank doesn't see Jane.

FRANK

"Who is the first and chiefest being?"

RACHEL

"God is the first and chiefest being."

FRANK

"Ought every one to believe there is a God?"

RACHEL

"Everyone ought to believe there is a God; and it is their great sin and folly who do not."

FRANK

"How may we know there is a God?"

RACHEL

"The light of nature in man and the works of God plainly declare there is a God."

FRANK

"What is God?"

The chimps approach. Jane speaks with Rachel, and the Chorus echoes sounds in a chimp-like way. Rachel gets bigger and more dramatic, until she is shouting the last word with gleeful abandon.

RACHEL & JANE

"God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth!"

All are silent. Frank stares at Rachel, who is mortified. He is sorely disappointed. He exits. Rachel tries to hang onto Jane, but Jane brings the present, and then exits.

Chorus comes forward and one chorus member hands Rachel a cell phone. The cell phone buzzes. She looks at it, hands it to another chorus member, who hands it back. She looks at it, hands it to another chorus member, who hands it back to her. Rachel looks at it, reacts. The Chorus comes forward.

PART I

CHORUS

What is beginning?
Where?
New American Standard Version.
In the beginning.
In the beginning
Beginning in,
On or about 1972
There was Jane.
Adam's rib
Or
Leakey's bones
An idea
A stirring
Light with the darkness
The beginning and the end
A
Men

Rachel cautiously enters the backyard of her childhood home. She looks at tree, glider, all very familiar and strange. Frank comes out the back door, surprising her. He has a small bandage on his forehead.

RACHEL

Oh!

FRANK

Hello?

RACHEL

I'm sorry, I didn't—

FRANK

Yes?

RACHEL

Dad.

FRANK

Can I help you?

RACHEL

Dad, it's Rachel.

FRANK

Rachel Lynn! Hello! *[they share an awkward hug]* What in the world are you doing here?

RACHEL

I called, remember?

FRANK

I wish you'd told us to expect you, honey.

RACHEL

I did.

FRANK

You didn't call. That would have been best.

RACHEL

I called yesterday morning, and again last night.

FRANK

Did you drive down?

RACHEL

No, Dad. I flew.

FRANK

Good trip?

RACHEL

I guess. You know flying isn't what it used to be.

FRANK

Who brought you from the airport?

RACHEL

I rented a car.

FRANK

You should have called. I could have picked you up.

RACHEL

Dad, you can't drive to the city. It's a hundred and fifty miles.

FRANK

What are you talking about?

RACHEL

You wrecked-- [beat] I thought the car was in the shop.

FRANK

What? That car's never given me a day of trouble.

RACHEL

It's okay, Dad. I'm here now.

FRANK

Yes. You should have called.

RACHEL

I did call! You bent my ear for half an hour about how they've changed the hours at the bakery.

FRANK

Don't open until nine A.M. Nine A.M.! Whoever heard of a bakery to open so late?

RACHEL

Dad, why did they let you out of the hospital?

FRANK

I wasn't in the hospital.

RACHEL

You were yesterday. I talked to your doctor. They were going to keep you another night for observation.

FRANK

I would certainly know if I'd been in the hospital.

RACHEL

I think you might still be a little.. disoriented. Are you feeling okay?

FRANK

Of course.

RACHEL

They said-- I thought you hit your head.

FRANK

This? Just cut myself shaving.

RACHEL

You don't remember-- [beat] Dad, you drove the car into a ditch.

FRANK

I did not.

RACHEL

Why else do you think I'm here?

FRANK

Do you need money?

RACHEL

Dad, I'm worried about you. Can you tell me what happened? With the car?

Lorraine enters, talking.

LORRAINE

Sorry I'm late, Brother Aimes. I forgot I switched with Mary's day for Meals on Wheels--- Oh. [beat] Hi there.

RACHEL

Hi, Lorraine.

FRANK

Look who's here! I didn't know it was so close to Christmas.

LORRAINE

It's March.

RACHEL

Why is he out of the hospital?

LORRAINE

He checked himself out.

RACHEL

They let him do that?

LORRAINE

You know Dr. Lindley used to be your father's deacon. They thought he was fine to go home.

FRANK

Lorraine, why don't you get some ice tea for my guest.

RACHEL

I'm not a guest, Dad. *[to Lorraine]* He's obviously not fine.

LORRAINE

He's being looked after. I stayed here last night, looked in on him every few hours.

RACHEL

Oh, yeah. That's as good as an ICU. Sure.

FRANK

You should have called.

RACHEL

I called!

FRANK

I don't like your tone, young lady.

RACHEL

Oh for Christ's sake...

FRANK

What was that?

RACHEL

Nothing, dad. I know what you're going to say next - don't even start. I'm not through the door five minutes before I'm taking the Lord's name in vain. Hold on a minute while I get the booze and drugs out of my suitcase.

LORRAINE

Finally picked up your messages, then?

RACHEL

Nice to see you too, Lorraine.

LORRAINE

Brother Aimes, would you like some ice tea?

FRANK

Oh. Yes. Yes, Lorraine, that would be very nice.

RACHEL

Did you say you were staying here?

LORRAINE

Only last night. To keep an eye on things.

FRANK

Are you staying long?

RACHEL

Me?

LORRAINE

Your old room is kind of... full of stuff. But I can make up the bed.

FRANK

Lorraine's been a big help around here.

RACHEL

Yeah. That's great.

FRANK

Is it dinner time?

LORRAINE

Not quite yet, Brother Aimes.

FRANK

We should have some ice tea.

LORRAINE

When do you have to go back?

RACHEL

I'm here for-- for as long as I need to be.

LORRAINE

Isn't that nice.

FRANK

Do you need money?

RACHEL

Dad! No. I'm fine. I have a job.

FRANK

A job? What kind of job?

RACHEL

The same job I've had for years.

FRANK

You still working at that diner?

RACHEL

Diner? You mean the café? Dad, that was fifteen years ago.

LORRAINE

She's an artist, Reverend Aimes. And Marjorie told me you were working on movies.

RACHEL

Well, production.

FRANK

I'll get my wallet.

He exits.

LORRAINE

You look good. You don't have kids, that's why.

RACHEL

Lorraine.

LORRAINE

What?

RACHEL

What the hell is going on?

LORRAINE

Would you keep your voice down, please?

RACHEL

He's so *[beat]* different.

LORRAINE

From what?

RACHEL

The way he sounds-- on the phone, he's...

LORRAINE

Did he know you?

RACHEL

Oh, yeah. Right away.

LORRAINE

Well, that's good.

RACHEL

So. What happened?

LORRAINE

What happened? You mean the car?

RACHEL

Lorraine, the sheriff called me.

LORRAINE

That finally got your attention.

RACHEL

I'm doing the best I can. This is serious.

LORRAINE

More serious than six months ago?

RACHEL

Yes! If he's crashing the car and having delusions--

LORRAINE

Why didn't you call back?

RACHEL

I called back! I'm here!

LORRAINE

Now. Why now?

RACHEL

Tell me what happened. Sherriff Whitley--

LORRAINE

Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.

RACHEL

So I gathered. It wasn't really clear--

LORRAINE

He doesn't have enough to do. I know there's some juvenile delinquents in this town he could harass.

RACHEL

Was Dad arrested?

LORRAINE

Of course he wasn't arrested. He's a pillar of this town. Whitley isn't that stupid.

RACHEL

Well, what?

LORRAINE

Brother Aimes drove the car into a culvert, way up the Alto road. It was dry this time of year. And it's not deep anyway.

RACHEL

Was he--

LORRAINE

He just bumped his head, didn't even dent the car, but by the time he'd wandered to Cathy and Joey's place - you remember Cathy from high school? Used to be Onley? He got to their place and he was talking... wild.

RACHEL

You know my dad doesn't have a wild bone in his body.

LORRAINE

Talking about his mamma, how the drums scared her, or some such.

Pause.

RACHEL

Sounds like he could have - I don't know, had a concussion or something.

LORRAINE

Dr. Lindley couldn't find anything wrong with him. His memory is getting a little foggy, that's all. *[beat]* You didn't need to come after all.

RACHEL

Oh. Okay. So, the eight million calls to my cell phone - did you think you were calling Dial-A-Prayer?

Pause.

RACHEL

I'm sorry. Lorraine, I know-- look, I appreciate you helping out around here. But he's my father. I can take care of things.

LORRAINE

Tina and I were trying to remember the last time we saw you.

RACHEL

Tina Washington? When did you start hanging out with her?

LORRAINE

She's Vaughn now.

RACHEL

You have got to be kidding. Does she get to have cars up on blocks in the front yard and everything?

LORRAINE

She works for Dr. MacIntyre. They do pretty good.

RACHEL
So. You and Tina are... friends.

LORRAINE
Our daughters are friends.

RACHEL
You bonded over My Little Pony.

LORRAINE
Sarah's seventeen.

RACHEL
You have a seventeen-year-old daughter?

LORRAINE
She's the youngest. Graduates this year.

RACHEL
But Brent and...

LORRAINE
Kelly. They've moved out. Twenty and twenty-two.
Working.

RACHEL
Are you a grandmother? I don't think I could handle
that.

LORRAINE
Not yet. Kelly and his wife are trying.

RACHEL
Don't let them call you Meemaw, okay?

LORRAINE
Don't worry.

RACHEL
You're still with Kevin, then?

LORRAINE
Surprised?

RACHEL
[beat] How is he?

LORRAINE
Hm. 'Bout the same, I guess.

RACHEL
He really settled down.

LORRAINE
Yeah. He settled.

RACHEL
Well it's pretty remarkable that you're still married.

LORRAINE

Thanks.

RACHEL

No! I didn't mean it like that! I mean, you know, high school sweethearts, young love, it doesn't always work out.

LORRAINE

It never works out. Not like you expect it to. *[beat]*
You want ice tea?

RACHEL

Sure.

Lorraine exits. Rachel is bewildered. Jane enters, unseen by Rachel, and observes her.

Lorraine enters, with iced tea.

RACHEL

Thanks.

Pause.

LORRAINE

I'll get your dad.

RACHEL

Wait. Could I-- could we--

LORRAINE

What?

RACHEL

You look really good.

LORRAINE

You're still a liar.

RACHEL

I've thought about you a lot. I wanted to--

LORRAINE

I was glad you didn't. I have a great life.

RACHEL

Yeah. I can't believe your kids are-- well, not kids.

LORRAINE

Time flies.

RACHEL

Do they look like you?

LORRAINE

Are you really interested?

RACHEL

I am. Just because I didn't write--

LORRAINE

Or call, or visit on those rare occasions you flew through town. When was the last one? Three Christmases ago? Oh, I knew when you were here. Your dad would talk about it for weeks beforehand.

RACHEL

He did?

LORRAINE

He was excited. And anxious.

RACHEL

My father has never been anxious about anything.

LORRAINE

His faith sees him through.

RACHEL

[beat] Thank you for looking after him like this. I didn't realize--

LORRAINE

He doesn't need that much looking after.

RACHEL

Really?

LORRAINE

It's my privilege. After all he's done for the church. The whole town, really.

RACHEL

A privilege.

LORRAINE

I think he's been less lonely since I starting coming. He just thinks I drop by, hang out with him, bring meals, cook here every now and then.

RACHEL

It's good of you.

LORRAINE

He didn't expect you. I think it's got him all discombobulated.

Pause.

RACHEL

I'm sure he... depends on you.

LORRAINE

[beat] How's New York City treating you?

RACHEL

About the same, I guess.

LORRAINE

I don't know how you do it.

RACHEL

It's not a big deal.

LORRAINE

I could never live in a place like that. Are you scared?

RACHEL

Huh?

LORRAINE

I mean, do you have to take the subway and stuff?

RACHEL

Yeah. I take the subway and stuff. It's just what you do.

LORRAINE

I always think of those awful places you see on TV - all the bolts and locks on the door--

RACHEL

It's like Disneyland now. No - it's safer than Disneyland.

LORRAINE

And you really like it?

RACHEL

I don't know what else to do.

LORRAINE

Are there rats?

RACHEL

Yeah. And some of them are even four-legged.

LORRAINE

Too bad you have to come back here. Not very exciting. Little ol' Quinneola.

RACHEL

I thought you might be glad to see me.

Beat. Frank enters.

FRANK

Hello!

RACHEL

Hi, Dad. You okay?

LORRAINE

Here's your ice tea, Brother Aimes.

FRANK

Thank you, Lorraine. The blinds on my windows are stuck.

LORRAINE

I'll have a look at them.

FRANK

They won't close.

RACHEL

How are you feeling?

FRANK

I feel fine!

RACHEL

You don't look right.

FRANK

That afternoon sun comes in like a knife.

RACHEL

I think you should go back to the hospital.

FRANK

It's just the sun.

RACHEL

I can't believe they discharged you.

LORRAINE

Rachel--

RACHEL

Come on, I'll drive.

LORRAINE

He doesn't need to go to the hospital.

RACHEL

Did you get your medical license at some point? 'Cause if you did, I'd be glad to hear your diagnosis.

LORRAINE

You don't need to get ugly. Dr. Lindley said Reverend Aimes was fine to go home.

RACHEL

Was this after Dr. Lindley's golf game? With martinis on the 19th hole? Come on, Dad.

Jane enters, lets Rachel see her.

JANE

Observe. In the native habitat.

LORRAINE

[to Frank] Let me take that glass for you. Why don't you sit on the glider?

FRANK

Thank you for the ice tea, Lorraine. I think I'll sit out here for a while.

JANE

Who has time to really see a flower?

LORRAINE

Rachel, you can fuss at me all you want, but I am not going to let you upset him.

RACHEL

I wasn't upsetting him.

LORRAINE

Once he gets all agitated, there's no end to it.

JANE

Quiet. Raisins in my pocket. A notebook.

RACHEL

Okay.

LORRAINE

He's fine. Just keep an /eye on him.

RACHEL

Okay.

LORRAINE

He likes it out here. Watches the birds.

RACHEL

Watches.

Pause.

LORRAINE

I've got a casserole here. There should be enough for the both of you. Just put it in at 350 for about half an hour.

RACHEL

Thank you.

LORRAINE

I'll see you tomorrow I guess.

Lorraine exits.

RACHEL

Lorraine -

Rachel sees Lorraine is gone.

Rachel looks around, doesn't see Jane now. She moves away from her father.

Suddenly, Jane covers Rachel's eyes from behind, like children playing a game. Rachel is surprised but not apprehensive. Jane speaks intimately into Rachel's ear.

JANE

Jane Jane
In the rain
Climbing trees
Swatting bees
Waiting for the chimpanzees
Do they have a brain?
Do they have...

*Jane brings the past. Lights change. Frank enters.
Rachel is ten years old.*

RACHEL

Daddy?

FRANK

Hm?

RACHEL

Do you believe in visions?

FRANK

Visions.

RACHEL

Yeah, you know.

FRANK

No, I don't think I do.

RACHEL

Well, for instance, Joan of Arc. Do you believe that she really saw angels and saints?

FRANK

By all historical accounts, God did speak to her in a very powerful way.

RACHEL

God.

FRANK

Through His messengers.

RACHEL

But she was burned at the stake.

FRANK

That was a long time ago.

RACHEL

Because the church thought that it was the devil, not God, speaking to her.

FRANK

More or less.

RACHEL

What if it was?

FRANK

What?

RACHEL

How do you know, if voices are speaking to you, random voices that you can't explain, how do you know that they come from a force of good and not of evil?

FRANK

You would know the voice of God in your heart.

RACHEL

I read that the medicine men in Africa see visions.

Pause.

FRANK

Are you doing something in school on Joan of Arc?

RACHEL

Dad? Did you ever see a medicine man?

FRANK

We were missionaries. There to do the Lord's work.

RACHEL

On TV, there were these Africans, in Tanzania - that's where Jane Goodall works - and they were curing malaria with this dance--

She begins to demonstrate.

FRANK

Stop it, Rachel. That is exactly why those people needed to know about the Word of God. Superstition.

RACHEL

But God is the Holy Spirit, right? That's like believing in ghosts.

FRANK

Who told you that?

RACHEL

In Sunday School, Mrs. Cassidy was explaining that "trinity" isn't actually in the Bible--

FRANK

Maybe I'll just have a word with Mrs. Cassidy.

Frank exits. Jane circles Rachel, brings her into the present.

JANE

This is what I crave: the solitude, the certainty of trees. Animals pass me as if I were invisible. I observe. I wait. Suspend.

Jane retreats and watches from upstage. Frank looks through his binoculars.

RACHEL

Lots of birds today?

FRANK

Some. Old friends, mostly. Until Ali Ackbar started up his weed whacker. Splits a quiet morning right in two.

RACHEL

Who?

FRANK

The Yates' yard man. No respect for the Sabbath.

RACHEL

It's Thursday, Dad.

FRANK

Doesn't matter to him! All hours. I'm all for modern conveniences, but you wonder if once in a while a person couldn't rake or weed without gasoline.

RACHEL

I thought the Yates moved.

FRANK

I don't know where they found this fellow to do their yard.

RACHEL

You want... anything?

FRANK

Where's Lorraine?

RACHEL

I don't know. Daddy, I'm here now.

FRANK

The people of Manicaland, they had gardens. You think it's going to be desert. It was farmland. Casava the size of your head.

RACHEL

A farm.

FRANK

The bulbul birds, what a racket. In the morning, Hector and I would go out and try to hit them with stones.

RACHEL

I haven't heard you talk about Africa in... a long time.

FRANK

The feathers. He had them all around the inside of his hut.

RACHEL

What kind of birds?

FRANK

[beat] What?

RACHEL

What kind of bird did you say?

FRANK

There was a cardinal, but the Yates' yard man started up his weed whacker.

RACHEL

No, you said--

FRANK

It just surprises me - they've always been decent neighbors. But there's no talking to them about him.

Pause.

JANE

I had to put my son in a cage. It wasn't safe. The jungle. Baboons are carnivores, you know. So are chimpanzees, for that matter. But that's a hard sell on television.

Frank exits. Jane watches.

JANE

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be."

RACHEL

"The eternal God is thy refuge" - isn't that next?

CHORUS

"And he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee;
and shall say, destroy them."

Jane takes Rachel by the hand, leads her to centre stage.

JANE

After all these months, now they start to approach.

The chimps make a wide circle around Rachel. They scream and pound the ground. She is very still. One large male makes a display run towards her, very aggressive, and swerves around her at the last moment. After a few seconds of this, they gradually quiet, and begin to come closer.

Jane comes to Rachel and leads her to lie down on the ground. Rachel resists; Jane is firm.

Jane lies down beside Rachel, eyes closed. The chimps circle them, giving small, surprised exclamations: "Huh" "Hoo hoo". Slowly, they go nearer and nearer, watching and wary. More hoots. Then, one chimp lightly brushes Jane's hair with its hand. The chimps run upstage, loudly hooting.

Long pause.

Rachel and Jane giggle with relief.

Rachel thinks she hears something. Silence.

Lights change. One of the chorus becomes Dr. Louis Leakey. He and Jane dance a slow, languid stylized waltz while they speak. Gradually during the scene, the other chimps stand upright and begin to waltz with each other.

JANE

Meet Louis Leaky, father of modern anthropology.

DR. LEAKEY

You flatter me.

JANE

You love it.

DR. LEAKEY

I sent you into the jungle. First dibs!

JANE

He took a chance. He knew I would discover the beginnings of—

DR. LEAKEY

Man!

JANE

Please. Humankind. Show some sensitivity.

DR. LEAKEY

Man and woman!

JANE

He's a little old-fashioned.

DR. LEAKEY

Someone who can sit still!

JANE

[beat] Still.

DR. LEAKEY

They don't think I should.

JANE

Maybe you shouldn't.

DR. LEAKEY

Afraid of what I'll find.

JANE

What are you looking for?

DR. LEAKEY

You know damn well.

JANE

The material you're uncovering brings several thousand years of human spirituality into question.

DR. LEAKEY

[beat] Material.

JANE

We want knowledge.

DR. LEAKEY

Yes.

JANE

We pay a price. Discomfort.

DR. LEAKEY

I'll show you discomfort.

JANE

What?

DR. LEAKEY

The Olduvai Gorge. Anthropological dig. We're sifting through dirt searching for a splinter of the True Cross. But I'm warning you - it's bloody hot.

JANE

I don't mind.

Pause.

Leakey hands her a small item, exits. Lights change. Hot desert. Jane blows the dust off the thing Leakey has handed her - it is a bone. She examines it carefully.

JANE

In the very beginning. Eve's ancestor.

Jane hands it to Rachel, who also looks at it closely, then puts it in her pocket.

Light shift. The Chorus become men clutching brown manila folders.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 1

A woman in the jungle!

FOREIGN SECRETARY 2

A white woman.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 3

A young white woman.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 2

Unthinkable!

FOREIGN SECRETARY 5

Impossible!

FOREIGN SECRETARY 4

Incredible!

FOREIGN SECRETARY 1

Who sent her?

FOREIGN SECRETARY 3

That Leakey - very presumptuous.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 1

She needs a visa.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 2

She might uncover something.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 5

She might discover something.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 2
Quite out of the question.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 5
Quite.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 2
All alone in that wilderness—

FOREIGN SECRETARY 4
World without end, Amen.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 1
She has no idea—

FOREIGN SECRETARY 2
No idea what she's getting into.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 3
She won't last three days.

Light shift. Chorus become chimps. Jane does not acknowledge them.

JANE
You need a chaperone in the jungle, apparently. But you don't need a map. You make your own.

Chimps start to make noise. They circle the space and begin a wild rain dance, waving their arms, calling and hooting. Jane doesn't see them.

Frank enters. He carries a worn Bible filled with scraps of paper as bookmarks.

FRANK
Rachel? Is that you?

RACHEL
Hi Dad.

FRANK
Glad you were able to make it.

RACHEL
[beat.] Me too, Daddy.

FRANK
I was just thinking about you. I was looking at your mother's Bible, and thinking you should have it. Look at this mess. I bought her so many nice bookmarks. But she used whatever was handy. Look at this list, right here at Job 9:25. Onions, pepper, dish soap.

RACHEL
Do you want some dinner? Lorraine brought a casserole.

FRANK

That's just like her. Oh, the house is always full of food when somebody dies.

RACHEL

Mamma died ten years ago.

FRANK

Yes. *[beat]* Here. My eyes aren't doing too good these days. Could you read this passage?

RACHEL

Maybe we should have dinner first.

FRANK

My daddy was a preacher, you know.

RACHEL

A circuit preacher, right?

FRANK

He traveled around in his old Ford, spreading the Word in towns hardly more'n a wide place in the road. Sometimes my brother and I went with him. We'd help him set up the tent. Sonny smashed his finger once, pounding stakes.

RACHEL

[she's heard this story a few times before] Shall I start at the shopping list?

FRANK

That would be fine.

Pause. Rachel opens the Bible and scans down for the verse.

RACHEL

"Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them. Or the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the Lord is giving you."

Rachel hesitates. She skips down a few verses.

"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today; and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known"

Jane brings the past. Lights change. Rachel is fifteen. Jane is in the scene, but distant. Rachel looks for her support.

FRANK

Your mother showed me your report card. You're doing better. Still a problem with math, though.

RACHEL

Daddy, you know, I think my grades are good enough to go to college out of state.

FRANK

Yes, possibly.

RACHEL

I can get scholarships. I can work.

FRANK

Would you?

RACHEL

Sure. I was talking to Mrs. Burkham--

FRANK

You would hold down a job, and go to school full time?

RACHEL

I could do it.

FRANK

Keep your grades up while living in a strange place, maybe a city, with all kinds of temptations around you?

RACHEL

I think--

FRANK

You know, Tech is an excellent university. They even have a divinity school.

RACHEL

Yeah.

FRANK

Of course, I'd love you to go to my old alma mater--

RACHEL

I know.

FRANK

Work in fellowship at the University Chapel. I could make a few phone calls.

RACHEL

It's not-- Dad, I'm not you.

FRANK

You think you're ready to make your own decisions, are you? About things that will affect the rest of your life?

RACHEL

I--

FRANK

You've got a few things to learn about responsibility. I think that the Lord has big plans for you.

RACHEL

Yeah.

FRANK

You want to make sure you're ready for the challenges He's going to give you.

RACHEL

I sent my SATs to Columbia.

FRANK

Columbia.

RACHEL

It's in New York.

FRANK

What do you want to do there?

RACHEL

They have a first-class art school. It still is practical - I could teach--

FRANK

New York. [pause] You haven't been able to live here - amongst God-fearing people, and resist temptation. Sneaking out, getting in trouble. What you've put your mother through-- You don't know anything. And now you want to go to New York City?

RACHEL

I don't belong here.

FRANK

You are a child of God. You won't belong anywhere until you figure that out.

RACHEL

Daddy--

FRANK

Come on, let's pray.

Frank and Rachel kneel, and Frank begins to pray. As he speaks, Rachel moves into the present. She rises, now an adult, watching her father in the past.

FRANK

Dear Lord, please be with your daughter Rachel now in this time of decision and uncertainty. Move into her heart and bless her with your gentle touch. Give her the courage of her convictions, and help her to see her path more clearly. As you wrote in Deuteronomy 11:13 and 14, "if you love the Lord your God and serve him with all your heart and with all your soul - then I will send rain on your land in its season, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil." In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Rachel does not speak, but mouths 'Amen' along with Frank. Jane brings the present.

RACHEL

Dad, what are you doing down there? Here--
She tries to help him rise, he shakes her off.

FRANK

What are you doing? You unrepentant-- Don't touch me!
[he is struggling, but finally gets up] Keep your sins to yourself. I have faith!

Frank retreats.

JANE

I am faithful. I have been faithful. During the war, my mother and sister and I went for a walk and a picnic. On the way back, my mother had a... misgiving. We took the long path back. Halfway home, we heard a long, falling whistle, then a thud, and the ground shook. A German bomb had dropped - right on the path we would have taken.

Rachel exits.

Lights change. The present - the day after Rachel's arrival. Lorraine is picking up a scattered newspaper in the backyard, tidying things up, aggressively humming a hymn.

Rachel enters slowly, squinting in the sun, not sure of where she is.

LORRAINE

Good morning.

RACHEL

Yeah. Hi. I'm sorry, did I--

LORRAINE

No, it's okay, I'm just picking up.

RACHEL

Is Dad--

LORRAINE

He's already had breakfast and is out on the front porch, birdwatching.

RACHEL

What time is it?

LORRAINE

Little after eight.

RACHEL

Wow. Okay. This is a little earlier--

LORRAINE

Why did you sleep on the couch?

RACHEL

Um, it was... there.

LORRAINE

I made up the bed for you upstairs.

RACHEL

Oh. Thanks. No, it wasn't that--

LORRAINE

Are you all right?

RACHEL

Is there coffee?

LORRAINE

I just made enough for your dad. But you can make more.

RACHEL

Thanks, Lorraine.

LORRAINE

Look, I'm sorry. I'm just trying-- I'm really glad you've come home. Your dad's glad too.

Pause.

RACHEL

You do look great.

LORRAINE

I do not.

RACHEL

You're more beautiful now than twenty years ago.

LORRAINE

Could we talk about something else?

RACHEL

I met Isabella Rossellini a year or so ago. I think she's more heart-stopping now than when she was young. Wisdom is attractive.

LORRAINE

What's your point?

RACHEL

Just making conversation.

LORRAINE

Did you really meet her?

RACHEL

Yeah. [beat] No. I edited an interview of her. It was like meeting her.

LORRAINE

You haven't changed either.

RACHEL

Not while I'm here, anyway.

LORRAINE

Don't.

RACHEL

I didn't--

LORRAINE

You want to bring up all that mess around why you left, and I'm not going to let you.

RACHEL

We're grownups now.

LORRAINE

What does time do? It makes things slow down. Gravity pulls our whole selves down, not just our bodies.

She picks up the Bible.

Your mother's.

RACHEL

Yes.

LORRAINE

I always remember her carrying it. I just thought that was so cool, that she took it everywhere with her. I guess when you're a teenager and you're all embarrassed by everything adults do - Sarah's sure going through that now - I mean, I just thought it was really cool. Your mom was proud of her faith. I wished my mother was like that.

RACHEL

Yeah.

LORRAINE

You must miss her.

RACHEL

You know how you can have a tree in your yard your whole life, you've looked at it every single day, and then it's gone? No stump, nothing. Completely disappeared. And you can't exactly remember what it looked like, or even what kind of tree it was, but the whole landscape seems wrong.

Pause.

LORRAINE

I wish someone would cut down the tree in my yard.

RACHEL

How is your mom?

LORRAINE

Okay I guess. I go out there once a week to bring groceries and vodka.

RACHEL

Oh. I didn't--

LORRAINE

If I don't bring it, she'll get in the car and drive herself to Newsome. I don't want to be responsible for her running headlong into a car full of teenagers on their way to the lake.

RACHEL

The downside of living in a dry county.

LORRAINE

Don't get me started.

RACHEL

It doesn't sound like you have time to be looking after my dad.

LORRAINE

What's that supposed to mean?

RACHEL

You've got a lot of family [beat] issues. How can you be over here all the time?

LORRAINE

You want me to stop?

RACHEL

They called me. Piney Ridge. A place opened up.

LORRAINE

A nursing home.

RACHEL

I'm still going to check out the places in the city. See about waiting lists. But it would be good for him to stay in town.

LORRAINE

Suddenly you know what's good for him.

RACHEL

He's obviously not well. Caring for him is going to become a full-time job. That's too much for you. And I can't exactly commute.

LORRAINE

So you're going to stick him in a nursing home.

RACHEL

It's a bit early for sanctimonious judgment, before I've even had my coffee.

LORRAINE

You don't know your dad. You don't really know him. So you have no idea what going into one of those places would do to him.

RACHEL

Those places? I'm not sending him to Dachau. These are high-tech, full-care facilities, okay?

LORRAINE

Do you pray anymore? You don't, do you?

RACHEL

Believe me when I say to you, Lorraine. I am grateful that you have looked after my dad, you and all the church women. But please. Please. Don't start with me. Because Jesus is not making this decision, and not the Holy Spirit, and not Mary, the Holy Mother of Christ.

LORRAINE

[beat] The coffee is in the second cabinet to the right of the sink. Above the vinegar.

Lorraine exits.

Rachel carefully picks up the Bible.

Jane brings the Chorus. They become Critics.

CRITIC 1

She's a fraud!

CRITIC 3

A nobody!

CRITIC 1

This is Cambridge, not a Women's Social Auxiliary!

CRITIC 2

Who does she think she is?

CRITIC 3

Her so-called research--

CRITIC 1

She gives the chimpanzee subjects *names*!

CRITIC 3

Completely anthropomorphizes them!

CRITIC 2

How in the world can she do objective field study?

CRITIC 3

She sets up feeding stations!

CRITIC 2

These are not her personal pets!

CRITIC 1

She is irrevocably altering their social landscape.

CRITIC 2

Changing the course of chimp history.

JANE

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be."

Chorus takes the Bible from Rachel, and hands her the phone. Frank enters.

FRANK

I'm going down to Perry Brothers. I need some new yellow writing pads.

RACHEL

I'm in the middle of something here, Dad.

FRANK

I'm expecting a package. Sign for it if I'm not here.

RACHEL

Dad, I can drive you to town. Just give me a few minutes.

FRANK

Oh, goodness, I can drive myself.

RACHEL

Hello? Oh, hello Dr. Patterson. You're a hard guy to get in touch with.

FRANK

Now where are my keys?

RACHEL

Yes, right. I know, I know. He's very... tough.

FRANK

Have you seen my keys?

RACHEL

But that's-- I need to talk to you about that.

FRANK

Were always on the counter by the kitchen door...

RACHEL

Yes, he is his regular doctor. It's delicate.

FRANK

Did you borrow the car?

RACHEL

I'm sorry, could you excuse me a minute? Dad. I will drive you. Just please wait until I'm off the phone.

FRANK

I'm not sure I trust your driving, young lady.

RACHEL

Just wait. Okay? Sorry, Dr. Patterson. You were saying? Uh-huh. But what would it take, legally?

FRANK

Well I'll just walk. It's a beautiful day.

RACHEL

Dad! Look, I'm sorry, doctor, I'm going to have to call you back. Oh. Tomorrow, then? Right. Then maybe I should just make an appointment? All right. Thanks. Bye.

Frank is putting on his coat.

Dad! You couldn't just wait a minute until I got off the goddamn phone?

With unexpected suddenness, Frank slaps Rachel across the face.

Jane is there. The action is suspended.

JANE

God made man in his image.

Chimps demonstrate charging behavior - a male chimp charges full speed towards another, rearing on two legs and making himself as big and frightening as possible. Another chimp approaches. The first group spots him and chases him down. They begin to violently attack the interloper, screaming and howling. They beat him to death.

Action resumes.

FRANK

You know better than to use language like that in this house.

Frank exits.

JANE

We evolved from a vengeful god.

PART II

CHORUS

In the Shadow
In the valley
The shadow
Death
That old friend
In the shadow
The shadow of Man
Which man is that?

JANE

My father was a mystery.

LEAKEY

So was mine!

JANE

Missionary.

LEAKEY

Yes, I grew up with the Kikuyu.

JANE

No, I said mystery, not missionary.

LEAKEY

Ah! The Great Mystery!

JANE

Our Father--

LEAKEY

Who art in fossils!

*The chorus dons white coats, becomes doctors in a
receiving line. Some of the doctors make chimp noises.*

DOCTOR 1

State of the art--

DOCTOR 2

We provide alternatives for adults who are unable to
live without /supervision--

DOCTOR 4

A-a-a-a-a-O-o-o-o-o-oo!

DOCTOR 3

We specialize in a full Continuum of /Care

DOCTOR 5

Continuum--

DOCTOR 3

Including skilled /nursing, intermediate care

DOCTOR 5
Of ca-a-a-a-a-are!

DOCTOR 3
Assisted living and a secure Alzheimer's Care unit--

DOCTOR 2
Pharmaceutical /supervision and distribution--

DOCTOR 5
Ceut-ceut-ceut-ceutical

DOCTOR 1
Security and control--

DOCTOR 3
If your loved one has difficulties with bathing,
dressing, remembering medications or has

DOCTOR 2
Memory im! pair! ment!

DOCTOR 3
A traditional retirement community may not offer
enough--

DOCTOR 1
We offer caregivers peace of mind

DOCTOR 2
A solution to your caregiving needs

DOCTOR 3
An opportunity to enjoy your loved one's sunset years
without bitterness

DOCTOR 1
Care

DOCTOR 3
Supervision

DOCTOR 2
Management

DOCTOR 1
Control

DOCTOR 2
Custody

DOCTOR 3
Responsibility

ALL DOCTORS AND JANE
Peace.

The doctors become chimps and retreat.

Rachel arrives back at the house. Lorraine is at a table with a shoebox, old photos spread out.

LORRAINE

How was traffic?

RACHEL

Terrible.

LORRAINE

I don't go to the city anymore.

RACHEL

So many cars. Giant car-trucks. Nobody here seems to have heard of global warming.

LORRAINE

Oh, they've heard about it.

Pause.

RACHEL

What are you doing?

LORRAINE

Your dad asked me to go through some of these old photos. Maybe put some in an album for him.

RACHEL

I've never seen these before.

LORRAINE

I think he's been keeping them safe.

RACHEL

Somebody in a top hat.

LORRAINE

Your Uncle Sonny. That was the house on Pine Street.

RACHEL

How do you know that?

LORRAINE

Your dad likes to go through these a lot. He tells great stories.

RACHEL

He does?

LORRAINE

I remember when we were little, he told us about Africa.

RACHEL

He did not.

LORRAINE

Don't you remember?

RACHEL

I always tried to get him to talk about Africa.

LORRAINE

He loves to talk about it.

RACHEL

That's new. I tried every way I knew to get Africa stories. Left National Geographics strategically placed on his desk...

LORRAINE

He's a great man, your father.

RACHEL

A great medicine man.

LORRAINE

What?

RACHEL

Voo-doo. Spirits. Christ coming back. It's all really the same thing.

LORRAINE

You better not let him hear you talk like that.

RACHEL

Isn't it interesting, though? The missionaries just traded one set of superstitions for another.

LORRAINE

I don't think it's superstition. And you don't either.

RACHEL

[Rachel looks through the photographs.] These are pretty fragile. You know, I could scan them - save them down where they'll be preserved.

LORRAINE

I don't think Brother Aimes would want them out of the house.

RACHEL

I could buy him a scanner. Are there more of these?

LORRAINE

[abruptly packing up the photos] He's been agitated all day. Wondering where you were. I didn't tell him, by the way.

RACHEL

Sorry. I forgot how long that drive is.

LORRAINE

You could have stayed overnight. Called me. I would have looked after things.

RACHEL

I didn't want to stay there.

LORRAINE

So, how'd it go?

RACHEL

Great. Really great.

Pause.

LORRAINE

You missing New York City? Your boyfriend wants you to get back soon, I bet.

RACHEL

Who told you I had a boyfriend?

LORRAINE

I missed you, those first few years.

RACHEL

You did?

LORRAINE

It seems so long ago.

RACHEL

I was-- I needed to go.

LORRAINE

I needed a friend. But I guess you didn't.

RACHEL

You had Kevin.

LORRAINE

Yeah. I had Kevin.

RACHEL

And God.

LORRAINE

Yeah. *[beat]* At least He's dependable.

RACHEL

Are you--

LORRAINE

No, we're fine. Fine and dandy. After twenty-five years, you turn a blind eye to a lot of things.

RACHEL

Yeah.

LORRAINE

Who deserves to be really happy, anyway? Saints? Movie stars?

RACHEL

I don't think movie stars deserve to be happy.

They smile together. Pause.

RACHEL

Is he asleep?

LORRAINE

Probably by now. He's been up and down. You should go up, tell him you're back. He'll settle in.

RACHEL

Okay. [beat] Do you want to...

LORRAINE

What?

RACHEL

I don't know. Talk, sometime?

LORRAINE

We're not in high school anymore, Rachel.

Jane brings the past, but it seems skewed, somehow not quite right. Rachel and Lorraine are seventeen.

LORRAINE

Rachel! Rachel! Kevin asked me to marry him!

RACHEL

You seem surprised.

LORRAINE

I thought he was never going to ask.

RACHEL

I knew he'd ask.

LORRAINE

I'm so happy, Rach.

RACHEL

I'm happy you're happy.

LORRAINE

But isn't this exciting? You're going away to the University, I'm getting married, you'll come back here to teach art at the high school.

CHORUS 1

Art at the high school.

CHORUS 2

Art at the high school.

Lorraine exits.

JANE

Is faith the same as truth? We draw the blinds, we see what we need to see.

Rachel takes the bone out of her pocket and looks at it. The Chorus hands her the Bible.

The present. A day has passed. Frank enters.

FRANK

Rachel. Have you seen my sermon?

RACHEL

Your sermon?

FRANK

I was working on it last night. I'm sure I left it on my desk. Did you see it?

RACHEL

It's a beautiful day. I thought we could go out to the lake. Take a picnic, a book--

FRANK

I have to finish my sermon first. How would my congregation feel if I told them, Well, folks, I'm sorry, I don't have a sermon for you today - the weather was too pretty, and I just sat outside with a book.

RACHEL

You want some lunch?

FRANK

Is it lunchtime already?

RACHEL

Lorraine brought soup. Tomato, I think.

FRANK

Is it Wednesday?

RACHEL

No, Dad, it's Saturday.

FRANK

Saturday! I have to finish my sermon.

RACHEL

You don't need to. You don't preach anymore.

FRANK

What?

RACHEL

Brother...Falk, I think it is? He took over for you.
You retired.

FRANK

You don't know what you're talking about! You can't
retire from the Lord's work. My daddy preached every
Sunday for fifty years.

RACHEL

I know.

FRANK

He was a circuit preacher - traveled this whole state,
spreading the Word in communities not even as big as a
wide place in the road.

RACHEL

[beat] And Africa.

FRANK

What?

RACHEL

He was a missionary in Rhodesia. You lived there when
you were ten or twelve.

FRANK

I was born right here, on Main Street, where the
Franklin Bank is now.

RACHEL

No, Dad, that was Aunt Esther. Your sister. You were
born in Enid, Oklahoma, first born son.

FRANK

We were the sons. We kept it safe, Hector and me.
Until Nellie.

RACHEL

Who?

FRANK

Hector lived in his own hut. That was the tradition,
after a boy turned thirteen. He had feathers, little
animal skulls, skins. It was so dark in there, even in
the white hot daytime.

RACHEL

Did you live in a hut?

FRANK

Hector and I. My daddy didn't know.

RACHEL

Was this one of the native boys?

FRANK

His name wasn't really Hector. That was his English name. Mamma had lists she got them to choose from, mostly Bible names. Joshua, Samuel, Luke. But she was partial to Hector Rodriguez, the ball player.

RACHEL

Did you go to school?

FRANK

The bush was school. He showed me how to get the birds' nests.

RACHEL

That's incredible. Hold on - I want to write some of this down. I can't believe--

FRANK

Yes, I'm writing-- What? Where did you say my sermon was?

RACHEL

Your-- Dad, you don't--

FRANK

If you're not going to help me, I'll find it myself.

He exits.

Jane speaks the following lyrics while Leakey drums a rhythm; the chimps hum a resonant tone that grows in volume throughout.

JANE

I come to the jungle alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.

Lights change. Sunday morning. Frank is in a suit.

RACHEL

You look nice.

FRANK

Thank you. Is that what you're wearing? Slacks?

RACHEL

It's all I brought.

FRANK

We're going to the Lord's house.

RACHEL

The Lord isn't going to care if I'm wearing pants.

FRANK

Rachel.

RACHEL

Sorry, Dad. Look, I'm not sixteen.

FRANK

I know that. It's just not respectful. *[beat]* There are still some skirts and things of your mother's in the closet upstairs.

Pause. She exits.

Frank comes downstage and delivers a sermon.

FRANK

"You shall well remember the great trials which your eyes saw and the signs and the wonders and the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. Moreover, the Lord your God will send the hornet against them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you perish. You shall not dread them, for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God."

In the Holy Scripture, these words tell us that God is a force to be reckoned with. He is mighty, he is a great and awesome God. Do we have any idea these days of what mighty means? What is great and awesome? An earthquake? A tornado? Multiply those by a hundred-fold - that is what God warns us of. His might is greater than thunder! Amen!

Rachel enters. She is wearing a skirt. Frank takes her arm. The chimps come and circle her, becoming the congregation.

CONGREGANT 1

Rachel Lynn!

CONGREGANT 2

How have you been?

CONGREGANT 3

We haven't seen you in so long!

CONGREGANT 1

We are praying for your dad.

CONGREGANT 5

He is a true servant of the Lord.

CONGREGANT 6
You'll be staying a while, I guess.

CONGREGANT 3
Did you come down by yourself?

CONGREGANT 4
Now, I heard you got married?

CONGREGANT 2
You're not planning to settle down out East, are you?

CONGREGANT 1
Are you still working at that café?

CONGREGANT 6
I heard you were working on movies!

CONGREGANT 5
When are we going to see your name in lights?

CONGREGANT 6
I hope you're not mixed up with that terrible Michael
Moore fellow.

CONGREGANT 3
New York?

CONGREGANT 4
Oh my! That's a big place!

CONGREGANT 2
What night is good to have you over for dinner?

CONGREGANT 3
Too bad Linda isn't here - she would love to see you.

CONGREGANT 1
Your daddy must be so proud.

CONGREGANT 3
Linda just had a baby, you know. Her third!

*The chattering of the church members becomes chimp
hooting, and they go upstage.*

JANE
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known.

Jane takes the Bible from Rachel.

Rachel and Frank are back at the house.

RACHEL

Why don't you go lie down, dad? I'll call you when lunch is ready.

FRANK

That sermon. It just didn't feel right today.

RACHEL

What was wrong with it?

FRANK

I don't think my message was strong enough.

RACHEL

Your message.

FRANK

I know my congregation. They want to be comfy. It's my job to wake them up.

RACHEL

You did, Dad. It was great.

FRANK

My daddy was a circuit preacher, you know. The tent walls always seemed to flap and pop when he preached - he was a force of nature.

RACHEL

Do you want some iced tea to take upstairs?

FRANK

That would be nice.

Lorraine enters, carrying a shopping bag.

LORRAINE

Oh - I didn't think you'd be home yet.

FRANK

Hello, Lorraine.

LORRAINE

Hi, Brother Aimes. *[to Rachel]* You were pretty swamped after the service.

RACHEL

You'd think I'd come from the moon.

LORRAINE

New York. Same thing.

RACHEL

Here's your tea, Dad.

FRANK

Thank you. You know, I think I'll talk about Judas next Sunday. Betrayal always gets their attention. Are you staying for lunch, Lorraine?

LORRAINE

I'm just dropping off--

FRANK

Be sure and call your mamma, let her know where you are.

LORRAINE

All right, Brother Aimes.

FRANK

Although she knows you like to come over here Sunday afternoons. Can't imagine what you two girls have to talk about all the time.

He exits.

RACHEL

Dad thinks he preached the sermon.

LORRAINE

It's probably better to let him think so.

RACHEL

Brother Faulkner wasn't bad.

LORRAINE

He's got big shoes to fill.

RACHEL

Surely they're used to him by now.

LORRAINE

He'll be gone by fall. There's always got to be a break-in preacher. *[beat]* You look nice.

RACHEL

You're kidding. Not really my style.

LORRAINE

It suits you.

Pause.

RACHEL

Thanks.

LORRAINE

I did love coming over to your house on Sunday. Your dad - I just thought he was so wise.

RACHEL

What did we talk about all the time?

LORRAINE

Boys, I guess.

RACHEL

Did we?

LORRAINE

And school. How much we hated marching band.

RACHEL

Do you still play?

LORRAINE

Goodness, no. I tried to get Kelly to take up the trumpet, but she was focused on being a career cheerleader. I think we ended up selling it in a yard sale.

RACHEL

I still have my clarinet. I don't know why.

LORRAINE

Why didn't you stay in touch?

RACHEL

Why didn't you?

LORRAINE

I didn't know where you were.

RACHEL

I sent postcards with my PO Box.

LORRAINE

I never got any postcard.

Pause.

RACHEL

[indicates dish] What is it?

LORRAINE

Chili mac. His favourite.

RACHEL

Doris Smith's recipe?

LORRAINE

The very one.

RACHEL

You're still making dishes from Home Ec.

LORRAINE

They were good recipes.

Jane brings the scene into the past. Lorraine and Rachel are sixteen.

LORRAINE

It's the Youth Fellowship meeting after service.

RACHEL

I know.

LORRAINE

Danny'll be there.

RACHEL

I know.

LORRAINE

He really likes you.

RACHEL

Does not.

LORRAINE

Does too.

RACHEL

He likes me so much he calls me names all through band practice.

LORRAINE

He's gonna nominate you as our delegate.

RACHEL

I don't want to go to San Marcos.

LORRAINE

You'll get to stay in a hotel!

RACHEL

With my parents.

LORRAINE

I wish I could go.

RACHEL

You like Danny!

LORRAINE

What?

RACHEL

You like him - that's why you want to go.

LORRAINE

Ew!

RACHEL

Ew!

They laugh.
Let's skip the fellowship.

LORRAINE

What?!

RACHEL

And let's skip church!

LORRAINE

Your dad will--

RACHEL

Let's go down to Cottonwood Flats and watch the stars.

A moment. Lorraine exits. Chorus makes animal noises, becomes the African night.

JANE

We slept under the dark blanket of the night sky. We pulled our camp beds out of the tent and the sounds, the constant whirring of insects, the shrill eye-opening call of beasts, surrounded us. We had "The whole immense vastness of Africa and the Serengeti with the mysterious universe all around and very real". That's what I wrote my mother. What did you write to your mother?

Jane brings Rachel back to the present.

Later Sunday. Frank is sitting in the yard with his binoculars.

RACHEL

Any luck today?

FRANK

Not much. Ali Ackbar was out in the Yates' yard with his weed whacker - scared all the birds off.

RACHEL

Oh.

FRANK

He runs that thing all hours. Not very neighbourly, but you can't talk to them about it.

RACHEL

Are those new binoculars?

FRANK

Oh, gracious no. My father gave these to me when I turned eighteen. We didn't have much money then - he was a preacher on the tent circuit. I was the first in our family to go to University.

RACHEL

I remember those binoculars. But these look brand new.

FRANK

My father gave those to me on my eighteenth birthday.
Work just as good as new.

RACHEL

Yeah. I bet they do. Listen, Dad, I wanted to talk to
you about something--

FRANK

What's the matter? Do you need money?

RACHEL

It's about the house.

FRANK

My family moved to this town in 1935--

RACHEL

You can't live here on your own anymore.

FRANK

--And we've been in this house for fifty years.

RACHEL

It's not safe. I would have you come live with me,
but-- I mean, there's not really an option.

FRANK

I see what you're doing.

RACHEL

You do?

FRANK

I would be happy for you to move home.

RACHEL

Dad, you're not listening to me.

FRANK

This is where you belong.

RACHEL

You are ill. You have an illness. Am I the only one
who sees it?

FRANK

You always thought you knew better than your mother
and I.

RACHEL

Yeah. Well this time, I do know best. And as much as
it works your last nerve, you're going to have to
trust me.

FRANK

You have everything – you know everything we could teach you. And you turn your back on everything good, made us feel like it's our mistake.

RACHEL

You didn't give me everything. What are you talking about? Hypocrisy? Self-loathing? Guilt? These aren't exactly life skills, Dad.

FRANK

Honour thy father and thy mother. The most painful commandment.

RACHEL

You've had your head stuck inside the King James Version for too long. Real spirituality isn't an arbitrary rule book.

FRANK

How can I bring my people to Heaven when my only child never accepted God into her heart?

RACHEL

Whose fault was that? You made me believe there was a God, and then you told me that He hated me. You know what that meant to me? It meant that you hated me. So I had to hate you back.

FRANK

Hate the sin, love the sinner. God never hated you, Rachel.

RACHEL

I don't care one way or another. It doesn't matter.

FRANK

It's the only thing that does.

RACHEL

I'm packing you a bag. And we're going to Piney Ridge. I would love to let you stay here and kill yourself, believe me. But I guess your fucking commandments sunk in somewhere. And I'm going to take care of you. Even against your will.

Frank throws the binoculars on the ground, hard, smashing them. He starts to have a physical reaction.

FRANK

They called to each other. Over the fire. They would shout and holler. Calling their ancestors, bringing them down into the firelight.

RACHEL
What did you say?

FRANK
Man. Man. Ma--

RACHEL
Manicaland?

FRANK
The real land of milk and honey.

RACHEL
Dad, are you okay?

Chorus approaches. They are water buffalo.

FRANK
We gave them everything. Bibles. Medicine. Buttons.
There were--

RACHEL
What?

FRANK
Water buffalo. Mean. Not like Herefords. After morning
service, we came outside and there was a calf standing
right there. Nellie went out to pet it. Didn't see the
mother until it was too late.

RACHEL
Did Nellie die?

FRANK
Daddy said the devil was in that animal. He was a
circuit preacher. Burrett Frank Aimes. He drove the
devil out.

Frank falls.

The Chorus hands Rachel the phone.

CHORUS
It's for you.

Pause.

RACHEL
Vascular dementia. [beat] Mini-strokes. [beat] Memory
loss.

The Chorus takes the phone, become evangelists.

EVANGELIST 1
In 1946, Burrett Frank Aimes went to Africa with the
Africa Inland Mission to bring the Africans to Jesus.

EVANGELIST 2

He preached three times a week, opened a school,
handed out food.

EVANGELIST 4

He went out among the people and told them about the
Gospel.

EVANGELIST 3

He did this for over a year, and didn't get a single
convert.

EVANGELIST 1

Not a soul.

EVANGELIST 2

He was discouraged, and early one morning he went up
on the hillside above the mission to confront the
Lord.

ALL CHORUS

Why did you send me to a place like this?

*Rachel and Frank come to the care home. One of the
Chorus becomes the administrator, Mrs. Cratts.*

MRS. CRATTS

Hello, Reverend Aimes, very nice to see you. We met a
couple of times. You wouldn't remember. We're
Methodist.

FRANK

Of course.

MRS. CRATTS

Welcome to Piney Ridge.

FRANK

Why, thank you. What a lovely necklace.

MRS. CRATTS

Oh. Thanks. It belonged to my mother.

RACHEL

Are you going to—

MRS. CRATTS

Okay, I'll give you the tour, show you his room. I
think there's entertainment or something in the
upstairs lounge he could go to.

*As they pass through the facility, Rachel sees chimps
instead of patients - hooting, grooming, playing in
stylized movement. Jane sits among them, watching.
Something not quite right.*

MRS. CRATTS

Here's the entrance lounge - you see, they can look out on the garden. You can hardly hear the highway from here. We're a pretty small facility, but there's a little craft room in here-- oh, it's locked. Um, I don't have the key to this. Do you want to wait until I track one down?

RACHEL

No, that's okay.

MRS. CRATTS

Do you have any hobbies, Reverend Aimes?

FRANK

I like birdwatching.

MRS. CRATTS

That's neat. My son found a little sparrow or something in the backyard one time, tried to nurse it back to health. I told him not to touch it - you know the momma won't go near it if it smells like people. We had a funeral for it. Here - we'll take the elevator up to Two [*she punches a code into a keypad*]. This is the secure wing. Don't forget the code, please, 'cause then we have to re-program all of this, and it is a pain, believe me. [*to Frank*] You never even have to come downstairs, you know! Even your meals are served up here.

RACHEL

He's not deaf.

MRS. CRATTS

I've found it's just better to be really, really clear. You know how many people the nurses have to look after. Okay, here's the music room - and Barbara has got a sing-along going. Just go on in there, Reverend Aimes, and take a seat. We'll talk for a bit out here.

A group of chimps is sitting in a semi-circle, hooting softly in chorus to "Kumbayah". Frank hesitatingly joins them. Mrs. Cratts pulls Rachel aside.

MRS. CRATTS

We received your completed application - it all looks fine. I just gotta run the credit check and police report.

RACHEL

Police report?

MRS. CRATTS

It's all standard. We can go ahead and move him in.

RACHEL

I brought some clothes, but I can come back tomorrow with some more personal stuff.

MRS. CRATTS

I wouldn't bring too much, and don't bother with valuables.

RACHEL

I thought you said it was secure.

MRS. CRATTS

It keeps them in, that's what I meant. Employee turnover is pretty high, if you know what I mean.

RACHEL

Wait a minute.

MRS. CRATTS

Now about payments. How do you want to handle that?

RACHEL

He gets a pension, from the church. As soon as the house sells, I can-

MRS. CRATTS

Miss Aimes? We require a six-month payment up front. Didn't they tell you that when you booked?

During their exchange, one of the chimps at the sing-along has gotten into an argument with Frank which has escalated into a physical fight. The other chimps continue to sing dazedly. Mrs. Cratts and Rachel see the fight and hurriedly pull Frank away.

MRS. CRATTS

Well! Your dad is a little bit more feisty than you told us. Nurse!

Nurse comes and subdues Frank.

MRS. CRATTS

You'll need to talk to his doctor and arrange sedatives.

Mrs. Cratts has disappeared, and the chimps run off up the Peak.

FRANK

I don't like that song.

RACHEL

Me neither.

Nurse leads him off. Chorus comes forward as evangelists.

EVANGELIST 1
Burrett Frank Aimes

EVANGELIST 2
Up on the hill

EVANGELIST 3
Yelling at God.

EVANGELIST 4
As he prayed,

EVANGELIST 3
Suddenly it was as though

ALL CHORUS
A million lights

EVANGELIST 3
Began to shine around him.

EVANGELIST 1
He looked at the sky, the pinking up sky

EVANGELIST 5
The sun was just rising

EVANGELIST 2
Its rays shooting out and reflecting

EVANGELIST 5
Millions of dew drops

EVANGELIST 1
All over the grass

EVANGELIST 2
And through this sparkle, God said,

ALL CHORUS
Hey Burt, I didn't call you to be a prophet.

EVANGELIST 3
I don't need martyrs.

EVANGELIST 4
I only want you to believe

ALL CHOURS
And shine and reflect My light.

The Chorus disperses. Jane watches. Rachel is in the garden. She crouches down and begins picking something off the ground. Lorraine enters with a paper bag.

LORRAINE

Looking for something?

RACHEL

You could say that.

LORRAINE

You run out of eggplant casserole? Foraging for wild greens?

RACHEL

No. I was out here this afternoon, and saw something in the grass - it was a button. The yard is full of them.

LORRAINE

Did your mother have a button box?

RACHEL

Oh yeah, she kept buttons in an old pickle jar.

LORRAINE

Birdseed.

RACHEL

What?

LORRAINE

It's scattered like birdseed.

Pause.

RACHEL

Yeah.

LORRAINE

They might sprout.

RACHEL

Button trees?

LORRAINE

Guaranteed to keep quiet.

RACHEL

Better than crabgrass.

LORRAINE

Where's Brother Aimes?

RACHEL

He's... in bed.

LORRAINE

I brought something.

RACHEL

You already filled the fridge with food. You've got enough to do-

Lorraine pulls a bottle of wine from the bag.

LORRAINE

I was over to Tyler yesterday, and I thought-- I guess nobody's really celebrated your coming home.

RACHEL

No. No, they sure haven't. Hey - I don't think there's a corkscrew in the house--

LORRAINE

Screwtop.

RACHEL

Of course.

Rachel opens the wine, Lorraine pulls from her bag two plastic cups with cartoon characters on them. She pours the wine.

RACHEL

No need to break out the crystal goblets.

LORRAINE

Nice, huh? I wanted to make sure you had the complete white trash experience.

They raise their cups.

LORRAINE

Here's to... what?

RACHEL

Staying single and drinking doubles. *[beat]* Sorry.

Lorraine laughs.

LORRAINE

No, I'll drink to that.

Pause. They sip.

LORRAINE

Seems like old times.

RACHEL

I promise not to throw up in the back seat of your mom's car.

LORRAINE

The thing was, she never even noticed.

RACHEL

Yeah - you told her Kevin had borrowed it and used it to take a heifer from the ag building.

LORRAINE

Doesn't that sound like something he'd do?

RACHEL

He's doing... okay, these days?

LORRAINE

The same. "You haven't changed a bit!" I always thought that was a compliment. Now I know it's an insult.

RACHEL

You must really love him.

LORRAINE

(laughs) That proves you're not married!

RACHEL

Why do you stay with him?

LORRAINE

That's pretty personal.

RACHEL

Pretend we're best friends.

LORRAINE

Marriage is a sacred bond.

RACHEL

Not if it ruins your life.

LORRAINE

And your life is perfect?

RACHEL

You bet. Single, no kids, glamorous--

LORRAINE

Living in New York. I can't even imagine.

RACHEL

The first time you step in vomit on the subway, the dew is off the rose.

LORRAINE

That's disgusting.

RACHEL

You have no idea.

LORRAINE

I wasn't sure you'd make it there.

RACHEL

Well you know what they say...

LORRAINE

I thought for sure that God would bring you back home.

RACHEL

You need a better informant.

LORRAINE

But I was glad I was wrong. I mean, you really did what you said you were going to do.

RACHEL

Did I?

LORRAINE

Most people with big dreams like that just let them go. They figure out what's really important.

RACHEL

Dreams get smaller over time.

LORRAINE

Do you remember how scared I was?

RACHEL

You were scared?

LORRAINE

For you. I really thought you'd be attacked, or killed, or... worse.

RACHEL

A fate worse than death. Eternal damnation?

LORRAINE

If you keep your soul wrapped up, kept safe in a warm blanket, smooth and unbroken as an egg...

RACHEL

Your faith's never been tested.

LORRAINE

No, I guess not.

RACHEL

Your alcoholic mother doesn't make you wonder if there's a god?

LORRAINE

That's not a test of faith. It's just... family.

RACHEL

Isn't family the ultimate test of faith?

Chimps slowly surround Lorraine and Rachel, who do not see them. They are quiet, observing.

LORRAINE

Sometimes I think faith is just reconciling your dreams with reality.

RACHEL

But don't you dream about [beat] other things?

LORRAINE

Like what? Winning the lottery?

RACHEL

Having a different life.

LORRAINE

Sometimes I think about what it will be like when my mom's gone. And then I feel terrible about thinking that.

RACHEL

Why?

LORRAINE

She's my mother!

RACHEL

Right, so you can never wish she was dead.

LORRAINE

And your father?

RACHEL

Sometimes I wish--

LORRAINE

See?

RACHEL

No, not that. I've never been able to reach him. I vividly remember when I found out he'd been in Africa - I was about ten, and I never knew. He kept all that inside, so private. I lived and breathed Africa my whole growing up, thinking that would give me something of him. But it seemed I picked the part of him he never wanted.

LORRAINE

I remember you were so into Jane Goodall. Your mom made you that vest - the one with all the pockets? I think you wore it every day of fifth grade.

RACHEL

Yeah, I was pretty obsessed.

LORRAINE

I never understood your thing about her. Most of us wanted to be Farrah Fawcett.

RACHEL

My hair wasn't right for Farrah Fawcett.

LORRAINE

Is Jane Goodall still alive?

RACHEL

Oh yeah. I seem to... see her a lot right now.

LORRAINE

Really?

RACHEL

You know how when you're thinking about something, and you start seeing it everywhere?

LORRAINE

Maybe you should make a movie about her.

RACHEL

I don't make movies.

LORRAINE

I thought you were in the film business.

RACHEL

It's not-- You know, I'm actually not in the film business.

LORRAINE

You're not?

RACHEL

Only by association. I work for MGM.

LORRAINE

That sounds like the film business.

RACHEL

As a temp.

LORRAINE

Marjorie in the church office thinks you're on first-name basis with Steven Spielberg.

RACHEL

Well, that makes sense.

LORRAINE

Why?

RACHEL

Because that's what I told her.

LORRAINE
You didn't!

They laugh.

RACHEL
I saw her speak once.

LORRAINE
Marjorie?

RACHEL
Jane Goodall.

LORRAINE
You met her?

RACHEL
Afterwards. She was signing books.

LORRAINE
"Ooo, Miss Goodall, I'm your biggest fan!"

RACHEL
Yes, I screamed like a girl.

LORRAINE
There was something in Baptist News Quarterly about her. I didn't know she was Christian.

RACHEL
I think she's one of those Christians who have this crazy way of reconciling their beliefs with the way the world really works.

LORRAINE
Not a Baptist, then.

RACHEL
[beat] No.

LORRAINE
What was she like?

RACHEL
She came to Columbia. It was a fundraiser, so the tickets were godawful expensive, but I knew the techie for the theatre, and got to watch from the booth.

LORRAINE
She must be pretty old.

RACHEL
She's in her sixties. Looks thirty from a distance.

LORRAINE
Does she just talk about... monkeys?

RACHEL

She's got a bit broader focus these days. But yes, she still talks about chimpanzees.

Rachel makes the Jane signature welcoming hoot-cry. The chimps get physically agitated, but are quiet. During the following action, they run around Rachel and Lorraine, adding to the chaotic feel.

LORRAINE

You're crazy! Mrs. Azbell is going to call the police!

RACHEL

Oh god!

LORRAINE

Get down! She's expecting an inmate from Terrell to crash through her screen door any second.

RACHEL

Quick - the wine - get the wine!

They crouch down, hiding. The chimps retreat to the Peak.

LORRAINE

Oh my gosh, you used to do that... thing, that shriek-

RACHEL

It's the chimpanzee greeting!

LORRAINE

I remember it used to scare the life out of your mother.

RACHEL

What do you see?

LORRAINE

She's looking out her kitchen window--

RACHEL

Shit!

LORRAINE

Wait-- wait... No - she's headed back to the TV. Can't be more important than Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.

They laugh. Pause. A little drunk now.

RACHEL

Can I ask you something?

LORRAINE

Your turn.

RACHEL

Are you in love?

LORRAINE

What?

RACHEL

With Kevin. Or not. It's okay. I just wondered if you have a love relationship.

LORRAINE

What I have with Kevin is more like endurance.

RACHEL

Were you in love with him?

LORRAINE

I guess I thought I was. Hard to say - it was so long ago.

RACHEL

I think you deserve to be happy. To be loved.

LORRAINE

Talk about dreaming.

RACHEL

You still could.

LORRAINE

What?

RACHEL

Your kids are grown. What do you think's going to happen when you're alone in the house with him?

LORRAINE

Same thing that happens now, I guess. Not much.

RACHEL

And that's how you want to spend the next forty years?

LORRAINE

I get to ask a question now.

RACHEL

I don't have to give an answer.

LORRAINE

Why didn't you get married?

RACHEL

Didn't? I still could.

LORRAINE

If women aren't married by forty...

RACHEL

I have a better chance of being killed by terrorists than getting married for the first time after forty. Actually, I don't know if that statistic is still accurate...

LORRAINE

Is it because of Danny? He broke your heart all those years ago?

RACHEL

I think you know better.

LORRAINE

You're probably too picky.

RACHEL

And that's a bad thing?

LORRAINE

It's okay. God has a different plan for everybody.

RACHEL

Wait a minute - I thought you were saying it was my own damn fault I wasn't jumping on the ball-and-chain bandwagon--

LORRAINE

That's not what I said--

RACHEL

And now you're saying it's okey-dokey to live alone because it's all part of God's miraculous plan. Thank you, sweet Jesus, I'm off the hook!

LORRAINE

You've really strayed far away, haven't you?

RACHEL

Look who's talking, Miss Drinking-Cheap-White-Wine-from-a-Plastic-Cup.

LORRAINE

I'm not judging, Rachel. I'm worried about you.

RACHEL

Worried I don't have a friend in Jesus?

LORRAINE

Worried that you're so [beat] stark. I don't know-- empty.

RACHEL

Is that what you think?

LORRAINE

Faith isn't perfect. None of us have to be perfect.

RACHEL

Yes, everybody needs their crutches. You've got Jesus, your mom's got Stoli, I've got...

LORRAINE

Have you lost your faith completely?

RACHEL

Who said I had any to begin with?

LORRAINE

Then why does it bother you so much that I haven't?

RACHEL

I just don't think it's possible that faith can grow over time. Your faith isn't growing - you've got a death grip on it.

LORRAINE

Faith isn't science. It's not a matter of filling in all the blanks.

RACHEL

Do you remember seventh grade? Coach Ray's science class?

LORRAINE

No.

RACHEL

I have the distinct memory of him making a speech in front of the class: "Now, I have got to teach you the theory of evolution, because it's in your book, and we have to cover it. But we all know it's just a theory. The theory of evolution."

LORRAINE

I don't remember that at all.

RACHEL

It wasn't such a landmark for you. But I remember thinking, if this man, this teacher, can choose to tell us about evolution, or not, then I can choose to believe it, or not.

LORRAINE

You always chose what to believe.

RACHEL

You could have too.

LORRAINE

What?

RACHEL

You just keep going on the easiest path.

LORRAINE

When you start down a road, you don't know what walking it will do to you - you just want to reach the end. Getting older is realizing that there isn't an end.

RACHEL

You've got what you wanted. What's important. A husband, family. God.

LORRAINE

Is that what I wanted?

RACHEL

Isn't it?

Lorraine leans in to Rachel and kisses her gently on the lips.

Pause.

LORRAINE

I just wanted to see if it felt the same.

RACHEL

And?

LORRAINE

[beat.] Better.

RACHEL

An experiment.

LORRAINE

I don't know. Our friendship-- I missed it.

RACHEL

Fuck you.

LORRAINE

I just wanted--

RACHEL

What? To break a commandment? See what it felt like?

LORRAINE

I don't know! You *[beat]* bring something out in me.

RACHEL

It's not very 'out'.

LORRAINE

Forget it.

RACHEL

Lorraine--

LORRAINE

No, I'm sorry. Must have been the wine.

RACHEL

That's not what you said in high school.

LORRAINE

That was different.

RACHEL

I can't deal with this. Do you understand? I've struggled my whole life to make a place for myself. You've been hitting me on the head with God all night, and now you want to get down. With me. Well that's not fair, and it's not very Christian. Fish or cut bait, Lorraine.

Frank, in pyjamas, enters just as Rachel grabs Lorraine and kisses her violently on the mouth. He watches.

Pause.

FRANK

It's the same. The devil's the same.

RACHEL

Dad--

FRANK

Thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

RACHEL

How did you get here?

Lorraine frantically tries to hide the wine.

FRANK

Down by the river. It's so hot...

RACHEL

Daddy? Are you okay?

FRANK

The stars were staring at me. I had to go.

LORRAINE

How did he get outside without us hearing him?

FRANK

What's that smell?

LORRAINE

He's freezing!

FRANK

Are you drinking?

LORRAINE

No, Brother Aimes, we just--

RACHEL

Yes.

LORRAINE

Rachel.

RACHEL

Yes, we are having a glass of wine. I am an adult, and I am having a glass of wine with my friend.

FRANK

I don't want alcohol in this house.

RACHEL

Dad, we're not doing anything wrong.

FRANK

How dare you speak to me like that! *[he grabs the wine bottle]* The devil has a foothold--

LORRAINE

It's okay, Brother Aimes. We just found that bottle. We were trying to figure out what to do with it.

FRANK

My daddy was a circuit preacher - During the Depression, he used to smash stills all over the countryside.

LORRAINE

Let me have that, okay?

RACHEL

It doesn't matter, Lorraine. *[She gets the phone]*

LORRAINE

Brother Aimes, there's nothing--

FRANK

He's calling to me.

RACHEL

Nothing you need to worry about.

FRANK

The people are dancing. Around the stars.

The chorus starts to create the dance.

RACHEL

What's wrong?

FRANK

The devil was right there. Nestled inside of God.

LORRAINE

Rachel, he came in the front door.

FRANK

Coiled like a snake, it rose up--

RACHEL

He's dreaming.

FRANK

Daddy, use the fire. Burn it all down.

LORRAINE

Brother Aimes, you're here. With us.

FRANK

He drove the devil out of that place. His eyes were everywhere.

RACHEL

This is exactly what I'm talking about--

FRANK

The Devil seeks a foothold in each one of us. Hector found the devil in me. He kissed it on the mouth.

RACHEL

Hector?

Pause.

FRANK

There under the stars. God spoke to me. He tucked up inside my head, like a swarm of bees.

RACHEL

Daddy, how old were you?

LORRAINE

Rachel, leave it. He's dreaming, / or something.

FRANK

He turned thirteen. We built that hut together. The sky was freckled with stars. Like my skin, he said.

LORRAINE

Rachel, I'm taking him upstairs. You call Dr. Lindley.

FRANK

His eyes.

RACHEL

You ran off with him? You--

FRANK

God brings His might down upon the unrepentant.

RACHEL

This-- this is part of you. The part you wouldn't show me.

LORRAINE

Come on, Brother Aimes. It's awful late.

RACHEL

Lorraine! Don't--

Lorraine leads Frank off. Rachel looks at the wine bottle. Jane comes forward, takes the wine bottle, and hands Rachel the Bible. Rachel and Lorraine are seventeen.

Lorraine can be heard offstage, comes in excited. She carries a bunch of daisies.

LORRAINE

Rachel! Rachel! Kevin asked me to marry him!

RACHEL

Wow. You seem surprised.

LORRAINE

I thought he was never going to ask.

RACHEL

I knew he'd ask.

LORRAINE

I'm so happy, Rach.

RACHEL

Are you?

LORRAINE

What? [beat] You're not happy for me.

RACHEL

I am. I'm happy you're happy.

LORRAINE

But isn't this exciting? You're going away to the University, I'm getting married, you'll come back here to teach art at the high school.

RACHEL

I'm not going.

LORRAINE

What? You're packing.

RACHEL

Evan's giving me a ride to Hancock to get the Greyhound.

LORRAINE

I thought your mom and dad were driving you.

RACHEL

I'll be gone by the time they wake up.

LORRAINE

Why don't you tell them? They're gonna be worried sick.

RACHEL

No! And don't you say anything. Don't, Lorraine. You swear.

LORRAINE

I'm not swearing.

RACHEL

You swear on the name of Christ, the Son of God.

Pause.

LORRAINE

No. I'll swear... on my engagement ring.

RACHEL

Okay.

LORRAINE

I solemnly swear not to say anything. Rach, why-

RACHEL

You know why.

LORRAINE

I do not!

Pause. A long look.

LORRAINE

It can't be because of that.

RACHEL

Can't it?

LORRAINE

It was just silly. Just pretending.

RACHEL

It didn't feel like pretending.

LORRAINE

Rachel, you pull yourself together. That thing-- what happened-- We'll just forget about it. "When I was a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me."

RACHEL

We're not men.

LORRAINE

God forgives us.

RACHEL

You've explained perfectly why I have to go.

LORRAINE

Where are you going?

RACHEL

New York City.

LORRAINE

You can't do that.

RACHEL

Oh? Let's see: instructions from Lorraine Spence, Queen of I-Know-What's-Best. Number one: settle down in small town America, where you can guarantee your life will get more and more shitty, until one day you will put a bullet in your brain out of sheer desperation. Number two: Stop your heart from beating.

LORRAINE

You're being mean. Why are you acting like that?

RACHEL

Why don't you come with me and find out?

LORRAINE

Come with you? Oh, yeah, that makes loads of sense.

RACHEL

You can leave a note for Kevin, tell him you'll be back soon. You can help me get settled in, maybe we could even get a place together..

LORRAINE

I thought you wanted to get away from me.

RACHEL

You're too afraid.

LORRAINE

Darn right I'm afraid. That is an evil place, Rachel. Don't you remember that youth preacher who came last year - Reverend Walker? He lived there as a missionary.

RACHEL
You had nightmares for weeks.

LORRAINE
What will I do without you?

RACHEL
That's something we'll both have to figure out.

LORRAINE
Let's pray about this.

RACHEL
Faith only brings you so far.

LORRAINE
Rachel---

They hug. Becomes tender. Lorraine pulls away. Rachel gives her the Bible. Jane passes between them, brings the present.

LORRAINE
Rachel. When I took him upstairs, his bed hadn't been slept in.

RACHEL
I'll call them.

LORRAINE
Call who?

RACHEL
Piney Ridge.

LORRAINE
The nursing home? You already-

RACHEL
It was just easier. I thought you'd be happy. The waiting list for those swank places in the city are miles long. I know the place is a dive, but it's in town at least.

LORRAINE
You couldn't even talk to me about it.

RACHEL
I think we've established that it's not your decision.

LORRAINE
And all evening. All evening. You knew.

RACHEL
You can still visit him all the time. Isn't that what you want? To be the devoted daughter?

LORRAINE

Somebody should be.

RACHEL

I'm making a hard decision here. I could use your support.

LORRAINE

Obviously these aren't your beliefs anymore, but-

RACHEL

But what? Shopping basket Baptist? Pick and choose what works for you?

LORRAINE

Look, don't worry about your dad. He's fine here. He's totally okay to stay on his own, and I'm happy to look in on him, bring him food.

RACHEL

Totally okay? In what universe is he totally okay?

LORRAINE

All elders go through this. My grandma ran around in her underwear, talking about the chickens she raised when she was fourteen. They get a little squirrely, you just put them away to rot? That's not how we do it here.

RACHEL

Oh, sorry. Maybe you should tell me more about how y'all do things around here? Does that include cousins marrying? What about women kissing each other? Boys setting up house together.

LORRAINE

We're going to forget about that.

RACHEL

Did you hear what he said? Have you ever heard him talk about Hector?

LORRAINE

He was confused.

RACHEL

No. That's not something he would make up.

LORRAINE

I'm sure it wasn't what it sounded like.

RACHEL

Yes. What it sounded like.

LORRAINE

It was so long ago.

RACHEL

And he's held onto it. All these years.

LORRAINE

He must have walked here from Piney Ridge. What a nightmare for him. It's a miracle he wasn't run over.

RACHEL

A miracle.

LORRAINE

He doesn't want to be there, Rachel. It's not right.

RACHEL

He's not right. Maybe he deserves worse.

LORRAINE

Damn you!

RACHEL

What?

LORRAINE

I'm sorry. Damn you. You want to impose your questionable morality on him.

RACHEL

You be careful of your glass house there.

LORRAINE

We have to respect your father's—

RACHEL

Why? Because he's old? Because he's losing his mind? Or because he's a Man Of God? Or is he?

LORRAINE

Rachel, you don't know what a place like that will do to him.
It's what he's done to himself.

LORRAINE

You can't come here and make a decision like this and then fly on back to New York.

RACHEL

What did you think I was going to do? Move in with him? Maybe you and me would shack up? I'm not sure how that would go over at the church ladies' auxiliary.

LORRAINE

This will kill him.

RACHEL

Vengence is mine, saith the Lord.

LORRAINE

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

RACHEL

You better go.

LORRAINE

Rachel-- look. Have you prayed about this?

RACHEL

Prayed.

LORRAINE

Let your mind be still - God will tell you the right thing to do.

Lorraine gives the Bible to Rachel.

Lorraine exits.

Rachel places the Bible on the ground, and the chorus surround it and tell a story through gesture and movement, as though around a fire. They start a pagan-like ritual, where they call their ancestors. Jane and Leahey watch.

JANE

Praying is the last resort of the hopeless. Actions speak louder than murmured Hail Marys. For example, you can care a whole lot about one thing, and nothing at all about something else.

LEAKEY

You mean the students.

JANE

Terrible.

LEAKEY

This incident doesn't make you look very good.

JANE

My priorities were elsewhere.

Chimps become reporters, who line up next to her. They do not see her, but she reacts to what they're saying.

REPORTER 1

May, 1975.

REPORTER 2

A group of students in Tanzania have been kidnapped.

REPORTER 3

Who?

REPORTER 2

Kabila rebels. Want to reinstate their exiled leader.

REPORTER 1

They're holding them in Zaire. On the other side of Lake Tanganyika.

REPORTER 2

Mud huts.

REPORTER 3

Psychological abuse.

REPORTER 1

Uncertain fate.

REPORTER 3

What do they want?

REPORTER 2

Money, of course. Half a million and the return of prisoners.

REPORTER 3

Hey, aren't those students from Jane Goodall's research team?

REPORTER 1

What happened to Jane Goodall? Was she kidnapped?

REPORTER 2

I heard she got tipped off - slipped into the woods before the guerillas showed up.

REPORTER 3

Guess she likes chimps better than guerillas.

REPORTER 1

Ha. Ha.

Frank and Lorraine sit together. Frank stares out, vacant, and Lorraine watches him, holding his hand.

JANE

We are taught that humans are the only sentient animals - we alone are able to perceive the cycle of life and death. Because of this unique perspective, we are capable of architecture, sonatas, medical miracles, interplanetary exploration. Not to mention famine, pollution, murder. War.

Jane shows Rachel a repeat of the killing sequence in Part I, except slower and more stylized. A Chimp demonstrates charging behavior, then one group chases him down. They begin to violently attack the interloper, screaming and howling. They beat him to death.

PART III

CHORUS

Repent.
He tells them what they have done—
That they have sinned arrogantly.
He makes them listen to correction
And commands them to
Repent
The godless in heart harbor
Resentment
Purge
Or
Perish

Jane approaches Rachel. Leakey joins them.

LEAKEY

Ninety-nine percent!

JANE

Our DNA is so close.

RACHEL

You led me. But it wasn't your story.

LEAKEY

Community?

JANE

Check.

LEAKEY

Family relationships?

JANE

Check.

LEAKEY

Awareness of mortality?

JANE

Check.

LEAKEY

Ability to type Hamlet?

JANE

Still untested.

LEAKEY

Seeking, seeking, seeking.

JANE

That's the other one percent.

RACHEL

I need sanctuary.

JANE

When I first went to the jungle, I had no university,

LEAKEY

She was a trained typist!

JANE

But I was put on this path, and I did the best I could. I was dropped on this path, and lives were changed. Is that faith? Coincidence?

RACHEL

I can choose what to believe.

JANE

Praying to the god of chance is not very satisfying.

One chimp stands suddenly, howls, holding something in its arms. Crouches, stroking what she's holding.

JANE

"Our Father, which art in Heaven..."

Pause.

JANE

Three days. Flo still mourns. Can it be called mourning? She gently carries the body of her infant everywhere, she cuddles and grooms it. She seems unaware that its life force has gone.

One chimp tries to take the imagined body away from Flo, which elicits sharp pant-hoots and aggressive stance.

Flo then stands, gives the object to Rachel. It is a vase.

Frank's house. A box, a vase, some newspaper. Lorraine enters.

RACHEL

Do you like this?

LORRAINE

What?

RACHEL

I think my mom inherited it when Aunt Bet died.

LORRAINE

It's nice.

RACHEL

It's hideous.

LORRAINE

Have you been to see him?

RACHEL

Of course I've been to see him.

LORRAINE

He's not doing well.

RACHEL

[shoving the vase into the box] Oh to hell with it.

LORRAINE

Rachel--

RACHEL

Don't start.

LORRAINE

No, of course not. This is your decision.

RACHEL

That doesn't mean I think it's right.

LORRAINE

Don't you?

RACHEL

I don't see any alternative. He needs care.
Professional care.

LORRAINE

You couldn't stay here?

RACHEL

Are you kidding me?

LORRAINE

What have you got to go back to? What's your life like there? Temping, eating alone in restaurants? You gonna do that until you're as old as your dad?

RACHEL

I have friends. I have a life.

LORRAINE

Not like here. You'd both be looked after.

RACHEL

You don't get it.

LORRAINE

I'm begging you.

RACHEL

Why does this mean so much to you?

LORRAINE

If he's gone, you're gone.

RACHEL

I'm gone anyway. I don't think I was ever here.

LORRAINE

I'll come with you.

RACHEL

What?

LORRAINE

You're right - Sarah'll be out of the house soon.
What's keeping me here? Your dad goes into the home,
he won't need me anymore.

RACHEL

So you're going to-- what? Pick up stakes and move in
with me?

LORRAINE

Why not?

RACHEL

I didn't invite you, for one thing.

LORRAINE

I thought that's what you wanted.

RACHEL

[beat] It's not.

LORRAINE

I don't have anything to stay for.

RACHEL

Then don't stay.

LORRAINE

It could be--

RACHEL

You have no idea.

*Jane brings things jarringly into the past. Rachel
drops to her knees. Light shift. Rachel is twenty-
five. Frank approaches. Jane and Lorraine observe the
scene.*

FRANK

Rachel? Honey.

RACHEL

Yeah, Dad. I'm here.

FRANK

You okay?

RACHEL

Yeah, I'm just [beat] praying.

FRANK

My girl. Can I pray with you?

RACHEL

Okay.

They pray in silence for a few moments.
When I was little, I wanted to be Mrs. Cassidy.

FRANK

Who?

RACHEL

Sunday School teacher.

FRANK

Sarah Ann?

RACHEL

She got to use colored chalk, and was in charge of refreshments. Those cookies were amazing.

FRANK

Her husband was killed driving a milk truck.

RACHEL

That's her. I thought she was the most beautiful, glamorous woman I'd ever seen.

FRANK

You did think highly of her, I remember.

RACHEL

I had a huge crush on her, actually.

FRANK

Girls need good role models.

RACHEL

I'm an adult. I know what I'm doing.

FRANK

Shall I do a reading? What scripture would you like?

RACHEL

I was in love with Mrs. Cassidy.

FRANK

We love each other with a part of God's love for us.

RACHEL

I'm not talking about that kind of love.

FRANK

You don't know what you're talking about.

RACHEL

But you do.

FRANK

I want you to stay on the righteous path. To stay away from mortal sin.

RACHEL

It's not--

FRANK

Understand me. There is no place in this house for someone who chooses a life of sin. I have sinned. We are all sinners. The important thing is that we repent, and ask forgiveness.

RACHEL

How can you be forgiven for being yourself?

FRANK

It's important that you turn your back on this. I know these temptations are strong. I'm afraid--

RACHEL

What?

FRANK

I hope I've done the right things. Only God can judge.

RACHEL

Only God?

Pause.

FRANK

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. Now I know only a part, but then I will know fully, as God has known me. So these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love."

RACHEL

Daddy, listen--

FRANK

You listen to God. You know what's right.

Jane brings present time. Frank retreats.

RACHEL

Pick your own road.

Lorraine exits.

Rachel exits.

Jane lays her hand on Frank's cheek. She gives him the Bible, and he holds it tightly.

FRANK

We stayed in his little hut. We hunted during the day. Daddy thought I had gone native, used the strap. But I kept going back.

JANE

Does faith evolve?

FRANK

My faith evolved. I could see God in his eyes.

JANE

"My beloved is mine, and I am his..."

FRANK

We both had it. The malaria. My mamma put cold compresses on my neck in the fever. My head cooked up faces stretched like rubber. Chills felt good after that. For a while. Their eyes. They stared at me so, bright white staring. I never saw him again.

Rachel enters. Lights change. Back at the care home. Frank looks out the window. He has been sedated.

RACHEL

Hi Dad.

FRANK

Hello, Rachel.

RACHEL

How are you feeling?

FRANK

Well. Thank you.

RACHEL

Okay. That's good.

FRANK

Good.

RACHEL

Mrs. Cratts told me they're having some kind of bridge tournament this afternoon.

FRANK
Yes.

RACHEL
That sounds like fun.

FRANK
Yes.

RACHEL
Can I ask you--

FRANK
No...

RACHEL
Sorry?

FRANK
No need.

RACHEL
I want to know-- Dad, can you tell me about Hector?

FRANK
A long time ago.

RACHEL
Yes, in Africa. Rhodesia. In a hut, you said.

FRANK
Daddy was a circuit preacher.

RACHEL
Yes, but before that--

FRANK
He said the eyes of the Lord never closed.

RACHEL
Did you love him? Hector?

FRANK
But He couldn't see us. In the jungle. It was just us there, hunting, sitting under the trees. He could be so still.
Pause.
He should have stayed in the jungle. Stayed away from me. Once he caught the eye of the Lord, he didn't have a chance. His life was forfeit.

RACHEL
Dad. It wasn't your fault.

FRANK
Rachel?

RACHEL

Yes?

FRANK

Your mother and I are concerned.

RACHEL

I know you are, Daddy.

FRANK

Give your life over to the Lord.

RACHEL

Is that what you did?

FRANK

Write this in your heart. I will be merciful, and remember your sins no more.

RACHEL

I can't ever forget.

FRANK

The Lord loves you.

RACHEL

And you.

FRANK

Faith, hope and love.

RACHEL

But the greatest of these is love. You told me the truth. For once.

FRANK

Someone brought flowers.

RACHEL

Daisies.

FRANK

Feathers.

Pause.

RACHEL

Goodbye, Daddy.

He turns to her for the first time, looking directly at her, taking her hand, and holding out the Bible

FRANK

Don't forget this.

Rachel takes the Bible gently, and opens it. Old black and white photos spill from the pages.

*Lorraine enters. Rachel starts to pick up the photos.
Lorraine helps her.*

LORRAINE

What happened?

FRANK

Pepper. Dish soap.

RACHEL

These... fell.

LORRAINE

I thought you'd already gone.

RACHEL

I got some people to look after the house, and I'll be back to take care of the papers when it sells.

FRANK

These are the ones. I sent to him.

LORRAINE

That's it? Everything squared away.

RACHEL

I wasn't going to leave without saying goodbye.

LORRAINE

Goodbye to who?

RACHEL

You can still leave, Lorraine. It doesn't have to be with me.

LORRAINE

I made my bed.

RACHEL

Unmake it.

LORRAINE

[picking up a photo] Who is this?

FRANK

[Frank takes the photo] Maybe my brother's friends.

RACHEL

I've never seen any of these.

FRANK

That's my daddy. He was a circuit preacher.

RACHEL

[to Lorraine] These aren't the ones you had. Where did these come from?

LORRAINE

What's this?

FRANK

I don't know.

RACHEL

Is that you? You as a little boy?

FRANK

No. I don't know who that is.

LORRAINE

This boy with the feathers?

RACHEL

This is Africa, isn't it?

FRANK

[indicating someone in photo] Free as a bird. They all were.

RACHEL

Who? Is this him?

LORRAINE

Free as a bird.

FRANK

Everything and nothing. How could God not bring the force of his might down upon the unrepentant?

Frank goes outside. The Chorus gather around him, sitting in a circle. He talks to the night sky.

FRANK

Nighttime. That's when they would do it.

Jane approaches, takes Rachel and Lorraine to Frank's circle. Lorraine and Rachel join it. Rachel is holding the Bible.

FRANK

Our house had little windows. It was dark. We stay inside. In the heat of the day, we rest, stay in the darkness. Other children come to me and touch me, look at me strangely. Their eyes ask "who are you?". Their beautiful eyes. I feel watching from the trees. At night, the singing is like church for them. Their church is everything around them. Their church. The hot land, the vast sky. The stars come closer. They surround me. His eyes.

They know about the stars.
I fall.
Fall
His eyes are like the stars.

CHORUS

Repent and be loved.

RACHEL

Faith based on nothing but crumbling pages.

LORRAINE

Nothing changes.

FRANK

If you walk with God, you will walk the path of
righteousness.

LORRAINE

I am righteous.

RACHEL

Walk the path of your God?

FRANK

The one god, the stars in the sky and the mountain in
the distance.

RACHEL

I want--

JANE

You want to think that you're different.

LORRAINE

I am faithful.

RACHEL

How can there be sin where there is love?

LORRAINE

Things can be different.

FRANK

They were on intimate terms with the Almighty, they
didn't need us to tell them about it.

JANE

God doesn't have the time.

FRANK

You can be free of God. They were. They couldn't
answer, What is your religion?

RACHEL

[takes the bone out of her pocket and holds it up beside the Bible] "Who is the first and chiefest being?"

CHORUS

Ask the grass
The trees
The bulbul bird

Their eyes.

FRANK

They gave me what they knew.

Rachel puts her arms around Frank's shoulders.

Jane signals to the chorus, and they exit, leaving Rachel, Lorraine and Frank onstage.

A long suspension.

Blackout.

NOTES ON TEXT

The catechism at the beginning and end of the play is taken from the Baptist Catechism, published by the Charleston Association, 1813.

<http://www.reformedreader.org/cc/bapcat.htm>

The Bible quotes were all found on BibleGateway.com (www.biblegateway.com). The editions used were:

New American Standard

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright ©1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

King James Version

Public domain.

New Century Version

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Jane's line in Part I, "Who has time to really see a flower?" is an echo of the Georgia O'Keefe quote:

"Nobody sees a flower - really - it is so small it takes time - we haven't time - and to see takes time, like to have a friend takes time."

The description of Frank's father on the hill talking to God was inspired by the transcript of an interview with Dr. William Barnett by Robert Shuster for the Missionary Sources Collection of the Billy Graham Center for Wheaton College. This interview took place on April 5th, 1982. Transcript in the Billy Graham Center Archives, Collection 248 - William John Barnett.

<http://www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/trans/248t02.htm>

I read almost every book by or about Jane Goodall in preparation for this play; the books that were the most useful were:

Goodall, Jane. In the Shadow of Man. London: Phoenix, 1999.

Goodall, Jane and Phillip Berman. Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey. New York: Warner Books, 1999.

Peterson, Dale. Jane Goodall: The Woman Who Redefined Man. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

(the quote from Jane about sleeping under the stars at Olduvai is on page 113)