

BEFORE THE SHADOW OF MORNING

A Play by
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THE SETTING:

The entire play takes place in a therapy room. The room has a single heavily bolted door and two large windows covered with chain link grating. There are a enough chairs for everyone in the room as well as an old beat up piano and a few large gray wooden blocks. While room the should have an institutional feel, it should also have an expressionistic mood about it. *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, is the undertone that should emanate from the room. It might even be possible to take that mood to the same extreme. Additionally it may be possible to construct the room in such a way that the audience is seated in part of it, allowing them to feel just as trapped as the characters.

CAST:

ORDERLY 1&2: Two large men in institutional uniforms.
JASON: An intense but calm African-American man in his mid to late forties.
MARTIN: A high strung Caucasian man in his late forties to early fifties.
TERRY: A heavy set and aggressive Chinese-American woman in her late twenties.
DAVIS: A caustic and violent Caucasian man in his early twenties.
ANNE: A nervous and erratic African-American woman in her early thirties.
JILL: A passive and withdrawn woman in her early twenties.
MARY: A quirky and shy woman age eighteen or nineteen.
KEVIN: A mute man age twenty. He plays the piano.

COSTUME:

All of the patients (characters) are dressed in a loose fitting cotton shirt and a pair of similar pants with an elastic waistband.

ACT I
Scene One

(As the LIGHTS COME UP everyone except JASON and the two ORDERLIES are in the room. They are spread throughout the room, sitting in various places. KEVIN plays a soft and wandering piece of music. After a long minute of "silence," JASON can be heard in the hallway outside the door.)

JASON(O.S.)
This is a mistake.

ORDERLY 1(O.S.)
That's what everyone says.

JASON(O.S.)
You don't understand. There's been
a mistake.

ORDERLY 1(O.S.)
We don't make mistakes here.

The footsteps stop at the door and the bolts are slowly unlocked. Everyone in the room turns their attention to the door.

JASON(O.S.)
What are you doing with me? What is
this?

ORDERLY 2(O.S.)
Group therapy.

JASON(O.S.)
I not supposed to be in group therapy!
I'm not supposed to be here!

ORDERLY 1(O.S.)
That's what it says on our charts.

JASON(O.S.)
Well, your charts are wrong.

ORDERLY 2(O.S.)
The charts are hardly ever wrong.

JASON(O.S.)

Well, something is wrong.

Orderly 2 opens the door and Orderly 1 shoves Jason into the room. Jason falls to the floor. The seven people, all dressed in the same manner as he, look at him.

ORDERLY 2

The Doctor will be with you in a few minutes.

Jason looks up from the floor as the Orderlies shut the door.

JASON

This is a mistake! I don't belong here!

Orderly 1 pauses, holding the door open, almost teasing.

ORDERLY 1

Then what are you doing here?

Orderly 1 smirks and closes the door. The bolts can be heard locking. Jason stares at the door for a moment not noticing the other people in the room. They are all watching him with a certain disturbing curiosity. There are three men, not including Jason, and four women. One of them, DAVIS, a young, dangerous looking man, is sitting in a chair near one of the two large tables, speaks up. His features and his movements erratic.

DAVIS

I wish I didn't belong here.
Unfortunately I know I'm crazy.

Jason looks around at the room and the people. In addition to the two large tables there are three large metal caged windows. The walls are a dirty off-gray and the floor a sanitized white-brown. On one side of the long room there is a piano. KEVIN, a thin, lean faced man sits at it. He is shy, evasive and does not speak. There are several gray building blocks scattered around the room. It is from one of these that TERRY, a large heavysset Asian-American woman in her late twenties watches as, MARTIN, a chubby middle aged white man gets up from his chair walks over to where Jason still sits on the floor.

MARTIN

Here my son, let me help you to your feet. Are you one of Dr. Mandrake's patients too?

Jason looks at Martin's out stretched hand. He accepts it and slowly gets to his feet. Jason is calm and sedate now.

JASON

No.

MARTIN

That's strange. Dr. Mandrake usually doesn't like to have group with other people's patients. Are you sure you don't know Dr. Mandrake?

JASON

I haven't met him. I don't belong here.

MARTIN

It does no good to deny your illness, my son. Before the doctor, or God can help you, you first must admit that you are sick.

Jason walks over to one of the windows and looks through the caging. Martin follows him. The others watch intently.

JASON

I'm not sick.

MARTIN

That's what we all say at first. It's really not as hard as you might think. You just need to say those three magic little words, "I need help."

JASON

I don't need help. I need to get out of here.

Jason goes to the other window, examining it. Martin follows and the others turn in their seats to watch.

MARTIN

This is your first time isn't it? In group, I mean. It's not as hard as it seems. We all know each other. We support each other. It's a growing process. We all learn from one another. Who is your doctor anyway? Maybe I know him.

JASON

I don't have a doctor. I told you, I don't belong here.

MARTIN

Denial. That's always the way. I'll say a prayer for you.

JASON

Do what ever you want, just stop following me.

TERRY

Martin, leave the man alone. I don't think he wants you to bother him.

MARTIN

I just want to say a prayer for him.
(To Jason)
What denomination are you?

JASON

I'm not.

MARTIN

Are you an atheist?

DAVIS

Martin, I don't think the man wants to be converted.

MARTIN

I should be able to say a prayer for someone.

Another woman, MARY, speaks up.

MARY

Why don't you pretend you're a monk for a while, Martin, that will make you happy.

DAVIS

Yeah, maybe you could flog yourself.

MARTIN

God will judge the sharp of tongue,
Davis.

DAVIS

I fucking hope so.

Another woman, ANNE, Black and middle aged speaks up.

ANNE

Five minutes!

MARY

What?

ANNE

Five minutes since he last said Fuck!.

DAVIS

Sorry, I'll say it more often. Fuck!

MARTIN

What is your name?

ANNE

You know how I hate that.

DAVID

Fuck, Fuck, Fuck, Fuck, Fuck!

MARTIN

It's hard to pray for someone when
you don't know their name. I can't
just say, " God help save the crazy
man standing next to me."

ANNE

I hate you Davis.

DAVIS

You only hate me because you want
to fuck me.

ANNE

Never!

DAVIS

Are you sure, 'cause I'm free tonight.

MARTIN

If you won't tell me your name at least tell me your initials.

DAVIS

In fact, I'm free right now.

MARTIN

I have to pray for you! It's what a priest is supposed to do.

DAVIS

Are you sure you don't want to fuck.

MARTIN

If you won't tell your name then I can't pray for you, and if I can't pray for you I can't be a good priest and then God won't be happy with me!

DAVIS

Right here on the floor. I don't mind if they watch us fucking.

ANNE

You disgust me Davis.

DAVIS

Just us fucking in the middle of the floor. You fucking me, me fucking you. Maybe someone will want to join in. Maybe Martin will want to fuck you. Martin hasn't has a fuck in a longtime.

MARTIN

Leave me out of your fornication, Davis, I have praying to do!

ANNE

I wouldn't fuck you to save my life.

DAVIS

You want to bet on that?

Davis moves menacingly toward Anne. Anne grabs a chair and prepares to defend herself with it. To one side of the room, JILL, a thin, long faced woman has crawled under the table and begins to cry.

MARTIN

I need to know your name!

DAVIS

How long's it been since you fucked somebody, Anne, and your girlfriend doesn't count. How long's it been since you had a real fucking.

ANNE

You stay away from me, Davis. You stay away from me!

MARTIN

The name, the name, the name, the name, the name!

Martin continues to chant as Davis advances on Anne.

DAVIS

You know, I'll bet you've never been fucked by a man. Have you? I'll bet you've never had it done to you right. Well, I can do you right, Anne. This is no fake toy like you're girlfriend would use. This is the real thing. This could be your first real fuck, Anne. Come on. I know you want to. I've been watching you watch me. I know when a woman wants to fuck, and you're looking really ripe, Anne. Reach out and pick your cherry ripe.

Kevin slams his hands down on the piano in a sudden and violent chord that echoes through the room. Terry moves between Davis and Anne as everyone becomes silent.

TERRY

You can fuck off now.

Davis looks at Terry and realizes that he is no match for her.

DAVIS

Why didn't you just say so Terry.
I didn't know you wanted her for
yourself.

Davis retreats to a near by chair. Terry surveys the room,
looking at each person.

TERRY

What the hell's the matter with
you people? Jesus Christ, you made
Jill cry.

MARTIN

You're taking the Lord's name in vain.

TERRY

Don't give my any of your shit,
Martin. Now, the Doctor is going
to be here in a minute, and until
he comes, we're all going to behave
like nice little children. First off,
tell him your fuck'n name.

JASON

Jason.

TERRY

Fine. Now, Martin, go sit yourself in
the corner and pray until the Doctor
gets here.

Martin goes to the corner.

TERRY(CONT'D)

And you, Davis, I don't give a fuck how
many times you say fuck, but if you
touch her, I'll rip you fuck'n head off.
Are we clear?

DAVIS

Clear as Vaseline, Terry my love.

TERRY

Don't let him scare you, Anne. He
couldn't fuck if he wanted to. He hasn't
had a hard-on in two years.

DAVIS

That's a lie! My dick got hard just this morning.

TERRY

That wasn't your dick, it was your imagination. We all take the same medication, Davis, we know what it does.

Anne goes over to where Jill is still crying under the table and bends down to her, beginning to stroke her hair, nearly on the verge of tears herself.

ANNE

It's okay.

Jill looks up into Anne's eyes and speaks in a soft voice.

JILL

I think, Kevin is crying to.

Everyone turns to look at Kevin. He reaches up and wipes a single tear away from his eye. He turns to the piano slowly, raising his hands above it, he brings them down in a softer, almost defeated chord. Jason looks at everyone in turn and then out the window.

JASON

I don't belong here.

Everyone looks at him and he turns back to meet their stares.

JASON(CONT'D)

I am not one of you. When the doctor gets here, you'll see. There's nothing wrong with me. I'm perfectly fine.

DAVIS

Nobody's perfectly fine. If they were, I wouldn't want to beat the shit out of them, all the time.

Jason looks at Davis.

JASON

I've never done anything wrong.

MARTIN

All of God's children have sinned.

JASON

Nothing to deserve this.

ANNE

None of us deserves this.

TERRY

If you don't belong here, then they'll let you out when the doctor shows up. If you do, then you'd better learn to get along, because you're going to be stuck here longtime.

JASON

No I won't.

Jason turns away from the others and looks out a window. The rest of the inmates gradually turn away, each making an attempt to ignore the other. Mary, who has been silent, looking out the window since she last spoke, walks over to Jason.

MARY

It's okay, I don't belong here either.

Mary suddenly sniffs Jason. He pulls back and looks at her. The others are still ignoring them.

MARY(CONT'D)

That's what dogs do when they like each other. I like dogs, don't you.

Jason just looks at her.

MARY(CONT'D)

Well, I do. Don't mind all of them. They're okay. They just don't seem like it sometimes. My name's Mary. What are you in here for?

JASON

I don't know.

MARY

Isn't that a coincidence. Neither do I. I have amnesia. I don't remember anything.

DAVIS

Bullshit. You're in here `cause your
old man raped you.

Mary stares at Davis. She walks to the other side of the
room and begins to stare at the wall.

TERRY

Some days, Davis, you can be a real
asshole.

DAVIS

Thank you. I try.

Jason turns away from them and looks out the window. THE
LIGHTS FADE OUT.

Scene Two

THE LIGHTS FADE UP. Everyone in the room is quiet and
introspective, each holding their own company. The sun has
entered the room from one of the side windows, bathing the
floor in the criss-cross pattern of the cages. Terry sits at
the table with a deck of cards playing solitaire.

TERRY

What the hell is taking him so long?

ANNE

You'd better hope he doesn't come in
here and find you with those cards.

MARTIN

Gambling is a sin. It says so in
the Bible.

TERRY

It's a fucking game of solitaire,
Martin. Get a grip.

MARTIN

Solitaire is just one step from
gambling. Just one step from the
path of darkness.

DAVIS

You want to see darkness, Martin,
I'll show you darkness.

Davis stands up and grabs a chair.

DAVIS(CONT'D)

I'll show you more than just a little darkness, Martin. I can show you some permanent darkness.

MARTIN

The meek shall inherit the earth,
Davis.

DAVIS

Fuck the meek. I can't take this
shit anymore.

Anne looks at Davis. He doesn't notice her. Davis puts the chair down and goes to the door beginning to pound on it.

DAVIS(CONT'D)

Mandrake, where the hell are you?!
Open up this Goddamn door! Do you hear
me! It's been two fucking hours! What
is this, some kind of game? Are you
fucking nurse Hanson again, or are you
jerking off in the bathroom this time?
Take your dick out of you hand and get
your ass in here, Mandrake!

Davis turns away from the door.

DAVIS(CONT'D)

And he says I have a problem with
chronic masturbation. At least
it's never made me late for
fucking therapy.

Anne is still glaring at Davis. He notices her and flips her off. She turns away. Davis notices Terry's harsh look and he smiles at her before sitting down.

JASON

Is this Doctor Mandrake always
this late?

MARTIN

Doctor Mandrake is never late. He's
as punctual as a Sunday service.

DAVIS
If he doesn't stop I swear I'm going
to beat the shit out of him.

TERRY
Cool it Davis.

MARTIN
The meek shall inherit the earth.

DAVIS
Inherit this, asshole.

Davis kicks one of the gray blocks. It slides across the room and strikes Martin. Martin grabs the block and raises it above his head. Davis leaps to his feet. Anne goes to Martin and tries to take the block away from him. Terry stands up.

TERRY
I said, cool it you two.

ANNE
Put it down, Martin.

MARTIN
I shall turn the other cheek.

DAVIS
Fine, I'll hit you again.

TERRY
Sit down. Both of you.

DAVIS
Yes, Ma'am.

MARTIN
It would be my pleasure.

Martin and Davis sit down slowly. Jill speaks up.

JILL
I have to go to the bathroom.

TERRY
Aw, hell.

JILL
Number one.

DAVIS

You hear that Anne, Jill has to take a piss. Why don't you help her out. You're into that kinky shit aren't you? Too bad she doesn't have to take a dump too.

ANNE

I've just about had it with you Davis.

DAVIS

Really? What are you going to do about it?

TERRY

Shut up Davis. We've got a problem here.

JASON

Is this Doctor Mandrake always this late?

TERRY

He's never been late.

JASON

Well, there must be a reason that he's late. Two hours is a long time.

ANNE

He's right, they wouldn't leave us in here this long unless something was wrong.

DAVIS

Unless he's not supposed to show up.

TERRY

What do you mean?

DAVIS

What if the Doctor never planned on showing up? Maybe this is some kind of test. To see how well we can get along.

ANNE

Well, then, you certainly aren't going to make a passing grade today, Davis.

DAVIS

Funny. Did they check to see if you had a brain when they gave you that fucking degree, Professor? Has it occurred to you that if this is a test that their probably watching us?

ANNE

There're no mirrors in this room, and there aren't any cameras.

DAVIS

Use your fucking brain. Who is in this room who wouldn't normally be here? They fucking sent him in here to spy on us.

Everyone looks at Jason.

TERRY

What about it?

JASON

I'm not here to spy on you. I couldn't care less what all of you do.

TERRY

Then why hasn't the Doctor showed up?

JASON

How the hell should I know. Maybe he was in an accident. Maybe they've forgotten we're in here.

ANNE

If there was an accident they would check to see where he was going.

JASON

This is a mental institution for God's sake. They don't just leave a bunch of wackos in a room together for two hours unless something is wrong.

MARY

Who's a wacko?

JASON

No offense.

DAVIS

So, then either something's wrong, or this is a test and you're a liar. I fucking hate liars.

ANNE

You're a liar, Davis.

DAVIS

I hate myself too. Didn't they tell you? We all hate ourselves. That's why we're here.

MARTIN

We're here because it's God's will.

JILL

I have to go to the bathroom.

DAVIS

I'll show you God's will Martin.

TERRY

Shut up. Which is it, Jason?

JASON

I don't know what the hell you people are talking about?

DAVIS

I think he's lying.

MARY

I think he's telling the truth.

JILL

I think have to go to the bathroom.

ANNE

If he's lying he's doing a very good job of it.

MARTIN

"A good man is known by his truthfulness, a false man by deceit and lies." Proverbs 12:17

TERRY

Which is it? Why don't you tell us what's going on, Jason?

JASON

I don't know why the doctor isn't here anymore than I know why I'm here. What is there to gain from locking us in here together? What would they possibly learn? That crazy people don't get along with each other any better than sane people do? And who the hell would lock us in here on purpose with out giving her anyway to go to the bathroom?!

Jill has turned away from the others and cowered in on herself. The urine that stains her pants has also created a small puddle on the floor beneath her chair.

TERRY

Oh, shit!

Terry and Anne go to help Jill.

TERRY

Here. Let me help.

JILL

I said I had to go. I said I had to go.

ANNE

It's okay, Honey. Everything is going to be just fine.

Anne strokes Jill's hair.

TERRY

Let's get her out of these.

Terry and Anne start to pull Jill's pants off. David starts to laugh.

DAVIS

I always knew you wanted to get into Jill's pants, Anne, I just never figured you'd do it with the rest of us watching. You gonna finger fuck her while Terry holds her down? Maybe Terry will let you do her too. You ever have a Black woman Terry?

TERRY

You're getting on my nerves, Davis.

ANNE

We can't leave her in these, they're soaked.

DAVIS

Maybe I should piss my pants. I'd let you take my pants off, Anne. With your teeth.

TERRY

Shut up, Davis.

Anne takes off Jill's wet underwear as well. Jill's shirt, too long for her, falls almost to her knees. Mary brings over a waste paper basket and Anne puts the wet clothes into it. Martin looks at them disapprovingly.

MARTIN

But, she'll be naked underneath.

TERRY

What do you want us to do, Martin, leave her in her clothes, covered in piss?

MARTIN

I don't know, but nakedness leads to fornication, and fornication is a sin.

DAVIS

What's the matter, Martin, been a while since you seen some pussy?

MARTIN

The vile and the wicked shall line the
ranks of hell, Davis.

(To Terry and Anne.)

She shouldn't be naked.

TERRY

Then why don't you give her your
pants, Martin?

MARTIN

Then I'd be naked!

TERRY

Then why don't you say a prayer for
clothes and leave us the hell alone.

ANNE

You just sit tight and everything will
be all right. The doctor will be here
soon and then we can get you some new
clothes and everything will okay.

JILL

I didn't mean to. I just couldn't hold
it any longer.

TERRY

It's okay.

MARY

Look, Jill if you need to go again
just tell us. You can use the
waste paper basket.

JILL

They'll be watching.

ANNE

No they won't. We'll make them turn
their backs.

Davis snorts a half-laugh. Kevin quietly begins to play a
little tune on the piano. Everyone looks at him. He looks up
at Jill. After a moment, Jill smiles, almost childlike.
Davis looks at everyone and then at Jill.

DAVIS

You should dress like that more often, Jill. You've got nice legs. Why don't you spread `em out and let us have a little peek; see what you got.

Jill turns away, going into a sitting fetal position. Anne begins to comfort her. Terry turns on Davis and Kevin stops his music.

TERRY

All right, Davis, I'm going to rip your fucking head off now.

Davis jumps up and steps behind a table, between he and Terry.

DAVIS

I'm just dealing with my emotions, just being honest. That's what the doctor says to do.

TERRY

I've got my own idea of medicine Davis.

Terry pursues Davis around the table.

DAVIS

I'm just telling people what I think, Terry. It's healthy.

ANNE

Is that all you think about, Davis; sex?

DAVIS

Can I help it if I want to fuck Jill.

MARTIN

Fornicators shall see the depths of hell.

MARY

You two should stop this before someone gets hurt.

Davis passes Mary as Terry pursues him around the table.

DAVIS

I'll fuck you too, Mary. Just like dear old Dad.

Mary looks at him and then at Terry.

MARY

Kill him, Terry.

Mary goes to stand by Jason who is silently watching the events of the room. Mary stands behind him, hiding. Terry continues to follow Davis around the table.

TERRY

What's the matter, Davis, you afraid?

DAVIS

The only thing I'm afraid of is that if you catch me, you'll want to fuck me. I don't fuck chinks, not even if you paid me. Of course, you're more used to getting paid than paying, aren't you?

Terry stops her pursuit of Davis. Staring at him, Terry breaths in the sudden silence of the room.

DAVIS

What's the matter, Terry, cat got your tongue? Or did you lose it up Anne's cunt?

TERRY

You are so pitiful and ignorant, Davis.

DAVIS

At least I know enough not to kill a cop when he's fucking me.

TERRY

You don't know anything. I never killed anybody who didn't deserve it. He just figured he could take what he wanted, because he had that little badge. It never occurred to him that he was taking a part of me and that I never give up any part of myself without it being my choice. But he didn't understand that, and now he's dead. And you don't understand a goddamn thing more than (More)

TERRY(CONT'D)

he did. You still think you're dick runs the whole world. You think just because you got that nice white skin and that flabby piece of flesh hanging between your legs that you got a right to everything and anything that ain't yours. You think that every woman ought to lay down and spread her legs and fuck you just because. Well, you don't know shit. That hooker you beat up because she wouldn't give you head; you didn't have any right to her. She should have killed you if she had the chance. Wouldn't nobody miss you, Davis. You know why? Because you're a useless piece of shit, that's why.

There is a cold silence in the room. Davis swallows.

DAVIS

I take it back, Terry, I would fuck your fat ass. Just as long as I didn't have to look at your ugly yellow face.

Terry blinks very slowly and before Davis can react she has reached over the table and grabbed him by the shirt. Throwing him on the table she grabs him by the neck and begins to choke him. Davis struggles with her, but under her weight and at the angle he is lying on the table, he can offer only minimal resistance. At first he tries to choke her back and then failing that he tries to break her grip on his neck. The others of the room are frozen, transfixed by the violence of the moment.

TERRY

I'll fucking kill you. I'll kill you one at a time.

Davis's face starts to turn blue. Jason pulls away from Mary, who is holding onto his arm, and steps forward. He is very calm, almost reassuring, when he speaks to Terry.

JASON

That's enough.

Jason stands next to Terry.

JASON(CONT'D)

That's enough.

Jason reaches out and touches Terry's face.

JASON(CONT'D)

Stop now.

Jason places both of his hands on Terry's face and slowly forces her head up until she is looking at him.

JASON(CONT'D)

That's enough. You can stop now.

Terry looks at him and gradually her rage begins to fade. Jason takes his hands away. Terry lets go of Davis, who falls off the table, gasping for air. Terry looks at Jason and then at Davis. Abruptly she turns and walks away from the group. Davis is still recovering on the floor. Everyone else looks at Jason. Jason turns to Davis.

JASON(CONT'D)

Are you all right?

Davis nods, coughing. Jason looks at everyone else.

JASON(CONT'D)

I don't understand any of you.

As he stares at them they turn away. THE LIGHTS FADE OUT.

Scene Three

THE LIGHTS FADE UP. Everyone is spread out around the room in little groups. Mary is sitting next to Jason, talking to him in a hushed voice. Terry and Anne are playing a silent game of cards. Jill is watching as Kevin plays a slow, soft song on the piano. Martin is praying to himself near a window and Davis is sitting in the corner staring at Terry and the others. Jason is watching Jill as Mary talks to him.

MARY

It's not easy not knowing who you are. It's a great responsibility. I mean, I could be anybody. I could be somebody really important and then what if people found out that I did something wrong. I mean, I could have done something wrong. I could have done something very wrong and then what if everyone found out? It would ruin me. I (More)

MARY (CONT'D)

wouldn't be important any more.
I'd be completely unimportant.
And no one would care what happened
to me. Would you care what
happened to me if I was unimportant?

JASON

Do you think you're unimportant?

MARY

Sometimes.

Terry and Anne have finished their game. Terry looks at Jason. After a moment she stands up and walks over to him. He looks up at her.

TERRY

Thank you.

JASON

You're welcome. You're not the one
who should thank me though.

Jason looks at Davis. Davis looks at him.

DAVIS

My hero.

TERRY

Thanks anyway.

Terry turns and goes back to the table with Anne. Mary watches her and then turns to Jason.

MARY

I wonder if I've ever made love
to someone? I think it would be
nice. What do you think?

JASON

I don't know.

MARY

Have you?

Jill gets up and goes over to sit next to Kevin at the piano.

JASON

What?

MARY

Made love to someone.

JASON

I don't know.

MARY

You don't know any more than I do.

Mary laughs and smiles to herself, content for the moment. Jill sits next to Kevin at the piano as he plays. Her shirt is hiked up on one side, revealing her thigh. Martin walks over to her and makes the sign of the cross.

MARTIN

Cover yourself woman. You can't sit next to a man and show the privates of your body like that.

Jill pulls her shirt down.

JILL

It's just Kevin.

MARTIN

All men are lechers.

JILL

Not Kevin.

MARTIN

All bear the mark of sin from Eve's transgressions.

JILL

I'm just sitting next to him.

MARTIN

With your shirt up around your neck.

Jill and Martin's conversation has attracted the attention of the others.

ANNE

Leave her alone, Martin.

DAVIS

Yeah, Martin. Kevin doesn't like girls anyway. You're the one he likes, Martin.

MARTIN

Keep your sickness to your self, Davis.

JILL

It's just Kevin, he doesn't hurt anybody.

MARTIN

Lies. You know how he got here. You know what he did to his father.

Kevin stops playing.

JILL

That was an accident.

MARTIN

Murder is murder in God's eyes.

Jill takes Kevin's hand to comfort him.

JILL

It's all right, Kevin, he's just crazy.

MARTIN

Let she who is without sin cast the first stone. We're all crazy here young lady.

Jill moves closer to Kevin.

TERRY

Don't let him bully you, Jill.

MARTIN

I'm not bullying anyone. I'm trying to prevent a fornication. See how he's looking at her. That is lust in his eyes.

DAVIS

He's a fag, Martin.

MARTIN

Then throw him on the pyre and let him burn, but there will be no fornicating of any kind. Look, his hand is almost touching her thigh.

Jill takes Kevin's hand and places it on her thigh.

MARTIN(CONT'D)

See, I told you, the little whore is enticing him! The wrath of God shall fall upon you woman. The sins of the flesh shall be rewarded in hell.

Tears have begun to well in Jill's eyes. Terry stands up and walks over to stand near Martin.

TERRY

Don't let him scare you. Fight back.

JILL

I can't

TERRY

Why not. What are you afraid of?

MARTIN

She fears the power of God.

TERRY

Just tell him to fuck off. Go ahead, just tell him to fuck off.

ANNE

Leave her alone, Terry. Can't you see she's just as much afraid of you as she is of Martin.

TERRY

Shut up. She has to stand up for herself. Now, tell him to fuck off.

MARTIN

I have done no wrong. I am not the one with a man's hand on my thigh.

DAVIS

You'd probably like that, wouldn't you Martin?

MARTIN

I hear no evil words, Davis.

TERRY

Tell him to fuck off.

MARTIN

And she has no underwear. His fingers are just inches from her privates.

DAVIS

I wish I was Kevin.

TERRY

Tell him to fuck off.

ANNE

Leave her alone, all of you.

TERRY

Fuck off, Anne. See how easy it is. I told Anne to fuck off, now tell Martin to fuck off.

MARTIN

I'm going to say a prayer to guide you all out of your darkness and into the light of God. There is no fornication in the light of God.

Terry and Martin begin to speak at the same time

TERRY

Why can't you stand up for yourself? You think somebody is going to be around to protect you all the time. You can't be crippled by your fear.

MARTIN

Lord, God in heaven delivers us from the evil of our own minds and show us the path of your glory. Show us the way to be free of evil and sinful thoughts.

TERRY

Tell him to fuck off, Jill. Tell him to fuck off.

Kevin is transfixed by Terry, Martin and Jill. Jill is looking at Kevin as the tears roll down her face. She and Kevin's knuckles are white with the intensity of their grip.

MARTIN

Take these fornicators, dear Lord,
and show them the way to heaven.
Show them that the sins of promiscuity
and homosexuality will be punished
by the flames of hell. Deliver us
from evil and walk with us in the
shadow of the valley of your death.

TERRY

Tell him to fuck off!

MARTIN

And walk with us hand in hand, lest
our hands end up on each other's
thighs.

TERRY

Tell him to fuck off!

ANNE

That's enough, both of you.

MARTIN

And give us clothes lest we all run
naked and fornicate in the streets.

TERRY

Tell him to fuck off!

ANNE

Somebody stop them.

DAVIS

You stop them. I'm enjoying this.

TERRY

Tell them all to fuck off.

MARTIN

And let our fingers not stray to
the private parts of ourselves and
others.

TERRY

Jill!

MARTIN

And let us be pure of thought and body.

TERRY

What are you afraid of!

MARTIN

Lest you condemn us to the eternal fires of the hell you have created to punish those who displease you!

TERRY

Do you hear me? What are you afraid of?

Jill looks up and screams at Terry and Martin.

JILL

Fuck off!

Jason looks at Mary.

JASON

Why does this always happen?

Sirens begin to wail throughout the room. Everyone looks around except Kevin and Jill. Jill is staring straight ahead and Kevin is looking at her.

JILL

All of you just fuck off and leave me alone. I can't stand this any more. I can't stand being afraid. Being afraid of all of you. Kevin is the only one. He's not like all of you. All of you are sick. Sick like the whole world. Sick and dying inside.

The sirens are still wailing. Davis goes to the window to look out. Jill turns to look at Terry.

JILL(CONT'D)

You want to know what I'm afraid of. I'll tell you. I'm afraid of everything. I'm afraid of you, I'm afraid of him, I'm afraid of myself. It's everyone. I'm afraid to be left alone and I'm afraid to be with anyone else. It's because you're all treacherous. You're all sinking in your own private hell(More)

JILL(CONT'D)

and you want to drag everyone else along with you. Well, I don't want your wars and your poverty. I don't want your sickness and starvation. I don't want to see you killing each other because you don't know how to disagree. I don't want any of that and you're all trying to force me to eat it with your kindness and caring and it makes me ill, it makes me want to vomit and it makes me afraid of everything and all of you.

Jill lets go of Kevin's hand and turns away from everyone. Kevin slowly places his hand on her shoulder. She touches her cheek to his hand, the tears from her eyes running down his fingers and staining her shirt. Everyone is caught in the tension between the sirens and the impact of Jill's words. Jason stands up.

JASON

I'm glad this is a therapy group. I'd hate to see what you people would do to one another if you weren't here to help each other.

Davis is still at the window, looking out.

DAVIS

Well, it looks like you're going to miss your turn to share.

The others begin to gather at the window. Jill and Kevin stay seated.

ANNE

Where could all that smoke be coming from?

DAVIS

I don't know. Look at the color of the sky.

TERRY

I've never seen the sky that color before.

MARY

I have.

JASON

Where?

MARY

I don't remember.

DAVIS

Hell of a lot of good that'll do us.

The sirens stop.

MARTIN

They've stopped. That means the worst must be over.

TERRY

The worst of what?

MARTIN

They'll be in to get us soon.

DAVIS

No one's coming to get us.

MARTIN

The Doctor will be here any minute.

ANNE

He's right.

MARTIN

They wouldn't leave us here.

DAVIS

They probably evacuated the entire place.

MARY

They've forgotten about us.

MARTIN

God hasn't forgotten about us.

TERRY

What do we do now?

Jason turns away from the window.

JASON

We have to get out of here.

ANNE

We don't know what's happened out there.

Jill looks up at Jason and Anne.

JASON

We don't have any other choice. We
have to get out of here.

Jill continues to stare at Jason. He notices her and looks
into her eyes.

JILL

There's nothing out there.

Jason stares at her and then looks at the others. Outside the
window smoke mingles with the clouds and the strange
shifting light of the afternoon sun. THE LIGHTS FADE OUT.

ACT II

Scene One

THE LIGHTS FADE UP. The late afternoon sun is seeping into
the room at a flat wide angle. Davis is at the window,
looking out. Martin is pacing the floor and Kevin is playing
a strange atonal and meandering piece of music on the piano.
Everyone else is seated in some fashion either near or
around the largest table.

MARTIN

We can't just break out.

TERRY

Why not.

MARTIN

It's against the rules.

DAVIS

Fuck the rules.

ANNE

They've forgotten about us. There
are no rules anymore.

MARTIN

But what if the Doctor comes in while we're trying to break out? What will happen then?

JASON

Maybe he'll come with us.

MARTIN

This is no time for humor.

TERRY

How do we get out?

DAVIS

Rip the caging off the windows.

JASON

How do we do that?

DAVIS

They're screwed into the walls. Take out enough screws and we can just pull them off.

TERRY

Why not try to pull them off like they are?

DAVIS

It won't work. They're too strong.

ANNE

How do you know?

DAVIS

It's been tried.

JASON

So how do we get the nuts out?

ANNE

They don't let patients have screw drivers.

MARTIN

She's right. We'll have to stay here and wait for the Doctor.

DAVIS

You can rot here waiting for the
Doctor, Martin, but not me.

Davis walks over to the only wooden chair in the room. The chair is empty and Davis grabs it and in a single violent motion swings it into the air and smashes it on the floor, breaking two of the legs off.

MARTIN

There's a penalty for the
destruction of property, Davis!

DAVIS

So sue me.

JASON

I hope there's a point to this.

Davis begins to work on the chair.

DAVIS

There are small metal brackets
holding the legs on this chair.
We can use them to turn the screws.

ANNE

How did you know that?

DAVIS

I'm not stupid, Anne.

Davis throws one of the small brackets on the table.

DAVIS(CONT'D)

There's four brackets, so four of
us can work.

Jason takes the bracket and goes to the window. Davis throws a second bracket on the table and Terry takes it. Mary takes the third bracket and Davis takes the fourth for himself. The four begin to work on the screws holding the caging onto the wall.

TERRY

These hardly work at all.

JASON

This is going to take hours.

DAVIS

You can't expect breaking out of
a mental institution to be easy.

MARTIN

This is all very wrong, people.

MARY

Why?

MARTIN

Well, for one thing, we're breaking
the law.

TERRY

Laws don't count anymore.

MARTIN

Laws always count.

TERRY

Not when you don't have a say in
them.

MARTIN

That doesn't mean you can't be
punished.

JASON

And it doesn't mean it's wrong either.

MARTIN

This is madness! We don't know
what's out there.

DAVIS

I don't care what's out there.

MARY

I don't remember what's out there.

TERRY

There's freedom out there.

MARTIN

Freedoms lead to sin. It says so
right in the Bible.

ANNE

He's right. We don't know what's out there. We don't know what's happened.

MARTIN

See, see. Even the witch agrees with me.

ANNE

I told you not to call me that.

MARTIN

Thou shall not suffer a witch to live.

JASON

Nor a madman nor a leper nor a poor man nor a fool.

MARTIN

Don't you mock me.

JILL

I don't want to go.

MARTIN

Look, the slut agrees with me too.

TERRY

Leave her alone, Martin.

MARTIN

I need not judge, God will judge.

JILL

There's nothing out there. There are no freedoms.

ANNE

She's right. They'll just hunt us down out there.

DAVIS

They won't care.

TERRY

Better to be hunted down than caged.

JILL

Who'll take care of Kevin?

Everyone pauses for a second.

ANNE

We'll take him with us.

DAVIS

There is no us. There's only me and everybody else. Once we get this cage off, it's every man for himself.

ANNE

We can't just scatter.

TERRY

Why not. We all know places where we can hide.

MARY

I don't.

ANNE

We can't just leave him alone.

MARTIN

The witch is right. We can't leave him alone.

ANNE

You know, Martin, not all lesbians are witches.

MARTIN

They are in the eyes of God.

JASON

Why don't you stay with him, Martin?

MARTIN

What are you suggesting?

JASON

You don't want to leave, he can't leave. You stay with him.

MARTIN

Why can't Jill do it?

DAVIS

They might fornicate remember, Martin?

MARTIN

Well, I'm not going to be left behind. None of you have found the path of God yet. I can't leave you to wander like lost sheep.

ANNE

I thought you didn't want to go?

MARTIN

I am set against it. It's sin and that is for certain. But I can't allow you to step into the world of sin alone. Without guidance.

TERRY

So you're coming with us now?

MARTIN

Of course not. You can't leave with out me and we can't leave Kevin alone. So, we should wait for the Doctor.

DAVIS

Where's your fucking brain, Martin? Are you watching us. We're getting out whether you come or not.

JASON

He's right. We can't leave Jill and Kevin here alone.

TERRY

Then take them with you.

JASON

I can't.

ANNE

Why not?

JASON

Why don't one of you take them?

MARY

Why don't we stick together?

ANNE

You're the one who doesn't belong here. You're the one who's not crazy. Why don't you take them?

JASON

I can't take them where I'm going.

ANNE

Where are you going?

MARY

I'm going with you, Jason.

JASON

You can't.

MARY

Why not?

DAVIS

You got someplace special to go?

JASON

I have to go alone.

ANNE

Where are you going?

JASON

I'm going home. To my family.

TERRY

None of us can go home.

DAVIS

This is stupid. Kevin can take care of himself.

ANNE

How can you say that? Look at him.

DAVIS

If he can kill his father he can take care of himself.

ANNE

That's the reason he can't take care
of himself.

JILL

I can take care of him.

DAVIS

So you can both piss on yourselves?

TERRY

Leave her alone.

ANNE

We need to figure out what to do
with Kevin. And Jill for that matter.

TERRY

Drag her along and leave him here.

JILL

I'm not going. I'm staying with Kevin.

ANNE

Maybe Kevin wants to leave.

JILL

He doesn't.

DAVIS

Kevin wants to be a vegetable.

TERRY

Kevin is a vegetable.

JILL

He is not.

MARY

(To Jason.)

You have a family?

JASON

Yes.

MARY

What kind?

JASON

A wife. And a son.

MARY

Oh, that kind.

MARTIN

We must all stop this people, before we go too far. I beg of you, put the screws back and sit down and wait for the Doctor. All of you, listen to me. This is foolishness. This is the sin of pride, to follow your own desires to their dark ends. None of us really wants freedom, and you know that in your hearts. If we really wanted freedom, we would get well and they would let us out.

TERRY

That's not freedom. There is no freedom inside these walls.

JILL

There's no freedom outside these walls either. That's why Kevin doesn't speak.

TERRY

What the hell does that mean?

MARY

She means, he doesn't speak because he's trapped with his memories where ever he goes. He's not free from himself.

JASON

How would you know?

MARY

I just know.

ANNE

The only freedoms you have are the ones you make for yourself. Like right now. We're making our own freedom.

DAVIS

I'm not making my freedom; I'm taking it.

MARTIN

We are, none of us, ever free from the eyes of God. There is no freedom while God watches you.

ANNE

That's why I don't believe in a God.

MARTIN

Blasphemer! Witch! Satan's daughter!

ANNE

I don't believe in Satan either. You're thinking of the Catholic church.

DAVIS

Don't knock Catholics. I like the way they fuck.

TERRY

Don't egg him on.

MARTIN

Treacherous blasphemy from all sides. The hounds of hell are close upon our heels, I warn you. I can hear them breathing at the door!

JASON

That's probably what happened to the Doctor.

Mary starts to laugh and everyone else gradually joins her.

MARTIN

Laugh now. You won't think it's so funny when Lucifer calls your names.

ANNE

We still don't know what to do with Kevin and Jill.

JILL

I'm staying here. And so is Kevin.

ANNE

How do you know?

JILL

I just do.

JASON

Why don't we ask Kevin what he wants to do?

TERRY

Maybe you missed this, Einstein, but Kevin doesn't speak.

JASON

So. Kevin, if you want to stay here, stop playing the music.

Kevin stops playing the piano.

JASON(CONT'D)

You want to stay here with Jill?

Kevin remains silent.

ANNE

And with Martin?

Kevin starts to play the music again very fast and violently.

TERRY

Guess the vote's in, Martin. You come with us.

Martin looks at Kevin and then at the others.

MARTIN

This isn't a democracy.

DAVIS

If it were we'd of voted to strangle you a long time ago.

MARTIN

No one likes you either, Davis.

DAVIS

I don't want anybody to.

Martin stares at him a moment and then walks over to the wall and begins to pray to himself. Kevin slows the music he is playing. He will play periodically throughout the scene, stopping and starting at random. Mary and Jason are working on the same side of the window.

MARY

Tell me about your family.

JASON

I'd rather not.

MARY

I'd tell you about mine if I could remember.

JASON

When you remember about yours, I'll tell you about mine.

Mary turns away. Jason pauses for a second and then returns to work on the screws. Martin comes back from the wall and his prayers.

MARTIN

God has answered my prayers and granted me a vision.

TERRY

Did he show you an easier way to get these Goddamn screws out.

MARTIN

Mine is a spiritual vision.

ANNE

What would you know about the spiritual?

MARTIN

More than you ever will, Heathen.

DAVIS

So, what's your vision, Moses?

MARTIN

I have had a vision that we will venture forth to face the evils of the world together, and that one among us will be our leader and our shepherd with the help of God.

ANNE

So you've nominated yourself as leader now, have you?

TERRY

I thought you didn't want to leave, Martin.

MARTIN

I don't, but I must follow the path that God has chosen for me. And God has shown me that I must go with you, out into the world.

ANNE

So what makes you think we want you for a leader?

MARTIN

I never said I was to be the leader. I am simply to advise in following in the path of God.

TERRY

Then who is it?

MARTIN

Jason.

Jason looks up from his work.

JASON

I don't want the job.

DAVIS

No one said they wanted you.

MARTIN

You can't refuse the will of God.

TERRY

Who says we need a leader?

ANNE

And why is it a man?

DAVIS

Who says we're going to stay together.

MARTIN

God does. He says we stay together
and that the leader is a man and
that Jason is that man.

DAVIS

Fuck God. I'm on my own. You can
all do what you want.

TERRY

I don't need anyone telling me what
to do.

ANNE

Especially not a man.

MARTIN

But we need someone to make decisions.

JASON

Make your own decisions.

MARY

I think Jason would be a good
leader.

ANNE

Why, because he's a man?

MARY

What's wrong with him being a man?

ANNE

What's right about it?

MARTIN

Men are the natural leaders. That's
the way God planned it.

TERRY

Bullshit.

ANNE

The only thing men know how to do
is fuck things up.

DAVIS

I agree. That offer still stands,
Anne.

ANNE

Fuck you, Davis.

DAVIS

You used that word. Tell you what,
why don't just you and I go together,
Anne?

ANNE

I'd rather stay here first.

DAVIS

That's right, I forgot about Jill.
Maybe you could have a threesome with
Kevin. If you could talk him into
changing his ways.

ANNE

Why do you have such a problem with
Kevin being gay? Is it because
you're afraid you might have to deal
with your own masculinity?

DAVIS

Look, I got no problem with Kevin
being a fag; as long as he doesn't
try to fuck me.

ANNE

You don't even know where the word
fag comes from, do you Davis?

MARTIN

I do.

ANNE

Why don't you tell him, Martin.

MARTIN

During the Inquisitions, the hunts for witches that is, when they found and convicted a witch, and they knew they were going to burn her---

ANNE

Or him.

MARTIN

Or him. They burned them all.

ANNE

Thousands of innocent people.

MARTIN

Witches are never innocent.

ANNE

Hardly any of them were anything resembling a witch. All you had to do was disagree with the church.

MARTIN

If innocents died, God would see to it that justice was done.

JASON

Unless there is no God.

MARTIN

How can you say that? That's a fine way for a leader to speak.

JASON

I'm nobody's leader.

MARY

You're mine.

JASON

I don't want to lead anyone.

TERRY

We don't need a leader.

ANNE

Not a man anyways.

MARTIN
What one of you women could lead?

ANNE
Any of us.

MARTIN
Not Jill.

JILL
I'm not going.

MARTIN
Certainly not, Mary.

MARY
I want Jason to lead. But I could
lead if I wanted to.

MARTIN
You can't even remember you're
real name.

MARY
Mary Elizabeth Downing.

ANNE
I could lead.

MARTIN
You? You, the witch lead. And have
us all on the footpath to hell as
soon as we step out the window? I
think not.

ANNE
What about Terry?

MARTIN
She's psychotic.

TERRY
Keep that in mind, Martin.

MARTIN
Women simply aren't suited to
leadership.

ANNE

Why not?

MARTIN

They don't have the constitution
for it.

ANNE

You mean they've been told ever since
they were little girls that men are
the ones who should be making all
of the decisions.

MARTIN

You're all beginning to sound like
feminists. Witches and feminists and
socialists. They'll be the ruination
of society, mark my words.

MARY

I like feminists.

DAVIS

Me too. I like the way they fuck.

ANNE

No self respecting woman would be
caught dead with you, Davis.

DAVIS

What are you trying to say, Anne,
you losing your self respect?

Anne pauses and looks at Davis for a second.

ANNE

Martin didn't finish telling you
where the word fag comes from, Davis.
Originally it meant "bundle of
sticks." When the church leaders
found someone they could call a witch,
the priests and judges would plant a
stake in the ground and surround it
with wood. Then, just before they
were about to light it they would
round up anyone they suspected or
had convicted of being attracted

ANNE (CONT'D)

to their own sex and they would bind them and throw them into the fire, because, as they said, it made the fire burn brighter with the glory of God's Justice.

Davis looks at her; challenging.

DAVIS

Well, then, Kevin should be glad we're leaving him here.

MARTIN

All sins shall be committed to the flame.

ANNE

All sins shall be committed to the flame. You're right, Martin. Margaret's sins were committed to the flame. Margaret was married to a man of the cloth. A man of God. He was a man who believed that the word of God was the final word for everyone. Every word was God's truth. When he found out that his wife was sleeping with another woman he became enraged. It was an abomination of God's word. So, he beat her. He beat her until she passed out. And then he remembered what God's word said to do. What God's punishment for such a sin was. So, he tied his wife to the bed, making sure that each knot was tight. Then he went into the garage and got a can of gasoline and brought it back to the bedroom, where he proceeded to pour it over his Margaret's unconscious body. And then as he read the twenty-third Psalm, he lit a match and dropped it on the bed. When the police showed up he was still reading from the Bible, backing up from the fire, one step at a time as it consumed first Margaret, then the bedroom and finally the house. When the jury read his conviction, he looked at me and said that it was my fault. My fault that his Margaret was dead. She was never his Margaret.

Tears have welled in Anne's eyes and she turns away as they begin to flow. Davis looks at her and then silently turns back to work on the screws. Anne sits down.

MARY

You can be leader if you want,
Anne.

ANNE

We don't need any leaders. We
never have.

Anne looks at Martin and he turns away, walking to the other side of the room. Terry looks at Anne as though she has gained some amount of respect and then turns back to the screws. Mary too, turns back to the screws. Jill takes Anne's hand and holds it, but looks away. At the piano Kevin has begun to play music again. Only Jason continues to look at Anne. Anne catches his stare and matches it. He looks at her a moment and then turns back to the window. THE LIGHTS FADE OUT.

Scene Two

THE LIGHTS FADE UP. The lights fade up. Jason, Mary Terry and Davis are still working on the screws to the cage around the window. Anne is seated by herself and Jill is leaning up against Kevin who is simply sitting at the piano bench. Occasionally he will pick out a short melodic tune. Martin is squatting in the middle of the floor, his head bowed down as though he were praying. Mary leans over to Jason and speaks softly, in calm even tones through out. His manner is almost clinical until just at the very end.

MARY

I'll tell you about my family if you
tell me about yours.

JASON

I thought you couldn't remember
anything.

MARY

I can't. But I can pretend. I can
tell you about the family that
think I have. The one I've imagined.

JASON

Don't I get to imagine my family as well?

MARY

Why would you want to? Can't you remember them?

JASON

I remember them, but it's only fair.

MARY

Why is that fair? I can't remember mine. You can remember yours.

JASON

If you don't remember them, how do you know you had one?

MARY

I just know.

JASON

Do you know because you remember, or because the doctors told you?

MARY

Yes.

JASON

Did they tell you that you have to remember them in order to get better?

MARY

Yes.

JASON

And then they told you that you have to face reality, and live with it, didn't they?

MARY

How did you know?

JASON

They always say that. It's all they know how to say. They don't even know what reality is. They're all so caught up in thinking that they know how to cure everyone else that they don't even realize that they're sick.

MARY

Doctor Mandrake isn't sick.

JASON

That's what he told you. And you believed him. If you knew he was sick, would you trust him to tell you how to get better?

MARY

No.

JASON

Would you even trust him to know if you were sick?

MARY

No. I guess not.

JASON

Do you think you're sick?

MARY

I don't feel sick.

JASON

But people who aren't sick can remember their lives can't they.

MARY

I guess so.

JASON

Or, that's what they told you. Can people who aren't sick, really remember their lives? This Doctor Mandrake, can he remember that he was molested by his uncle when he was ten years old? Does he remember this or does he push it down under, so far down under that it only comes out when he's trying (More)

JASON(CONT'D)

to make love and then it sneaks out
as violence and a sudden hatred for
the person he's with? Does he remember
that or does he forget?

MARY

How did you know that about Dr.
Mandrake?

JASON

I don't. I was pretending. But it
doesn't matter. There's something
that he's forgetting. We're all
forgetting parts of our lives, parts
we don't want to remember, parts we
would rather live without.

MARY

So, everybody's sick?

JASON

Everybody.

MARY

Then you are too?

JASON

In my own ways.

MARY

Then you were wrong.

JASON

About what?

MARY

You said you didn't belong here.

JASON

I don't.

MARY

Then do I?

JASON

That's for you to decide.

MARY

I don't think I do. Even if I don't remember who I am.

JASON

It won't matter on the outside. People will tell you who you are.

MARY

How will they know who I am?

JASON

They won't. They won't care. They'll never want to know who you are. They'll only ever know who they want you to be. They'll want you to be their mother, their husband, they're best friend, their second best friend, the person they see every morning but never say hello to. They'll all put you in a little slot in their head and once your there, you stay there. Maybe they'll change the name tag on your slot, but you'll always be in the same slot.

MARY

Then how do I find out who I am?

JASON

You don't. You never do. You spend your whole life being something you've been told to be. You'll be given a model and told to follow it. You'll be one of a type, one of a given set, just like everyone else in your set. And if you try to deviate from that set, they'll bring you back here, until you learn to stay the way they want you.

MARY

How do they want me?

JASON

They'll tell you. You won't even have to ask.

MARY

But who are `They'?

JASON

We are. You and me and everyone.
We're all part of the `They'. I tell
you what to be, you tell me what to
be and as long as we all listen,
we're all part of the same cycle.
Pulling each other down, instead of
pushing each other forward.

MARY

We could stop, couldn't we?

JASON

No.

MARY

Why not?

JASON

Because we're too afraid. We don't
know what it would be like, and
that frightens us.

MARY

I'm not afraid.

JASON

That's why you're in here.

MARY

I'm in here because I can't
remember who I am.

JASON

And why can't you remember?

MARY

I don't know.

JASON

What did the doctors tell you?

MARY

That something bad happened to me.

JASON

What do they say happened to you?

Mary speaks very slowly. Jason is still calm and reserved.

MARY

They say that my father raped me.

JASON

How old were you?

MARY

They say I was sixteen.

JASON

What do you remember about your family?

MARY

I don't remember anything.

JASON

Are you sure? You don't remember anything?

MARY

Nothing?

JASON

Not even the way you mother smelled on Christmas mornings?

Mary pauses for a second.

MARY

Cinnamon.

JASON

She smelled like Cinnamon?

MARY

She used to bake Cinnamon rolls on Christmas mornings. Before any of us got up.

JASON

How many of you were there?

MARY

Three. My older sister and my younger brother.

JASON

What were they're names?

MARY
Carol and David.

JASON
What else do you remember?

MARY
I remember that my mother had
very long blond hair. She used to
let me brush it for her before she
went to bed.

JASON
Did you love your mother?

MARY
Yes.

JASON
Very much?

MARY
Yes.

JASON
Where is she now?

MARY
I don't know.

JASON
What about your sister and brother?
Do you know where they are?

MARY
No.

JASON
Do they know where you are?

MARY
I don't know.

JASON
What about your father?

MARY
I don't have one.

Why not? JASON

He died. MARY

When? JASON

When I was young. MARY

How old were you? JASON

I was six. MARY

Don't you mean sixteen? JASON

No. MARY

How did your father die? JASON

He was killed. MARY

How was he killed? JASON

He was stabbed. MARY

Who stabbed him? JASON

I don't remember. MARY

What do you remember? JASON

Our house. MARY

Your house? JASON

MARY

We had a big house just outside the city. With a big green lawn and lots of trees. And we had this fireplace where we would build these huge roaring fires on cold nights.

JASON

Did you have your own room?

MARY

Yes. It was on the second floor.

JASON

What was it like?

MARY

It had light blue walls and a canopy bed.

JASON

Did your parents come into your room?

MARY

The door didn't have a lock.

JASON

Did your father ever come into your room?

MARY

My father died.

JASON

Did he ever hit you.

MARY

We weren't poor.

JASON

Were you rich?

MARY

We had money.

JASON

Where did it come from?

MARY

My father owned a business.

JASON

Your father died.

MARY

It was a shoe company. We always had new shoes.

JASON

Are you sure it was a shoe factory?

MARY

Yes.

JASON

Are you positive?

MARY

Yes.

JASON

I don't think you are.

MARY

I should know shouldn't I?

JASON

No. You have amnesia. You can't remember who you are, or who your family is, or whether you father owned a shoe store or worked in a factory. You can't remember anything.

MARY

Yes I can.

JASON

No you can't. All you can do is pretend.

MARY

That's not true.

JASON

Yes it is. You wouldn't be in here if it weren't.

MARY

I don't belong here. Somebody made a mistake.

JASON

That's what they all say.

MARY

But it's true.

JASON

If it's true, then prove it. The truth can always be proven.

MARY

I can't.

JASON

That's because it not true.

MARY

You said you don't belong here and that somebody made a mistake and you can't prove it.

JASON

That's true.

MARY

I'll bet you don't even have a family.

JASON

I can pretend too. Just as well as you. I have a wife, Lorane, who just turned thirty-six last month. She's the mother of our only son, Adam, who will be twelve in two weeks. We live in a two story house in the country. It's an old farm house that Lorane and I restored. My son has a dog named Jake. Right now my son is playing catch with the dog in the back yard while my wife sits on the porch reading the newspaper, waiting for me to come home and make dinner. My wife hates to cook. She'd rather wait until the sun has gone down and she and Adam are starving than set foot in the kitchen. If it gets too late Adam will go in and start making he and his mother (More)

JASON(CONT'D)

a meal. He'll cook something simple like eggs, because he knows that Lorane likes eggs with American cheese melted over top of them. And if it gets too late, Lorane will tuck Adam into bed. The dog will curl up on the floor beside him and my wife will go down stairs to wait for me. And when I get home I'll find her sitting in the reading chair, the book open in her hands and her head tilted forward in sleep. I'll wake her up by kissing her on the forehead and then she'll scold me for being late, and we'll crawl into bed, where we'll lay with my chest pressed to her back, and hand on her stomach and I'll kiss the nape of her neck before we drift off into the darkness.

Mary looks at him a moment before speaking.

MARY

You pretend really well.

JASON

Thank you. So do you.

MARY

Who are you really?

JASON

I'm the same person you are.

They look at each other for a moment and then turn back to working on the screws. THE LIGHTS FADE OUT.

ACT III
Scene One

THE LIGHTS FADE IN. The sun is in it's final moments of setting as Terry, Jason, Mary and Davis continue to work on the window cages. Anne is still seated at the table. Kevin is still at the piano, but Jill has moved to sit on the floor, behind him. Martin is still sitting cross-legged in prayer.

ANNE

It's dark now. It'll be harder to find our way.

DAVIS

It'll be harder for them to find us.

JASON

Assuming anyone cares.

ANNE

Somebody will; eventually.

JILL

How much longer?

TERRY

I thought you didn't want to go.

JILL

I want to know when you'll be leaving.

DAVIS

Any minute sweet thing, so if there's any last requests you have to make of me, you'd better make `em now.

ANNE

I have a request. Why don't you die.

DAVIS

Eventually, Anne, I'm going to fulfill that request, but for now I'd be glad to help you live out one of your other fantasies.

ANNE

You're going to sit still while Terry beats your head in with a baseball bat?

DAVIS

No, I was thinking of the one where you suck my dick and choke on the cum.

ANNE

Aren't you afraid I'd bite it off, Davis?

DAVIS

Well, I could always knock your teeth out first.

TERRY

I'll knock somebody's teeth out if they don't shut up.

Martin suddenly stands up.

MARTIN

Violence! Is this the only way you know? Have God's words meant nothing to you?

ANNE

I thought you were praying, Martin?

MARTIN

I was. And I have had another vision.

JASON

I'm not leading anything, and nobody wants me to.

MARTIN

No one ever wants to follow. That's because they're all consumed with their own pride. I have seen that you will lead. It was shown to me. You were on a hill and all of us were following you to the top, and at the top there was a tree, ripe with fruit.

ANNE

Remember what happened the last time there was a fruit tree.

MARTIN

He is no serpent. You are the serpent.
But even you followed him to the top
of the hill and ate the fruit. And
when the fruit was eaten we were all
as one. All of one mind, all of one
love. Together.

DAVIS

So this fruit was laced with acid,
right?

Terry suddenly lets out a yell and holds her hand.

TERRY

Shit!

Martin rushes to her.

MARTIN

Here, let me look, I'm a registered
nurse.

Terry pushes him away.

TERRY

Your no nurse, you're a fucking bank
clerk.

MARTIN

That's not true.

TERRY

They threw you in here because you
started giving all the bank's money
away.

MARTIN

It's God's money. Besides, I'm almost
a doctor.

Martin tries to touch her and she pushes him away again.
Jason goes to her.

JASON

Let me see. I am a doctor.

Terry looks at him for a moment. He takes her hand and
examines it.

JASON

The cut is pretty deep. It should be stitched, but there's nothing to do about that.

Jason grabs a screw from the table and rips his shirt, tearing a long strip from around the waist. He takes the strip and begins to bandage Terry's hand.

JASON(CONT'D)

This will slow the bleeding. It should clot on it's own in a while. You'll need to have it looked at eventually.

TERRY

Thanks.

MARTIN

See, I told you. He is a leader.

MARY

Why didn't you say you were a doctor?

JASON

No one trusts doctors. It's against our nature to trust people who say they want to help us.

ANNE

What makes you think we trust you?

JASON

Nothing. I don't expect you to trust me anymore than you trust yourself.

MARTIN

Well, I trust you and God trusts you. What more do you need?

JASON

How about a sign from God.

The lights begin to flicker and dim. The lights go out.

MARTIN

There you have it. A sign from God.

The emergency lights in the corners of the room come on casting everyone into either light or shadow.

JASON

Coincidence.

ANNE

The lines must be down.

DAVIS

There's no storm. Everything must be down.

MARY

What could have happened?

TERRY

Something's fucked up here.

DAVIS

Yeah, and it's going to be us if we stay in here any longer.

ANNE

Something must be wrong outside. Something must be terribly wrong.

MARTIN

That is why we need a leader and why we must stay together.

JILL

We can't stay together. Kevin and I aren't leaving.

MARTIN

Everyone must stay together.

JILL

Kevin and I aren't going. There's nothing out there.

MARTIN

Nonsense. We must stay together. You two will starve in here if we leave you.

JILL

How do you know you won't starve outside.

ANNE

She's right. We don't know what's out there. Anything could have happened.

DAVIS

I don't care what's happened. As soon as this thing is open, I'm out of here. I ain't never starved and I ain't about to start.

TERRY

Some of us may want to stay together.

MARY

Jason and I are going to his family.

MARTIN

We must all stay together.

JASON

I didn't say that.

DAVIS

Fuck this togetherness bullshit. Pull!

JASON

I didn't say that.

Jason, Terry, and Mary help Davis pull on the cage. They struggle with it, pulling it loose one screw at a time until it falls away from the window. Davis tries to open the window only to find that it is sealed.

DAVIS

Shit.

Davis grabs a chair and smashes the window. The room is still for a moment. Everyone except Jill and Kevin goes to the window.

MARY

How do we get down?

DAVIS

It's only twenty feet.

MARTIN

God will provide a way.

TERRY

You aren't the flying nun.

JASON

There's a tree at the end of the building. We can walk along the ledge and jump to the tree.

DAVIS

Good idea.

Davis, starts to climb out the window. Martin grabs him and pulls him back inside.

DAVIS

What the fuck? You nut case.

MARTIN

You can't go alone. We must stay together.

DAVIS

Let go of me, damn it! What the fuck do you think you're doing!?

MARTIN

God has shown us the path to follow and I can't allow you to step into the woods alone.

DAVIS

Take a walk on the fucking nature trail yourself. I'm leaving.

Davis pushes Martin off and heads for the window. Martin grabs him at the window and pulls him into the room.

MARTIN

The will of God will not be thwarted.

Davis punches Martin, who staggers away.

MARTIN(CONT'D)

I will turn the other cheek, but I will not allow you to turn us from God's path.

DAVIS

Fine.

Davis punches Martin again. Martin staggers to the side and manages to place himself between Davis and the window.

MARTIN

We must all stay together. No one of us can leave until we have all chosen Jason as our leader and agreed to stay together.

JASON

I'm not leading anyone, Martin. Leave him alone

DAVIS

Get away from the window.

MARTIN

We shall be a band, a tribe, like from the seed of Moses and the lands of Cannan.

DAVIS

Get the fuck away from the window.

MARTIN

No. I know what is right and I will see that right is done. I can stand no more of your lies and treachery, your wickedness and your vile manner.

Davis walks toward the window and Martin steps in front of him. The two of them are face to face

DAVIS

You're going to get hurt.

MARTIN

My body is but an instrument of the Lord. His will shall be done through me.

TERRY

Get the fuck away from the window, Martin.

ANNE

He means it, Martin.

DAVIS

Get out of my way, Martin. I'm going out that window and neither you or anybody here is going to stop me. I've waited too long for this.

MARTIN

I am like the walls of Jerricho. I shall stand against all.

JASON

Why don't the two of you back off.

MARY

This is stupid, you two.

Davis makes a rush for the window, but Martin grabs him. The two of them begin to struggle.

DAVIS

I'm gonna fucking kill you.

MARTIN

My God awaits me, Davis, do you know what awaits you?

Davis and Martin begins to struggle around the room.

ANNE

Stop it, before someone gets hurt. Terry goes to break them up.

TERRY

Stop it.

Terry steps between them, but Davis pushes her back and she falls over a chair.

DAVIS

I'll fucking kill you!

MARTIN

You can not kill my soul.

Mary looks at Jason

MARY

Do something. They'll listen to you.

JASON

No. They've both been waiting for this too long.

Martin and Davis struggle around the room. Davis is getting the best of Martin, punching him as they grapple.

MARTIN

You want to kill me, Davis? You think this will frighten me. It would be a release. I would welcome it. Every day has been a living nightmare, a hell of waking since I saw the world through opened eyes, since I saw all of the atrocities your kind has wrecked upon the world and all of the evil and filth that you continue to spew out, to flood us with until we are all drowning and fighting each other to stay afloat in the sewer you have made for us, and all you can think to do is kill me, to murder me in cold blood so that your hands will once again be soiled by that dark passion of your soul that drives you to suck the life blood from every man woman and child that falls within your sweaty, stinking grasp! You are the one who should die!

Martin begins to fight Davis back with a power and force that no one, least of all Davis, could expect.

MARY

Do something!

Jason finally moves toward them, grabbing Davis from behind and holding him. Martin begins to attack Davis and Jason loses his grip. Jason falls to the floor as Martin and Davis continue to fight. Grabbing each other by the neck they fall onto a table. Anne and Terry move to grab them, but before they can reach the table, Martin and Davis roll off. Martin lands on the bottom and a cracking noise is heard. Martin becomes still. After a second, Davis rolls off of him and stands up. Jason steps over to Martin and bends down to examine him. Jason checks for a pulse and then checks Martin's neck. Jason reaches up and closes Martin's eyes as he looks up at Davis.

Everyone but Kevin begins to gather around the body of Martin, forming a wall between Davis and the open window. Davis is shaken, but not visibly upset by Martin's death. Mary and Jill are horrified. Terry and Anne are shocked. Jason appears calm, but he is fighting back a certain rage. Even Kevin is affected by the death as he sits watching the others. Davis begins to back away from the others.

DAVIS

It was an accident. You all saw that.
He was trying to kill me.

ANNE

You said you were going to kill him.
Are you proud of yourself, Davis?

DAVIS

It was an accident.

JASON

Maybe, but would you have killed him
anyway?

TERRY

What do we do with him now?

MARY

What do you mean?

ANNE

We can't just let him go. Not now.

DAVIS

I'd like to see you stop me.

TERRY

There's five of us and one of you.

DAVIS

That doesn't mean anything.

JASON

It means you'll do what we tell you
for now.

DAVIS

Oh, you're the leader now? You're
making the decisions.

JASON

No. I don't have any idea what to do with you.

JILL

Let him go.

DAVIS

See. She's think'n. She knows it was an accident.

JILL

Someone will kill him eventually.

TERRY

Maybe someone should do it now.

ANNE

We can't to that.

TERRY

Then what do we do with him? We can't let him go.

JASON

Can't we?

TERRY

What do you mean?

JASON

Is it our place to judge him? Do we have that authority? I don't know if we do.

DAVIS

This is fucking nuts. It was an accident.

TERRY

We can't let him go.

ANNE

And we can't leave him here with Jill and Kevin.

JILL

Take him with you.

TERRY

We don't even know where the hell we're going. And what do we do with him if we take him with us?

ANNE

Turn him into the authorities.

TERRY

That's it. We'll just walk right up to the first cop we see and say, "excuse me officer, but we just escaped from a mental institution where this guy killed one of the other inmates." Fucking brilliant, Anne.

ANNE

Well, we have to do something.

DAVIS

Why don't you all get the fuck out of the way.

MARY

Why don't we vote on it.

JASON

No votes.

MARY

Why not.

JASON

We all agree or we don't do anything.

ANNE

We can't just do nothing.

JASON

People do it all the time.

DAVIS

Do I get a say in all this?

TERRY

No.

JASON

Why not?

ANNE

Because he killed Martin!

JASON

Did he? Or did Martin fall off the table while they were struggling and break his neck.

DAVIS

That's exactly what happened.

TERRY

Either way, Martin wouldn't be dead if it weren't for Davis

DAVIS

That's not fair.

JASON

Neither is the fact that Martin is dead.

DAVIS

Well, what do you want me to do about it?

JILL

Take his clothes and make him leave. Someone will pick him up and arrest him.

MARY

I've got a better idea. Why don't you decide what should happen to you, Davis.

DAVIS

A great idea.

MARY

Only we all have to agree on it first.

DAVIS

That's insane.

TERRY

Look around. What do you expect?

DAVIS

What if I refuse?

ANNE

How can you?

Davis begins to edge toward the open window.

DAVIS

I'll tell you how I can fucking refuse.
I can make a run for that window and
I can fight you till one of you has to
fucking kill me.

ANNE

You can't just ignore what you've done,
Davis. Martin is dead!

DAVIS

Do you think I fucking wanted to kill
him? Of course I did. I've wanted to
strangle every Goddamned one of you
since the first time I saw your ugly
fucking faces. But I didn't mean to
kill him. I just wanted to. Just like
I want to kill every single one of you
right now.

TERRY

Nobody's stopping you from trying.

ANNE

So, you want to kill us all, is that it?
Why don't you just kill everybody who
disagrees with you. Like you killed
Martin.

DAVIS

Can you blame me? You make my life
fucking hell. I'm not asking for much.
Just a chance at a little freedom.
For once. Just for once to have the
chance fucking do what I want. To make
my own decisions. To get what I want.
Is that so much to fucking ask?

TERRY

Yes, it is.

ANNE

Just because you hate us doesn't mean you can justify your actions. Martin is dead and you're the one who killed him.

DAVIS

Hate doesn't have anything to do with it. Do you think I beat that fucking hooker up because I didn't like her? It was because she wouldn't give me what I want. My old man didn't beat the shit out of me and my mom every night for the hell of it. It was because he wasn't getting what he wanted. He just didn't care that we couldn't give him what he wanted. But I'm not that stupid. I only beat the shit out of people who can give what I want but won't.

ANNE

Oh, so now we're supposed to pity Davis because he had a rough childhood. We've all been fucked over, Davis.

DAVIS

I don't want your pity, Anne. I just want my fucking freedom. And if you won't give me what I want, then I'll fucking take it.

Davis makes a run for the window. Everyone moves toward him, but he sidesteps, grabbing a large screw from the table and runs for Kevin, who he takes him from behind by the neck. Holding Kevin by the hair and placing the screw to his jugular vein, Davis faces the others.

JASON

Put him down, Davis.

DAVIS

I don't take orders from you.

Terry begins to edge around to the back of Davis.

ANNE

Let him go, Davis.

DAVIS

Fuck me. Nobody moves or I rip his jugular vein. Do you know what that'll do to him Doc?

JASON

Yes.

DAVIS

Do you think you could save him?

JASON

Probably not.

DAVIS

Right. Then get back.

Davis slowly moves to the window. The others move away. Kevin moves with him, not resisting, almost catatonic.

JASON

You're being stupid, Davis.

Davis is almost to the window.

JASON(CONT'D)

This isn't going to lead you anywhere. You have to take responsibility for your actions.

DAVIS

Thanks "Dad". I'll skip the spanking. Give it to Anne, she likes that shit.

ANNE

I hope you fucking die, Davis.

DAVIS

Some days, so do I.

Davis is at the window. He turns to look out the window and knock some glass out of the way. In the time that it takes him to do so, Terry grabs a chair and strikes him in the back of the head. The blow firmly imbeds the large screw in Kevin's neck and he howls briefly in pain before collapsing. Jill rushes to Kevin. Jason runs toward the window. Davis continues to try and get out the window. Terry strikes him again, as he reaches the ledge. The blow knocks him off balance and he falls from the window ledge. There is a dull THUD. Terry puts the chair down slowly.

Jason goes to the window and looks down. After a moment he turns and goes to Kevin, who has collapsed, unconscious, into Jill's arms. Jason is calm and professional.

JASON

Get back. Lay him down here.

Jill takes up a position at Kevin's head. Jason takes his shirt off and hands it to Jill.

JASON(CONT'D)

There's going to be a lot of blood.

Jason pulls the screw out of Kevin's neck. Jill quickly places the wadded up shirt on the wound.

JASON(CONT'D)

Hold it there. Eventually the pressure will stop the bleeding. He didn't rip the vein, he just punctured it. He's still going to lose a lot of blood. He's going to need to get to a hospital.

Terry looks away from Kevin and goes to the window. She looks down. Anne and Mary join her.

TERRY

I didn't mean for him to fall.

ANNE

You're just as guilty as he was.

MARY

It was his own fault.

ANNE

He's still dead.

TERRY

You should be fucking grateful. You wished he was dead.

ANNE

That doesn't mean I would have killed him.

MARY

What if he's still alive. What if he's just hurt?

Jason comes to window, briefly leaving Kevin.

JASON

He's dead.

Jason returns to Kevin.

ANNE

So, what are we going to do with Terry? She did kill him.

TERRY

So do I get to chose my own punishment too?

MARY

It was an accident.

ANNE

Maybe.

JASON

We don't have time to worry about that. He's going to need more serious medical care than I can give him here. Someone has to go for help.

ANNE

What if there isn't any help?

JASON

Then I'll do what I can here.

TERRY

We should all go. If help does come, nobody here will be able to leave.

JILL

I'm staying with Kevin. The rest of you can go.

ANNE

We should hurry.

TERRY

We can't come back once we send help.

MARY

Even if we can find a telephone, how do we know they'll work,

TERRY

We'll think of something.

ANNE

If no one comes back before sunrise,
then you'll have to assume that no one
is coming. Can you handle that, Jill?

JILL

I'll be fine. Just hurry.

JASON

I'm staying with her.

MARY

What?

JASON

If you can't find help then he's going
to need me. Jill she won't be able to
keep him alive.

ANNE

Are you sure?

JASON

Yes.

MARY

What about your family?

Jason pauses and looks at her.

JASON

They can wait.

MARY

But I was going to go with you.

JASON

You weren't invited.

ANNE

We should leave.

Anne pause for a second then heads for the window. Terry follows her. Mary lingers for a moment, hurt by Jason's words.

TERRY

Maybe we should check the body when we get down.

ANNE

He wouldn't be dead if you weren't so much like him.

TERRY

If I weren't so much like him, he'd of ripped the shit out of you a long time ago.

Anne and Terry climb out the window and along the ledge. Mary climbs up to the window sill and pauses.

MARY

I didn't want to see your family anyway.

Mary climbs out the window and along the ledge. Jason watches her.

JILL

You should go.

JASON

This morning, I would have.

Jason stands up to watch as Anne, Terry and Mary, disappear from sight. THE LIGHTS FADE OUT.

Scene Two

THE LIGHTS FADE UP. The sky is in the last moments of twilight. Jason is standing near the window, looking out. Jill is kneeling at the side of Kevin, who is still unconscious. The shirt she is holding to his neck is soaked in blood. It can be seen that they have moved him to keep him from lying in a pool of blood.

JASON

The sun will be up in a couple of minutes.

JILL

He's going to die, isn't he?

JASON
He's lost a lot of blood. It didn't
clot as quickly as I had hoped.

JILL
Will he die?

JASON
Probably. Yes. If help doesn't show
up soon.

JILL
You could go for help.

JASON
If they didn't find anyone, chances
are I won't. Besides, if he is going to
stay alive he'll need me here.

JILL
I don't want him to die.

Jason comes back from the window.

JASON
I know you don't.

Jason examines Kevin, pulling his eye lids back.

JILL
Why did you stay?

Jason thinks for a moment.

JASON
Because I'm a doctor.

JILL
But you wouldn't have stayed this
morning?

JASON
No.

JILL
Why not?

JASON
I don't know. Because I'm not the
person I want to be.

JILL
None of us are.

JASON
It's worse for me. I was the person
I wanted to be once.

JILL
You're afraid too, aren't you?.

JASON
Yes.

JILL
Of the outside?

JASON
No. Not the outside.

JILL
You don't really have a wife and son,
do you?

JASON
I have a wife and son.

JILL
No you don't.

JASON
I have a wife and son.

JILL
No you don't.

JASON
My wife's name is Lorane and my son's
name is Adam.

JILL
What happened to them.

JASON
Nothing.

JILL
Do you miss them?

JASON
Where is your family?

JILL
Dead.

JASON
How did they die?

JILL
Why do you want to know?

JASON
Why do you want to know about my
family?

JILL
Because you don't really have one.

JASON
I have a family. I have a wife and a
son. Where is your family?

JILL
I told you. They're dead.

JASON
Did you kill them?

JILL
I'd like to think I did.

JASON
But, did you?

JILL
In my own way.

JASON
What way was that?

JILL
The same way you killed yours.

JASON
I didn't kill my family.

Kevin begins to choke and spasm. Jason reaches out to calm and restrain him. Kevin's spasm becomes more violent and then abruptly stops. Jason checks to see if Kevin is still breathing.

JASON(CONT'D)
He's stopped breathing.

Jason checks for a pulse.

JASON(CONT'D)
Hold this here. Hard.

Jason places the rag on Kevin's throat and puts Jill's hands on it. Jason begins to administer CPR to Kevin, periodically checking for a pulse.

JASON(CONT'D)
Come on! Damn it, come on!

Jason continues to perform CPR, swearing under his breath as he counts out the beats.

A minute passes. Sweat begins to collect at Jason's temples.

Another minute passes. Kevin does not respond.

Jason checks again for a pulse. Not finding one, he resumes CPR. Jill places her hand on his arm to stop him. He brushes it off and continues. She takes hold of his arm and pulls it away from Kevin's chest. Jason tries to brush her away, but her grip is too strong.

JASON
What the hell are you doing?

JILL
It's okay. He's gone now.

Jason resume CPR, but Jill pulls his arms away and holds his hands in hers.

JILL
He's gone now.

JASON
He's not gone!

Jason tries to turn back to Kevin, but Jill pulls him away. There are tears in Jason's eyes.

JILL

He's gone. He doesn't have to remember anymore. He doesn't have to be afraid.

JASON

I can still save him.

JILL

No. He's gone.

Jason turns away. He speaks softly, trying to control his emotions. As he speaks, Jill places her hand on his shoulder to comfort him.

JASON

Any good doctor should be able to save their son, shouldn't they? Shouldn't they? When I pulled him from the car he was still breathing. I only left him for a couple of minutes. Not very long at all. But he wasn't breathing when I came back. His heart had stopped. I did everything exactly the way I was supposed to. But it didn't work. He didn't come back. And when they pulled me away from him, they killed me. They took me away from my son. And I let them. I could have saved him, but I let them take me away. And how can a mother stand to live with the man who killed her child. How could she? I gave her no choice. How could she love me? I was dead. For all she cared I was dead the moment our son died. I've been dead ever since.

Jill pulls her hand back as Jason turns to look at her.

JILL

Do you miss them?

JASON

Only when I believe they're gone

JILL
I miss having a place where I can feel
safe.

JASON
Did you ever feel safe?

JILL
Yes. A long time ago.

JASON
What happened to you?

Jill shrugs the question off.

JASON(CONT'D)
I don't feel safe anymore either.

JILL
Even if you did it wouldn't be real.

Jason looks away from Jill and Kevin.

JASON
What should we do?

JILL
Maybe we'll go outside.

JASON
Aren't you afraid?

JILL
Yes.

Jason looks at Kevin's body and then at Jill. Jason stand
up. Jill stands up as well and they walk to the window.

JASON
We should decide soon. Before---

Jason lets the last word hang.

JILL
Before what?

The first rays of dawn spread out over their faces.

JASON

The sun is coming up.

Jason and Jill watch out the window as the sun rises in front of them. THE LIGHTS FADE OUT.

THE END