

“THE WATCHERS”

A MODERN BIBLICAL HORROR PLAY

BY SAM GRABER

PRODUCTION – MAY 2019

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SYNOPSIS – THE WATCHERS

The Watchers is a twin sister and brother. The prophet Elijah. An abandoned Angel. And the sign of God's return to earth.

The Watchers is a modern Biblical horror play which asks: would we even want that God to return? Do we have that choice?

CHARACTERS

JOSIE, 20s

ARAM, 20s, her twin brother

ELIJAH, old, male, African-American

BECKY, old, female, Latina

TIME

Early Summer, Father's Day.

PLACE

East of Jordan, Minnesota.

SCENES

ACT I. Drought.

ACT II. Flood.

RUN TIME

The estimated runtime is 90 minutes.

THE STAGE

The setting is a Minnesota timber lodge cabin.

The cabin is rectangular. It is dilapidated and dusty, as if it hasn't been visited or used in very many years.

The walls are a strange hybrid of timber planking, poles and staked cords. Adorning the walls are old shabby curtains of indigo and scarlet. The fourth wall, the audience, is obviously open, a panopticon to the action on stage.

The ceiling is a rugged patchwork of bygone acacia plywood and ram skin.

Downstage center is a worn davenport. Possibly ripped in some places. Old and dusty. Two of the davenport legs are missing, substituted with silver sockets.

Near the davenport is a faded six-branch seven-bulb standing lamp.

Also near the davenport is a single red chair. This red chair is the only cabin furnishing in mint condition, clean and shiny.

A front doorway leads to upstage right. This upstage quadrant of the rectangular cabin faces east, such that any sun lighting streaming into the cabin comes from upstage.

Upstage is a rudimentary kitchen area, with modular cupboard cabinetry. Old potted jars and jugs are here, some topped with decayed incense.

By this upstage kitchen area is a rectangular window carved into the wall, providing the only view to outside, east. Torn draperies by this upstage window are the only functional curtain inside the entire cabin.

A second inner doorway leads to off left. This door is locked and cannot be opened by the cast.

PROJECTIONS

Scene headings can be projected either at the beginning of each scene, or held until the end of the play, as written herein.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

The Watchers received its NYC premiere on May 25, 2019 at the Access Theater as produced by The Memory Works with Ethan Steers as director, Kevin Downing as Technical Director, and the following cast: JOSIE, Shanel Sparr; ARAM, Nicholas-Tyler Corbin; BECKY, Dani Franco; Elijah, Martin Fisher.

The Watchers was first performed as *Modern Prophet* on October 16, 2013 at the Northwind Warehouse Lofts in Minneapolis, MN, as produced by Mission Theatre Company with Andrea Tonsfeldt as producing director, and directed by Anneliese Stuht.

ACT I. DROUGHT.

PRELUDE. THE VOICES SING.

We hear the singing of Eliahu HaNavi.

It is a lullaby. Slow, haunting.

One voice becomes two voices become four voices, as if specters from an ancient time.

VOICE/S [SINGING]

Eliyahu Hanavi, Eliyahu Hatishbi

Eliyahu, Eliyahu, Eliyahu Hagiladi

With the singing the audience sees the following words projected over the stage:

PROJECTION

‘Elijah the ancient Biblical prophet

performed great miracles and served fully God’s will

but for one fault was banished by God

exiled to roam the earth

unseen and unheard

until the day of his reappearance

the return of Elijah signifying the return of God

and the end day of judgement’

VOICE/S [SINGING]

Bim’hera yavoh eleinu, im mashiach ben David

Bim’hera yavoh eleinu, im mashiach ben David

VOICE/S [REPRISE]

Eliyahu Hanavi, Eliyahu Hatishbi

Eliyahu, Eliyahu, Eliyahu Hagiladi

**SCENE 1. AND IT CAME TO PASS AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS
THAT A SISTER AND TWIN BROTHER ARRIVED AT THE DRY
HEADWATERS EAST OF JORDAN.**

Night.

*As the final words are sung, we hear a
strange and unearthly wind.*

*An elemental dance of moonlight shadows
plays across the interior of the lodge cabin.*

*We then hear the approaching sound of a
truck engine. Headlights slash the interior
cabin walls. A driver’s door opens and
shuts.*

*ARAM hustles past the exterior of the
upstage window towards the main doorway.*

*We hear ARAM impatiently jostle the
doorknob. But the knob is stuck, creaky and
not turning.*

*ARAM either shoulders or kicks open the
front door, BAM!*

*ARAM stands in the threshold of the
doorway, perhaps a silhouette, a large
travel duffel slung over one shoulder. He
carries in his hands a birthday cake.*

*ARAM strides into the cabin, taking in the
place.*

*ARAM notices the lampstand, and while
trying to determine how it operates, the
lampstand somehow manifests power on its
own, the resulting light illuminating the
cabin.*

ARAM

Go with it.

He’s been going with it.

ARAM places the cake on the edge of the davenport.

He then drags the red chair across the cabin to a position aside the davenport.

Everything is set.

ARAM goes towards out and sees the front doorway is now busted, the door off its jamb and groove, and the knob still quirky, unable to close properly.

ARAM

Hope this is the right place now.

ARAM exits, moving back across the exterior of the upstage window towards off.

We hear a second driver’s door open and shut.

We see a struggle as ARAM drags JOSIE past the exterior window back towards the front door.

JOSIE is blindfolded, her hands bound.

JOSIE

‘Then he dragged me by the gate and LO! The presence of THE LORD came and said abduction—! Is an accurs-ed—! Abom—! ination!’

ARAM has led JOSIE into the cabin and seated her onto the red chair.

As JOSIE continues, ARAM goes upstage and closes the door.

JOSIE

‘For he who kidnaps a man and has sold him’—or *her!*—‘and holds *her* shall be put to death!’...especially if she’s a Watcher. You can’t kidnap God’s Watchers!

ARAM

Pretty sure that last part’s not in the Old book.

JOSIE

[Something about his voice] I’m not sure who you are, or why you’re doing this, but I need to be home. At my house. I can’t be away from it. Please take me back. Okay? And when God returns to earth I’ll ask Him not to avenge you. For the whole abducting me thing. Okay?

ARAM

[Removing the blindfold] We’re not ever going home again.

JOSIE

Holy—

ARAM

[Shoving a piece of cake into her mouth] Happy Father’s Day!

JOSIE

[Through the piece of cake] —%\$#!

ARAM

[Singing] Happy Father’s Day to you, Happy Father’s Day to you, Happy Father’s Day *dead dad*.

JOSIE

Aram!

ARAM

You believe it?

JOSIE

You’re alive!

ARAM

More than ever. Huh?

JOSIE

It’s really you.

ARAM

Unless you got another twin brother I don't know about.

JOSIE

This is miraculous. This is—what are you doing.

ARAM

[Shoving more cake into her mouth] Actual cake!

JOSIE

[muffled through the cake]...!!!...

ARAM

I was like should I ease her in since all she's eaten her whole life are figs and dried cheese, but then I thought the hell with it, double chocolate. And check this out...[from his duffel]...it's called guacamole. Green slime but over-the-top good. Crazy, right? There's so much I can't wait to show you.

JOSIE

You've shown you're alive. You're still alive!

ARAM

One piece and all parts working.

JOSIE

But you grabbed me, you abducted me!

ARAM

I knew you wouldn't come otherwise. And hell if I was stepping foot back in Dad's house to talk to you about it first. Had to wait by the silo for you to cross the evening Watch.

JOSIE

You were Watching me.

ARAM

Oh, the irony. Wonder if they got matches around here.

JOSIE

Here.

ARAM

Cozy, huh? Little Minnesota lodge cabin. Whadd'ya think?

JOSIE

I think we need to go home. Both of us, together.

ARAM

Uh-uh.

JOSIE

You know we have to.

ARAM

I know I'm trying to find matches to light the cake for dear old dead dad.

JOSIE

You've taken me away, now both of us away, against God's will.

ARAM

Two words which do *not* belong together. From what I've seen of the world the will might be free but the rest of it costs, trust me.

JOSIE

I'm thrilled to see you and my heart, you know, exults, but blindfolding me?
Forcing this food in my mouth?

ARAM

Does that not taste *insane*?

JOSIE

I'm not doing this. I'm not engaging you like this.

ARAM

Certainly you weren't much of a conversationalist on the drive here.

JOSIE

You stuffed a sackcloth in my mouth.

ARAM

Don't worry, alright? We won't be here long. Just a couple days for me to show you...it's kind of a surprise.

JOSIE

Yes, you're still alive.

ARAM

Fine, two surprises, one miracle to go, which will be: the most important thing that will ever happen to us.

JOSIE

To Watch for the sign of God's return and *only then* go forth to the world.

ARAM

Mmmm, far better.

JOSIE

The sign will come at the house. Both of us must be there to see it.

ARAM

And you wonder why a rag was stuffed in your mouth. That was like the longest we've ever gone beside each other without talking, huh? Without climbing the silo to Watch all those sunrises and sunsets together, wondering to each other what the world's really like. Terrified Dad was gonna beseech us to Watch longer. Or torture me some more. Surprised his truck made it out this far.

JOSIE

You're more concerned about Dad's truck.

ARAM

I'm more concerned about you. Why I'm back.

JOSIE

I knew you weren't dead. I could feel it.

ARAM

Came close a couple times. Dangerous out there, one of the few things Dad said that was spot on.

JOSIE

Where'd you go? How'd you live all these years?

ARAM

Years?

JOSIE

How long do you think it's been?

ARAM

Feels like I haven't even left.

JOSIE

Every morning I placed a stone over where I buried Dad. With each stone I asked God to forgive me and protect you, and those stones piled pretty high, yes, it's been years.

ARAM

You buried him.

JOSIE

Carried his body from the house to the distant meadow. Placed him and his Bible into the very spot from where you vanished. Not a note from you, not a warning, just you were gone. And then he was.

ARAM

I'm sorry you had to go through that but I'm glad he's dead, Josie. And you should be, too.

JOSIE

He was our father.

ARAM

The guy was a maniac. A former highway road sign worker who thought his two kids were born to Watch the return of God.

JOSIE

He was divinely ordained.

ARAM

According to him. Makes it easy that way. Raising us by himself in not a house but an abandoned farm shack. He raised us in an abandoned farm shack, Josie. Keeping us shut off from the world, 'to keep you pure of sin!'

JOSIE

So when the sign comes we'll be able to receive it.

ARAM

How much longer was he gonna get away with squatting in some shack with a broken-down silo, saying it's where God told him to be. How much longer was he gonna get away with leaving us at night to change out highway billboard signs, calling them sins against God. How much longer was he gonna drag me out to the distant meadow whenever I questioned The Bible, chain me to the one tree, leaving me out there for days and nights—

JOSIE

—forcing me to Watch.

ARAM

In the snow. The heat. I'm glad he's dead.

JOSIE

How'd you escape? That you could just run away?

ARAM

Like I've seen of the world, whenever chance comes you gotta go with it. And chance has just shown back up!

JOSIE

As defiant as ever.

ARAM

Some things don't change, right?

JOSIE

Except the way you dress. And talk. You grew out your hair. These tools you carry.

ARAM

Because I've been to *the world*, Josie, the *actual world*. I ran away so I could come back to tell you: it's nothing like Dad said.

JOSIE

...I figured you fled to Canaan.

ARAM

Canada. Grabbed all the sand there I could. Then Australia, big island. Then America South, but their Patagonians didn’t like me scoping their turf so I grabbed what sand I could before I thought Africa!, okay!, this is what Dad read about! Well. Apparently a lot’s happened there since the Bible. Everyone now using tools to dig up shiny rocks, not sand.

JOSIE

What sin have you gotten into.

ARAM

I’ll reveal my plan once you’ve loosened your ears.

JOSIE

I’d rather you loosen my hands.

ARAM

You won’t run away.

JOSIE

Only one of us is good at that. Besides. I don’t even know where we are.

ARAM

Jordan, Minnesota. Little east of it, actually.

JOSIE

The dry river valley.

ARAM

So you do know something of the world.

JOSIE

I never stopped Watching, Aram. After Dad died he wasn’t there anymore to keep me from leaving. I took his tools. I kept his work, lonely as it was. I went to nearby pasturelands to take down their signs and replace them with ours. You know what I saw instead? Their false idols. Rising like a monument near this very valley is a smiling green giant. And up north, a huge lumberjack and blue ox.

ARAM

You talk to anyone?

JOSIE

What would I say? When God returns you’ll all be slaughtered for your sins?

ARAM

See, this is what I want to talk to you about.

JOSIE

Without you there was no talk. There was nothing. There was the horror of emptiness. Each day I became more and more crushed by the fear that God’s sign would finally come, the signal of His very return to earth, and you and I wouldn’t be together to receive it.

ARAM

Look, this is just a quick first stop. And it’s only gonna get better now that I’ve come back to share the world with you, to get you out of Dad’s shack of fire and brimstone and to the things out there that are truly true.

JOSIE

The only truth is our purpose, Aram. Watching for the sign of God’s return. And to do that we must be home. And you know it.

As dialog continues, ARAM searches through his duffel to removes other items signifying the modern world; empty coffee cups, headphones, etc. Showing them to JOSIE.

ARAM

It was hard for me to adjust at first. All the strange ways people have convinced themselves what’s right. These days it’s like any morality gets accepted. But then you see their tools. Strange and wonderful. There’s awe in...music.

JOSIE

Music.

ARAM

I knew you’d still be curious. Check this out...[finally from the duffel, an iPad/iPhone]...some kind of tool that lets you spy on people wherever they are.

JOSIE

With the bite of the apple, man’s first sin!

ARAM

I figured these would help you get over being ripped from the nest.

JOSIE

Don't you see you've become them? Doing as they do, their food, their things.

ARAM

C'mon, go with it a little, we're the only ones out here, east of the middle of nowhere. Give your twin brother one night.

JOSIE

'Listen, O Lord!'—

ARAM

—you know what—

JOSIE

'—for your faithful are no more!'

ARAM

[Now taking work tools from the duffel, perhaps gloves and headlamp flashlight]
We got ourselves a little cabin, little cake, little decorative lighting, little couch with a couple legs sorta missing. Better than the places I've stayed of late. All yours while I'm out searching.

JOSIE

You're leaving.

ARAM

Can only do this at night...although...would go faster if you helped. Like the old days, side by side. Except now it won't be in the silo.

JOSIE

You still do it both ways to me. Thrill and taunt. Entrust and scorn.

ARAM

I'm a brother.

JOSIE

But above all: deride our God.

ARAM

Your God, not mine. And barely anybody else's.

JOSIE

And they will perish for it when He returns.

ARAM

That’s what I’m here to stop. Sleep here, do the evening Watch, whatever you want, okay? I’ll be back at sunrise.

JOSIE

Don’t do this.

ARAM

It’s already been done. And there’s no turning back.

JOSIE

We need to be home!

ARAM is already out, taking his duffel with him, shutting the door behind.

ARAM

I missed you!

JOSIE

Aram!

ARAM

Happy Father’s Day!

Lights fade.

**SCENE 2. YET FOR DRY GROUND THE BROTHER COULD NOT
FIND SAND, AND THE ANGEL REJOINED HIM, WHO THE SISTER
SAW AS BEING SIN OF THE LAND.**

The following morning.

*JOSIE crouched against the front door,
sleeping.*

*We hear whistling, perhaps the tune of a
modern popular song, ARAM approaching
from outside.*

ARAM tries to open the door.

ARAM

Again with this thing.

JOSIE

Aram?

ARAM

Josie? The door's jammed.

*JOSIE stands and yanks open the door.
ARAM enters as JOSIE peers outside.*

ARAM

Brutal! What a drought!

JOSIE

Where've you been?

ARAM

And the mosquitoes! Second I bend down it's like my neck becomes a landing strip. Why we really need some rain, nature's missiles shooting down the flying beasts of sting. Plus, do I need a shower or what.

*JOSIE has shut the door and propped the
red chair against it.*

JOSIE

I was calling your name. Like all night.

Okay?	ARAM
Didn't you hear me?	JOSIE
No, I was down at the riverbed.	ARAM
How far's that?	JOSIE
I don't know, over there.	ARAM
I thought you ran away, again.	JOSIE
I told you I'd be back at sunrise.	ARAM
Yes, but then I thought you were taken! I thought the man from the forest did something to you.	JOSIE
A man.	ARAM
Yes.	JOSIE
When.	ARAM
Last night. I saw him.	JOSIE
That was me.	ARAM
No, he was out there.	JOSIE

ARAM

I was out there, battling the scourge.

JOSIE

He was dark. Dark skin man.

ARAM

Which reminds me, we're gonna need to get you a little sensitivity training cuz today's world doesn't care for the whole Bible racism thing.

JOSIE

He looked nervous. Maybe the Canaanites know we're here, angry we've crossed their land.

ARAM

Josie, we're alone out here. East of Jordan's like the last spot in Minnesota touched by human contact.

JOSIE

I went to do the evening Watch after you left. I hopped the back of Dad's truck but it wasn't high enough to see both ends of sky, so I scaled the roof.

ARAM

You climbed the roof?

JOSIE

It's big. The dimensions I mean. Much bigger up there somehow than down here. And the ceiling a mix of old animal skin and cord. Are you listening?

By this point ARAM has taken from the duffel a glass bong or marijuana pen.

ARAM

Every word.

JOSIE

So I'm up there trying not to fall through as I do the Watch when all of a sudden the stars get blocked by a horde of ravens. You didn't see them?

ARAM

The only living creature out there was stinging my neck.

JOSIE

They were large, black with golden eyes.

ARAM

If I didn't hear you calling my name, I didn't hear any birds.

JOSIE

Then the dark man moved from the forest, wearing robes and sandals, with this nervous stride, and came right up to that door and stood there, like this.

ARAM

Just stood there.

JOSIE

Didn't try to open the door, almost like he couldn't, just stood there, tight and rigid. Like he was waiting for someone to open it for him. He didn't see me Watching from above. After a while he went back to the forest, the ravens following him.

ARAM

Bkaw!

JOSIE

I'm serious.

ARAM

Always have been.

JOSIE

I scrambled down and ran in here and was up all night with my back against the door to keep it shut. This front door doesn't close and that door over there doesn't open.

ARAM

That's a door?

JOSIE

I thought I was going to be trapped in here for the rest of my life. I can't do this Aram, alright, we have to...what's that.

ARAM

[Finishing a second hit]...another tool.

JOSIE

Are you kidding me.

ARAM

God, did Dad need this.

JOSIE

I don't believe this is happening.

ARAM

I am totally believing it.

JOSIE

Fine, if listening to you will get the keys in the truck and us back on the road, please!, what are we doing here.

ARAM

...I gotta collect sand.

JOSIE

Sand.

ARAM

But not any sand. Perfect sand.

JOSIE

What's with your eyes?

ARAM

Very few places where it's at. Minnesota's one of 'em. Pretty amazing.

JOSIE

This is what Dad warned about, joining the world for its sin.

ARAM

C'mon, tonight we'll toil in the riverbed side by side and caterwaul about dead fathers like normal kinfolk.

JOSIE

You don't know what you did, running away.

ARAM

Well I know what I'm doing now.

JOSIE

Corrupting the earth for profit? Dad thought he failed to make you see we were born to Watch the return of God. And when you were gone Dad thought God took you, like Mom, and it killed Dad. And now you come back like nothing happened with tools of wickedness and perversion and all you want to talk about is *sand*?

ARAM

I came back for you, Josie. I came back so we could be together.

JOSIE

Are you even hearing yourself.

ARAM

The sand lets us be together.

JOSIE

We were already together. We rose in the morning to warmed cheese and figs. Dad gave the verse and you and I made his signs, and Watched for God's. We washed in the rain, we lit fires, we had the heavens at night. We avoided the unclean and immoral. It was simple and good.

ARAM

Unless Dad got angry at us for questioning it.

JOSIE

I won't say I wasn't curious.

ARAM

But who was the one getting chained to the tree when you were? When you said: Dad, is this really what God wants? Then it got like the Bible, didn't it. Domineering. Punishing. Me getting tied up to the one tree, pleading to be let down.

JOSIE

Our life is a promise. Once the sign comes our place in the eternal will follow.

ARAM

You know what we never asked? And maybe this is just the bud talking, but we never asked: do we want God back.

JOSIE

What kind of question is that.

ARAM

When was the last time He was here? You think He’d be happy how it all turned out? You think we’d be happy with Him?

JOSIE

It’s not for us to decide.

ARAM

But what if it is. What if we had that decision to make. Cuz I’ve seen the world and it’s dirty and crowded and loud and reckless but happy in its own way. What if God comes back and does to the world what Dad did to me?

JOSIE

You and I were chosen. I don’t want to be forsaken for joining the iniquity like Mom did.

ARAM

Mom didn’t die because she ran off and joined the world.

JOSIE

Yes, she did.

ARAM

No, she died giving birth to us.

JOSIE

One of their tools tell you that?

ARAM

Dad did. He saw how much I wanted to protect you from this belief you want to be true and said sons obey their fathers, and I said I’m not your son, I’m her brother, and you’re not God. So he kept chaining me up, making you stand inside, Watch me approach death like that, thinking that would somehow keep both you and I to his sick sense of power. But that final time, chained up...that’s when I heard the small voice.

JOSIE

Dad.

ARAM

Behind me.

JOSIE

The tree.

ARAM

Telling me about the sand. Where to get it. Sand has to be laid at the altar so God can come back.

JOSIE

The tree said that.

ARAM

In a language I'd never heard before but somehow could understand. And while we made our way around the world *I saw the world*. People with freedom to choose how they want to live, giving consent to who's in charge. Even had their own holidays, Father's Day. They just seemed...like they weren't afraid. Like every little thing they did wasn't wrong, wasn't going to have some eternal penalty. It was everything you and I were always curious about. If we let God come back...

JOSIE

It's not for us to decide.

ARAM

Hence your abduction. And there's gonna to be one more cuz I found the spot for us. Beyond the last desert, a cliff at the edge of light, overlooking everything, where I've been stashing sand. And once I get it all, we'll have it all, and it can't be laid at the altar. We're gonna go to that cliff with the sand, and never worry about God again.

*There's a shuffling noise from outside,
approaching the door.*

Then a sort of scratch-knocking.

JOSIE

What if it's the dark man, from the forest? What if this is his place?

*ARAM puts the red chair aside and jerks
opens the front door.*

*BECKY is there. This holds, before BECKY
shuffles right in, with her own travel duffel.*

JOSIE

...umm...

BECKY examines the interior of the cabin.

JOSIE

...this isn't who I saw last night.

ARAM

Obviously.

JOSIE

Is this your cabin?

ARAM

[Shutting the door] No.

JOSIE

You know her.

ARAM

...she's been helping me get sand.

JOSIE

Who is she? Who is she.

BECKY

Ángel Rebeka Observadora.

JOSIE

...

BECKY

Ángel Rebeka Observadora.

ARAM

Becky. I call her Becky.

JOSIE

She's a Canaanite.

ARAM

No, she...got left behind. The last time God was here. She's been waiting for the sign to come again to rejoin all the souls of the dead to the whole...

BECKY produces a bottle of tequila.

ARAM

Bingo.

JOSIE

I think you're in way over your head.

ARAM

Understatement of the millennium. Gotta be cups around here somewhere.

ARAM has moved to the upstage cupboards, opening cabinets, which we see are empty.

JOSIE

If we blemish ourselves with those who have no share in God the sign will never come.

ARAM

What do you think the sign will look like? Do Not Enter? No Right On Red?

JOSIE

Well...

ARAM

Don't worry, Becky's the kind of girl who can take care of herself. Aha!

ARAM opens the final cabinet to discover a single golden cup.

BECKY

La copa.

JOSIE

Something's not right.

ARAM

The one thing I learned from my travels was this: Almost all of us are just people. People are born, people die. And when someone dies you can't—

JOSIE

—don't—

ARAM

—you can't go out with them. And you can't become their mission. You've got to go see the world's decided about God for itself. Which is why we need the sand.

JOSIE

Only *after* the sign comes.

ARAM

You know all those nights Dad left me outside, forsaken, chained to the tree? You stayed inside and Watched. You never did open the door to come out and save me. But someone else did. [To BECKY] Welcome to east of Jordan. [Pouring from the bottle into the golden cup] And let the festivities begin.

Lights fade.

**SCENE 3. AFTER THE SMOKING OF HERB AND TAKING OF WINE
THE BROTHER SLUMBERED, KEEPING SHUT THE DOOR AND
DENYING ELIJAH THE PROPHET ACCESS TO THE ALTAR.**

Dusk.

Late afternoon light cases the stage.

We hear the sounds of summer. Crickets chirping, the unearthly wind blowing dry leaves on the white pines.

On the red chair is the iPad, perched at half-rest. Also on the red chair is the golden cup.

ARAM and JOSIE are sleeping on the davenport.

BECKY stands behind ARAM, almost hovering over him, rooted, asleep.

A strong tug of wind somehow pushes the front door open, causing the front door to creak on its splintered jamb.

BECKY stirs. Something unseen and unspoken has woken her.

BECKY shuffles to inspect the iPad, a curious tool. She smells it, shakes it, tries to drink from it, until pushing the button that activates the screen, startling BECKY, disturbing her eyes, and ultimately disgusting her.

BECKY returns the iPad to the red chair, and after taking the last drag from her bottle, shuffles to stand before the second inner doorway.

It will not open.

We hear the distant cawing of ravens.

BECKY shuffles to the front door as the cawing of ravens grows nearer.

BECKY glances outside, then shuts the front door, placing her duffel against the door to keep it shut.

BECKY takes a rolled blanket from her duffel and starts to shuffle towards the davenport...

But pauses.

BECKY switches direction and shuffles upstage to the rectangular window carved into the upstage wall.

BECKY pulls apart the torn draperies.

ELIJAH stands there, looking in.

BECKY looks past ELIJAH, she is not able to see him.

ELIJAH

Open.

The door.

BECKY doesn't hear him.

BECKY jerks the window draperies closed, and shuffles back to the davenport. She unfurls the blanket and lays it over ARAM.

She returns to her rooted position behind ARAM, spreads her arms, branching out, and closes her eyes.

Lights shift.

**SCENE 4. BY THE SECOND NIGHT ELIJAH THE PROPHET DID
ENTER THE ALTAR AND TO THE SISTER SPOKE OF THE
FORTHCOMING STORM AND RIVERBED BY WHICH THE
BROTHER COULD ACQUIRE SAND.**

Evening.

The golden cup is on the red chair.

*ARAM and BECKY organize gear as JOSIE
looks on.*

ARAM

So we got a little behind, the first night hacking the trenches, but no worries!

BECKY

Mmm.

ARAM

Same as before, yeah? Smooth and circular: bueno. Gritty and rough: no bueno.

JOSIE

You're leaving me again.

ARAM

The crew's gonna head upstream. Without rain the gully's dry as dry can be so
we'll track upstream instead.

JOSIE

Just drive me back home first.

ARAM

You don't want to go. Generations from now little boys and girls, instead of being
chained up in the distant meadow, will gather by the cliff at the edge of light to
hear their father gently preach the story of Aram, who in his sort-of youngish
years came east of Jordan to mine the pebbles of perfection.

JOSIE

While his sister got mauled by a stranger from the forest.

ARAM

Well they won't tell the kids that part.

JOSIE

I gave you one night. Just bring Becky.

ARAM

Not sure that's possible.

JOSIE

I'll make a bed for her in the silo.

ARAM

Won't work.

JOSIE

Fine, she can come in the house.

ARAM

Not sure it's there. Not sure any of it's there. Anymore.

JOSIE

...what have you done.

ARAM

Used up all the matches. After getting you in the truck.

JOSIE

...I don't believe you.

ARAM

'And the two of them will burn together, with nothing to extinguish it.'

JOSIE

You burned down our house.

ARAM

We can't go back.

JOSIE

Oh, God.

ARAM

I'm doing this for you. C'mon Becky, upstream.

ARAM goes, BECKY follows, shuffling off.

The front door remains open, JOSIE alone.

JOSIE

No house. No place to Watch. My brother part of the sin. Now both of us lost among the sinful and unrighteous.

We hear the cawing of ravens.

JOSIE

God: I have been true to your word. I have never strayed from the path that was set before me. Always kept your covenant.

ELIJAH appears in the open doorway.

JOSIE

My whole life I've been asking without an answer. So I'm serious now, I need something, anything, that will let me know that this is all part of...[seeing ELIJAH]...!!!

ELIJAH ensures the doorway is fully open, scans the interior layout, enters, starts for the side door that won't open.

JOSIE

...whoa.

ELIJAH freezes: is she talking to me?

JOSIE

Just stop right there, okay?

ELIJAH

...you can see me.

JOSIE

Yeah I can see you.

ELIJAH

You can see me and hear me speak.

JOSIE

This is all a mistake, okay? This is a cabin. For someone.

ELIJAH

...my cup.

JOSIE

Unless you're the someone.

ELIJAH

My cup.

This is not wine.

JOSIE

...you sure you're in the right place.

ELIJAH

Are you.

JOSIE

No. Far from it, actually.

ELIJAH

Yet you came.

JOSIE

I was brought here. Against my wishes. But I'm trying to get back home. With my brother. He's still here.

ELIJAH

At the wadi.

JOSIE

Could come back any second through that door.

ELIJAH

Which would be welcome.

If he brings what is needed.

JOSIE

Look, you've caught me on a really bad day here, so...

ELIJAH

Usually it is the children who think they see me, not those who act like one.

JOSIE

Oh-kay.

ELIJAH

Last night, the door was not opened.

JOSIE

This is your place.

ELIJAH

For two nights, the door shut.

JOSIE

This is all Aram's idea.

ELIJAH

What is Aram.

JOSIE

My brother. He's here, we're here, because the voice told him to get...I'm not used to talking to people.

ELIJAH

I am not used to them hearing me.

But by tomorrow's setting sun, there will be a listener.

So I need what is to be brought.

East of Jordan, the bend in the wadi, downstream.

Do you understand.

JOSIE

...

ELIJAH

Are you not hearing my words now.

JOSIE

Is this how people in Canaan talk to each other.

ELIJAH

Hardly.

They speak a plain tongue, like you.

The language of joy.

For they have not live in the age of His wrath.

Nor do I want them to.

JOSIE

Who are you.

ELIJAH

Who indeed.

The unseen visitor at the door.

The invisible man in the chair.

The last prophet drinking wine.

But this is not wine.

JOSIE

Becky called it tequila.

ELIJAH

The ravens remember.

After all this time, the ravens bring cake.

JOSIE

Cake.

ELIJAH

And wine.

JOSIE

I don't drink. Sinners drink.

ELIJAH

The exiled.

Who roam the earth, unseen, unheard.

It has been a thousand years since I spoke to someone.

Usually I talk to the babies.

I pretend the babies are Him.

To prepare for when I see Him.

JOSIE

So you live around here.

ELIJAH

We all did.

When I first drank from the wadi.

Until I was condemned to remain between the world I knew and the unknown death that awaits us all.

JOSIE

You have no idea. Been my whole life, basically. Today was the first time I slept away from home. You familiar with the Bible?

ELIJAH

Echoes of prophecy.

JOSIE

Why I was born. I believe it's real. I believe it happened.

ELIJAH

Of course it happened.

But when you have lived it, when you have been before His face.

Stripped bare, racked to His reflection.

His eye, lidless and unyielding.

You want to forget it happened.

JOSIE

Yeah, well, there’s a lot of forgetters out there.

ELIJAH

Can you blame them.

JOSIE

I always thought they weren’t important. They defile the earth. You know, they make things and build tools and live lives that have nothing to do with God. I mean if there’s something that’s good and true the opposite of that is evil and false. Why would anyone want to be evil and false? Why would you want to be part of that? Still, I was curious. Who wouldn’t be? I mean, I know what I want to be true, but after Dad died...I went with a sign, one of us road signs, said REPENT, to put it up by a low lying pasture, near other farmhouses, when there was this other truck on the road, ahead of me, and it wasn’t working, it had stopped, and there was a woman wrapped in old scarves and half a coat looking at a flat wheel, and she had two kids in the back. Now this was winter and if you’re from these parts you know it can blizzard in a hurry. Freezing, and they were stuck there on the road, with nothing to see for miles except deep white. Even though they looked like Canaanites I was curious, so I stopped, and the woman came over, and she didn’t look so different from me, standing there in the cold, saying ‘hi, we need some help.’ There was this moment where...I wanted to. But all I could think about was Aram chained to the tree. I drove away. This must sound weird to you.

ELIJAH

Only the unseen hear the truth.

JOSIE

Well, it’s not so bad talking to you. I mean...it’s almost kind of nice.

ELIJAH

You seem to handle this well.

No outward sign of terror.

I guess it is expected since you only know the stories.

But you did see it.

JOSIE

No, never saw that woman again. Or her truck. But I think about it.

ELIJAH

I mean you did not see it.

Blood red after a heavy rain.

Creasing the sky, two stars, as if attached.

JOSIE

No.

ELIJAH

But you see me.

I was at a household, in my chair, talking to the babies, admiring the nice table lamp.

People smiling, speaking my name, putting out a cup.

It has become like heaven to me.

A safe place, even in exile.

You think His eternity would never be as good.

So you forget time, from celebration to celebration, one year becomes a hundred becomes a thousand.

And then, from the back window I sensed it, a distant meadow.

Had to wait for someone to open the door.

I am glad we had the chance to meet like this.

Before...

JOSIE

Before what.

ELIJAH

What indeed.

The sand must come in first, only after the sand has been carried in can I then touch it.

But your brother Watches from the wrong place.

JOSIE

...what did you say?

ELIJAH

For if I fail God will destroy everyone.

Even you.

JOSIE

...I think you should go.

ELIJAH

To find the sand your brother who searches the wadi must go *downstream*.

JOSIE

Hold on—

ELIJAH

The flood will come at daybreak, not night, the clouds will release their burden, the drought reversed, and I will be at the door by the coming of His fire to receive the sand.

And with it I will lay the path before God to send Him back to wherever He has been.

To keep the world as it is today.

And not allow it to return to as it was then.

*ELIJAH has taken out an old worn Bible
and hands it to JOSIE.*

JOSIE

This is my Dad's Bible.

ELIJAH

It was by the blaze that took the distant meadow where the Angel must have stood.

The Angel will take form and speak in tongues to get The Watcher and sand here before I can.

For only with The Watcher Watching and sand laid at the altar can God return.

JOSIE

How do you know all this?

ELIJAH

My cup shall remain filled while the sand is being harvested.

Downstream, away from the cragged rocks in the bend.

JOSIE

Wait! Who are you?

ELIJAH

Who indeed.

JOSIE

Well. What's your name.

ELIJAH

Elijah.

And next time: open the door.

ELIJAH goes, the cawing of ravens follows.

JOSIE

Oh my God.

Lights fade.

**SCENE 5. YET DOUBT ATTENDED THE SISTER UNTIL THE STORM
CAME AND RAIN REVERSED THE DROUGHT.**

Sunrise.

*ARAM is slouched on the davenport, toking
up a hit.*

The front door is closed.

JOSIE

I am trying to tell you he was here! He was in here! Sitting in that chair! He was talking to me!

ARAM

Great vino, sis! Where'd you find the retail out here?

JOSIE

That's what I'm trying to tell you! I didn't leave. I've been here all night.

ARAM

Do liquor stores deliver? Welcome to Minnesota, where nobody leaves their cabins!

JOSIE

He was talking to me.

ARAM

Mmm-hmm.

JOSIE

Not at first, he was quiet at first, and really nervous, like scared, and I admit I was thrown by his skin, but then, duh!, Africa!, and after he opened up and started talking about roaming the earth and being forced to Watch he did this thing with his hands and said his cup shall be filled without end.

*As conversation continues BECKY scratches
on the front door, JOSIE opens, and BECKY
enters, carrying her duffel, empty.*

*BECKY focuses on the flooring before the
side door, as well as inspecting the side
door.*

BECKY keeps an ear open to the general conversation and reacts accordingly.

BECKY throughout the scene drinks from her bottle.

ARAM

I gotta tell you sis, I am *loving* your change in attitude. You spend your whole life sealed off from the world, you get brother-napped, then told your house is torched, and now you’re going out and making nice with the locals? The world’s not so bad if you attack it with some herb and a smile, right? Now I’m gonna catch up on the latest [the iPad] wonder of the world here and then rack out before Becky and I head back down to the—

JOSIE

He was *in*. *The cabin*.

ARAM

Too bad you’re the only one who can see him.

JOSIE

That’s right! All he could talk about was how I could see him. And wadi. He kept going on about wadi. Wadi this, wadi that.

ARAM

[The iPad] Can I have it back?

JOSIE

You don’t remember.

ARAM

I remember we’ve been here two nights with zilch for sand.

JOSIE

I thought maybe I’d gone sand crazy. Suffering like the thirteen tribes wandering the desert in Exodus, Africa, trapped with the ghosts of their dead, a generation of God’s children stranded within the endless panorama of wilderness, the signs all around them during their march to Israel, encircling them, of the place between life and death. *Like the raven*.

BECKY

Cuervo.

JOSIE

No, Becky, not tequila! Black birds, filling the sky. *Ra-vens*.

BECKY

Cuer-vos.

ARAM

We gonna have a sacrifice? Splatter raven blood on four walls like the good old days of God?

JOSIE

But when I started thinking about *cuervos*...[shows the Bible]...that's what made me remember the wadi!

ARAM

Holy. Freaking. Moses.

JOSIE

Ex-actly!

ARAM

You've been carrying around Dad's Bible.

JOSIE

[Reading] 'Wadi! The dried bed of a once fertile river!'

ARAM

I thought I burned that with everything else.

JOSIE

'For I have commanded the ravens to provide for you, and he did what the Lord commanded and lived by the wadi where it enters *east of Jordan*.'

BECKY

Al este de Jordania.

JOSIE

Yes, Becky, East of Jordan! 'The ravens brought him *cakes* and *wine* and in the evening he drank from the *wadi* which *dried up* because there had *been no rain*.' End quote. The Bible.

BECKY

Elíjah.

JOSIE

Yes, Becky, Elijah!

BECKY

¿Dónde está Elíjah?

JOSIE

Old Testament. The original, one and only.

BECKY is at the upstage window, looking outside.

ARAM

Well go testament somewhere else while the crew relaxes their hard-Watching eyes. By the way, top quality snacks you got.

JOSIE

That’s what I’m saying. I didn’t get them. They appeared.

ARAM

They appeeeeeeared!

JOSIE

How do you think all this came to be here?

ARAM

Like I’ve been trying to tell you, if you’re looking for answers the universe sends its apologies.

JOSIE

Elijah travels the world unseen.

BECKY is all over the golden cup and red chair.

BECKY

Elíjah.

JOSIE

The last prophet, who fought Jezebel *the land corrupter*. Who performed miracles to defeat her, and then for some reason was banished by God, forced to wander earth, not allowed to die.

ARAM

I’m familiar with the story.

JOSIE

Then you know we leave the door open to receive him. Door. The ceremonial chair is reserved for him. Chair. A cup of wine is poured in Elijah’s honor. Cup. Now what else can this be?

ARAM

It’s called a co-inky-dink.

JOSIE

It’s divine intervention.

ARAM

Isn’t that a co-inky-dink?

JOSIE

‘I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awe-ful day of the Lord! And he shall appear before I come and smite the land with utter destruction.’

ARAM

So. Fun.

JOSIE

I’m trying to tell you something here, Aram.

ARAM

Oh yes you are.

JOSIE

God recalling Elijah to complete His works is the coming of the second age. God returning to earth. *Elijah is the sign!*

ARAM

‘For the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword.’

JOSIE

Yes! You remember! Listen, there’s more.

ARAM

No, I won't listen. I won't be barraged by it anymore. It never meant anything except our pain and agony! Our entire lives were assaulted by it, so I sure as hell won't listen to it now that Dad's gone.

JOSIE

Well get comfy 'cause I got whole chapters on the prophets!

BECKY

Profetas.

BECKY has jerked open the door and exits the cabin upstage.

As dialog continues, we see BECKY through the exterior of the upstage window, looking towards the forest, searching.

JOSIE

Yes, thank you Becky, *profetas!* Especially *profeta* Elijah *the Tishbite*. You don't remember Tishbite?

ARAM

What's that, New Jersey?

JOSIE

Jordan.

ARAM

Good, cuz I'm here to tell you New Jersey is the absence of God's light.

JOSIE

Elijah, the stranger among strangers.

ARAM

Who reads wonderful as ancient history but we're a stitch occupado right now Watching for sand.

JOSIE

Apparently it's more than just seeing the sign. Elijah said an Angel's trying to beat him to the finish line. That only with The Watchers Watching and sand laid at the altar can God return.

ARAM

Okay, Dad.

JOSIE

Maybe it’s time for you to finally recognize what Dad said about us is true.

BECKY not before this moment returns to inside the cabin.

ARAM

Dad was a raving Bible thumper who vandalized signs at night while torturing his kids by day so they could become God’s Watchers.

JOSIE

What if...[the Bible]...what if this isn’t something that happened thousands of years ago and simply stopped? What if it was suspended? The final words an intermission, a pause, and there’s more to come? And there’s people God chooses to Watch it be told. What if *we are* part of the next chapter? The *actual* next chapter and verse. I mean, I wanted to believe it for all these years but now that the sign has come I really believe it!

ARAM

So you saw it...the sign.

JOSIE

The miracles right in front of us. The ones we blind ourselves every day from seeing. The ones we don’t even realize when they appear, even when we’ve been looking for them our whole lives. The ones you have to be willing to see.

ARAM

...tell me Becky, your padre ever go loco on you?

BECKY

Loco, sí.

ARAM

Obsess over the big book? Believe his kids after living in an abandoned farm shack would finally go forth to the world and proclaim God has retaken the earth while everyone burns to ashes? A fanatic who couldn’t even spell joy because he was engulfed by a warped devotion to this book of torment and suffering?

JOSIE

Don’t talk about it like that.

ARAM

Or what? I’ll get smited??? Then sister you best step back before the bolt of smash-a-rooni takes you down with me. Cuz that’s what happens you scoff at a dead-and-gone God, right? Oh wait, God’s not here! You here, God?

JOSIE

He’s coming.

ARAM

So you think Dad’s maybe taking this a bit too far, maybe we’re not supposed to live in a supernatural dictatorship, maybe that version of existence is at best sad and at worst destructive. And when we get curious about being kept from the world, and why God isn’t around now like he was in every other page here, what does Dad do? He chains me up to Becky and hits me with chapter-and-verse while my sister is forced to stand inside and Watch!

JOSIE

Chains you up to *who*?

ARAM

...I’m here to get the sand—

JOSIE

—and give it to Elijah.

BECKY

No Elijah.

JOSIE

He said the rain will shift the sand downstream, *downstream*, away from the cragged rocks at the bend.

Long pause.

ARAM

How’d you know where we’d been Watching.

JOSIE

He said—

ARAM

—Dad’s Bible—

BECKY

—Elijah.

JOSIE

He walked into this very cabin through that very door, sat in that very chair, drank from this very cup, gave me this very Bible, and said the drought will end and the rain will flood the sand *downstream*. Away from the cragged rocks at the bend.

ARAM

...alright...I know Dad's death wasn't easy. For you. I mean, he never once said I love you. Or I care. Nothing was ever explained, it was demanded, once, then always expected. Everything was a law. Everything was a test. And now he's gone and you're still putting up his signs, the signs that all had the same one word: REPENT. Your entire being is jailed by his memory. You've become the very person I spent my life waiting to run from and you spent silently fearing.

JOSIE

I've spent my life fearing [the Bible] this. I've spent my entire life Watching, wanting this to be what it says it is.

ARAM

Why would you even want it to be true? After all that's happened to us, based on that, why would you even want it back?

JOSIE

We don't have a choice, Aram.

ARAM

We do. That's what I'm trying to tell you. We have a choice.

JOSIE

My brother: we have been called. The sign has come and rain will carry the sand downstream. And you will bring it here so we may Watch the return of God and go forth to proclaim His end of days.

ARAM

Even if there was sand waiting to be seen, there's not a drip of a drop of moisture to push a pebble our way. So I don't want to hear anything more from Dad's Bible or some prophet in the woods that only you can see 'cuz the world's got a little prophet of its own these days called the National Weather Service, and it's predicting I won't be getting sand anytime soon because east of Jordan is stuck in the middle of ONE. ENORMOUS. UNENDING. GIGANTO. DROUGHT.

BOOM comes the thunder from outside.

Then rain starts to fall.

Serious rain.

ARAM looks outside as JOSIE jumps onto the davenport and holds the Bible towards the sky, beaming.

BECKY

¿Más tequila, hombre?

Blackout.

END ACT ONE.

ACT TWO. FLOOD.

SCENE 6. WHEN THE FLOOD SURFACED THE SAND TO BE LAID AT THE ALTAR, THE SISTER CAME TO BELIEVE SHE WAS NOT ONE OF THE WATCHERS, WHICH CAUSED HER ANGUISH.

Storm.

Serious rain. Water sloshes the exterior of the upstage rectangular window.

At lights, JOSIE is alone on stage. She evaluates the change in weather, the curtains open.

JOSIE moves to take hold of the golden cup, empty. She goes upstage and places the golden cup into an upstage cupboard. Closes the cupboard. Opens.

The golden cup is full of wine.

ARAM [OFF]

[Approaching] Josie! Josie!

JOSIE

Another sign.

The door doesn't open, and ARAM kicks it open. He's drenched. His face, hair and body are coated with sand.

ARAM

Josie! You gotta look! Right there. You see? Right there, in my hand.

JOSIE

From my hands.

ARAM

I was straddling the riverbed when the runoff came surging past the cragged rocks at the bend. And swarmed the gully, just filled it!, a cascade of gushing water! And I thought there's no way we're gonna find sand but all of a sudden...almost holding still against the tide. This beautiful shimmering immaculate orb.

JOSIE

Downstream.

ARAM

Almost glowing. And another floated by, and another, and the eddy sort of separated, the river kind of—

JOSIE

Parted?

ARAM

—and there was a mound of it. And I sifted through one pile, saw it was attached to another pile...we gotta get the truck loaded!

JOSIE

Dad’s truck.

ARAM

As much as that old thing can bear before the sand gets flushed out the Mississippi. We could see full flooding at any moment.

JOSIE

[Flipping Bible pages] Yes, flood.

ARAM

Load the truck and head out!

JOSIE

We’re not leaving.

ARAM

[Drinking from the cup] Hell we aren’t!

JOSIE

[The Bible, finding it] ‘And to the earth I will bring a flood of waters.’

ARAM

Yeah look, if you could stop quoting from Bullshitikus for one second and pay attention to current events *we just scored the motherlode!*

JOSIE

‘And I will return to dry the earth.’

ARAM

[Perhaps having gulped the balance of the cup] Doubt that. We got one wild scene out there. Rain pelting, sky water-whirling, ground oversaturating. Never seen anything like it.

JOSIE

It's happening.

ARAM

Roads mud up too much, could get undrivable, maybe sink the truck, swallow it whole and us along with it.

BECKY arrives, shuffling, dragging both her and ARAM's duffel.

ARAM

Becky! Talk to me!

BECKY

¡Mas arena!

ARAM

How we doing!

BECKY

¡Pesado!

ARAM

Why are you bringing the sand in here? We need it in the truck!

JOSIE

Aram, where we're standing, east of Jordan, God's last prophet has appeared.

ARAM

Look outside, sister, that's what's appeared.

BECKY

¡Llueve!

ARAM

This isn't normal rain, okay? This kind of rain can cut into our profit, F-I-T. Wash away the sand before we snag the bounty and get to safe ground.

As the scene continues, BECKY sees sand from her duffel is wet, so she goes to remove sand from ARAM’s duffel.

In doing so, BECKY encounters more tools of the day from ARAM’s duffel: stick deodorant, YETI mug, etc. She throws these aside before finally finding dry sand.

Before the side door that won’t open, BECKY attempts to lay handfuls of dry sand on the ground. She does this in a meticulous pattern. Periodically, BECKY makes low guttural sounds; solemn, prayer-like.

JOSIE

Elijah foretold this. He’ll be back at the door tonight. [Close, sotto] He doesn’t want Becky to know.

ARAM

She knows, alright? She’s the reason I was able to get away in the first place. She’s the reason we’re here now.

JOSIE

Canaan.

ARAM

Minnesota. I kind of ran ahead once she said East Of Jordan. She thinks I’m helping her get sand so she can rejoin you-know-who. She’s doesn’t know my plan to hoard it all, the cliff at the edge of light. We’re gonna load up the truck and bolt before she catches on.

JOSIE

We’re staying.

ARAM

Not on my Watch.

JOSIE

Watch this! Totally empty...[JOSIE places the golden cup in the cupboard and closes the cupboard door]...and now...[JOSIE opens the cupboard door and takes the golden cup]...full!

ARAM

The hell?

JOSIE

Elijah must have given the cabin some kind of divine access.

ARAM

How much of this have I been drinking? Mixing wine and tequila is not a sacramental act, Josie.

JOSIE

We are in the midst of some serious biblical influence.

ARAM

Sister, there's two possibilities for our lifetime. The first is that we lurch along day to day doing whatever it takes to get from coffee to wine. The second is that God will appear with a thumbs-up and a high-five. You figure it out.

JOSIE

The hands of God are His eyes. You and I are the eyes, Aram. With different ways of seeing things yet sharing the same vision.

ARAM

You know you're talking weird now.

JOSIE

Prepare for His Arrival, for God is coming back.

ARAM

I've come back. *For you*. You still don't get it, do you. You're the only religion I've ever had. You're the only religion I've ever needed. I want you to stop believing in that [the Bible] and start believing in me.

JOSIE

Yet you heard a voice. The tree spoke to you.

ARAM

Telling me what I already knew. That there’s nothing stronger in the world than brother and sister. Mom decided to squat us out on this flat unappealing patch of nowhere. Except we were DOA, stillborns. But Dad said an Angel came to take our souls and Mom with her last gasp of breath pleaded for our lives and we were revived! But Mom died from complications, and the Angel took her instead and Dad took to the word of God, turned from the world and buried himself in that book. That was the three of us. Now the two of us. That’s why this can’t fall apart. Grab the sand and get you to safety.

JOSIE

What if God is the ultimate safety? Loving, full of kindness and grace?

ARAM

Dad was the only God in our lives, the only God that showed himself, a tyrant with rules and malice, and it was all based on [The Bible] that. We have to take on the world or the world comes after you and does what it wants. And that kind of prophecy has a dangerous way of coming true. [Seeing BECKY placing sand on the floor] Becky, what the hell are you doing?

JOSIE

Elijah is the sign.

ARAM

[To BECKY] Not in el cabin, *el truck!*

BECKY

El suelo!

JOSIE

And Elijah wants you to bring him the sand.

BECKY

No Elijah.

ARAM

Josie, there’s...things you don’t know about, okay, things that Becky has promised, for us, and I’ll tell you everything while we’re cruising top speed without brakes to the cliff at the edge of light, okay? But to get there we gotta grab whatever sand is left before the flood washes it all away.

JOSIE

I see it so clearly now. I see you didn't run away because Dad was wrong. You ran away when you realized Dad was right. And you couldn't face that [the Bible] this is real.

ARAM

You don't understand.

JOSIE

I understand it's time to stop speaking past me, Aram! I understand it's time to stop 'going with it', to stop defiling your way into things far more powerful than you can understand. It's time to simply do that for which we have been born: to Watch!

JOSIE by now holds the end of the electrical cord tethered to the standing lamp, showing the plug end not connected to anything, the lamp lit and active.

JOSIE

I understand this isn't a cabin. You brought us to the altar. East of Jordan.

ARAM

Jordan, *Minnesota*.

JOSIE

Maybe that's not where we are. A twin sister and brother, their souls recovered at birth, their father turned by the acts of God, so he subjects them to ancient rites, to prepare them, to keep them between death and life, until the brother runs away and they remain separate until The Angel brings them to lay sand, the first artifact of the world at the corner of the altar, before the sign of Elijah the last prophet, where they will Watch God's return and finally go forth, into the end of days.

The sound of distant thunder.

ARAM

You said East of Jordan!

BECKY

Mmm.

ARAM

Alright, let's—

JOSIE

Get. The. Sand.

ARAM

It's not that simple.

JOSIE

And bring it here to give to Elijah.

BECKY

No Elijah.

JOSIE

[To BECKY] You were the tree. I see this now.

ARAM

You really don't.

JOSIE

Greetings, stranger in a strange land. Fear not, as I am God's Watcher.

BECKY

Ángel Rebeka Observadora.

JOSIE

Ángel. Don't you see, Aram, she's not just a tree, she's The Angel!

BECKY

Observadora.

JOSIE

Sorry, I don't speak Canaan.

BECKY

Observ-a-dora.

JOSIE

...one who...

ARAM/BECKY

...

JOSIE

Observes.

A long moment as the storm continues.

JOSIE

...a Watcher?...

ARAM/BECKY

...

JOSIE

...but there are two Watchers...right?

ARAM/BECKY

...

JOSIE

Well if she's one, and...if I'm...

ARAM/BECKY

...

JOSIE

If she's one of the Watchers...

ARAM/BECKY

...

JOSIE

Two stars. Stuck in the middle. As if attached. Becky the Angel...

ARAM/BECKY

...

JOSIE

...and you...chained to Becky.

Another very long moment, JOSIE realizing.

ARAM

Josie.

JOSIE

I'm not a Watcher.

ARAM

You're my sister.

JOSIE

Just a sister.

ARAM

Who I came back for.

JOSIE

[To BECKY] That's what you told Aram. That you two are The Watchers.

BECKY

Vámonos.

ARAM

[To BECKY] Hold on.

BECKY

Mas arena.

ARAM

I said hold on.

JOSIE

Both of you knew.

ARAM

Dad—

JOSIE

—Dad knew? —

ARAM

—Dad didn't die because I ran away, he died because—

BECKY

—hombre—

ARAM

—when the sign came I told him I wouldn't let what happened to me happen to you. I told him you were more important to me than God.

BECKY

Hombre!

JOSIE

You saw the sign.

ARAM

I was going to tell you.

JOSIE

Both of you saw Elijah?

ARAM

No, the red sky, the stars. The final time I was chained up.

JOSIE

...my whole life.

ARAM

But if this [place] is what you say it is, we gotta grab the sand and go.

BECKY

Dios esta llegando.

ARAM

Well we won't be here to meet Him.

BECKY

¿Como qué?

ARAM

I'm sorry you were left behind the last time God was here, but this is my sister.

BECKY

Es nuestra Dios.

JOSIE

Why didn't you tell me.

ARAM

Becky said if I help get the sand she'd try to save you. But I've seen the world and those promises just don't mean what they used to. I'm not saying I don't believe [the Bible] it happened. I'm saying I don't want it to come back. Because if it does come back...it will destroy everything.

JOSIE

Including me.

ARAM

Which is why I'm back. And I'll be back. For you. With the sand.

JOSIE

How can we run from God?

ARAM

We've already started. So get ready cuz we're leaving.

ARAM goes off into the rain with his duffel, leaving JOSIE and BECKY with each other for a beat.

BECKY grabs her duffel and shuffles off, shutting the front door behind her.

JOSIE alone, the rain falling.

Lights shift.

SCENE 7. IN HER DESPAIR, THE SISTER SHUT THE ALTAR DOOR, TRAPPING ELIJAH, WHO BORE INTENT TO TURN AWAY THE LORD AND PROTECT ALL SINNERS OF THE LAND.

A mystical red develops from the cabin exterior, dousing the forest pines in crimson ember. It is more than a sunset. It is a burning fire on the horizon.

We hear the sound of ravens.

ELIJAH moves across the exterior and goes towards the front door. There is a moment before ELIJAH walks back to the upstage rectangular window.

Against the glowing red backdrop ELIJAH looks inside the cabin and sees it empty.

JOSIE [OFF]

Well well! Looks like we got a visitor! Who is that down there?

ELIJAH

Who indeed.

JOSIE [OFF]

That must be Elijah. That you Elijah?

ELIJAH

Yes.

JOSIE

Alright, Elijah's here! We can start the party! Welcome to the end of the world party!

ELIJAH

Come down and open the door.

JOSIE

The party's not down there, the party's up here. One hell of a sign up here! You Watching this? I'm Watching.

ELIJAH

I cannot pass the altar without you opening the door.

JOSIE

But listen, now that you're here, now that you're adorning us with your esteemed presence, get your ravens outta the way, huh? Blocking my view. Whoa! Forget it, bunch of 'em just got their wings flamed off, if that ain't scalping 'em bald! Come on up and join me! Some scorched air, some wine!, roast raven. Oh, also, we got God coming!

ELIJAH

Sitting up there is the wrong place to be when the fire comes.

JOSIE

...well if you're gonna get all Biblical about it. Need a refill anyway.

A moment, before JOSIE totters past the exterior window towards the front door, hiccupping.

We hear the doorknob jostle, but it doesn't open.

Then JOSIE shoulders the door open. She holds the golden cup.

ELIJAH enters the cabin and moves to the side door.

JOSIE

Something to be-hold up there, huh? The sun a closed eye, a grim haze, spirals of fire from it spouting swirls of red fury, above black cloud corpses where all the blue used to be. Angry sparks and yellow flashes raining a bloody mist turning to ash-like snow, charring the tops of burnt trees. Very foreboding-like!

ELIJAH

Where is the sand.

JOSIE

Not that it matters anymore but this stuff tastes nasty, you know?

ELIJAH

This is barely a handful.

JOSIE

Like someone took a bunch of grapes and walked all over 'em. When throats shall drip of salty bunions! Drip dry cuz that sky: burning up! Burning up and freezing cold!

ELIJAH

I told you where the sand would be.

JOSIE

And I told Aram.

ELIJAH

Where is the rest?

JOSIE

God, you know where the sand's at? I think He's busy.

ELIJAH

You were out there.

JOSIE

Course I was out there. What else am I gonna do? I may not be The Watcher but I'm still Watching! All I know to do. Watching-high-and-Watching-low, fire-above-and-flood-below!

ELIJAH

I am talking about sand.

JOSIE

And I'm talking about being *resolute*. Dry and unnerved, here at the end, God coming down!

ELIJAH

You are not well.

JOSIE

Makes you say that.

ELIJAH

Your eyes.

JOSIE

'He will turn the eyes of fathers to children, and the eyes of children to fathers, and I will strike with a curse.'

ELIJAH

And I am here to stop that.

JOSIE

Didn't even get wet out there. Isn't that something? You and I in the flood before the fire and not getting wet?

ELIJAH

This is not enough to lay a path.

JOSIE

Looks fine to me but what do I know. Apparently not a lot. Apparently what I thought was all wrong. Everything I thought, wrong.

ELIJAH

As it has first been carried in, now I may touch it.

I will get the rest of the sand myself and return.

Wait here, from this moment forward leave open the door.

JOSIE shuts the front door before ELIJAH can exit.

As dialog continues, JOSIE goes to the upstage cupboard, placing inside the empty golden cup.

JOSIE

Uh oh! You open doors now, too? Otherwise, guess you're stuck in here with me. Heartbroken me. Devastated, despairing and anguished me. But still Watching! 'Til I die. Which could be any minute now. But until then...

JOSIE opens the cupboard and takes the golden cup, full.

JOSIE

Hey-ooo! Some more of this while the sky comes down! But we're good cuz this is the Tent of Meeting, right? I hear that's what people do in Canaan, they sit around and meet. Talk about things.

ELIJAH

Open the door.

JOSIE

...no one ever bothered us. Our house, there was always food, somehow. Our clothes never soiled. Never injury, or harm.

ELIJAH

Open the door so I may get the rest of the sand.

JOSIE

My whole life, waiting to do one thing. And for that, never once giving in to the curiosity of what it's like out there. *The struggle* in that. Every day that battle. Is this what people talk about?

ELIJAH

We have no time because there is no time.

Time has stopped and the world sees Him descending.

As He first descended, east of Jordan.

JOSIE

What if there's no sand? If we don't have it, God can't come through the altar.

ELIJAH

The Angel will lay the path herself and let God return to earth.

One Watcher and the sand is enough for the ritual to happen.

I must do it before her, to stop God, so open the door.

JOSIE

...I should be reeling, I should be...weeping, *seized*, my soul and spirit flooded with *reverence*...when I should be more sure than ever! I mean, what do you think that is up there, huh? I'm thinking God's lips puckering up for a big welcome back kiss.

ELIJAH

It is a cloud of fire that will radiate until He descends and turns everything to dust and smoke.

JOSIE

Best keep on the cup then.

ELIJAH

Flooding cities, then burning nations.

JOSIE

Drinking with Elijah!

ELIJAH

As it was in the days of Noah, when He reset the earth.

JOSIE

Well. Hope Aram's back to Watch it.

ELIJAH

Where are they.

JOSIE

Just here, a second time.

ELIJAH

With the sand.

JOSIE

First time Aram showed me a grain and Becky said you're not the Watcher.

ELIJAH

What do you expect her to say.

To confuse you, to get both of you here, believing it will save the other.

JOSIE

Second time they saw the sky, realized what's about to happen. Aram wanted to bring the truck to the wadi, put the sand right in it there and head out. Becky trying to wrestle the keys from him. Pretty wild Watching your brother get in a sand fight with God's abandoned Angel.

ELIJAH

So you are aware.

JOSIE

At the very spot of God's return, and not one agrees. The tortured. The abandoned. The exiled.

ELIJAH

The terrified.

JOSIE

...you.

ELIJAH

It never ends.

JOSIE

Guess it never ends up the way you thought it would. Even when it's the way you waited your whole life for it to be. I didn't even recognize you.

ELIJAH

Four hundred years as slaves in Egypt, what did you think we looked like.

What do you think God looks like.

JOSIE

Like me...Watching.

ELIJAH

A thousand years, gone.

While His people suffered, in so many ways suffered, and it was only I Watching.

Unable to help.

And now He comes back.

I need you to open the door.

JOSIE

...when I should know...when I should be certain...

ELIJAH

Confusion and doubt, the ingredients of fear.

Fear and curiosity, the doorway to horror.

Like the people I have Watched.

The ones who dance without seeing me right beside them, who sing with me right there listening, who laugh so hard you think they are crying.

They all live in horror of this very moment.

JOSIE

What about you?

ELIJAH

Banished to the wadi, while my family was slaughtered.

My sister.

JOSIE

...guess I never got that part.

ELIJAH

Many parts go untold.

The age of God, when darkness followed every sun.

When bloodthirst crept from the shadows.

You knew why we were here, and who you served.

He knew how to laugh.

JOSIE

My Dad said the rain was God's laughter.

ELIJAH

We hide from God in the rain.

Your father tell you I was a potter? Cups, bowls, no one important.

The first time I heard the voice I was terrified.

No one wanted to be called to prophecy, we sought to avoid His dominion.

But the small voice again: *Eliahu Hanavi*.

I did the only thing I could, I turned fully to His will. A zealot!

Otherwise, to serve with half heart and unsure throat was to place yourself between Sodom and Gomorrah.

So I went forth to confront Jezebel, her false idols like monuments above the land.

And at the altar I laid sand and raised my arms to usher His fire to the world.

And in her defeat? Jezebel ordered my death, and the death of all prophets.

Surely God would extend that flame, incinerate the wicked, protect his believers?

‘Eliahu: the wadi: leave all behind.’

Having served with such devotion, told to run, while my people exterminated, my own sister cut by the sword.

It was that moment I gave voice to what all silently ask, when I finally questioned from my heart to God: *where have you gone?*

And I was condemned.

To walk through doors and sit in chairs, to watch fathers carve foreskins from newborn boys, to drink at every ceremony from the cup of remembrance, to be His never-ending fairy tale, trapped between death and life, forever serving both, because I questioned.

Well.

You walk through enough doors and sit in enough chairs and drink from enough cups and you realize: it just takes one question.

And God will laugh at you.

We hear thunder in the distance.

JOSIE

My whole life has been that fear.

ELIJAH

And mine.

JOSIE

But if you have the answer to why we're here, wouldn't every breath be in service of that? Wouldn't every thought, every move be for that? And yet Aram asked Dad: 'where's God been all these years?' 'If God wants us to follow, why isn't God here to lead?' It's like the more he questioned the further away God was.

ELIJAH

Until He is barely there at all.

JOSIE

Until Aram wasn't the only one asking. When Dad chained him the final time, the wind tearing at him, his throat unable to open, his arms dangling like they were broken, I finally did something. I told Dad what you're doing isn't Godly. But I still didn't open the door to save Aram. Maybe Aram didn't kill Dad, maybe I did. But I didn't even think to blame God. Because I didn't trust Him. There was nothing to keep me from leaving, to go see the world for myself. But you become so familiar with it [the Bible]. It's the only world you want to know. Because it isn't here.

ELIJAH

We are all exiled.

In mine, I Watch the millions of millions who go their own way of belief.

From one language, many languages, all asking the same thing, if you listen.

Where has God gone?

Will God's eternity be any better than what the people have become?

Always with the door open, singing my name, the people have become my refuge.

The people have kept me when God did not.

Who shall protect the people now?

ELIJAH [CONT.]

Who shall be *their* Watcher?

So before God descends I will lay sand at this altar so that I will go before first to question again!

And send God away to His absence, to His *indifference*!

His *indifference*, which is worse than His absence.

JOSIE

Ours? Or God's?

ELIJAH

...you are not like other Watchers.

JOSIE

Now I'm just a sister.

ELIJAH

I cannot remember what my sister looks like.

If my sister will even be there.

If God will rejoin us all in the world to come.

JOSIE

Guess we'll find out. I mean this is the first time God's come back.

ELIJAH

...

JOSIE

This isn't the first time.

ELIJAH

Once, a thousand years ago.

JOSIE

This is the second time God's come back.

ELIJAH

It was a quiet affair, the world less aware.

The Watcher and sand were maneuvered into position by The Angel, but before she could stop me, since she cannot see me, I was first to God's face.

A great lidless eye, brighter than a thousand suns, eons of eternity that only death can understand.

But I questioned.

And I sent God away, and when I returned to earth, I was still not among the living.

But neither was The Watcher.

JOSIE

The Watcher dies.

ELIJAH

The world is now Watching.

Their souls quake with awe.

Even so, how many will come?

How many will abandon their comforts, their tools, their routines, their very lives.

Even the ones who say they are ready, are they truly?

Would you decide for them?

JOSIE

My whole life, behind that closed door. Believing the world's sickness cast against my faith. I couldn't tell if I was Watching for something, or against something. I don't even know who the sinners are out there, but I'm supposed to decide their fate? Let my brother die for them?

ELIJAH

There is a richness of sin not even God could foresee.

And a goodness of sin, too, I would not take it from the people.

No more that I would take the world away for what the people have become.

ELIJAH [CONT.]

Let the people be what they are, I will tell God.

Let them remain in this kind of exile, alone without knowing, and just the right amount of fear.

Go back to wherever it is You go, and leave them in death before life.

Come not again for a thousand years.

JOSIE

But Aram needs to be here to Watch. The Angel said.

ELIJAH

I told you The Angel speaks in tongues.

The Angel is a Watcher, but only over the souls of the dead.

She rejoins them, the souls of the dead to God.

But since God was last here the dead have had nowhere to go, alone, their souls her burden.

The Angel Watching the dead, while I the living.

I feel for her as I do all those abandoned and estranged.

But Angels and prophets have never agreed.

And the only one who can Watch the return of God...is the one who can see me.

JOSIE

...me.

ELIJAH

Yes.

JOSIE

...I am The Watcher.

ELIJAH

The Angel used your brother to bring you both here.

Would you have gone forth otherwise?

A long moment.

JOSIE

Dad knew this moment would come. When Aram would be out there, chained up to the world, and I'd face the choice, to stay inside or go forth, to question, to defy God. Dad wasn't preparing me, Dad was warning me. *Dad was my sign.*

ELIJAH

Open the door.

JOSIE

Aram's still part of this.

ELIJAH

He was.

Like my sister, he will die.

But I will save all brothers and sisters still out there.

The ones God did not care to Watch the last thousand years for Himself.

JOSIE

I don't know.

ELIJAH

Look outside: is this how you thought God would be?

Is this how you thought the world would end?

A very long moment.

JOSIE opens the door. This has meaning.

The rain continues, the storm lashes with renewed intensity, thunder explodes.

ELIJAH

Light the candle!

And prepare for the coming of the Lord!

ELIJAH goes off into the storm, the ravens following.

JOSIE

‘And they knew they were running from the Lord, for they had already done so.’
If I can’t save you, Aram, I’ll die with you. God can Watch that sign.

*JOSIE goes out into the storm, closing the
door behind her.*

*The light from the standing lamp
sputters...then extinguishes.*

The stage is in red-out.

SCENE 8. TO REQUEST LENIENCY FOR HER BROTHER THE SISTER WENT BEFORE THE FACE OF THE HOLY, AND FOR HER SACRIFICE WAS BLINDED WITH THE SIGHT OF SAND, AND IMPRISONED WITHIN THE ALTAR...WHERE SHE AND HER BROTHER REMAIN TO THIS DAY.

The cabin is in internal darkness, swarmed by a red from outside which now develops further, dousing everything in crimson hue.

Supplanting the fury of storm is a new sound. A distant throbbing pulse, deep and sonorous, slow in rhythm, long in frequency, almost vibrating the walls of the cabin, an approaching.

The truck rumbles near. As the opening of the show, headlights slash the interior cabin walls. A driver's door opens and shuts.

BECKY shuffles quickly past the exterior of the upstage window towards the front doorway.

We hear BECKY impatiently jostle the doorknob, and then either shoulder or kick open the front door, BAM!

BECKY stands in the threshold of doorway, perhaps a silhouette against the red.

BECKY then moves back across the exterior of the upstage window towards off.

We hear a second driver's door open and shut.

BECKY helps JOSIE past the exterior window towards the front door.

JOSIE is coughing, sputtering, almost gagging.

BECKY brings JOSIE into the cabin and helps her onto the davenport.

JOSIE

...I wanted to drown with him...why didn't you let me drown with him...

BECKY goes to the front door and shuts it.

JOSIE

You knew I was The Watcher. You used Aram to get me here.

BECKY moves to the sand on the floor by the side door, begins to sweep it aside, clearing for a new path.

ELIJAH moves past across the outside window.

JOSIE

He's not lost to the flood yet, I can feel it. He's still out there. We have to go back.

The pulse sound intensifies.

JOSIE

He's been tortured enough. I can't let him die like this! Not alone. We should die together. And then you can lay the sand, and go first through the altar, and rejoin our dead souls to God, before he burns the world.

As JOSIE continues dialog BECKY goes to the front door and opens it.

ELIJAH is there, waiting.

BECKY moves past ELIJAH, not seeing him, and goes off towards the truck.

ELIJAH picks up BECKY's duffel, which was off to the side, and moves into the cabin with it.

From the duffel ELIJAH begins grabbing sand.

JOSIE

I won't Watch. I'll look away. I'll crawl out the door, find my way back to the river. I'll burn there, sink to its depths, where the sand has fallen, drown with sand in my throat, so God will know a sister died for her brother.

We might hear BECKY scream from offstage.

ELIJAH has started sifting streams of sand onto the ground before the side door.

BECKY runs back on, immediately towards JOSIE.

BECKY

¿Dónde está mi bolsa?

JOSIE

It drowned with Aram.

BECKY

¡Mi bolsa es en el auto!

JOSIE

I have to drown with him!

BECKY

¡Mi bolsa tiene la...[seeing sand being spread on the floor]...¡ahh!

JOSIE

Aram?

BECKY

¡Arena!

JOSIE

Elijah!

BECKY

¿Dónde?

JOSIE

There.

BECKY

¡No puedo verle!

ELIJAH

Watcher, light the candle!

JOSIE

Aram waded out, to grab the last of the sand, I jumped in.

ELIJAH

Light the candle!

JOSIE

The Angel drew me out. Don't start yet, let me go back out there.

ELIJAH

Light the candle!

JOSIE

We don't have matches.

ELIJAH goes upstage and opens the cupboard. He finds a single match. ELIJAH strikes the match and lights the candle atop the cake.

BECKY

¡Tienes que detener!

JOSIE

I've never been able to stop it.

ELIJAH

The candle is lit!

The Holy ground is lain!

The path set for me to block His arrival!

BECKY

Dios está aquí.

ELIJAH

Watcher!

BECKY

¡Dios está aquí!

ELIJAH

Watcher!

JOSIE moves.

ELIJAH

Blessed are you, King of All Kings, who has chosen this day to rekindle the storm of the earth!, and claim His estate with great wrath!

The pulsing tone continues, swelling.

BECKY from her duffel takes remaining handfuls of sand. She continues forming an extended path before the side door.

ELIJAH

There is none like You!

BECKY

¡Girad vuestros ojos y arrodillaos ante el trono de Dios!

ELIJAH

There is none like the Holy of Holies, who bows the heavens and makes His plan for the world!

BECKY

¡Girad vuestros ojos y arrodillaos ante el trono de Dios!

The sound is perhaps now a tonal drone, almost harmonic, vibrating the ground.

ELIJAH

With His hand extending to reclaim all nations!

BECKY

¡Girad vuestros ojos y arrodillaos ante el trono de Dios!

ELIJAH

Who comes to see His remnant, and lay waste upon the seas and the shores!

BECKY

¡Girad vuestros ojos y arrodillaos ante el trono de Dios!

ELIJAH

But I am here first to greet you at the gate!

Eliahu Hanavi, your final prophet, your first power, who has long been silent,
while you have long been still!

Who will speak again with you and take upon your lidless eye!

AND BEHOLD!

BECKY opens the side door and across the stage, cutting the red, streams a brilliant white light.

The sound has reached an almost deafening pitch, shaking open cabinet doors.

ELIJAH

Before You I consecrate this path!

Before You I sanctify the doorway with this final mark of sand!

And by completing the trail only I!, with the final mark placed before You!, only I
may walk through!...and into...

But JOSIE has BECKY's duffel.

ELIJAH

Give me the sand!

JOSIE spreads sand before her as she walks to the side door.

JOSIE

HEAR ME OH LORD!

ELIJAH

What are you doing?

BECKY

¿Qué estás haciendo?

JOSIE

I am Josie, daughter of her father, and sister of Aram!

I am the flood and the fire and the sign everlasting!

When I call you will say Here I Am!

And You will take me before Your face!

You will take me before You for I am your Watcher and no evil has known me!

And neither has life for I have only lived in death!

And I come to You with a naked glare!

To question, and ask for my brother! To save Aram and send you away!

JOSIE passes through the doorway and goes to off, the side door shutting behind her.

The sound reaches climax and we hear trees falling, ground splitting, wind screaming, the world collapsing.

And then: ARAM crashes through the upstage rectangular window, a muddy wet sandy mess, stopping all sound, bringing the noise and madness to a halt.

ARAM has his duffel.

ARAM

Well! Crazy weather, huh!

BECKY/ELIJAH

...

ARAM

Josie?

BECKY

Elijah.

ARAM

...????...

BECKY

Aqui.

ARAM

Josie.

BECKY

Alli.

*ARAM tries to open the side door, but it
doesn't budge.*

ARAM

Alright, well, there I was trying to grab the rest of the sand when Josie came running into the river, the flood following her. Tried to keep our heads above the swell but got separated, everything falling into red. Damned if I'd go down without her. Kicked and swam my way to town. Jordan's a mess. Streets underwater, motor homes, mountains and laundromats on fire and everything else pretty much blowing up. So when I fight against flood and fire all the way back to get my sister...

ELIJAH

She went before Him.

ARAM

You hear that?

BECKY

No.

ARAM

Well whatever's going to happen to me has already been done. So let me take this chance to rise on up, and say to the on up: hey, God! If you're really here, if you really decided to show up: THANKS FOR NOT BEING THERE WHEN I NEEDED YOU. [To BECKY] Or would my saying that get you upset?

ELIJAH

I have waited a thousand years to say that very thing.

ARAM

Just like my sister being taken, that would get me upset. Cuz that kind of agitation rattles the innards, and I have to rid all that drink this cup's been providing. So I might get a little agitated and piss all over Genesis and piss all over Exodus and piss all the way through the very last word before wiping myself clean on whatever dry spot remains before I take this book and chain it up to the one remaining Angel on earth and prevent her from rejoining the creator of the universe, cuz I don't want to lose my sister. Now I'm not gonna ask again: Where. Is—

The side door opens.

JOSIE appears, enters the cabin, slow and unsure, shutting the door behind her.

ARAM

...hey sis, you were kind of in the closet there.

JOSIE

...years....

ARAM

Well that's fine, I just got back from a briefer rendezvous with death-du-Jordan but everything's under control and as soon as we am-scray with the sand we can head to the cliff at the edge of light.

ELIJAH

What happened.

JOSIE

Elijah?

ARAM

Aram.

JOSIE

Aram.

ARAM

What's with your eyes?

JOSIE

Sand.

BECKY tries to open the side door but it won't budge. It stays shut.

BECKY

No.

JOSIE

All I see is sand.

ELIJAH

You went before the Holy.

And for it you have been blinded.

BECKY

Dios ha dejado.

ELIJAH

What did you say to Him?

JOSIE

Her.

ARAM

Her who.

JOSIE

I saw Mom.

ARAM

Mom?

JOSIE

Where am I?

ARAM

With me. Told you I'd be back, huh?

BECKY opens the front door. Sunshine. A beautiful day. Birds chirping.

ELIJAH

You have sent God away.

Is this what you have done?

JOSIE

...I don't want to remember.

ELIJAH

What about his prophet?

BECKY

¿Qué hay de su Angel?

ELIJAH

Is He gone?

Is He coming back?

BECKY

¿Mil años?

ELIJAH

Is that what He said?, another thousand years?

JOSIE

Mom said we have to stay. A twin brother and sister must remain.

BECKY

Mil años.

JOSIE

I think. She turned, the eye...closed.

ARAM

Hey, it's me. It's us.

ELIJAH

We remain exiled.

Until the next sign.

JOSIE

I don't know.

ELIJAH

Unless the next sign will never come?

JOSIE

It was...

ARAM

Alright, we're getting out of here, right now.

As ARAM gathers items and stuffs them into the duffel, ELIJAH moves to the open front door.

ELIJAH

Maybe He will not return.

Maybe this is as close to the World To Come as we will get.

Forever exiled.

Though for a thousand years more no one will see me, or hear me speak.

Until the keeper of the dead and protector of the living are again called by the sign.

I'll be Watching.

ELIJAH crosses past the exterior window to full off.

ARAM

C'mon, Becky! Sorry about the whole pissing on the Bible thing, we're still alive! We made it! We got all the sand and it looks like God's gone! God isn't coming! Let's get the truck ready to roll.

BECKY

Mil años.

JOSIE

Felt like years.

ARAM

But it's over. Right? It's over?

BECKY

No se.

ARAM

We got a thousand years and then we'll be The Watchers again, right? We'll do better next time? I mean we're not just gonna be left here to...

BECKY

...

ARAM

Well. Guess I'll be with my sister then. Which is all I wanted anyway. Alone. Without God.

BECKY

...adiós, hombre.

BECKY with the truck keys goes out the front door, and shuts it behind her.

ARAM

You know what Jose, forget what you said about staying here, huh? Let's bail to safe ground. I still got all kinds of tools, the flood didn't take everything. How about this? [From his duffel] Shades with polarized block to keep the sun off your...[eyes]...

We hear the sound of the truck driving off.

JOSIE

Mom said we have to stay.

ARAM

Not a good plan, sis, this whole place is falling apart. The front door won't even stay shut.

ARAM tries to open the front door. Shut. Tries again several times. Shut.

ARAM sees the upstage rectangular window is fixed, somehow impassable.

ARAM

...go with it...

As the remainder of the scene plays out the audience sees projected above the stage the words of the scene headings, beginning with the first scene heading and relaying in order the chapter and verse of the entire play.

'AND IT CAME TO PASS AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS THAT A SISTER AND TWIN BROTHER...'

JOSIE

I said I'd like to see the world. With my brother. We're supposed to go forth. We saw the sign, didn't we?

ARAM

Hey, don't worry, you'll see it.

JOSIE

We're supposed to go forth.

ARAM

How long?

JOSIE

A thousand years.

ARAM

You and I have to stay like this for a thousand years.

JOSIE

I think so.

ARAM

An abandoned cabin, nothing to drink, nothing to...

ARAM opens one cabinet and finds the golden cup.

JOSIE

Maybe it never happened.

ARAM

Sure.

JOSIE

I want to forget it happened. Let's forget it ever happened.

ARAM

You asked for me. You went before...and asked for me.

JOSIE

Let's forget it happened.

ARAM

We'll just forget it happened.

JOSIE

Better that way.

ARAM

No one out there will know.

JOSIE

Yes.

ARAM

We'll just be here. The edge of...

JOSIE

Something.

ARAM

And we'll stay, because, your [eyes]...

JOSIE

Maybe Elijah will open the door for us.

ARAM

Sure. But. If not. We'll stay.

JOSIE

For now.

ARAM

For a little bit.

JOSIE

For a while.

ARAM

For some time.

JOSIE

A long time.

And the lights fade to...

Blackout.

*The final words are projected: '...WHERE
SHE AND HER BROTHER REMAIN TO
THIS DAY.'*

END OF PLAY.