

“MODERN PROPHET”

A PLAY IN TWO ACTS

BY SAM GRABER

Sam Graber
2020 Norway Pine Circle, Minneapolis, MN 55305
612-695-3125
samgraber@comcast.net

SYNOPSIS – MODERN PROPHET

Against the backdrop of the Minnesota sand mining boom, an energy scavenger and his sister arrive at the river headwaters just east of Jordan. They soon learn they are not alone. A strange man roams the woods at night. He claims he carries the power of God.

Modern Prophet explores the nature of belief and steps into the crossroads where God's will ends and human divinity begins.

CHARACTERS (2M, 2F)

JOSIE, 30, female, white

ARAM, 30, her younger brother, white

ELIJAH, older, male, African-American

BECKY, early 20s, female, Mexican

TIME

Father's Day.

PLACE

East of Jordan, Minnesota.

SCENES

ACT I. Drought.

ACT II. Flood.

RUN TIME

The estimated run time is 95 minutes.

THE STAGE

The setting is a Minnesota timber lodge cabin.

The cabin is not large or glamorous. It is cramped, dilapidated, and somewhat dusty. Lacquer-style tiling awkwardly canvasses the floor and the ceiling is a rugged patchwork of bygone plywood.

The main front doorway leading to outside is upstage right. A bedroom doorway leads off upstage left.

Between these two upstage doorways is a modular kitchen area, including cupboard cabinetry, older stovetop and tiny sink. Above the upstage sink is a square window providing the only view to outside. Torn curtains shroud this window, the only functional draperies in the cabin.

Downstage center is a worn Davenport. Downstage of this Davenport is a foldout coffee table with one of its four legs missing; stacked cinder used as the substitute.

Set off downstage from the Davenport is a red chair.

FIRST PERFORMANCE

Modern Prophet was first performed on October 16, 2013 at the Northwind Warehouse Theater in Minneapolis, MN, as produced by Mission Theatre Company with Andrea Tonsfeldt as producing director, and stage managed by Samantha Martin.

Directed by Anneliese Stucht, with the following cast:

JOSIE — Katie Willer

ARAM — Aaron Konigsmark

ELIJAH — Sadeeq Ali

BECKY — Maria Signorelli

For my friend Pat Conway.

The question is always: why are we here?

*“Out beyond ideas of right and wrong,
there is a field. I will meet you there.”*

—Rumi

ACT I. DROUGHT.

PRELUDE. THE VOICES SING.

Darkness.

We hear the singing of Eliahu HaNavi. Soft, slow, a lullaby.

VOICE

Eliyahu Hanavi, Eliyahu Hatishbi

Eliyahu, Eliyahu, Eliyahu Hagiladi

A second voice joins on the verse.

TWO VOICES

Bim'hera yavoh eleinu, im mashiach ben David

Bim'hera yavoh eleinu, im mashiach ben David

Four voices reprise the chorus, as if specters from an ancient era.

FOUR VOICES

Eliyahu Hanavi, Eliyahu Hatishbi

Eliyahu, Eliyahu, Eliyahu Hagiladi

As the final words are sung...

A1, S1. EAST OF JORDAN A BROTHER AND SISTER ARRIVE.

Night.

A summer wind blows.

Through the upstage window curtain we see cusps of wind whip the outline of tall white pines. An elemental dance of night shadows plays across the interior of the Minnesota timber lodge cabin.

We hear a car engine. Headlights slash the cabin walls. The car engine stops, and a door opens and shuts.

ARAM moves across the exterior of the upstage window towards the front door.

ARAM jostles the doorknob, but it doesn't open.

ARAM kicks open the front door, BAM!

He stands in the doorway, a duffel bag over his shoulder, carrying cake.

ARAM

Well, I hope this is the right place now.

ARAM enters the cabin, kicking closed the front door behind him.

ARAM goes to the coffee table lamp and fumbles for a draw string, tugs it once, and the resulting light illuminates the cabin.

ARAM

Eww. Spacious, my ass.

ARAM dumps the duffel bag and places the cake on the coffee table.

He sees the red chair and drags it to aside the Davenport. Everything is set.

ARAM goes to out. The front doorknob spins without the latch mechanism catching.

ARAM

Ah, doors are overrated.

ARAM exits, dragging shut the front door behind him.

We see a struggle as ARAM drags JOSIE past the exterior window. JOSIE is gagged and blindfolded, her hands bound.

ARAM ushers JOSIE through the front door, kicks the door closed behind them and situates JOSIE onto the red chair.

ARAM removes her mouth gag, JOSIE breathes heavy.

JOSIE

Whatever you're after I don't have it. Please. I'm just a social worker for the Minneapolis schools. The PTA has a strict policy not to negotiate with terrorists.

ARAM unzips the duffel bag and removes JOSIE's purse.

JOSIE

I don't have anything of value. Okay? There's nothing in there. No needlepoint or fancy tablet.

From JOSIE's purse, ARAM withdraws needlepoint and iPad.

JOSIE

I don't know why you're doing this to me.

ARAM

Oh, I believe you know why we're here.

Something about his voice. ARAM removes the blindfold.

JOSIE

Holy—

ARAM shoves the gag back into her mouth, holds up the cake, showing one candle.

ARAM

Happy Father's Day!

JOSIE

[Spitting out the gag] You bastard!

ARAM

[Singing] Happy Father's Day to you, Happy Father's Day to you, Happy Father's Day Dead Dad...

JOSIE

You annihilating bastard!

ARAM

[The bag] No matches, huh?

JOSIE

What the hell are you doing?

ARAM

Trying to have a happy Father's Day for dear old dead Dad but you're kind of mucking it up.

JOSIE

Is this some kind of joke?

ARAM

Wait, when's Father's Day?

JOSIE

Today.

ARAM

Then I'm on time.

JOSIE

Back in the country.

ARAM

Obviously.

JOSIE

I can't believe it.

ARAM

Miracles are such a rarity these days. Wonder where they keep the matches around here.

JOSIE

Aram!

ARAM

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

JOSIE

You grabbed me, you accosted me!

ARAM

Yeah, well, the abduction was supposed to occur at what I assumed would be the spacious garage of your gleaming downtown condo but it seems you're still living at our old house! It's been years and you're still living at Dad's house!

JOSIE

Let me out.

ARAM

The hell if I was ever going back there.

JOSIE

Untie my hands.

ARAM uses one knitting needle to cut a slice of cake, which he hand-feeds to JOSIE.

ARAM

So I resorted to Plan B, which I knew wouldn't offer much in the way of resistance because I've come to see through all my travels just how much Americans tend look the other way. Emergencies are such a nuisance. I didn't expect you'd be the only one in the school lot, though. Good cake, huh? I told them of your fondness for all things vanilla. Safe and easy.

JOSIE

Stop. We're getting back in the car.

ARAM

We just got here.

JOSIE

Get these off.

ARAM

I can't do that.

JOSIE

Why not?

ARAM

Because then you'll leave and spoil everything.

JOSIE

Where are the keys?

ARAM

Probably hiding with the matches.

JOSIE

We're leaving.

ARAM

Am I keeping you from other marvelous plans?

JOSIE

My, you know, free will.

ARAM

Two words which do not belong together. The will might be free but the rest of it costs, trust me.

JOSIE

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

ARAM

Certainly you weren't much of a conversationalist during the drive down.

JOSIE

You stuffed a rag in my mouth.

ARAM

I'm not the one making excuses.

JOSIE

Take these off. Aram.

ARAM

Aren't you even curious why we're here?

JOSIE

No.

ARAM

Not even a teeny bit curious?

JOSIE

I have nothing to say to you.

ARAM

Hmm. Really. Last I heard you were trying to track me down.

JOSIE

Who told you that?

ARAM

The Australian phosphate miners. I have a surprise.

JOSIE

Yes, you're still alive.

ARAM

Fine, two surprises, one to go. I came back home--

JOSIE

I don't want to hear another word.

ARAM

[Stuffing cake in her mouth] I came back home because what's about to happen will be the most important event in my life.

JOSIE

[Through the chews] Death by sister?

ARAM

An event of monumental brilliance, which I felt obligated not only to share with but also involve my only remaining relative.

JOSIE

By thinking to kidnap me. I can't believe you thought to kidnap me!

ARAM

I didn't think it. I did it. Little difference between believers and practitioners.

JOSIE

I sat in your car believing I was going to die.

ARAM

Riles the juices, doesn't it?

JOSIE

I'm not joking.

ARAM

Neither am I.

JOSIE

Get the keys and get the car started because you and I—

ARAM

[Shoving another piece of cake into her mouth] Yes, you're thrilled I'm back. I'm sure you stayed up many a frosty Northstar night, fretting over whether I had drowned, or had been split by hot wire, or mutilated by indigenous mobs over the plundering of their natural resources. Poor brother Aram! And what would you have done then, hmm?

JOSIE

I would've gone to Dad's grave and told him not to worry anymore.

ARAM

Well, truly yours didn't succumb! I can't succumb. My sort of energy has proven immutable.

JOSIE

What did you, like finally read a book?

ARAM

Several. Not much else to do at night on the forgotten ends of the planet except drink and think. You like icing?

JOSIE

Not a bit.

ARAM

[Shoving in more icing] Yes, read and drink and think and talk aloud to myself because Dad once said, in between his ridiculous ranting, that if you can't speak the world's language you can't be heard. The only thing he said that made sense. But once you get out there you learn land is a language of its own. And the energy in that land is beyond what can be spoken. But that's the trick, you have to walk right up to that energy and let it know you aren't some foreigner. You belong just like it does. That's what I came back to tell you.

JOSIE

Great, you told me, let's go.

ARAM

Aren't you even curious...?

JOSIE

The last I heard you had up and gone for Canada.

ARAM

Gas drilling the Bakken boom reservoirs. That sucked. Then European stripper wells. Then Australia. Moved to Indonesia, but the palm oil poachers didn't like me, and I don't like getting shot at, so I left. Which took me to Argentina. The government promised me a stake of their shale if I got them tapped, but once I did the bastards repatriated it all. Decided with another guy I met down there to go it ourselves. We grabbed a wind farm off the Atlantic coast. Apparently we needed permission first.

JOSIE

Same old Aram.

ARAM

Which finally took me to South Africa.

JOSIE

With this guy?

ARAM

Oh no, he got arrested.

JOSIE

How many enemies do you have now?

ARAM

Geography takes care of that. And iron bars. No future in iron, by the way. Anyway, South Africa figured out how to convert trees into rayon. But guess what?

JOSIE

They didn't like you, either.

ARAM

South Africa owns the largest paper mill in Minnesota. Well, that's home. A way back to my sister. I made myself a persistent nuisance until they sent me here. Purportedly to show my home team how to turn trees to threads.

JOSIE

My brother, the energy scavenger.

ARAM

We literally could become energy efficient if the world would just get out of my way.

JOSIE

All those selfless do-gooders like me protecting the world from people like you.

ARAM

So I had this epiphany.

JOSIE

Was it malignant?

ARAM

Misdiagnosed, let's call it. Don't you suffer from those?

JOSIE

You have your visions and I have what I have.

ARAM

And we go full circle. Like this cake.

JOSIE

There's no circle, there's no nothing, there's just you, spewing nonsense.

ARAM

Fine. I won't tell you the reason I'm here.

JOSIE

Perfect.

ARAM

I'll reveal my plan once you've loosened up your ears to accept grandeur.

JOSIE

Delusions of. I'd rather you loosen my hands.

ARAM

You won't run away?

JOSIE

I don't even know where we are.

ARAM

Jordan.

JOSIE

Jordan, Minnesota.

ARAM

Little east of it, actually.

JOSIE

You couldn't have kidnapped me a little east of a Radisson?

ARAM

Yes, well, the pictures made this cabin seem more...

JOSIE

Suitable for slaughter.

ARAM

Still nicer than the hovels I've had of late.

JOSIE

Whose place is this?

ARAM

It's not important.

JOSIE

You broke in.

ARAM

Not exactly.

JOSIE

We're leaving.

ARAM

Suit yourself.

They stare at each other.

JOSIE

I'm not going to listen until you untie my hands.

ARAM

That from the PTA, too?

JOSIE

Untie my hands, Aram.

ARAM removes the bonds from JOSIE's hands. She rubs her wrists and stands.

JOSIE

Two bedroom?

ARAM

Supposed to be.

JOSIE

[The side door] This door won't open.

ARAM

Then your ears and that door have something in common.

JOSIE

And the front door won't close.

ARAM

Yes, in all the excitement of dragging you across the threshold I might have dislodged the door from its natural home.

JOSIE

Imagine that. So we're gonna leave it open all night?

ARAM

Relax. We're the only ones out here. There's nobody around for miles. Good thing too because you're gonna need to pass through the door during the night if you want to use the, uh...

JOSIE

The what.

ARAM

The facilities. You can see it, just down the dirt road. I believe they call it a Bluff Buddy.

JOSIE

We are not staying here.

ARAM

Ah c'mon, I just got back to the country after all these years. Give your twin brother one night.

JOSIE

Most people would call ahead: hey, since I ran out on you and Dad I know you haven't heard from me in all these years but I'm alive and I'm stopping back in the country, maybe we could see each other?

ARAM

But that would've spoiled the surprise.

JOSIE

You probably snuck into the country, stole that car, stole that cake, kidnapped me, and broke into somebody's rathole east of Jordan cabin!

ARAM

I wouldn't call this place a rathole.

JOSIE

We're leaving.

ARAM

Look, it's not unlike any other place when the clock gets late. You lie down, you close your eyes, and wait for the sun to rise, when the energy calls.

JOSIE

Unless the actual owner stops by.

ARAM

Guess Dad's not here to drag me outside.

JOSIE

A real shame the poachers didn't have better aim.

ARAM tosses his duffel into the bedroom with the working door.

ARAM

Dibs.

JOSIE

Oh, you do not know how this works.

ARAM

Mañana.

JOSIE

Get back out here!

ARAM goes with the cake into the bedroom and slams the bedroom door.

JOSIE

Annihilating bastard!

ARAM

[From off] Happy Father's Day!

Lights fade.

A1, S2. THE SISTER SEES A FIGURE IN THE FOREST.

Night.

JOSIE awake, fidgeting, evincing the urge to make a Bluff Buddy run.

JOSIE opens the front door, attempts to visually target the Bluff Buddy position.

JOSIE hesitates, then goes, leaving the front door fully open.

We hear the cawing of ravens, drawing nearer, as if swarming.

JOSIE comes rushing back, breathing heavy.

She slams the front door and crouches low, pushing her back against the front door.

JOSIE [TO OFF]

[Whisper-screams] Aram! Aram! Aram!

Lights fade.

A1, S3. BY MORNING THE BROTHER SEARCHES FOR SAND.

Morning.

JOSIE still crouched as before, leaning against the base of the front door.

ARAM emerges from the bedroom, whistling, tying on a worker's belt and tools.

ARAM

I slept great, how 'bout you! Except I had this dream that //you were screaming my name all night.

JOSIE

//I was screaming your name all night.

ARAM

Weird.

JOSIE

I saw a man.

ARAM

Where?

JOSIE

Out there. Last night.

ARAM

You did.

JOSIE

Yes.

ARAM

What kind of man?

JOSIE

I didn't get a good look. It was dark. I was running.

ARAM

I don't see anything.

JOSIE

He was by the trees. A black man.

ARAM

It was dark.

JOSIE

I saw enough of his face. Definitely black.

ARAM

African-American.

JOSIE

African-American: seven syllables. Black: one syllable. I'm telling you about almost getting attacked en route to Bluff Buddy, I don't have time for six extra syllables.

ARAM

That what you tell the kids you serve? No time for cultural sensitivity?

JOSIE

Didn't you hear the birds?

ARAM

If I didn't hear you screaming my name I certainly didn't hear any birds.

JOSIE

There was a man, out there, in the forest.

ARAM

Did he say anything?

JOSIE

I ran back here.

ARAM

Did he follow you?

JOSIE

How would I know? But since this door won't shut I've been crouched like this for hours.

ARAM

I've dealt with plenty strangers in strange lands and the hostile ones usually do more than hang out by Bluff Buddies.

JOSIE

Aram, I'm not joking, I saw someone last night, in the forest, a man, a big man, but hunched over, and he was coming at me.

ARAM

Maybe you misread the situation. Maybe what you saw was a ghost. Dad's ghost. Perhaps this time it was him staked to a tree.

JOSIE

Take me back to Minneapolis.

ARAM

To your tabernacle of solitude. So you can sit there yarning it up at Dad's old table. If you'll excuse me.

JOSIE

You're leaving?

ARAM

Yes.

JOSIE

Great, let's go.

ARAM

Not you. Me. First day on the job. First day at the river. Trolling the trenches.

JOSIE

I told you, I don't want to know about it, and I don't want to be a part of it unless it's getting in the car and heading back to Minneapolis.

ARAM

Sorry, duty calls.

JOSIE

You've held me here, overnight, and there's people running about--

ARAM

I thought it was one guy.

JOSIE

This whole thing is wrong.

ARAM

Explain the wrongness.

JOSIE

First, you kidnapped me. Second, you broke into this place.

ARAM

I didn't break into anything. Tall Scotty set it up.

JOSIE

[Oh, that's terrible] Oh, that's great. What does Tall Scotty have to do with trees?

ARAM

Not a thing. I'm not here for trees.

JOSIE

I thought you said—

ARAM

What I said was I have to tell you about the most important thing that's going to happen ever in the history of our lives and you didn't care to listen.

JOSIE

Well, now that you're giving me a choice. Fine Aram, if listening to you will get the keys in the ignition, please!, I would love to hear all about your latest get-arrested-quick plan.

ARAM

I'm here to find sand.

JOSIE

Sand.

ARAM

Silica sand. Perfect sand, the rarest of sand. Only in Minnesota. The state sitting on top of it all! The purest of quality Northern White sand, round grain crush strength for the oilers in Dakota.

JOSIE

What's sand got to do with oil?

ARAM

They can't frack for oil without it. You haven't heard? The oilers can't drill without this sand. My guess is Tall Scotty's got some whopper of a refinery up on Pebble Lake. And even better, he's probably got connections to rail capacity to haul direct to the oil frackers in North Dakota. But Tall Scotty doesn't have the sand. He's looking for me to bring it to him.

JOSIE

So now you're scavenging for sand.

ARAM

We sight for sand and once we find it we source it to Tall Scotty.

JOSIE

I'm not joining some ridiculous sand hunt.

ARAM

You won't think it so ridiculous when you're rich and spinning as much yarn as you want.

JOSIE

This isn't for me.

ARAM

I'll teach you what to look for. These deposits aren't easy to spot by the untrained eye.

JOSIE

I'm not part of it. I won't be dragged into it.

ARAM

C'mon, let's toil in the dry riverbed, scavenge side by side, and caterwaul about deceased fathers like regular kinfolk.

JOSIE

I won't talk about him with you.

ARAM

Jose—

JOSIE

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

ARAM

I know what I'm doing now. Perfect sand is pulling eighty a ton at market. Dakota oilers are forking out three hundred a ton.

JOSIE

Three hundred what.

ARAM

Dollars.

JOSIE

Per ton.

ARAM

That's right.

JOSIE

Can you even fit a ton in that car?

ARAM

We don't need to pack a ton in the car. All we have to do is show Tall Scotty we have enough to spot the next big sand reservoir.

JOSIE

You don't have a plan, do you, showing up here. Look at you, not even a construction worker flashy shirt.

ARAM

We're not trying to attract attention.

JOSIE

There is no we.

ARAM

Once Tall Scotty sees our first batch, I'll tell him we got an untapped pit, trainloads waiting.

JOSIE

You're not focusing on the real story here. The real story is you left. You ran out on me. No warning, no note, no explanation. Just one morning, gone. Leaving me behind.

ARAM

With Dad and his Bible.

JOSIE

Dad thought he killed you. He thought he did something that caused God to take you, like Mom. And it killed him. And now you come back here, after all these years, sauntering in like nothing ever happened and all you want to talk about is sand. You came back for sand.

ARAM

I came back for you. I came back to Minnesota for you. I came back so we can be together. The sand lets us be together.

JOSIE

Are you even hearing yourself?

ARAM

I'm here to take you away, finally away.

JOSIE

This isn't my idea of taking me away.

ARAM

You don't know what away is because you've never left the house. Well I have. I've been to the great house of the world. The big bruising ball of yours and mine. And I'm back to tell you the world isn't Dad barking Bible orders and punishing us for not believing. The world is feisty and fast and has a tendency to turn off those forgettable stories of the past. We gotta turn with it.

JOSIE

Tall Scotty cannot be trusted. And maybe he's not the only one.

ARAM

Remember that time Dad dragged me outside, tied me to the tree, left me abandoned and desperate?

JOSIE

Gee, let me remember.

ARAM

I'm kind of tied up and desperate again. I'm at the end of the line here, Josie. I've run out of places to go. Maybe this is what Dad always wanted. Me running home so you could finally save me.

JOSIE

Great theory. Why don't you ask him? Oh, wait.

ARAM

Josie.

JOSIE

You don't know what you did to him. And we're not kids anymore. Or at least I'm not.

ARAM

Then stay here.

JOSIE

With a broken door? And some madman running around?

ARAM

You're going to have to come up with something better than Dad's ghost rummaging the forest. You'll be fine. You're used to hanging back and watching me tied up and desperate. Aren't you.

ARAM goes.

Lights fade.

A1, S4. YET THERE WAS NO SIGHTING OF SAND.

Later that morning.

JOSIE is crouched against the front door.

At half-rest on the floor is the iPad, facing upstage.

JOSIE decides to rise from the floor and move to peek through the exterior window curtains, holding the needlepoint for defense.

ARAM kicks open the front door, BAM!

ARAM

Brutal! What a drought! Nothing but dry everywhere. And the mosquitos! Second I bend down to sight a dusty pebble it's like my neck becomes a landing strip. Why we need some rain. Nature's missiles shooting down the flying beasts of sting. And I didn't find any sand, thanks for asking.

JOSIE

I saw him! Again, just now, I saw him!

ARAM

Who?

JOSIE

The man. He was out there.

ARAM

Josie, I was just out there, battling the scourge.

JOSIE

Behind the Bluff Buddy. He had on black robes. Black pants.

ARAM

Got movies on this thing? Man returns home at the end of a long hot first day, deserves some entertainment.

JOSIE

It's ten in the morning.

ARAM

Yeah, well, invite your black-robed woodland friend in for some skin flicks.

JOSIE

Aram, I saw him.

ARAM

[The back of the iPad] Bite of the apple. Man's first sin.

JOSIE

Aram, I saw him.

ARAM

Have any tools on him?

JOSIE

I didn't stick around to...wait, why?

ARAM

Can't get anything done out there alone. Two person job, minimum. I figured you wouldn't be interested so I, uh, took the precaution of enlisting the services of a day laborer.

JOSIE

You hired someone?

ARAM

Not yet. Gotta see if he works out. Posted online for a sighter.

JOSIE

You can't trust online. Those people are lunatics.

ARAM

[Mocking] Black robes, black pants.

JOSIE

Maybe it's the South Africans checking up on you.

ARAM

Half this country can't find Minnesota on a map, trust me neither can the South Africans.

JOSIE

You can't let some online person in here.

ARAM

You can't even get online in here. No signal. And I was hoping this thing would come with naked wenches. Riverbed's not the only thing experiencing a drought.

JOSIE

A man. Was out there. Will you look.

ARAM

Fine.

JOSIE

Thank you.

ARAM

Ah, yes! Let us yank wide the anxiety curtain of sister Josie's imagination to reveal: white pines! Dirt road! Ford Probe with a couple wheels about ready to fall off! Bluff Buddy! And...

JOSIE

What.

ARAM

Okay...

JOSIE

What is it?

ARAM

Uh...

ARAM grabs the needle.

JOSIE

Oh, my God.

ARAM

Coming up the road. And wearing black. But...

JOSIE

But what?

ARAM

[His eyes] Moving kind of strange.

Strange knocks on the front door.

JOSIE

Aram.

*BECKY stands there, wearing black robe
and black pants.*

ARAM

Hello. Hola? Can I help you? En que puedo...help you?

JOSIE

Who is she?

ARAM

Are you here for sighter? Ojos?

JOSIE

Didn't you live in Argentina?

ARAM

Para...damnit what's the word?

JOSIE

Adios.

ARAM

What's your name?

JOSIE

Are you out of your mind?

ARAM

Josie, knock it.

ARAM

Your name, um...

JOSIE

¿Cuál es su nombre?

BECKY

Ángel Rebeke Salinas de Montenegro.

ARAM

Rebeka...de...

BECKY

Ángel Rebeka Salinas de Montenegro.

ARAM

Becky. Call her Becky.

JOSIE

What's she doing here?

ARAM

She must have got my post seeking a day laborer to help us sight sand.

JOSIE

How can you be sure?

ARAM

Why else would she be here? Besides, I might have mentioned to Tall Scotty you'd be along for the ride.

JOSIE

Ask her if she's seen anybody else.

ARAM

Josie—

JOSIE

This isn't who I saw. I saw a man. Ask her.

ARAM

Pray tell, have you witnessed any supernatural apparition or inappropriate phenomenon lurking nearby? Becky says no.

JOSIE

We can't let her stay.

ARAM

So much for the open tent of hospitality. Think I learned that during one of Dad's tree-bound outdoor Bible study sessions.

JOSIE

I think you're in way over your head.

ARAM

You know what your problem is? You're still terrified of challenging authority.

JOSIE

Yes, because I was always forced to watch you get punished for it. How do you think I still feel after all these years?

ARAM

Beats me, you never did anything before.

JOSIE

But you sure did. You ran away!

ARAM

How many times did Dad tie me up in the backyard? Stake me to the tree?

JOSIE

He thought he was doing it for your good.

ARAM

Half-naked. Exposed. Sleeping on my feet.

JOSIE

He thought it was divinely ordained.

ARAM

[As scripture] Make ye the straight and narrow! For the pain shall be deceiving!

JOSIE

[Back at him] Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden!

ARAM

You don't know how many times I was tied to the tree, wishing he was dead.

JOSIE

Well, you got your wish.

ARAM

The only decency I ever learned from all that was this: you're born, you die. That's it. Life is a death sentence. People go in, people go out. And when someone goes out, you can't—

JOSIE

Don't—

ARAM

You can't go out with them. And you can't become their mission. I bet these pipes haven't been touched in years. No aqua.

BECKY produces a bottle.

ARAM

I love this girl.

JOSIE

This isn't right.

ARAM

Gotta be some cups around here somewhere.

As the dialog continues, ARAM goes to the cupboards, opening cabinets.

As ARAM searches we see the cabinetry totally empty.

JOSIE

We can't let her stay.

ARAM

Yeah? What'd Dad ever say about displaced travelers seeking honest work?

JOSIE

Not sure but it's probably right up there with don't kidnap your twin sister.

ARAM

In my experience, these kinds of problems work themselves out. Besides, something tells me Becky's the kind of girl who can take care of herself. Ah, there we go.

In one cabinet ARAM finds a single golden cup.

JOSIE

She can't stay here.

ARAM

Because she's exposed? You know sis, all those nights Dad left me out there, parched, drained, forsaken, tied to the tree, you never once came to save me. But Scotty did. [To BECKY] You're hired. [Starts pouring from the bottle into the golden cup] And let the night's festivities begin.

Lights fade.

A1, S5. THE BROTHER DOES NOT OFFER TO STRANGERS.

Night.

On the coffee table is the iPad, still perched at half-rest, facing upstage.

From the iPad we hear muffled sounds, the light the only illumination serving the room.

Also on the coffee table are the golden cup and the bottle, empty.

ARAM and BECKY are passed out on the Davenport.

A strong tug of wind pushes the front door all the way open, waking ARAM, who groans and taps the iPad screen to deactivate the video.

The front door creaks back and forth on its splintered jamb, guided by the undulations of wind.

We hear the distant cawing of ravens.

ARAM lurches forward and tries to draw from the bottle but it is empty.

Same effort and result with the golden cup.

ARAM then realizes the front door is open and swinging.

The cawing of ravens grows nearer.

ARAM stumbles upstage, kicks shut the front door, and places the red chair against the front door to keep it shut.

ARAM stumbles a step towards the Davenport, but then pauses, and goes to the upstage sink.

ARAM pulls apart the window curtains.

ELIJAH stands there, looking in.

ARAM

HAHAHAHAHAHA! Very funny, Josie.

ARAM jerks the window curtains closed, and stumbles back to the Davenport, where he sees BECKY asleep, vulnerable.

ARAM withdraws a rolled blanket from his duffel and covers BECKY.

ARAM staggers to his original sleeping position on the Davenport, and drifts back into slumber.

Lights fade.

A1, S6. THE SISTER ACCOMMODATES THE MAN FROM THE FOREST.

Morning.

The bottle and golden cup are on the table.

ARAM organizes gear as BECKY watches.

ARAM

It's quite simple how this works. Only certain types of sand are bueno. Smooth good, gritty bad. Got it? Oh, and it can get beady out there so protect your eyes. Anyway, let's not trip each other up while we're sighting.

JOSIE

[Entering from bedroom] Guess we made it to morning.

ARAM

And try not to comprehend a word my sister says.

JOSIE

You're leaving?

ARAM

The crew is preparing to head upstream.

JOSIE

You're going to leave me here.

ARAM

Without rain the gully bed is completely parched, bankrupt dry, so we'll track upstream. [To BECKY] Remember: smooth good, gritty bad.

JOSIE

Aram, just give me the car keys, so I can go.

ARAM

Go? You don't want to go. We're about to prospect our way to immortality. Generations from now, children will gather to hear the tale of Sighter Aram, who in his sort-of younger years cameth east of Jordan to wrestle the land and uncover the pebbles of perfection.

JOSIE

While his sister got mauled by a wild stalker.

ARAM

Well, they won't tell the kids that part.

JOSIE

The keys.

ARAM takes a final swig from the golden cup.

ARAM

Adios.

JOSIE

Aram, the front door won't shut.

ARAM

C'mon Becky, once more to the dry river! Upstream!

ARAM moves the red chair from the front door so that he and BECKY can go.

JOSIE

[Calling to OFF] Perhaps Tall Scotty would be so kind to send someone to fix the door!

We hear the distant cawing of ravens.

JOSIE resets the golden cup on the table and the red chair by the Davenport.

ELIJAH appears in the open doorway, wearing black robes and black pants.

JOSIE

Ahh...

ELIJAH assures the doorway is fully open, scans the interior layout, enters, starts for the red chair.

JOSIE

Look, I, uh...stop. Stop right there!

ELIJAH freezes: is she talking to me?

JOSIE

Just stay back.

Beat.

JOSIE

What do you want.

Beat.

JOSIE

This is a private residence. For someone.

Beat.

ELIJAH

You speak...to me.

JOSIE

Unless you're the someone.

Beat.

ELIJAH

You can see me.

JOSIE

Stay back.

ELIJAH

You can hear my words.

JOSIE

Yeah.

ELIJAH

You can see me and hear my speech.

JOSIE

This is all a mistake.

It is. ELIJAH

Yes. JOSIE

Is this...where I am to be? ELIJAH

Do you live here? JOSIE

I was commanded to go to the wadi. ELIJAH

Whoa. JOSIE

But this is... ELIJAH

I don't know what this is. JOSIE

Jordan. ELIJAH

This is a cabin. JOSIE

I seek Jordan. East of it. ELIJAH

Whatever's east of Jordan you won't find here. JOSIE

But this is east of Jordan? ELIJAH

I guess, yeah. JOSIE

And you can hear me. ELIJAH

JOSIE

What are you doing.

ELIJAH

The door. Open. And the chair.

JOSIE

You're not carrying a knife or anything are you?

ELIJAH

For I tend to leave it behind.

JOSIE

Your knife.

ELIJAH

My hat.

JOSIE

I don't have any hat. Okay? Maybe since this isn't your place you could go back out, through the door, because there's definitely no hat here.

ELIJAH plucks a hat from the back of the red chair.

ELIJAH

My hat.

JOSIE

Oh.

JOSIE

Right. So, then...you're...getting your hat.

ELIJAH

Was. Found it.

JOSIE

Well. Now that you have your...hat...maybe you could bring it...outside. Because my brother should be back.

ELIJAH

Your brother.

JOSIE

Are you here for Aram?

ELIJAH

What is Aram?

JOSIE

A large and destructive force in the universe.

ELIJAH

...

JOSIE

My twin brother.

ELIJAH

And you.

JOSIE

Josie.

ELIJAH

Aram and Josie. I was not told of that.

JOSIE

Look, could you maybe go into town and place a call for me? I need to tell, well, the school that I'm alive.

ELIJAH

And you can see me.

JOSIE

I'm sure someone out by the highway could drive you to town. Actual Jordan. If you just keep walking that way. All the way that way.

ELIJAH

My cup.

JOSIE

Sure. Take it with you, if you want. To town. All the way to town.

ELIJAH

My first cup.

JOSIE

You sure you're in the right place?

ELIJAH

Are you?

JOSIE

No. Not really.

ELIJAH

You have seen the Angel.

JOSIE

What?

ELIJAH

The Angel. You have talked to the Angel.

JOSIE

I've seen my brother.

ELIJAH

And have you spoken to Him?

JOSIE

He's down at the riverbed.

ELIJAH

He is.

JOSIE

With Becky.

ELIJAH

What is His wish?

JOSIE

Like anyone can figure that out.

ELIJAH

If you have spoken to Him, what is it He wishes of me?

JOSIE

Um, to leave?

ELIJAH

But I was commanded to arrive here.

JOSIE

By who?

ELIJAH

The voice. But there was no wadi. Only a strange outdoor stall. But then the door. Open.

JOSIE

Because it won't shut.

ELIJAH

The door. The chair.

JOSIE

It's a cabin.

ELIJAH

And you can hear me.

JOSIE

Okay, forget walking to town. If you can find the car keys, just go. Really, nobody's going to miss an old Ford Probe. Except, maybe, the actual owner.

ELIJAH

[The golden cup] There is nothing in here.

JOSIE

Exactly, nothing you want, trust me.

ELIJAH

I just figured. With you hearing me. And seeing me.

JOSIE

Yeah, I saw you. Last night. Stomping around the woods.

ELIJAH

I am not used to being seen.

JOSIE

You sure scared me.

ELIJAH

I walk at night to drink from the wadi. But the wadi has become dry. No dew nor rain. But the ravens remember. After all this time, they remembered to bring cakes and wine.

JOSIE

Cake.

ELIJAH

Yet in the drought they find neither so the ravens presented mice. Mice meat placed at my feet. My hat. Keeps mice from falling on my head.

JOSIE

That's very interesting.

ELIJAH

All in all the ravens have been kind to me. You have seen the ravens.

JOSIE

No.

ELIJAH

They fly. You fly?

JOSIE

Not so much.

ELIJAH

But I was told. The small voice.

JOSIE

Do you think there's people somewhere in white suits who might be looking for you?

ELIJAH

I am looking.

JOSIE

Wait, are you the sighter?

ELIJAH

Sighter.

JOSIE

Aram said he hired a sighter.

ELIJAH

I have not heard that before. You must be the reformed.

JOSIE

I'm a social worker.

ELIJAH

For the Angels.

JOSIE

For abandoned and abused children.

ELIJAH

Oh. Well. Hat's off to you.

JOSIE

So you're not the sighter.

ELIJAH

I am the keeper of lost causes. The unseen man at the door, the invisible visitor by the chair. And you can hear me.

JOSIE

You're not from around here.

ELIJAH

I was told to come. Go East of Jordan, west of the sun, near the bend in the wadi, by the Angel.

JOSIE

I have no idea what you're talking about.

ELIJAH

But this is...

JOSIE

I don't know whose place it is but it sure isn't mine. This whole thing is Aram's idea.

ELIJAH

Aram.

JOSIE

My brother. He brought me here to go sand hacking or frack-sacking or whatever you call it with sand. But there's this drought and he can't find anything.

ELIJAH

I fail to understand.

JOSIE

It doesn't matter.

ELIJAH

At this point everything matters. Especially to a man who it seems has been abandoned once more to the wilderness. No Angel, no cave, no sign of His presence. Just you. I have erred.

JOSIE

You're going.

ELIJAH

Unless He wishes I remain. His refuge is never far off though it has been long since it has been my strength.

JOSIE

Guess you can't be too dangerous if you're quoting Psalms.

ELIJAH

You know the poetry of King David.

JOSIE

Not by choice. Look, um, give me your hat.

ELIJAH

My hat.

JOSIE

It's frayed. On the edge there.

ELIJAH

Oh.

JOSIE

[Getting her needlepoint] I'll fix it for you. Before you go.

ELIJAH

You will.

JOSIE

I do this for the kids I work with. If I see their collar or sleeve torn. I wonder if it isn't something their father did to them. Guess that's what happens when your Dad was the town weirdo. Besides, you look a little weird with the back sticking out. I mean if you're going to sneak around the woods scaring women at night at least do it with a mended hat.

ELIJAH

Thank you. Sometimes a man does not realize his own vestments are frayed. Well, as you observe people recline in comfort, shifting further from original revelation, you end up relying on human patchwork. But these days any morality gets accepted.

JOSIE

I'm trying to mend your hat here.

ELIJAH

Sorry. It is just...you can hear me.

JOSIE

You keep saying that.

ELIJAH

It has been long since I spoke to, and received kindness from...

JOSIE

A normal person?

ELIJAH

Someone who can see me.

JOSIE

[Finishing the mend] Best I could do. Closer to new than used. Hello?

ELIJAH stiffens.

ELIJAH

Harken!

Whoa.

Listen!

To what?

The voice.

Ohhh-kay.

Shhh!

I'm gonna, like, move over here.

For your kindness, your cup shall be eternally replenished and your bowl bottomless.

Excuse me?

You did not hear?

Hear what?

Your cup replenished and bowl without end.

Yeah, we don't have a bowl.

You do. It is now so.

JOSIE

ELIJAH

JOSIE moves to upstage and discovers in a cupboard previously empty now a wooden bowl.

JOSIE

That wasn't there before.

ELIJAH

And Aram, the one who has brought you here, the one who searches, must go downstream, away from the cragged rocks in the bend.

JOSIE

Hey, hold on, have you been spying—

ELIJAH

There he will find the sand. The drought shall reverse. The storms shall gather and the clouds shall release their burden and the rain will fall.

JOSIE

How did you know that?

ELIJAH

I must leave.

JOSIE

You knew about the sand.

ELIJAH

The door was open.

JOSIE

How did you know about the sand?

ELIJAH

I must find the wadi.

JOSIE

What just happened here.

ELIJAH

If the Angel comes I will be astride it tonight.

JOSIE

Wait. Where'd you come from?

ELIJAH

Tishbite.

JOSIE

Well, what's your name?

ELIJAH

Elijah.

ELIJAH goes.

JOSIE

Hey! You forgot your hat!

Lights fade.

A1, S7. YET DOUBT ATTENDS HIS WORD.

*ARAM slouched on the Davenport,
distracted by the iPad, munching from the
wooden bowl, now full of snacks.*

The golden cup and bottle are on the table.

*BECKY stands by the upstage windows,
peering out.*

The front door is not open.

JOSIE

I'm telling you, he was here. Sitting in that chair. Talking to me.

ARAM

Good vino, sis. Where'd you find the liquor store out here?

JOSIE

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

ARAM

Do liquor stores deliver these days? Welcome to Minnesota, where nobody leaves their cabin!

JOSIE

He said our cup shall be eternally replenished. And our bowl without bottom. We didn't even have a bowl. But then I looked and there it was! Right there in the cupboard where it wasn't before.

ARAM

[Distracted] Mm-hmm.

JOSIE

I turned around after he left and it went from being empty to completely full.

ARAM

This thing gets addictive when you're on the grape juice.

JOSIE takes from ARAM the iPad.

ARAM

Hey!

JOSIE

He was in the cabin.

ARAM

I'm sure he was. 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

Can I have that back?

JOSIE

You sure you don't remember.

ARAM

Remember what.

JOSIE

Then just wait. Because at first I thought maybe I've gone cabin crazy. Suffering from prisoner dementia like those paranormal experts who investigate old houses, hmmm? Rumored to be haunted with ghosts of those stranded with the trees, hmmm?

ARAM

Spooky tree ghosts!

JOSIE

They find all these deathwatch beetles in the walls. The deathwatch beetle is a harbinger of death. Just like the raven.

BECKY

Raven?

JOSIE

Yes, Becky, ravens! Black birds, filling the sky.

ARAM

Well maybe your secret stalker guy is an evil demon charged by the underworld to intervene in our affairs.

JOSIE

Or save us from bad decisions.

ARAM

We gonna hold a séance?

JOSIE

But when I thought of ravens, that's what triggered my memory of where I heard wadi.

JOSIE pulls from her purse a Bible, worn, ragged.

ARAM

Holy. Moses.

JOSIE

Precisely!

ARAM

You've been carrying around Dad's old Bible.

JOSIE

A plus, sighter.

ARAM

Wow.

JOSIE

Wadi: the dried bed of a once fertile river.

ARAM

And there's magic death beetles!

JOSIE

Quote: you are to drink from the wadi.

ARAM

Detective raven catcher's on the case!

JOSIE

[Reading] ‘I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there...and he did what the Lord commanded and lived by the wadi where it enters east of Jordan.’

BECKY

Jordan?

JOSIE

Yes, Becky, Jordan! [Reading] ‘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.

ARAM

Sometimes you make me want to enrich uranium.

JOSIE

All right here. Just as Dad told it. The prophet Elijah.

BECKY

Elijah?

JOSIE

Yes, Becky, Elijah! His story.

ARAM

Can we return to normal person programming here once you’re done with Jesusopedia?

JOSIE

I’m talking Old Testament.

ARAM

Well go testament somewhere else whilst the crew relaxes their hard-working eyes and catches up on the latest version of solitaire. By the way, top quality snacks you got.

JOSIE

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

ARAM

They appeeeeed!

JOSIE

How else do you think this bowl came to be?

ARAM

Well, like I always say, if you're looking for answers the universe sends its apologies.

JOSIE

He travels the world unseen, invisible, moving from house to house.

ARAM

Folklore.

JOSIE

Tradition. The door is opened to receive him. Door. The ceremonial chair laid out. Chair. A cup of wine is poured in his honor. Cup. Now what else can this be?

ARAM

Yeah, it's called a co-inky-dink.

JOSIE

It's divine intervention.

ARAM

Isn't that a co-inky-dink?

JOSIE

I'm trying to tell you something here.

ARAM

Yes, and it's become Shirley MacLaine meets Richard Dawkins.

JOSIE

Straight from scripture.

ARAM

It was only a matter of time.

JOSIE

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

ARAM

[Countering] 'And I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life.'

JOSIE

Yes! Exactly! Listen, there's more.

ARAM

No, I won't listen. I won't be barraged by insanity anymore. None of it means a thing. None of it ever meant anything. I was forced to listen to it when Dad staked me to the tree so I sure as hell won't listen to it now that he's gone.

JOSIE

I got whole chapters on the prophets.

BECKY

Prophet?

JOSIE

Yes, thank you Becky, prophet! Especially the prophet Elijah from Tishbite. You don't remember Tishbite?

ARAM

What's that, Wisconsin?

JOSIE

Jordan.

ARAM

Oh good, because I'm here to tell you, Wisconsin is the absence of God's light.

JOSIE

Elijah the stranger from among the strangers.

ARAM

Who reads wonderful as fiction, but we're a stitch occupado right now with non-fictionally sighting for sand.

JOSIE

If you could stop being an annihilating bastard for one minute.

ARAM

And what would I do with the other fifty-nine seconds?

JOSIE

Aram, there is something truly bizarre happening.

ARAM

Yes, that insanity is inherited, you can get it from your father!

JOSIE

Maybe it's not insanity.

ARAM

Tell me Becky, your padre ever go loco on you?

JOSIE

Aram.

ARAM

Obsess over the big book? Believe he was some ordained interpreter of holy divinity? That his kids were God's Angels? A fanatic who couldn't even spell joy because he was so engulfed by some warped devotion to an outdated book of fiction?

JOSIE

Don't talk about him like that.

ARAM

Or what? I'll get smited? Then sister you best step back 'fore the bolt of smash-a-rooni takes you down in a flash of fire-death with me! Cuz that's what happens you scoff at literary fantasy, right? No. What happens is you say Dad, maybe we're taking this a bit too far, maybe your version of existence is at best sad and at worst destructive. But you say that to him and what does he do? He ties you up outside to the big backyard tree and hits you with chapter and verse for hours upon hours while your twin sister is forced to stand idle and watch.

JOSIE

Stop your mouth.

ARAM

'Purse thy lips, for the chariot shall be renewed!'

JOSIE

Look—

ARAM

'Shutter thy eyes, for the chariot shall be renewed!'

JOSIE

Will you listen?

ARAM

‘Cleave thy ears, for the chariot shall be renewed!’

JOSIE

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

Beat.

ARAM

How’d you know where I’d been sighting?

JOSIE

He said—

ARAM

Dad’s Bible.

JOSIE

To my face. He walked into this very cabin, through that very door, sat in that very chair, drank from that very cup, went into some kind of trance, heard some kind of voice, and said the drought will end and the rain will flood the sand downstream. Away from the cragged rocks at the bend.

ARAM

Alright. Listen. I know Dad’s death wasn’t easy. For you. Because of whatever weird combination of guilt and regret you still have pumping your veins. And turning to misperceived sources of healing is totally understandable.

JOSIE

This has nothing to do with Dad.

ARAM

Except you’ve become Dad. Look at you. Listen to you. You’ve become the very person you spent your life silently fearing and I spent my life running from.

JOSIE

The rain will come and carry the sand downstream.

ARAM

That's fine, really, except, oh wait, one teeny weency detail you happen to be overlooking. Everything's dried up, Josie. There's no river. There's no stream. Even if there was sand waiting to be found, there's not a rivulet of moisture to push a pebble our way.

JOSIE

He didn't say when, he just said it's coming.

ARAM

Look outside with me. There's no cloud. There's no mist, no dew, no damp, not even a drop of a drop. So I don't want to hear anything more from Dad's pages of psychosis because I got a little prophet of my own these days called the National Weather Service and it's predicting nothing but dry, dry and even more dry because east of Jordan is stuck in the middle of one ENORMOUS UNENDING EYE-BURNING GIGANTO DROUGHT!

BOOM comes the thunder from outside.

Then rain starts to fall.

Serious rain.

BECKY

Mas tequila, hombre?

END ACT ONE.

ACT TWO. FLOOD.

A2, S1. THE SISTER IS ENJOINED WITH MIRACLES.

Storm.

Wind and rain. Serious rain. Water sloshes the upstage exterior window.

JOSIE drums her fingers against the empty wooden bowl.

JOSIE places the empty wooden bowl into the upstage cupboard. Closes the cupboard. Opens.

The wooden bowl is full of apples.

ARAM [OFF]

[Approaching] Josie! Josie!

JOSIE

I don't believe it.

ARAM barges through the front door, drenched, his face, hair and body coated with sand.

BECKY trails in black poncho, holding her bottle.

ARAM

Josie! Josie! HAHAAHAHA!

JOSIE

I don't believe it.

ARAM

Look! You gotta look! There. Right there. In my hand.

JOSIE

From my hands.

ARAM

[Pinching his fingers to hold up a grain] You see that? You see it? Exactly where you said, Josie, right where you said: downstream!

JOSIE

Downstream.

ARAM

I was straddling the river bed when the runoff came surging past the cragged rocks at the bend. And it filled the gully, just took it over, a cascade of water, the level almost waist-high. And I thought there's no way we're gonna find any sand, you can't even see the ground anymore! But all of a sudden I look and it was like resting on top of the water, almost holding still against the roaring current, this shimmering immaculate orb, kind of glowing, just sparkling right beside me. I thought no, too true to be good, but then another floated by, and another, and then the tide sort of separated and there was a mound, and then I started sifting through one pile, realized it was attached to another pile, and looked up to see we were standing in a sea of it, cresting all around, a sand eruption! I'm talking geysers of it! Oh, you beautiful tiny thing! Hahahaha! We gotta get the car loaded.

JOSIE

The car.

ARAM

Yes! As much as that old Ford Probe can bear before the rain flushes it and the sand down the Mississippi. With this kind of torrent we could see full flooding at any moment.

JOSIE

[Flipping the Bible] Yes, flood.

ARAM

Get the car loaded and drive to Pebble Lake tonight.

JOSIE

We're not leaving.

ARAM

Yes! Tonight! We can't be caught during the day hauling a score of illegally tapped sand, can we? Higher powers sort frown on that.

JOSIE

[Finding it] Aha! 'For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth.'

ARAM

You said it.

JOSIE

Aram! Aram, listen to me. There's something astounding going on.

ARAM

Don't I know it! Oh, sister, you were right. You were right! Downstream!

JOSIE

Not me. Elijah. He was right.

ARAM

The three of us are gonna have to cram the front seat for the drive to Tall Scotty's.

JOSIE

'When waters dry the earth, a righteous man will dry the world.' Elijah.

ARAM

Becky. You, me and Becky. We drive to Tall Scotty's, pop the trunk and display the grains of goodness. Scotty won't believe it! He's thinking he wouldn't hear from me for months! It's miraculous!

JOSIE

'And the meek shall perform the miraculous.'

ARAM

If you could stop quoting from Bullshitikus for one second and pay attention to current events we just scored the motherlode! We hit the source! Total sandpot!

JOSIE

Just as Elijah said.

ARAM grabs an apple from the wooden bowl.

ARAM

I tell ya, it is one wild scene out there. Rainwater pelting, sky windwhirling, terrain shifting, trees flaying, Bluff Buddies upended. Never seen anything like it.

ARAM takes a bite of the apple.

JOSIE

There is something undeniably immense happening.

ARAM

No doubt. But not secure. We got ourselves a tenuous situation. The roads mud up too much and it could get undriveable, sink the car, swallow it whole, leave us with nothing.

JOSIE

Aram, listen to me. I'm not sure exactly how this is happening, but here, where we're standing, east of Jordan, a prophet has returned.

ARAM

Look outside, sister, that's what's returned. This is not normal rain. It's freak rain. This is rain that stabs into our profit. F-I-T. Wash away our sand before we can commercialize the bounty.

JOSIE

Yes, exactly, he prophesized.

ARAM

Josie, let me turn off Dad's Bible and return you to regularly scheduled earth to provide you with an actual forecast of the real future, okay? We don't get the sand to Pebble Lake, I'm in trouble.

JOSIE

What kind of trouble?

ARAM

The skin and organ kind.

JOSIE

The South Africans.

ARAM

Not a forgiving bunch.

JOSIE

Well the North African roaming the woods knew where to find the sand in the first place.

ARAM

He did.

JOSIE

Yes!

ARAM

How many of him are there?

JOSIE

One! He's the last of them all! Becky, could you excuse us?

ARAM

Don't worry, she doesn't comprehend a word. But can she grab sand! Got real sighter talent, that one.

JOSIE takes the apple from ARAM and dumps the wooden bowl.

JOSIE

Sight this! Totally empty.

JOSIE places the empty wooden bowl in the cupboard and closes the cupboard door.

JOSIE

And now...

JOSIE opens the door and takes the wooden bowl from the cupboard. It's filled with sand.

JOSIE

Bam! Full!

ARAM

[Running his fingers through the sand] What the hell.

JOSIE

It's not hell, it's heaven.

ARAM

How'd you do that?

JOSIE

Elijah. He must have given me some kind of power. Some way that I can manifest miracles.

ARAM

[The golden cup] How much of this stuff have I been drinking? Mixing wine and tequila is not a sacramental act, Josie.

JOSIE

[The Bible] I've been scouring for clues. Indicators. Signs. And from what I can tell we are in the midst of some serious Biblical influence.

ARAM

Sister, you can call this whatever you want but I'm here to tell you that there's two possibilities for our lifetime. The first is that we lurch along day to day doing whatever it takes to get ahead. The second is that God will appear. You figure it out.

JOSIE

Did you not see what I just did?!? This isn't cabin tricks, this is for real!

ARAM

The real sand is for real.

JOSIE

Elijah is for real. Somehow he's come back.

ARAM

I've come back.

JOSIE

For sand.

ARAM

For you. You don't get it. You're the only religion I've ever had. You're all I've got left. I knew I would come back, I was just waiting for the right time. And I knew this was right because I heard a voice, out there, and it said: sister.

JOSIE

Voice.

ARAM

Telling me what I already knew. That there's nothing stronger in the world than brother and sister. We weren't asked to be born here. Our Mom decided to squat us out on this flat unappealing patch of nowhere. Except we were DOA, stillborns. But Dad said an Angel arrived and the trumpets heralded and ground shook and we were revived! And Dad basked in the glory of the world! Until Mom died from complications. So Dad turned from the world and buried himself in that book. And that was the three of us. Now the two of us. That's why this can't fall apart. Find the sand, flip the land, get you to happiness and free from whatever remaining hold Dad still has on your life. I'm not a helpless child staked to the tree anymore. I know my way around the world now. It hasn't been kind to either one of us but I know my way around the world.

JOSIE

This. All of this is a sign. From God.

ARAM

Dad is gone. He was the only God in our lives, the only real God that decided to show himself, and his despair and his delusion, all of it, finally, is gone. It's just me and you. And I'm not leaving you again. We're going to take on the world together. Otherwise the world comes after you and does whatever it wants. And that kind of self-fulfilling prophecy can have a dangerous way of coming true. C'mon, Becky.

JOSIE

Elijah has returned, Aram. But we don't know why. Why now? Why here?

ARAM

You can ask all you want while we're cruising high gear without brakes to Tall Scotty's, 'kay? In the meantime, we gotta finish loading up sand before the rain sloshes it all away!

ARAM grabs the needle.

ARAM

To pop the trunk. Hi-yo, Becky! Downstream!

ARAM goes.

BECKY and JOSIE for a beat.

ARAM [OFF]

Let's go Becky!

BECKY goes.

JOSIE sets the red chair and golden cup.

She then sets the door full open.

The sound of ravens.

*ELIJAH appears in the front doorway,
soaking.*

JOSIE

Yes! Hello. Hello?

ELIJAH

Very well, thank you.

JOSIE

Um...come in? Come in?

ELIJAH

Very well, thank you.

*ELIJAH goes to the red chair, plucks his hat
off the back.*

ELIJAH

Looking for my hat.

JOSIE

Your hat.

ELIJAH

Yes. And the door...was...[open]...

JOSIE

And...the cup!

ELIJAH

Empty.

You've been...?

Wet.

The rain.

Mmm.

The fact we're having rain when it's supposed to be a drought.

Yes.

Must be tough on those ravens!

They seem not harried.

Must be tough on you.

I do not fly.

Right. Well, it's just, you're here.

It would seem.

You've returned.

And you can still hear me.

JOSIE

ELIJAH

JOSIE

Yes! And since I can hear you, and talk to you, I wanted to tell you that...[the Bible]...I've been reading a story.

ELIJAH

Story.

JOSIE

From thousands of years ago.

ELIJAH

Plenty of stories from thousands of years ago.

JOSIE

This one's about a man. From Tishbite.

ELIJAH

Go on.

JOSIE

Okay, yes, and the Tishbite man, in this story, he made miracles. Physical miracles.

ELIJAH

Go on.

JOSIE

And there was this big ultimate showdown between this man and Jezebel, the corrupter of the land.

ELIJAH

Go on.

JOSIE

And when this man proved his power was greater Jezebel tried to have him killed, but this man, instead of doing one more miracle to save himself...

ELIJAH

Was told to go to the wadi.

JOSIE

East of Jordan.

ELIJAH

While everyone he loved was slaughtered.

JOSIE

Oh. Oh. I didn't get that part.

ELIJAH

Some parts go untold.

JOSIE

Well maybe there's this possibility that the man from the story has returned. Because the proof is real, very real, that this man has made it so a woman, today, now, here, that she can make miracles.

ELIJAH

If this woman believes so.

JOSIE

It's not belief, it's like, you know, there! Miracles!

ELIJAH

When He brings miracles He suspends the laws of nature.

JOSIE

Is that what's going on?

ELIJAH

Was there any more to your story?

JOSIE

Like...

ELIJAH

This man dying.

JOSIE

Dying.

ELIJAH

Did he die.

JOSIE

Uh...

The answer is no. ELIJAH

I don't understand. JOSIE

He did not die. ELIJAH

So he could save us. JOSIE

You should read that story again. ELIJAH

I did. The prophets. JOSIE

All allowed to die. ELIJAH

David. JOSIE

Dead. ELIJAH

Ezekiel. JOSIE

Dead. ELIJAH

Jonah. JOSIE

Also allowed to die. ELIJAH

Jesus? JOSIE

Let's not go there. ELIJAH

JOSIE

The wadi, east of Jordan.

ELIJAH

Where the voice was first heard. Echoes of prophecy. You hear voices?

JOSIE

Yours.

ELIJAH

The small voice?

JOSIE

No.

ELIJAH

All I hear is laughter. I questioned prophecy and God laughed at me. When you question prophecy God will laugh at you. That was the real untold, this man in the story. The first time the voice cleaved his ears, the visions burned his eyes, the man turned himself fully to God's will. Zealot in chief! And not for humanity, not for God's creatures, because what's the point of scurrying with weakness when you've been bound to the strength. And this man went forth to toil for God, to face the world's corrupters, only to be told by God to go and hide: get thee to the cave. And by that cave the fire came first, then the floods, but God was barely there, now a small voice, just a small voice, and this man knew he was alone. And this man could not believe how someone could serve with such relentless devotion and get abandoned by the very God he adored. So the man did the unthinkable: he questioned. Well. You see what happens when you question. The man wasn't allowed to die. He was condemned. To sit in a chair while fathers carve foreskins from newborn boys, to drink at ceremony from the cup of remembrance, to serve as witness to the weakness in their perpetuity simply because this man questioned. You walk through enough doors and sit in enough chairs and drink from enough cups and you have time to think. Obedience to prophecy isn't the message. The message is obedience to God. And it just takes one mistake, and God will laugh at you.

JOSIE

That's not how it reads.

ELIJAH

One word becomes a thousand years of failed interpretation if you think too much. I was a potter. Made things. Bowls. Cups. Nobody remembers. They just perform the custom: open the door, set the chair. You become a legend grandmothers tell so children are entertained. Because they never see you, God's never-ending fairy tale, wandering the earth, trapped between life and death, not having either, forever serving both.

JOSIE

[The Bible] This all happened. It really happened.

ELIJAH

In some ways. In other ways, gone. A story is only as old as its last telling.

JOSIE

The oldest person in the world.

ELIJAH

What happens when you aren't allowed to die. When you aren't allowed to pass life and reach His perfection.

JOSIE

You've been watching us.

ELIJAH

The forgetters, the non-tellers, who all believe there's something more important than what happens after they die. Because if you believed, if you truly believed you had the answer to why we are here, would every breath not be in service to that answer? Would every move not be a gesture towards eternity? Well. You get used to it. Watching. Doing nothing. While they sing, while they laugh so hard you'd think they're crying. And they don't see you. And they don't hear you. For thousands of years. In your chair. Admiring the nice cup. Alone. But I have some tricks, you know. I talk to the babies. Even if they can't hear me. It helps.

JOSIE

I had no idea. I thought prophets were...

ELIJAH

A few white men? There were thousands of us. Guardians of Torah. Guardians of the land. Down to the last practitioner, such as it is.

JOSIE

And you came here.

ELIJAH

[The door open] Old habit.

JOSIE

The voice told you to come here.

ELIJAH

Yes, this time was different. A message. East of Jordan, find the wadi. Back to the beginning! So I came, hopeful, eager, only to find this place. And you.

JOSIE

Sorry.

ELIJAH

I thought here I am, abandoned once more. So I panicked. The only power the condemned have left. I ran away.

JOSIE

Ran away.

ELIJAH

We hide from Angels in the rain.

JOSIE

Ran away.

ELIJAH

Staked myself among trees before being placed on some fiery chariot, never to die!

JOSIE

Wait, what do you mean, chariot?

ELIJAH

The voice said.

JOSIE

About the chariot.

ELIJAH

The other part of the message.

JOSIE

The exact words. Please.

ELIJAH

The voice said: find the wadi and rejoice! Rejoice! For the chariot shall be renewed!

JOSIE

[Overlapping, with ELIJAH] //rejoice! For the chariot shall be renewed.

Beat.

ELIJAH

How did you know that.

JOSIE

The chariot shall be renewed.

ELIJAH

You have seen the Angel.

JOSIE

No.

ELIJAH

You have heard the voice.

JOSIE

What Dad used to say.

ELIJAH

The Father.

JOSIE

My Dad. Aram and I couldn't have been more different. From birth he was temperamental, reckless, a low threshold for patience, a higher one for suffering. So when punished for questioning my Dad staked Aram to the tree and read nothing to him but the testament for days and nights until Aram said yes, I believe now, amen! And me the whole time forced to watch, terrified, silent, doing nothing.

ELIJAH

You were sent here.

JOSIE

Brought here.

ELIJAH

By the voice.

JOSIE

My brother.

ELIJAH

And your father?

JOSIE

The day Aram took off was the day Dad shut down. Dad never spoke to me after that. He stayed by the tree. Where I found him. Where I buried him. By our mother. I've never really been able to leave that place. Or talk about it. Alive or dead, family never leaves you. It's the open door of closed faith. All I've ever wanted to is understand why. [The Bible] Dad said the chariot renewed, when heard, would mean the land is about to be cleansed.

ELIJAH

Cleansed.

JOSIE

We thought Dad was crazy. I mean, how were we to know?

ELIJAH

You. Here.

JOSIE

Kidnapped. By my brother.

ELIJAH

For sand.

JOSIE

The second part of the message! Your vision!

Thunder rumbles in the distance.

ELIJAH

Yes, Almighty!

JOSIE

That was thunder.

ELIJAH

Thunder is His voice and the fire His fist! The chariot shall be renewed.

JOSIE

No-no, my Dad was crazy.

ELIJAH

The world shall be cleansed!

JOSIE

It's just what my Dad used to say.

ELIJAH

Ha ha!

JOSIE

Elijah—

ELIJAH

This cannot be anything but His plan revealed!

JOSIE

You can't seriously go on what I'm saying. I'm nobody. I'm just a...

ELIJAH

Watcher of sufferers. I must find the sand, that is next. Only flooring of holy ground shall be accepted at the corner of the altar.

JOSIE

Corner of the altar...

ELIJAH

The world was once cleansed before the great corrupter of the land. And a new prophet was installed. Me. This can only mean a new prophet is coming...and I will be allowed to die. Oh, blessed Holy.

JOSIE

Maybe we're doing another one of this misinterpretations.

ELIJAH

Why else would you be here? We lay perfect sand so the ground is sanctified in His presence, so that He may arrive, so that we may hear the trembling of His voice, saying there is more to death than life!

JOSIE

Aram has found the sand. But. He's planning to take it to Pebble Lake.

ELIJAH

That cannot happen.

JOSIE

He might not respond so well to someone coming for his sand.

ELIJAH

It is not his to possess.

JOSIE

[The bowl] Then here, I can make as much as you want.

ELIJAH

It needs to come from His ground.

JOSIE

I'm coming with you.

ELIJAH

Prophecy is the message but the prophet stands alone. Without question! And if what is to come is what befell the armies of Egypt, the walls of Jericho and the heights of Gomorrah, then you would be best to keep a soft heart, hard prayer and the door shut.

ELIJAH goes.

JOSIE

Except it doesn't shut.

Lights shift.

A2, S2. A CUT IS MADE IN THE RAIN.

Storm outside.

JOSIE grabs the wooden bowl, still full of sand.

She drums her fingers against the side.

JOSIE places it in the cabinet. Closes the cabinet. Opens the cabinet.

The wooden bowl is gone.

In its place is a single match.

BECKY [OFF]

[Approaching] Dios mío! Dios mío!

JOSIE

A match.

BECKY

Sálvanos!

JOSIE

What's going on?

BECKY

[Entering] Su hermano!

JOSIE

Aram?

BECKY

El coche, que hay en el camino!

JOSIE

Wait, what?

BECKY

Que lo apuñaló!

I don't understand.

JOSIE

Es terrible!

BECKY

Slow down. Where's Aram?

JOSIE

ARAM enters the front doorway.

[Dazed] I slammed the brakes.

ARAM

Parar!

BECKY

I tried to stop.

ARAM

Golpe!

BECKY

Preparing for Pebble Lake, the sand.

ARAM

Arena!

BECKY

Muddy, floody road, wipers barely clearing the windshield.

ARAM

Lluvia!

BECKY

A man. In the woods.

ARAM

You could see him.

JOSIE

Like you said.

ARAM

JOSIE
You saw him.

ARAM
Standing there. Just standing there.

BECKY
Die pie!

ARAM
And Becky starts screaming.

BECKY
Ahhhh!

ARAM
I spun the wheel, but...

BECKY
Impacto!

JOSIE
You hit him?

ARAM
I got out of the car.

JOSIE
You hit him with the car.

ARAM
He was still there.

JOSIE
Under the car?

ARAM
Like nothing happened.

BECKY
Si nada!

ARAM
And then he kind of moved.

BECKY

Corriendo!

ARAM

I just reacted.

BECKY

[Making a stabbing motion] Apuñala! Apuñala!

ARAM holds up the needle, now coated in blood.

JOSIE

Oh, no.

BECKY

Estupido!

JOSIE

Aram, where is he?

ARAM

He ran off.

JOSIE

After you stabbed him?

BECKY

[Drinking from the bottle] El problema mayor.

JOSIE

Where'd he go?

ARAM

I just reacted.

JOSIE

Where did he go?

ARAM

He ran off, past the trees.

JOSIE

Did he say anything?

ARAM

He ran off!

BECKY

Ido!

JOSIE

Okay, let's...let's all just calm down and put away the pointy stabby things, and the bottle, and we'll figure out what just happened.

ARAM

I know what just happened.

BECKY

Muerto!

JOSIE

There's no dead, okay? Elijah ran away. There's no muerto if someone runs away. Again.

ARAM

What do you mean again?

JOSIE

He already ran away once.

ARAM

From who?

JOSIE

God!

BECKY

Dios!

ARAM

We gotta bolt the door.

BECKY

No!

JOSIE

No, we have to leave the door open.

BECKY

Si!

JOSIE

That's how it works. Door open, chair out, and he'll come back.

ARAM

You want him to come back.

JOSIE

He has to come back. He needs to be here for the new prophet! So he can finally die!

ARAM

Josie, this is serious. I stabbed him in the face.

JOSIE

You stabbed his face?

ARAM

And our sand's still out there!

JOSIE

In his face?

ARAM

In the car!

JOSIE

Forget the car!

ARAM

He was a big guy, too.

JOSIE

Aram, he was told to come here. The land is about to be cleansed. The chariot is about to be renewed. We have to do something about Becky.

BECKY

Cómo que?

ARAM

She's my crew.

JOSIE

Right now she's an accomplice!

ARAM

But I didn't kill anybody!

BECKY

Hombre, you stabbed the prophet right in his eye!

They stare.

BECKY runs out the front door.

BECKY

[Off] Elijah!

ARAM

[Calling to off] Becky!

BECKY

[Off] Elijah!

JOSIE

Ángel Rebeka Salinas.

ARAM

And...we lost our sighter.

JOSIE

Ángel Rebeka Salinas. She's the *Ángel*!

ARAM

She's going to tell what happened.

JOSIE

Yes! Wait. No, not good.

ARAM

She's going to tell Tall Scotty.

JOSIE

She's going to tell God you stabbed Elijah.

ARAM

I mean, I really stabbed him.

JOSIE

But it's okay, nobody can find Angels in the rain.

ARAM

It's not okay, Josie. I'm not that guy who stabs black people in the face and leaves Mexicans to die in a flood! We have to get out of here.

JOSIE

No! We have to stay.

ARAM

[Grabbing the duffel bag, random items] *Now* you want to stay? Grab everything, we're decamping!

JOSIE

We have to get Elijah to come back. He's got to be terrified.

ARAM

Because I stabbed him!

JOSIE

Because God *condemned* him. For thousands of years he's been forced to wander the world, to watch. And now he's been told to come back. Elijah said the chariot's getting renewed. Exactly what Dad said when the land would be cleansed.

ARAM

Are you even sane anymore. You told him all that.

JOSIE

He already knew. Elijah heard the voice. That's why he's here. After all these years a new prophet is coming.

ARAM

Josie, we're in trouble.

JOSIE

It's just like Dad foretold.

ARAM

Dad was a raving Bible thumper who thought his kids were God's messengers!

JOSIE

Maybe Dad was right!

ARAM

Josie, not now, please.

JOSIE

Don't you see? What if...[grabbing the Bible]...what if we are part of the story?

ARAM

The crazy Dad Bible story.

JOSIE

What if this isn't over? What if this isn't something that happened thousands of years ago and then simply stopped? What if it was just suspended? The end of the prophets an intermission, a pause, and there's more to come, there's more to be told. There's something truly gigantic happening here.

ARAM

What's happening is that I-shalt-maybe-killed someone to protect us.

JOSIE

To protect sand.

ARAM

It's still out there.

JOSIE

Yes, for God's arrival.

ARAM

For Tall Scotty.

JOSIE

How did you get the car, Aram? Was it simply waiting? Door open, key in the ignition, ready to take you here?

ARAM

Fine...I admit...there's a man out there, okay?

JOSIE

When you first saw Becky, you reacted. Was she *walking* up the road?

ARAM

Look...

JOSIE

You said you heard the voice. Out there. Was it just that once? Was that the first time you heard it?

ARAM

[The Bible] Our lives are not Dad's warped sense of reality!

JOSIE

When you were strapped to the tree, is that when you first heard the voice?

ARAM

That's not Elijah out there. I didn't stab Elijah!

JOSIE

You didn't run away because Dad was wrong. You ran away when you first realized Dad could be right. And you couldn't face it. The truth. That this is real. That this is the reason we're here.

ARAM

I came back for you.

JOSIE

The wadi, the drought, the flood, the door, cup, bowl, Father's Day. The miracles right in front of us. The ones we blind ourselves from seeing. The ones we don't even realize we're in the middle of.

ARAM

This can't be happening.

JOSIE

And what else did Dad say? About the land, what else did he say? The chariot renewed and...

Beat.

ARAM

The...corner of the altar.

JOSIE

[Realizing] This isn't a cabin. It's an altar. You brought us to the altar. East of Jordan.

ARAM

Jordan, *Minnesota*.

JOSIE

A twin brother and sister, their mother dies at birth, their tormented father, he subjects them to ancient rites, to prepare them, and the brother runs away, and the two remain separate until the time comes when they are called to be together. The past and future all at once. The present. Where Elijah was told to go so he could finally die and the new prophet take over at the cleansing of the land.

ARAM

No. No, I came back to get you.

JOSIE

Maybe you came back for something bigger and didn't know it.

ARAM

What Dad did to me, to us...

JOSIE

Maybe he did for a reason. I always called you my bastard brother. Born of same blood but feeling so distant. Especially me, standing by, watching. But no longer. We're here. Together. Like you said, finally together. And I don't want to watch anymore.

Beat.

ARAM

Elijah.

JOSIE

Yes.

ARAM

That was Elijah the prophet.

JOSIE

Yes.

ARAM

I stabbed Elijah the prophet in the face and left Becky the Angel to die in a flood.

JOSIE

Exactly.

ARAM

Alright, um. Let's. Just go. Let's. Just grab whatever sand is left and hop the car and be gone.

JOSIE

We're so close to learning why. You have to find Becky. You have to find her before she tells God what's happened. I'll set everything here to bring back Elijah.

ARAM

Okay...sounds reasonable....

JOSIE

We'll unite him with the Angel. Us, Aram and Josie, brother and sister.

ARAM takes the blood-coated needle and goes to the front door. But stops.

ARAM

Except...maybe it wasn't such a co-inky-dink. With Dad. Me tied to the tree.

JOSIE

I'm not following.

ARAM

God wasn't there. But Tall Scotty was.

JOSIE

...

ARAM

His voice. Just a small voice.

JOSIE

What.

ARAM

He always seemed to be there. A cautious step or two away from the tree, never agitated or too concerned, telling me he'd make it alright, if I just listened.

JOSIE

Oh, no.

ARAM

I was so drained, battered, barely hanging off each breath. Didn't you see him?

JOSIE

Only when he tried to talk to me. I could never see his eyes.

ARAM

But his voice. So smooth and reassuring.

JOSIE

Are you telling me...

ARAM

He said in return for his support I'd someday serve him with favor. And he appeared, much larger and excited, telling me to run, assault the energy of the world, so he'd be in possession of it all.

Beat.

JOSIE

[You] Tied and tormented.

ARAM

[You] Silently watching.

JOSIE

[You] Running away.

ARAM

[You] Staying home.

JOSIE

[You] Pebble Lake.

ARAM

[You] East of Jordan.

JOSIE

[You] The land corrupter.

ARAM

[You] The new prophet.

Beat.

ARAM

Well. Now that we know what we are.

ARAM goes through the front door, into the rain.

JOSIE

Aram!

Thunder booms and the storm lashes with renewed intensity and the cabin lights sputter...then BLACKOUT.

We hear the striking of a match.

JOSIE lights the candle atop what's left of the cake.

JOSIE flips through the Bible, finding a passage.

JOSIE

‘And they knew he was running from the Lord, because he had already done so.’

JOSIE blows out the candle.

Darkness.

A2, S3. THE CHARIOT IS RENEWED.

From darkness we hear a distant throbbing pulse, slow and deep, long in rhythm.

A mystical red develops, coating the room.

JOSIE at the open door, looks out towards the forest, looks up towards the reddening sky.

She comes back towards the Davenport and tries resetting the golden cup and red chair, slight repositioning.

ELIJAH appears, a bandage of leaves wrapped around his head, covering one eye.

JOSIE

He didn't mean to hurt you.

ELIJAH

Smite the door, that the posts may shake and cut the head.

JOSIE

I didn't think you'd come back.

ELIJAH

The Angel found me. And made all things clear.

BECKY enters through the front door, wearing black poncho, shouldering the backpack.

JOSIE

The room. It's gone cold. And the light. What's happening?

ELIJAH

The sky has gone red. I saw fire before the cloud. Drought and flood together. It is beginning so it can end.

BECKY removes the backpack handfuls of sand. She forms a path of sand before the side door.

JOSIE

The sand.

ELIJAH

He is coming.

BECKY

Vamos.

ELIJAH

The world trembles in anticipation.

JOSIE

Modern rebirth.

ELIJAH

It is time for us to prepare. The new prophet will be brought to trial. Then the small voice.

JOSIE

Saying what.

ELIJAH

There is more to death than life. We are born through death. The end of days is the beginning of time.

JOSIE

Not to interrupt preparations or delay...the arrival...but...I'm not so sure.

ELIJAH

The Angel had been trying to get us alone. To preside over the transfer of duties. But there was interference.

JOSIE

The rain.

ARAM [OFF]

[Distant] Josie!

BECKY

Su hermano.

ARAM [OFF]

[Distant] Josie!

JOSIE

You saw him out there.

ELIJAH

Amongst the trees.

JOSIE

Wait. Wait-wait-wait. He's still part of this.

ELIJAH

He was.

JOSIE

He's always been part of this. He brought me here.

ELIJAH

His purpose.

JOSIE

Wait, you're saying...

ELIJAH

My family was destroyed, too.

BECKY

Listo?

JOSIE

Aram didn't just bring me here, he rescued me. He always rescued me. Even when I didn't have the strength to question anymore. And he keeps getting punished for it. Tortured for it.

ARAM [OFF]

[Distant] Josie!

ELIJAH

A path is cleared for arrival. Whom is sought attends the altar, and let the covenant bestow awe.

JOSIE

I can't leave Aram here to die. I'm sorry, but if God gave us free will how can God will everything?

ELIJAH

We obey.

JOSIE

Coming here.

ELIJAH

Keep your voice down.

JOSIE

Droughts and floods?

ELIJAH

Contempt invites wrath.

JOSIE

I'm sorry about all that, and the stabbing, but I just can't abandon my brother.

ELIJAH

He is your Father of Fathers and his day is now.

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

JOSIE

Oh. Wow. That's.

ELIJAH

A thousand suns.

ARAM [OFF]

Josie!

ELIJAH

There is no choice but to be chosen.

JOSIE

All those times I kept still, while Aram was staked alive. All those times I did nothing, so Tall Scotty could lure him.

ARAM [OFF]

The fire is coming!

JOSIE

Aram running away, the door that won't stay shut, and the door in front of us, our whole lives, that we can't seem to open.

ARAM's face at the upstage window.

ARAM [OFF]

Hey!

JOSIE

Dad wasn't preparing Aram. Dad was trying to warn me. Spending death-life watching others suffer. Dad was my sign.

ARAM [OFF]

Help me!

JOSIE

So if I go in there, will my family be slaughtered? And I condemned? Or if I refuse, will it end up the same anyway? Either way, I think it's time we had a little chat.

JOSIE moves into the light stream and goes through the side door, which ELIJAH shuts.

ELIJAH

In the sight of the Holy is the death of his saints!

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

And then: ARAM smashes the upstage window, crawls through, a muddy mess, carrying the needle, stopping all sound, bringing the madness to a halt.

ARAM

Well! Crazy weather, huh! Not to bore you with recent events but there I was, looking for...

BECKY

Ángel Rebeka Salinas de Montenegro.

ARAM

When the flood waters sort of came at me through the trees, acquainting me with the river, as if trying to drown me. But I grabbed onto Bluff Buddy floating by and somehow made it to town. Jordan's a mess. Streets underwater, homes upended, electric wires slicing, everything on fire and pretty much blowing up. But what happens to be sitting there amidst all the destruction? Ford Probe. With the sand still intact. Grabbed the wheel and gripped the key...to hell with it. I've never been good at anything in this world except being a brother. So when I ditch the car and fight my way against the flood and fire all the way back here to get my sister...maybe we should reset the boundaries of our situation. Where is she?

BECKY

Adios.

ARAM

Give me Josie and we'll be on our way.

ELIJAH

That is no longer possible.

ARAM

I appreciate you happened to show up and give my sister certain powers and you happened to tell her where the sand was hiding so I would hate for something to happen to whatever remaining eye you have left if you happen not to produce her right this very now second. Okay?

ELIJAH

It is not for me to decide.

ARAM

Ah. The big guy has all that deciding power. 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're really listening: THANKS FOR NOT BEING THERE WHEN I NEEDED YOU. Or would my saying that get you upset? Just like my sister getting taken, that would get me upset. You hear me, God? I DON'T WANT TO GET UPSET. Because that kind of agitation rattles the innards, and when the innards get rattled then I have to rid all that drink the Angel has been providing. And so I might take this book and piss all over it. I might get a little willfully disobedient 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 accidentally take the prophet outside and accidentally tie him up to the one remaining tree on earth and accidentally stick this through his one remaining eye BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY SISTER, DO YOU UNDERSTAND.

ELIJAH

It is over.

ARAM

What's over is this conversation. Now. For the last time. Where is she?

The side door opens.

JOSIE appears, now wearing black poncho, black pants, and backpack, the same as BECKY.

ARAM

Josie?

ELIJAH

It is done.

ARAM

You were kind of in the closet there.

JOSIE

For forty days and forty nights. With no bread and no water. In communion with perfection. Inscribing the new covenant to my heart and the treasury of spiritual sustenance to my soul.

ARAM

Well, that's fine, I myself just got back from a brief rendezvous with death du Jordan but everything's under control and as soon as we vacate the premises we can scurry to non-Biblical grounds.

JOSIE

It is done.

ARAM

What did you do?

JOSIE

Harken! You are called for Elijah, the stranger among stranger! He waits for you.

ELIJAH

After thousands of years. I now shut my eyes to the last thing I see. The fire above the cloud. My last sight. The frozen heat. The fierce calm. I exit the fortress of life and enter the blessed gates of death. His eternity.

ELIJAH exits the side doorway.

JOSIE closes the door.

ARAM

He went in the closet. That was Elijah going in the closet to...

JOSIE

Meet the Holy.

ARAM

So you're the new prophet.

Beat.

JOSIE

I did not accept.

BECKY

Como?

JOSIE

I pleaded instead for bargain.

ARAM

What's going on?

JOSIE

I saw Dad.

ARAM

Dad.

JOSIE

And I informed our father how I wish to remain with you.

ARAM

You were going to be the new prophet? And you turned it down?

BECKY

Incredible.

JOSIE

Even the Holy is privy to negotiation. Do not let the hindrances of doubt encumber your capacity for acceptance.

ARAM

That closet's making you talk strange.

JOSIE

[To BECKY] You are granted ascension to higher angelic duty, and hereby commended to go forth and collect all the sand you can find before it falls into the wrong hands. Your conveyance shall be the vehicle of Aram.

ARAM

I ditched that Probe. It's gone.

JOSIE

The chariot is renewed.

BECKY moves to ARAM. Gives him the bottle.

BECKY

Loco.

BECKY goes out the front doorway.

We hear a car door slam, tires roll, and then fade into the distance.

Sunshine.

JOSIE

The world is renewed.

ARAM

So...you really saw Dad? What'd he say?

JOSIE

To stop shouting. He can hear you always. I will share our discourse on faith and forgiveness as we continue our descent from the altar and journey to lands beyond.

JOSIE takes out from underneath her black poncho another black poncho set, hands to ARAM.

JOSIE

Your new vestment.

Beat.

ARAM

What if I say no.

JOSIE

Then I shall resort to kidnapping.

ARAM

You gave it up for me. I was going to die here, wasn't I. You bargained for me.

JOSIE

What are sisters for?

Beat.

ARAM

Thanks for the rescue.

JOSIE goes behind the red chair and plucks from the back ELIJAH's hat.

JOSIE

He forgot his hat. I shall conduct a mending prior to our seeing him.

ARAM

We're gonna see him?

JOSIE

He resumes his prior duty. Unless he persuades the Holy otherwise.

ARAM

We're gonna be chaperoning around the world the one-eyed prophet who I stabbed?

JOSIE

The voice will tell us where.

ARAM

Which voice we talking about?

JOSIE

We shall see.

ARAM

Could be either voice, you know.

JOSIE

I am aware.

They exit the front door and this time it stays shut.

ARAM [OFF]

But you're not gonna be talking like that the whole time, right? Give me a headache already.

JOSIE [OFF]

Prepare thyself for flight.

ARAM [OFF]

Whaddya mean, flight.

JOSIE [OFF]

My brother, we have a long way to go.

*We hear the sound of ravens going, going,
going...*

Gone.

END OF PLAY.