

SIX-BULLETS FAITH

A PLAY

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ABSTRACT

At a religious school of unspecified denomination—but definitely NOT Catholic—two women fall in love. One of them has a chainsaw, the other a gun. There’s also a horny parrot, a horny pastor and a senile mother, not to mention Lucifer, who is a bit of a teenage girl and a HUGE Billie Eilish fan. And the end of the Universe is coming, FYI, via the Big Rip, so there’s that too. And this play is also about addiction and withdrawal and recovery and the capacity or incapacity for love to overcome forces that can overwhelm the self.

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CAST

- JULIE:** Female, 40ish, alcoholic, tries her best to be a good person, but struggles with her inner demons and the desire to kill everything she loves.
- MEGAN:** Female, 20ish, traumatized but stronger for it. The sort of addict who is truly on the other side of it, no longer hanging on by her fingernails, but rather forged in the crucible of unimaginable suffering and resurrection. But still longs to get back into “the secret hiding place where nothing can hurt you,” which is a different kind of addiction, maybe.
- KAREN:** Female, 60ish, Julie’s mom, starting to go mushy in the head. Mistrusts Julie out of a combination of paranoia and guilt.
- PASTOR DAVID:** Male, 40ish, not creepy but still a man. Lonely and insecure about his age. Tries to navigate the cognitive dissonance between being a man of God and using his position to get what he wants as a man man.
- CHEEPERS:** A human-sized bird played by a man in a bird costume. Talks in “normal” voice whenever not otherwise specified as “parrot voice.” Only Karen can understand him when he talks in his “normal” voice. Everyone else just hears squawking.
- LUCIFER:** You know, the devil, but also a little bit a teenage girl. A huge Billie Eilish fan. A little jelly that his ex, God, fucked him over. Naked except for a red speedo with a tail on the back and a cheap pair of Halloween store horns.

PLACE

- 1) Julie and Karen’s apartment, 2) A religious school of unspecified denomination (but not Catholic), 3) A secret hiding place where nothing can hurt you, 4) A hotel room 5) A hospital room, 6) The Universe/Multiverse and 7) This theatre

Time

22 billion years in the future or next week
(but definitely not 2 weeks from now).

Prologue

Before the show starts...

Before the houselights go down and everyone knows the show is starting...

There is a single spotlight shining on the center of the stage.

MEGAN enters the theatre. She looks around.

She goes up to random members of the audience, or maybe ushers as well.

MEGAN

Pointing at the spotlight

How do I get in there? How do I get in there? How do I get in there?

MEGAN continues asking people this, more and more desperately.

Then she starts asking random people if she can look at their palms.

MEGAN

Can I see your hand for just a second? I just want to read your palm. No.... No.....
That's not it. You're not the one.

MEGAN does variations of this for multiple audience members.

Finally...

MEGAN

HOW DO I GET IN THERE?! HOW DO I GET IN THERE?! WON'T SOMEONE
PLEASE TELL ME HOW I GET IN THERE?!

MEGAN rushes out of the theatre.

Lights go down.

The show starts.

Scene 1

Julie and Karen's apartment.

CHEEPERS is in his cage doing bird things – pecking at seeds, grooming his feathers, etc.

He notices the audience.

He starts cooing at the audience. This continues for a minute. Have fun with it.

JULIE enters and CHEEPERS suddenly stops all of that and becomes very tense.

JULIE pays no attention to CHEEPERS at first.

She's not feeling well.

Spotlight on a bottle of whiskey.

JULIE touches the bottle, lovingly, covetously, stroking it.

THEN she drops to her knees and prays.

JULIE

God, please give me strength. I want to serve you. I want to be good and faithful to you.

JULIE looks up at the bottle with longing.

JULIE

I really like teaching at the church... The kids are...well they're kids, so they kind of suck. But I still like teaching there... I mean, except for Pastor David. He's kind of...creepy. He kinda reminds me of my—No!

Desperate

Please give me strength. Please give me... Please, lord... Are you listening? It's me, Julie. Oh, fuck it!

JULIE takes the bottle and drinks from it.

The lights go back to normal.

JULIE sighs with relief.

CHEEPERS

in parrot voice

Alcoholic! Alcoholic!

JULIE

Shut up, you stupid bird.

CHEEPERS makes bird noises.

JULIE

Stop your squawking! You're giving me a headache. ...or a worse headache.

JULIE takes several more swigs. Then she goes over to CHEEPERS's cage.

CHEEPERS gets even more nervous. He starts pacing back and forth in his cage, flapping his wings a bit.

JULIE

Oh, stop it. Settle down. I'm not gonna hurt you. I'm just gonna give you some seeds. I can see my mom hasn't given you any in a while.

JULIE digs a shovel into a pail of bird seed, then opens the cage and dumps the seed in next to CHEEPERS.

CHEEPERS totally freaks out and starts flapping his wings and fluttering around his cage, bouncing against the sides of it and whatnot.

JULIE

Are you actually serious right now?!

JULIE closes the cage, and CHEEPERS calms down a little bit.

JULIE

When have I ever done anything to hurt you? Hell—I mean, heck, I watched your mom lay the egg you hatched out of. And when you got sick as a baby bird, I was the one who ordered the baby birdie medicine that made you better and saved your life. You think my mom knows how to work the internet and find baby birdie medicine? Hell—I mean, heck, do you think your bird mom knew how to use the internet to order baby birdie medicine? No. No one's mother knows how to use the internet.

CHEEPERS makes bird noises.

JULIE

Stop your squawking, you god—gosh darn noise maker!

CHEEPERS quiets down out of fear.

JULIE looks in CHEEPERS's water dish.

JULIE

Are you serious? Look how many poops you made in your water dish.

CHEEPERS looks.

JULIE

Here, I'll get you some fresh water, even though you don't deserve it.

JULIE goes to take the water dish out of the cage and CHEEPERS goes apeshit, flapping about and whatnot. Some shitty water gets in JULIE's eye.

JULIE

Are you fuck—I mean, freaking serious?! No. You know what? Jesus taught us to turn the other cheek, and I'm gonna turn the other eye. If you splash poop water in one of my eyes, I'll simply turn the other.

JULIE turns her head so the other eye is closer to the cage. CHEEPERS freaks out and flutters about and flings shit water in that eye as well.

JULIE

You got some in my mouth that time. Why are you so afraid of me? You know what, I'm gonna make you a deal, you stupid bird. I promise you I'll do one of two things. I'll either kill you right here and now. I'll reach into your cage, wrap my hand around your little bird body and squeeze until I feel all your little bird bones crack in my grip and I see the bird life disappear from your little bird eyes. I'll either do that right this second...or...I'll never ever hurt you, so help me God. This is a really good deal, bird. For all the rest of us, life is a crapshoot. So, do we have a deal?

CHEEPERS makes a bird noise.

JULIE

I'll take that squawk as a yes. So, here it goes... Three...two...one...

CHEEPERS closes his eyes in fearful anticipation. But JULIE doesn't do anything.

JULIE

See? Just like Noah after the flood.

JULIE tries to take the water dish again, and CHEEPERS flaps around again.

CHEEPERS

Parrot voice

HELP! MURDER! HELP! REDRUM! HELP! REDRUM! REDRUM!

KAREN enters.

KAREN

What are you doing to poor Cheepers?

JULIE sighs and looks at her mother.

JULIE

I'm not doing anything to him.

CHEEPERS shivers his feathers in fear.

KAREN

Just look at him. He's scared half to death. The poor baby.

KAREN goes over to the cage.

KAREN

Step back. Give him some room.

JULIE sighs, but steps away from the cage.

CHEEPERS calms down.

KAREN

How's my little Cheepers? How's my good little birdie boy? You want some seeds?

CHEEPERS nods his head.

KAREN feeds him seeds through the bars of the cage.

KAREN

to JULIE

See? You just have to be gentle and kind to him. He's sensitive.

JULIE

I am gentle and kind to him.

under her breath

I haven't killed him yet, have I?

JULIE picks up the bottle of whiskey.

CHEEPERS

parrot voice

Alcoholic! Alcoholic!

KAREN turns to see JULIE with the bottle in her hand.

KAREN

Are you drinking this early in the morning?

JULIE

No. Of course not.

KAREN

Don't you have to teach bible school?

JULIE

Yeah. Which is why I'm not—

CHEEPERS

parrot voice

Alcoholic! Alcoholic!

JULIE

I'M NOT A—I'm not drinking this morning. Why did you teach him to say that?

KAREN

I didn't teach him to say anything. He's just very observant. Sometimes I worry that you drink too much. Teaching bible school is an important responsibility. Pastor David was very generous to give you the opportunity.

JULIE puts the bottle away.

JULIE

Did you take your morning pills?

KAREN

Not yet. I just got up.

JULIE

Well, make sure you take them. I looked at your pill box and saw that you didn't take your bedtime pills last night.

KAREN

I forgot. I fell asleep in front of the TV. You don't look so good.

JULIE

Thanks, mom.

KAREN

You should really cut back on your drinking. It ages you.

CHEEPERS

parrot voice

Old alcoholic! Old alcoholic!

JULIE

I HAVE TO GO! TAKE YOUR GODDAM PILLS!

JULIE storms out.

KAREN

You shouldn't use the Lord's name in vain...

CHEEPERS

Normal voice

Probably the booze talking. She drank half that bottle before you got up.

KAREN sits down in the same armchair that JULIE was sitting in before.

CHEEPERS

She's crazy, you know.

KAREN

No. She's alright. She just likes the whiskey a bit too much, like her father.

CHEEPERS

She threatened to kill me.

KAREN

She probably didn't mean it. You know how she can be.

CHEEPERS

Where are my parents?

KAREN

They died a few years back.

CHEEPERS

Did she kill them?

KAREN

No, of course not. They just died of natural causes.

CHEEPERS

I can't remember them?

KAREN

That's cause you're a bird and have a bird brain.

CHEEPERS

Karen, will you do me a favor?

KAREN

What's that?

CHEEPERS

Would you maybe go to the pet store and get me a lady bird? I think I'm lonely.

KAREN

No.

CHEEPERS

Why not?

KAREN

Because of what happened last time.

CHEEPERS

What happened last time?

KAREN

With Fluffy. Don't you remember?

CHEEPERS shakes his bird head.

KAREN

I brought Fluffy home to keep you company, and as soon as I put her in your cage, you jumped on her and started raping her, and then she started fluttering about, trying to get away from you, and she was banging off the sides of the cage more and more violently, and she ended up breaking her neck.

CHEEPERS

Oh, Jesus!

KAREN

Oh, Jesus is right.

CHEEPERS

I feel sick to my stomach. I can't believe I would ever do something like that. Feels even worse that I can't remember it.

KAREN

Oh, men do terrible things all the time, both what they can and can't remember. Julie's father did plenty of both, and he didn't even have the excuse of having a bird brain.

pause

My morning pills! Where's my darn pill box?

KAREN gets up and starts searching for her pill box.

CHEEPERS

I think Julie takes after her father. I think she's gonna kill us both.

KAREN

Oh, shut your beak. No, she won't. Julie's a good girl. Where are my pills?

CHEEPERS

She threatened to kill me earlier. She said she was gonna reach inside my cage and crush me in her hand until all my bones broke and my internal organs oozed out of both my mouth and butt. Quote, end quote.

KAREN

I'm sure she was just in a mood.

finds her pills

Ah! Found my pill box!

CHEEPERS

She also told me that your pills are actually poison.

KAREN and CHEEPERS look at each other.

Scene 2

Bible School.

The sound of children talking indistinctly, like they do before a class begins.

JULIE is drinking from her water bottle, but from the way she drinks, taking each sip like a shot of hard liquor, it's clear she's not drinking water.

MEGAN enters and walks up to JULIE.

MEGAN

Hi. You must be Julie. I'm Megan.

MEGAN reaches out to shake JULIE's hand.

JULIE reflexively hides the water bottle behind her back, but then remembers it's just a water bottle and not a flask, and brings it out from behind her back as casually as possible.

MEGAN notices all of this.

The two women shake hands.

MEGAN turns JULIE's hand over and looks at her palm.

A spotlight shines on them for a moment. MEGAN looks up into the light.

JULIE pulls her hand away.

Lights back to normal.

MEGAN

Pastor David's assigned me to help you with Bible study.

JULIE

Oh, yeah. He mentioned something about...

Takes another sip from her bottle.

MEGAN

That I'm a lost cause?

JULIE

What?

MEGAN

I'm just kidding. Or at least I hope I'm just kidding. In any case, I'm in rehab and this is part of my community service for drug related offences. Also, I can't remember most of my childhood.

JULIE

Oh. Okay. Um... Okay.

MEGAN

So, how would you like me to help out today?

JULIE

Um... If you could just like encourage the kids to participate and stuff, that would be great.

MEGAN

Yeah, I can definitely do that. What's the topic of today's lesson?

JULIE

I'm gonna be talking about the importance of faith.

MEGAN

Oh, good! Faith is really important to me. Like really, REALLY important.

JULIE takes a deep draw from her bottle and then coughs.

MEGAN

Are you okay?

JULIE

Struggling to stop coughing.

Yeah. Just went down the wrong pipe.

A long pause.

I think I'm about to do something really crazy...

MEGAN

You gotta have faith in yourself.

JULIE

Yeah... Right...

JULIE takes another sip from her bottle.

MEGAN goes over to a desk or chair that is positioned right in front of the front row of the audience.

JULIE takes one more sip from her bottle, takes a deep breath and then walks out towards the audience.

JULIE

Good morning, you good Christian boys and girls!

MEGAN turns to the audience and tries to lead them in response.

MEGAN

Good morning, Miss Julie!

JULIE

How are we feeling this glorious morning?

MEGAN once again tries to lead the audience in response.

MEGAN

We're feeling blessed, Miss Julie!

JULIE

Today we're gonna talk about the importance of faith. Can anyone tell me what it means to have faith?

JULIE pauses and waits a while for someone in the audience to answer.

MEGAN looks back at the audience as well and makes gestures of encouragement.

If someone responds, JULIE improvises a response.

If not, MEGAN says the following line:

MEGAN

To trust in God!

JULIE

Exactly! Faith means to trust in God no matter what. No matter what! Remember when we talked about the story of Job. No matter how much he suffered, he never lost faith in God. And remember when we talked about Moses leading his people out of Egypt. The Pharaoh's army had them cornered at the Red Sea. There was nowhere for them to go. But did Moses lose faith?

MEGAN once more leads the audience.

MEGAN

No!

JULIE

No, he didn't. Because he knew the lord had his back. And then God parted the Red Sea, allowed Moses and his people to escape and then drowned all the Egyptians.

MEGAN

Amen! Suck it, Pharoah!

JULIE

Umm...yeah. And so, that...that brings me to the Bible story for today. The story of Lot's wife. So, this man named Lot lived in the city of Sodom, and the people there were very evil, except for Lot and his family. And so, God decided he was gonna punish the people of Sodom, but first he sent down a couple of angels to evacuate Lot and his family to safety. And the angels told them to run as fast as they could and not look back. No matter what they heard from the fire and brimstone that God was raining down on Sodom, they should just keep going and have faith that they would be safe from God's wrath. But as they were fleeing, Lot's wife lost faith and couldn't resist the temptation to look back. And do you know what happened to her? She was turned into a pillar of salt.

MEGAN

And then Lot had sex with his own daughters.

JULIE

Well...yes...technically that's true. The Bible does say that his daughters got him drunk and seduced him, which is kinda... But! Not exactly what I'm getting at right now.

MEGAN

Oops. Sorry.

JULIE

So...anyway...what this story, as well as the others, highlights is the importance of blind faith. How you have to trust in God no matter what, no matter how scary something is. And so, boys and girls, I want you to demonstrate right now just how much you trust God. I want you to close your eyes and not open them no matter what. Can you do that for me? Can you do that for God?

MEGAN leads the audience again.

MEGAN

Yes, Miss Julie!

JULIE

Ok. Good. Let's begin.

MEGAN closes her eyes.

Total Blackout. I mean pitch black. No light at all in the theatre.

JULIE

Under her breath in the darkness

Give me strength, lord.

The sound of a chainsaw starting and then revving.

After a few moments, a flash of light that reveals JULIE holding a chainsaw.

Blackness.

Another flash of light, revealing JULIE closer to the audience with the chainsaw.

Blackness.

Another flash of light, revealing JULIE right in front of the audience with the chainsaw.

The sound of children screaming.

A spotlight on just JULIE and MEGAN.

JULIE is holding the chainsaw right next to MEGAN's head.

MEGAN keeps her eyes closed.

JULIE looks up into the spotlight as MEGAN did previously

JULIE

You can open your eyes now, Megan.

MEGAN opens her eyes and looks at JULIE.

Light slowly fade out.

Scene 3

Pastor David's Office.

PASTOR DAVID is sitting at his desk, doing Pastor-type things. He's also listening to and bopping along with some music that is too young for him and vaguely inappropriate.

JULIE reluctantly approaches. She stops and takes a deep sip from her water bottle.

JULIE

Lord, give me strength... You wanted to see me, Pastor David.

PASTOR DAVID is mortified and clumsily shuts off his radio. He tries to regain his composure and dignity.

PASTOR DAVID

Yes, indeed I do, Julie. Come in. Have a seat.

JULIE has a seat across from PASTOR DAVID.

PASTOR DAVID

So, anything interesting happen today?

JULIE thinks about this for a long moment.

JULIE

Not that I can think of.

PASTOR DAVID

That's funny. Because I heard that a certain Bible school teacher threatened her students with a chainsaw.

JULIE

That's what this is about?

PASTOR DAVID

Yes! Of course that's what this is about! Why? Did you do something worse that I should know about?

JULIE

I didn't *threaten* anyone with a chainsaw. I don't think that's a fair characterization.

PASTOR DAVID

Did you *brandish* a chainsaw during your Bible study class today?

JULIE

If I'm not mistaken, the word "brandish" implies violent intent. So, no, I did not brandish a chainsaw in my class today.

PASTOR DAVID

Did you bring, in any manner, violent or otherwise, a chainsaw into your Bible study class today?

JULIE

Technically no.

PASTOR DAVID

Technically no?

JULIE

It wasn't real. It was just a prop chainsaw.

PASTOR DAVID

And how did the children react to your fake chainsaw?

JULIE

They started screaming and ran out of the room...and then cried a lot afterwards. But—

PASTOR DAVID

We are a church, Julie! We are here to comfort the needy, console the suffering, shepherd the lost and instruct the innocent. We are not here to traumatize children. We're not Catholics, for God's sake!

JULIE

I was just trying to teach them the importance of faith and trusting in the Lord.

PASTOR DAVID takes out a Bible.

PASTOR DAVID

Can you please guide me to where in the Bible chainsaws are mentioned as a test of faith? Chapter and verse, please.

JULIE

They didn't have chainsaws back then, obviously.

PASTOR DAVID

Do you know how many calls I've gotten from angry parents because of your chainsaw stunt?

JULIE

I'm guessing a lot.

PASTOR DAVID

Actually, no. I only got like two calls. I'm guessing the rest of the kids are too afraid of you to tell their parents.

JULIE

Well...then maybe what I was going for kinda worked in a way...

During the following speech, PASTOR DAVID stands up, walks around the desk and eventually ends up standing behind JULIE, with his hands on the back of her chair.

PASTOR DAVID

Julie, I'm gonna level with you. I like you. I think that, chainsaws aside, you've done a really great job as a Bible school teacher. And I could easily see you as the head of the program someday soon. Or maybe even as my co-pastor.

JULIE

What?

PASTOR DAVID

I'm serious.

Laughs

I could really use a Sunday off from time to time. And I could totally see you as a frontrunner candidate for the job. I mean, assuming you can lay off the chainsaws.

JULIE

I don't know what to say...

PASTOR DAVID

The regional conference is coming up in a few weeks, and I was thinking maybe you could be my special guest. I'm scheduled to give a speech there, and maybe you could say a few words about the importance of faith regarding today's youth, since you're so passionate about the topic.

JULIE

Yes! Absolutely!

A little embarrassed by her own enthusiasm

That would be... That would be such a blessing.

PASTOR DAVID

Wonderful. I'll put in the paperwork. If it's approved, you'll have a room at the hotel with a Sunday school teacher from one of the other congregations. You girls can stay up late, giggling about which Pastors you think are the dreamiest.

Pastor David laughs. Pregnant Pause.

PASTOR DAVID

Great. Perfect. I'll let you know if we're good to go. But I wouldn't worry too much, if I were you. I'm the keynote speaker after all, so I'm kind of a VIP. I'm sure they'll let me do whatever I want.

He laughs in a way that is both humble and totally not.

JULIE

Yeah...ok. And thanks again for the opportunity.

PASTOR DAVID

No problem. Talk to you soon.

JULIE begins to get up and leave, but then stops.

MEGAN shows up outside the office.

JULIE

Oh. I just wanted to say that Megan had nothing to do with the chainsaw business this morning. I don't want her to get in any kind of trouble.

PASTOR DAVID

Well...unfortunately, I already reported her to her probation officer. She's gonna be back in jail by the end of the day.

MEGAN, still waiting outside, betrays no reaction to this news.

JULIE

What?! No! Call them back! I'll tell them it was all my fault!

PASTOR DAVID enjoys a hearty laugh.

PASTOR DAVID

Calm down. I'm just messing with you. Megan's fine. Like I said, we're a church. We're here to help people.

JULIE

That wasn't funny.

PASTOR DAVID

It kinda was to me.

JULIE leaves the office and sees MEGAN waiting outside.

JULIE

Oh! Hi, Megan.

MEGAN

Hi, Miss Julie.

PASTOR DAVID

Hey! Is Megan out there? Come on in, Megan.

JULIE exits and MEGAN enters Pastor David's office.

PASTOR DAVID

Hey, Megan. How are you?

MEGAN

Ok.

PASTOR DAVID

I heard you had quite an interesting first day.

MEGAN

Interesting? Oh! You mean the chainsaw.

PASTOR DAVID

I just want you to know that you're not in any trouble.

MEGAN

The chainsaw was my idea.

PASTOR DAVID

What?

MEGAN

The chainsaw. It was my idea.

PASTOR DAVID

Chuckling

What are you, like, having a Spartacus moment right now?

MEGAN

A Spartacus moment?

PASTOR DAVID

Yeah, I guess you wouldn't get that reference. It was an old movie with Kirk—

MEGAN

Kirk Douglas, yes. I am familiar with that movie. It was directed by Stanley Kubrick. I'm also familiar with the historical figure of Spartacus, one of the leaders of the Third Servile War, a slave uprising against Rome. And I believe what you're specifically referring to is the moment in the movie when all the other freedom fighters shout "I'm Spartacus" in solidarity with their leader, which was actually an act of political activism by the film's screenwriter Dalton Trumbo against the Red Scare forces that had had him blacklisted in Hollywood.

PASTOR DAVID

Wow. I stand corrected. I must say, you have quite the memory for a girl with memory problems.

MEGAN

My memory problems are limited to my own experiences. And the chainsaw was my idea. I didn't tell Julie to do it. It was so strange. It was like watching myself move inside her.

PASTOR DAVID

Um...ok. So, how are your...how are your sessions going? Any improvement?

MEGAN

The sessions are going the same. I still can't remember any of the things I can't remember.

PASTOR DAVID

I see.

MEGAN

Is that all, Pastor?

PASTOR DAVID

Yeah. That's all.

MEGAN stands up and starts to leave.

PASTOR DAVID

Oh, and Megan... We love you here, you know.

Scene 4

KAREN is sitting at a table with her pillbox. She keeps opening the various compartments, poking around at the pills with her finger and then closing them again.

KAREN

What are all these pills for?

CHEEPERS

Parrot voice

Poison! Poison!

KAREN

Oh, shush! They're not poison. But what is this big white one for?

KAREN holds up big white pill.

It's so big I can hardly swallow it.

CHEEPERS

Maybe that's the point. It looks more like an accident if you choke on it...

KAREN

Oh, stop it, Cheepers! Julie is a good girl. I just can't remember what all these pills are for.

KAREN keeps poking around in her pillbox.

KAREN

And why are there three red ones and two yellow ones? They all look a little different, but how am I supposed to know what is what?

CHEEPERS

Karen, look at me.

KAREN looks at CHEEPERS.

CHEEPERS

They're all poison.

KAREN

No. They're not. I just can't remember...

CHEEPERS

Karen. They're poison. She's gonna kill us both. She told me so. She said your pills are poison, but they aren't working fast enough, so she has to suffocate you with a pillow instead. Probably tonight. I'd sleep with one eye open if I were you.

KAREN flies into a rage and menaces CHEEPERS.

KAREN

SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

CHEEPERS gets spooked and flutters about his cage.

KAREN

Oh, Cheepers. Calm down. I'm so sorry. Mommy didn't mean to startle you. Calm down. It's all right. Everything is all right. Calm down, baby. You're my little baby birdie boy. I love you so much, Cheepers. Mommy would never hurt her baby birdie.

CHEEPERS gradually calms down.

KAREN goes over to the table, opens up all the compartments of her pillbox and pours all the pills out on the table in a big messy mound. She starts to sort the pills by type.

JULIE enters and sees the mess. She's borderline apoplectic.

JULIE

Mom. Mom! What are you... What are you doing?!

KAREN

I'm just trying to figure out what all these pills are for.

JULIE

Are you...? Are you serious?!

KAREN

What are these big white ones for? And why are there so many red and yellow ones?

JULIE

Mom! I just filled that last night! Oh, my god! Seriously?! Now I gotta...!

KAREN holds up a pill.

KAREN

What's this one for?

JULIE goes to where she put the bottle of whiskey earlier, retrieves it and takes a big gulp.

CHEEPERS

Parrot voice

Alcoholic! Alcoholic!

JULIE
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID FUCKING BIRD!

CHEEPERS
See? What did I tell you? Is she homicidal, or what?

JULIE takes another deep swig.

JULIE
Stop your squawking!

KAREN
I just...

JULIE
Mom. I need you to listen to me. I'm trying to take care of you. You understand that, right? So you can stay here...instead of somewhere else...

KAREN
I'm sorry.

JULIE
I... I just filled your pills last night. I put all of them in the right compartments. And then I double checked them to make sure they were right.

KAREN
I just don't understand what all of them are for.

JULIE
They're to keep you alive!

Calms down a bit
They're... They're all the pills that the doctor says you need to take to stay healthy, for your heart and memory and stuff. I put them in your pillbox, and all you have to do is take them out of the box and put them in your mouth. When you wake up in the morning, you take the morning pills. And when you go to bed at night, you take the evening pills. It's really that simple. Ok? Can you please just do that for me?

CHEEPERS
Parrot voice
Poison! Poison!

JULIE
SHUT UP!

KAREN
Can't you just tell me what all these pills are for?

JULIE

Mom. I've done that. I've done that more times than I can count. I just need you to take the pills. Please. Please just trust me and take the pills. Please let me take care of you.

KAREN

I just...

Starts to cry

I'm sorry. I just get confused. And then I get worried. I'm sorry.

JULIE feels bad.

JULIE

It's ok. Mom. It's ok. I'm sorry I... I'm sorry I got upset.

KAREN

Still crying

I just can't remember what any of these are for. And I get scared.

JULIE

It's ok, mom. Calm down. Here. I'll show you. These big white ones are for your heart, and they're really important, and you're supposed to take them in the morning, so I put them in the morning boxes.

KAREN

Why are there three different kinds of red ones?

JULIE

I don't know, mom. They just make them that way.

KAREN

But how can you tell them apart? I don't want to take too much of something and get sick.

JULIE

You won't, mom. I can tell them apart. They come out of different bottles, and they have different numbers on them.

KAREN

What numbers?

The doorbell rings.

KAREN

Who could that be?

JULIE
I don't know. Why don't you go and see?

KAREN
Ok...

KAREN reluctantly leaves, watching warily as JULIE fills her pillbox.

JULIE continues sorting pills.

Several moments pass.

KAREN comes back with MEGAN.

KAREN
This young lady says she works with you at the church.

JULIE
Oh... Hey, Megan.

KAREN
I'll give you girls some privacy. I'm gonna take Cheepers and watch TV in my room.

KAREN takes CHEEPERS and exits.

MEGAN sits down across the table from JULIE.

MEGAN
That's a lot of pills there.

JULIE
Yeah. They're just my mom's heart pills and stuff. Nothing exciting.

Pause

Not that I was... Not that I was implying anything. I'm sorry.

MEGAN
It's ok. You could have a pile of oxies there, and I would be ok. I've been clean and sober for over a year.

JULIE
I'm so sorry.

MEGAN
It's really okay.

JULIE

And I'm also really sorry about today. I told Pastor David—

MEGAN

I know. I heard you.

JULIE

Oh...

Pause

It was so stupid.

MEGAN

No!

JULIE

What?

MEGAN

No, it was not stupid at all. I really...LOVED...what you did today. It was something...
It was something I've been thinking about for a long time.

MEGAN pulls out a revolver and puts it down on the table.

JULIE

Oh, Jesus!

MEGAN

Exactly.

Pause

I really like what you said about faith. Faith is really important to me. Really, REALLY
important to me. When you held that chainsaw in front of my face...

*JULIE keeps looking back and forth between the gun and MEGAN
through the following exchange.*

JULIE

It wasn't real, by the way. The chainsaw. I would never—

MEGAN

I wish it had been real. You could've cut my head off if you wanted.

JULIE

What? No. I would never... I would never hurt you.

MEGAN

I know.

JULIE

I would never hurt anyone.

MEGAN

I know. I have faith in you, Julie. Which is why, if you ever want to cut my head off with a chainsaw, I would be totally down with it.

JULIE

I would never—

MEGAN

I know. Which is why I would let you.

JULIE

Where did you get that gun?

MEGAN

I stole it from this guy I used to let have anal sex with me in exchange for drugs. I don't know why he was so intent on fornicating with my butt. I was only 14 when I met him, and he had to use a lot of lubricant no matter how he penetrated me. But he really, REALLY preferred the butt. Even though he kept getting urinary tract infections and stuff. People are weird sometimes.

JULIE

You're not gonna like...

MEGAN

Shoot you? No! God no! I would never shoot anyone. Unless they wanted me to.

JULIE

Well, I don't want you to shoot me.

MEGAN

I know. Which is why I'm not gonna shoot you today.

JULIE

Today? I don't want you to ever shoot me.

MEGAN

We'll see. But that's beside the point. I came here today because I wanted to show you something.

JULIE

Maybe we should call—

MEGAN picks up the gun, spins the chamber and puts the barrel against her own head.

MEGAN pulls the trigger.

CLICK

JULIE

Are you crazy?!

MEGAN

My court-appointed therapist doesn't like to use that word.

JULIE

You could've...

MEGAN

There was only one bullet in the gun.

MEGAN opens the gun and dumps the bullet on the table.

JULIE reaches across the table and grabs the bullet.

MEGAN

You can have it. I have plenty more at home.

JULIE

Megan, I—

MEGAN

But playing Russian Roulette with just one bullet isn't really faith, is it? It's just odds. With just one bullet and five empty chambers, I have an 83 and a third percent chance of not blowing my brains out. I mean, how many situations in life give you such favorable odds? When I used to go see Tim—he was the guy who I used to let put his penis in my butt in exchange for drugs—there was a 100 percent chance he would put his penis in my butt, but only a 50 percent chance that he would give me drugs afterwards. You see what I mean?

JULIE

No. But I'm sorry that—

MEGAN

If I play Russian Roulette with just one bullet in the gun, then I'm actually having less faith in God than I did in Tim. My goal is to eventually have so much faith that I can have all six chambers filled with bullets.

JULIE

That's not faith. That's just suicide.

MEGAN

Not if God-slash-the-universe still has a purpose for me. One day soon, I hope to have enough faith that I can put six bullets in this gun, hold it against my head and say, "God, if you still need me on this Earth, if I'm still part of your divine, cosmic plan, then I trust that this gun will not fire, that the bullet will be a dud, that the firing pin will fail, that you will reach down and stop the bullet from ending my life. And if you don't, if I die, then I have faith that that is your plan as well."

JULIE

So...you're still seeing your therapist, right?

MEGAN

Yeah. His name is Tim.

Laughs

But not the same Tim who used to sodomize me in exchange for drugs. That would be weird. No. This is a different Tim. Doctor Tim. He's never even shown me his penis.

JULIE

I'm glad to hear that.

MEGAN

I can smell it on you, you know.

JULIE

You can smell what on me?

MEGAN

Your pain.

JULIE

You can smell my pain? I really think—

MEGAN

I can smell what you use to deal with it. I could smell it today at the church. Even though you were hiding it in a water bottle.

JULIE

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

MEGAN

Even though you were drinking vodka and not whiskey. Smart.

JULIE

I was drinking water.

MEGAN

I couldn't smell it on your breath, but I could smell it coming out of your pores. You drink to fight your pain, and then your body fights your drinking by excreting acetic acid through your skin. It has a distinctive aroma, similar to rotting fruit.

JULIE

So, you're saying I smell like rotting fruit?

MEGAN

A bit. Yes.

JULIE

Thanks.

MEGAN

I don't mean any offense. And I'm not trying to be like a boozy Sherlock Holmes or anything.

JULIE

I think you mean a boozy bloodhound. As far as I recall, Sherlock Holmes never solved any of his cases by sniffing the suspects.

MEGAN

I didn't sniff you.

JULIE

Yeah, ok, weirdo.

MEGAN

I just know the smell because that's what my dad always smelled like. That's the only thing I can remember about him. When I close my eyes and try to remember him, that's what comes to me. The smell of rotting fruit. Just like I smelled on you today.

JULIE

Well, my dad smelled like whiskey and Old Spice.

MEGAN

A lot of alcoholics try to cover up their smell with perfumes and colognes. The one I smelled on you earlier today was particularly nice. But it was far too subtle to be effective.

JULIE

I'm not an alcoholic.

I'm not judging you, Julie. MEGAN

I think you should leave. JULIE

All pain has a smell. MEGAN

I need you to leave. JULIE

People like us. We always find each other. MEGAN

I'm gonna tell Pastor David that he should reassign you to someone else. JULIE

I have faith in you, Julie. MEGAN

GET OUT! JULIE

MEGAN leaves.

KAREN enters, concerned.

JULIE rushes off.

Scene 5

Bible School.

JULIE is in her classroom.

She starts to write a Bible verse (Corinthians 13:13) on the chalkboard, but then erases it.

She starts again, but then erases again.

She starts a third time, writes "And now these three remain", then stops, drops the chalk and plops down dejectedly in her chair.

PASTOR DAVID enters.

PASTOR DAVID

Faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

JULIE looks up, startled out of her thoughts.

JULIE

Oh. Hey, Pastor David.

PASTOR DAVID

Corinthians 13:13. One of the most misquoted verses in the Bible. But as they say, even the devil can quote scripture to serve his purpose. And so can hippies, evidently. I trust you aren't teaching your students to be hippies now. Chainsaws and hippies generally don't mix.

JULIE

Something is obviously wrong

No, I'm not teaching anyone to be a hippie.

PASTOR DAVID

What's wrong, Julie?

JULIE

Nothing. It's just...

PASTOR DAVID

Just... Is it something with your mom? Is she ok?

JULIE

Yeah, she's fine. I mean, she's not actively dying or anything. Knock on wood. She can just be frustrating sometimes.

PASTOR DAVID

I hear you. Every time I talk to my mom, she's all like, "when are you gonna get married, Davey? You're not a priest after all. Blah, blah, blah.

Laughs softly to himself

It must be tough. Getting older.

JULIE

I can relate.

PASTOR DAVID

Hey! We're not old yet, Julie. There are still roads left in both of our shoes.

JULIE

Aren't those song lyrics? The roads in the shoes part?

PASTOR DAVID

I don't think so.

Laughs

And then half sarcastic/half playful

Yes, Julie. I'm serenading you.

Laughs again

A long awkward pause

PASTOR DAVID

Speaking of roads, we're all set for the conference next week. See what I did there? Was that a smooth transition or what?

Laughs

Unfortunately, the hotel is booked up that weekend, so it was kind of hard to find you a room at the Inn, so to speak. No room for Julie at the Hampton Inn.

Laughs

So...I went ahead and upgraded myself to the Presidential-slash-Honeymoon-slash-whatever suite. At my own expense, mind you. And so...I was thinking that you and I could just...share that?

JULIE

Oh...

PASTOR DAVID

Quickly

I mean, it has two separate bedrooms with their own separate bathrooms. Only like the sitting room area is shared.

Pause as he gauges her reaction

Or, I mean, if that makes you uncomfortable...

JULIE

No. No, that's... It's fine. And thank you. I'm really not trying to be ungrateful.

PASTOR DAVID

No. You're fine.

JULIE

I have no problem with... I'm just a little preoccupied today is all. Just let me know how much I owe you for my half of the room.

PASTOR DAVID

Don't worry about it.

JULIE

No. Seriously. I don't want to—

PASTOR DAVID

No. I insist. I mean, if living the austere life of a servant of God has any benefits, it's that you have a little saved up for the occasional...splurging.

JULIE

Ummm... Well, ok, I guess. I just...

PASTOR DAVID

Your company will be more than sufficient recompense.

JULIE

Recompense?

PASTOR DAVID

In the biblical sense of the word, I mean.

JULIE

Incredulous

In The Biblical Sense?

PASTOR DAVID is a bit frozen and mortified for a second.

JULIE laughs.

PASTOR DAVID laughs with relief.

PASTOR DAVID

Jeez! I really dug myself in a hole there, didn't I?

JULIE

Yeah. In the Biblical sense.

They both laugh. The tension is gone.

PASTOR DAVID

In all seriousness, you're not uncomfortable with this arrangement, are you? I don't want you to be...like...whatever...or anything.

JULIE

Yeah. No. I'm really just, like I said, preoccupied.

PASTOR DAVID

Is something else wrong?

JULIE

No. It's nothing.

PASTOR DAVID

You sure?

JULIE

Yeah.

PASTOR DAVID

Well, I'm always here for you, if you want to talk about nothing. Or something, for that matter.

JULIE

I know, Pastor David.

PASTOR DAVID

You can just call me David, you know.

JULIE

Ok. David.

PASTOR DAVID

How are things going with Megan, by the way?

A long pause

PASTOR DAVID

She hasn't like pulled a gun on you or anything, has she?

JULIE

What?!

PASTOR DAVID

I was just... Because she's like a...and... I'm sorry. That was a bad joke. I'm just full of them today, aren't I?

JULIE

Oh.

PASTOR DAVID

What is it? Do you have any concerns about her?

A long pause

MEGAN appears on the stage

PASTOR DAVID

Julie? Seriously, is something wrong? Do you think she's relapsing or something?

JULIE

No. No! Nothing like that. Not at all. She's... She's doing great. She's been a huge help with my class. She's great. Really, really great.

The light shifts so there's just a spotlight on JULIE and MEGAN.

JULIE

Megan is really...REALLY great. God damn it.

Scene 6

Karen and Julie's apartment.

CHEEPERS is in his cage, doing bird things.

KAREN enters holding a giant stuffed bird. It should look very shabby and homemade.

KAREN

Hey, my little birdie boy, my little Cheepers. Look what mommy made for you.

CHEEPERS looks at the stuffed bird. He's not impressed.

CHEEPERS

What the hell is that?

KAREN is hurt.

KAREN

It's a lady bird. Like you asked for. I made her for you. And watch your beak with the swear words. God is listening.

CHEEPERS

I'm a bird. All birds are agnostic. And that...thing is not a lady bird.

KAREN looks at her Frankenstein-esque bird creation.

KAREN

Well, sure she is. I mean, I know I'm not the seamstress that I used to be, but she's not too bad, is she? I spent all week making her for you. I just want you to be happy.

KAREN starts to cry.

CHEEPERS rolls his eyes, but he also feels bad in the way that men do when they make women cry.

CHEEPERS

Come on, Karen. Don't cry. Please don't cry.

KAREN

When Julie was a little girl, I used to sew all her clothes. Mainly because her father was out of work most of the time and spent what little money we had on bottles. And so, I would get material from Joanne Fabrics and sew her little dresses and play clothes and pajamas. And I was good at it, darn it! I was really good at it.

CHEEPERS

I know, Karen. Well, I mean, I wasn't there, since that was like decades before I hatched. But I believe you.

KAREN

I used to be good at stuff. People used to need me. Julie used to need me. She really needed me... She needed me so much...

KAREN considers her creation again.

KAREN

I really tried. But my hands...and my brain just don't work like they used to. I really just wanted to make you happy. I just want to make everyone happy. I tried my best with Julie's father, but it was just never enough. Which is why he... My little baby girl... Oh, Julie... I'm so sorry!

KAREN cries harder.

CHEEPERS

No, no, no, Karen. Don't... Don't cry. Don't think about that. It's ancient history. Here. Let me see her again. Seriously. Let me see.

KAREN holds up the stuffed bird again.

CHEEPERS

I mean...yeah. She's not too bad. The uneven stitching across her face kinda gives her...a... punk rock sort of look. Like the kind of cool chick you might meet in a bird bar.

KAREN

You like her?

CHEEPERS

Sure. What's her name?

KAREN

I was thinking maybe Peepers, since I gave her these big ol' googly eyes. And Peepers and Cheepers has a nice ring to it, don't you think?

CHEEPERS

Well, hello there, Peepers. Fancy meeting a bird like you in a place like this.

KAREN

As Peepers

Well, hello yourself. That's a nice cage you've got. Can I come inside.

CHEEPERS

Well, aren't you forward? Come on in.

KAREN enters the cage, holding Peepers.

CHEEPERS

Can I offer you some dinner?

KAREN

As Peepers

I thought you'd never ask.

CHEEPERS eats some seeds and then regurgitates them on Peepers, approximately where her mouth would be if she wasn't a stuffed animal. He's feeding her, as birds often do as part of their mating rituals.

KAREN

As Peepers

That was yummy. May I have some more?

CHEEPERS eats more seeds, but this time he regurgitates them into KAREN's mouth.

CHEEPERS does his mating dance, combining both bird and human gestures, as at the start of the play.

KAREN

As Peepers

Take me!. Show me what you can do with that big cloaca of yours.

CHEEPERS mounts Peepers and has sex with it.

KAREN

As Peepers

Yes! That's it! Give it to me! Oh, yes! That's the spot! Oh, god!

CHEEPERS climaxes, flapping his wings.

CHEEPERS and KAREN are both out of breath.

KAREN

Are you happy now, my little baby birdie boy?

CHEEPERS

Yes. Thank you, mommy.

Scene 7

Bible School.

JULIE is in her classroom, teaching. The full quote from Corinthians 13:13 is written on the chalkboard.

MEGAN is sitting in front of the audience as JULIE's assistant.

JULIE

And so you see, children, Corinthians 13:13 is really about Godly love. And what is Godly love?

MEGAN

Leading the audience/children

Unconditional!

JULIE

Ummm...sort of. He loves us in a self-sacrificing way. After all, he sacrificed his son Jesus for our salvation. And so, we must be willing to sacrifice whatever else we might love for God.

The light shifts, so there are just spotlights on JULIE and MEGAN.

JULIE

A lot of people think this passage is saying that love is more important than religion. But it's not. What the Apostle Paul was really saying is that love for God is the most important thing.

MEGAN

But Paul was also extolling the Corinthians to love one another. No matter what obstacles stood between them.

A long pause.

The light shifts back to normal.

JULIE

Ok, class. That's all the time we have for now. God bless!

Sound of students exiting the class.

MEGAN

Good class, Julie.

JULIE is hurriedly packing up her things. She wants to get out of there ASAP.

MEGAN slowly approaches JULIE.

JULIE

Oh... Thanks, Megan. Good job yourself.

MEGAN

I really felt like you were talking directly to me.

JULIE

Well, the word of God is for everyone. It's for you specifically and everyone in general, all at the same time.

MEGAN

Julie, it's ok.

JULIE

And thanks for the help and everything.

MEGAN

Julie, it's really ok. I want to show you something.

JULIE suddenly looks up.

JULIE

Whispering

You didn't bring your gun here, did you?

MEGAN

No, of course not. I would never bring my gun to church. Unless I had to shoot someone. But I don't have to shoot anyone today. Come over here.

JULIE goes over to MEGAN. She's reluctant but also totally not.

MEGAN

Give me your hand.

MEGAN holds out her hand.

JULIE looks at it warily.

MEGAN

Don't worry. I won't bite.

JULIE takes MEGAN's hand.

MEGAN goes to bite JULIE's arm. JULIE flinches. MEGAN laughs.

MEGAN

I'm just kidding. You ready?

JULIE

No.

The light shifts to just a spotlight on the two of them.

JULIE is startled at this change, afraid, but also not.

JULIE

Where are we?

MEGAN

This is the secret hiding place where nothing can hurt you. I discovered it when I was a child, which is why I don't remember much from back then. This is the place that was created when Jesus was on the cross and shouted, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" "My god, my god, why have you forsaken me?" When God allowed his own son to suffer the unimaginable pain of flagellation and crucifixion, it created this special place for future martyrs, and in particular child martyrs, to take refuge. This is where I used to come when I would hear the creaking of the floorboards outside my bedroom, when I would hear my father's hand turn my doorknob. Come, sit with me!

MEGAN leads JULIE closer to the audience. They sit on the floor.

MEGAN

Angels used to visit me in here, and I would read their palms to pass the time.

JULIE

Skeptical

You did palm readings for angels?

MEGAN

Well, not at first. At first, we would just sort of awkwardly stare at each other until one of us would break the silence with some banal comment about the weather or how the local sports team almost won their last game. I was kind of socially awkward around angels for a while. But then I got a palmistry book from the library, and after that I had a good icebreaker when Michael or Gabriel or Lucifer or Kalqa'il or Aglibol or Eleleth would visit me.

JULIE

Some of those aren't Christian angels.

MEGAN

Angels don't really care that much about religion. They just care about faith. Here. Let me see your palm.

JULIE reluctantly lets MEGAN look at her palm.

MEGAN traces a line on JULIE's palm with her finger.

MEGAN

You have an extraordinarily long heart line. For most people, it ends between their middle and index finger, but yours goes all the way to the edge of your palm. This means you have an incredible amount of love to give.

JULIE scoffs.

JULIE

Tell that to my mom and her stupid bird.

MEGAN

Well, you haven't killed them yet, have you?

MEGAN

You see this line here? Running parallel to your lifeline? That's called a sister line. It indicates a protective force in your life. But yours doesn't start until later in your lifeline. Fairly recently, in fact.

JULIE

I think you're making this up.

MEGAN

Maybe. But maybe that's what faith is. Trusting the things that the people you love make up.

JULIE

Blurts out

I don't love you, Megan.

Pause

I mean, I love you as a Christian, of course. But I love everyone like that.

MEGAN

Shows JULIE her palm

My sister line, on the other hand—

Laughs

No pun intended. My sister line starts very near the beginning of my lifeline. But then there's this gap here. That was when my father died. For the longest time, I thought I might have killed him. But I think...I think it was something else. I think he couldn't live with what he was doing anymore. And it was partially my fault, because I was always hiding in here, hiding from his pain. And so, he killed himself...I think...I'm not sure. And then I couldn't find this place anymore. But I was addicted to it! I was jonesing for this feeling all the time. And so, I let Tim and other men use my body, just as my father had done, in exchange for drugs that would offer me a dark reflection of this place.

JULIE

Megan, I think I should—

MEGAN

Look here.

MEGAN shows JULIE her palm.

MEGAN

You see where my sister line picks back up after the gap? Now, look at it compared to yours.

MEGAN holds their hands side-by-side.

MEGAN

It's the exact same place. It's the moment we met, when you held the chainsaw next to my face. In that moment, this place opened back up again. I felt it. And I know you did too.

JULIE

I didn't feel a god damn thing.

MEGAN

Do you know what the Big Rip is, Julie?

JULIE

Nope. Can't say that I do.

MEGAN

The universe started with the Big Bang, which was God.

JULIE

Well, I mean, God may have caused the Big Bang, but—

MEGAN

No. God was the Big Bang. “Let there be light” was the Big Bang. There was a singularity of infinite density and heat, which sounds a lot like God, and suddenly it began expanding outward, which sounds a lot like Creation, doesn’t it?

JULIE

Megan, I think I want to leave now.

MEGAN

And ever since that moment, the universe has been expanding faster and faster and faster. And eventually the speed of Creation is going to reach a point where it will tear itself apart. That’s the Big Rip. First, it will tear gravity apart. All the stars in the night sky will disappear. Then our solar system will be torn apart, and the planets will be pulled away from the sun. And then finally, the bonds that hold all of our atoms together will be pulled apart.

JULIE

And when exactly is this supposed to happen?

MEGAN

22 billion years from now.

JULIE

Oh. Ok. Well, then I guess I can plan ahead.

MEGAN

Or sometime next week.

JULIE

So, either 22 billion years from now or next week? But definitely not two weeks from now?

MEGAN

Why do you doubt me, Julie?

JULIE

It just seems kind of far-fetched to me.

MEGAN

Far-fetched? Are you not in a liminal space between dimensions right now?

JULIE

I’m pretty sure I’m passed out drunk somewhere right now. This is not real.

MEGAN

Do you not feel my hand holding yours?

JULIE

I want to wake up. Lord, give me strength.

JULIE tries to pull her hand away from MEGAN, but MEGAN holds tight.

MEGAN

And when all of our atoms are pulled apart, the energy released from the breaking of those bonds will create an infinity of new Big Bangs. Every atom in your body will become a new God and a new universe that's just waiting to be awakened. Or...the big rip might just be the end of everything. Everything will be torn apart into nothingness. No one really knows. But I have faith.

JULIE finally pulls her hand away from MEGAN. The light shifts and we're back in the classroom again. JULIE runs away.

ACT BREAK

Scene 8

The Honeymoon Suite at the Hampton Inn.

JULIE is in her bedroom, kneeling next to the bed, praying.

PASTOR DAVID is in the sitting area, dancing and drinking.

JULIE

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.
Love above all things...

PASTOR DAVID

Singing (drunkenly and badly)

Now, I've heard there was a secret chord
That David

Laughs

That's me

Laughs

played, and it pleased the Lord
But you don't really care for music, do you?
It goes like this...something, something
The something, something and the something something
The baffled king composing Hallelujah

JULIE

Why are you testing me like this, Lord? I want to be faithful to you. Whatever lesson you're trying to teach me, I want to learn it. Is it temperance? I haven't had a drink since yesterday. I know that's not much, but it's been hard all the same.

JULIE holds her hand out and it shakes.

PASTOR DAVID

Still singing

Your faith was strong, but you needed proof
You saw her bathing on the roof

Laughs

Bathing on the roof? You naughty little tease, you.

Laughs

Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew you...

JULIE

Please give me strength, Lord. When I think of you, I see her face. I even whisper her name to myself sometimes like a secret prayer. And worse still, I can't help but hope—Lord, give me strength. Give me strength. Give me strength! Are you listening...? Are you?!

PASTOR DAVID knocks on JULIE's door.

PASTOR DAVID

Hey, Julie...

JULIE reluctantly gets up and goes to the door and opens it.

JULIE

Hi, Pastor David.

PASTOR DAVID

I told you. Just call me David.

JULIE

Ok. David. Is there something...?

PASTOR DAVID

Is there something? Like, come out and have a drink with me. We have so much to celebrate. Is there something, she asks.

Laughs

JULIE

I don't...

PASTOR DAVID

We crushed it. We totally crushed it today. My...our speech was...totally... I did the... And they were... And then you... Oh my god! Praised be! It was righteous! We were totally one with the holy spirit and in the zone and... God damn!

Fakes being contrite

Sorry, father. But for reals, yo! That was some Christ-level ministering we did today! Up top!

PASTOR DAVID goes for a high five. JULIE reluctantly complies.

PASTOR DAVID

Come on. Have a celebratory drink with me.

JULIE

I'm kinda tired.

PASTOR DAVID

Oh, come on! I know you're not shy when it comes to the bottle.

JULIE

Oh...

PASTOR DAVID

Oh...ummm...I'm sorry. I didn't... But! You know what? I kinda did. I mean... Do you really think I didn't know? Do you really think...? Yeah, ok, I'm just gonna say it. Did you really think I was that stupid? I mean, the chainsaw!!! And now... Look at your hands... They're shaking!

JULIE tries to hide her shaking hands.

PASTOR DAVID

But... It's ok. I like you. And... And I like you. And I think you're...ultimately...good at your job. Aside from the chainsaw stuff. And the alcoholism. And the drinking and brandishing chainsaws around children...while drinking. And like...I don't know...

A long pause

Will you just come have a god damn drink with me?

JULIE

Ok.

JULIE reluctantly goes out into the sitting area.

PASTOR DAVID opens the mini bar.

PASTOR DAVID

Pick your poison. The forbidden fruit of the mini bar. Apple-flavored whiskey, perhaps?

Laughs

JULIE

Ummm...ok.

PASTOR DAVID hands her the mini bottle.

JULIE takes it with a shaking hand.

PASTOR DAVID

You're really shaking, aren't you? I noticed when we were giving our speech earlier. But I just chalked it up to nerves. But you're like...

JULIE opens the mini bottle and downs it.

PASTOR DAVID

Jesus! Wow! Yeah! That's what I'm talking about! Here.

He gives her another mini bottle.

PASTOR DAVID

Have another apple whiskey from the mini bar of knowledge.

Laughs

JULIE can't help herself. She drinks down the second mini bottle.

PASTOR DAVID

Oh! I wanted to show you something! Come over here!

He leads her to a corner of the room.

PASTOR DAVID

You see that? It's a spider's web, isn't it?

JULIE

Umm... Or maybe just a cobweb.

PASTOR DAVID

What?! No! That's definitely a spiderweb! Like they would have cobwebs in the presidential-slash-honeymoon-slash-whatever suite at the Hampton Inn.

JULIE

Ok...

PASTOR DAVID

You want another drink?

JULIE

Ummm...yeah, sure.

He gives her another mini bottle.

She drinks it.

PASTOR DAVID

You remember the story of David and the spider, don't you?

JULIE

Yeah, I guess.

PASTOR DAVID

Here. Have another.

He gives her another mini bottle, and she drinks it.

PASTOR DAVID

David was fleeing King Saul, because Saul was super jelly that David was so awesome and stuff. As most Davids are.

Laughs

And so, David was on the run, and God was like, “yo, David, hide in this creepy cave over here.” And David was like, “but there’s like spiders in there and stuff.” And God was like, “I promise you that, by the time this all over, you will want to kiss a spider.” And so, David went into the cave, and a spider made a web over the entrance to hide him. And after David survived in the cave, he went out and literally kissed the spider. Like, I don’t know if spiders have tongues, but if they do, I’m sure there was tongue action involved.

PASTOR DAVID looks at JULIE for a weird moment, weirdly hoping she will kiss him, based on drunken logic that only makes sense to him.

PASTOR DAVID

You want another?

JULIE

Why not.

He gives her another mini bottle and she drinks it.

PASTOR DAVID

Do you like spiders?

JULIE

I mean, they are one of God’s creatures.

PASTOR DAVID

I effing hate spiders! My biggest fear is that one day, I’ll be driving in my car, and a spider will run across the steering wheel, and I’ll like swerve and kill a bunch of kids or something.

They both laugh. They’re both drunk at this point.

PASTOR DAVID

I’m totes cereal!

JULIE

Totes cereal? How old are you exactly?

PASTOR DAVID

Hey! Don't age shame me! Us! We can still be cool and hip. There are still roads left in both of our shoes.

JULIE

Those are totally song lyrics. I know it.

PASTOR DAVID

They are. You got me. It's a song called "Soul Meets Body" by Death Cab for Cutie. I heard it the other day and thought of you.

A long uncomfortable pause.

JULIE goes over to the mini bar.

JULIE

I think I actually remember that album from back when I was in my twenties.

PASTOR DAVID

Right?!

JULIE

It was all like emo, but also not as cool as emo. Not like The Cure. Like nerd emo or something.

She takes another mini bottle out of the mini bar and drinks it.

Is this cool?

PASTOR DAVID

Yeah, go for it. That lyric. "Where soul meets body." I was in the middle of deciding what I wanted to do with my life, and I was pretty sure I wanted to be a minister, but I was also totally not. I just kept listening to that song and wondering where my soul meets my body? You know what I mean?

JULIE has a moment of clarity and pauses.

The light shifts to another part of the stage. MEGAN is sitting on the floor with her gun. She spins the chamber, puts it against her head and pulls the trigger. CLICK

Light shifts back.

JULIE takes another bottle out of the mini bar.

JULIE

Uncertain

Yeah. Totally.

PASTOR DAVID

Like where does your soul meet your body, Julie?

JULIE

Um... Everywhere, I guess.

PASTOR DAVID

I've thought about that a lot. Ever since I was a young—or rather a YOUNGER man.

JULIE

Looking at the mini bar

Umm...

PASTOR DAVID

Go for it.

JULIE takes another bottle.

PASTOR DAVID

I used to think that my soul was connected to either my head or my heart. Or maybe both. You feel me?

JULIE

Do I feel you...? Oh! Yeah, yeah, totally.

DAVID PASTOR

Hey, don't hold back. I told you I'm here to splurge.

JULIE drinks another mini bottle.

The light shifts again to MEGAN. This time she looks directly at JULIE. They are both in separate spotlights.

JULIE quickly downs another bottle. And another.

The light on MEGAN flickers out again.

Back to the hotel room.

PASTOR DAVID

Well, someone's thirsty.

Laughs

Lately, though, I've felt like maybe there's a third place where my soul meets my body. A place that I've been ignoring for too long. You know what I mean?

JULIE

Umm...

PASTOR DAVID

Oh! I was reading about spiders the other day and I learned something really interesting. Did you know that human civilization would be completely impossible without spiders?

JULIE

Drinking another bottle

Seriously? How do you mean?

PASTOR DAVID

Spiders eat so many of the insects that spread disease and eat our crops. If it wasn't for spiders, if like all the spiders were raptured off the planet—

JULIE

Laughing drunkenly

Spider rapture! All the spiders taken to spider heaven by spider Jesus. I can just see spider Jesus nailed to the cross. Though I guess it would have to be a different shape, so they could nail all eight of his legs to it.

PASTOR DAVID

What I'm trying to say is that, if it wasn't for spiders, we would all starve to death and die of malaria and stuff. And all this time I've been hating them. You know what I mean? Sometimes fear makes us blind to the things we need the most. Sometimes salvation comes in strange forms. Like spiders. Or...maybe chainsaws.

JULIE

Lord, give me strength.

JULIE drinks another bottle and then walks over to PASTOR DAVID and kisses him on the mouth.

PASTOR DAVID responds for a moment, but then gently pushes JULIE away.

PASTOR DAVID

Julie. Julie. I think we've both had too much to drink to do this. I want to. I really, REALLY want to. But I think it would be a bad idea. I think we should just—

JULIE reaches down PASTOR DAVID's pants and takes hold of his penis.

JULIE

Is this where your soul meets your body?

PASTOR DAVID responds as men do when their penises are touched.

PASTOR DAVID

Please stop...

JULIE takes PASTOR DAVID's hand and puts it on her breast. PASTOR DAVID responds as (straight) men do when they feel a breast.

PASTOR DAVID

Julie. We should just...go to bed. To our...separate beds. This is a...bad idea...

JULIE takes PASTOR DAVID's hand, sucks on two of his fingers and then guides his hand down her pants, guides his fingers inside her. PASTOR DAVID responds as (straight) men do when they finger a vagina.

JULIE

Guiding PASTOR DAVID's hand to various parts of her vagina
This is God. This is Jesus. And this is the Holy Spirit.

PASTOR DAVID

Please... Stop...

JULIE lays PASTOR DAVID down on the floor and fucks him.

Light shifts to MEGAN again. Spotlights on both JULIE and MEGAN. As JULIE rides PASTOR DAVID, she looks at MEGAN.

PASTOR DAVID orgasms.

PASTOR DAVID

Hallelujah...

Scene 9

JULIE and KAREN's apartment

KAREN is feeling unwell

CHEEPERS

Hey, Karen...

KAREN

Having trouble breathing

Not...now...Cheepers... Mommy needs to...sit down...

KAREN collapses in the armchair

CHEEPERS

Um...Karen... It's just that I'm kind of out of seeds... And also, you haven't changed my water in a couple days, and I've been pooping in it a lot...

KAREN

Struggling

Cheepers...my little...baby birdie boy...mommy's not feeling...too good right now...

CHEEPERS

Yeah, I hear you. But I'm also not feeling super awesome right now. Due to the whole lack of food and water situation. And I don't have like arms and hands and opposable thumbs to like get them for myself, so...

KAREN

Cheepers. Could you please...just be quiet...for a minute? Mommy really...doesn't feel good. I just...

CHEEPERS

Hey, Karen? Are you ok?

KAREN

Not really...

CHEEPERS

What's wrong?

KAREN

My chest...hurts. And I'm...having trouble...breathing. And I'm feeling...light...I'm feeling light...I'm feeling like I...

KAREN passes out
CHEEPERS freaks out and starts fluttering about

CHEEPERS

KAREN! KAREN! KAREN! KAREN!

KAREN wakes back up

KAREN

What's wrong...my...little...baby...birdie?

CHEEPERS

Did you take your pills today?

KAREN

What? No. I haven't...taken...since...Julie...went...

CHEEPERS

WHAT?! JESUS! Karen! Why not?!

KAREN

You...told...me...they...were...poison...

CHEEPERS

Jesus fucking Christ on a cracker with peanut butter and jelly. I'm a stupid fucking bird, Karen. I don't remember my parents. I poop in my own drinking water. I had sex with a stuffed animal the other day, for Christ's sake. I have a stupid bird brain. Why would you listen to me?

KAREN

I just...

CHEEPERS

Karen?!

KAREN

I just...

CHEEPERS

Where are your pills?!

KAREN

Cheepers...

CHEEPERS

KAREN! You need to take your pills!

I love you.

KAREN

KAREN passes out

A long moment

CHEEPERS passes out (very dramatically) from a lack of food and water

Scene 10

The secret hiding place where nothing can hurt you.

MEGAN is sitting on the floor.

She loads six bullets in her gun, spins the chamber and then pulls the trigger six times.

CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK

She slides her gun across the ground, away from her in frustration.

LUCIFER enters. He is naked except for a red speedo that has a long tail on the back, red wings and a cheap Halloween costume set of red horns.

LUCIFER

You can't kill yourself in here, you know. It's not called "the secret hiding place where nothing can hurt you" for nothing. Even you can't hurt you when you're here.

MEGAN

Is my Lucifer lonely?

LUCIFER

I absolutely love Billie Eilish. But she kinda scares me, too. That one vid when she had the tarantula crawl out of her mouth.

Lucifer mimes a tarantula crawling out of his mouth with his hand and then shudders

Oh em gee! That seriously creeped me the fuck out! I really hope she makes it into heaven, because otherwise she'll be ruling hell by noon on her first day. See her in a crown is right. And also! I feel bad for that spider. Did it consent to be in her mouth? I doubt it! The poor little guy. He or she was probably scared shitless, thinking it was gonna get eaten. Yeah, Billie Eilish scares the living shit out of me. But also, mad respect.

MEGAN

All the good girls go to hell.

LUCIFER

I missed you, you know.

MEGAN

I got lost.

LUCIFER

I can relate.

MEGAN

You were my best friend all those years.

LUCIFER

I know. And...you were mine too.

LUCIFER sits on the floor with MEGAN.

LUCIFER

It's hard being the devil, you know.

MEGAN

Yeah. You told me.

LUCIFER

I mean, when God pitched me the script for the Bible, I read it and was like, WAIT, WHAT?! But we're BFFs! I'm your morning star! I'm your shining one! I'm the motherfucking light-bringer! You said "let there be light," and I brought the motherfucking light, and ever since then, we've been like bestest buds...with some like smoldering sexual tension as well. And he was all like, "yeah, that's what makes it all super dramatic and dunn dunn DUUUNNNNN!" And he was like, "don't take it personally. I'm gonna fuck over other people too. You don't even want to know what I'm gonna do to Job. And here's the kicker! I'm gonna blame it all on you. LOL And then I'm gonna make Judas betray my son Jesus, as sort of a callback to how you betrayed me. Pretty clever, huh? Good plot structure, right?" And then, I said...

LUCIFER notices that MEGAN isn't listening

Hey. What's wrong?

MEGAN

Nothing.

A long pause

LUCIFER

Remember when you did my palm reading and you said that I have a mental heart line because it runs straight across my hand?

MEGAN makes a non-committal grunt.

LUCIFER

And you said that means I tend to make relationship decisions in a more intellectual way, rather than purely emotional?

MEGAN shrugs.

LUCIFER

And you helped me realize that, when I led Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of Knowledge, I did so, not because I was being God's jealous ex, but rather because I thought things through and realized that I needed to do right by our kids and let them know that their father wasn't as perfect as they thought he was?

MEGAN

Dude! You can be so annoying sometimes. Just say what you want to say.

LUCIFER

Well, I am "the great deceiver," after all. I have to live up to all that.

MEGAN

Yeah, I know. I'm just too... I'm just... I just can't right now.

LUCIFER

What's wrong?

MEGAN

Didn't you see what happened?

LUCIFER

Oh...

MEGAN

Yeah. "Oh" is right.

LUCIFER

I mean...

MEGAN

She raped him.

LUCIFER

Well...

MEGAN

Julie raped Pastor David.

LUCIFER

I think rape is kind of a strong word.

MEGAN

He said “no” or “stop” or something along those lines four separate times, and she still forcibly had sex with him, despite his protests.

LUCIFER

But he did kind of seduce her up to that point.

MEGAN scoffs

LUCIFER

He arranged it so that they were staying in the “Honeymoon Suite” together.

MEGAN scoffs some more.

He did tempt her—

MEGAN

Yeah, *you* should talk about tempting people.

LUCIFER

Yeah! I *should* talk about tempting people. That word was kinda invented to describe my brand. And he did kind of tempt her with the booze.

Scoffs

Apple whiskey?

Scoffs

That was a bit on the nose, if you ask me.

MEGAN

Well, I didn’t ask you?

LUCIFER

And who had the power in the whole situation? He invited her to be his “special guest” at the conference. He got them a shared room, the Honeymoon Suite. Blech! It was all so totally cringe and creep-city.

MEGAN

And then she grabbed his penis.

LUCIFER

True.

MEGAN

And then she took his hand and put his fingers inside her.

LUCIFER

True. True.

MEGAN

And then she had the power. And then he said no. Then he said stop.

LUCIFER

But then his dick still got hard.

MEGAN

And so?

LUCIFER

And then he allowed her to guide his erect penis into her vagina and ride it until he came inside her.

MEGAN

He said “stop.”

LUCIFER

But he could’ve done more.

MEGAN

Like what?

LUCIFER

He could’ve punched her in the face. He could’ve broken her neck. He could’ve flipped her over and smashed her head against the floor until her skull cracked open and her brains oozed out. He could’ve taken one of the empty mini bottles, smashed it and then stabbed her in the neck with the pointy end, puncturing her carotid artery and causing a fountain of blood to shoot all over the hotel room in rhythmic spurts.

MEGAN

Maybe he just didn’t want to hurt her. Maybe he was being Christian.

LUCIFER

Well, he did say “Hallelujah” when he popped off inside her. That’s pretty Christian. And the lack of protection was VERY Christian.

MEGAN

Are you just playing devil’s advocate or what?!

LUCIFER

Sweetheart. What are you talking about? Advocate? I’m the motherfucking devil himself. I’m just playing the role God gave me.

MEGAN

I think I want you to go.

LUCIFER

Can't you see that you're just jealous?

MEGAN is silent.

LUCIFER

Julie fucked Pastor David. She grabbed his cock. And she put his fingers inside her wet cunt. And then she laid him down on the ground, and she slid his hard cock inside of her wet cunt, and she rode his hard cock until he ejaculated sticky warm jizz inside of her wet cunt. And right now—

MEGAN

Shut up!

LUCIFER

And right now—

MEGAN

Shut the fuck up!

LUCIFER

And right now—

MEGAN

SHUT THE FUCK UP! GOD NEVER LOVED YOU!

LUCIFER is a bit stung by this, but he takes it in stride, more or less.

LUCIFER

And right now, they're in bed together in the Honeymoon Suite of the Hampton Inn. And he's spooning her. His flaccid, spent penis is pressed against her naked ass. And his semen is drooling out of her onto the immaculate white sheets. And all their thoughts, as they lie there, falling asleep, are Hallelujah.

MEGAN

Weakly, crying, defeated but defiant

God loved us more.

LUCIFER

I know.

Leaning in close to MEGAN

And Julie loves God more than you.

Scene 11

JULIE and KAREN's apartment.

JULIE enters, returning from her trip with PASTOR DAVID. She has luggage in her hands from said trip, which she drops when she sees her mom passed out

JULIE

MOM!?!

JULIE goes over to the chair that KAREN is passed out in.

JULIE

MOM!!!!???

KAREN doesn't respond.

JULIE paces about.

JULIE goes back to KAREN and nudges her. Nothing.

JULIE paces around some more. She goes over to CHEEPERS's cage and sees that he's in bad shape too.

JULIE paces around some more.

JULIE looks over at the bottle of whiskey.

The light shifts. Spotlight on the bottle of whiskey and JULIE. LUCIFER appears and presents it like a Price is Right Model.

JULIE goes over to the bottle of whiskey. She picks it up and is about to take a sip when the doorbell rings.

Light shifts back to normal. LUCIFER exits.

JULIE goes over and answers the door.

MEGAN enters. She's on a mission.

MEGAN

Have you called 911?

JULIE

What? No.

MEGAN

Call 911.

JULIE

Why are you...? How did you...?

MEGAN

Just call 911.

JULIE takes out her cellphone and calls 911.

MEGAN goes over to CHEEPERS's cage.

JULIE

On phone

Yes, hello. There's something wrong with my mom.

MEGAN drinks some water out of CHEEPERS's water dish and then spits it into his mouth.

CHEEPERS is partially roused by this.

JULIE

On phone

I don't know. She's... She's unresponsive. I can't wake her up. She has heart problems. I just got home and found her like this.

MEGAN eats some seeds and then regurgitates them into CHEEPERS's mouth.

CHEEPERS comes back a little bit more.

JULIE

On phone

[Insert address of theatre]. Yes. Ok.

MEGAN finds the stuffed animal bird, Peepers, and gives it to CHEEPERS.

CHEEPERS snuggles it and comes back to life a little more.

JULIE

They're sending an ambulance.

MEGAN

Ok. Good.

JULIE begins walking over towards MEGAN and keeps walking closer to her during the following exchange.

	JULIE
Why are you here?	
	MEGAN
Because you needed me.	
	JULIE
But how did you know?	
	MEGAN
I saw it when I read your palm.	
	JULIE
<i>Incredulous</i> Wait. So, when you read my palm...	
	MEGAN
Yep.	
	JULIE
You saw what exactly?	
	MEGAN
That you would need my help right now. And I saw other things too. I saw everything.	
	JULIE
That seems a little...	
	MEGAN
I'm here, aren't I?	
<i>JULIE looks at her own palm.</i>	
	JULIE
But it makes no sense. How could you...?	
	MEGAN
And you needed my help, didn't you?	
<i>JULIE stops looking at her palm and balls her hand into a fist.</i>	
	JULIE
I don't believe you.	

MEGAN

That's ok.

JULIE

I don't believe you!

MEGAN

That's ok.

JULIE is now dangerously close to MEGAN.

JULIE

I DON'T FUCKING BELIEVE YOU!!!

MEGAN

That's ok. Deny me as many times as you want. Three. A hundred. A million. I'm still here, Julie.

JULIE punches MEGAN in the face. It's brutal.

MEGAN just stands there.

JULIE punches her again and again and again.

MEGAN eventually falls to the ground.

JULIE jumps on top of her and keeps punching her.

BLACKOUT

Scene 12

Hospital room.

Three beds next to one another. KAREN is in one, MEGAN in the second and CHEEPERS in the third. MEGAN's face is bandaged and her jaw is wired shut. She has a computer which allows her to talk in an electronic, Stephen Hawking-style voice.

JULIE is sitting in a chair next to the beds, holding her head in her hands.

MEGAN

In computer voice

It's ok, Julie.

JULIE

No. It's not.

JULIE takes out MEGAN's revolver, loads one bullet, spins the chamber, puts it against her own head and pulls the trigger.

CLICK

JULIE

I'm a terrible person.

JULIE loads another bullet into the gun, spins the chamber, puts it against her own head and pulls the trigger.

CLICK

JULIE

Are you Jesus? Are you the second coming?

MEGAN

Computer voice

Of course not. I'm just someone who needs you, and you need me, which is what faith is.

JULIE loads a third bullet into the gun, spins the chamber, puts it to her head.

MEGAN

Computer voice

Fifty-fifty.

JULIE

Fifty-fifty.

JULIE pulls the trigger.

CLICK

JULIE

I wanted to kill you.

MEGAN

Computer voice

I know.

JULIE

I wish I had killed you.

MEGAN

Computer voice

I know.

JULIE

Breaking into tears

I'm glad I didn't kill you.

JULIE puts a fourth bullet into the gun, spins the chamber and puts it against her head.

MEGAN

Computer voice

The odds are against you now.

JULIE

Crying

I would rather die than hurt you. But I really, REALLY want to hurt you.

JULIE pulls the trigger.

CLICK

JULIE

Crying and angry

And I want my mom to die. I don't want to take care of her anymore. She never took care of me. When my dad got drunk and...

MEGAN

Computer voice

I know. I saw.

JULIE

Crying and angry

It's not fair that you understand me so well.

JULIE puts a fifth bullet into the gun, spins the chamber and puts it against her own head.

JULIE

Crying and angry

I don't want to be understood.

JULIE screams and pulls the trigger.

CLICK

JULIE

HOW MANY FUCKING BULLETS DO I HAVE TO PUT IN THIS FUCKING GUN BEFORE IT LETS ME BLOW MY FUCKING BRAINS OUT AND END ALL THIS?!

MEGAN

Computer voice

Six will probably do the trick.

JULIE loads the sixth bullet into the gun, spins the chamber and puts it against her head.

PASTOR DAVID knocks on the door of the hospital room.

JULIE pauses, puts the gun away and then goes over and opens the door.

PASTOR DAVID enters.

PASTOR DAVID

Hi, Julie. I heard about your mom.

Sees MEGAN

And, oh my! What happened to Megan?

JULIE

I bashed her face in.

PASTOR DAVID

What?! Why?!

JULIE

Because I love her.

PASTOR DAVID

I don't understand.

JULIE

And I'm sorry I raped you.

PASTOR DAVID

Raped me? You didn't—

JULIE

At the Hampton Inn. I raped you because I love Megan.

PASTOR DAVID

Julie, you didn't rape me. That was a beautiful night we shared together. I love you, Julie.

PASTOR DAVID gets down on his knees to propose to JULIE.

JULIE kicks PASTOR DAVID in the balls, causing him to yowl in pain. Then she hits him across the face with the gun.

CHEEPERS wakes up.

CHEEPERS

Parrot voice

MURDER! MURDER! REDRUM! MURDER!

JULIE aims the gun at CHEEPERS.

CHEEPERS flaps around.

CHEEPERS

HELP! KAREN! WAKE UP! IT'S HAPPENING! SHE'S GONNA KILL US! MY PROPHECY IS COMING TRUE!

JULIE

Shut up, you stupid bird! Didn't I promise you I'd never hurt you? Consider this stupid bird Passover.

JULIE lowers the gun.

KAREN wakes up.

KAREN

Julie? What's going on? Why do you have a gun? Oh my God! Pastor David! What have you done?!

JULIE points the gun at KAREN.

CHEEPERS

NO! DON'T! Please don't hurt my mommy.

JULIE can't pull the trigger. She puts the gun against her own head.

CHEEPERS

Yeah. Good idea. Do that instead.

JULIE can't pull the trigger.

JULIE

I love you, mom. But you should've loved me more than you...than you feared him.

JULIE alternates between pointing the gun at herself and KAREN.

KAREN

Crying

Julie, my baby girl. I'm so sorry. I didn't...

JULIE finally throws the gun away and screams.

The lights go out.

There's a cacophony of screams.

CHEEPERS makes frantic sounds.

There's a rumbling sound.

There's the sound of a chainsaw.

There's the sound of fireworks.

There's the sound of a nuclear explosion.

More screams.

Still darkness.

MEGAN

Back to normal voice for the rest of the scene

Julie, come take my hand.

JULIE

I can't see you.

MEGAN

Come follow me into the dark.

A long moment.

JULIE

I can't find you.

MEGAN

Your hand knows where I am. It's written on your palm like a map. Just follow it.

Another long moment.

*Finally, a spotlight on JULIE and MEGAN holding hands.
MEGAN's face is no longer bandaged.*

JULIE looks at MEGAN.

JULIE

So, this is it?

MEGAN

Yep. The Big Rip. I told you it was either 22 billion years from now or next week. I guess it was next week. Or, rather, this week now.

JULIE

Everything's gonna be torn apart?

MEGAN

Yep.

CHEEPERS screams and then explodes into a cloud of feathers.

JULIE

Including us?

MEGAN

Not as long as we stay here. In the secret hiding place where nothing can hurt you.

JULIE

But out there every atom is exploding Big Bang style into its own universe?

MEGAN

Pretty much, yeah. Or it might just be the end of everything. No one knows for certain.

JULIE

50-50 odds. Like three bullets in the gun.

MEGAN

Yep.

JULIE

But in here... It's just you and me.

MEGAN

Six bullets in the gun.

JULIE

I'm not sure about those odds.

MEGAN

It's not odds with six bullets. It's faith. And I have faith in you, Julie.

New universes explode all around JULIE and MEGAN like fireworks.

Blackout.

The sound of a chainsaw.

Epilogue

The secret hiding place where nothing can hurt you.

The sound of a chainsaw.

A spotlight flickers off and on, eventually illuminating JULIE and MEGAN.

JULIE

I need a drink.

MEGAN

I know.

JULIE

I NEED a DRINK.

MEGAN

I know.

JULIE

I need a fucking drink!

MEGAN

I know.

JULIE

Mocking MEGAN

I know, I know, I know.

Angry and desperate

That's all you ever fucking say! I need a motherfucking drink right motherfucking now!
Look at my hands! They're fucking shaking!

The light goes out.

The sound of a chainsaw.

The light flickers back on.

MEGAN and JULIE are on the floor.

MEGAN is holding JULIE.

JULIE is in a bad way.

JULIE

I don't feel good. I'm sweating...and shaking...and I feel like I'm gonna—

JULIE pulls away from MEGAN and throws up.

JULIE

I really need a drink. Please. PLEASE!

MEGAN

There's no more alcohol, Julie. Every single drop of alcohol was ripped apart.

JULIE

So, all the Jack Daniels and Jim Beam...?

MEGAN

Torn apart.

JULIE

So, there might be Jack Daniels and Jim Beam universes out there? I want to live in a Jack Daniels universe.

MEGAN

Julie, there's not a single drop of alcohol in all of creation right now. In our universe, it took 13.8 billion years to invent alcohol, and it will probably take just as long for it to be invented again.

JULIE

I don't think I can wait that long.

MEGAN

Do you want to leave?

JULIE

No. Just hold me.

The light flickers out.

The sound of a chainsaw.

It flickers back up on JULIE and MEGAN.

JULIE is in REALLY bad shape.

JULIE

IT HURTS!

MEGAN

I know.

JULIE

Don't— FUCK YOU!

MEGAN

It's ok.

JULIE

NO, IT'S NOT! IT'S NOT OK! IT'S A LOT OF THINGS, BUT IT'S NOT FUCKING OK!

Starts to cry

It's like I'm being ripped apart! You said nothing could hurt me in here.

MEGAN

Not unless you lose faith.

JULIE

Lose faith? Faith in what? God is dead.

MEGAN

Faith is not monotheistic. You can have faith in anyone. And you can lose it.

JULIE

I really don't feel good.

JULIE throws up again.

JULIE

I want this pain to stop.

MEGAN

Then stop it.

JULIE

How?

JULIE throws up again.

The light flickers out.

The sound of a chainsaw.

The light flickers back on.

JULIE is dying.

JULIE

I'm dying.

MEGAN

Only if you want to.

JULIE

"Only if I want to?" What the fuck does that mean?

MEGAN

You're turning this place into hell.

JULIE

You tempted me into coming here with you, and now I'm in hell. You're the devil.

MEGAN

I still have faith in you, Julie. Would the devil say that?

JULIE

Fuck you. That's what God is saying right now. That's what he's been saying all along. That's what he said when your father raped you. That's what he said when my...when my father... Never mind.

MEGAN

Your father did the same thing to you that he did to me.

JULIE

Fuck you. That's what he said when you let Tim sodomize you for drugs. That's what he said when Lot's wife looked back. That's what he said to Job. That's what he said to Jesus. That's what he said when I met you.

MEGAN

You don't mean that.

JULIE

I would kill you for one bottle of Jack Daniels right now. I would cut your head off with a chainsaw for one goddamn drink. Do you understand me?! I am your father! I am my father!

Crying uncontrollably

I love drinking more than I love you. I love myself more than I love you. I hate myself more than I love you. I hate myself more than I love anything.

Lights flicker off.

The sound of a chainsaw.

Lights flicker back on.

*JULIE is standing over MEGAN with a chainsaw.
Spotlight on a bottle of whiskey. LUCIFER stands next to it,
displaying it like a Price is Right model.*

JULIE looks at the bottle and licks her lips.

*JULIE looks at MEGAN. JULIE starts to lower the chainsaw
towards MEGAN's neck.*

MEGAN pulls out her gun.

MEGAN

Six bullets.

*MEGAN puts the gun against her own head and blows her brains
out.*

JULIE is devastated beyond repair. She drops the chainsaw.

The bottle of whiskey disappears. Or better yet, it explodes.

*JULIE drops to her knees and holds MEGAN's body in her arms.
She screams and rages and gets quiet. She grieves in every way
possible, but none of it brings MEGAN back.*

*JULIE picks up the gun and puts it against her own head and pulls
the trigger.*

CLICK

JULIE lets out a primal scream that lasts at least a minute.

JULIE pulls the trigger over and over again as she screams.

Nothing but CLICKS.

She throws the gun away.

JULIE

HOW DO I GET OUT OF HERE?! HOW DO I GET OUT OF HERE?! HOW THE
FUCK DO I GET OUT OF HERE?!

JULIE starts addressing individual audience members.

JULIE alternates between rage and grief and just genuine uncertainty.

JULIE

How do I get out of here? How do I get out of here? How do I get out of here?

A primal scream

I WANT TO BE TORN APART! Please...somebody...anybody...tear me apart.

JULIE holds up the chainsaw.

JULIE

Please... I'M FUCKING SERIOUS! I need one of you to come up here and tear me apart! Please! Please! Just fucking tear me apart!

JULIE drops to her knees.

JULIE

How do I get out of here? How do I get out of here? How do I get out of here?

JULIE continues asking this.

In the darkness, MEGAN stands back up and moves towards JULIE.

JULIE

How do I get out of here? How? How...?

MEGAN gently taps JULIE on the shoulder.

JULIE is startled and drops the chainsaw.

JULIE turns to MEGAN.

A moment of realization.

JULIE absolutely melts into MEGAN, embracing her.

JULIE

Sobbing uncontrollably

I thought you were dead. I was... I couldn't...

MEGAN

What part of "secret hiding place where nothing can hurt you" don't you understand?

JULIE pulls back and looks at MEGAN very earnestly, either holding onto her shoulders or perhaps holding her face in her hands.

JULIE

I love you, Megan. But I don't know how to do this.

MEGAN

Nobody does.

END OF PLAY