

(Name of Project)

by  
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A Giant Arc in the  
Skyspace of Directions

or

The Story of Miracles

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Winner of the 2007 Wichita State University Playwriting Contest

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Introduction:

In 1637, Descartes put forth the following explanation of the rainbow, a phenomenon which had puzzled men for thousands of years:

"A single ray of light has a pathetic repertoire, limited to bending and bouncing (into water, glass or air, and from mirrors). But when rays are put together into a family--sunlight, for example--the possibilities get dramatically richer. This is because a family of rays has the holistic property, not inherent in any individual ray, that it can be focused so as to concentrate on caustic lines and surfaces. Caustics are the brightest places in an optical field. They are the singularities of geometrical optics. The most familiar caustic is the rainbow, a grossly distorted image of the Sun in the form of a giant arc in the skyspace of directions, formed by the angular focusing of sunlight that has been twice refracted and once reflected in raindrops."

This explanation was not only a pioneering exercise of theoretical physics but was also perceived by many to be the loss of wonder in a new age of science.

"If the spirit of religion join itself  
to the love of wonder, there is an end  
of common sense . . ."

--David Hume, *Of Miracles*

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did  
Sarah laugh and say, "Will I really  
have a child, now that I am old?"

--Genesis 18: 13

Philosophy will clip an Angel's wings,  
Conquer all mysteries by rule and line,  
Empty the haunted air, and gnomed mine-  
Unweave a rainbow.

--John Keats, *Lamia*

## CHARACTERS

Abe: An inventor of sorts.

Sarah: His wife.

Eamon: A priest of sorts.

Rebecca: A blind woman.

Jacob: A soldier of sorts.

A child: The imagination of the play.

The stage is split into three areas. In the center is the home of ABE and SARAH. It is a sparsely decorated room which also serves as a workshop for Abe's many hobbies. Books and papers are thrown about along with several empty animal cages, archaic looking tools and odd machines and devices. These are Abe's inventions. One particularly large invention lies in the back covered with a sheet. To one side of the stage is Rebecca's home. The other side of the stage represents Eamon's church signified by a cross and a confessional. The set should not reflect a specific time period but rather a mix of the past, present and future. All of the chapter titles should be read by a character, perhaps the child, or somehow projected. It is also important that ABE never laughs until stated.

## PROLOGUE

A child, dressed in contemporary clothes, opens and begins reading from a large book.

CHILD

(reading)

There were only two clocks in the entire land, and they never kept the exact same time, so that nobody ever knew how much time had passed when they were asleep, or if any time had passed at all. Indeed, sometimes the clocks moved backwards, or one backwards and the other forwards, and time ceased to exist altogether. It was then Sarah talked of having children and believed she would.

Black.

**ACT ONE**

CHAPTER ONE

A SIGN OF THE TIMES AND THE STORY OF SARAH

We are in the apartment of Sarah and Abe. ABE is enthusiastically showing EAMON his newest inventions and machines. He is happy to have an audience. EAMON is in full priest garb. They are looking at one particularly odd machine.

ABE

What month is this?

EAMON

October I believe.

ABE

Yes, of course. October. This one was just completed in August. The month before this one.

EAMON

September.

ABE

Yes. September. It was completed in September.

EAMON

It does look impressive.

ABE

It does much more than look impressive.

EAMON

So what does it do exactly?

ABE

It's my most far advanced sexual excitation device yet. I call it the Tumult.

EAMON

Wonderfully named.

ABE

It is something to see it realized after so many years of difficult work.

EAMON

And how does it operate?

ABE

The limits of traditional sexual intercourse are numerous, but with this machine, those limitations are, in a word, limited.

EAMON

Grand.

ABE

Yes, indeed. It's going to change lives.

EAMON

Please explain the science behind it.

ABE

Well you see, the secret lies in that the man is the one to lie down while the woman takes the zenith position.

EAMON

That is possible?

ABE

According to my calculations.

EAMON

Extraordinary. And is such a position natural?

ABE

Naturally.

EAMON

Wonderful.

ABE

Isn't it?

EAMON

Grand. Magnificent. Extraordinary. Splendid. Go on.

ABE

The woman sits here, on top of the man, where with the aid of several levers and pulleys, she can take full advantage of the Earth's gravitational pull.

EAMON

It's a miracle.

ABE

Only simple math I'm afraid

EAMON

Surely your best work yet.

ABE

Thank you father.

EAMON

Please, it's Eamon.

ABE

Of course. Forgive me. I do forget.

EAMON

Tell me Abe, what does that one do?

ABE

That one?

EAMON

Yes.

ABE

This machine ensures the sex of the child will be to parent's satisfaction.

EAMON

A miracle.

ABE

Ha, again only simple science. See, the female body is house to two different types of eggs. Oval, or imperfect eggs, which produce girls, and round ones which become boys as round is the more perfect shape. This machine, when worn correctly, deciphers the desire of the couple's hearts and dictates which egg the sperm will be lead to.

EAMON

And it works?

ABE

Nearly half the time.

EAMON

I do need to come around more often.

ABE

There's only been one accident with the machine.

EAMON

Accident?

ABE

Well one baby, you see, was born with both female and male genitalia.

EAMON

(crossing himself)

A devil baby.

ABE

My only conclusion was that while both parents said they wanted a boy, one actually wanted a girl.

EAMON

Yes, of course.

ABE

But I must tell you that my most ambitious and profitable invention is under that sheet.

EAMON

It's enormous Abe. Surely it gives more pleasure than was ever possible before.

ABE

It isn't a device of titillation.

EAMON

Isn't it?

ABE

Take a look.

EAMON

Are you sure?

ABE

Of course.

He walks over and pops his head under the sheet.

EAMON

Why it looks like a magnet.

It is. ABE

And what is so special about it? EAMON

It is the only one of its kind. It took me many years to perfect. ABE

(EAMON just stares at it.)

It is a gold magnet. ABE (cont'd)

Grand. Magnificent. Extraordinary. Splendid. What will you do with it? EAMON

I'm going to attach it to the bottom of a boat. According to my calculations, the ocean is made up of approximately 8 times 10 to the 6th power tons of dissolved gold. This magnet is going to make me a very rich man. Sarah and I will be able to leave here and go to a place where it is still like the time before this. ABE

And it will really work? EAMON

According to my calculations. ABE

Genius Abe. Absolutely genius. EAMON

It is amazing what technology has given us. ABE

Also terrible. EAMON

That is true. ABE

I'm afraid it will be our end but then with people like you I see there may be no end to what humans might accomplish. EAMON

From a man like you, that means a great deal to hear. ABE

EAMON

I am just a man whose time has past.

ABE

Perhaps, but it may come again.

EAMON

But to be the cause of creation . . .

ABE

But when a man cannot create what is most natural?

EAMON

You have a beautiful wife.

ABE

I have the most beautiful wife and we share a wonderful marriage, only we have nothing to show from it.

EAMON

I did pray for you, in the time before this time.

ABE

Perhaps it is better not to bring a child into it.

EAMON

Surely it is better.

We hear a dog barking.

ABE

That would be the blind Miss Rebecca and her blind seeing eye bitch home from work.

EAMON

Is she still working as the crossing guard for Shepard Elementary School?

ABE

Does suit her well.

EAMON

Quite well.

ABE

Only now Shepard Elementary School is simply called School as to not offend anyone. Shepard does have a religious connotation.

EAMON

Such a name does seem to lack imagination.

ABE

Better to not have children imagining, especially at school.

EAMON

I was deeply saddened when I heard someone pulled the eyes from the dog of a blind woman.

ABE

A sign of the times.

EAMON

Indeed it is. Did they ever find the eyes?

ABE

I'm afraid they found the dog's eyes glued to the outside of Miss Rebecca's glasses.

EAMON

Horrible.

ABE

Three days passed before anyone had the heart to tell her, but finally the flies were too much. And the poor bitch kept leading her into walls.

EAMON

Disgusting, the depths to which people will sink.

ABE

And the glue left a mark on the lenses so that she had to buy a new pair.

EAMON

Terrible news. Quite expensive, new glasses.

ABE

I would imagine.

EAMON

Does she still weep at night?

ABE

On the dot like a chicken.

EAMON

Rooster.

ABE

Yes, rooster. What's the difference?

EAMON

A rooster is, I believe, the male of the species.

ABE

Yes, of course. I've always been poor at botany.

EAMON

Zoology.

ABE

I've always been poor at zoology.

EAMON

And still no word from her son?

ABE

I'm afraid she remains ill in the mind. Every night she cries for him to return from the war. Quite annoying as it disrupts my work.

EAMON

Perhaps it is some forgotten memory haunting her from childhood.

ABE

She does suffer so. I did ask her the name of her son and she could not answer. And when I explained there has not been war in years she remained silent.

EAMON

She is insane. Demented even. But it is good that she has a job with children.

ABE

Indeed. May help her forget about her own son.

EAMON

We must have faith Abe.

ABE

Faith in what father?

EAMON

Eamon, please.

ABE

I'm sorry Eamon, but it does seem strange to me that you still wear your collar. It is a matter of safety. I can think of nothing more inane than dying for one's beliefs. There is faith and there is common sense. Besides, what kind of god would allow the churches to be closed?

EAMON

We must remember not to test god.

ABE  
To test and experiment is the only way we may learn.

Enter SARAH, just in from a horrible rain storm.

SARAH  
My goodness, this weather. Oh, good evening father.

EAMON  
Eamon, please.

SARAH  
I'm sorry. Good evening Eamon.

EAMON  
Is it raining?

SARAH  
I'm afraid so.

EAMON  
It was sunny and hot when I arrived.

ABE  
A sign of the times.

EAMON  
Yes, indeed. You look well Sarah.

SARAH  
Thank you Eamon. I've just seen Dr. Joykill.

ABE  
A quack!

SARAH  
Abe, please. We agreed it wouldn't hurt.

ABE  
We agreed it wouldn't hurt to get a second opinion and I told you twice you're as sterile as a cow.

EAMON  
Mule.

ABE  
Yes, mule. What's the difference?

EAMON  
Mule's are sterile.

ABE

Yes, of course.

SARAH

Maybe so, but it didn't hurt to hear it from someone else.

ABE

Dr. Joykill! He used to be a butcher.

SARAH

Only to pay his way through medical school.

EAMON

My father was a butcher. Mean man he was.

ABE

We've talked about this Sarah.

(beat)

Well, what did he say?

SARAH

The same as the others.

ABE

A disappointment.

(beat)

And what did he charge you?

SARAH

Not in front of Eamon.

ABE

He's priest, he doesn't care about money.

EAMON

I'm not a priest.

ABE

He's not a priest.

SARAH

Yes, of course not. Forgive me.

EAMON

There is no need, I'm not a priest.

ABE

Surly now we can put this behind us and forget what we once desired.

SARAH

It is in these times that we should hold onto the future most tightly.

EAMON  
I believe that is true Sarah.

SARAH  
Abe, please get me a glass of water.

ABE  
What? Now?

SARAH  
Please. I'm feeling faint.

ABE  
But I was showing Eamon . . .

SARAH  
Please, Abe, just get some me water.

ABE  
Fine. Father?

EAMON  
I'm fine. Thank you.

Abe exits.

SARAH  
(waiting until Abe has exited)  
You shouldn't have come here.

EAMON  
What did he say?

SARAH  
Abe.

EAMON  
Do you think he knows?

SARAH  
If he knew he could not hide it from me.

EAMON  
What will you do?

SARAH  
We will do what we discussed. Dr. Joykill was the last.

EAMON  
It is an unfortunate name for his chosen profession. You're still set in this path?

Are you? SARAH

I don't want to make the wrong choice. EAMON

You must make a decision. SARAH

Yes, on what we agreed. I should go. Tell Abe good night. I have some business I forgot about. EAMON

Of course. SARAH

He opens the door, REBECCA stands holding her dog in a bloody towel with the bloody tail in another hand.

Rebecca. EAMON

Lady Socrates. She is hurt. REBECCA

My god. (inspecting the dog) EAMON

What is it? SARAH

Who did this? EAMON

What has happened? SARAH

Someone has cut the tail off of this dog. EAMON

Who did this Rebecca? SARAH

My son. REBECCA

Your son? SARAH

REBECCA

Have you seen him? He is coming home from the war.

EAMON

There is no war.

REBECCA

My son is there.

EAMON

Miss Rebecca, there hasn't been a war in fifty years. Only peace.

REBECCA

There is a war. Always war. But my son is coming home and whoever did this will be sorry. He is coming home.

Enter Abe holding a glass of water.

ABE

I've never seen it rain so hard.

Lights go down on the scene and come up on Sarah, alone.

SARAH

My mother was in labor for 136 days before I was finally born. While my mother laid screaming on her back with her feet in the air, calling out to god, my father simply lit a cigarette and calmly said, "There's a reason why they call it labor." My mother had been pregnant hundreds of times before she had me but every time she gave birth, instead of a crying infant, she found a different type of meal between her legs. Sometimes a hot turkey dinner complete with stuffing and cranberries, other times a ham sandwich on rye with a side of potato salad, and she'd lay back down exhausted and cry. "Don't worry, my love, we'll try again," my father would say, licking his fingers clean of chocolate pudding, or if it had been a particularly good birth, Crème Broule. No matter what the meal, the after birth was always the most delicious of desserts. Of course my parents were concerned and perplexed and they went to see every doctor known, and even some not known, but none of them could make heads or tails of the baked salmon or honey glazed pork that came from my mother. My parents didn't have any money but the doctors never turned them away. They were always happy to be paid with what they considered to be the best meal they ever had. Soon my parents were known all over. But fame isn't happiness and my parents became very depressed.

(MORE)

SARAH (cont'd)

As my mother was about to give up her dreams of motherhood forever my father, who was very fat by this time, said, "God will reward us if we are patient." And they did try again. And after that they tried again. And again and again and when I was born my father almost took a bite out of me before he realized that I was a child.

Blackout.

## CHAPTER TWO

A SEDUCTION AND A REFUSAL TO A  
SEDUCTION, OR SOMETIMES WE DROWN

SARAH and EAMON are in the church.

EAMON

I wasn't sure if you would come.

SARAH

I wasn't sure if you'd be here.

EAMON

It wasn't an easy choice.

SARAH

Have you ever?

EAMON

I am a man.

SARAH

You are a priest.

EAMON

Once, before I took my vows.

SARAH

Who?

EAMON

A girl in my class. It wasn't planned. We were in a field surrounded by wheat.

SARAH

There is something nice to that.

EAMON

We never spoke again. She became a nun and I became a priest. I wonder what that means.

(beat)

(MORE)

EAMON (cont'd)  
I do believe it seems better to me in memory than it was in actuality.

SARAH  
Very few things are the other way.  
(beat)  
I am not young anymore, but maybe you still find me attractive.

EAMON  
Sarah, you know how I feel.

SARAH  
(moving closer, almost kissing him)  
Are there times you think about me?

EAMON  
(moving away)  
Sarah.

SARAH  
I don't mean to test you.

EAMON  
We've already failed.

SARAH  
You know I've tried everything else.

EAMON  
You should not expect magic to work.

SARAH  
What is god, if not magic?

EAMON  
There will be consequences.

SARAH  
Consequences? Tell me father what you know of consequences. No consequence could be worse. This is all I've ever wanted father and to be denied this, it is heartbreaking. It is not fair.

EAMON  
That is not for us to judge. From our vantage point we . . .

SARAH  
. . . Are in the dark, I know, but I'm trying to light a torch.

EAMON  
And Abraham?

SARAH

He will never know.

EAMON

But to do such a thing to such a good man.

SARAH

Such a good man deserves to have a child.

EAMON

Am I not a good man?

SARAH

You made your decision long ago.

EAMON

And the child, there will be a time when he becomes aware. That is my biggest concern.

SARAH

When that time comes we will deal with it.

EAMON

And these times Sarah?

SARAH

It is the only thing that might save us. The children. God wants me to have a child. I hear him.

EAMON

God has been silent Sarah. We curse and yell at him and he is silent.

SARAH

Father . . .

EAMON

Do not call me father.

SARAH

Maybe if we'd stop yelling we'd hear him.

EAMON

You are quoting me.

SARAH

From times before. You wanted to be a father but your people have all stopped believing. I can make you a father. A real father. You have no idea what it is to be a real father. To create. I can give you something you desire, something you lost.

EAMON

I am tired of others. Of their needs.

She kisses him again and puts her hands on him.

SARAH

Do it for yourself. Father.

She kisses him and leads him into the confessional. Lights fade on them and come up on REBECCA in her home.

REBECCA

My story: A man came to me and asked for water so I gave him water.

I was in love with my sister's lover when I was only a child. He would send her notes and they would meet in secret places and do secret things but one day I took the note before she saw it. It said seven small words: "Meet me on the beach at midnight." At midnight I snuck out of the house and went to him, pretending to be my sister. When we met we didn't say a word, we just made love on the sand under the stars and the secret was known to me. I thought, "Here is hell and here is heaven together." But I was stupid to think there was heaven. He whispered my sister's name into my ear and heaved. I meant to leave before the sun rose but I could not leave his side as if I were sewn to him, our ribs the same, his genes an elastic extension of mine, and we fell asleep. We awoke at the same time and the only thing I could say was, "I love you." And he said, "I love you" with a pitiful look, but he was not talking to me.

The child appears and looks at Rebecca.

REBECCA (cont'd)

He was talking to my sister who was looking down at us, naked on the beach. I told him I was sorry but he didn't say a word. He scooped up a bit of sand clumped together with dry blood, put it in his pocket, and left with my sister.

The child exits.

REBECCA

On the way home a man came to me and asked for water so I let him into my house and gave him water. And then he said, "Come with me" so I went with him and he put bracelets on my arms and a ring on my finger. God gave me two children in my womb. Two nations inside of me. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment and we named him Esau.

(MORE)

REBECCA (cont'd)

After this his brother came out, with his hand grasping the heel of Esau and the priest said, "He will be a deceiver." We named him Jacob. From the day they were born I began to lose my vision and by the time one killed the other over a meal I could no longer tell them apart. Not one had the heart to tell me which one had been killed and which one had left for the war to escape what he had done. I lost two sons in one day and the man who drank water left to find more water.

I wonder what he dreams of, my son.

Lights down on REBECCA. SARAH and EAMON come out of the confessional. There is a great space between them.

EAMON

I'm sorry.

Blackout.

CHAPTER THREE

A DISAPPEARANCE OF BIRDS

ABE is sitting at a table with a caged bird in front of him. He is taking measurements and jotting down notes. There is also a large net on the table. After a moment SARAH enters from the rain carrying a bag and an umbrella.

ABE

There you are.

SARAH

Can you believe this weather? I swear the rain was moving from the ground to the sky.

ABE

Don't tell me you've been to see another doctor.

SARAH

I promised I wouldn't.

ABE

Women will promise anything to a man with no intention of keeping it.

SARAH

Men will promise nothing to a woman with every intention of keeping it.

Come here. ABE

He kisses her and she hugs him for a bit longer and tighter than he was expecting.

Where were you? ABE (cont'd)

I picked up some fabric. SARAH

Took you some time. ABE

I'm going to sew a new tail for Rebecca's blind seeing eye bitch. SARAH

A wonderful charity. ABE

Why do you have a bird? SARAH

I'm examining it. ABE

Yes, but why? SARAH

The University is doing research on why the birds have started to disappear into thin air. They've asked me to contribute my notes. ABE

What do you know about birds? SARAH

They'll pay quite a bit. It was some chore catching one though. Every time I thought I had one it would disappear. ABE

I know why they're disappearing. SARAH

Do you? ABE

Of course. SARAH

Why? ABE

SARAH  
They decided to go extinct in this world and live in another world. A better world.

ABE  
There must be a scientific reason.

Why? SARAH

ABE  
There always is.

SARAH  
And when there isn't?

ABE  
We make a new science.

SARAH  
You must have an answer to everything.

ABE  
And you a question for everything.

SARAH  
Must everything be a science to you? You even turned pleasure into a science.

ABE  
Maybe so, but once you've tried the Tumult you'll be singing the praises of science.

SARAH  
Well if only I could find a decent young man to try it with.

ABE  
Ha! And what would you do with a young man?

SARAH  
I can think of about a dozen things.

ABE  
The best thing for any woman is an older man. And the older the better. Why a twenty-year-old old woman should be with an eighty-year-old man if she wants to be happy.

SARAH  
I agree, if the man is rich.

ABE

I'm not talking about money. I'm talking about simple science.

SARAH

Please.

ABE

A woman's mental capability develops at approximately a quarter the speed to that of a man's. So a younger woman will find life more agreeable with an older man.

SARAH

If a woman's mental capability developed at a quarter the speed of a man's, as you say, shouldn't she be with a man who is one fourth her age, not four times.

ABE thinks this through for a moment.

ABE

Well the numbers aren't what's important here, but rather the conclusion.

SARAH

Yes, of course. The conclusion and not the facts.

ABE

I can't help it if your mental capacity hasn't developed enough to understand what I'm, the last real man, is saying.

SARAH

I wish you'd stop calling yourself the last real man.

ABE

There are no men these days. Boys, yes. But no men. You have the lucky distinction of having the last real man and you're complaining?

SARAH

Please don't.

ABE

You're not happy having the last real man?

SARAH

We are childless.

(beat)

I'm sorry Abe. I know it's not you. Look at me.

ABE

I see you.

There is a pause. They proceed now with a melancholy tone.

SARAH  
I saw father Eamon on my way home.

ABE  
Was he still wearing his collar?

SARAH  
He was.

ABE  
I do worry about his safety. There are so many angry young men. The worst thing for a country, angry young men with nothing to do.

SARAH  
Things will change Abe, they always do.

ABE  
Yes I suppose they do. I've been meaning to ask you something.

SARAH  
Yes?

ABE  
Why did Eamon stop by yesterday unannounced?

SARAH  
I suppose he just wanted to check in, you know how the father is, he likes to check in on his people.

ABE  
We haven't seen him in so long, to just come unannounced doesn't seem like him. Did you ask to speak with him?

SARAH  
Why would I need to speak with the father?

ABE  
Please Sarah. Tell me the truth. I am not stupid.

SARAH  
I wouldn't have married you if you were.

ABE  
I'm not joking. Where did you see him on your way home? Did you stop by the church?

SARAH  
I did.

ABE

I wish you would stop with this nonsense.

SARAH

It is harmless.

ABE

You're being foolish. Your time for having a child has passed. It was never there to begin with. No amount of prayer can change that. Eamon gives people false hope. That is his job. I give people facts. No doctor is going to be able to help. Not even science can help. That is my failure but I accept it Sarah.

SARAH

Maybe I have been foolish but I cannot give this up Abe.

ABE

Yes, I suppose you cannot. We'll I must get back to work.

He turns back to his cage but the bird is no longer there.

SARAH

It looks like your bird has disappeared.

ABE

So it has.

He turns, picks up the net, and exits. Blackout.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE SOLDIER'S CONFESSION

Lights up on JACOB alone.

JACOB

To date: 78,426 and I remember all of their names and their smells. Once, after I killed a prince, I slept with all 346 of his wives as an apology. Not one of those widows shed a tear. God has endowed me. He has bestowed upon me certain creative gifts. Insatiable concupiscence. I once shared a meal with three sisters, all virgins. By dessert, two were showing and one had already given birth. My fecundity reeks across this world.

My story begins with a woman. My mother. And a man. My father. So it goes.

(MORE)

JACOB (cont'd)

When my father grew tired of water he said to my brother and I, "Prepare the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat. Whoever brings the better meal will receive my blessing." Two brothers, one blessing. Something was bound to go wrong. I brought fruits of the soil while my brother brought fat portions of the first born of the flock and my father looked with favor on my brother's offering. Later, while we were walking in the field I was enveloped with jealousy and my brother was on the ground dead, my hands covered with his blood. By the time I understood it was too late. How different my life could be if my father had been a vegetarian. So it goes.

I was now a killer and so there was war as there is always war and I left so the blood on my hands would disguise my guilt. Blood and women. So it goes.

But there is more. Not one woman has ever loved me. They may desire me at night, but in the light of day it disappears with the darkness. For killing my brother I have been made loveless. Yet, when there is a woman in my bed I do not dream.

Ah me dream. It haunts me. I am in a room. My brother's room. And I am crying, weeping, until the room is filled with my tears and in the tears are words floating into me until I drown. What can it mean? Surely some doom is headed. There is only one woman I know who can discover the meaning of dreams. I will go to her, but not as myself. I am Jacob. I will go to her as Esau. Better she believe her favorite child has died rather than killed. Perhaps my story will end with the same woman with whom it began.

He puts fur over his arms.

Lights go down on JACOB and come up on EAMON in the church. He is kneeling outside of the confessional, giving confession. He is drinking from a bottle and has obviously been drinking for sometime. At points, he crosses himself with the alcohol as if it were holy water, or perhaps gives confession to it.

EAMON

There is more, I'm afraid. I have lusted after a woman. My desires have become incurable. I desire strength which I lack. I hate myself for being nothing other than myself. I have relieved myself while imagining her. I do not think that I will be able to stop.

(MORE)

EAMON (cont'd)

I'm thinking about her now, with her legs open. I am a nautical drifting toward her cervix. Others attempt to board but I push them off. Dead ahead!

I know I shouldn't tell you that I am lusting at this very moment but I do not want this sin to wait until next confession, lest I forget and die. I do not think I could stomach purgatory.

I also kicked a cat because I did not like the way it looked at me. I know that everything God made is good but I do despise cats. Such filthy little bastards. Also, forgive me father for saying bastard. Also, when the blind Miss Rebecca came to the door with her bloody blind seeing eye bitch I did laugh a little laugh. Nobody noticed, but I did find it such a funny thing.

Also, I did come upon Widow McGregor and her ugly bastard son. She stopped me to make some small talk during which I passed gas. I was hoping she would not notice but the smell was quite awful for I had eaten breakfast with the Smith-Smiths. Mrs. Smith-Smith is such an awful cook and I'm sorry father but I do not see the point of hyphenating their names at marriage when they are first cousins and have the same last name, even though everyone agreed it was very sweet of Mr. Smith-Smith to do so. When the Widow McGregor blamed the gassy smell on her ugly bastard son I did not say anything, but instead I let him take the blame. I did not think she would hit him in the testicles for such a small offence. But he is only a bastard. Also, I am sorry that I am not sorry for taking the blame for the passed gas and being hit in the testicles, but I do have such sensitive testicles. Even a cold wind does affect me so. Also, forgive me father for saying bastard four more times. And for that time also. Amen.

(He gets up off of his knees with some effort and enters the confessional, or begins speaking to the bottle.)

My son, you must be strong. Through the power of god all things are possible. You must resist sin, or it will envelope you. You must be malleable clay in the hand.

(JACOB enters without being noticed by EAMON.)

It does not matter how beautiful and shapely her breasts look or how well they might fit in your hands. Or how she smells. These things are fleeting. Even though her smell still lingers in the air and her image is so vivid in your mind.

(he starts breathing heavily, struggling to finish)

Those breasts are fleeting . . . Those breasts are fleeting. For your lustful heart you must repeat 50 . . . No, 100 Hail Mary's. Also, recite the Lord's prayer 20 times as it is my favorite. For your poor treatment of the cat . . . Well cats are creatures of the devil and must be punished.

(MORE)

EAMON (cont' d)

It is good that you recognized this and took preventive measures . . .

(JACOB coughs)

. . . Ho! Is someone there?

JACOB

I have come to give confession. I will wait my turn.

EAMON

Confession? Grand. Magnificent. Extraordinary. Splendid.

JACOB

This is a church?

EAMON

Of course my son. Of course. It is only that no one has come to give confession in so long.

JACOB

It is still allowed? I have heard god might forgive us if we confess to him.

EAMON

There are some that say it is no longer allowed and try to stop such things.

JACOB

I do not fear them.

EAMON

Then please, my son, come forward. But I must tell you before you begin I am no longer much of a priest. My faith is not what it once was.

JACOB

And I am not much of a believer. I only desire someone to listen.

EAMON

Come forward my son. How long has it been since your last confession?

JACOB

This is my first.

EAMON

And what sins have you committed?

JACOB

I have killed.

EAMON

Who are you?

EAMON comes out from the confessional.

JACOB

I am the son of Rebecca.

Blackout.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### THE END OF WONDER, OR THE DISCOVERIES DISCOVERED

Lights up on ABE alone.

ABE

When I was a child I stopped laughing. One day I just stopped. Quite by accident. I suppose I no longer saw a reason. My parents worried about me but they did not see life the way I did. The tragedy of life only children see, although it envelops us all. They hired harlequins, clowns and comedians and offered an ample fee to anyone who could make me smile, but it was all to no avail. For even if I tried I could not laugh.

I went to sleep in my room very upset one night, after an argument with my father. He yelled at me for all the money they had unsuccessfully spent trying to make me smile. I was angry and went to sleep with tears in my eyes. But as I was about to travel to the world of dreams, a green woman came to me from under my bed, and said with an accent I had never heard before.

Enter the child as the Green Woman.

CHILD

Come with me to where everything is green and be my husband. You will never cry again.

ABE

I looked around at my room, my possessions, my world and I agreed to go with her. She handed me a green passport and next thing I knew we were in a land where everything was green. Every person was green, all the stoplights were green and there were horrible accidents of green cars everywhere I looked. All the food was green, as were all the little wives who cooked the green food in the green kitchens in the green houses. Why, I was the only thing that wasn't green in the entire land. Not even Christmas had any trace of red. But there was a niceness to it all. Everything was always the same and no one new ever came or went. We were hermetic.

(MORE)

ABE (cont' d)

We lived in a bottle at sea.

I lived there for years and years with my little green wife, I only a child, floating on a calm sea. And like a child I soon became bored with it all. Despite what we think it is not stillness or niceness that we desire. Even if it meant I would never die I could not live in a world where all the problems had been solved, all the discoveries discovered. So one day I asked my green wife to send me back to the world where I belonged. She sadly granted my wish, packed my green bags and said a few words with green tears in her green eyes.

CHILD

I will miss you.

ABE

I awoke in my bed and it was the very next morning of the night I left. My father was calling to me to wake up. At first I thought it was all a dream, this entire life I had lived, but then my father came into my room angrily, stopped, looked at me with sympathetic eyes, and said, "Are you feeling well my son, you look a little green?"

Lights go down on ABE and come up on REBECCA and SARAH in REBECCA's home.

REBECCA

A pleasant surprise.

SARAH

Thank you Rebecca.

REBECCA

I have so few visitors.

SARAH

These are lonely days.

REBECCA

Indeed they are.

SARAH

How is your dog?

REBECCA

The poor dear. It is a shame the cruelty in this world.

SARAH

Indeed it is. A shame when not even a blind woman's blind seeing eye bitch is safe.

REBECCA

I did take her to the doctor but the doctor did make a mistake and removed a leg.

SARAH

How horrible.

REBECCA

Yes. He did mistake her with another dog suffering from cancer of the leg. I do believe he was blinder than me.

SARAH

There should be standards to prevent such travesties.

REBECCA

Can I get you anything? Tea perhaps?

SARAH

That would be lovely. Thank you.

REBECCA prepares and serves tea.

REBECCA

If my son were here I would not have to worry about such matters.

SARAH

I imagine so.

REBECCA

Yes, yes, but these are no times to be talking about one's personal tragedies.

SARAH

Everyone does seem to be suffering.

REBECCA

Indeed. Do you take sugar?

SARAH

Please.

REBECCA

I have heard of Abe's success with his latest invention. The Tumult I believe it is called.

SARAH

It is amazing what things are now possible.

REBECCA

Have you tried it?

SARAH

Me? No. I'm afraid I'm not very adventurous with such endeavors.

REBECCA

There are those who believe a woman's place is on the bottom.

SARAH

My mother did believe that.

REBECCA

A pile of rot, that line of thinking. After my sons were gone and my husband became thirsty again, I did feel awfully empty inside and I did ride many men. Young men, old men. I was the first for many as I was the last for many. Men with beards and men who could not yet grow beards. They came to me from all over.

SARAH

Did it make you feel better?

REBECCA

For a time, but it is a cure for nothing. I could not see the men I was sleeping with and that excited me. To only feel them, smell them and taste them, but not see them. Some of the men I could tell were ugly and it did make me feel good to sleep with them, I who could not see their outer ugliness.

SARAH

I have only been with Abraham.

REBECCA

There is something special to that I believe. Often men would only sleep with me because I did remind them of a lover who had abandoned them.

SARAH

There is a sadness in love.

REBECCA

Yes, but also so much happiness. Don't you find yourself happy?

SARAH

There seems little to be happy about.

REBECCA

Even in the greatest tragedy there is happiness.

SARAH

I don't know if I believe that to be true.

REBECCA

You will, my dear. Often it only comes when we look backward upon that which has passed.

SARAH

Then I wish the time would pass. Did you ever feel sorry for the men, afterwards, that they had to leave and go back to the world?

REBECCA

Women are a sanctuary for men. It is our tragedy that it doesn't work both ways.

SARAH

Perhaps it is so.

(beat)

I almost did forget the reason for my visit. I did sew a new tail for Lady Socrates.

She gives REBECCA the tail who feels it with her hands.

REBECCA

Wonderful. The perfect size. She has been so depressed these past few days.

SARAH

It seems insufficient now that she has lost a leg, but perhaps it might help with the depression.

REBECCA

I believe that animals are more sensitive to the sadness in this world than we are.

SARAH

Perhaps because we cause so much of it.

REBECCA

Indeed it is so. I once saw a man beat a horse with a rake, laughing until well after it died.

SARAH

As a girl I saw three men stone a man to death simply because he could not stop sneezing.

REBECCA

It does seem sadder when it is a horse.

SARAH

I never got to see a real horse.

REBECCA

They were magnificent creatures. And quite useful too.

SARAH

I wish I could have touched one.

REBECCA

There is something different about you. A newness . . . Yes, I see your secret dear.

SARAH

My secret?

REBECCA

It is something wonderful. I wasn't sure until just now. But yes, I see.

SARAH

I'm afraid I don't know what you're talking about, Miss Rebecca.

REBECCA

But you are not the only one, my son is coming home. I feel it. He is tired and he is close. These will certainly be happy times. I believe there will be a son in your home.

SARAH

In my home?

REBECCA

You do not know? No, I suppose you wouldn't. It is still a drop in the ocean but I hear two heart beats, one not yet realized.

SARAH

You mean . . .

REBECCA

There is new life in your body. If you are still you will know it is true.

They are still.

SARAH

I feel it.

Lights fade on the women and come back up on Abe.

ABE

The next day it stopped raining and the very first rainbow appeared in our town. Everyone was amazed at the miraculous sight.

He looks up at the rainbow. Everyone enters as townspeople looking up at the rainbow.

ABE (cont'd)

What could it mean? Men put forth their best hypotheses.

EAMON

God had taken up painting, the sky his canvas.

SARAH

It's a rip in the sky caused by a flying peacock.

REBECCA

The stars are falling.

ABE

But they were all wrong. Only I knew the true answer to the polychromatic puzzle. It was a sign from my green wife. She had given me a new life and I had given her color. But an old french man no one had ever seen before came forward and announced in words of science that what we were seeing was not a miracle but:

JACOB

A grossly distorted image of the sun in the form of a giant arc in the skyspace of directions, formed by the angular focusing of sunlight that has been twice refracted and once reflected in raindrops.

ABE

None of us knew what he meant, but we knew the wonder was over and we went home.

Everyone but ABE begins to slowly leave, forgetting the rainbow.

ABE (cont'd)

It had all only been a dream after all. I felt as if I had nothing. When the ancients discovered zero they were frightened because no one wanted to believe there could be nothing. But I was not scared. I realized there was so much in this world that I had not considered, that I had been blind to. There was science and I did not want to be made foolish again. Miracles were no more. I had found my part in the story.

Blackout.

CHAPTER SIX

THE BEGINNING OF WONDER

EAMON begins to pray, but becoming frustrated after a moment he sits on the ground, takes off both shoes and socks and places them before him. He then puts each sock on the other foot before putting his shoes back on.

EAMON

At times I feel my story is written for me, the words I say already said times before. But how hazy my head is. The story must be old, the words fading and the pages yellowing. No, there is no story.

Meanwhile, lights come up on REBECCA alone in her home, sitting in her old chair, and ABE and SARAH in their home. After a moment, JACOB enters REBECCA's home and approaches apprehensively, his skin covered in fur.

JACOB

I am home.

REBECCA

My son. I knew you would return. Which one are you? Come here and let me feel your skin so that I may know.

(she feels his skin)

Esau, my son. The soldier has returned.

ABE

It is impossible Sarah.

SARAH

I know this is true.

ABE

It can't be.

SARAH

But it is. I know my body.

ABE

It would take a miracle.

EAMON takes off his collar.

EAMON

(singing)

Brothers and sisters don't you cry  
There'll be good times by and by  
Pharaoh's army got drowned  
Oh Mary don't you weep

Blackout

End of act 1.

## **ACT TWO**

In the darkness we see REBECCA writing manically on paper. She speaks what she writes.

REBECCA

I have heard it said that history repeats itself but it is not true. The very name history denies it. But stories, stories repeat over and over. The story is all we know. The only place we find meaning.

I am running out of time. The water is rising. The sun has not yet risen. I am pushing it down with my palm. I am telling it no, you will not rise.

We shall all live on as characters in a story. We will build our homes in the imaginations of children.

Black.

It is 23 or 28 years later. None of the characters appear to have aged. The only evidence of time passing is a feeling of decay that has overtaken the stage. It seeps from the walls and the character's clothing. It is as if the world itself is decaying at an accelerated pace. It hasn't, after all, stopped raining for these past 23 or 28 years. While this decay only weighs subtly on the characters physically, it has entered their minds and their memories. The large invention in the back is gone and a bed is now in its place. Eamon's church has been replaced with the bow of a boat.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THREE FAVORS AND THE TRAGEDY OF GETTING  
WHAT IS WANTED

ABE and EAMON are speaking in ABE's  
home.

EAMON  
A sad day when a blind woman's three-legged blind seeing eye  
bitch is sodomized.

ABE  
A sign of the times.

EAMON  
Indeed it is. Did they catch the pervert?

ABE  
Esau is searching for the offender.

EAMON  
I do not believe I would want him searching for me.

ABE  
Either would I. He does give me an uneasy feeling.

EAMON  
We mustn't judge too quickly.

ABE  
It has been 23 years. Or 28.

EAMON  
I do wish the clocks would synchronize.

ABE  
Seems to me they might just destroy one, so there would not  
be a discrepancy.

EAMON  
Yes, but it is quite a rarity owning a clock and would be a  
shame to destroy one.

ABE  
I suppose it would be. I must tell you father, you reek of  
alcohol.

EAMON  
Eamon.

ABE  
I must tell you Eamon, you reek of alcohol.

EAMON

Yes. And how is Sarah?

ABE

As well as can be expected. Awfully worn out though.

EAMON

It does seem that babies came sooner in the time before this time.

ABE

Perhaps. I cannot recall.

EAMON

I do not remember any other babies, but 23 or 28 years does seem long to be in the womb.

ABE

I do believe it has something to do with the weather.

EAMON

I do know that 23 or 28 years is a long time to rain.

ABE

The sun will come again. And the baby will be here any day.

EAMON

That is exactly why I do wish you would reconsider your adventure Abe.

ABE

It isn't for recreation.

EAMON

I know, but it is certainly an adventure.

ABE

Indeed.

EAMON

I understand it is for a better life but the timing does seem quite wrong to me.

ABE

I have been working non-stop since the pregnancy and my work is finally done. Quite a task to build a boat. Let alone to a gold magnet.

EAMON

That I do not question.

ABE

Now is the time. The work is finally complete and I want to leave as soon as we can.

EAMON

But your child will be here, as you said, any day.

ABE

And I do not want my child to grow in this world. Esau himself has spoken of the danger headed our way. The longer he stays in the womb the better. Until we make it to a place where it is like the time before this time, or after this time.

EAMON

I am as seduced by Esau's stories as everyone is, but I am concerned about Sarah.

ABE

My wife is in good hands. Miss Rebecca has been more than kind and will bring the child safely into this world.

EAMON

I should tell you I do worry about your safety as well. As I know Sarah does.

ABE

I have done hundreds of tests and taken every precaution.

EAMON

Yes, but science is not infallible. Calculations in a laboratory are one thing, floating on the ocean entirely another.

ABE

That is true but I do feel confident in my work.

EAMON

It is not your work or skills that I question. There is no doubt of your genius. But the tides no longer have a logic.

ABE

That is nonsense.

EAMON

And the earthquakes? And rain?

ABE

I will be fine and I will bring more than enough gold for us to leave and go to a place where it is still like the time before.

EAMON

I hope it is so.

ABE

And you know that I would be more than happy to take you with us on our departure.

EAMON

I will be deeply saddened if you leave, even if it is to a better place, but my place is here among these people.

ABE

These people are animals.

EAMON

Exactly why I need to stay.

ABE

You have no commitment to these people. You have said yourself you have lost your way.

EAMON

That is so, I no longer know which way I am going, but I feel I must find it here, among these people.

ABE

Perhaps you should forget about them.

EAMON

How long will you be gone?

ABE

Two weeks. Maybe twenty-three.

EAMON

You will come back a father.

ABE

It is likely.

EAMON

Most likely.

ABE

I do have a favor to ask of you.

EAMON

Anything Abe.

ABE

If the child does come in my absence do baptize him immediately.

EAMON

Are you sure that is what *you* want?

ABE

This child is a miracle. We mustn't ever forget that.

EAMON

What shall he be named?

ABE

I have always liked the name Noah.

EAMON

Grand. Magnificent. Extraordinary. Splendid. I do believe he will do great things. And if it is a girl?

ABE

Then she shall be named after her mother.

EAMON

You have my word.

ABE

Immediately.

EAMON

As soon as possible, yes.

ABE

Thank you father.

EAMON

Eamon.

ABE

Thank you Eamon.

EAMON

It is an honor. Although it would be easier if I had my church.

ABE

It was a horrible earthquake.

EAMON

Yes, but it did seem strange that my church was the only building destroyed, as if it were swallowed by the earth.

ABE

A church is only a building Eamon.

EAMON

That is true Abe.

ABE  
I have one more favor to ask of you.

EAMON  
Anything.

ABE  
Check in on Sarah while I am away.

EAMON  
That you need not ask.

ABE  
And do say a prayer for me.

EAMON  
It has been so long.

ABE  
Perhaps it is time to begin again.

EAMON  
Perhaps it is.

Lights go down on ABE and EAMON and  
come up on REBECCA and SARAH in  
REBECCA's home. SARAH is completely  
pregnant.

REBECCA  
You mustn't think such things. It is not good for the child.

SARAH  
There is talk that the oceans are acting abnormally.

REBECCA  
There is always talk. That doesn't mean we should always  
listen.

SARAH  
Yes, but there is not always this uneasy feeling I have.

REBECCA  
Have you talked to Abe about this feeling?

SARAH  
He will not listen to me. He wants nothing more than to take  
us away from here to somewhere where it is like the time  
before this. He has done little more than work on his boat  
and magnet these past 23 or 28 years.

REBECCA  
It is wise to want to leave this place.

SARAH

I agree, but at such a time it is difficult.

REBECCA

You must live with the tragedy of getting what you have wanted. It is natural for Abe to feel the pressure of fatherhood.

SARAH

He has been awfully excited. More excited than even me, if possible.

REBECCA

It is a marvelous event.

SARAH

And how is Esau?

REBECCA

Twenty-three or 28 years is a long time for a such a man to live in one place.

SARAH

He has lived such an exciting life.

REBECCA

A dark life as well.

SARAH

But he does make our lives seem so small in scope.

REBECCA

The life he has lived is not a life to be envied. I do not know how I could have given birth to such a violent man, a boy who killed his own brother. He feels like a different person to me altogether.

SARAH

He has been gone so long. He is a man now.

REBECCA

That is true Sarah, but something does feel wrong.

SARAH

It will pass.

REBECCA

I have a favor to ask of you Sarah.

SARAH

Anything.

REBECCA

I want Abe to take Lady Socrates with him on his trip.

SARAH

Of course. But why?

REBECCA

She has not been herself. She needs to get away. And she may bring Abe good fortune. She is, I believe, a lucky dog.

SARAH

Then perhaps she could bring some luck to Abe.

REBECCA

I do believe she will. I'll miss her horribly but it will be for the better.

SARAH

Of course. I'm sure he will enjoy the company.

REBECCA

There is something else I feel I need to confess.

SARAH

Yes?

REBECCA

I know the secret of Esau's dream, but I dare not tell him.

Enter JACOB still wearing the fur on his skin.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Esau.

JACOB.

Lady Socrates will not be bothered again

Blackout.

CHAPTER EIGHT

A FAREWELL, OR SIGNS OF MISFORTUNE

ABE and SARAH are in their home.

ABE

I will be home before you know it, a proud father with enough gold so that we may live where we desire.

SARAH

That would be marvelous Abe, but for the last time, must it be now?

ABE

We will not have to worry. Our child will never want.

SARAH

Our life has been privileged. I have never wanted.

ABE

Yes, we have been fortunate. But our child shall know an even better life. That is what I desire. We both know this not a world for a child. We have both heard Esau speak of the war that is headed our way.

SARAH

Yes, we have all heard of the coming war, but a war with whom?

ABE

Whoever it will be, it will be our enemy.

SARAH

And what about what Eamon has said about the ocean rising?

ABE

Eamon should leave the science to me.

SARAH

And the church being destroyed? Surely it is a sign of misfortune.

ABE

An odd misfortune, I agree, but do not worry my love. I do not want my son to grow up to be a worried man.

SARAH

You will be a good father Abraham. I only hope it is a child.

ABE

Of course it will be a child Sarah! I have told you again and again to stop speaking such nonsense.

SARAH

I do not mean to make you mad but something feels wrong.

ABE

You are becoming hysterical. Everything will be fine. And I will be the best father. And you will be the best mother. To think how our lives will change!

SARAH  
We shall be parents.

ABE  
And perhaps grandparents.

SARAH  
We shall have to teach him to read.

ABE  
And swim.

SARAH  
And eat even. And we will read him stories from other times of love and war.

ABE  
I suppose one day I will have to speak with him about the opposite sex.

SARAH  
And what shall you say?

ABE  
I shall explain very scientifically how to deal with women.

SARAH  
And how is that?

ABE  
To put one foot in front of the other and run.

SARAH  
You never ran away from me.

ABE  
I was a fool. He shall learn from my mistakes.

SARAH  
You still are a fool. The only difference is that now you're an old fool.

ABE  
Perhaps, but I am a happy fool.

SARAH  
And so am I!

ABE  
We will tell him of all the animals that came before us.

SARAH  
And we shall even have to teach him how to walk! How funny.

ABE

It is a amazing to think of a whole life.

SARAH

I love you.

They kiss.

ABE

And please do not worry. Just rest and wait. Rebecca will take good care of you. I will not be gone long.

SARAH

Be careful.

ABE

I love you. I must go before it gets too late.

SARAH

It is time.

ABE

I will get Lady Socrates and be leaving.  
And my child, what do you have to say to your father before he leaves?

ABE puts his ear to SARAH's belly.

SARAH

What did he say?

ABE

(Laughing)  
He said, "Giraffe."

SARAH

Abe, you laughed.

ABE

So I did.

(beat)  
When I come back it will be to a new life.

Abe kisses her once more and leaves.

SARAH

If I give birth to a giraffe I think I will die.

Blackout.

CHAPTER NINE

A MOST MISERABLE DEATH INDEED

Lights up on REBECCA and JACOB in their home.

REBECCA

Did you have the same dream again my son?

JACOB

I did.

REBECCA

And was your pillow dry when you awoke?

JACOB

It was. What difference does it make?

REBECCA

I am sorry I cannot decipher the meaning.

JACOB

At first I did think it might be the secret to the end of my curse, but now I see it for what it is.

REBECCA

And what is it?

JACOB

A warning of a coming doom that we will have to fight. To have the same dream every night of my death, to choke on the words of my enemies . . .

REBECCA

You are restless my son.

JACOB

There is not much time I am afraid. The dream only gets more vivid. It becomes louder in my mind. There are men who have agreed to fight with me. And there will be more.

REBECCA

Fight against what?

JACOB

I do not yet know.

REBECCA

Do you really think it will be the sword that saves us?

JACOB

What else would it be?

REBECCA

I am worried of the violence you will bring.

JACOB

The violence is coming regardless. We must fight it.

REBECCA

It will be the sword that ends us all. I am afraid you will not learn this until it is too late. And all of those young men who have agreed to follow you . . .

JACOB

They are brave. They know that if they do not fight we will be attacked.

REBECCA

You are taking them all away from their mothers. I am asking you to put it down and stay here. You have been safe here. You are supposed to be here with me, my son, Esau.

Lights go down on REBECCA and JACOB and come up on ABE aboard his boat.

ABE

Magnificent, the sea. A whole world below the one we know. But alas, a dangerous one as well. Shortly after the start of my journey Lady Socrates, staring over the edge, was picked off by a most ferocious shark and taken down to the dark depths of her death. Poor creature lived a most miserable life and died a most miserable death. Oh, but on the sea I have found freedom!

Blackout.

CHAPTER TEN

FAT WOMEN WHO FLOAT AWAY, DEATH OF A BASTARD AND THE EYES OF A WHORE

EAMON is on a street holding an enormous, open umbrella over his head and drinking from an alcohol bottle marked "Holy Water." He has the hiccups throughout the scene.

EAMON

I am so tired of my life! I want to sin! I want to be enveloped in it. To not be able to wash it from my skin. Why is it when I want to sin it is the most difficult to and yet, when I try not to sin, every thought and every move is a sin?

(MORE)

EAMON (cont'd)

It is when I want to sin that I question my free will the most. I want a woman. The things I would do to her! There would be no love. I want to be reduced to the carnal, the animal. After, to look at her and to know it was nothing. I have been with one woman who I loved. After I did not love her. Is it possible she stole my love? Would it have happened with Sarah who I have always loved? I want to sin with a woman I do not love. Perhaps then I will find my love.

Enter JACOB.

JACOB

Father, I have been looking for you.

EAMON

Eamon.

JACOB

Eamon, I have been looking for you. What are you doing in the rain?

EAMON

The rain is everywhere. I am trying to sin.

JACOB

I need you.

EAMON

I need you.

JACOB

What do you need?

EAMON

I need you to help me find a woman.

JACOB

A whore?

EAMON

Any woman I do not love.

JACOB

Women are everywhere. Certainly you do not love all of them.

EAMON

I need to fornicate. I need penetrate.

JACOB

I will help you sin but I need you to listen to my confession. I need to be forgiven. I need to end this curse.

EAMON

I wish I had your sins.

JACOB

You would crumble.

EAMON

Have you done something terrible?

JACOB

I have committed the most horrible of sins.

EAMON

Grand. Magnificent. Extraordinary. Splendid. I do prefer to hear the more horrible of sins. Help me find a whore and I will listen to your confession. But not just any whore. A dirty whore. Oh I want to feel deprived! I want to regret something I have done, not something I haven't done. Perhaps I'll get a venereal disease! How marvelous to feel the burn of my sin every time I urinate.

JACOB

You are a fool.

Lights go down on EAMON and JACOB and come up on SARAH alone. Her stomach is enormous.

SARAH

Something grows in me. I am alone but not alone. A life grows in me. I want it out! I have heard of women who thought they were pregnant but whose bellies were really just filling with air and after a few months they floated away never to be seen again. They are said to live on the moon. I do not want to float away.

Lights down on SARAH and back up on JACOB and EAMON.

JACOB

How was it?

EAMON

Grand.

JACOB

Yeah?

EAMON

Magnificent.

JACOB

Yeah?

EAMON

Extraordinary.

JACOB  
Yeah?

EAMON  
Spl endi d.

JACOB  
Yeah?

EAMON  
Yeah.

JACOB  
She is one of my favorites.

EAMON  
She did things I did not know were possible.

JACOB  
She took it easy on you father.

EAMON  
Eamon.

JACOB  
She took it easy on you Eamon. Will you hear my confession now?

EAMON  
I did not realize how wonderful it could be.

JACOB  
You will grow tired of it. It is only new at first after all.

EAMON  
I must remember to tell Abe that she used the Tumult. He will be most delighted. To think of the woman on top!

JACOB  
I have had women in ways you could not imagine.

EAMON  
(amazed)  
Tell me.

JACOB  
Please, my confession.

EAMON  
Of course my son. Please go head. Tell me your sins, they will go no further than me. I will not repeat them to anyone. They are between you and god. I am only the messenger.

JACOB

Shouldn't you stand behind something as to not see?

EAMON

This would be so much easier if my church wasn't destroyed and the confessional stolen by the elderly Mrs. Silverdown. A strong old woman to carry it on her back like that. The day after she stole it she was hit by a train and died and I did think it petty to ask the poor Mr. Silverdown to have my confessional back. He was the train conductor after all.

JACOB

Maybe you could just look the other way. I could not confess with eyes upon me.

EAMON faces the other way but peeks over his shoulder.

EAMON

Of course my son. Please begin.

JACOB

I have killed another man.

EAMON

Splendid! Who my son?

JACOB

The pervert who sodomized Lady Socrates.

EAMON

Not a sin to grieve over, my son. Bestiality is a crime against nature. Did you burn and torture him?

JACOB

I only slit his throat.

EAMON

Your only sin is killing him before burning him and torturing him into repentance. For killing him before burning him and torturing him into repentance you are forgiven.

JACOB

When I came upon him he was penetrating a pig against a barn door.

EAMON

The disease upon this world!

JACOB

But he was only a small specimen of a man.

EAMON

The size of the man does not dictate the size of his sin. You should have burned him in a pot of oil as a taste of that to come in the next world. For not burning him in a pot of oil as a taste of that to come in the next world you are forgiven. You might also have cut his testicles off and placed them in his mouth as a taste of Christian love. Did you slaughter the pig?

JACOB

I saw no point.

EAMON

You should have slaughtered the pig and brought me the meat as a thank you for hearing your confession.

JACOB

I took you to a whore.

EAMON

And now I am awfully hungry. But for not slaughtering the pig and bringing me the meat as a thank you for hearing your confession you are forgiven.

JACOB

There is more.

EAMON

I hope so, for the sake of a decent confession. Murder is no longer interesting.

JACOB

My mother thinks I am my dead brother.

EAMON

You must tell her the truth.

JACOB

I do not think I can.

EAMON

It is difficult. But it is better to live the difficult truth than an easy lie. You are living someone else's story. You must find your own.

JACOB

I see now that I belong in the battlefield. Not in my mother's home.

EAMON

For some, a mother's home is a battlefield.

JACOB

I should be fighting men.

EAMON

I wish I was brave like you. To know battle. You have had a magnificent life. Mine has been nothing. Is it true you have walked the entire earth without falling off?

JACOB

It is true.

EAMON

Magnificent.

JACOB

Be a soldier with me. There is doom coming this way. I have seen it in dreams. We must be prepared to fight.

JACOB offers him his sword.

EAMON

I am not a soldier.

JACOB

You ease my guilt. I will make you into a soldier.

EAMON takes the sword.

Lights go down on EAMON and JACOB and come up on ABE aboard his boat.

ABE

I no longer see land! The sense of calm is unnerving. A single bird, as if from nowhere, lands on my arm. An albatross I believe. Or perhaps a penguin. I am so poor at botany. But as if from nowhere this peculiar creature lands on my arm, looks at me as if to say, "How odd it is to exist" and then disappears into thin air. There is a beauty here I have not known on land.

Lights go down on ABE and come up on REBECCA and SARAH in SARAH's home.

REBECCA

Did you hear about the poor Widow McGregor's ugly bastard son?

SARAH

I'm afraid no news has reached me in the past days.

REBECCA

The ugly bastard son of the poor widow McGregor was carrying a pig in order to slaughter it in the barn.

(MORE)

REBECCA (cont'd)

Apparently he was having difficulty holding it, such a weak and fragile bastard after all. The pig kept squealing loudly and moving about like an epileptic so that he could barely keep a hold on it. Well, he pushed the pig against the wall of the barn and held it up with his stomach, in order to get a better grip on it, when a man came along and slit the poor boy's throat!

SARAH

Horrible!

REBECCA

The cripple John saw the whole thing from across the field but did not identify the murderer. He said he was laughing at the boy when it happened. Indeed, he was still laughing when he told the authorities of the atrocity.

SARAH

What does the cripple John have to laugh at? He has no arms and only a stump for a leg and could not even hold a pig. Those who laugh should look in the mirror.

REBECCA

The cripple John does not have a mirror.

SARAH

The poor bastard. Do you know how the poor widow McGregor is holding up.

REBECCA

She is now called the poor poor widow McGregor since she has now lost both a husband and a child. It was decreed today.

SARAH

It does have a nice ring to it, although I am sure she would be willing to give up the name if she could bring back her husband and her son.

REBECCA

Perhaps not as she is now the poorest widow in a hundred miles.

SARAH

It breaks one's heart to hear of such melancholy in the world.

REBECCA

I do not mean to start off with bad news but I thought you should know.

SARAH

Will there be a funeral?

REBECCA

Not for a bastard, no.

SARAH

No, I suppose not.

REBECCA

Even if he was not a bastard I do not think they could burry him in this rain.

SARAH

It is terrible.

REBECCA

How do you feel today?

SARAH

I am losing hope in this miracle. It seems to be a cruel joke.

REBECCA

You must be patient. I know of women who have been pregnant most of their lives. When the child is ready it will come.

SARAH

Yes, but 23 or 28 years is excessive.

REBECCA

I delivered one baby who had been in the womb so long that when he finally came out he was at the shaving age. It was an awfully hard pregnancy. And then the poor mother went broke as she did have to hire 16 wet nurses working around the clock just to keep the man child satisfied.

SARAH

I cannot wait any longer. I do not want to give birth to a man child. I will tear it out myself!

REBECCA

I have heard that before, but you can wait much longer than you think you are capable.

SARAH

I had a dream last night that I gave birth to a clock and then this morning I swear I heard ticking coming from my belly.

REBECCA

You must control your imagination. Remember that babies today would prefer to live their whole lives in the womb than enter this world.

SARAH

Please do not tell me that. I just want to be holding my child in my arms instead of in my belly.

REBECCA

You may be greatly depressed after.

SARAH

Yes, but I will have my child. I hope desperately it will be my child.

It begins to snow in the house.

REBECCA

And I am beginning to miss my Lady Socrates. Not having her has made it very difficult moving about.

SARAH

I suppose not having your blind seeing eye bitch is inconvenient.

REBECCA

I miss her company the most.

SARAH

You have Esau now.

REBECCA

Yes, but it is not always easy communicating with him. I am confused by the bond between us.

SARAH

I have felt the same about Eamon. He seems to be lost as well.

REBECCA

It is snowing.

SARAH

So it is. It seems to me that it used to only snow outside.

REBECCA

I cannot recall.

They watch the snow for a moment.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Eamon has agreed to follow Esau.

SARAH

That cannot be.

Another moment as they watch the snow.

REBECCA

We both are so close to our children. But so far.

They continue to watch the snow as lights come back up on EAMON and JACOB sitting on the street, crowded together under the enormous umbrella. EAMON is holding the sword.

EAMON

How hot the sun suddenly is.

He comes out from under the umbrella.

EAMON (cont'd)

Perhaps it is fitting. After, she looked to me and asked me to forgive her. How horribly sad, the eyes of those paid to love. Those eyes. I could not speak and I ran out of the room. It was good for me to experience a piece of what you have experienced. How can I listen to the sins of others and not judge when I have not experienced the same sins? For every sin I hear and forgive shall I commit the same sin? Endless sin in order to have endless forgiveness. I suppose I shall get used to it for men like you have loads of women. You will make me into a soldier. I have been weak, but now I will be strong!

EAMON swings the sword and accidentally cuts the umbrella off at the handle.

After a beat:

JACOB

You are a fool.

Blackout.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE MEANING OF LOVE, OR BEYOND ALL OF US

Lights up on SARAH and EAMON. EAMON has the sword at his side.

SARAH

I can not believe he would lie to his mother about such a thing.

EAMON

It is awful but do not tell her, he told me in the confidence of a confession and I did promise. He also killed a man fornicating a pig. Also, Mr. Smith-Smith confessed to me that he lusts after his sister while making love to his wife.

SARAH

Mrs. Smith-Smith is awfully plain.

EAMON

And his sister quite beautiful.

SARAH

It is true.

EAMON

So how have you been?

SARAH

I have been craving nothing but fish and chocolate.

EAMON

Perhaps your child shall have a unique sense of taste.

SARAH

You carry a sword now?

EAMON

I have been lost Sarah. But I think I have found my way.

SARAH

Everyone seems to be lost.

EAMON

It does sometimes seem that way.

SARAH

You have been spending much time with Esau.

EAMON

I am going to leave with him.

SARAH

So it is true.

EAMON

I do believe he will be the one to save us.

SARAH

Save us from what?

EAMON

There is an army headed this way.

SARAH

Rebecca believes he will bring us harm if he does not put his sword down.

EAMON

Yes, but he is not part of our world.

SARAH

It is good that they did have some time together. Twenty-three or 28 years. Whichever it may be.

EAMON

True enough Sarah. True enough. I did sleep with a whore.

SARAH

A whore? You do not go to whores. And you do not carry swords. What has Esau done to you?

EAMON

I felt that I needed to sin.

SARAH

Why are you telling me this?

EAMON

Everyone always tells me their sins and I never have any. I wanted to tell you. Since Esau has arrived I have discovered how small my life has been. Do not be mad.

SARAH

That you did sleep with a whore and not me?

EAMON

I cannot explain it. I felt as if I might find something if I did.

SARAH

And did you?

EAMON

I think so. But you must know something Sarah?

SARAH

Yes?

EAMON

If we could all go back to another time I would love you over.

SARAH

It took a whore for you to tell me that?

EAMON

Yes!

SARAH

Flattering but an impossibility.

EAMON

Sarah, you know I have always loved you. Even before there was Abe, but I was weak. I also know there was a time when you loved me.

SARAH

Perhaps.

EAMON

Do not say perhaps.

SARAH

Why are you telling me this now?

EAMON

I may never see you again.

SARAH

You are a fool.

EAMON

Are those your last words for me? Well I have heard that a lot lately. And maybe it is true.

SARAH

You are not a soldier, you are a priest. You will be killed!

EAMON

I do not regret anything. But I am changing my path. Nor should you regret anything Sarah. Abe is a wonderful man and this child means so much. I know how much you have wanted it.

SARAH

Do you not think we are being punished?

EAMON

How?

SARAH

With this child! I went to you and tried to do things the wrong way and now god is punishing me. This child will never come.

EAMON

It will come naturally.

SARAH  
Don't you believe this child, whatever it is, is from god?

EAMON  
It is nice to think so.

SARAH  
It is not nice to think so! There is no other explanation.  
You know Abe could not produce.

EAMON  
Yes, but the body is sometimes more resilient than we know.  
Nature finds a way.

SARAH  
You sound like Abe once did.

EAMON  
Perhaps we have both changed.

SARAH  
At the time I discovered the pregnancy it had been months  
since Abe and I had made love.

EAMON  
Did you not go to another?

SARAH  
Of course not.

EAMON  
You came to me, I thought you might have . . .

SARAH  
I went to you because I have loved you. You are the only  
other man I have ever loved besides Abe. And I am being  
punished for it.

EAMON  
(to himself)  
There is so much we are blind to.

SARAH  
So we must not be blind to a miracle when one happens. Even  
if it is a bad miracle.

EAMON  
If it is as you say, god will surely give it to you.

SARAH  
But I do worry this miracle will not be realized.

EAMON

It is beyond all of us.

SARAH

I am beginning to believe miracles are not possible in this world. Perhaps they can be started, but no longer finished.

EAMON

You must not lose faith now, not you. You must stay young. I do believe it is people who make miracles occur as much as it is god. It is amazing Sarah. A ray of hope in this world.

A beat.

SARAH

Please do not leave me.

EAMON

Do you love me?

Lights go down on SARAH and EAMON and come up on REBECCA and JACOB.

REBECCA

I will be alone.

JACOB

So will I.

JACOB begins to leave.

REBECCA

My son, there is something I must tell you.

(beat)

I know your secret.

(JACOB stops)

To your dream.

JACOB turns around.

JACOB

You lie to make me stay.

REBECCA

You never cried for your brother and your curse will not be lifted until you cry. You cry in your dreams for him, but not in the world. That is the meaning of your dream. All you have to do to end it all is cry.

JACOB

And the words?

REBECCA  
That you must find out for yourself.

JACOB  
It would take a miracle for me to cry.

He begins to leave again.

REBECCA  
Before you go, come to me.

He does. After a moment she begins to remove the fur from his arms.

REBECCA (cont'd)  
Come back for me.

JACOB  
I promise.

JACOB leaves.

REBECCA  
Forgive me my son, for I do not tell you the doom hidden in your dream. The moment you cry will not only mark the end of your curse but also the beginning of your death.

Lights back on SARAH and EAMON.

SARAH  
(to the audience)  
After years of waiting it began in an instant.

She doubles over and moans.

EAMON  
What is it?

SARAH  
The child.

Blackout.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### HOW WE ARE ENVELOPED

Lights up on ABE aboard his boat, and on Sarah in bed giving birth with REBECCA helping her.

EAMON paces back and forth in front of them. We hear SARAH throughout ABE's speech.

ABE

There is a slight breeze and a strong sun. How calm these massive waters are below me. Perhaps it is a sleeping beast I should not awake. I set the massive gold magnet in place. Years of work for this moment. Will my calculations prove to be true? Will science fail me?

I pull the lever, turn the wheel, and set this machine into motion, watching to see the gold come to me, but the calm continues, undisturbed. I stare down into the mysterious waters, looking for the slightest glimmer, but there is nothing.

Staring into the abyss, past my own reflection, I imagine I am looking into my very own consciousness. I cannot explain it, but it as if I'm looking at myself in another world, in another time, but there is sadness to it all. And just as the image is about to become clear there is a slight sparkle.

Did I imagine it? I stare even further into the waters. There it is again. And again. Slowly, with a shyness, thousands of small sparkles from the depths of this dark sea begin to dance toward me. Soon the entirety of this black ocean is transformed as golden dust swims up to me. The attraction is marvelous. The richness that exists below our feet!

Millions and millions of golden flakes swirling in the water, creating an eye in the ocean. A marvelous kaleidoscope. Is something looking at me? Am I looking back? The massiveness of it all is beyond me. The weights underneath begins to pull with a gravity unknown to the world of land. Is this god?

Soon there is a column of gold from the magnet to the floor of the sea. The small boat begins to crack, the wood to creak. The screws begin to turn and the planks fail. This vessel is my life. I turn off the magnet but the golden dust does not cease. There is so much gold, so much weight to it all, that it is blinding. The small boat is no challenge for the heaviness of this sea. It is as if the ocean is floating upon the boat. I am not afraid, this is simply just what is happening.

SARAH

Where is Abe?

REBECCA

You mustn't worry Sarah. Abe will be back any day now. You're going to make him a proud father.

Why isn't it coming? SARAH

It is coming dear. Be patient. REBECCA

Please father. Keep her safe. EAMON

I want Abraham. SARAH

You know he is gone. REBECCA

I have a bad feeling. SARAH

Do not concentrate on it. Think of the child. Push dear. Breathe and push. REBECCA

Why is it taking so long? If it is a giraffe, kill me immediately! SARAH

The child is stubborn. Like the father. REBECCA

How is she doing? EAMON

She's lost a lot of blood. Her mind is not hers. REBECCA

Please god, don't take her. I will lose it for good. EAMON

Push Sarah. Push as hard as you can. REBECCA

Abe! I see you. SARAH

Don't look dear. Push. REBECCA

What is the matter? SARAH

Push dear. REBECCA

EAMON

(to god)

You cannot do this! Do not take her.

SARAH

I'm going to give you a child. I'm going to give you what we always wanted Abe. I will make this a miracle, god or not.

Lights back on ABE.

ABE

In the instant after I died many things happened. For one, I was immediately able to see the love that surrounds us all. I do not know where it comes from or why, but how it envelops us! And I saw everyone I have ever known in my life. My parents. Sarah holding my child. Eamon wearing his collar. Rebecca writing and Jacob crying. Even Lady Socrates and the man who taught us the secret of a rainbow. I saw them all, even though they are all from different times in different places. And I saw my little green wife, and again I was a child.

Also, god really is an old man with a white beard, but he is much different than anyone ever imagines. He lives in a room full of clocks. If you just think about time it makes sense.

There is one thing that happened that was a big surprise. Neither science or religion will help you come closer to the answer but how it envelops us all at this very moment! Yes, you will be surprised.

Lights back up on SARAH, REBECCA and EAMON.

REBECCA

It's getting worse.

EAMON

Just get the child out!

REBECCA

I'm doing all that I can.

EAMON

You must do more.

REBECCA

She is losing her strength.

EAMON

Please god.

REBECCA

Push as hard as you can. Give me one more push.

SARAH screams for sometime as REBECCA continues to tell her to push and comfort her. The screams become unbearable and continue as Eamon falls to the ground praying, begging, but with an anger. He swings his sword at the air.

EAMON

Do not take her. Do not tease us with a miracle and then take it away. You cannot do this to us over and over. I will no longer be the man on the roof of a flooded house waiting for help. I will be on the ship. My faith will save me! For once, we will be saved. I am a soldier now.

I love her father.

Do not take her away. God how I love her. And I will hate you forever if you take her. God how I will hate you. We are miserable. We are nothing. We are yours.

I love her and that is all I have left.

Finally the screaming stops. EAMON looks over concerned.

EAMON (cont'd)

What has happened?

After a pause, we hear the cry of a child. SARAH has fallen back exhausted. REBECCA takes the child in her arms.

REBECCA

It's a boy.

EAMON

(almost a whisper,)

Thank you.

REBECCA tastes her finger.

REBECCA

My god!

EAMON

What is it?

REBECCA

The child.

Yes?  
EAMON

REBECCA  
He's covered in chocolate pudding.

We hear the sounds of birds.

EAMON  
The cages are full of birds again.

EAMON stands up. He pulls his collar from his pocket, holding the sword in one hand and the collar in the other. REBECCA brings him the child wrapped in a blanket. He drops the sword, puts his collar on and takes the child in his arms as light narrows in on him.

Suddenly, water begins to leak from the windows and door so that by the end he is standing in water.

Noah.  
EAMON (cont'd)

Everything freezes and the lights change.

#### EPILOGUE

The child enters reading the book.

CHILD  
Sarah talked of having children and believed she would. And how there would be children! Children enough to fill the earth.

JACOB enters. The stage is covered in words.

CHILD (cont'd)  
And later, after everything, the soldier returned again, as he promised, but to bury his mother Rebecca. And in her room he found not only her bloated body, devastated by the water, but words covering pages and pages of paper and finally continuing onto the walls and floor. Refusing to leave with the new family, and blinder than ever, she wrote crazily, in a sort of madness, as the waters rose. Some of the words had floated away, and others, like her life, were nonsensical.

JACOB cries.

CHILD (cont'd)

But slowly, as recurrent dreams, they revealed their meaning to him and tears came to his eyes. They were the story of miracles. She had wanted the children to know, for they are the beginning of the world.

So it is, epiphany is brief and suddenly the soldier died, as if all the love from those years of lovelessness crashed down on him at once.

JACOB falls over.

EAMON sees the child for the first time and approaches.

EAMON

It seems I have heard those words before. Yes, yes! It is clear to me now. We are the story! We are the . . .

. . . And the child closes the book.

Blackout.

End of play.