

Heaven or Hell

(The stage is pitch black. The voice of a girl can be heard.)

Girl: Who are you? *(while facing the audience)*

Pause for a few seconds. No response is heard.

Girl: I said, who are you? *(frustrated, still facing the audience)*

(A light appears on her, overwhelmingly illuminating her presence.)

(No response. From the audience, "God" rises. In the background, a voice begins proclaiming Isaiah 14:13.)

Background Voice: For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.
(slowly, deliberately, with drama as "God" rises from the audience and swiftly makes his way onto the stage.)

God ascends the stage, and a light appears to illuminate the rest of the set. The room has a door and a window on the right, a small table towards the back, a futon on the left-center, and an easel with a large canvas facing the back of the stage so that the audience cannot tell what has been painted on it. On the ground next to the easel, there should be paint buckets of vibrant shades of green, purple, blue, etc. Colors that evoke a sense of euphoria and wonder. There are various paintings hung on the walls of the set, the Girl has painted them. They should have dark, abstract forms with a theme of isolation.

God: My young, beautiful girl, oh what has become of you! It is okay, you are a true blessing to the world.

The Girl lights up with a smile as she looks up at "God" who now stands right next to her.

God: I proclaim you to be the Artist of Artists, a painter whose colors bring viewers to other worlds. You are the creator, my girl. You. *(heavily)*

Girl: *(smiling, ecstatic)* Oh! It cannot be so! Thank you so much my lord, I shall not let you down.

The Girl rolls her wheelchair behind the large easel, where she begins painting with the vibrant colors. The light now illuminates her and God exclusively. God sits on the futon, silent, and admiring her as she works away.

Girl: Let there be light! Wow, it is good. *(She spins in her wheelchair with glee after splashing more paint onto the canvas)*

Girl: Ah, but there are parts to this canvas that I cannot reach my lord. If only I could stand up.

God does not respond, he simply sits and stares at the Girl and her painting

Girl: A little blue here, a little green here. Thank goodness I don't have any red! Wow, it is truly a sight to behold. It is good. My lord, please watch out of the window for me. *(Pause, look at God)* I'd like to keep our visitors at bay.

God: *(Strangely, and after an awkward pause)* My poor girl, love and death come uninvited!

Girl: Oh lord, you remind me! I have my very first date today. I should get ready. *(Pause, and feel her forehead)* But it leaks again. My head my lord, please. Mend my wounds!

God jumps, rushes to the back of the stage in the darkness where he returns with bandages and a bottle of vitamins labeled "E"

God: Let me be your savior. I will fix you. I will heal you. I love you.

God bandages the girl's head. Drops vitamin into her mouth and gives her a glass of water to wash it down.

Girl: *(suddenly revitalized and awake)* I feel better already. Let me prepare myself!

God returns to the futon, drops his first aid onto the ground messily. The girl wheels around, grabbing a comb and fixing her hair in a mirror on the wall.

Girl: I look gorgeous! I look swell! This first date is SURE to go well!

God smiles to himself, makes himself comfortable on the futon. The girl wheels over into the darkness of the set where she gets candles for the table and food in boxes. She applies room spray on herself as perfume and sits patiently awaiting her date.

Girl: Anytime now!

After 30 seconds of waiting, the other girl enters through the front door with a bouquet of flowers. She is confident and excited to meet the girl. Her hair has been trimmed short, and she takes on a tom-boy appearance.

Girl: You're here oh you're here! I've been waiting all my life for this moment. You look wonderful. *(wheels close to the other girl. Reaches up for a hug and both of them embrace)*

God stands up and his eyes go wide. A red light shines on him, but the other two characters notice nothing.

Other girl: Look at this wonderful set up. Candles, food. Let's get into it,

Girl: Surely.

They go, hand in hand, to the table and eat, flirt, and talk. Their voices are indistinguishable. God paces front center stage.

God: *(yelling with anger, trembling)* Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire!

The girls finish at the table and walk while giggling to the futon, seemingly ignoring God. They sit on the futon, and The Girl puts her head on the other's shoulder.

God: AH! That's all! *(still enraged, now violent)*

God grabs The Girl off, and throws her on the ground. The other girl looks confused as if some force has thrown The Girl down. The lighting becomes deep red.

Other girl: What the... *(she runs off of the stage through the door)*

God: *(Yelling into the fallen girl's ear)* Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire!

The stage is now shrouded in darkness. The Girl reappears under a spotlight, holding a knife. The distant sounds of an offstage animal being sacrificed echo.

The Girl: I must pay my dues. Oh Lord, I do this for your forgiveness. Please I beg you, forgive me!

She goes through the motions of the ritual offstage, unseen by the audience. The sounds of offstage animal sacrifice echoes.

God: *(voice booming)* Exodus 29:10-14, a ritual of atonement, a shedding of blood to cleanse the soul. The consequences of indulgence, the cost of desire.

As the ritual concludes, The Girl returns to the stage with the knife still in hand. God forgives her with a sudden joyous expression. The lights return to normal

God: Your sins are forgiven, my child. *(returns to the futon, he begins relaxing)*

The Girl: *(carelessly)* Well, now that's over with let me get to my work.

The Girl wheels around, takes out her books from a nearby bag, and starts doing her homework. In the midst of her work, she accidentally knocks over a vase. It shatters. God remains silent.

The Girl: Dammit! This always happens. Every vase I touch breaks. I'm cursed. *(enraged)* Can't anybody help me? *(facing the audience)* can't any of you help me?

She attempts to reach the ground, but can't, pauses, and the lights go dark again, focusing only on her and God.

The Girl: Where are my parents? Why am I sick? Why was I born like this? What is this? What are we? Why are we? Who are you?

God has no response. The light on God dims after every inquiry. 30 seconds of silence, where it appears God and the Girl are staring past each other.

God: Let me help you into bed, my beloved. Oh what a tiring day this has been.

The child needs to be helped into a wheelchair and wheeled onto the futon. God assists silently, watching over her. Then, God takes a seat at the dining table and faces the audience with an expressionless stare. He holds this same expression for the rest of the play. The girl is asleep with a gentle snore.

After 2 minutes of this silent, motionless set, a door slam is heard outside followed by shouting and yelling. The window is broken and 3 robbers jump into the house. God continues emotionless. The girl awakens, and her expression is scared and frightened. She shrieks

Robber: Take it ALL! TAKE IT!

The robbers move, clearing the house of all the paintings and throws them out of the window.

Robber: End it all. There shall be nothing left. You two, carry the big one out.

The other two robbers carry the Girl's large painting out from on top of the easel. The audience finally can see the painting as it is carried out. It is just like the others. Abstract, random, dark, and isolated in stark contrast to the paints on the ground.

Robber: It's time. Let us end it now. We have no more time.

The robbers raise guns to the frightened girl. They take turns to shoot her. She falls onto the ground, motionless. The robbers walk out. God remains seated and expressionless.

The scene changes with the closing of the curtains.

The stage transforms into a church-like setting with a few pews, people kneeling, and an eerie, messy, jumbled music playing in the background. At the front, two caskets are prominently displayed—one with a

picture of the girl above it and another with "God." Where a crucifix would typically be, there is an abstract and chaotic picture.

The atmosphere is somber as people in the pews pray and shuffle around, creating an unsettling silence. The music continues, adding to the eerie ambiance. The audience is left in the dark about who the girl and God are.

For a few minutes, the characters in the scene remain silent, with only the haunting music and the movements of the praying people filling the space.