

SCENE I

TIME - WHENEVER

CURTAIN RISES, *revealing DARKNESS.*

Beyond the DARKNESS is a small city neighborhood of brick & small lawns. There is an empty highway, an abandoned car. There is an empty beach. There is an empty playground. There is a nearly deserted mall parking lot. There is a small brick church with a garden surrounding it. There is a farmers' market. There is an apartment building. There is an empty bar.

The center is DARK. The surroundings are DARK. SPOTLIGHTS cut holes in the DARKNESS & fade to black at the end of each scene.

SPOTLIGHT – *The apartment building.*

There is a rumbling from beyond the neighborhood. OFFSTAGE & at the end of the stage, there is a gathering of white cloth. The HOLY GHOST PEOPLE ENTER dressed in white flowing cloth. They are holding each other's hands; they are humming. They walk toward the brick apartment building, toward the lawn. The SPEAKERS crowd in the window of the apartment building, looking out, watching the HOLY GHOST PEOPLE.

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE [*walking across*] we do not feel cold.

SPEAKERS so they say.

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE [*stopping on the lawn*] this is fodder. a history of the gaze. or muted rhetoric. we do not feel cold.

SPEAKERS the holy ghost people claim they have let go, heaved us into the pith of cities.

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE god has let go. we have let you. we have heaved you into the pith of cities.

SPEAKERS though we were never in, nor heaved.

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE you are out. everything billows. we moved through star clusters for you. the breadcrumbs of photographs of stars—we will find our way back, but there will be nothing left, till something new forms between the dark matter. we will go on. there are other humans & we will find them when the ones we are meant to save are saved. there is darkness. dark matter cured the air. the orbit sack. [*the HOLY GHOST PEOPLE form a circle, clap hands, look up into the window*] everything billows. this banter will not be what identifies us.

SPEAKERS we are backlit in this conversation.

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE god protects us, projected us out.

SCENE II

SPOTLIGHT – *The mall parking lot.*

The HOLY GHOST PEOPLE have gathered around a small cluster of cars. They hum. They suddenly stop & clasp hands. The SPEAKERS roll their windows down, lean out.

SPEAKERS [*from their car windows, letting the cars run*] reframe. there are beautiful bodies under that white cloth. a whole flock of defectors leave their cubicle-light. reframe.

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE you have fallen. you just cannot see the height of the fall. but it is galaxies tall. [*they begin to sing, melodic humming*]

SPEAKERS oh jesus, they're singing.

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE [*singing*] whenever possible conjure sylvia.

SPEAKERS sylvia?

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE sylvia is not here yet.

A seagull squawks.

SPEAKERS [*laughing*] sylvia is that you?

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE tactics. ethics. the why of it.

There is humming coming from OFFSTAGE.

From the DARKNESS.

SCENE III

SPOTLIGHT – *The church.*

The HOLY GHOST PEOPLE ENTER the light & stand in the garden. The SPEAKERS come to the door & stand. A woman in a blue dress appears in the center of the HOLY GHOST PEOPLE.

SPEAKERS in the coax of skeleton trees a preacher is dying, repenting to the holy ghost people. the holy ghost people conjure sylvia. her dress is blue. the holy ghost people dance around the preacher. inside the trees. her dress is blue. why is it not white?

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE what you see as blue is just another shade of what you call white where we come from. sylvia wears the purest of whites.

SPEAKERS this is not church ritual. tracterians, ink-hands & bloat. they are at it. the holy ghost people have recruited. the weakness of faith revs. rules of brimstone & star-light & galaxy-flex. the lost in fog-light. smoke machines & smoke theatrics, but there is no smoke, no stage, just our lawns & courtyards & roads & & & & & &

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE broken parts must die, broken parts.

SPEAKERS but you are so right about them. they are not truthful & you look like your

mother in the garage shadow.

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE you are all full of broken parts, but you hide it by always talking. sylvia wants to help you, because god wants to help you.

SPEAKERS this sylvia has been unconjured, vanished. who was that earlier? is that who you called sylvia?

The HOLY GHOST PEOPLE begin to hum.

SPEAKERS holy ghost people, what are those sounds? they are not words—

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE these are our words. we will translate:

SPEAKERS translate.

HOLY GHOST PEOPLE our lies are more truthful than yours. our lies end with your salvation.