

WILLING AND READY

A New Play

By Aster Aguilar

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SCENE 1

Lights up.

ADAM is up-centerstage, EMILY to his right. She looks at him as he tries to teach her the rhythm: stomp-stomp-clap, stomp-stomp-clap.)

EMILY tries to join in, but fails. ADAM stops.

ADAM

Not like that.
It's like
It's like the Queen song

EMILY

She has a song out

ADAM

No no Queen
The band

EMILY

Oh
I mostly listen to like
Christian rock
Like Hillsong

ADAM

Well Hillsong is cool
Have you seen them live

EMILY

Not yet

ADAM

There's nothing like it
Everybody singing together
Rocking out
It's the best way to praise God

EMILY

The singing

ADAM

Yeah, you'll see
The first day of camp, it's just like
Everyone is just
Yeah

ADAM gets lost in the memory for a moment.

EMILY

Yeah
It's pretty special here
I'm excited

ADAM

Me too
My first year being head counselor
So, you know

EMILY

That's awesome
Congratulations

ADAM

I'm a little nervous

EMILY

Well, me too

ADAM

So we'll get through it together

EMILY

Yeah

Beat.

ADAM

Yeah, um, anyways, it's stomp, stomp clap
One after the other

EMILY joins in, on beat this time. They
continue to let the beat settle, starting to get
louder and louder....

SCENE 2

Lights up on the rest of the stage.

An explosion of sound—electric, exciting, exhilarating. There’s nothing like the first day of church camp and everybody knows it.

The CAMPERS—J, KC, L, B, and DD—stand in a semi-circle behind ADAM and EMILY.

J stays a beat behind, but catches on eventually. KC helps him out.

B holds REGGIE by her side, by his arm.

ALL

(In bombastic unison, to the tune of “We Will Rock You” by Queen)

I LOVE, I LOVE
 JE-SUS
JE-SUS!
 I JUST, WANT TO
 PRAISE HIM
PRAISE HIM!
 I AM, HERE TO
 SERVE HIM
SERVE HIM!
 I’M HIS, FAV’RITE
 SOL-DIER
SOL-DIER!

PASTOR JIM runs on stage with a headset on. The kids scream like he’s Taylor Swift: bordering on feral.

PASTOR JIM
(matching their energy, amplified by a
microphone)

OK CAMPERS!
LEMMEHEARA ONE TWO

CAMPERS

ONE TWO!

PASTOR JIM
(addressing the audience and the
counselors, quieter)

Hey now... I want to hear *everyone*
So let's try that again...

(even louder)

LET! ME! HEAR! A! ONE! TWO!

ADAM nudges EMILY playfully. She joins in.

ALL

ONE TWO!

PASTOR JIM

Now THAT'S better...
Lemmeheara...

I'M SAVED!

ALL

I'M SAVED!

PASTOR JIM

OOOOOOOOOH SAY THAT
AGAIN FOR ME!

ALL

I'M SAVED! I'M SAVED!

DD
(screaming)

I'M
SAVEEEEEEEEEEEEEEDD
DDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDD!!!!!!!

PASTOR JIM
(matching her energy)

THAT'S WHAT I'M
TALKING ABOUT,
DD!!!!!!!!!!!!

(talking to himself)

Man I LOVE my job!

(back to everyone else)

Boys And Girls, Let's Bow Our Heads In Prayer

(in a breathless rush)

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this beautiful weather, and these beautiful grounds.
Thank you to our beautiful staff who are here to guide these soldiers into your word.
Thank you for bringing us here, all of us here to learn. To feel your wisdom and grace.
Amen.

ALL

Amen.

PASTOR JIM

Um...
I don't think that's how we do it here at camp.

Beat.

(rising)

I said...

A-MEN!

ALL

A-MEN!

PASTOR JIM

A-WHAT?

ALL

A-MEN!

PASTOR JIM

Okay, okay, thank you for humoring crazy old Jim.
Now... just one last little thing...

CAMPERS

(Yes. Oh my gosh??? What is it!!)

PASTOR JIM

Can I get a drumroll....

The campers pound the ground.

For our 7th annual “Willing and Ready” Christ Everlasting Unitarian Youth Church camp.....

A banner behind them drops, revealing a box of t-shirts.

T-SHIRTS!!!!!!!!!!!!

CAMPERS go fucking nuts. Like, everything short of running around and throwing things. A kid starts crying. They start tossing out the t-shirts—definitely made on CustomInk for like, \$7 a pop. There’s only one size. The campers excitedly put their shirts on.

L raises her hand.

Hey hey hey, one two
PASTOR JIM

Eyes on you
CAMPERS

What's up L
PASTOR JIM

What's the t-shirt supposed to say
L

Well, it says the name of camp
PASTOR JIM

No it doesn't
L
It says
Willing and deady
Like
Um
Dead?

Oh it definitely says that, Dad
B

A moment of absolute chaos. This was ADAM's fuck up, and PASTOR JIM knows it. ADAM's face drops.

Who wants to do some arts and crafts?
EMILY

The clamor stops. Silence. Everyone looks at EMILY.

What was that?
PASTOR JIM

I said
EMILY
Um
Who wants to do some arts and crafts?

PASTOR JIM
(loudly, to everyone)
WHO WANTS TO DO SOME ARTS AND CRAFTS!

Everyone cheers. PASTOR JIM gives EMILY a pat on the back. ADAM gives EMILY a strained smile. The campers rush stage left, towards the tables.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 3

The cafeteria: three picnic tables set up in a line.
At one end, EMILY and ADAM sit, chatting.

At the second, all of the campers and REGGIE,
sat individually. The campers wear their t-shirts,
now with various ways of turning the “D” into
an “R”.

At the third, PASTOR JIM, sits annotating a
Bible.

At the middle table, a passion argument is being
had. DD is running in circles: each time she
passes, she inserts her quips.

KC
I think arts and crafts is better than sports

B
No way.

L
I like the games though

KC
Well what’s your favorite

L
The one with the balls

DD
Balls...

B
Well a lot of games have balls

L
I know

B
So which one is it

Ummmmmm L

I like the one where you throw the balls back and forth B

Balls! DD

J, which one do you like L

I dunno J

This is J's first time at camp! KC

Well me too but I know all the camp games cuz we did them in youth group L
Don't you go to youth group J

I just go to church J

You should really go to youth group too DD

Ok J
(a little embarrassed)

What's the game called where you don't talk and you throw the balls at each other KC

Mum ball B

DD stops triumphantly.

More like.... DD
Your MUM's balls!!!!!!!

KC, DD, and L all laugh.

I don't get it

B

I don't either

J

ADAM springs from his table and steps centerstage.

ADAM
Ooookay everyone, it's almost time for sports
Let's bus our plates

KC
(to the campers)
I know what I want to play

Everyone snickers as they start to get up to put their plates away. As they walk past PASTOR JIM, they say a timid "hello".

PASTOR JIM suddenly grabs DD's arm to stop her. The blood drains from her face.

PASTOR JIM
A word, DD?

DD nods. Everyone looks back at her. It's silent.

There's nothing wrong with the bodies God made for our brothers. Isn't anything funny about it, either.

DD
Yes, Pastor Jim.

PASTOR JIM
So I'm not gonna hear anymore of that nonsense from you. Isn't that right?

DD
Yes, Pastor Jim.

PASTOR JIM notices that everybody has stopped. He lets go of her arm.

PASTOR JIM
You get back to sports now.

The campers exit. ADAM and EMILY follow,
but PASTOR JIM stops EMILY. ADAM exits.

PASTOR JIM
Gotta keep an eye out with these kids.

EMILY
Yes sir.

PASTOR JIM
Don't want them wandering astray.

EMILY
No sir.

PASTOR JIM
You're gonna be a good counselor here, Emily. If you keep your eyes peeled.

EMILY
Thank you sir.

PASTOR JIM
No need for all that. Call me Pastor Jim like the kids do.
Or just Jim since it's just the grown ups.

EMILY
Thank you

Beat.
Jim.

PASTOR JIM claps her on the shoulder, too.
The touch lingers. EMILY and PASTOR JIM
exit in different directions. The sounds of some
chaotic camp game bubble in the distance.

LIGHTS FADE, FROM
GOLDEN
AFTERNOON TO
COOL MOONLIGHT.

SCENE 4

The boy's cabin. worn out oak bunkbeds in one corner, one bunk stays empty.

What do we do now J

Usually we sleep KC

But do you wanna sleep J

KC thinks about it.

Not really KC

I don't wanna sleep either J

So what do we do KC

I dunno J

Wait KC

KC pulls out a flashlight and points it at the wall, balancing it on a beam on the bunk.

Come down here J

Why J

I have an idea KC

J climbs down and sits on KC's bed.

Ok
Do you know what animal this is

KC makes a shadow puppet with his hands.

J
It looks like hands

KC
It's not hands

J
Yes it is
Well it looks like hands if you're just looking at my hands
You have to look at the wall

J
Ok fine

J looks at the projection on the wall.
Well it kinda looks like... a bird?

KC
(getting excited)

Yeah
What about this one?

KC makes another shadow puppet.

J
(getting more into it)

Ooooooooooooooh
Is that.... a snake?

KC
YES!
What about this one?

KC makes another shadow puppet. Beat.

J
...
It just looks like hands again

KC
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

KC bites J with his hand.

Ow J

It's a wolf KC

Well the wolf didn't have to bite me J

That's what wolves do KC

Well it's not actually a wolf J
It's your hand

My hand *became* a wolf KC

It didn't need to bite me J

J, I told you KC

I don't like this game anymore. J

J turns off the flashlight. Beat.

KC leans back on his bed.

I think my favorite animals are wolves KC

Really? J

Yeah KC

J

Once there was a wolf in my backyard while we were eating breakfast
 And it had white stuff all over its mouth
 And my mom got scared so my dad shot it with his shotgun

KC

Oh.

J

Yeah. I saw its brains on the grass

KC

That's really gross

J

Yeah
 But it was awesome

Beat.

Do you think the wolf went to heaven then?

KC

I dunno

J

I hope so
 That would be so scary for the wolf if it went to
 You know
 H E double hockey sticks.

Beat.

KC

You can't say that

J

I didn't say it

KC

You spelled it

J

It doesn't count if you spell it

Yes it does KC

Who told you that? J

Pastor Jim. KC

I hope there are wolves in heaven Beat. J gets upset.

But wolves bite people J
That sounds like a bad heaven
Maybe there's nice heaven wolves
That don't bite

All wolves bite people KC
That's why I like them

Maybe God is a wolf and he protects us like a nice wolf would J
And God wouldn't bite us

No KC
And then we could walk God around heaven
And give him treats and play in the park

Heaven has parks? J

It has to have parks because I love parks and so it would be me and you and my mom and KC
God and we're all in the park in heaven

That sounds nice J

Yeah, it really does KC

Beat.

You know I didn't mean it right

J

What

KC

To say, you know

J

Yeah
I know

KC

Do you think God knows too

J

Yeah

KC
(lying)

I wanna go to bed now

KC turns over, facing away from J.

J climbs back on top of his bunk.

Goodnight

J

Goodnight

KC

THE MOONLIGHT
DIMS. CROSSFADE
TO...

SCENE 5

The girl's cabin: Identical to the boy's cabin, but reversed. On the left, B has her own bunk. DD and L sleep on the right.

B kneels on her bed. REGGIE is cast in front of her, tossed haphazardly.

B

Dear Heavenly Father
Thank you for a beautiful day at camp
Thank you for my friends
And the food
And, um, everything
I think this is gonna be the best year of camp e/ver

Lights up, suddenly.

EMILY, in her pajamas, holds her toothbrush.

EMILY

What are you still doing up, B?
I thought you were already asleep since you didn't brush your teeth with us

B

I was praying

Beat. EMILY notices REGGIE; the gears begin to turn in her head.

EMILY

Kind of looks like you were praying to the bear

B

His name is Reginald but I call him Reggie for short
My dad gave him to me

EMILY

Right
Well even if Jim gave him to you
You shouldn't be praying to him

B

I wasn't
I was praying to God

EMILY

Well yeah but
Um
Hm
Do you remember the Ten Commandments

B

I have them memorized

EMILY

Yeah
So what's the um...

B

“You shall not have any gods before me.”
“You shall not worship false idols.”
“You / shall”

EMILY

That one. Yeah.
So what does that mean
The one you just said

B

Worshipping people and things that aren't God

Beat.

EMILY

Do you see
Do you see what I'm saying

B starts to crack.

B

Well I wasn't doing that

EMILY

Well um
Just be careful

EMILY goes to exit.

B

I'm sorry Emily

Well don't apologize to me
Apologize to God.

I'm gonna get the girls now.

EMILY

Beat. This hits B hard; even EMILY is surprised by the severity of her words.

EMILY exits.

As her footsteps fade, B lets out a guttural scream and chucks REGGIE across the room. He hits the wall with a solid THUD than you'd expect from a stuffed bear.

B buries herself under her covers. DD and L come in, wordlessly, and get into bed. EMILY turns the lights out.

In the slightest glow of moonlight, we can see the silhouette of REGGIE standing up. His eyes glow red.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 6

Back at the cafeteria. Off to stage right, L waits in the lunch line. After a moment, she gets served by someone offstage.

L
(with a big smile)

Thank you!

L turns to the audience, holding her lunch tray.

Mommy always tells me
Say “please” and “thank you”
Especially at church
‘You always have to be grateful’
She says
‘Never let someone forget how thankful you are’

The church has always been nice to us
I think it’s just ‘cuz church people are always nice
My mom always tells me about how the church people
Were the first people who she saw when she arrived here
And they drove her around before she had a car
And would bring her food

So my mom made a ton of thank you cards
For all the church people
So at morning reflection today, I made a thank you card to the church people
Not Pastor Jim
But the really old guys who, like, run the church
I dunno what they’re actually called
(And I also probably shouldn’t call them old)
They’re the reason I’m here
Those guys
They’re nice

Plus I think it costs a lot of money to go here
Cuz the food is really good
Like
Today we got chocolate chip cookies with walnuts in it
And B is allergic to walnuts so she can’t have the cookies
The only bakery near us that has chocolate chip cookies with walnuts is like

For birthdays and stuff
 Because they're ten dollars each A
 nd even I know that's too much to spend on a cookie Even if they're really good

I think saying thank you is superpower
 Like everyone knows how thankful I am and
 They give me stuff

After lunch, Gloria came and tapped me on the shoulder
 All mysterious
 And was like "I have some extra cookies. Do you want some?"
 And I was trying to play it cool
 So I was like "Yeah"
 But inside I was all
 WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!

L starts running around excitedly.

And I got like 5 extra cookies
 So I gave them to my friends.

Beat. She has none left; she sits down.

I sat down with everyone on the logs by the campfire
 And I was like
 Wow I think this is the best weekend of my life
 Really
 Seriously
 Actually
 She pulls out a cookie.
 And then B gave me back her cookie
 Because I forgot she's allergic
 So I got an extra one
 Even though I shared
 And I was like God is looking out for me
 I'm doing good, I think
 God is looking out for me

L takes a big bite of her cookie.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 7

The campers play tag, running crazily around the stage. Downstage, EMILY and ADAM chat, flirting coyly in the way that church kids do.

ADAM
How are your kids so far

EMILY
Oh!
Good, they're good
Long days though

ADAM
I know, right

EMILY
Nothing like it though

ADAM
No, nothing like it

Beat. ADAM looks out into the horizon wistfully.

EMILY
And your kids?

ADAM
Oh, uh, yeah
Pretty chill since Peter O'Connor never arrived

EMILY
What happened to him

ADAM
Nasty stomach bug
Pastor Jim told me he puked all over his mom's Subaru

EMILY
Gross

ADAM

One year a camper puked all over the campfire
And the coals like, vaporized the puke so it settled all over camp

EMILY

Is there a reason I need to hear this

ADAM

Like a fog. Like puke fog

EMILY

I'm gonna puke now

ADAM

Just avoid the campfire

They laugh.

A fight ensues over Tag.

B

YOU DIDN'T GET ME

J

YES I DID! YOU WEREN'T RUNNING

B

I WAS TYING MY SHOE
IT DOESN'T COUNT/ IF I WAS TYING MY SHOE

ADAM and EMILY run over.

EMILY

(stern)

Okay, can you too just be quiet?

Miraculously, they immediately both shut up.
ADAM looks shocked.

Okay, um. B was tying her shoe?

B nods, a little scared.

It still counts.

J cheers. B groans.

J is still it. Keep going.

The game starts up again.

ADAM

Woah. You are *imposing*.

EMILY

No I'm not

ADAM

I didn't even say anything
I mean, I was scared

EMILY

Shut up.

Beat.

Feels a little weird, don't you think

ADAM

What do you mean

EMILY

Like, who am I to be telling these kids all this stuff
Like I gave this talk at Bible Study about like
Being the same person who I was at church that I was at school
And I don't even know if I'm the same
Like
I feel like I'm the same
But I don't know that, totally
You know?

ADAM

I think you're overthinking
You're a great counselor

EMILY

You think?

ADAM

I know.

They smile at each other. From a distance,
PASTOR JIM sees them and comes over.

PASTOR JIM

Adam! I got some paperwork we need to go over

ADAM

(to Emily)

Duty calls.

Good luck with tag

Hopefully no blood

EMILY laughs. PASTOR JIM gives her a sideways look, full of...judgement? Almost venom?

The campers run off stage. EMILY walks towards centerstage, lost in thought.

REGGIE enters, behind EMILY. He sinks his teeth, needle-sharp, into the back of EMILY's calf. She yelps in surprise, then begins to seethe.

REGGIE exits. EMILY looks down at the pulsing wound. She takes off her hoodie and wraps it around her leg.

EMILY limps off-stage, whimpering.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 8

The girl's cabin. The girls are supposed to be in personal reflection.

DD

I don't wanna write.

B

Well we're supposed to be writing

DD

Well we're supposed to be thinking
And reflecting
Emily didn't say anything about writing

L

What would we do instead of write

DD

Talk about it

B

With yourself?

DD

(rolling her eyes)

Well hopefully not with myself
We can reflect. Together. Out loud.

L

That sounds fun

B

Well I think we're supposed to write

DD

Then L and I can talk. Without you.

B doesn't like this answer.

B

Fine
But I get to talk first

DD

It was my idea
Besides, I don't remember when I was saved

Beat.

B

What?

DD

I've gone to church my whole life
So I've always believed in God

L

That makes sense

B

But there's a moment you accept Jesus into your life

DD

I must've been a baby then

B

You can't be a baby and accept Jesus

DD

Because that's not how it works
And I think I would know better than you would.

Ouch. Beat.

L

(trying to break the tension)

Well when were you saved B

B

(proudly)

I was on the toilet.

L and DD burst into laughter.

DON'T LAUGH!

I was on the toilet
And I was praying
And I looked up at the ceiling

And my bathroom has that kind of crunch looking ceilings
 Like dried up frosting
 And in the frosting I saw a cross.

Beat.

And?

L

What do you mean and
 And the cross was God.

B

Oh.

L

Beat.

When was that

DD

Last November

B

So what did you do before then

DD

What do you mean

B

Why did you pray to God if he hadn't saved you yet
 Because he wouldn't even have been listening to you

DD

Beat.

He still listened

B

How do you know

DD

I know

B

DD

But why
I don't understand

B

We have to go to group activity now.

B gets up and leaves in a huff.

DD

Do you think she's mad

L

Yeah

DD

Oh
I didn't mean it.

Beat.

When were you saved, L

L
(floundering)

Oh
Uh
I don't
Don't remember either

DD
(doesn't pick up on it)

See? I told her it didn't make sense
Whatever
I'm gonna go to the bathroom

DD exits.

L sits on the floor, alone. She starts to mutter to herself. Thunder rumbles.

REGGIE enters. He sinks his teeth into her shoulder. Blood drips down, L cries out.

L collapses, facedown into the ground.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 9

The boy's cabin. The thunderstorm crescendos; the cabin creaks. Every once and a while, a staccato flash of lightning.

I hate thunderstorms

J

Me too

KC

I really hate them

J

Do you hate thunder or lightning more

KC

Thunder

J

Me too

KC

A gust of wind. A loud creak.

KC?

J
(almost in tears)

Yeah?

KC

I'm really scared

J

It's ok

KC

I just
It sounds like the cabin is gonna blow away

J

I don't think it will

KC

J
It sounds like the roof is gonna cave in

KC
It won't

J
How do you know

Beat.

KC
I guess I don't

J
(freaking out)
Oh no. Oh no. Oh no.

Another creak. J starts crying quietly.

KC
J?

J
(sniffing)
Sorry

KC
Why don't you come down to my bed
If the roof falls then your bed will keep us from being squished

J thinks about it for a second.

J
Can you shine your flashlight so I can get down

KC
Yeah

J gets down. KC and J lie next to each other in bed.

J
I want my mom

Why
 KC
 J
 When when when there's a thunderstorm
 She gives me a hug and rubs my back and tells me it'll be ok

I can do that
 KC

Really
 J

Yeah
 KC
 We're family too

J pulls himself closer to KC, KC puts his arm around J. KC does what J told him to do: rubbing circles around his back, whispering that it will be okay. It is innocent and sweet in the way only little kids can be.

The storm wages outside. The flashes of lightning linger, longer and longer...

Suddenly, lights up. ADAM enters, damp. From where he's standing, he can't see that J isn't in his bunk.

How are you guys doing?
 ADAM

Ok
 KC

Storm is fierce, huh
 ADAM

Yeah
 J
 (still upset)

I need to pee

KC

He pulls himself out of the bunk.

J, buddy, are you ok up there

ADAM

Where did KC go?

J

He went to the bathroom

ADAM

Wait he can't do that

J

J stumbles out of the bunk. ADAM's eyes widen.

ADAM

Wait why were you down th/ere

J

I went under in case the roof caved in
(shouting)

KC?

J starts to panic.

ADAM

Wait you can't / just

J

Wait I need to go get him he's gonna get electrocuted in the KC!

J surges forward, but ADAM grabs him. Hard.

I Need to go He's gonna

ADAM

Calm down J KC is fine can you just

J
(almost hysterical)

No he won't if the lightning hits us and he's peeing he's gonna / die he's gonna

ADAM

Why were you in the bunk / there

J

KC! KC! KC! K/C

ADAM

(shouting)

SHUT UP!!!!

J freezes, panting. Terrified.

What. Were. You. Doing. In. His. Bunk.

J

It was thundering and I hid under the bed with him and he helped calm me down

ADAM

Okay.

ADAM thinks about it.

Pack your stuff. We're gonna go to the main house with Jim.

J

I don't wanna walk in the rain

ADAM

JUST PACK YOUR STUFF!

ADAM starts mumbling to himself: this is bad, this is bad, this is real bad.

J starts packing his stuff. He's done something wrong, but he can't figure out what.

KC enters from the bathroom.

KC

What's wrong?

ADAM

Pack your stuff. We're gonna move into the main house, the cabin isn't safe in this weather.

KC

Well I think me and J will be ok in here, we can just go back under the bunk and then /

You're Not Staying In This Bunk.

ADAM

KC catches on that this isn't about the
thunderstorm.

He packs for a beat. ADAM frantically texts on
his phone.

KC goes to hug J.

J, are you ok / with

KC

J pushes him away.

Jesus CHRIST, can you please just STAY OFF OF EACH OTHER FOR JUST ONE
SECOND!!!!

ADAM

Beat.

You shouldn't say that

KC

Finish up packing

ADAM

The Lord's name in vain
You shouldn't say that
Pastor Jim said so

KC

J says nothing.

We're leaving. J get the lights.

ADAM

He's scared of the dark. You shouldn't make him turn off the lights cuz he's scared of the
dark.

KC

(quiet)

Let's go KC. One two

ADAM

KC

One two.

ADAM and KC exit. J goes to turn off the lights. As he turns away from ADAM, he lets a sob slip out. Then he chokes it down and wipes his eye quickly.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 10

Outside, the thunderstorm continues. The whole camp has been convened into an emergency session: the only people who are clued in are the counselors.

Upstage, EMILY leads the campers in a chaotic game of “Red Light, Green Light”. EMILY looks pale from her wounds.

Downstage, in the corner, ADAM and PASTOR JIM are talking in a hissed whisper. We hear bits of their conversation, organically.

With each “green light”, the campers rush forward in a flurry of noise, then fall silent with each “red light”. Lines in bold denote things that should be heard clearly by the audience, and the rest fades in and out of earshot.

EMILY starts as CALLER. When one of the campers wins, they take over.

	CALLER	PASTOR JIM
Red light!		What’s going on again?
	CALLER	ADAM
Green light!		Basically I um so you know the boys in my cabin? KC and J? I brought them back to the cabin like an hour ago when the storm started and I went to go take a nap and I woke up and they were in the same bed.
	CALLER	PASTOR JIM
Red light.		And were they....
	CALLER	ADAM
Green light		No no no no
		PASTOR JIM
But still, not appropriate		

ADAM

I don't know what to do, we have like a day left of camp

CALLER

Red light!

PASTOR JIM

Well obviously separate them
How did you not notice something was
off?

ADAM

I mean I had seen them hang out and they were friends but nothing I thought

PASTOR JIM

You're smarter than that, Adam.

CALLER

Green light.

ADAM

I know, I know, they're just
They're kids, Jim. I don't know

PASTOR JIM

You think the Devil doesn't tempt our kids? Are you an idiot?

ADAM

No, I'm not

PASTOR JIM

And I don't like the way you're talking to me right now. We're not friends. You're my
second in command.

ADAM

Sorry sir.

CALLER

Red light.

PASTOR JIM

I am disappointed in you. You know what
the Bible says.

ADAM

Yes sir.

CALLER

Green light.

PASTOR JIM

Okay, I'll just-
(he raises his voice)
KC?

The game stops. What's going on?

PASTOR JIM

KC, can we take a walk?

KC walks over. The kids go “oooooh”, but
EMILY shushes them.

ADAM goes to head with them.

(to ADAM, icy)

There’s no need for you to join us.

KC

Are we in trouble Pastor Jim

PASTOR JIM

You got nothing to be scared of
It’s just you and me, KC

REGGIE follows PASTOR JIM, KC and J, two
paces behind.

ADAM

(weakly)

Um, what were we playing here?

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 11

The girl's cabin is "packing". KC's body is splayed out near the edge of the stage, where he exited with PASTOR JIM.

The cabin is filled with the soft glow of sunset. B and DD sit crosslegged across from each other: their shadows, behind them, are much larger than they are.

DD

I think I'm gonna be a chef

B

That's good
We need people to cook in the soup kitchen

DD

B no offense but all you do is talk about church

B

No I don't

DD

Yes you do

B

Whatever

DD

What would you do
If you weren't gonna be a Bible leader
Or whatever

Beat.

B

I don't know

DD

That's a bad answer

But I really don't know

B

B thinks about it some more.

I guess maybe an astronaut
Or a pilot
I wanna be high above the ground.
Like
Sometimes I think God should've made me a bird

DD

Then be a bird

B

Well I can't be a bird

DD

Why not

B

I'm a human

DD

Pray about it
I would pray to be a possum

B

That's a weird animal to pray to be

DD

Why, I love possums
Besides I would rather be a chef than a possum

B

That's good then because you have a better chance at being a chef than a bird

DD

I dunno, B
Anything is possible

For a moment, they believe that anything is possible. Them and their shadows. The wind whistles tenderly past the shutters.

I'm glad I met you
Even if we argue

B

We don't argue that much

DD

Yes we do
We're about to argue right now

B

Ok maybe you're right

DD

Beat.

I thought you were just a stuck up preacher's kid
But you're cool

B

You thought I was stuck up

DD

Yeah kinda

B

Oh
I was worried because my dad told me you're rowdy
And I should keep an eye on you
But you're okay

DD
(concerned)

Pastor Jim thinks I'm rowdy?

B

I guess so
That's what he told me

DD

Oh
My mom just says I have a lot of energy
And I don't know what to do with all of it
Sometimes I feel like I'm gonna explode

B

It's okay
I'm like that too sometimes

DD

But my mom says that it makes me a better Christian
Because there's so many ways I can worship God with my body

B

Yeah maybe

DD

But Pastor Jim just thinks I'm rowdy
What does rowdy even mean

B

Energetic, I guess
Like you were saying
Full of energy

DD

God made me that way
He did
So maybe he should take it up with him

B

Maybe
Maybe

The girls sit in silence. The sunset shifts into
moonlight.

CROSSFADE INTO...

SCENE 12

ADAM's room in the boy's cabin. ADAM packs his things, heartbroken. His wrists are wrapped in bandages, soaked with blood.

EMILY knocks and enters.

Hey	EMILY
Oh hey	ADAM
Last night already	EMILY
Yeah	ADAM
Can't believe it	EMILY
Me neither	ADAM
It flew by	EMILY
Yeah, it did	ADAM
	Beat.
I'm sorry Um, I heard the girls talking about KC and J last night And um I'm sorry	EMILY
You don't need to apologize	ADAM
I just don't think you did anything wrong	EMILY

ADAM

Well what do you know anyways

Beat. Ouch.

I didn't mean that

EMILY

It's fine

ADAM

I um
Jim told me I should step down
Not come back to camp next year
He wasn't happy

EMILY
(connecting the dots)

Oh. Oh

ADAM

I mean like I plan my whole summer around this, you know

EMILY

There's other camps around here

ADAM

Not like this.
I mean, I've come here for like 7 years
Worked for 3
I just think
There's something special here

EMILY

I think you were the thing that was special

ADAM

Oh. Thanks.

Beat.

Are you coming back to camp next year

EMILY

I don't think so
Jim actually
Um
He offered me the job

Your job, I guess
But I didn't take it

ADAM
(floored)

Oh.

EMILY
I just
I don't like who I am when I'm here
I don't like being in charge
I think I'm meant to
I don't know

ADAM
Well you could always work the mess hall.

This is a dig. Beat.

EMILY
I don't think so.

They look at each other.

ADAM
You're an idiot for passing that up.

EMILY
I don't think so.
It was nice to work with you.

EMILY goes to leave. ADAM grabs her arm.
They keep looking at each other.

ADAM
Wait. I
I'm sorry. I'm really fucked up right now

EMILY
It's ok

Beat. ADAM's arm drifts down hers, their
fingers slip together. They never break eye
contact. EMILY's breathing shifts.

ADAM

I think you're beautiful. I've thought you were beautiful since I saw you.

EMILY

Adam / I

ADAM

I think I could marry you

EMILY

You don't
You don't know me

ADAM

I've prayed on it I have and God told me you're the one for me

EMILY

I've prayed too and God told me the opposite so whoever you're talking to isn't God

Beat. They separate.

You want to have sex with me
But you don't want to marry me

ADAM

Everybody knows if they want to have sex with you they don't have to marry you.

Beat.

That's why you came, right
You and your boyfriend

EMILY

You're disgusting.
Pray some more. Find God again.

EMILY exits.

The scene splits in half: ADAM's room pushes to stage left, and the girl's cabin opens to stage right. DD is pacing back and forth stage right.

ADAM's bandages slip.

DD mutters to herself, scratching at her arms.
They bleed.

A couple beats, as they each live in their own world.

REGGIE enters DD's room. He begins to gnaw on her arms. She doesn't protest, doesn't scream.

ADAM punches the wall. Blood streams from his knuckles. His bandage slips: gnaw marks. They pulse.

ADAM and DD collapse.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 13

The main room. Pews are set up between the bodies. PASTOR JIM stands at the front of the congregation, singing with his headset on. B sits, alone, in the pew.

Projected on the wall: the lyrics to “We Believe” by the Newsboys. PASTOR JIM gets the audience to sing along.

ALL

WE BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER
 WE BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST
 WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT
 AND HE’S GIVEN US NEW LIFE
 WE BELIEVE IN THE CRUCIFIXION
 WE BELIEVE THAT HE CONQUERED DEATH
 WE BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION
 AND HE’S COMING BACK AGAIN

The chords repeat, and karaoke shifts to a call and response:

PASTOR JIM

HE’S COMING BACK AGAIN

ALL

HE’S COMING BACK AGAIN

PASTOR JIM

HE’S COMING BACK AGAIN

ALL

HE’S COMING BACK AGAIN

PASTOR JIM

HE’S COMING BACK

(spoken)

Again.

The chords shift one more time, something a little slower and sad.

I wanted to use tonight,
 Wanted to use it

As a space of reflection.
Let us pray.

PASTOR JIM bows his head. The lights dim slightly.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us here, to this place, for all the fun times, but for all of the serious times, too.

PASTOR JIM opens his eyes.

I want to use this time to really take a minute to open the floor for anyone to deliver themselves to Christ.

Beat. Nobody moves.

(cold)

What, so you're gonna sing along, you're gonna play all these games, but you're not going to come to God?

(he starts to think)

I mean, I know you have things to pray for
I have things to pray for
I mean
Pastor Jim wasn't always a pastor.
I was a sodomite
I was addicted to pornography
I've done drugs
I hit my wife.
I just-

Beat. PASTOR JIM gets emotional. B is horrified, she's never heard this before.

I've been so low and it's been God who pulled me out.
And God told me he still loves me.
And I turned myself over to God.

I could've lived a worse life
A much worse life
But I didn't.
I'm here.
I'm here.
I'm here and I'm saved.

I am saved.

Beat.

I a-

Beat.

PASTOR JIM screams out in pain. He turns his back to the audience, which is soaked with blood and riddled with stab wounds. Behind him, REGGIE holds a bloodied butcher knife.

PASTOR JIM collapses.

REGGIE, for the first time, turns to the audience. He steps forwards and looks at them, almost confused.

REGGIE drops the knife with a clatter. B is frozen in fear.

EMILY enters, far stage left, with her suitcase. She's somewhere outside of the stage, but still confined in it.

REGGIE begins to walk towards B. She looks at him, hyperventilating.

Suddenly, time stops. B stands up. Both EMILY and B look around to see the bodies, the carnage left.

Their gaze meets. EMILY beckons B to come with her. They say nothing.

B looks down at PASTOR JIM, at her friends.

B shakes her head. No. She sits back down in the pew.

EMILY limps out into the audience, wheeling her suitcase behind her.

B
(stuttering)

Rrrrrreggie

IIIII I'm tttttired
Let's ggggggo to bbbbed.

B lies down on the pew, and REGGIE climbs up to meet her.

B pulls REGGIE into her chest—a deep, terrified, starving hug—and lies down with the rest of the congregation. She cries silently.

A couple beats. B starts to sob out loud. The lights start rising, brighter and brighter and brighter, and then...

REGGIE's head snaps around to face B. B gasps as his jaw opens, baring his teeth. Right before his jaw closes around her neck...

BLACKOUT.

END OF PLAY.