

HANNAH. Your cousin came to the trustee's office again. Looking for you.

FANNY. I don't want to be no bother to anyone.

HANNAH. No bother. We sent him away.

FANNY. Thank you, Sister Hannah. *(Hannah starts to leave, but turns.)*

HANNAH. You are safe here, Sister Fanny. And kindly welcome. *(Hannah and Fanny exit, revealing ... Lights up on Peggy, Izzy breaking green beans into a pot, tossing the ends and strings into a basket.)*

PEGGY. Snap 'em.

IZZY. Beggin' your pardon.

PEGGY. You snap 'em, Izzy. Snap the beans. Don't just break 'em. Give it a little snap.

IZZY. Don't make much difference. They're going to the same pot. PEGGY. If they don't snap they go back to the garden.

IZZY. Why don't you cut the beans? Slice 'em with a knife. Faster. PEGGY. Can't tell if it's a good bean, then. If the bean don't give a nice little snap when you break it, if it's soft, the bean's not good enough. If it don't snap ya throw it back into the compost and give it another chance to be a better bean next time 'round.

IZZY. It'll still taste the same. Tastes the same in the pot. No one'll know if you cut it or snap it.

PEGGY. You will know. *(Izzy snaps a bean.)* And God will know. *(Lights change as Polly and Fanny begin the next scene in a different part of the stage.)*

Scene 6

POLLY. *(Handing a broom to Fanny and beginning to sweep.)* Where were you?

FANNY. You seen the baby lambs?

POLLY. You were gone an awful long time.

FANNY. They're precious.

POLLY. Sister Phebe asked about you.

FANNY. Sister Rachel was there. With the lambs.

POLLY. Long time to be looking at lambs. Went back the meadow didn't you? Izzy saw you go. She was up the stairs. Saw you go. No lambs past the meadow. You meet'n a bigger beast maybe? Maybe there's a stallion past the meadow. Big ole stallion await'n for you.

FANNY. Weren't no stallion there.

POLLY. I know'd you went, so you best be telling me where.

FANNY. Past the meadow. Past the big willow tree. I seen things. I heerd ...

POLLY. Who'd ya see? Were it Jane? Out there a cryin'? Were it Jane?

FANNY. You wouldn't believe it.

POLLY. Who'd ya see?

FANNY. I seen angels. There's angels out there — past the meadow.

Scene 7

Lights have changed to the special interrogation lights. The set has changed during the previous scene. We find Izzy seated at one end of a bench set perpendicular to the edge of the stage, flanked by Phebe and Rachel.

PHEBE. What did you see?

IZZY. *(To Rachel.)* They were from heaven.

PHEBE. What were?

RACHEL. Everything comes from heaven.

IZZY. They were beautiful. They were the most beautiful —

PHEBE. *(Overlapping.)* Tell us everything you saw.

IZZY. Gold. Lots of gold. And I heard music.

PHEBE. Maybe you were dreaming.

IZZY. It seemed like a dream. So beautiful.

PHEBE. What did it look like?

IZZY. Light. Beautiful light. Heavenly light.

PHEBE. *(To Rachel.)* She was dreaming.

IZZY. Weren't no dream.
 PHEBE. I wasn't talking to you.
 IZZY. Weren't no dream. I thought it was. I thought it was at first. I heard sounds. Like music, but not like music. I looked up and seen a light so bright. Brighter than the sun even, but it didn't hurt my eyes to look at it. I thought I must be dreaming, so I slapped my arm. And pinched at my hand. I pinched it hard. So hard. Look. Look at the bruise. Weren't no dream.
 RACHEL. Surely that must be heaven she seen.
 PHEBE. Dreams show us heaven sometimes. You pinched yourself in your sleep.
 IZZY. No! Fanny seen it, too. *(Fanny stands from her side bench position and moves onstage purposefully. Izzy walks into the next scene and begins it immediately following her last line. Lights change, as Phebe and Rachel move the benches.)*

Scene 8

Izzy walks up to Fanny, who keeps moving around the stage.

IZZY. Fanny! *(No answer. Izzy follows her.)* Fanny! *(Izzy catches up to her. Fanny walks a while, Izzy behind.)*
 FANNY. Don't you have chores?
 IZZY. Finished. Fed the chickens. I can come with you.
 FANNY. I don't recollect inviting you.
 IZZY. I want to see ... see the ... *(Fanny turns to face her.)*
 FANNY. See what? What is it you wanting to see?
 IZZY. What you've been seeing.
 FANNY. I've been seeing blueberries. And I aim to pick us some. Gonna spoil that nice white apron o'yours if you come pickin' blueberries with me. *(Izzy turns to go as Polly runs on.)*
 POLLY. *(To Fanny.)* Was looking for you.
 FANNY. Getting to be a parry now, Polly.
 IZZY. *(To Polly.)* Fanny's going to pick blueberries.

POLLY. Too early for blueberries.
 FANNY. Found some early ones.
 IZZY. Early ones'll be sour.
 POLLY. She's going out past the meadow.
 IZZY. *(To Fanny.)* You said you were going berry-picking.
 POLLY. Where's her pail, then?
 IZZY. You don't have a pail! *(A beat.)*
 FANNY. Just wanted to be alone. Not used to spending every waking minute someone by my side. Just like to go sit and look at the trees sometimes.
 IZZY. I won't bother you. I won't even talk to you.
 POLLY. You're seeing something in the trees.
 FANNY. *(Starting to leave.)* Sure, I am. Birds. I'm seeing birds in the trees. And squirrels. *(Polly is following her throughout the following. Izzy tags along.)*
 IZZY. Are there baby squirrels? Funny how you never see baby squirrels. Baby birds. You see them. Once I found a baby bird fallen out of its nest. I put it back.
 POLLY. It died.
 IZZY. How do you know? I put it back.
 POLLY. Mama bird won't touch a young'un after a person's handled it.
 IZZY. Maybe it didn't die.
 POLLY. Won't touch it once it's tainted with a human smell. Momma bird won't have anything t'do with it.
 FANNY. You saved it, Izzy. You saved its life. *(They keep walking.)*
 IZZY. Once I found a hummingbird caught in a spider web. I pulled that spider web oft it. Flew off, happy as could be. Aren't hummingbirds the most beautiful thing? Little spirits flying around. Little angels, almost.
 POLLY. Fanny sees angels. You told me you did. Unless it was a false gift.
 FANNY. Weren't false. Ain't no false gift.
 POLLY. If you're seeing something, then show us. I think it's a lying gift. I don't believe in spirits and angels no how.
 IZZY. Mother Ann saw spirits.
 POLLY. She's making it up. She's lying. *(Fanny stops and stares westward.)*