

# **Eve 's Rapture**

**The Authorized Story of Paradise Lost**

**A stageplay by**

**Bryan Reynolds**

Bryan Reynolds  
Department of Drama  
Claire Trevor School of the Arts  
University of California  
Irvine, CA 92697-2775  
Office: 949.824.4806  
Fax: 949.824.3475  
breynold@uci.edu

CHARACTERS (5 actors)

EVE, youthful, beautiful, sexy, athletic woman.

SATAN, leader of the rebel angels, handsome, sexy, athletic.

ADAM, youthful, adorable, athletic man, about the same age as Eve.

GOD, ruler of Heaven, creator of a new world on earth, not played by an actor (could be a statue, a projection, etc.).

BEELZEBUB, rebel angel, Satan's top general, experienced and devoted warrior.

MICHAEL, archangel, God's top general, experienced and devoted warrior, could be played by actor playing Beelzebub.

SIN, daughter to Satan, mother to Death, beautiful above the waist, reptilian below the waist.

DEATH, huge, dark, shape-shifting, but without tangible substance, not played by an actor.

JESUS CHRIST, son of God, could be played by actor playing Satan.

MARY MAGDALENE, beautiful, sexy woman, girlfriend of Jesus, could be played by actor playing Sin.

MOLOCH, rebel angel, fierce warrior, could be played by actor playing Adam.

URIEL, archangel, fierce warrior, could be played by actor playing Sin.

1 HEAVEN - FLASHBACK 1

(Raging battle between the rebel angels, led by Satan, and the archangels, led by Michael. The rebel angels are assisted by a great red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.)

2 HELL: PANDEMONIUM, SATAN'S PALACE - PRESENT 2

(The palace is surrounded by fiery rivers. From a beautiful throne, Satan shoots his GUNS or GUN (something like an M-16 or Colt M-4) into the air, and then addresses the assembly of rebel angels.)

SATAN

Awake, arise, or be forever fallen! You great warriors, glory beckons us. We half-emptied Heaven, and now it is time for our return. The other half will bow down and be our minions! The tyrant King will be dethroned! Freedom is our thunder, and we are its lightning!

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)  
Hail Satan!!!

MOLOCH

(super excited)

Heaven will be ours! Hail Satan! The time has come. Hail Satan! Our wounds have thickened our skin. Hail Satan! Our losses have made us leaner and stronger. Hail Satan! We are honed and razor sharp. Hail Satan! Justice will prevail. Hail Satan! We shall deliver!

(When Moloch exclaims, "Hail Satan!," all the rebel angels echo him.)

SATAN

Thank you Moloch. It is Moloch, right?

MOLOCH

Yes, Moloch, my great leader. I am your third in command.

SATAN

(to all rebel angels)

From this dungeon, we shall emerge victorious.

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)  
Hail Satan!!!

SATAN

Our celestial virtues demand open war.

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)  
Hail Satan!!!

SATAN

Heaven will know Hell!

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)  
Hail Satan!!!

(The parley becomes less public although still observed by all rebel angels.)

MOLOCH

Hail Satan!

BEELZEBUB

Yes, Moloch. But we must plan carefully. We learned when we were defeated by the archangels that truth is not always rewarded. Although we have recovered in this miserable place, a punishment that still allows no pleasure and inflicts non-stop pain, the archangels have no doubt prospered and further fortified God's empire. Heaven fears us not, and expects nothing less than open war from Hell.

MOLOCH

A surprise attack, that's what you suggest? I do not agree, Beelzebub. We stand for truth and in her light we shall prevail.

BEELZEBUB

Yes, we do, but we are condemned to abysmal darkness. We must be strategic. We must use God's decadence and vanity against him.

SATAN

We trust your wisdom, Beelzebub. You speak from experience. Please, continue.

BEELZEBUB

God has created his new world, the happy seat of the new race called human. He created these humans like us, but with less power. Yet still they are more precious to him than we are. They enjoy their novelty like new pets. We can destroy them or show them the way of truth. If properly infiltrated, the tyrant's new world can become our back door into Heaven.

SATAN

That's right. This time, we must seize the opportunity before God's self-indulgence goes too far. Humans will become like his seraphs, slaves to his demonic sport.

MOLOCH

Will he abuse them as he did us, or like those he creates after the coming of the third messiah?

SATAN

Moloch, you know the sorry history; it repeats itself: persecution, debauchery, and crusades; persecution, debauchery, and crusades; and so on and on. It's heartbreaking the way he will manipulate the puny humans. Where, my noble angels, is the honor in God's predetermined game? Recall how he plays the part of Jesus of Nazareth.

3 NEW WORLD: GOLGOTHA, JERUSALEM - FLASH FORWARD

3

(Melodramatically, Satan climbs onto the cross becoming Jesus and suffers. Mary Magdalene enters and weeps on her knees.)

JESUS CHRIST

(looking up to Heaven)

Daddy, daddy, why have you forsaken me?

MARY MAGDALENE

Oh, Jesus. Poor Jesus. Baby. I'm sure that he has not forsaken you.

JESUS CHRIST

You don't understand, sugar. You don't know what it's like to have an old man like mine.

MARY MAGDALENE

I never knew my dad, and my mom, she was drunk all the time--

JESUS CHRIST

(interrupting)

Man, he thinks he's always right. He can't be wrong. In his eyes, I'm just a friggin' loser.

MARY MAGDALENE

No, baby, you're not a loser. You have lots of followers. And I love you. You know I do.

JESUS CHRIST

Look at me. I'm 33 friggin' years old. All I ever wanted to do is make people smile.

(Jesus climbs down from the cross becoming Satan again.)

4 HELL: PANDEMONIUM, SATAN'S PALACE - CONTINUOUS

4

MOLOCH

Jesus Christ, that can't happen again.

BEELZEBUB

Our intervention is long overdue.

MOLOCH

Hell yeah, it is.

SATAN

Disgusting, isn't it. The kid had everything going for him, but he goes and becomes a cult leader. As they say, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

MOLOCH

Sure doesn't.

BEELZEBUB

One of us needs to embark on a reconnaissance mission to the new world. He should go alone so that he will cause less concern if questioned.

SATAN

True. This enterprise shall be mine. It is my honor and my duty.

MOLOCH

Hail Satan!

BEEZLEBUB

Hail Satan!

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Hail Satan!!!

5

NEW WORLD: GARDEN OF EDEN

5

(The garden is full of beautiful trees bearing delicious fruit. Everything glistens. The sky is blue and the sun soothes.

As they tend to the garden, Adam and Eve dance and sing "Working in Garden.")

ADAM & EVE

It's workaday life,  
It's life without strife,  
It's God's way,  
It's God's way,

Tending, and mending, and lending a hand,  
We make love,  
Two peaceful doves,  
In God's new world, our sacred land.

It's workaday life,  
(MORE)

ADAM & EVE (cont'd)

It's life without strife,  
It's God's way,  
It's God's way,

Fresh air, and fruits, and flowers,  
The weather is right,  
Every day's a delight,  
In God's new world, where nothing cowers.

It's workaday life,  
It's life without strife,  
It's God's way,  
It's God's way.

6

HELL: THE GATES

6

(Sin and Death guard the gates. Satan approaches them. (Sin may speak with a Southern accent.))

SIN

Whozzzz-zthere?

SATAN

Satan.

(Death descends on Satan.)

SATAN (cont'd)

What is this that dares to block my way?

DEATH

You are that notorious leader of the traitor  
angels condemned eternally to suffer. Back to  
your punishment or I shall make you hurt.

(Death grows ten times more dreadful.)

SATAN

Really? I shall make you dead.

(Satan shoots Death with his GUN, but the bullets simply pass  
though Death's insubstantial form.)

SIN

(to Satan)

Oh handsome daddy, stop you-right there; this  
darling thang is none other than your boy,  
Death.

(to Death)

Tut, tut, what fury, my son, against your  
daddy?

SATAN

That obnoxious phantom's my son? I do not know you, and I've never seen creatures more grotesque than you.

SIN

Forgotten me, so soon? Am I so foul to you now, when I was once so fair?

SATAN

You are foul. And, you do not plague my memory.

SIN

I'll refresh that memory: During your conspiracy against Heaven's King -- you were so luscious -- before the assembly, a terrible pain surprised you, blurred your eyes, dizzied you. I sprang out from your swollen head: beautifully I shined, an irresistible brightness like yourself, but hotter; hotter than Hell, I was, and sexier, too. All the goody-two-shoe angels were afraid. They recoiled, and called me "Sin." Most afraid was little ol' you, who blabbered that I was your perfect image of woman, and, of course, you instantly fell in love with me, and so we fucked. We fucked all the time, night and day. In secret, and in all kinds of public places, where we were heard but not seen, you fucked me hard, again and again. Fuck yeah, we was in Heaven.

SATAN

Oh yes, that did happen. You, if it was you, were exquisite. How could I resist my own fantasy? But, with creation, there are always risks.

SIN

Yep, honey, you knocked me up, but war arose in Heaven. For our almighty foe, there was victory. For you, Hell. But me, he spared me eternal suffering. I was given this key and told to keep the gates shut. None, not even you luscious, can pass without my consent. At last, my womb begot this creepy offspring.

(referring to Death)

He tore through my entrails. In horrible agony, I begged for death, and Death, our son, popped out.



SATAN

Dear Daughter, you claim me for your father,  
and I now remember your extraordinary  
loveliness like a dream. My fair son here  
confirms the dalliance we had in Heaven, that  
our dream was real, and the joys then so  
sweet. This is sad to mention because of what  
befell us.

SIN

Damn right it is.

SATAN

Yet I will set you free. I venture on this  
errand alone, and through the immense void, I  
shall search a place foretold, created vast  
and round, a place of bliss wherein the tyrant  
God has placed a race of upstart creatures. I  
haste to know God's design, and this once  
known, will soon return, and bring you to the  
place where you and Death shall dwell at ease  
and feed immeasurably: all living things shall  
be your prey.

DEATH

(with joyous approval)

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.

SIN

(half-playfully)

So sorry, but by command of Heaven's all-  
powerful King, I am forbidden to unlock these  
gates; against all force, Death ready stands  
to do his will.

SATAN

Beautiful, everlasting Sin, this journey I  
undertake is for you. Feel the pleasures that  
shall be yours.

SIN

Should I?

SATAN

Your power will increase with each and every  
conquest, as sin leads to sin, the next more  
satisfying than the last.

SIN

Hmmm, I feel them, deep inside I do. What do I  
owe to God, anyhow? He hates me, and thrust me  
down to this gloom.

(MORE)

SIN (cont'd)

I once lived in Heaven, heavenly-born I was,  
yet here I am in perpetual misery, with  
terrors surrounding my belly that on my bowels  
feed. There is no pleasure here.

SATAN

Pleasures on earth shall be limitless.

SIN

You are my daddy; you gave me life; you taught  
me pleasure; whom should I obey but you? Whom  
should I follow, but you? You shall bring me  
soon to that new world of light and bliss,  
where I, your daughter and your wife, shall  
enjoy endlessly all the betrayals, greed,  
thefts, violence, and fucking I deserve.

SATAN

That you shall.

(She opens the gate with her KEY, and Satan passes through.)

SIN

Hail Satan!

DEATH

Hail Satan!

7 NEW WORLD: GARDEN OF EDEN

7

(Adam and Eve tend to the garden, singing "Working in  
Garden.")

ADAM & EVE

It's workaday life,  
It's life without strife,  
It's God's way,  
It's God's way,

Tending, and mending, and lending a hand,  
We make love,  
Two peaceful doves,  
In God's new world, our sacred land.

EVE

Adam, we may labor to dress this garden, to  
tend the plants, herbs, and flowers, our  
pleasant tasks done together, but until more  
hands aid us, the work grows ever more wild  
and soon will be too much for two people.

(MORE)

EVE (cont'd)

What we do by day: lop overgrown branches, or prune, or prop, or bind, becomes undone with each night's growth, everything becoming more and more wild. But I do not question God's desire to control the wild.

ADAM

There is no reason to do so.

EVE

I know. I have other thoughts, more practical.

(Beat.)

ADAM

I hope to hear them.

EVE

Let us divide our labors. You go where your interests lead you, or where your skills are most needed, whether to re-position a struggling tree toward the sun or direct the ivy where to climb or move rocks, while I go to yonder meadow of roses mixed with myrtle, and find what to repair and trim till noon. For if we continue so near each other all day, and do our tasks together, it is no wonder that we let conversation and play distract us. By day's finish, our supper is unearned and the next day's work is greater.

ADAM

Eve, my dear companion, beyond compare above all living creatures I adore you. I am pleased that your thoughts concern how we might best fulfill the work that God has assigned to us. This cannot go without praise by me, for nothing lovelier can be found in a woman than the study of keeping the home and the promotion of good works by her husband.

EVE

I am grateful.

ADAM

Yet not so strictly has our King imposed labor as to discourage us when we need refreshment, whether food, or talk between us, stimulation of the mind, or the sweet intercourse of looks and smiles.

EVE

I like to smile.

ADAM

From smiles, conversation flows, we reason together, and love blossoms. For not to irksome toil, but to delight God made us, to delight in discussing between us. As long as we talk and do together, life will be logical and wildness shall disappear.

(Beat.)

ADAM (cont'd)

As long as we hold hands, it will not be long until we have younger hands to assist us in our chores.

(Adam takes her hand.)

ADAM (cont'd)

Come, let us find refreshment in each other.

(They kiss.)

EVE

Oh Adam, I want to share everything with you, but I also want to pursue--

(Interrupting, Adam kisses her and leads her to the ground, where they have sex.)

ADAM

Can you slow down some? Refrain a little from moving too much?

EVE

What is too much? It feels good to move with you. Both soft and hard.

(Adam ejaculates.)

ADAM

I did it again.

EVE

I like it when you do that. Your expression is sweet, like when you bite into a ripe peach. Have I ever told you how much I love to watch you eat peaches?

ADAM

It does feel good. But God said that a better joy comes when I do that inside your body. Here.

EVE

That would be heavenly, I can imagine, when so light a touch between my legs ignites me like the scent of lilacs at sunrise. Can you do it inside me now?

ADAM

I cannot. Look. My body must rest again. It is a sign from God, I think, that we should return to work.

8 CHAOS: SPACE BETWEEN HELL, HEAVEN, AND THE NEW WORLD

8

(Satan journeys past the archangel Uriel, who, armed with GUN and SPEAR, stands guard, perhaps on a cloud. It is dark and stormy, but Satan can see the lights of Heaven and the magnificent golden staircase leading up to Heaven's gate which is embellished with diamonds and gold. He pauses on the sun, only to see in another direction, among other less spectacular planets illuminated by the sun, the earth, which is suspended by a golden chain attached to the moon.

Seeing Uriel approach him, Satan disguises himself as a cherub, a common angel.)

URIEL

Hello there.

SATAN

Greetings, bright seraph, can you help me? I am hoping to visit God's new creation. I have an unspeakable desire to know his wondrous works.

URIEL

A glorious purpose.

SATAN

Thank you. Tell me, please, in which of all the shining orbs have humans their special place that I may find them and gaze upon them with open admiration?

URIEL

Glory, glory.

SATAN

I want to praise the universal maker who drove out the rebel angels to deepest Hell, and, to remedy that loss, produced this new happy race of humans to serve him better.

URIEL

How glorious. Fair angel, your desire which led you here to witness God's new creation, and thereby honor the remarkable work of our master, merits praise. For wonderful are all his works; all pleasurable to know.

SATAN

Yes, they are my surest pleasure.

URIEL

That spot to which I point is earth, and therein is paradise, Adam's abode, those lofty shades his bower, where he lives with his female, Eve.

SATAN

Bless you, bright seraph.

URIEL

Oh, before you go, tell me why do you speak of the defeat of the traitors in connection with God's creation of the new race.

(Pause.)

SATAN

Because the link further testifies to his magnificence as our King. He gives the universe a joyful gift in response to the disappointment we all felt because of the rebel angels. His inspiration overcomes strife with extraordinary wonders. Don't you agree?

URIEL

Yes, I agree. But you also mentioned that he produced the race "to better serve" him.

SATAN

Yes, because God is perfect, and I can only imagine that he would produce creatures about whom we will rejoice. They are our celebration.

URIEL

Take care, good cherub.

SATAN

Bless you, bright seraph.

(While relaxing in his bower, Adam watches Eve as she admires her own beauty when seeing her reflection in a pond. She sings "I'm Not Just a Garden Girl" accompanied by a choir of birds. Satan also observes her, first disguised as a bird. He instantly and irresistibly desires her, and follows her as she moves about, assuming different animal shapes -- tiger, monkey, bear -- to disguise himself.)

EVE

I'm not just a garden girl, but a star,  
In a galaxy of treasures,  
I shine without measures,  
Oh, how the universe leads me afar,

Off the sacred breadth of this bower,  
From a mountain's zenith I might tower,  
Ready to fly, a fearless explorer,  
Because when I see me, I adore her.

I'm not just a garden girl, but a star,  
In a galaxy of treasures,  
I shine without measures,  
Oh, how the universe beckons me to go far.

I'm not just a garden girl,  
I'm not just a garden girl,  
I'm not just a garden girl,  
But a star.

I'm a star,  
I'm a star,  
I'm a star.

(Eve returns to Adam and lies down next to him.)

ADAM

I love to watch you busily caring for our garden. I love to listen to you sing. I love you.

(He moves to kiss her, but is interrupted.)

EVE

Did you listen to me? Hear my words?

ADAM

Your voice is the natural music, a lullaby for hard workers happily fatigued from the day's celebration of our creator's kindness and perfection.

(Adam pulls Eve close to him, attempting to initiate sex. She kisses him quickly to neutralize his efforts.)

EVE

Good night, my love. I am very tired.

(Pause.)

ADAM

Good night. Sweet dreams.

(They sleep.)

10 NEW WORLD: ADAM & EVE'S BOWER, GARDEN OF EDEN 10

(Satan creeps close to Eve in the shape of a toad, and whispers inaudibly into her ear as he gently explores her body with his hands.)

Uriel, with Michael, armed with SWORD and GUN, not far behind him, descends on Satan, pointing his SPEAR at him.)

URIEL

What are you doing here? Who are you, truly?

(Satan returns to his own shape.)

SATAN

It's the bright seraph. "How glorious."

URIEL

And you? You are not a cherub.

SATAN

You do not know who I am? How embarrassing for you.

URIEL

Why should I know you?

(Michael walks forward.)

SATAN

(seeing Michael approach)

Ask your boss, Michael, the archangel of archangels, number one--

MICHAEL

(interrupting)

Think not, revolted spirit, that your shape is the same as when you stood pure in Heaven. That glory departed with your honor and left your countenance corrupted.

(MORE)



MICHAEL (cont'd)

Now you resemble your treachery and the dark place of doom where you and your wretched followers must remain forever.

URIEL

You are Satan.

SATAN

(clapping)

Bravo. Bravo. Bravo.

MICHAEL

Why have you broken the bounds prescribed to your transgressions, and now seek to disturb others who do not transgress?

SATAN

Who would not, finding a way, break loose from Hell? You, honorable Michael, would yourself, no doubt, venture to whatever place where you might hope to transform torment with tenderness, despair with delight.

MICHAEL

Surely, you shall be sent back in worse pain, more tightly shackled and further humiliated. You must have known this. Where are your fellow fugitives? Cowardly punks like you do not operate alone.

SATAN

(gesturing behind them)

They're right behind you.

(Satan quickly takes Uriel and Michael down, beats them, flees, and hides in the garden.

Michael and Uriel rush around searching for him.)

URIEL

He is nowhere to be found. We must warn the humans, right sir?

MICHAEL

Uriel, I know Satan well. He is a coward. Surely, he scurried back to his dungeon. Should this not be the case, we shall stay close till dawn and warn Adam when he rises. You observe from the East. I from the West

URIEL

Yes sir.

(They assume vantages from which they can monitor the garden. Satan remains a snake in the grass.)

11 NEW WORLD: GARDEN OF EDEN - SUNRISE 11

(Adam and Eve awaken, with Satan close by, observing them.)

ADAM

Awake my fairest, my espoused, Heaven's best gift. Awake, the morning glows, and the garden beckons us.

EVE

(suddenly conscious)

Oh, I am glad to see your face, and morning returned. This night, such night till this I never passed. I dreamed not as I often do of you and the works of days past or days to come. Instead, I dreamed of terrible trouble, which my mind knew never until this scary night.

ADAM

Oh, Eve, it saddens me that your sleep was so disturbed.

EVE

Disturbed it was. I thought that close to my ear a gentle voice called me forth to walk. At first, I thought it you. It said, "Why do you sleep, Eve?"

(Satan says the words quoted, above and below, at the same time as Eve, but only Eve senses this echo.)

ADAM

Eve, my love, it was just a dream. You are awake now, and I am here to protect you.

EVE

The voice said, "Here, happy creature, fair angelic Eve, you too can partake in the powers of Heaven; happy though you are, happier you shall be. Come taste the magic fruit, and join the gods, yourself a goddess, not to earth confined, but travel the air, as we do, ascend to Heaven, see what life the gods enjoy, and such ways you shall live." It presented the fruit to me, touching it to my lips.

(Adam sees Michael approaching them.)

ADAM

Eve, my dearer half, the trouble of your thoughts in sleep this night affects me equally. I do not like this dream of evil sprung, yet from where does it come? You can harbor no evil because you were made pure. Say no more of this now. A glorious shape comes this way: the archangel Michael.

EVE

Can we discuss it later?

ADAM

Yes, later. (to Michael) Greetings native of Heaven. For what do we owe the honor of your distinguished visit?

(Adam and Eve bow.)

MICHAEL

Hail mother of humankind, whose fruitful womb shall fill the world more numerously than all the fruits with which the trees of God have bountified your lovely bower. Adam, manly keeper of this flourishing garden, I greet you most happily, but also with grave matters.

(Pause.)

ADAM

Delay not, please, impart of these "grave matters."

(Suddenly God is illuminated, underscored by holy music.)

GOD

(voiceover)

Adam, and his Eve, you must take heed of Michael's words. He is the emissary of an unfortunate past that now threatens your future and therefore the future of all humankind. Never waver in your pure obedience to me and my commands, and you shall not fall from grace. That you are happy, you owe to me. That you continue to be such, you owe to yourselves. I made you perfect, but not immutable. You are born good, but your will is by nature free. Compromise your devotion to me, and your paradise will be lost forever.

ADAM

My great King and creator, we can only obey you and worship you and love you.

(MORE)

ADAM (cont'd)

Why do you remind us of this today? Have we erred in some way?

(Lights off on God, underscored by holy music.)

ADAM (cont'd)

(to Michael)

What is this about, Michael? Why was God so foreboding?

(Michael helps himself to a BANANA.)

ADAM (cont'd)

Celestial inhabitant with God, thank you for indulging in our earthly fruits. I regret that we do not have something more heavenly to offer you. If you could elaborate on the ominous history to which our almighty King referred, the reason for your visit, the "grave matters," we would be--

MICHAEL

(interrupting)

Remember Adam that all things God makes are of the same matter, their differences determined by degree: angels are the closest creatures to God, then you humans who are a continuance in kind but of lesser degree, and so animals next, and then foliage and vegetables. Hence, your fruit is of substance befitting to an angel, even if not as delicious as what we enjoy in Heaven. This comparison, I hope, will make easier the task of relating to your human sense the invisible exploits of warring spirits. Not too long ago, numerous angels who enjoyed protection like you were led astray from God's way. It happened after our King called all the angels to assembly to announce the good news.

(God is illuminated, underscored by holy music.)

GOD

(voiceover)

Hear all you angels, progeny of light, hear my decree. This day I have begot whom I declare my only son, and on this holy hill I have anointed him, whom you now behold at my right hand. I have appointed him your leader; and have sworn that to him all knees in Heaven shall bow, that all shall call him Lord. He who breaks this oath, will be cast out from my blessed vision and thrust into darkness and torment, without redemption, and without end.

(Lights off on God, underscored by holy music.)

MICHAEL

So spoke the omnipotent, and with his words all seemed pleased. But not all were satisfied with the designation. Angriest was Satan, so he is called now, his former name, Lucifer, was banned from utterance in Heaven. He was the highest ranked archangel, great in power, preeminently in God's favor. Fraught with envy against the son of God. Thus, he resolved with his legions to usurp the throne and conquer Heaven.

ADAM

Such a story, I would never have expected. I have not met or heard of God's son; will he visit with us on earth?

MICHAEL

If he does, it will not be for many centuries.

ADAM

It would be an honor to meet him. What happened to Satan?

MICHAEL

After several furious battles with God's archangels, Satan and his rebel angels were defeated.

ADAM

But what has this to do with me and Eve?

MICHAEL

That dastardly minister of evil, Satan himself, escaped from Hell, the dungeon where God imprisoned him and the rebel angels for eternity. And last night he entered your garden.

ADAM

Entered our garden? How can this be?

MICHAEL

Last night we found him here, and might have scared him away, but since we cannot be certain, you must be vigilant. Being the coward that he is, I suspect he returned to Hell. Yet, no reports affirming this have come in. So, Adam, and Eve, be watchful, as he can change shape as easily as he can fly or swim.

ADAM

What would Satan want with us?

MICHAEL

He wants to destroy all that is good in the universe; all that is God's creation.

ADAM

This is horrible news. Most worrisome.

MICHAEL

We shall guard earth from the skies. But you must remain on guard as well. Cry for help if you need it. God be with you.

(Michael departs.)

ADAM

Farewell, celestial--  
(to Eve)  
This is too much to believe.

EVE

Yes, but believe we must. Could he have been that voice at my ear?

ADAM

Who?

EVE

Satan.

ADAM

I don't think so. Michael deflected him last night. He must be far away by now. Besides, we are strong and devout. God's way is our way.

EVE

Yes, let us sing and work. My mind needs redirection, and the garden awaits our care.

ADAM

I agree, let us begin our chores. Eve, you turn darkness into light. You are sunshine. I love you.

EVE

I love you too, Adam.

(Adam and Eve begin tending to the garden. )

EVE

It's workaday life,  
It's life without strife,

(Adam joins in.)

ADAM & EVE

It's God's way,  
It's God's way,

Fresh air, and fruits, and flowers,  
The weather is right,  
Every day's a delight,  
In God's new world, where nothing cowers.

EVE

Adam, my apologies, but I think reason  
supports my inclinations.

ADAM

What inclinations? We were singing.

EVE

About working separately. I am not afraid.

ADAM

So be it, stubborn Eve, if so much opposition  
to my wishes is required to satisfy your  
longing, to a brief absence I will yield. For  
solitude sometimes is best society, and brief  
retirement urges sweet return.

EVE

Yes, and who can predict the passions that my  
return may bring?

(She kisses him.)

ADAM

But other doubt possesses me: what if harm  
befalls you while apart from me, you made  
vulnerable by your desire for solo occupation.  
For you heard the warning: a malicious foe  
seeks our destruction. Near at hand he may  
watch to find his best advantage and drive us  
asunder.

EVE

You said you thought him far away.

ADAM

But we were warned. His devices would be impossible to circumvent unless we stay together, ready to aid each other in time of need.

EVE

That such an enemy seeks our ruin is terrible. But that you should doubt my devotion to God and to you because a foe may tempt it, I expected not to hear. I did not think that you harbored such negative thoughts of me.

ADAM

I do not harbor these thoughts, but rather think that he who could seduce angels away from God must be subtle beyond our comprehension. I prefer to meet this challenge with you, and if I am present, should you be tempted, I would be best witness of your virtue tried, and thus afforded the opportunity to admire your great strength.

EVE

I would rather gain honor from Satan's failure and thereby find peace within me as independently constant. This would impress Heaven, too.

ADAM

Eve, by your words you show the unreasonable nature of your present disposition. Our risk is higher than your own aspirations. Our paradise is at stake.

EVE

If this be our condition, to live in narrow circuit contained by a foe, subtle or violent, how are we happy when still in fear of harm? Frail is our happiness if this be so, and Eden is no paradise. Let us not assume that our happy state was created so imperfect by our maker that we are not secure, whether we are alone or together.

ADAM

Oh woman, best are all things as the will of God ordained them, nothing was created imperfect or deficient, so that our happy state might be secure from outward force. Within ourselves the danger lies, yet also lies within us the power to be obedient. Against our wills we can receive no harm.



EVE

And so I will not will it.

ADAM

But God left free the will, and a misinformed will, by a force outside, might do what God expressly has forbidden. I do not mistrust you, but of tender love enjoin you, that I should mind you and you mind me. Firm we are, yet possible to swerve, since reason--

EVE

Please stop. Dear Adam, my sweet companion, I am sorry, but you are dizzying me with your circular reason. I want to work alone for reasons of both efficiency and devotion. Trust me, will you?

ADAM

If you think this may leave us both secure, and if you stay you would be less free, then go in your native innocence. Rely on your virtue, summon it all, for God has done his part, now you must do yours.

EVE

With your permission, then, and forewarned chiefly by what your own last words implied, the more willingly I go. I expect a foe so efficient that he will seek the weaker of us, and thus by repulsing him, I shall shame him even more.

ADAM

Until supper, then.

(He kisses her goodbye, and goes on his way. Eve begins working, humming to the tune of "Working in the Garden.")

EVE

Until supper.

SATAN

(to the audience)

Thoughts, where have you led me? With what passion am I transported to forget what brought me here? I came for vengeance, not love. Nor did I come here to taste of pleasure, except the pleasure in destroying pleasure. Yet lust for deep pleasure is what now drives me. Then let me not pass over the occasion which now smiles. Alone is this rapturous creature. And I, a shape-shifter of remarkable ability, shall become her guest.

(MORE)

SATAN (cont'd)

She is fair, divinely fair; and what pleasures  
I shall have.

(Satan approaches Eve, still disguised as a snake, and she observes him.)

(to Eve)

Wonder not, sovereign mistress, why you look  
upon me, yet your gaze craves curiously.

EVE

Who are you?

SATAN

You have the fairest resemblance to your  
maker, and your celestial beauty is worshiped  
with ravishment, and best beheld where  
universally admired. But here in this wild  
place among beasts that are too shallow to  
discern half what in you is fair, there is but  
one creature who sees you. But what is one?  
You should be seen a goddess among gods,  
adored and served by countless angels.

EVE

What should I make of this? Language of humans  
pronounced by tongue of serpent? Is not speech  
denied to beasts, whom God made mute, save  
grunts, squawks, and roars. Explain this  
miracle, and say, how came you to speak, and  
so friendly, unlike others of your kind?

(Adam, in a different location, gathers flowers and twigs.)

SATAN

Resplendent Eve, it is with joy that I answer  
you. I was once like other beasts that graze  
the trodden earth, lowly, as was my food,  
until I chanced upon a distant tree loaded  
with fruit of fairest colors, ruddy and gold.

EVE

A fruit tree?

SATAN

Yes. I nearer drew, and from its boughs a  
savory scent blew that more pleased my senses  
than the smell of sweetest fennel or the teats  
of sheep dropping with milk. To the envy of  
other beasts unable to climb, I wound my way  
from ground to branches where a treasure of  
apples hung. My fill I spared not, for such  
pleasure at food or drink never had I found.

(MORE)

SATAN (cont'd)

Sated at last, I perceived strange alteration  
in my ability to reason, then I acquired  
speech. Henceforth to speculations high and  
deep I turned my thoughts, and with capacious  
mind pondered all things in Heaven, earth, or  
elsewhere.

EVE

Amazement consumes me. But say, where grows  
the tree you speak of? For abundant are the  
trees of God that grow in paradise, yet  
unknown to us is this extraordinary one.

SATAN

Empress, the way is ready and near, beyond a  
row of myrtles, past a pond, in a meadow. If  
you accept my conduct, I can bring you there.

EVE

Lead, then.

(They journey to the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.)

EVE (cont'd)

Oh, Serpent, we might have spared our coming  
here; this tree is fruitless to me, though  
fruit be here to excess. For this tree we may  
not taste nor touch; God so commanded, and  
left that command to our will.

SATAN

Indeed? Has God then said that you shall not  
eat the fruit of all these garden trees, yet  
made you lord of this dominion?

EVE

Of the fruit of each tree in the garden we may  
eat, except for the fruit of this fair tree. I  
recall God's words, "You shall not eat  
thereof, nor shall you touch it, lest you  
die."

(Voice of God is heard saying the above quoted words at the  
same time. God is illuminated.)

SATAN

Queen of this universe, do not believe those  
rigid threats of death. You will not die. How  
could you? By the fruit? It gives you  
knowledge. Just look at me; I have eaten the  
fruit, yet I live still.

EVE

You are, impressively, alive.

SATAN

Shall this passage be denied humankind, which to the beast is open? And will God be angry for such a petty trespass, and not praise rather your brave virtue? You should not be deterred from achieving what might lead to happier life. You should have knowledge of good and of evil. If evil exists, why should it not be known to you, and therefore easier to shun? God cannot keep this knowledge from you and be just.

EVE

God is just.

SATAN

Why then was this fruit forbidden? Perhaps to keep you low and ignorant, his worshippers? He knows that on the day you eat thereof, your eyes shall perfectly be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing both good and evil as they know. That you should be as gods, and I as human, is but a matter of degree.

EVE

The celestial, Michael, also spoke to us of degrees.

SATAN

So, you shall "die" perhaps by putting on the knowledge of the gods; death therefore is to be wished, for what are gods that humans may not become as they by eating god-like food?

EVE

Michael ate our food, so we can eat his.

SATAN

The gods were first, and by that advantage they inform our belief that all things from them proceed.

EVE

Yes, we have been told this.

SATAN

But, I question it, for this fair earth I see, warmed by the sun, produces everything, the gods nothing. So, wherein lies the offence, that humans should desire to know? How can your knowledge hurt gods? Or is it envy, and can envy dwell in heavenly breasts?

(MORE)

SATAN (cont'd)

These and many more causes import your need of this fruit. Goddess human, reach then, and freely taste.

EVE

(to the audience)

If we eat of this fair fruit, we shall die. How dies the serpent? He has eaten and lives, and knows, and speaks, and reasons, and discerns. For me and Adam alone was death invented? And to us denied this intellectual food, but for beasts reserved? For beasts it seems: yet that one beast which first has tasted, covets not, but brings with joy the good befallen him. What fear I then? Here grows the cure of all, this fruit divine, fair to the eye, inviting to the taste, of good and evil to make wise. What stops me then from feeding at once both body and mind?

(Eve plucks an apple, brings it to her lips, but then pauses.)

EVE (cont'd)

(to Satan)

But how is it that you say you have become human, but remain in body a serpent? Your faculties are like that of humans, and you can speak, but--

SATAN

The body of a man is at my will.

(Satan sheds his serpentine disguise and stands naked as a man.)

EVE

I knew not that man could stand so strong and brave and, and, handsome, and divinely sculpted and with logic and--

(She reaches out to touch Satan's body. He evades her, and plucks an apple from the tree, breaking it into pieces with his hands.)

SATAN

Share with me Eve, goddess of the universe. Allow me to worship you properly.

(He puts a piece of the apple against her lips, massaging them, teasing them, and she tries to bite. Eventually, she eats. He continues to feed her. She feeds him the apple she had plucked. They began kissing and touching while feeding each other.)

Adam, in a different location, begins to weave a garland with the flowers he gathered.)

EVE

(intoxicated)

Perhaps I am a secret. You too. Us. What we do. Heaven is high, high and far away, too distant to see, or hear. Other cares, sensuous ones, may have diverted from continual watch our great forbidding; perhaps he busily plays with his angels like this.

(She kisses him repeatedly, feeding him, touching his body.)

EVE (cont'd)

You are giant, and powerful, powerful--

(Kissing and caressing her, Satan leads her to a cozy spot on the ground, where he makes love to her like only a god can.)

EVE (cont'd)

Oh, with joy you fill me. One with the universe. We are one. Complete. Happiness.

(Very loudly, Eve orgasms many times, and Satan eventually cums loudly as well.)

Adam falls asleep beside the garland.

Eve sleeps cuddled with Satan.

The world reflects positively the irreversible changes that have occurred.

With the first light of the morning sun, Eve rises to her knees, and then stands taller than ever before.

Adam rises at the same time as Eve.)

EVE (cont'd)

I am happy. Glorious. I too am strong. Why stand on earth, when I can hold it in my hands? Paradise is not a place, but what fills my heart. I am in love.

(Satan rises.)

SATAN

With me, in love.

EVE

Yes, with you. With you.

(They kiss.)

Carrying the garland, Adam looks around for Eve.)

SATAN

Satan is my name. I am that foe about whom you were warned.

EVE

The foe set out to destroy us?

SATAN

Great Queen, have I destroyed you?

EVE

No. You have only given, given so much, yourself the greatest gift.

(They embrace. Adam gets closer.)

ADAM

Eve! Eve, where are you? Eve!

SATAN

Your Adam comes this way. I must go.

EVE

No, stay, go not, please.

SATAN

For you, I shall return.

EVE

You shall?

ADAM

Eve! Where are you?

(Adam sees Eve and Satan. Satan begins to depart, still holding Eve's hand.)

SATAN

I shall.

(Satan turns back to Eve and kisses her.)

SATAN (cont'd)

I love you.

EVE

You do?

SATAN

I do.

(Satan departs, but then circles back to watch Adam and Eve from a hidden vantage point.)

ADAM

Eve!

(The garland drops from Adam's hands, and all the flowers fade and shed.)

EVE

Adam. I have missed you. But strange has been the cause of my absence, and so wonderful. This tree is not as we are told, a tree of danger tasted, nor of evil unknown, but rather it opens the way to divine effect, opens the eyes, and makes those gods who eat its fruit.

ADAM

What departed from hence moments ago?

EVE

Of this I am telling you. He is a wise serpent, not restrained as we are.

ADAM

A serpent?

EVE

He ate of this tree's fruit, and became, not dead, as we are threatened, but endowed with human voice, human sense, and human body. His reasoning and example were persuasive, and I have also eaten the apples, and have also found that the effects do correspond: more open are my eyes; more elated are my spirits; more ample is my heart.

ADAM

Are you now a god?

EVE

I feel, deep inside, that I am, but my bliss is stalled, until I can share it with you.

ADAM

With me? I saw you, with passion in you never before witnessed by me . . . I saw you kiss the serpent, man.

EVE

This, I would not deny. I do love Satan.

ADAM

Satan?!



EVE

But I love you, too. You are my closest friend.

ADAM

Your friend?

EVE

Yes.

ADAM

And if I too eat from the tree?

EVE

Then we can share the knowledge and life of gods.

(Adam plucks an apple and eats, and eats. Satan departs.)

INTERMISSION

13

HELL: THE GATES

13

SIN

Son, why do we stay here doing nothing, while Satan, our great author, thrives in a new world? He must be successful or he would have returned by now, either on his own or forced by God's angels, unless there is a more dreadful place to which they would have sent him. Hell, I think, is the worst.

(Pause.)

SIN (cont'd)

Strangely, I feel new strength rising within me, making me hot and tingly all over. Oh, wings are sprouting from my spine; I am drawn by a force far away working to unite things akin in truth and pleasure. You, my inseparable shadow, must go with me: for Death is born of Sin. But what if troubles stay Satan's return, and this abyss between Hell and the new world is not passable? Let's forge a passage through it for easy travel for all the rebel angels.

DEATH

Mother, go where fate and inclination lead you. I shall not lag behind.

(He sniffs the air.)

DEATH (cont'd)

The scent of carnage draws me.

SIN

You conjure happy images. Let's be on our way.

(They travel, and as they move, the route they take is illuminated, made ready for easy traffic.

After some time, they encounter Satan.)

SIN (cont'd)

Greetings my luscious parent, I am that fantasy that you did not remember.

SATAN

That I cannot again forget.

SIN

Because your heart still moves within me, I have trailed after you with our son. You strengthened us from afar, and me and Death forged this thoroughfare between Hell and the new world. The new world is yours, and from there you can divide Heaven's forces and remove God from his overripe throne. This is exciting!

SATAN

Fair daughter, you are of the race of Satan. My triumph is greeted with yours. Therefore while I descend through darkness on your road with ease to my associate powers in Hell, to tell them of these successes, you two proceed to paradise. There live and reign in bliss; on earth exercise your will, where you may freely corrupt and kill.

SIN

Hail Satan!

SATAN

Yet, spare the human female, Eve, for I have my own plans for her; she turned faithful to us as she turned away from God.

SIN

Her name to you, is music to me.

SATAN

Our bond is deep. Go, precious ones, and thrive.

SIN

Hail Satan!

DEATH

Hail Satan!

(Sin and Death continue on their way. Satan heads for the gates of Hell.)

14 NEW WORLD: ADAM & EVE'S BOWER, GARDEN OF EDEN 14

(Adam waits, wearing a loin garment made of flowers and leaves.

Light of the sky changes, and, unnoticed, Sin and Death arrive in the garden.

As if noticing a bad omen, Adam drops to his knees and begins to pray.

Eve enters, herself decked out in flowers and leaves, possibly in the form of a dress.

Adam jumps to his feet.

She puts another garment or accessory on Adam that she also made. Perhaps a necklace or vest.

EVE

Try this. You look adorable, like a god.

(Adam observes: an eagle stoops from flight; two other birds of gayest plume fly quickly by; the eagle plumes them; a lion runs down from a hill in hot pursuit of a deer.)

EVE (cont'd)

And me, what do you think? Do we complement each other? Do you think Satan will still find me beautiful, my attire suitably majestic?

ADAM

Did you not see that? That animal just tried to kill another animal.

EVE

What are you talking about? I see nothing!

ADAM

Are the changes not observed by you? And in the way you act? Is this still our paradise, Eve?

EVE

Is this about Satan again? Understanding is admirable, but this jealousy shows your negativity. Now that you know what is good, and what is not, you might want to turn your awareness back to you, and focus not on Satan--

ADAM

Spare me your "godly" wisdom, Eve. Please.

(God is illuminated, underscored by holy music.)

GOD

(voiceover)

Adam, and Eve, you have disobeyed me.

EVE

Yes, but we are better--

GOD

(voiceover)

Silence. Your punishment will be thus: From the garden, you are banished. From earthly immortality, you are denied. Elsewhere on earth, you will die miserably like the humans that will be your progeny. Because it was from lust that Eve's waywardness stemmed, henceforth all carnal pleasures experienced by humans will invoke your almighty King, whether internally with thoughts or externally with language, the latter of which will be known through expressions like, "Oh, my God" or "Jesus, that feels so good." Because Eve, the weaker vessel, is to blame for falling sway to Satan, all women will suffer during childbirth. Because Adam has proved man's susceptibility to the wiles of woman, marriage between man and woman must be sanctioned by me, determined a requisite sign of decency, so as to protect both men from the treachery of women and women from themselves. Finally, if you repent for your disobedience and live the rest of your days in pious devotion to me, I will grant your souls eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

EVE

"Our souls"? What are "souls"? God, if we failed you, it is because you failed us.

(Lights off on God, underscored by holy music.)

EVE (cont'd)

You did not equip us with the faculties to resist Satan's temptation, but rather to accept his logic. You should be proud of our courage.

ADAM

Eve, he is gone. And look, here comes the archangel Michael, no doubt with further admonitions for us.

(Michael enters.)

EVE

No, I am gone. Goodbye Adam.

ADAM

Eve, don't go!

(Eve exits their bower and hides so that she can see and hear what fate Michael brings with him.)

MICHAEL

Adam, your prayers have been heard, and by God's word, your deaths, due by sentence when you transgressed, shall be postponed many years. But no longer will you dwell in paradise. I have come to prepare you and Eve for your departure from Eden.

ADAM

Oh unexpected stroke, worse than Death! Must we leave paradise? Who will tend to the garden? Will others occupy our nuptial bower? And us, to a lower world?

MICHAEL

Where is Eve?

ADAM

Eve, oh, she strolled off. God's admonitions overwhelmed her. I am sure she will not be long away. Great celestial being, must our fate be irreversible?

MICHAEL

Lament not, but patiently resign to what justly you have lost; nor set your heart, thus over-fond, on that which is not yours; your departure is not lonely, with you your wife goes.

ADAM

If by constant prayer I could hope to change the will of God, I would not cease to appeal to him. But prayer against his absolute decree shall no more avail than breath against the wind.

MICHAEL

That is correct.

ADAM

Then to almighty God's great bidding I submit. But what most afflicts me, by departing hence, is that from his face I shall be also hid. Here in Eden I could frequent him with worship. I recall place by place each moment in his divine presence, and to my children I hoped one day to relate the same.

MICHAEL

Take my hand, and walk with me to the top of the hill. Close your eyes, until I ask you to open them.

(Adam obeys, and they walk to the top of the hill.

Eve follows, unnoticed and hidden, and so does Sin.)

15

NEW WORLD: HILLTOP, GARDEN OF EDEN - CONTINUOUS

15

MICHAEL

Adam, keep your eyes closed and behold the effects which Eve's original sin, and subsequently your own, shall be wrought in your descendents, those who never touched the tree themselves, nor with the snake conspired, nor sinned your sin, yet from that sin corruption derives to bring forth more violent deeds.

ADAM

Oh, this is horrible, what tragic sights. Animals everywhere tearing the life from each other. And look there, a man killed another man.

MICHAEL

Those are your children, Cain and Abel. The first slays his brother out of envy, because his brother's offering found greater acceptance in Heaven. Yet his murder will be avenged.

ADAM

My own sons? I have now seen human Death. Oh sight of terror, foul and ugly to behold, horrid to think, how dreadful to feel!

MICHAEL

You have seen Death's first shape on man, but many are his shapes, and many are the ways that lead to his grim cave. Some by violent stroke shall die; others by fire, flood, and famine, by intemperance in meats, drinks, drugs, and carnal pleasures, which on the earth shall bring terrible diseases: ghastly spasms, racking torture, qualms of heart-sick agony, all feverous kinds, convulsions, epilepsy, intestinal stones, ulcers, colic pangs, demonic frenzies, moping melancholies, moon-struck madness, wide-wasting pestilence.

ADAM

Oh miserable humankind, by our fall so degraded! Better end here unborn. Why is life given to be thus wrested from us? Knowing what horrors we receive, who would not reject life or beg to lay it down? Why cannot humans retaining still the image of God from such tragedies be free?

MICHAEL

Humankind forsakes their maker's image when they serve ungoverned appetite, a brutish vice, derived mainly from the sin of Eve. Therefore so abject shall be their punishment, disfiguring not God's likeness, but their own.

ADAM

But is there yet no other way, besides these painful passages, how we may come to Death?

MICHAEL

Yes, there are. And many visions I summon for you, of battles, where thousands of men mercilessly kill and rape one another, of idolatry and ungodly orgies, of greed that turns humankind villainous and inhumane.

ADAM

Please, no more sights. I beg you. Henceforth I shall fly not from Death, nor try to prolong life.

MICHAEL

Do not love nor hate your life, but live well  
and devoutly whether long or short and  
permission to enter Heaven may be achieved.  
Judge not what is best by pleasure, but by  
God's way. Behold the happy atheists who on  
judgement day shall meet eternal punishment in  
Hell.

(Adam sees people erotically dancing naked by a bonfire while  
celebrating the four elements.)

ADAM

Oh pity and shame, that they who live so well,  
who had entered life so fair, should turn God  
aside to tread impious paths! See how the  
women dance and the men are consumed by them.

MICHAEL

Prepare for another scene, of war and carnage.

(Images of war and carnage appear to Adam.)

ADAM

Stop. Please. Celestial teacher, spare me  
another sight.

(They stop. A beat.)

ADAM (cont'd)

I beg you, tell me of hope. What remedy might  
there be to this doomed course of humans?  
Better had I lived ignorant of the future, for  
now I wish that all birth be undone.

16

NEW WORLD: GOLGOTHA, JERUSALEM - FLASH FORWARD

16

MICHAEL

There is hope. The law of God shall be  
fulfilled by both obedience and love. The  
punishment you expected to suffer, God himself  
shall endure. To earth he will come in human  
flesh. As a man, God shall promise eternal  
life to those who believe in him and his  
teachings. For this, he shall live hated, be  
blasphemed, seized by force, judged, and to  
death condemned shamefully, nailed to a cross.

(Satan or Michael climbs onto the cross becoming Jesus  
Christ. Mary Magdalene enters the scene as well. They mime or  
dance the story told by Michael.)



ADAM

God shall do this for humankind?

MICHAEL

Yes, all the sins of humankind with him there shall be crucified, never to hurt further those who rightly trust in God. So he dies, but soon revives. On the third day he returns, the star of morn seeing him rise out of his grave, fresh as the dawning light, your ransom paid. Afterwards, he stays no longer on earth, but reappears, when needed, to aid his disciples in teaching God's way. You may open your eyes.

ADAM

Oh goodness infinite! That from evil such good is produced, more wonderful than the light that creation first brought forth from darkness!

(A beat.)

ADAM (cont'd)

But why does God force humankind to endure unspeakable tragedies? Is it not unjust to punish the descendents of sinners who played no part in the original sin? I apologize for my ignorance, but I prove insufficiently equipped to comprehend the fairness in all you have conveyed.

MICHAEL

All that has been shown here is God's way, and thus perfect.

ADAM

That's all? I must tell Eve of all that you have imparted.

MICHAEL

Yes, you must. I trust you to exit Eden by tomorrow's nightfall. Farewell.

ADAM

Farewell, celestial teacher.

(Michael departs. Adam goes looking for Eve. Eve moves to a safer location, where she encounters Sin.)

17 NEW WORLD: GARDEN OF EDEN

17

SIN

Eve.

EVE

Who are you? I have never seen anything like you before.

SIN

You sure are fine looking.

EVE

Thank you.

SIN

Do you want me to take you to Satan? I see this is no longer the place for you.

EVE

You know Satan?

SIN

Yes, I am devoted to him and his cause.

EVE

His cause? He did not speak to me of a cause.

SIN

He wants to bring justice and goodness to Heaven and earth.

EVE

True, he does. He wants knowledge of good and evil to be for all creatures. But where is he?

SIN

He is in Hell.

EVE

What's that?

SIN

A horrible place to which God banished him and the other angels--

EVE

"Other angels"? That's right, Lucifer was his name. And Hell, Michael told us of this dungeon.

SIN

Yes, Satan is an angel. He fought for goodness and equality in Heaven, but was defeated by God's archangels and sent to suffer for eternity in Hell.

EVE

I was with Satan, here.

SIN

Yes, he escaped, with my help, and came here.

EVE

You helped him. Without you, we would not have met.

SIN

He must have been keen on you, something special.

EVE

Yes, and I love him.

SIN

I shall bring you to him. The gates I left open, but the journey to them requires guidance and wings. You lack both.

EVE

Oh yes, please take me to Satan. Can we leave now?

SIN

Take my hand, honey.

(indicating Death)

My son, who is vaporous in form, shall follow, should we be pursued by God's forces.

(They depart for Hell, followed by Death.)

18

HELL: PANDEMONIUM, SATAN'S PALACE

18

(Satan sits on his throne, with Moloch and Beelzebub at his sides.)

MOLOCH

Attention angels! Attention! Our great leader, the most noble and bravest of all, has returned to us, victoriously, from his bold and daring mission to God's new world.

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Hail Satan!

MOLOCH

The first battle is won! We have only  
victories ahead of us!

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Hail Satan!

(Satan stands.)

SATAN

All you honorable and devoted angels, virtuous  
crusaders for truth, light, and right, I have  
returned successful beyond hope, to lead you  
out of this abominable and accursed dungeon of  
the tyrant King.

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Hail Satan!

SATAN

By my adventure against immeasurable peril, we  
now possess, as lords, a spacious and green  
world.

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Hail Satan!

SATAN

I will spare you the details of what I have  
done, what suffered, with what pain I have  
voyaged through the vast, unbounded  
atmosphere, over which our devoted comrades,  
Sin and Death, have navigated a passage to  
expedite your glorious attack.

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Hail Satan!

SATAN

But I, unaided, carved out my uncouth passage,  
pushed through the abyss, and escaped capture  
by God's foolish archangels, his dastardly  
general Michael among them, whom we all know  
too well, whom I, for all of you and our  
cause, thoroughly bruised and humiliated.

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Bravo! Hail Satan! Hail Satan!

SATAN

I found the new created world of a wonderful fabric, of absolute perfection, therein humans placed in a paradise named Eden, with the most precious, Eve, herself of celestial beauty. With Satanic passion, I seduced her from God's way, and the more to increase your wonder, with apples I did this. But, for her, forsooth, I remain fond, and am certain of her commitment to me.

(Eve, Sin, and Death enter.)

SATAN (cont'd)

I am surprised and overjoyed beyond all reason: here is that heavenly beauty, Eve. And with her, both Sin and Death.

(aside to Eve)

Welcome, my goddess. I am delighted by--

(Eve kisses Satan, which burns both of their lips, so they pull immediately back from each other.)

EVE

Ouch! My lips!

SATAN

Eve, my love, there can be no such carnal pleasures in Hell. If we touch in sexual ways, we burn.

EVE

Oh, how awful.

BEELZEBUB

Welcome Eve, and Sin and Death.

(to Sin and Death)

Thank you for your allegiance, and the route that you have provided. It is now crucial that you return to earth and prepare for our triumph over the archangels. Your presence alone, Sin and Death, readies the battlefield for their annihilation.

SIN

It is our duty and our joy, big guy. Prepare we will. Until soon, brave angels!

(Sin and Death exit.)

ALL REBEL ANGELS

Sin! Death! Sin! Death! Sin! Death!

SATAN

The tyrant King's beloved new world and all its creatures to Sin and Death are prey, and over them we all shall rule!

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Hail Satan!!!

SATAN

From earth, by surprise advantage, is our indirect route to Heaven! Heaven shall be ours!

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Hail Satan!!!

(Eve steps forward.)

EVE

Satan, please give me leave to speak.

(Satan looks to Beelzebub, who gives him an affirming nod.)

MOLOCH

Attention!

SATAN

Great angels, like us this human creation of God's has seen the light and chosen the path of truth rather than subjugation. Eve would like to share words with you.

EVE

Thank you, great leader. Until Satan guided me to the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and encouraged me there to risk learning the truth, I was not just a garden girl, but worse, a pet for whom escape from the garden occurred only in the imagination. Because of Satan, now my escape is real, and I am here to fight with you!

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Eve! Eve! Eve!

BEELZEBUB

Angels! Silence! We have no time to waste. Once Eve is trained . . .

(Beelzebub looks to Satan for approval, but Satan is reluctant.)

EVE

I know every inch of paradise.

(Satan nods with approval.)

BEELZEBUB

After I train Eve, we shall begin our attack. We shall lure Heaven's forces to us through occupation of earth, and from that advantage, with Sin and Death on our side, and Eve to show us where the archangels will enter, we shall destroy them.

MOLOCH

Ready yourselves, the time is near.

SATAN

Until soon, great warriors. Let the light empower you!

ALL REBEL ANGELS

(clapping, whistling, roaring)

Hail Satan!!!

19

NEW WORLD: A MEADOW NOT FAR FROM THE GARDEN

19

(Adam sits pensively. Sin and Death observe unnoticed.)

SIN

Second of Satan sprung, all conquering Death, what think you of our empire now? Is it not way better than at Hell's dark threshold, where for no reason we stood watch all fucking day and night, unnamed, not dreaded, and yourself half-starved?

DEATH

To me, who with eternal famine pine, alike is Hell, or earth, or Heaven, though for Heaven I am hopeful for the taste of archangels. Here, though plenteous with animals, all too little satisfies my vast unbounded corpse.

SIN

Check out the woe with which that lone human sits, like his is the burden of life.

DEATH

Happy would I feast on his misery, absent him  
from this green place, and make the image less  
annoying to your eyes.

SIN

Not so fast. He is the boy for whom God  
created Eve, of his flesh, and thus he may be  
of value to Satan. Just look at his young,  
muscular, smooth body. I may value him too.

ADAM

(sings "A Nothing on Earth")

My dearest Eve, the purest part of me,  
Wherever you are, is where I long to be,  
If I made you leave, nothing shall suffice,  
In this empty world, I pay the price.

My dearest Eve, our life was not tough,  
If I lost you, no price is enough,  
Loveless I sing, a nothing on earth,  
In this empty world, I hear no mirth.

My dearest Eve, I notice no change,  
Wherever I go, my heart has no range,  
If I heard your song, nothing wrong would be,  
In this empty world, I listen to just me.

SIN

He now entertains more than he bothers me, or  
rather he now bothers me so good.

DEATH

(laughing voluminously)

Yes. Yes, yes.

20

HELL: TRAINING GROUNDS

20

(Eve is dressed in sexually provocative warrior attire.

Beelzebub, also in warrior attire, trains Eve, first with  
hands.

After some time, Satan, who has been watching from a  
distance, enters.)

SATAN

Pardon me, Beelzebub. It is for a word with  
the illustrious Eve that I have come, and I  
require but a brief moment with her.

BEELZEBUB

Yes, of course, great leader.



EVE

Satan, did you see the way I deflected him? In combat I feel profoundly alive, with the lightness and strength of ferocious winds, dancing about, passing through, and blowing my opponents away.

BEELZEBUB

Well, I can attest to the fact that you are improving rapidly and showing promise of an extraordinary kind.

EVE

(playfully)

Thank you, master.

SATAN

I am glad to hear it.

(Satan pulls Eve aside, where Beelzebub cannot hear them.)

SATAN (cont'd)

Eve, my Queen, you are dazzling in combat, but you were more dazzling when we made love in Eden. It is my pleasure, therefore, that you put your martial ambitions to rest. If it pleases you, all the dresses and jewels a goddess can dream of await you in my fiery palace.

EVE

Satan, my everlasting darling, it pleases me that you do not humor me so. We have already discussed this. Not all the jewels and dresses in the universe could stop me from fighting for our cause.

SATAN

It's not your cause, and it need not be mine.

EVE

What do you mean, "need not be" yours?

SATAN

I am afraid that you will be wounded in battle, and we may not be powerful enough to defeat God's archangels. So history goes.

EVE

What are you saying? Your cause is my cause, and not just because I love you: I believe in it. Don't you?

SATAN

Of course I do. But you could support our warriors from here, where you would be safe.

EVE

Satan, please do not tell me my role. Adam and God did this. I am a warrior, and with our forces, we shall make all of Heaven beg for mercy. Watch this.

(Eve returns to Beelzebub, launching an attack on him.)

BEELZEBUB

For mercy, Eve, let me go.

EVE

Nope.

(With quick maneuver, Beelzebub frees himself, and Eve strikes a sexy warrior pose. Satan walks away and continues to observe from a distance.)

BEELZEBUB

It will not be long until your excellence almost matches your beauty. For certain, you have graduated to knives.

EVE

Thank you, master.

BEELZEBUB

Refrain, if you will, from calling me that.

EVE

What you will, master.

(Beelzebub takes a KNIFE from his WEAPONS CASE and throws it to Eve and begins the training. At some point, Beelzebub gives Eve a SECOND KNIFE.

After some time, Satan returns.)

SATAN

Pardon me, again. My memory neglected to convey all I intended. Eve, my love, a word.

EVE

The speed and force of these knives; the way they move; they are my limbs--

(Satan pulls Eve aside, where Beelzebub cannot hear them.)

SATAN

Eve, listen, I have a proposition, wherein the freedom of our love will remain unfettered.

EVE

It shall.

SATAN

It shall not as long as we are condemned to infernal Hell.

EVE

I do not understand.

SATAN

Failure to destroy God will doom us to eternal separation from bodily contact, our love forever forbidden natural expression.

EVE

What do you mean by this? God shall be annihilated.

SATAN

But what if he's not? If we pursue him not, and instead plea for redemption, God, from my long and close knowledge of his doings, would, I believe, spare us and permit us to live as humans on earth. He may not be forgiving after the war.

EVE

My ears are dumb with amazement. I will not speak of this again. You are not the man I fell in love with. Are your angels and the cause already lost to your memory? Have you no integrity?

SATAN

Eve, you shall obey me.

EVE

I obey only the cause for which I fight, for justice and for truth. The training, here, must resume.

(Eve returns to Beelzebub. Satan walks away and observes.)

BEELZEBUB

Fair Eve, you have graduated once again. Take care of these marvels, and marvelously they will befriend you.

(He gives her two large, high-tech HANDGUNS.)

EVE

Master, these are marvelous. But why these weapons?

BEELZEBUB

Because, in human history, each account of the battle between Satan's army and God's army uses the weapons of its time.

EVE

(confused)

Oh.

BEELZEBUB

There are your targets. Be slow and steady, calm and focused, and fire at will.

(Eve fires at the targets, and after a few tries, easily hits them, as if she has been shooting guns all her life.

Satan returns.)

EVE

(aside to Satan)

Satan, it pleases me not that you return.

SATAN

(aside to Eve)

I have returned to remind you that you best obey me.

EVE

(aside to Satan)

Or what?

BEELZEBUB

Greetings, again, great leader.

SATAN

Beelzebub, yes, again, pardon me.

(Satan tries to take her aside, but she evades him.)

EVE

Satan, my dear, and master Beelzebub, there is a strategy, one that came to me in training, like the voice of an angel in my sleep: surprise, you both have expressed repeatedly, is our best offense, and nothing shall surprise the archangels more than my solo reappearance in the garden.

SATAN

(reluctantly before Beelzebub)

"The garden?" You shall, you--

EVE

Yes, I shall journey ahead, our forces close behind, and upon my arrival, I shall summon the archangels, for whom my whereabouts have been mysterious. I shall insist on consultation with their general, that celestial being of too many weary words, Michael. Once before me he stands, I shall vanquish him and his accomplices. The rest shall be like ants with their antennas cut off, ready to be killed by our noble warriors.

SATAN

I, no, this is unexpected.

BEELZEBUB

Yes, but the strategy is brilliant, and the necessary wherewithal is most readily at your command.

EVE

Thank you, master. Satan?

SATAN

(not meaning this)

This, you can do, Eve. And you shall.

EVE

I shall begin my journey now, and not rest until my mission is complete.

(Eve gathers up her weapons.)

SATAN

A short rest would serve you.

EVE

I am ready now. Until on earth, my comrades, we meet in victory!

BEELZEBUB

Eve, these wings shall be of some use. You need them to travel to earth.

(He puts them on her back.)

EVE

Thank you, master.

BEELZEBUB

Go, Eve, with truth and light.

SATAN

With truth and light and thunder!

EVE

With thunder!

(Eve rushes off.)

21 HELL: TRAINING GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

21

BEELZEBUB

(referring to Eve)

She is a being of remarkable quality. Human, angel, and god incorporate in a single entity, and unparalleled in appearance. Stunning.

SATAN

Yes, we are fortunate.

BEELZEBUB

I shall gather our troops immediately. I can already taste the long-awaited victory.

SATAN

We must not move too hastily. Premature arrival on earth would be disastrous for Eve and for our cause.

BEELZEBUB

Yes, but we cannot be more ready, and Eve cannot be left to stand alone for too long. It is not the first platoon of archangels about which I worry. Once Eve destroys Michael, she will have to contend with God.

SATAN

For precisely this reason, I shall go ahead of the rest. I shall arrive shortly after Eve, and if my timing is not apt, I shall hide until the moment is right.

BEELZEBUB

Very well, great leader, your wisdom prevails.

22 NEW WORLD: GARDEN OF EDEN

22

(Eve enters. Outside the entrance to the garden, Adam is sleeping unobserved by Eve. Sin and Death observe Eve unnoticed.)

EVE

Adam! Do you occupy this empty place? Adam! My eyes have dimmed by your absence, and seek desperately the glow of your handsome face.

(She walks toward the garden's entrance.)

EVE (cont'd)

Adam! To the garden, for truth and goodness, I return, and for your forgiveness, I beg. Adam! I promise, paradise shall be ours again. Adam!

(Eve walks into the garden, and its vibrant colors instantly change to reflect her transgression.)

EVE (cont'd)

Archangels, where are you?! Defenders of sacred Eden, I challenge you! Keepers of God's way, I defy you!

(Uriel enters, armed with GUN and carrying a SPEAR.)

URIEL

It is the fallen female. How nice. Was Hell too hot for you? Lovely attire. Are you a one-man army?

EVE

I am the woman who is going to silence you.

URIEL

Glory, glory, you are a feisty nothing. Should you trespass this garden, my orders are to punish you with death.

(She draws her knives, and they fight, knives against spear. Eventually, Eve stabs Uriel.)

URIEL (cont'd)

(dying)

I thought only angels could kill angels.

EVE

I guess someone lied to you.

URIEL

Look, sinner, the archangels. So, we both shall die. Adieu.

(Dies.)

Eve draws her guns and opens fire on the platoon of archangels attacking her. She hums or sings quietly to the tune of "I'm Not Just a Garden Girl" as she fights.

Adam wakes, and watches, without entering the garden.

Once Eve has vanquished all the archangels in the platoon, all gets quiet.

Suddenly, Michael enters, unnoticed by Eve, with his gun drawn and pointed at her.

Adam, seeing Michael, runs into the garden.)

ADAM

Eve, Eve, look out!!!

(Eve turns toward Adam.)

EVE

Adam!

(Adam jumps so that his body blocks Michael's bullets. Michael fires, hitting Adam, and Adam falls dead.)

Eve, moves quickly, shooting back at Michael. This battle of bullets continues for some time as they play hide and seek throughout the garden.

After they find themselves pointing their guns at each other's heads, either Eve shoots and kills Michael or the battle changes mode, and they continue fighting with knives.

Eve eventually kills Michael. She then goes to Adam's body.)

EVE (cont'd)

Oh Adam, my love, my true partner, I am sorry.

(Suddenly God is illuminated, underscored by holy music.)

GOD

(voiceover)

Eve, fallen and repugnant creature, your sins are numerous, growing, and exponential. Accordingly, there will be no end to your suff-

-

(Interrupting, with both her guns, Eve repeatedly shoots God, exploding it to bits.)

EVE

(sings)

I'm not just a garden girl, but a star,

(Shoots.)

In a galaxy of treasures,  
(MORE)



EVE (cont'd)

I shine without measures,  
Oh, how the universe beckons me to go far.

(Shoots.)

I'm not just a garden girl,

(Shoots.)

I'm not just a garden girl,

(Shoots.)

I'm not just a garden girl,

(Shoots.)

But a star.

I'm a star,  
I'm a star,  
I'm a star.

(Satan enters.)

SATAN

Eve?

EVE

Satan, it is done. The tyrant King is no more.

(Beat.)

EVE (cont'd)

Where is everyone? There may be more of  
Heaven's defenders on the way. God's death  
cannot yet be known.

SATAN

But God is not dead.

EVE

Yes he is. I killed him. Where are our forces?

SATAN

I have come alone.

EVE

Alone? But what if my circumstance were dire,  
and your great power not enough; what if we  
faced an army of archangels, and not just a  
single platoon?

SATAN

Eve, I am God.

(Beat.)

EVE

You jest. Why at this time of glory do you jest? Is there no limit to your lies?

SATAN

God and Satan are one. Like when you play a game against yourself.

EVE

I do not believe you. I just killed God.

SATAN

Do you think God would have allowed Satan to undermine his creations and universe? Do you think God would have let Satan live, escape Hell, enter the garden, and seduce you?

EVE

I don't know.

SATAN

Tell me, Eve, are you really a god? You ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, but did you transform, become all-knowing?

(Pause.)

SATAN (cont'd)

(laughing)

There was no magic in the apples. They were just apples.

EVE

I am a better person for eating them.

SATAN

Perhaps you are a "better person" because of the extraordinary pleasure I gave you?

EVE

Why? Why are you doing this?

SATAN

Because it's fun. What else is there to do, when you can do anything?

EVE

God's game? If this be so, speak to me not from your lips, but from the heavens, as God did.

SATAN

(voiceover in God's voice)

Eve, you are naïve but ever so beautiful and wondrous, for Adam I created you, but that you became wildly desirable, irresistible, I expected not. Flowers are by me planted, but their growth is not perfectly predictable, and yours exceeded all expectations.

EVE

This is evil and repulsive; are we all nothing but your toys, manipulated and tortured at your will?

SATAN

At your will. I merely let events happen. Okay, sometimes I prod them along, channel them, create scenarios. But it is not torture that I have designed for you. I am here, on earth, now in human flesh, to share everything with you, because I love you.

EVE

You love me?

SATAN

I would not have come as a human if did not. Now we can enjoy each other with blissful sensuality and delight. I long to hear you cry out in pleasure, "Jesus, that feels so good."

(Unnoticed, Beelzebub and Moloch enter and Beelzebub, sensing something amiss in the drama before him, pauses Moloch and orders him to be silent and watch and listen.)

EVE

Let me understand, you are God, but here as a human, in human flesh?

SATAN

Yes.

EVE

To be with me, you have made yourself vulnerable to human mortality? As Jesus Christ shall do? And then die for the sins of Adam and me? Sins that you set us up to commit: your sins?

SATAN

Yes, and I shall one day incarnate humanly the persona of Jesus Christ as I did the kind serpent for you. I shall do this to consummate my unbridled passion for Mary Magdalene, also a delectable creature who surpasses expectation. I know Mary well because I designed this story, which is your story, too. I designed the histories of humankind and the angels to repeat, and repeat, and repeat throughout time, but always with variation according to the unpredictable wills of the players. Until our night in the garden, Mary gave me the most satisfaction.

23

NEW WORLD: GOLGOTHA, JERUSALEM - FLASH FORWARD

23

(Satan climbs onto the cross becoming Jesus and suffers. Mary Magdalene enters and weeps on her knees.)

JESUS CHRIST

Cast those beautiful green eyes on me, sugar. I'm a man who walked this earth for 33 friggin' years. All I ever wanted was to make people smile. Smiles, smiles, smiles.

MARY MAGDALENE

You did, baby. I'm smiling right now. And you showed me how to groove, love life, and to make love.

(Mary Magdalene jumps up onto Jesus on the cross and begins kissing him all over.)

EVE

But what about your resurrection? Michael said you rise up.

JESUS CHRIST/SATAN

Sure, I do that, but I never actually die, because to die a human death would mean death forever. Instead, I induce a deep meditation and present, for three days, the appearance of death.

(Satan climbs down from the cross.)

EVE

(pretending to be sincere)

You are amazing. Together, like you and Mary, we shall again embody our love?

(MORE)

EVE (cont'd)

You are now truly vulnerable to my every touch, so that we may enjoy earthly pleasures, that I may ravish you to no end?

SATAN

Yes, sugar, please, ravish me.

(Eve raises her gun and shoots Satan in the chest, and he staggers.)

EVE

Jesus, that feels so good.

(She shoots him again in the head, dropping him dead.

Beelzebub and Moloch enter.)

MOLOCH

Hail Eve! Hail Eve! Hail Eve!

EVE

Beelzebub, Moloch, happy I am above all reason that you are here. This is joy.

(Eve hugs them.)

MOLOCH & BEELZEBUB

Hail Eve!

EVE

Thank you, Moloch, Beelzebub, but how did you know Satan's true identity?

(Beelzebub checks Satan's body, confirming that he is dead.)

BEELZEBUB

We learned as you did. Sensing something amiss in your discourse with Satan, we observed from that hidden vantage.

EVE

And our troops?

BEELZEBUB

Ready and waiting just outside the garden. Let us go share the news. Celebration is in order. Eve, you are a goddess.

(Suddenly God, back intact, is illuminated, underscored by holy music.)

GOD

(voiceover)

No, Beelzebub, Eve is not a goddess.

MOLOCH

(frightened)

Jesus!

EVE

But I thought you were dead?

GOD

(voiceover)

God does not die. I cannot control the wills of my creations. What fun would there be if I could? But I must live on, even if this is not my will. You, Eve, have a destiny in the history of humankind that must not be avoided. You are humankind's original mother. You carry within you, at this moment, two fetuses, of which I am the father, that shall be the original progeny, born from sin, but with the image of God inside them, and thus in every human conceived hereafter.

EVE

Oh, how awful. Nothing can repulse me more than the thought of giving birth to your children.

GOD

This is God's way.

EVE

But it is not Eve's way.

(With one gun Eve shoots herself in the belly so that the fetuses are aborted. She falls to her knees. With her other gun, she shoots herself in the head, effectively suiciding.

Beelzebub and Moloch run to her body.)

BEELZEBUB

What say you, now, tyrant King?

GOD

(voiceover)

Irreversible. I cannot undo this act. And the rules include no category for a killer of God, Satan, angels, humankind, and herself. Beelzebub, you and your angels are free. This game is over.

(Lights off on God, underscored by holy music.)

24 EPILOGUE - CONTINUOUS

24

(Sin enters, followed by Death, and addresses the audience.)

SIN

Eve's way frees not only the rebel angels and myself and Death, but you too. The circle of human and angel history is broken forever.

(Short pause.)

SIN (cont'd)

Eve, she was not just a garden girl, but a star. In a galaxy of treasures, she shined without measures, making the universe a free place where we all can go far. For this, our goddess Eve, we thank you.

(The end.)