

SALEM

A musical

By Kira Stone

UTA
Andrew Minkin
andrew.minkin@unitedtalent.com
212.659.2614

CAST OF CHARACTERS

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - OUR JUDGE & PREACHER (early 30s, Male); kinda sexy, pretty, bad boy energy (a la a la Brendon Urie, Harry Styles, Rege Jean Page, Zac Efron); intensely charismatic, naturally charming *and* manipulative, with commanding confidence and stage ~presence~, but deep down is acutely insecure in his own masculinity. He is the physical representation and manifestation of the power the patriarchal order holds, with a deeply implanted toxicity and cowardice that breeds in on itself and only grows...

The ACCUSED: 5 women from Salem, all with vastly different backgrounds//past lives

SUSANNAH (Female, 20s/30s) - outspoken, determined, tenacious, full of hope, and equally relentless, stubborn, and headstrong with a Saviour complex; grew up in Salem but made it out at 18 and discovered new truth and light, and so she vehemently rejects Puritan ideology and absolutism; she is an activist; she wants to tear down the system, burn it, and build something new

MARY (17, Female) - kind, compassionate, and righteous; younger sister to Rebecca, she is in the same peer group as the Accusers; extremely pious and pure with a silent strength, vitality, and strong sensitivity; wise beyond her years, but is repeatedly treated as emotional and naive- she is still just a teenage girl

BRIDGET (30s/40s, Female), 7 months pregnant, and going to be a single mom (after 4 dead husbands); blunt, confident, with a dark sense of humor, so candid that she's explicit; advocate for female power and autonomy, street-smart, comfortable with her own sexuality and sensuality

REBECCA (40s/50s/60s, Female) - smart, cynical, and perceptive; the Queen archetype, she is protective of Mary and is incensed that she has been accused; she is a well-respected member of the community in Salem, and has benefitted from its structure and order

MIRIAM (20s/30s, Female) - a loner, a survivor, an outcast; she has known struggle and pain intimately, and so she lives with her perpetual guard up; a pessimist (but she would call herself a realist), whose mother died in childbirth and dad died when she was 12; no family, no husband, no children; lower class and has to live on her own and work for everything she has, with a sense of inherent empathy that has laid dormant for a decade, she wants to survive within the system

The ACCUSERS: 5 teenage girls that make up a fierce, hormone-heavy pop girl pack//mob, where groupthink rules and

self-preservation reigns

ACCUSER #1 (Female) - the snake head//the leader of the pack/the protector/the revenge seeker

ACCUSER #2 (Female) - the right-hand man #1/the loyal follower/the idolizer

ACCUSER #3 (Female) - right hand man #2/the copycat

ACCUSER #4 (Female) - the cautioner/the worrier

ACCUSER #5 (Female) - the loose cannon

and...

YOU (audience member or reader) - member of the jury & townspeople of Salem, in special attendance as a spectator of this trial.

Cast Size: 10 women, 1 man

SETTINGS

Salem's Church Meetinghouse//Courtroom

PRODUCTION NOTES

Notes on **Setting, Time, & Space:**

- In this piece, light, sound, and the absence thereof are used as a theatrical device to zoom in on/highlight characters and groups of characters - when they are in private vs. when they are in public, when we transcend to a different plane (physical, mental/emotional, or spiritual), when things are internal vs. external, when one group is frozen and another is in the spotlight, etc.
- Would love a turntable lol
- Sound and Vocal FX are used liberally throughout the piece (for example: to amplify whispers from the ACCUSERS, to reverberate and echo words from the ACCUSED, to add monster/altered vox FX or formant vocals for intensity, as well as using the absence of vocal FX to provide stark contrast for words that cut through

ANOTHER NOTE, if u will: *Almost* everything in this script has a beat and/or underscoring underneath it- like a current, momentum, a pulse- the lifeblood of performance- until it **doesn't**. There are times we **drop out** of speaking in verse//rhythm//rhyme and where all beats and melody cease: the pretenses of performance are killed and we strip the exterior: in search of the truth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For my two best girls, Scarlett & Zara, & for my 8th great grandmother, Susannah North Martin.

ACT I

SCENE 1

SALEM'S CHURCH, CHAPEL, & COURTHOUSE - ALL IN ONE.
MASSACHUSETTS. 1692. ish.

Lights up. A church meetinghouse, doubling as a courtroom. A pedestal is placed center stage like an altar. Everything happens in this room. Everything.

Lights line the stage and begin to pulse as a beat kicks in and a bass drops. Then, we hear a voice:

JUDGE

ALL RISE- for the King of the Courtroom, His Highness and His Hyneness, your *honorable* Judge and Justice of the Peace, *drumroll please...*
all rise for: me. ;)

A JUDGE, with intoxicating charisma and sexy//pretty bad boi pop star/rock star/movie star energy stands atop his pedestal (a la Brendon Urie, Harry Styles, Rege Jean Page, Zac Efron). He is hot and confident and he knows it and he LOVES it. He is our master of ceremonies- THEE SHOWMAN- born, bred, and built for this- his performance of a lifetime.

1. _____

ALL RISE

JUDGE (& VOICES ECHO):
TAKE A LOOK AROUND (OOO)
TAKE A WILD GUESS (TAKE A WILD GUESS)
WOMEN OF THE WORLD (WOMEN OF THE WORLD)
PEOPLE OF THE PRESS (PEOPLE OF THE PRESS)
WHAT YOU ALL BEEN WAITIN' FOR
SALEM, 1692
AND HOW IT GOES DOWN
WELL, THAT'S UP TO ME (AND YOU)

OYER AND TERMINER
THE NAME OF THE COURT
TO HEAR AND DETERMINE
TO SENTENCE FOR BLOOD, FOR SPORT
HERE SIT THE ACCUSERS
HERE SIT THE ACCUSED
AND THEN THERE'S ME (JUSTICE OF THE PEACE)
AND THEN THERE'S YOU (GRAND JURY)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

You have hereby entered my courtroom- the Court of Oyer and Terminer. On Sunday mornings, we worship in these pews, but tonight is a new kind of service.

EXODUS 22:18 states, "thou shalt not suffer a witch to live", and As we know, witchcraft is the greatest of all evils- malum in se. it consciously contaminates and perpetually pollutes, thrusting body and soul down to that infernal pit OF blood, sulfur, & brimstone". Our duty is to God, to be rewarded and exalted in his kingdom by serving him on earth- by getting to the truth. TONIGHT, We will eradicate this infection from The body of Salem, and **THUS save the soul of our town.**

Now- you have been selected as our jury for three reasons in this theatrical season. One:

Light flash and sound reverberates once through the air.

...we believe that you are coming here impartial- with an open mind. Two...

Lights flash and sound reverberates twice.

...as upright and devout brothers and sisters in Salem and our carefully selected members of this jury, you have the privilege and responsibility to hear and determine the validity of witchcraft accusations here tonight, for which the consequence and punishment, as newly instituted, is: DEATH BY HANGING. Witchcraft has existed in diverse forms *AB INITIO*- from the beginning. Across oceans and within native lands, but not here. Never here. Until now./But We have never seen it here. **Is it here now?**

And three...

Light flash and sound reverberates thrice with FULL drama. This is a PERFORMANCEEEEEE, and he has REHEARSEDDDDDD, HONEYYYYYYYYYYYY!

...you all came here for a spectacle, a dramatic display, a PROPER PERFORMANCE... and we like to give the people what they want, am I right?

JUDGE:

TONIGHT ALL TOGETHER
SUNDAY SPECIAL, JUST FOR YOU
WE WILL BRING TOGETHER
THE ACCUSERS, THE ACCUSED IN THE VERY SAME ROOM
FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT
AND BINGE-WATCHING, TOO
THIS TWICE TOLD TALE
IS GETTIN' A REBOOT

ACCUSED, ACCUSERS & JUDGE:

ALL RISE
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
YOUR SINS ARE AT YOUR FEET
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
ALL RISE, THEN TAKE YOUR SEAT

JUDGE:
WHISPERS REEK OF WITCHCRAFT
HEAR THEM RINGING THROUGH THE TREES
FEAR IS FEEDING US LIKE FUEL
TO TERRORIZE YOU TO YOUR KNEES
GOSSIP TURNS AND RUMORS TRACE
WITH ORIGINS UNKNOWN
FEMALE SINNERS LIE IN WAIT
AND YOU'RE ALL HERE TO CHAPERONE

SO
MEMBERS OF THE JURY
PEOPLE OF THE TOWN
SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES
CUZ SHIT'S ABOUT TO GO DOWN (ABOUT TO GO DOWN)

ACCUSED, ACCUSERS, & JUDGE:
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
YOUR SINS ARE AT YOUR FEET
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
ALL RISE, THEN TAKE YOUR SEAT

Lights shift as the sides and
edges of the stage peel back,
exposing themselves to reveal the
fullness of the chapel we are in.

JUDGE:
WE CONGREGATE
WE SING THIS MASS
PERFORM & EXECUTE
A SISTERHOOD OF THESE WOMEN PUT ON TRIAL
WE WILL GET TO THE ROOT
OF WHERE THIS WICKED STEMS FROM
AND WHERE GOD'S TRUTH MAY LIE
TO CAUSE THIS MASS HYSTERIA
A PERFECT STORM WITH A FATAL EYE

ACCUSED, ACCUSERS, & JUDGE:
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
YOUR SINS ARE AT YOUR FEET
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
ALL RISE
ALL RISE, FOR THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
THAT'S ME

SCENE 2

JUDGE addresses the
jury//audience, center stage.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Thank you, thank you, thank you- *Hiiii ;)* *Thank you so much-*

Thank you for coming here this evening. It is my pleasure to welcome you here tonight as your loyal liaison and preeminent patriarch, as well as my responsibility to ensure our overall safety and compliance. As you may have noticed, the same gentlemen that so generously ushered you to your seats this evening will serve as our bailiffs, escorts, bodyguards, and if necessary, disciplinarians. But I think we're going to get along just fine.;

Let me break it down for you
Step-by-step
In case this is your first time here
The rules of the room and the protocol
So your part is well-played
And your role is clear
We begin with opening statements
Accusers and Accused
Take in every story, every side
And then, we ultimately choose their fate
Sounds easy, right?
But
Before we pull the curtain
Before we cross that formidable line
If any of you wish to forfeit prematurely
Just say "I"

or

But
Before we pull the curtain
Before that fourth wall disappears/all four walls disappear
If you stay, you are complicit in this trial/you are agreeing to participate in this trial tonight-
Are we clear?

The JUDGE eyes the audience carefully.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Perfect.

NOW-

Lights shift, and the bass kicks in.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Who are the real victims
Who suffered at the hand
Of a Satanic band of sisters
Desecrating Salem-land?
Saint & sinner both, behold
The martyrs and abusers
Ladies & gentlemen of the jury
May I introduce...
The Accusers.

The ACCUSERS rise up through the ground on a platform in all their fierce teenage girl group glory and take their place onstage.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

(to ACCUSERS)
DANCE.

2. IN HEAVEN/IN HELL

THE ACCUSERS fall into perfect formation. They are flawlessly in sync- fluid, moving together as one- the individual vertebrae of a snake; an exceptionally-oiled machine. Alone, they are nothing; together, they are ferocious.

ACCUSER #1:
NO WAY IN HEAVEN
NO WAY IN HELL
THIS WITCH ISN'T GUILTY
IT'S SO EASY TO TELL
LOOK AT HER NOW
DON'T BE DECEIVED
JURY AND JUDGE
ALL ACCUSERS:
WHICH WOMEN DO YOU BELIEVE?

JUDGE: BRING THEM IN!

5 ACCUSED WOMEN appear (via invisible ushers?) - they stand in the aisles and entryways of the theater, hands clasped behind their backs.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Each of you are accused of witchcraft in the highest degree, all punishable by execution. These accusers and that jury will help determine your conviction. Your ultimate punishment will be decided by me. Let us see...

ACCUSER #1:

GIRLS!

THESE LITTLE MAMAS OF MISDEMEANOR
COMIN' ON UP LIKE THERE'S NO ONE CLEANER
CROWNED THE QUEENS OF HELL IN THE WOODS LAST NIGHT
THEN MAKIN' LACERATIONS ON OUR SKIN, OUTRIGHT
THERE YOU GO, CASE CLOSED, BOTTOMS UP, LOCK 'EM UP
UH, I GOT THE FACTS TO BACK IT UP
LET ME INTRODUCE 'EM NOW
THIS SISTERHOOD OF WITCHES
LET'S KICK IT OFF WITH...

JUDGE:

BRIDGET.

ACCUSER #5:

HERE WE GO!

BRIDGET is dragged down the aisles and thrown onstage as the ACCUSERS move into action: creating theatrical displays and dramatized performances, acting out each individual accusation- every gory detail, each gruesome act with the fierce perfection of a teenage pop girl group.

ACCUSER #5:

BRIDGET, SHE'S A WOMAN OF THE WORLD AS YOU CAN SEE
BEWITCHING MEN AND WOMEN AND WE'RE HERE TO SPILL THE TEA
MAKIN' VOODOO DOLLS THAT LOOK LIKE US, THAT'S HER CLAIM TO
FAME
SHE CAN POKE, PRICK, STAB, AND STRETCH, AND LOOK, WE DO THE
SAME!
A WIDOW TO THE FOURTH DEGREE, A BUSINESS WOMAN, YES,
HER CORSET SCARLET RED, IS THAT A STRETCH MARK ON HER CHEST?
OR IS THAT WHERE THE DEVIL FEEDS, IS THAT A WITCH'S TIT
OR COULD IT BE FROM AN EX-HUSBAND WHO WAS TIRED OF HER SHIT?

JUDGE (CONT'D)

BRIDGET- you have HEREBY BEEN accused of
bewitching thirteen men and torturing-

BRIDGET

Wait-

JUDGE

Your accusers-

BRIDGET

NO-

JUDGE

With voodoo dolls?

BRIDGET

NO- WHAT THE FU- (Fu- Fu- Fu)

ACCUSER #5:

NO WAY IN HEAVEN

NO WAY IN HELL

THIS WITCH ISN'T GUILTY

THIS BITCH OF A BOMBSHELL

LOOK AT HER NOW

DON'T BE DECEIVED

JURY AND JUDGE

WHICH WOMEN DO YOU BELIEVE?

REBECCA is thrown onstage.

ACCUSER #4:

WOO!

THERE SHE IS, THE DUCHESS OF DESTRUCTION

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SHE'S TAKIN' US BY ABDUCTION

SHE MASTICATES OUR ABDOMEN, SHE SEVERS OFF OUR SKIN

WE TORE A SCRAP OFF OF HER NIGHTGOWN SO THAT WE COULD TURN
HER IN

SHE PICKS UP INNUENDO, SHE'S PARTIN' THE RED SEA

HER VAGINA HAS A WITCH'S MARK, COME ON, LET'S TAKE A PEEK

JUDGE

Rebecca- your accuser claims she found your
specter in her bed last night-

REBECCA

What??

JUDGE

And all along her ribcage there are marks from
where you took a bite-

REBECCA

That's ridiculous!

ACCUSER #4:
NO WAY IN HEAVEN
NO WAY IN HELL
THIS WITCH ISN'T GUILTY
ONLY HER BODY CAN TELL
LOOK AT HER NOW
DON'T BE DECEIVED
JURY AND JUDGE
WHICH WOMEN DO YOU BELIEVE?

MARY is pushed onstage.

ACCUSER #3:
MARY, LITTLE LADY
SHE WAS BORN WITHOUT A SPINE
SHE MAY NOT LOOK MALIGNANT
BUT WE KNOW SHE AIN'T BENIGN
EVERY MOVEMENT THAT SHE MAKES
OUR BODIES VIOLENTLY COPY
USED TO COVER UP HER TRACKS
BUT NOW SHE'S GETTIN' KINDA SLOPPY
SEE HER BODY LANGUAGE?
SHE'S THE PRINCESS OF THE WITCHES
AND DON'T YOU THINK SHE MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO RELIGIOUS?

JUDGE

Mary, charged with the ability to manipulate
your victims' bodies SIMPLY by moving your own.

MARY

But that's impossible, I don't understa-

The ACCUSERS copy MARY's sound &
movement.

ACCUSER #5:
AAAA!
ACCUSER #4:
AAAA!
ACCUSER #3:
AAAA!
ACCUSER #2:
AAAA!
ACCUSER #1:
AAAAAAA!

JUDGE:
FASCINATING-

ACCUSER #3:
NO WAY IN HEAVEN
NO WAY IN HELL
THIS WITCH ISN'T GUILTY
SHE GOT US WALKIN' ON EGGSHELLS
LOOK AT HER NOW
DON'T BE DECEIVED

JURY AND JUDGE
WHICH WOMEN DO YOU BELIEVE?

MIRIAM is dragged onstage.

ACCUSER #2:
THIS MALICIOUS MADAME
DOESN'T EVEN TRY TO FAKE IT
WE SEE SATAN SPEAKING TO HER IN HER ROOM WHEN SHE'S NAKED
OH! WE SEE HIM NOW!
HE WHISPERS IN HER EAR
WE'RE DONE HERE
SHE AIN'T A PIOUS PIONEER
TO BACK IT ALL UP
SHE HAS A SORDID PAST
WE'VE BEEN DOING SOME DIGGING
AND WE'LL TELL YOU IF YOU ASK
SHE'S GOT AUDACITY TO SIT HER ASS IN CHURCH AFTER CONVICTION
KICK HER TO THE CURB, WE ALL CALL FOR HER EVICTION

JUDGE

Miriam, your accusers claim that Satan himself
speaks to you every night in your bedroom, as
they have seen through your window in the
woods.

...Anything to say?

MIRIAM ignores him.

JUDGE:
FINE WITH ME.
OKAY!

ACCUSER #2:
NO WAY IN HEAVEN
NO WAY IN HELL
THIS WITCH ISN'T GUILTY
SHE'S A MEAN MADEMOISELLE
LOOK AT HER NOW
DON'T BE DECEIVED
JURY AND JUDGE
WHICH WOMEN DO YOU BELIEVE?

ACCUSER #2

And finally...

SUSANNAH is wrestled with in the
entryway.

SUSANNAH

Let GO OF ME!

ACCUSER #3

Thee Alpha & Thee Omega...

SUSANNAH

I said LET GO-

ACCUSER #4

Always the first...

ACCUSER #5

And forever the last...

SUSANNAH

You know what- I will do it myself-

SUSANNAH storms onstage.

ACCUSER #1

Miss Susannah North Martin.

ACCUSER #1:

THERE SHE IS

YEAH, SHE'S A JESUS JEZABELLA

A CLOSET HEMOPHILIAC

SHE THINKS SHE'S HELLA HELLA COOL

CAUSING CONVULSIONS, CAMOUFLAGING CRIMES

WE CAN BACK IT UP WITH FACTS

YO SHE NEEDS TO DO HER TIME

SHE'S A REFUGEE/MADWOMAN, A REBEL

YEAH, SHE'S JEALOUS OF OUR STATUS

TESTING PURITAN MORALITY

OOO, SHE THOUGHT SHE HAD US

MMM, THIS AIN'T A WITCH HUNT

WE OUT HERE HUNTIN' WITCHES

BETTER WATCH YOUR WALLET

SHE'S AFTER BENJAMINS AND RICHES

JUDGE

SusAAAannaAAhHH. Last but not least. You good?

---Your accusers claim that you possess the power and ability to cause your victims to go into convulsions, with an affinity for bloodthirst and stab wounds.

ACCUSER #1:

NO WAY IN HEAVEN-

SUSANNAH

That's NOT TRUE.

ACCUSER #1:

NO WAY IN HELL-

SUSANNAH (CONT'D)

They're LYING to you-

ACCUSER #1:

THIS WITCH ISN'T GUILTY

VERY FIRST TO REBEL
LOOK AT HER NOW
DON'T BE DECEIVED
JURY AND JUDGE
WHICH WOMEN DO YOU BELIEVE?

ALL ACCUSERS:
NO WAY IN HEAVEN
NO WAY IN HELL
THESE BITCHES/WOMEN ARE INNOCENT
WE GON' GIVE YOU THE HARD SELL
LOOK AT 'EM NOW
DON'T BE DECEIVED
JURY AND JUDGE
WHICH WOMEN DO YOU BELIEVE?

SCENE 3

The ACCUSERS finish their performance in manic, hormonal celebration - wiping the sweat off their bodies, whispering "you were amazing", "ohmygoshthankusomuch", etc.

JUDGE

Order-

He bangs his gavel, shutting up the ACCUSERS.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

(to the ACCUSED WOMEN)
You're turn.

And CHAOS:

BRIDGET

What the HELL is going ON??!

SUSANNAH

What are we doing here- this has to be an accident- a misunderstanding-

REBECCA

Is this because I didn't return the milk bottles fast enough?

MARY

Whispers of witchcraft, bouncing off the streets-

BRIDGET

You can't just kick in my door, drag me out of my house and-

JUDGE

(screams)
ORDER!!!!!!!

SUSANNAH

BUT WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING. Right?? We're innocent.

JUDGE

You will plead and testify in this courtroom as your summons demands. If what you say is true- if you truly are innocent, then that shouldn't be a problem, should it? *What are you so afraid of?*

GO.

The JUDGE turns to address the jury.

3. "HOW I PLEAD"

JUDGE:

THESE WOMEN, ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT,
A SISTERHOOD OF SIN
WHAT ARE YOU ACCUSED THEREOF?
WHERE'S THE EVIDENCE THEREIN?

BRIDGET is pushed forward (by invisible bodyguards OR the ACCUSERS). Each ACCUSED WOMAN is forced to speak and defend themselves - it is disjointed, unrehearsed, and haphazard.

BRIDGET

I'VE BEEN ACCUSED OF BEWITCHING FOURTEEN SOULS
MOSTLY MEN
THEY PROBABLY DESERVED IT
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED
A WIDOW AND A HARLOT
CRYSTAL CLEAR WHAT YOU'RE IMPLYING
I DIDN'T KILL MY HUSBANDS
ON MY LIFE- THEY JUST KEPT DYING
I HEAR THE WHISPERS IN THE STREETS
YOU SAY MY SPIRIT HAUNTS
A SPECTER LEVITATING
DEVOURING YOUR THOUGHTS

Okay, does this not sound batshit crazy?

TO ANYONE BUT ME
THIS IS HOW I PRAY
THIS IS HOW I PLEAD

JUDGE:
REBECCA

REBECCA is pushed forward.

REBECCA
THE QUEEN OF HELL HERSELF
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY
SPIN YOUR FABLES AND YOUR FANTASIES
THE TRUTH WILL NEVER GO AWAY/PERFORM YOUR LITTLE PLAY
DUE PROCESS HAS ITS VENGEANCE
ALL NIGHTMARES HAVE THEIR END
YOU CHAIN ME UP IN PRISON
HOW QUICKLY YOU'LL DESCEND
YOU CLAIM I HAVE A CRAVING
CAME TO CANNIBALIZE
I HAVE BEEN HERE DECADES LONGER
THAN YOU HAVE EVEN BEEN ALIVE
THE SCRIPTURES ARE SALVATION
I RECITE THEM IN MY SLEEP
I'VE BEEN PRAYING EVERY DAY
IT'S RIDICULOUS I HAVE TO PLEAD

JUDGE: MARY.

MARY
HOW I PLEAD
I WON'T TAKE UP MUCH TIME
SO THAT EVERYONE MAY SPEAK
I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED ON MANY COUNTS
OF INVISIBLE INJURIES
I'VE NEVER TOUCHED A SOUL
NOT OUT OF MALICE, OUT OF SPITE
A STRANGER TO THE DEVIL
MADE A VILLAIN OVERNIGHT

JUDGE:
SUSANNAH.

SUSANNAH
TEENAGE GIRL THEATRICALS
A JUVENILE DISPLAY
I KNOW I'VE GOT A REPUTATION
MY EXODUS PRECEDES MY NAME
YOU COWER IN CONVULSIONS
AND YOU SAY IT'S CUZ OF ME
MY SINS MIGHT MAKE ME SCARLET
(BUT) YOU'RE DECEIT/ENVY/BITTERNESS/MALICE (WILL) TURN(S) YOU
GREEN
CALLED A MADWOMAN, A HERETIC
A DANGEROUS DESIGN
A HYPOCRITE, A TRAITOR

SEE ME STANDING AT THE FRONTLINES
I WILL PRAY UNTIL THE DAY I DIE
TO GOD UPON MY KNEES
BUT I WILL NEVER BOW TO YOU
NO- YOU'LL NEVER HEAR ME PLEAD

JUDGE:
MIRIAM.

MIRIAM
REVENGE IS SERVED, PIPING HOT
A FEAST OF FALLACIES
I CONDEMN THIS COURT BEFORE ME
EVERY WORD AND EVERY DEED
(CONVERSING WITH THE DEVIL
IS THAT REALLY ALL YOU GOT?
YOU WON'T GET A RISE OUT OF ME
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT
THINK THAT YOU CAN KILL ME
WELL I HOPE YOU'VE COME PREPARED
LIKE A SPLINTER TRAPPED UNDER YOUR SKIN
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE) - CUT THESE EXTRA 8 LINES?
SIT INSIDE YOUR IVORY CHAPEL
SO DEVOUT, FIXED ON YOUR KNEES
THEN AMBUSH LIKE AN ADVERSARY
THIS IS HOW I PLEAD

MARY:
HOW I PLEAD

Lights shift, and we zoom in,
plunging into the
minds/souls/hearts of the ACCUSED
WOMEN as they individually pray,
their voices dodging and weaving
in and out of each other.

SUSANNAH
GET ME OUT
GET ME OUT
I'M CALLING ON MY KNEES

BRIDGET, MARY, REBECCA, &
MIRIAM
HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD

REBECCA & MIRIAM
SCREAMING OUT
SCREAMING OUT

SUSANNAH, BRIDGET, & MARY
HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD

REBECCA
THIS IS HOW I PLEAD

SUSANNAH, BRIDGET, & MARY
GET ME OUT
GET ME OUT

MIRIAM & REBECCA
HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD

SUSANNAH & BRIDGET
I'M CALLING ON MY KNEES

ACCUSED WOMEN
SCREAMING OUT
SCREAMING OUT
THIS IS HOW I PLEAD

SUSANNAH
GET ME OUT
GET ME OUT
I'M CALLING ON MY KNEES

BRIDGET, MARY, REBECCA, &
MIRIAM
HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD

REBECCA & MIRIAM
SCREAMING OUT
SCREAMING OUT

SUSANNAH, BRIDGET, & MARY
HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD

REBECCA
THIS IS HOW I PLEAD

SUSANNAH, BRIDGET, & MARY
GET ME OUT
GET ME OUT

MIRIAM & REBECCA
HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD

SUSANNAH & BRIDGET
I'M CALLING ON MY KNEES

ACCUSED WOMEN
SCREAMING OUT
SCREAMING
THIS IS HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD
HOW I PLEAD

ALL WOMEN SING THEIR VERSES/HOW I PLEAD SIMULTANEOUSLY

SCENE 4

MARY breaks down into tears./(or
is she just standing in the very
back/trying to hide?)

JUDGE

You.

The JUDGE turns to face MARY.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
Mary, is it? Please rise and take the stand for
your individual testimony- alone.

MARY freezes in fear, unable to move.

MARY

I don't- I don't- I need to- I think I just need a second-

SUSANNAH

I'll do it.

The ACCUSED WOMEN & ACCUSERS freeze.

JUDGE

Awwwwwww coming to her rescue, how sweet.

Go on then- take the stand.

SUSANNAH steps up to the stand.

SUSANNAH

My name is Susannah
I am innocent of this
You might not remember me
But I swear to you, **I'm not a witch**
I don't create convulsions
I don't conjure any spells
I stand here in my righteousness
In heaven or inside this hell
I left Salem at 17
I needed to revive
My spirit, my autonomy
I did it to survive
This place was suffocating me
A concrete hand/An iron fist (inside)/A mortar
hand over my mouth/Tar and feathers on my mouth
I would die if I kept going
So I did it, I got out
I went searching for more truth
Scouring for bits of light
I found a hope
I found a faith
So I trapped it, held on tight
I learned that God is not revenge
He doesn't harbor hate or foster fear
It felt like revelation
That's why I chose to come back here
I'm revisiting this nightmare
To radiate new truth
This town's a haven for the hungry
Still suppression here is mass-produced
This witch-hunting's archaic
These statutes you recite
Are overdue for a revision
What if we were to rewrite?

(MORE)

SUSANNAH (CONT'D)

Repentance and forgiveness
That's the truth in sudden sight
Evil's breeding in the shadows
Yet I see a brilliant light
I arrived here with my husband
My two children, six and five
You may think that it's witchcraft
That's eating you alive, but
It's folklore, it's mythology/It's false
ideology/It's fear and false traditions/It's
fear, it is cowardice/It's fear and it's
fables/folklore
That desecrate(s) this town
We could tear this order down
We could burn it to the ground-

MIRIAM scoffs and laughs, rolling
her eyes at SUSANNAH.

JUDGE

ORDER-

The JUDGE bangs his gavel and
turns to MIRIAM.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Miriam. Do you have something to say?

Why don't you come up here and share it with
the class?

MIRIAM

No thank you.

JUDGE

We need to hear from you. Don't you want to
testify? Respond to the accusations?

MIRIAM

They don't deserve my response.

JUDGE

Susannah just performed a harrowing soliloquy.
Tough act to follow?

MIRIAM

No-

JUDGE

Then what are you waiting for?

MIRIAM

FINE-

MIRIAM trades places with
SUSANNAH, taking her place on the
stand.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Miriam. I live on Beacon Street- by the
slaughterhouse. Yes, it's as bleak as it
sounds. 2 dead parents. I started raising my
little brother when I was seven and he was
three. I have never left this place- I have
lived here all my life and I have done
everything myself- to survive. I've seen all of
your faces, I know all of your names. I will
not dignify your ludicrous claims with a
response. I won't bend to the whims and words
of brainless, moronic teenage girls. I've
scolded them before and I will do it again and
again and again until they get it through their
embryonic heads. They are **children**. Manic and
desperate for attention-

ACCUSER #1

EXCUSE ME, we're **not** children-

MIRIAM

Oh, I'm sorry, how old are you?

ACCUSER #1

Like THIRTEEN-

ACCUSER #2

Yeah, thirteen-

ACCUSER #5

I'm twelve-

ACCUSER #3

SHHHHH-

MIRIAM

I rest my case.

MIRIAM steps down from the stand;
the ACCUSERS scowl and point at
her (UGH that was SO MEAN, she is
literally the WORST, I hate her I
hate her I hate her, etc.)

JUDGE

ORDER-

The JUDGE bangs his gavel twice.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Miss Mary. I think it's time, wouldn't you say?
Please rise and take the stand. You're up.

MARY rises and makes her way to the stand; the ACCUSERS go silent.

MARY

Um, I- my name is Mary. Um, I work as a cleaning girl- a housemaid. I mind the head of the household and tend to his children- and his wife. I love God, I love my faith, *I cling to it*, I just- I- I actually- I don't- I can't- I can't do this, I can't do this, but *I'm not a witch, I SWEAR- I'm not, I'm not, I-*

MARY starts to break down, pointing at the ACCUSERS.

MARY (CONT'D)

They know- they- we're *actually friends-*

ACCUSER #1

What are you talking about?

ACCUSER #2

Ohmygosh she's delusional...

ACCUSER #3

She's *clearly* lying-

ACCUSER #4

I've never seen her before in my entire life-

ACCUSER #2

**yeah but like except for when she cursed us*-*

ACCUSER #5

I had no idea who she was- until she started hurting us-

MARY

What? No- you KNOW me-

The ACCUSERS start to cry out in agony, their bodies convulsing and writhing on the ground.

ACCUSER #2

OWWWWWWWW- stopppppp!!

ACCUSER #3

She's HURTING USSSSS-

ACCUSER #4

Look what she's DOING-

ACCUSER #5

Pleeeeeaaassseeeeeee, help us-

MARY

I'm not doing anything!

Their screams get louder and their convulsions more intense:
(OWWWWW/Cut it
OUTTTT/StopITTTT/That
hurtssss/She's killing MEEEEEE/Make
it stop/HELP/Do you see what she's
doing???) & ending with:

ACCUSER #1

Pleeeeeaaassseeeee, don't hurt us anymoreeeeeee!

MARY

You guys, I-

JUDGE

ORDER!

The JUDGE bangs his gavel and MARY sits down on the stand. The ACCUSERS stop screaming and start to pull themselves off the ground, holding their injured arms, shoulders, sides, etc.

MARY

I guess I was mistaken. I don't know those girls.

JUDGE

Go sit down.

MARY scurries back to her seat amongst the ACCUSED WOMEN & ACCUSER #1's hand shoots up.

ACCUSER #1

(to the JUDGE)

Um.....excuse me..? Um- your honor?

We've prepared our individual testimonies-together.

ACCUSER #2

Yeah, together-

ACCUSER #1

We just like would feel more comfortable-

ACCUSER #4

And safer-

ACCUSER #1

If we did it together.

ACCUSER #5
Strength in numbers.

ACCUSER #1
In our valiant effort to expose the truth...
can we go?

ACCUSER #3
Please?

JUDGE
I'll allow it. Step up.

The ACCUSERS take center stage.

4. _____

UNDERGROUND

ACCUSER #1:
A NIGHTMARE
IN DISGUISE
A MASS
WITH A SINGLE EYE
SNAKES AND SINNERS
SPEAK THE SAME
WE CALL YOU OUT
YOU TAKE THE BLAME
ACCUSER #2:
IN THE DARK
THEY SCRATCH AT YOUR EYES
A SACRED CIRCLE
TESTIFY
ACCUSER #3:
NO ONE SEES
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
NOW WE EVEN THE SCORE

ACCUSER #1:
PRE-MEDITATED
OR PRE-INSTIGATED
SAVE YOURSELF FROM SIN
PART VENTRILOQUIST
PART EXHIBITIONIST
STRIP THEM OF THEIR SKIN

ACCUSER #1:
THEY'RE A CLIQUE
A PACK OF WOLVES
SADISTIC
A MURDER OF CROWS
BLOODHOUNDS WATCH YOUR EVERY MOVE
SHADOWS WALK ON THE WALLS OF YOUR BEDROOM
CLIQUE
ALL ACCUSERS:
(TONGUE CLICK, AHHH)
A PACK OF WOLVES
SADISTIC
A MURDER OF CROWS
PAST AND PRESENT HUNT YOU DOWN
SOON WE'LL SEE YOU UNDERGROUND

ACCUSER #5:
PARALYZED
IN YOUR SLEEP
COME AND PLAY
HIDE AND SEEK
ACCUSER #4:
PAPER CUTS
UNDER YOUR TONGUE
NOVACAINE THAT
LEAVES YOU NUMB
ACCUSER #3:
STABBED & STRETCHED
LIKE VODOO DOLLS
ACCUSER #2:
CREEP ON TIPTOES
DOWN THE HALL
ACCUSER #1:
A SAVAGE THING
TO COMPREHEND
YOUR ENEMIES
ACCUSERS:
CAN TASTE LIKE FRIENDS

ACCUSER #1:
WE INSTIGATED IT
PRE-MEDITATED
IT'S
TIME TO REPREHEND
PART VENTRILOQUIST
PART EXHIBITIONIST
WELCOME TO YOUR DEAD END

The ACCUSERS **rage.**

ALL ACCUSERS W/ ACCUSER #1 AT THE HEAD:
LIKE A CLIQUE
SADISTIC
BLOODHOUNDS
BLOODHOUNDS
IN YOUR BEDROOM
IN YOUR BEDROOM
CLIQUE (WE'RE GONNA BRING YOU DOWN, WE'RE GONNA BRING YOU
DOWN)
SADISTIC (WE'RE GONNA BRING YOU DOWN, WE'RE GONNA BRING YOU
DOWN)
HUNT YOU DOWN
HUNT YOU DOWN
SATAN SEES YOU
UNDERGROUND

ACCUSER #1:
A CLIQUE
(TONGUE CLICK, AHHH)
A PACK OF WOLVES
SADISTIC
A MURDER OF CROWS
ACCUSER #2:
BLOODHOUNDS WATCH YOUR EVERY MOVE
ACCUSER #3:
SHADOWS WALK ON THE WALLS OF YOUR BEDROOM
ACCUSER #1:
CLIQUE
(TONGUE CLICK, AHHH)
ACCUSER #4
A PACK OF WOLVES
ACCUSER #5:
SADISTIC
A MURDER OF CROWS
ACCUSERS #2, #3, #4, & #5:
PAST AND PRESENT HUNT YOU DOWN
SOON WE'LL SEE YOU UNDERGROUND

ACCUSER #1:
A NIGHTMARE
IN DISGUISE
A MASS
WITH A SINGLE EYE
SNAKES AND SINNERS
SPEAK THE SAME
WE CALL YOU OUT
WHISPER YOUR NAME

The ACCUSERS retract and end as one, completely in sync and connected- the same way they began (but sweating and VERY out of breath hahah).

SCENE 5

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Thank you, thank you very much for your preparation and presentation. Your collective testimony has been noted.

The JUDGE addresses the jury.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we have arrived at the next step of our trial this evening. Now, I'm not particularly looking forward to this part, and I would like to thank you in advance for your participation.

(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I must warn you- this will be difficult for all involved, so I ask that you remain respectful and behave in a civilized manner.

BRING IN THE SCREENS.

SUSANNAH

What?

A beat kicks in and the JUDGE raises his hands, privacy screens rising up from the floor (or lowering down from the ceiling).

JUDGE

Due process
And new protocol requires a ~special procedure~
After your plea
Demanded by law for a case like this
Before the people of the court
And performed by me-

After examining the verbal, the spectral, and the spiritual evidence, now we move to the physical: the witch's mark. It has been unequivocally proven and speculated/inferred/interpreted/gathered from scripture that a verified witch will possess marks on her body and skin where demons and devils can feast off her flesh, intensifying/multiplying/replenishing/sustaining/fortifying her wickedness and feeding their's in return/own. The devil himself leaves these evil marks and thus... claims his eternal property. If you are found anywhere on your body with the mark of a witch-

BRIDGET

What does that even look like-

JUDGE

I assure you, there will be repercussions.
These examinations will be- extensive.

Line up single file please... and strip down.

5. STRIPMIX

The strip search begins, and it is HYPE. It feels like a RAVE- lights, sound, and music explode when the beat drops.

The ACCUSED WOMEN line up single file behind the screens and strip to their undergarments. The ACCUSERS buzz and whisper as the JUDGE begins his inspections at arms length.

After his initial inspections, the JUDGE gets closer. Times slows, lights shift, and the ACCUSERS fall silent. The haze of music and sound drastically drop out, and only faint melody and a heartbeat remains. We zoom in on each woman's face (from the shoulders up) one at a time as the JUDGE goes down the line and does his individual inspections - starting with SUSANNAH, then BRIDGET, then MARY, then MIRIAM, their voices overlapping and echoing, weaving in and out of each other. After he finishes with each woman, he grades her aloud- PASS or FAIL, as follows: SUSANNAH - PASS, BRIDGET - FAIL, MARY - PASS, MIRIAM - FAIL.

SUSANNAH (W/ HER OWN ECHOES)
OH-OO
NO
ON MY SKIN (on my skin)
I CAN FEEL HIM (ON MY SKIN)
I CAN FEEL HIM ON MY SKIN (ON MY SKIN)
I CAN FEEL HIM (ohhhh)

BRIDGET (W/ ECHOES)
BRUISES ON MY KNEES
WHAT'S HE GONNA THINK
STRETCH MARKS ON MY CHEST
(BRUISES ON MY KNEES)
OH NO, NO, NO (WHAT'S HE GONNA THINK)
WAKE ME WHEN IT'S OVER
(STRETCH MARKS ON MY CHEST)
OHHHHH

MARY
CUTS ON MY WRIST
CUTS ON MY WRIST
CUTS ON MY
BREATHE IN
BREATHE OUT (CUTS ON MY WRIST, CUTS ON MY WRIST)
BREATHE IN (CUTS ON MY WRIST)
GET ME OUT (CUTS ON MY WRIST)

MIRIAM
SCAR THAT'S ON MY BACK
NO
DON'T LOOK DOWN (OHHH)
DON'T LOOK DOWN
DON'T LOOK DOWN (SCAR THAT'S ON MY BACK)
GET ME OUT

REBECCA
(BREATHING HEAVY, IN AND OUT; IN HALF NOTES, THEN QUARTER NOTES)

Finally, he gets to Rebecca. Her search is prolonged;

the ACCUSERS start to whisper and point as the JUDGE gets closer.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

It's from childbirth- that- that is from childbirth-

The ACCUSED WOMEN remain silent, but the beats and sounds and whispers from the ACCUSERS' reach a fever pitch.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME-

REBECCA forcefully pushes herself away from the JUDGE, knocking over all the privacy screens. The ACCUSED WOMEN stand there, exposed in their undergarments.

JUDGE

Oh um I'm Um, I- I-, um- could you- cover up, I-

OR

I- didn't mean- I'm sorry, I-

The JUDGE shields his eyes and rushes to his pedestal. The ACCUSERS sit wide-eyed (OR burst out laughing), and the ACCUSED try to cover themselves to no avail. A dull ringing echoes in our ears.

Suddenly, REBECCA bursts into tears and crumples to the floor.

MARY

Rebecca, are you alright-

MARY starts to run to her.

JUDGE

Don't touch her- ORDER-

The JUDGE bangs his gavel and MARY stops short. The ringing continues, lights pulse. The JUDGE hesitates- something's off.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I think- Please get dressed. I need to- I'll return when you're decent. Go.

Lights continue to pulse; the The ACCUSED and ACCUSERS fade into darkness. The JUDGE remains. The ringing escalates, and he covers his ears with his hands and grimaces in pain. and then-

SCENE 6

Sound cuts out.

The JUDGE looks out and addresses the jury.

JUDGE:

As a preacher and a pastor
As a justice of the peace
I got one hand on the people
And the other on the thought police
Make and keep the order
Polarize the party lines
That's how we navigate community
How we marginalize
Hypothetically, if I were to
Admit that I'm unsure
I'd be labeled a liability
A political provocateur
I hear the overwhelming voices
The opinions of the crowds
It's difficult to pick and choose
With the vox populi so loud
In this courtroom, I'm the KING/PHARAOH/DEMIGOD
My title's/reputation's/character is/name is/fame is/prestige
is/postion's/authority ironclad
I'm supposed to be the good guy
So why do I feel... bad?

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Have you ever heard of the trolley problem?

6. THE GOOD GUY

JUDGE:

HERE IT IS...

THERE'S A RUNAWAY TRAIN
BOUT A HUNDRED FEET AWAY
SIX WOMEN STAND THERE
INCHES FROM THEIR GRAVE
I SEE THE TRAIN COMIN'
SWEAT DRIPPIN' FROM MY SKULL
I LOOK DOWN AT THE TRACKS
SEE A LEVER I CAN PULL

IF I PULL THE LEVER THEN THE TRAIN WILL BE DIVERTED
DOWN A DIFFERENT SET OF TRACKS
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TURN IT
I LOOK DOWN AT MY FEET
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZE
THAT IF I FLIP THE SWITCH
THEN I'M THE ONE WHO DIES

THAT IF I SAVE THEM
THIS TRAIN WILL TAKE MY LIFE

YOU THINK YOU'D KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D DO
NO SURPRISE
YOU'RE PARALYZED
BY SEPARATE LIVES
WHAT IF THEY'RE ALL AFTER MINE?
ADD IT ALL UP
MULTIPLY IT, THEN DIVIDE
CAN'T BALANCE THE EQUATION WHEN YOU ONLY SEE ONE SIDE
SELECTIVE EMPATHY
HAS BEEN KEEPING US ALIVE
ELECTIVE SUICIDE
PICK AND CHOOSE WHO'S GONNA DIE
SELECTIVE EMPATHY
SEPARATING YOU FROM ME
AM I BRAVE ENOUGH TO SAY
I BELIEVE, I BELIEVE

WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WHO DO WE RISE FOR?
WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WE CHOOSE WHO WE RISE FOR

SO-CALLED SAINTS PAINTED IN SILVER SIN
SKIN TO SKIN
COME SIT WITH ME
BINGE WATCH YOUR SINS ROT
THIS SHIT'S A NEW DRUG
THE HIGH OF MARIJUANA LOOKS LIKE CHILD'S PLAY
WHEN YOU TRYNA CLAIM THE HIGHER POWER
JUMPIN' OFF THE EIFFEL TOWER
SUICIDE PREDICTION
DON'T YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS?
THEIR APPROVAL'S MY ADDICTION
IN A PRISON FULL OF FAKES
WE LOOK LIKE COOKIE CUTTERS
PILATE WASHED HIS HANDS THROWING JESUS CHRIST IN THE GUTTER
PINNACLE OF CYNICAL
I GOTTA BE THE GOOD GUY
WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE GUTS
I GOTTA BE THE GOOD-

WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WHO DO WE RISE FOR?
WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WE CHOOSE WHO WE RISE FOR

WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WHO DO WE RISE FOR?
WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WE CHOOSE WHO WE RISE FOR

WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT MEAN?
IF WE RISIN' POLARIZED,
IT'S NOT DOING ANYTHING
WHO IS THE SAINT, WHO'S THE SNAKE, WHO'S THE SINNER
I GOTTA SUSS IT OUT
SO I MAKE SURE I TREAT 'EM DIFFERENT
WE'RE NOT WIRED THIS WAY
IT'S A CONSCIOUS CHOICE
TO STIFLE OUR STATEMENTS
OR UTILIZE THE VOICE YOU HAVE,
CUZ SAYIN' NOTHIN' IS STILL SAYIN' SOMETHIN'
THE ACCUSED, THE ACCUSERS
WE'RE DIVIDED BY THE DOZEN
THEY SET SALEM AS THE CITY ON A HILL
CUT IT OFF, CASTRATION
THE ONLY THING WE'RE GOOD AT IS THE SELF-PRESERVATION
A CULTURE FULL OF CANCELLATION
WAKE UP AND YOUR WOKE
CHOKING ON POLITICAL CORRECTNESS
WHAT A JOKE
WE'VE ALL PLAYED THE PART
OF THE SINNER, OF THE SAINT
INK CAN BE ERASED
WRITE THIS OUT IN WAR PAINT

WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WHO DO WE RISE FOR?
WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WE CHOOSE WHO WE RISE FOR
WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WHO DO WE RISE FOR?
WHEN WE SAY ALL RISE
WE CHOOSE WHO WE RISE FOR

HYSTERIA IN AMERICA
NEVER WENT AWAY
IT SHAPESHIFTS, IT MORPHS - BUT GUESS WHAT?
IT'S HERE TO STAY
IF I WASH MY HANDS OF THIS
THEN WHAT BECOMES OF ME?
I CAN'T LOOK YOU IN THE EYE
SO- SO I'M STARIN' AT MY FEET
THIS IS MY FINAL OPPORTUNITY
IT'S NEW TO ME
AND STILL, I WATCH IT ALL UNRAVELING
HERE ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS
LISTEN WHILE YOU CAN
WHAT IF WE PUT THEM TO A VOTE
WHAT IF THEY HAVE TO TAKE THE STAND
TAKE A LOOK AROUND
TAKE A WILD GUESS

COMMONWEALTH OF THE COURT
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE TEST
LIKE
MAYBE WE COULD FIND A WAY
TO TAKE THIS OFF MY CHEST
I MEAN, TO TAKE IT OFF OF OURS
MAYBE WE DEVISE- A TEST

The JUDGE stops in his tracks. The
lightbulb goes off. He grabs paper
and a pen, and starts to draft.

JUDGE

The demands from all the people
The screeching from the crowds
That monophonic ringing in my ears
That shit is so loud
This is in my hands
It's coming down to me
Save the soul of Salem
With an ultimatum
What if we
Deny the liability
Give 'em back the burden
Leave it up to them
I wash my hands
And draw the curtain
They'll cannibalize each other
I stay clean, no names or numbers
Leave it up to them
They make the choice
I duck and cover
Fracture from the inside out
They'll break each other down
Provide the impetus, the rift
And then they'll mutilate themselves
This is 1692,
We're all just makin' this shit up
Here I have the jurisdiction,
Make them drink the bitter cup.

(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

We agree on this arrangement
I'm glad we had this talk
A mass of thirsty vultures
Are watchin' me like a hawk

or

I *could* deny the liability
Give 'em back the burden
Leave it up to them
I wash my hands
And draw the curtain
They'll cannibalize each other
I stay clean, no names or numbers
Leave it up to them
They make the choice
I duck and cover
Fracture from the inside out
They'll break each other down
Provide the impetus, the rift
And then they'll mutilate themselves
This is 1692,
We're all just makin' this shit up
Here I have the jurisdiction,
Make them drink the bitter cup.
We agree on this arrangement
I'm glad we had this talk
A mass of thirsty vultures
Are watchin' me like a hawk

SCENE 7

Lights flash on - the ACCUSED
WOMEN and ACCUSERS stand on either
side of the JUDGE's pedestal,
looking up at him.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I have my verdict here in my hands. Is
everybody ready?

Nobody speaks.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

...great.

He unfolds the paper in his hands
and reads:

JUDGE (CONT'D)

As your Judge and honorable Justice of the
Peace, I have deliberated and contemplated my
verdict. With the discretion of the jury
and the valediction/authority of God, I have
decided...

(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

...I'm giving the choice to you. All- or one. It is either all of you, OR- if you can decide on one woman as the instigator, the scapegoat- then the rest of you will be acquitted. In other words, not guilty. In other words, you can go home. The remaining four will have to confess to delusions, deceit, and perjury, but with my reproach and a slap on the hand- you can leave.

Which one is it gonna be?

BRIDGET

Excuse me?

MARY

What?

JUDGE

I said-

SUSANNAH

You're making us decide?

ACCUSER #3

Is that allowed?

ACCUSER #4

Can he do that???

BRIDGET

That is BULLSHIT-

JUDGE

This is the solution that I have found. The jury is in agreement. Their silence is confirmation.

REBECCA

You coward-

MARY

No no no-

ACCUSER #5

What do we do???

ACCUSER #4

EVERYTHING'S RUINED.

ACCUSER #1

No- we can make this work.

JUDGE

What do you choose?

SUSANNAH
We're NOT DOING THIS-

MARY
Please-

BRIDGET
Go all the way to hell-

JUDGE
The accusations must be satisfied- this **needs**
to have an ending or people will-

SUSANNAH
What- come for you?

The whispers and sounds and yells
escalate from both the ACCUSED
(BRIDGET: "No, I refuse to do
that/MARY: Please
reconsider/REBECCA: Why are you
doing this?/MIRIAM: This is a
joke") & ACCUSERS ("What's going
on-/Shhhhh/What do we do now?").

JUDGE
(banging his gavel)
You have to decide-

They build and build-

JUDGE (CONT'D)
You have ten minutes. Make a choice.

CLEAR THE COURT!

A final bang of the gavel echoes
and reverberates through the air
as the lights flicker off/shift
and the JUDGE and ACCUSERS fade to
black.

SCENE 8

The JUDGE & the ACCUSERS vanish;
leaving the ACCUSED alone onstage.

SUSANNAH
Okay okay okay we have to resist-

MIRIAM
How do we wanna do this?

SUSANNAH
What??

MIRIAM

Decide.

SUSANNAH

We're not doing that.

BRIDGET

Please don't pick me- I swear, on everything that is holy, I'm not a witch-

REBECCA

It's blasphemous to swear-

BRIDGET

Just because I'm a working woman- that doesn't mean I'm working with the devil-

REBECCA

Didn't all four of your husbands die? Just drop dead?

MARY

Rebecca-

BRIDGET

Heart attack, old age, suicide, stroke-

REBECCA

Mary and I are the least likely to be witches out of all of you- she's just a baby and I am a grown woman- I have EARNED my place here and I'm not going ANYWHERE-

MARY

what if-

SUSANNAH

We're not doing this-

MIRIAM

We don't have a choice.

SUSANNAH

If we band together, we can get out. Novus actus interveniens-

MIRIAM

What the hell are you talking about?

SUSANNAH

Something new. An act. That breaks the chain of causation. We devise a plan- we can take over.

BRIDGET

Yesiloveitkeepgoing-

SUSANNAH

When I say NOW- you throw ink in his eyes, I'll hold him down, you smash out the lights, get those girls-

MIRIAM

What about the guards? What about the jury? Like- are you stupid? That isn't going to work, you're gonna get us all killed-

SUSANNAH

Okay fine, if you don't want to go up against them, then we all go down together-

REBECCA

What??

MARY

All of us...

MIRIAM

She's insane.

SUSANNAH

We can't sacrifice one of our own. We can't. That will rip away our salvation.

BRIDGET

She's right-

SUSANNAH

It will spiritually eviscerate/destroy/annihilate/shatter us, and I would rather die than let that happen.

MIRIAM

HELLLLOOOOOO- WAKE UP, BITCH. This is about right now. Surviving. Within the system, the rules you are bound by, the restrictions of your circumstances- the world you are forced to live in. You can't make your own-

SUSANNAH

We CAN-

MIRIAM

Do you HEAR how naive you sound? Your ideas are idealistic- you're juvenile, you're delusional- You don't belong here.

SUSANNAH

NONE OF US DO-

MIRIAM

No, HERE. You don't belong HERE. You're not one of us.

SUSANNAH

I was born in Salem. I learned how to survive, I'm the same as you.

MIRIAM

You're nothing like me. Or any of us. All our lives are at stake and you want us to die trying to resist it or dogpile into a collective grave- *~sorry~* NO- I'm NOT DOING THAT. We have had to struggle and sweat and *stay here* to survive. Some of us don't have husbands to harbor us- some of us don't have children to CHOOSE! I would rather live in sin with blood on my hands than get on knees, scavenging for imaginary light- searching for scraps of false hope and pathetic *~nEW TrUth~* and always come up empty. It doesn't make a damn difference.

SUSANNAH

You're a coward.

MIRIAM

Let's ask them, shall we? Mary? What do you think? Who do you pick? What about your sister, Rebecca? Or do you want her to live?

MARY

Of course I do, but I-

SUSANNAH

You're SO MANIPULATIVE-

MIRIAM

But you just said we're the same?

SUSANNAH

You know what, this isn't even about them, THIS IS ABOUT YOU! You sit perched on your high horse, your PEDESTAL- so condescending- so BITTER- only open your mouth to spew violence and hate-

MIRIAM cackles.

MIRIAM

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR MORALISTIC BULLSHIT-

SUSANNAH

You want us to turn on each other? You want us to vote on who to blame??

MARY

No!

MIRIAM

Yeah, I do.

SUSANNAH

You are evil. Maybe you are a witch.

MARY

No-

MIRIAM

Me?

You **preach** and you **prophecy**

Of repentance-

Forgiveness-

Of EMPATHY-

Godly enlightenment-

But you are so naive,

Self-righteous/Irrelevant,

Excessive,

Pathetic-

You are *insufferable*-

MARY

Stop- stop it, *please*-

MIRIAM

You spin fables and falsehoods of fearless forgiveness, radicalized repentance- hope and light- only coming back here to brag, force your new belief onto us-

SUSANNAH

I'M SPEAKING THE TRUTH-

MIRIAM

You're a traitor- a terrorist. You're like Judas- you're ONE OF THEM and I THINK IT SHOULD BE YOU.

SUSANNAH

Fine./Oh yeah? Come get me.

SUSANNAH & MIRIAM face off.

DEAD TO ME

SUSANNAH:
HEAD DOWN, HANDS UP
THIS IS WHAT YOU CAME FOR
NEW BLOOD
HEAR EM WHISTLE FOR AN ENCORE
UH-HUH
NO EXIT THROUGH A BACK DOOR
TASTE IT, YEAH, I WANT MORE
THIS IS WHAT YOU CAME FOR

MIRIAM:
TONIGHT
HERE'S HOW IT'S GONNA GO DOWN
IT'S ABOUT TIME
MAKING NEW RULES IN AN OLD TOWN
KNOW THAT I'M RIGHT
COME ON, YOU CAN SAY IT OUT LOUD
TRYIN' SOMETHING NEW NOW
TRYIN' SOMETHING NEW

SUSANNAH:
REPUTATION IS DELICATE, THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY

MIRIAM:
NOT BLACK AND WHITE, BUT SUBLIMINAL GRAY

SUSANNAH:
GAVE YOU A SHOT
THINK I'LL TAKE IT AWAY

MIRIAM:
I'LL BE DROPPIN' YOUR NAME ON MY RESUME
YOU'RE A

SUSANNAH:
SERPENTINE
VENOMOUS WINE
LOOK ME DEAD IN THE EYES

MIRIAM:
IT'S CRYSTALLINE

SUSANNAH:
AND I SAY THIS RESPECTFULLY
YOU'RE DEAD TO ME

BRIDGET joins SUSANNAH, picking her side, and REBECCA picks MIRIAM's. MARY stays still, in the middle (or) on the side.

DEAD (DE-E-E-E-E-EAD)
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
DEAD TO ME
DEAD TO ME

REBECCA:
EBONY SHEEP
VERSUS PRODIGAL DAUGHTER

BRIDGET:
DARK HORSE
RUNNIN' BABY LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER

REBECCA & BRIDGET:
BOTTOMS UP

REBECCA:
IT'S RAINING DOWN HOLY WATER

MARY:
REBECCA, STOP-

BRIDGET:
YOU'RE GETTING CLOSER TO HELL
AS YOUR BODY GROWS HOTTER

SUSANNAH & MIRIAM start to pull
and lure MARY to their respective
sides as she tries to resist.

MIRIAM:
REPUTATION IS DELICATE, THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY

MARY:
NO-

SUSANNAH:
YOURS HAS GONE SOUR
MINE IS LIKE SUGARCANE

MARY:
NO-

MIRIAM:
LOOK KINDA PARANOID
KINDA AFRAID

MARY:
NO-

ALL (EXCEPT MARY):
IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES
TIL YOU BURN THE ARCADE

MIRIAM:
YOU'RE A NONENTITY
HONEY, YOU'RE DEAD TO ME
(HONEY, YOU'RE DEAD TO ME)
HONEY YOU'RE (DEAD TO ME)

MIRIAM:
DEAD (DE-E-E-E-E-EAD)
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
DEAD TO ME
DEAD TO ME

MARY:
AHHHHHH

MIRIAM:
DEAD (DE-E-E-E-E-EAD)
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
DEAD TO ME
DEAD TO ME

SUSANNAH:
NO REST FOR THE WICKED
BUT I DISAGREE
LAY IN THEIR GRAVE
LIFT A FINGER FOR NOBODY
TRIED TO BE ALLIES
YOU COULDN'T RESIST
YOU LIKE THE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS

MIRIAM:
ON YOUR FINGERTIPS

SUSANNAH:
KNEEL AT THE ALTAR NOW
DOWN ON ALL FOURS

MARY:
NO-

SUSANNAH:
YOU SCANDALIZE MINE
I WILL DO IT TO YOURS

MARY:
NO-

MIRIAM:
EYE FOR AN EYE,
IT'S THE TRUTH OF THE TRADE

SUSANNAH:
YOU ARE

MIRIAM & SUSANNAH:
BOUND BY THE CHOICES YOU MADE

MIRIAM:
REPUTATION IS DELICATE
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY
LIVE BLACK AND WHITE
OR YOU DIE IN THE GRAY

SUSANNAH:
KINDA THE WEAK SPOT ON YOUR PAPER CHAIN

BRIDGET:
BEEN HERE COUPLE HOURS

REBECCA:
IT FEELS LIKE A DECADE

SUSANNAH:
YOU SAID ENOUGH SHIT TO FILL UP
MEAT ON THE CUTTING BOARD, YOU'RE ON DISPLAY

MIRIAM:
WANNABE PREDATOR
KNEES DOWN AND PRAY

MIRIAM & SUSANNAH:
LET'S MAKE THIS TROLLEY A RUNAWAY TRAIN

MARY:
NO!

SUSANNAH:
EMERALD WITH JEALOUSY
HONEY, YOU'RE DEAD TO ME

MARY:
STOP!

MIRIAM:
JUST A MINOR DISCREPANCY
HONEY, YOU'RE DEAD-

MARY:
PLEASE-

SUSANNAH:
IN MY FEMALE SUPREMACY
HONEY YOU'RE DEAD TO-

MIRIAM:
YOU'RE TOO PERFECT AN ENEMY
HONEY YOU'RE (DEAD TO ME)

SUSANNAH & MIRIAM (& ACCUSED WOMEN):

DEAD (DE-E-E-E-E-EAD)
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
BLOOD IN THE RECIPE
DEAD TO ME
DEAD TO ME

MARY: (4X)
NO
NO
NO

MARY starts to fully panic,
breaking down.

ALL ACCUSED:
DEAD (DE-E-E-E-E-EAD)
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
TRAGIC NECESSITY
ALREADY DEAD TO ME
DE-E-E-E-E-EAD
DEAD TO-

MARY: (4X)
NO
NO
NO-

SCENE 9

*put MARY's initial reveal here?
Before THE UNRAVELING?

A big 808 BOOM goes off, almost as
if it was cued by MARY. Lights
shift, and we zoom in on MARY as
we plunge into the canals and the
corridors of the souls of the
ACCUSED WOMEN./her soul.

or

MARY inhales and BOOM - a pulse, a
kick reverberates through air and
bodies- lights shift, and we
plunge into the minds and hearts
and souls of the ACCUSED WOMEN,
taken there by MARY.

8. THE UNRAVELING

MARY:

WE'VE BECOME
WHAT WE HAVE CONDEMNED
BEAR YOUR TEETH, SO VENOMOUS
DIVIDED NOW, WE STAND
STUCK INSIDE A DEADLOCK
A CROSS CATCH-22
HEAVEN GETS US IF WE DON'T
HELL HELPS US IF WE DO

EVERYTHING WE BUILT
CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED FROM THE GROUND UP
IS LITTLE MORE THAN
SKELETAL REMAINS
THEY BAIT YOU WITH THE GLOW
AND IT'S ALL JUST
GO GO GO
TIL ONLY ONE OF US REMAINS

MARY steps forward.

MARY:

WATCH THE UNRAVELING
THIS IS ME WAVING MY WHITE FLAG
STICKS AND STONES ARE SO SELF-SERVING
AND THEY COME WITH A PRICE TAG
PAPER THIN PRECIPICE
OVERLY DELICATE
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS

MARY offers herself up.

WATCH THE UNRAVELING
THIS IS ME WAVING MY WHITE FLAG
WATCH THE UNRAVELING
THIS IS ME WAVING MY WHITE FLAG

SINK INTO THE GROUND
IT'S BECKONING YOUR NAME
HAS THERE EVER BEEN A SWEETER SOUND...
THAN STATIC PUMPING IN YOUR BLOOD
I'M SENDING OUT A SIGNAL
THERE'S A WARNING OF A FLASH FLOOD

MARY (W/ ACCUSED WOMEN AS BGVS - AHS):

WATCH THE UNRAVELING
THIS IS ME WAVING MY WHITE FLAG
LOOK, THEY'RE UNCONSCIOUS
GET YOURSELF OUT OF THE RING
CALL FOR A BODY BAG
PAPER THIN PRECIPICE
OVERLY DELICATE

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS

WATCH THE UNRAVELING
THIS IS ME WAVING MY WHITE FLAG
WATCH THE UNRAVELING
THIS IS ME-
THIS IS ME-

MARY:
TELL ME I'M HUMAN
SHOW ME MY BEATING HEART
INSIDE
MY CHEST, MY CHEST
EVERYBODY RISE
DRESS YOURSELF IN LIES
PUT ON YOUR SUNDAY BEST

MARY & SUSANNAH & MIRIAM (W/ BRIDGET & REBECCA AS BGVS -
AHS):
WATCH THE UNRAVELING
THIS IS ME WAVING MY WHITE FLAG
YOU ALMOST FORGET
YOURSELF, EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING
COMES WITH A PRICE
IT'S A
PAPER THIN PRECIPICE
OVERLY DELICATE
MARY:
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS

MARY (W/ ACCUSED WOMEN AS BGVS - AHS):
WATCH THE UNRAVELING
THIS IS ME WAVING MY WHITE FLAG
WATCH THE UNRAVELING
THIS IS ME WAVING MY-

MARY falters and lights shift,
coming up on ALL the women-
ACCUSED & ACCUSERS.

MARY
I DID IT, OKAY?? IT WAS ME- I did it. I-I just
wanted to- I wasn't trying to hurt anybody, I
swear, I was just- I-

REBECCA
What?

MARY
I'm so sorry, I'm sorry, I-

SUSANNAH
Mary, no- you don't have to do this-

MARY

Yes I do-

BRIDGET

No, we can figure this out-

MIRIAM

You don't need to lie to protect us-

MARY

BUT I'M NOT LYING!!!! I'm not. The family I work for, the husband he- he says he's a man of God, but he is- and his wife looks the other way, and the children put needles on my chair and wipe shit on my apron and I prayed and I prayed and it wasn't **working** and still, I did nothing except- one night, we were stocking the firewood and I left work late and- I heard something crack behind me and it was him HE WAS FOLLOWING ME and he dragged me into the woods and then he- The next day, it was as if nothing had even happened, but at night, it happened again and again and again. I felt like I was dying every time, and so I- I went into those same woods, and I-

MARY breaks down, sobbing.

I promise I'm not a witch, I swear- I know it was *so so* wrong, and if I would have known that this could have happened, I would have NEVER-

But I did this, so I deserve it. It works perfectly.

It has to be me.

I'm doing this.

REBECCA

Mary, what have you done-

SCENE 10

A gavel bangs, its sound reverberating, echoing through the air as lights shift and the JUDGE reappears, the ACCUSERS in tow.

JUDGE

We are ready to reconvene. Have you made your choice?

MARY

Yes.

SUSANNAH

No, we have *not*-

MARY

It's me. I did it.

REBECCA

NO-

ACCUSER #1

yes-

BRIDGET

No, she didn't do anything-

ACCUSER #4

...did she just-

ACCUSER #3

I think...

MIRIAM

Mary, get down-

ACCUSER #1

She just confessed.

JUDGE

ORDER!

The JUDGE bangs his gavel;
everyone freezes.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

If she is willing, then I will move forward
with her-

REBECCA

Like hell you will-

SUSANNAH

NO-

BRIDGET

Don't you DARE-

MIRIAM

She's a naive, senseless little girl- she's a
child-

REBECCA

She doesn't know what she wants-

BRIDGET

She doesn't know what she's *saying-*

SUSANNAH

She doesn't understand-

MARY

Yes, I do-

The ACCUSERS cackle.

JUDGE

She is offering herself up!!! So take it!! You should be *thanking* her.

As the JUDGE speaks, MARY is wrestled by invisible guards, moved to the center of the stage, and raised up on a platform, getting taller and looming larger as he prattles on.

He bangs his gavel:

JUDGE (CONT'D)

This trial is concluded- in res judicata. My verdict- is as follows: the accused, hereby known singularly as Mary Elizabeth Lockhart, is guilty as charged of witchcraft, wickedness, and evil wrongdoings of the highest degree. These felonious sins bear the consequence and punishment of death by hanging witnessed by Judge, jury, and your accusers. For a final time, I ask you, Mary: how do you plead?

MARY

I-

MIRIAM

PEOPLE IN THIS VILLAGE
YEAH THEY TALK, TALK, TALK
THE RUMOR MILL'S RUNNING THIS TOWN
TURN THE LIGHTS UP
READY OR NOT-
THIS IS HOW IT'S GONNA GO DOWN...

JUDGE

HOW DO YOU PLEAD-

MIRIAM

Like **THIS**:

MIRIAM smashes out the lights.

SUSANNAH, NOW!

9. WORST NIGHTMARE 2.0

BLACKOUT.

Lights FLASH and time slows- the ACCUSED WOMEN jump into action. BRIDGET throws ink in the JUDGE'S eyes while MIRIAM starts to barricade the doors. SUSANNAH grabs the JUDGE'S gavel and smashes it to pieces, and REBECCA backs the ACCUSERS into a corner, terrorizing them. The ACCUSERS scream and the JUDGE cries out - and it is GLORIOUS and HORRIFIC. ULTIMATE CHAOS, MADNESS, APOCALYPTIC, until-

SUSANNAH

It's our turn now-

JUDGE

(condescendingly)
What are you doing?

GUARDS-

SCENE 11

As quickly as it began, the ACCUSED WOMEN'S hands are clasped behind their backs by invisible force and they are restrained. The ACCUSERS continue to scream in terror:
(AHHHHHH/WHATISGOINGON/NONONONONO/IHATETHEDARK/AREYOUTHERE/ISTHATYOU TOUCHINGME/etc.)

The JUDGE wipes the ink off his eyes and turns to the ACCUSED WOMEN as he starts to laugh.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

You know, I have tried. I have tried *so* hard. To be fair, give you all a chance. Look where that got me.

What did you *think* was going to happen? What did you *expect*? You thought you could- what? Cut me down? Take over? Fight back? You don't have that kind of power. I have the voice. I'm the fist, the iron system. Here, I am **GOD**, and *nobody* can take that away from me.

(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I don't care- I don't give a single shit about *trying* to be the good guy anymore because guess what? I WILL ALWAYS BE THE GOOD GUY. Because that's just how it is. I will be the one who gets the credit, gets the claim, gets the praise, the prestige- I saved the soul of Salem singlehandedly from damnation and destruction. So yes, I will always be the good guy, and you- you'll always be madwomen.

(to the ACCUSERS)

And you- tiny, insignificant spectators.
Sitting on the sides.

The JUDGE straightens, composing himself.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Because of your pathetic uprising and rebellion, you have proven yourselves to be in full contempt of my court and my power. You've made your choice. You're all gonna die.

10. READY OR NOT (MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

PEOPLE IN THIS VILLAGE
YEAH, THEY TALK, TALK, TALK
THE RUMOR MILL'S RUNNIN' THIS TOWN
SHUT THE DOORS
TRIPLE CHECK THE LOCKS
THIS IS HOW IT'S GONNA GO DOWN

IT'S ALWAYS THE KING WHO WEARS THE CROWN
AND MINE IS MADE OF STEEL
I'M ABOUT TO CALL THE EXECUTIONER
AND HIS CUTS NEVER HEAL

THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN
FORCED MY HAND
IN SALEMLAND, IT'S DAMN OR BE DAMNED
HOW THEY GONNA DIE?
HOW THEY GONNA PAY?
IT'S A TREACHEROUS GAME
BUT YOU CAME TO PLAY
CROSS MY HEART
YOU'LL WANT TO DIE
YOU MAKE TOUGH CHOICES WHEN YOU'RE THE GOOD GUY
HANDS UP
GET THAT GUNSHOT
STEP UP TO THE STAND
READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(M-M-M-MAD, M-MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(M-M-M-MAD, M-MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

PEOPLE ALWAYS TRYNA WHISPER IN MY EAR

IF I LISTEN, THEN THEY PAY ME WELL

I'M DAMNED IF I DO AND I'M DAMNED IF I DON'T

EVERY STREET'S A DEAD END TO HELL, UH

IT'S ALWAYS THE KING WHO MAKES THE MOVES

AND RULES WITH AN IRON FIST

I'LL BE PLAYIN' GOD HERE ALL NIGHT LONG

AIN'T THAT AN M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN TWIST

THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN

FORCED MY HAND

IN SALEMLAND, IT'S DAMN OR BE DAMNED

HOW THEY GONNA DIE?

HOW THEY GONNA PAY?

IT'S A TREACHEROUS GAME
BUT YOU CAME TO PLAY
CROSS MY HEART
YOU'LL WANT TO DIE
YOU MAKE TOUGH CHOICES WHEN YOU'RE THE GOOD GUY
HANDS UP
GET THAT GUNSHOT
STEP UP TO THE STAND
READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(M-M-M-MAD, M-MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(M-M-M-MAD, M-MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

LIGHT THE GASOLINE

LOAD THE AK-47

EVERYBODY KNOWS ONLY THE GOOD GIRLS GO TO HEAVEN

I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE

NO SINNER, NO SIN

WE ALREADY KNOW THAT THE GOOD GUYS WIN

THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN

FORCED MY HAND

IN SALEMLAND, IT'S DAMN OR BE DAMNED

HOW THEY GONNA DIE?

HOW THEY GONNA PAY?

YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE

IT'S JUDGEMENT DAY

CROSS MY HEART

YOU'LL WANT TO DIE

YOU LIVE IN THE GREY WHEN YOU'RE THE GOOD GUY

THROW ON YOUR ROBE

SHOOT THE GAVEL LIKE A SHOT

STEP UP TO YOUR THRONE

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS: (MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(M-M-M-MAD, M-MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

ACCUSERS:

(M-M-M-MAD, M-MADWOMAN)

JUDGE:

READY OR NOT

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Get ready.

The JUDGE exits, with full bravado and rage, locking the door behind him.

SCENE 12

The ACCUSERS swarm the ACCUSED WOMEN.

ACCUSER #1

I'm soooo sorry, but- it looks like... we won.

ACCUSER #2

We won???

ACCUSER #1

We won.

The ACCUSERS celebrate, shaking-terrifying joy and relief- crying glitter and hugging each other too tight like they just won their first dance competition as they exclaim "WE DID IT/okay it's done/it's over/i can't believe it/we really did it/etc."

MARY

But you didn't. Not in the end./I'm happy for you./Congratulations.

ACCUSER #1

Cut the shit, Mary- and we will too. Nobody can touch us anymore, not even you.

SUSANNAH

What are you talking about?

ACCUSER #1

Did you **really** think she was the only one? That she *~experimented~* alone?

ACCUSER #3

Wait-

ACCUSER #2

What are you doing?

ACCUSER #1

OhmyGOSH it's FINEEEEE. Don't be such pathetic BABIES- She doesn't have the guts to say it, so I will. Cuz you know what? I'm proud of it. I would do it again and again and again.

It was us- all of us. Those men, the families that we work for- they treat us like dirt, like absolute filth. We were **powerless**- violated, abused, suppressed, ignored. So we did something about it.

ACCUSER #4

We prayed and we prayed-

ACCUSER #5

Every night-

ACCUSER #3

Every day-

ACCUSER #2

We got nothing in return.

ACCUSER #1

So we tried another way.

BRIDGET

With *witchcraft??*

ACCUSER #4

We were just PLAYING-

ACCUSER #5

Just TRYING it out-

ACCUSER #2

To see what would happen-

ACCUSER #3

To see what we could do.

ACCUSER #4

What we were capable of-

ACCUSER #1

But then, little Miss Mary got spooked- and **she wanted to tell.**

ACCUSER #2
Tattletale.

ACCUSER #3
Traitor.

ACCUSER #4
Snitch.

ACCUSER #5
Backstabber.

ACCUSER #1
We HAD to be the first to point the finger.

ACCUSER #2
-before SHE could point hers at us!

ACCUSER #1
Our last night, in the woods, we made an oath.
A promise. **NEVER** tell. SHE was going to BREAK
THAT. We did this to protect ourselves *which*
was working out PERFECTLY until the Judge
decided to give you the choice. "What if they
find out? What if Mary tells???" But she
wouldn't do that cuz she did it too-

ACCUSER #2
She's a snake, but she's not stupid-

ACCUSER #3
She'd hang herself in the process-

ACCUSER #1
BUT then you DID?! You just HAD to confess, HAD
to repent, HAD to be back in God's good graces.
I thought "This is it. She's gonna tell" but
then- it clicked. You weren't going to out us.
You couldn't. That would go against *everything*
you pride yourself on. That would go against
God- **right?**

So see, Mary?

ACCUSER #2
There's nothing you can do.

ACCUSER #3
It's our word-

ACCUSER #4
Against yours.

ACCUSER #5
(sooo sassy & confident)
And all the evidence is like pretty much gone.

ACCUSER #3

What?

ACCUSER #2

Pretty much?

ACCUSER #5

Yeah, it's like gone... I think. No, it is, it so is- I'm like 99% sure.

ACCUSER #4

WHAT?

ACCUSER #5

I mean, I'm like *almost* positive-

ACCUSER #2

Whatdoyoumean*almost*?

ACCUSER #4

You were supposed to get RID OF IT-

ACCUSER #5

I DID OKAYYY??? I burned the dolls, I buried the needles, but there's a tiny chance the hair might still be there-

ACCUSER #2

You absolute IDIOT-

ACCUSER #3

That was your ONE JOB-

ACCUSER #1

OH MY GOSH STOP- it's fine- IT'S FINE. Look at them - they can't touch us. They're dead.

SUSANNAH

You can't do this-

BRIDGET

It's disgusting-

REBECCA

It's unforgivable.

MIRIAM

I'm going to *kill* you-

MIRIAM lunges at the ACCUSERS, but is pulled back by her restraints.
ACCUSER #2-#5 scream in fear.

ACCUSER #1

You think **I wanted** to do this??? You think I want to be here right now??

(MORE)

ACCUSER #1 (CONT'D)

NO ONE was EVER supposed to know- about the woods, about the spells, about ANY OF THIS! Mary was going to ruin EVERYTHING. She's the reason we're here- that we had to do this! It's her fault- and now we don't have a choice. We HAVE TO FINISH IT.

This is just survival
It's not personal to you
To regain our autonomy
This is what we had to do
Who runs things in this town?
The answer's evident, it's clear
But when the rubber meets the road
They're the ones who disappear
We work every single day
Calloused fingers, bloody knees
At the whims and hands of men
We bear/see things nobody else sees/that no one sees
Powerless over our bodies/lives/Powerless and hungry
Bowling to self-appointed kings
If we wanted to get out
We had to to activate, to do something
That craving for control
Naturally turned to a starvation
So we tiptoed to the woods
To a secret, shared location/Our secretive location
What started out as play-
Revenge in our imagination
Was a paradise escape
A habit-forming fixation/A power/force of our own creation
No apologies, no tears
No more asking for permission
You call it witchcraft
I call it feminine ambition
A way we could retaliate
Conjure our own power
But then someone wanted to confess
And so, in the eleventh hour,
We had to make a choice
To sacrifice, to survive
If we're the first to point the finger
We could make it out alive
Like, we could camouflage ourselves
Crouch in the dark, remain unseen
Flex the truth, have her take the fall/blame
We stay pristine

ACCUSER #1 points to REBECCA.

ACCUSER #1 (CONT'D)

You had to be collateral
Blood added to our sacrament
But honestly, the rest of you are kinddddd of
here by accident
The people in this village
They were clamoring for numbers
And the more witches we named
It immortalized our hunger
They worshipped us
To them, we were saints that they were
christening-
Yes, the truth was twisted
But **they finally were listening**
The perfect nominees
You were already so suspicious
Rejecting Puritanic dogma now for years
OF COURSE YOU'RE WITCHES
Outspoken, so emboldened
With no fear of repercussions
We just needed your names
So after painstaking discussion
We planned out our performance
Fine-tuned the execution
Stacked all of our backbones
To become the prosecution
No more cherry-red intentions
I'm not asking, I am taking

ACCUSER #3:
Hey, are you okay?

ACCUSER #4:
What's happening??

(MORE)

ACCUSER #1 (CONT'D)

ACCUSER #5:

I'm scared, you're shaking-

ACCUSER #1:

To-to-to take back what was ours
After years of that repression
It's so close now- I can taste it-
In my hands, in my possession
Once you start, you can't just stop
You get addicted, overzealous
We had to make friends with the dark
Because God isn't gonna help us
I don't know what will happen after
Yes, I'm terrified, it's scary
But I will take back my control, my life
By *any means necessary*
This wasn't a choice
This was our self-preservation
And I don't give a shit
If this severs my salvation
Holding that power in your hands/To
grip/possess/clasp/hold that power in your
palms
I felt it then, and YES
I still do
I'm not letting that go/I'm not giving that
up/I'm not waving my white flag-
Don't you get it?
WE HAVE TO KILL YOU!
SO It's truly been a pleasure
It's been real, it's been fun
GIRLZ
Get into formation
Let's finish this one

WORST NIGHTMARE

ACCUSER #1:
WE'VE BEEN PULLIN' PUPPET STRINGS
BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSIVE SCENE

ACCUSER #2:
NOW THE GUILTY HAVE BEEN EATEN
WE'RE THE ONES THAT WILL BE SPEAKING

ACCUSER #3:
WE'VE HAD TO SCREAM/BEG/PLEAD FOR CREDIBILITY
LIKE IT'S A COMPETITION/CLAMOR FOR RECOGNITION/MAKE US OUR
OWN RELIGION/SOLICIT OUR POSITION/FOR PERMISSION

ACCUSER #4:
BUT THAT'S JUST BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT
FOLKS DON'T LISTEN TO YOUNG WOMEN

ACCUSER #5:
YES, WE HAD TO STAKE OUR CLAIM
TO BE THE PARADIGM
THE PRECEDENT

ACCUSER #1:
NOW WE FINISH WHAT WE STARTED
WE'LL-WE'LL PRESENT/PITCH YOU AS A SACRAMENT

ACCUSERS:
UH, UH-HUH

ACCUSER #1:
LIKE A DEER CAUGHT IN A SNARE

ACCUSERS:
UH, UH-HUH

ACCUSER #2 & #3:
(ABOUT MARY)
IT'S KINDA FUN TO SEE YOU SCARED

ACCUSERS:
UH, UH-HUH

ACCUSER #4, #5:
BOW YOUR HEAD AND SAY A PRAYER

ACCUSER #1:
I'M MAKIN' THIS
MAKIN' THIS
MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:
MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSER #1:
MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:
MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
YOUR NIGHTMARE
Y-Y-Y-YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSER #1:
MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:
YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSER #1:
MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:
YOUR NIGHTMARE
LIVING, BREATHING PROOF
YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES COMIN' TRUE

ACCUSERS escalate, violently
taunting and teasing MARY.

ACCUSER #5:
AT FIRST, IT WASN'T VICIOUS
TEENAGE CURIOSITY

ACCUSER #4:
DIPPED YOUR TOES INTO DEMONIC RIVERS

ACCUSER #3:
NOBODY WOULD SEE

ACCUSER #2:
BUT THEN YOUR FEET BECAME SO FRIGID

ACCUSER #3:
YOUR LITTLE CONSCIENCE GOT SO LOUD

ACCUSER #4:
COULDN'T SIT INSIDE YOUR SINS

ACCUSER #1:
SO NOW YOU'RE GOING UNDERGROUND
YOU-YOU WERE SO DEVOUT AND PIOUS
THE ENFORCER OF THE RULES/A DISCIPLE OF THE RULES/SO ADDICTED
TO THE RULES/A ZEALOT TO THE RULES
MARY WAS A LITTLE LAMB
YOU ALMOST HAD US FOOLED
BUT WE'RE THE INNOCENTS/PRISONBAIT/SUCKERS, THE VICTIMS
IN THIS GODFORSAKEN TOWN
WE'LL FINISH IN A MINUTE
BUT BEFORE WE STEP BACK DOWN
WE, WE, WE REVEL IN THIS HOUR
DAUGHTERS IN A FATHER'S WORLD
A BEAUTIFUL/TERRIFYING METAMORPHOSIS
WE STARTED OUT AS GIRLS
GROWN UP INTO TENACIOUS WOMEN
BUILT A RIGHTEOUS COALITION TO KILL

ACCUSERS:
BECAUSE WE FOLLOW
THE BLOOD INSIDE THE WATER

ACCUSER #1:
ALL SAINTS AGAINST THE SINNERS
ACCUSER #1:
CUZ GOD PICKED US AS WINNERS
ACCUSER #1:
WE'LL EAT YOU LIKE IT'S DINNER
ACCUSER #1:
AND LEAVE THE TABLE THINNER

ACCUSERS:
SINNERS
ACCUSERS:
WINNERS
ACCUSERS:
DINNER
ACCUSERS:
THINNER

The ACCUSED women start to step
in, shielding MARY and facing off
against the ACCUSERS.

ACCUSERS:

UH, UH-HUH
LIKE A DEER CAUGHT IN A SNARE
UH, UH-HUH
IT'S KINDA FUN TO SEE YOU SCARED
UH, UH-HUH
BOW YOUR HEAD AND SAY A PRAYER
I'M MAKIN' THIS
MAKIN' THIS

ACCUSER #1:

MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:

MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
YOUR NIGHTMARE
Y-Y-Y-YOUR NIGHTMARE
MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
YOUR NIGHTMARE
MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
YOUR NIGHTMARE
MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
YOUR NIGHTMARE
Y-Y-Y-YOUR NIGHTMARE
MAKIN' THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE
YOUR NIGHTMARE
LIVING, BREATHING PROOF
YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES COMIN' TRUE

ECHOED:

NIGHTMARE

Time slows, lights shift.

MARY:

WAKE UP FROM THE REVERIE
FALLIN' ILL FROM THE FEVER DREAM

REBECCA:

HEAVEN FEELS SO CLOSE TO ME

BRIDGET:

DO I SUCCUMB MY SPIRIT OR MY BODY?

MIRIAM:
WHAT IS THE WORST WAY TO DIE
WATCH 'EM HANG WHILE I SURVIVE
SUSANNAH:
I'M LOOKING LEFT, I'M LOOKING RIGHT
ALL ACCUSED WOMEN:
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED

ECHO V/O:
I-
MARY:
LIKE A DEER CAUGHT IN A SNARE
ECHO V/O:
I
MARY:
I LOOK AROUND AND I FEEL SCARED
ECHO V/O:
I
MARY:
BOW MY HEAD AND SAY A PRAYER
TELL MY BODY TO PREPARE

ACCUSERS:
NIGHTMAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRREEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

The ACCUSERS explode and seize
MARY in a manic frenzy. They are
OUT OF CONTROL.

ACCUSERS:
I'M MAKIN' THIS
MAKING THIS

ACCUSER #1:
MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSED:
NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:
MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSED:
NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:
MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSED:
NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:
YOUR NIGHTMARE
Y-Y-Y-YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSED:
NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:
NIGHTMARE
YOUR NIGHTMARE
I'M MAKING THIS YOUR NIGHTMARE

ACCUSED:
NIGHTMARE

ACCUSERS:
NIGHTMARE
YOUR NIGHTMARE
LIVING, BREATHING PROOF
YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES COMIN' TRUE

ACCUSER #2:
AND WE'LL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER

ACCUSER #4:
FOREVER

ACCUSER #3:
OUR SIGNATURES ON THE WALLS OF YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS

ACCUSER #4:
IT'S TRULY BEEN A PLEASURE

ACCUSER #5:
WE'LL FINISH IT RIGHT NOW

ACCUSER #1:
JUST LIKE WE PROMISED

The ACCUSED WOMEN stand in stunned silence. Everyone is frozen, as her words sink into the air. ACCUSER #1 stands, shaking and hyperventilating. She is on the verge of breaking down. The other ACCUSERS grab her and shake her out of her mania, bringing her back to them (HEY, HEY/Are you okay??/You're scaring us/She's fine, she's totally fine/she's freaking out/what do we do/hey-come back, COME BACK-), when-

A sinister laugh crescendos, echoing. It fills the room.

JUDGE

Ready?

SCENE 13

A beat and bass start to kick in as a dark figure rises up. The JUDGE stands on his pedestal in all his glory, rising high above the ACCUSED and ACCUSERS. The showman is back.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, precious members of the jury... my dear friends-

It's been an honor and a pleasure
To escort you all tonight
Welcome to the grand finale
But before I give the green light
It's finally your turn to shine
To make your judgement known
You bear responsibility/the final burden
I'm not doing this alone-
Accusers, to my right
Accused, go to the left
Take a look at all these faces
None of which you will forget
Because those people in their seats
The spectators in this town
They haven't said a word to exonerate you
And we all know that silence is compliance
Puritanical decree
And majority has always ruled
In chronicled democracies
To further seal my verdict
Let's turn it to the silent crowd
If anyone here objects, by all means
Please speak now.

The JUDGE turns out to the audience, daggers shooting from his eyes.

Complacent and complicit
In this righteous execution
Thank you for your silence
Thank you for your contribution
Is there anything you want to say?
Anything we haven't heard?
This is your final opportunity-
Any last words?

No?

Alright then-

SUSANNAH

We're not afraid of you. You loom so large here in this room, yes. But outside, you are so small. We're not scared of you. But I think you should be scared of us.

The JUDGE smirks. (*should this part below come before or after Madwoman?)

JUDGE

As is customary and in keeping with Puritan tradition, I am required to ask you one final time: how do you plead?

I said, HOW DO YOU PLEAD-

MIRIAM

Together.

MIRIAM grabs SUSANNAH's hand.

JUDGE

What did you say?

12. MADWOMAN

MIRIAM:

I'LL BE THE MARTYR

I'LL BE THE WOMAN TO BLAME

BRIDGET:

I'LL BE YOUR RENEGADE/I'LL BE THE GUILTY FACE

SLEEPING IN A GRAVE THAT BEARS NO NAME

SUSANNAH:
I'LL BE THE HERETIC
THE SCARLET LETTER ON YOUR FOREHEAD

MARY:
I'LL BE YOUR REMINDER

REBECCA:
BE YOUR REMINDER

MARY & REBECCA:
WHEN YOU PLEAD AND YOU PRAY AT THE FOOT OF YOUR DEATHBED

MIRIAM:
I WARN YOU WELL
COWARDICE IS THE ALLEYWAY TO HELL

5 stools are brought in/rise up
from the ground, and line up
across the stage, one under each
hanging noose.

SUSANNAH:
I AM THE MADWOMAN
CAST AS THE COMMON THREAT
I AM THE MADWOMAN
SHE TAKES WHAT SHE CAN, AND SHE GETS WHAT SHE GETS

MIRIAM:
MALEFICENT OR MEPHISTOPHELES
OR A BEAST WITHOUT A NAME

SUSANNAH:
CALL ME THE MADWOMAN
SUSANNAH & MIRIAM:
YOU MADE ME THIS WAY

ALL WOMEN:
MADWOMAN
MADWOMAN
MADWOMAN

MARY:
I'LL BE THE SCAPEGOAT
SUSANNAH & MARY:
THE TRAITOR FROM THE TWISTED TOWN
REBECCA:
I'LL BE THE MARK OF CAIN AND ABEL
REBECCA & BRIDGET
NOT PRECIOUS ENOUGH FOR A FUNERAL GOWN
MIRIAM:
NEVER PRECIOUS ENOUGH

SUSANNAH & MIRIAM:
I WARN YOU WELL
MIRIAM:
FALSIFIED PRIDE IS THE BOULEVARD TO HELL
SUSANNAH:
BOULEVARD TO HELL
ALL WOMEN:
BOULEVARD TO HELL-

5 individual nooses lower slowly
from the ceiling.

SUSANNAH:

I AM THE MADWOMAN

PEDDLED AS A PUBLIC THREAT

I AM THE MADWOMAN

SHE TAKES WHAT SHE CAN, AND SHE GETS WHAT SHE GETS

MIRIAM:

MALEFICENT OR MEPHISTOPHELES

EVERY VILLAIN IS GIVEN A NAME

SUSANNAH & MIRIAM:

CALL ME THE MADWOMAN

ALL WOMEN:

YOU MADE ME THIS WAY

ALL WOMEN:

MADWOMAN

MADWOMAN

MADWOMAN

MARY:

WE KNOW YOU'LL BURN THE EVIDENCE

REBECCA:

THE TRANSCRIPTS AND THE TEXTS

BRIDGET:

BLEACH THE BLOOD STAIN FROM YOUR SNOW WHITE SHIRTS

WITCHES DIE, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

REBECCA:

IMITATION SOON WILL FOLLOW

BRIDGET:

PARALLELS WILL ARISE

MARY:

I'M SAYING THIS COMMUNAL PRAYER

BEFORE MY BODY DIES

SUSANNAH:

I WARN YOU WELL

YOU'RE WALKING ON THE CONCRETE STREET TO HELL

SUSANNAH:

I

MIRIAM:

I WARN YOU ONCE MORE

The ACCUSED WOMEN mount their
stools.

IT MIGHT BE MODERN BLOOD

BUT IT'S THE SAME MEDIEVAL WAR

ALL WOMEN:

YEAH, IT'S THE SAME ARCHAIC WAR

SUSANNAH (W/ WOMEN AS BG VOX):

I AM THE MADWOMAN

SOLD AS A MORTAL THREAT

I AM THE MADWOMAN

SHE TAKES WHAT SHE CAN, AND SHE GETS WHAT SHE GETS
MIRIAM (W/ WOMEN AS BG VOX):
MALEFICENT OR MEPHISTOPHELES
ALL THE PARIAS GO DOWN WITH THEIR NAME
SUSANNAH & MIRIAM (W/ WOMEN AS BG VOX):
CALL ME THE MADWOMAN
YOU MADE ME THIS WAY
YOU MADE ME THIS WAY

ALL WOMEN:
MADWOMAN
MADWOMAN
MADWOMAN
MAD-

All music drops out, and just the voices of the women remain. The ACCUSED women, bound and tied, curse the JUDGE... almost like a spell.

SUSANNAH:
I AM THE MADWOMAN
MIRIAM:
(OVERLAPPING)
I AM THE MADWOMAN
SUSANNAH:
I'M THE COLLECTIVE THREAT
MIRIAM:
(OVERLAPPING)
I'M THE COLLECTIVE THREAT
BRIDGET:
I AM THE MADWOMAN
MARY:
(OVERLAPPING)
I AM THE MADWOMAN
SUSANNAH:
YOU CAN KILL MY BODY
MIRIAM & SUSANNAH:
I'LL LIVE IN YOUR HEAD
BRIDGET, MARY, REBECCA (IN HARMONY):
YOUR HEAD
REBECCA:
LAY ME IN MY GRAVE
BRIDGET & MARY:
IN MY GRAVE
ACCUSED WOMEN (IN HARMONY):
I'LL RETURN TO RECLAIM MY NAME
MIRIAM:
RECLAIM MY NAME
SUSANNAH:
CALL ME THE MADWOMAN
MIRIAM:
YOU MADE ME THIS WAY

MARY:
AND WE'LL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER
REBECCA:
FOREVER
BRIDGET:
OUR SIGNATURES ON THE WALLS OF YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS
REBECCA:
WALLS OF YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS
MIRIAM:
SALVATION CAN BE SEVERED
SUSANNAH:
SO WE'LL SEE YOU VERY SOON

SUSANNAH
Just like we promised.

JUDGE
THAT'S ENOUGH-

SUSANNAH
MAKE NO MISTAKE-

MARY
We're devising our deliverance

BRIDGET
This is what we choose

REBECCA
The only one with a white flag

MIRIAM
Waving for it's little life-

SUSANNAH
Is you. And we condemn you for it.

JUDGE
You condemn *me*-

SUSANNAH
We will not compromise truth to temporarily
survive in a world that's fallen from beneath
our feet.

Remember this:

I am no more a witch than you are a wizard
Write this down in permanent ink
I solemnly swear, if I die
God will give you blood to drink

ACCUSED WOMEN
I am no more a witch than you are a wizard
Write this down in permanent ink
I solemnly swear, if I die
God will give you blood to drink

ACCUSER #5 starts to cry. The
JUDGE stands, shaking in fury.

JUDGE
Shut her up-

The ACCUSERS tend to ACCUSER #5,
whose crying only intensifies.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
NOW-

ACCUSER #1
I'm- I'm TRYING-

JUDGE
Fine, I'll do it myself-

The JUDGE lunges for ACCUSER #5,
his hand raised and ready to
strike.

MARY
DON'T TOUCH THEM-

MARY leaps down from her stool
towards the ACCUSERS, planting her
body between them and the JUDGE.
She stands between them, blocking
and barricading them with her
body, facing off with the JUDGE as
the ACCUSERS shrink themselves,
taking cover behind her. Like a
reflex.

After moments of palpable,
thickened silence, the JUDGE
breaks, falling into a coughing
fit. MARY turns to the ACCUSERS.

MARY:
WHAT IS THE WORST WAY TO DIE?
TRADE MY BODY FOR MY SOUL/TRADE THE MARROW OF MY SOUL
SO THAT I CAN STAY ALIVE
I ASK
WHAT IS THE BETTER WAY TO LIVE?
WITH THE HOPE OF NEW REPENTANCE
I ASK YOU FOR FORGIVENESS

MARY offers out her hand to the
ACCUSERS with no response.

JUDGE
GET BACK UP- NOW.

She turns and remounts her stool,
side by side the ACCUSED WOMEN.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

It's time.

Place the noose/rope around your neck.

An 808 BOOM rings through the air.
Lights shift, and we zoom in on
the ACCUSED WOMEN for the last
time.

SCENE 14

13. KINGDOM COMES I

SUSANNAH:

WHAT IS THE WORST WAY TO DIE
SOME SAY WATER
BY FIRE AND ICE

MIRIAM:

I KNOW IT BETTER THAN MOST
AT LEAST WITH THOSE
YOU GET TO BE A GHOST

BRIDGET:

WAITING IN A LIMBO IS FAR WORSE
DYING HAS A PERMANENCE
A PROSPECT OF REBIRTH

MARY:

FREE FALL INTO THE ABYSS
FLOATING IN A PURGATORY

REBECCA:

GETTING HARDER TO RESIST

SUSANNAH (W/ ACCUSED WOMEN SINGING AH'S):

AS THE GHOSTLIGHT TURNS TO BLUE
AS THE DAYLIGHT BREAKS IN TWO
I WAIT HERE

SUSANNAH:

LOWER MY BODY INTO A WATERY GRAVE
I'M GOING NUMB
SHOUT FROM YOUR SYNAGOGUES
TAILOR THE TRUTH THAT YOU TELL
AND I WILL SUCCUMB
LOOSEN MY LIPS
LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS
YOUR CHAINS, GRENADES, AND GUNS

TIL THE KINGDOM COMES
ALL WOMEN, IN HARMONY:
COMES
SUSANNAH:
TIL THE KINGDOM COMES
ALL WOMEN, IN HARMONY:
COMES

MARY:
I'VE SEEN WHAT SOME PEOPLE DO
YOU CALL ANOTHER "WITCH"
MAYBE YOU WON'T BE ACCUSED
REBECCA:
THE DISTORTION IS HARD TO DENY
SUSANNAH:
I-I...
BRIDGET:
WHEN FEAR IS AT THE ROOT
MIRIAM & BRIDGET:
WE ALL THINK THAT WE'RE THE GOOD GUY

SUSANNAH & MIRIAM: (ACCUSED WOMEN SING BGVS)
AS THE GHOSTLIGHT TURNS TO BLUE
AS THE DAYLIGHT BREAKS IN TWO
I WAIT HERE
AS THE GHOSTLIGHT TURNS TO BLUE
AS THE DAYLIGHT BREAKS IN TWO
ACCUSED WOMEN:
I WAIT HERE

MIRIAM & SUSANNAH (IN HARMONY, ACCUSED WOMEN AS BGVS):
LOWER MY BODY INTO A WATERY GRAVE
I'M GOING NUMB
SHOUT FROM YOUR SYNAGOGUES
TAILOR THE TRUTH THAT YOU TELL
AND I WILL SUCCUMB
LOOSEN MY LIPS
LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS
YOUR CHAINS, GRENADES, AND GUNS
TIL THE KINGDOM COMES
TIL THE KINGDOM COMES

AHHHHH
AHHHHH
I'M CALLING
ON MY KNEES
AHHHHH
AHHHHH
HOW I PLEAD

AHHHHH
AHHHHH
CALLING
ON MY KNEES
AHHHHH
AHHHHH
HOW I PLEAD

AHHHHH
ALL RISE
I'M CALLING
AHHHHH
HOW I PLEAD
THIS IS ME
AHHHHH
AHHHHH

AHHHHH
ALL RISE
I'M CALLING
AHHHHH
HOW I PLEAD
THIS IS ME
AHHHHH
AHHHHH

ALL WOMEN, WEAVING IN & OUT OF EACH OTHER, IN HARMONY:
LOWER MY BODY INTO A WATERY GRAVE
I'M GOING NUMB
SHOUT FROM YOUR SYNAGOGUES
TAILOR THE TRUTH THAT YOU TELL
AND I WILL SUCCUMB
LOOSEN MY LIPS
LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS
YOUR CHAINS, GRENADES, AND GUNS
TIL THE KINGDOM COMES
TIL THE KINGDOM COMES

AHHHH
AHHHH
AHHHH
AHHHH

AHHHH
AHHHH
AHHHH
AHHHH

MARY:
TIL THE KINGDOM-

ACCUSER #1 steps forward, her hand stretched out.

ACCUSER #1

Actually-/Wait-

The JUDGE bangs his gavel. The ACCUSED WOMEN take their last collective breath, and the earth is swept out from under the women's feet, causing the ACCUSERS to separate, for the first time. The ACCUSERS *burst*. Their snake **dismembers**, disintegrating. The ACCUSED WOMEN's bodies disappear. It's done.

JUDGE

Thank you- for your cooperation and confidentiality. You are all dismissed.

You can go home.

JUDGE addresses the jury one last time.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

And thank you- thank you all for your participation this evening. Please be safe- the doors are clearly marked, I- I trust you can see yourselves out.

Goodnight.

SCENE 15

Lights shift.

The ACCUSERS are gone. The JUDGE stands center stage, next to his pedestal, stifling coughs.

(add (?): Voices of the ACCUSED start to seep in, whispering words and phrases, intermixing and overlapping each other. They grow and crescendo into a cacophony of noise and sound, until: (I SAID YOU'RE DISMISSED/or GO HOME (and he turns around and no one is there), or STOP IT?) - or add this INTO I'm Not Ready?

JUDGE:
NOW WHAT
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
PUT YOURSELF FIRST
WE LEARN IT ALL IN OUR YOUTH
PACK UP
GO ON GET YOUR BAG AND GO
NO ONE HAS TO KNOW
WE'RE FAST TIL WE'RE SLOW
WE STEAL WHEN THEY WON'T LET US BORROW

I'VE BEEN WRITING AWAY
IN THE THICK AND THE FRAY
EVERY DAY
I'VE BEEN DRAFTING
COMPOSING MY ESSAY
AS A TRADE
TO PERSUADE
GOD TO LET ME STAY
I SAY

I'M NOT READY
DON'T TAKE ME YET
I NEED ANOTHER YEAR
PROCRASTINATE REPENTANCE
WATCH MY SINS DISAPPEAR
HOW QUICKLY NOW DO WE FORGIVE?
HOW QUICK DO WE FORGET?
NO ONE MAKES IT OUT ALIVE
BUT I'M NOT READY YET

Echoes and voices of the ACCUSED
WOMEN trickle into his ears.

I'M NOT READY
I'M NOT READY

Lights shift as time passes- days,
weeks, months, years. The JUDGE
stays the same.

NOW WHAT
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DIE

More echoes and voices of the
ACCUSED WOMEN flood in,
reverberating.

IT'S ONLY FAIR
WHY DON'T I LET YOU DECIDE
GO ON
CHOOSE YOUR METHOD CAREFULLY
GO AND GET YOUR WEAPON
RAISE IT ON THE COUNT OF ONE, TWO, THREE

The ACCUSED WOMEN emerge separately out of the dark, and enter into the corridors of the JUDGE's mind, one-by-one. They start to surround him- their echoing voices escalate,.

I'VE BEEN WRITING AWAY
IN THE THICK AND THE FRAY
EVERY DAY
I'VE BEEN DRAFTING
COMPOSING MY ESSAY
AS A TRADE
TO PERSUADE
GOD TO LET ME STAY
I SAY

I'M NOT READY
DON'T TAKE ME YET
I NEED A FEW MORE DAYS
PUT OFF MY REPENTANCE
HOW MUCH LONGER WILL IT TAKE?
HOW QUICKLY NOW DO WE FORGIVE?
HOW QUICK DO WE FORGET?
NO ONE MAKES IT OUT ALIVE
BUT I'M NOT READY YET
I'M NOT READY
I'M NOT READY

More time passes, and more- our JUDGE stays in the same spot, biting back coughs. The ACCUSED WOMEN close in, as the ACCUSERS start to line the peripheries of his mind.

I'M NOT READY
YEAH, I'M TRYNA OUTFRAN IT
STILL TRYNA CONCEIVE IT AND REVISE
I'VE BEEN WORKIN' AWAY
REWRITING MY ESSAYS
REFINING THE VERSE
COMMITTING THE/TO RHYME
I CAN'T OUTFRAN IT
I HAVEN'T DONE SHIT
ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY MY PIECE

I'M NOT READY (NOT READY)
I'M NOT READY (NOT READY)

I'M NOT READY
DON'T TAKE ME YET
I NEED A MINUTE MORE
FRANTICALLY SCRAPPING MY ESSAY
THE WORDS FALL SHORT

I'M NOT READY (NOT READY)
I'M NOT READY (NOT READY)

They get closer, as the JUDGE
forces down coughs. The ACCUSED
WOMEN surround the JUDGE on his
pedestal, echoing in his ears.

I'M NOT READY (NOT READY)
I'M NOT READY (NOT READY)
I'M NOT READY (NOT READY)

ACCUSED WOMEN (W/ ACCUSERS ECHOING):
READY (READY, READY)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

No- please-

ACCUSED WOMEN (W/ ACCUSERS ECHOING):
READY (READY, READY)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I said NO-

ACCUSED WOMEN (W/ ACCUSERS ECHOING):
READY (READY, READY)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

There had to be someone- it was you or me and
YOU MADE THE CHOICE-

ACCUSED WOMEN (W/ ACCUSERS ECHOING):
READY (READY, READY)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I didn't even do anything!!!

The women's voices rise and echo,
overlapping each other, ringing
louder and louder in his ears.

ACCUSED WOMEN (W/ ACCUSERS ECHOING):
READY (READY, READY)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I can't live with you on my conscience-

ACCUSED WOMEN (W/ ACCUSERS ECHOING):
READY (READY, READY)
READY?

JUDGE (CONT'D)

NO-

Music crescendos and then cuts out. The JUDGE falls into a violent coughing fit. He can't finish.

He glances at his hands, stained with blood... remember?

SUSANNAH

What did we tell you?/What did you think was going to happen?

MIRIAM

What did you expect?

This is their prophecy realized.

He brings a handkerchief to his mouth. It drips with fresh blood.

JUDGE

How did you-

The ACCUSED WOMEN take him by the hand, leading him to the edge-

JUDGE (CONT'D)

All of you-
I did what I could
I did what I **had to do**
I should-
I must-

SUSANNAH

You see, this was all about you, but now, **it's about us.**

And let go. The JUDGE falls through the floor.

Once he is gone, the ACCUSERS run over and look down to where he descended.

The ACCUSED WOMEN descend to the level of the ACCUSERS, and start to circle them, separated.

15. KINGDOM COMES (II)

SUSANNAH:
WHAT IS THE WORST WAY TO DIE?
MIRIAM:
WHAT IS THE WORST WAY-
BRIDGET:
WHAT IS THE WORST WAY TO-
MIRIAM:
WHAT IS THE WORST-
REBECCA:
THE WORST-

MARY steps towards the ACCUSERS.

MARY:
WHAT IS THE WORST WAY TO DIE

One by one, each ACCUSED WOMEN takes an ACCUSER by the hand, leading them, bringing them together. MARY takes ACCUSER #1.

SUSANNAH:
AS THE GHOSTLIGHT TURNS TO BLUE
MIRIAM:
AS THE DAYLIGHT BREAKS IN TWO
ACCUSED WOMEN:
I WAIT HERE

ACCUSED WOMEN:
AS THE GHOSTLIGHT TURNS TO BLUE
AS THE DAYLIGHT BREAKS IN TWO
ACCUSED & ACCUSERS:
I WAIT HERE

The shame and guilt overpower the ACCUSERS- they shut their eyes.

ACCUSERS (& ACCUSED ECHOING):
LOWER MY BODY
(LOWER MY BODY)
INTO A WATERY GRAVE
(INTO A WATERY GRAVE)
I'M GOING NUMB
(I HAVE OVERCOME)
SHOUT FROM YOUR SYNAGOGUES
(SHOUT FROM YOUR SYNAGOGUES)
TAILOR THE TRUTH THAT YOU TELL
(TAILOR THE, TAILOR THE TRUTH YOU TELL)
AND I WILL SUCCUMB
(I WILL)
LOOSEN MY LIPS
(LOOSEN MY LIPS)
LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS
(LAY DOWN)
YOUR CHAINS, GRENADES, AND GUNS
(LAY YOU DOWN)

TIL THE KINGDOM COMES
TIL THE KINGDOM COMES

ACCUSER #1 (ECHOED):
THIS IS ME WAVING MY-

ACCUSER #1:
TIL THE KINGDOM-

ACCUSER #1 opens her eyes and gasps. She has **risen. They all have.** They are standing side by side SUSANNAH, MIRIAM, BRIDGET, REBECCA, & MARY. Together. In **their** kingdom.

ACCUSER #1 turns to MARY. She reaches for her, and we BLACKOUT right as they're about to touch.

EPILOGUE/CURTAIN CALL

Lights shift. The ACCUSED women filter in. They are radiant, in their kingdom- risen and resurrected.

ALL RISE (HYMN)

ACCUSED WOMEN:

ALL RISE

ALL RISE

AH

AH

AH

AH

SUSANNAH:

THE WHY'S BEEN DEBATED

BY HISTORIANS, POETS

PHILOSOPHERS CLAIMING, THEY THINK THAT THEY KNOW IT

MIRIAM:

A MASSIVE HYSTERIA

ACCUSERS, ACCUSED

EVERYONE HAS THEIR THEORY

BUT WE KNOW THE TRUTH

REBECCA:

IT COULD HAVE BEEN CULTURE

CIVIL ATTACKS

BRIDGET:

MISOGYNISTIC TRADITIONS

A POISONOUS CLIMAX

RELIGIOUS CRISIS FROM BIG BROTHER BRITAIN

MARY:

A TWICE TOLD TALE THAT'S BEEN REWRITTEN, REWRITTEN

REWRITTEN

ACCUSERS enter, standing behind
the ACCUSED women.

SUSANNAH:

WHAT ABOUT FEARLESS FORGIVENESS?

KEEPING THE FABLE OF FEAR AT A DISTANCE

MIRIAM:

WHAT ABOUT RADICAL REPENTANCE?

EVEN BEFORE YOU CAN EVEN FINISH YOUR SENTENCE YOU-

ACCUSED & ACCUSERS:

ALL RISE

ALL RISE

ALL RISE

AH

ALL RISE

ALL RISE

ALL RISE

AH

AH

AH

AH

AH

AH

AH

AH

RISE

ALL RISE

ALL RISE

ALL RISE

UNTIL THE KINGDOM COMES

ALL RISE

ALL RISE

ALL RISE

SUSANNAH:

OUR WORK HAS JUST BEGUN

All WOMEN gather, center stage.
They look out into the future -
into us. They see the world - the
way it is now, and the way it can
be beyond us.

MARY:

LOOK... I THINK WE WON/BUT LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME (OR IS
THIS TOO PRETTY WITH A BOW? OR IS IT HOPEFUL, ESP. COMING
FROM MARY?)

"SALEM"

87.

THE END