

The Song of Bernadette Jones

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SYNOPSIS

Carolyn is a person from Alaska who explores personal identity, guilt, love, life and loss when she conjures saints and sinners with a Ouija board.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Mary Jones, a girl who plays a sister and appears as two Bernadettes and screen siren Jennifer Jones

Carolyn Jones, a person who loves her sister, a boy named Robert, Alaska and basketball

Robert Levinsky, a Jewish boy who loves Carolyn.

Ouija, a shape-shifter and spiritual guide. Also appears as Coach, teenaged Lew Alcindor, and retired NBA star Kareem Abdul-Jabaar

SETTING

A childhood bedroom, an Alaskan landscape, a brothel, a playground and various other imaginary places

TIME

Fluid!

NOTES

The minimal stage directions is intentional. I respect the director's and other collaborator's right to interpret the play as they wish, including the exploration of how and when the characters might interact super-consciously.

The play's magic encourages this.

CHARACTER NOTES

Saint Bernadette (Bernadette Soubrious) was a peasant girl born in Lourdes, France in 1844. She claimed to see visions of a beautiful lady and later declared that the vision was the Madonna, who instructed her to dig in that place for a spring of waters. Thousands of believers travel there every year to partake of the "healing waters".

Jennifer Jones was an American actress, and considered one of the most beautiful movie stars of all time. She portrayed Bernadette Soubirous in the iconic film, "The Song of Bernadette," for which

she won an Academy Award. She was married three times, most notably to movie producer David O. Selznick.

Bernadette Jones, an Irish immigrant at the turn of the 20th century is a fictitious character.

Lew Alcindor is an American basketball legend and famous for what became known as the "sky hook". He led his high school basketball team to 71 consecutive victories, then played for UCLA where, among other honors, he was twice named player of the year. Alcindor converted to Islam in 1968 and adopted the name of Kareem Abdul-Jabaar. Abdul-Jabaar played 20 seasons in the NBA for both the Milwaukee Bucks and the Los Angeles Lakers. Abdul-Jabaar is an author, political activist and humanitarian. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barak Obama in 2016.

The actor playing Ouija may be any gender, but should be African American.

ALASKAN WINTER

We see Carolyn, a teenager, and the sparkling Alaskan landscape.

OUIJA

This is what Alaska looks like. It's very big and it's where Carolyn and Mary lived when they were both five. Alaska was the most glorious and beautiful place on earth in their opinion. Once you have been to Alaska, well, nothing is ever quite the same. For three months a year, they were exactly the same age. Carolyn was nine months older than Mary. Irish twins, I believe it is called.

CAROLYN

We were sisters. And then I grew up.

Carolyn takes a snow globe from her pocket and shakes it. Mary enters, as if in a dream.

CAROLYN (cont'd)

Snow on command!

MARY

Will you ask if we can go outside?

CAROLYN

It's too cold outside.

MARY

For fifteen minutes.

CAROLYN

You don't even know how long fifteen minutes is.

OUIJA

Mary Jones was a simple girl. She dreamed of boys and marriage and babies, but one day something extraordinary happened.

MARY

In fifteen minutes your nose will get cold. Please ask, will you please ask?

OUIJA

Carolyn Jones wore a basketball jersey underneath her snowsuit.

MARY

Will you stop being boring and tell Mom we're going outside?

CAROLYN

You can't have everything your way.

MARY

Then I'll pee my pants.

CAROLYN

You do that anyway.

MARY

I know how to open the door.

CAROLYN

I'm going to tell!

Carolyn steps inside the snow globe with Mary. They are both five-years-old. Carolyn puts on the basketball jersey.

OUIJA

And so it went. A little sprinkling of snow and the tinkling sound of Mary's laughter is all it took. Carolyn could not deny Mary anything. They went out into the cold Alaskan air.

MARY

Are we on the north pole?

CAROLYN

I think so.

MARY

Those are Mom's boots.

CAROLYN

I hate mine. They're pink.

MARY

They're way too big.

CAROLYN

I'll grow into them.

OUIJA

And Mary slides down the hill in her snow suit.

CAROLYN

Mary!

OUIJA

Carolyn is older than Mary by nine months. She knows never to lose sight of her.

MARY

Everything is so white. Where are the polar bears?

CAROLYN

We'll make one. Help me roll the head!

Ouija starts to become this wonderful thing.

MARY

Look, if I squeeze the snow very hard, I can make a diamond. They are my favorite things in the world, that and Nutella.

CAROLYN

Just make the head.

MARY

Can it be a girl polar bear?

They pat and shape Ouija. It may tickle.

CAROLYN

I think they are all boys.

MARY

Oh, what about the babies?

CAROLYN

They can be girls but they grow up to be boys.

MARY

Who will I marry when I grow up?

CAROLYN

Somebody, but he'll have to live with both of us.

And the Polar Bear is done.

OUIJA

This is what Mary and Carolyn's polar bear looks like. He is fierce and loyal and true. He would follow these two until the end of the universe. He would follow them from Alaska and to all the other places they might live, now and forever.

CAROLYN

He's big.

MARY

But friendly. He has a friendly face. What do you want to be when you grow up?

CAROLYN

I don't know but I'm changing my name to Lew.

MARY

Lew-Lew, Lew-Lew!

CAROLYN

Shut up. It's only Lew.

MARY

You can't change your name. It's against the law. I'm going to be a ballerina. Maybe a cook.

CAROLYN

Want to know a secret?

MARY

Okay.

CAROLYN

Promise you won't tell?

MARY

Yes.

CAROLYN

Sometimes I think I'm actually a boy. Do you think that's against the law?

MARY

Hm. No. If you wish very hard, anything can happen.

CAROLYN

You can't get everything you want, didn't you know that? Mom said fifteen minutes and we go back inside.

MARY

Here. Throw this snowball. You're a good thrower. Throw it to infinity.

(she does and they watch in awe
as it soars across the sky.)

I didn't hear it fall.

CAROLYN

(looks up-fearfully) The stars are coming out.

A ROOM OF THEIR VERY OWN

OUIJA

One day Carolyn and Mary must leave Alaska. It doesn't matter why. Old people make decisions and children must follow. Old people are strange. For one, they are tall and cannot see what is actually happening on the ground.

CAROLYN

I'm not going!

MARY

We have to go-

CAROLYN

Where, to a place where they don't even have snow?

Mary produces the snow globe.

MARY

Whenever you want to come back here, just shake this. It will be as if you never left.

(And they do this thing.)

Remember when we went to Sunday school that one time with the baby-sitter? You asked where God is. They told us- He's everywhere. And I said, even the chair? And the window? How about the dead bird we found? Is that God? Then they said if God made everything and is in everything there is only love and love is life. I love you, Carolyn.

CAROLYN

So?

MARY

So that means we can go. Together. Here. Take my hand. Promise.

OUIJA

And although she can't know what Mary means, Carolyn tucks these words away in her heart and leaves Alaska.

MARY

I want the bed by the window!

CAROLYN

This is the line. You keep your stuff over there.

MARY

It's not fair. You don't have any dolls.

OUIJA

That is true.

MARY

Or stuffed animals.

OUIJA

That is not true. There is one. Carolyn keeps it safely tucked under the bed but Carolyn doesn't want anyone to know.

CAROLYN

You have to do what I say. I'm the oldest.

MARY

It doesn't count until your birthday. You can't boss me if we're the same age. Anyway...

CAROLYN

What?

MARY

Nothing.

CAROLYN

What were you going to say?

MARY

I'm taller.

CAROLYN

Not possible.

MARY

Back to back!

(and this happens)

Carolyn? Carolyn, I'm sorry. I didn't mean for it to happen. Does that hurt your feelings? Probably it doesn't because you don't even look in the mirror.

OUIJA

But Carolyn does look in the mirror now. She sees a face that has freckles. And when she turns just so and drops her chin, she sees Mary.

CAROLYN

If you were a boy you would look like me.

MARY

If I were a boy I would kill myself.

OUIJA

These two, they are like two strains of music, dissonant perhaps but together- they're a song.

CAROLYN

I'll grow. I'll grow up so tall I'll be able to dunk the basketball without even jumping. Now shut up and go to sleep, I said! We have school in the morning.

OUIJA

In Carolyn's dream, she bounces a basketball. She is good at it, better than any other person in the world. It is the one thing Carolyn can do that drowns out all the other noise, all the memories, all the confusion. Carolyn is clear, and open. She is a genius with the basketball. Carolyn jumps and releases.

CAROLYN

Swish! Swish! Swish!

ROBERT COMES

OUIJA

You know the playground. You've lived the playground. It's enormous, it's dangerous, there's a chance you might die on the playground. Or find love.

Robert enters. He is a child.

ROBERT

You're new.

MARY

I'm Mary Jones.

ROBERT

I know. I liked your time line. Did you really live in Alaska?

(takes out a paper)

"Fun facts about Alaska. You can't wake up a sleeping bear to take its picture. Alaska is the only state you can type on one row of a keyboard. And you can fit Rhode Island into Alaska 325 times. It is illegal to whisper in someone's ear while they are hunting moose." I'm Robert Levinsky. Will you marry me?

MARY

Well, I don't know.

ROBERT

I think you're beautiful.

MARY

Do we have to kiss?

ROBERT

I probably won't want to.

MARY

I might get married if I have a ring.

ROBERT

My mother has some she doesn't wear.

MARY

Something happened in Alaska but I'm not going to tell you what. Go ahead and ask.

ROBERT

What happened in Alaska?

MARY

Ask me again some day.

ROBERT

My goal in life is to solve a math conundrum.

MARY

I'm taking ballet classes.

ROBERT

I go to Hebrew school on Saturdays. When I have my bar mitzvah I get money and then I'm going to be rich and I'm never going to spend any of that money unless it's for something important.

MARY

I'm saving money, too. I'm going to go back to Alaska when I have enough.

ROBERT

Oh. I remembered something else about Alaska. They grow the biggest pumpkins in the world. Do you know why? Because they have two months of continuous sunlight in the summer. Wait! Where are you going?

FREE THROWS

MARY

Carolyn! What are you doing? It's stupid over here. Why are we over here?

CAROLYN

I think this would be a good place for a basketball court.

And she begins drawing the lines.

MARY

Now what are you doing?

CAROLYN

I'm drawing the lines. Baseline... mid-court... the key...

We hear the sound of dribbling. Mary starts hopscotching.

CAROLYN (cont'd)

You can't do that in here! This is a basketball court!

(Ouija, as Coach)

He throws the ball to Carolyn.

OUIJA

Think fast!

CAROLYN

Oof!

OUIJA

You always have to be ready. You never know when the ball is going to come.

Carolyn throws it back.

CAROLYN

Are you a coach?

OUIJA

Some call me that.

CAROLYN

Coach? Can you... can you dunk the ball?

OUIJA

You mean... like this?

CAROLYN

Wow! Oh, do it again! Do you know Lew Alcindor? I saw his picture in a magazine.

OUIJA

Swish! Here. You try.

CAROLYN

I keep a magic marker in my pocket because one day when I meet him, he's going to sign my basketball.

OUIJA

Focus. Watch me. Pivot leap dunk

CAROLYN

Oh, I can't. My legs... they're too short.

OUIJA

Okay, guard me. Dribble dribble Don't look at my face. Look at my hips. Pivot- dribble- score-

CAROLYN

How'd you do that?

OUIJA

Watch. Slow it down.

(in slo-mo)

Pivot-dribble-score-

CAROLYN

Can I try? Pivot-

(Carolyn falls. Tries again.)

I can't do it.

OUIJA

It's okay! Everybody... falls...

MARY

(chasing Carolyn) That's just because you wear your special shoe. Look, I'm a ballerina! I can fly!

BODY IMAGE

OUIJA

More important things happen to Carolyn and Mary. For one, they start to grow up. Of course, life is about change but children don't know that. They believe life is one long day populated by bedtimes, snack times, playtimes and death.

MARY

Do you think I'm beautiful?

CAROLYN

I hate it when you ask me this.

MARY

Look if I hold my head like this, do I look like a movie star?

CAROLYN

You just look like Mary. Only stupid.

MARY

This is the way movie stars look right before they are about to get kissed.

CAROLYN

I think my hair is funny, it sticks out.

MARY

That's because you cut it.

CAROLYN

Well, it was long.

MARY

How do you get your breasts to grow?

CAROLYN

How do you get them to stop?

MARY

Hand me that. Those tissues. Right there! I need two big wads. What are you doing?

CAROLYN

Nothing.

MARY

You've got something. What have you got? No secrets, Carolyn! We're family, now and forever.

Mary tickles Carolyn unmercifully and finds-

What is this?

CAROLYN

Money. I'm saving for-

OUIJA

But Carolyn doesn't like to say and doesn't like to lie.

CAROLYN

I'm just saving. That's all.

OUIJA

Like planets orbiting different suns, Carolyn ponders the future while Mary examines her body and all its failures.

CAROLYN

The Kleenex is sticking out of your armpit.

MARY

What? Aah!

CAROLYN

(holds stomach) Ooh.

MARY

What?

CAROLYN

I don't know. Ooh. Owww! Ow ow ow ow ow ow!

MARY

Hold on. Hold on to me. What's the matter?

CAROLYN

My stomach... but not... down there... (looks down there, touches) I'm bleeding out of my body! (runs around) I don't like blood... I don't want blood...

MARY

Carolyn, Carolyn, it's just-

(Carolyn hides under the bed)

Come out from there. Look at me. You're becoming a woman.

CAROLYN

A what?

MARY

It's your period. Remember in school? They told us?

CAROLYN

How do I stop it?

MARY

Some things you can't change. You're growing up, Carolyn.

CAROLYN

I'm not a woman.

MARY

What are you then?

CAROLYN

I don't know.

ROBERT AND THE BAR MITZVAH

OUIJA

Speaking of milestones-

Robert hands Carolyn an invitation.
Mary looks.

ROBERT

I'm having my bar mitzvah on Saturday. It's kind of a big deal. I've been studying Hebrew for months. And afterwards there's a big party.

MARY

Ooh, I want to go to the party?

ROBERT

I'd very much like it if you came to the synagogue. It's kind of a big day for me.

CAROLYN

Do I have to wear a dress?

Robert puts on a yarmulke.

OUIJA

Shabbat Shalom. We are honored to witness the bar mitzvah of Robert Abraham Patrick- Patrick? Cohen-Levinsky. Robert!

(addresses Robert)

Robert, after today you will assume the rights and responsibilities of an adult, including the commandments of the Torah. Arise, Robert, son of Herschell!

Robert wears a yarmulke and stands next to Ouija.

ROBERT

Bar'chu et Adonai, ha'm'vorach!

Carolyn and Mary read from a paper- but badly.

OUIJA/CAROLYN/MARY

Ba-ruch Adonai ha'm'vorach l'olam va'ed!

ROBERT

Baruch Adonai ha'm'vorach l'olam va'ed! Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam-

MARY

I thought you said this was going to be a party?

CAROLYN

Sh!

ROBERT

-asher bachar banu mikol ha'amim v'natan lanu et Torah'to. Baruch Atah Adonai notein ha'Torah.

OUIJA

Mazel Tov!

Music for the Hora begins. Carolyn, Mary, Robert and Ouija dance.

Carolyn looks and sees-

CAROLYN

Who is that?

OUIJA

A beautiful girl.

MARY

Come on, Carolyn!

Carolyn steps away from the dance. She speaks to this girl.

CAROLYN

(shyly)Hi... I'm just... Robert...he's over there...oh, a friend...um...well...do you like the Los Angeles Lakers?

(horrified by herself)

Just...(oh, God.)

FIRST VISION, THE SONG OF BERNADETTE

OUIJA

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Mary...

Carolyn presents Mary with a Ouija board.

MARY

What's that?

CAROLYN

Ouija Board. Happy birthday.

MARY

Oh my God. We can talk to the dead with this thing!

OUIJA

Carolyn and Mary have their hands on the disc that they believe will divulge the secrets of the universe. The remains of a birthday cake are somewhere nearby.

MARY

You go first. Ask a question.

CAROLYN

Who will win the NBA championship?

MARY

Who cares? Ask something important- ask the name of the man you're going to marry.

CAROLYN

Who am I going to marry?

MARY

You have to say it like you mean it.

CAROLYN

Who am I going to marry?

MARY

It's moving.

CAROLYN

You're moving it.

MARY

Shut up, I'm not, it's saying-

CAROLYN

"B E R N A D"

MARY

Bernard, it's saying Bernard.

CAROLYN

I would never marry someone named Bernard.

MARY

Bernad-

CAROLYN

"Bernadette... Soubrious..."

MARY

Who is Bernadette? Oh, it's moving, it's saying-

CAROLYN

"Y O U A R E" you are-

MARY

You are-

OUIJA

They freeze. Or rather, they transfix. A heavenly moment, if such a thing is possible on earth. Mary becomes an angel and then the moment passes and she is again a fourteen year old girl who has eaten too much birthday cake.

CAROLYN

You asked who is named Bernadette and it says you are.

MARY

Well, that's dumb.

CAROLYN

The thingamajig is moving again...

MARY

"The Beautiful Lady told me to dig in the mud until I found a spring of water. Why will no one believe me?" I believe you! Bernadette! What can I do to help you?

OUIJA

Mary, convinced that this Bernadette must be a ghost or at least an alien, looks up on the internet all the famous people who have ever been named Bernadette.

MARY

Saint Bernadette. Oh my God, I've conjured a saint! This is huge!

CAROLYN

What makes you think it's a saint?

MARY

"Fun facts about Bernadette Soubrious, she was born in Lourdes, France. She was with her sister Marie-Antoinette one day and she saw a vision of a Beautiful Lady." Oh, and look!

It says there's a movie about her. "The Song of Bernadette."
And she died tragically! This is awesome. Look! There's her
picture.

CAROLYN

That's just the actress.

MARY

Jennifer Jones. Am I that pretty?

CAROLYN

Prettier.

OUIJA

Mary dresses in a flowing robe and walks saint-like around
the house while being sure to catch glimpses of herself in a
mirror every chance she gets. She holds her face at an angle
that might invite a kiss from a male movie star.

CAROLYN

You're driving me crazy.

MARY

You're just jealous.

CAROLYN

Jealous?

MARY

I've found god. I've found myself. Oh, I can't believe I've
wasted my life. Where is the Ouija board?

CAROLYN

Would you shut up and go to sleep?

MARY

But I have a question! WILL-- MY-- BREASTS-- EVER-- GROW--

CAROLYN

Saints don't need breasts. What do you need breasts for if you're going into a nunnery?

MARY

The nunnery is metaphorical. Of course I'm not actually going into a nunnery. They don't even have nunneries anymore. The nuns are all wearing street clothes. Although now that I think of it, they look a lot like you.

CAROLYN

Nice.

MARY

I'm sorry. It's just your hair. Are you cutting it again?

CAROLYN

Leave me alone.

MARY

Even boys have to have good haircuts. Carolyn?

CAROLYN

What?

MARY

Who do you love?

OUIJA

Carolyn ponders this question. It is very confusing. So far there is no clear cut answer about who she might love.

CAROLYN

Possibly the Los Angeles Lakers.

AN ACT OF CHARITY

(Ouija, as Coach)

Ouija dribbles a basketball, shoots and gets the rebound. Carolyn watches.

OUIJA

Think fast!

Ouija throws the ball.

CAROLYN

Oomph.

OUIJA

You play?

CAROLYN

Um, a little. Well, not very good.

OUIJA

Uh huh.

CAROLYN

Do you need anyone to clean the basketball court? I could come after school. Any day. Every day. It has to get cleaned, doesn't it?

OUIJA

You want to clean the basketball court?

CAROLYN

Yes. I mean, for my job. I need a job.

OUIJA

Tell you what.

(most indulgently)

You clean the court and I'll teach you how to play.

CAROLYN

Um...

OUIJA

You said you weren't very good. Right?

CAROLYN

Yeah.

OUIJA

So...

CAROLYN

The thing is that I'm saving up. So if I could have a job, that would really help. It's kind of important.

OUIJA

I suppose you could sweep and mop.

CAROLYN

Yes!

OUIJA

How much do you charge?

CAROLYN

How about a thousand dollars?

OUIJA

A thousand dollars?

CAROLYN

Five hundred? I'm a good sweeper/mopper. Do we have a deal?

OUIJA

Tell you what. I'll pay you five dollars a week.

CAROLYN

Five dollars a week? But that will take forever.

OUIJA

Forever for what?

CAROLYN

(starts to sweep) Nothing.

OUIJA

Be sure to get the corners good.

THE SECOND COMING OF ROBERT

MARY

Now what's the matter with you?

CAROLYN

I'm taking a shower.

MARY

Okay, but we have to get ready for the dance. Robert is coming.

Carolyn runs and locks herself in the bathroom.

CAROLYN

Noooooooooo

MARY

Now, you come out of there.

CAROLYN

I'M NOT GOING TO THE STUPID DANCE AND ANYWAYS THEY PUT IT IN THE GYM AND THAT IS ACTUALLY SACRILEGIOUS ALSO KNOWN AS STUPID AND I CAN'T DANCE AND I WOULDN'T IF I COULD

MARY

Here. This is called makeup. And this is a bra. And this is a hair tie. And these are skinny jeans. Now, get in there and get busy!

CAROLYN

YOU GO WITH HIM!

OUIJA

Robert, unaware of this controversy, paces in front of the sisters' house and as he paces-

ROBERT

Seven, eight, nine...

OUIJA

He counts the blooms in a bouquet for which he saved forty-three cents by buying them-

ROBERT

-individually rather than as a bunch-

OUIJA

-as well as two movie tickets good anytime in the next twelve months that cost him nothing since they were-

ROBERT

-a birthday present.

OUIJA

Although he checked his teeth and breath several times and carefully before he left home, he does it again before he raps on the door. Satisfied that he does not have-

ROBERT

-the breath of a giraffe-

OUIJA

-he checks his pants where some minutes earlier he had-

ROBERT

-an unexplained erection!

OUIJA

He then checks his wallet for the hundredth time to be sure the twenty dollar bill, pilfered from a secret stash of Bar Mitzvah money, is still in place.

ROBERT

It is not!

OUIJA

A frantic search ensues involving the removal of his hat, shoes, jacket and finally his shirt. Robert races back in the direction of his house but returns when he realizes he is not wearing his shoes. Robert discovers the truant twenty dollar bill pressed to the bottom of his left, no right shoe and in a fit of relief removes it too quickly and tears it in half. Thinking quickly, if not sanely, he rubs dirt on his face and tears at his shirt and throws his wallet into the bushes. Satisfied that he can pass for a mugging victim, Robert knocks on the door.

MARY

Robert is here! Now, come out of there. Carolyn!

CAROLYN

Okay, okay!

MARY

Why are you wearing that cap?

CAROLYN

Because it's actually signed by the great Lew Alcindor.

MARY

Let me see that- (grabs it) CAROLYN YOU HAVE SHAVED YOUR HEAD

CAROLYN

TEMPORARILY

MARY

Are you nuts?

CAROLYN

All the great basketball players do it!

ROBERT

Hello? Oh, hi. Wow. The door was open and I, um, just thought... Can I?

(touches her head)

I've always wanted to do that.

CAROLYN

Really?

ROBERT

Yeah. I have like a million cowlicks. It takes me forty-seven minutes, to comb my hair before school, forty-nine if it's just washed.

(sticks out his hand with the
flowers.)

These are for you.

CAROLYN

Oh. You want to shoot some hoops?

ROBERT

Hm?

She hands Robert some goggles.

CAROLYN

Here, you have to wear these. Lew Alcindor wears them to protect his glasses. Well, these aren't exactly like his.

ROBERT

I think they look cool.

He puts them on.

CAROLYN

Okay. Here are the rules for one-on-one. Don't worry, I'll go easy on you. See that hoop? That's your hoop.

ROBERT

That's my hoop.

CAROLYN

Can you dribble?

ROBERT

I- sort of-

CAROLYN

Practice a little.

ROBERT

Um, okay... one two three four five six, this is fun!

CAROLYN

Okay. That's pretty good, but once you stop dribbling, you have to shoot. You can't dribble again. It's called double dribble. Fast hands, catch!

ROBERT

Oomph.

CAROLYN

I'm going to guard you.

ROBERT

Okay. Wow. I can't see.

CAROLYN

That's because I'm guarding you. I'm supposed to put my hand in your face so you can't see.

ROBERT

So how am I supposed to- whee!

CAROLYN

You can't do that! It's called traveling! (whistle)

ROBERT

Whee!

CAROLYN

None of this- hey! It's my ball.

ROBERT

Swish! Three-pointer!

CAROLYN

It's a two and it doesn't count because you traveled! And see that line? That's out of bounds. Boundaries are very important in basketball. Without them there would be only chaos.

ROBERT

Oh, I like boundaries. Can I dribble again?

CAROLYN

You haven't even dribbled! You just traveled!

ROBERT

But I scored! Dribble dribble one two three four

CAROLYN

(Whistle whistle!)

ROBERT

Can I take a break?

(sits down, takes off goggles)

I'm not wearing the right shoes for this.

(quickly)

I like your shoes.

CAROLYN

Don't talk about my shoes.

ROBERT

Can we do something else?

CAROLYN

What?

ROBERT

I don't know. Like, make out?

CAROLYN

You mean kiss?

ROBERT

Yeah. Several times.

CAROLYN

You mean- on the couch or something?

ROBERT

We could try it standing up if you'd rather.

OUIJA

Carolyn considers this. She has never kissed a person, although she has had dreams. Most recently, Jennifer Jones has been in them.

ROBERT

Have you ever kissed anyone?

CAROLYN

Sure! You?

ROBERT

Well, yeah!

ROBERT (cont'd)

Okay. You ready? So I'm just going to start.

OUIJA

Carolyn and Robert both close their eyes which presents a little problem since neither knows the exact location of the other.

Ouija rectifies this and Robert lunges at Carolyn and they fall onto the couch and onto the remote control of the television. Music plays.

LIVING WATER

OUIJA

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Bernadette. She dreamed of boys and marriage and babies, but one day something extraordinary happened.

ROBERT

What's that?

CAROLYN

It's just this movie... about a saint... I guess I had it on pause...

OUIJA

Robert and Carolyn sit in front of the television and listen to the music score by the great Alfred Newman. They freeze. Or rather, they transfix. A heavenly moment, if such a thing is possible on earth.

Mary appears as Jennifer Jones in the movie.

MARY

Oh, blessed Lady! Most beautiful and wonderful lady... She's saying... "I cannot promise you happiness in this life... but in the next..."

ROBERT

Who's she talking to?

CAROLYN

Sh! Only Bernadette can see her.

MARY

Yes... thank you... She's saying, "Here... there is a spring... there are healing waters... you must dig and find it... wash your face in the water..." Yes, my lady... yes, your holiness...

ROBERT

This is intense!

MARY

The Lady says, "Come back tomorrow... find the living waters..."

CAROLYN

It ends badly. No one believes her. Then she dies.

ROBERT

Why would you watch a movie like that?

CAROLYN

I don't know. I keep hoping it will change.

ROBERT

What's this?

CAROLYN

It came in the box with the movie.

OUIJA

Robert takes out what appears to be one of those promotional things that gets stuffed, often unnoticed...

ROBERT

A poster! Standard movie size 24 x 36.

OUIJA

Carolyn and Robert look at the poster of Jennifer Jones together and wonder, each in their own way, what it must be like to be loved by someone so beautiful.

CAROLYN

This... is... my... poster!

ROBERT

Please! I'll give you everything I own for just one night with her. Except my bar mitzvah money!

CAROLYN

How much?

ROBERT

Depends. I got a lot.

CAROLYN

Can I have one?

ROBERT

A bar mitzvah?

CAROLYN

Yeah.

ROBERT

You have to be Jewish.

CAROLYN

Oh.

OUIJA

Carolyn considers this Robert. Although he cannot dribble a basketball, let alone shoot, with any skill or promise, he has so far passed the test of doing everything they ask and has not asked too many questions, which is more than she can say for Mary.

CAROLYN

All right, I'm going to tell you something. But you have to promise not to tell.

ROBERT

Okay.

CAROLYN

Saint Bernadette is in my Ouija board. I conjured her.

ROBERT

Ooh, I hear Ouija boards are satanic. But whatever. Jews don't believe in all that.

OUIJA

Ouch. Robert is not passing this test.

CAROLYN

Never mind then.

ROBERT

What?

CAROLYN

Nothing. You said you don't believe so-

ROBERT

I said JEWS don't believe and I can't be responsible for an entire group.

CAROLYN

Put your hands on the thingamajig.

ROBERT

Okay.

CAROLYN

Hello? Bernadette? (pause) Bernadette?

ROBERT

(spookily) Hello.....

CAROLYN

That's not funny!

ROBERT

Oh, well. Maybe she's, um, digging for water? The thingamajig is moving!

OUIJA

It is Bernadette. But not the Bernadette you think.

SECOND VISION, THE SONG OF BERNADETTE JONES

(Mary, as Bernadette Jones)

MARY

Hello... hello? Why did you wake me? Why? I was sleeping, so. I was so... sleeping. No... no... it's a dream, that's all. What a terrible dream it is. I remember- I dreamed! I dreamed I was on a ship with me five brothers, so. We were deep in the belly and sick. Brenden, Galen, Marty, Bruce and little Robbie. I'm youngest except for Robbie. Brenden died first and they threwed him overboard, so. Then Galen and Bruce and last was Marty. Robbie and I walked onto the dock but somehow in the mix of the crowd, I lost him. I had his little hand in mine and he twisted to look, so? To scratch? I don't know. And then gone. I begged the man in the uniform to help me- Please! He's four years old and his hair is ginger and he has freckles on his nose, so-

ROBERT

(What's going on?)

CAROLYN

(I don't know.)

MARY

My mam put me in charge! On her deathbed! She's looking down from heaven and seeing her boys are in the ocean and the baby lost, so! Here is me paper, me name is Mary Bernadette Kathleen Deirdre Fiona Eileen Jones. But they call me Bernadette. Can you help me? Please?

ROBERT

(Is all this in the movie?)

MARY

If you could help me find Robbie. He'll be oh so scared and there are so many people.

ROBERT

(Poor girl.) I'll find him! (How are we going to find him? We're talking to a dead person!)

MARY

You are so kind, sir. Thank you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

ROBERT

(This is getting weird.)

MARY

They're taking me. Please! No! Help me!

ROBERT

Where are they taking you... She's gone. I can feel it.

OUIJA

But of course, he isn't sure. Carolyn and Robert, each are miserable in their own way.

CAROLYN

You did something to her!

ROBERT

Are you crying?

CAROLYN

No.

ROBERT

You look like you're crying.

CAROLYN

Shut up. I'm an Alaskan. Alaskans don't cry.

ROBERT

I don't suppose we're going to the dance? Sorry. Um, can I borrow the poster?

CAROLYN

You can't have the poster.

ROBERT

To show to my mother? She likes history. Um, question. Is Jennifer Jones alive?

CAROLYN

I could rent it to you!

ROBERT

Really?

CAROLYN

For a thousand dollars.

ROBERT

A thousand dollars!

CAROLYN

I suppose that's kind of a lot.

OUIJA

It is a lot. But Robert considers for one maniacal moment that it might be worth it. He slaps his own face.

ROBERT

Ow!

CAROLYN

I was just kidding. You're good at math, right?

ROBERT

Duh.

CAROLYN

What's five into a thousand?

ROBERT

Two hundred.

CAROLYN

Right. How many weeks is that?

ROBERT

Um...

CAROLYN

I mean, how many years is two hundred weeks?

ROBERT

Sixteen point six seven-

Ouija nudges Robert.
-oomph-and then on into infinity.

CAROLYN
Oh.

ROBERT
So can I borrow the poster?

CAROLYN
One night!

A smiling Robert leaves with the poster. Carolyn is alone. She goes to the Ouija board.
(whispers)Are you there?

Carolyn hears the sound of running water.
Mary!

ROBERT REALLY COMES

OUIJA
Robert downloads the movie, "The Song of Bernadette." He watches as the French peasant girl sees a vision of a beautiful lady in a grotto, aka a cave. Although her sister is with her, Bernadette is the only one who sees the vision. Robert tries to think of the girl as a saint but can't get the image of Jennifer Jones out of his head. In spite of himself, he is moved, really, really moved. His heart, his hands, everything is moving. Especially his hands. That Jennifer Jones is about to bring him to orgasm. He's pretty sure masterbating to a saint is a sin, but since he's a Jew, he hopes it doesn't apply to him.

ROBERT
What is this feeling?

OUIJA

It's called guilt, Robert.

ROBERT

Why do I like it?

OUIJA

Robert watches as Saint Bernadette, that is Jennifer Jones, stands before the grotto with her sister. A holy light shines on their faces. The girls hold hands. They thrill. They cry. The light now engulfs, Robert, too. He can't believe it. He cries out in ecstasy.

ROBERT

I can't believe it.

OUIJA

Jennifer walks out of the television screen and climbs into Robert's bed.

(Mary as Jennifer Jones)

ROBERT

Touch my cock.

MARY

Where is it?

ROBERT

Put your hand there.

MARY

Oh, God.

ROBERT

Oh, God. Goddess.

MARY

Ow, you're hurting my hand.

ROBERT

Sweet Jesus. Aah! I think I just came on a saint.

OUIJA

May we say it? Robert Levinsky has had a-

ROBERT

Sexual awakening!

Robert exits fast. Mary runs to Carolyn-
taking off the Jennifer Jones garb and
getting in bed next to her.

MARY

Carolyn?

CAROLYN

I'm sleeping.

MARY

Carolyn? Something happened.

CAROLYN

Shut up and go to sleep.

MARY

I touched Robert's penis!

CAROLYN

I hope you washed your hands.

MARY

Carolyn! This is serious!

CAROLYN

Was it circumcised?

MARY

What?

CAROLYN

The foreskin. Was it there? The Jews circumcise boys. They rip the foreskin off.

OUIJA

Somehow Mary has never head of this barbaric practice.

CAROLYN

Besides that, you're probably pregnant.

MARY

Aaah!

ONE BOOT OFF

OUIJA

More important things happen to Mary and Carolyn when they are five. They happen in Alaska, the coldest and most beautiful place in the world, at least where they are concerned.

MARY

Carolyn? I'm cold.

OUIJA

Carolyn is oldest by three months and it is very important that Mary is kept safe.

MARY

I think fifteen minutes is up. Should we go home?

OUIJA

They should, Carolyn thinks. But there is a problem.

CAROLYN

I'm going to build you an igloo!

MARY

A real one?

OUIJA

Carolyn is no longer sure of the way.

CAROLYN

There... finished... now crawl inside.

MARY

Ooh, do you think we can live in here?

CAROLYN

Okay now, look up. It's a chimney. So we can build a fire and the smoke will go out.

MARY

Do we have any matches?

CAROLYN

I'll bring them next time.

MARY

Look, do you see it?

CAROLYN

See what?

MARY

That- there.

CAROLYN

It's an airplane.

MARY

No, look, the lights, those lights. Look up.

CAROLYN

Wow.

MARY

Do you think that might be god?

CAROLYN

I don't know. It's not even Christmas.

MARY

God's a boy.

CAROLYN

Yes, but a nice one.

MARY

A shooting star! Wish for something, quick!

OUIJA

Carolyn and Mary have been wishing together since they were old enough to crawl to the window and look outside.

MARY

What did you wish for?

CAROLYN

You know we can't tell.

MARY

If you wish very hard, it will come true. What happened to your boot?

CAROLYN

Huh?

MARY

You're only wearing one. I told you those stupid boots were too big. Now your foot is going to get cold. Just because you don't like the color pink.

CAROLYN

It must be...

OUIJA

Carolyn and Mary crawl out of the igloo and look over the vast Alaskan landscape, white and sparkling beneath the glow of diamond stars.

MARY

I'll help you find it.

CAROLYN

I think it's under the igloo.

MARY

Let's tear it down!

CAROLYN

No. No... Stay right there! Here. Put this on.

(Carolyn takes off her coat and hat and puts them on Mary.)

MARY

I'll stay right here...

CAROLYN

Right here...

MARY

I'll stay right here...

CAROLYN

I'll be running so I'll stay warm.

Carolyn runs.

THE SONG OF KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

(Ouija as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)

He enters- a man about seventy-years-old.

OUIJA

Hey! What are you doing?

CAROLYN

Huh? Cleaning up. I'm... gulp... the janitor of the floor.

OUIJA

Says...

CAROLYN

The guy... the coach.. He hired me. I get five dollars a week.

OUIJA

Hm. Not sure who you're referring to. This is my gym. Do you want to leave your name and number? I'll give it to the office in case he comes back.

CAROLYN

Oh. No.

Carolyn starts to walk away. He throws the ball to Carolyn.

OUIJA

Think fast!

CAROLYN

Oomph-

OUIJA

You play?

CAROLYN

Not very good. (dares to look up at him.) Wow.

OUIJA

What is it?

CAROLYN

I don't mean to stare. I'm sorry.

OUIJA

I'm used to it.

CAROLYN

Are you the tallest person in the world?

OUIJA

Probably one of them. Course, as I get older, I get shorter. My doctor told me I've lost three inches.

CAROLYN

Three inches!

OUIJA

Used to be seven-foot-three!

CAROLYN

Holy moly! What's it like being tall?

OUIJA

Well, it has advantages and disadvantages. For example, I could always reach stuff on the top shelf for my mother. But I often hit my head walking through doorways.

CAROLYN

Ouch.

OUIJA

And I stood out. I was different. No one confused me with anyone else. Cause I was only me.

CAROLYN

I feel that way.

OUIJA

Cause you're different. They broke the mold. You ever hear that?

CAROLYN

No.

OUIJA

An old saying. My coach used to say that to me. They broke the mold on you! But it wasn't a compliment in my case. He was mean! He'd say the nastiest things. He made me mad.

CAROLYN

Like what?

OUIJA

Oh, I'm no good. I'm clumsy. If I missed a shot, he'd make me run suicides.

CAROLYN

I hate those!

OUIJA

And then he'd say things I never understood. When I screwed up? He'd say, you've got to dribble with your mind.

CAROLYN

What does that even mean?

OUIJA

You tell me! I don't know why they got to run basketball like it's the army. But we won games. Course, I got hurt once in a while. Got the ball right in the eyes.

CAROLYN

Ouch again!

OUIJA

After that, I wore these punky ass goggles. Talk about looking like a fool! But I didn't care. I was unique! Seven foot two inches tall with goggles. My mother just shook her head at me.

CAROLYN

I wear a funny looking shoe.

OUIJA

That shoe? That is a punky ass looking shoe for sure. You're unique, too. You know what I found out? I'm not my body. I mean, this is the one God gave me. For now. But it changes. See my head?

Lifts his knit cap.

CAROLYN

Yeah, baldie.

OUIJA

I'm not what you'd call pretty.

CAROLYN

I think you're beautiful.

OUIJA

I think you're pretty cute, too, kid.

CAROLYN

Kid? Did you call me kid?

OUIJA

Is that okay?

CAROLYN

Yeah! I mean, I've been called a lot of things. That's- kid! I have a question for you. Did you ever meet Lew Alcindor?

OUIJA

Lew Alcindor? Lew Alcindor. You kidding me, right?

CAROLYN

He's my favorite basketball player.

OUIJA

Tall, isn't he? Is he the tall dude?

CAROLYN

Well, not as tall as you.

OUIJA

I grew after college. Maybe he'll do that.

CAROLYN

I sort of hope not. He's tall enough. No offense. He's got a great hook shot.

OUIJA

I can tell you that I had the best hook shot anyone ever saw.

CAROLYN

Really?

OUIJA

They called it the sky hook.

CAROLYN

Sky hook!

OUIJA

Cause all you see is sky, baby.

CAROLYN

I'll never be able to do that. I have a special shoe.

OUIJA

You know the great thing about the sky hook? You only jump off using one foot. Let me show you.

(and he does.)

Now you try.

And she does.

OUIJA (cont'd)

You don't know what you can do yet. You're still "kid"! One day, you'll be talking to someone. Just like this. And that person will need to hear what you've figured out.

CAROLYN

That seems a long way away.

OUIJA

(laughs) Kid, you have no idea. Well, I better be going. My wife will send out a search party.

CAROLYN

Will you do me a favor? Will you sign my basketball? I always keep a magic marker ready. I didn't know for what. I guess it was for you.

OUIJA

I'd be honored. (he writes) Can you read that?

CAROLYN

What an interesting name.

OUIJA

Well, not the name I was born with. I had, I guess you'd call it, a spiritual awakening. I'd gone along my whole life thinking I knew who I was. Big tall punky ass dude with a basketball and an attitude. One day, God called my name. And that was it. Dribble with your mind, kid. (laughs) I hated it when coach said that to me. Better get home.

CAROLYN

Thank you, Mr. Kareem... Abdul... Jabbar.

BERNADETTE JONES RETURNS

ROBERT

Carolyn? Carolyn! Hey! I've been looking for you. I brought you back the poster. It's a little, um, crumpled.

OUIJA

Carolyn tries to muster her courage and ask Robert if she may borrow-

CAROLYN

Nine hundred and fifty dollars.

ROBERT

Huh?

CAROLYN

Nothing.

ROBERT

Could we play with the Ouija board? I want to ask Bernadette about her little brother. I asked my mother? And she said Jennifer Jones is definitely dead. Do you think? I don't know. I just had this crazy thought. What if Jennifer Jones and the prostitute are the same person? What if Bernadette Jones reincarnated?

They look at the Ouija Board. It has a will of its own.

(Mary as Bernadette Jones)

MARY

Madame? Are you up? Can I come in?

ROBERT

(Is it her?)

MARY

Sorry to wake you.

ROBERT

(Who is Madame?)

MARY

Your tea, mum.

CAROLYN

(Let me do it.) Thank you, what did you say your name was?

MARY

Bernadette. Bernadette Jones, ma'am.

CAROLYN

Did you find your brother?

ROBERT

(Ask her if she knows Jennifer Jones.)

MARY

One of the girls asked me to let you know there are gentlemen waiting.

ROBERT

Where do you live?

MARY

Why, here. I have my room in the attic.

ROBERT

Where is here? Bernadette? Hello?

MARY

We live on How-ston Street, ma'am.

ROBERT

What year is it? Is there a newspaper?

MARY

Some of the gentlemen bring newspapers. I use them for the fire.

ROBERT

What's outside the window?

MARY

The drapes are closed, ma'am, as they always are. We always have to keep the drapes closed because of the gentlemen.

CAROLYN

(Robert, talk to her, she thinks you're her boss!)

ROBERT

(She can't see me!)

CAROLYN

(You don't know that!)

ROBERT

(Okay, okay! When do I get to talk to Jennifer Jones?)

MARY

I beg your pardon, ma'am. I do the washing and help in the kitchen. I'd rather not wear that. I'm only fourteen, ma'am, my last birthday. Please... I don't want to entertain the gentlemen! Can someone please help me?

ROBERT

(I don't think we're talking to Saint Bernadette.)

(to Bernadette Jones)

I lost two girls yesterday. One has a belly too big to hide and the other, well, there's drunk and there's drunk. She was the second kind of drunk. (Where is this coming from??)

MARY

I'm here to scrub the floors and boil the pots, ma'am.

ROBERT

It's called "stepping up." I need you to step up. Do you get my drift? How much am I paying you? I'll double it. Course, I'll have to charge you for food. And clothes. Gawd, you're a scrawny little thing. No tits whatsoever. Here, take these, stuff em in your brassiere. The gentlemen don't usually bother taking all your clothes off, anyway. What are you, fifteen?

MARY

Fourteen, ma'am.

ROBERT

I hate this job.

THE SONG OF JENNIFER JONES

OUIJA

Nighttime. Starlight. The magic hour. Carolyn and Robert spinning in their rooms. Robert tries to fulfill his life's goal of solving a math conundrum and avoid obsessing about Jennifer Jones and Bernadette Jones who he is pretty sure he has sentenced to a life of prostitution.

ROBERT

"If you take a solid ball and slice it up a certain way, you can put those same pieces back together into TWO BALLS that are identical. Exact copies. Nothing missing. Mathematically, it's possible. If you slice up a million balls. You can get a million copies. If you cut up those million balls..."

(Mary as Jennifer Jones)

MARY

It simply goes on forever.

(leaps into bed)

May I get in bed with you? So what's that about balls?

ROBERT

Um...nothing. Just math. Crazy stuff. Has to do with mass and re-assemblage of atoms. Do you know nothing actually touches anything? There is space between every atom and molecule?

MARY

(tickles him a little) So I'm not even touching you like this?

ROBERT

Miss Jones?

MARY

Uh huh?

ROBERT

Have you ever been to Ireland?

MARY

Ireland...

(in an Irish brogue)

"Bless me, sonny, may your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks. May your heart be as light as a song. May each day bring you bright, happy hours that stay with you all the year long."

(end brogue)

No. But I always wanted to. I hear it's beautiful there. The most glorious and beautiful place on earth. Why?

ROBERT

Just wondering. That's a beautiful saying.

MARY

It is, isn't it? Don't know where I picked it up. Maybe I was born knowing it.

ROBERT

This is some wet dream. I mean, I'm not even asleep!

MARY

I have this recurring dream of being chased by a polar bear. I don't know how I outrun it at all. It gallops like a horse and I can see its muscle or fat or fur or whatever holds it together, undulating as it runs. I can see it as if I'm everywhere, under it, over it, inside it and then I realize that the polar bear isn't chasing me, I am the polar bear. What does it mean? Most of the time I don't even remember my dreams, but this one is in full color which is to say that it is very, very white and she- that is to say the psychic I saw-said that we live parallel lives. I am the polar bear; we are not only connected, we aren't even separate which is crazy because I never saw a polar bear navigating in heels.

ROBERT

I'm not sure I'm following.

MARY

That's okay. Just hold me.

ROBERT

You know, I have sort of a...

MARY

Sweetheart?

ROBERT

I should really be thinking about Carolyn, you know, when I...

MARY

Masturbate?

ROBERT

I mean, no offense.

MARY

None taken.

ROBERT

It's just that you're a saint-

MARY

I played a saint. It's not the same thing.

ROBERT

And I don't believe in all that stuff. Eternal life, heaven. I'm a Jew. So I'm pretty sure I believe that this is basically it. What I really mean is that I don't believe in god.

MARY

I know there is a God. One day when we were filming, I wandered off by myself. And I saw her. I saw Bernadette. She stood at the river, about to cross. She said, A lady, a beautiful lady. She is so, so beautiful. I want to cry. I played Bernadette. And we both changed. I guess you could say I had a spiritual awakening. Bernadette and I aren't separate anymore. And now you know me. You'll never be the same, either.

ROBERT

That's for sure.

MARY

What no one knew then and very few people know why they call the story a song. That is the mystery and I know the answer.

(kisses Robert)

That felt close. Didn't it? Good night, Robert.

She exits.

ROBERT

I'm so confused!

OUIJA

Because he loves Carolyn, lusts after Jennifer, agonizes about Mary Bernadette—and that's just the short list!

ROBERT

Women!

OUIJA

Then he gets an idea.

Robert takes out a laptop.

ROBERT

"www.askouija.com"

(reads)

Wow! There really is one! I guess everything is on the internet...

OUIJA

"You have five questions. After that, you have to put in your credit card..."

ROBERT

Five questions, five questions...

(types)

"How do I know if I'm in love?"

OUIJA

On a scale of one to ten, how miserable are you?

ROBERT

Ten!

OUIJA

Sounds like love.

ROBERT

"Why is it so confusing?"

OUIJA

Because some persons operate on a mental plane and others operate on a physical plane.

ROBERT

"Is there any hope?"

OUIJA

There are moments of connection. You have to be ready for them. You have to think fast. But on the other hand, you have to stop thinking.

ROBERT

"Now you're doing it!"

OUIJA

What is it you really want to know, Robert?

ROBERT

"I want to know..."

Robert knows he is running out of questions. How to best use them?

ROBERT (cont'd)

I want to know how to help someone who lived a long time ago. Someone in terrible trouble. I want to know how to help someone, I guess, on a mental plane."

OUIJA

Ah. I get that question a lot. Do you love her?

Robert supposes that he feels
compassion and that is good enough.

ROBERT

Yes.

OUIJA

Well, there's always science.

ROBERT

"Science?"

OUIJA

Most people think science is for technology and medicine. But
really, science is the math of love, Robert. Look that up.

ROBERT

"But I don't understand."

OUIJA

Please put in your credit card number to continue.

ROBERT

"Where do I look it up? Just tell me that one thing!"

OUIJA

We take American Express-

ROBERT

Science is the math of love?

OUIJA

Visa and Mastercard... And... Discover.

ROBERT

(looks up) How did it know my name was Robert??

SUICIDES

OUIJA

Carolyn takes the poster of Jennifer Jones and places it next to a poster of the great Lew Alcindor, who will one day call himself Kareem Abdul-Jabaar. She poses as Lew and converses with Jennifer.

CAROLYN

Hi...yeah, I'm Lew... oh, thanks...yeah, I am really tall... it's part of my charm... loved you in The Song of Bernadette, I've seen it like a thousand times...

And Carolyn kisses Jennifer Jones's lips.

(Ouija as Coach)

He blows the whistle!

OUIJA

You're late! Again!

CAROLYN

Sorry.

OUIJA

Give me ten suicides.

CAROLYN

Ten what?

OUIJA

Run!

CAROLYN

Okay, okay...(runs, limping) It's not easy...

OUIJA

Then you can't play basketball. You can't do anything.

CAROLYN

It's not true. And you shouldn't say it. You shouldn't talk to me.

OUIJA

You know what your problem is? You're afraid of the wrong things.

CAROLYN

I don't have your big body. I just have this body.

OUIJA

Then you're always going to be someone whining they didn't get what they wanted.

CAROLYN

Then what do I have to do!

OUIJA

You have to work, Carolyn!

CAROLYN

I do! I get up every day and dribble dribble dribble shoot shoot shoot and nothing helps!

OUIJA

That's cause you're dribbling with your body. You've got to dribble with your mind. Now give me another suicide. Now!

CAROLYN

Pant pant pant cry cry cry fall my leg.... Oh my leg... oh, oh, oh...

OUIJA

You're a baby. You got to stop running away from everything and start running toward something.

Carolyn crawls to bed and climbs underneath it. She takes out a stuffed polar bear, cuddles it and goes to sleep. Mary enters. She sits next to Carolyn. She is both Mary and an angel.

MARY

If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces... never be afraid to pick one of those pieces up and begin again. That's the beauty of being alive... We can always start all over again. Enjoy God's amazing opportunities bestowed on us. Have faith in Him always...

OUIJA

Carolyn wakes up because the room has gotten very cold. She gets up and goes to close the window but the glass bursts into a million diamonds. Carolyn looks into Mary's eyes. They have turned to stars.

CAROLYN

Mary!

MARY

The lady... she said that she couldn't promise me happiness in this lifetime... but in the next... You threw the snowball to infinity! It still hasn't landed.

OUIJA

Carolyn remembers this. The cold, hard snowball she threw on the day that Mary turned to ice.

Robert enters in a rush.

ROBERT

Carolyn? I've got an idea!

(opens a book)

"Interactions of the smallest particles demonstrate that matter moving forward in time...and anti-matter moving backward in time are actually physically equivalent. It says here that it's a matter of perspective. It's a choice.

CAROLYN

I don't know what you're talking about.

ROBERT

We're interacting with Bernadette. Somehow. And if we're influencing particles. According to the uncertainty principle, we cannot locate a particle in time because it's always changing and even observing it changes it. We can change the past by talking to Bernadette.

And the vision simply comes.

THIRD VISION, THE SONG OF MARY JONES

(Mary as Bernadette Jones)

OUIJA

Bernadette stands at the confessional. She holds a pearl rosary. It is more beautiful than anything in the world.

MARY

Bless me father for I have sinned.

ROBERT

(Your turn!)

CAROLYN

(What?)

ROBERT

(The priest!)

MARY

I have lost faith and wished for death.

CAROLYN

Uh uh... Do you know that God loves you?

MARY

I think He loves me but has forgotten me. I know God must have much on his mind. If it isn't too much to ask, please pray for me, Father.

CAROLYN

What is your name?

MARY

Bernadette, Father.

CAROLYN

Bernadette. And your family?

MARY

All dead. Except maybe Robbie who I lost on the dock.

CAROLYN

You're wearing perfume, Bernadette. In the middle of the day?

MARY

The Madame says I must. It's called "stepping up."

CAROLYN

Madame? As in the brothel?

MARY

The Madame is good to me. She only sends men who are kind. Is there work I can do for you, Father? I'm a good maid. I can haul wood and kill and pluck a chicken.

CAROLYN

For your penance, say The Three Hail Marys, shoot fifty free throws and perform an act of charity for someone.

MARY

There is something happening to me, Father.

CAROLYN

What is it?

MARY

I cannot say it.

CAROLYN

Then whisper it to me.

(Bernadette touches her belly.)

CAROLYN (cont'd)

Oh.

MARY

I know I will not live. A lady, a beautiful lady. She is so, so beautiful. I want to cry. She tells me that she cannot promise me happiness in this life but in the next. Father, will you take care of my baby?

CAROLYN

I... can't...

MARY

Please! There must be a family.

ROBERT

(Just say it to her, Carolyn!)

CAROLYN

Yes! Yes, a family. I know one.

MARY

A nice family?

CAROLYN

Yes...your baby...your baby will be raised with love... and kindness...

MARY

Will you stay with me again, Father?

CAROLYN

I'll never... I never...I don't want you to die. I'm sorry. I'm so, so sorry.

MARY

I'm thirsty. So thirsty. Some living water. If I drink the water, I will live again.

ROBERT

(Give her some water!)

CAROLYN

(She's not HERE!)

ROBERT

(The uncertainty principle still applies!)

The Living Water appears. Carolyn holds out her hands and fills them and gives the water to Bernadette.

ROBERT (cont'd)

Whoa.

OUIJA

Carolyn, Robert and Bernadette freeze. Or rather, they transfix. A heavenly moment, if such a thing is possible on earth. Bernadette Jones becomes an angel and then the moment passes and Carolyn and Robert are alone.

ROBERT

I think she's gone. Really gone. Someplace. I don't know. Maybe heaven? I have a feeling. A good feeling. What's going on under your bed?

CAROLYN

What did she mean, she will live again?

ROBERT

I told you, I think she's going to reincarnate into Jennifer Jones. Wait. What if you're the reincarnation of Jennifer Jones? Oh my God! What if I am? Anything's possible, right? I mean, if you go down that monkey path. A boy could be a girl, a girl could be a boy.

Robert looks at the water.

CAROLYN

Mary's fourteenth birthday. It just started happening.

ROBERT

Who's Mary?

Mary enters. Carolyn sees her.

OUIJA

This is what Carolyn's grief looks like. It is fierce and loyal and true and it has followed Carolyn all the way from Alaska.

ROBERT

Carolyn... what is it? You said... when I first met you... that your name was Mary and to ask you someday what happened in Alaska. What happened in Alaska?

CAROLYN

I left my sister in the snow. And we never found her.

ROBERT

You mean she's still up there?

Carolyn nods.

ROBERT (cont'd)

Then we have to find her. We have to go there.

CAROLYN

I need nine hundred...forty-five dollars for the airplane.

OUIJA

Robert remembers the day of his bar mitzvah when he was entrusted with the obligations of the commandments. He hands Carolyn his bank book.

CAROLYN

What is this for?

ROBERT

It is my pleasure and honor to perform this mitzvah, this act of kindness. Is it cold now in Alaska?

CAROLYN

It's summer.

Robert takes out his phone.

ROBERT

Alaska... Airlines! Perfect!

CAROLYN

What are you doing?

ROBERT

Booking you a ticket. Do you want me to come?

CAROLYN

I think I have to go alone.

Carolyn takes off the basketball jersey.

OUIJA

Carolyn packs her prized possessions. These are her basketball and the polar bear and the snow globe and they go to Alaska. Of course, Mary and Robert follow Carolyn.

ALASKAN SUMMER, THE SONG OF CAROLYN JONES

OUIJA

This is what Alaska looks like. It's very big and it's where Carolyn and Mary lived when they were both five. Yes, they were once five. For three months a year, they were exactly the same age. Alaska was the most glorious and beautiful place on earth in their opinion. Once you have been to Alaska, well-

CAROLYN/OUIJA

-nothing is ever quite the same.

CAROLYN

Hello!

(and it echoes)

Hellohellohellohellohello... Mary? Marymarymarymarymary

OUIJA

Summer in northern Alaska. There is no division between night and day because the sun shines continuously. And for that reason-

(Ouija looks around)

Things grow really... really... big.

(Ouija, as Teenaged Lew)

He enters running. He is seven feet and three inches tall.

OUIJA (cont'd)

Hey! You seen my buddies?

CAROLYN

I just got here.

OUIJA

Man!

(He blows the whistle again)

I can't believe they ditched me.

CAROLYN

I'm looking for my sister.

OUIJA

Your sister? What does she look like.

CAROLYN

Her name is Mary.

OUIJA

Mary... Mary... I've known a couple of Marys. But not here.
Is that a basketball? Do you play?

CAROLYN

Not very good.

OUIJA

I play center. Obvious cause I'm super tall.

CAROLYN

How tall are you?

OUIJA

That's a good question. I seem to be getting taller. I was
six foot eight when I got here. But after wandering around
for a month-

CAROLYN

A month?

OUIJA

Maybe longer! I seem to be... hm...

(he takes out a tape measure)

Seven foot... three! Lew's my name. Lew Alcindor.

CAROLYN

Carolyn Jones. Nice to meet you.

OUIJA

Like the movie star! From the 1940s. My mother loved her. I've been practicing my hook shot. But there's something off. I need more sky. And I need to be faster-

(He dribbles, pivots and
shoots)

Need to shave off a second. Half a second even!

CAROLYN

Can I show you something?

He gives Carolyn the ball.

CAROLYN (cont'd)

If you pivot and stay on one foot- don't plant the other- you can still-

OUIJA

Where did you learn that?

CAROLYN

Oh. A friend.

OUIJA

Tell him thanks when you see him.

CAROLYN

I will. You've got to dribble with your mind.

OUIJA

That... is... deep! I'm going to have to think about that.

CAROLYN

Take your time.

OUIJA

You know something? You'd make a great coach.

CAROLYN

You think?

OUIJA

You have a good eye. You notice things. You're smart! Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. You hear me? I'd better go. If I keep growing, my mother will kill me! She had to work three jobs to keep me in pants!

Carolyn throws him the ball.

CAROLYN

Think fast! That's for you. A present.

OUIJA

You sure?

(He reads the name on it.)

Now, that's a name! I like that name. That name has some style! Hey, you might have well have these. I was saving them for my buddy but...

(hands Carolyn special glasses)

There's going to be a phenomenon in the sky. Happens only once in a lifetime. You'll need them. See you, Coach!

CAROLYN

See you around, Lew.

Carolyn puts on the glasses. She notices something on the ground and picks it up. It's a white boot.

Ouija shakes the snow globe.

A SNOWBALL flies over Carolyn's head. She leaps and catches it.

Robert and Mary run in- they are five years and nine months old and five years old, respectively.

ROBERT

(calling) Come back here! Mary Bernadette!

MARY

I'm a ballerina!

ROBERT

You're not a ballerina, you're just stupid! And you don't listen!

MARY

Hi! You don't live here.

ROBERT

Don't be rude. Mary Bernadette is rude.

CAROLYN

It's okay. She's right.

MARY

I would know you if you lived here.

ROBERT

She's only five.

MARY

So are you!

ROBERT

And nine months! And I'm in charge!

MARY

We're both five. Where do you live?

CAROLYN

A long way away.

MARY

We live over there. It's winter so we can only go outside for fifteen minutes.

CAROLYN

I know. I mean, I lived here when I was five.

MARY

That's your boot! Robbie, look! That's the boot you lost!

ROBERT

Nope. Too big.

MARY

You wear a funny shoe.

ROBERT

There you go again! Say sorry!

CAROLYN

It's okay. My foot got really cold once and I lost some of it.

MARY

I meant to say you have a nice shoe. And I think you're handsome. A person should say that when it's true.

CAROLYN

I had a little sister. Mary was a little girl, just five years old. Like you. And she had such great faith.

MARY

What's faith?

CAROLYN

Faith is... when you believe that only good things can happen. And that magic is a part of life. My sister and I once made a polar bear. Right on this spot.

MARY

Want to know something really weird?

CAROLYN

I think I do.

MARY

One day someone was walking here and found a girl in the water below the ice. A nice polar bear guards this place. Maybe it's your polar bear!

ROBERT

That polar bear would be dead by now.

MARY

Not a magic one.

(Mary digs.)

And look. The water still comes. You can drink it.

Carolyn does.

MARY (cont'd)

It tastes good, doesn't it?

ROBERT

Mom said fifteen minutes. We have to go.

MARY

Look, do you see it?

ROBERT

See what?

MARY

That- there.

ROBERT

It's an airplane.

MARY

No, look, the lights, those lights. Look up.

CAROLYN

Wow.

MARY

Do you think that might be God?

ROBERT

I don't know. It's not even Christmas.

MARY

A shooting star! Wish for something, quick! If you make a wish, it will come true. Go ahead. Make a wish.

(whispers to Carolyn)

You always have to have one ready.

OUIJA

Carolyn takes off the glasses and looks at the sky. She has a wish. It is the wish that has followed her all the way from Alaska and back again.

CAROLYN

I don't think I'll see my sister again. Not in this lifetime.

MARY

That's cause she might be indivisible. But maybe your sister can see you! Did you ever think of that?

OUIJA

Carolyn strings the lights of the stars together and sees the face of Bernadette, of both Bernadettes, then a glittering burst of stardust reveals Jennifer Jones in all her sparkling glory. And finally, she find the one bright pattern that darkens all else.

MARY

(points at the sky) See, I told you a polar bear guards this place!

Mary slips her hand into Carolyn's hand.

ROBERT

I don't see it.

MARY

That's okay. You don't have to. But (and she looks at Carolyn) we know he's always here.

CAROLYN

What do you wish for, Mary?

MARY

I'm wishing to be a movie star!

ROBERT

If you say it out loud, it won't happen!

MARY

(emphatically) I have faith!

ROBERT

Fifteen minutes is up.

MARY

Goodbye, Carolyn Jones.

CAROLYN

Goodbye, Mary Bernadette.

FIFTEEN CANDLES

OUIJA

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday
dear Carolyn...

ROBERT

Make a wish, Carolyn. I got this for you. Go on, open it.
Those are the real deal. I looked it up. Official goggles of
the NBA!

CAROLYN

I'm... thank you.

Robert produces a paper.

ROBERT

And look at this! It's my family tree! My great-great-great-
great grandfather came from Ireland! And his name was Robert!
And I saw a picture. He had ginger hair! You get it? Robert?
Robbie?

CAROLYN

How could you have an Irish grandfather?

ROBERT

Well, Jews live everywhere. Even Irish Catholic ones.

OUIJA

Carolyn thinks of the girl from Ireland who lost her brother. She tucks the pain under her arm the way she tucks a basketball, safe and sound and close to her heart.

ROBERT

I've been meaning to ask you. How was Alaska?

CAROLYN

It was big. And beautiful. Alaska is the most beautiful place on earth, in my opinion.

ROBERT

Anything else?

CAROLYN

Ask me again sometime.

OUIJA

We carry love and guilt together. They don't cancel each other out. They are like parallel lives, necessary to each other filling in the gaps, keeping the tension alive, keeping us alive. We feel guilty because we can't possibly love enough, not in one lifetime.

ROBERT

Blow out the candles, Carolyn! There's fifteen of them. And one to grow on.

OUIJA

But in the space outside of life, in the brilliant night sky, the world we are seeing, the world we think we are seeing, these bright points of light have long ago faded and what we are seeing hasn't yet come into focus.

CAROLYN

Robert? I think I'm going to change my name.

OUIJA

Carolyn Jones has a spiritual awakening.

CAROLYN

Call me Sky.

OUIJA

We are connected in the strangest ways.

CAROLYN

You want to shoot some hoops?

ROBERT

You always crush me!

CAROLYN

Oh, man. Come here. Get into the athletic stance. Don't stick out your bony ass.

And Mary joins them, hopscotching all the way from eternity.

OUIJA

And so the story ends. Oh, the song. We said it was a song.

CAROLYN

Crouch a little. You got to be light on your feet. You know what boxing out means? Course you don't. Come here.

OUIJA

Because there are many voices, a harmony of sound, if you try
and untangle it it's only words but together, blended
together-

Carolyn and Robert stop playing.
Everyone looks at the sky.

CAROLYN

We are God.

FINI.