

SETTING: A SIDE TABLE WITH A BIBLE
SITS CENTER STAGE, FLANKED BY TWO
CHAIRS. IN THE DARK WE HEAR A KNOCK
ON A WOODEN DOOR.

AT RISE: WE FIND GRACE STANDING
FACE TO FACE WITH HUNTER AT A
DOORWAY.

HUNTER

Good afternoon, I work...would like a moment...that
is...Hunter, my name...Hunter...would you mind if we spent a
few minutes...God's word, Ma'am is really why I'm here.

GRACE

You don't say. Come in, come in.

HUNTER

Really?

GRACE

Certainly. Come on, come in.

HUNTER

Thank you, Ma'am.

GRACE

May I take your coat?

(HUNTER begins his next line
here.)

Oh, don't worry about the shoes; you're fine.

HUNTER

That's OK, Ma'am...Ma'am if I could just...

GRACE

Stop with the "Ma'am." Name's Grace. Can I get you
something to drink?

HUNTER

No thank you...Grace.

GRACE

Are you sure? Hot chocolate? It's getting chilly out there;
but you know that.

HUNTER

No thank you, I'm fine.

GRACE

How 'bout a little bite to eat? Time to stay for a little something? A snack?

HUNTER

I'm fine, really. What I'm here to talk to you about is...

GRACE

God's word, yes you said, but you're sure I can't interest you in a little something? I have a Bundt cake that I made just last night. No trouble to warm it up. Pop it in the microwave, just take a second.

HUNTER

I just ate, thank you.

GRACE

Glass of water?

HUNTER

I'm fine.

GRACE

You seem well dressed - do you need gloves? Is it that cold out? My son left a pair...

HUNTER

No...I'd say it's...lukewarm.

GRACE

It will be cold soon.

HUNTER

I have gloves. Could...a few moments is really all...

GRACE

OK, then, if all bases are covered. Down to business? Hunter was it?

(HUNTER nods yes)

Hunter, please sit down. Make yourself comfortable.

HUNTER

Thank you. You're very kind.

GRACE

Never know who you're entertaining, am I right?

HUNTER

Of course...may I first just ask you...

(HUNTER begins to open his small book.)

GRACE

Wait just a moment...don't tell me. Let me guess. That's a Bible you've got there, closed on your lap, so you're not here to talk about Islam or any of the Eastern religions, that's obvious.

HUNTER

No Ma'am. Grace.

GRACE

I'm going to take a stab and say...not Jewish.

HUNTER

No.

GRACE

This is exciting, don't you think? I've eliminated billions of people already, haven't I? Not to mention the atheists - I guess they were out from the get go, though, right?

HUNTER

I suppose so.

To the follow set of questions/
statements until his next spoken
line, HUNTER shakes his head "no."

GRACE

I wouldn't guess Catholic. Not Lutheran or Methodist, that's for sure. Episcopal? Baptist? Presbyterian? No, that wouldn't be right. Unitarian? Seventh Day? E-free! Not E-free? I thought I had you there for a second.

HUNTER

If I could just...

(Sitting forward in his
chair.)

GRACE

Come now, I'm nearing the finish line, let me have this little bit of fun. Let me take another angle - more exciting for you, too, really. Do you believe that God lives on the planet Kolab and that Jesus and Satan are brothers?

HUNTER

What? Brothers? No...

GRACE

Cuts out the Mormons - I mean, Latter Day Saints. That doesn't give us too much left to play with now, does it?

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

You're much too eager to be mainstream, I can see that now, but you're not a nutcase, that's sure. Smart dressed young man like you? No...you are not a nutcase.

HUNTER

I'd like to think not.

GRACE

Oh my...why didn't I...I never thought I would be...you're a Witness, aren't you?

HUNTER

Yes I am, yes, as a matter of fact...and I was wondering if...

GRACE

I GOT IT!!!! I am so glad to have you in my home, you just can't imagine. I mean all of my friends brag about how they get to have Witnesses all the time. You all called on Maggie seven times just last summer! I was beginning to wonder if ...you've finally arrived! How wonderful!

HUNTER

This is...you understand that I'm a member of Jehovah's Witnesses.

GRACE

Well, I didn't think you were part of the Witness protection program, that's for sure. I'm just so excited!

(A moment where GRACE glows
and HUNTER stares at GRACE.)

Is there a problem?

HUNTER

Well, it's just that I don't get...what I mean to say is that...I wasn't prepared for...

GRACE

Oh, poor dear, of course. You end up staring at a lot of peepholes, don't you? Well, sure you do. That's only natural, and ...ah... you're new at this, of course you're new at this.

HUNTER

Paul told Timothy in his letter that...

GRACE

Your age is not the issue, dear, but it takes time to...

HUNTER

Would you mind if I just asked you a question? Grace?

GRACE

That's the proper way...yes, of course, that's what Maggie said, questions, questions, questions. I've been looking forward to it. Please...

HUNTER

Thank you.

(Opens his small book and turns a few pages.)

Many people think that we are nearing the days of Armageddon, with all the current events...perhaps you've wondered...

GRACE

Oh, not me. I think things are just getting going, don't you?

HUNTER looks up, then turns pages.

HUNTER

What I mean is...have you ever wondered about why we grow old and die?

GRACE

Can't say as it causes me much concern. Fact o' life. Grew up on a farm.

HUNTER looks up, then turns pages.

HUNTER

Do you find yourself wondering why God allows injustices to occur?

GRACE

Reap what you sow, wouldn't you agree?

(HUNTER closes his book.)

Oh, I'm sorry...I'm not being very polite am I? You're not going to leave are you?

HUNTER

I just...you don't really want to talk, do you?

GRACE

Of course I do! That's what I've been waiting for!

HUNTER

You're just making fun of me, aren't you?

GRACE

No, no, no, no. Not at all. Don't leave. Please, try another one. Perhaps something a bit more open ended.

HUNTER

(HUNTER opens his book and
turns a few pages.)

Perhaps you would...

(HUNTER flips a few more
pages.)

The trinity is often...

(HUNTER closes his book.)

Would you mind if we talk for a bit about...

GRACE

Ark of the Covenant.

HUNTER

Beg your pardon?

GRACE

Do you know what was in it? The Ark of the Covenant?

HUNTER

The Ten...the Ark contained the Ten Commandments. Written in
stone. The Ark contained the stone tablets upon which were
written God's Ten Commandments to Israel.

GRACE

They were a stiff-necked, hard-hearted people. It was
actually the second set of tablets - Moses broke the first
ones.

HUNTER

Moses had a right to be angry. The golden calf.

GRACE

Indeed. So God made a second copy. Stone age Xerox - the
finger of God.

HUNTER

I suppose so.

GRACE

What was really in that Ark?

HUNTER

The Ten...I don't follow...

GRACE

Proof. Physical, tangible proof. From the hand of God. The
Word.

(GRACE reaches over and takes
her a Bible.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

The Bible should seem well used, with papers and post-it note edges and when opened we should see ample underlining and highlighting in various colors.)

But more than that. When the Ark went before the Jews, how did it make them feel?

HUNTER

Feel.

GRACE

Feel! They would look up and see the Ark in that big gold gilded box and know that God had touched those stones. The hand of God within. Having God that close is an incredible thing, don't you think? The feeling of being a finger's breadth away from God.

HUNTER

Do you know that God has a name?

GRACE

You're right. I'm out of my role, aren't I?

HUNTER

God has a personal name. Very few people know that God's name is in the Bible - Jehovah.

GRACE

I assume that you are referring to the Tetragrammaton, the Hebrew word for God's name in the Old Testament that when we transliterate the letters consists of Y-H-W-H. The Jewish scribes omitted the vowels because they decided that God's name was too holy to speak. It's use gradually disappeared to the point that we don't even know how the word is properly pronounced anymore though many, like yourself, choose Jehovah, while others favor Yahweh.

(HUNTER stares at her in silence, then opens his small book again.)

Did I do something wrong?

HUNTER

No. It's just that...most people don't...you're not a pastor are you?

GRACE

Nope.

HUNTER

Where did you...most people don't...

GRACE

There is an amazing amount of information on the internet nowadays.

HUNTER

That's what I understand.

GRACE

You do use the internet, don't you?

HUNTER

There is a great deal of misinformation on the internet, particularly about Jehovah's Witnesses.

GRACE

I'm sorry - was what I said misinformation?

HUNTER

You just need to be very careful what you read - a lot of people tell lies about us.

GRACE

I'll be careful. But thank you for caring. That's really very kind of you. Why don't you ask another question? I'll try to do better.

HUNTER

OK...uh...you seem to know about the name of God, but do you know that God's name has been deleted from most Biblical translations.

GRACE

What do you mean deleted? Is that better? That's better isn't it?

HUNTER

Most translations use the word LORD, in capital letters, instead of God's name - Jehovah. They've removed the name of God from the Bible.

GRACE

Yes, but most Bibles have a note in the preface that says that is what they are doing.

HUNTER

...but the New World Translation, used by the Witnesses, restores God's name...

GRACE

...maybe so, but the New World Translation inserts the name Jehovah into the New Testament where it never was in the original Greek and many times that takes honor away from Jesus.

HUNTER

Are you an apostate Witness?

GRACE

No.

HUNTER

I think that...I'm sorry, but I'm afraid that I have to go.

GRACE

No, please! Tell me what I did wrong. I want you to stay, please, don't go. I thought you liked having good meaningful discussions about religion! I was trying to do my part! I've really studied so that I could do my part! Don't go.

HUNTER

I'm sorry...it's just...I don't think that I'm up to talking with someone like...

GRACE

Paul told Timothy not to let others look down on him because of his age.

HUNTER

You seem to be set against learning the truth.

GRACE

I'm not...what have I said wrong?

HUNTER

I think you've been twisted by the information you get on the internet.

GRACE

I'm sorry, please sit down, I don't want...I have some questions for you.

HUNTER

What about?

GRACE

About what you believe?

HUNTER

What do you want to know?

GRACE

Well...do you believe that the Watchtower organization is a prophet of Jehovah?

HUNTER

The organization dispenses the truth from God to His people.

GRACE

How does the Watchtower view others who claim to be prophets?

HUNTER

Well...we believe what the Bible says about false prophets...if you want to look at

(Quickly paging through his
black book.)

Deuteronomy 18, verse 22,

GRACE

Chapter 18?

HUNTER

Chapter 18, verse 22. Would you mind reading it? What translation do you have there?

GRACE

King James. "When a prophet speaketh in the name of Jehovah, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which Jehovah hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

HUNTER

What a true prophet speaks will happen, what a false prophet speaks won't.

GRACE

That makes sense.

HUNTER

We don't believe that God is a God of confusion.

GRACE

So then, let me ask you this...What do you have to say about the fact that the Watchtower prophesied Armageddon in 1874, 1914, 1918, 1946 and 1975 and that there would be a resurrection of Old Testament saints in 1878 and 1925? Did any of that come true?

HUNTER

The light is getting...

GRACE

Somewhere around here I have all the quotes from Watchtower literature...where did I put those again...I began to think you wouldn't come and I lost track...

HUNTER

(Standing up and gathering his books.)

...brighter...those things were ...they are just fallible people.

GRACE

But you said that the organization dispenses the truth from God.

HUNTER

You have no interest...I'm not...no interest in learning the truth of Jehovah.

GRACE

Please, sit down. I'll warm up that Bundt cake - nice and warm. We can sit, have a nice chat.

HUNTER

No, thank you.

GRACE

Don't go

HUNTER

God bless you, Ma'am.

HUNTER steps outside the door, clutches his small book, while his Bible slips out of his hand. GRACE sits in her chair and hugs her Bible to her chest.

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY