

CONTINUED: (19)

THOMAS

You can pray to me if you want. At least I'd answer one way or another.

MARTHA

Jesus answers me. He calms me down. Don't need all that breathin' rigmarole. You'se like one o' them people I seen on TV late night when I can't go to sleep, settin' with their legs crossed an' their eyes closed. Lis'nin' to them gurus. That where that's from? "Be still an' know that I am god," that one o' them guru things?

THOMAS

It's from the Bible.

MARTHA

It is?

THOMAS

Psalms 46:10. "Be still and know that I am God."

MARTHA

Lordy, mercy.

THOMAS

You calmed down now?

MARTHA

Yeh.

(she touches his face, sings)

"An', he walks with me an' he talks with me,  
an' he tells me I am his own. An' the joy we  
share as we tarry there, none other has ever known..."

LIGHTS slowly dim as Thomas applies  
cream to Martha's arm.

BLACKOUT

ACT 1, SCENE 2

J.D.

(In darkness)

→ Thank you, Jesus!

LIGHTS UP ON A PULPIT in limbo.

J.D. GRAYSON, 45-65, preaching in  
rolled up sleeves and loosened tie.

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J.D. (CONT'D)

'Cause Jesus took away the blinders so ever'body could see! Now, I know a lot o' you don't know me 'cause I ain't preached in a long time. But Jesus brought me back. Yes, he did. Happened when a woman stopped for gas an' I's out pumpin' her ten dollars worth. She was real purty, but for havin' a tooth knocked out an' her eye blacked. I asked her what was wrong an' she said her boyfriend knocked her up side o' the head. I tol' her that wudn't no way to do people. An' right there she started cryin', so I took her in the fillin' station an' locked the door b'hind us. Closed the blinds on the wind-ers an' b'fore you know it we laid down right there on the fillin' station floor an' just went to town. 'Cause the flesh was weak, yes, it was. Now, I know you're thinkin', what's a preacher doin' up here talkin' about fornication? Well, God wudn't done with me! No, sir! 'Cause after we'se done that woman started cryin' ag'in so I got her some coffee from the pot I keep in the back an' asked her if she'd come to Jesus yet an' she said no. So we talked some Bible for a long while an' then she did, right there in the fillin' station where I'se workin', she come to Jesus. When she drove off her face had a smile on it like nothin' you ever see'd, bless her heart. Forgot to pay for the gas but I let that go. So then I got to thinkin', an' got down on my knees and prayed, an' I opened my heart to God and I could see! I could see it was a sign! God wanted me to preach ag'in. Jesus was right there, whisperin' to me in that sweet voice o' his that just breaks your heart... an' I said Hallelujah! Yes, I did, Hallelujah! I'se back in God's good graces, Hallelujah!

END

He holds out his arms, throws back his head and lets out a shout from the bottom of his belly, simultaneously clapping his hands together and stamping his foot with the hallelujah's, working up the congregation (audience).

BLACKOUT

ACT 1, SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP ON: Martha's LIVING ROOM.  
Later that afternoon. Thomas and John come in, tossing baseball gloves into a corner where John also sets down a bat.

THOMAS

And then he said "stick your pecker in her baby hole."

JOHN

(Laughing)

Do what?

(CONTINUED)