

The Book of John

by Jesse Case

SETTING

a trailer park and the surrounding desert

a thousand year long drought

CHARACTERS

john wyatt grant

the last cowboy

shim

the water carrier

kertie

the record keeper and mother to shim

dura

wife of the wind god

jurch

owns the truck

ramia

daughter to jurch and apprentice to kertie

aden

apprentice to jurch

reif

the bartender

mill

the wingmaker

mister rinse

a travelling wish salesman

PROLOGUE.

REIFs PLACE. NIGHT.

REIF

howbout a song mister grant

REIF NODS AND PICKS UP HIS GUITAR.

REIF

i think yul like this one its an old one

REIF TUNES HIS GUITAR.

REIF

even from before the drought i think

ok here we go

REIF PLAYS. HE FINISHES ONE VERSE.

REIF

theres more to it if you want

uh more bourbon

ok

REIF TAKES THE GLASS AWAY.

REIF

well goodnight mister grant

oh hey mister grant

mister grant you left your hat

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mister grant

mister grant

CHANGE.

KERTIEs PLACE. KERTIE AND RAMIA.

KERTIE

the drought is eight hundred thirty six and a half years old
eight hundred thirty six and a half years without a drop of water
that makes it older that just about everything
of course its supposed to last a thousand but thats just a guess a myth
now eight hundred thirty six and a half out of a thousand that makes me think weve past the worst of it
but that does not mean we are out of trouble no siree

ive heard wonderful things about rain well not heard exactly read
ive read wonderful things about rain
a certain smell thats not actually the rain itself but the ground the smell of the ground when the
water first hits it
like the earth taking a deep breath
ide love to see that before i die

but i wont of course just like i wont ever see a river unless i steal the truck and take it to the mississippi like they say my
great grandmother did

if its true its a good thing she brought it back
imagine that though the mississippi is six hundred miles from here

they also say she brought a couple of the gas tanks back full of river water and it was the
sweetest thing that anybody ever tasted like no water anywhere else

of course thats not in the records thats just something people say so i dont know if i believe it
personally my faith is in the archives for as much as we can prove anything we can prove
that what is in those records are facts are what actually happened and go from there

im worried about you ramia you like the stories too much its that mother of yours always with the stories
never forget how to tell the difference

thank god for the facts even though they dont make very good stories

RAMIA

thats not true

KERTIE

oh no tell me a story thats completely true

you can't can you

RAMIA

what about when mister grant pulled the truck back in from the desert by himself when it broke down
thats a great story

KERTIE

ah yes

jonathan wyatt grant

a story without a lie in it

CHANGE.

SOME MUSIC.

THE TRAILER PARK. A DRY EARLY MORNING. JONATHAN WYATT GRANTS TRAILER IS GONE.

SHIM ENTERS WITH CANTEENS. JONATHAN WYATT GRANTS TRAILER IS GONE.

HE DROPS THE CANTEENS. HE STARES.

HE BLINKS.

HE WALKS TO THE EMPTY LOT AND INSPECTS THE FOUNDATIONS.

HE BREATHES HARDER.

SHIM

what the hell is going on

ADEN ENTERS. JONATHAN WYATT GRANTS TRAILER IS GONE.

ADEN

what the fuck

shim what happened

SHIM

i dont know i just got here

ADEN

wheres his trailer

SHIM

i dont know wheres his trailer i just got here

ADEN

well it couldnt have just dissapeared what the fuck happened

SHIM

i dont know aden i just got here

ADEN

you didn't see anything

SHIM

no aden i didnt see a thing i just got here

i dont understand

ADEN INSPECTS THE AREA.

ADEN

yeah me neither it was here last night i walked past it

SHIM

i know i did too i picked up his canteen what is going on here

ADEN
i dont know

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fff well shit is he gonna be pissed when he sees this

SHIM
yeah no kidding

god i wonder where he is

ADEN
yeah where is he

SHIM
well every other day hes out on his porch waiting for his water

mister grant

mister grant

ADEN
john

shit

SHIM
do you think hes ok

ADEN
are you kidding john could untie a goddamn tornado fee had too heard he did once too course hes ok

wherever he is

SHIM
yeah

well I gotta get him his water anyhow mom says its gonna get hot early

ADEN

yeah no clouds wheres wind when you need him

SHIM

hill be around later

aden

this isnt real

i mean theres no way a trailer could just dissappear i mean it looks like it was never here and these things are in you remember when we fixed duras porch the damn things are attached with concrete and steel and deep too and they been here since i dunno probably before the drought even and all of a sudden mister grants is just gone and no sign of him either

this is like a a dream or something like i haven't woken up yet

we should tell somebody jurch maybe

ADEN

fff yeah hes gonna love this

mebbe will let him find out himself

SHIM

jurch isnt a bad guy just tell him

ADEN

i didnt say he was

SHIM

well we gotta do something aden

why did i have to find it i carry the fucking water i dont know what to do about this

what do we do about this

ADEN

relax shim

SHIM
dont tell me to relax aden

DURA ENTERS. JONATHAN WYATT GRANTs TRAILER IS GONE.

ADEN
well then shut the fuck up and lets figure something out

dura

DURA

goodness

boys what happened

SHIM
we don't know we just got here

DURA

where did it go

ADEN
its just gone

DURA
just gone thats impossible

how could this happen

ive never seen anything like this

have you seen john is he alright

ADEN
we dont know

SHIM
do you know what happened

DURA
no

goodness

shim you must be terrified

ADEN
fff

SHIM
shut up aden

DURA INSPECTS THE AREA

DURA
ive never seen anything like this

well i suppose i suppose we have to let everyone know are you boys alright

ADEN
fine

DURA
shim

SHIM
 yeah im fine

DURA
 and you didnt see anything

ADEN
nothing

DURA
ok

shim go tell your mother so she can start the record and then let mill know ask if anyone saw anything

aden you go tell jurch hes probably drinking at reifs

and for goodness sake keep a sharp eye out both of you

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SHIM

what are you going to do

DURA

im going to talk to wind

DURA EXITS.

SHIM

how do you describe this to someone

ADEN

good question

johns trailer is gone like it was never there

CHANGE.

KERTIEs PLACE. KERTIE AND RAMIA SIT BY THE TAPESTRY IN THE MIDST OF BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT.

KERTIE

when you become record keeper in a few years youll naturally have the right to change how things are done make adjustments to
where and how things are kept what you emphasize
and of course every record keeper weaves the tapestry her own way

just make sure that whatever changes you make are duly recorded

now shall we take the temperature

RAMIA

ok

RAMIA MOVES TO SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT. KERTIE GETS A BOOK.

RAMIA

ready

thermometer ninety nine my god already

barometer thirty one point six

wind zero figures

KERTIE

will be around later

RAMIA

psychrometer ninety nine and ninety eight so maybe two percent

KERTIE

check the chart ramia do it exactly

RAMIA DOES.

RAMIA

one point seven close

KERTIE

close

RAMIA

care to guess the rain guage

KERTIE

we still need to record it

RAMIA

i know

and no clouds as usual

KERTIE

theres a great drawing of a rainstorm somewhere around here over the southern horizon

you can see the whole sky covered in clouds no blue anywhere

RAMIA

i think you showed me that one already

KERTIE

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oh did i

well here i wrote down the figures seperately so you can practice entering them i need to finish yesterdays weaving

RAMIA

ooh can i see what did you put for yesterday

KERTIE

nothing spectacular a few inches

RAMIA

stil though

kertie i love this is that the truck

KERTIE

well your father had to go into the desert to find a new part

RAMIA

it looks great

KERTIE

thank you ramia now start entering those figures this will take a few minutes

KERTIE WEAVES. RAMIA WATCHES.

KERTIE LOOKS AT RAMIA.

RAMIA WRITES.

RAMIA

kertie

KERTIE

yes ramia

RAMIA

does this ever seem

i dont know

pointless

KERTIE

excuse me ramia

record keeping is not pointless

RAMIA

no no not record keeping not in general thats not what i meant i mean

well you know the temperature and all this

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i mean every day in this book is pretty much the same
every day the barameter changes maybe point one
the rain guage is zero in what almost half the books in here
the humidity doesnt change of course

doesnt it make more sense to i dunno keep a record just when something changes

KERTIE

well that wouldnt be a record would it that would be a story

RAMIA

well whats wrong with that

KERTIE STOPS WEAVING. SHE TAKES A DEEP BREATHE.

KERTIE

ramia listen to me carfully
those records are how we hold onto time

those records keep the days sacred without them the days become blurred and unspecific
they lose their context

for example without records would we know that its a drought
that there was a time when we had rain and cold weather
or would we figure that the world was always cracked and dry
and therefore without records would we know that someday the rain will return
and someday the drought will drink itself to death

ramia

life is not a good story it has no beginning middle and end no climax no decrecendo
life is a fact it is unchanging and limitless

to treat it like a story to force change upon it to limit it is disrespectful

life exists as a fact
and the only way to keep it is through facts

RAMIA

well maybe theres more to life than the temperature

SHIM ENTERS OUT OF BREATH.

KERTIE

shim whats wrong

SHIM

john wyatt grants trailer is gone

KERTIE

gone

what do you mean gone

SHIM

gone like it was never there just gone

KERTIE

shim thats impossible

SHIM

go look for yourself aden and dura saw it too adens off to tell your dad

RAMIA

how did it happen

SHIM

i dont know i delivered the water and it just wasnt there

KERTIE

ok ramia go take a look see if shim is telling the truth

RAMIA

ok

shim you want to come

KERTIE

shim can stay here just go look maybe make a quick sketch for the record

RAMIA

then what

KERTIE

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then come back ramia

RAMIA

thats not what i meant

RAMIA EXITS.
KERTIE WEAVES.

KERTIE

i hope your telling the truth

SHIM

i am

KERTIE

i made you some food and a glass of water

SHIM

thanks im not hungry

KERTIE

of course you are you havent had breakfast

SHIM

im a little shaken

KERTIE

im sure its nothing to worry about

SHIM

you really should go see its scary

SHIM DRINKS SOME WATER. KERTIE WEAVES.

KERTIE

did you finish your delivery

SHIM

no

KERTIE

ts you should have

SHIM

mom

KERTIE

mister grant will be fine shim in the mean time you need to keep up with your job

SHIM

mom mister grant is gone we cant find him or his trailer

KERTIE

mister grant will be fine

SHIM

what if he isnt fine
what if hes out in the desert getting picked apart by vultures as we speak

KERTIE STICKS HER FINGER WITH THE PIN.

KERTIE

ah

god my finger i stuck it

get me some bandage shim

SHIM GETS HER SOME BANDAGE.

KERTIE
thank you shim

now i dont want to hear any more talk about this mister grant will be fine

now please go deliver your water

SHIM
ok are you ok

KERTIE
ill be fine dont worry about it shim

SHIM
ok ill try not to

RAMIA ENTERS.

KERTIE

ah

did you get a sketch

RAMIA
yes

my god its scary out there isnt it especially with no one around
im glad you found it shim not me

KERTIE
lets see the drawing

is this accurate

RAMIA
yes

KERTIE
no marks no indications of any kind

its just gone

RAMIA

like it was never there

SHIM

i told you

KERTIE

well

suppose id better get to work

SHIM LOOKS AT THE SKETCH.

SHIM

hey this is really good

RAMIA

thank you shim

SHIM

well i have to go tell mill

KERTIE

don't forget the water

SHIM

see you later

RAMIA

bye

SHIM

bye mom

KERTIE

bye shim

SHIM EXITS.

RAMIA

do you think anyone told my mom

KERTIE

probably not why dont you go see

RAMIA

ill probably be back later

bye

RAMIA EXITS. KERTIE REMOVES THE BANDAGE.

CHANGE.

THE DESERT. DURA IS ALONE.

where are you

husband

i need to speak with you

i can see you out there your out at the butte
dont think you can hide from me

ah welcome back

DURA LIFTS HER ARMS AND CLOSES HER EYES.
WIND RUSHES PAST HER SUDDENLY IN FULL GALE. IT KNOCKS HER BACK SLIGHTLY. THEN IT DROPS QUICKLY TO
A LIGHT BREEZE.

DURA

good morning

where have you been

WIND LIFTS. FOR A MOMENT IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH IT IS BLOWING THROUGH TREES.

DURA

mmmmm you brought the smell back with you

did you see what happened

WIND GIVES AN ANGRY GUST.

DURA

everyone is so worried you havent seen his trailer have you

what about him have you seen him

WIND LIFTS SLIGHTLY AND FALLS.

DURA

oh

well keep looking

if hes anywhere out there in this heat hell be looking for you

DURA TAKES ANOTHER DEEP BREATH.

DURA

mmmmmm

what could it mean
how could it happen

i dont understand

ive never seen never even heard of anything like this

is there something

WIND VIOLENTLY CRESCENDOS. THE LOUDEST ITS BEEN. DURA COVERS HER EARS.
THE WORD TROUBLE IS FAINTLY AUDIBLE.
DURA LOOKS UP AND OUT WITH WIDE EYES.

WIND DROPS TO A BREEZE.

DURA

oh dear
i thought so

worry never travels unaccompanied does it

but why

WIND LIFTS SLIGHTLY AND FALLS.

DURA NODS.

DURA

come back in the afternoon if you would

its deathly hot today

please

WIND LIFTS.
DURA SMILES.

DURA

i love you

WIND SLOWLY LIFTS TO GALE FORCE. IT BRINGS WITH IT A DEEP VIBRATION. DURA CLOSE HER EYES. SHE LIFTS HER ARMS SLOWLY AND TAKES SEVERAL SLOW DEEP BREATHS THROUGH HER MOUTH. SHE HOLDS THE LAST.

WIND FADES AND DISSAPEARS.

DURA EXHALES.

SHE OPENS HER EYES.

CHANGE.

THE WINGERY. SHIM AND MILL. MILL IS WORKING.

SHIM
i guess i dont know what dura expects you to do

MILL
keep an eye out i suppose

but you can see horizon to horizon out here one look should tell you all you need to know

but an entire trailer that is absolutely unbelievable

SHIM
you should go take alook

MILL
as soon as i finish

SHIM
ive never seen anything like that

and neither had mom neither had dura and duras the oldest one here

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besides him i mean

i wonder what happened but it seems like its pointless to wonder what happened because im never gonna figure it out because no one is because its so sudden and so

huge

that it might as well have never happened at all for all anyone can do

and thats what it looks like too you go out there and its just gone

what do you do about that call for help no because who do you call you can look around but i mean if you dont see it right away then you never will its a fucking entire trailer

the problem is that i cant explain this what happened what i should do about it what i should you know feel about it and i dont think ive ever really had that problem

MILL
how do these look

SHIM
really nice

MILL
theyre almost done should be ready for shining by tomorrow

SHIM
how many wings have you made

MILL
i dunno ten fifteen

SHIM
wow

you know jurch kind of thinks this pointless

MILL
what isnt

SHIM
thats pretty harsh

MILL
maybe so

SHIM
i dunno mill were good people in this place you know i wish it hadnt happened here

MILL

well like you said
maybe it didnt

SHIM

right

maybe it didnt

CHANGE.

THE TRAILER PARK. JONATHAN WYATT GRANTS TRAILER IS GONE.
JURCH INSPECTS THE AREA.

JURCH

fuck

ADEN ENTERS.

ADEN

i got the shovel

JURCH

nah doesnt matter there aint nothing here

ADEN

we could try digging anyhow just to see maybe

JURCH

hah well if you wanna dig you go right ahead but there aint nothing under dirt like this

ADEN

that doesnt make any sense

JURCH

no shit it doesnt make sense

three hours driving in the goddamn desert and not a goddamn footprint
that doesnt make sense either now does it

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DURA ENTERS.

DURA
oh good your back any luck

JURCH

nnnope

and i have to say it didnt help with your husband tearassing around the desert blowing over any tracks

DURA
i know but hes promised to look for us

JURCH
oh has he

DURA
he has and be thankful for it too jurch you know as well as i do he can cover a lot of ground

JURCH
so long as he dont get sidetracked

DURA
he wont

so what do we do now

JURCH

not sure i think everyone knows by now
anyone tell my wife

DURA
ramia did i beleive

JURCH
any idea how she took it

DURA
you know her i dont think it really registered

JURCH
huh

aden take that shovel back and start cleaning the truck ill be with you in a sec

ADEN
sure jurch

ADEN EXITS.

JURCH
i spoke with reif this morning

DURA
hmm spoke with got drunk with

JURCH
i spoke with reif this morning

reif saw him last said he served him his drink and went home like usual

but heres the kicker and reif didnt make much of this but i think its important

reif said that before he went he left his hat
like he forgot it but he didnt forget
he once near kicked the shit out of me for touching that hat
no way he forgot

DURA
goodness

well jurch i wonder if he knew he was leaving

JURCH
i wonder if reif knows something and just aint sayin it

DURA
reif goodness jurch if your going to suspect someone reif should be the last on your list

JURCH
i didnt say he did it i said he might know what happened

DURA
jurch nobody knows what happened look at this no man could have done that
everyone is scared confused
the important thing right now is that we dont point any fingers because it simply doesnt make sense to

JURCH
the important thing is that we figure out what the hell happened and ill point as many goddamn fingers as i need to figure it out

DURA
what if this isnt something that needs to be figured out

JURCH

hah what do you suggest instead forget about it act like it never happened
because its one or the other dura

DURA

oh yes
one or the other one or the other
how many people have lost themselves because they thought they had to pick
one or the other

JURCH

you know you can yap at me all you want to dura but im gonna figure this thing out
im gonna find jonathan wyatt grant and his goddamn doublewide
and when i do ill be the one who gets the credit for it

JURCH EXITS.

DURA

credit with who

RINSE ENTERS.

RINSE

ahhh good day madam

DURA

well goodness gracious a visitor jurch look at this
well hes off
anyhow
welcome

and good heavens lets get you some of our water you must be parched

RINSE

thank you maam but i am not for i have all the water id ever need in my briefcase

DURA

in your briefcase

who are you

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RINSE

ahhh a mere merchant madam a traincar on the track of commerce a peddler

DURA

what are you doing here

RINSE

why peddling madam

DURA

peddling what exactly

RINSE

ahhhh i peddle the air that is i sell what one cannot sell and yet i sell it still and profit on it

DURA

which is exactly what

RINSE

wishes madam

wishes

DURA

a wish salesman i thought so ive heard of you people a lot of crock if you ask me

RINSE

dont look so soon to the trigger finger misses windgod and yes ive heard of you for i may have in my breifcase a wish for you

DURA

get out of here were in a bit of a situation im afraid

RINSE

situations are my forte madam

DURA

not this one

RINSE

any one big or small

i fix the unfixable

DURA

hmm i wish it were that simple

RINSE

oh but it is

a small negotiable fee and i give you your wish

no muss no fuss

ill fix this problem of yours right up

DURA

please leave or go bother someone else

our problems are not for you

RINSE

but alas wishes arent just for the solving of problems

but for enjoyment laughter sadness
whatever you want

DURA

im afraid im not interested

RINSE

ah of course your not
but what a curious thing it is to wonder
what the wife of the wind god would desire

seems that she should have most anything on request as it were

protection love prestige a bit of power

then again

perhaps the typical wishes arent what she wants

perhaps she wants the impossible
which fortunately is my specialty

ive been all over this great land madam ive seen many a place
the mississippi
the rockies which you can see from your famous butte on clear days
the redwoods slowly dying of thirst on the west coast
the invisible crystal mountain in wyoming

and everywhere i went at least once i believe i felt your mighty husband throw his
mighty hand across the terrain

but this is the first place ive seen you madam

perhaps what you desires is to ride with him if occasionally once even
to fly free across the earth as he does

you know of course that your legendary husband can travel from here to the grand canyon in twenty minutes if he wishes
that would be something wouldnt it

something of a honeymoon perhaps

DURA

thats impossible

RINSE

is it
one wish thats all i make you as light as the air
temporarily of course

and you and he are united put back into alignment

you saw him today of course i felt him pass no doubt coming to give some aid

but how long before that

and how long until you see him again

a week two
a month

DURA

what would it cost

RINSE

merely a nights lodging and perhaps a glass of bourbon on the offchance you have it

DURA

i dont know

JURCH ENTERS.

JURCH

hey now

whose this

RINSE

my name is mister rinse i sell wishes

JURCH

a wish salesman hah look at this dura

you know my granddaddy got most of our tools off one of these boys for dirt cheap

we dont get many visitors here as you can guess

RINSE

how many people live here

JURCH

just ten

RINSE

just ten

sir ten is a bustling metropolis in these parts

most places ive been have four or three

the last place i was just one

a three day walk due east

and i venture to say your closest neighbor

JURCH

well now say dura lets get this man some water

DURA

hes not thirsty

JURCH

well better get him something

in the meantime dura im gonna take the truck to the butte with aden see if we cant see anything

RINSE

you own a working truck

JURCH

damn straight we do

RINSE

amazing what luck so few of these places own working cars anymore
where do you find the parts

JURCH

oh theyre out there
but the main thing is maintainence
shes an heirloom you might say

RINSE

ah and i gather your looking for something with her

JURCH

whoo boy are we

you see this empty patch of land here

RINSE

sir if i had a drink for every empty patch of land i see right now id be the drunkest man in this desert

JURCH

hah yer right of course you see were missing a trailer and its inhabitant

RINSE

a trailer and its inhabitant you say

JURCH

vanished just this morning

RINSE

any suspects

JURCH

maybe dura doesnt think so

RINSE

hah well now none of the places ive been could draw that quick
less than one day and youve already got yourself the crook

JURCH

heh not yet im afraid
shit fella lets get you a mans drink

RINSE

ah you have bourbon

JURCH

we do

RINSE

much obliged

DURA

what about the butte

JURCH

send shim
not like hill see shit anyway

lets go

RINSE
after you

JURCH EXITS.

RINSE
drinks were half my stated price for one nights bed youll get that wish for free

RINSE EXITS.
DURA IS ALONE.

DURA

i suppose i wouldnt have done it before

but now everything seems so uncertain
so up in the air
hmm
ive never really needed him have i not that hes got much to offer bless his heart
ive never really wanted his life before
but now somethings wrong
and i find myself suddenly wanting something very badly
what love
no he loves me already
companionship
no for hes not much of a companion

power
no
lack of power
lack of responsibilty

for john and his trailer have left two great weights in their absence
one for each of these tired shoulders
and i am going to have to hold them up with jurch there to make sure i never drop them
these people look to me and im not ready to be looked to

maybe just a small taste of freedom absense of reponsibilty
they call my husband carefree for a reason

a brief break before i take my newfound strains yes
just a short one and jurch is sure to offer him lodging so perhaps hill give it free

what could possibly go wrong

CHANGE.

THE BUTTE. SHIM AND ADEN. ADEN HAS BINOCULARS.

SHIM

wow

ADEN

yeah

SHIM

you know it never really hits me how much desert there is around us until i get up here

ADEN
mm hmm

SHIM

but no sign of him

ADEN

nope
figures

i dont know what good were gonna do stuck up here

SHIM

hey we might see something jurch knows what hes doing

hey is that the truck

ADEN LOOKS THROUGH THE BINOCULARS.

ADEN

yeah jurch taking that guy for a ride i bet

SHIM

who is he

ADEN

wish salesman

SHIM

are wishes expensive

ADEN

depends on the wish usually

SHIM

look at the dust theyre kicking up

ADEN

yeah i bet theyre havin a grand old time while we spend a goddamn hour and a half climbing this fucking rock they drink bourbon and pop wheelies in the truck that i just fucking cleaned

SHIM

come on aden hes a guest

ADEN

fff yeah
hes a salesman
jurch likes him but these guys never really like anyone

hes not here to meet people thats for sure

SHIM

have you ever met a wish salesman

ADEN

when i was young yeah of course shim

SHIM
you know when i got introduced to him i had no idea what to say how to act you know and i couldnt figure it out figure out
what was so off about this guy to me you know

and i thought about it on the way out here and i realized

hes the first person ive ever met

ADEN

really

SHIM

yeah

doesnt that seem odd somehow

wrong

ADEN

i dunno not really not out here

ADEN LOOKS THROUGH THE BINOCULARS.

SHIM

its just that
if you stop to think about it a lot about this place doesnt make sense

almost everything in fact

ADEN

it is how it is i guess

SHIM

thats the problem

ADEN

its only a problem if you make it a problem

ADEN LOOKS THROUGH THE BINOCULARS.

ADEN
lets get the hell out of here

SHIM
yeah

THEY DO NOT MOVE. SHIM THROWS A ROCK.

CHANGE.

THE WINGERY. MILL CARVES. HE PUTS THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON A LARGE PAIR OF WINGS.

HE STANDS BACK.

WIND PICKS UP SUDDENLY. REIF LOOKS UP AND SMILES.

CHANGE.

REIFs PLACE. REIF PICKS AT HIS GUITAR. THE HAT IS HANGING FROM A HOOK ON THE WALL.

JURCH ENTERS WITH REIF AND A HALF EMPTY BOTTLE OF BOURBON.

JURCH
hah hah yessir i told you she could tear

RINSE
that is the single finest peice of equipment i have ever driven

JURCH
reif
have you met our guest

REIF
i havent welcome

JURCH
reif this is mister rinse a man of the finest caliber

REIF

40

good to meet you

THEY SHAKE.

REIF

good god man your hands are cold

JURCH

well fuck in that case lets get him a drink two glasses please reif

siddown cowboy

uh whoa not in that chair though

RINSE

oh why not

JURCH

thats grants chair

RINSE

just a second

grant

JURCH

john wyatt grant the last cowboy

RINSE

the john wyatt grant

JURCH

the very same

RINSE

hes the one whos missing

JURCH

the very same

RINSE

when i was just starting out

i was at a small town up near the great lakes or whats left of them at any rate
and mister grant rode in from the desert on six horses

REIF

six horses

RINSE

yes standing one underneath either foot and holding four more by the reigns they were stolen the night before you see he was bringing them back

and he must have been riding at a good seventy eighty miles per hour one minute he was a spot on the horizon next minute he was right in front of me

most terrifying thing ive ever seen

what a thing to walk into his home of all places

but hes gone you say dissapeared

well

he has his own chair of course ill sit somewhere else

JURCH

smart choice i tell you one thing wouldnt want him to come stormin back in here suddenly and find you sittin there hed a whupped you for sure

thats his hat there on the wall

say whyd you hang that up reif

REIF

i dunno

JURCH

he might be pissed you touched it you shoulda let it lie

REIF

heres your drinks

JURCH

toast

RINSE

of course

JURCH

to the drought the miserable motherfucker
maybe if we drink somethin for him hill leave us the hell alone

RINSE

amen

THEY DRINK.

JURCH

mmm hmm

RINSE

tell me reif where would one get some of this liquor its delicious
surely you dont find it in the desert with the bones and broken remnants of our forefathers

REIF

no no not there weve always had it

the story is and this is a good one that a long time ago the guy who owned this place his name was billy
found out the drought was gonna hit and hit hard

and billy started buying up all the things he needed so his family and friends could outlast it

and was lookin around and thinkin about what to buy first and he says

ok well first i need water

and he saw the well and he said ok i got water

and he said ok now i need food

and he saw the well would keep the gardens growing fine and he said ok i got water

and he said ok now i need shelter

and he saw the trailers wouldnt rust cuz thered be no water to rust em and he said ok i got shelter

and he said ok now i need clothes

and he saw the people looked better naked anyway so he said ok i dont need clothes

and he looked around and said well shit what do i need that i dont already got

and long story short that fool spent all his money on ten thousand cases of the finest bourbon he could get

and now whats it been eight hundred years later thanks to billy we got ourselves a basement full

it is runnin low though i have to say i figure itll run out right around the time the rain comes back
which figures i guess one drought for another

JURCH

well shit if theres one thing that i can appreciate its a man who tells a good story

RINSE

indeed indeed now howabout another round of billys life savings

JURCH

hah

yes sir

ADEN AND SHIM ENTER.

JURCH

hah hey there boys come have a drink with me and our guest reif two more

say boys you been introduced yet

ADEN

yeah you introduced us

JURCH

thats right thats right well come sit anyhow

REIF SERVES THE DRINKS.

ADEN

hey reif is that his hat

JURCH

aint that something reif found it last night just laying on the bar didnt you reif

REIF

sure did

JURCH

now we got somethin to remember him by
least till he gets back

ADEN

he leave that here

JURCH

well we dunno do we reif

REIF

nope

JURCH

reif maybe you should take it down stick it in a box somewhere so it dont get all dusty

REIF

sure jurch good idea

REIF TAKES THE HAT DOWN.

JURCH

forget the hat

now what shall we toast to

RINSE

to john grant

ADEN

to john grant

JURCH

yeah alright
to john grant wherever the fuck he went

ADEN

and to finding him tomorrow

JURCH

huh sure

JURCH DRINKS.

THE REST DRINK.

ADEN COUGHS. JURCH SLAPS HIM ON THE BACK.

JURCH

hah hah thats the stuff but shit son you try to match me again it might kill you

ADEN

will see

ADEN BEGINS TO FINISH HIS GLASS AS MILL ENTERS.

SHIM

hey mill

MILL

hey shim everybody

JURCH

huh thats our resident artiste

MILL

and the new guy nice to meet you im mill

RINSE

good to meet you

RINSE

ah

JURCH

say whatrya doin here mill aint you got work

MILL

i finished

one with some water please reif

JURCH

with water huh whatrya some sort of chickenshit takin your beverage light

ADEN TAKES A DRINK.

REIF
here you go mill

MILL
thanks

JURCH BEGINS TO SPEAK UNDER HIS BREATHE TO RINSE. ADEN LISTENS IN.

SHIM
you finished them

MILL
yeah time to shine em then theyre all set

SHIM
thats great

JURCH
say mill

MILL
jurch

JURCH
whatd you do today

MILL
what

JURCH
dont gimme what i said whadthefuck you do today

MILL
i carved jurch same thing as every day

JURCH
oh he carved did he shit you and your goddamn wings you know we had a bit of an incedent today i dunno if yuh heard

dont you give me that look dont you give me that look cuz while you were carving your fuckin wings me and the boys here was allllll over this goddamn wasteland lookin for him

ADEN
woah jurch

JURCH
shut the fuck up aden i aint done

now i am sick n tired of you not pullin your goddamn weight around here you were gettin away with it before but now that john wyatt up and vanished im not gonna tolerate that shit he didnt like you and i dont like you either 46

MILL
mister grant liked me fine

back off

JURCH
dont you tell me to fucking back off you listin and listin good

i dont give a shit what that batty bitch dura says about you i think yer no good
you dont do shit for this place you dont hold up your end of the work
now we are gonna find out exactly whathe fuck happened to john wyatt grant
and if you had somethin to do with it which i wouldnt put it past ya your dead

MILL
your drunk jurch get out of my face

ADEN
yehshit jurch mebbe you should ease up

JURCH
i said shut the fuck up aden

ADEN TAKES A DRINK.

JURCH
you gonna swing big boy you look like you want to

JURCH AND MILL ARE NOSE TO NOSE. RAMIA ENTERS.

RAMIA
dad

oh my god dad get off him

JURCH
stay out of this ramia

RAMIA
dad your drunk lay off

JURCH
what the hell you doin here anyway

RAMIA
mom was asking for you

JURCH
ah hah well shit thats all i need now aint it

RAMIA

47

well you can forget it she doesnt want to see you if your drunk

JURCH

hah she dont want to see me fuck
woman cant see shit now can she
she wanna see me she need a goddamn new set of eyes dont she
dont she

RAMIA

fuck you just cuz mister grants gone doesnt mean you get to start being an asshole in public

JURCH

alright thats it you get your ass out of this bar right now you little shit run back to mom

RAMIA EXITS.

SHIM GETS UP TO FOLLOW.

ADEN

no wait man ill go youstay here

ADEN STUMBLES. REIF ASSISTS HIM.

ADEN

woah

REIF

take it easy aden

JURCH

shim dont follow her let her be alone

SHIM

i was just gonna see if shes alright

JURCH

shim she dont deserve no seeifshesalright

MILL

jesus jurch

JURCH

mill you keep your mouth out of this

shim you follow her and ill break your legs

SHIM

what

JURCH

no one better ill kill you dont fucking follow her

SHIM
youll what

JURCH
you heard me

SHIM

 alright
 i wont go

im going home

SHIM EXITS.

JURCH
 exactly like her goddamn mother

MILL FINISHES HIS DRINK.

MILL

 im out of here

JURCH

 tomorrow you remember what i said

MILL
 jurch tomorrow you wont remember what you said

 take it easy reif

MILL EXITS.
JURCH FINISHES ADENS DRINK.

JURCH
how much to wish for no hangover in the morning

RINSE
howabout another nights stay

JURCH
you got it

THEY SHAKE. RINSE OPENS HIS BRIEFCASE.

CHANGE.

THE DESERT. RAMIA IS ALONE. SHE SITS ON THE SAND AND BREATHES DEEPLY. SHE WEARS A BEATEN SCARF.

SHIM ENTERS.

SHIM

ramia

RAMIA

oh

hi shim

do you need something

SHIM

uh no

are you ok

RAMIA

im fine shim

SHIM
are you sure

RAMIA
yes go away

SHIM
im sorry

RAMIA
its fine

look mister grant just wasnt there to shut everyone up ok dads said stuff like that before its not a big deal

SHIM
do you come out here a lot

RAMIA
shim no offence but get the hell out of here if thats ok

SHIM

you know your dad threatened to kill me if i followed you

RAMIA
huh really

SHIM
yeah i dunno its not a big deal but i think that was officially my first death threat

RAMIA
no shit
congradulations

SHIM
thanks

i mean i guess it doesnt bother me just a lot of you know firsts today

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RAMIA
i guess so

are you leaving

SHIM
i thought we were talking

RAMIA
were not get the fuck out of here

SHIM
thats kind of mean ramia

RAMIA
mean fuck you want mean mean is deliberately choosing this particular patch of desert to stand in when you could be standing in a million other parts of it after ive asked you told you specifically not to stand in it

SHIM
im just trying to help

RAMIA
your not your not come on shim you know me i just need some time alone

SHIM
you always have time alone every time you want it and a fat lot of good its done you

RAMIA
oh like you know

SHIM
how come you have to keep taking it then time alone every time you get a chance alone alone alone the more alone you get the more alone you want to be
how many times have you actually sat down and talked with someone about anything

RAMIA
what is this shim what do you want

SHIM
i dont know
i want to know what happened with your dad ive never seen him like that so angry

RAMIA
johns usually there to keep an eye on him at the bar anyway

SHIM
and mill too mill was ready to fight him

mill he seems so peaceful

RAMIA

i guess he never had the chance to fight before

this place is probably chock full of things people want to say to each other but dont or cant or couldnt

SHIM

that doesnt scare you

RAMIA

well ive got things of my own so i cant say i blame them

SHIM

like what

RAMIA

well

you wanna know how my mom really went blind
it wasnt the disease well not directly

back when my mom first got sick like really sick
she started to get this pain in her body occasionally at first then more often tearing burning pain that gradually
started to come so often that she couldnt feel anything in the periods between
and so it went that she would alternate between periods of intense numbing and intense sudden pain sleeping during the
numb part and waking in the pain

she said the numbing got to the point where she could feel absolutely nothing

and one morning she woke up to find a chunk of her right leg was missing just above the ankle

SHIM

what oh my god

RAMIA

just gone eaten by a certain spider she says lives out here

the shock almost killed her

but it didnt just gave her boost enough to get out of bed and run screaming into the desert without so much as a limp

she couldnt take being sick anymore the pain that was her everyday life

and on top of all that fate had the nerve to start take peices of her body

and she screamed at the top of her lungs make it go away make it go away begging the desert to fix
her give her leg back make it go away

and suddenly and this is what she said so dont tell me im crazy

suddenly she was surrounded by this low rumbling like horses approaching from every angle and it got louder and louder
and then there was this bolt of lighting but not a bolt of lighting of course a bright flash of something and a sudden
deafening noise and she closed her eyes to shield them from the light
and never saw anything again

how did it happen

RAMIA

the desert does not grant wishes kindly
 you ask it for water it gives you a mirage
 you ask it for cold and at night it drops to negative five
 you ask it to make life go away it blinds you

shim

i cant stand the sight of this place this whatever you call it
 this speck of water on the empty map this trailer park im choking

every day i look at the drawings she has your mom i mean books upon books of them of places other than here for posterity
 or some bullshit like that

did you know that there are trees still alive on the west coast imagine that eight hundred and thirty six years with no rain and
 somehow these fucking trees are still hanging on

and somewhere else the mississippi is still flowing

and somewhere else it doesnt hit a hundred degrees every fucking day of the year

every morning when i write in that fucking book i come face to face with these drawings old photographs sketches of what
 im missing because im sealed into this tiny town by a million fucking miles of sand

how do you do it your always seem so happy here youve met ten people your whole life your still happy
 are you just oblivious naive what

SHIM

i dont know

i guess i just dont think about it

RAMIA

how how do you not think about it

how do you not think about something

SHIM

i think about other things i guess i dont know

RAMIA

what other things

SHIM

rami i dont know i dont know what i think about i dont know if i think about anything i just do ok

RAMIA

how how

SHIM

i dont know i dont know what you mean how

there is no how ramia you just fucking do it

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RAMIA KISSES HIM.

SHE BREAKS OFF.

THEY KISS AGAIN.

THEY BREAK OFF.

RAMIA
im sorry

SHIM
why

RAMIA
i shouldnt have

SHIM
what

RAMIA
well its just
your so young

SHIM
what no im not

RAMIA
well we just cant

SHIM
because of jurch

RAMIA
i guess

SHIM
we dont have to tell him

RAMIA
its not that

he he has this idea in his head that im gonna marry aden

55

SHIM
what aden

RAMIA
yeah i think its kind of assumed

SHIM
assumed dont assume that adens a jackass

RAMIA
hes not come on
anyway if i cant get out of it get out of here

fuck i dont know
but i cant do this

SHIM
you know ive loved you for a long time

RAMIA
dont
dont say that shim fuck

fuck
why would you say that you see this is what im talking about your so goddamn young you dont even realize why you cant say that shit

SHIM
im sorry

RAMIA
forget it look im gonna head back in

SHIM
what happened to not thinking

RAMIA
well it worked out pretty fucking well just then now didnt it

RAMIA EXITS.
SHIM SITS BY HIMSELF. THE WIND GENTLY COMES IN.

CHANGE.

THE WIND ESCALATES. IT BRINGS WITH IT A DEEP VIBRATION. IT BLOWS GENTLY AND SUDDENLY ESCALATES. A LONG SCREAM IS BARELY AUDIBLE UNDERNEATH THE NOISE.

THE SCREAMING STOPS ABRUPTLY. THE WIND SLOWLY DIES.

KERTIEs PLACE. EARLY MORNING. KERTIE IS WEAVING.

RAMIA ENTERS.

RAMIA

hi kertie

KERTIE

hello ramia

RAMIA

did you hear wind

KERTIE

hmmm no

RAMIA

he came in early today loud too it woke me up

KERTIE

oh

RAMIA

is shim here

KERTIE

not sure hes out for the water

RAMIA

kertie are you ok

KERTIE WEAVES FASTER.

KERTIE

im fine why

RAMIA

you just sound strange
kertie stop weaving for second and talk to me

KERTIE

i cant

RAMIA

kertie stop weaving

KERTIE

ramia i told you im fine

RAMIA

kertie stop ok relax stop

KERTIE

ramia

RAMIA GRABS KERTIEs HANDS AND MAKES HER STOP.

RAMIA

kertie please stop weaving

god kertie look how raw your fingers are

KERTIE

well ive been weaving the whole night what else would you expect

RAMIA

the whole night

KERTIE

yes and theres plentystill more to do so let go of my arms

RAMIA

no kertie please you need a break

KERTIE

a break hah a pause no the days will not pause for me if i pause now the days will overtake me
ramia more happened yesterday than in the last year of our lives do you really think ill let time get the better of me
hahah no sirree

RAMIA

kertie please

KERTIE

this record will be kept let go
of
my
arms

KERTIE STRUGGLES AND PULLS AWAY.
SHE WEAVES.

RAMIA
what about the temperature

KERTIE
yes do that would you dear the book is where you left it

RAMIA
kertie please your hands

KERTIE
ramia im not going to tell you again

SHIM ENTERS.

SHIM
oh

hi ramia

RAMIA
hi shim

shim is she ok

SHIM
why wouldnt she be

RAMIA
shes been weaving the whole night

SHIM
i didnt know i got back kind of late

mom are you ok

KERTIE
one second shim

SHIM
mom have you been weaving the whole night

KERTIE

shim im working itll have to wait

SHIM

mom listen to me

KERTIE

shim im fine i need to work now did you deliver the water

SHIM

not yet

what the hell do i do

RAMIA

let her finish i guess

shim can i talk to you

ADEN ENTERS.

ADEN

kertie

RAMIA

aden what are you doing here

ADEN

i cant find jurch where is he

RAMIA

hes out with rinse

whats going on are you alright

ADEN

its dura

RAMIA

tell me what

ADEN

i didnt want to be the one to tell you any of you shit

RAMIA

just say it what the hell happened

i was up because of all the wind and i heard it knock something over outside so i went out
 and i saw dura standing on top of her trailer
 and her arms were wide open and i started to go over shouting to her asking what the wind was all about
 and before i had taken ten steps she lifted off

RAMIA

what

KERTIE STOPS WEAVING.

ADEN

she lifted off
 just took off from the top of her trailer almost straight up into the air her arms wide open and it looked like wind was playing
 with her or something she flew around back and forth like a piece of paper up and down flying but not quite flying because
 she had no control
 and suddenly the wind picks up and changes and like that she flew directly above my head and straight out in the direction of the
 butte and suddenly the wind shifted again and her body was bent i dont know
 not even bent snapped and the arms dropped and her head started flopping back and forth
 and she was blown a little further and then oh god wind must have realized because it stopped completely
 and she fell too slowly almost like she floated down but oh god it must have been a hundred feet
 and after she hit there was a pause
 felt like a goddamn half an hour
 and i didnt know what to do i tried to call for help but i couldnt speak
 i went to run out to her even though she must have been a quarter mile out and even as i got out into the desert the wind tore
 past me almost knocked me over and suddenly it dropped to a warm breeze like a deep breathe
 and it lifted her up gently a few feet off the ground
 and slowly moved her out west towards the butte
 and after a few minutes she was gone

KERTIE

i suppose ill start the record soon as i finish yesterdays

one of you had better go get jurch

CHANGE.

REIFs PLACE. JURCH RINSE SHIM ADEN RAMIA AND REIF.
 JURCH AND ADEN HAVE HALF EMPTY GLASSES. RINSE HAS A FULL GLASS.

JURCH

the important thing is that we dont jump to any conclusions
 its possible shes not dead

ADEN

shes dead

JURCH

now you dont know that aden you were what half a mile away

ADEN

it was a quarter

JURCH

half a mile away now wind is a tricky motherfucker but hes no fool
 and he certainly aint a killer

especially not dura of all people wind wouldnt harm dura
 now you all know that makes sense so everybody in here take a deep breathe

the thing is until we know for sure we cannot let our emotions get the better of us

ramia are you ok i know its scary but im willing to bet my goddamn truck that shes fine

RAMIA

ok dad

JURCH

good now i dont want to hear any more about it one day wind is gonna bring her home and until then we just have to be patient

ADEN

wind aint comin back here

JURCH

what was that

ADEN

wind aint comin back what was he comin for in the first place but dura

JURCH

aden

will be back i dont want to hear it with dura back from some vacation
hell maybe shill even bring us some river water like shims great great great grandma did right
shit dura at the mississippi i can only imagine shes probably laughing at us poor fools all stuck out here
worrying about her

that leaves us to the business at hand

ADEN

they were headin west the mississippis east

JURCH

the rockies then aden shes goin to the rockies

now cut it out

now i want you to get mill hes at the wingery no doubt get him off his ass and into the truck and you two start
lookin for john

RAMIA

dad were not gonna find him

JURCH

were not gonna find him if we dont look thats for sure aint it

now ramia you go and finish your time with kertie

RAMIA

dad

JURCH

ramia kertie has a lot of work to do but that does not mean she is going crazy ok

now go

go goddammit both of you

ADEN EXITS. RAMIA FOLLOWS. SHIM GETS UP TO FOLLOW.

JURCH

shim you wait here i need to talk to you

reif get shim a drink

SHIM

im not thirsty

JURCH

it aint for thirst a double reif

now shim

ive know a few of your family your mother and i go way back your a good kid
now tell me the truth

JURCH HANDS SHIM HIS GLASS.

JURCH

what did you see yesterday morning

SHIM

oh nothing

JURCH

nothing

SHIM

no

JURCH

your sure

SHIM

yes im sure

do you think i did it jurch is that what this is

JURCH

i think you mighta seen somethin your not telling me

SHIM

jurch i want him back too i dont know where this is coming from

JURCH

where this is coming from im trying to find mister grant shim
how do you suggest i do it

SHIM

dura said all we need to do is wait

JURCH

well dura decided to go on a fucking vacation didnt she

SHIM

she is not on a fucking vacation

ho ho your first swear word shim congratulations

SHIM

its not my first swear word dura hasnt even been dead one day and you

JURCH

she is not dead

do you hear me shim

SHIM

i guess you couldnt carry the weight if she was could you

JURCH

what was that

what was that

SHIM

nothing

JURCH

your god damn right it was nothing

now i am very dissappointed in you shim this attitude of yours is not helping anyone

when aden gets back with mill you and he will go to the butte again and you will keep your goddamn eyes peeled this time
and whats more you will go every day from now until mister grant gets back you got it

got it

SHIM

yes

JURCH

good now finish your drink and get out of here

finish your drink

SHIM DRINKS. HE DOES NOT WINCE.

SHIM EXITS.

RINSE LOOKS AT JURCH.

JURCH LOOKS BACK AT RINSE. HE LOOKS AWAY.

JURCH

play us somethin reif

CHANGE.

KERTIEs PLACE. KERTIE WEAVES.

KERTIE

the time

no

the time what is it near sunset yes but what day
what day what day whenever it is it is sunset then

ive just finished seems that it wouldnt be so hard to not weave a trailer but it keeps appearing everytime i change
the picture just a corner of it before i catch it coming and pull out the threads

the time wheres ramia

how many days have i sewn into this one two ten how many nights have i rebuilt
since mister grants dissapearance

i recall a story mister grant told me hes a wonderful storyteller he was in the rockies with his horse and he reached one particular
mountain that he could not climb for every summit was false and every time he got to the top hed see another peak in the distance
every event i finish leads to another or i remember some little detail ive forgotten and that builds itself into its own story
another section of this accursed blanket that begs me to fill it in give it life

to make it a world unto itself

and the further i weave this world into being the more fibers i pull from the world in which i sit i untie it
i sacrifice its matter to the tapestry that bears its likeness

would that i could live within the records for soon theyll be all thats left of this place

SHIM ENTERS.

SHIM

mom

KERTIE

whos there

SHIM

its me

KERTIE
oh hello shim

SHIM
are you almost done

KERTIE
i dont think so

SHIM
will you take a break

KERTIE
oh no so much to do

SHIM
will you eat

KERTIE
i had something ramia brought me something

SHIM
is she here

KERTIE
i dont think so

SHIM
aden and i have to go to the butte

KERTIE
that will have to wait shim im still working on yesterday

SHIM
i just meant so you know

KERTIE
ok thank you shim

SHIM
alright well bye

KERTIE
good bye shim

SHIM EXITS.

KERTIE

who was that

was that my son does he exist

when the great salt lake ran dry the people asked john to fill it up any way he could begged him
and so he ripped a chunk of the earth away and the ocean flowed in and filled it

and the people complained because the water was suddenly far saltier

when people see this tapestry will they care about its subjects this mother that son this trailer that desert
if they are not accurate
no

i bring this world i give it life who am i to take it personally

i am the door but i am not what comes through it

CHANGE.

THE WINGERY. ADEN AND MILL. MILL SHINES THE WINGS. ADEN DRINKS WATER.

RAMIA ENTERS

RAMIA

hey

ADEN

hey ramia come sit we just got back

RAMIA SITS BY ADEN.

RAMIA

i know i saw

nothing

ADEN

fff what do you think

RAMIA

you know i used to wish for clouds every morning at kerties because we hardly ever got any
and now theres a big fuckin dark one smack in the middle of this place

i dont know about kertie her fingertips started to bleed and she wont even bandage them

poor shim

yesterday i thought all this whatever it is tension fear this cloud i thought if only john would come back hed 68
set it right somehow just by having him back the rest of our problems would dissappear now i dont know
what with dura gone

oh god aden she didnt die did she the poor woman

ADEN
oh of course not

RAMIA
your not just saying that

ADEN
no of course not i was far away i dont know

ADEN LOOKS AT MILL.

ADEN
but ramia
everyone is so fucking preoccupied around here myself included of course
that they didnt stop to think how dura was suddenly blown away like that
wind isnt that strong something else was going on mill thinks so too

MILL
it was rinse

ADEN
we dont know for sure

MILL
like hell we dont

ADEN
ok mill knows for sure but i still have my doubts

MILL
you wouldnt if that son of a bitch wasnt jurchs new pet

ADEN
shut the fuck up mill i already told you thats not what it is

RAMIA
what do we do who do we tell

MILL STOPS SHINING.

MILL
we dont know

ADEN
but dont worry will think of something

SHIM ENTERS.

SHIM
oh

RAMIA
hi shim

ADEN
hey shim

SHIM
uh jurch wants us to go to back to the butte

ADEN
fff what

SHIM
to keep looking he says will be doing it every day until john gets back

ADEN
what

RAMIA
dad said that

ADEN
every day

god dammit

SHIM
you ready to go

ADEN
god dammit yeah alright

oh hey you wanna come ramia

RAMIA
not really

SHIM
she doesnt have to

ADEN
come on itll be fun

besides what else do you have to do watch mill

MILL
no way sister im done

ADEN
see you got nothing

come on

come on

RAMIA

ok

but only cuz anywheres better than here

ADEN
alright you hear that shim we got some company

SHIM
great

ADEN
well lets go dont want to keep your dad waiting do we

RAMIA
yeah i guess not

ADEN AND RAMIA EXIT.

SHIM
these are really amazing mill

MILL
thank you shim

SHIM
they dont work do they

MILL
no

sometimes i wish they could

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SHIM
yeah

i wonder how much that would cost

ADEN
come on shim

SHIM
bye mill

MILL
good luck

SHIM EXITS.

MILL LOOKS AT THE WINGS. HE MAKES ONE FINAL SHINE. HE TAKES A DEEP BREATHE.

CHANGE.

REIFs PLACE. REIF JURCH AND RINSE. REIF PLAYS AND SINGS.

REIF STOPS PLAYING.

JURCH

wait a minute that aint the end of the song

REIF

uh no it aint jurch

JURCH
well then keep playing

REIF

i cant

JURCH
you cant

REIF

uh uh

JURCH
well why the fuck not

REIF

well i used to play that song for mister grant
now that hes gone it dont feel right

JURCH
well play another song then

REIF

well i used to play them all for mister grant
he prolly heard every song i knew at least five times

JURCH
this is about that hat isnt it you know what you hang that hat up if you want syour ass if he gets angry

REIF

aw it aint the hat jurch
although wherever he is he dont have it with him and thats too bad he loved that hat

JURCH
obviously not if he just left it

REIF

i dunno maybe it was a gift

JURCH
shit why would he give you a gift

REIF

i i guess i dont know he was in here an awful lot listening to me play and all

JURCH
but why you the hat that he loved so very dearly that hat he wouldnt let anyone touch

whyd he leave that to you of all people

there are people done more for this place than you you know people who work a whole lot harder than you shit all you do is
serve drinks play music
mister grant wouldnt just give his hat that hat to the goddamn bartender would he would he

REIF

i guess not

JURCH

it doesnt make sense does it rinse

RINSE

not at all

JURCH

now for gods sake play us the rest of that song reif come on i know you can do it

REIF BEGINS TO TEAR.

JURCH

shit are you crying

REIF

no jurch

JURCH

you better goddamn well not be crying

REIF

im not jurch

JURCH

good now play something

REIF

i cant

JURCH

well shit this is just great
lets get the hell out of here rinse

RINSE

ill tell you what reif you manage to play a song a full song for jurch and myself

ill give you a wish free of charge

REIF

i dont need a wish

RINSE

everyone says that but im sure theres something

REIF

you know what i guess there is

i wish for mister grant to come back

RINSE

im afraid thats one wish i cant give you

REIF

why not

RINSE

some things not many things but some are beyond wishes are beyond me

JURCH

too bad

REIF

im gonna go sit outside

JURCH

your gonna sit outside

REIF

just real quick ill be back

JURCH

what the hell you mean your gonna sit outside what are you gonna do

REIF

please you can get your own drinks for a bit i just need to get some air

REIF EXITS.

JURCH

how do you like that how do you fucking like that

rinse what the hell is happening here

reif wont play shim wont listen aden talks back

and this morning i couldnt get one word out of my wife one goddamn word she just hums hums for christ sakes
 some old song like reif would play if he werent so goddamn what i dont know

i need to fix this place right now this place needs fixing and im gonna fix it i dont know how yet
 but i am gonna fix this place

yuh thirsty

RINSE

if you are

JURCH

you know i am

drink up

then will go see about mill

RINSE NODS.

CHANGE.

THE BUTTE. ADEN RAMIA AND SHIM.

ADEN

hnh

wouldnt it be something if we saw something

ADEN CLEARS HIS THROAT.

ADEN

nice sunset

hey what the hell is with you two

sorry i guess thats a stupid question

hard to believe hes only been gone for a day and a half feels like years doesnt it

maybe it has been years

ok somebody say something this is making me nervous

RAMIA
i think im going to head down

ADEN
what why

RAMIA
its depressing up here i guess

ADEN
uh ok do you want company shim could go with you and i could

RAMIA
no no im fine

you two keep looking

SHIM
maybe i should go down and you two can keep watch

RAMIA
its fine shim ill go

ADEN
why does anybody have to go

RAMIA
im leaving

SHIM
good

RAMIA
shut up shim

ADEN
what the hell is this

RAMIA
forget it im leaving

ADEN
no tell me whats going on here

RAMIA
nothing

SHIM
you can tell him

RAMIA
shut the fuck up shim

ADEN
tell me what

RAMIA
tell you nothing nothing im leaving

ADEN
no tell me what

what

what shim

SHIM
never mind im sorry i brought it up

ADEN
well somebody had god damn well better tell me something

did you two no ramia

RAMIA

im leaving

RAMIA EXITS.

ADEN

shim

did you and ramia

you fucking did didnt you
 you know im set to marry her right

SHIM

you dont know that

ADEN

yes i do i do shim because im the only one she could
 you know if jurch finds out that you two whatever you did hill hurt you i mean it
 as a matter of fact i should hurt you i should be beating your ass right now you little shit
 thats my girl

SHIM

shes not your girl shes yours by circumstance

ADEN

what else is there

shim you didnt you know

fuck her did you

shim

SHIM

what do you think

ADEN

i think if you did im gonna kick your head it thats what

SHIM

you dont own her you know shes anybodys

shes nobodys as a matter of fact she hates this town and everyone in it

you can kick my head in all you want and shill still have told me that and not you

i bet you never even had a decent talk with her have you

never did anything nice for her just sucked up to her dad

maybe you should marry him instead you faggot

ADEN FEIGNS TO PUNCH. SHIM DOES NOT FLINCH

ADEN

fff i wont hit you your too young

SHIM

sure

im out of here john can find his own damn way home

SHIM EXITS.

ADEN KICKS THE DIRT.

CHANGE.

REIFS PLACE. REIF CLEANS.

HE DUSTS THE HAT.

RAMIA ENTERS.

REIF

hi ramia

RAMIA

hi reif

REIF

can i get you something

RAMIA

no i dunno maybe something light

REIF

i got just the the thing ill show you simple but effective

you put a shot of this particular bourbon in with a full cup of water add two teaspoons of sugar tastes like good cornbread

RAMIA

really

REIF PASSES HER THE DRINK. RAMIA TRIES IT.

RAMIA

mmm your right

REIF

lemme know if you need another

REIF GOES BACK TO CLEANING.

RAMIA

reif can i talk to you

REIF

uh sure what about

RAMIA

i dont know

REIF

ok
is it john

RAMIA

no not john i dont think

REIF

uh ok

RAMIA

have you ever heard the story of how my mom went blind

REIF

it was the sickness

RAMIA

no it wasnt

REIF

it wasnt

wait a minute i think i know what your talking about the spider that ate her leg the rumbling in the desert

RAMIA

yeah that one youve heard it i didnt think anyone else knew it

REIF

not too many just cuz jurch dont want it told

RAMIA

why not

REIF

because it aint true

RAMIA

yes it is

REIF

its not she made it up

RAMIA

how do you know

REIF

you ever looked at that particular portion of her leg its solid as a rock nothing uh eaten out of there
figures she hasnt show you being bedridden and all
plus that uh that spider coyote spiders theyre called theyre all dead mister grant trapped the last one himself

RAMIA

why would she make that up

REIF

dont ask me

RAMIA

i dont believe you

REIF

what

RAMIA

i dont beleive you i beleive her

REIF

ramia her leg is solid as a rock ask your daddy in fact go take a look for yourself

RAMIA

it doesnt matter she told me the truth

REIF

look its none of my business im just telling you what i know

RAMIA

and im telling you what i know dont call my mom a liar you motherfucker

REIF

oh now ramia

RAMIA
dont now ramia me
thanks for the drink im out of here

RAMIA EXITS.

CHANGE.

THE WINGERY. MILL SITS WITH THE WINGS. HE SHARPENS HIS TOOLS.

JURCH AND RINSE ENTER.

JURCH
mill

MILL

what do you want jurch

JURCH
lets talk

MILL
im busy

JURCH
sure you are

JURCH SITS.

JURCH
give us a sec rinse

RINSE
of course

RINSE EXITS.

MILL
whyd you come here jurch

JURCH
answers

MILL
huh you and everyone else

JURCH
exactly

i dont have time for bullshit mill

im gonna ask you this one time and one time only

what happened to john wyatt grant

MILL
thats what your here about

JURCH
yer damn straight

now tell me

MILL
ive got no fucking clue how would i know

JURCH

let me tell you a story mill its a story your granddaddy told me the wingmaker before you

he was in love with dura i dont know if you ever heard that too bad
he built a certain pair of wings spent a good year on em and planned to give em to dura as a wedding present
not knowing of course that shed already been promised to the windgod

he found out the day he finished em
and he got all drunk with me that night roaring drunk crying drunk we shared a few stories talked that sort of shit john
grant was there too come to think of it sippin his bourbon like always

and heres is the important part so listen carful

your granddaddy let it slip that there was a certain way to make them work

some method handed down through the generations to make these wooden motherfuckers so strong theyll lift pretty much anything a
man a truck

a trailer

hardly ever done of course and heavily warned against
but he said i was probably the only one besides him who knew it at the time you were what ten eleven heh

he made me swear right in front of john grant no less
made me swear not to tell but since you already know about it i figure whats the harm

now imagine what i thought to myself when the trailer got pulled out of the ground foundations and all left nothing i thought
to myself it almost looks like that damn trailer flew away

now regularly im a man who keeps his word so i sent rinse out sose he wouldnt hear your little secret

but i know you did it flew him and his trailer to the fucking moon didnt you

and you fucked this place up when you did

MILL
i didnt

JURCH
you did

MILL
i did not

JURCH
will see im gonna get proof its somewhere in this desert proof so everyone sees what you did

and then im gonna kill you

you have my word

MILL
you cant tell anyone these wings work

JURCH
sure i cant i swore to john and john aint here is he

JURCH GETS UP.

MILL
i have a story too jurch

when my great great grandad was young a wish salesman came through

he was just a little boy he had little boy wishes he wished for a horse like hed seen in the pictures

the salesman charged him five full canteens worth of water and all of the corn in his moms garden
and the poor kid was so desperate that he stole the canteens and stole the corn and gave it to this man

next day the salesman was gone and grandad had a horse which when he tried to ride it bucked him off and ran off into the desert
and dissapeared

these guys dont give a shit about people theyre not real and that one out there is no different

hes gonna stab you in the back and your not even gonna see it coming

JURCH
see you in the morning

JURCH EXITS.

CHANGE.

REIF'S PLACE. JURCH AND RINSE.
JURCH DRINKS FROM THE BOTTLE.

JURCH
that fuckin reif
sittin out there starin at the butte what that gonna accomplish

RINSE
unbeleivable

JURCH
and mill

mill

he fucking done it i know he done it he fucked this place up
all i need is a little bit of proof he had to of done it
but the motherfuckers got a good fifteen wings sittin in that shed of his and ill bet you none of em so much as float

fuck

fuck

i could go back over there right now and knock all his teeth out but no one would see see im doing em all a huge fucking favor

proof thats the key just a little bit of proofs all i need to fix this town

and this town needs fixing doesnt it

RINSE
it does

JURCH
its like fixing a car you find the part that caused the problem and you get rid of it

RINSE
exactly

JURCH
these people deserve to know what happened to john
deserve to see the culprit hanged
one sacrificed to help many

i have a wish

RINSE
thats why im here

JURCH
can you make those new wings of his work

RINSE
i could but it might be expensive

JURCH
my goddamn park is at stake rinse ill pay whatever you want

RINSE
the wingery and all the wings in it save of course the pair in question

JURCH
the whole thing

i dont know

then again provided those wings work tomorrow he wont exactly be needing it

alright you got it

RINSE
it will take one night

JURCH
sounds like we got a deal

THEY SHAKE HANDS.
 RINSE GOES FOR HIS BRIEFCASE.
 JURCH LIFTS THE BOTTLE AND DRINKS.

JURCH
 theyll be fucking helping me out once they see

RINSE
 will have to wake up early

JURCH
 fine do it

RINSE OPENS HIS BRIEFCASE.

CHANGE.

THE TRAILER PARK. SHIM ENTERS.

SHIM
 all quiet

ive never seen the park quite like this

too bad

RINSE ENTERS.

RINSE
 ah hello young sir

SHIM
 what are you doing here

RINSE
 i suppose could ask you the same question

SHIM
 wheres jurch

RINSE
 hm alas the man has had his fill of the investments

SHIM
 drunk again

RINSE
 yes last i left he was pacing back and forth from the east to west walls of his beloved bar
 in good time hill sleep tomorrows a big day after all

SHIM
is it

RINSE
yes sir

SHIM
how much do you charge on average

RINSE
im afraid there is no average it all depends on what you have to trade

SHIM
what if i were to wish for love for someone to love me

RINSE
ah near impossible
more than you have here im afraid
many have wished for that but none as yet have been able to afford it

SHIM
what about death

RINSE
death is easier

unfortunately i cannot sell the death wish

SHIM
you get free samples is that it

RINSE
i get what i need

SHIM
why havent you wished for anything like that it seems like you could have whatever you wanted

if i had a breifcase like that god i wonder what id wish for

i know
power
over everyone around here

power

why didnt you ever wish for that

RINSE

see you in the morning

RINSE EXITS.

CHANGE.

THE WINGERY. MILL SITS WITH THE WINGS.

MILL

midnight

the full moon is directly above

it hangs like a lamp a pale bulb i cant sleep in this

kertie told me that the moon wasnt able to get that high once not out here
but a long time ago something shifted changed it or the world doesnt matter in the long run

and now on certain nights she hangs bright enough to see the whole desert floor in sharp releif
and to keep me up

just as well i have thinking to do

 which according to the moon ive been at half the night with no results

the wings

these newest wings

we have a pact to never give flight to anyone including ourselves a pact passed down through the generations
for historically a man with wings becomes an icarus people never learn from stories

a pact never to make the wings work
 unless its our only option

but what will jurch do how long until he digs him up some bullshit proof and kills me
and if he finds the right thing this whole place could turn against me all in the name of john
or will he just kill me in cold blood sneak up with a hammer at the new moon and break my head
in his anger that i havent confessed yet

when mister grant was on the east coast there was this huge house that was about to collapse dilapated broke all its paint 91
peeling and the people asked him to fix it and he looked at the wreck for a moment pulled out a certain nail with his
fingers and the whole damn thing fell into a pile
and they asked him why and he said i coulda added boards and try to patch it up but that wouldnt change that the insides all rotten
nothing to do about that
sometimes if a place wants to collapse all you gotta do is let it collapse

yes

once im gone jurch can blame me all he wants
but then hill have no choice but to accept that mister grant is gone
and no one will know about the wings

ill let this place collapse but only so it can breathe in again

ill do it

MILL STANDS.
HE PUTS HIS HANDS INSIDE THE WINGS.
HE CLOSES HIS EYES.
HE INHALES.

CHANGE.

THE TRAILER PARK. EARLY THE NEXT MORNING. HOT AND BRIGHT.

MILL ENTERS WITH THE WINGS.

SHIM ENTERS WITH CANTEENS.

SHIM

mill

what are you doing

MILL

arent you up early

SHIM
i didnt sleep

MILL
is your mom still weaving

SHIM
yeah i gave up
too bad

MILL
im sure shill be fine

SHIM
yeah im sure

so what are you doing

why do you have the wings

MILL
i have to let them dry

SHIM
they have to dry

MILL
air out

SHIM
why so early

MILL
shim i dont really have time to explain this to you

JURCH ENTERS WITH RINSE REIF AND RAMIA. RINSE HOLDS A LENGTH OF ROPE.

MILL
oh no

JURCH
there he is

hello mill

MILL
shit

REIF
jurch dont do anything dumb

JURCH

dumb no no this is the smartest thing i ever did

SHIM

whats going on mill

RAMIA

mill i think hes drunk

JURCH

fraid not sweetheart im dead sober tell em reif i havent had a drop all morning

REIF

its true mill

JURCH

now i told these people a little story just now mill about a certain pair of wings and a certain event shall we say that happened not too long ago

MILL

reif ramia its not true they dont work

SHIM

what

JURCH

give em to me

MILL

no

RAMIA

mill just give him the wings and make him stop

JURCH

thats right mill i wont hurt em give em here

SHIM

mill they dont work do they

mill they dont work do they

MILL

no of course not shim jurch you cant touch em yet is all

JURCH

the fuck i cant your touchin em

RAMIA

mill just give him the wings so he stops

SHIM

mill they dont work do they

JURCH

of course they work shim thats what happened to grant

MILL

its not

JURCH

prove it put em on

put em on mill

MILL PUTS ON THE WINGS.

SUDDENLY HE RUNS AND ATTAINS FLIGHT FOR A BREIF MOMENT BEFORE JURCH GRABS HIM. JURCH STRUGGLES TO PULL HIM BACK DOWN. HE SUCCEEDS AND KNOCKS MILL TO THE GROUND.

JURCH

not yet

JURCH PULLS THE WINGS OFF. IT HURTS.

MILL

it doesnt mean anything i didnt fucking do it i couldnt of put em on mister grants trailer heda caught me for sure

JURCH

shut the fuck up mill im keepin my word rinse gimme the rope

RINSE HANDS HIM THE ROPE. JURCH AND MILL STRUGGLE.

RAMIA

dad no

JURCH

i told you id find proof and there it is for all
the world to see

SHIM

jurch stop let him go

MILL

jurch jurch help me someone

RAMIA

dad reif help him

JURCH HITS HIM.

SHIM

jurch get the hell off of him

JURCH

shut the fuck up

SHIM RUNS TO HELP. JURCH BEATS HIM BACK.

JURCH

shim this is for your own good

SHIM COMES AT JURCH AGAIN. THEY STRUGGLE AND SHIM IS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS.

JURCH GETS THE ROPE AROUND MILLS NECK.

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RAMIA

oh my god aden get aden

RAMIA EXITS. REIF DOES NOT REGISTER HER LINE AT FIRST AND STAYS STILL. SOON HE MANAGES TO ESCAPE. JURCH PULLS THE DAZED MILL TO HIS FEET AND TOSSES THE TAIL END OF THE ROPE OVER AN EMPTY FLAG MOUNT ATTACHED TO ONE OF THE TRAILERS. HE PULLS THE ROPE TIGHT TO MILLS NECK.

JURCH

you ready

MILL

no ones watchin jurch

JURCH

im watchin

JURCH PULLS WITH ALL HIS MIGHT. MILL IS LIFTED UP INTO THE AIR. HIS LEGS KICK. HE STRUGGLES FOR BREATH.

MILL

ju urch

HE KICKS VIOLENTLY. HIS NECK BREAKS.

JURCH DROPS HIM.

SHIM COMES TO. RAMIA AND ADEN ENTER.

RAMIA

no

ADEN

jurch

SHIM

mill mill

ADEN

jurch you peice of shit

RAMIA

no dad how could you

JURCH

whats you fuckin problem i did it for you ramia

RAMIA

oh my god

oh my god

RAMIA EXITS RUNNING.

JURCH

justice

SHIM
mill

mill no

JURCH
get out of here shim before i make it two

SHIM EXITS TO FOLLOW RAMIA.

JURCH
eye for an eye aden sacrifice one to help the rest come help me lift his body

ADEN RUNS AT JURCH. THEY BRIEFLY FIGHT. JURCH IS KNOCKED DOWN.

ADEN
rinse

RINSE
yes

ADEN
how much to wish him dead

RINSE
im afraid i cant do that aden

JURCH TRIES TO GET UP. ADEN KICKS HIM DOWN.

ADEN
stay down

figures of course you cant its not your job but what if its implicit

you never wanted john back did you why because he beat the shit out of you for touching his hat because he didnt particularly like you because if he came back youd be number two
because he was better than you

JURCH TRIES TO GET UP. ADEN KICKS HIM DOWN.

ADEN
stay down
all i fucking wanted was to help you inherit the truck and the garage like you promised marry your daughter be the mechanic and now look look what ive been looking up to my whole fucking life
look what its done

rinse i wish to own the truck

RINSE
 hah your a smart man aden
 but that wishll cost you

JURCH
 you son of a bitch

JURCH GETS UP. HE KNOCKS ADEN OUT OF THE WAY.

JURCH
 you son of a bitch i took you in you son of a bitch

JURCH MOVES TOWARDS RINSE.

ADEN
 done

RINSE OPENS HIS BRIEFCASE.

JURCH IS THROWN BACKWARDS INTO THE TRAILER. HE LAYS STILL.

RINSE
 the truck is yours

ADEN FALLS TO HIS KNEES.

CHANGE.

THE DESERT. RAMIA ENTERS RUNNING. SHE IS YELLING.

RAMIA
 why what did we do what did we ever do
 you sand

you sky

what did i ever do to you

please help me

A LOW RUMBLING.

RAMIA
 change it make it go away right now

i dont need it i dont want it

make it not real anymore

make it go away

THE RUMBLING GETS LOUDER.

THE RUMBLING GETS LOUDER.

RAMIA
oh god

no

THE RUMBLING GETS LOUDER.

RAMIA
no

no no i didnt mean it

THE RUMBLING GETS LOUDER.

RAMIA
i didnt mean it

please for gods sake i didnt mean it

THE RUMBLING GETS LOUDER.
SHIM ENTERS. HE CAN BARELY BE HEARD.

SHIM
ramia

A BLINDING FLASH AND A DEAFENING CRACK.
AN INSTANT BLACKOUT.

EPILOGUE.

THE DESERT. SHIM HAS THE WINGS BESIDE HIM.

SHIM

whats left

nothing

nothings left

except a bar
a truck
a well

and of course a pair of wings

SHIM BEGINS TO PUT ON THE WINGS.

SHIM

and a good story i suppose if anyone ever hears it
i wonder how theyll tell it

theyll probably miss most of the details
once i heard a story about a lonely old woman who wanted to be just like the wind
once i heard a story about a girl who was blinded by the desert
once i heard a story about a kid who grew pair of wings right as he realized he needed them all along

theyll tell their various versions and miss facts history of characters reasons for things and so forth
which isnt so bad i suppose every storys got that problem

but then again maybe someone somewhere will tell it exactly right

once i heard a story about a very old man the last cowboy so they say a man named john wyatt grant

SHIM SPREADS HIS WINGS.

CHANGE.