



**Sample Pages from
Baalzebub - One Act Version**

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BAALZEBUB

—ONE ACT VERSION—

A DRAMA IN ONE ACT BY
Rachel Atkins



Baalzebub - One Act Version
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Cast & Characters

11+ actors

Rayyan (Ray): The leader

Princess: The brains/conscience

Blessing: The good girl

Raja: The mean girl

Juno: The leader of the boyah gang

Diamond: A boyah

Ali: A boyah

Sam: Isis's twin, a follower

Isis: Sam's twin, a follower

Baby: A young'un

Sister: A young'un

May be played by one or more actors using a language other than spoken English. If played by multiple actors, lines should be repeated in the additional language.

Setting & Time

Contemporary or futuristic. A deserted refugee camp in an isolated region of an active war zone: the interior of the camp hospital tent and an area at the edge of the camp's fence.

**A group of little boys... are more like
scaled-down society than a group of little girls would be.**

William Golding, author of *Lord of the Flies*

Author's Notes

The corresponding characters from *Lord of the Flies* are:

Rayyan (Ray): *Ralph*

Princess: *Piggy*

Blessing: *Simon*

Raja: *Roger*

Juno: *Jack*

Sam, Isis's twin: *Sam*

Isis, Sam's twin: *Eric*

All uses of non-traditional grammar and language are intentional character choices.

The song/chant can use any kind of upbeat melody or rhythm. It may be set to a known song or chant, or can be invented.

The word “witch” can be replaced with the word “bitch,” if appropriate to the production setting.

Options for Sister:

- If there are multiple actors cast as Sister and speaking different languages, each language should be spoken separately, in any order. English does not need to be spoken first.
- If using sign language, signing may happen simultaneously with spoken lines, or it may be separate.
- You may cast only one actor and replace all or some of the English lines with another language, playing the character as bilingual.
- Line translations should be as direct as possible.
- Other characters should interact with Sister as if they understand everything she says, even when speaking another language.

Scene I: BEGINNING

Main hospital tent of a deserted refugee camp. Debris scattered around, everything in disarray—a place people left in a hurry. The play may begin with the sounds of war: shooting, explosions, etc. RAY enters in silence, creeping onstage warily.

RAY: Hello? ... Is anyone there? ... Anyone?

PRINCESS: *(hidden)* Is it safe?

RAY: *(startled)* Who's there?

PRINCESS: *(hidden)* Is it safe to come out?

RAY: I don't know. I'm out.

PRINCESS: *(hidden)* I ain't coming out anywhere til I know what it's safe.

RAY: Seems safe enough right now. It's quiet, at least.

PRINCESS: *(coming out from hiding)* So much noise! I usually wait at least two hours before I come out after noise like that. That's what my auntie says to do. But I think I maybe fell asleep for a bit and then I got no way to tell the time anyhow.

RAY: It's been hours. Look at the sun. It was morning when they started the evacuation, and now the sun's going down.

PRINCESS: The sun! Sure enough. Good thinking. You're smart. What's your name?

RAY: Rayyan. You can call me Ray.

Beat. Silence as PRINCESS waits.

PRINCESS: Didja want to know *my* name, then?

RAY: If you like.

PRINCESS: It's Princess.

RAY: *(laughing)* Is it really?

PRINCESS: True story, that.

RAY: What's a princess doing in a refugee camp?

PRINCESS: My auntie says it was my mum's wishful thinking. *(looking around)* We can't be the only two left, can we?

RAY: No, there was a whole busload of us, remember?

PRINCESS: I wonder where they all went. We might should ought to find 'em. Only I don't exactly fancy creeping round this camp—
(*hears a noise, stops, scared*)

RAY: Who's there?

PRINCESS: (*discovering BABY, hiding in, behind or under something*) Well, hello. Come on out of there, why don't you?

BABY: No bad men?

PRINCESS: No bad men. Just me 'n Rayyan here, right, Ray?

RAY: That's right. What's your name?

BABY shrugs.

PRINCESS: Well, you've got a name, of course. Everyone's got a name.

RAY: Hers is Princess.

BABY laughs.

PRINCESS: There we go! So what do your people call you?

BABY: Can't remember.

PRINCESS: You want us to guess?

BABY nods.

RAY: Charlotte. (*BABY shakes head*) Conchita.

BABY shakes head.

PRINCESS: Jojo. Bobo. Beebee.

BABY: Baby!

SAM & ISIS enter cautiously. They speak as if they are of one mind.

SAM: We heard voices.

ISIS: We were hiding.

SAM: We ran away.

ISIS: We got scared.

SAM & ISIS: Is it safe now?

RAY: Far as we can tell.

PRINCESS: Twins?

SAM & ISIS nod.

SAM: I'm Sam. She's Isis.

ISIS: She's Sam. I'm Isis.

PRINCESS: (*trying to get them straight*) Sam-n-Isis, Sam-n-Isis—

BABY: (*holding out a box from where she had been hiding*) Hey. Look at this.

PRINCESS: What's that you've got, Baby? Let Princess see.

SAM & ISIS: It's a whistle.

PRINCESS: (*looking at BABY through binoculars*) And wouldja get a gander at these fancy specs!

RAY: It's some kind of emergency kit.

PRINCESS: Well, that's lucky! Them things might come in handy. Here, Ray. You blow on this whistle and that'll call the others.

RAY: Why me?

PRINCESS: You just, you got something about you. People will listen to you.

RAY blows whistle, first tentatively, then with more force.

BABY: Too loud!

PRINCESS: Nothing to be scared of, Baby. How about we sing while Ray whistles? That will make us feel brave for sure. Everyone knows this song, right? (*singing/chanting, beckoning to others to join in*) Baby, we got Baby here, she is super keen! Give that girl a shiny crown and she can be the queen!

RAY whistles to the beat as others sing/chant and clap the rhythm in some kind of hand clap game. It's a song they all know and enjoy. Singing helps them forget, momentarily, makes them feel better, less scared.

ALL: (*singing*) Baby, Baby, yeah, we got Baby!

PRINCESS: (*singing*) Ray, we got Ray here. Isn't she the best? Put 'er on a wedding cake and she can wear the vest!

ALL: (*singing*) Ray, Ray, yeah, we got Ray!

PRINCESS: (*singing*) We got Sam-n-Isis here. Ain't those two supreme?
Everybody wants a Sam-n-Isis on their team!

ALL: (*singing*) Sam-n-Isis, Sam-n-Isis, we got Sam-n-Isis!

OTHERS start to enter during the song, cautiously, from different areas. As each new girl enters, she is welcomed into the song by the rest. RAY continues to blow the whistle. BABY, SAM & ISIS keep the rhythm as PRINCESS asks each girl her name, so the questions become part of the song. OTHERS join in singing as they arrive.

PRINCESS: What's your name?

BLESSING: Blessing.

ALL: (*singing*) Blessing, Blessing, yeah, we got Blessing!

PRINCESS: What's your name?

SISTER: Sister.

ALL: (*singing*) Sister, Sister, yeah, we got Sister!

If there are non-English speakers, PRINCESS asks their names. The song continues until interrupted by JUNO.

JUNO: (*entering with ALI & DIAMOND*) What the devil is going on here?

ALL stop singing abruptly. RAJA enters during the following, unnoticed by the others.

BABY & SISTER: Bad men!

PRINCESS: These ain't men. These ain't even boys.

ALI: How do you know?

DIAMOND: Yeah, how do you know?

PRINCESS: 'Cause the boys was the very first ones to leave this camp, remember?

SAM: They took the men and boys to fight—

ISIS: And left the girls behind.

PRINCESS: Besides, I know me some bacha posh when I see 'em.

BABY: (*whispering*) What's bacha posh?

BLESSING: They might call them alakaana where you come from.

BABY shakes head.

SAM & ISIS: Guevedoces?

BABY: No.

JUNO: Nonbinary.

ALL: Transgender.

DIAMOND: Genderfluid.

BABY: No.

JUNO: Well, we go by boyah.

ALI & DIAMOND: Boyah!

JUNO: So where's the man with the whistle?

RAY: There's no man. Only me.

JUNO: Then who's in charge?

RAY: No one, I guess.

JUNO: No men?

ALL: No aid workers?

DIAMOND: No grown-ups at all?

RAY: No.

JUNO: So we're the only ones here?

DIAMOND: Without even one grown-up to look after us?

ALL: Since when did a grown-up ever look after us?

PRINCESS: Well, no matter, because we're all of us gonna get evacuated right quick. They're gonna bring that bus back for us anytime now, that's what they said. So we should probably—

RAJA: You're talking too much.

ALL stop and look at RAJA.

RAY: What's your name?

RAJA: Raja.

BABY & SISTER: *(start to sing, then see it's not a good idea and trail off)*
Raja, Raja, yeah, we got...

JUNO: I'm Juno. This is my gang.

PRINCESS: Don't they got their own names?

ALI: I'm Ali.

DIAMOND: I'm Diamond.

RAY: Good! If this is everyone who's left, we should all be here, ready to go as soon as the bus comes back.

BLESSING: But then there was the shooting.

SISTER: Explosions.

DIAMOND: We could hear it.

RAJA: We all heard it.

SAM: What if the bus got bombed?

ISIS: Or hit a land mine?

JUNO: There aren't supposed to be land mines around here anymore.

SAM: What if the ones who were coming back to get us—

ISIS: Were the ones who got exploded?

ALI: They could all be dead.

BABY: They're dead?

BLESSING: We don't know they're dead.

SISTER: I want to go home.

RAJA: There's no such thing as home for people like us.

PRINCESS: Now, then, there's no need to talk like that—

RAJA: None of us got homes, that's why we're in this nothing place.

SISTER: I want my mama.

RAJA: None of us got mamas either.

SISTER: So we're all alone?

BABY: Are we all going to die?

ALL: (*overlapping, panicked, arguing*) What's going to happen to us? /
What are we going to do? / We're going to die! / No, we're not! /
etc.

RAY: (*interrupting*) Listen! I know everyone's scared.

JUNO: Speak for yourself.

RAY: Sure, I'm scared. Left here by ourselves?

JUNO: Exactly. No one to bother us. No one to hurt us.

BLESSING: No one to protect us.

ALL: So we protect ourselves.

RAY: Right. Look, we may be in the middle of nowhere, but we're safe.
We've got that big fence all around the camp. The gate is locked.
No one can get in.

BABY: Not even animals?

SISTER: Beasts?

ALL: There are no beasts.

BABY: Might be hyenas out there.

SISTER: Or wolves.

BLESSING: Or men.

DIAMOND: Yes, men. Men would be the worst beast of all.

Beat as ALL consider this.

RAY: No one ever heard of any kind of beasts here, did they? We just
need to be patient, and wait.

JUNO: Isn't that what girls always have to do? Be quiet, be patient,
wait—

RAJA: You have a better idea?

ALL: Maybe we do!

SAM: How are we going to survive?

ISIS: Yeah, food, and water, and—

BLESSING: There's a well.

RAY: That's right! We can get water from the well. And look in here, there's bags of rice, and blankets—

DIAMOND: What if there's not enough to go around?

PRINCESS: Seems like we might could ought to have one of us in charge.

SISTER: A president.

BABY: Girls can't be president. Can they?

ALI: A chief!

JUNO: I should be chief. I already got a gang. I know how to be in charge.

RAJA: Let's have a vote.

BABY: Girls can't vote neither.

RAY: Well, there's only girls here, right?

ALI: And boyah.

RAY: Right. So if we're not the ones who vote, who will? What if this is a place where we can do and be anything we want?

BLESSING: And everyone gets a vote?

ALL: (*overlapping, excited*) Yeah! / Yes! / Cool! / Everyone can vote! / etc.

SAM: Her with the whistle, Ray—

ISIS: Ray should be chief!

JUNO: All she did was blow the whistle.

SISTER: Yes, Ray!

BABY: Rayyan for chief!

PRINCESS: (*to RAY*) I told you, didn't I? You just got something about you.

RAY: OK, well, anyone else? (*no response*) So let's vote. Who wants Juno for chief? (*JUNO, ALI & DIAMOND, maybe RAJA raise hands*) Who wants me? (*ALL OTHERS raise hands*)

JUNO: I guess you're chief.

RAY: But your gang belongs to you. What do you want them to be?

JUNO: Soldiers. We're in a war zone, aren't we? Girls need protection.

RAJA: Sometimes girls need protection *from* soldiers.

JUNO: Not from *my* soldiers.

RAY: All right, listen. I'm chief, but we're all in this together. We can imagine it's like we're on a deserted island, and we can look after ourselves until they come back.

JUNO: What makes you so sure they're coming back?

PRINCESS: She's chief, ain't she?

RAJA: For like a minute.

SAM & ISIS: It's what they said.

DIAMOND: Grown-ups don't always do what they say they're going to do.

PRINCESS: Well, these ain't any ordinary kind of grown-up. These are—humanitarians.

ALL: They're what?

PRINCESS: They're not devils. They're do-gooders.

RAY: What about...has anyone got a mobile?

SISTER: A phone?

JUNO: You see any cell towers out here?

RAY: No, but—

PRINCESS: I do. I got a phone.

ALL: (*overlapping*) What! / You do? / Really? / How? / Where is it? / Let me see! / *etc.*

PRINCESS: My mum give it to me. She said if ever we was to get separated, to hold tight and she'd call.

RAJA: And how many years ago was that?

PRINCESS: Just 'cause I ain't never seen her in a long time, she might could still call!

BLESSING: (*comforting*) Of course she could.

PRINCESS: Mostly, though, there's no kind of signal in this place. Only every once in a while, if you stand in just the right spot.

BABY: Which spot is the right spot?

PRINCESS: The problem is, it don't always seem to be the same spot, exactly.

RAJA: (*sarcastically*) That's helpful.

PRINCESS: And it's not the kind of phone *makes* calls. It can only get the call from my mum.

JUNO: So her majesty's mobile is worthless.

SAM: But if the phone connects to a signal—

ISIS: The grown-ups can know we're out here.

PRINCESS: I got no charger anymore, so we got to save the battery. No messing with it.

BLESSING: What if—we could find a charger? There's stuff here that people left behind.

ALL: Who had anything to leave behind?

DIAMOND: Is there a computer?

JUNO: No computers, no electricity, no internet.

RAJA: But it's true that some people had things.

PRINCESS: And wasn't it mad crazy during the evacuation? How the aid workers kept shouting—

ALL: (*overlapping*) No room! No room!

RAY: Right, so things probably got dropped. Or forgot. We could find what's been left and bring it all here. This tent, this should be our place.

PRINCESS: It's the best tent. Bigger than the rest.

BLESSING: Far from the fence.

RAY: Good! So instead of being scared, we can be strong and smart and figure stuff out. We can decide how we want to live while we're waiting. 'Cause it might be very soon, but it might be—just a little while.

PRINCESS: We gotta have rules.

JUNO: And obey them.

RAY: One rule should be, when I blow the whistle, everyone comes.
Agreed?

ALL: (*overlapping*) Agreed! / Yes! / OK! / etc.

RAY: Let's search the camp now, before it gets dark. Look for anything useful. I'll blow the whistle when it's time to come back. We can make this a good island.

RAJA: Maybe we can even have some fun.

ALL: (*overlapping, excited, hopeful*) Fun! / We could have fun! / Play games! / Sing! / etc.

JUNO: OK, everyone. Get to work!

RAY blows whistle.

ALL: (*singing, happy, excited*) Ray, we got Ray here! Isn't she the best?
Give the girl a whistle and she can rule the rest!

Transition: During the song, ALL bring on a variety of supplies, transforming the space into their home base. A list of rules and a work chart are posted, written on a sheet, chalk on the wall, or in some other makeshift way, using both pictures and words to accommodate those who can't read. Some add or change clothing items, change hair, etc. Sense of time passing.

Scene 2: MIDDLE

PRINCESS is teaching a lesson to SAM, ISIS, BABY, & SISTER. RAJA watches.

PRINCESS: All right now, this is what teachers call the alphabet.
(*SISTER raises her hand*) I know, Sister, some of our folk got different alphabets, but this is the one the aid workers left us, so this is the one we'll use, fair enough?

SISTER: OK.

PRINCESS: The alphabet is letters that spell the words we know. If you can learn your letters, pretty soon you won't need me to read to you.

BABY: I already know some letters! U-N-H-C-R.

RAJA: Everyone knows *those* letters, that's cheating!

PRINCESS: Now, that ain't cheating, that's observant, because them letters are on everything in this whole camp!

SISTER: What do they spell?

PRINCESS: They don't spell nothing. They *stand* for United Nations... Something Something Refugees.

BABY: What's Something Something mean?

RAJA: Means her majesty doesn't know what H and C stand for.

SAM & ISIS: (to RAJA) Do you know?

RAJA: I'm not the teacher.

PRINCESS: No matter. Let's us figure it out together.

SAM: Help—

ISIS: Coming?

Beat as ALL reflect on that idea. RAY & BLESSING enter, carrying buckets of water.

BABY: Do you think they forgot about us? The—humanitarians?

RAJA: They probably just decided a bunch of girls weren't worth the trouble.

SISTER: Is that true?

RAY: No, of course not! (*looking around*) Has anyone seen Juno and—?

BABY: What are we going to do if no one ever comes?

RAY: Princess! Maybe you should do some reading now?

PRINCESS: Good idea! Class, today we got this CARE pamphlet about money. We could all use to learn about that, right? (*reads as focus shifts to RAY & BLESSING*)

RAY: They weren't on lookout duty, they're not in here—where else could Juno and the rest of them be?

BLESSING: (*shrugs*) You know how they are.

RAY: What's the point of making a work chart if everyone doesn't follow it?

BLESSING: Think this'll be enough water for the night, or should I go for more?

RAY: Aren't your arms tired?

BLESSING: I don't mind.

RAY: I'd say it's enough, long as nobody's hankering for a *bathe*.
(*BLESSING laughs*) You ever taken a proper bath? In a clean, white tub, with hot water and bubbles up to your nose?

BLESSING: Never.

RAY: It's just about heaven, that's what that is.

BLESSING: You'll have a bath like that again.

PRINCESS: (*finishing reading*) ... "When you empower a woman, her success benefits everyone around her."

SISTER: Is it time to eat now?

SAM & ISIS: Mealtime!

ALL: (*gathering for meal, singing*) Sam-n-Isis, Sam-n-Isis, cooking up a dish! Making us the finest meal that you could ever wish! Sam-n-Isis, Sam-n-Isis, we got Sam-n-Isis!

SAM: Today's meal features the freshest of fish—

ISIS: Caught this morning from the Arafura Sea.

BABY: Is that a real place?

SAM: Warm, soft, white bread.

SISTER: *White* bread?

BLESSING: With butter?

ISIS: As much butter as you want.

SAM: Don't forget to eat your vegetables!

ISIS: Grown in our very own garden.

SAM: And seasoned with our special blend—

ISIS: Of savory herbs and spices.

ALL sigh.

BLESSING: Aren't Sam-n-Isis the very best cooks?

PRINCESS: They do imagine the most wonderful foods I ever heard of.

JUNO: (*running in with ALI & DIAMOND*) Ray! Look what we got! (*holds up dead bird*)

PRINCESS: A pigeon?

BLESSING: It's a dove.

DIAMOND: We caught it!

ALI: We used a net!

JUNO: Then I snapped its neck!

RAJA: You killed it?

BLESSING: Doves are birds of peace.

JUNO: It's meat!

PRINCESS: My auntie says, God sends meat and the Devil sends cooks.

ALI: You know how to cook a bird?

SAM & ISIS shake their heads.

JUNO: Do I have to do everything? Give it here.

ALI & DIAMOND assist as JUNO cooks the bird during the following. RAJA may also try to help.

SAM: We were going to serve dessert.

ISIS: Sweets.

JUNO: Would you rather have pretend dessert, or real meat?

DIAMOND: Yeah, because listen to what else! We found something out there.

ALI: A trap!

JUNO: So next time, we're gonna be able to hunt a *real* animal.

RAY: I haven't seen any trap.

JUNO: Over on the north side. There's a place where the barbed wire is come loose.

RAY: We agreed not to go over there. It's not safe.

ALI: We know how to be careful. We're soldiers.

PRINCESS: People used to say there was wild boar roaming round that part of camp at night. Them things got tusks!

SISTER: Beasts?

DIAMOND: Wild boar's not beasts. They're like pig. Pork!

PRINCESS: Pigs is scavengers. They eat garbage and junk and everything nasty. Then you eat the pig and it's like you eat all that nasty stuff too. King of pests, that's what my auntie calls them. Lord of the flies!

RAJA: Look who's talking. Princess of the flies!

PRINCESS: Now, the rules says, be kind, and name-calling ain't kind!

RAJA: Isn't it better to say it right out than act all sweet to your face but talk about you behind your back?

PRINCESS: Do-As-You-Would-Be-Done-By, that's what my auntie says.

JUNO: Listen! We just need something for bait.

RAY: We don't have any food to spare.

RAJA: You could use a young'un.

BABY & SISTER: (*overlapping*) No!

BLESSING: That's not funny. (*to BABY & SISTER*) She doesn't mean it.

PRINCESS: Why you got to tease folk like that, Raja?

RAJA: Why do *you* got to stick your nose into everyone else's business, Your Majesty?

RAY: Say you do trap a boar, then what?

DIAMOND: We grab it!

ALI: Kill it!

JUNO: Cut its throat!

PRINCESS: But you might could catch something way worse dangerous, you know.

JUNO: No matter. We just kill that too. Watch. (*looks around group*) Who'll be the prey?

RAJA: I'll do it. (*steps forward, snorts, paws ground like an animal*)

JUNO: We circle around. (*gestures to ALI & DIAMOND*) We close in tight.

ALL: It might try to get away!

RAJA squeals and tries to escape, but is blocked.

DIAMOND: Make a ring!

The demonstration turns into a game. BABY, SISTER, SAM & ISIS make an outer circle, cheering and laughing, pretending to grab for RAJA as she mock rushes toward them, making animal sounds. JUNO, ALI & DIAMOND move in and around RAJA, getting more and more menacing. PRINCESS, RAY & BLESSING watch.

BABY: Through here!

SAM: Get it by the snout!

SISTER: This way!

DIAMOND: Grab it!

ISIS: Catch its tail!

ALL except PRINCESS, RAY & BLESSING catch and hold RAJA down.

JUNO: Kill it!

ALI: Cut its throat!

RAJA: Let go! You're hurting!

BLESSING: Stop!

RAY blows whistle. ALL let go of RAJA and back away, out of breath, some nervous laughter.

BABY: That was a good game!

PRINCESS: Some game!

JUNO: Well, that's how we'd do it. In a real hunt.

DIAMOND: Except in a real hunt, the prey would be dead by now.

RAY: *(blows whistle again)* I'm calling a meeting.

JUNO: We were just *doing* something. Why've you got to spoil it with a meeting?

RAY: We decided, didn't we? How to make things fair and safe. So we could do what we like, but also what needs doing.

JUNO: What if we don't all agree anymore?

SISTER: But she's chief.

RAJA: Just because someone's chief doesn't mean they know best.

BLESSING: She's trying to make things work for everyone.

DIAMOND: What if the same things don't work for everyone?

PRINCESS: Food to eat, water to drink, shelter when you sleep? What don't work for you of them things?

RAY: The point is, you were supposed to be on lookout.

JUNO: Are you complaining, when me and my hunters just got you meat? (*Tears off bits of meat and distributes. ALL grab it hungrily and eat.*)

SAM, ISIS, BABY & SISTER: (*overlapping*) Meat!

JUNO: Lookout is a waste of time.

BABY: Why?

RAJA: Because no one cares what happens to a bunch of girls.

DIAMOND: Girls are just property.

ALL: But not even property that's valuable.

JUNO: You can't tell me you've never thought about this. All the double standards.

ALL: Girls are "bossy," boys "take charge."

DIAMOND: Girls are "shrill," boys are "commanding."

BABY: People use bad words for girls.

ALL: (*overlapping, using different languages if possible*) Slut! Skank! Witch! Whore!

JUNO: When I'm a boy, nobody speaks to me like that.

ALL: Men get everything better, just for being men.

DIAMOND: In other places, it's not like this, you know.

JUNO: No one says you can't do something just because you're a girl.

ALL: Girls are the same as boys. Equal.

PRINCESS: Just because they say that's how it is don't mean it's true.

RAY: It doesn't matter how it is in other places, if that's not how it is here.

JUNO: But that's what I'm saying! We're the ones in charge here. We can make it however we want! And we boyah want to be something else, something different.

ALL: You can't make us follow your rules. We want to make our own!

RAY: They're *our* rules.

BLESSING: We all agreed.

SAM: Do your chores.

ISIS: Pick up after yourself.

SISTER: Share.

BABY: Listen.

BLESSING: Be kind.

ALL: We've changed our minds.

PRINCESS: You can't just change your mind about—society!

RAY: Wouldn't everyone like to do whatever they want and not have to think about anyone or anything else?

RAJA: That's what men do!

PRINCESS: That don't make it right, do it?

RAY: I don't understand why things are breaking up!

BLESSING: It's because— (*ALL stop and look at her*) Because of the fear.

DIAMOND: Fear of what?

The following is an outburst, overlapping.

BABY: There's something bad out there!

SAM: It sneaks around at night!

ISIS: It spies on us through the fence!

BABY: A beast!

SISTER: A devil!

SAM & ISIS: Baalzebug!

RAJA: Cry-babies.

RAY: Everyone gets scared sometimes.

JUNO: Fear can't hurt you. And there is no beast.

PRINCESS: 'Course there isn't. Nothing to be afraid of!

BLESSING: Except people.

JUNO: Right! There's no beasts out there but men. So if any of *those* beasts come along, me and my army will kill them!

BLESSING: But that's murder.

SAM: That's worse than breaking the rules.

ISIS: That's breaking the law.

JUNO: Who made up the law?

RAJA: Men!

PRINCESS: Without rules, we got no order.

JUNO: Well, sucks to your order. I'm done with order and I'm done with rules!

BLESSING: Please, can't we stop fighting—?

JUNO: You should have elected *me* chief, not her! You're afraid? My army will protect you. You're hungry? I got you meat, and I can get more. So who's going to join *my* tribe? Who wants freedom, instead of rules? Come on! (*exits with ALI & DIAMOND, followed by RAJA*)

BABY: What's going to happen now?

RAY: Maybe I should give up being chief. Let Juno be in charge.

PRINCESS: You just never mind them boyah. We can do all right without them. (*to OTHERS*) Can't we? Remember our song? (*starts singing, encouraging the others to join in*) Ray, we got Ray here...

ALL: (*singing, building in confidence*) ...Isn't she the best? Give the girl a whistle and she can rule the rest!

Transition: While the GIRLS sing, the BOYAH (JUNO and her gang) & RAJA enter to outside the tent, also singing, so the two songs intermingle. BOYAH help RAJA transform herself, adjusting hair/clothes to look

more like a boyah, possibly in some kind of ritual. ALL except BLESSING exit.

GIRLS: (*singing*)

Ray, Ray, yeah, we got Ray!

Ray, Ray, yeah, we got Ray!

BOYAH: (*singing*)

Boyah, boyah, yeah, we are boyah!

Boyah, boyah, yeah, we are boyah!

Scene 3: END

BLESSING is on lookout. She sees an injured man in the distance.

BLESSING: (*looking through binoculars*) I see you, Mr. Man. What are you doing out there all by yourself? ... Maybe you just needed some peace. Like me.

RAJA & JUNO enter, preparing to go hunting.

RAJA: (*snatching binoculars*) Give us those, Blessing. We need them for the hunt.

JUNO: I don't know why you're bothering. There's nothing to see out there.

BLESSING: (*reaching for binoculars*) But I'm supposed to—

RAJA holds BLESSING back. ALI & DIAMOND enter, followed by BABY & SISTER.

ALI, DIAMOND, RAJA, BABY & SISTER: (*chanting/singing*)

Kill the pig! Kill the men! Cut his throat! Bash them in!

Boyah, boyah, yeah, we are boyah!

JUNO: Halt!

ALI, DIAMOND, RAJA, BABY & SISTER: Hail to the chief!

JUNO: You made the right choice, you young'uns. Joining my tribe.

ALI: Juno's a proper chief. Not like Ray.

RAJA: Who wants to be part of a pack of scared girls when you could be boyah?

BABY: Look! Up in the cloud, do you see that?

SISTER: A rainbow!

BABY: I heard if a girl crosses under a rainbow, she can turn into a boy.

SISTER: Should we try?

JUNO: Come on! Rainbows are kid's stuff. We've got meat to kill!

PRINCESS: (*entering*) Blessing, I come to spell you, Ray says—what's going on here?

RAJA: Mind your own business, *Princess!*

PRINCESS: You can't have those! Them binoculars are the lookout specs. It's the rule!

ALL: Not anymore!

JUNO: We already told you, sucks to your rules!

PRINCESS: (*calling off*) Ray, come quick!

DIAMOND: Ray's not our chief anymore. We got a new chief!

JUNO: That's right. This is a new tribe, and I'm their chief. (*to BABY & SISTER*) Tell her.

BABY: This is a new tribe.

SISTER: And Juno's chief.

RAJA: In *this* tribe, we hunt and have fun and do whatever we want!

RAY: (*entering, followed by SAM & ISIS*) What's going on?

PRINCESS: They got the young'uns, that's what's going on! And they took the binoculars from Blessing what's supposed to be for the lookout!

DIAMOND: (*looking beyond fence, taking binoculars*) Do you see that? There's something moving out there.

SAM & ISIS: Is it an animal?

SISTER: A beast!

BABY: Baalzebub!

BLESSING: It's not, it's—

ALL: It's a man.

DIAMOND: He's coming toward us. Slow.

BABY: Trying to sneak up on us!

SISTER: Like the beast!

BLESSING: Look how he's moving. There must be something wrong.

DIAMOND: What if he's only pretending?

BLESSING: Why would he do that?

ALI: To get in.

SAM: He stopped.

ISIS: He's seen us.

JUNO: This is a job for the army!

BLESSING: We've got to help him.

ALI: We've got to get him before he gets us.

RAY: What if we just—leave him be?

RAJA: That's the same as waiting for him to come in here and do whatever he wants.

PRINCESS: We might could try talking to him.

JUNO: When has any good ever come from talking to a grown-up?

BLESSING: I can do it.

JUNO: No. We'll have to kill him. Like a beast.

RAY: I forbid it.

JUNO: You're not the boss of me anymore. I have my own tribe now, remember? Who's with me?

BOYAH: Hail to the chief!

BOYAH prod BABY & SISTER.

BABY & SISTER: Hail to the chief!

JUNO: We'll do our chant! We'll make the kill! Ready, tribe?

BOYAH: The Chief has spoken!

JUNO: Kill the man!

BOYAH: Kill the man!

RAY: (*overlapping BOYAH*) Stop!

JUNO: Kill the devil!

BOYAH: Kill the devil!

PRINCESS: (*overlapping BOYAH*) This ain't right!

JUNO: Kill the beast!

BOYAH: Kill the beast!

RAY: (*overlapping BOYAH*) Stop it!

JUNO: Baalzebub!

BOYAH: Baalzebub!

SAM & ISIS: (*overlapping BOYAH*) Wait!

BOYAH march off; RAY, PRINCESS, SAM & ISIS chase after them; BLESSING slips away from group toward the edge of the fence.

BLESSING: Mr. Man. We've got trouble. They think you're a devil. A beast. They want to hunt and kill you. Imagine thinking the devil is someone you can hunt and kill! You know the truth, don't you? The devil is inside us. All of us. That's what to really be afraid of.

BOYAH approach, on the hunt, circling like in the game from earlier.

BOYAH: Kill the man!

BOYAH: Kill the devil!

BLESSING: (*overlapping BOYAH*) No!

BOYAH: Kill the beast!

BLESSING: (*overlapping BOYAH*) Stop, wait!

BOYAH: Baalzebub! Baalzebub!

BLESSING: Wait!

There is an explosion—BLESSING is thrown back, knocked out.

JUNO: We got him!

ALL: We killed the devil!

BABY & SISTER: Blessing!

BOYAH: The beast is dead!

BOYAH war whoop and race off, leaving BLESSING on the ground. RAY, PRINCESS, SAM & ISIS enter to her.

RAY & PRINCESS: (*overlapping*) Blessing?

They drag BLESSING back to the tent.

SAM: Is the man dead?

RAY: I'm pretty sure he's dead.

ISIS: Is Blessing—dead?

RAY: I don't think so.

PRINCESS: They've gone wild. They're the beasts I'm scared of. Who knows what they'll do next?

BLESSING wakes up, gasping.

SAM & ISIS: She's alive!

BLESSING: I'm alive?

RAY: She's all right. (*to SAM & ISIS*) You two need to go on to lookout duty now.

SAM: But they took the binoculars—

ISIS: They've got the specs.

RAY: There's still the phone, and you've got eyes. Just—do your best.

SAM & ISIS go.

BLESSING: It—hurts.

RAY: What happened?

BLESSING: The man—stepped on a land mine.

RAY: So they didn't—murder him?

PRINCESS: Who was he? Where was he from?

BLESSING: I don't know.

RAY: And now he's gone.

Beat.

BLESSING: I wish the grown-ups would come back.



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