

# Is God Is

## Story Synopsis: A Guide to the Scenes and Storylines

This is a story synopsis for *Is God Is*. It is intended as a guide for anyone who would benefit from the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the scenes and storyline of the performance ahead of their visit to the theatre.

Should you have any questions regarding any aspect of *Is God Is*, please email [boxoffice@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@royalcourttheatre.com).

**WARNING:** This document contains a description of the full plot of the performance.

As the audience enters the lights in the auditorium are dark. We can see all the way to the brick wall at the back of the stage, which has been lit with a red light. The stage is empty.

The lights in the auditorium get dark slowly to signal the start of the play.

# A LETTER

The lights flash. Two figures walk forward from the back of the stage. Fire rushes across the stage. We can now see that the figures are two young women, Anaia and Racine. They twitch and writhe, falling to the ground. The fire goes out.

Anaia and Racine sit in their studio apartment somewhere in the American Northeast. They are twins. They tell us that they were burned in a fire. Racine has scars on her back and the back of her neck. Anaia's scars are on her face. They say that Anaia is sweet, and Racine is mean. They take turns rubbing ice on each other's scars while they talk.

Racine tells Anaia that she received a letter. It is big news. Anaia says that she has some news too. Racine tells Anaia that the letter is from their mother. This is the first time they have heard from their mother in 18 years. The girls thought that she was dead. Racine says that their mother is in a nursing home in the South. She is

dying. Racine says that they must go and visit her. Anaia is unsure. Anaia questions why the letter was not addressed to her as well. Racine says it is because Anaia is too emotional. She thinks that their mother probably has some intuition about that.

Anaia tells Racine that she needs to go meet up with her boyfriend Ellis and tell him something. Racine convinces her that there is no time. They need to go and see their mother. The girls get ready. They put on lipstick, using the other's face as a mirror.

## BEFORE GOD

Anaia and Racine stand outside their mother's room at the nursing home preparing to enter. A sign has been made to welcome them. Racine asks if Anaia is ready to see God. Their mother calls out for them. She says that she can feel the girls outside the room.

Their mother is laying in a hospital bed. We hear the beep of machines and She struggles to breathe. Her voice is raspy. She asks the girls to take a step closer so that she can get a good look at them. She tells them that she used to dress them in opposite colours. Anaia does not speak much. Racine tells their mother a bit about their life in the Northeast. Anaia tells their mother that they thought she was dead. She says that is what she wanted them to think.

Their mother tells them the story of the fire. She recalls that it was just a regular day when the girls were three years old. She says that she heard a sound in the bathroom and went to see what it was. She turns the light on and is surprised by the girl's father who has hidden in the shower. She has a restraining order against him. He grabs her by the throat and chokes her until she passes out. Then he pours alcohol over her. He goes into the kitchen and finds the girls. He brings them to their mother. He lights a match and sets her on fire. She tells the girls that they got their scars from trying to put out the flames out. Racine is surprised. Anaia feels sick. She says that she remembers watching their mother on the floor. She sees it in her mind all the time. Anaia cries.

Their mother asks her to stop crying. There is something that she needs the girls to do, but she cannot ask it while Anaia is so emotional. Racine insists that they are both strong. Anaia and Racine's mother wants them to find their father and kill him. Racine suggests that as their mother is dying it might be better to forgive and forget. Anaia says that they are not killers. Their mother tells them to remove her blanket. The girls see her scarred body and agree to find him. Their mother does not know where he is, but tells them how to find the lawyer that represented him.

# GOING WEST

The twins are travelling west towards California. Along the way they talk about what their mother has asked them to do. Racine checks if Anaia is still feeling sick. Anaia still does not understand how their mother did not come find them sooner. She is adamant that they are not killers. Racine says that she is a killer. Anaia questions who she has killed. Racine tells her not to worry about it. Anaia points out that she looks like her mother. The scars on her face are similar to the ones that cover their mother's body. Racine and Anaia imagine what their father might look like. They discuss what method they should use to kill him. Anaia feels sick again. She says that they are not killers. Racine reminds her that their father tried to kill their mother, and their mother has asked them to kill him. She says it is in their blood. Anaia says that she used to dream about a lady on fire and she never knew why.

# THE WEAPON

On the outskirts of the City of Angels, Racine picks up a fist-sized rock. She instructs Anaia to remove her sock. Racine puts the rock in the sock and ties it in a knot. She swings it around a bit to test the weight and movement. They continue walking.

# IN THE VALLEY

The lawyer, Chuck Wendall Hall, is in his office. He sits behind a big oak desk. Hall is wearing an expensive shirt and tie, and a pair of Bermuda shorts that he bought in Bermuda. He is drunk off tequila. With a shaking hand Hall takes a bottle of pills from his pocket. He struggles with the childproof safety lock before getting it open. He pours the bottle of pills onto the desk and lines them up in a row. He talks to the pills and counts them as he does his arranging. He starts to swallow the pills one at a time. There is a knock on the door. Hall shouts for whoever it is to go away. They knock again. He takes another pill. There is one more bang on the door.

Hall opens the door and sees Anaia and Racine. He tries to slam the door and falls to the ground. Anaia says that they cannot beat up a drunk man for information.

Racine gets Hall to sit down. Anaia comments that the office stinks. Hall says that is because his receptionist's cat has pooped everywhere. She left the cat when she left him. Anaia and Racine ask if Hall remembers their father. Hall is easily distracted.

Racine raises the rock in a sock as if to hit him. Hall laughs. Racine swings the rock.

Hall dodges it. She tries again. She misses again. Hall tells them that he is in the process of killing himself. One pill would have been enough to do it, but he has taken several.

Hall remembers their father. He says he knew that their father was lying, but Hall was afraid of him. Their father said that their mother had lit herself on fire. He had suicide notes that she had written when they broke up. Hall tells Racine and Anaia that their father lives up in the hills in a yellow house with teal shutters. As he falls asleep, Hall says that their father had another set of twins. Racine and Anaia stare at his lifeless body. Racine hits him with the rock.

## UP TO THE HILLS

Racine and Anaia are climbing a steep hill. Anaia says she has a stich. They sit down. Racine suggests they camp out overnight. Anaia sings quietly to herself. Racine describes how they have had no one around to give them support and structure. Anaia says that Racine is angry. Racine agrees.

Racine asks if Anaia remembers their second foster father. He used to hit Racine with a belt. Anaia says that she used to hear her crying. Racine said that she never cried. She insists that she taunted him into hitting her because she knew he would have a heart attack and die. Anaia can not believe that while her sister was beaten and her mother was laying in a hospital bed covered in scars that their father was living in a yellow house with a dog and twins. Anaia says that she likes being ugly.

Anaia asks what they are going to do about the other twins. Racine reminds her that their mother told them to destroy everything around their father. They both agree that it is too hot outside. They both wish they had some ice.

# THE HOUSE ON THE HILL

Riley, the elder twin, is watering succulents while his brother Scotch writes poetry.

Their mother, Angie, is unpacking groceries from the car. She calls for the boys to come and help. They both say that they are coming, but they do not intend to.

Angie knows this. Angie describes shopping for the groceries, and all the little things that have gone wrong today. Scotch reads one of his poems aloud. Angie says that she hates her life. Racine and Anaia are nearby. They hide and watch the family.

Anaia thinks that Angie is pretty.

Angie tells the boys that she is going out with a friend. She goes upstairs and changes her clothes. Angie says that she has been saving up her money and plans to run away. Although her husband has never hit her, she is afraid of him. She will go to Las Vegas and then to Connecticut where a new job and identity are waiting for her. Riley knocks on the door and offers her some of the arugula salad he is making. She cannot believe that these boys came from her body. He tells her he loves her. Angie says that she loves him too. She leaves the house. Scotch turns up some music and dances.



# IN THE ROAD

Anaia and Racine sit back-to-back in the middle of the road. They talk. We can hear crickets and wind. We hear a car getting closer. The driver has the radio on. Angie yells from the car to get Anaia and Racine's attention. The car door slams. Angie comes on stage. Angie asks Anaia and Racine to move. They refuse. Angie offers them her pearl necklace. They want Angie's car. Angie needs the car to run away from her husband. Anaia and Racine tell Angie that her husband is their father. They tell her about the fire. They will not let her leave with the car. Angie yells at the girls and says that it was their mother's fault for not leaving him. Racine hits Angie with the rock. Angie is dead. Racine drags her body off stage. Anaia follows.

# TWINS AND TWINS

Scotch and Riley are at the table. They speculate where their mother has really gone. They say that their dad is going to find her. Scotch reads Riley the poem he wrote for her. There is a knock on the door.

Scotch answers the door and sees Racine and Anaia. He believes that they are strippers that their father hired to celebrate his and Riley's birthday. Riley reminds him that their birthday is not for a couple of weeks. Riley objects. He does not think they look like strippers. Racine decides that they will go along with this assumption.

Anaia and Racine make their way upstairs. Scotch is thrilled by this surprise. Riley is sceptical.

## DRESSING

Upstairs in Angie's closet, Anaia tells Racine that she does not like this situation.

Racine reminds her that they have nearly accomplished what they were sent here

for, and that she should not get emotional now. Anaia tries to leave. Racine and

Anaia argue. Anaia makes Racine promise that they will not kill anyone else except

for their father. The girls put on the sexiest clothes that they can find. Anaia asks

Racine how she feels about killing Angie. Racine says she does not feel anything.

Racine feels like Angie had the life that they deserved.

## THE TEASE

Anaia and Racine come downstairs. There is music playing and the girls start to dance.

Scotch is enthusiastically enjoying the show. Riley sits in the corner not participating.

Scotch tells Anaia to go and dance with his brother. He says that he wants Racine, the

pretty one. Anaia leaves the house. Racine tells Scotch that her sister is not ugly.

# ALL FALL DOWN

Riley approaches Anaia outside. He offers her some water. Riley asks how much time his dad paid for. Anaia tells him that they are not strippers. She says that she is feeling a bit sick. Riley offers Anaia some arugula. He notices that she sounds Southern. He tells her that his dad is from the South, but he does not talk about it much. Anaia asks how old he is and if he has a girlfriend. He will be seventeen in a few weeks, and there is a guy that he likes. Riley asks how she got the scars on her face. Anaia says that it is a secret. They hear a yell from inside the house. Riley is concerned. Anaia says that Scotch and Racine are just having fun. Scotch screams again. Anaia distracts Riley by telling him that her scars are from a fire.

Scotch stumbles out of the house with a knife stuck in his back. He has figured out that they are not strippers. Riley tries to pull the knife out of his brother's back. Scotch dies. Riley laughs and cries. He is in shock. Racine tells Anaia that they have to kill Riley too, otherwise he will tell people what they did. Racine tries to approach Riley, but Anaia stands in her way. Anaia tells Riley that his father is the one who set the fire who gave her all of the scars. Anaia says that they are not going to hurt him. Riley grabs Anaia by the throat. Racine hits him with the rock. Riley gets up and tackles Racine and strangles her. Anaia tries to get him off Racine. She grabs the sock and uses it to choke Riley. He dies.

Anaia hears a car coming up the driveway. She tries to wake her sister. She hides.

# SHOWDOWN

Man appears in a black cowboy hat. He knows that Anaia is hiding. He tells her to follow him to the top of the hill. Anaia takes the sock with her.

Standing on opposite sides of the hill, Anaia asks her father why he killed their mother. He says it is because she would not let him hold her. He asks Anaia how Angie died. He compares setting their mother on fire with trying to remove a blackhead.

Anaia tells Man that she is pregnant. He is going to be a grandfather. She asks how she is supposed to tell her child about all of this. About how her father tried to set them all on fire. Man says that he only tried to burn their mother, but that she grabbed them and got them caught in it. Man says that Anaia can put a stop to all of this. That they can move on from it all. He tells her to put down the rock and go. Man says that they are the only ones left. Anaia pauses for a moment, and then walks closer to him. He takes her hand.

Man asks how far along she is. Anaia says 11 weeks. Man slaps her hard in the face. Anaia falls down. Man shouts at Anaia and kicks her. Man walks over to the bodies

of his dead sons, takes a flask from his pocket and begins to pour alcohol on them. Anaia is back on her feet. She says that while he was living in this house on a hill she was being mistreated in different foster homes. Man goes to attack Anaia, but Racine suddenly jumps onto his back. Anaia and Racine kick Man and hit him with the rock in a sock. They get his flask and a lighter from his jacket and pour the alcohol on him. Anaia ignites the lighter and steps away. As Racine turns away Man grabs her. Flames engulf them. Racine fights but is not strong enough. She calls out for her twin.

## TWIN?

Anaia stands and tries to speak. She says that she is too tired for all of this.

## AGAIN BEFORE GOD

Anaia gathers the items from all of the dead and lays them at the foot of her mother's bed. She says that she is surprised that it is Anaia who made it back alive. The reason that Anaia's scars were worse is because she tried harder to save their mother, so perhaps She should have known. Anaia says that she is having a baby. Her plan is to call it Enica, which is most of Racine spelled backward. Anaia lifts the rock above her mother's head ready to hit her. Anaia asks if She can die in peace

now. She says yes, it is finally quiet. Anaia says that is funny because she can still hear noise. Anaia lowers the rock. Anaia leaves.

**CURTAIN CALL**

**THE END.**