

The Gun in Saint Margaret's Basement
by
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Characters

Jordan	Female, 21.
Gabrielle	Female, 32.
Lynn	Female, 34.
Irene	Female, 37.
Andrew	Male, 44.
Dorenda	Female, 56.

Setting

The basement of Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church in Bend, Oregon.

The walls are red brick, with windows along the top looking out at ground level onto a winter exterior.

There are posters with safely positive Christian messages such as "The Lord is My Shepherd" and "Walk With Me."

A couple of small bookcases are filled with stuffed animals and children's books.

At the end of a Sunday of activities, the place is a civilized mess.

There's a table with a few snack-scrap remaining and mostly melted ice in a punch bowl.

A row of folded chairs leans against the back wall.

In the center of the room are five chairs with books, bags, and coats on them.

Various beverages sit by the chairs.

A set of stairs leads up to the rest of the church.

On the opposite wall, a door in the corner leads to a tiny bathroom.

Time

3:23 p.m. on November 4, 2018.

This play was originally commissioned by TossPot Productions in Anchorage, Alaska.

Lights rise.

Gabrielle, Jordan, and Lynn are seated, talking in hushed tones.

Irene stands apart, texting.

JORDAN

You want to make it accessible.

GABRIELLE

I understand that.

JORDAN

“Good to the Last Drop” was a big hit back in Anchorage.

It could work great here in Bend.

Builds morale, and who doesn’t like coffee?

LYNN

I like coffee.

GABRIELLE

Sure.

JORDAN

Was it the competitive part she objected to, with the beans?

LYNN

Dorenda needs to take a minute.

It’s fine.

JORDAN

She got so mad, over... you know... nothing.

GABRIELLE

I’m sorry.

I actually think she’s right.

I know her response was—

LYNN

Really, you think she’s right?

GABRIELLE

I don’t know, this is just—

JORDAN

It's okay, Gabrielle.
I am absolutely open to feedback.

GABRIELLE

No, Jordan, it's not a big deal, I'm not...
I mean, a church coffee party seems...
You know, weird.

JORDAN

No, I don't know.

GABRIELLE

I'm sorry.

LYNN

I think I get what you're saying, Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Do you?

LYNN

Yeah, sort of.

GABRIELLE

Good.

JORDAN

Which is?

GABRIELLE

It's just a "coffee-party..."
I don't have, I mean I've never had a... "coffee party," so it seems, you know...

JORDAN

Weird?
I'm getting that you find it weird.

LYNN

Just because you haven't done it, doesn't mean it can't be fun.

GABRIELLE

Right, of course!

JORDAN

Good.

GABRIELLE

I guess maybe I don't see where it ties to the church, or—

JORDAN

That's just it.

It makes great sense.

In Anchorage, we worked with a Guatemalan company.

The profits went straight to the peasant farmers.

LYNN

That's great.

It's better if whatever we end up doing is tied to charity.

GABRIELLE

Of course.

JORDAN

We went with a Mexican theme, costumes and everything.

LYNN

I thought the beans were Guatemalan?

GABRIELLE

They're not American beans?

JORDAN

We're helping poor farmers.

GABRIELLE

We don't have poor American farmers?

JORDAN

Coffee was way cheaper from Guatemala, okay?

GABRIELLE

Sorry I said anything.

Coffee party sounds fine.

Beans from Ecuador, wherever.

JORDAN

I'm open to other people's ideas.

Sure. GABRIELLE

If you have any. JORDAN

What? GABRIELLE

I'm sure she didn't mean— LYNN

Oh, no, sorry... I'm just not hearing any other ideas. JORDAN

It's fine. GABRIELLE

It's fine. LYNN

They consider each other.

GABRIELLE
How long do you think the activities subcommittee going to be here today?
I've got to get dinner on pretty soon.

LYNN
We can table special events 'til next Sunday.

JORDAN
Maybe everyone can bring in an idea!

LYNN
Sure, that sounds great.
Gabrielle?

GABRIELLE
Sure, sure.

IRENE
We should wait.

JORDAN

She had forgotten Irene was there.

Oh!

IRENE

Probably shouldn't leave until Dorenda gets out of the restroom.
Make sure we don't leave on a wrong foot.

LYNN

Well... sure.

They consider each other.

JORDAN

She's been in there for a long time.

IRENE

I can wait for her if you don't want to.

LYNN

No, it's fine.

They consider each other.

GABRIELLE

... was there anything else we needed to talk about?

They consider each other.

LYNN

We don't have to talk about church business.

JORDAN

Right.

GABRIELLE

Sure, sure.

JORDAN

How long have you been coming to St. Margaret's, Gabrielle?

GABRIELLE

Since I moved here.
Six years... no, seven.

Long time. JORDAN

Yeah. GABRIELLE

I've been here a couple of times while you were here, then. JORDAN

I don't remember. GABRIELLE

She's been visiting me summers, every two to three years, since she was little. LYNN

Gave my parents a break. JORDAN

You summered in Bend, huh? GABRIELLE

With my parents, I'd have been grateful to summer in a Siberian gulag. JORDAN

I'm so flattered.
So un-Christian of you. LYNN

Family is overrated. JORDAN

Blood may be thicker than water... LYNN

"But so is tomato juice!" JORDAN and LYNN

*They laugh lightly at their inside family joke.
Silence settles in and gets uncomfortable.*

JORDAN
Yelling
Are you okay in there?

A moment of worry.

DORENDA

Off.

I'M FINE.

JORDAN

Okay!

IRENE

Should we get a battering ram, force our way in, just to be safe?

JORDAN

Oh... was that a little—

IRENE

Just never chase me into a toilet and we'll be fine.

JORDAN

Whispering.

Great.

I didn't mean to offend her the first time, and now I think I did it again.

LYNN

Don't worry about it.

GABRIELLE

She's fine.

JORDAN

It's just an idea.

LYNN

Seriously, known her for years... don't worry about it.

GABRIELLE

Right...

So we're clear: I'm with Dorenda.

I don't like it.

No offense, but it feels... disrespectful?

"Thanks for dying for our sins. Now we're going to pretend that coffee is your blood, too."

JORDAN

Oh... okay!

GABRIELLE

I mean, whatever, I get it.

I just know that if I wasn't on the committee making it up, I'd be on the outside making fun of it.

JORDAN

We raise money for the Sunday school.

We supply business to farmers, ones who live in real poverty.

People are going to buy coffee from Safeway anyway... why not from us?

We take the money out of the corporation's hands and give it to good causes that happen to include this church's children.

IRENE

Fuck.

Everyone turns to Irene.

She tries to blame a text message.

Oh... sorry, fuck.

Fuck!

I swear when I'm...

I don't have Tourette Syndrome or anything.

I mean, fu... um.

JORDAN

Fum?

GABRIELLE

Of course.

JORDAN

I'm sorry... I didn't mean to make fun of you.

You don't have Tourette's, got it.

LYNN

... you kind of do.

IRENE

What?

LYNN

I mean, not out of control or anything—

IRENE

That's what Tourette's is.

LYNN

There was ten seconds ago, that was pretty “not-in-control.”

IRENE

I’ve explained that.

LYNN

Did you though?

IRENE

Some people are overcome with the Holy Spirit and cry out amen in church.

GABRIELLE

Sure, sure.

IRENE

When I hear something stupid, sometimes I get overcome.

JORDAN

Okay now—

LYNN

It’s fine, Jordan.

Irene has anger management issues.

IRENE

Bless your heart.

They consider each other.

LYNN

And Christ be with you.

They consider each other.

JORDAN

I made out in this basement one time when I was visiting you.

They stare at Jordan.

GABRIELLE

Made out...

... with a boy. JORDAN

Oh. GABRIELLE

... how old were you? LYNN

Thirteen. JORDAN

Thirteen? LYNN

What? JORDAN
Oh, you mean I was too young.
He was the same age.

Oh... I guess that's better. LYNN

IRENE
She's just jealous.
She wasn't making out down here until she was at least seventeen.

Oh... ha ha... JORDAN

This hasn't really broken the tension.

How about that Trump, huh?

There are clearly mixed feelings in the room, and no one wants to talk about him.

IRENE
How about him?

LYNN
Religion and politics.

JORDAN
We did the first one, on to the second.

IRENE

Uh-huh.

LYNN

We're not going to press our luck talking about both on one Sunday.

GABRIELLE

Amen.

JORDAN

That's how bad it's gotten?
We can't even talk about our government anymore.

GABRIELLE

I don't think we ever could.
Not in my lifetime.

LYNN

Time and place.
We come together here in God.
We part ways at politics.

JORDAN

Got it.
Long way to go to say "give it a rest."

LYNN

You saw through me, huh?

JORDAN

You hate conflict.

LYNN

I do hate conflict.

IRENE

You're such a pussy.

LYNN

You don't have Tourette's?
Really?

IRENE

No.

Okay. LYNN

I meant to call you a pussy and I did. IRENE

Okay, crazy. LYNN

JORDAN
I hate that word though.
We have to stop using ourselves as a synonym for weakness.
Words have consequences.

IRENE
Took a Feminist Studies class, did you?

JORDAN
No.
It was Global Feminism and the Transgender Revolution.

IRENE
College.

JORDAN
So education is a bad thing?

IRENE
I didn't say that.
But it's not always good.

JORDAN
There have been studies about how language affects us.

IRENE
Ooh studies.

JORDAN
You know, science.

IRENE
Yes, I know science.
Science just makes things up.
Look at the food pyramid.

IRENE cont.

Remember when we were supposed to fill up on bread?
Next they'll be telling us to eat bugs for the protein.
The FDA is just a bunch of liberals getting paid to tell everyone what to do, what to believe.
No no, vaccines are fine, they're not causing autism at all.

JORDAN

Okay, they don't.

GABRIELLE

They really don't.

IRENE

And you buy it, because someone told you it was in a study!
Try thinking for yourself.

LYNN

Okay, that's right, don't trust anyone, that's doubtless the way to go.

IRENE

Trust the book.
Everything you need is in the Bible.

GABRIELLE

Sure.

LYNN

There's are parts of modern life that aren't covered in the Bible, Irene.
It's a roadmap, but we have to figure out how we go forward with Christ in the here and now.

IRENE

Or you could stop overthinking and just obey the word of the Lord.

LYNN

There's no point talking to you when you're like this.

IRENE

Waffling about the Word, that should be your slogan.
"Kinda Christ... when it's convenient."

Gabrielle gathers her things.

GABRIELLE

We're done for the day.
We can get back to the special events next week.
I'll do a Doodle poll to see what night the committee is available to meet.

LYNN

We could just figure that out now.

GABRIELLE

Let's just do the poll.

*Irene stands aside as everyone else cordially gathers their things.
A loud slam comes from upstairs.
They look at the stairs.*

LYNN

I thought everyone else was gone for the day.

GABRIELLE

Someone must have forgotten something.

LYNN

I'll take a look.
Hello?

Lynn starts up the stairs, but quickly scrambles back down.

ANDREW

Off.

Back up!

*Andrew enters the room.
He carries a handgun.
He is freshly shaven, dried blood on his neck from a cut he hasn't noticed.
He is exhausted and manic.*

Against the wall!

He waves the gun at them.

LYNN

Just stay calm.
You don't need to do this.
I'm going to the wall.

JORDAN

Oh God!
What do you want?
What do you want?

GABRIELLE

Oh!
Wait, what are you...
What's going on?

ANDREW

Also overlapping.

Quiet... will all of you please shut up!

The women go quiet.

Go on, go on... just get over there.

JORDAN

What do you want?

GABRIELLE

Jordan.

ANDREW

Get against that wall.

LYNN

We're cooperating.

ANDREW

There is nothing to be afraid of.

The Lord has spoken to me.

I am here because he told me to come here... I bring the new word!

You are here because he chose you to receive me.

We are to act as his trumpets... his holy choir!

IRENE

Holy cow.

JORDAN

Wait, what do you want?

ANDREW

Right now, I want you all standing over there, not talking.

Stand over there.

Be quiet... Clear?

GABRIELLE

Are we supposed to answer that one?

He brandishes the gun at them.

Everyone backs off.

Jordan is fighting off a panic attack.

He focuses on her.

ANDREW

Please.
No one is going to get hurt.
Okay?
Just...
You need to stop crying.

He thinks someone is coming at him from the side and whirls around.

Don't do anything stupid!

JORDAN

Who are you talking to?!

He backs up to the stairs, looking for the source of the imagined noise.

LYNN

You can just leave.
This doesn't have to get worse.
It doesn't have to turn into a tragedy.

He pulls out his phone and splits his focus, keeping the gun aimed at them.

GABRIELLE

Right.
Go on.

LYNN

You can do it.

GABRIELLE

Just leave.

LYNN

Think it through.
You haven't hurt anyone yet, right?

JORDAN

Get out of here!

GABRIELLE

Just go.

Stop telling me what to do. ANDREW

It only gets worse. LYNN

You can still get away. GABRIELLE

I didn't come here to get away. ANDREW

What? JORDAN

Don't do this. GABRIELLE

Please! JORDAN

Look— ANDREW

Can't reason with a psycho. IRENE

Irene! LYNN

It's okay, it's okay, just go! GABRIELLE

You're pushing me.
I just need... ANDREW

Do you want something?
We're all listening. LYNN

Literally a captive audience. IRENE

LYNN
Tell us what you want.

ANDREW
Do I need a password to get on your wi-fi?

LYNN
Pause.
What?

ANDREW
It's all set up on here.

JORDAN
What is?

ANDREW
The plan.

GABRIELLE
You don't need a password.

ANDREW
Then why is it asking me for one?

LYNN
Are you on the STMpublic one?

ANDREW
I don't remember.
Sure.

JORDAN
Go to your networks.

ANDREW
I know how to use my phone.

JORDAN
Okay.

They watch him for a moment...

LYNN

STMpublic.

ANDREW

Got it!

IRENE

Googling “how to get out of awkward situations”?
I’ll save you a step.
There’s the door.
Get the hell out.

Irene and Andrew stare each other down.

LYNN

Is it working?

ANDREW

Looking down.
Yeah, it’s... downloading.

GABRIELLE

Downloading?

ANDREW

It’s on... okay... okay, one percent.
This is going to take a while.

JORDAN

The wi-fi here is pretty good.
What are you downloading?

ANDREW

There’s a plan.
I received a plan, and I entered the plan.
It’s all ...

Gestures to his phone.

Here.
All the messages to send, the schedule.
All on the cloud.
Two percent.

GABRIELLE

So... we just wait for it?

ANDREW

Yeah.
This is just a pause.
A pause, nothing changes.
It's just going to take a little longer than I thought it would.

IRENE

What do you even want?

ANDREW

People have to listen.

LYNN

To what?

ANDREW

To God.
We've lost our way.
As a nation.
As a people.
We've compromised so much with evil, we can't even see the truth, the true path, let alone walk it.
America has become a mirror of its ideals.
Vain, entitled, selfish.
We have made Hell on earth.
In America.
I am here to awaken its soul.

The women stare at him.

IRENE

... what?

JORDAN

I don't understand.

ANDREW

We're at the end: The Antichrist is in the Whitehouse.

IRENE

He's got TDS!

LYNN

Do you mean Antichrist as an actual person?

ANDREW

If you listen close enough, you can hear it.
 The tiny sound of a bell, growing louder.
 The sign of the final messiah.
 People have to hear it.
 Really listen.
 And repent.

He looks at his phone.

Ugh.
 It was supposed to be...
 I don't want to tell you and then wait.

JORDAN

But... why us?

ANDREW

The noise has to be deafening to rise above the din.
 You all are my deafening noise.
 The police will come, the news will come.
 People are going to hear this.
 When the book is written, you will be revered for your bravery.

JORDAN

We didn't do anything to you.

ANDREW

And I didn't choose you.
 God did.
 To serve him.
 Like you've always wanted, right?
 God just needs you to do your part.
 Respect me and don't make trouble.

IRENE

I feel God needing me to get the hell out of here.

ANDREW

No.

GABRIELLE

We're hostages.

ANDREW

No.

We can leave?
LYNN

No.
ANDREW

Then we're hostages.
LYNN

We're going to be missed.
The police are coming.
GABRIELLE

And they are going to have to negotiate with me.
ANDREW

Hostage situations never end well.
LYNN

If you all keep it together, it will be fine.
This is not going to turn into a blood bath.
The police will stay back.
ANDREW

Everyone's tense and has guns.
LYNN

None of us want to die.
GABRIELLE

It's going to be fine.
I'll trade you one by one for exposure.
All you need to do is go where I say to when I say to go there.
ANDREW

When do we get fucking started?
IRENE

*Andrew looks at his phone.
His face falls.*

Restart.
ANDREW

IRENE

Bless your heart.

GABRIELLE

The cops show up whenever they show up.
They ask what you want...

ANDREW

You tell them who I am.
You tell them why I'm doing this.

LYNN

You know you haven't told us your name, right?

ANDREW

... Andrew.

LYNN

Lynn.

GABRIELLE

Gabrielle.

JORDAN

Jordan.

IRENE

Yeah, no.

GABRIELLE

Irene.

ANDREW

It's the story that must be told.
"Women held at gunpoint in church basement."
It's horrible because it has to be.
Through our suffering, we will redeem everyone.
If I can keep it up for a few days...
After this is over, whatever happens, no matter how much God wants me to change the world...
As soon as its history, people will question.
If God himself appeared, three-hundred feet tall and straight out of the Sistine Chapel, and
within a week, there'd be memes of Thor saying "did he really, though," and people who
weren't there would explain it, and psychologists would talk about mass delusions and priests

ANDREW cont.

would use it to raise money without believing it happened and the media would provide explanations about what had really happened.

Then it's just another anecdote.

The past.

Our unfolding story, the story God has chosen us to tell, will pierce the world's shadowed eyelids, hold its soul to the fire.

JORDAN

We just got unlucky, pulled the religious gun nut, it's our turn?

ANDREW

I'm not a gun nut.

JORDAN

Do you need a mirror?

ANDREW

I am so the opposite of that, you don't even know what you're talking about.

Everytown for Gun Safety, Giffords Law Center, I've donated to all of them, I've put in hours, so don't call me a gun nut!

JORDAN

You're holding us all at gunpoint.

What the fuck is wrong with you?

Get out of here, take your insane plan and –

Andrew lunges at Jordan.

He grabs her by the hair, pulling her towards him, waving the gun at the others.

ANDREW

SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP!

She struggles and he jams the gun in her cheek.

JORDAN

Ow!

ANDREW

Or keep talking.

It wasn't part of the plan, but you aren't supposed to be fighting me.

Please, tell me, if I make an example of you, if you are the necessary sacrifice to make God's will clear, would that be good enough planning for you?

You need to stop fighting me!

LYNN

Stop!

ANDREW

We are on a precipice.

This situation is dangerous, for all of us, for all of humanity.

What we do here will echo throughout time.

Stop challenging me.

We are in this together now, whatever you believe this to be.

If you believe me that it's God's will, or if you refuse to see it and think of me as your captor, we are in this basement together.

Or are you my Judas?

Is that how you want them to write about you??

If you won't believe me, then maybe I'll have to—

JORDAN

Please!

ANDREW

What?

JORDAN

I'm sorry.

I understand.

He shoves Jordan back over to the rest of the women.

ANDREW

I'm sorry about that.

That's not...

Please, that's not who I am, why I'm here.

I just need you all to...

When you act like that, you're not believing me.

This is real.

This is happening.

And the sooner you believe it—

LYNN

We believe you.

Okay?

We believe you.

ANDREW

Don't start getting ideas, like you're going to throw books at me, or come at me all at once.
 I've had the training. I know how you're supposed to fight me.
 Resistance will not end well.
 I am doing as God has told me, and I will not be stopped.
 He will protect me.

GABRIELLE

God didn't tell you to do this.
 You have to see that.

ANDREW

You weren't there.
 And you've never been there, in his actual presence, where you're not just looking to him, for him, but he is looking back at you, not in general, you.
 Because he needs you.
 If God had ever spoken to you, I would see it in you.
 You would see it in me.
 None of you has ever had his literal light shining upon you, making your path clear.
 I have.
 I have.
 So beautiful, it's not meant to be described, recorded in books, in words.
 It can only be experienced or not experienced.
 That's what I am to bring to the world.
 To give everyone the key, to open their hearts to God, to discard our shackles.
 Open the door in everyone's heart.
 Look.
 You're here, in church.
 That shows that you'll believe things you didn't personally see, can't possibly know the truth of... you can take them on faith.
 You can take me on faith if you want to.
 You think your God, the God of your ancestors, is even himself anymore.
 God only lives in the present, inside of all of us, here, now.
 Only when we breathe as one, only then will the full truth be revealed.
 If you truly believe in God, believe in me.
 He spoke to me.
 This is all a part of his plan.
 You can be a part of it, or you can try to stop it.

LYNN

Okay.

JORDAN

What?

GABRIELLE

This is God's best plan to get people's attention?

ANDREW

No one looks if there's not a pile of bodies.

JORDAN

Oh!

ANDREW

I'm trying to avoid that.
 God doesn't want that.
 But you have free will.
 I don't want... I'm not a monster!
 Don't misunderstand me.
 I will shoot you if I have to.
 But I don't want to.
 I swear.
 And you can all make it out of here.
 You just have to do what I say.
 Live to spread your story.

Silence.

GABRIELLE

How long are we going to be here?
 I mean... what are we going to eat?

ANDREW

There's water in the bathroom...

LYNN

We're fasting the whole time?

ANDREW

Have crackers.

JORDAN

We're going to live off crackers.

ANDREW

We are going to be fine.
 I do not want, I do not need, your ideas, so just keep—

*A ringtone interrupts him.
They all instinctually reach for their bags
They stop and stare at Andrew*

... hey... hey, give me those.
You shouldn't have those!

IRENE

You didn't ask for them.

ANDREW

Just give me your phones.

JORDAN

Can't we keep them?
I promise not to use mine.

ANDREW

For... what?
What, the clock?
The apps?

JORDAN

I... I get nomophobia.
Please.

GABRIELLE

What's that?

JORDAN

PSA... "Phone Separation Anxiety."

*They regard each other.
The ringtone stops.*

ANDREW

Shut up, no, give me your... just put them all on the table.
PSA... phew.

JORDAN

I know it sounds stupid.
It's a real thing.

ANDREW

Sorry, you can't keep your...
 Tell you what.
 I'll leave yours out on the table here, so you can see it.
 Will that help?
 Coz you're not keeping it.

Jordan nods.

They all turn over their phones, then return to their side of the room.

When I got here... I thought there'd be people upstairs.
 But there was traffic on the way, so I was later than I intended.
 I picked this place out a couple days ago.
 I came in.
 I marked the exits, read your bulletin board.
 It made you seem nice.
 Reasonable.
 Well, for a church.

GABRIELLE

I'm glad you like our church.

ANDREW

I just said it spoke well of you.
 As people.
 You're humble, the building is humble.
 That's good.
 When they get all ornate, with majestic spires and stained glass to produce awe, to keep God above us, instead of among us, and soft old wood pews to comfort, that lull us into believing the past's truth instead of searching for our own.
 The illusions to bring people here, away from God, are Satan's beautiful lures, cast into the realm of men to keep them from knowing Him.
 This place, though.
 This place would be depressing for an A.A. meeting.

LYNN

We're here for the community.

GABRIELLE

Fellowship.

JORDAN

Family.

ANDREW
You hear how no one has said "God"?

LYNN
Obviously God.

ANDREW
Obviously.
Not first.
Or second.
Not even third.

LYNN
It's a church.
God is implied.

ANDREW
You say implied.
I say taken for granted.
God says that, too.

LYNN
Does He?

ANDREW
He does.
I thought I'd missed everyone, when I pulled up and there were only a couple of cars.
I was going to just leave.
But then I heard your voices.
I was at the top of the stairs, listening to you.

GABRIELLE
You were listening?

ANDREW
I couldn't hear Him anymore when I came in.
Just silence inside, and all I could hear was you, a murmur of humanity from below.
I thought he wanted me to listen, so I did, and then you came up the stairs.
I think Coffee for Christ sounds fun.

JORDAN
It is fun.

LYNN
Really??

GABRIELLE
You're kidding.

ANDREW

Whoa.
Yeah, absolutely.
Give people something to do, raise money for charity.

JORDAN

Right?

LYNN

Jordan.

IRENE

Having our captor think you're right about the coffee-thing doesn't help your cause.
Bless your heart.

ANDREW

The fact that you're arguing about whether God is going to be offended is what's insane.
Help the poor, done.
But you're worried about the details of how you pretend to be cannibals, like it's actually his
freaking blood.
Never strikes you how ridiculous it is to try to force God into a book?
Two thousand years ago, a great guy did some great stuff, and you think the answer to life is to
try and copy that.
Jesus came down and spread the word of God, he tried to save the world
Christians took his sacrifice as meaning that they need to spread the word "Jesus."
Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus.

GABRIELLE

Look—

JORDAN

We haven't done anything to you!

ANDREW

Organized religion is responsible for most of the wars and torture in the history of the world.
That's nothing next to the damage you've done by taking God away from humanity.

LYNN

Come on.

IRENE

The hostage-taking asshole would like to tell us why we're the assholes.

ANDREW

I've always felt that about Jesus Christ.

Seeing God confirmed it.

Why would he create this book that tells you to kill witches and not to eat shellfish and a million other crazy things, and then have all these other versions all over the world?

Does that sound like how an all-powerful God would design it?

No.

These religions are men, groups of men, coming together to pervert and obscure humanity's divine purpose.

Were any of you there when they made the rules?

Were any women?

But you're so wrapped up in dogma, you imagine that all the other religions are pretenders, which is how they see you, too.

JORDAN

So we should just have no religion?

ANDREW

World's a better place, the next day.

No more childhood fairytales impersonating divine law.

Religion is a poisonous cloud-choked sky.

The stories were made to scare peasants into obedience thousands of years ago.

You can see the world in a way they can't.

You have to see that this book is not the word of any God you should follow.

LYNN

The stories are metaphors.

ANDREW

The book doesn't say that.

You know who says they're metaphors?

People who are smart enough to recognize that it's all nonsense, but are too weak to leave...

That's who says it's metaphor.

What do I know, though?

Maybe God is an old man collecting our foreskins and worrying about how much attention we're paying to him.

Desperate for our love, really.

Indicating the posters

Look at all these ridiculous sayings.

This never-ending stream of impossible words to live by.

Look at this room.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, forever"?

God only exists today!

He rips the poster off the wall, throwing it at them.

LYNN

We just try to live by Christ's example.

ANDREW

But if you have doubts, you're not really accepting Christ, are you?

IRENE

That's the Baptists.

ANDREW

Cowards.

GABRIELLE

Do you want us to argue?

Is that a part of your fantasy?

Captive women you win every argument with?

ANDREW

No, I...

You keep trying to make this about me.

It's not about me.

I'm only a vessel.

JORDAN

Come on.

ANDREW

Listen to me.

Your souls depend—

IRENE

We're your hostages, and you think you're going to convince us that you're a prophet?

I don't think Stockholm Syndrome sets in that fast.

ANDREW

He is flowing through me, has been for days, once I opened my heart to him.

I see his beauty so clearly, it makes my eyes burn.

His voice is so clear, it's like my ears are open for the first time.

I hear the Universe.

You think he's in a book, in the words from the pulpit?

All of Christianity is a perversion of God's will.

ANDREW cont.

It comforts, but all of it, from the humblest hovel to the Vatican, they're all just bricks in the wall that keeps us from knowing our own divinity, preventing us from accessing the kingdom of heaven in each of us.

Dogma, ritual, theology, sermons and blessings, herds of obedient but insincere sheep gathering to pretend together, instead of finding the truth by themselves, in themselves, choosing this falsity.

He surveys the damage he has wrought.

He wouldn't let me sleep.

He made me like him, unrelentingly conscious...

Of the world's suffering, of how we have befouled him.

We pollute his physical world with our garbage, our spiritual world with this garbage.

And my eyes had to stay open for days before I could see what he needed me to see.

We are done.

These are the end days.

If people don't wake up, heaven will be very empty.

In the days to come, you will come with me on this journey.

LYNN

How long have you been awake?

ANDREW

Long enough.

How long have you been asleep?

Your whole life.

GABRIELLE

Literally, though, how long?

ANDREW

Tomorrow will be the sixth day.

LYNN

What?

GABRIELLE

You're suffering from extreme fatigue.

LYNN

I'm not sure that's even possible.

GABRIELLE

You need to sleep.

When you don't sleep, psychosis sets in, I knew a guy—

ANDREW

That exhaustion is where you find God, on the edge between oblivion and the waking world. There's a reason it took forty days in the desert.

GABRIELLE

So now you believe the Bible.

ANDREW

This isn't that complicated.
It's not that the stories are or aren't true.
Many of them probably are.
How would I know?
God's omnipotent, not me.
It's not about if they're metaphors or not.
Everything is a metaphor if you want it to be.
It's that you take the experience of God, the tales of his prophets, and squeeze them into mere human books.
We can only experience God through ourselves.
When you see what I have seen, when you come to where I am, you will understand.
I'm going to convert the world.

GABRIELLE

And you think people will listen to your opinions about God after, you know, all this?

ANDREW

Seems wrong to you?

GABRIELLE

Of course.

ANDREW

The first thing Moses does in the Bible is kill a cop, before he goes on to a career in genocide.

LYNN

Genocide!

ANDREW

Jordan here would be protesting him if he was around today with his "kill all the men, boys, and women, except-for-the-virgins" policy.
He killed the cop because that's what God wanted him to do, right?
This is exactly where God wants me to be.
This doesn't have to be a fight.

GABRIELLE

Nobody is going to become your follower.

ANDREW

We'll see.

I can't convert you... You want to do me?

Go on, convince me that all this... means anything.

Do it.

What, you're not happy to share the blessing of Christ with me?

GABRIELLE

No, I'm not going to play your conversion game.

ANDREW

A god you believe in so little, you don't even declare his name.

Sad.

GABRIELLE

What would be the point?

IRENE

Amen.

GABRIELLE

We get it, you saw God, nothing we say matters because you have your truth.

Andrew stares at her, shakes his head, picks at the leftover snacks.

ANDREW

Can't believe you didn't save me any whole cookies.

And what were these... Vanilla Wafers?

Not a public cookie, whoever bought these.

They crumble too much.

I make a pie crust with them.

IRENE

Shame you didn't bring a pie with you.

Maybe then we wouldn't all starve to death executing this masterplan of yours to download.

ANDREW

We're not going to starve.

I'll ask them to send in supplies, there, done, is that good enough for you?

Shouldn't you have emergency supplies here anyway?

Big space like this.

GABRIELLE

Well... yes, of course.

ANDREW

What are you saving them for?

This didn't seem like an emergency to you?

All this whining, and there's actually plenty of food, it just wasn't the good stuff.

No matter how much you give an American, they always want more.

God's chosen country, filled with so many golden cows, it's choking on them.

Now we've elected one of those cows as president, signaling the end.

IRENE

This is what I was talking about.

You see this?

Lose one election and the world is falling apart.

Completely delusional, totally TDS!

ANDREW

You're one of his true believers, aren't you?

You think he's here to save you, save America, and no matter what he does, you'll take that to the grave with you.

And you act like the Bible backs you up.

His eyes dart about the room until he sees a Bible.

He charges at it through the women, leading with the gun, scattering them.

He grabs the Bible.

It should look good, but there's no need to really use an actual Bible for the prop.

Bible-this, Bible-that.

He's in there: "Here comes the Antichrist, be watchful."

Not only are you not watchful—

IRENE

Fuck you.

ANDREW

You join in his coalition of the greedy and simple-minded.

You ignore your own book: "The Antichrist cometh, even now there are become many Antichrists: whereby we know that it is the last hour."

LYNN

That just means false prophets.

She does.

IRENE

This is what you do to get women to talk to you?
You've got a gun, if you're not going to kill me, then just do yourself, get it over with.

ANDREW

I don't want to die.
I don't want any of us to die.
But you just won't stop coming at me.

IRENE

You're the one who just keeps talking.

LYNN

Irene!
Andrew.

ANDREW

Um.

LYNN

Lynn.

ANDREW

Right.

LYNN

Talk with me.
Me.
Irene, please, pretty please, can you chill out?
Everyone yelling at each other isn't going to help anything.
Right?
We're just waiting.
The plan must be downloaded by now.

*Andrew excitedly pulls out his phone.
What he sees makes him want to cry.
He presses the screen a couple times and puts the phone back in his pocket.
Irene wants to say something but gets stink eyes from the rest of the women.*

LYNN

It's okay.
It doesn't matter.
We're here, it'll happen.
Just a pause, right?

ANDREW

Right.
Thanks.

LYNN

Can I ask you a question?

ANDREW

Sure.

LYNN

Did you go to church when you were a kid?

ANDREW

Mom made me go with her for a while.
She stopped feeling like going to church when I was twelve.
But she had never meant it.
She was my first experience with the hypocrisy.
She was mostly going to look for a new husband.
And I didn't miss it... what kid would?

LYNN

I loved church when I was a kid.

ANDREW

You wanted to spend your Sunday's praying, not playing?

LYNN

Everyone dressed up, there's music.
Everyone says hello, everyone smiles.
Sunday school felt like the only time we were all nice to each other.
Even my sister, and God knows that was the only place that was true.

To Jordan.

Your mom was hard to handle sometimes when we were kids.
Sorry.

JORDAN

No problem.
She still is.

ANDREW

This way of understanding God.
It's ending.
The only way to God today is to journey inward.

GABRIELLE

It's so easy for you to ridicule.

ANDREW

I'm not—

GABRIELLE

God revealed himself to you.
Right.
You didn't talk to God.
You're just a bully.

ANDREW

Okay, I don't know what it's going to take to get you to stop thinking it's okay to attack me.

LYNN

You said you don't want to hurt us.
I believe you.
You don't want to hurt anyone.
If you want us to be quiet, stop engaging us in conversation.
If you want to talk with us, maybe you could stop threatening to kill us every couple minutes.

He sits on the stairs, watching them.

ANDREW

We all just need to calm down.
Take a moment.
Right now, that means shut up.
Pulls out his phone.
Are you kidding me?
It said it was downloading, now my phone turned off.
Come on, come on.
Don't laugh.

GABRIELLE

Who's laughing?

ANDREW

I'm not good with technology.

Okay.

Oh man.

Are you kidding me?

Now it doesn't even recognize...

I need to figure out why it isn't...

I can use one of your phones.

Okay, just going to modify the plan a little.

LYNN

I'm sorry, what are you doing?

ANDREW

I've got this.

I've got this, so let's have quiet time.

Take deep breaths, pray, read a book, I don't care.

Just do it quietly.

They stare at him.

He sits with their phones, realizing that their phones have passwords.

He's not going to ask for help.

The women exchange looks.

Gabrielle clears her throat.

He looks at her.

She indicates with a nod that she would like to sit.

He gestures: "Go ahead."

She makes too much noise grabbing the chair... everyone reacts.

She sits.

Silence as he keeps fiddling with their phones.

Lynn clears her throat.

Andrew looks at her... she also wants to sit.

He waves his arms wildly... "Go ahead!"

Lynn sits.

Irene glares at them, shaking her head.

Lynn and Gabrielle exchange looks, attempting to make a plan with E.S.P.

Andrew is having a silent conversation with himself.

Jordan gets a chair.

Andrew stands and stretches.

The women all freeze and stare at him.

He sits back down.

The small door to the bathroom opens and Dorenda pokes her head out.

Is he gone? DORENDA

What the— ANDREW

Ah!! DORENDA

She slams the door closed again.

Dorenda! LYNN

Come out of there, lady! ANDREW

Don't come out, Dorenda! JORDAN

Shut up! ANDREW

Calm down. GABRIELLE

Get out here! ANDREW

To Lynn
When were you planning on telling me there's someone else here??

She's not hurting you. GABRIELLE

That was my job? LYNN

ANDREW
You keep trying to show me how you're the reasonable one, acting like you're my friend, but but you're keeping this from me.

She can stay in there. GABRIELLE

Stop telling me... you're not in charge! ANDREW

She's just saying— LYNN

ANDREW
I want to trust you, I do, but this makes it pretty...
Get against the wall, all of you!
And you in there... come out.
Come out right now.
Come on, I said come out...
I swear to God, I will start shooting people!

Leave her alone. JORDAN

You could just leave her in there. LYNN

What? ANDREW

She's not going anywhere. LYNN

I'm just supposed to believe you? ANDREW

It's a bathroom. IRENE

So? ANDREW

IRENE
Been in a lot of basement bathrooms with second doors?

ANDREW
Oh... well... GET OUT HERE, LADY!

Andrew smashes the door, eliciting a yelp from behind it from Dorenda.

ANDREW cont.

Fine, lady.
Just stay in there.
That doesn't mean anything.
You're not going anywhere.
I'm still... this is still happening.

A musical ring tone goes off in his pocket.

Oh...

GABRIELLE

It's mine.
Just ignore it.

*He nods.
They wait for it to end.
It stops.
Andrew sighs.*

ANDREW

I wish phones still just rang.
My home phone is a classic dial.
I don't really use it a lot.
I've got to pee.
Wait a sec... she could be using her cell phone!

LYNN

Her purse is right there.

ANDREW

Show it to me... pull it out and slide it over.

LYNN

Okay...

Calling off

Dorenda, I'm going to have to go through your purse, okay?

ANDREW

Just get the phone.

Lynn holds her finger up to him.

DORENDA*Off*

Okay!

*Lynn gets the phone and slides it to Andrew.
 He puts it with the others, tacitly threatening "don't try to get these phones."
 He fumbles with Gabrielle's, trying to turn it off.
 He finally succeeds.
 He decides to do this to the rest of the phones.
 While his focus is split, Irene takes a tentative step toward him.
 The other women all watch her intently.
 She starts to take another step.
 Andrew's head snaps up at her.
 She steps back.*

IRENE

I leaned.
 That all right with you?

*He fidgets.*ANDREW

I've got to pee.
 Should have gone in the parking lot.
 And the food.
 I thought...
 It felt mapped out, there was a plan.
 I mean, no actual maps.
 But now that I'm here... it's fine, but...
 Sorry it's such a mess.

IRENE

You'll do better at your next hostage-taking.

ANDREW

I would have thought you were funny, like two weeks ago, or... not now.
 You're not making me laugh now.
 I miss having someone to tease me, take care of me...
 I miss most of it, really.
 Jen would sometimes make me change my clothes...
 We'd be at the door, and she'd look at me, and just say "no," and I'd have to go change.
 After ...
 I felt myself disappearing, because at some point, alone, we become dead ends, invisible.
 I still have to pee...

Well... LYNN

The bathroom's in use. IRENE

I've really got to go. ANDREW

*The women stare at him.
He seems conflicted...
Then goes to the corner next to the stairs.
He points the gun as them as he fumbles to get himself pulled out while
facing the wall.*

Would you like a cup? GABRIELLE

I've got this. ANDREW

*He focuses... and waits... performance anxiety...
He grunts as he starts to pee.*

Ugh. JORDAN

He keeps going, then realizes that the growing puddle is about to hit his shoes.

Oh crap. ANDREW

*The women stare at Andrew as his pee nears his shoes.
He tries to avoid the pee while maintaining his modesty.
He finishes.*

No one ever needs to pee in the movies.

Who'd want to watch that? GABRIELLE

I should have used a cup. ANDREW

*He keeps the gun trained on them as he goes to the snack table.
He picks up napkins and paper goods.
He returns to his mess and tosses the paper on it.*

Look... I'm sorry about that thing earlier.
When I grabbed you.

JORDAN

I know what you're apologizing for.

ANDREW

I want you to know I'm not a rapist.

GABRIELLE

Congratulations?

ANDREW

I would never do that.
I thought you should know that's not on the table.

GABRIELLE

That's where you draw the line?

ANDREW

Right.

GABRIELLE

And you don't see that what you're doing makes you the same as a rapist?

ANDREW

I'm not a rapist.

IRENE

Jesus.

GABRIELLE

That is so messed up.
This is rape.
It's all about power.
That's what turns you on.

ANDREW

What?
No.

GABRIELLE

When you scan the room, do you know where your eyes stop?
Jordan.

JORDAN

What?

ANDREW

That's not true.

LYNN

It is.

GABRIELLE

You look at all of us, but you make sure you get an extra second of her, every time.
Young, at your mercy.
No no, you're not a rapist.
You wouldn't do that.
Is that why you shoved your gun in her face earlier?
It wasn't the gun you wanted to shove in her face, was it?

ANDREW

She was the weakest.

JORDAN

What?

ANDREW

I could tell you wouldn't fight back.

JORDAN

You...

ANDREW

It was a part of the plan.
If you'd fought me, I might have had to pull the trigger.
I didn't want to do that.
So I picked you.
You don't know me.

LYNN

I think like we've got the broad strokes.

ANDREW

You've known me for a half-hour.
You don't know who I was before God chose me.

GABRIELLE

So now we should worry about your feelings more?

ANDREW

We all have to care for everyone.
Everyone.
Your family, your friends, that's easy and most people can't do it.
But I'm not seeing much cheek turning here.

LYNN

Are you kidding?

ANDREW

If you don't care for me, you don't really care for anyone, that's right.

JORDAN

I care.

LYNN

Jordan.

JORDAN

I hear what you're saying, Andrew, and you're right.

GABRIELLE

Come on.

JORDAN

We can all see Andrew's in pain, but none of us is trying to see beyond ourselves, our own danger, to try to save him.

ANDREW

I don't need saving.

JORDAN

We all need redemption, Andrew, and it can only come from other people.
Tell us about you.
Not you now, not why you're here.
Who you were before your... revelation.

ANDREW

It doesn't matter.

JORDAN

Plan's still downloading, right?

He checks his phone and sighs.

ANDREW

Three years ago, my wife...

I had friends, after she was gone.

It was awkward it was for them.

First, some of them, poof, gone, like they had never been a part of my life.

Then everyone is worried about me

They tell me so.

Some of them don't tell me, but they tell everyone else.

And maybe they were all worried like they said, but eventually, I stopped hearing from anyone.

Makes me think that it wasn't worry.

I tried to fill the void with noise.

Bars, television, anything so I wasn't alone in the silence...

I was a regular at the Jezebel's Gentleman's Club for a couple of months.

JORDAN

The strip club.

ANDREW

I was lost.

The sadness made me feel at home.

The alcohol and noise kept memories at bay...

But eventually, silence is always there, no matter how much noise you cover it with.

Isolation.

I wouldn't have ever killed myself, but I was starting on the half-suicide that we see all around us, where people just stop caring for themselves, and they bloat or shrivel and just let themselves go, not even caring enough to fight for life.

My wife and I were going to do it all, children, house.

It was so random, she was just gone, suddenly.

My hope went with her

I was just going through the motions.

We had this emergency response training at work, how to react if...

GABRIELLE

... something like this happens?

ANDREW

... yeah...

Or an earthquake, you know, bad stuff.

We're talking about doing an initial assessment on a mass casualty situation.

Make sure they're breathing, their pulse is regular, a full body spot check for breaks.

The instructor gives us our homework: "go home and practice the spot check on your family."

I ask if I can do it on my cat.

He looks annoyed.

He doesn't understand that I'm alone.

Why I'm alone.

I lunge at him.

He lays me out flat, gets on top of me with my arm behind my back.

I don't know anything about fighting.

It's probably why I got fired.

JORDAN

You have a cat.

ANDREW

Yes.

JORDAN

You plan for him during this?

ANDREW

Yes.

I put out a bag of food and left the tap running.

I'm a good pet owner.

After Jen passed away... I told you she died?

Did I make it sound like she left me?

God took her.

An aneurism.

Bad luck.

I wish she had left me, that she was still out there somewhere, or that it had been me who...

I couldn't change anything, so it was still our house, just without her.

I would have just shrunk to nothing there, faded away into darkness without her light, except for then my niece, one from my wife's side of the family, Sarah...

LYNN

Were you close?

ANDREW

Never met her.

My wife always made sure we sent a card or whatever, you know, for birthdays, graduations, and Jen had framed photos all over the house.

Friends who'd moved, relatives we hadn't seen in forever.

Sarah was a part of my everyday life.

A member of my mute, smiling family that was always there.

Since Jen, I'm depressed.

All the time.

Life goes on and on.

There is so much time.

Sitting.

Staring at the box.

CNN, MSNBC.

And I don't really feel... anything.

Who can care about it all, the things that happen on TV?

It's all horrible, and sad, and people are horrible and sad.

I'm on the couch, watching the news of the weekly mass shooting.

"Oh, it's Illinois."

"Oh it's... N.I.U."

"Isn't my niece that age..."

She was going to be great.

She was going to be amazing, it was all in front of her.

And some guy goes nuts, and she doesn't get to be amazing any more.

I haven't talked to her in years, and now she's dead...

Anger was the first thing I'd felt in so long.

That kid, that fucked up kid, the shooter...

He took the stone of his shitty life, and threw it into the ocean of the world, sending out waves of pain.

I get involved.

Sign petitions and forward messages and call my representatives.

I march, join people who feel like I do, meet people who have lost family.

Tom, his wife was shot at work.

Judith lost a granddaughter.

Everyone has lost someone.

Their pain... it feels like my pain.

Feels like home.

I think I'm getting better, healing.

But I never actually get better.

Jen's memory is where I want to be.

I just kept getting worse.

Because the more I try, the more I have to deal with those gun people...

"I like hunting, so we need guns."

"I need to be safe from the government, so we need guns."

ANDREW cont.

"The Constitution says I get guns."

And now every time there's a shooting, I feel like I am right there in it, tied to it, and my Jen, she can't help me get over it, and no one is there, and they won't listen to reason, and they don't care that she's dead ... and I don't... I can't... I didn't know what to do... and then I did this... and I'm so sorry... I just can't see what... oh God!
What am I doing?

He breaks down sobbing.

He drops to the ground, dropping the gun.

Everyone seems confused what to do.

Except Irene.

She quickly leaves her seat, goes to her purse and rifles through it.

Hey... what are you doing?

Irene pulls out a handgun and shoots him.

No please...

She shoots him again.

Screams and gasps as he falls.

GABRIELLE

God!

IRENE

Ha!

JORDAN

I've got his gun.

Jordan moves to take the dropped weapon.

Lynn drops to her knees.

IRENE

Not so big now.

GABRIELLE

God, Irene.

You brought a gun to church!

IRENE

Without me and my gun, we're dead.
I saved you.
The gun in my purse saved all of us.

Jordan puts the gun on the snack table and grabs napkins.

JORDAN

Everyone calm down.

Jordan holds the napkins over Andrew's wounds.

IRENE

What the hell are you doing?

JORDAN

Applying pressure.

IRENE

To slow the bleeding??

JORDAN

Yes.

IRENE

Let him die.

LYNN

God.

IRENE

It's self-defense.

GABRIELLE

Letting someone die is not self-defense.

JORDAN

He was putting down the gun.
He was opening up and we were going to all get out of here.

IRENE

You're kidding, you believe that?

JORDAN

Life is precious, Irene.
All life.
You're not God.

Andrew moans.

IRENE

Is this how God showed it to you?

ANDREW

I'm sorry.

JORDAN

Just be quiet, keep still.

IRENE

Oh, I bet you're sorry.

ANDREW

I'm sorry, Jen.

JORDAN

What?

IRENE

Best thing about your death here today, creep?
The last thing you're going to do is provide a great example of why we need the freedom to defend ourselves.
You didn't go somewhere that you knew people could fight back.
None of you fuckers do.
It's always schools and churches.
You go looking for sheep to slaughter.
But having just one wolf hiding among the sheep was enough to stop you.
If we'd all been armed, you wouldn't have even dared.
Because you're a cowardly piece of garbage.
Think about that while you fade away.
Take that with you to hell.
I hope it hurts, you son of a bitch.

GABRIELLE

Christ, Irene.

JORDAN

Did anyone call 9-1-1?

Jordan gets a phone while maintaining pressure.

GABRIELLE

I didn't want to see it, Irene.
You're broken.

IRENE

What?

GABRIELLE

You want to kill someone.
You WANT to.
I don't know if a person can ever come back from that.
Put the gun down, Irene.
I don't care that you brought it.
I'm happy you shot this creep.
But you are too excited.
You need to step down.
Step down.

IRENE

Oh, I'm too excited.
That's what it is.

GABRIELLE

That's what it is.

IRENE

You're in charge of me now?

GABRIELLE

Someone has to be.
You've lost your mind.
I know you think you're better than him—

IRENE

I AM better than him.

LYNN

None of us are better than him.

JORDAN

Aunt Lynn?

LYNN

I would have thought I was better, that we all were better, but he's right, who do we think we are, telling people who God is, telling God who God is.
How do we imagine it, that we're somehow emulating Christ?
From a book.
I hate a third of the people at this church.

IRENE

Now, Lynn—

LYNN

Of course you're one of them, Irene, you're terrible.
We have to pretend it's okay, we have to pretend we forgive you, or don't see you but you make all of us look stupid and ignorant and hateful, and we don't see ourselves that way, hell, even you don't see yourself that way, so of course I don't like you, you're a reflection of the worst of me, the worst of all of us, but we can't do anything about you.
But he's right.
The Bible, I don't know what I, but it's like I'm just realizing how full of shit it is.

JORDAN

Lynn!

GABRIELLE

What?!

IRENE

Your true colors are showing, Lynn.

LYNN

I'm just not seeing a difference between what Andrew did, and what Abraham did, or any of the prophets, wandering off into the desert, sacrificing goats, saying that God told them to do it, and for some reason people believe them, and made others believe them, and here we are, arguing about whether God would care about whether we sell coffee or not.
I believed them.
I need God.
So badly.
I just don't think I'm going to find that here anymore.

*They regard themselves.
Sirens are heard.
Everyone perks up.*

GABRIELLE

I guess multiple gun shots from a church will draw the police.

They take each other in.

The bathroom door flies open suddenly and loudly and Dorenda runs out.

GABRIELLE

Dorenda!

DORENDA

Help, help, there's a crazy guy with a gun, help!!!

Dorenda continues screaming as she runs up the stairs and disappears.

LYNN

I wish I had spent the night in the bathroom.

Their laugh builds slowly.

Police lights emerge in the thin upper windows.

Irene picks up a wastebasket and puts the gun inside it.

IRENE

Otherwise they might think I'm the problem.

They take each other in.

Lights fade out.

End of play.