

SMALL THINGS

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CHARACTERS

HOYT

50's.
Tall.
Deliberate.
Tired.

DREW

19.
Clean-cut, well-scrubbed.
Innocent, sincere.
Gives the impression of being almost fragile.

HOYT'S apartment.

(Stage Right, a couch, in front of which is a coffee table. Stage Left, an easy chair. HOYT sits on the couch, cleaning a revolver.

The doorbell rings. HOYT glances at the door, but doesn't move. The bell rings again. HOYT thinks...then tucks the pistol under a couch cushion, goes to the door, and opens it. In the doorway is DREW, who has started to walk away. When HOYT opens the door, he stops. DREW is clean-cut and well-scrubbed. He wears a suit and tie, neither of which look natural on him. He carries a briefcase, which also seems out of place: it should be carried by an accountant or a businessman twice his age.)

DREW

Oh. I didn't think anyone was home.

HOYT

No one is.

DREW

Uh, I represent the Assembly of Hubristic Evangelicals. We...

HOYT

The what?

DREW

The Assembly of Hubristic Evangelicals. Have you experienced the one true god?

HOYT

Not lately.

DREW

Well, if you'll give me just a few minutes, I'll tell you how you can experience the one true god.

HOYT

Right now?

DREW

There's no more perfect time to experience the one true god than the moment he comes to you.

HOYT

Has he come to me?

DREW

He will, if you open yourself to his love and his power.

Right now? HOYT

DREW
There's no more perfect time to experience the one true god than the moment he comes to you. May I counsel with you?

Now? HOYT

DREW
There's no more perfect time to...

HOYT
Experience the one true god. Got it.
To tell you the truth...

DREW
There is only one truth. That of the one true god.

(HOYT gazes at DREW.)

DREW
That truth will save you.

(Hoyt's gaze becomes a stare.)

And when...you...experience...

(Something in Hoyt's stare causes to Drew to hesitate...)

this...experience...

(then falter...)

it...strikes...you...dumb...

(then stop.)

...with awe.

(HOYT continues to stare...Drew stands there...dumbstruck with awe...LONG PAUSE.)

Oh, this...is...perfect. HOYT

DREW
Well...Sorry to have....

(He turns to go.)

HOYT
Come in.

What? DREW

Come in. HOYT

Really? DREW

Yes. I want to be struck dumb with awe. HOYT

(HOYT steps back. DREW enters uncertainly.)

Thank you. For allowing me to.... DREW

Sit down. HOYT

(DREW starts for the couch.)

Not there. HOYT

Sorry. DREW

(HOYT motions toward the chair.)

Here. Sit there. HOYT

(DREW sits in the chair. HOYT sits on the couch. His hand automatically goes to the cushion, on top of where he put the pistol. DREW seems to be thrown, uncertain of himself.)

(PAUSE.)

So...Strike me. HOYT

Excuse me? DREW

Strike me dumb with awe. HOYT

Oh...There is only one true god. DREW

Is there? HOYT

Yes. And he... DREW

And you know who he is. HOYT

Yes. He's the... DREW

When you say you know who he is...You mean you, personally?
Or the entire Assembly of Hubristic Evangelicals? HOYT

All of us. For we have... DREW

How old are you? HOYT

I was nineteen yesterday. DREW

Happy Birthday. HOYT

Thank you. DREW

Aren't you a little young for this? HOYT

Everyone in the assembly does a year of missionary work when they turn eighteen. DREW

You turned nineteen yesterday. Year's over.
So...you're...extra evangelical? HOYT

Leap year. I got an extra day. Today's my last. DREW

HOYT
And how does that make you feel?

DREW
Relieved!
Uh...To experience the one true god...

HOYT
What's his name?

DREW
Who?

HOYT
The one true god.

DREW
His names are many. His spirit is omnipresent...His power is omnipotent...His love is...

HOYT
But what do you call him?

DREW
Who?

HOYT
The one true god.

DREW
...God.

HOYT
That's it? God?

DREW
Those who know the one true god need no other name. His spirit and power dwell within us. His essence flows through us like an endless stream of eternal sustenance. His glory...

HOYT
But he has no name.

DREW
Who?

HOYT
God.

DREW

Once you experience the one true god, he is within you, and you within him. Only the uninitiated need an earthly name for him. For they have not felt his power and glory.

HOYT

And you want to...initiate me?

DREW

Only the Initiated can experience the one true god.

HOYT

So, the rest of us can't?

DREW

Until you're Initiated, you have no true concept of god.

HOYT

What about my religion?

DREW

There is only one true faith.

HOYT

Yours.

DREW

Only the Initiated know the true path. Only the Initiated see the true light.

HOYT

So the rest of us are just stumbling around in darkness.

DREW

Only the Initiated experience the true sublimity of knowing the one true god.

HOYT

OK.

How do we do this?

DREW

What?

HOYT

How do I get to see the true light?

DREW

You become Initiated.

Right. How do I do that? HOYT

What? DREW

Get initiated. HOYT

You join the Assembly of Hubristic Evangelicals. DREW

How do I do that? HOYT

What? DREW

Join the club. Become a hubristic evangelical. I want to see the true light. HOYT
I want to experience the one true god.

Oh...I have some pamphlets here...These explain, pretty much... DREW

(DREW takes pamphlets out of his briefcase and puts them on the table.
HOYT picks up the pamphlets and reads their titles.)

HOYT
“The One True Path to the One True God”.... “The One True God and You”...
“Being Hubristic”... “Be God and Be Good”....

DREW
(Handing over another pamphlet)
And this pamphlet will tell you about our bible....The One True Book.
We combined the old and new testaments, took out the parts that are wrong,
and revealed the one true message of the one true god.
You’ll get your own bible when you’re Initiated.

Yeah, let’s do that. HOYT

What? DREW

Get initiated. HOYT

DREW
Well, if you come to a meeting, you can speak to a...

HOYT
No, I want to do it now.

DREW
What?

HOYT
Get initiated. I want you to initiate me.

DREW
Now?

HOYT
There's no more perfect time.

DREW
Here?

HOYT
There's no more perfect place.

DREW
No! I can't do that.

HOYT
Why not?

DREW
Uh...I only came to give you some literature.

HOYT
That's it?

DREW
Yeah. That's all we do in our missionary work.

HOYT
Well I want more.

DREW
Well come to a meeting.

HOYT
I don't want to wait for a meeting. I want to be initiated now. And I want you to do it.

I've never done that!

DREW

No one's ever asked you to?

HOYT

No one's ever let me in!

DREW

You've been doing this for a year and no one's let you in?

HOYT

No!

DREW

That must be frustrating.

HOYT

It totally sucks!

DREW

Well, you've hit the jackpot this time. You're going all the way, son. Initiate me.

HOYT

Uh...Why don't you read the pamphlets. And then you can...

DREW

I'll read the pamphlets later. Just go ahead and do...whatever needs to be done.

HOYT

I can't.

DREW

Why not?

HOYT

Um...uh...I'm not an elder.

DREW

But you've been initiated, right?

HOYT

Yeah. When I was, like, seven.

DREW

OK. Do to me, what they did to you.

HOYT

