

STAR SEARCH 2018
DRAMA MONOLOGUE LEVEL THREE

The Other Side
by Justin Street

A Monologue for young actors (age 14-17)

Character sneaks in, looks around, and once the coast is clear, addresses the audience.

So this is it. I'm in.

Checks body to make sure everything is fine.

Nothing happened. I'm still all here right? Arms, legs, head. Yep. Still here. Although, I'm not exactly sure what was supposed to happen. I know they said that if we came in here, we'd die - but everyone's always been a little fuzzy on the details. All they said was "You go through that veil - you die. Period. No question". No question? More like, a million questions!

Is it fast? Is it painful? Sarah said that she heard that you're supposed to turn to dust, which I guess would be pretty painless, as long as it was quick. Abe said that you were supposed to burn up immediately like a fireball. Joseph said that you exploded. Ugh!

Which I don't think is true. I mean, first of all, everyone knows that they used to tie a rope to the priest's leg so in case something happened they could pull him back out. Kind of hard to do if you exploded. Also, the whole point was to keep the place pure and clean. Exploding is kind of the opposite, right?

Also, Joseph is a really bad liar. He told us he got swallowed by a huge fish and that it threw him up on the beach. I let him just tell his story, but I'm like, Joey, I've been going to temple since, well, forever. Like I don't know the story of Jonah.

Anyways, all we had to go on was rumors. Every kid in town seems to have some friend who had some cousin who got too close, maybe even crossed the veil and then - pfft - gone. I don't know. Like I said. Fuzzy on the details.

We used to dare each other to see how close we could get, but it was all talk. There was no way we'd try it. I mean, even if we could sneak into the temple unseen, which is pretty impossible to begin with, we'd be risking instant - or worse - long drawn out death. No way.

But what I never told my friends - is that I *really* really wanted to do it. I mean, it's the place, right? The holy of holies! I felt drawn to it. I knew I'd die if I went, but I felt like I'd die if I didn't.

When I wasn't picked to start school to be a priest, I knew my chances were pretty much shot. Who was I kidding? They were never going to pick me to do that. I'm not priestly material. I'm, well, sneaking into places I'm not supposed to be material.

But now I'm here. And I'm most certainly still alive, as far as I can tell. All because everything changed.

It's hard to get a good read on what happened. A lot of the grown ups don't want to talk about it. It happened when all the stuff in the city was going crazy. Most of us had to stay inside. I snuck out and went to Abe's house, but I was glad when I got there. I've seen angry mobs before - but not like that. It was, different.

What I do know is that it had to do with that Jesus guy. The one they said caused all the trouble. No one knows why or how - but when they killed him, they say that the veil ripped right from top to bottom. And not some little thin piece of fabric, this thing was thick! But al the same - *rrrip!*

And then after that, you could walk right up. People are going crazy trying to figure it out. Some people say that it's because it was destroyed. That His presence left.

I don't know. I've always been afraid to be in here because I thought it'd kill me. But now that I'm here - I've never felt more alive.