



ANGELS IN AMERICA

PART ONE:

MILLENNIUM APPROACHES

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ROADWAY PLAY PUBLISHING INC

ANGELS IN AMERICA

A Gay Fantasia on National Themes

PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES

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Millennium Approaches *is dedicated to*
Mark Bronnenberg

DCAs

- 1) Roy Cohn/Prior 2**
- 2) Joe**
- 3) Harper**
- 4) Belize/Mr. Lies**
- 5) Louis**
- 6) Prior/Man in Park**
- 7) Emily/Angel**
- 8) Martin/Prior 1**
- 9) Rabbi/Henry**
- 10) Hannah/Ethel**
- 11) Sister Ella/Homeless Woman**

Scene 9

The following morning, early. Split scene: Harper and Joe at home; Louis and Prior in Prior's hospital room. Joe and Louis have each just entered. This should be fast. No freezing; even when one of the couples isn't talking, they remain furiously alive.

3 HARPER: Oh God. Home. The moment of truth has arrived.

2 JOE: Harper.

5 LOUIS: I'm going to move out.

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- 6 PRIOR: The fuck you are.
- 2 JOE: Harper. Please listen. I still love you very much. You're still my best buddy; I'm not going to leave you.
- 3 HARPER: No, I don't like the sound of this. I'm leaving.
- 5 LOUIS: I'm leaving.
I already have.
- 2 JOE: Please listen. Stay. This is really hard. We have to talk.
- 3 HARPER: We are talking. Aren't we. Now please shut up. OK?
- 6 PRIOR: Bastard. Sneaking off while I'm flat out here, that's low.
If I could get up now I'd beat the holy shit out of you.
- 2 JOE: Did you take pills? How many?
- 3 HARPER: No pills. Bad for the . . . (*Pats stomach*)
- 2 JOE: You aren't pregnant. I called your gynecologist.
- 3 HARPER: I'm seeing a new gynecologist.
- 6 PRIOR: You have no right to do this.
- 5 LOUIS: Oh, that's ridiculous.
- 6 PRIOR: No right. It's criminal.
- 2 JOE: Forget about that. Just listen. You want the truth. This is the truth.
I knew this when I married you. I've known this I guess for as long as I've known anything, but . . . I don't know, I thought maybe that with enough effort and will I could change myself . . . but I can't . . .
- 6 PRIOR: Criminal.
- 5 LOUIS: There oughta be a law.
- 6 PRIOR: There is a law. You'll see.
- 2 JOE: I'm losing ground here, I go walking, you want to know where I walk, I . . . go to the park, or up and down 53rd Street, or places where . . . And I keep swearing I won't go walking again, but I just can't.
- 5 LOUIS: I need some privacy.

6 **PRIOR:** That's new.

5 **LOUIS:** Everything's new, Prior.

2 **JOE:** I try to tighten my heart into a knot, a snarl, I try to learn to live dead, just numb, but then I see someone I want, and it's like a nail, like a hot spike right through my chest, and I know I'm losing.

6 **PRIOR:** Apartment too small for three? Louis and Prior comfy but not Louis and Prior and Prior's disease?

5 **LOUIS:** Something like that.

I won't be judged by you. This isn't a crime, just—the inevitable consequence of people who run out of—whose limitations—

6 **PRIOR:** Bang bang bang. The court will come to order.

5 **LOUIS:** I mean let's talk practicalities, schedules; I'll come over if you want, spend nights with you when I can, I can—

6 **PRIOR:** Has the jury reached a verdict?

5 **LOUIS:** I'm doing the best I can.

6 **PRIOR:** Pathetic. Who cares?

2 **JOE:** My whole life has conspired to bring me to this place, and I can't despise my whole life. I think I believed when I met you I could save you, you at least if not myself, but . . .

I don't have any sexual feelings for you, Harper. And I don't think I ever did.

(Little pause.)

3 **HARPER:** I think you should go.

2 **JOE:** Where?

3 **HARPER:** Washington. Doesn't matter.

2 **JOE:** What are you talking about?

3 **HARPER:** Without me.

Without me, Joe. Isn't that what you want to hear?

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(Little pause.)

2 JOE: Yes.

5 LOUIS: You can love someone and fail them. You can love someone and not be able to—

6 PRIOR: You *can*, theoretically, yes. A person can, maybe an editorial “you” can love, Louis, but not *you*, specifically you. I don’t know, I think you are excluded from that general category.

3 HARPER: You were going to save me, but the whole time you were spinning a lie. I just don’t understand that.

6 PRIOR: A person could theoretically love and maybe many do but we both know now you can’t.

5 LOUIS: I do.

6 PRIOR: You can’t even say it.

5 LOUIS: I love you, Prior.

6 PRIOR: I repeat. Who cares?

3 HARPER: This is so scary, I want this to stop, to go back.

6 PRIOR: We have reached a verdict, Your Honor. This man’s heart is deficient. He loves, but his love is worth nothing.

2 JOE: Harper . . .



3 HARPER: Mr. Lies, I want to get away from here. Far away. Right now. Before he starts talking again. Please, please—

2 JOE: As long as I’ve known you Harper you’ve been afraid of . . . of men hiding under the bed, men hiding under the sofa, men with knives.

6 PRIOR (*Shattered; almost pleading; trying to reach him*): I’m dying! You stupid fuck! Do you know what that is! Love! Do you know what love means? We lived together four and a half years, you animal, you idiot.

5 LOUIS: I have to find some way to save myself.

2 JOE: Who are these men? I never understood it. Now I know.

3 HARPER: What?

2 JOE: It's me.

3 HARPER: It is?

6 PRIOR: Get out of my room.

2 JOE: I'm the man with the knives.

3 HARPER: You are?

6 PRIOR: If I could get up now I'd kill you. I would. Go away.
Go away or I'll scream.

3 HARPER: Oh God . . .

2 JOE: I'm sorry.

3 HARPER: It is you.

5 LOUIS: Please don't scream.

6 PRIOR: Go.

3 HARPER: I recognize you now.

5 LOUIS: Please . . .

2 JOE: Oh. Wait, I . . . Oh!

(He covers his mouth with his hand, gags, and removes his hand, red with blood)

I'm bleeding.

▼ *(Prior closes his eyes and screams.)*

▼

3 HARPER: Mr. Lies.

4 MR. LIES (*Appearing, dressed in Antarctic explorer's apparel*): Right here.

3 HARPER: I want to go away. I can't see him anymore.

4 MR. LIES: Where?

3 HARPER: Anywhere. Far away.

4 MR. LIES: Absolutamento.

(Harper and Mr. Lies vanish. Joe looks up, sees that she's gone.)

6 PRIOR: When I open my eyes you'll be gone.

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(Louis leaves.)



2 JOE: Harper?

6 PRIOR (*Opening his eyes*): Huh. It worked.

2 JOE (*Calling*): Harper?

6 PRIOR: I hurt all over. I wish I was dead.

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