

IZZY. Weren't no dream.

PHEBE. I wasn't talking to you.

IZZY. Weren't no dream. I thought it was. I thought it was at first. I heard sounds. Like music, but not like music. I looked up and seen a light so bright. Brighter than the sun even, but it didn't hurt my eyes to look at it. I thought I must be dreaming, so I slapped my arm. And pinched at my hand. I pinched it hard. So hard. Look. Look at the bruise. Weren't no dream.

RACHEL. Surely that must be heaven she seen.

PHEBE. Dreams show us heaven sometimes. You pinched yourself in your sleep.

IZZY. No! Fanny seen it, too. *(Fanny stands from her side bench position and moves onstage purposefully. Izzy walks into the next scene and begins it immediately following her last line. Lights change, as Phebe and Rachel move the benches.)*

Scene 8

Izzy walks up to Fanny, who keeps moving around the stage.

IZZY. Fanny! *(No answer. Izzy follows her.)* Fanny! *(Izzy catches up to her. Fanny walks a while, Izzy behind.)*

FANNY. Don't you have chores?

IZZY. Finished. Fed the chickens. I can come with you.

FANNY. I don't recollect inviting you.

IZZY. I want to see ... see the ... *(Fanny turns to face her.)*

FANNY. See what? What is it you wanting to see?

IZZY. What you've been seeing.

FANNY. I've been seeing blueberries. And I aim to pick us some. Gonna spoil that nice white apron o'yours if you come pickin' blueberries with me. *(Izzy turns to go as Polly runs on.)*

POLLY. *(To Fanny.)* Was looking for you.

FANNY. Getting to be a party now, Polly.

IZZY. *(To Polly.)* Fanny's going to pick blueberries.

POLLY. Too early for blueberries.
FANNY. Found some early ones.
IZZY. Early ones'll be sour.
POLLY. She's going out past the meadow.
IZZY. (*To Fanny.*) You said you were going berry-picking.
POLLY. Where's her pail, then?
IZZY. You don't have a pail! (*A beat.*)
FANNY. Just wanted to be alone. Not used to spending every waking minute someone by my side. Just like to go sit and look at the trees sometimes.
IZZY. I won't bother you. I won't even talk to you.
POLLY. You're seeing something in the trees.
FANNY. (*Starting to leave.*) Sure, I am. Birds. I'm seeing birds in the trees. And squirrels. (*Polly is following her throughout the following. Izzy tags along.*)
IZZY. Are there baby squirrels? Funny how you never see baby squirrels. Baby birds. You see them. Once I found a baby bird fallen out of its nest. I put it back.
POLLY. It died.
IZZY. How do you know? I put it back.
POLLY. Mama bird won't touch a young'un after a person's handled it.
IZZY. Maybe it didn't die.
POLLY. Won't touch it once it's tainted with a human smell. Momma bird won't have anything t'do with it.
FANNY. You saved it, Izzy. You saved its life. (*They keep walking.*)
IZZY. Once I found a hummingbird caught in a spider web. I pulled that spider web off it. Flew off, happy as could be. Aren't hummingbirds the most beautiful thing? Little spirits flying around. Little angels, almost.
POLLY. Fanny sees angels. You told me you did. Unless it was a false gift.
FANNY. Weren't false. Ain't no false gift.
POLLY. If you're seeing something, then show us. I think it's a lying gift. I don't believe in spirits and angels no how.
IZZY. Mother Ann saw spirits.
POLLY. She's making it up. She's lying. (*Fanny stops and stares westward.*)

IZZY. *(To Fanny.)* Are you making it up?
POLLY. She's making it up. I'm going back. I'm hungry.
FANNY. There's berries over there.
POLLY. Too early for berries. *(Izzy sees the berries.)*
IZZY. Those are the biggest blueberries I ever saw. Don't see any squirrels or birds. Sure is quiet here.
POLLY. There it is! *(Polly "gooses" Izzy, who squeals.)*
IZZY. Where?
POLLY. Sun's about to set. There's nothing here.
FANNY. Over there.
POLLY. Where?
FANNY. There. *(She points.)*
IZZY. Where?
POLLY. An angel?
FANNY. Don't know.
IZZY. I should be getting back.
POLLY. You scared?
FANNY. Thought you wanted to see.
IZZY. I do.
FANNY. *(Suddenly stops.)* Then look.
IZZY. Don't see anything. Where am I supposed to look?
POLLY. It's getting warmer. Should be getting cooler, but it's getting warmer.
FANNY. Hush.
POLLY. What do you see?
FANNY. Hush.
IZZY. I'm scared.
FANNY. *(Whispers.)* Don't be scared Izzy. It's the most beautiful thing you ever did see.
IZZY. *(Whispering back.)* More beautiful than a hummingbird?
FANNY. Like a hundred hummingbirds all at once. *(The lights shift. Fanny holds out her arms.)*
IZZY. Ohhhh. *(Fanny closes her eyes. Izzy and Polly look skyward.)*
Ohhh, I see light.
FANNY. Hush.
POLLY. Where? *(Fanny stands and faces the light as if it were sunlight streaming on her face after a long dark winter.)* What do you see?
IZZY. So beautiful!

POLLY. Don't see anything except the pink clouds!
IZZY. The light!
POLLY. It's the sunset, silly.
IZZY. I hear the wings! Like a hundred hummingbirds! Oh, oh,
oh ...
POLLY. Just the breeze, Izzy. Just a warm breeze rustling though
the trees. (*Polly shakes Izzy, who continues to look all around.*)
IZZY. Gold. All gold.
POLLY. Where?
FANNY. What do you hear, Izzy?
IZZY. Music? Singing? Sounds like I never heard before.
POLLY. (*Shouting.*) You're making it up! It's just a sunset.
FANNY. Look at the clouds, Polly.
POLLY. You're making it up!
FANNY. Look at the clouds!
POLLY. (*Covering her face.*) No.
FANNY. Does that look like any sunset you've ever seen before?
POLLY. (*In denial.*) No.
IZZY. Like a thousand hummingbirds! (*Izzy and Fanny run off.
Polly turns to go and runs into Rachel carrying a basket of laundry.
Lights change.*)

Scene 9

RACHEL. Sister Polly, where's the fire?
POLLY. (*Out of breath.*) No, I, I, I don't know.
RACHEL. Catch your breath. (*Betsy enters with a laundry basket,
and sets the benches with Rachel, all the time continuing the scene.
They begin folding laundry.*) Something startled Sister Polly.
BETSY. (*Laughing.*) Seeing spirits, are you?
POLLY. No!
RACHEL. Hmm.
BETSY. Best not be. 'Til you sign the covenant.
POLLY. Really?
RACHEL. She's just funnin' you.