

the soul has no secret the behavior does not reveal – Lao Tzu

# CHAPTER 1

## PROLOGUE

### ***Easter Sunday 2007 – a park in Calw***

*Samuel and Evangeline walk hand-in-hand across a wild field and enter a small clearing in the woods by the edge of a fast-moving river; birds like small dots animate an overcast sky, their songs buoyant above the calls of the children playing on the hills in the distance...*

*they'd met in the park after Samuel had finished assisting Father with Easter services at The Church- since he no longer felt comfortable being with Evangeline in his father's house they'd decided to meet here to feel at home in nature...*

*Evangeline gathers a small clutch of flowers while Samuel carries The Book; a long dormant now awakened bee trails Evangeline and she rushes ahead of it laughing and twirling away from it until she finally surrenders the flowers to it...*

*they sit in the patchwork warmth of the sun as it breaks through the clouds and pierces the tress on a blanket that Evangeline has opened at a bend in the river and Samuel kisses her mouth for the millionth time...*

### **Samuel**

gave your whole love to me  
I close my eyes  
there's you I see  
all I'm thinking bout this time  
such a pleasure  
you are mine

and if I catch a view  
realize my dreams came true  
we are walking side by side

into the light

dedicated to me  
close your eyes  
and you'll be free  
and we live without a care  
we are here  
and everywhere

if you catch a view  
realize your dreams came true  
we are laying side-by-side...

*Samuel thinks:*

*she's sent from heaven  
now and forever  
she will be part of me*

*Evangeline thinks:*

*and through his eyes  
I see no disguise  
An undreamed reality*

look above  
the deepest blue  
smell of grass is spreading too  
every single breath we get  
stroke your hair  
you puff your neck

and if we catch a view

realize our dreams came true  
we are flying side by side  
through day and night

on a blanket we're alone  
in a meadow  
feels like home  
under cover of a tree  
it's a short eternity

*Samuel raises The Book overhead and begins to read from the prophet Isaiah...*

and now I take The Book  
turn the leaves but while I look  
tiredness is taking place...

*and it isn't long before the sounds of the fast-flowing river behind him and Evangeline lying peacefully breathing beside him and the laughter of the children playing on the hills in the distance all begin to fade...*

*and like Isaiah before him **Samuel dreams:***

SEVEN STEPS TO THE GREEN DOOR

PRESENTS

**THE?BOOK**

**CHAPTER 2**

**THE EMPTY ROOM**

*the sun has slipped behind the clouds again and the clouds have now become thick as stained linen and he's either risen into or fallen out of the sky to become enwrapped...*

*he can feel the cold rough surface of stone beneath him and he can smell surrounding him the faint stench of decay- he's no longer lying in the field in the park but rather in a tomb...*

**Samuel**

this *cold* that I feel

*he hears his brother Noah's voice rise up to speak again as it has been all week apart from him and yet a part from him, becoming one voice with him:*

**Noah**

something to hold on

**Samuel**

penetrating me

**Noah**

something to hold on

**Samuel**

feels so real (*unreal*)

**Noah**

something to hold on

**Samuel**

dead walls around me

*he's free of being bound now (as time moves in dreams) and he's standing in absolute cold dank darkness- he knows (as you do in dreams) that he would need divine help to be delivered from this tomb...*

Samuel

I *never* disbelieved

*he then hears his Mother's voice rise up to join Noah for the first time and he's taken  
aback- Mother inside of Noah inside him, all three of them apart and yet coming  
together as one a part of him and through him:*

Noah and Mother

your hand to hold on

Samuel

always my relief

Noah and Mother

your hand to hold on

Samuel

this for your disease

Noah and Mother

your hand to hold on

Samuel

*beg you* for reprieve

Noah and Mother

your hand to hold on

*he sees a ray of light burst from far back in the black and when his eyes adjust he sees it flicker flickering and holding now growing to illuminate six hidden doors in a line down through the darkness...*

## CHAPTER 3

### THE CRYING CHILD

*he fears walking upright in this dark place so he drops down and begins to feel his way crawling forward and it isn't long before he runs into almost falls over a long heavy object...*

*he lifts it into the light and sees that it's a crude nail and he immediately thinks of Jesus and the humiliating death he suffered on the cross and how for a moment he too thought his father had abandoned him...*

*"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani..."*

*suddenly his Grandfather's voice erupts and overtakes his (dream) thoughts:*

#### Grandfather

turn on me  
right to me  
won't let you go again

look forward  
there's no way  
but *mine* to ease the pain!

#### The Tomb

feel the gorgeous cold in my arms  
lose your ailments-  
no more to starve!

## Grandfather

turn on me  
right to me  
last movement that will care

no hell is  
what you'll see-  
right now you've come from there!

## The Tomb

no one miss you until you bleed-  
here you get believing  
for free!

*he knows now that he's inside of a **living** tomb and he also understands (as you do in dreams) that his only chance of being delivered was to go through one of those six doors- he's frightened as he crawls to the first door and so he recites The Psalm of David...*

*"the Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want..."*

*the image of a crying infant is emblazoned on the wood of this first door and as he reaches for the handle he can see that it's shaped like an umbilical cord- he pauses and leans in and puts his ear to the door- he indeed hears crying though it's far away from the door and so distorted by distance...*

*he opens the door and sees that the crying infant is actually a crying **child**-*

## The Crying Child

find me a little shore  
cause I can't stand alone  
no more

*the little girl of 8 or 9 is standing in a puddle of orange rainwater and mud with her tummy distended from hunger-*

fill my little pan  
cause I can't bear to swoon  
no more

*her hollow vacant eyes are staring at him-*

where's the love  
I can't find  
they're preaching  
all the time

*through him-*

take me  
in your arms  
cause you're too far  
away from me

*strangely she looks so familiar to him...*

couldn't you ask your god for me?

*he feels compelled to answer her but then he hears his own voice coming from behind him, apart from him and yet a part of him still **already speaking to her:***

**Samuel**

God is almighty- sets you free

**The Crying Child**



so "God" will judge both you and me?

Samuel

oh yes, I know that it will be-

The Crying Child

-will he deliver me from pain?

Samuel

yes, all your woes are not in vain

The Crying Child

But what I've to die for?

Samuel

The Savior will help you- Jesus had lost his life for you..!

*the crying child begins to sink into the puddle...*

Grandfather

turn on me

right to me

won't let you go- *he* does!

now watch out

where you go

don't step on nails in dust!

The Tomb

no one'll miss you until you bleed-  
here you get believing for free!

*she continues to sink until finally disappearing buried under the muddy soil as the door slowly closes as if a curtain coming down on a performance...*

## CHAPTER 4

### THE HEALING WONDER

*he walks to the second door while trying to remember the crying child and without paying attention he steps on a second nail- his foot is cut deeply enough to trail blood he can feel in the dirt on the stone and as he limps up to the door he sees the emblazoned image of a hand being laid across the brow of a face twisted in pain...*

*he leans in to listen and he hears the controlled uniform breathing of someone who seems to be sleeping peacefully beside him and so expecting comfort he happily reaches over and places his hand surprised on the scalpel-shaped handle and opens the door...*

### Machines

heart pumps the blood so deep  
lungs filled with air to breathe  
eyes are twinkling  
for all the time you live

hold you through night and day  
give you the power to stay  
now that you feel  
we are a part of you

*inside the room he's dumbfounded to find a woman lying motionless in a bed hung by tubes and wires tethered to blinking machines that are alive with the sounds of artificial life and he sees that the peaceful breathing he'd heard was actually being*

*controlled by its connection to a concertina-like bellows moving uniformly up and down in a tube...*

now you will pray to us  
don't you feel safe with us  
we'll pass the judgement for you

you look ridiculous  
you are addicted (to) us  
can't go much further alone

we are your creation  
now *you're* our patient  
have to believe that it's true

so full of rapaciousness-  
can't get enough of us  
we're your continual screw

*he knows that the woman in the bed knows he's in the room and she raises her head to search the room for him and scanning the room with her lifeless yet strangely alive eyes she finds him and he sees that she appears to be his Mother...*

*she stares at him with her machine Mother eyes for a moment and then he hears her voice rise up within him again apart from yet a part of him and like the Crying Child she appears to be speaking **through him-***

*"you're not like him- not any longer..."*

## Mother

you're the white knight out of nowhere-  
come to save from evil?

be the hero of my rescue

even if it's lethal

why do you act so frozen-  
and why are you standing still?

that's not the end I've chosen-  
you see that I'm *dead*... not ill

## Machines

now you will pray to us  
don't you feel safe with us  
we'll pass the judgement for you

## Mother

give release

## Machines

you look ridiculous  
and you're addicted (to) us  
can't go much further alone

## Mother

set me free

## Machines

we are your creation  
now *you're* our patient  
have to believe that it's true

## Mother

give release

## Machines

so full of rapaciousness-  
can't get enough of us  
we're your continual screw

*“set me free,” she'd said to him, “give me release,” and he knows (as you did) that she was speaking through him to someone other than himself-*

*then she says: “you won't be as heartless- be stone like him” and...*

### ***the small clearing in the woods - a park in Calw***

*Samuel had reached for Evangeline's hand and now he squeezes it- he croaks from under The Book, “Father?”*

*Evangeline opens her eyes and lifts her head and places her hand on Samuel's chest...*

### ***at the second door***

#### ***Samuel dreams:***

*his heart seizes- even though her eyes had never changed focus nor showed any shift in recognition he knew then (as you do) that his Mother was talking **to him** and he also knew that it was connected to his Father-*

*Mother lays back and closes her eyes and he is suddenly outside of the room and the door has already closed...*

## CHAPTER 5

## DIVIDING WATER

*he's shuffles towards the light of the third door confused by what's been revealed behind the first two doors and almost immediately steps on a third nail- he grabs hold of the handle for support as he collapses to his knees; he looks up and sees that it's in the shape of an ocean wave...*

*he stumbles through the dark to get into the light of the third door*

*he puts his ear to the door and hears a massive rush of water exploding in a rocky basin and then retreating becoming water sloshing back and forth in a tub...*

*even though his heart was still heavy from the experience he'd just had with his Mother, and even though he's now frightened of the revelations promised by these trickster doors, he couldn't help but be filled with the warm memory of Mother bathing him and his twin brother Noah...*

## Samuel

did I fall  
to carry on?

did I fall  
to carry on?

did I fall  
to carry on?

## Samuel and Noah

dragging on  
but while in pain  
these racking nails  
I run in vain

## Samuel

did I fall?  
God moves in mysterious ways  
I've got to prove my love  
I've got to show my faith (my trust)

so, did I fall?

I'd have to lose the grip  
but I'll reveal my soul to you  
I've got to prove my love...

*he reaches down to probe the cuts on both of his bloodied feet...*

he died for me  
the guilt remains in shame  
so will I be freed  
if I endure this pain

he died for me  
he died for me  
he died for me  
he died for me  
he died for me  
he died for me  
he died for me  
and will I be freed?

*he opens the door and before he can hold on plummets headlong through a roaring ocean storm where a dark mountainous wave sweeps up and takes him tumbling and tossing and then swallowing him under pulling him down...*

*once submerged the violence of the surface dissipates and disappears and everything becomes quiet and his body becomes motionless and he drifts suspended...*

*he hears his mother's voice rising up within apart from and yet beyond him this time sounding muted as if separated by some sort of barrier-*

*he can feel strange but familiar sensations emanating from her beyond him and yet surrounding him which make him feel peaceful now and comforted...*

**Mother**

born in me  
grown in me  
and to keep up your love  
don't inject the poisonous  
into my veins

grown in me  
alive because of me  
but regardless conduct  
in a while it comes  
a time for you to pray

*the clean water in which he was submerged suddenly becomes invaded and polluted by detritus and waste- the insulated bubble in which he floated bursts and he's pulled down once more with tremendous force into the depths...*

*his Mother's presence follows him down though it disperses and transforms to become an eerie mournful wave rising up from the deep to surround him with familiar vibrations...*

*a whale silently emerges and joins her song while as it gracefully sails past him, it's strangely vacant yet thoughtful eye holding his and then glancing back to where a man is being dragged tied to the end of a harpoon that's been plunged into its back...*

## Whale

gave us different rooms  
for me and one for you  
two brothers in the bloom  
and you invade on mine

can't see thoughts of you-  
one not made for two?  
you aim at my doom-



a human's charity

look into my eyes-  
apart from your disguise  
don't you recognize  
a little part of you

if you carry on  
everything is gone  
you'll be the last one  
so tell me *what is won?*

*with a sweeping powerful push from its great tail the whale somehow instantly catapults him up from the depths and out of the storm and back through the door and before he can know what's happened the door closes behind him...*

## CHAPTER 6

### THE LAST SUPPER

*he gathers himself overwhelmed and rolls onto his hands and knees and creeps cold and wet and shivering on all fours to the fourth door where a fourth nail catches him off his guard and sinks into this time through his free hand; he feels the warm blood flow over his cold hand and he groans at the pleasure of his blood spilling to overcome the pain rising to be overcome by the spilling of his blood...*

*he looks up and sees the image of a chalice on the door and the handle shaped like a loaf of bread and he immediately thinks of Christ's last meal with his disciples- his Father must have known how frightened he was to foreshadow the unimaginable sacrifice he was required to make...*

#### ***outside on one of the walking paths - a park in Calw***

*Father is searching the fields for Samuel and Evangeline; the wind has picked up and dark clouds are moving fast and low on the horizon; he can smell the rain and so he quickens his pace, smiling and waving to The Church members who'd just come from hearing him preach about The Resurrection...*

*he spots Samuel and Evangeline in a clearing fronting a grove of old oaks and beech in a back field that skirts the river that runs out of the Black Forest and cuts the length of Calw...*

*Evangeline is laying across Samuel and holding him...*

### **at the fourth door**

#### **Samuel dreams:**

*he puts his ear to the door and he can hear glasses rattling and silverware on plates under a wave of warm conversation and laughter; he smells the wholesome aroma of freshly baked bread wafting through the cracks in the door and he's suddenly very hungry- surely there would be a place for him at this table?*

*he throws open the door but finds no dinner party in progress- he sees a projection of himself (as he did in dreams) sitting at the center of a long table with his Father and his Grandfather sitting on either side of him- they are all three surrounded by many of the same acolytes he'd seen surrounding his Grandfather on his visits to The Monastery...*

## **Samuel**

you teach me how to overcome the pain  
the love I gave you gave it back again  
you always had an answer to explain  
I never missed a truth that you retain

you passed the bread to satisfy my needs  
and heated up the coldness of my feet  
reached your hands when struggling on the ground  
and seems that I was caught by sacred sound

## **Father**

yes you are our son  
both suffering as he did  
yes you are our son

soon famishing as the kid  
yes you are our son  
expecting your final breath  
yes you are our son  
soon begging for sudden death

*a simple meal of bread and water has been served- the acolytes are all overly subservient and they eagerly accept whatever morsels he provides to them with exuberant thanks and praise while underneath the table every one of them hordes barrels of wine and baskets of bacon...*

## Samuel

there never was a risk to disbelief  
I know you always had your eyes on me  
I never needed science- I had no doubt  
cause you're the mighty ones- you can't be wrong

*Evangeline's father emerges from the shadows behind his father...*

maybe I'm your son  
awaiting my destiny  
maybe I'm your son  
in hope of real honesty

*Grandfather sees The Acolyte and turns looks the other way from Father...*

## Father

yes you are our son  
both suffering as he did  
yes you are our son  
soon famishing as the kid  
yes you are our son

expecting your final breath  
yes you are our son  
soon begging for sudden death

*The Acolyte quickly pumps a dagger in and out in and out of his Father's side and then drives it into the projection of himself and although it may be apart from him it's still a part of him and so he feels the hot burning pain as he watches the blade puncture and enter his side and then there's the very real flow of his own blood...*

*the room erupts with revelry then and the dinner party he'd first heard through the door eerily returns to life- he and Father are simply stepped over and the barrels of wine are rolled out from under the table and the baskets of bacon are soon scattered about the room with the remaining loaves and they're gorged upon...*

*woman from The Monastery Village appear out of nowhere and are filed in quickly to fill the room and they sit dutifully upon the laps of the acolytes who call them and they go through the motions of eating and drinking while either staring blankly into space or feigning absent interest as they're poked and prodded-*

*before another question to remain unasked can form in him the door closes rapidly shut in his face and immediately the light in the tomb begins to fade as if whatever powers it's been drained...*

## CHAPTER 7

### THE ETERNAL ABSTINENCE

*the tomb has become darker and colder and permeated with the smell of his body beginning to rot; he shivers uncontrollably now as he walks to the fifth door and his legs soon give out so he has to drop to his hands and knees and so he crawls like a worm in the light that remains struggling to stay alive...*

*he reaches forward with his uninjured hand and is pierced by another nail- he cries out this time and the pain wracks his body and shivering makes him shake in waves that build and break and retreat to build and break again...*

*he hears the cries echoing inside of him inside the tomb running off and fading in all directions as he struggles to crawl to the fifth door and as he approaches the door he can hear small weak steps echoing his own movements simultaneously shuffling with him towards the other side of door...*

*both he and whoever was on the other side of the door mimicking him stop against the door- he looks up and can barely make out a word that's been written in blood (he knows): **abstinence**...*

*he reaches for the handle and he can somehow sense that whoever was on the other side of the door was reaching up for it too and as he takes hold of the handle he can feel then as he sees it the handle is shape like a large phallus-*

*he then hears the handle being pushed down from the other side of the door and he can feel the door being pulled away from him with what appears to be great effort and he slides down and forward as it's being pulled opened and then spills across the threshold where he sees-*

*a frail old man standing in front of him who turns away simultaneously as if of the same mind as him thinking that he recognizes-*

*the old man appeared to be his Father and although he retreats quickly to disappear back into the shadowless dark he doesn't need to see him to hear his voice and as he speaks he hears Grandfather's voice rising up to become one with him just as Noah's and Mother's voice had risen up to become one with him ...*

## Old Man

fly up above

waited enough

honor or is it a punishment

faded so fast but

seems to be endless

did you not hear me?

come take my hand

sick of being banned  
deserved to fall asleep in your arms  
whole life you heard me  
now you ignore me  
can't judge about myself

*he hears what sounds like a television news broadcast coming from all around them, oddly, though its either unheard or being ignored by his Father...*

loneliness  
complete my time  
promised to rest in peace  
this loneliness  
complete my time  
so take this anguish I've been through

*he and the old man seem to be equals on opposite sides of the fifth door, on parallel planes of existence, both alive and yet lifeless alone and imprisoned by their own hands, awaiting deliverance...*

*he can hear water from a fast-moving river running somewhere far below them in the room and then the hollow and disembodied voices of others rising up and coalescing with the water echoing with hope against belief to be lifted up and saved before they disappear from memory...*

*the sadness and desolation he feels down inside here now is absolute- everything flows down here and is gone, flows and is gone, as it was in the beginning is now and forever will be world without end...*

## Priest

“our Father who art in heaven  
hallowed be thy name  
thy kingdom come  
thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven  
give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who've trespassed against us  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
for thine is the kingdom  
and the power  
and the glory  
forever and ever  
amen”

## Old Man

loneliness  
complete my time  
promised to rest in peace  
this loneliness  
complete my time  
did you forget about my  
loneliness  
complete my time  
promised to rest in peace  
this loneliness  
complete my time  
promised to rest in peace  
this loneliness  
complete my time  
did you forget about my

loneliness  
complete my time  
promised to rest in peace  
this loneliness  
complete my time  
so take this anguish I've been through...

*the old man's final words trail off and then echoing fade as if falling back to join the other voices flowing out-*

*police chatter on radios suddenly erupts overhead and as he looks up strains to see the door slowly closes pushing him away as if sweeping away dust out to where he hears what sounds like multiple hammers hitting nails coming from the sixth door and so he glances over and then back when he hears the door close but...*

*the fifth door is gone- a large stone has been rolled across the entrance to seal it shut and to entomb the man inside who now never existed and who's gone and forgotten without question...*

*the pain in his hands and feet and the wound in his side are throbbing in time with the blood exiting his body and pulsing in his temples and it's becoming unbearable and so he needs to sit which he accomplishes very clumsily and so sends darts of pain shooting up his arms...*

*he can still hear the police radios and chatter coming from somewhere overhead and since the fifth door no longer exists it could only be coming now from behind the sixth door?*

## CHAPTER 8

### THE DEADLY CRUCIFIXION

*the sixth door roars to life aglow as if lit by fire and he can easily make out the fiercely emblazoned image of a crown of thorns over a handle in the shape of a cross....*



*he could still hear the loud banging hammers driving nails into wood and from where he sits by the fifth door he can also hear now the anguished cries of men, women, and even children!*

*he knew the only thing awaiting him behind the sixth door was more suffering and an unimaginable death on a cross of his own and since he'd already been impaled by nails through his hands and feet-*

*"nails are missing," a booming voice calls out from behind the door- it sounds like his Grandfather so he rolls and desperately crawls away as fast as he can on his elbows and knees...*

*"go get them," Grandfather growls, "we need at least four!"*

*"yes, sir!" the sixth door is torn open and a man in a brown uniform steps out one-two in black boots and searches for the nails he'd obviously left for him to be impaled upon and when he sees the nails glinting in his hands and feet he rushes over and grabs him by the hair- "what have we here- Samuel!*

*it's Evangeline's father and he unceremoniously drags him down through the sixth door, "come here you little shit", and as he crosses the threshold he drops the one nail he'd been carrying and leaves it in the doorway to prevent the door from closing completely and imprisoning him on the other side forever...*

*he knows he's being pulled through the grove of apple trees that grow at the edge of and between the Black Forest and The Monastery- stark chiaroscuro shadows lit by bonfire sweep through the uniform rows jumping back and forth in a cartoon-like frenzy and he can hear Grandfather's guttural voice barking out indistinct commands...*

*his bottom is ploughing through an ocean of apples that have been stripped from the trees down along the first row outside the walls and the wasps feasting on the rotting carcasses angrily sting his backside as he's pulled over them- he's dropped in a semi-circle clearing lit by torches outside the gates of the Monastery Village and he's horrified by what he sees:*

*seven trees have been stripped bare of their fruit and within five of them Father, Mother, Noah, The Crying Child, and Evangeline have all been nailed up and held there with their bodies contorted accordingly to fit the various configurations of branches and they are all very clearly dead...*

*a rope is forced through under both arms and he's suddenly ripped up from the ground and hoisted into the air and swung into the tree next to Evangeline and then he's swarmed by acolytes who hold his swinging body to the tree-*

*Evangeline's father climbs up to him and hisses "our girl still waiting for you to rise?" and then laughs as he hammers and drives the nail piercing his hand into the tree...*

## Samuel

oh the bearing of this cross-  
blood of pain!

oh so penalizing-  
merciless!

oh this savage sentence-  
no evils done!

and all my pierced limbs  
pull me down!

oh I feel a moral fear!  
oh the arms of sorrow-  
oh retain...

## Acolytes

following you!

Father for us!

still loving you!

hero for us!

(in your mercy)

living through you!

hands over us!

always to you!  
leader for us!  
no opposition!

## Grandfather

always with a look at you  
to keep watch and control too  
if you follow the right sign  
give you shelter all the time

you will always feed on me  
for my own reality  
promise you'll be satisfied  
just prepare for a little fight...

*The Acolyte holds up two placards with the words CREDULOUS and NONBELIEVER in Samuel's face- "which shall it be, Son of Saulus? which shall we hang over **your** head?" ... he looks at the CREDULOUS sign- "are you a true believer or..?" and then he looks at the NONBELIEVER sign- "no, no, I think we need to save this for someone who's escaped us- for someone yet to come!"*

*he feels as he hears the CREDULOUS sign being hammered into the tree above his head and the sensations of being hung from the tree combined with a floating sense of paralysis hanging suspends him as if tethered in space weightless beyond the weight pulling him down and he closes his eyes he can't keep them open he's lost too much blood and the weight of breathing the weight of breathing the weight of...*

*all around him he dreams breathing the leaves in the park breathing lulled by the never-ending river breathing running away from him breathing drifting downstream breathing the current becomes the water in a tub breathing back and forth back and forth breathing colliding and splashing breathing mother singing breathing familiar vibrations breathing him and Noah bathing-*

*he then feels a hand touch his cheek and as slowly opens his eyes and lifts his head he can barely focus to see the face of a young man who says, "I've come to take you down"...*

*he's pulled from the tree and taken down thrown over the shoulder of this young man who steals away with him somehow back through the apple trees and out into the night of the Black Forest; he carries his weight easily as he runs fast along a river running from The Monastery with the dogs now moving in their wake bounding behind them barking up and down barking while he weaves his way in and around through the tall ancient pines up and over steep hills and then down into pockets of old artillery placements and coming back out and over to run along the river again, to always follow the river, the always running river...*

*out of the corner of his eye he sees a sliver of light in the darkness of the forest and he looks to see that it's become a growing beacon of light as if calling to them and so he runs to it with him still over his shoulder and he sees that it's the sixth door-*

*the door had caught on the nail he'd left in its threshold- it hadn't closed on him- and so the young man opens the door and lays him down off his shoulders gently onto the stone of the tomb and then he smiles and simultaneously as if of the same mind as him thinking he recognizes him turns and backs away-*

*through the door he can still hear the dogs searching for them and he tries to move but he simply cannot, he has no more strength left in his body, there's only the current running in his ears slowing and he can feel his eyes getting heavy and as he closes his eyes he sees the door with the crown of thorns swing inward and quietly close...*

*everything is flowing now as it's always gone down here, flowing and gone, as it was in the beginning is now and forever shall be world without end...*

## CHAPTER 9

### THE GREEN DOOR

*he hears buzzing in his head and a rush of wind in his ears and then the scattered voices of families dotting the lawns of the park with their children playing over the hills and far away and so lovely comes The Church choir from Easter service...*

## The Church Choir

Lord, give me hope, please set me free  
I won't see the misery  
caught in chains that burned my mind  
Lord I wish, I would be blind

*he's there but not there hallucinating on the edge of sleep sounds from the outside of him that he hears inside...*

*and then there's only silence, darkness and silence... and he wants to wake up but he can't move and he can't seem to open his eyes-*

*Lord, are you done with me?  
is the dream over?  
why do you show me such things...  
do you hear me, Lord?!*

## Samuel

if you're the mighty one  
brought me right into this grave  
I'm asking for the cause  
that darkness kills the light

“could you be right here, my Lord?!”

I'll never use these words-  
won't use them anymore  
like all these times before

*he then hears Evangeline's voice so clear and close to him-*

## Evangeline

slow and quiet  
blaze of light  
just before  
the seventh door

hope inside  
calls up might  
more and more  
to the core

*he tries to move again- to turn and speak to her- to open his eyes and see her face but  
he's unable to move- he's paralyzed- as if a great weight is holding him down...*

*the sensations of being there but not there combined with a floating sense of paralysis  
suspend him as if tethered from him and within him a part and apart awaiting another  
existence...*

*Lord, where are you?  
why so silent?  
Jesus, did you wait upon your Father like this..?*

## Samuel

I'll build my own candle  
that will guide me to the light  
devoid of claims and might  
leads to the other side

and slowly I can feel  
I have to unchain my mind

*he needs himself there but not here in the tomb once again  
awaiting  
awaiting  
awaiting*

*awaiting  
another existence  
to be here without there suspended in time  
and be dreaming  
dreaming  
dreaming  
dreaming  
apart from yet part of each and the other's dreaming on the edge of awakening sleep  
flowing gone, flowing and gone, as it was the beginning of now and forever is gone  
downstream  
downstream  
downstream  
downstream  
the never-ending river  
running beside them laying in the patchwork warmth of the sun as it breaks through the  
clouds and pierces the tress on a blanket Evangeline opened  
breathing  
breathing  
breathing  
breathing  
her hair  
her mouth  
her skin  
divine  
and the weight of breathing  
breathing  
breathing  
breathing  
he takes shallow breaths  
a breath-a breath-a breath-a breath-a breath  
and a breath, a breath, a breath, a breath, a breath  
a deep breath, and breaths apart and a part of him breathing, breathing, breathing,  
apart from him part of him breathing, breathing, breathing, as one both the other each  
breathing, breathing, breathing, breathing...*

### ***the small clearing in the woods - a park in Calw***

*Evangeline feels Samuel's struggle to breath and so she sits up from holding him and puts a hand on his chest and rubs him lightly and wonders if she should wake him...*

## ***in the tomb***

### ***Samuel dreams:***

*he hears the blood rushing in his ears again and he can feel his heart beating apart from him here again and he can feel his body lying there as it was laying here...*

*he opens his eyes but the tomb remains dark- he instinctively squeezes his hands in frustration and feels as he realizes he can move them and they are without wounds and so he raises them with his arms that now move to rub the darkness from his eyes...*

## ***the small clearing in the woods - a park in Calw***

*Samuel suddenly lifts his arms and pushes away The Book from covering his eyes and it falls from his face- Evangeline is startled and takes The Book and closes it while placing her other hand cool upon his forehead...*

## ***in the tomb***

### ***Samuel dreams:***

*the darkness has been obliterated as quickly as turning on a light and from within the glow of the tomb a newfound light bursts and holds shimmering before him from which a **green door** slowly emerges and towards which he's either risen into or fallen out of the sky to stand before now where the sixth door once stood...*

*this door holds no symbols and it has no metaphorical handle to manipulate- so how was he to open it? dare he even open it? he steps forward on healed feet (he sees as he feels) to lean in and listen and he hears Easter bells ringing from The Church...*

*he pushes excitedly against the door but it will not move... and then he knows (as you do in dreams) that he must open his eyes apart from him in the tomb and awaken himself in the park in order for him to pass through the green door and rise...*

*OPEN YOUR EYES- he wills himself to open his eyes, open his eyes, open his eyes wide, open wide with all the strength pulling open his eyelids pulling pulling open open OPEN and then as he opens one more time he sees that the green door is swinging silently outward in time with him...*

## ***the small clearing in the woods - a park in Calw***

*opening his eyes he's immediately blinded by what he knows is the sun and he blink-blink-blinks and shields his eyes as a silhouette enters and eclipses the sun and blink-blink-blinking he sees that it's Evangeline haloed in sunlight...*



*he hears the birds singing overhead and the rustling leaves in the trees and the flowing river nearby and the gentle breathing of Evangeline as she leans in and smiles down upon him while the bells continue to ring...*

## CHAPTER 10

### EPILOGUE

#### Evangeline

are you dazed-  
your face turned white!  
did nightmares bother you?

let's quit this place  
to hide and vanish  
all sad thoughts

*Samuel sits up fully awake now...*

#### Samuel

no, I see clear now  
realized  
my life has turned from inside out

it was no dream  
but I was led by dreams and fear

it was my knowledge  
recognized  
I was blinded by a faith  
encasing me

I'll leave The Book  
behind...

*Evangeline stands smiling and extends her hand to him which he takes and leaning back she pulls him up to her...*

I'm saved and free

## CHAPTER 11

### ALPHA & OMEGA I

#### ***Fall 2007 – Father's Office – The Mansion***

*Father hurries into the office and dials the special emergency services number The Church had first set up with The Hospital in Calw when he'd needed assistance with Mother... he let go then as he'd let go now-*

*on his desk he notices an envelope "Saulus" placed neatly across the letter "Samuel" he'd written to his son before going to see Evangeline... which meant that there was someone else in The Mansion, someone who'd very recently been in his office- did they know about Evangeline?*

*he tears open and reads a message from his father, Grandfather, instructing him to surrender "the African child" to Evangeline's father, The Acolyte, then return to The Monastery so that he could be "hidden"*

*"Buried," Father says to himself...*

## Father

*(from the letter to Samuel)*

I remember feeling most blessed when I held you in my arms for the first time. You had a smile that would light up the room and a laugh that warmed my heart.

You had the bluest eyes, the brightest blue, eyes like the sky that reflected the light and could cast out shadows. Eyes that would look straight through me and into my soul.

I knew that you were different, then. I knew then that you would be chosen.

I can still see you tumbling in the fields with that smile on your face as you played, and I can hear you laughing.

I remember your eyes reflecting back the sky, and when you looked at me with those eyes, I could feel HIS brilliant presence.

It was a glorious look that made all of my sorrows and worries disappear. You lifted my spirits.

You are my blood; you are my son... my only son.

## Samuel

heaven  
comfort  
divine  
love

## Father

*(from the letter to Samuel)*

I have cared for you and raised you in HIS word, and I've watched you grow stronger in your faith.

I've prayed for you to follow in my footsteps, to become stronger and wiser than I have been, and I had hoped that you would one day wear this golden ring.

I've done everything in my power to help you realize this dream. And I have sacrificed all to prepare the way for you.

## Samuel

heaven

forgive me

farewell

go

## Father

*(from the letter to Samuel)*

My father – your Grandfather - is a man without fear.

He is a man who will not hesitate to do what needs to be done in HIS name. There was a time when he did not fear “to cleanse” the world of those he believed were his enemies.

He was a fearless soldier of The Word.

He was a man of great power. He is still a man to be feared. I have *tried* to follow in his footsteps.

## Samuel

heaven

peaceful

sweet angel

go

## Father

*(from the letter to Samuel)*

I remember holding you once when you were crying. You had hurt yourself in a fall.

“Don’t worry,” I said.

“HE will comfort all of your sorrows.”

“HE will heal all of your wounds.”

“HE is there for you, for me, for all of us, always.”

## Samuel

heaven

*he would most certainly not hand the child over to The Acolyte- he would have to leave instructions for Samuel on how and where to return Missa to her mother...*

*and after reading the message from his father, he knows who’s been in his office- The Acolyte, he’d finally been given the keys-*

*suddenly the power in the office goes out- the entire mansion goes dark in the storm...  
Father falls to his knees and prays:*

SEVEN STEPS TO THE GREEN DOOR

PRESENTS

THE?LIE

CHAPTER 12

SALVATION

*Fall 2007 – Father's Office – The Mansion in Calw*

**Father**

I need YOUR light  
everlasting  
to keep my soul pure

I need to trust  
in YOUR loving  
for me

I hold The Book  
that YOU gave us

full of YOUR words  
meant to save us

O Lord, I pray  
for YOUR loving  
I know I paid  
for YOUR loving-  
a lifelong fight  
for YOUR loving-  
my end of days  
it is coming

raise me in light-  
show YOUR loving-  
bathed in the light  
of YOUR loving

I paid the price  
for YOUR loving...  
will give my life  
for YOUR loving-  
  
must save

**Samuel**  
save me

**Father**  
must save

**Samuel** and **Noah**  
**Mother** and **Evangeline**  
save me

**Father**  
*(spoken)*  
“You have your mother’s eyes.  
I’ve never seen her in you before.”

**Samuel** and **Noah** and **Mother**  
I’m bathing  
in your light  
I’m growing  
in your light  
I’m crying  
in your light

Father

there's a price to pay-  
must prepare your way

Samuel and Noah and Mother

I'm bathing  
in your light  
I'm swimming  
in your light  
I'm drowning  
in your light

Father

you must pay the price-  
one last sacrifice  
must save

Samuel and Noah

save me

Mother

*save me*

Father

must save

Samuel and Noah

save me



# Mother and Evangeline

## save me

### ***“Evangeline!”***

*Samuel has returned- Father can hear him pounding on the nursery door downstairs... he won't get in, he knows, and she will not answer...*

## CHAPTER 13

### A PRICE TO PRAY I

#### ***Easter Sunday 2007 – a park in Calw***

*It's Easter Sunday and the park is beginning to blossom; Father is searching the fields for Samuel and Evangeline.*

*Evangeline is the daughter of his wife's friend, an acolyte of his father who'd helped them to escape The Monastery by leading them through the forest to the river which they then followed to arrive in Calw, after which they were called upon to set up The Church...*

*actually, she was a “gift” who was given to The Acolyte and his wife (as she was infertile) by his father as a reward for incorporating and running The Church's very lucrative and politically powerful Clean Water Initiative, a project in which he had no interest in initiating so he was glad to turn it over to him and he was only to pleased and motivated to do it...*

*Father distrusted The Acolyte and so he distrusted the motivations of his “daughter” and her affection for one of his sons- her second attempt; it was no secret among The Church and back at The Monastery the love The Acolyte had for Grandfather, and it was well known that he's been campaigning to succeed him in running The Church, without regard for his sons, well what was left of his sons...*

*it was during the Summer of 2000 while interning for Clean Water (and The Church) in Africa that Evangeline and Samuel had caught each other's eye and so had become inseparable, a rather convenient match (in Father's mind) and one which heralded the consequential destruction of his family in the years since...*

*and so Father had noticed an alarming change in Samuel's behavior- he'd become more audacious in voicing the doubts he'd apparently been harboring about the moral authority of The Church, especially in light of the growing political realities of running such a large religious organization in tandem with the Clean Water Initiative, and laying it at his feet...*

*the wind has picked up and dark clouds are moving fast and low on the horizon; he can smell the rain and so he quickens his pace, smiling and waving to The Church members who'd just come from hearing him preach about The Resurrection...*

*he spots Samuel and Evangeline in a clearing fronting a grove of old oaks and beech in a back field that skirts the river that runs out of the Black Forest and cuts the length of Calw...*

*Evangeline is laying across Samuel and seems to be holding onto him; Father watches as without warning Samuel rips The Book from his face and begins to cough-cough-cough while Evangeline sits up and watches him...*

*and then she stands smiling and extends her hand to him which he takes and leaning back she pulls him up to her; they both look to the sky and take cover ahead of the coming storm disappearing back into the trees at the river's edge; Father notices that Samuel has abandoned his copy of The Book behind him in the field...*

## Father

I am my Father's son  
in his word  
I'll soldier on-  
he shall not be blasphemed!

Samuel's my only son  
in my word  
he'll soldier on-  
our name shall be redeemed!

“How could you leave it that way?!” “How could you leave Him this way?!”

“How could you leave *me* this way?!”

## Grandfather

*(in Father's head)*

*he must submit and pray!*

## Father

“How could she pull you away?!”

“How could she lead you astray?!”

“How could she not *fear* my way?!”

## Grandfather

*(in Father's head)*

*she must be sacrificed!*

## Father

what price must Samuel pay  
to desecrate  
and then betray-  
he must be made to pray!

## Grandfather

*(in Father's head)*

*so that he may see!*

## Father

what price must this girl pay  
for tempting him

to lose his way-  
she must be made to stay!

## Grandfather

*(in Father's head)*

*so that she may see!"*

## CHAPTER 14

### A DREAM THAT STRAYED I

#### ***early Fall 2007 – Samuel's Room – The Mansion***

*Fall has arrived with the turning of the trees as it does every year and for the past week Samuel has watched it come alone in his room; a letter of termination and a handwritten note from his Father lie opened on his desk lofting in the wind...*

*Samuel had been fired from the Clean Water Initiative, an outreach program designed to spread The Word while digging wells in impoverished West African villages, after it was discovered that his girlfriend- Evangeline- the CEO's daughter - was pregnant...*

*his supervisor was a devout man who was both a benefactor of The Church and a close friend to his father since he'd arrived in Calw- he berated Samuel with full prejudice for betraying God and embarrassing his father and he wondered aloud what damage such an immoral act would have on "The Initiative" and more importantly The Church...*

*Samuel remembers they ran hand-in-hand on Easter Sunday into the dark grove of trees along the river to escape the approaching rain that day and they'd found shelter under the long arms of an ancient oak huddled back in the lap of its massive roots, both soothed and excited, hidden and exposed...*

*he'd had no thoughts of God, then, no notions of immorality acts formed, no plans of disobedience or betrayal to The Church- it didn't feel wrong to him then and it didn't feel wrong to him now...*

*it was just the sensation of the storm overhead passing and the clouds parting and the sun spilling patterns through the leaves and the sound of the leaves in the heaving tree and the birds above her in the grass in his arms...*

## Samuel

hair in sunlight shines  
mouth that tastes like wine  
skin that feels so soft  
divine

when she lays next to me  
a peaceful reverie  
was it just a dream?

she makes me believe  
softly speaks to me  
feel her breath upon  
my name

warm hands that hold my face  
her quiet angelic grace  
how could I replace

*in his note, Father had demanded to see him:*

## Father

“My name  
and all that I’ve worked for-  
in His name-  
will be *ruined* by this pregnancy!  
Do you understand me, son?”

*Father didn't know that Samuel had seen him watching them in the park...*

“That girl should know better-  
*you* should know better!”

*he'd been skeptical and cautious of Evangeline at first, of course, Samuel knew, as she'd originally shown interest in his brother Noah...*

“She was sent-  
*by her father-*  
to seduce you  
to embarrass you  
to embarrass *me!*”

*it was Noah who'd ended the relationship too after he become suspicious of her motives...*

## Father

“I brought her *into my house-*  
because of your weakness...  
she and that baby have got to go.”

*and Noah had later warned Samuel about the influence that he suspected The Acolyte had had on their relationship... but Samuel felt nothing but empathy then and he could feel nothing but compassion now for Evangeline and her behavior...*

*they'd all grown up in the same learned environment The Church and they'd all been raised to suppress the unasked questions that posed a threat to their faith and to disregard the nagging doubts that threatened to paralyze their duty to it-*

## Samuel

Lord, can't you see  
the power he has

over me?

Lord, you must see  
the power her love  
has in me?

## CHAPTER 15

### A PRICE TO PRAY II

#### ***early Fall 2007 – Samuel’s Room – The Mansion***

*Samuel hears the bedroom door opening and before he can turn to see his Father is coming through the room towards him. He seems more harried and tired than when Samuel had spoken to him earlier in the week and this saddens him...*

#### **Father**

*(spoken)*

I heard what you said-  
I can hear your prayers..!

any power that I have  
comes from the Father himself!

the only love you need  
is His love!

that evil “angel” of yours  
has been manipulating you  
from the start!

you must pray– now!

the right way!  
recite the Psalm of David-  
*DO IT!*

## Samuel

*(spoken)*

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness”

*Father glances at the letter on the desk and then he looks quickly away; his eyes refocus and he searches to find Samuel's eyes and his ugly demeanor slowly dissolves... he wants to say something but he surrenders the thought and so backs away from Samuel and walks out of the room...*

*Samuel watches the empty doorway for a long moment. He gets to his feet and looks out and through the doorway down the empty hall... he slowly, quietly closes the door*

*Father had been scaring him ever since becoming aware of Evangeline's pregnancy; he'd become more desperate in his attempts to steer him away from her and his inartful use of The Word to support his warnings had appeared half-hearted and embarrassingly self-serving-*

*but then Noah had never trusted anything his Father nor especially Grandfather had to say when “cloaked” in The Word- he'd always thought that they were “deconstructing metaphors” for their own purpose and he could never understand, would always challenge, Samuel's willingness to surrender himself to them and The Word...*

*and as Father seemed more and more these days like a performer with too many balls in the air he could understand Noah's contention that The Church was like a mathematician who promised one solutions from far too many equations... perhaps like a door revealing more than what its simple symbol promised?*

Grandfather

Noah



*(preaching)*

you will pray the right way  
you will submit everyday

nonbelievers you'll abhor  
they shall die like before

you will pray the right way  
you will submit everyday

*(to Samuel)*

why can't you see  
what this all means

I can't believe  
you're on your knees

I have to leave

## Samuel

Lord, you must see  
what's going to be!

Lord, can't you see  
you must save me!

## Noah

*(to Samuel)*

we only wanted protection  
I only wanted protection

we only wanted affection  
I only wanted affection

*he hears his brother Noah's voice rise up to speak with him again, apart from him and yet as a part of him as he'd been hearing since the week of Easter...*

*Noah had gone missing one summer while while "digging wells" for the Clean Water Initiative in Africa and Samuel had heard rumors that he'd been buried alive and died- when he'd asked Father what he knew had happened he first evaded the issue but when Samuel pressed him flat out refused to talk about it and then angrily forbade him from even mentioning Noah again...*

## Noah

*(to Samuel)*

why does he hide behind these rhymes  
ancient words whispered over wine  
in edifices that hide the lies  
I lost my faith when I got in line

*why could he hear Noah within him now as clearly as when he were alive- as if he were not presumed dead but rather calling from some foreign land... more than once Samuel had begun to question why Noah's voice (and his Mother's voice) remained within him now to be heard clearly- certainly more clearly than he'd ever heard the voice of God?*

*the rumors and mystery surrounding Noah's disappearance and his Father's reactions to his questions were still unsettling to him and so his impending meeting with Father had scared him in much the same way, although when he'd proclaimed that Evangeline and the baby "must go" Samuel sensed less of a demand from his Father (with sinister implications) than he did him **imploing** (with more fear than anger in his eyes) to make her leave The Mansion and "go away"...*

*his message had been clear- he was fearful of what Grandfather would ask him to do in the name of The Church; Samuel knew that Grandfather had frightened Father all throughout his childhood and during one remarkable summer visit to The Monastery, while waiting for Grandfather in The Abbot's Chambers, Father had pointed to a spot on the floor under a lectern holding The Book and confided with him and Noah that his father would intimidate him into make "sacrifices" by threatening to place him down into the medieval oubliette hidden beneath the floor and "forget about him"...*

*though Father didn't believe (and taught) that a father who truly loved his son would ask him to sacrifice his well-being and life for selfish reasons- the wellspring from which the suffering and death of Jesus derived its power he believed and why he so loved and had installed the scene of Abraham and the binding of Isaac in stained glass over his desk... he still feared **his** father-*

*and he still wouldn't talk about Noah... combine this with Samuel sensing fear Father's voice- could he and Evangeline **both** leave The Mansion and even try to run from The Church? Samuel knew that he was being groomed to wear The Golden Ring and he'd wanted to run The Church when his Father stepped down except now... would they ever be able to escape his Grandfather's "judgement"?*

*he couldn't risk the well-being and life of Evangeline and the baby- he had no choice but to deliver **his Father's** judgement; he would wear the mask of righteousness and he would say the words as his Father had taught him... he'd waited as long as he could...*

## CHAPTER 16

### A DREAM THAT STRAYED II

## ***Fall 2007 – The Nursery – The Mansion***

### **Evangeline**

*(exhausted)*

this can't be happening  
I knew this day would come...  
where's the man that I fell for?  
whatever happened to our dream-

### **Samuel**

-a dream that strayed from HIS Word  
in our lustful choices...  
one moment of weakness made-  
now our child must be made to pay

### **Evangeline**

you can't believe this?  
your brother understood- he knew!  
which "Father" has plans for you?  
Sam, your doubt will save you too!

### **Samuel**

you know I must obey!  
I was born to soldier on...  
you'll always know pain (always know pain)  
but that's the price we have to pay-

*he can't continue...*

### **Evangeline**

-how can you just walk away?!

*and stops in the doorway.*

Samuel

it's HIS Word I can't betray-

*she stares...*

Evangeline

how can you be so cold?!

Samuel

HE has a plan-

Evangeline

WE had a plan!

Samuel

*(pointing into house)*

*He has a plan...*

*he turns away from her-*

Evangeline

"Sam- I thought that you loved me?"

*and pauses...*

Samuel

*(killing him)*

you will love again.

*he leaves and closes the door behind him...*

*an overwhelming darkness descends as Samuel feels he's been swept up in a current of events from which he cannot escape- a wave of nausea washes over him and it buckles his knees and collapses him...*

*and then Evangeline's heartbreak bursts from her explodes behind The Nursery door each of her wracking sobs reverberating out in all directions, flowing out and over and past him running off and fading down the hall...*

# CHAPTER 17

## ALPHA & OMEGA II

### ***late afternoon – The Mansion***

*Samuel staggers down the hall and runs into the mirror facing the long dark corridor that leads to Father's office- he takes hold of the mirror to steady it and catches himself standing with the corridor dark at his back behind him from which he imagines seeing his Father materialize from the darkness in the mirror coming forward behind him and stand over his shoulder...*

Samuel  
heaven

*like the dream in the park he hears Father's voice rise up in him apart from and yet a part of him...*

Father  
you have to be prepared  
to do His will  
and sacrifice

Samuel  
comfort

Father  
you've always had  
a chosen life

Samuel

farewell

**Father**

“good-”

**Samuel**

divine

**Father**

“you’re on your way”

**Samuel**

heaven

**Father**

you must submit

and trust in HIM

The Book

His Word

**Samuel**

comfort

**Father**

to redeem yourself

you’ll have to pay the price

**Samuel**

forgive me

Father

“good-“

Samuel

sweet angel

Father

“you’ll see”

*and then Father’s voice leaves him and he disappears just as suddenly as he’d appeared in the mirror leaving Samuel alone with his reflection...*

Samuel

heaven

comfort

divine

sweet angel

*“Noooo! Noooo! Noooo!”*

*Evangeline’s cries wash over him again in waves- she begins to cough-cough-cough as she cries and each of her concussive sobs echoes down the hall once more to fill the empty mansion..*

*“you won’t be as heartless” Samuel hears his Mother say to him and then his Father counters, “you must submit and trust in HIM“ to which Mother replies, “be stone like him”...*

*he throws his hands up to his ears and presses tightly and closes his eyes- he needs to get away- he needs to he needs- he sees him backing away from himself in the mirror and he’s sickened...*

*“don’t walk away,” he sees him mouth to himself and he need to but he turns and runs, runs away pounding down as fast as he can past The Nursery with Evangeline’s grief following him out into the coming night...Samuel runs from his Father’s house...*

heaven

comfort

divine

sweet angel

### ***Father’s Office – The Mansion in Calw***

*Father closes the door and walks to his desk and stands alone in the dying daylight of the stained-glass windows behind his desk...*

## CHAPTER 18

### HEAVEN

#### Cast

don’t walk away

stay

oh, please stay

know

heaven is inside

you and me

don’t walk away

stay

oh, please stay

know

heaven is inside

you and me



don't walk away  
stay  
oh, please stay  
know  
heaven is inside  
you and me

don't walk away  
stay  
oh, please stay  
know  
heaven is inside  
you and me

don't walk away  
stay  
oh, please stay  
know  
heaven is inside  
you and me

don't walk away  
stay  
oh, please stay  
know  
heaven is inside  
you and me

don't walk away  
stay

oh, please stay  
know  
heaven is inside  
you and me

## CHAPTER 19

### THE WORD MADE FLESH

#### ***later that evening - Father's Office – The Mansion in Calw***

*Father has waited as long as he can- he lifts the phone and makes the call he's been dreading to make...*

#### ***The Nursery - The Mansion in Calw***

*Evangeline gathers herself alone...*

### Evangeline

this pregnancy I've tried to hide  
I'm so tired of this whole charade  
how could I allow myself to be so beaten down?  
for his love I've sacrificed all of my beliefs  
been forced to move and made to pray  
now I must protect this new love grows inside  
how can a child conceived in love not be divine?  
he says it's God's "word" but I know he doesn't mean it  
and now he'll only talk of sin and fear  
I wanna dream this nightmare away...

*she remembers being hand-in-hand, her and Samuel, walking barefoot through the grass at the fringes of the park past fragrant fruit trees in full flower, dragging their feet*

*to feel the cool wetness on their legs in and out of the shade where the sun was unusually hot on their exposed skin...*

*she carried flowers that she'd picked along the way and a bee awakened trailed in their scented wake hungry for the promise of spring as she swung her arms unaware at first because she was in love...*

*Samuel turned her in the wind with his hands on her shoulders to see her in the sun and looking at her lifted the hair from her face watching as it returned alight floating in the wind towards him mesmerized and smiling with wonder...*

*they sat down on a soft bed of meadow grass under the great oak trees by the river and he kissed her again, though never like this, and she could feel the heat of the sun on her legs in the shade...*

## Evangeline

once I laid in the grass with you  
a flower tender and filled  
with sweetness

warm and fragrant  
with incense of you  
that quickly drew me up on you

and the patterns the sun made  
leaps over you  
with the fast river flowing past  
flowing past new

a pair of goldcrest lighted  
to form a choir in my view  
a cathedral that's moveable and true

our love has made us one

and the word made flesh  
becoming new  
coming new now

a quickening within  
our love in movement  
movement up from you!

## Mother

*(joining Evangeline's inner voice)*

here now  
my world surrounds you  
listen to my voice  
familiar vibrations  
to sooth you

feel now  
my arms surround you  
gentle are my hands  
familiar sensations

*Evangeline continues singing as if the song had come to her-*

## Evangeline

it's all right  
live in me safely  
be warm within me  
nothing to fear

*what an extraordinary experience! Evangeline places a hand to her forehead and she takes a step carefully while reaching out for the back of a chair to steady herself and*

*then she moves slowly to the window and opens it- the air in the room is electric, and she doesn't quite feel like herself...*

*a voice had overtaken her- it was at once alarming and soothing at the same time, strangely reassuring, not a part of her yet it was **of** her- it came from her- no, it had **become** her... she feels a movement within her and placing her hand on her belly to hold herself she thinks- no, no, it had always resided in her, nesting in her like the one-inside-of-the-other Matryoshka dolls-*

*she then hears someone push down on the handle of The Nursery room door and she turns in time to see Father coming through the door and walking towards her with a weirdly determined look that transfixes her-*

## Evangeline

what the hell you doing in here-  
how long have you been at that door?

## Father

you believe you've lived safely here?  
I assure you- you've had plenty to fear!

I've been watching- now must decide  
what to do about that baby

## Evangeline

I knew *my* Samuel wasn't to blame!  
I knew that he was forced to say it-  
get out-  
get out!  
where is he?!

## Father

what interest does your Father have here?

**Evangeline**

*what?*

you're mistaken 'bout my "interest"!

**Father**

and you're naïve if you still believe  
this pregnancy won't hurt *my* interests- this Church!

**Evangeline**

you think you've got that power over me  
you really think I'd *kill* my baby?

**Father**

what makes you think that you've got a choice?  
surely, you must know the power I have-

**Evangeline**

I won't!

how can-

*I'LL NEVER!*

**Father**

a baby can't live in a cold womb  
without attachments to his mother  
I'll simply shut machine mother down  
Samuel lost his mother like that one day

## Evangeline

my father won't allow this to be-  
have you forgotten 'bout *his* power?!  
The Church depends on him overseas...  
and would your God allow this-  
back off!  
back off!  
*back off!*  
*don't. touch. me!*

## Father

*(talk of The Acolyte angers him)*  
your father *had no choice*  
but concede  
and through *me*  
God wields all his power

## Evangeline

is murder God's way or is it yours?  
my family- friends  
and Samuel-  
they will miss me!

## Father

you'll go "missing" while digging wells  
*(revealing a secret)* a promised martyr to your mother  
*(laughs)* the Lord works in mysterious ways

## Evangeline

*(shocked)*

but Samuel-  
he will know–

*wait!* let go!

let go-

*let go!*

**OH, SAMUEL SAVE ME!**

*“Saulus, please don’t- oh God- you’re not yourself,” she says startling him- did he just hear his wife’s voice?*

*she was stronger than he’d expected and yet she would lose the struggle he knew because he had more strength in his arms and he surprised her but he didn’t want it to come to this...*

*the familiar sensations run through his hands rough on her throat holding the back of her neck, throbbing and racing up his arms to find that place in his heart pounding through his temple as she disappears and so shutting down she begins to go slack-*

*he can’t do this any longer and so he releases her throat and catches her holding her back and lowers her to the floor still holding her supporting the back of her neck and he notices the impression of the golden ring red on her throat- he’d forgotten to take it off and now the seal of The Church is clearly affixed to his deed-*

*she suddenly reappears with an explosive breath and breaths-breaths-breaths breaths-breaths-breaths and he quickly backs away and closes the door and locks the door with his keys and hurrying away to make the call he knows that he has to make his biggest fear is that he’s sent another to the place of forgetting...*

## CHAPTER 20

### HEAR MY VOICE TONIGHT

***later that evening – the park in Calw***



*Samuel has run but he hasn't travelled far- he's gone to sit with himself and agonize alone in their private garden in the park set back from the clearing where he'd awakened from his dream...*

*he sits as far back as he can huddled in the roots of the massive oak tree on the bend in the river in the growing darkness and he can hear the river rushing out of the forest behind him black under its long reaching arms...*

*he watches overhead as the rising wind swells and fills and lifts the tree alive and then dissipates dropping branches downwards becomes the heaving in time of the mechanized inhalations and exhalations of Mother's breathing machine there in his dream...*

## Mother

be soothed by the water  
you have no sins  
one person two bodies  
my lovely twins

## Samuel

heaven hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my song  
hear my voice tonight

heaven hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my song  
hear my voice tonight

## Mother

we'll leave in the morning  
run far from here  
escape from your father  
be free from fear

## Samuel

hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my song  
heaven hear my voice tonight

hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my song  
heaven hear my voice tonight

## Noah

heaven hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my cry  
hear my voice tonight

heaven hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my cry  
hear my cry

## Mother

you won't be as heartless  
be stone like him  
we'll hope for the future  
our little hymn

## Samuel

I was saved by loving  
my love for

I was saved by loving

once before

## Samuel and Mother

I was saved by loving  
my love for

I was saved by loving  
once before

## Samuel

hear me!

O Lord- where are you  
why won't you assure me  
of my role in this part?!

hear me!

why so silent- O Lord  
can't you assure me  
of the doubt in my heart?!

## Mother and Noah

hear you  
near you

close your eyes  
and you'll see

with you  
love you

close your eyes

I'll be

near you  
with you  
in you

*Samuel is slowly lulled by the never-ending undulating river running and so he closes his eyes and allows himself to drift downstream...*

*he hears far-off birdsong and the last of summer breathing and the rushing currents colliding becoming water splashing back and forth in a tub...*

## Samuel

heaven hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my song  
hear my voice tonight

heaven hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my song  
hear my voice tonight

## Mother

be soothed by the water  
you have no sins  
one person two bodies  
my lovely twins

## Samuel

heaven hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my song  
hear my voice tonight

heaven hear my voice tonight  
how I wish you'd hear my song  
hear my voice tonight

## Noah

hear my voice tonight  
how I'm wish you'd hear my cry  
heaven hear my voice tonight

hear my voice tonight  
how I'm wish you'd hear my cry  
hear my cry

## Samuel

I was saved by loving  
my love for

I was saved by loving  
once before

## Samuel and Mother

I was saved by loving  
my love for

I was saved by loving  
once before

## Samuel

hear me!  
O Lord- tell me  
If Father speaks now for you

and you his deeds from the start?!

hear me!

O Lord- tell me

If Father speaks now for you

and you his deeds from the start?!

## Mother and Evangeline

hear you

near you

with you

love you

hear you

near you

with you

love you

hear you

near you

with you

love you

hear you

near you

with you

love you

hear you

near you

with you

love you

hear you

near you

with you

love you

*he's suddenly **under** water now apart from and yet a part of himself suspended and motionless warm and awake he senses that Noah is nearby but he cannot see him...*

*his brother is upset and he's afraid but Samuel doesn't know why and then there's a slow sensation of movement from above and then **behind him** a growing viscous wave forms along his backside and pushes him rolling him forward...*

*Samuel senses his brother passing him and rolling over and forward in the liquid blackness he thinks he can see Noah being pulled down tethered to what looks like a thick rope trailing him deeper down away from him...*

*he can hear Mother's voice coming from the light surrounding the black into which Noah has been pulled as if behind a veil an undulation of tone around him and in him and he can feel her touch on him without being near and she takes charge of him without being present-*

*and then his body is parting waters, being pulled out from the thick sucking hold of the void under water falling over and around him and from him pours past his face and he gasps for breath and he starts to cough-cough-coughs while Mother rubs his back between his wings still coughing...*

*he and Noah are up and out dripping from the bath sitting on the floor in hazy sunlight and Mother is drying them, drying them with enormous white towels burying them in the dazzling white absorbing what little dirt resides on their new pink skin-*

*a sudden kettle drum of thunder erupts and rolls overhead rolling and rolling overhead reverberating startles Samuel drumming under him and in him and around him awake-*

*rain is pouring from the heavens- he hears the growing rapid percussive patter overhead in the leaves of the oak and it very quickly reaches him down through the oak leaves as it pours relentlessly down ...*

*Samuel asks himself again the question that had become for him one which should never be asked: why could he hear Noah and Mother's voice within him now **still**- as clearly as when they were alive... more clearly and more willing to answer him, to comfort him, more so than he'd ever heard the voice of God?*

*and he'd heard Evangeline... a part of him too and yet apart from him... he thought of the Russian nesting dolls her true mother had given her long ago, before she was taken away from her- she'd shared them with him and they'd always fascinated him...*

*Noah hadn't believed in the "gates of heaven" and he certainly hadn't trusted the men who'd purported to hold the keys- he probably wouldn't have trusted Samuel now... perhaps he never had?*

*Samuel leaves their garden and rushes out through the clearing into the park where the rain is already flattening and flooding the fields... he finds the footpaths and runs back to Evangeline:*

**Mother**

Samuel-

**Noah**

save the child within-

**Mother**

behind a door here-

**Noah**

suffers for our sins

**Mother**

oh, Samuel-

**Noah**



hidden from the lies...

**Mother**

you must release her!

**Noah**

I would have said "goodbye"

### ***The Mansion in Calw***

*Father's office is dark. The whole mansion is dark. He slips through the great doors and runs cat-like down the carpeted halls until he reaches The Nursery door. He takes hold of the handle but then hesitates- he leans in and puts his ear to the door and hears nothing so he braces himself and pushes down on the handle but it's locked, oddly...*

*Samuel decides to knock- to hell with Father-*

*"Evangeline?"*

*Evangeline doesn't answer.*

*"Evangeline?!"*

*Samuel leans in to listen again and this time thinks he hears some movement and something soft- a voice perhaps- a child's voice? Is he dreaming? He knocks again, and again, knocking longer and louder and knocking calls out her name banging the door now not caring **who** hears him... but there's still no answer and it's quiet again behind the door so he stops...*

*he turns his back to the door and slides down slowly to sit on the carpet... what a cruel twist of fate that Father had placed Evangeline here, behind this door, in the old nursery..*

*his Mother and her death were as much of a secret as the circumstances surrounding Noah's disappearance- any attempts at discussing her life and especially all questions about her death were strictly forbidden by his Father...*

*he knew (they'd been told) that Mother had been seriously ill with only machines keeping her alive for a long period of time until the summer following Noah's disappearance (he knew now) when Father had decided (he'd noticed a change in him) to finally remove her from life support...*

*so Samuel had assisted Father perform a private funeral mass at The Church for the woman who was the Mother he'd assumed had already died- it was just the two of them in attendance and he'd afterwards helped Father roll the casket to Mother's private grave behind The Mansion all the while having a hard time feeling any loss for her without any real memory of her and it broke his heart- she'd quite literally become the shell of a woman placed into the shell of a casket to be buried away from him yet again-*

*"Life is memory, and then it's nothing", he remembers reading since and it's had as profound an effect on his life as some of his favorite passages in The Book... are we not then the curators of each the other's legacy to be collected and held one within the other each to be built upon and become what is yet to be..?*

*"What is truth," Pilate had asked Jesus?*

*Samuel believed, especially now, that the truth wasn't something to be arrived at nor did it need to be solved- the truth couldn't be argued into or out of existence nor did it depend upon his or anyone else's reasonable doubt...*

*Samuel rises and runs to takes the stairs to Father's office. **"Father!"***

## CHAPTER 21

### COME TO YOUR FATHER

#### **Father's Office – The Mansion in Calw**

*"she won't answer you," Father thinks when he hears Samuel's voice...*

*"you're not yourself," she'd said and he'd let go then like he'd let go now:*

#### **Fall 1980 – The Nursery – The Mansion in Calw**

*Mother was drying Samuel and Noah both up and out from their bath while singing to comfort them...*

*she was preparing them for flight- there were suitcases opened in varying degrees of being filled with clothing and food and books all having been tossed and piled in... it's clear to him that she was preparing to leave with the children-*

*he stops and for a moment he seems to recognize her as he'd known her before in another time of flight doubting then as he'd begun to doubt now and so for a moment appears to reemerge from being drowned in the depths of the storm raging inside...*

**Mother**

Saulus, please don't-  
you remember...  
you know we-  
we can't stay-  
you *know..!*"

*but he's submitted to HIS will-*

**Father**

I hear what you say!  
any more to say?

**Mother**

*Saulus-*

**Father**

how're you going away?  
where're you going to stay?

**Mother**

*what-*

**Father**

what price should you pay?  
so help me God you'll pay!

## Mother

wait- *you're not yourself!*

*and prepared to sacrifice-*

## Father

the children have to stay-  
but *you* don't have to stay!

*Mother shields the boys behind her and so he grabs her by the throat surprising her and easily pulls her up to him- Noah won't let go of her hand though and he begins to cry while holding on...*

## Mother

please don't cry!  
not now Noah— oh Samuel- please!  
how long-  
who the hell-  
we can't stay-  
*wait!*  
can't you see?  
why you-  
oh please see-  
how can you-  
you're not yourself-

oh God, please help me!  
don't touch me—  
let go it hurts!  
oh God...

please save me!

“Oh no - but the kids!

Wait – I – we’ll stay – *wait!*”

let me please!

I won’t-

oh no please-

don’t-

wait-

that really hurts-

oh no!

please-

save me...

*he’s squeezing with the one hand that bears the golden ring and he realizes **then**- he holds her close while he removes it...*

*and then everything moves in slow motion as a line has been crossed...*

*she disappears and reappears in her eyes wide...*

*he can’t stop- he can’t let go now...*

*she disappears and remains away and begins to go slack...*

*she’s escaping finally, he thinks, she’s leaving this...*

*but then she reappears and her eyes well up and question...*

*her voice rises up in him calls as a tear falls...*

*he loosens his grip...*

*“you’re **not** like him-”*

*and he lowers her...*

*“not any longer...”*

*to hell with his Father-*

*he releases her throat and lowers her to the floor...*

*he lays her as if putting her to bed upon the floor...*

*her mouth opens and closes with no words-*

*she’s breathing again...*

*breathing-breathing-breathing breathing...*

*her eyes are blink, blink, blinking...  
she sees him and doesn't understand...  
he holds her hand and remembers her hand in his...  
there's going to be hell to pay!*

*Noah crawls out from under her (he realizes too late) and Samuel is standing unmoving,  
staring, watching his Mother blink, and blink, and then blink-blink like a fallen bird...*

## **Father**

Come, Samuel.

Samuel.

Samuel, come.

Come along, Samuel.

Come to your father.

leave your mother there...

I'll take care of your mother-

I'll take care of Noah...

Don't be afraid, Samuel.

Come to me-

Samuel?

*Samuel?!*

### ***Fall 2007 – Father's Office – The Mansion in Calw***

***"Father!"***

*and so Samuel has finally come...*

*Father stands in the darkened mansion powerless in the storm before Abraham  
tormented and dutiful with his arm raised high over Isaac bound and terrified stopped at  
the last moment by the voice of God in the guise of an angel-*

***"Where's Evangeline?!"***

*he folds the letter he wrote to Samuel along with the instructions for Missa into an envelope and places it under the keys to The Mansion on his desk and then begins to twist the golden ring from his finger before he stops- he'll take the ring with him...*

*"What is truth," his son Noah had asked him...*

*"I am," he'd replied-*

***"Father!"***

*he hears Samuel taking the stairs and there's a pause on the landing- there's no more time...*

***at the door to Father's Office***

*"Father?"*

*Samuel shuffles to the door and puts his ear to the door and listens to hear steps echoing his own moving simultaneously away from the other side of door...*

## CHAPTER 22

### REVELATIONS

***Fall 2007 – Father's Office – The Mansion in Calw***

*Father slips away to do what must be done...*

**Father**

Death

release me

from my lies

my betrayals

Judas cried

*Samuel pushes open the door to the office...*

**Samuel**

Father

to whom

do you lie  
when you look  
into my eyes?

*the office is empty and Father is gone; he enters and finds the envelope "Samuel" laying under the Mansion keys on the desk- lightning flashes and illuminates the stained glass behind Father's desk...*

*he thinks he can hear yes he can hear an emergency vehicle coming from out of the storm and then another approaching fast and coming close so he takes the keys to The Mansion and leaves the office to investigate...*

### **Fall 1976 – The Monastery**

*Father holds Mother's hand tightly and takes care to lead her through the streets of the village unseen onto The Monastery grounds crossing the open lawn behind the infirmary in and out of the ancient shadows past the granges and barns and finally down the overturned furrows of the farm out into the medieval grove of apple trees...*

*the orchard has been in the process of being harvested and on this windy autumn night in the Black Forest apples that have either fallen from the trees or that have been discarded and forgotten to rot now threaten to trip them up...*

*they enter the arborist shed breath plumes bursting ahead of them thick and gnarled white in the light through the cracks in the door and they pause to breathe the sweet scent of ripe fruit tinged with decay and the musk of earth and wood before they feel their way back along still full baskets of harvested apples to collapse exhausted and cold on a broken bale of hay for the oxen on the ground in the corner...*

**Father**

the time  
has come-  
I know

**Mother**



this pregnancy won't hide  
much longer

**Father**

he'll make me  
choose-  
*I know*

**Mother**

you're *not* like him-  
not any longer

**Father**

I am  
his blood-  
*you know*

**Mother**

our child  
inside  
grows ever stronger

**Father**

he'll kill you...  
if he *knows*

**Mother**

I have a friend-  
he knows

a way out

***the next day - The Abbot's Chambers***

*The Acolyte meets secretly with Grandfather...*

**The Acolyte**

Pater

she talked to me-  
they want to escape

**Grandfather**

you'll show them out tonight

**Acolyte**

thy will shall be done-  
my life's been yours to serve

**Grandfather**

there is a house in Calw

**The Acolyte**

I always have been like a son!

**Grandfather**

*(dismissing him)*

my *son*

will build my church

**The Acolyte**

*(leaving)*

I've proven  
my love  
for you-  
more  
than  
your  
*son!*

***the next evening - The Monastery Refectory***

*Grandfather stands during dinner and scolds his acolytes...*

**Grandfather**

last night  
my son was tempted-  
he was led beyond the grove

a village girl  
in guise  
and one of *you*  
led him astray!

I've been abandoned  
and aggrieved-  
forsaken-  
*betrayed!*

from seven trees  
they shall be hung-  
must pay the price  
*a sacrifice!*

***the next morning - The Monastery Chapel***

*and then continues his rant during service for the villagers.*

**Grandfather**

all those bearing fruit  
I shall lay bare  
for you to see

empty  
but for lost birds-  
nailed up-  
*bleeding dry!*

“and The Word  
was made flesh  
and dwelt among us...”

“I am  
The Way  
The Truth  
and The Life!”

“no man  
comes to the Father  
but by *me!*”

***present time 2007 - The Nursery at The Mansion***

*Samuel finds Evangeline on the floor surrounded by first responders...*

**Samuel**

what is happening?

who did this- Evangeline!  
do we know- did she fall?

*and then sees The Acolyte- Evangeline's father- watching from the shadows-*

wait- how'd you get in?

## The Acolyte

*(stepping forward)*

where's my Father?  
this is all too much to believe

Samuel you've been like a son to  
me-listen-and watch what you say  
to them-*listen*-you'll ride with me-

*Evangeline is hurriedly being loaded onto a stretcher and taken away-*

wait- I'll ride with you...

ok-I'll stay by your side while your  
Father's away and now-listen-we  
have to take care of The Church!

*Evangeline!*

*and as the ambulance pulls away Samuel from the back beside Evangeline can see  
The Acolyte coming forward inside the darkened doorway of The Mansion lit  
intermittently by the emergency lights into which Evangeline's Mother comes up from  
behind him leading a little girl by the hand...*

SEVEN STEPS TO THE GREEN DOOR

PRESENTS

# THE?TRUTH

CHAPTER 23

AFRICA

### ***a year earlier in 2006 – Gulf of Guinea - West Africa***

*Father descends through burnt umber clouds and lands in a rising sandstorm on a remote airstrip; he meets with a trusted guide who leads him on foot under the cover of night to a village on the Gulf of Guinea- they avoid the old game trail turned road and walk phantom-like along the dried furrows of an ancient riverbed...*

### ***in the village - Shelena's house***

*a combination of construction techniques, the mudbrick and wood reinforced by steel and concrete reflect the village's growth in the past decade due in main part to the infrastructure of wells provided by the Clean Water Initiative...*

*Father enters through a back adobe entrance and startles Shelena- though he'd sent word in secret of his arrival as well as his plans to her she can only now reconcile with what she's been asked to do...*

*she puts her arms out and collects a small girl of mixed race who runs to her and begins to cry and Shelena shields the child from him- the girl is Father's granddaughter, his son Noah's daughter...*

## **Shelena**

*(he must understand)*

and in our love that night

western winds laid like lace on the tide

as so oftentimes

here do I remember the fireflies and embers

now on this starless night

a pray to play God calls on me to believe him

as so oftentimes

here deities and nature provide and deceive us

## **Father**

*(trying to remain on task)*

I've come for the crying child..

***on the same remote airstrip***

*The Acolyte runs from a small plane to an awaiting Clean Water truck...*

**The Acolyte**

*(to Village Man)*

where to?

***in Shelena's house***

**Shelena**

your Word

enslaves

your promise

**Father**

*(no time to argue)*

child-

*come to me, child!*

**Shelena**

Missa!

her name-

*say her name!*

Missa!

***in the Clean Water truck***

*The Acolyte bounces down the old game trail holding on...*

**The Acolyte**

when did he land?

*in Shelena's house*

**Shelena**

you're a pirate  
of souls

**Father**

I'll bring her back to you-

**Shelena**

your son  
he said  
the answer is love-

*they both hear the truck outside...*

**Father**

we don't have time!

*and The Village Man at the front of the house...*

**Village Man**

*(spoken)*

"-in here!"

**Shelena**

*(hands Missa over)*

*love!*



## Father

*(scoops Missa up and escapes)*

*come!*

*and then The Acolyte rushes in and finding no child he points to Shelena-*

## The Acolyte

*(to The Village Man)*

*“she’s yours”*

### ***years earlier in 2001 - Clean Water Offices***

*a meeting of village officials and elders has been arranged by The Church to discuss the consequences of Noah’s indiscretions and its impact on their ongoing partnership...*

## The Acolyte

Noah has stirred up this village-

The Church fears politics

once again

he’s a twin

on the wrong side

the mirror

looking in

Pater has judged him

a heretic-

an insubordinate!

once again

just a twin

on the wrong side

the mirror

looking-

**Noah**

*(interrupts)*

I simply question  
the poetry  
recited facts  
and all interpretations  
you use to justify  
actions over time  
Grandfather  
has been behind-

what happened to my Mother?  
why place me  
and Clean Water  
here?

and since now  
expecting a child  
here

the village men  
I have “angered”  
fear the pirates  
killing whales

(she’s) a catch  
meant for  
but taken from  
them

## The Acolyte

*(holds up hand to silence the room)*

you haven't mentioned  
her pregnancy  
the illegitimacy  
is a racial nightmare  
for The Church  
and this village-  
*don't you-*

## Noah

*(interrupts again)*

I've seen through the eyes  
of my innocent twin-  
watched Evangeline smile

aloof  
and determined  
she certainly has earned him  
"your girl" has got some style

and now I'm not needed  
The Church has been deeded  
you need more than blood  
to flow in your veins

*(winks at Acolyte)*

a "daughter" in name  
who plays a good game-  
she's daddy's little girl!

## The Acolyte

*(cuts him off)*

you little shit-

## Father

*(fires back at Acolyte)*

you watch your place!

## The Acolyte

this is *my* business-  
and yours!

*The Church!*

your son he brays  
and desecrates-  
betrays your Father-  
*now he pays!*

## Shelena

*(stands)*

yes, wells they overflow  
here  
with clean water  
our ancestral tears

for love  
I'll sacrifice  
all my beliefs  
but on my knees  
in fear

Noah

we

want the truth!

what *is* truth?

Father

*(standing- to the entire room)*

*"I am!"*

Noah

how-

did I fail?

did I fail?

Father

*(becoming monstrous)*

*"enough!"*

you must

pay the price-

we must

sacrifice!

Noah

*(realizes what's happening)*

*father...*

*Father turn his back on him and leaves quickly-*

LOVE ME!

## The Acolyte

*(to the Village Man)*

“he’s yours”

*the Village Man and the other fishermen rush Noah and quickly force him outside-*

## Shelena

“nooooooooooooo...!”

### ***down to the village harbor – Gulf of Guinea***

*the fishermen whip Noah with reeds and rope as they chase him herd him to their boats where they knock him to the ground and drag him to the water’s edge kicking him repeatedly there to subdue him while they bind him with their ropes and throw him into the bow of one of their small boats already being pushed out towards the whaling grounds...*

### ***Father stands on a bluff above the beach***

*and watches Noah being beaten and bound and forced to stand in the bow of the boat with a harpoon line tied around his neck...*

*Noah turns and looks over his shoulder back to the beach as Shelena screams running into the water- he seems to be watching him watching him leave...*

*watching Noah rise up on a dark wave and fall, rising and falling with the waves getting further away, further away up and over the waves getting smaller and smaller more slowly with distance, already a memory, Noah losing balance and looking back once more losing him, losing him...*

## Noah

love is

the answer

what we leave

behind

we’re only

flesh and blood  
to fear or love  
which is more divine?

### ***Shelena on the beach***

*waist deep into the breaking water she fights the waves...*

love is  
the answer  
what we leave  
behind  
we're only  
flesh and blood  
to fear or love  
which is more divine?

### **Shelena**

Noah, my love  
please hear me  
you're free now  
and they're paralyzed!

two each  
we are  
one heart divine

### ***Father***

*watches as a whale is struck with the harpoon and then dives and so pulls Noah violently over the transom and out of the boat and into the water where he loses him...*

*he hears Shelena screaming and then he hears Mother's voice rise to speak to him: "you're not like him..."*

*he covers his ears and turns from the beach and walks out into the desert sands...*

### ***a year earlier in 2000 – the village harbor - Gulf of Guinea***

*the villagers have planned a summer's end party on the beach to celebrate another phase completed by the Clean Water crew and The Church's missionaries...*

*timba: playing a game of chance, usually dice*

*obouroni: a foreigner- "one who comes from over the horizon"- colloquial "a white person"*

*nana: a chief or a king or a queen (no differentiation)*

folashade: *honored with a crown- "to you all honor and glory"*

## Noah

*(trying to impress)*

take a chance, take a chance on me  
timba, timba, rolling for days

## Shelena

no meal to-be found in this town  
white lion come sniffin around

## Village Man

*(speaks out)*

Clean Water speaking in tongues  
imitates what he don't understand

## Shelena

the trickster shows us all things...

## Noah

take a chance, take a chance on me-  
why ya gotta go mock what I sing?

## Village Man

obouroni quick in their ways-

## Noah

*(waves off village man)*

yadda-yadda

*(bowing to Shelena)*

nana folashade



## Samuel

*(clearly imitating his brother)*

take a chance, take a chance on me  
timba, timba, rolling for days

## Evangeline

*(playing along)*

no meal to-be found in this town  
church boy come sniffin around?

*Evangeline hears her father's voice rise up inside of her- "get close to Samuel"*

*I  
must hear  
my heart  
within  
your voice*

*and she rejects him*

*I  
am born  
this flesh-  
what choice?*

*and so she implores Samuel*

you need me  
as much as  
I need you  
tonight...

I need you freely  
*believe*

both  
of our choices  
are reflections  
of our needs  
tonight...

not just reflections of me

**Shelena**

you need me  
as much as  
I need you  
tonight...

I need you freely  
believe

both  
of our choices  
are reflections  
of our needs  
tonight...

for this tomorrow we'll bleed

**Samuel**

I'm not my Father

**Evangeline**

just a step away

**Noah**

look- I'm not my brother

**Samuel**

*I'm not* my brother

**Evangeline & Shelena**

one more step away

**Samuel**

why have you been watching me?

**Evangeline**

*(ignores question)*

only steps away

**Noah**

I have no interest in The Church

**Shelena**

one more step away

**Samuel**

well, I've been watching you too

**Evangeline**

*(a bit surprised)*

just a step away

## Samuel & Noah

I love my brother-  
he's all I have

## Evangeline & Shelena

only steps away

## Samuel & Noah

we're two  
each  
all alone

## Evangeline & Shelena

just steps away

## Noah

we could be too-  
each other...

## Shelena

*(slowing)*

one more step away

## Samuel

there is no price to pay  
for me

Evangeline

seven steps away

Noah

day after day

for night

Shelena

a step away

***a year later in 2001 - Mother's room – The Hospital ICU in Calw***

*Mother lies comatose in a privately equipped room that Father had secretly funded The Hospital to build to care for her...*

Mother

*(in coma)*

you needed me

I needed you

that night...

we needed freely

*believe*

but Saulus

choices-

*what* reflections

of free will

my life?

were there reflections *to see?*

*he sits by her bed holding her hand with the news turned up far too loudly on the television to be heard by the nurses overhead...*

### ***years later in 2006 - The Mansion in Calw***

*Father shows Missa to a bedroom in The Mansion and assures her that she's safe there with him... in time she drifts off to sleep and **dreams:***

## **Missa**

find me a little shore  
cause I can't stand alone  
no more  
fill my little pan  
cause I can't bear to swoon  
no more

where's the love  
I can't find  
they're preaching  
all the time

take me  
in your arms  
father  
you're far  
away from me

*she's inside of a car with someone who appears to be her father-*

## **Missa**

will god deliver us  
from pain

Samuel

yes all our woes  
are not in vain

Missa

but he is a trickster  
my Mam said!

Samuel

HE is the truth  
but “tests” instead

*Missa is examining photographs of this man who looks like her father and her father-*

Missa

that picture-  
the lady-  
who is she?

Samuel

she was my Mother-

Missa

where is she?

Samuel

the truth is he killed her-  
that's been the trick he's played me!

*Missa stares through the man who looks like his father and awakens staring at shadows on the ceiling...*

### ***present time 2007 - The Hospital ICU in Calw***

*It's not until very early the next morning that Samuel's finally allowed to see Evangeline- the ward nurse in charge of her care has collected him from the communal waiting room and is bringing him up on an elevator; "the baby's heart is strong," she says.*

*he'd been told that she was placed in a medically induced coma due to the severity of the oxygen loss her brain had experienced and put into the only room at the hospital designed and equipped for patients with long term brain injuries...*

*"it beats strong enough for both of them," she says as she leads him down a long dimly lit (and cold, he thinks) corridor... Samuel stops dead in the hallway and stares at the sign emblazoned on the door: The Church's Brain Injury Center- "a gift from your father, Samuel- how fortunate for us to be able to care for Evangeline here in Calw!"*

### ***Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

*Samuel is shocked at the level of Evangeline's incapacitation: her body seems at once lifeless and yet strangely alive strung there from the blinking, beeping, dripping, breathing, and suctioning sounds of the life support machines...*

*Samuel wonders... should he talk to her and try to wake her? he looks at her there but not there with her eyebrows furrowed as if figuring out the directions to a particularly complicated game...*

*"try to get some sleep, Samuel- you can stay with her if you'd like," says the nurse as she makes a final adjustment to an intravenous drip and looks at her watch and so he shuffles over and collapses onto a lounger in the corner of the room and can't help himself but quickly falls asleep...*

*the nascent sensations of being hooked up to the machines combined with a floating sense of paralysis has suspended Evangeline as if tethered weightless in space awaiting another existence aware that she's there but not there and aware too of the baby floating within her weightless in its own space awaiting another existence attached to her floating within herself weightless attached to the machines and sleeping...*

**Act Two**



# CHAPTER 24

## HEARING VOICES

*early that next morning - Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center*

*Samuel is awakened by a raucous game show on the television-*

**Samuel**

have I been dreaming-  
how could it be?  
oh, please don't tell me-  
*it couldn't be!*

how did I get here-  
Evangeline?  
please hear my voice!

how could I have let it get-  
how could I?  
how could my *Father-*  
and you!

Evangeline!  
how she begged  
“don't walk away”

**Evangeline**

*(in coma)*

I hear you-  
oh, are you not hearing?!

**Evangeline & Caro**

can you  
hear us?

we're  
down here

help us  
please

don't walk away!

I can hear voices  
inside of me

***2001 - Mother's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

**Mother**

*(in coma)*

my mind runs free  
and it's scaring me  
in the light I see  
drowning  
here inside

***2007 - Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

**Samuel**

oh hear me  
Lord, can't you assure  
is this God's way-  
is it ours?

***2001 - Mother's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

**Mother**

*(in coma)*

my mind runs free  
and it's scaring me  
in the light I see  
drowning

**Father**

*(at her side)*

our children die  
why must I deny  
any love for lies?  
amen

***2007 - Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

*The Acolyte enters with Evangeline's Mother who's leading a reluctant little girl around by the hand...*

## The Acolyte

what have we here-

*Samuel!*

you still waiting for “our girl” to rise?

she was placed into this coma

machine mother-

another one!

where’s your Father?

Pater wishes

punish him for this- *his* crime!

in his absence

though he’s asked me

oversee The Church!

## Samuel

*(insulted)*

who are you he talks to all of this time-

and who’s this child you brought with you?

## The Acolyte

it’s your brother’s daughter- Pater gave to *us* now!

## Evangeline’s Mother

I’ll care for her as if she were mine!

*Missa pulls her hand away from Evangeline’s Mother...*

## Missa

you *took* me  
from Grandfather's house-  
that's a lie!

he told me  
*Samuel* would take me-  
back to Mam!

*Samuel looks closely at Missa and then he leans over close to Evangeline's ear-*

## Samuel

Evangeline  
I'm here...  
I'm still by your side

not The Church  
nor The Book  
*it's our Fathers*  
lied

## Evangeline

*(in coma)*

I hear your voice  
down here  
inside of me!

I hear your voice  
surrounding me-

*The Acolyte moves in close to Evangeline's other ear-*

## The Acolyte

what's up-  
and how're you feeling?  
you can leave-  
*this* wasn't in the deal

don't be upset-  
we've got another daughter

as for The Church  
you've just become a martyr

as for The Church  
you've just become a martyr

for The Church  
you've just become a martyr

for The Church  
you're just another martyr!

## Evangeline

*(in coma)*

Samuel  
please, are you not hearing-  
I can hear voices  
inside of me!

## Evangeline

*(hears her father's voice)*

I hear your voice

down here  
inside of me

I hear your voice

*surrounding me!*

*Evangeline hears Mother's voice join hers as if superimposed upon one the other each apart from yet a part of her:*

**Evangeline** and **Mother**

my mind runs free  
and it's scaring me  
in the light I see  
drowning  
here inside

**Samuel**

oh hear me  
Lord , can't you assure me?

*(looks to Acolyte)*

is this God's way-  
*is it ours?*

*(looks to Missa)*

**Missa**

I don't know your name-  
I don't care what he says  
but you're leaving here  
with *me* today!

"Missa!"

**CHAPTER 25**

**ALPHA & OMEGA III**

***2007 - Abbot's Chambers- The Monastery***

*Grandfather realizes that the end has come; the authorities have been called by someone and they've arrived with someone and they're now raiding The Monastery*

*grounds following someone's lead- he only hoped that one day this someone would make themself known to him so that he could have him thrown to the bottom of a very deep well...*

*Grandfather moves a lectern holding The Book with great effort across a thick rug and then struggles to pull the rug away from covering two very old doors set into the original stone floor-he pulls hard to lift back slowly one of the doors to reveal the dark opening of a cavernous oubliette, one of the few remaining features of the original medieval fortress, built over and open to the river that flows out born from the stone beneath The Monastery...*

*a deep dank exhalation floods the room as if the very foundation had sighed and though he fears being trapped he lowers a long ladder down to the very ledge upon which the condemned would have been lowered by rope- or unceremoniously dropped- to be left out of sight and out of mind long ago... it would be the perfect place for him to hide out until the authorities have given up searching for him, he'd eluded capture before under far more dangerous circumstances-*

*the vast door to his chambers is thrown open and he hears someone enter the room so he throws back down hard the door to the oubliette-*

*"Father?"*

*Saulus. Grandfather is startled... and he sighs... and then he turns with a forlorn smile to face his son-*

## Grandfather

I had a dream  
you'll know  
that my son would grow  
you'll one day come to understand

now I dream  
you'll know  
that my son won't know  
you'll one day come to understand

## Father

you must know  
didn't you  
make a snake  
didn't you  
Eden's rake  
didn't you  
on the take  
didn't you  
for God's sake  
didn't you  
you must know  
didn't you know?

and you must know  
didn't you  
I can't kill  
didn't you  
can't instill  
didn't you  
for God's will  
didn't you  
like your shill  
didn't you  
you must know  
didn't you know?

## Grandfather



it was war  
you know  
sons did what they're told  
you knew that questions would not stand

it's a war  
you know  
sons *do not* do what's told  
you knew that questions would not stand

## Father

you must know  
didn't you  
I loved her  
didn't you  
wanted her  
didn't you  
needed her  
didn't you  
can't have her  
didn't you  
you must know  
didn't you know?

and you must know  
didn't you  
why my sons  
didn't you  
all our sons  
didn't you

Isaac's sons  
didn't you  
come undone  
didn't you  
you must know  
didn't you know?

you must know  
didn't you  
what is truth  
didn't you  
burden proof  
didn't you  
made to suit  
didn't you  
Eden's fruit  
didn't you  
you must know  
didn't you know?

and you must know  
didn't you  
I'd be here  
didn't you  
without tears  
didn't you  
and no fear  
didn't you  
make it clear  
didn't you

make us pay  
didn't you know?

*Police radios can be heard pouring into The Cloister and fanning out now heading towards coming down the hall approaching The Abbot's Chambers...*

*Grandfather turns away from his son and quickly bends to open the large the doors hiding the oubliette; Father watches him for a moment and then automatically bends to help him with the other door, "good, good... you'll see," his father says.*

*another putrid wind bursts and disperses from the darkness below the door and making sure that Grandfather is not behind his back Father peers over the edge for the first time with grave apprehension and looks down down down into the oubliette...*

*then he hears what sounds like voices on the water whispering and converging to gather multiply up the rock echoing and rebounding, resounding, eight-and-a-half centuries of cathedral voices lifted up as one and given release, purged from the wounded memory of a regretful soul...*

*Father puts his hands to his ears and backs away and then he stops and deciding rushes forward and he grabs Grandfather and pulls him to him into him and hugs him tightly...*

## Father

Eloi, Eloi

lema

sabachthani

born of man

who wears the mask

of God

and speaks The Truth

(in truth)

The Truth

that hides the lies

Eloi, Eloi  
lema  
sabachthani  
born of flesh  
this beating burdened heart  
that bleeds  
your son would know  
why Father  
you should know!

*“let there be hell to pay,” Father thinks as he pushes forward forward with Grandfather in his arms and pushing tumbles over the edge and falls falls falls to disappear into the depths of the abyss...*

*the authorities burst into The Abbot’s Chambers and fan out immediately-  
“this is where he said we could find him,” says a well-dressed man in charge, “Saulus said this is where he’d be- am I correct- that he’d be **in here** with his father!”*

*Father had also told them to search the catacombs beneath The Chapel adjacent to The Cloister and it was there that special agents were astonished to find women from the nearby village being held captive in makeshift cells packed into the burial niches of medieval monks... they’d found them by following their haunting disembodied voices:  
“We’re down here- can you hear us? Help us, please!”*

## CHAPTER 26

### THE ARREST

#### **2007 - beyond the walls of The Monastery**

*the testimony of one distressed young women is being videotaped by a team from The University as she’s being loaded into an ambulance:*

Caro

we don't know—  
I could not see where we're going-  
we were in the woods-  
I can see the apples-  
and I'm landing and I see him standing-  
“you're going to go there and you're going to go down with the  
ship!”  
*and I'm going down..!*

### ***outside The Hospital***

*cars carrying uniformed police officers roar up and take positions around the building  
while detectives and federal investigators pour into the courtyard and enter the  
building...*

*soon ambulance corps carrying the women from the catacombs can be heard  
approaching crying in the night and soon arrive swarmed by hospital emergency  
personnel pouring out into the street...*

*detectives enter the ICU and begin questioning the nursing staff while investigators  
request to see records relating to the circumstances surrounding both Evangeline's and  
Mother's coma hospitalizations.-*

### ***Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

*two senior detectives enter to arrest The Acolyte-*

## **The Acolyte**

*(caught off guard)*

***accused-***

***who..?***

***Saulus-***

***the son?***

***accused-***

*what?*

she is-  
*see?*

he is-  
look...

## Evangeline's Mother

*(to her husband)*

*why?*

## The Acolyte

he's *disappeared!*

*(points to Evangeline)*

she *feared* The Church!

## The Detective

*(to Acolyte)*

you stand accused  
with Clean Water  
in Africa  
homicide!

## The Acolyte

*(being cuffed)*

I've lived  
*my life*  
doing *God's* work

## Evangeline's Mother

*(desperate to the police)*

he brings  
clean water-  
new life!

*The Acolyte is led out through a swarm of media-*

## The Detective

you're a star!

### ***outside The Hospital***

*Caro continues the videotaped testimony as her ambulance arrives and she's pulled out on a stretcher...*

## Caro

he's celebrating-  
or I figured...  
I got nude-  
everyone got nude...

and I can feel it-  
*I saw His ring!*  
and he put us all into baths-

*passing The Acolyte who's being loaded into a police car-*

## The Acolyte

*why?!*

## Caro

and he's-

and he's...  
and I couldn't breathe!

and my friend Grete-  
where are you *going*?  
where are you taking-  
*can I come?*

*she's on the verge of hyperventilating...*

my body is-  
I can't see-  
*I can't see!*  
where is she going?

*and then... she's sedated-*

### ***Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

*Evangeline's Mother is watching the news coverage of what's happening outside-*

Evangeline's Mother  
*why?!*

## CHAPTER 27 HALLUCINATIONS

### ***later that afternoon - Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

*Evangeline has begun to hallucinate; the conversations she hears in the room around her have merged with the voices she hears inside her head, and the shadows she sees on her eyelids have become indistinct from what she sees in her mind's eye; the*



*memories of her once healthy mind have been contorted and blurred by her injured brain to form an altogether new amalgam of reality in which she now exists...*

## Evangeline

*(inner voice)*

these twisted roots  
they penetrate  
infiltrate  
assimilate

suspended shadows  
call my name  
strings  
holding me

a cord extends  
down in from me  
up from depths  
cetaceans sing

be warm

## Mother

*(voice in Evangeline's coma)*

be warm  
within me  
without sin

## Evangeline's Mother

*(voice in Evangeline's coma)*

baby

it's me...

baby

it's your

## Noah

*(voice in Evangeline's coma)*

Angie-

it's me

## Noah & Samuel

*(voices in Evangeline's coma)*

hear me

my lovely twins

it's

## Noah

*(voice in Evangeline's coma)*

you

our fathers

pulled all the strings-

Church maneuverings

you must

can't you see?

you

our mothers

paint by numbers-

stayed within the lies

you must

can't you see?

you

our friendship

for a Golden Ring-

your Dad's conniving

you must

can't you see?

you

my brother

his heart on strings-

please hold onto him

you must  
can't you see?

*Evangeline is laying in the grass with Samuel, a flower tender and filled with sweetness, warm and fragrant with the incense of him quickly drawing her up onto him...*

*and the patterns the sun makes leap over him as a pair of goldcrest light to form a choir in her view, a cathedral that's moveable and true, his voice surrounding her a familiar vibration...*

*their love has made them one and the word made flesh is becoming new, coming new now as a quickening within her movement, movement up from the child within tethered to her as she's tethered...*

## Evangeline & Mother

*(inner voices in coma)*

these twisted roots  
they penetrate  
infiltrate  
assimilate  
suspended shadows  
call my name  
strings  
holding me

## Noah

*(voice in Evangeline's coma)*

you  
our fathers  
pulled all the strings-  
Church maneuverings

you must  
can't you see?

you  
our mothers  
paint by numbers-  
stayed within the lies

you must  
can't you see?

you  
our fathers  
pulled all the strings-  
Church maneuverings

you must  
can't you see?

you  
our mothers  
paint by numbers...

*Evangeline's Mother switches the television away from news of The Monastery raid and finds a hospital channel sponsored by The Church over which a priest begins to pray...*

## Priest

*(spoken)*

In the name of  
The Father  
and of The Son

and of The Holy Spirit

*the prayer comes from the light beyond her eyes where unknowable shadows emerge and gather and absorb her vision and then withdraw and dissipate absorbed back into the light...*

*she either rises into or falls from out of the light shadows rising back into the black in which she floated isolated and yet connected with the voice from beyond and yet within...*

*a prayer rich in tone more than words rising up from the depths that surround her like whale song without origin converging in deep ocean becomes a cathedral of voices...*

*“don’t abandon me!”*

*“don’t walk away!”*

*“lord help me!”*

*she can see them as they see her without awareness, she can touch them as they touch her without contact, she can feel them as they feel her without presence, and she can speak to them as they speak to her without words because they are the hymn within her...*

*she is the cathedral...*

### **outside The Mansion**

*Samuel holds Missa’s hand as they run from the car hop-skipping to avoid the puddles in the rain...*

## CHAPTER 28

### HEARTS ON STRINGS

#### **early evening- Father’s Office - The Mansion in Calw**

*Samuel has assured Missa that she’s safe with him- he tells her that The Acolyte has been arrested and Evangeline’s Mother remains with her at The Hospital...*

*he shows her pictures of Noah and then Missa asks about a photo she sees of “a lady” with the two of them and so he tells her a story about twins...*

## Samuel

once upon a time  
there lived two twins  
in one body  
each would  
share a heart  
while theirs grew apart

then would come a time  
when those two twins  
grown apart  
and out of reach  
one the other  
each  
lost her heart

then the heart  
it spoke  
the voice surrounding  
soothing sound  
it said  
close your eyes and see  
close your eyes  
and BE

and then his brother  
spoke to him  
one day  
a voice whispered overheard  
gentle without words

to say...

## Missa

how could I remember...  
when you speak  
why in your voice  
he speaks to me?

how could I remember...  
when you look  
why in your eyes  
he looks at me?

how could I remember...  
holding hands  
why in your touch  
he's holding me?

how could I remember...  
do you believe  
in God  
or in once upon a time?

### ***later that evening - The Nursery – The Mansion***

*while Missa sleeps Samuel cleans up after the emergency workers who'd attended to  
Evangeline...*

## Samuel

I've dreamed  
he takes my hand  
in her womb

to calm me

the truth  
was my failure  
deciding  
not to decide

but I was saved  
by loving  
my loving for  
once before  
and so I remember her...

with hair  
in sunlight shining  
her mouth  
tasting like wine  
and skin  
so soft divine  
when she's lying next to me  
a peaceful reverie  
she made me believe in  
once upon a time

### ***Caro's room – The Hospital in Calw***

*Evangeline's Mother slips in and without warning begins to badger Caro, relentlessly questioning her story until the security detail is alerted and removes her from the room...*

**Caro**

*(medicated)*

is what I say



too strange  
worrisome  
make you say  
how could it  
happen that way?

you don't believe  
in me  
doubt  
what you see  
in me  
what is the basis  
*your* faith?

***Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

*Evangeline lies alone in the nighttime glow of the machines monitoring her...*

**Evangeline**

*(hallucinating in coma)*

there's a doorway  
grows within  
green as grass  
we're lying still  
seven steps  
you sing to me

my arms surround you  
warm within  
and without sin  
our hearts on strings

*the shift nurse enters and frowns switches the television back to the news broadcast about the raid on The Monastery and begins to care for Evangeline...*

*“this evening we have an exclusive interview with one of the women discovered in the caverns beneath a 12<sup>th</sup> century Benedictine monastery hidden in the mountains of the Black Forest owned by The Church and once used by the Nazi’s as a forced labor camp for Russian Jews...”*

swollen hours  
empty rooms  
sunlight patterns  
over you  
a cathedral  
one that’s true

my arms surround you  
warm within  
my lovely twin  
our hearts on strings

*“... here then direct from her hospital room in Calw is “Caro” giving us her first-hand testimony account of the bizarre secular behavior exhibited at the monastery by the almost cult-like acolytes of The Church from which she and twenty other women of the surrounding village were recently rescued...”*

## Caro

all the men are Fathers-  
*HE* is Father-  
HE is *their* Father-  
HE is *our* Father-  
we are made in his image-

*Evangeline's Mother is escorted back returns to the room furious to hear Caro on the television-*

## Evangeline's Mother

these are *lies!*  
who's this whore?  
turn this down!

*but the shift nurse gives her a disgusted glance and ignores her to continue caring for Evangeline-*

she is *mine-*  
I'm no whore!  
stop this now-  
I can't no more!

*Evangeline's Mother holds her hands over her ears and shaking her head runs from the room and leaves The Hospital- the ward nurse in charge of Evangeline's care is notified and she calls Samuel immediately to inform him (he'd told her to call with any news)...*

*Samuel thanks her and assures her that she shouldn't worry as "that woman's not her mother" and then he awakens Missa- he scoops her up and carries her down and packs her into the car and then he speeds back to The Hospital...*

*the shift nurse continues to watch Caro's testimony while bathing Evangeline...*

## Caro

HE is the bridegroom-  
The Church is his bride...  
it's a ghost town-  
oh! I can see  
what it was like...  
now I'm clear  
I'm really clear-

it's really clear-  
it's all there!  
HE's all there-  
I can see him-  
I can *feel* him  
it's all right...  
I'm all there

### ***2001 - Mother's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

*Father is sitting by Mother's bed and he's holding her hand... he stares at the fragile bird-like bruised hand once safe holding onto to him holding onto her running through the Black Forest together away...*

## **Mother**

*(hallucinating in coma)*

feathers folded  
in the wings  
silhouettes of  
new days bring  
Church machines  
tethered by string

oh, Saulus  
please hear me-  
help me!  
my lovely twins...  
our hearts on strings!

*a news broadcast plays on the television reporting on The Church:*

*“ ... and now to Calw where The Church has been garnering international attention of late with their involvement in the successful negotiations involving fishermen from the*

*villages along The Gulf of Guinea agreeing to suspend their practice of pirating whales...”*

*away to be here and still there- Father stands to move but then pauses and still holding her hand leans over to lay his head down upon Mother’s chest rising and falling with artificial life...*

a black forest  
cold within  
apple branches  
punctured skin  
Saulus  
please release...

you’re *not* like him-  
not any longer!  
hear me-  
and be near me...  
Saulus, *please*

*“ they’ve already had great success with their Clean Water Initiative in the region which has transformed whole villages by providing safe, clean, and reliable water sources to third world communities like these...”*

*Father turns off the television and stands for a moment in the silence... he turns and looks at his wife and before he can lose faith again he quickly without question one-at-a-time shuts down Mother’s machines and then he returns to her and sits by her side and for the last time holds her hand as she dies...*

Act Three

CHAPTER 29

WHEN YOU GET TO SEE ME

**2007 - Caro's room – The Hospital**

Caro

forgive me, my lord-  
I had no-  
no chance to go-  
*you* can go anywhere-  
I was the only one...  
who has sinned?  
and I know that you were *there*-  
when I had seen it-  
it took me a long time...  
to understand-  
*what was on your mind?*  
I couldn't see what *you* were going through...  
but now I'm wondering...

**Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center**

*Samuel has poured Missa from his tired arms down onto the lounge where she now sleeps... and dreams:*

Noah

when you  
get to  
get to  
see me  
now

when the skies

are eyes-  
Samuel's eyes!

when I  
become  
be one  
this time

then I'll get to  
see *you*  
now

when I  
get to  
get to  
see you  
now

when the skies  
are Samuel's eyes

when I  
become  
when I  
be one  
with him  
now

then you'll get to  
see  
*somehow*

*Samuel rolls over the nurse's chair and sits down exhausted and throws himself over Evangeline and holds hugs her belly where he can't help but fall asleep again...*

## **Missa**

when you  
get to  
get to  
see me  
now

when I see you  
see me  
here

when I get to  
I can see you-  
Samuel's eyes!

now I know  
you'll see  
*somehow*

### ***Samuel dreams:***

*he is sitting under the long arms of an ancient oak tree, huddled among the roots of the great tree in their private garden, the sound of the heaving tree keeping time with the great inhalations and exhalations of Evangeline's breathing machine...*

## **Samuel**

Dear Lord  
I beg you  
do not abandon her-



our child  
now!

deliver  
my heart...  
her...  
home

to BE  
with her  
again!

*he is running through the storm back to The Mansion and he can see that it's lost power in the storm- he slips in through the great doors and runs through the maze of dark carpeted halls...*

*he reaches The Nursery and takes hold of the door but then hesitates- he moves his ear closer to the door and listens for Evangeline but he hears nothing and so braces himself and turns the knob but it's locked-*

*he cries out "Evangeline!", but she doesn't answer...*

*he senses movement on the other side and so he knocks again, and knocks again, knocks knocking longer and knocking louder and he cries out over the storm, "Evangeline, can you hear me?!"*

*he suddenly hears his Mother's voice as clearly as if she were speaking to him from the other side: "You're not yourself"*

## CHAPTER 30

### HEAR MY VOICE

Samuel

hear my voice tonight!  
hear my song!  
hear my voice tonight!  
hear my song!

## Samuel & Noah

hear my voice tonight!  
hear my cry!  
hear my voice tonight!  
hear my cry!

## Mother

you won't be as heartless  
suffer our sins  
our hope for the future  
our little hymn

*he remembers (as you do in dreams) that his Father had left him the keys to The Mansion and so he unlocks the door to The Nursery and immediately hears someone gasping for breath in the darkness beyond the door...*

*he enters and hears cough-cough-coughing, someone cough-coughing coughing back in the darkness choking on water still coughing and choking and then he sees Mother lifting Noah from the water in the tub...*

*he hears his brother crying, Noah is crying he can see as Mother pounds and rubs his back between his wings and so he makes a move towards his brother but his Mother shields him back behind her arms and stares at him- "Mother, it's me, don't you recognize me?"*

*he sees Mother's eyes staring but she's not looking at him (he knows) she's looking past him and so he turns to look behind him and he sees Evangeline on the floor frantically opening and closing her mouth as if she can't breath-*

*he falls to the floor beside her and her eyes are wild and wide as an injured bird blink-blink-blinking and she doesn't understand (he knows) she doesn't know what's happening to her (he can see) and then she chokes out the words "let go-let go-oh Samuel save me!"*

*he looks in her eyes and she stares at him with her lifeless yet strangely alive eyes and she doesn't seem to recognize him and so he lays across her belly and he holds her and then gets to his knees and encases her holding her...*

### ***Evangeline dreams***

*a voice speaks to her as if close beside her and she hears: "I've come to take you down"*

### ***as Samuel lays asleep across Evangeline***

*an unseen hand reaches up from inside of her and searches for Samuel pushing up from her womb and moving like a wave of water rolling to find him and finding him reaches up and pushes to touch his cheek...*

*Samuel slowly opens his eyes and lifts his head and disorientated touches his cheek and then he sees Evangeline's hand move-*

## **Samuel**

*(spoken)*

**"Evangeline? Evangeline!"**

**"Can you hear me?"**

**"Can you hear my voice?!"**

*he reaches for her hand and squeezes it and she faintly squeezes back but then her grip loosens and she slowly falls away-*

***"Evangeline! Can you hear my voice?!"***

*the machines are buzzing with static electricity building and the monitors are surging aglow awaiting something to happen- Samuel can feel the energy in the room and so he rushes from the room to the nursing station awakening Missa in his excitement passing who rises to see Evangeline's ward nurse running into the room with him behind her full of hope...*

she moved!  
and our child too!  
I'm not- yes, *her!*  
yes, yes- the child too!  
wait...

*the nurse quickly checks on Evangeline*

listen to me and don't look away  
where has the doctor gone for the day-  
what do you mean that I should pray?

*and then turns off the alarms on the machines...*

yes- all that I do is sit and pray  
but her hand moved to me as if to say-  
there must be someone here for us today?!

*Missa joins him at Evangeline's side...*

I feel you  
reaching out too  
alive in her womb  
asleep in this tomb

Evangeline stay- oh please stay!  
can you hear my voice- can you squeeze to say?  
I was such a fool to walk away!

now all I can do is-  
they say all I can do is "sit and pray"-  
but your hand move to *me* as if to say...

*Samuel watches and waits though there is no more movement from Evangeline; the machines hooked up to her remain alive and aware however of whatever is happening inside of her and so the room has become a flurry of activity around her with Samuel and Missa by her side as nurses and technicians enter to consult and confer moving from monitor to monitor...*

### ***Evangeline dreams***

*the skies beyond her eyes have become a chiaroscuro storm of shadow and light emerging and absorbing in a cartoon-like frenzy and then she hears the blood rushing in her ears and she can feel her heart beating apart from her and yet a part and she can feel a part of her tethered there as she's tethered apart from her and waiting...*

## CHAPTER 31

### A DREAM THAT STAYED

#### ***later in Evangeline's room – The Church's Brain Injury Center***

*there's a slow sensation of movement from deep within Evangeline- she senses a presence within a presence within presences a part of her and yet apart from her rising up recollected and becoming one again within her*

*a viscous wave forms along her backside and lifts her up then takes her down ripping her puncture skin tethered there falling out from suspension and pulled down with tremendous force into the cold depths*

*down where Samuel's voice follows her though his words soon become indistinct and disperse to join an eerie mournful collective rising up from the deep to surround her through which she passes down further*

*carried along and released to enter a fast-running river forever becoming new becoming new towards a growing blaze of light*

**Samuel**

*(sadness)*

heaven

peaceful

sweet angel  
go

*into which the river pours her and somehow dissipates to leave her standing at the threshold of an open doorway*

heaven  
farewell  
forgive me  
go

*and she sees that the door is green and without a handle and although there's no way for it to be opened from the inside it's already been opened*

I won't walk away  
I'm here with you  
know  
I'll stay with you  
all through this-

*through which Evangeline sees Samuel lying in a wild field in the park and so she tries to call to him-*

I won't walk away  
I'm here with you  
know...

***Evangeline emits a small choking sound***  
*and shakes for the briefest moment and Samuel holds her tightly-*

**Cast**  
don't walk away  
stay

oh please stay  
know  
heaven is inside  
you and me

don't walk away  
stay  
oh please stay  
know  
heaven is inside  
you and me

don't walk away  
stay  
oh please stay  
know  
heaven is inside  
you and me

don't walk away  
stay  
oh please stay  
know  
heaven is inside  
you and me

don't walk away  
stay  
oh please stay  
know

heaven is inside  
you and me

don't walk away  
stay  
oh please stay  
know

*Samuel begins to plead with Evangeline and Missa will not let go of him crying holding on...*

## Samuel

stay  
oh, stay with me!  
know  
heaven's ours  
tonight!

stay  
oh, stay with me!  
know  
heaven's ours  
tonight!

stay  
oh, please stay  
with me!  
heaven's here  
inside!

stay



oh, please stay  
with me!  
heaven's here  
inside!

stay  
oh, stay with me!  
know  
heaven's home  
tonight!

stay  
oh, stay with me!  
know  
heaven's home  
tonight!

stay  
oh, please stay  
with me-  
heaven *lives*  
inside!

stay  
oh, please stay  
with me  
heaven *lives*

***Evangeline dreams***

*she tries to walk through the door and enter the park but she can't pass the threshold  
and she knows (as you do) that she must open her eyes to no longer sleep to be with*

*Samuel again and so she wills herself to open her eyes, open her eyes, open her eyes wide, open wide with all the hope inside pulling open her eyelids pulling pulling open open- OPEN!*

### ***Samuel has lifted his head***

*to check on Evangeline's shaking movement and he sees that her eyes are trying to open, trying to open, trying to open and blinking opening and blinking shut, then blink-blink-blinking, blink-blink-blinking looking up into the bright lights of the ICU...*

*the chiaroscuro shadows beyond her eyes have been absorbed into a pinwheel of light into which Evangeline is staring blinded by what she knows must be the sun and she blink-blink-blinks blinks as a silhouette enters and eclipses the sun and blink-blink-blinks again...*

*and then coming into focus falling out of the sun she sees that it's Samuel haloed in sunlight and she watches the patterns the light makes leap over him and she reaches for him as he's reaching for her and they grab on to hold each other's hand and she squeezes...*