

My Side Of Things
By Scott A. Ryan

Characters:

Man (Red)

Woman (Blue)

Robed figure (Grey)

Beast (Green)

(Man is sitting in the center, light on him. He looks around, bewildered. Slowly, we become aware of the presence of three others, who the man does not see.)

Man

Hello!? Can any one hear me?

Woman

A verdict must be reached.

Robed Figure

Terrible things happened here.

Beast

What is he doing here? Why does he not join the circle?

Robed Figure

He has lost his way. He looks to us to find it again.

Man

Who's there!?

Woman*(stepping in to the center, as she does light brightens, sound of ocean)*
I am here.

Man

Where am I?

Woman

Look around you. Tell me what you see.

Man

I see nothing. It's too bright. What's going on?

Woman

Look closer.

Man

I see the sky. The ocean... It all seems so familiar, as if recalled from a dream.. Where am I? Have I been here before?

Woman

You are on one side of things. My side. Let yourself take it in. What do you feel?

Man

I know you. You and I have met before, in a distant place.

Woman

Is it so distant?

(Man reaches out to Woman, but she pulls out of the light. Conditions as before.)

Man

Stop, don't leave me! Please, I cannot be alone.

(A long pause)

Robed figure

Terrible things happened here. Are you prepared to teach him?

Beast

Where do we begin?

Robed Figure

He must see all sides of things.

(Beast moves to center, lights darken, sound of birds)

Man

What are you? Get away from me!

Beast

Fear is the enemy of truth. If you do not search everywhere, you can never find the answers. What do you see?

Man

I cannot. It is too dark. There's no light anywhere. Wait, there's a hint of light, breaking through the leaves.

Beast

Yes. This is my side. To know light, you must know darkness.

Man

What's going on? I can't make sense of any of it. Am I dead?

Beast

No. Not yet. For the moment reality is not what you perceive. Terrible things happened here.

(Beast leaves center, conditions as normal. Long pause.)

Robed Figure, Beast, Woman

A verdict must be reached.

Man

A verdict? Am I on trial? What am I accused of?

Robed figure

Only what your own heart accuses you of.

Man

I haven't done anything. Where am I? What is this place? Why do you all seem so familiar.

Woman

A beach.

Beast

A forest.

Robed figure

All in one. Where do you want to be?

Man

I want to be home. It's too cold here.

Beast

It thinks it has a home to go to. There is no home.

Woman

This is your home. Embrace it.

Man

Who are you people!? I don't know where I am, or how I got here, but I want to leave! Show me the way out.

Robed figure

Out? Show you the way out? You have brought this upon yourself. You brought yourself in, only you can find the way out. There are many exits, you must find them yourself and then choose one. A verdict must be reached.

Beast

Terrible things happened here.

Man

What things? What happened here that is so terrible?

Woman

You must tell us that. We only know what you tell us.

Beast

It has been gone too long. It cannot remember who it is.

Robed figure

We will teach him to remember and then he will teach us.

Beast

How do we teach it, if it will not learn?

Robed figure

He must learn or face the alternative. Talk to him.

Woman

Do you know who I am?

Man

No. I know I should, but I don't know why. When did we meet?

Woman

At the beginning.

Man

Yes... the beginning. I remember. I think. My head hurts so much.

Woman

Do you know why you are here?

Man

To complete the circle.

Beast

He remembers.

Robed Figure

Only partially. We must push for more.

Man

Terrible things happened here. I can feel them. What happened here?

Woman

The others who could not complete the circle. Look. *(As the Woman speaks the light changes to reflect her words)* They tried. They came here and they tried. But they couldn't. The circle fell out of balance. Worlds fell apart. Chaos ran rampant. Can you complete the circle? Terrible things happened here. Terrible things will continue to happen until the circle is completed.

Beast

This is taking too long. *(Stepping to center.)* The circle remains incomplete. You must complete it, or be destroyed. A verdict must be reached.

(The man stands up. As he does so, he is surrounded by fire.)

Man

This is my side. The final piece of the circle. I am ready to complete the circle. A verdict must be reached.

Woman

A beach.

Beast

A forest.

Man

A mountain.

Robed Figure

All in one. Terrible things happened here. Can you prevent them? The price is destruction.

Man

I will prevent them. No more terrible things to plague us. The circle will be complete.

All

A verdict is reached.

(All step to the center, grasping hands, forming a circle. Slowly they begin to rotate, as the lights fade. Begin to hum. As hum ends, lights come up to see all but Robed Figure lying in a heap.)

Robed Figure

Broken. Terrible things will happen here. Terrible things.