

SPUDS

Please don't kill me, Val.
It's not that I really mind being killed,
you know everyone has to die sometime. There's
nothing so terrible about death. In fact,
In fact, come to think of it once I thought I was dead
and I got to ride on a Ferris wheel that wasn't so
bad.
But if I were dead, I probably wouldn't get to see you
anymore and I think I would mind that.

VALKYRIE

Spuds,
that was
that a very nice thing you just said,
except for the part with the Ferris wheel,
which was sort of confusing,
but I'm still very angry
and a little confused so
I think I'm going to leave
now, if that's all right.

*VALKYRIE exits, turning out the light as she
goes.*

SPUDS

And so Spuds sits there in the dark having said a lot
of things
and he's not dead so he puts that in the plus column,
but Valkyrie is still gone and still angry so that
goes in the minus column and as for Spuds he goes into
the sleep column and in the morning there is a train
station.

*SAPPHO and VALKYRIE enter from opposite sides.
SAPPHO carries her sheep.*

On the train tracks is a dead shark.
Three men in their undershirts with paisley bandanas
for blindfolds are working on the rails.

SAPPHO

I saw a butterfly get hit by a car once.

A monarch.

A really beautiful one.
Hit by a white SAAB with tinted windows.
Poor thing never had a chance.

Are you going to New York?

VALKYRIE
No, we're here to steal luggage.

SAPPHO clutches her luggage closer.

SPUD
I'm an astronaut. Apollo 15. I walked on the moon.

VALKYRIE
He didn't.

SPUD
I did.

SAPPHO
I'm headed to Elizabeth. To visit my grandmother.

SPUD
The moon ruined me.

VALKYRIE
Stop saying that. You're no astronaut, Spud.
You've never been to the moon.

VALKYRIE
He's never been to the moon. Don't listen to him.

SAPPHO
It was just lying there in the road.
Perfectly still.
Dying.

I reached out to touch it and all of a sudden it flew
into my chest and died.

No. It was a train.

It was a train.
I missed my train.

I missed my train and
as I watched it go,
I looked down on the tracks
and there was a monarch butterfly.
Dying.
Hit by the train.

SPUDS
Maybe it jumped.

SAPPHO
Jumped?

SPUDS
In front of the train.
Like Anna Karenina.
Maybe it wasn't an accident.

VALKYRIE
Maybe it was pushed.

SAPPHO
I don't know.

My father said to me once,
When I was a little girl,
He said, Sappho,
You care too much
About little things (he meant things like this,
Like dead butterflies)
You care too much, Sappho,
And it's really beautiful, but it will only hurt you.

But I don't think I care too much.
I think I care just right and I don't care if it
hurts,
I just want it to be beautiful.

SPUDS
Good luck.

*A MAN IN A RED SUIT with horns runs onto the
platform carrying a take-out container.
He sits on the bench and unpacks his
take-out.*

MAN IN A RED SUIT
WHAT the FUCK? This is a fucking SPOON.

I asked for a fork.

Unbelievable.

SAPPHO
Who are you?

MAN IN A RED SUIT
I'm the devil. This is purgatory.

VALKYRIE
You're not.

MAN IN A RED SUIT
I am. I'm the fucking Devil. I can set you on fire.
Look.

*He lights a zippo and throws it on the shark
which catches fire. The blindfolded men throw
dirt on the fire until it goes out.*

SPUDS
I met the devil once.
I was in Singapore, drunk and I'd lost one of my
shoes.
I was trying to find my hotel but no one spoke English
and I realized I couldn't even read the street signs.
I stumbled into an alley and I saw a ram with green
eyes that breathed fire.

Was that you?

I didn't think so.

The MAN IN A RED SUIT keeps eating.

Just a bitter commuter.

VALKYRIE
With horns.

SAPPHO

I wish they hadn't extinguished the shark,
It was beautiful when it was on fire.
Now it's just dirty.

SPUDS

Just a bitter commuter, I said.

*The MAN IN A RED SUIT finishes eating and puts a
cigarette in his mouth. He rolls it along the
line of his mouth with his lips letting it almost
fall out and then catching it.*

MAN IN A RED SUIT

Anyone got a light?

SPUDS

You do.

You threw it at the shark.

MAN IN A RED SUIT

Oh, yes. How careless of me.

Excuse me, Miss?

SAPPHO

Yes.

MAN IN A RED SUIT

Would you mind going down there and fetching my
lighter for me?

SPUDS

Why don't you go down there and get it yourself,
buddy?

MAN IN RED SUIT

But surely the young lady will oblige me.

SAPPHO climbs down onto the track.

SPUDS

Are you crazy? Let him get his own lighter.

SAPPHO

I want to touch the shark.

The sound of a train, far off.

SPUDS

Hey. Get out of there. There's a train coming.

SAPPHO

It's smooth.
Like a flower petal.

SPUDS

Get up out of there.

The sound of the train. Closer now.

SPUDS climbs down on the tracks and tries to help her up.

Come on.

SAPPHO does not budge. VALKYRIE exits. The sound of the train gets louder.

Lie down on the tracks. The train will go over us.

They lie down on the tracks. The sound of the train ceases immediately.

It's gone.

Here, let me help you up.

He puts out his hands. Using his hands as steps, SAPPHO steps up to the platform. SPUDS pulls himself up. They sit, with their legs dangling over the edge of the platform, like children.

SAPPHO

Thank you.

SPUDS

My pleasure. I haven't had a rush like that since I walked on the moon.

SAPPHO

I walked on the moon once.

SPUDS

No you didn't.

SAPPHO

It was in a dream.

Where did your friend go?

SPUDS

She's wandered off. She does that.

MAN IN THE RED SUIT

Several minutes ago.

SPUDS

She's probably found a bowling alley.

SAPPHO

Oh.

SPUDS

I really did walk on the moon.

SAPPHO

I know.

Enter VALKYRIE, She wears a Viking helmet and a bra made of hubcaps and pink shorts and converse sneakers. She carries a sword.

VALKYRIE

I am Abaddon, destroyer of worlds. Angel of Death.

SAPPHO

Does the Angel of Death kill butterflies?

VALKYRIE

You shouldn't have touched her, Spuds.

SPUDS

I was trying to save her life.
There was a train coming.
I had to save her life.

VALKYRIE

I'm going to kill you, Spuds.
You told me you loved me and now this?

SPUDS

To SAPPHO.

I'm sorry I dragged you into this.

VALKYRIE

Men like you are always sorry,
and it's always too late.

She stabs SPUDS with the sword.

*A man in an undershirt with a paisley bandana for
a blindfold enters with a bucket of red paint and
paints a pool of blood on the ground around
SPUDS.*

Everyone but SPUDS exits. The lights go out.