

THE TEST

CHARACTERS

TIFFANY: A TEENAGE GIRL

ELIZABETH: TIFFANY'S MOTHER

ANDREW: TIFFANY'S FATHER

LILITH: THE FIRST WOMAN

Setting: A lake.

Time: The present

Synopsis: Judge not lest ye be judged.

The action occurs along the bank of a lake in the early spring. However, the setting should not be realistic. The stage should be as bare as possible.

The resuscitation scene should take place Stage Right and the scenes between TIFFANY and LILITH should take place Left or Center Stage. The lake is located in the audience.

From a dark stage we hear the SOUND of splashing water. Lights come up Stage Right and ANDREW is kneeling upon a boat dock, leaning over TIFFANY'S body as she lies on the ground. They are soaking wet.

ANDREW is performing CPR on TIFFANY. Gary's mother, ELIZABETH is on the dock nearby, covered by a blanket to keep her warm.

ANDREW

Don't worry, Elizabeth, we'll get her back.

ELIZABETH

You won't stop?

ANDREW

No, I'll keep going until help arrives.

After a moment we see TIFFANY'S Spirit (TIFFANY) stand and move away from the resuscitation scene. ANDREW doesn't see TIFFANY'S Spirit and continues miming CPR on TIFFANY'S body as if it were still there.

Neither ANDREW or ELIZABETH see TIFFANY'S Spirit as she moves about. A brilliant light appears on the water (audience) and LILITH, a beautiful young woman with long black hair, dressed in a white flowing dress enters from the light and apparently walks across the water and onto the dock to welcome TIFFANY.

TIFFANY stares at her intently. Who is she and how could she be walking on water?

LILITH

Tiffany?

TIFFANY, confused, just stares at her.

LILITH

Hello, Tiffany. My name's Lilith.

TIFFANY

What's going on?

LILITH

You had an accident.

TIFFANY

What?

LILITH points to ANDREW as he performs CPR on TIFFANY, whose body isn't easily visible at this moment to TIFFANY.

LILITH

That's you, Tiffany.

What? TIFFANY

Look. LILITH

She points at ANDREW and at the body he's performing CPR on. TIFFANY walks over to them and sees herself lying on the dock.

But... TIFFANY

It's okay. I know you're confused. LILITH

I don't understand. TIFFANY

Do you remember where you were last? LILITH

A canoe. Mom and Dad and me...where's my Mom? TIFFANY

LILITH points to her as she sits alone nearby.

Over there. LILITH

TIFFANY walks over to her mother who is praying.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... ELIZABETH

What happened? Mom? Dad? TIFFANY

ELIZABETH continues to pray and will continue to pray softly, until spoken to by ANDREW.

They can't hear you, your words come only as momentary thoughts to them. Remember the canoe? LILITH

TIFFANY walks to the end of the dock.

TIFFANY

We tipped over. I hit my...

TIFFANY touches her head.

LILITH

That's right. You weren't wearing a life jacket.

TIFFANY

Mom tried to get one on me and...

LILITH

You said you'd be fine without one.

TIFFANY

And my dad...

LILITH

Your dad agreed with you.

TIFFANY looks at her lifeless body as
ANDREW continues CPR.

TIFFANY

No, I can't be dead.

LILITH

You are for the moment.

TIFFANY

What do you mean?

LILITH

Follow me.

LILITH leaves the dock with TIFFANY
close behind. LILITH sits down at the
edge of the lake and

TIFFANY sits down beside her.

They look out at the lake which is
located in the audience.

LILITH (CONT'D)

This is a beautiful lake.

TIFFANY

We come here every spring. We have a cabin nearby.

LILITH

I know. In many ways you're quite blessed.

TIFFANY

That's what my parents say.

LILITH

Do they?

TIFFANY

Yes, we're very devout Christians.

LILITH

Interesting.

TIFFANY

What?

LILITH

Nothing.

LILITH picks up a rock and throws it out into the lake. Together, they watch as it skips four times then sinks.

TIFFANY then searches the shore for a rock. She finds one that is round and smooth then throws it. She and LILITH watch it as it skips six times.

LILITH (CONT'D)

Pretty impressive.

TIFFANY

The rock must be round and flat.

LILITH

I'll remember that.

TIFFANY

Am I dead?

LILITH

You're between life and death.

TIFFANY

I don't want to die.

LILITH

Of course not, no one ever does.

TIFFANY

If I die, will I go with you?

LILITH

If you die, yes you will.

LILITH looks at the brilliant light
focused on an area of the lake.

TIFFANY points at the light.

Is that where you came from?

LILITH

Yes.

TIFFANY

Is it nice there?

LILITH

For some. You feel the warmth?

TIFFANY nods.

LILITH (CONT'D)

That's the warmth of millions of souls. You'll fit in fine
there. There are many souls just like yours. So, tell me a
little about yourself. I didn't get a chance to go over too
much of your file.

TIFFANY

File? They have a file on me?

LILITH

Oh yes, everything is modernized now, it's like the NSA on
steroids.

TIFFANY

Is this so I can get into heaven?

LILITH

Is that where you expect to go?

TIFFANY

Of course.

LILITH

Why, of course?

TIFFANY
Because we go to church every Sunday.

LILITH
Is that it?

TIFFANY
What do you mean?

LILITH
Is that all you do?

TIFFANY
Well, we follow the teachings of Christ.

LILITH
Such as.

TIFFANY
Uh...

LILITH
Have you forgotten them?

TIFFANY
No, I just...

LILITH
Just what?

TIFFANY
Nothing.

LILITH
Tell me about Molly.

TIFFANY
Who?

LILITH
Molly, you just thought of her.

TIFFANY
You can read my thoughts?

LILITH
For now.

TIFFANY
What about her?

LILITH

It wasn't that long ago that she...

TIFFANY

I don't know why we need to talk about her.

LILITH

Indulge me.

TIFFANY

What do you want to know?

LILITH

You know what I want to know.

TIFFANY

Is this a test?

LILITH

In a way.

TIFFANY

Oh, I get it. I need to prove I belong in heaven. Is that it?

LILITH

If you want to see it that way, fine.

TIFFANY

She was a homosexual, so I treated her as such.

LILITH

And just how was that?

TIFFANY

My parents and I had her cast out of our church.

LILITH

And that was what you, your parents, and your church felt was right?

TIFFANY

Of course, it's in the Bible.

LILITH

Is it?

TIFFANY

Yes. Sodom. Everyone knows about that.

LILITH

But you said you and your family are Christian. Is that what Christ taught?

TIFFANY pauses.

LILITH (CONT'D)

I asked you a question. Is that what Christ teaches in the Bible? He's in there too, you know.

TIFFANY

I know that.

LILITH

Don't get upset, TIFFANY. I'm merely asking you a question. Doesn't Christ teach not to judge others?

TIFFANY pauses.

TIFFANY

Yes.

LILITH

Then if you claim to be a Christian, why did pass judgement on Molly?

TIFFANY

Because homosexuality is wrong.

LILITH

To Christ, or you and your family?

TIFFANY

I don't like your questions, and I don't like you. What is your name again?

LILITH

Lilith. I go by Lilith.

TIFFANY

I know that name. My mother told me about you.

LILITH

Did she now? I don't recall ever meeting her.

TIFFANY

You're in the Bible, the Old Testament.