

SCENE 6

TERRA sits on the ice.

She brushes her hair.

She is TAY, seven, in a dress.

TERRA as young TAY, sings “Rise and Shine”.

TERRA

(sings)

The Lord said to Noah:
There’s gonna be a floody floody
The Lord said to Noah:
There’s gonna be a floody floody
Get those children
Out of the muddy muddy
Children of the Lord

(TERRA continues to hum the song)

START

TAY

I’m seven and someone is
Repeating stories from the Bible.
I hear the one about the Garden
And how Everyone gets split in Two.
They just point at everything
And decide what they are.
Decide who they are in relation to one another
Without even asking.

I didn’t notice that before,
that no one asks.

And I’m seven,
And we find a cat.
Or they find us –
They find us and they choose us, so they stay.
I name them Sarah.
I like how it sounds.
This cat is a life that is mine.
They belong to me.
They’re a life that I can hold.

But then Sarah’s balls drop
And my mom refuses
To let “that” cat keep “that” name.
So they go nameless for a few days
While we try different ones out.

But nothing is sticking
Nothing is sticking like Sarah does.
Did.

“Buddy-boy” becomes the placeholder
And it sticks.
And till the day “that cat” dies
“It” is defined by “its” balls
Without ever being able to express
What they want to be called.
What they –
Who they are.
Without ever being asked.

I think, Sarah,
That I shouldn’t have named you
Like those Two did to everyone in the Garden.
I shouldn’t have named you.
I should have known you.

But I’m not here to unname the animals.

END

TERRA
(sings)

The Lord said to Noah, there’s gonna be a floody floody -

TAY jumps into the salt.

The blooms fade.