

Angels in america #3

Same day. An abandoned lot in the South Bronx. A homeless Woman is standing near an oil drum in which a fire is burning. Snowfall. Trash around. Hanna enters dragging two heavy suitcases.

Hannah

Excuse me? I said excuse me? Can you tell me where I am? Is this Brooklyn? Do you know a Pineapple Street? Is there some sort of bus or train or...? I'm lost, I just arrived from Salt Lake. City. Utah? I took the bus that I was told to take and I got off - well it was the very last stop, so I had to get off, and I asked the driver was this Brooklyn, and he nodded yes but he was from one of those foreign countries where they think it's good manners to nod at everything even if you have no idea what it is you're nodding at, and in truth I think he spoke no English at all, which I think would make him ineligible for employment on public transportation. The public being English-speaking, mostly. Do you speak English?

The woman nods.

HANNAH

I was supposed to be met at the airport by my son. He didn't show and I don't wait more than three and three-quarters hours for anyone. I should have been patient, I guess, I... Is this...

Woman

Bronx.

HANNAH

Is that... The Bronx? Well how in the name of Heaven did I get to the Bronx when the bus driver said...

WOMAN

(talking to herself)

Slurp slurp slurp will you STOP that disgusting slurping! YOU DISGUSTING SLURPING FEEDING ANIMAL! Feeding yourself, just feeding yourself, what would it matter, to you or to ANYONE, if you just stopped. Feeding. And DIED?

Pause.

HANNAH

Can you just tell me where I...

WOMAN

Why was the Kosciusko Bridge named after a Polack?

HANNAH

I don't know what you're...

WOMAN

That was a joke.

HANNAH

Well what's the punchline?

WOMAN

I don't know.

HANNAH

(looking around  
desperately)

Oh for pete's sake, is there anyone else who...

WOMAN

(again to herself)

Stand further off you fat  
loathsome whore, you can't have  
any more of this soup, slurp slurp  
slurp you animal, and the - I know  
you'll just go pee it all away and  
where will you do that? Behind  
what bush? It's FUCKING COLD out  
here and I... Oh that's right,  
because it was supposed to have  
been a tunnel! That's not very  
funny. Have you read the  
prophecies of Nostradamus?

HANNAH

Who?

WOMAN

Some guy I went out with once  
somewhere, Nostradamus. Prophet,  
outcast, eyes like... Scary shit,  
he...

HANNAH

Shut up. Please. Now I want you  
to stop jabbering for a minute and  
pull your wits together and tell  
me how to get to Brooklyn.  
Because you know! And you are  
going to tell me! Because there  
is no one else around to tell me  
and I am wet and cold and I am  
very angry! So I am sorry you're  
psychotic but just make the effort  
- take a deep breath - DO IT!

Hannah and the Woman breathe together.

HANNAH

That's good. Now exhale.

They do.

HANNAH

Good. Now how do I get to  
Brooklyn?

WOMAN

Don't know. Never been. Sorry.  
Want some soup?

HANNAH

Manhattan? Maybe you know... I  
don't suppose you know the  
location of the Morman  
Visitor's...

WOMAN

65th and Broadway.

HANNAH

How do you...

WOMAN

Go ther all the time. Free  
movies. Boaring, but you can stay  
all day.

HANNAH

Well... So how do I...

WOMAN

Take the D Train. next block make  
a right.

HANNAH

Thank you.

WOMAN

Oh yeah. In the new century I  
think we will all be insane.