

Scene 11

MEN

INTO THE DARKNESS

WOMEN

STARS AND THE MOONLIGHT

MEN

BUT ALL AROUND US

WOMEN

NOTHING BUT DARKNESS

MEN

OUT OF THE WINDOWS

WOMEN

INTO THE DARKNESS

ALL

DARKNESS AND TREES

GARTH enters and sits in front of a bus of passengers.

GARTH

Every school bus we got is goin' back and forth all night. Out at the Salvation Army Camp, we've delivered passengers from Germany, England, and France. And around three in the morning, my bus is designated to take all these African people out there.

ALL Except GARTH & MUHUMUZA

INTO THE DARKNESS

MUHUMUZA (ACTOR 10)

My family and I try to see out the bus windows. No one tells us where we are going.

ALL Except GARTH & MUHUMUZA

ONTO A GRAVEL ROAD

GARTH

Silence comes on the bus. We get outside of Gander and you could hear a pin drop.

ALL Except GARTH & MUHUMUZA

AND ALL AROUND US

MUHUMUZA

My wife and daughter are scared. They ask me what is happening and I do not know.

ALL Except GARTH & MUHUMUZA

DARKNESS AND TREES

GARTH

Behind me, this big man comes up to me and he says in this low voice...

MUHUMUZA

Wewe watuchukuwa wapi?

GARTH

What?

At the Academy, BEULAH and ANNETTE address everyone.

BEULAH

Ladies and gentlemen, we need some help translating. If anyone speaks Mandarin, can you come to the library? And if anyone speaks Hindi, could you please come to the cafeteria? And if anyone speaks Newfoundlander, well lard tunder'n jaysus god bless ya, b'y.

ANNETTE

We've got passengers from all over the world coming off these busses, all speaking different languages. We can't even say "hello."

BEULAH

And if anyone knows—we think it's...

ANNETTE

Moldovan.

BEULAH

Moldovan—that would also be helpful.

ANNETTE

Other passengers help us translate. Mrs. Noonan, our French teacher, turns out to know a little Russian. And Mr. Michaels, our gym teacher, apparently he speaks Spanish.

#6a – Mr. Michaels

MR. MICHAELS stands, holding a shaker and dressed as a fantasy Latin lover. HE moves to Annette.

MR. MICHAELS (ACTOR 7)

Si, hablo. Español es la lengua del amor. No sólo soy un profesor de gimnasia, soy un profesor de pasión.

HE exits with a flourish.

ANNETTE

I'm sorry, what was I saying?

Scene 15*#6d – Darkness and Trees Reprise***GARTH**

Finally, out of the darkness, my bus arrives at the Salvation Army camp.

ALL (Except GARTH & MUHUMUZA)

KATI YA GIZA

MUHUMUZA

We pass through a large gate and the bus pulls to a stop. And through the windows – out there in the darkness – we see all these people coming out of the buildings.

ALL (Except GARTH & MUHUMUZA)

GHAFLA MWANGAZA

GARTH

Now we rarely use them, but everyone's dusted off their Salvation Army uniforms to welcome these people.

MUHUMUZA

There are soldiers everywhere.

ALL (Except GARTH & MUHUMUZA)

PANDE ZOTE SISI

MUHUMUZA

The man at the front opens the door.

GARTH

I say, "Here you are. Out you go." But he's not moving. None of them are.

ALL (Except GARTH & MUHUMUZA)

GIZA NA MITI

GARTH

But then I notice his wife. Well, she's clutching a bible. Now obviously I can't read it, but it'll have the same number system ours does – so I ask to see it and I'm searching for something – and then in Philippians 4:6 – I give them their bible and I'm pointing and saying, look! Philippians 4:6 – Be anxious for nothing. Be anxious for nothing.

GARTH & MUHUMUZA

And that's how we started speaking the same language.

CLAUDE

People start taking passengers back to their houses to get cleaned up and then inviting them to dinner – and then putting them up in their guest rooms.

MARTHA (ACTOR 5)

Look, Misses. I'm just 20 weeks along and my Terry's already set up the nursery, you and your little one will be much more comfortable there.

BRITNEY (ACTOR 3)

Thank you for shopping at Wal-Mart. Would you like to come back to my house for a shower?

BOB

People are saying 'we want you to come to our house'. And I think, what is up with this? I mean, are they charging for these "free" showers? Or are they gonna go all Norman Bates... Anyway, I wasn't falling for it. But finally, I'm invited back to the Mayor of Appleton's house – that sounds fancy, but it's not – there's a mayor for every town of a thousand people in Newfoundland. There's the Mayor of Gander

(he points to CLAUDE).

There's the Mayor of Lewisporte

(CLAUDE puts on glasses).

There's the Mayor of Gambo

(CLAUDE puts on a moustache).

Anyway, I'm staying with the Mayor of Appleton.

(CLAUDE puts on a hat, becoming DERM.)

DERM

Come on in, son. The Irish Whiskey's in the bar downstairs.

BOB

His wife shows me where my bedroom is and where the shower is and through it all, I keep thinking – where am I going to leave my wallet? Someone is gonna steal my wallet.

KEVIN J

Someone says there's a way out of here. They say there might be a boat –

KEVIN T

Kevin, we're on the other side of the continent. We're not taking a boat.

KEVIN J

So I stop an officer and ask him, "How do I get back home?"

BOB

Yeah, how do we get out of here?

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BOB

Watching the news all day, some of us are starting to lose it. So these people here, they decide to have a big cook out for the whole community—just trying to get our minds off of everything. And Derm, the Mayor of Appleton, says to me...

DERM

Right, m'son, do me a favor and start to round up some grills.

BOB

Round up some grills?

DERM

Yeah, just go to people's yards and take their grills.

A pause.

BOB

...Take their grills? Someone's gonna shoot me.

DERM

No, no, no, no, no... Just go to people's yards and grab their grill.

Another pause.

BOB

(to audience)

So I'm going from yard to yard and I keep thinking, someone is going to shoot me in the back.

MALE TOWNSPERSON (ACTOR 12)

Hello there!

BOB freezes.

MALE TOWNSPERSON

Are you taking my barbecue?

BOB

...This is your barbecue?

MALE TOWNSPERSON

Yeah, buddy.

BOB

Listen, I am so sorry —

MALE TOWNSPERSON

The wife's got the kettle on, if you want a cuppa.

BOB

I get offered a cup a tea in every single backyard – and most of them offer to help me steal their own barbecues. We bring them all over to the community center – no names on them. I don't know how they ever get 'em back. But that's how we have a big cookout – completely free. After that I stop worrying so much about my wallet.

JANICE

8:45 am.

ALL

Thursday.

JANICE

September 13th. We've got a... situation down' at Gander Academy.

At the Academy, BEULAH and ANNETTE address everyone.

BEULAH

Ladies and Gentlemen. We have an indelicate request. We need volunteers to help clean the bathrooms. As you can imagine, with 700 adults in a primary school... Health Canada needs us to clean them every hour and a half and we just don't have the people. So, we're asking for your help.

A pause as EVERYONE looks away.

ANNETTE

But no one volunteers.

BEULAH

No one comes. And we're run off our feet with everything else. And then –

#7e – Cardiologists

ANNETTE

Sweet Jesus in the garden.

This line of men comes walking down the hall.

Six men in doctor coats walk towards her in a slow motion burlesque. ANNETTE's jaw drops.

The top six cardiologists from all over the world. On their way to a conference.

Highly qualified cardiologists.

And they know about the importance of cleanliness.