

**Little Children Dream of God**  
by Jeff Augustin

**Contact:**  
Michael Finkle  
WME  
11 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10019  
212-903-1144  
[mfinkle@wmeentertainment.com](mailto:mfinkle@wmeentertainment.com)

**Characters**

Sula – Mid 20s Haitian woman  
Carolyn – Early 40s White American woman  
Joel – Early 30s Haitian-American man  
Manuel – 113 year old Cuban man (Played by an actor in his 50s/60s)  
Vishal –Mid/Late 20s Multi-Ethnic Trinidadian man  
Madison- Early/Mid 30s Haitian-American woman  
Man- Early 30s Haitian man  
Baby

Doubling  
One Actor in his Early/Mid 30s plays BABY/MAN

**Setting**

Present day.  
For the most part in Overtown in Miami, FL. But also various locations in the greater Miami area, West Palm Beach and the Atlantic Ocean.

**Note:**

—— A silent moment when a character reveals or holds back a truth. A time when language is too much or not enough.

**Overlapping Dialogue:**

Joel’s line begins on Carolyn’s “wake”

CAROLYN  
You’re going to –  
wake up the whole building

JOEL  
Is everything okay?  
You called then I heard all  
this screaming

**Translations:**

SULA  
Pa kit’m (don’t leave me)

The actress playing Sula should say the line in Creole. The line in parentheses is the translation.

There should be no subtitles for the Creole.

*To accept one's past – one's history – is not the same thing as drowning in it; it is learning how to use it.*

- James Baldwin

*For Adele Shank, who lives in the words of the many writers she inspired.*

**Act One**  
**Scene One**

(SULA floats on a tire in the Atlantic Ocean between Haiti and Florida. She wears a long white cotton dress. Light from the moon shines on her, keeping the endless darkness from enveloping her. She is striking, the kind of beauty that wars are fought over. She is also pregnant, like so pregnant she's about to explode. The baby kicks violently it shakes her entire body. She exhales. To the baby...)

SULA

Shhh. Shhh...Please. Not here. Not in the sea. The sacrifice and wait you've made will be worth it. You'll love and be loved purely.

(The baby kicks again.)

Shhh. Shhh.

(A beat. She begins to sing a Haitian nursery rhyme)

Dodo ti pitit manman	(Go to sleep mommy's little baby
do-o-do ti pitit manman	Go to sleep mommy's little baby
Si ou pa dodo shat la va mange'w	If you don't sleep the cat will eat you
Si ou pa dodo shat la va mange'w	If you don't sleep the cat will eat you

(The darkness crowds in as she continues to sing)

Manmanw ale nan rivyè...                      Your mommy went to the river...)

(She is swallowed by the dark)

**Scene Two**

(Outside Apartment Building. Late Night. CAROLYN in a robe, pajamas and slippers. The only source of light is the moon. To God...)

CAROLYN

Come on God. Just turn back on the power. Please. Come one baby. Who loves you?

(No Response)

I said I was sorry, didn't I? Come on God.

(No Response SULA enters soaked and wet. CAROLYN'S back is to her. She looks up at the building. Is this the place she's looking for? She goes to approach CAROLYN, but...)

Well fuck you then.

I'm tired of this.

Turn back on the electricity and be gone

I don't need you

(SULA tries to get into the building without being noticed, but a contraction hits her causing her to release a sound of agony)

(CAROLYN turns and sees SULA)

SULA

I didn't mean to bother you

(SULA continues to try to get into the building)

CAROLYN

Are you okay?

SULA

I'm fine

CAROLYN

You're pregnant, you can't be fine.

SULA

I am

CAROLYN

You know where you are?

SULA

Miami

CAROLYN

But where in Miami?

SULA

(pointing to the building)

I'm seeing a friend.

CAROLYN

I live here, who?

SULA

Maybe I have the wrong address

(SULA tries walking away, she's obviously in pain)

CAROLYN

Go down that block, someone will cut you open and sell your baby for crack. You go down that block. Some yuppie will enslave you and then your baby. I'm not stupid, you're not the first refugee I've seen.

(She continues walking)

You looking for Joel Xavier?

(She stops)

SULA

Get him please. I need to go to the hospital.

CAROLYN

You can't go there, they'll send you back to Haiti

SULA

They won't. I am having an American

CAROLYN

It doesn't work like that anymore. Once they cut the umbilical cord you will be back on a boat to your country and your child will be placed in detention until he or she is eighteen. Then they will be sent to Nebraska or the Dakotas or one of those states in the middle of the country and work for less than minimum wage at a Wal-Mart until he or she dies.

SULA

---

CAROLYN

I exaggerate for effect. I'm not crazy

SULA

I'm not saying you are

CAROLYN

I know it seems it. The power went out while I was sleeping, so I came out for some air, that's why I'm in my pj's. And I wasn't talking to myself. I was talking to God. He turned off the electricity to get back at me. When I woke up this morning he was sitting at the edge of my bed weeping. So I told him that he should stop crying and start providing for our kids.

SULA

Are you saying that God makes love to you?

CAROLYN

That's part of the problem. God doesn't know how to make love.

(SULA has a contraction She screams in agony. The weight of the contraction makes SULA fall to her knees. CAROLYN goes to her)

How far along are you?

SULA

Eleven months

CAROLYN

Eleven months?

SULA

I had to hold on to him. Keep him from being born there. It was the only way I could protect him

(SULA has another contraction)

CAROLYN

It's been a while, but I guess I'm delivering a baby

(SULA doesn't move)

You got other options? I know what I'm doing, I got eleven kids. God may not be good, but he's fertile

SULA

Jesus help me

CAROLYN

Trust me he won't

(CAROLYN leads SULA into her apartment building.)



**Scene Three**

(CAROLYN'S Apartment. It is a mess. Children's clothing & toys are littered about. Candles are lit around the room. Otherwise it would be dark. Off-stage SULA can be heard screaming. The sound of children playing is heard. There is also a constant pounding on the door)

CAROLYN  
(Off-Stage)

You got it. Just give me one more push. One, big push

(SULA lets out a scream)

There you go. Come on, push

(SULA lets out another scream, this one longer than the previous one)

It's coming.

It's almost out. It's a huge baby

(SULA lets out an even longer and louder scream)

(A silence from the room. The lights flicker. The rest of the noises remain. A few moments.)

Do you want to hold him?

SULA

Please

(The lights flicker again, this time the electricity turns on. A moment. CAROLYN enters from the bedroom)

CAROLYN  
(to God)

I could've used the electricity when I was delivering a baby

(A beat)

You there?

(Nothing. A beat. Yells to her kids...)

It's late. You guys better get to bed, don't make me come in there.

(The kids go quiet. CAROLYN looks in the peephole then opens the door)

CAROLYN  
You're going to –  
wake up the whole building

JOEL  
Is everything okay?  
You called then I heard all  
this screaming

CAROLYN  
Why didn't you use your keys?

JOEL  
Are you cut?, Did something fall on you?

CAROLYN  
What?

JOEL  
You got blood all over yourself

CAROLYN  
It's not mine. It's one of your Haitian boat's. I guess I should say tire. She came on a tire  
not a boat.

JOEL  
Did you kill her?

CAROLYN  
No, I delivered her baby

JOEL  
Baby?

CAROLYN  
Yeah.

JOEL  
You work at a nursing home can you do that?

CAROLYN  
I did. Where are your keys?

JOEL  
I lost them

CAROLYN  
The ones to my apartment or everyone's in the building?

JOEL

I'm going to replace everyone's locks  
first thing tomorrow

CAROLYN  
You are the worst  
landlord

JOEL

I'm going through some personal stuff, okay. I was preoccupied, things happen

CAROLYN

Preoccupation is not an excuse for incompetence

JOEL

It's one mistake

CAROLYN

Last month you almost went to jail, because the parking lot was filled with stolen cars. A couple months before that the place was almost foreclosed upon.

JOEL

First of all I didn't know Ricardo was a felon

CAROLYN

Do background checks

JOEL

We're not about that. And second of all some people were behind on their payments.  
What was I supposed to do?

CAROLYN

Evict them. Your father should leave this building to someone more competent

JOEL

No one else would allow you to live with your flock of kids in a three bedroom

CAROLYN

It's cause you're an idiot

JOEL

You said I had a good heart

CAROLYN

It's the same thing.

(A beat)

JOEL  
Is the girl alright?

CAROLYN  
Who is she?

JOEL  
I don't know. I wasn't expecting anyone new. Does she need to go to the hospital?

CAROLYN  
No, she's fine.

JOEL  
And the baby?

CAROLYN  
I don't know.

(A slight beat)

I think there might be something wrong with him

JOEL  
What do you mean?

CAROLYN  
I'm not entirely sure. He's kind of creepy

JOEL  
Newborns can't be creepy

CAROLYN  
He came out stoic

JOEL  
Are you saying he's retarded?

CAROLYN  
Mikey, my tenth child, he's retarded. This child isn't the same. His eyes were open, focused. Like he knows things.

JOEL  
That doesn't make sense

CAROLYN  
Which is why I should take him to the hospital, watch the girl

JOEL

With the electricity going out I should check on the older tenants

CAROLYN

Nothing's happened. This is God's building. Since I've moved in no one's been shot, robbed –

JOEL

The neighborhood's changing, that's all

CAROLYN

What if there is something wrong with the baby? And because you couldn't watch her for at the most two hours he dies tomorrow. You want to have that on your conscience?

JOEL

Fine

(CAROLYN exits back into the bedroom. She returns with the baby wrapped in a blanket)

Can I see him?

CAROLYN

Sure

(CAROLYN shows JOEL the baby. A beat)

JOEL

I don't think he's creepy

CAROLYN

No?

JOEL

No. He's beautiful

(A beat)

CAROLYN

She's asleep. If she wakes up, feed her. There are leftovers in the fridge.

(CAROLYN exits)

JOEL

But Carolyn –

(She's gone. JOEL looks around. He's alone)

**Scene Four**

(Dream. SULA is in the middle of the ocean. But like in so many dreams, the world isn't quite right, the ocean and the building have merged. To us she is standing in a dark endless hallway. The sound of the ocean echoes around her.)

SULA

Where are you baby? Cry for manman, come on baby. Cry.

(A figure crawls out of the darkness towards her.)

Please cry for manman. Please.

BABY

Don't cry Manman.

(SULA screams)

It's okay. It's okay it's just me. It's your little baby

(A beat)

SULA

You're not my baby

BABY

I am

SULA

You're not a baby

BABY

I am

SULA

No, you're a grown man. I can't fit you in my arms. I can't cradle you

BABY

Yes you can

SULA

You have teeth

BABY

Babies have teeth

SULA

Eventually they grow teeth.

BABY

They also eventually grow mustaches. Like their fathers. Who they eventually become. Whose dreams they eventually fulfill. But don't worry, I will always have your beauty

(He moves towards her)

SULA

Get away from me you devil

BABY

I just want you to hold me

SULA

No

BABY

I can prove I'm a baby

(BABY opens his mouth and the sound of a baby crying escapes. It's ghostly, loud and penetrating. A beat. Blackout)