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# E V E

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 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{Y}$ 

KATHARINE HOWARD

Author of "The Book of the Serpeut"



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# TO ELEANOR

# SCENE THE WORLD

#### SPEAKING CHARACTERS

PROPHETIC VOICE
ADAM
THE INSCRUTABLE ONE
EVE

What is it gigantesque? It pursueth!
All! All! pursueth! All! All! is gigantesque!
Thou art gigantesque. Thou! Atom!
Thou art gigantesque!

Adam! Adam! What followeth thee? Adam! Adam! Why is the earth red about thee? tool.com.cn

Is it the slant of my rays?

Adam! Adam! Look behind thee!

What is it that shadows thee over? Misshapen. Gigantesque.

What is it, mis-shapen, toil-worn, that draggeth itself?

Where is the woman who followed thee out of Eden?

What is it that followeth thee?

Thou shouldst weight its head down with more burden, for once it comes up, what of thee?

Where is Eve? Tall and fair, fashioned I Eve, after a manner of rhythm.

I gave her the mark Hyacinthus.

Adam! Where is Eve?

The woman 'twas who despoiled me; she gave me the fruit,—I but ate.

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Adam! Adam! Didst thou not look with longing?

[Eve, with eyes looking earth-ward, searcheth and searcheth strange things that have grown invavnighttool.com.cn

The Inscrutable One speaketh with her]

Eve! Eve! Hast thou forgotten me? Verily! Verily! Thou hast forgotten me!

Thou hast strayed far from Eden!

Verily! Verily! Thy beauty hath dried on thy bones!

Strange . . . it is, that Time the Eternal, should wither thee thus.

Why dost thou carry a burden? Why is thy head bended down?

Why lookest thou utterly earth-ward? What searchest thou on the ground?

O Thou Inscrutable One! How cam'st thou here?

Surely! I had forgotten thee, and all that pertaineth.

I have had sorrow.

Burden and burden and burden.

Inside, and outside, and pressing about me: wmy shoulders are bent and my head droopeth earth-ward.

O Thou Inscrutable One! Whence comest thou? I had forgotten thee.

Thou callest me Eve? Eve had great beauty.

God fashioned her. She was beautiful, beautiful!

I am the woe part of Man.

What searchest thou on the ground, O Eve?

O Thou Inscrutable One! Graves! There are graves in the Earth.

Yea! The graves, they are many—but the most of my sons, they are graveless.

I know by the circling of vultures.

With much woe I have born them—these sons for the killing.

- O Thou Inscrutable One! A strange dread is upon me of these things that are growing about m.cn
- Knowest thou the sons I have born for the killing?
- The killing and killing of brothers . . .
- Surely! The blood of the killing moisteneth not well the flowers.
- Strange things have come up in a night.
- O Thou Inscrutable One! The sons I have born for the killing.
- Born them and nourished them well for the kill.
- The white milk of me floweth red in their veins; it floweth and floweth and floweth, and the things that come up from its moistening are fleshly and blotchéd and poisonéd.
- They are things that come up in a night. Surely! The blood of my sons moisteneth not well the earth.

Eve! Thou hast wandered far,—'tis a marvel to me, how that thy beauty hath dried on thy bones.

Canst thou remember the fair ways of

Eden?

- O Thou Inscrutable One! Thou bringest memory to me of things that we played with in Eden.
- Thou hast brought upon me unrest—we were mighty in Eden. Why did I follow him out . . .
- I would return, yea, even I, but I know not the way.
- I remember in Eden a ladder of light that reached to the Sun. . . .
- I remember me well the Ladder of Light in Eden.
- My daughters I had by the Sun ran lightly upon the ladder,—hand in hand with the Sons of God.

- My daughters who blossomed from me, as the rose from the rose-tree.
- Fragrantwand fair were they who went up the ladder hand in hand with the Sons of God.
- Dost thou remember, O Thou Inscrutable One, the beetles we played with in Eden?
- Dost thou remember the beads they rolled?
- They rolled for the Ages. Verily, Eve, the symbols of Eden were many!
- Yea! The tale of the beads . . . some of my daughters bartered their souls for beads.
- Verily! They have become finger idols, caressed by the fingers of my sons and my daughters.
- Idols of finger touch. Yea, we were mighty in Eden.

- O Thou Inscrutable One, did the Beetle know for what that he rolled him his beads wy Didstothou?...
- Didst thou know that he served the Sun?

  And the Frog? Didst thou know of his service?
- Yea, we were mighty. And thou—dost thou remember the Sun-birds of Eden?
- Florescent as thee by the Sun?
- Eve! Why didst thou follow him out? Hadst thou but waited a little . . .
- O Thou Inscrutable One! Would I have followed him out?
- He of the Mighty, He did not turn me from Eden;—I followed my cradle.
- Thou couldst have been mighty in Eden, O Eve, thou and I and He who walked there in footsteps of light.

Knowest thou not when that thou burst the side of Adam and arose with thy wings, he was but a shell?

Verily! Eve! What symbol was this?

At one birth, thou, his all, sprang from the womb of himself.

The side of him acheth with emptiness, so is his desire towards thee in his emptiness.

Only through thee can he blossom.

Seest thou not, O Woman, thy power?

Lift up thy head and refuse. Bear not the sons for the Killing.

Get thyself knowledge and wisdom. Get wisdom, and bear thine own sons.

When thou hast perfected thy race—close by to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and of Evil—in the midst of the Garden, groweth the Tree of Life the Eternal, so close that it sticketh.

- Speak not to me of life, O Thou Inscrutable One! I see but the stain on the earthwww.libtool.com.cn
- I will remember no more; it draggeth the tears from mine eyes that are withered with weeping.
- Eve! A compassion growth within me for thee and thy lack.
- Verily! It was the little of wisdom thou hadst which undid thee.
- From the portion of fruit which I gave thee, O Eve, thou gavest to Adam!
- Give not away the gifts which are given thee, so it is unwise . . .
- Hadst thou not followed him, hadst thou not given my gift of the fruit . . .
- Thou mightst have ruled in the Garden; Thou and I and the One who walked there in footsteps of light.

#### $\mathbf{EVE}$

- O Thou Inscrutable One! Thou hast spoken to me of wings.
- All the winged things that I know, are pierced with arrows.
- They are stained with an unsightly stain, a stain of an unsightly colour.
- Such are the stains on my sons who are killed by their brothers; 'tis the dye of the arrow, the arrow that singeth its song as it passeth, scenting the blood of the heart for the slake of its thirst.
- In the thrall of thine eyes my remembrance returneth;—for these uncountable ages I have been as a slave.
- O Thou Inscrutable One! Point me the pathway to Eden!
- If I should show thee the way back to Eden—if I should tell thee . . . I, even I, in my sinuous fashion . . .

- O Eve! I know thee! Thou wouldst weave of the hair of the Sun-Maids a ladder labrope and Adam would climb to thee.
- Thou wouldst hear in thy sleep,—when he whimpered for thee, thy returning.
- Verily! Then it is wisdom thou needest,
  —the path into Eden shall be secret
  to me.
- Who ruleth in Eden, O Thou Inscrutable One?
- The Rose Daughters thou hadst by the Sun, they are signed with the sapphire, O Eve!
- They have eaten well of the fruit and their beauty endureth.
- Thou—didst credit that tale of thy dying, with the Tree of Life close at thine hand.

- Wouldst thou know how I knew thee, O
  Eve? With thy beauty ensnarled in
  thy bones? btool.com.cn
- 'Twas by scent that I knew thee: the Perfume of Eden is deep in thy bones.
- I will search me a ladder to climb. I will find me the pathway to Eden . . .
- I will search for the city of Enoch and find there the man whom I got from the Lord.
- . . . Silence enwrappeth thee! O Thou Inscrutable One! Thou knowest the city of Enoch!!
- Where? Thou Inscrutable One! Where is the city of Enoch?
- Where are the giants who are gone from the face of the Earth?

- Are they gone to the city of Enoch?

  My memory cometh strong; it lieth

  Eastwfrom the Garden of Eden . . .

  and Jubal, and Tubal . . .
- My memory returneth to me; 'tis in Enoch perhaps, I shall rest me the foot of my ladder.
- Once I find Enoch, the finding of Eden is easy.
- O Eve! Thou mightst rest it atop of a tower,—the towers of Enoch are many.
- I will search for a city of towers; it may be the giants are there, and that race of my daughters who mated with Sons of Light.
- I will search—I will search through the Earth till I find me the Ladder of Light, and set me my foot to the climbing.

- O Thou Foolish One! What art thou saying? It is nothing except that thou breakest the silence with words.
- Hear me! Thou breaker of silence! Before that thou climbest thy Ladder of Light, the towers of that city shall tumble.
- Did he not then build well? That man I got from the Lord?
- Verily! Why should I not mourn?
  Crumble! And crumble! And crumble!
- I would that the Earth were a-crumble . . .
- O Thou Unsilent One! When that a man buildeth his base to perfection,—then shall his towers stand.
- Go thou to work at the base; it is in the beginning a thing getteth its strength.

- Be thou silent until thou hast got understanding.
- The kernel of wisdom hides in the center of silence.
- Now will I tell thee a truth. The men who inhabit the City of High Towers are pygmies.
- Crumble! And crumble! And crumble!
- Yea! So shall the towers crumble down on themselves, until from their ruins arise towers on a tower base.
- Then from their tops, thou mayest ascend on thy Ladder of Light.
- My daughters shall go up the ladder, O Thou Inscrutable One.
- Go up the ladder thyself, O Eve! Go up the ladder of sun-rays.

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But I will take Adam up, because,—that I gave him the fruit.

- If thou wouldst take Adam up, thou shalt not do it by pushing or nagging. Go up thyself,—he will follow.
- And thou? Wilt thou not pluck him down from behind?
- Yea. I will pluck him and pluck him. He shall be well plucked indeed.
- Yea! I will pluck him and pluck him, till down the abyss hath fallen . . .
- That one who slayeth his brother the brute.
- That one who rendeth the soul from thy daughters.
- That one who marketh his forehead with gold till the weight of it slanteth it back.

- That one who eateth and watcheth starvation.
- Yea, even that one who fatteneth his brain at the expense of another's.
- Climb thou high, O Eve! Seeing thou climbest high, the brute-man I know . . .
- The out-bruting man whom I know, will have been plucked off the ladder, and off the face of the Earth.
- Verily! It is time. But let him not fall in the jaws of the Earth,—she would spew him.
- When thou hast climbed to the top of the ladder,—if that he follow thee close, let him pass if thou wilt,—thou in thy radiance, Eve,—even give him thy hand over the threshold.
- Who art thou? Art thou the Beneficent One?

Answer thyself, O Eve.

Thou gavest me fruit in Eden.

- O Thou Inscrutable One! I have waited for thee in the paths of the forest; I have desire to thy wisdom.
- Some of my daughters, thou knowest, mated with Sons of God.
- I remember me well how they played on the ladder of sun-rays together.
- But that was before. . . . Even now, some of my daughters are beautiful, —even some of the tainted lot.
- Strange it is, but the Sons of God see not clearly;—the glamour of beauty cloudeth the sight of their eyes.
- They look on my tainted daughters, and their beauty excuseth their taint.
- The Sons of God are few; how can they leaven the lot?
- O Thou Inscrutable One! How can they leaven the lot?
- Crumble! And crumble! And crumble! How can they leaven the lot?

  The mess it hath curdled indeed.

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It was Adam who stirred. Eve! Do thine own stirring.

- Mixing and mixing for aeons . . . the Sons of God are few. How can they leaven the lot?
- It is difficult even knowing the sorts apart . . .
- The strains of the Sons of God . . .
- Verily! Verily! By the time they have seeped through the sieve of their staining, what will be left?
- Straining and staining, and straining and staining, what will be left? Left of the strands of light?
- Rumble! And rumble, and rumble!

  Thou canst hear it . . . the rumbling . . . the ominous sound of the crumbling . . . the fall of the cities of man!
- Verily! Why should I not mourn!

- Be thou silent, O Eve, while I speak in the voice of the Seer!
- The day of dependency passeth,—even as the debauch of sex.
- Thou! O Eve! Thou shalt strike thy chain till it breaketh. Thou shalt come to thine own.
- Thou didst leave Eden; of thine own will following Adam.
- Thou hast toiled down the ages, enleashed.
- Eve! If thou wouldst evolve the race which surviveth . . .
- Then must thou be strong in denial.
- The call of the one upon many, the call of the many on one,—no more shall it be, but each shall be for himself in the rush of the stream.
- The time draweth near for the passing . . No more the symbol of Man shall be . . .

No more than the growing of fungus in crotch of a tree . . .

Eve! To thy work! c'Tis to thee!

- O Thou Inscrutable One! Again would I speak with thee.
- I have thought to my thoughts' undoing, and out of it all hath come the knowledge that I lack wisdom.
- Eve! Thou hast done well indeed! Until thou hast wisdom, thou canst not be trusted in Eden.
- The Tree of Life flourisheth there.
- I will bring thee some seeds of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and of Evil, when thou art worthy to plant.
- Thine hand must be clean for the planting.
- Clean thyself up for awhile, O Eve! Cease thou the bearing of young.
- Clean thyself for awhile. Yea, for an aeon or two.

- Listen not to the call that disturbeth, that bestrideth the shoulders of Man and maketh a scorning of thee, a byword, a harlot, a slave.
- Listen, O Eve, while I speak in the voice of the Seer.
- O Thou Inscrutable One! I will listen, yea, I will learn.

- Thou shalt mix not thy strains unguarded.

  Eve! Mother of all!
- Thou hast mixed with consummate cursedness—eh? What is carelessness?

The breed thou hast raised is accursed.

- Thou hast built thee a race which disturbeth the peace of the Earth.
- Thou hast put out thy hand for the plucking of strains, and soiled thy soiled hand to decadence.
- Let the rains lick thee to cleanness, and the Sun and the Winds they shall groom thee . . .
- Until thou art fit to begin to nourish thy spirit with wisdom.
- When from the seed of thy wisdom thou art fit to evolve thee a daughter, if she be worthy indeed . . . go on in the line of thy daughters.
- (Rememberest thou, Eve, the Sun-birds of Eden?)
- Until all the strains have been sifted . . .

- Spin them out gold on the beams of the Sun, strands of fine gold and thin.
- Wash them and rinse them for aeons, and then from the top of the tower which standeth,—throw them afar to the Winds.
- The strand which is cleanest and strongest;—take that, select that to evolve thee a son.
- Him thou shalt call the Supernal, to him thou may'st give thy hand over the threshold.
- O Thou Inscrutable one! The souls who would enter the Life?
- The knocking and knocking and knocking;—how can I bar them out?
- How can I hold the door shut, when the hands that are small press against it?
- I should be of the Mighty, to hold the door shut against them.

- Eve! Thou shouldst get more of tenderness;—Eve, thou shouldst knead thy heartwooftlibtool.com.cn
- When thou knowest the temples of torture, how canst thou let them come in?
- Why shouldst thou bring forth thy children, increasing the maggets of Earth?
- Now that thine output is rotten,—hast thou not strength to resist?
- Shut to the doors of the temples: clamp them with strong clamps of iron.
- Shut to the doors of thy temple, so that the noise of the shutting . . . soundeth and soundeth and soundeth unto the ultimate!
- Only through thee can he blossom: (remember the Sun-birds of Eden) hold up thy head and refuse.

- Oh! Eve! Hold up they head and refuse!
- Forget not the Race in the Racer!
- I would I had eaten more fruit of that Tree,—I would eat, knowing good from evil.
- My daughters shall eat of that Tree,—yea, all of my daughters; for the stain of the innocent staineth in touch, even as the stain of the knowing . . .
- Will it help them to eat of that Tree?
- Eve! They are stained through the bone.
- They are rotten! Their touch! It polluteth!
- Let me whisper it thee:—they lack understanding . . .

### EVE.

- Verily! Verily! I must find my way back to Eden and get me some fruit of that Treetool.com.cn
- If thou wouldst return thee to Eden, O
  Eve, thou shalt search a long
  time. . . .
- Indeed thou shalt search a long time. . . .
- Thou shalt put away much ere I trust thee in Eden,—not yet art thou ready to eat of the Life Tree.
- I will bring thee some seeds of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and of Evil,—which standeth so close that it sticketh to the Tree of Life Everlasting.
- I will bring thee some seeds for the planting.
- Thou shalt dig in the sweat of thy brow,—and whilst thou art digging —thy strength—it shall come:—with knowledge, thy head shall come up.

- Thou shalt dig to the good of the Race.
- Thou shalt breed for the Race a new Racer.www.libtool.com.cn
- The knowledge thou diggest for good it shall be that—shall straighten thy back.
- That thine head was pressed down—the stronger thy neck;—it shall be for uplifting.
- Thou shalt dig for thine own uplifting.
- Over the face of the Earth, will I dig, will I plant me the seeds of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and of Evil.
- My stained sons and daughters . . . their touch it polluteth . . . they are careless . . . and careless . . .
- They lack understanding . . . yea, they lack understanding. . . .
- They must not come up in these poisonéd growths. . . .

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- No more shall the blood of them moisten the earth. . . .
- I must get me some seeds of that fruit;—
  I will plant them over the face of the
  Earth, that the fruit may be plenty,
  of Knowledge of Good and of Evil.
- [She digs and she digs;—there is somewhat she planteth.]
- Over the face of the Earth will I dig, will I plant, and the seed that I plant shall grow fruit.
- Ye must eat much of that fruit, O my sons and my daughters!
- Of that fruit of the Knowledge of Good and of Evil,—before . . .
- O my children! Ye are fit for the Tree of Life.

Why lamentest thou, Eve?

Verily! Why should I not lament?
What shall I do with no children to milk
me?

Shall my milk run to waste?

Yea! I know thou wouldst say—and I know, that the white milk of me could well moisten flowers for the growing—that the blood of my sons maketh a stain on the ground.

Eve! Listen! I—even I.... Now, see, while I stand on my tip, I could circle thy body three times, and set my head in thy bosom. . . .

Go away! I will not give my curves to thy straightening.

I will not be enwound with thy curves, rather will I straighten myself.

### $\mathbf{EVE}$

I will lend me no more to the fooling, no more will I sin the sweet sin.

Almost—I could trust thee in Eden, O

Eve.

- How shall we carry them down?
- We shall slip! . . . We shall slide!
- We shall slip, we shall slide . . . to the edge of the Bottomless Gulf!
- How shall we carry them down to the edge where the sands are quick?
- They are blotched and bloated and poisoned! How shall we carry them down, and weight them with stones at the edge of the Gulf,—at the edge where the sands are quick. . . .
- Slipping and sliding and slipping;—the trail to the edge of the Gulf is polluted, the edge . . . it is slimy with poisonéd mud.
- Slipping and sliding and slipping! The trail to the edge of the Gulf. . . .
- The bloat that germeth the million, berimmeth the edge of the Gulf.
- A crust of the poison that lurks in the million berimmeth the edge of the Gulf.

Verily! Verily! They must sink . . . and they must not come up?

Ask of Him; The Eternal; The Ruler of Orbits; The Centre Of Sway.

- [The voice of Adam, calling, soundeth through the Ages; it soundeth a long way off.]
- Eve! Eve! Why hearest thou not me? Verily! I have within me a great longing for fatherhood.
- Yea! Verily! A great aching for fatherhood.
- It hath been for long time denied me.
- The loneliness of me crieth to the Ages for thy return.
- My stalk is withered; it blossometh no more.
- I have fallen upon the Earth and she hath not heard me. . . .
- Verily! The fall of me maketh no echo,
  —for she hath not heard.
- Eve! Eve! What am I in the Ages but a dry stalk which blossometh not. . . .

# $\mathbf{EVE}$

- Verily! I am as one who crieth and is not heard!
- Eve! Eye! Whyolanswereth thou not me?

[After a long time]

[One cometh with her head up: she speaketh: she is Eve.]

- Adam! I have to say to thee somewhat. . . .
- I will not bear thy children; I will bear my children.
- When thou hast made thyself fit for fatherhood;—if that the Ruler, Love, shall keep guard at the door. . . .
- Then will I stay with thee in the place of Sanctuary, and I will bear our children.
- And, as I bear them, so will I make the laws to their welfare.
- Thus shall there be justice.
- If I bear sons, I will bear them to the honouring of my daughters . . . even to Life, will I bear them.
- If I bear burdens, I will bear them to a purpose.

#### $\mathbf{EVE}$

- I the burden bearer, shall be a ruler by just law.
- Clean thyself ibt Adam! Cryea! Verily!
  For an aeon or two!
- Eve! Thou sayest. . . . Why didst thou not say before?

### [Eve speaketh with the Inscrutable One.]

O Thous Inscrutable Mone! Through digging I have come on a portion of wisdom, and dignity clothes me.

I will build me a City.

In the centre a high tower of silence.

I will listen no longer for footsteps to my undoing.

I have heard from afar down the Ages, the long call creative. . . .

My soul it hath ached with desire.

All of my silence, I have filled with the listening. . . .

Harkening the cry of my mate.

I will listen no longer, except to the call from within.

I will climb to my high tower of silence and listen to calls from within,—to the chanting of voices at service within.

Thou, O Eve! Hast all!

'Tis the fruit of the Tree, which I gave thee.

It hath blossomed within.

Thou but needest to study thy wisdom within.

It resteth with thee. Verily! Thou, Eve, hast all!

Oh! Thou Inscrutable One! Who art thou?

O Thou Inscrutable One!

Eve! Thou hast said!

- Who cometh with chant of great clearness?
- Who, with feet flower shod, embroidereth the paths of the forest?
- Who pusheth the branches aside with the strength of her arms?
- Who looketh with eyes in which stars are entangled?
- Who encircleth her head with the pale crescent moon?
- She is Eve! She is searching with far seeing eyes for her Ladder of Light.
- Thy teeth are of whiteness; thy breath is as that of thy daughters thou hadst by the Sun.
- Thou shalt set thy strong teeth in the apple of Life. Thou shalt eat of the Tree of Life Everlasting.
- Who followeth thee closely, O Eve? So close that thy radiance falleth on him? He will climb by thy radiance, Eve!

[After an aeon or two]

- Thou hast climbed, O Eve! To Thyself!
- Thou art ready to Thou hast climbed the high tower to thyself.
- Look within then for wisdom, and rest in the shade of thy branches.
- Thou hast made of thyself the Tree of Life Everlasting.
- O! Thou! Eve! Art the tree!

- Who cometh chanting a long way off through the wood?
- Chanting vay chant of great clearness.
- Who playeth the branches of trees to her chanting?
- Swaying and swaying to measure and measure.
- Who useth the wind to accompany her chant,—a voice of just measure and infinite clearness?
- Her feet are entangled no more from her climbing.
- Surely she findeth her Ladder of Light
  —else why doth the radiance encircle?

Who is the Tree of Life Everlasting? Who swayeth to the wind's measure? She is Eye! She is Eye!

She calleth her children; her children who wrangle no more.

For that great understanding hath enwrapped them in peace.

She calleth her children to rest in her branches.

She calleth to Adam to rest in her shade.

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