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PREVIEW: THEY TRIED TO DESTROY US

By

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Cast of Characters

Elsie : a woman imprisoned in a Soviet jail, mid-to-late 30s

Synopsis

After years of imprisonment in a Soviet jail, Elsie speaks. Her captors tired to destroy the life and faith that sent her and members of her church to a prison where she was thrown into solitary confinement and regularly tortured. In this short monologue Elsie gives a glimpse at not only the things she suffered and the reason she was able to survive, but at her inspiring courage and faith.

Set

A simple room.

When

1950s.

Note

The following monologue is adapted from a scene of the full length play We Are the Body which premiered in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada in 2015 and toured Western Canada to Calgary and Saskatoon in the same year. The World Premiere was produced by Burnt Thicket Theatre.

Act 1

Scene 1

Elsie

The dragon was moving across the world. Sweeping its tail to knock about the stars. Breathing its fire in a bold display of power. It was the thing of dreams, really.

No, not dreams. Nightmares. The kind you wake from screaming.

The kind you wake from more tired then when you went to sleep.

We were so blind, but can you blame us for not seeing it arrive at our borders? We were still in shock that the world had not come to an end.

It was only a few years after the Second World War made Europe one long trench of suffering.

Our memories were still the songs of falling bombs as they hurtled through the heavens and splintered factories, playgrounds, houses.

The smells of burnt flesh and trench foot. Of young lives and lost loved ones rotting in forgotten fields.

As those of us who survived - even if we didn’t want to - slowly pulled our lives out of the ashes,and as grass grew atop the graves of our fallen, the curtain was shut!

As Stalin’s beast consumed and devoured it might have been said of us like it was said of those so long ago:

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day that turned into week after month were not the worst.

It was how they meant to destroy us from inside: men who believed there was no God and that men had no souls, doing the devil’s work to destroy our souls too.

But they did not succeed.

Of all the things that I will describe to you, what will be the most difficult to believe is that we survived. And though they tried to destroy our faith in God, he was still with us.

End scene.



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