

Rev of the Garbage

by James Searles

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The scene is set in an alley with garbage cans. The street people are on the stage. There are three very large garbage cans at the back of the stage next to each other each with an actress in it. At random they look over the top, then go back down. They hold the lids as they go up and down. They pantomime talking to each other or looking at the rest of the case. The actresses are Pop, Fizz, & Pow

George *(George walks into the alley. George is wearing a pastor's shirt, Roman collar, cross on a chain around the neck and dark sport coat. He is partly insane. sings)* *(tenor)* You took my child. Took my baby. You took my wife. Took my love. I'm in the alley. Dark in the alley. Garbage. I see garbage. Rags. I see rags. Rags today. Rags tonight. Life is rags and garbage. *(allegro)* For this I lived....Pick rags? *(a tempo, forte)* Show me the justice..... Show me the reason..... *(adagio)* Tell me why? Just tell me why? *(a tempo)* Would it have hurt so much *(fff, anguish)* tell me *(hold)* why?!?

George takes off & throws his dark black sport coat at the wall - then Roman collar and shirt.

George *(Scream's)* No God! Not here! *(sings, extend, forte)* There's no God *(fff)* here!

George drops to the floor. Picks himself up. Starts picking through a garbage can. Finds and puts on green T-shirt. On the front of the T-shirt is written Local 57, next line Waste Removal

Angel, a run away kid, comes up to him. The rest of the cast is in background light only. .

Angel *(kid, girl, street person)* Take my hand I will protect you. Take my hand the night grows darker. Take my hand the day is closing. *(reaches out towards him with her hand)* Hold my hand.

George You. Just a kid. How will you protect me.

Angel Look out for Lucifer

George How will I find him

Angel He found me. He wants me. He needs me. Needs you too. Take you to the top of the building (points at side wall) Show you the alley. Show you the street. It's yours.....for a small price. Do tricks for me! Dance with me... in the pale moonlight. *(forte)* Dance with Lucifer.

George What's your name kid?

Angel Angel

George There's no Angels. Just dark. Get away.

Street Person Caw, Caw old Crow! Caw!

spot light hits Grace

Grace *(street person, slightly crazy throws off her shawl, she is young again)* Once I was floating on the stage. I was young and beautiful. Angels come to hear me. Hear my song. He was soft. Soft and wonderful. Held in the spotlight, Voices pure. He was all I wanted.

(she throws the shawl back over her head) Beat me. Beat me. So pure in the day. Dark at night. Drinking at night. I deserved it. Beat me. Caw. Who's there? Caw. Caw.

Lucifer *(wears dirty black shirt, pants)* Sell a bit of drugs. Drink a bit of wine. Master of the street. Doing very fine. Pushing on the lock. Kicking in the door. Do my bidding! Do a trick! Food is on the table. Riches in the alley. Take my hand.

Angel *(cry of angst)* Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo.

Lucifer Then pay the price. Die if you my you misguided angel.

Pulls a gun from his pocket. Shoots Angel. She slumps to the floor. Michael was sitting at the back of the stage wrapped in a blanket wearing a stocking cap. Michael stands. Throws off the blanket and stocking cap. Walks to Angel. He is wearing a dirty gold short sleeved shirt and dirty gold shorts, no shoes

Michael and Lucifer are singing together.

Michael You will live. I will protect you. Take my hand the warmth is growing.

Lucifer You will die. Dark will find you. Take my hand the night grows colder.

It ends with a fight with Lucifer thrown into the garbage cans

Several guys in white with a stretcher run onto the stage.

Ambulance driver We got a call that some one got shot. We tried to trace the phone call. Weird. The tracer indicated that it was from everywhere. Anyone here call?

Daniel Street people don't have cell phones. *(looks at Michael)* or do they?

Michael Not me. Never use cell phones. Long distance phone calls are brutal. Let me tell you about this great deal that I got on long distance.

Gabrielle wears dirty white shirt and pants. He is setting in the back in a battered long overcoat.

Gabrielle That's my job. Let me tell you about long distance messages. *(starts to dance, sing and march about the stage)* Push any button you want. Push one. Push five. Push six. Push Eight. Push any button you want. You're never on hold. You're never late. Push any button you want. The jazz is hot. The gin is cool. The girls are mighty pretty.

Michael Wait a minute. What does jazz, gin and pretty girls have to do with a message?

Gabriel Look! *(now singing)* Thunder is out. Jazz is in. The girls are mighty pretty. Step it up. Catch the beat. See the beauty of the alley.

Pop, Fizz, Pow stand up, look around, say lines, the drop back into the garbage can – 46 oz can about 4' high. They hold the lids as they go up and down. If their lines are right next to each other they are singing together

Pop *(pops up looking around)* Pop *(goes back down)*

Fizz *(pops up looking around)* Fizz *(goes back down)*

Pow *(pops up looking around)* POW *(goes back down)*

Pop I'm only a bit mental.

Fizz I'm just a little different.

Pop I push a cart.

Pow I drink some wine

refrain

Pop We're only a little mental. Lovelies of the night. Pick Pop. Pick Fizz, Pick Pow tonight. We're only a little mental.

Fizz We're only a little mental. Lovelies of the night. Pick Pop. Pick Fizz, Pick Pow tonight. We're only a little mental.

Pow We're only a little mental. Lovelies of the night. Pick Pop. Pick Fizz.... Pick Pow tonight. We're only a little mental.

Pop *(forte)* Pop *(a tempo)* went the beer.

Fizz *(forte)* Fizz *(a tempo)* went the soda.

Pop *(she fires a cap gun as she sings)* *(forte)* Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop.....
(forte) Got you! *(cackles hysterically, a tempo)* Didn't expect that did ya? *(drops back out of sight)*

refrain

Pop We're only a little mental. Lovelies of the night. Pick Pop. Pick Fizz, Pick Pow tonight. We're only a little mental.

Fizz We're only a little mental. Lovelies of the night. Pick Pop. Pick Fizz, Pick Pow tonight. We're only a little mental.

Pow We're only a little mental. Lovelies of the night. Pick Pop. Pick Fizz.... Pick Pow tonight. We're only a little mental.

Fizz I get my clothes at Sax's.

Pop The fashions are mighty fine.

Pow Dumpster diving is fashion. New olympic sport. I always dress in fashion. I'm looking might fine.....Hey! How am I doing? (Pop and Fizz come up each holding a sign that reads 10.

refrain

Pop We're only a little mental. Lovelies of the night. Pick Pop. Pick Fizz, Pick Pow tonight. We're only a little mental.

Fizz We're only a little mental. Lovelies of the night. Pick Pop. Pick Fizz, Pick Pow tonight. We're only a little mental.

Pow We're only a little mental. Lovelies of the night. Pick Pop. Pick Fizz.... Pick Pow tonight. We're only a little mental.

Gabriele I bring a message.

Daniel I'd rather have some soup.

Gabrielle *(Gabriele slaps Daniel on the head. Gabrielle looks up at the ceiling. Talks to it)* If you only knew what a day I am having today. *(looks at Daniel)* OK. This is the deal. You can get a message or you can get the pigeons.

Daniel Pigeons?

Gabrielle Right. You fall in the garbage spraining your leg. You can't get up. Did you notice the pigeons setting on the phone line right above you? Want to know what pigeons do?

Daniel The pigeons poop. Forget the soup. Say. How do I get the message?

Gabrielle Stand right over there.

Daniel OK I'm here. Now what? *(flashing stage lights, sound of thunder. Daniel gets knocked to the floor. He sands up a bit stunned)* Folks. At the back of the room we have trained sales staff ready to take your call. Our money back guarantee protection from lighting is good for ten minutes or two trips around the block. Which every comes first. Or, if you would prefer we have the deluxe policy with gold edging that protects you from crooked politicians for one minute.

George – Can you hear the voices singing? Can you hear the people shout? A week in the garbage. A different song. *(forte)* No God. Not here. *(a tempo)* They're not garbage here. Not garbage here. I'll fish in the pond. I've got to fish. I *(extend)* can not leave them. *(a tempo)* My coat. My coat. I need my coat. *(forte)* I'm the Rev of the *(extend & hold)* garbage.

George looks behind the garbage can. Finds a plaid sport coat. Put's it on over the superman T shirt. Pulls a cross on a chain from a pocket. Puts it on showing in front of the T shirt.

George Not bad.

George is holding a cup. Getting money for the poor. People are walking past. Some give money.

George Money for the pond. Money for the soup. Money for the poor.....Try it. Try it.....Bless you. Bless you..... Money for the soup.

Reaches out to a street person

George Got \$2.50. Dine out in style McDonalds. Come along. I'll listen.

The street person snarles. They walk to the side of the stage.

Pop Stand in the mud *(this time stays standing up)*

Fizz Stand in the garbage *(this time stays standing up)*

Pow There is love in the garbage *(this time stays standing up)*

Daniel There's a message to be found.

George Join us in the song

Pop, Pow, Fizz keep singing the refrain until the George and Lucifer finish. George Lucifer and Grace all sing together.

George My song is here. My time is now. The time has come. Find riches you never knew of.

Lucifer My song is here. My time is now. The time has come. Find riches you never knew of.

Grace (*throws off her shawl*) I was floating on the stage..... Young and beautiful. Angels come to hear me. (*extend*) Hear my song.

Now all join There's. See the beauty in the alley. (*forte*) Find the people in the mud. Reach out and help your brother. And we'll all go to.

Lucifer (*extend , fff*) Hell! (*jumps in the air, yells*) Yes!

Gabreille Want some help?

Michael My pleasure. (*They throw Lucifer into the garbage*)

Gabrielle (*walks to the front, turns to face the cast*) OK. Lets hear the message. (*forte, with gusto*) (*raises his arms*) One more time! (*drops one arm, he is conducting the following song*)

They come in when Garbrille drops his arm.

All join We found a very different alley. A very different world. Saw the beauty in the alley. Saw a very different day. (*forte*) Find the people in the garbage. No God. Not Here. Not garbage here. My time is here. My time is now. I'm the Reverend. The Reverend of the (*fff, extend & hold*) garbage!

Timing is critical. They must hit in succession rapid fire as soon as the voice stops

Popp (*yell*) Popp (*back into the garbage can*)

Fizz (*yell*) Fizz (*back into the garage can*)

Pow (*yell*) POW (*back into the garbage can*)

Timing is still critical. As soon as Pop goes back into the garbage can

ALL (but Lucifer) (*yell as jumping up - pick one word*) **Yippie, Yes,**

at the same time Lucifer is waving his hands down to indicate that he is not happy

Fine'