

# Goodnight, Nobody

Written By: Lilly Burchfield

Performed By: Lydia Yates and Emily Weaver

Directed By: Sadie Sue Long

Prompt: Goodnight, Moon

## Goodnight Nobody.

**A note to directors:** *Feel free to add beats where it feels natural for the scene and the actors. But the scene should never be frantic. It's as if they're talking about the weather.*

**Detective** *is very nurturing but also very stern. She knows what she needs to get out of the young woman but she understands the trauma of what she's been through. This is a delicate situation.*

**Autumn** *has suffered trauma. She has been in a cult and that having matured her has also made her revert to childhood comforts.*

*A table sits between two people. A detective on one end with coffee. A scared young woman at the other. This is an interview and it should have a somber energy.*

**Detective:** Autumn? Is it?

*Autumn nods*

**Detective:** I'm detective Smith. I know you've been through a lot this past week, but I was wondering if you could help us figure out what's going on. Can you do that?

*Autumn nods*

**Detective:** Great. So can you start by telling me your full name?

**Autumn:** Autumn Marie Jones

**Detective:** That is a lovely name, Autumn. That's a rare name nowadays where did it come from?

**Autumn:** My mother worked with park conservations in the state and always said Autumn was her favorite time to do her job. It felt like the world was readying to start over.

**Detective:** Was that a big part of your childhood? Nature?

**Autumn:** Starting over was the main focus. It was never too late in time to restart a decision. Nothing is permanent.

**Detective:** Do you still feel that way?

**Autumn:** *(blankly)* yes.

**Detective:** Can you tell me how you were introduced to this cult?

**Autumn:** *(sternly)* It's not a cult. The Prophet is true. He wants to protect us from those who would lead us astray.

**Detective:** I'm sorry I didn't mean to offend you. Can you tell me how you met the Prophet?

**Autumn:** He and the Sun came here early December. They were speaking over at the mall while I was doing some christmas shopping. He talked about the Savior coming to blind all evil like the sun blinds out the night. Someday there would be a time when all would be light.

**Detective:** And that drew you in?

**Autumn:** Well my friends thought it sounded weird but I couldn't stop thinking about it. I just was thinking about the state of the world and how everything feels so endless and dark. A coming blinding light sounded really nice...

**Detective:** So you contacted Elijah?

**Autumn:** The Prophet

**Detective:** Yes, you contacted the prophet and then..?

**Autumn:** Why does the sun concern you so much?

**Detective:** There has just been a lot that has happened since they arrived, it may be connected to something larger.

**Autumn:** and you want to blame the Prophet?

**Detective:** We just don't know much about him or this- the sun. We just want to understand what his goal here is.

**Autumn:** He and the light accepted me. They showed the darkness of my family and welcomed me into a new, pure home.

**Detective:** Did you regret, abandoning your home and leaving your parents completely in the dark?

**Autumn:** I was sad they wouldn't listen to the truth and renounce their church of lies and hypocrisy but I had to do what was best for me and the world.

**Detective:** And do you regret what happened to them? Did you know that would happen?

**Autumn:** We needed the Sun to cleanse. It is always going to burn where the sun shines, but it is necessary to purify.

*(beat)*

**Detective:** So you did know of their plans to burn your house?

**Autumn:** That is not my house. That place and life belongs to another me. That me burned with that home and family.

**Detective:** The neighbors heard something from the Sun as the house was burning....

*Autumn remains silent*

**Detective:** They reported a chant of "Goodnight, nobody"... what does that mean?

**Autumn:** The prophet says when the world is cleansed there will be nobody needing safety and refuge from the night. We look for that day with hope.

**Detective:** This is a very serious thing you've just admitted to. You have confessed to willingly participating in arson and murder.

**Autumn:** The world will question our methods but in the end we will see our devotion was true and pure. There will come a day of no suffering, no sorrow. Only forever blinding light of restoration. No more evil hiding in shadows. Everything will be exposed. And we will say "Goodnight Nobody."

*[End scene]*